

Member Spotlight: Carl Hummel

By: Art Holden



Carl Hummel beside the 1933 Packard that his father, Leonard, bought in 1956 for the family to go on vacations in. Carl still owns the classic to this day, along with several more vintage vehicles.

To say Carl Hummel has a long and strong relationship with High Church would be an understatement.

The fourth generation of his family to call High Church home, Carl grew up in the pews of Emanuel with some of the greatest ambassadors of the church ever in his grandmother, Ethel Hummel, and mother, Elsie.

"I was baptized here in 1957," said Carl, now 68, who can be spotted most Sundays in the back right of the sanctuary with his wife, Georgia.

While most know Carl for his vintage car collection and as owner of HOC Transport, his dedication to Emanuel has been vital for many years, both financially and through his 12 years (two different stints) as president of Consistory.

"I've always been into cars and gas stations," said Carl, whose father Leonard owned and operated the Gulf Station in Doylestown for most of his life. After high school, Carl got an associate degree from The University of Akron, then went to work for Cecil Young at his gas station in Barberton for three years.

"Then I got the opportunity with Holland Oil, and I worked my way up to vice president, doing all the little dirty jobs along the way," said Carl. "When Holland Oil sold out to Circle K, I bought the trucking division."

That was one of the best moves Carl ever made, as he has grown the business (still called HOC Transport) from 12 to 75 trucks, and to 75 employees and numerous independent contractors. And while it's helped fund his growing collection of cars, which started when he inherited his dad's 1933 Packard, it's also allowed him to be more than generous with his money.

"It's a calling that I've been blessed with, the ability to help support the church in many ways," said Carl. "It's a way I can pay the church back for all that it's done for me."

His daughter, Laura, and her husband Kurt Karhoff, have three children, all avid baseball players and who have benefitted from Carl's generosity. Most notably was HOC Transport's donation to renovate the baseball field at Hoban High School, where Carl's two oldest grandchildren are currently playing baseball.

"I like to help others," said Carl.

Carl still goes to work every day, saying he "enjoys the challenge," and also hopes that Emanuel can rise to the challenge and continue to be the beacon on the hill that welcomes other families to call High Church their home for many generations, just as he has.