

**“Wisdom is with aged men,
With long life is understanding.
Job 12:12**



February/March 2021

Senior Adult Ministry of Family Church Port Charlotte

Senior Highlight – Phillip and Carol Cato

Phillip and Carol Cato have literally been around the block a time or two. Having met and worked together at Sears, Roebuck and Company in Detroit, Michigan, Phil and Carol married in 1966. Their son, Jason was born a few years later and not long after that, Phil decided he wanted to 'change-up' a bit and live in another country for a while.

The Cato's first choice was to move to Italy where Phil had last served in the U.S. Army as a Radio Communications Teletype Operator, but after receiving a job offer in Canada, the family packed up and moved to Toronto in 1970 only to find that there was no job after all. Carol's family encouraged the Cato's to move back home where they could be closer to their new grandson; however, Carol had faith that the Lord brought them to Canada for a purpose and would provide for them.



And, so He did! Phil was able to acquire a position at T. Eaton Company where he became one of the company's leading National Furniture Buyers and the only person of color to serve in such an elite position. At the same time, Carol began attending and soon graduated from Nursing School. After nine years, the Cato's moved back to Detroit to be closer to family. It was there that Phil not only landed a job with J.L. Hudson Company but climbed the career ladder to become one of the company's leading store managers. Carol worked her way up the healthcare ladder as well, serving as Operating Room Supervisor, a teacher for nursing students, and then a Nurse Recruitment Manager.

The best was yet to come. Phil tells it like this: *“It was after moving back to Detroit that I became a true Christian.”* Carol had always been a devout Christian, but not until around 1980 had Phil felt called to serve the Lord. And serve Him he did! Attending a large Baptist Church in Detroit, Phil was ordained as a Deacon of the Church and spent the next 17 years serving as Youth Director. With Carol by his side, the two worked diligently with youth of all ages and backgrounds to provide them vast opportunities to come to know, trust and love the Lord. Phil describes his time of working with the young people as "a very fulfilling time witnessing the joy of young people." Beyond coordinating Friday night Bible studies, college/university tours, basketball events and monitored sleepovers, the Cato's instituted what they refer to as 'The Christian Answer' oratorical contest, where a student was to present and discuss any topic, no matter how controversial – but had to present a resolution with a Christian answer.

Life for the Cato's continued with Carol receiving her second college degree and shifting career once again from nurse recruitment to Regional Recruiter for the U.S. Census Bureau. Likewise, Phil moved from his manager's position and became the overall Manager for a national art supply store where he eventually retired in 2002. Asked if he was an artist, Phil stated, "no, but I was a good manager."

In 2004 Phil confronted his first lung cancer diagnosis. The Cato family's unwavering faith in the healing power of the Lord guided him through both the first and second diagnosis and healings. Referring to Phil as her "Miracle Man" for fighting and defeating the cancer battle, Carol is the first to praise Jesus for His covering and protection over Phil and her family during these difficult times.

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The Praises Corner

WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.

—1 JOHN 4:19

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your powerful love that first changes our hearts in order to make us capable of love. We praise you for your example of love that reminds us again and again of our need to love other people.

Spread the News: “Family” Events @ Family Church

Family Church hosted the first of many family-style activities on the fifth Sunday in January (January 31) with a bring-your-own (BYO) lunch that followed the last church service that day. That very same evening, the Family Church Worship Team and The Dubbeld Family Gospel singers opened the doors for all to worship and praise the Lord through song and prayer.

Similar activities will occur on the fifth Sunday of any month. Due to the last Sunday in May being a holiday weekend, the next Family Sunday will be May 23.

Happiness is not having what you want... it's wanting what you have!

During these “trying times” I had my patience tested. Turns out, I’m negative.

We’ve all been there... that moment when you walk into a spider web and suddenly become a karate master.

Phil and Carol Cato (Continued)

After Carol’s retirement in 2010, the Cato’s moved to SW Florida and began a diligent search for a diverse church they could call home. After attending three or four churches, they wandered in to First Baptist Port Charlotte and never looked back. Both Carol and Phil participate in the Agape Sunday School class where “Brother Phil” (as teacher Toby Sharp refers to him) opens the class teaching with a prolific prayer and praise to our Lord and Savior.

“We loved how welcoming everyone was at First Baptist. We walked in on Sunday, received a call on Monday, then another call from the Sunday School teacher on Wednesday inviting us to the upcoming Ice Cream Social (where there was a ton of ice cream!). Then there was Pastor Jim, and there was no looking back.”

— Carol Cato

Phil was confirmed as a Deacon in 2011, and he continues to serve today.

These days Phil and Carol proudly attend as many of their two grandsons’ football activities as they can, returning back home to Detroit 2-3 times a year for local games. They claim not to know much about the sport, but when they attend the annual national sports championship playoffs in Orlando, where their oldest grandson’s team placed second in 2019, they cheer, chant and applaud with the best of them.

Lunch Bunch (Update to the Last Update)

The Family Church staff and Lunch Bunch organizers have struggled with a reasonable approach to get the 2021 Lunch Bunch activities safely and efficiently on track for this season. Unfortunately, with COVID still a major concern amongst our senior members, they have concluded that “Lunch Bunch” activities will be put on-hold at least until October 2021.

Please send newsletter comments/requests to:
Toby Sharp at toby@familychurchpc.com or,
Sandi Cornwell at sandicornwell@gmail.com.



Coffee – More Than Your Morning Kick-Start

Did you know that coffee is good for more than a morning power surge?

How about instead of throwing away that last bit of black coffee, you add some extra flavor to a marinade, gravy, sauce or frosting? And speaking of added flavor, did you ever think of adding a couple of tablespoons of freshly ground coffee beans to a cake, cookie or brownie batter (coffee and chocolate together... ummm-good!).

Gardeners might consider adding used coffee grounds as a nitrogen-rich kick-starter to your compost pile. Your plants will love you for it.

You can even remove stubborn stains from those very used coffee or tea mugs with a wet coffee filter and a few spent grounds. This same process using a stiff scrub brush along with a few coffee grounds has also been known to clean away burned-on food or grease from pots and pans.

And finally, instead of investing in a variety of touch-up paints to hide those surface scratches in your dark, wooden furniture, try dipping a Q-tip into a cup of strong black coffee to swab those marks away.



Ever Wonder Why...

... lemon juice is made with artificial flavor, while dish detergent is made with real lemons?

... they don't build an entire plane using the indestructible black box materials?

... you never see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Everything's Coming Up Roses, and Chocolates and Heart-Shaped Memes!

Valentine's Day! The unofficial secular holiday of love, that is celebrated each year on February 14. The day when a box of chocolates, a teddy bear or maybe a red rose is given to a *true love* to show them how much we care. The second highest Hallmark holiday card sales event outnumbered only by Mother's Day. Sadly, with the dawning of Facebook, Twitter, phone texting and memes, Hallmark has seen a formidable drop in sales.



I've lived through several celebrations of Valentine's Day and have concluded that the day of love is celebrated differently depending on what phase of life you are in. I remember grade school when every child would almost literally hold their breath as they waited for that dream boy or girl to drop a paper Valentine into their hand-made Valentines box only to open it and find that most cards were signed with a guess-who question-mark. Then there was high school when a girl's *one-true love* (at least for the moment) would hand carry a rose and maybe a heart shaped box of chocolates to her house, hoping her father would not be the one to answer the door. And the young hopefuls who carefully planned a marriage proposal on this day of love followed by hugs and pats when the answer came back a resounding "YES!"

As the years progress, it seems Valentine's Day becomes more practical and less romantic, maybe not for all, but for many. It might be a time to take on a chore or task that was promised but postponed or forgotten; or, if nothing else, a whisper of "I love you" in that special someone's ear and then watching his or her amazing smile that you have loved for so very long appear on the face of your "one, true love."

For me, I am thankfully in that practical stage of celebrating Valentine's Day. That old table that needed sanding so I could paint it the two-toned red that I dearly love is completed and serves to hold my house plants that had previously been setting in pots on the back deck. There was even a meal celebrated at our favorite local restaurant (and did not even have to wait in line)! And that is all I am going to say about my Valentine's Day this year (the rest is shared only with *my* one true love).

You see, in our house every day is Valentine's Day, as long as we are together. How great is that?

– Sandi Cornwell

WORD SEARCH

Exodus (1-7)



R	G	X	E	H	E	P	I	F	A	Y	U
D	N	A	H	Y	T	H	G	I	M	R	I
B	O	U	W	M	S	A	A	R	O	N	B
S	Q	E	C	W	A	R	T	S	T	J	T
E	U	G	A	L	P	A	P	T	E	L	F
R	G	Y	H	D	H	O	I	B	K	M	F
P	X	P	S	S	E	H	C	O	S	I	A
E	O	T	U	O	W	K	W	R	A	R	T
N	R	I	B	S	H	Z	H	N	B	A	S
T	H	A	G	B	A	H	Y	S	R	C	D
H	T	N	N	W	Y	A	D	O	I	L	R
D	E	L	I	V	E	R	A	N	C	E	E
N	J	B	N	L	V	O	E	Z	K	S	H
R	E	A	R	M	E	P	F	V	S	N	P
Q	N	L	U	E	A	P	T	K	A	V	E
F	T	W	B	M	W	I	J	U	Q	L	H
S	E	S	O	M	P	Z	A	W	O	A	S

Find These Words

PHARAOH	✓	MIGHTY HAND
EGYPTIAN		MIRACLES
NILE		AARON
BASKET		SHEPHERD STAFF
HEBREW		FIRSTBORN SON
MOSES		BRICKS
ZIPPORAH		STRAW
JETHRO		DELIVERANCE
BURNING BUSH		SLAVERY
I AM		SERPENT
YAHWEH		PLAQUE
Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, left-to-right, right-to left, or bottom-to-top.		



Answer sheets for this and previous editions of Word Search puzzles are available by contacting Sandi Cornwell:
sandicornwell@gmail.com