

# Profiles in Progress: Client Stories

## Paul and Eleanor Courtney

Eleanor looked across the room in Algebra class and saw Paul and thought he was cute. That interest persisted and, upon graduation from Beaver High School in 1945, they were going steady. Eleanor entered the University of Pittsburgh while Paul enlisted in the Navy. World War II was still a reality in the Pacific, and the country was preparing for an invasion of Japan. Fortunately that invasion, expected to cost one million U.S. lives, was not necessary and Paul came home in 1947, also to enter the University of Pittsburgh on the G.I. bill. Eleanor graduated from Pitt in 1948 and began teaching at Beaver Falls High School where many of her students were not much younger than her 20 years. Paul completed an accelerated undergraduate program in 1949 and entered law school there. Eleanor and Paul were married that same year, the first of now 57 years of marriage, and Eleanor continued as a high school teacher until their first child was born.

Christopher was born in 1952, Colleen in 1956 and Julie in 1962. Julie, now a dentist, has three children: Courtney, Ryan and Connor who are, as

Eleanor describes her grandchildren, “all clients of the Fragasso Group!” Eleanor returned to Pitt after their last child went off to college and earned her master's degree in library science. She became the assistant director and reference librarian for the Carnegie Library of Beaver Falls, while still serving as librarian for her church.

In 1962, Paul and Eleanor established and endowed the nationally recognized, Courtney Memorial Library of the Beaver United Methodist Church. Eleanor still chooses and purchases the 100 to 150 books added each year to the collection. In 1985, in Washington, D.C., the International Church and Synagogue Library Association recognized Eleanor for her outstanding contribution to church and synagogue libraries. She has conducted workshops throughout the country on the value of religious books.

At age 79, Paul recently retired from active law practice. He was honored a few years prior by the Beaver County Bar Association for his 50 years of practice in the

county. He also spent 50 years as a director of the Union Building and Loan Savings Bank and was a founding director of Hub Consumer Discount Company, where he has served for over 50 years. He continues to serve on these boards. Paul remains an active volunteer, serving on many church and community committees, including the municipal zoning board.

The Courtneys remain active with travel, their family and Paul's golfing. They offer several pieces of advice based on their life, long marriage and career successes. First, Paul suggests that one “Think before you act. Think twice before you speak. Call your attorney before you sign.” Eleanor's sanguine observation is that “Life is full of peaks and valleys. In the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.” Finally, Eleanor admonishes to Give 10%, save 10% and spend the rest in thanksgiving and praise. She asks that we feature their association with The Fragasso Group for over 30 years. She states that, because of “excellent advice” they have “always had sufficient funds to support church and other activities.” We thank them for 30 years of friendship and trust.

