



First Baptist Kids News Discovery Club

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PANARO Discovery Club Interview

First Baptist Church of Florence

Volume 1, Issue 3

October 10, 2007

Mr. Panaro's birthday was October 5. He is 94 years old. The Discovery Club composed a list of questions to interview him. This is their list and Mr. Panaro's answers.

Did you live near the Church?

When I was growing up I lived on Summer Street, about 3 blocks from the church.

Did you go to church when you were little?

Yes, but not this church. I didn't come to NJ until I was 17 years old. When I was little, I went to a Presbyterian church in St Benedict, PA. This is in the south-

ern part of PA, near Johnstown.

Did you live your whole life in Florence?

No, I moved here when I was 17.

Where did you go to school?

I didn't go to school at all in NJ. I suppose it was a lot like NJ schools.

In my school, the first 4 grades were all together in one room - it was a one-room school-house. We must have had 22-24 kids in that room.

Why were you a plumber?

This was about the first job I ever had. I didn't go to school to become a plumber. A man by the name of W.C. Castner, the boss, taught me everything I knew. I had this job before I went into the military. After the military, I worked at the Foundry and thought I had a lifetime job. One day I was called into the office and told I had to fire four men because they were getting to be retirement age. I told them I wouldn't do it, I wouldn't lie or cheat for anyone, a company or anyone, and as long as these men work and they are doing their job, they would have a job here.

Continued pg 2

This is the Discovery Club's first interview with one of our Senior Saints. We are happy that we have the opportunity to talk to our oldest member of First Baptist Church.

Mr. Panaro was born in 1913 just 5 years after the Model T was invented and 10 years after Orville and Wilbur Wright made their first flight. The kids were amazed that the first flight soared to 10 feet, traveled 120 feet and landed 12 seconds after takeoff.

Thank you very much, Mr. Panaro, for your time with us!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. PANARO

A couple days later, the men were still there but they laid me off and I was without a job.

I was laid off and offered a job running a shop in Roebling but I told the owner I couldn't work for him. I said I could not take money and pay out money illegally like he did. He told me I didn't have to, I just needed to work in the shop as a leader. I said no.

I opened my own business in 1962 - two weeks after I was laid off.

What toys did you play with when you were a kid?

When I was a kid I didn't have any toys or any childhood. I was the oldest of 10 children. My next brother was 2 years younger than me but he was always sick; he couldn't do any physical work so I had to take his place. We had 3 ½ acres and I had to do all the kids work on the farm. I always worked. When I was 10 years old, I went to work in the mines to

help my father. I didn't mine coal but cleaned the coal my father mined.

School years spent working on the farm.

My brother that was sick died a couple years ago in Florida. He was 77 years old. There are still 7 of us living. My great grandmother lived to be 102 years old. I remember she made her own salve out of beeswax.

When did you become a member of First Baptist?

I started coming to First Baptist in 1932; I became a member, along with my wife, Laura, in 1934. I was saved when a group of us from the Church went to Burlington to hear a missionary, Virgil Kirpatrick. I was saved in the afternoon service.

This was 73 years ago.

Who is the first President you remember?



Woodrow Wilson when I was going to school in Pa. I went through the 8th grade and then to high school for 3 months. I had to drop out of school because my father was sick in bed and I had to get a job to help support the

family. I worked at a dairy milking 12 cows and then delivered bottles of milk. I worked there about a year and then my father got out of bed so we moved to Riverside NJ. We moved because of a coal strike in PA. My uncle had a job at public service and my father got one there as well. Angelo, my uncle, was a small man and my dad was tall. The payroll people called them "Big Italian" and "Little Italian".

One thing I'd like the children to know that by going to church, and as soon as they can, accept the Lord, do work in church and affiliations and live to be good

