



JAN BARTON Class of 1974

Jan Barton assimilates his 40-plus years as a professional florist and gift shop businessman in the Borough of Elizabeth to the Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life" film that appraises the life of George Bailey. Now with that being stated, Barton reassures you that he does not want to "take the bridge" only if in the City of Pittsburgh where he would need to get somewhere.

In comparison to George Bailey, Barton was born and raised in his hometown of Elizabeth, married his high school sweetheart, the former Cheryl Wasil and just like Mary Bailey knew he was the one, finally Barton concurred that she really was. Together, they filled their home with four children, none named Zuzu; never left or ever wanted to leave his hometown; started a prospering business and now

like George, he is an icon in his community. Barton is respected, admired and a reliable businessman in his hometown.

Barton characterizes the floral business as journey of life events including new baby, birthdays, beloved holidays, marriages, recovery and recuperation, and the recognition of death and loss. In 2013, the family added a retail bakery to Barton's Flower & Gifts and changed the name to Barton's Flowers and Bake Shop, Inc. The bakery is under the supervision of his son and twin daughters. The perfectly unique marriage of florist and bakery enhances the borough of Elizabeth's business district with the integrity of the Barton name.

The Bartons married in 1979, after his wife, Cheryl received her B.S. in nursing from Penn State University. Her 42-year nursing career started at Magee-Women's Hospital in labor and delivery. She became an assistant school nurse at EF and then became a full-time school nurse for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit until she retired in June 2021. They were blessed with four children, son Tyler '04, graduated from PSU Elementary Ed/Sp ED; daughter Corrine '06, graduated PSU Speech Language and Pathology, doctorate at Pitt in audiology; twin daughters Hillary '07, graduated IUP Art Education and Hailey '07, graduated IUP Family and Consumer Science Education. All four children as well as their spouses and children have their life's journey located in the Elizabeth/Jefferson Hills area which gives Barton and his wife a new job title of "Mimi and Pappy Barton".

His Christian faith was initiated by his parents at the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth with children's Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. Barton would learn the value and the accountability of the bible verse Proverbs 22:6 -- "Train up a child according to His way, even when he is old, he will not depart from it". He dedicated years of his four children's adolescence years at the Elizabeth United Methodist Church, leading children's fellowship and youth ministries. He is also an active member of the EUMC administrative board and is its administrative chairperson.

In 1982 with Barton's God given artistic ability, he and his wife had a thought of starting a floral and gift shop business. The thought became a plan; the plan became Barton's Flowers and Gifts, which became an iconic storefront in the Borough of Elizabeth for the past 40 years. These years hold memories of his wife and family lovingly and endlessly assisting him to own and operate the flower and gift shop.

Barton encourages all students at EF to pursue and participate in activities that they enjoy and are excellent at, along with their academics. His accomplishments in high school were participating in Warrior Band, Warrior Choir, Art club, class plays, yearbook and newspaper and being a commencement speaker, all set the stage for his involvement and dedication in starting his own business. Businessman is a title he chose for himself. All his titles whether God-inspired or chosen illuminates the foundation of his personal and business life. Barton reflects, in God's words: "Do your work unto the Lord" and "In everything give thanks to the Lord".

Barton recaps his many titles of his life; son, brother, uncle, Christian, student, friend, husband, artist/business owner, Dad and Pappy, two of his favorites, and EFHS Hall of Fame member. Barton declares all his titles are God's abundant blessings. Barton states - "It's a Wonderful Life".