

# WILLOW BROOK *Reflections*

Volume 37 Number 3 | Autumn 2015



*Welcome to*



Herb Strigle, 1922-1998

*Herbie's  
Place*

*see story on page 6*



# You're Welcome

by Larry Harris, CEO

*That each day I may walk unceasingly on the banks of my water,  
that my soul may repose on the branches of the trees which I planted,  
that I may refresh myself under the shadow of my sycamore.*

Egyptian tomb inscription, circa 1400 BC

As I talk with visitors who show up at our doorstep, I am often handed unsolicited compliments about what they see, hear, smell, and taste. Some of their bouquets relate to the remarkable beauty of the trees at our two retirement communities in Delaware, Ohio. Especially at Willow Brook Christian Village, towering maples, oaks, sycamores and walnuts dominate much of the campus. And I am proud to tell you that a good number of those trees were planted years ago by us.

Across town, at our Delaware Run community, we have planted a gazillion trees as well. But it's a more recent undertaking, and the plantings simply haven't had sufficient time to soar to their potential. So I solicit your patience. Come back three presidential campaigns from now and be wowed.

This summer I walked the two communities with our landscapers. We marked off areas where we plan to expand the woodlands at both campuses. Mostly these are rather modest spaces adjacent to existing tree lines where we will stop mowing, plant trees, and let nature take its course. In time, they will blend into the woods, enhancing the natural appeal of our communities.

Left undisturbed over enough seasons, the results will be dramatic. If you want to see a happy conclusion to these efforts, look no further than our present-day Willow Brook Christian Village where we planted 1,500 trees twenty years ago. Those little seedlings and saplings now have risen to the height of telephone poles, and have integrated themselves beautifully into the forest that was already there. Check out the photo on the back cover for a sampling. (The two people you see are residents Bill and Coe Huckabee, caught in a tender moment under our golden canopy.)

In addition to their natural beauty, the woodlands at Willow Brook mean lower costs for mowing and the application of toxic concoctions for weed control and fertilization. The trees remove carbon dioxide from the air we breathe, and replace it with oxygen. Can't have

enough of that these days. And they offer cover and habitat for our wildlife friends, both furry and feathered.

I have long fretted over the desecration of our precious planet, the one and only home we have, where it seems we are bent on paving every square foot of green space entrusted to us. Slash and pave, slash and pave. This little emerald orb that's packing us around the cosmos is a gift we are trashing with abandon.

When we order up an invasion of chain saws and bulldozers to clear away a forest or a meadow, and replace it with tract houses, another Walmart, or (ahem) a retirement community, we call it "development." Anymore, I rarely use that term when referring to our compulsive habit of scraping swaths of earth clean as a moonscape and installing structures. We are defacing something sacred. That's "desecration" in my book.

To boot, we are melting the polar ice caps, fouling our rivers and seas, and killing off species to beat the band. I would give us humans a grade of D- in planet preservation. We would be well advised to mend our ways before it is forever too late.

To create our three Willow Brooks, I admit that we took out enough trees to trouble my conscience. As penance, I have committed to plant as many replacements as these acres will accommodate.

I realize I am only one small voice, and can do little to change the direction of things. But I *can* have a bit of influence over the small acreage where I cast a shadow. Long after I have taken permanent leave of this world, I expect each of Willow Brook's communities to be a beautiful and natural oasis, a green refuge from the expanse of concrete and asphalt that surrounds them.

You're welcome.

Larry Harris, CEO  
[lharris@willow-brook.org](mailto:lharris@willow-brook.org)





## Mosaic Lends Color to the Water's Edge View



Delaware Run resident Dianne Almendinger, above left, designed a three-panel mosaic that is now mounted outside the windows of The Water's Edge Restaurant. Above right, Dianne, Brenda Spradling and Ginny Gongaware buff the blue grout from each of the broken pottery pieces and mirrors on one section of the tryptych. The piece was created by 14 residents under the tutelage of local artists Linda Elias and Virginia Corbin. The reflective qualities of the mirrors give the illusion that the viewer can see behind and beyond the mosaic and add to its three-dimensional effect.



### *Prayer Quilts and Shawls:*

## **Wrapping the Soul in Warmth and Love**

It started in 2007, when Genevieve Peterson first crocheted a shawl for a friend at Delaware Run who was ill. Eight years later more than half a dozen textile artists have created 113 shawls and miniquilts to wrap the arms of their neighbors in warmth, love and prayers during illnesses and in their final days.

Each shawl is hand-delivered along with a card and fond wishes from its creator. The shawls are treasured not just by the recipients but also by their families, who are grateful for the volunteers' labors of love. Above at left, in the Stitch, Piece and Purl Room with some of their completed shawls, are Sheila Murphy, Peg Simone, Teena Haycock, Gert Tory, Betty Jean Gray, Diane Neson, and Genevieve Peterson.

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[www.willow-brook.org](http://www.willow-brook.org)



**Penelope B. Abbot**

Henry S. Abbott

**Jack Alban**

George &amp; Lynn Ankney

William &amp; Jean Baskwill

Judith R. Blum

Vivian Crowe

Delaware Run

Residents' Association

John &amp; Sue Dickman

Joan Lee Eckhardt

Alma B. Eshelman

Elmer J. Hogue

Calvin &amp; Dorothy Knight

Robert &amp; Darlene Krumlauf

Grace M. Lang

Sheila J. Murphy

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

Ann N. Tyler

Nova Weller

**Samuel Andrietti**

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

**Sherry Vee Arnold**

Larry &amp; Eleanor Arnold

**Richard C. Atkinson**

Carol A. Roden

**Sherwood "Shed" Bennett**

John &amp; Sue Dickman

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

**Eugene Bianchi**

Barbara J. Ekelberry

**Frances Carlton**

April L. Jackson

**Joseph Caudy**

Roger &amp; Jane Sagar

**Margaret Caudy**

Roger &amp; Jane Sagar

**William "Gardner" Chamberlan**

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

**Michael Chucta**

Phyllis Chucta

Teresa Ryan

**Mary Kay Cochran**

Corinne D. Esau

Arlene W. Palenshus

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith

**Robert "Bob" Coe**

Marilynn Baker

Josephine G. Bichsel

Corinne D. Esau

Philip Mark

Arlene W. Palenshus

Evelyn Winter

**Dorothy J. Dale**

Joy D. Lackey

**Esther Daniels**

Carl &amp; Avalene Daniels

**Neal Daniels**

Carl &amp; Avalene Daniels

**Esther Daugherty**

David &amp; Denise Arango

Joseph Arango

Mary Ellen Cardinal

Matthew &amp; Diane Fleming

Judith A. Lockwood

Debra Michael

Phyllis Nuzzie

Kenneth &amp; Mary Sheetz

James &amp; Cheryl Siebold

**Edward P. Denta**

John &amp; Sue Dickman

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

**Nancy DeTray**

Lisa Mack

**Virginia Devore**

Ruth Camden

**Joan Fletcher**

Battelle

Randy &amp; Judith Mobley

**Lawrence Fletcher**

Battelle

Randy &amp; Judith Mobley

**Jack Gaskalla**

Thomas &amp; Rena Brown

James &amp; Erma Lanier

Beryl &amp; Marie McMasters

Helen J. Reppart

**Charles Gerhart**

Rebecca L. Gerhart

**Loretta Glowacki**

Ron &amp; Mary Wilcox

**Mattie Haas**

Julie Bardelang

**Margaret V. Harper**

Ed &amp; Stephanie Harden

**Shirley M. Harper**

Ed &amp; Stephanie Harden

**Audrey & Alberta Harris**

Larry &amp; Janet Harris

**John T. Hayes**

Karen S. Hayes

**Carl Hertwig**

Joy D. Lackey

**James E. Jackson**

Mitchell &amp; Dyana Welch

**Lydia Landis**

Linda A. Raber

# *Tribute Gifts*

## Memorial Contributions

June 22 – September 20, 2015

**Bette J. Meyer**

Julie Bardelang

Corinne D. Esau

Donna J. French

Arlene W. Palenshus

Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith

Brian &amp; Amy White

**Jimmie R. Moore**

Jane Moore

**Sam J. Morris**

Michael &amp; Kathleen Nehf

**Alice M. "Ally" Morrow**

Elvena M. Stranahan

**Linda J. Nester**

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

Sue K. Wyatt

**Florence Poulson**

Thomas &amp; Sara Poulson

**Emma "Maude" Prince**

Rebecca L. Harris

**Gene & Maude Prince**

Larry &amp; Janet Harris

**Elizabeth S. Raber**

Linda A. Raber

**Roy A. Reed**

Corinne D. Esau

**Mary C. Roden**

Carol A. Roden

**Don Rost**

Thomas &amp; Sara Poulson

**Mark E. Ryan**

Phyllis Chucta

Teresa J. Ryan

**Corrine Snyder-Poulson**

Thomas &amp; Sara Poulson

**Matthew Troyan**

Campbell, Hornbeck,

Chilcoat &amp; Veatch, LLC

Lois K. Smith

Evelyn Winter

**John Wagner**

Calvin &amp; Dorothy Knight

Bruce &amp; Barbara Reiersen

Frank &amp; Beverly Rowe

Eilene Worthington

**Myra Weber**

Lois K. Smith

**George F. Wellman**

Lucretia M. Wellman

**Max Wildermuth**

Jayne W. MacKay

**Edward Winter**

Evelyn Winter

**Nicki V. Zanetos**

Lisa Mack

*Tribute Gifts*  
made to honor  
the living

**Tom Bosco**

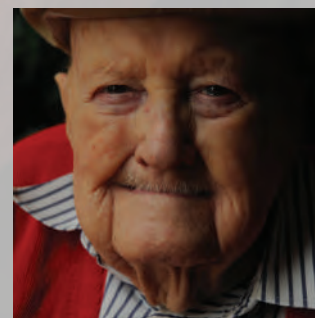
Anonymous

**Harry Humes birthday**

Corinne D. Esau

**Marilyn A. Laubacher**

Grace Lackey



*This page is presented in  
memory of Ed Holston,  
former resident of Willow  
Brook at Delaware Run.*

# Birds are his Life-long Passion

by Larry Harris, CEO

Dr. Jed Burt is an internationally acclaimed “rock star” among scientists who study birds. Ornithologists they are called. He and his wife, Pam, make their home in a twin-single residence at our Delaware Run community.

Recently-retired from a 37-year teaching career at Ohio Wesleyan University, a liberal arts college located two miles from the Delaware Run campus, he was beloved by his students. In 2012 he was named the Ohio Professor of the Year from the CASE and Carnegie Foundations.

In 1980, Dr. Burt and his students began counting birds in the floodplain that includes part of what is now our retirement community. Jed explains, “I wanted to show students the difference in bird diversity in a semi-natural area, a neighborhood, and downtown Delaware. We found the differences to be astounding.”

Jed has written six books on ornithology, and authored or co-authored some 90 scientific papers. He often speaks at scientific gatherings around the world. He has served as editor of the *Journal of Field Ornithology*, and president of three national and international ornithology associations, as well as the Ohio Alliance for the Environment. While in that role, he wrote a report detailing environmental threats facing Ohio.

Birds are his life-long passion. He remembers as a young boy standing on the family couch staring out the living room window at a robin’s nest in a bush just beyond the glass. He remembers his excitement as the eggs hatched and the male brought worms to feed the baby birds. Then, to his utter horror, he witnessed their murder by a red squirrel in search of breakfast.

His early fascination evolved into a methodical study of birds behind his New England home. During his adolescent and teen years, he gained inspiration



photo courtesy of Pam Burt

Jed Burt, Ph.D.

## He leads Willow Brook residents on regular bird walks in the woods at Delaware Run

from two teachers, Miss Bassett and Miss Marble. They spurred his growth into a scientist and educator as a natural progression from his early curiosity.

Even today, he is a passionate bird watcher. He leads Willow Brook residents on regular bird walks in the woods at Delaware Run where they listen and watch for the wide variety of bird species that inhabit or pass through the acres.

He and Pam chose their Willow Brook home because it was on a hillside overlooking a stream and floodplain on campus.

They enjoy nature’s show for hours. “The location is fantastic,” remarks Jed. “We love to watch birds and other wildlife from inside or the deck.”

Pam is an accomplished photographer (she captured the image of her husband on this page). She has used a telephoto lens on their deck to shoot some spectacular photographs of birds and animals that cross her field of view.

Jed recently completed a 25-page study of birds and wildlife in the vicinity of the run that crosses our Willow Brook community. The water courses through the last remaining natural area within the Delaware city limits. He is passionate about protecting it from further encroachment and destruction. This project seems a fitting continuation of his life’s work that has contributed significantly to human understanding of the natural world.

Says Jed, “If I had my life to live over again, I’d live it just the same.”

Ornithologist Jed Burt, a Delaware Run resident, has served as president of the following organizations:

- Association of Field Ornithologists
- Wilson Ornithological Society
- American Ornithologists’ Union
- Ohio Alliance for the Environment





## Nine Willowbrookers Win Art & Writing Awards

Willowbrookers won nine awards at LeadingAge Ohio's statewide Art & Writing competition in September. LeadingAge Ohio is the state organization of not-for-profit homes and services for older Ohioans. At left, Warren Bailey and Peg Simone, of Willow Brook at Delaware Run, admire a submission in the competition. Peg took first place honors in the wearable art division, and the ship in the upper right hand corner was assembled by Village resident John Russell. His work won the People's Choice Award.

### The Year His Life Changed

Last year the old man wrote his protest.  
At the edge of sleep words took shape—  
A cry of pain as his wife declined to predicted death,  
Leaving his life a turmoil of grey-green pounding waves.

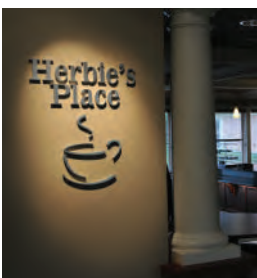
The old man survived.  
He could care for himself, even cook his own food.  
He continued to read, to think, to serve,  
But a grey pallor of loneliness clung to him as he plodded down the daily path.

Then the old man,  
Still trudging through the cloudy grey with down-turned face,  
Looked up and discovered joy—  
A wood warbler, dazzling yellow,  
Perched on a branch,  
Singing, singing.

by Robert C. Tannehill  
Willow Brook Christian Village  
This poem took 2nd place at the LeadingAge Ohio  
Art & Writing Competition 2015



*Continued from page 1*



Herb Strigle holds the record for length of residence at Willow Brook. He lived at Willow Brook Christian Home in Worthington from 1969 through 1998. Needless to say, he was a fixture around the hallways, a charter member of the family.

Herbie lived most of his adult life

at The Home, and his brother, Bob, was a faithful visitor. After 29 years of visits, Bob knew Willow Brook Christian Home well.

He must have liked the care we gave his brother, for when Bob passed away in 2013 we found he had named Willow Brook in his will, leaving sufficient funds to create a wonderful room where residents and families gather for conversation and refreshments and to listen to the juke box. Herbie would have loved it!

*(see photos on page one)*

## Home Chefs Take Top Honors at *Taste of Worthington*—Again



Chefs at Willow Brook Christian Home have done it again—they went toe to toe (or would it be spoon to spoon?) against some of the best restaurants in Worthington and prevailed! Their pork tenderloin creation tied for first place in the annual event sponsored by the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce. At left, Chefs Eric Radcliff, Kristen Waby, and Kendall Friend proudly added their plaque to the wall. They have been voted number one seven out of the last eight years. No small feat and great reason to be proud.

## Willow Brook Quality is Shining

Willow Brook is having a great year when it comes to recognition of the care we provide.

- Last Spring we were listed among the top nursing homes in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*—for the third year in a row.
- A few weeks later, readers of the *Delaware Gazette* named Willow Brook the best in *three* categories: Retirement Community, Assisted Living, and Nursing Home, giving us a clean sweep.
- The Health Department gave both of our Delaware kitchens in town perfect scores in their unannounced inspections, leaving unbroken a string of perfect scores that stretches back for many years.
- The assisted living center of Willow Brook at Delaware Run earned a perfect score on this year's inspection by the Ohio Department of Health. Delaware Run has had perfect nursing scores every year since it opened in 2009.
- The Home's assisted living has had perfect nursing scores since 2007.
- Cherith Care Center, The Village's skilled nursing, has earned perfect nursing scores for the last five years.

- The nursing and rehab centers at The Home and The Village both achieved 5-star ratings by Medicare—again.
- And what about all those first-place plaques on the wall at The Home from the Taste of Worthington shown above?

No wonder we believe our health care is second to none.

And as for retirement living, the residents speak for themselves. Here is how a couple put it:

“More than 15 years ago, . . . Judy and I signed up to move to Willow Brook. In doing so, we told our children that we had *done them a favor*. They'd never have to worry about when and how to “put us” in a “home.” On our own we decided to move to a first class, full service retirement community.

“Now that my wife is receiving such loving and excellent care in Memory Care, and now that I've discovered the endless love and generosity of my neighbors, I realize that we'd done *ourselves a favor*. And how grateful I am!”

Bill McCartney

“You people are so honest you squeak.”

Jim Roesch



# Reflections

Willow Brook Christian Communities  
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Whispers of falling leaves.  
Golden as shared love and remembrance.  
Amid the beauty, a kiss.

*by Marilyn Schroeder, resident  
Willow Brook at Delaware Run*

*Bill & Coe Huckabee on the trail  
at Willow Brook Christian Village*