



Willow Brook Christian Communities

100 Willow Brook Way South
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 369-0048

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

- Independent Homes & Apartments
- The Centrum Assisted Living
- Passages Alzheimer's Care
- Cherith Skilled Nursing Care & Rehabilitation Center
- Heritage Day Health Center Adult Day Care
- The Courtyard Restaurant

and coming soon:

Willow Brook Christian Village at Delaware Run

A second retirement
community in development

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235

- Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation
- Assisted Living
- The Grapevine Grill

www.willow-brook.org

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The Light that Came into the World

by Larry Harris, CEO

*A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

From *O Holy Night*

by Adolphe Adam (1805-1856)

December is here at last, and I find myself driving home most every evening in the dark. Sparkling trees are beginning to appear in neighborhood windows, one by one. Old sentimental songs,

resurrected from holiday archives, now freely flow from my car radio. The evidence mounts, the facts are clear, and they all confirm what can no longer be denied:

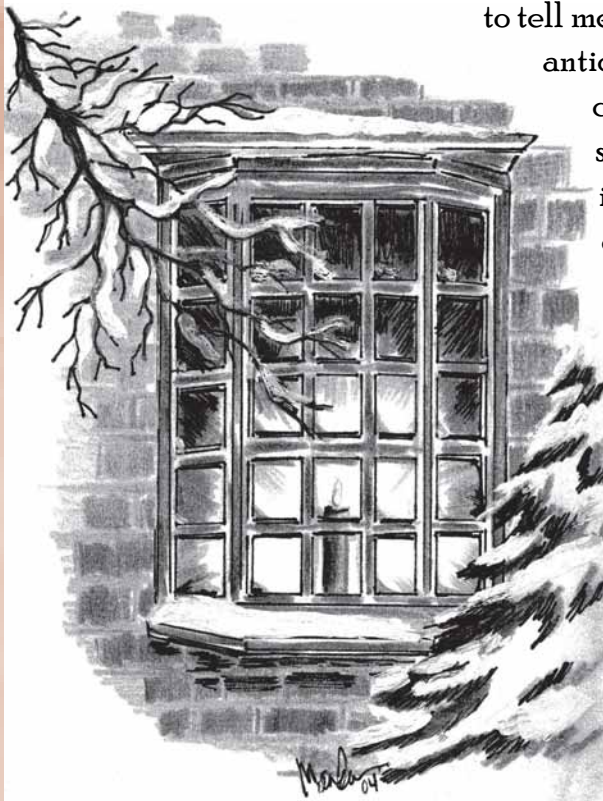
Christmas is here once again.

At the two Willow Brooks, lights have been strung inside and out. Residents stop me in the hall to tell me with dancing eyes of

anticipated visits from their children who have been scattered like snowflakes in the wind. Christmas is calling them home.

At my house, the bushes out front and our two trees inside have been peppered with tiny blue lights. Janet and I chose blue as our holiday color for our first Christmas thirty-two years ago. We started with just two strands, and even that seemed a lot for

"Residents stop me in the hall to tell me with dancing eyes of anticipated visits from their children who have been scattered like snowflakes in the wind."



continued on page 2...

the scraggly little tree in our apartment window.

Each year we added a string or two. It's not that we love blue all that much. We just figured it was cheaper to match the ones from the year before. Now it takes 25 or 30 strings to satisfy our annual decorating appetite.

Blue lights are rare. Drive around your neighborhood. I doubt you'll find more than one or two houses that color. If blue ever catches on, I guess we'll have to come up with some other easy marker for holiday visitors trying to find our house. Christmas this year is different for Janet and me. Just as my residents await the arrival of their children from afar, candles are lit at our house, anticipating the return of Ben, our oldest, from DC, with his new-found love. This is our first Christmas to hold vigil for a loved one returning.

With the passing of years, I have become the patriarch on my branch of the Harris family tree. All generations before me now are gone, gone to dust. I am the sage, even when I don't feel so very wise. My children look to me for strength, even when I am not so strong.

I miss the days when life was more certain, when I could take my father's hand as we trudged home through the snow. He always knew the way, or at least I believed he did.

We are all of us mere pilgrims in a foreign land, searching for the path that will lead us to the light.

These are uncertain times. In the land of Bethlehem, where light came into the world two thousand years ago, strap-on bombs are exploding and people are dying. Off to the east in the region that was the ancient home of the

Msagi who journeyed to worship a newborn king, the sound of a mortar shell detonating and the shrieks of the dying betray an ugly truth – the human heart harbors evil beyond imagination.

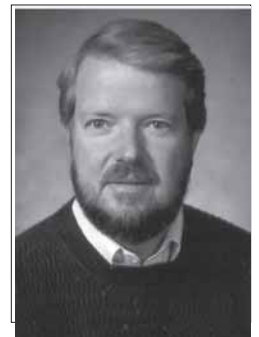
Can we not turn and look back across the ages to that cold night in a stable? Have we learned nothing from that night? It seems about the only thing we have improved in two thousand years is the kill ratio of our weapons. Now, instead of cutting each other down one arrow swoosh at a time, we can take out an entire city with one great big boom.

This season of tinsel and candles reminds me that there is a higher purpose to our existence than can be found in bombs and missiles, and the dogged pursuit of riches.

Two thousand years ago, light came into a world of darkness. May that light of Bethlehem shine across this troubled planet. Jesus has shown us the way, and some are trying. A blessed few have figured it out.

Come December, I remember every Christmas I have known. The season has become an anchor in my life. I never take anything for granted these days, for I have learned through loss that life holds no guarantee. But Christmas has become a constant. If my world stands a few more days, I will be gathered with those I love, and we will remember the light that came into the world.

Larry Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Willow Brook
Christian Communities
Contact Larry on-line at
larryharris@willow-brook.org



We're Ready . . .

Home's New Assisted Living Wing Welcomes Residents

Open Houses slated for December and January



The view past the nurses' station shows the wide, spacious hallways that connect the living areas in the new skilled care wing..



Taken in mid-November, this view of the new wing shows landscaping taking form to provide appealing views from each window.

Open House the expanded **Willow Brook Christian Home**

December 19

January 9 January 23

January 16 January 30

Sundays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

55 Lazelle Road, Worthington
2 miles north of I-270 just east of US 23

Willow Brook Christian Home's brand new assisted

living wing is ready to welcome the very first residents to its Worthington-area location in mid-December.

Two years in the making, it is everything we dreamed it would be:

- ♥ wide hallways
- ♥ big, sunny rooms
- ♥ soaring ceilings in conversation areas
- ♥ gracious and warm décor
- ♥ eager, excited staff

Assisted living manager Carrie Kossler has been working with administrator David Chappell, nursing supervisor April Rausch and the rest of the staff to add all the special touches that make a "house" into a home, and they're ready to show it off.

A holiday open house is slated for Sunday, December 19, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. More open houses are planned during Sundays in January, beginning on January 9th and continuing for four weeks.

Stop by. We'll provide tasty refreshments, give you a tour, and allow you the chance to picture for yourself what a lovely home it can be for someone you love.



Casual conversation nooks are scattered throughout the wing.

Stylin'

More than a hundred women gathered in the Terrace Room of Willow Brook Christian Village on a colorful October day for the annual autumn style show and luncheon. Led by freelance fashion buyer Kathy Gerard, Willow Brook residents Wilda Crosby, Mary Jo Humes, Lucille Reinhard, Phyllis Wood and Janet Yoder modeled this year's favorite fashions from such manufacturers and retailers as Pendelton, Villager, Kohl's, Kaufmann's and Coldwater Creek.

Bouquets of yellow roses were presented to Jean Flahive as coordinator and ticket sales leader, Marguerite Wooley in appreciation for her years of hospitality in allowing the models to use her apartment as a changing room, to Nola Motts as the newest resident in attendance, and centennarian Luella Buchanan as the oldest woman to acknowledge her age at the event.

While the apparel was lovely and the luncheon was delicious, the best of the show was the opportunity for friends to gather for good times and good conversation.



Polly Kaple and Marguerite Wooley

Janet Yoder and Lucille Reinhard



Monty Patty and Nola Motts



Eileen Stimpert and Anne Hall



Cheers for Volunteers

For more than a year now, residents of Willow Brook Christian Village have served their community by volunteering as hosts and hostesses. The offices close at 5:00 p.m., but in communities such as ours, visitors continue to arrive and telephones ring for several more hours. Last fall, Village resident Bob Meyer suggested developing a volunteer corps who would greet guests, answer the telephone and route calls in the evening when the offices are closed. An orientation/training session was held, and the program began.

Every evening, Monday through Friday, a volunteer such as Barb Meyer, Carolyn Fleming or Ethel Zimmer can be found at a welcome desk in The Village lobby. It is the gathering spot for residents going to dinner at The Courtyard Restaurant.

"They are wonderful, awesome people," exclaims Dining Room Supervisor and special events coordinator Lynn Roush. "All the volunteers are warm, wonderful, terrific people. I love talking to Ethel Zimmer, who volunteers every Tuesday while her husband is upstairs with the Kiwanis Club. Barb Meyer used to be a nurse at Grady Hospital in Delaware, and she knows how important it is that calls get directed to the right place. And Carolyn Fleming is at her post every single Friday night."

"These are truly giving and wonderful people," continues Roush. "Every one of them is pleasant, outgoing, and very kind. They help to give The Village its reputation as a loving and caring place to live."

Willow Brook loves its volunteers and thanks them for their contributions of their time and their warm personalities. If you run into one of the volunteers below, please share your appreciation too; they lend to the quality of our lives.

Carolyn Fleming
Donna French
Harry & Mary Jo Humes
Clara Main
Barb Meyer

Bob & Bette Meyer
Len Russell
Larry Wenger
Clyde Wooley
Ethel Zimmer



Barb Meyer, Hospitality Volunteer



Where Credit's Due

This issue of Reflections devotes a lot of space to talented residents, but to give credit where it is due, please note the pen and ink illustration of our front-page essay. Artist and Village activities director Marlene Andersen has been adding her creative touch to CEO Larry Harris's essays for several years. A graduate of the Pan American School of Art in New York, Marlene has been with Willow Brook for nearly ten years.

Village Maintenance Director Jeff McIntosh took the page 3 photos of the interior of The Home's new assisted living wing, sharing his considerable photographic talent with Reflections once again.

The editor thanks them both.

Memorial Gifts

Margot Bailey

Shawn Hayes

Harry Devers

Anonymous

Margery Burkhart

Mary Kay Cochran

Marjorie Devers

Robert and Bette Meyer

David and Rosalie Miller

Stephen Owens

Helen Reppart

Dorcas Rusk

Lois Smith

Mary Snider

Lawrence Wenger

Lloyd Frantz

Cleo Frantz

Josephine Gray

Roland Gribble

Helen Reppart

Ferd and Zelda Hall

Edwin and Dorothy Wright

Estella Hamilton

David and Marsha Darrah

Ruth Lewis

Mary Slupe

Jerry Martini

Eugene and Terry Martini

Arthur McLin

Helen Reppart

Lincoln Moore

Thelma Moore

Wallace Noel

Shawn Hayes

Lilly May Ridenour

Ruth McLaughlin

Helen Taylor

Jack Taylor

Robert Wells

Anonymous

Helen Reppart

Forest White

Judy Baker

Jayne MacKay

Harold and Ruth Patrick

Helen Reppart

Clyde and Therese Smith

Eileen Stimpert

Everett and Mary Tilson

Lydia White

Clyde and Marguerite Wooley

Farrow and Margaret Wylie

Eugene and Terry Martini

It Works Both Ways

Mutual respect. Mutual admiration. Mutual aid. Mutual support.

*The residents and employees of Willow Brook have the above in abundance,
and it shows in many ways, even financially . . .*

Employee Campaign Aids Residents in Need

Employees of Willow Brook have pledged more than \$10,000 to benefit Willow Brook Christian Communities and our residents in the annual employee campaign. Funds raised in the campaign are deducted from the employee's paycheck every two weeks and are directed toward helping residents in need. Their gifts can be directed to residents at Willow Brook Christian Home through the Herb Strigle Memorial Fund, to residents at Willow Brook Christian Village through the Julia

Residents Raise funds for Employee Tuition

Thanks to the generosity of Willow Brook residents, four employees are now attending classes to receive degrees or other forms of higher education that will help them to better serve those in their care. Most of this year's students are enrolled in nursing school, one in business. The tuition reimbursement fund was established with a gift from Bob and Bette Meyer. The idea took hold, and many individuals have designated gifts to the fund. In addition, proceeds from a weekly coffee hour and ice cream socials have all been earmarked for the program.

Artists in Residence

Willow Brook has over the years become the home of artists from many disciplines. Three of our residents took state-level ribbons at the recent Art and Writing Exhibition sponsored by the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes for the Aged. Look at the variety of talent represented on this page . . .



The most difficult part of making this award-winning quilt, says Bebe Conant, was making the points exactly perfect. Bebe has no idea how many quilts she has made; she just knows she still has “gobs” of them. She credits her husband Dan for getting her started by taking her to Amish country to look at quilts. Bebe and Dan live at The Village Commons in Willow Brook Christian Village.



Midge McConnell’s three-dimensional “junk art” picture of an old mill took first prize in the Special 3-D division. Midge has a dozen pieces in this collection, compiled from corrugated paper, matchsticks, milk bottle caps, candy boxes and Christmas cards. “I spent eighteen winters in Florida, and that’s where I got into crafts,” says Midge. Midge and her husband Bill live at The Centrum in Willow Brook Christian Village.



The haunting eyes in this photograph of a young man she met in Ethiopia won Village resident Joyce Stambaugh a first prize ribbon in the photography division.





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If you wish to remove your
name from the Reflections
mailing list, please contact
Lynn Zizzo at 740-369-0048.



**Peace
on Earth, Peace
of Mind**

Open House
Sunday
December 19
2-4 pm

**Willow Brook
Christian Home**
55 Lazelle Road
*just east of US 23
north of Worthington*
614-885-3300
www.willow-brook.org



Sometimes when people sing about peace on earth we say to ourselves that what *we* really need is peace of mind. Peace of mind can be hard to find when we are worrying about how to balance Mom or Dad's needs for a safe and helpful environment, privacy, and dignity, with financial resources that are not unlimited.

Willow Brook understands that struggle. That's why we just expanded Willow Brook Christian Home to include a lovely assisted living wing.

With all private rooms and suites, our home can give the person you love the privacy and autonomy she needs, but with that little bit of help she requires to live safely. And when her needs grow, or her personal funds run low, she can become a part of our nursing care unit without ever leaving the building. The skilled care wing is Medicare and Medicaid certified to ease that financial burden.

So take a break from your Christmas shopping to attend our open house. We'll offer you a little refreshment, and a chance for peace of mind.

*When it's someone you love,
making the right decision
brings you peace of mind*