

Willow Brook Christian Communities

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

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South
Delaware, Ohio 43015

- 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

100 Delaware Crossing West
*A second retirement
community in development
on the west side of Delaware*

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235

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

www.willow-brook.org

Christmas Angels

by Larry Harris, CEO

Christmas mornings at my house are much quieter than they used to be. With our three kids now grown, the holiday has become a time for Janet and me to sleep in a little. Tucked beneath a quilt and blankets, we watch the snowflakes fall outside our bedroom window.

Old memories of Christmas mornings come floating down with the snow. They lead me back to a time when our pre-dawn living room was filled with the impatient sounds of ripping paper and squeals of disbelief as dreams came true for the little people who filled our days.

Looking back, I'm a little surprised at how quickly our Christmas mornings have ratcheted down from boisterous to mellow. Not so long ago, Janet and I declared that we couldn't imagine Christmas without kids. Now that has become our reality. Our three

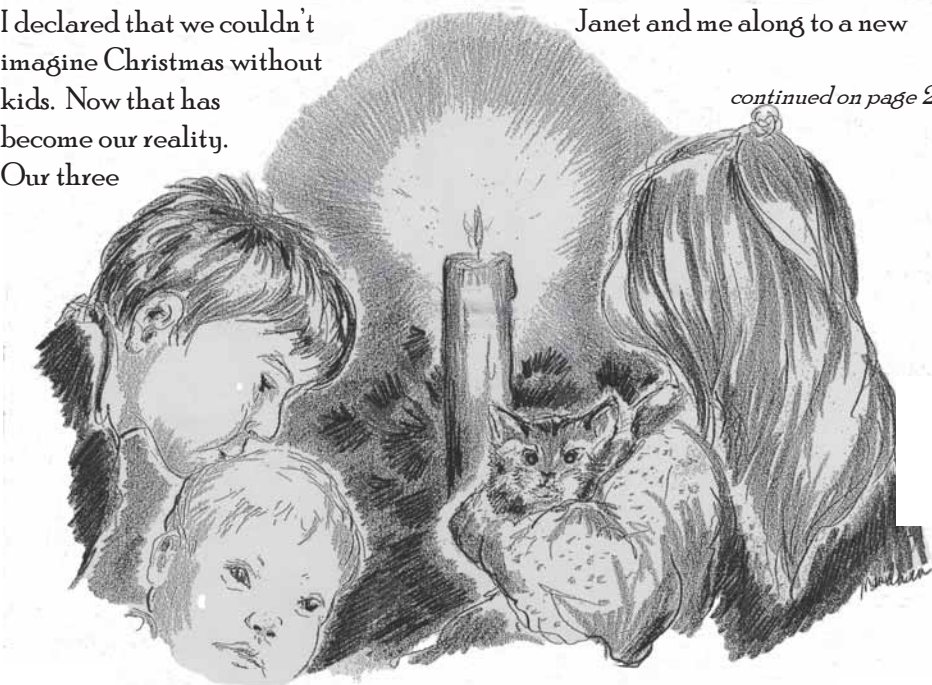
children morphed from toddlers to twenty-somethings in about the time it takes to bake the Christmas turkey, or so it seems.

They're busy now constructing their own lives with their own people. Mom and Dad are no longer the central characters in their life's script

I miss the seasons when they were small, but I wouldn't want to go back. Time has moved Janet and me along to a new

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stage of life. Time does that. We had our years with diapers and Sesame Street, and sleepovers, homework, and marching bands. It's time to write the next chapter.

We worked hard to outfit our kids with golden wings, so when the time was right, they could take flight. Our kids never believed in Santa Claus, even though we have photos of each sitting on his lap. Janet and I were just honest with them from the start. We figured when they discovered that we were lying about a fat guy from the North Pole who squeezed down the chimney each Christmas Eve, then maybe they wouldn't trust us on other things. More important things. Like a baby born in Bethlehem two millennia back, who came with a message of peace and hope.

We taught them grace, and tutored them in the lost art of thinking for themselves. I always warned them about the legions of charlatans and self-appointed prophets out there who are all too eager to do your thinking for you. Shun them, flee them, run from them. They will turn your soul to stone. My three little students took notes and paid attention. I am proud of the independent paths they are taking today.

Having been a father now for 28 Christmases, there's one thing I have learned: Children give you a stake in the future. It's not that I haven't always wanted the world to stand for eons to come, or that I haven't long ranted against humanity's self-destructive directions. But for nearly

three decades now, I have had a deep personal interest in mankind's long-term survival—



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my kids, and their kids, and the many generations of my descendants yet to be.

I long for a world of peace where my children and grandchildren-to-be will grow old without fear of nuclear incineration. I pray that we humans will find a way to get along with each other. Please, for the sake of the children, and all our descendants, let's gather up all our guns and missiles, and tanks and warplanes, and dump them into the sea.

This fall, as the season of Christmas was drawing near, two of my staff members – a nurse and a nursing assistant – felt the pain of our violent world. They had their babies snatched from them through gun violence. JJ, the 14-year-old son of nurse Beth Daugherty, died of a shotgun blast to the face. Then five days later, in an unrelated attack, Patrick, the 17-year-old son of nursing assistant

Mona King, was shot in a robbery attempt as he stepped off a bus from school. For ten days, Patrick barely hung on in a Columbus hospital, hooked to hissing lines and beeping machines. For most every moment of those ten days, his mother clung to him in a tearful embrace, until he, too, was called away.

These children have been denied their future, all their tomorrows having been cancelled by two blasts from the barrels of guns.

And so at this time of Christmas, you will find the outward signs of the season at the two Willow Brooks. The trees are up, splashed with lights and tinsel; smoke curls from our chimneys; old sentimental songs surround us in the halls. But a heavy spirit hangs in the air, a dark and mournful pall, as we hug two grieving mothers.

My own three children are very much alive and well this Christmas, and for that Janet and I drop to our knees and give thanks. But the little versions of them are gone. Our Christmas angels are preserved in old photographs, sitting on the mantel or under a lamp, or buried deep in the back of a drawer. They live now only in our fading memories, having been swept away in the ever-advancing march of days. ♥

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Delaware Run taking form



Willow Brook's new retirement community will include . . .

- Twin-single homes
- Apartments
- Health Center with:
 - Skilled Nursing
 - Assisted Living
- 49 hilly, wooded acres
- Lake and streams
- Library
- Restaurant
- Art studio
- Hair salons
- Vibrant social activities

Willow Brook Christian Village at Delaware Run is coming to life! This will be our second retirement community in Delaware, Ohio, located three miles from our first. Basements are complete in the second phase of twin-single construction, and at the entrance, the outside work on the phase one twins is about finished. Workers can make their magic indoors over the winter.

Drive past the site on the north side of US 36/West William Street a mile and a half west of downtown Delaware and behold the changes taking place on the hillsides. No parking lot-type spaces here. The road dips and curves, and every house seems to be on a different plane. Even bare of their summer leaves, the trees seem to remind you about the lush backdrop that will return with the spring.

Why are we building a second retirement community just three miles from our first?

Easy question. Because that's what people want. You should see the stack of reservations we have. Delaware Run promises to be a community with the same high standards, vision, and gentle spirit as our other ministries. To arrange an appointment and tour, call Carol at 740-369-0048.



Simply Enriching

Visitors to Jim and Betty Leslie's home at Willow Brook Christian Village first notice the American antiques on their porch. Their simplicity of form fits a couple whose lives have been focused less on acquisitions than on practicing kindness and enriching the mind.

Jim's father was a theologian who taught at Boston University and took him along on sabbaticals that included visits to missionaries throughout Asia and the far East. One arranged for the Leslies to visit with Mohatma Ghandi in his Warda, India, home. The man who personified peace to millions, "sat on the floor by his spinning wheel and talked to us," said Jim. Ghandi told Jim's father, "Don't speak theology; speak the truth and speak kindness." They are words Jim will never forget, and he has spent his life putting Ghandi's words into practice.

In 1960, Jim was named chaplain of Ohio Wesleyan University, just a mile from



Dr. Jim and Betty Leslie stand in front of several carvings they acquired on their trips to Africa.

the Village in Delaware, Ohio. He and Betty raised their five children in Delaware and remained at the university until he retired in 1988.

In 1968, Jim led a group of OWU students to a work camp in South Africa that became a model project for the Peace Corps. Over the years he recruited 80 Ohio Wesleyan students for the Peace Corp, and helped them raise the funds they needed. Jim is proud that Ohio Wesleyan's percentage of students in the Peace Corps was the highest in the country.

Since they retired Betty and Jim have attended Methodist

work camps, mostly in the southern U.S., participated in Elder Hostel programs across the globe, and recently they purchased their family's vacation cabin in Scituate Harbor, Massachusetts, near Plymouth.

A love of learning has been a hallmark of the Leslie family. Besides Jim's doctorate and Betty's advanced nursing degree, their children have a combined 43 years of higher education and are now a business manager, a teacher, a portrait artist, a theologian, and a physician. Most were at their parents' Willow Brook home for the recent Thanksgiving holiday.

"We came to Willow Brook because we wanted to make decisions about our care as we age so our children wouldn't have to," says Betty. "We chose to remain in Delaware, where our church, the college, and the Cultural Arts Center, where Jim teaches chair caning, are close-by."

"We have been pleased with our decision," Jim stated simply.

Christmas in the Village

We're not sure if Christmas is a special time in the Village, or if the Village is a special place at Christmas. Probably both. We do everything we can to make the holidays memorable. A dozen trees are decorated in the public areas and many, many more in homes, rooms and apartments. Garlands and wreaths abound, and thousands of lights twinkle their welcome. They cast a cozy glow over the Home and the Village, but the warmest thoughts by far are the memories buried deep within the hearts of the people who live here:

Marge Burkhart's father was a minister, and the Village resident remembers one year that was their first at a new church in Cleveland Heights.

They had attended a Christmas Eve service at the church, but when the family returned home, they found gaily-wrapped presents for each of the children, thoughtfully brought in by members of the congregation while they were gone.



Willow Brook Christian Village in winter

Rose Coville, who lives at The Home's assisted living center, remembers her mother's kitchen skills – pies, cheesecake and gingerbread boys and girls, candy, taffy and popcorn balls. "We had a ham for Christmas every year. Pop raised pigs, and we had a smoke shanty in back. He always said the best wood for making ham was from the apple trees."



Anne Doud Hall (center), sits with her sister Jane (left) and brother Harold (right) while their father, Harold Doud, places chains on the front wheel of their car. Anne grew up in Clarks Green, Pennsylvania.

"I love Christmas!" exclaims Centrum resident **Anne Hall**. "My parents always put the tree up after we went to bed on Christmas Eve. In the morning we would find our stockings filled with surprises at the bottom of our beds." Everything was always beautifully decorated, and the whole house smelled of fresh greens. "It was wonderful," she remembers.

The Village's **Phyllis Wood** remembers traveling to her uncle's farm in southeastern Ohio every year. "It was always cold and snowy, the perfect Dickensian Christmas," she says. "The men would hunt, and the women would cook the rabbit and squirrel on the cast iron range for dinner."

Village Commons resident **Wayne Lloyd** remembers one Christmas opening a package from his grandparents. As usual, there was a pair of overalls, and probably a pair of gloves. But nestled in the center of the box was a glass cup, and in it was a single orange. "Of all the Christmas gifts in that box, it is the orange that I remember, so it must have been important."

Willow Brook Christian Home's **Ann Kibble** has had her tree up since Thanksgiving. "Christmas was always important to us," she said. "We'd start the day after Thanksgiving and we'd decorate every single room in the house, even the bathrooms."

Memorial Gifts from the Heart

October 20, 2005 - November 29, 2005

Mildred Bay

Dick and Ruth Bauerle

Phyllis Dougan

James and Nancy Gibbons

Rodger Hoyt

Dick and Ruth Bauerle

Lydia Landis

Eileen Stimpert

Ronald Mayo

Eleanor Barnhardt, R.N.

Central Ohio Christian School

Galen and Joyce Davis

James and Nancy Gibbons

Greenville Utilities Commission

Walter Harvey

Elmer and Janis Hughes

Eugene Prince

Maude Prince

Lilly May Ridenour

Ruth McLaughlin

Claranne Seaman

Dick and Ruth Bauerle

Philip Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. E. Dean Baldwin

Dick and Ruth Bauerle

Dan and Janet Hiestand

John and Brenda Hiestand

James and Shirley Jackson

Check us out!

If you haven't checked out our web site lately, now's the time. It was redesigned this year and now includes special features such as a 360-degree virtual tour of Willow Brook Christian Home in Worthington, current photos of Dela-ware Run construction, listings of upcoming events, menus and much more. Surf over to:
www.willow-brook.org.

Clark named president



Peter Clark has been named president of the Willow Brook Christian Communities board of trustees for 2006.

Clark is comptroller for Cord Camera and a member of the Fishinger and Kenny Church of Christ in Columbus.

Also elected at the November 17 board meeting were Herman McHan as vice president, and Frank Chappell as secretary/treasurer.

Help Wanted

Due to the impending retirement of our Village manager, Helen Reppart, we are seeking a new Willow Brook Christian Village general manager for our independent home and apartment community. The selected individual for this vital position will serve as the key contact for residents and will coordinate Village staff in providing needed services to current residents. The Village manager will also be the primary contact for prospective residents and will coordinate appointments, provide tours, and offer information about our campus. Participating in community events and other promotional activities in Delaware and surrounding areas is also an important function of this position. A commitment to the mission of the Willow Brook organization and to serving older adults are considered valued qualifications. Interested applicants should submit a resume to Employee Relations, 100 Willow Brook Way South, Delaware, Ohio 43015 or complete an online job inquiry form.

A Home Thanksgiving

Nearly 300 residents, family members and staff gathered the Sunday before Thanksgiving for what has become a tradition at Willow Brook Christian Home: An early Thanksgiving dinner.

"It started several years ago," says Home activities director Lora Blackhawk, "when we could feel the pull and frustration of family members who wanted to share the Thanksgiving holiday with their loved ones in our care center but also had other family members who needed their time, attention, and sometimes travel.

"So we began having our Thanksgiving meal early and inviting the families to join us."

The event has grown and includes families of all sizes, from a single son or daughter, to a multigenerational gathering of 17.

It is a special occasion for everyone. Extra care is taken to make sure the ladies have their hair styled and their makeup applied. The gentlemen are nattily dressed, and a festive atmosphere permeates every room.



The Martin family enjoys their meal with mom and grandma Jean Lasser

Staff members volunteer their time to serve the families, and tables are set up throughout the building.

The dinner is provided by Willow Brook at no charge to the families "because we want our families to be together, and because it is our way of showing our gratitude to these families for caring about their loved ones as we do," said Blackhawk.



Natalie Pearson and Diana Boryczewski, brought jack o' lanterns to residents of Willow Brook Christian Village, compliments of Ohio Wesleyan University's Delta Delta Delta sorority.

Correction:

In the last edition of Reflections we stated in the Missionary Standard story that an orphanage had been constructed by the group of volunteers in Honduras last year. Judy Earich corrects us, saying the group did not build an orphanage; they built two houses and a small church building last year. Our apologies for the error.



Reflections

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Reflections

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

*We wish you the gifts of
Peace, Love
Joy, and Family
during this Christmas season
and throughout the coming year*

your friends at Willow Brook Christian Communities