The holidays are here again. Crystal mornings and snow-covered rooftops call to mind every Christmas I have known. On street corners around town, Christmas tree lots have sprung up like so many Starbucks. Shoppers bundled like mummies race in from parking lots to the malls, with plumes of frosty breath streaming behind.  

continued on page 2 . . .
At the three Willow Brooks, old songs of the season ring through the halls. You’ll find sparkling trees in our windows, and warm, flickering fires on our hearths. Scout troops and Sunday school classes are calling to schedule caroling, for there is no better time than Christmas to plan a visit to one of the Willow Brooks.

Each year as December rolls around, my heart always takes a turn for home. This season especially, there is much to celebrate around the Harris tree. Our youngest son, Stephen, has been handed back to us, healthy and whole, from his crushing accident on a Colorado ski slope last March. He missed a turn and struck a tree while on spring break with friends. Surgeons pinned him together. Therapy and prayers drew him back from the brink. To watch him now, you would never know.

Things could have taken a much darker turn out in the snow on that mountain near Aspen, but they didn’t, and we are grateful this Christmas.

And our oldest son, Ben, took a vow of marriage this year. He and Christina Barry were united in a September wedding at the Washington National Cathedral, site of Ronald Reagan’s funeral and majestic state observances. It was as magnificent as you would imagine it to be. The music, the regal ceremony, the grand cathedral itself — they all made for a spectacular event.

Ben and Christina asked me to do a reading in the ceremony, which I was honored to do. Midway through, it struck me that, hey, I’m standing here reading in the National Cathedral, of all places. Talk about distraction. I finished it in fine form, though, and I don’t remember ever being more proud of one of my children.

I view Ben’s wedding as the end of an epic 29-year journey. Our son has been leaving Janet and me for a long time — when we dropped him off for his first sleepover at grandma’s, when he walked through the school door that first tearful day of kindergarten, when he was hired on as a bagger at Kroger, when he graduated from high school and Ohio State, and trekked off to D.C. Now he has taken a bride, and the separation is complete. And that is as it should be.

It is at Christmas that each family pauses to take stock of the year’s events, to review the latest chapter of the family story.

Each family is an unfolding story. What better time than Christmas to tell it? There are the major events — the births, graduations, weddings, and funerals. But those are the highway mile markers. They don’t speak of the stretches between — the little daily dramas and comedies, played out with all the laughter and love, the disappointments and sorrows that become a family’s narrative.

The plot is full of intrigue and suspense, as in any finely-written novel. And at just the right time, there is comic relief. My life is intertwined with Janet’s, and the boys’ and Becky’s, and our parents’, both living and dead, like the branches of a Christmas wreath. Taken together, we tell a beautiful story. Your family does, too.

The long shadow of death inevitably sweeps through each family’s tale. Long, rich memories of loved ones now buried linger on for decades. The dead sit at the Christmas table long after they are gone. From the grave, they instruct, inspire, and influence decisions of the survivors.

Time works many changes. It is at Christmas that each family pauses to take stock of the year’s events, to review the latest chapter of the family story. At our house, we are celebrating good times. It won’t always be so, I know. But for now, we will sit back and enjoy the precious company this Christmas of a lost son returned, and a new daughter gained through another son’s love.

Larry Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Willow Brook Christian Communities
Contact Larry on-line at larryharris@willow-brook.org
Eileen Stimpert, our own volunteer, benefactor and friend was named 2006 Individual Volunteer of the Year at the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes and Services for the Aging’s annual awards ceremony in Columbus this September. Eileen has been sharing her warmth, generosity and love with Willow Brook’s residents for many years, and more than one would claim her as the dearest of friends. In the photo at left Eileen is doing what she so often does, engaging her friends in songs and conversation with her talented fingers at the piano.

Mary Laughlan and golf outing organizer Eunice Rogers celebrated the day new television/DVD combos were delivered to all the residents of Willow Brook Christian Home. The Rogers golf outing added its proceeds to what donors contributed to make the TVs available to every Home resident.

The flag waving above Willow Brook Christian Village this fall has also flown over Baghdad. It came to us courtesy of Kevin M. Lord, an Air Force F-16 pilot who flew the flag over the hostile skies of Iraq in honor of his grandmother during a combat mission. Our Jeanne Simpson, the proud grandma, received the flag and a certificate from Captain Lord and then raised the flag over the more peaceful skies of Willow Brook in his honor.
Mary Jo and Harry Humes share a brief moment as they remove the cloth covering a plaque commemorating their gift of the guest room at Willow Brook Christian Village. This underwriting represents more than $107,000 to Willow Brook programs and projects from the Hughes-Keenan Foundation over the past several years.

The Charitable Gift Annuity is an effective tool for supporting Willow Brook while doing something smart for your retirement income.

In exchange for a gift of cash, appreciated securities or real estate, Willow Brook promises to pay you a guaranteed, fixed income for life. The rate of return depends on your age and in most cases the annuity rate is higher than passbook savings, money market funds, or even a certificate of deposit. Benefits include:

• The annuity rate is fixed for as long as you live.
• Annuity payments can be made annually, semi-annually or quarterly.
• It’s a secure and stable way to give more than you might have thought you could.
• The annuity provides Willow Brook with future dollars to maintain its mission for years to come.
• You receive a substantial charitable deduction on your income taxes, and part of the annuity is tax-free.

To participate, simply return the attached card to the Willow Brook Foundation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Jim Minehart, personally at (740) 368-4633 or email me at jminehart@willow-brook.org.

It’s Automatic

Many of us have just experienced the joy of Thanksgiving, and we are grateful for the many blessings received through the past year. We take time to share meaningful charitable gifts such as those that enhance Willow Brook’s ability to care for its residents.

Willow Brook wants to make your gift-giving easier, so we are proud to announce two new options to make your year-end giving Simple. Both involve electronic features:

Electronic Funds Transfer

Your charitable contribution can now be made through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network.

What is the ACH? The Automated Clearing House network was developed to allow an individual to use a bank to make transactions on a customer’s checking or savings account automatically.

Willow Brook residents Ed and Evelyn Winter have been using ACH to make monthly donations to Willow Brook.

“It has been very convenient,” says Ed. “We can be out of town for several weeks and not worry about having the bills paid on time or our charitable gifts distributed as we have pledged.”

VISA and Master Cards

Willow Brook now offers the credit card option for donors. Anything to make it easier for you! You can charge it in December and pay it off in January 2007.

by Jim Minehart
Chief Development Officer
Memorial Gifts from the Heart

August 11 - October 31, 2006

Tributes

Dr. & Mrs. David Bichsel
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Bichsel
Isabel Macias
Ms. Anna Macias
Arlene Palenshus
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Patrick
Jack Pendleton
Ms. Virginia Thombs
Helen J. Reppart
Mr. & Mrs. Stanford Compton
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Meyer
Richard Shafer
Mrs. Betty Shafer
Willow Brook Staff
Ms. Marcia Hanesworth
Marene Kellems
Harold H. West
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Rood

William Beaber
Mrs. Lynna R. Beaber
Jean Berger
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Berger
G. Robert Blose
Ms. Hazel B. Blose
Woodrow Buchanan
Mrs. Mary Waugh
Gertrude C. Buckingham
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Messmer
Mrs. Lucille Reinhard
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ufferman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yoakam
Charles Burks
Mrs. Margaret Burks
Guy & Kate Carson
Ann Milleson
Anna Daub
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Childs
Barbara Davidson
Dr. & Mrs. David Darrah
Louise Donofrio
Ms. Helen J. Reppart
Dorotha Edgington
Ms. Bertha Schaile
Floyd Edgington
Ms. Bertha Schaile

Hicle Estep
Mr. & Mrs. Roy R. Estep
Marion E. Evans, Sr.
Mrs. Dorothy M. Evans
Joan Fletcher
Ms. Karen Fletcher
Lawrence Fletcher
Ms. Karen Fletcher
Lloyd Frantz
Mrs. Cleo Frantz
Oreste Gallo, Jr.
Mrs. Mary Gallo
Helen Gerhardt
Mr. James Gerhardt
Mr. Thomas Gerhardt
Ruth Glenn
Forest Hill Church of Christ
Loretta Glowacki
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Wilcox
Henry Hamilton, Sr.
Forest Hill Church of Christ
Hortense Harter
Ms. Charlotte Gallant
Nellie Howell-Palmer
Mrs. Kathryn Hoskinson
Rodger S. Hoyt
Mrs. June M. Hoyt
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hull
Mrs. Juanita Hull
Paul Landefeld
Mrs. Geneva Landefeld
Loved Ones
Mrs. Carol Riley
Marge Mackey
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Don Greer
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Krasny
Mr. & Mrs. Willis Wyeth
Mr. & Mrs. James Young
Lloyd E. Manley
Mrs. Mary Manley
Clarence McCoy
Mrs. Delores Hamilton
Arthur McLin
Mrs. Helen McLin
Jeffrey Lee Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. John Meyer
Clayton Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Patrick
Ms. Helen J. Reppart
Lincoln Moore
Mrs. Thelma Moore
Jane Morris
Mr. Sam Morris
Mabel Nixon
Mrs. Margaret Burks
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
Ms. Davie Esau
Ms. Monterey Patty
Ms. Helen J. Reppart
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Rose
Ms. Dorcas Rusk
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Smith
Mrs. Lois K. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. South
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Mrs. Martha O’Dell
 Mildred Ohl
Ms. Sandy Swartzmiller
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Eugene Prince
Mrs. Maude Prince
Don Pugh
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Mr. & Mrs. R.D. Reeder
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Mr. Lawrence Wenger
Georgia Whittington
Mrs. Agnes Poteet
Kathryne Ziegler
Ms. Hazel B. Blose
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Patrick
Ms. Helen J. Reppart
Ms. Dorcas Rusk
Mr. James O. Ward
Willow Brook Residents
Advisory Council
Village server Rutha Merry’s anniversary flowers were an extra special delivery this year, and we were in on the secret as husband Peter, stationed in Iraq, arranged to have them delivered to her workplace so we could all enjoy her pleasure at being remembered despite the “bombs bursting in air” around her loving husband.

Delta Mae Adams, a resident of Willow Brook’s Centrum assisted living center, is a self-taught artist who says she loved to shape faces even as a child. “I used to find clay in the mud of my daddy’s farm” in western Kentucky. Once she was grown she exhibited her works across the state. A charming piece of a barefoot girl practicing the cello and keeping time with her big toe was inspired by a granddaughter whom Delta observed through a porch window and went home to sculpt. Her four horsemen of the apocalypse at left follow a religious theme prominent in her work.

Willow Brook Christian Home resident Mary Gaybud offers candy to trick-or-treater Ashley Chappell, daughter of administrator David Chappell. Ashley was among a couple dozen children and grandchildren of employees who roamed The Home’s hallways during the annual Halloween event. The children received candy; the adults got pleasure in seeing royal and sometimes ghoulish munchkins garbed for the season.
Sanctuary at The Home

by Teri Ryan, Director
Community Relations

This isn’t where Bob and Eline Sanctuary expected to spend the holidays.

A year ago Bob and Eline were golfing, entertaining, and enjoying an active social life in Alabama, where they had lived for 30 years and where Bob retired after a career in the Air Force.

Now they share a one-bedroom suite at Willow Brook Christian Home just north of Worthington, Ohio.

“I hadn’t planned to have a heart attack,” states Bob, “and while I was in the hospital Eline got sick and was hospitalized too. We both got pneumonia and were in the hospital—twice.” Now they struggle with chronic heart, lung and kidney problems.

“It all happened so fast! Suddenly we find we’re not able to take care of each other any more. We just didn’t think we’d both get sick.”

Their concerned son and daughter, who both happen to live in the Columbus area, sold the house and many of the furnishings, rented an RV to accommodate Bob’s need for oxygen and a comfortable ride, and moved them 700 miles north to a land that winter has not forgotten.

Bob and Eline were high school sweethearts and have been married for 63 years. Pearl Harbor was bombed while Bob was in college, and he immediately enlisted in the Army Air Corps, forerunner to the US Air Force. A pilot, he dropped the first paratroopers behind the beaches of Normandy. Later, he attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, worked for the Commander in Chief of the Pacific in Hawaii, and according to Eline, moved their family 28 times during his career.

Bob did even more traveling during his two tours at the Pentagon. One evening Colonel Sanctuary was having dinner with the US ambassador in Iraq when they were informed that the Russians had just sent the first Sputnik up into space.

Retirement in 1972 did not signal a slowdown for the Sanctuary family. They purchased a series of motor homes and visited every one of the lower 48 states. “We saw America like few people ever get to see it,” said Bob. “And the Maritime provinces and the rest of Canada too,” agrees Eline. They spent most winters in Naples, Florida, and were not planning to stop.

“And then with our health situations we realized that we just can’t take care of each other any more.”

Bob and Eline are slowly adjusting to their new life at The Home’s new assisted living center. Bob does a lot of reading, Eline knits and is looking for one more person to complete a bridge foursome.

Always upbeat, Bob ticks off the benefits of his new life. Tops on his list were “not having to fix meals and having your medications dispensed to you. I am impressed with this facility. It’s new, well-equipped, and very clean. I’m also impressed with the nurses. I take a heck of a lot of pills, and they always make sure I get them and get them right.

“They do take good care of us,” he added, “and they try to make us happy. In fact, they feed us too much!”
When it comes to retirement living, making the right decision brings you peace of mind.

You are cordially invited to attend a

Rally and Christmas Reception

featuring the best of retirement living at

Willow Brook

at Delaware Run

Friday, December 15, 2006, 2:00 pm

RSVP to 740-201-5640

Tours will be offered immediately after the rally.

Willow Brook
Christian Village
at Delaware Run
25 Delaware Crossing E
Delaware, OH 43015
north side of US 36
2nd street past the railroad tracks.

www.willow-brook.org
not-for-profit
Church of Christ

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