

## REFLECTIONS

#### CHRISTMAS 2006

Volume 28 Number 3



#### 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

#### Willow Brook at Delaware Run

25 Delaware Crossing East
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Independent Homes
under construction:
Apartments & Health Care Center

Worthington, Ohio

#### Willow Brook Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road Columbus, Ohio 43235

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

www.willow-brook.org



by Larry Harris, CEO

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.

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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.

ach 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 triends. 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.

review the latest And our oldest son, Ben, took a chapter of the vow of marriage this year. He and Christina Barry were united in a family story. 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 29year 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.

ach 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.

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each tamily

stock of the

The plot is full of intrigue and suspense, as in any finely-written novel. And at just hristmas that the right time, there is comic relief. My life is intertwined with Janet's, and the boys' and Becky's, and our parents', pauses to take both living and dead, like the branches of a Christmas wreath. Taken toyear's events, to gether, 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 influ-

ence 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.

# Charitable Gift Annuity an Effective Giving Tool

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:



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.

#### 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 McCov 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. Monteray 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

Willow Brook Residents

**Advisory Council** 

Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Wooley

**Charles O'Dell** 

Mrs. Martha O'Dell

Mildred Ohl

Ms. Sandy Swartzmiller

**Parents** 

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**Eugene Prince** 

Mrs. Maude Prince

**Don Pugh** 

Mr. & Mrs. Albert P. Stroop

William E. Reeder

Mr. & Mrs. R.D. Reeder

**John Richards** 

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Humes

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Ms. Alda Skinner

**Gladys Smiley** 

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Willow Brook Residents

Advisory Council

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Ms. Helen J. Reppart Ms. Dorcas Rusk

Mr. James O. Ward

Willow Brook Residents Advisory Council



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.



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.

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



Bob and Eline Sanctuary hold a colorful Turkish plate purchased during Bob's travels.

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!"



## Reflections

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