

A Christmas Prayer

by Larry Harris, CEO

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

John Wesley Work, Jr.

At tender Christmas call sweeps across the land, imploring faithful pilgrims to clear room in their hearts for the sweet child of Bethlehem. The yuletide

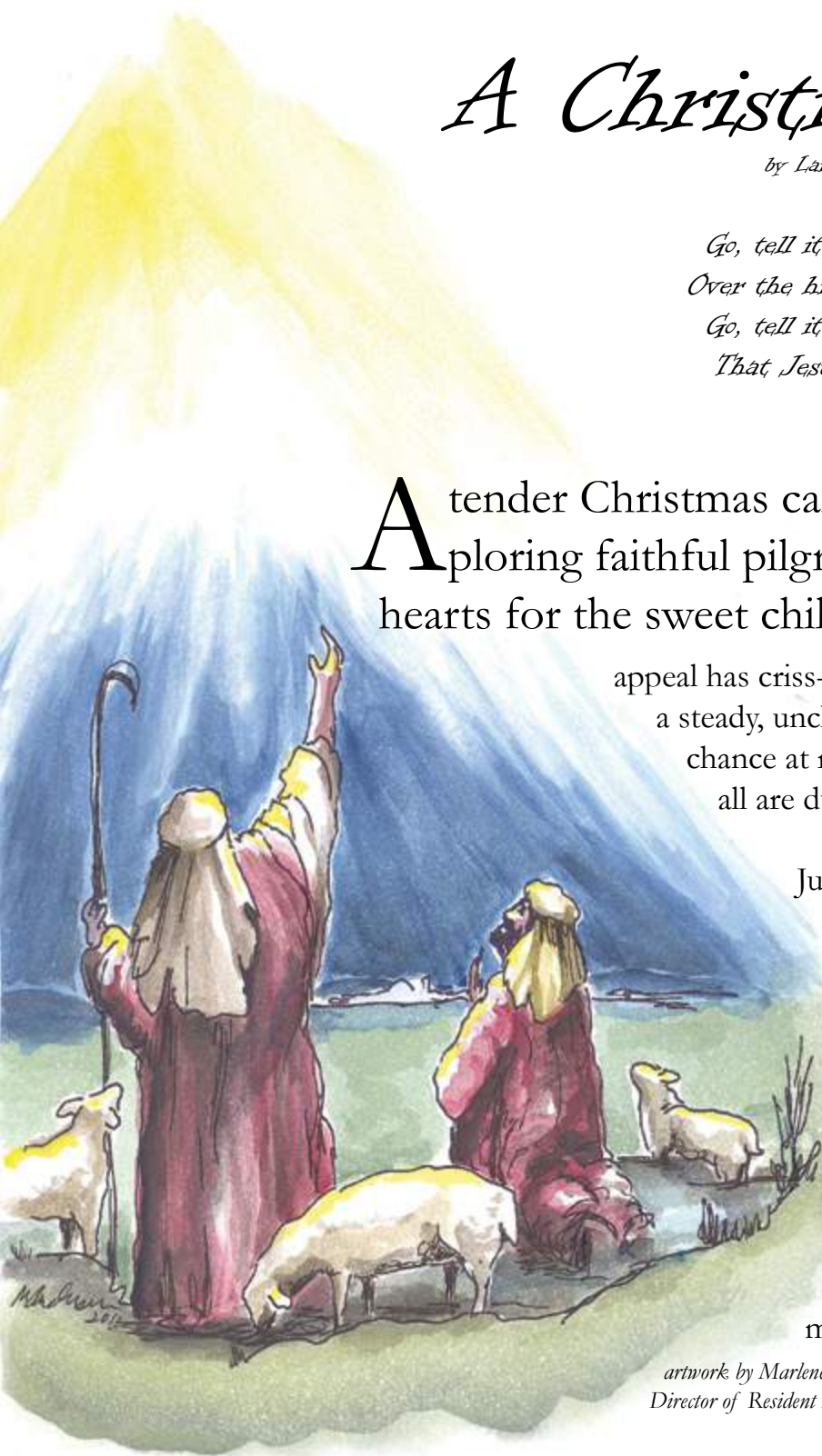
appeal has criss-crossed the universe over two millennia as a steady, unchanging plea for peace and justice, and a chance at redemption from the calamitous fate we all are due.

Cradled in the manger of an ancient Judean barn was our last and only hope, a living testimony that at long last love had come into the world. Eternity was bisected that night. An era of light and promise was cleaved from the age of darkness and despair. Go, tell it on the mountain!

Long before trembling shepherds knelt in awe, and curious wise men journeyed from afar with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the divine birth was foretold by the

*artwork by Marlene Andersen
Director of Resident Life Activities*

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prophets of old. The baby lying in that feeding crib was a promise kept. That promise became the man Jesus who, with spittle and mud, gave sight to the blind; he made the crippled whole with a simple healing touch; and he forgave unconditionally a woman of the night who washed his feet with her tears.

Ask that broken woman about Jesus. She could tell you that the good news of Christ cleanses the sin-stained soul of even a hint of defiling grime. It lifts the down-trodden and humbles the proud, but only if they allow themselves to be brought low. A heart must be open to the call – otherwise Christmas is nothing more than a season of pretty lights and presents. That's what the woman with the expunged past could tell you.

And so, as one of the forgiven, I send to you a warm heartfelt greeting this Christmas.

Christmas 2011 is a milestone of sorts for me. This is my fifth bonus Christmas, my fifth Christmas that should not have been, my fifth post-cancer Christmas. I returned home from my final surgery on Christmas Eve-Eve 2006. My masked malignancy had been



Larry Harris

discovered by fluke, and I narrowly dodged a bullet. Things so easily could have swung the other way. I count each day now as a gift, an undue bonus if you will, for I know I am living on time stolen from a future that should not have been mine. For as long as I live, Christmas will mark the anniversary of my deliverance.

Five is a big number for us survivors. If you can make it to five with no recurrence, you

On Christmas morning, in the tradition of the worshipful shepherds of long ago, you will find me on my knees – figuratively, if not literally – humbled and bowed in gratitude.

stand a pretty good chance of finishing the race.

Still, I never take anything for granted these days, for I realize how quickly it all could be snatched away. Life is all we have ever known, so it seems eternal. But you and I both are living on borrowed time, and we never know when the loan will come due.

Even though there now are seven billion of us packed on Spaceship Earth, a single human life is precious and downright incomprehensible. The

odds of your being here are improbable in the extreme. You won the lottery at conception. Of the millions upon millions of possible gene combinations that could have come about, it was yours that fused, and you emerged. The chance of your coming into existence was less than your now being struck by lightning. But you beat out legions of potential humans, and here you are.

We are the lucky ones. So let's embrace life and recognize it for the miracle it is.

On Christmas morning, in the tradition of the worshipful shepherds of long ago, you will find me on my knees – figuratively, if not literally – humbled and bowed in gratitude. I will send up a Christmas prayer of thanksgiving. I will express thanks that I have been granted yet one more year with the ones I love. I can hardly believe it, yet here I am. Thank you dear God, thank you.

And I will give thanks for the child that came into the world two thousand and eleven years ago. Oh my goodness. What if he had never been born? Where would we be? What would become of us? We are incapable of navigating eternity by ourselves. Thank you dear God, thank you.

Larry can be reached at lharris@willow-brook.org

Wayne's Trail

Village resident Wayne Lloyd, at right, descends the steps to the walking path that bears his name for one of the last of his daily walks. For years he trekked the path along a woodland and lake. He loved his daily excursions so much that the path was

named in his honor. This past year, Wayne was forced by declining health to give up his beloved walks. And he recently suffered the loss of Garnelle, his wife of 70 years. Yet he keeps his positive outlook on life. Says CEO Larry Harris, "Wayne always has a story, whether it was thumbing his way to California as a teen, or telling how he and a buddy low-crawled under a huge tent to get a free peek at Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose. I've told him he would make a great after-dinner speaker."



It's a Matter of Balance



Instructor Jim Bartha leads Gert Torry, Jim Roesch, and Peg Simone in Matter of Balance Exercises. Classes were held at The Village in September and Delaware Run in October. The sessions run two hours, two days a week for four weeks and will be offered once again after the holidays.

We all know how devastating a fall can be for older adults, and no one knows the dangers better than those most affected.

Fear of taking a tumble on sidewalks, wet or icy pavement, stairs or in public places often leads people to isolate themselves in order to protect their bones.

Not wanting to lose their ability to be as active and independent as possible, residents on both of the Delaware campuses enrolled for "Matter of Balance" classes. To date 39 people have completed the four-week courses, and many of them continue to meet regularly to exercise together.

Delaware Run graduate Jim Roesch said he never realized until he took the course how important the ankles are to balance. "Anything I can do to strengthen my ankles is top rate." Peg Simone said that while she knew exercise was important, learning about strength building was helpful to her. Another said the concept of "nose over toes" when rising from bed increased his confidence in getting up and around in the morning.



Willow Brook, in partnership with the *Delaware Gazette*, introduced a new event in October to honor long marriages.

Area couples married for 50 or more years were invited to Willow Brook at Delaware Run to celebrate, and about 75 pairs attended this first-time event. Couples entered the Water's Edge Restaurant in Willow Brook at Delaware Run to an elegant buffet featuring delicacies from bruschetta to shrimp cocktails, tenderloin to wedding cake. They were entertained by the band 3C Highway with music from the '40s and '50s.

First stop, though, was with Days Gone By photographer Gretchen McElroy for a picture of each couple, which appeared in a special supplement to the

October 19 editions of the *Gazette* and *Sunbury News*.

Awards for milestone achievements were presented to Ebb and Teena Haycock and Ben and Louise Pauley for having

been married the most years – 68. Clay and Doris Rammelsberg were honored for having the largest number of descendants – 35. In the “Look How Far You’ve Come” category, Otto and Karin Katzen won for having been married the farthest away, in Lubeck, Germany. Harry and Mary Jo Humes won the “Most Life Experience” award for their combined age of 187 years.

Other sponsors of the event were the Council for Older Adults, Hughes Family Hearing, The Richwood Banking Company, 3C Highway, Days Gone By photography, J&J Mobility, and United Church Homes.

*Together they found a friendship
raised a family,
and built a beautiful marriage.*

*And together we celebrated
their 50+ years of wedded bliss.*

Saturday, October 8, 2011



Gifts of Love

Memorial Contributions
August 23 - November 20, 2011

Adelina D. Bernard

Bogomir & Marsha Kuhar
Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Eugene Bianchi

Barbara J. Ekelberry

Beatrice I. Bowersox

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

John R. Burns, Sr.

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Marvin Cooper

Gary & Mary Cooper

Lois Cosby

Phyllis M. Wood

Ruth L. Dennis

Jerry & Mary Bishop

Arline Earich

Claudia J. Wells

Joan Fletcher

Randy & Judith Mobley

Lawrence Fletcher

Randy & Judith Mobley

Kathleen Granger

Corinne D. Esau
Robert & Bette Meyer
Arlene W. Palenshus

Kathleen Granger, continued

Helen J. Reppart
Lois K. Smith
Phyllis M. Wood

Audrey and Alberta Harris

Larry & Janet Harris

Sally Hickenbottom

Delores V. Lallathin
Billy Miller

William L. Hoffman

Tiffany C. Wilson

Diane Jackson

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James E. Jackson

Mitchell & Dyana Welch

Eileen James

Don & Yvonne Campbell

Joseph Koury

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David & Jane Kondracke
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George & Ramona McRae
Timothy & Sue Murphy
Tony & Rebecca Penzone
Michael & Carol Rencheck
Douglas F. Schaaf
Tracy L. Wilkins

Garnelle Lloyd

Barry T. Alcock
Cheryl A. Ellzey
Corinne D. Esau
Jean L. Flahive
Suzanne S. Martin
Raymond & Helen Nally
Helen J. Reppart
Residents Advisory Council
Christopher & Davee Setzer
Lois K. Smith

Garnelle Lloyd, continued

Edward & Evelyn Winter
Phyllis M. Wood
Clyde E. Wooley

Clara Main

Dale & Josephine Bichsel
Cheryl A. Ellzey
Lila Ellzey
Corinne D. Esau
Jean L. Flahive
George & Connie Francis
J. Clyde & Maxine Francis and Family

June M. Hoyt

Delores V. Lallathin

Billy Miller

Arlene W. Palenshus

Monty Patty

Helen J. Reppart

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Mark & Teresa Ryan

John G. Sauer

Kacy Meade

Mary Smelser

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Howard A. Steahly

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John Trautman

Josephine M. Montgomery

Harry E. Williamson

James & Pauline Kossow

Janet K. Williamson

Mary Williamson

James & Pauline Kossow
Janet K. Williamson

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Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook

Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: (740) 369-0048

Fax: (740) 369-7034

- Independent twin-single homes & apartments
- Assisted living
- Alzheimer's care
- Skilled nursing & rehabilitation
- Heritage Day Health Center adult day care
- The Courtyard Restaurant

Willow Brook

at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: (740) 201-5640

Fax: (740) 201-5740

- Independent twin-single homes & apartments
- Assisted living
- Memory care
- Corporate offices
- The Water's Edge Restaurant

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook

Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road

Columbus, Ohio 43235

Phone: (614) 885-3300

Fax: (614) 885-8476

- Skilled nursing & rehabilitation
- Assisted living
- The Grapevine Grill

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Village Director named Administrator of Year

Nicole Ketron, LNHA

Executive Director

Willow Brook Christian Village



Willow Brook Christian Village executive director Nicole Ketron was named Ohio's "Administrator of the Year" at the state of Ohio's annual Resident Activities Personnel (RAP) conference in October. The group represents the activities leaders for all the skilled nursing homes and assisted living centers in the state.

She was chosen based on her support of the activities and staff that provide our residents with companionship and purpose daily here at the Village.

A licensed nursing home administrator, Ketron oversees all of the day-to-day operations of Willow Brook Christian Village.

"This honor is well-deserved," said Willow Brook CEO Larry Harris, "and I could hardly be more proud of Nicole. She is earning her growing reputation, and I feel that residents at Willow Brook Christian Village are in good, capable hands."

Five Perfect Scores!



Josie Montgomery

Assisted Living Manager

Willow Brook Christian Home

Under the leadership of manager Josie Montgomery, LPN, the assisted living center at Willow Brook Christian Home in Worthington ended its annual state inspection with a perfect score - for the fifth year in a row.

Josie credits the entire assisted living care team for this accomplishment.

*Gifts were also
made in honor of*

Glenn and Alma Eshelman

William & Jean Baskwill

Don and Lois Gorrell's 60th wedding anniversary

Daniel & Joyce Recker

William L. Ingalls

Carol Baer

Doris Jessie

Brian & Sandy Arnold

Randy Southwick

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Those in Need

Thomas & Joan MacLaughlin

Lois M. Ward

Eric A. Radcliff

Resident(s) in Need

Helen T. McLin



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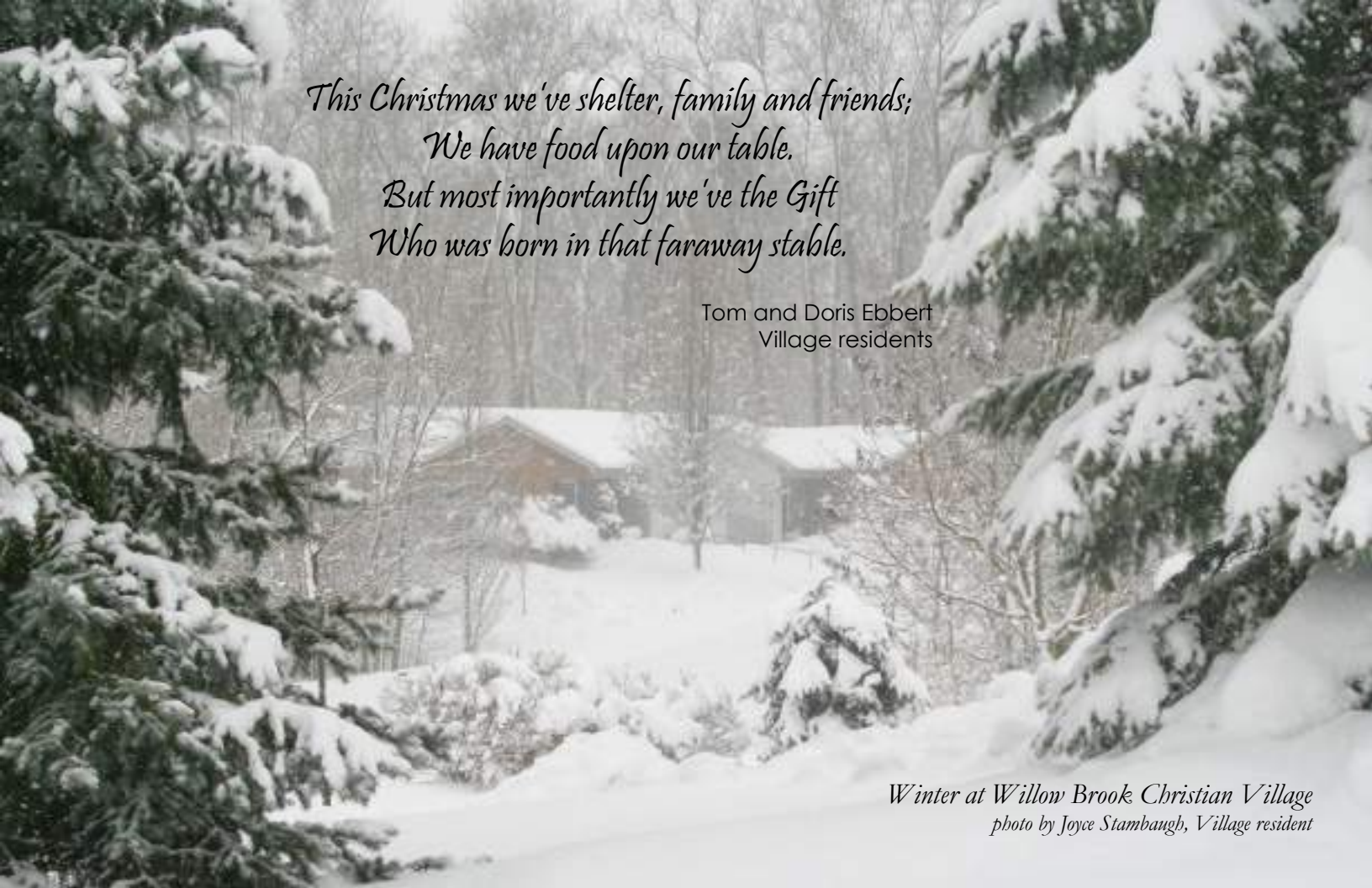
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*This Christmas we've shelter, family and friends;
We have food upon our table.
But most importantly we've the Gift
Who was born in that faraway stable.*

Tom and Doris Ebbert
Village residents

*Winter at Willow Brook Christian Village
photo by Joyce Stambaugh, Village resident*