



# REFLECTIONS

SPRING 2011  
VOLUME 33 NUMBER 1



*Willow Brook Christian Village apartment residents Phyllis Wood and Boots*

# An Age of Miracles

by Larry Harris, CEO

We're living in an age of miracles. Oh believe it. I submit as evidence our newest community, Willow Brook at Delaware Run. This is the retirement village that never should have come to be, for it was hatched smack in the middle of the worst economic debacle since the 1930s. Yet in an era when other retirement communities are in retreat – declining occupancies, shrunken cash reserves, anemic bank ratios – our Delaware Run is brimming full and faring well.

So, too, is our original community three miles away, Willow Brook Christian Village.

If you're keeping count, that's two retirement communities in charming little Delaware, Ohio. There's your first tipoff that something curious is afoot with Willow Brook. Who ever heard of a pair of full-service retirement communities in a town of 35,000? And both cranking on all cylinders in the junkyard of the Great Recession. That's crazy.

Maybe, but it's quite a story.

Willow Brook Christian Village opened 21 years ago. It proved successful beyond our most improbable dream. In the early 2000s, the waiting list for our homes and apartments stretched to seven years – a wonderfully disheartening affirmation. Some on the list correctly calcaulated that they might never move in, so they urged us to build more.

All thirty acres of The Village had been built out and there was no adjacent land, so we started trolling for another site. We snagged fifty acres on



Delaware's west side and sent forth the word: "If you will get behind us with deposits, we'll get on with it."

People came running with checks in hand. It was close to a stampede and a true wonder

Larry Harris, CEO  
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*Somewhere over the rainbow, skies are blue  
And the dreams that you dare to dream*

*Really do come true*

E.Y. Harburg  
1896-1981

melt. Almost overnight, depositors found they were facing a 25 percent haircut on the sale prices of their homes. Many started pulling back. As a result, our twins were slow to sell.

But the train was in motion, so we sounded the horn and plunged ahead.

At Thanksgiving 2007, we broke ground for the community's centerpiece, the Village Square. This sprawling \$28-million project would house apartments, the healthcare center, a campus restaurant, and the activities hub. Then midway through construction in September 2008, the economy collapsed around our ankles with a deafening crash. Panic would have been a reasonable response.

But the train was in motion, so we sounded the horn and plunged ahead.

As the nation struggled to its feet and started dusting itself off, our friends were coming to realize that Willow Brook was a happy exception in the financial mess around them. And when they looked in the mirror, they took note of the fact that they weren't getting any younger. Even with their homes devalued, they needed the structure and security Willow Brook could offer in their later years.

Our last apartment sold just as we finished construction in the fall of 2009.

Today Delaware Run is teeming with life and good health. So is our Village, and so is our Columbus nursing center and assisted living facility. When we started building Delaware Run in 2005, if we could have forecast the economic train wreck waiting around the bend, we never would have turned that first spade of dirt. So I am mighty glad we didn't have a crystal ball. Just look at how it all has turned out.

We're living in an age of miracles.

to behold. With that mandate, we set about the joyful business of building Delaware Run.

We opened our 52 twin-single homes in 2006 just as the housing market began to

# They're Hoppin'!

People who live at Willow Brook may be retired, but they are far from retiring. In addition to the "intramural" billiards competition at right, here are a few of the other activities in which residents are involved:

- Monthly **Music on the Mezzanine** concerts at Delaware Run are attended by both residents and the community.
- An **ice cream social** and **viola/piano recital** by Tonya and Ken Matsuda will be held on April 4 in the Terrace Room at Willow Brook Christian Village.
- The **Delaware Community Chorus** will perform at The Village on May 16th.
- Weekly **painting classes** in many media are offered.
- Spring and Summer weather will bring **bocce ball tournaments** and **remote-control boat races** on the ponds of Willow Brook.
- Village resident Janet Yoder is a leading force behind the **Great Decisions** lecture and discussion series in Delaware.
- Another Village resident was recently honored by having the Londontown Apartments community center re-named the **Constance Whitaker Community Center**.



Cross-town rivalries at Willow Brook's two Delaware retirement communities have kept folks from both villages burning up the roads on their four-mile trip to unseat one another in eight-ball competitions this winter. Spectators line the billiard rooms for the round-robin, single-elimination games. While neither campus is the distinct winner, you can see from the photo above that Willow Brook Christian Village resident Jim Jackson is intent on sinking his shot.

# League of Women's Voters Hosts Symposium at Delaware Run

In February the Delaware County League of Women's Voters sponsored a panel discussion at Delaware Run on the subject of campaign finance. The event was open to the Delaware/Columbus community and featured speakers Jennifer Bruner, former Ohio Secretary of State (pictured); Catherine Turcer with Ohio Citizen Action; and Dennis Stapleton, Delaware County Commissioner (pictured). Jo Ingles of Ohio Public Radio moderated.



Kelley Bell, photographer



Robert & Jean Allarding  
James & Cathy Listermann  
Robert Allman  
Uleta M. Allman  
Ruth H. Bauerle  
Jean L. Flahive  
Donna J. French  
Robert & Bette Meyer  
David & Rosalie Miller  
Arlene W. Palenshus  
Lois K. Smith  
Larry & Marian Wenger  
Marjorie E. Beem  
Sherry L. Laughman  
Helen "Virginia" Bell  
April L. Rausch  
Donna Belville  
Anonymous  
Anita Blaszkowiak  
Irene C. Blaszkowiak  
Hazel B. Blose  
Dennis & Sharon Blose  
M. Joan Jerome  
Ralph Bryant  
Mary Bryant  
Marie Buchan  
Donna J. Buchan

Gifts were made  
to honor:

Margaret A. Brigner  
Anna M. Smith  
Rose Froelich  
Gayle A. Moe  
Mary Jane Goelz  
Don & Sally Evans  
Bill & Sue Lauderman  
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MacLaughlin  
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Arthur R. Tatman  
Lois M. Ward  
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Lindsey R. Robinson  
Jim & Sharon Wilson  
Charles & Mary Strickland

# To Honor and Remember

## Memorial Contributions

through February 16, 2011

Woodrow Buchanan  
Mary L. Waugh  
Florence N. Bumpus  
Robert & Maxine Hamler  
Kenneth Campbell  
Don & Yvonne Campbell  
Robert L. Carlton  
David & Patricia Baer  
Glenn & Sharon Carlton  
Lisa Nicole Carlton  
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Ridgely & Christine Conant  
Anson S. Knoderer  
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Andrew & Lisa Moffatt  
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Charles R. Cooper  
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Josephine Delgigante  
Robert & Susan Byers  
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James & Martha Owens  
Charlene S. Powell  
Ruth L. Dennis  
Lavetta M. Bryant  
Robert "Desi" Desgranges  
Paul & Lynda Mullins  
Frank & Lou Ann Roell  
Arline Earich  
Lorin & Twilva Schworm  
Spring Road Church of Christ  
Claudia J. Wells

John Edwards  
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Lois K. Smith  
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Joan Fletcher  
Karen Fletcher  
Lawrence Fletcher  
Karen Fletcher  
Anna Fralich  
Clifford A. Fralich  
Loretta Glowacki  
Ron & Mary Wilcox  
Mary Laurene Goldsmith  
Bruce & Barbara Reierson  
Elsie Goodman  
Leslie Goodman  
Lela J. Goodpaster  
Tiffany C. Wilson  
Leah Mae Green  
Billy Miller  
Dorothea Hamilton  
Rachel McMullen  
Estelle Hamilton  
Rachel McMullen  
Audrey & Alberta Harris  
Larry & Janet Harris  
Marie Harvey  
Walter Harvey  
John T. Hayes  
Karen S. Hayes  
Ruth L. Hickok  
David & Connie McNeal  
Martha Christine Hill  
Anita E. Albright  
Robert & Lois Jones  
William L. Hoffman  
Tiffany C. Wilson  
Roberta "Bobbie" Hutchison  
Delaware Run  
Residents' Council  
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Norma V. Jackson  
Mitchell & Dyana Welch

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Wesley & Bonnie Jordan  
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Darlene M. Kelch  
George Kelch  
Darlene M. Kelch  
Irene Kelch  
Darlene M. Kelch  
Roger Kelch  
Darlene M. Kelch  
Edna Kidder  
Linda Carpenter  
Jean W. Kohan  
Andrew J. Kohan  
Paul E. Landefeld  
Geneva Landefeld  
Marie Langford  
Buckeye Tractor & Implement  
Johnny & Marlene Yarhouse  
Sandra Lowden  
Dennis & Melanie Day  
Donald Ludolph  
Donald & Alicia Ludolph  
Gary Mackell  
Judith H. Hagner  
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Lenora McGhee  
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Billy Miller  
H. R. Miller  
Billy Miller  
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Martha A. O'Dell  
Eve Palmer  
Catherine G. Palmer

Kathryn Palmer  
Catherine G. Palmer  
Robert M. Palmer  
Bruce & Barbara Reierson  
My Parents  
Irene C. Blaszkowiak  
Michael Petrucci  
Joyce P. Gove  
Martha G. Petrucci  
Emma "Maude" Prince  
Benjamin Harris & Christina Barry  
Gene & Maude Prince  
Larry & Janet Harris  
Louise Roebuck  
Michelle P. Washington  
Elizabeth Rumbold  
Beth White  
Maudie May Runyon  
Phyllis Hardy & Audry Hardy  
Terence J. Ryan  
Mark & Teresa Ryan  
John G. Sauer  
Ilene Anderson  
Greg Crow  
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Gordon & Frances Hausser  
Charles & Martha Hoying  
Philip & Phyllis Knall & Family  
Joseph & Shirley Koury  
John & Linda Lloyd  
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Hal Willis  
Anne R. Willis  
Lourene Wilson  
Uleta M. Allman  
Bill Wirsing  
Billy Miller  
John Wood  
Marilyn J. Terry  
Clarence Young  
Thomas & Rena Brown  
Faye Young  
Thomas & Rena Brown



## Mother's Day Cards Help Other Moms

The Mother's Day card you send this year can have special meaning for another mom (or dad) who could really use your help.

Medicaid funds that enable Willow Brook to continue caring for folks even after their personal resources have been depleted are in jeopardy. We've never turned someone out because they were unable to pay, and we hope never to be in that situation.

Here's an opportunity to support our efforts while doing something you'd planned on doing anyway. Make a gift to Willow Brook in honor or memory of a mother and we'll send a Mother's Day card to a special mom in your life.

It will be beautiful and of high quality, with the sentiments expressed on the left. You tell us who it goes to and how you want the card to be signed, and we'll take care of the rest.. Your gift will then be directed toward providing care to people whose personal funds have run out.

Go to our web site at [www.willow-brook.org](http://www.willow-brook.org) or call the Willow Brook development office at 740-201-5688 to request an order form.



"You have always been a wonderful mom, the role model everyone could follow. Your warmth, your generosity of spirit, and your willingness to wrap your arms around and pull close to you a person who really needs your love have set the standard for me. That's why on this Mother's Day I have made a gift in your honor. It will support Willow Brook Christian Communities as they care for mothers who can no longer care for themselves. You're a great role model, and I thank you. Willow Brook thanks you, too."

## Chaplain Glenn's Insights

Willow Brook's new chaplain, Glenn Carlton, Ph.D., is uniquely qualified for his position. First, he is a practicing psychologist, bringing professional credentials. Second, he approaches his job of ministering to residents and families from the perspective of a son. His mother, Frances, is, and his late father, Robert, was, a resident of the assisted living center at Willow Brook Christian Home in Worthington.

"Observing the compassionate care that my parents have received is to see Christ's love in action," says Chaplain Glenn. "This recognition has profoundly impacted my



*Chaplain Glenn Carlton, with his mother, Frances* interactions with others. I continually seek, through my words and actions, to make God's love more visible to other residents, family members and staff."

Dr. Glenn is a member of the Alum Creek Church of Christ.



*Madelyn Turner*

## Madelyn Turner named Culinary Services Director at Willow Brook Christian Home

Known across Willow Brook's three communities as the dessert artist, Madelyn Turner has been named director of culinary services at Willow Brook Christian Home.

Madelyn has for several years provided the pastries, candies, and other desserts served on special occasions and sold in the Gathering Place, the conversation nook at Willow Brook Christian Village. Her calm assurance and the respect afforded her by the entire staff made her the logical choice to head The Home's culinary operations when former director Mary Lou Calpin moved to the corporate dietitian position.

## Our Apologies

In the Christmas 2010 *Reflections*, Delaware Run resident Tom MacLaughlin wrote a lovely essay entitled "The Fifth Stocking." We rewarded him by leaving the "a" out of his "Mac" in the print edition. We're sorry, Tom!

## Three Receive Second Mile Award



*Willow Brook Christian Village's Passages activity director Linda Raber (l), Delaware Run's maintenance man Randy Southwick (c), and Home nursing supervisor Theresa Ageyping received the 2010 Second Mile Award in December.*

Matthew 5:41 admonishes us to go above and beyond what is expected of us. "Going the second mile" is the standard at Willow Brook, and every December the residents, families and staff of Willow Brook nominate a staffer from each campus to receive the coveted Second Mile Award.

At the staff Christmas party, amid cheers, applause, and tears, Linda Raber, Randy Southwick, and Theresa Ageyping were honored for their selfless and cheerful habits of always exceeding expectations and going that second mile. We are proud of them. and touched by the words of praise used by those who nominated them for this award.

Says CEO Larry Harris of the three, "My favorite part of our Christmas parties is always the announcement of the Second Mile Award recipients. My hat goes off to Theresa, Randy, and Linda. What a special moment! Those at the party couldn't see their tears as I could up on the stage as they came up to claim their plaques. I will never forget."



# Reflections

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## **Cherith Care Center Receives Five-Star Rating**

Willow Brook Christian Village's Cherith skilled nursing and rehabilitation center recently received a Five Star Rating from the Center for Medicare Services (CMS) in Washington, DC, signifying that Cherith's care is "much above average quality."

"The sniff factor and a hundred other elements go into what makes a great program," says board president Frank Chappell. "We are proud of Cherith for achieving the Five-Star Rating, and of Willow Brook Christian Home's four stars. They remind us that vigilance is required every single day to maintain the quality of service and the quality of life that we expect to surround the people in our care."



*Cherith Care Center resident Elizabeth Raber knows first hand that the best care includes both loving concern and top quality nursing and rehabilitation. She is pictured above with daughter-in-law, Second Mile Award recipient and Passages activities director Linda Raber.*