



REFLECTIONS

SUMMER 2005

Volume 27 Number 2



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
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

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



Exciting changes are taking place on the hillsides that soon will become Willow Brook Christian Village at Delaware Run.

The house that once sat on the top of the hill has been moved down the road to become home to a new family. Streets are going in, and by the time you read this newsletter the big plows will have made way for shovels to begin digging the basements of 52 twin-single homes along the new roadway.

The twin singles are phase one, and phase two, the Village Square apartments and healthcare center will follow. With the apartments will come The Water's Edge Restaurant, beauty salon, art studio, library, wellness and fitness centers and more.

Interest in our lovely new village is high, and we're inviting those who would like to learn more about Delaware Run to come to a luncheon on Thursday, September 15, to view our plans. If you are making retirement living decisions and think Willow Brook might be right for you, then call to reserve your place at this introductory luncheon.

You won't hear any pressure selling, just basic information about Willow Brook's new community. You can make up your own mind after you leave.

Join us for Lunch!

We're eager to share our plans for Willow Brook at Delaware Run, and proud of our talented chefs, so we've put the two together for a luncheon at our original Village. Call to save your spot:

**Noon Thursday
September 15**

Willow Brook Christian Village
100 Willow Brook Way
reservations required
call Carol at
740-369-0048

The Kiss of Life

by Larry Harris, CEO

My route to work each morning includes a ten-mile stretch of two-lane road that snakes along a slow, green river. The course of that river defines each turn of the road. Viewed from 10,000 feet, you would see two matched squiggly ribbons, one of water, the other of asphalt. For most of the drive, the river is within view to my right, sometimes nearly lapping the pavement's edge, screened all the way by a dense strip of trees along the bank.

I accept this daily commute as the gift that it is. The speed limit is 45, so I am forced to take it easy. And I'm always moving against the flow of traffic, heading out of Columbus while most everyone else is driving in. The trip can be a lullaby.

Tall trees line the left side of the meandering blacktop as well. Beyond some, on the non-river side, are open fields laid down like blankets on hills rolling toward the road and river. I often play music on my drive. In summer, I will open the windows and sunroof, and just plan to comb my hair first thing at work.

I find sometimes that the beauty of the ride, freely delivered to my eyes and ears, can usher me into a trance.

Those days, when I arrive at the end of the journey, I find that the past 15 minutes are like a dream barely remembered in the morning, an elixir of music and colors and

soothing wind that puts me in a good mood for the rest of the day.



Larry Harris
Chief Executive Officer
Willow Brook
Christian Communities
Contact Larry on-line at
larryharris@willow-brook.org

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Last winter, an ancient sycamore along the bank fell into the river. I didn't see it fall, and I didn't mark the date when I first noticed it horizontal in the water, its gnarled platter of roots projecting out of the shallow stream. It was around the holidays, I think.

For years the stream must have undermined the tree's footing. Silently, patiently, water excavated soil from around the roots, eroding a spoonful or bucketful with each swell of rain, until one day, with fellow trees looking on in horror, the old tree toppled into the water.

Its tragic fate was unremarkable. Many trees fall into the water and meet their doom. I always hate to see it, but that's the way of the world.

It turns out, though, that the old sycamore, with telltale sheets of papery bark still peeling from its trunk, was not to surrender without a fight. Even though currents have torn it loose completely from its mooring and pushed it to the center of the river, with branches now leading downstream, the old tree leafed out last April. One morning I saw green shoots pushing out of the branches that protrude from the water. Now, deep into summer, the downed tree sports huge broad leaves that look like they were peeled from a head of lettuce. And they no doubt are doing their job converting sunlight into sugar to nurture the tree through another season.

The scene at once is pitiful and inspiring. The tree denies its circumstance, refusing to acknowledge that all is lost, and forges on. All efforts now are futile. Only doom awaits, and yet that proud old tree is sustained by the kiss of life.

Life doesn't give way easily. A tree in the river, a wounded cat dragging itself into the woods, an elderly woman at Willow Brook felled by a stroke and broken hip. Life presses onward, beyond hope, beyond reason, at times.

Home's New Assisted Living Wing Nearing Capacity

The lovely new assisted living wing at Willow Brook Christian Home in Columbus is filling up with residents who are loving their new home. The two-room suites have all been spoken for, and only a few of the private rooms are still available. Manager Carrie Kossler expects to have a full house well before the holidays arrive.

"Our little family is growing," says Kossler, "and we are delighted to see friendships growing among the group. Evenings always find several folks gathering to work puzzles, play cards and watch television together, even though they could be alone in their rooms if they preferred."

Construction has moved to the original wings of The Home, where an astonishing transformation is taking place. The Heritage Dining Room has added a solarium. A new beauty salon has doubled its capacity; the new, bright and airy activities room opens onto both new and renovated wings; and the vista both indoors and out will take your breath away.

"We're eager to give everyone a chance to see our lovely new Home," says administrator David Chappell. And that chance will happen early this fall. Be watching for your invitation to the grand re-opening ceremonies, and plan to join us for the celebration.



Kiss of Life, *continued*

We spend our lives in the shadow of an event that hasn't yet taken place. Death is assured, and yet we live our days as if they are without end. All things alive – a tree, a stalk of corn, a fruit fly, a sea bass, each man, woman and child – all of us live on borrowed time. And we never know when the loan will come due.



The entrance to Willow Brook Christian Home's assisted living wing features a terraced landscape providing pleasant vistas for viewers on two levels.



Resident Rose Coville and manager Carrie Kossler enjoy a friendly moment in Rose's new room at Willow Brook Christian Home's assisted living wing.

You are cordially invited to attend the

Dedication

of

Willow Brook Christian Home

Sunday, October 2, 2005

2:00 p.m.

55 Lazelle Road

just east of US 23, Columbus, Ohio

Memorial Gifts from the Heart

March 22 - July 14, 2005

Tributes

Judith Baker
Helen Reppart
Hazel Blose
Dennis and Sharon Blose
Louise Clark
John and Shelley Hubbell
Margaret Forsythe
Mary Jean Roach
Tribute for Friends
Gerard and Clingan Fons
Harry and Mary Jo Humes
Harold and Ruth Patrick
Fergus and Edith Lloyd
Mattie England

Robert Allman
Uleta Allman
Ervin Barry
Doctors Accounting Service
Jack & Vivian Gaskalla
James & Doris Payne
Ora & Mona Payne
Donald & Betty Ritcher
Bertha Schaile
Jean Berger
Mark & Roberta Jo Berger
Woodrow Buchanan
Mary Waugh
Florence Bumpus
Robert & Maxine Hamler
Pearl Burch
Ron, Pat & Annie Burch
Judith Maxwell
Margaret McKay-Smith
Richard & Sharon Sunkle
Michael, Beverly & Florence Tavener
Jan & Patricia VanVoorhis
Charles Burks
Margaret Burks
Beatrice Cowans
Narcissia Starks
Colene Cox
Louise Grimes
Joyce Morehart
Donna Whitacre
Harley Crum
John & Delores Hamilton
Anna Daub
Richard & Marcia Childs
Ruth Davis
Donald Davis

Harry Devers
Dora Devers
Phyllis Dougan
Edwin & Dorothy Wright
Minnie Fisher
Mary Coriell
Carolyn Fleming
Howard & Ginny Barber
Dick and Ruth Bauerle
Lawrence and Jeanne Colflesh
Dan & Elizabeth Conant
Virginia Crane
Carlos & Amy Dennis
David & Sally Haxton
James & Shirley Jackson
Ben & Lois Lewis
John & Barbara Meyer
Ray & Helen Nally
Dorcas Rusk
Leonard & Lavon Russell
Virginia, Mike & Vickie Sheets
Alda Skinner
Gary & Carolyn Skinner
Everett & Mary Tilson
Philip Wilson
Ed & Evelyn Winter
Janet Yoder
Lawrence & Joan Fletcher
Karen Fletcher
Melvin Geneview
Billy & Betty Miller
Helen Gerhardt
James & Thomas Gerhardt
Johnny & Mari Anne Schwamberger
Delmas Gibbons
Kenneth & Mabel Frazier
Robert Smith
Mary Dee Glossner
Anonymous
Helen Reppart
Lois Smith
James & Jeanette Starr
Glenn & Evelyn Swarthout
Elsie Goodman
Leslie Goodman
Roland Gribble
Wesley & Bonnie Jordan
Lurena Hadden
Dan & Elizabeth Conant
Roger Hoyt
Helen Reppart

Dorothy Kelsik
R.K. & Edna Evans
Norma & Margaret Flesher
Bonnie Houser
Nancy Lang
Thomas & Lynn Mitchell
Andrea Schuller
Paul & Valerie Thacker
Babs Thorson
Evelyn Kerr
Martha Sprout
Randy LaRue Weller
Elmer & Eileen LaRue
David & Edith Lavender
Lloyd & Jane O'Neal
Loved Ones
Carol Riley
Luther & Lena Loveless
George & Gail Wylie
Ric MacKay
Helen Reppart
Lloyd Manley
Mary Manley
Florence McKee
Dick & Ruth Bauerle
Joe Metkler
Helen Reppart
Jeffrey Lee Meyer
John & Barbara Meyer
Clell & Mildred Parsons
Dorothy Hamilton
Wilma Perry
Marcia Hanesworth
Willie Pitts
Forest Hill Church of Christ
Marvin Rusk
Dorcas Rusk
Bernice Shivener
Jerry & Dorothy Few
Marcelene Shepherd
Phyllis Fite
James & Madeleine Riley
Joseph & Nancy Vaughan
Gerald Smith
Lila Ellzey
Lois Smith
Veronica Smith
Uleta Allman
Guyetta Staggs
Susan George
Ken & Caryl Starkey
C. & Christine Evans

continued on page 6

Independent Spirit “Gets me Through”

An open door welcomes the eye with freshly-baked cherry cobbler and other tasty treats as Sandy Lowden’s family gathers for a visit at Willow Brook Christian Home.

Brother Ray Smith, his wife Cindy, and sister Delores Grafton are visiting from Illinois. Sandy’s daughter, Melanie Day, and granddaughters have brought in a special meal to share. Good food has always been very important to Sandy.

Sandra Smith was the adventuresome one of six siblings, and eager to see the world. After graduating from high school in Metcalf, Illinois, she went first to Minneapolis for travel ticketing and reservations training, and then to Chicago to work for the railroads. Quickly tiring of arranging travel for others, she headed to Miami, later making her way to Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Francisco.

In San Francisco, Sandy and her boss, Don Lowden, secretly eloped to Reno. After Melanie was born they moved to Colum-



Don and Sandy Lowden in the early years

Sandy Lowden, center, is surrounded by her family, clockwise from upper left, brother Ray Smith, sister Delores Grafton, granddaughters Madison and Abby Day, sister-in-law Cindy Smith and daughter Melanie Day.



bus, where a son soon arrived. The consummate traveling woman, Sandy became a homemaker.

“She was very involved, very creative, and interested many things,” remembers Melanie, at one time breeding as many as 150 parakeets and cockatiels in the basement of their home.

Despite having overcome cancer twice, her family says Sandy’s rheumatoid arthritis is what’s robbing her life. Corrective surgeries to straighten bones in her hands and fingers did not help. Don became her care-giver, and after he died suddenly it became clear that without him she would need assisted living.

Her health continued to deteriorate, with falls, knee replacement surgeries, and broken hips, hands, and fingers. Always strong and determined, Sandy “got herself through,” says Melanie, but when she could no longer dress herself, Melanie began searching for a skilled nursing facility close to her Lewis Center home.

Sandy pipes in. “At first I told her ‘no, I don’t want to move.’ But

what a blessing! The meals are very good, and that’s important to me. The workers are on the ball, and the nurses are *so* nice. I have no complaints—I think I’m lucky to be here.”

The rheumatoid arthritis is now taking Sandy’s eyesight. But she has found an outlet that she shares with others at Willow Brook Christian Home – puzzles.

Who would ever think that someone whose deformed fingers can barely move, and whose eyes are gradually losing their focus, would love puzzles? But she does.

Several residents join her every day, and staff often stop by to help place a piece in its proper spot.

“We feel we found a treasure in Willow Brook,” says Melanie. “They really, truly care about my mother and *all* the residents. I feel blessed by God to have my mom here.”

And Willow Brook feels blessed to have the daily company of the adventuresome, good-food-loving, puzzle queen Sandy Lowden.

Baker Retires



Judy Baker, Manager of The Centrum, retired at the end of July.

After a 26-year career with Willow Brook, Judy Baker, manager of the Centrum assisted living at Willow Brook Christian Village, has retired.

CEO Larry Harris, at Baker's July 7 retirement event, said that he saw her every Sunday at the Northland Church of Christ, and every Sunday he tried to recruit the nurse to join him at Willow Brook Christian Home in Columbus. After three years of prodding she relented, and once she agreed she never looked back.

Judy started as a part-time floor nurse in 1979. In the early 1990s she was promoted to director of nursing, and in 1996 she was tapped to open and lead The Centrum.

Her retirement party was filled with laughter, memories and tears, and a little piece of Willow Brook's heart left with her.



Help Wanted

Director of Fund Development – We're looking for a senior development professional to lead our efforts to secure funding in support of our not-for-profit mission. The right person will have significant financial development experience with specific expertise in the field of planned and special gifts. This individual will report directly to the CEO and be a member of Willow Brook's leadership team. If you're interested in this unique opportunity, send your resume to Employee Relations, Willow Brook Christian Village, 100 Willow Brook Way, Delaware, OH 43015.

Memorial Gifts, continued

Dollie Stine

John & Gladys Neff

O.T. Strong

Forest Hill Church of Christ

Sam & Bessie Taylor

Lawrence & Alice Smith

Rose Toth

John & Joanne Toth

James Trachsel

Dick & Ruth Bauerle

Margaret Beard

Dora Devers

Lila Ellzey

Robert & Norma Finta

Donna French

Bob & Judith Headley

Lauretta & Clair Level-Anderson

Ben & Lois Lewis

Helen McLin

Robert & Bette Meyer

David & Rosalie Miller

Ronald, Roxanne & Tiffany Palenshus

Scot Palenshus

Craig & Heather Palenshus Family

Harold & Ruth Patrick

Marilyn Perry

Helen Reppart

Residents Advisory Council

Dorcas Rusk

Leonard & Lavon Russell

Lois Smith

Eugene & Dorothy Spangler

Laurie Sturtz

Marilyn Terry

Everett & Mary Tilson

Lawrence Wenger

Ed & Evelyn Winter

Linda Wolfe

Clyde & Marguerite Wooley

D.M. Wagner

John & Patricia White

Bob Watkins

Cleo Frantz

Hoyt Whitney

Laura Whitney

Martha Williamson

Jack & Vivian Gaskalla

Alvetta Wilson

Carroll & Bonnie Bogue

Edna Wyant

Uleta Allman

Going Nature-al

Scott Stimpert is Willow Brook's own Johnny Appleseed.

For the past two years, Stimpert has been nurturing thousands of seedlings, bushes and flowers for Willow Brook behind his Delaware home and business, The Growing Concern. A recent trip to his Willow Brook gardens found azaleas, rhododendrons, junipers, boxwoods and a wide variety of perennial flowers. "If you add it up we have probably 10,000 plants back there," he states proudly.

"It's like our own, private garden center," says CEO Larry Harris.

Stimpert is the landscaper who has turned The Village and The Home into lush and green oases. He recently added nearly 200 trees to Willow Brook Christian Home's expanded acres. The mature trees at the entrance to The Home's parking lot have been carefully protected as part of the original woods found on that property many years ago. And he has great plans for the new Willow Brook at Delaware Run. "We are going to mix up the plants used so that each house, while having a consistent landscape design, will have different trees, flowers and shrubs," explains Stimpert.

Growing on Stimpert's back acres are maples, oaks, chestnuts, locusts, riverbirch and boxelder, Norway and Colorado spruce and more, all gaining a foothold in Delaware soil so they will be comfortable in our central Ohio climate when moved to complement the twin-single homes at Delaware Run.

Then, once they are transplanted, Stimpert plans to begin growing the plants needed for Delaware Run's



Scott Stimpert

Village Square apartments and health centers.

He promises a few aptly and strategically placed weeping willows down along the creekbed, essential for a community named Willow Brook.

Great care has been taken at the construction site to preserve and protect as many of the trees on the property as possible, and they are cordoned off from the bulldozers by brightly colored barriers and fencing. The acres running down along the stream called Delaware Run are being spared the earthmoving equipment completely. Harris says several areas, close to eight acres total, will be reforested and allowed to revert back to their natural state.

Topsoil removed from the earth's surface is being stored on-site so that once the streets and infrastructure are in place it can be returned to the lawns of our new village.

It isn't just the flora and the soil that are being preserved under Harris's watchful eye. In May, Willow Brook chef John Lindeboom's cub scout troop joined maintenance director Jeff McIntosh in a fish roundup in anticipation of the site's pond being drained. Hundreds of fish at Delaware Run were netted, rinsed and transported to their new home three miles away at Willow Brook Christian Village.



Bright orange fencing protects trees from the bulldozers as Willow Brook at Delaware Run begins to take shape.



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



Nursing assistant Richard Ansah takes a break after applying some of the financial skills he is acquiring at Columbus State through Willow Brook's Tuition Assistance Program by volunteering his help in our Bookkeeping office this summer. More about this valuable and popular program will appear in the next issue of Reflections.

Mid-Ohio Senior Sharing:

Understanding Our Times

The 15th annual Senior Sharing Time will be held on Tuesday, October 11, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room of Willow Brook Christian Village in Delaware, Ohio.

The annual convocation for seniors of faith will be looking at how to understand the times we live in. Speakers, all preachers from Ohio Churches of Christ, will be John Barkus, from Lima; Herman McHan, minister for the Beaver Street Church of Christ in Lisbon; and Trevor Major, from the Alkire Road congregation in Columbus.

Senior Sharing is a cost-free event provided by the Churches of Christ in partnership with Willow Brook Christian Communities and is open to any interested seniors. A complimentary continental breakfast and lunch are provided. Call Helen Reppart at 740-369-0048 for more information.