

WILLOW BROOK

Reflections

Volume 38 Number 2 | Summer 2016



Ben Curtis, who won the British Open golf tournament in his rookie year, 2003, looks over press clippings with his grandmother, Willow Brook resident Myrtie Black.

Dwight “Bill” Black came home from his job as a central Ohio high school teacher and coach one afternoon and announced to wife Myrtie, “We are gonna build a golf course.”

“Who is ‘we?’” she asked.

“You and me,” he answered.

That announcement started a grand adventure that changed their lives and set the course for a little grandson who loved golf to become an international champion.

They did indeed build a golf course, nine holes at a time, and their grandson, Ben Curtis, won the British Open golf tournament in 2003, the first rookie since 1913 to earn that distinction.

Myrtie, who now lives in the Centrum at Willow Brook Christian Village, was a sewing teacher at the Rathbone “School for Unruly Girls” at the time. That fateful afternoon,

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**Village Resident Built
a Golf Course that
Produced a World
Champion**



Used with permission.

Ben graced the cover of a Sports Illustrated bonus section after turning the sports world upside down with his win at the British Open, the first rookie to do so in nearly a century.

Were there not ten healed? Where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?

Jesus of Nazareth
Luke 17:17-18

Is it just me, or have you too noticed how nobody really says “thank you” anymore? I have lost count of the thankless wedding and baby gifts Janet and I have given since the days of the Bill Clinton administration.

We’ll click on the Macy’s or Target registry, or take a bit of risk and purchase something of our own volition, something we feel fits the needs or makeup of the recipient. Janet will wrap it, sometimes using custom paper that reflects the personality of the intended. Then she’ll place it on the gift table at a shower, and — *poof!* — it disappears into the great black hole of un-thanked gifts. Was it liked? Did it meet a need? No card of thanks ever shows up. There’s no text or email, or even a mumbled word when we pass the receiver at church or in a gathering. Our gift (and probably a hoard of others) is relegated to the realm of eternal silence.

Each spring I recognize Willow Brook’s graduates with a \$25 gift card tucked in a Hallmark graduation card. Last year I sent 36. Six said thanks. This year it was five for 25.

Let me be clear. These “kids” are precious team members who are working hard to serve this ministry. Many have been adopted by our residents as surrogate grandkids. Our graduates love their faux grandparents and they love their work, and most do it well.

It’s just that a good number, like so many of my fellow citizens out there, are, let us say, ingrates. Sweet, spirited, hard-working ingrates.

Lately, Janet and I are wishing we could deliver a pre-gift questionnaire: *Dear (bride) (groom) (mother-to-be) (graduate), Janet and I are happy about your approaching day of joy. In fact, we are contemplating presenting you with a gift for your special occasion. Mind you, this will be something we invest with treasure, time, and hope. We want to celebrate with you, but before we commit to this endeavor, please do us the favor of completing the following questionnaire: Will you thank us? ☐yes ☐no*

Sorry, but a “no” would be a deal killer.

Forty-four years ago, the summer after my college graduation, I was biding time before I headed off to

Army boot camp as one of America’s last draftees. For three months, I delivered furniture for Westco Furniture in my little hometown of Carthage, Missouri. The store occupied a creaky three-story building on the courthouse square, with impressed tin ceilings and foot-worn floorboards. All day long, my delivery partner, Jeff, and I lugged sofas, bedroom suites, refrigerators and recliners all over the county.

We always timed the last delivery so we could pull the truck in a few minutes before closing and load up the next morning’s deliveries. When we finished, we were free to go. As we made our exit, the storeowner, Wayne Grisso, would say, “Thank you, Larry; thank you, Jeff.” Every night of my brief delivery career he said this.

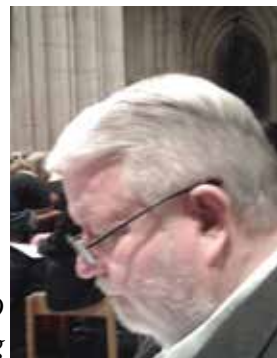
The first time, I was taken aback. Thank you? For what? Hey Wayne, we were just doing the job you hired us for. But as

he repeated the routine night after night, it became clear that he was expressing appreciation for the role we played in keeping his retail enterprise successful. He said the same to his sales and office people, too.

Wayne Grisso’s unwitting tutelage on gratitude left such an impression, it being so rare, that I am telling you about it all these 44 years later. It is in the long shadow of his example that I strive today to say thank you for each gift and favor, both great and small, for the

routine and expected, for the unanticipated and spontaneous offerings that come my way. My list is long. I express thanks for Willow Brook’s donors who reveal their good hearts with each dollar given; for each staff member who breaks a sweat in service to the people they love; for the anonymous driver who lets me change lanes; for the morning paper dropped squarely on my doorstep, allowing for barefoot retrieval even in winter’s biting snow; for each travel mug of Janet’s coffee, brewed for me each workday morning with a heaping measure of love.

Thank you. Thank you all.



Larry Harris, CEO
lharris@willow-brook.org

Eternal Silence by Larry Harris, CEO

*I strive today to say
thank you for each gift
and favor, both great
and small . . .*

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after thirty years of teaching, Bill came home with drawings he had sketched on the back of some student papers.

He had laid out a nine-hole golf course that conformed to the hills and contours of their 57-acre corn and soybean farm in Ostrander, Ohio, just ten miles west of Willow Brook.

Their Mill Creek Golf Course became a family obsession, and it was a shoestring operation. They withdrew Bill's retirement savings, borrowed \$500 from the Delaware County Bank, and with the help of their five daughters, sons-in-law, friends, and neighboring farmers, they began removing rocks and moving dirt in early December 1972.

Mill Creek Golf Course opened late the following summer, and a few years later they bought land for the back nine holes. They hired Bob Curtis to be the superintendent, who soon married their youngest daughter, Janice. Ben is their son.

"I knew Ben was going to be a great golfer when he was three years old," says Myrtie. "Every night he would be out on the green in his pajama feet, practicing."

They always knew Ben was a little bit different. "His parents couldn't keep him in the house," said Myrtie. "He was always practicing. Even at age five he was out there imitating other golfers. For the most part he taught himself the game.

"My husband, the coach, kinda let him alone," she said. "He would be out mowing and see Ben golfing. He would get off the tractor and help him out, but we just let him be himself."

Bill had struggled against leukemia for three years and just missed seeing the little guy who used a plastic golf club before bed at the age of three become a champion. He died in 2003, five months before Ben won that British Open.

Myrtie continued running the course until she was 85, and now she tends to scrapbooks and memorabilia in her apartment at Willow Brook Christian Village.

Daughters Janice and Jeanne Bash still work at the course. Another daughter has retired. They have been joined at one time or another by most of the ten grandchildren in summer or part-time jobs, and 13 great-grandchildren are in the wings. Who knows? One of them may become the next champion from Myrtie and Bill's home-built golf course.

Awakening

*by Marilyn Schroeder
Delaware Run Resident*

This poem was inspired by Marilyn's view of the pond outside her apartment in Willow Brook at Delaware Run and by the poetry of Mary Oliver.

How amazing
to chance upon -
to awaken - to one's world
so late
in the scheme of things.
To find
glistening soap bubbles
and Grandma's floral painting
speaking
like a sermon from God.
To see an epiphany
in each morning's offerings
of waves,
sun sparkle on the pond,
its merry feathered
visitors afloat.
To cheer
the squabbling robins
as they feast
at the service berry tree.
How surprising
to learn
at this age
to encompass
and to fall in love
with all this loveliness.



Marilyn Schroeder with granddaughter Kaleigh



Home nursing assistants Stephanie Agyeman, from Ghana, and Gberrah Kargbo, from Sierra Leone.

Tribute Gifts Memorial Contributions March 31 - June 26, 2016

Richard C. Atkinson

Carol A. Roden

I. Marilynn Baker

Corinne D. Esau

Douglas & Elaine Palmer

Norma W. Berry

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Edna Brown

James & Nancy Gibbons

John R. Burns, Sr.

Curtis & Genevieve Burns

Frances Carlton

April L. Jackson

Joseph Caudy

Roger & Jane Sagar

Margaret Caudy

Roger & Jane Sagar

Michael Chakeres

Lawrence & Kay Helman

Michael "Mike" Chucta

Teresa J. Ryan

Dorothy J. Dale

Joy D. Lackey

Nancy DeTray

Lisa Mack

Don Dieck

Weston Hord

Michael & Nancy Lupoli

Marilyn A. Schroeder

Glenn Eshelman

William & Jean Baskwill

Kenneth Frische

Arlene W. Palenshus

Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith

Evelyn Winter

Phyllis M. Wood

Charles Gerhart

Rebecca L. Gerhart

Delmas Gibbons

James & Nancy Gibbons

Thelma Gibbons

James & Nancy Gibbons

Rose Gordon

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Marilynn Graebner

Marilyn A. Schroeder

Evelyn Winter

Charles C. "Charlie" Hall

Delaware Run Residents' Association

Margaret V. Harper

Ed & Stephanie Harden

Shirley M. Harper

Ed & Stephanie Harden

Audrey & Alberta Harris

Larry & Janet Harris

John T. Hayes

Karen S. Hayes

Carl Hertwig

Joy D. Lackey

O. Henry Hoversten

Thelma Simmons

Mary Jo Humes

Julie Bardelang

Josephine G. Bichsel

Mariella C. Dunnan

Lila Ellzey

Corinne D. Esau

Charlotte A. Gallant

Sharma Gatton

Elizabeth B. May

Raymond & Helen Nally

Arlene W. Palenshus

Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith

Marilyn J. Terry

Village Residents Advisory

Council

Evelyn Winter

Phyllis M. Wood

Robert E. Zimmerman

James E. Jackson

Mitchell & Dyana Welch

Mordecai Joseph

Cleveland Heights Church of

Christ Fifty Plus Group

Lydia Landis

Linda A. Raber

Helen M. Langsenkamp

A. Mann Plumbing, Ltd.

Jeffrey Curran Family

Charlene Cygnar

Catherine, Linda & David

Powless

Laura R. Stratton

Text100 Rochester Team

Thomas J. Lasley

Anna F. Lasley

Marilyn A. Laubacher

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Florence Poulson

Thomas & Sara Poulson

Wilma Price

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Servants Team, Mercer

County Community

Bible Study

Emma "Maude" Prince

Rebecca L. Harris

Gene & Maude Prince

Larry & Janet Harris

Elizabeth S. Raber

Linda A. Raber

Mary C. Roden

Carol A. Roden

Don Rost

Thomas & Sara Poulson

Mark E. Ryan

Teresa J. Ryan

Herman Slayman

Delaware Run Residents' Association

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Westerville Family Physi-
cians

Raymond H. Swassing

Bruce & Barbara Reiersen

Corrine Snyder-Poulson

Thomas & Sara Poulson

Allen Ulrich

Julie Bardelang

Josephine G. Bichsel

Corinne D. Esau

Raymond & Helen Nally

Helen J. Reppart

Lois K. Smith

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George F. Wellman

Lucretia M. Wellman

Shirley Wichner

Phyllis M. Wood

Max Wildermuth

Jayne W. MacKay

Elaine S. Williamson

James & Pauline Kossow

Harry E. Williamson

James & Pauline Kossow

Mary Williamson

James & Pauline Kossow

Nicki V. Zanetos

Lisa Mack

*Tribute
Gifts
made to honor
the living*

Marcena Coate

Constance L. Getz

Marilyn A. Laubacher

Grace Lackey

Phyllis Wood's 94th

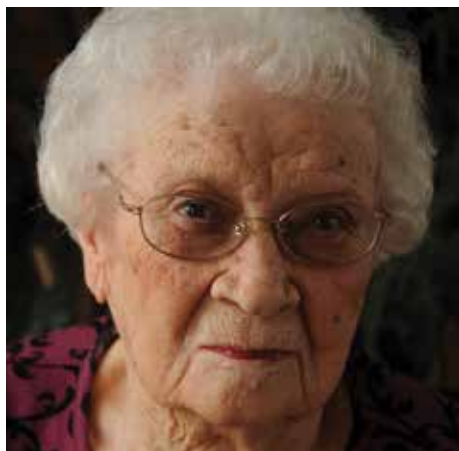
Birthday

Corinne D. Esau



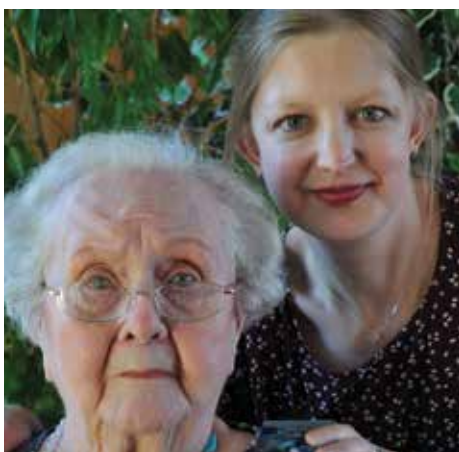
*The background photo
is in memory of Mary
Kay Cochran, a longtime
resident of Willow Brook
Christian Village and
Delaware Run.*

Centenarians All



Oleta Doyle

Oleta Doyle was born in southern Kentucky. She worked in the hosiery department of Federated's Stewarts Department Store in Louisville, selling precious nylon hosiery during the war. Daughter-in-law Vickie says she mowed her own lawn until she was 87 years old. She makes a point of wearing something red every day. She will turn 100 this year.



Lois Given and dietitian Becky Harris

Lois Given lived in Columbus all her life. She was mother to six children and a homemaker who loved dogs with a passion. Her daughter, Karen, says Lois was always "spunky and ornery" and believes that is why she has lived to celebrate her 100th birthday this month.

Six residents of Willow Brook are or will be age 100 or more by the end of this year. Five of the six live at Willow Brook Christian Home. The other, Belvadelle Sindlinger, lives at Willow Brook Christian Village.

We treasure the wisdom accumulated over the years and the historical perspective that they bring to our communities. We are honored to be among them.

Emma Miller grew up on a farm in southern Illinois. She married a one-room schoolteacher. Her daughter, Barb Wyatt, said she remembers how her mom, a homemaker, was a firm believer in hard work and cleaned house every single day. Emma is 102.



Marcena Coate

Marcena Coate, who was born in Rio Grande, Ohio, is best known for her beautiful smile. She was the lead actor in all her school plays, and was up to become Judy Garland's stand-in at one point. Instead she became an elementary school teacher and the mother of two, grandmother of four and great-grandmother to four more. She turned 100 in March.



Belvadell Sindlinger

Belvadell Sindlinger, 105, is our senior resident and beloved by all. One of the first to move into the apartments at Delaware Run, she was a school teacher who continued teaching as a volunteer tutor here in Delaware, even after she passed the century mark.



Emma Miller



Walter Kimball

Walter Kimball tells stories about his experiences as a soldier during World War II and has written a book about them. After his wife died he loaded his dog into his pickup and drove to Alaska. He celebrated his hundredth birthday last summer.

Cheers for Charity



Charity Roush sharing a moment with resident Dwight Welsh, left, and as an Ohio Dance Machine member, right.

Charity Roush spends her days helping the residents in transitional living apartments at Delaware Run to maintain their independence for as long as possible. But evenings and weekends you will find her at the Panther Stadium in Columbus performing as one of 15 members of The Ohio Dance Machine, the dancers for Ohio's professional lacrosse team, The Ohio Machine.

Senior Sharing Time

A day of spiritual rejuvenation for older adults

Tuesday, October 14, 2016

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

When Opportunity Knocks:

Answer the Door

Speakers:

Don Copper - "Love your Neighbor"

Mark Bass - "Offer Hospitality"

Richard Dillion - "Share your Talents"

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South

Delaware, OH 43015

to reserve a seat and a meal call Helen Reppart at 740-363-0686

Willow Brook Christian Communities

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: (740) 369-0048

- Independent twin-single homes and apartments
- Assisted living
- Memory care
- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation
- Adult day care
- The Courtyard Restaurant

Willow Brook

at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West

Delaware, Ohio 43015

Phone: (740) 201-5640

- Independent twin-single homes and apartments
- Transitional 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

- Skilled nursing
- Rehabilitation
- Assisted living
- The Grapevine Grill

Reflections is published quarterly by
Willow Brook Christian Communities.

Teri Ryan, editor

not for profit • Church of Christ

Again . . .

Willow Brook has been named Best Nursing Home, Best Assisted Living, and Best Retirement Community by readers of the *Delaware Gazette* - a trifecta, we like to call it - for the second year in a row.

and . . .

Both of Willow Brook's skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers once again earned 5-star ratings (the very best) by the federal government's web site Medicare Compare. Check it out at Medicare.gov.

Again.

Willow Brook Christian Home received perfect nursing scores after the State of Ohio's annual inspection. Our only "ding" was for dust on two sprinkler heads! And we are consistently tops in patient and family satisfaction surveys.

Volunteers Honored with Gift of Love Award



Dorothy Knight
Willow Brook at Delaware Run

Willow Brook Christian Communities honored three residents for their voluntary service at Willow Brook's annual volunteer reception during National Volunteer Week.

Nominations for The Gift of Love Award are taken at each of Willow Brook's three communities, and one person or group from each campus is presented with the award.

Dottie Knight was presented with the award for her voluntary service at Willow Brook at Delaware Run. A resident of Willow Brook, she was instrumental in establishing the Gathering Room, a place where residents gather daily for coffee,



Frank Rowe
Willow Brook Christian Village

discussions, snacks and TV. A retired nurse, Dottie initiated blood pressure screenings, volunteers as organist for religious services, started and plans an annual luncheon for retired professional nurses, and more.

Frank Rowe has been described as the "Willow Brook Ambassador." He has taught bridge to beginners at Willow Brook Christian Village, and he greets residents with bouquets of flowers from his garden on their birthdays. A retired Methodist minister, he continues to serve in the volunteer chaplain program.

Sharon Wisler lives and volunteers at Willow Brook Christian Home. "Every Monday through Saturday she delivers



Sharon Wisler
Willow Brook Christian Home

flowers and the mail to residents," said Home executive director David Chappell. "She has been doing it since she moved in five years ago."

According to activities director Lora Detlor, "Sharon is the "welcome committee," visiting every new resident, chatting for a while, and bringing the month's calendar of activities to encourage friendships.

"She sends cards," continued Detlor, "to people who are sick or go to the hospital, both residents and staff."

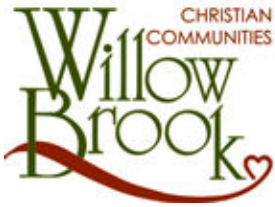
The Gift of Love Award winners' names are added to a plaque in the lobby on each campus.

Reflections

Willow Brook Christian Communities
100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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President's Message

I was first introduced to Willow Brook as a Cub Scout den mother for the Christian school my son attended several years ago. I also remember the dream of our minister, Gregory S. Conley, Sr., at the Watkins Road Church of Christ in Columbus, who wanted retirement living for ministers and others right on the church property.

His dream was not realized, but a similar dream has been, with the growth of the Willow Brook Christian Communities. Our staff have embraced the mission and given their best, which is affirmed by the

Our staff have embraced the mission and given their best . . .

5-star ratings from Medicare and high scores in the Ohio Department of Aging resident/family satisfaction surveys.

I am proud of and grateful for the staff and their work and I admire the guidance and leadership provided by the board and CEO. These recognitions are not easily earned but are result of a staff and leadership that focus on and have a passion for serving our older adults.

There is more work to do! I pray we will continue to be guided by the Father and that our light will shine through our works and glorify Him.



Corinna Owens, President
Willow Brook Board of Trustees