

Family Ties

A newsletter for the friends and families of residents at Willow Brook

JULY / AUGUST 2023

Please join us

July 7th

6:30pm-8:00pm

***Bring the
Family and
your Lawn
Chairs to***

SORP Night!

(Sounds Of Rat Pack)

Featuring
(Harlan Hoyt)
who will be
performing a
few of our
favorites
Songs on our
Willow Brook
Lawn!
Music starts



Summer School is in Session

Throughout July & August Once a week and one Saturday a month
Our residents, some retired teachers and some that just love working
with Kids have Volunteered to help support a little
girl by the name of Nevaeh (*Heaven spelled backwards*)

To Keep on Learning!

We started Our first session having a Packed School Lunch together
Then Nevaeh Read Nursery Rhymes to her summer school teachers.



Family Ties is a publication for the
residents and families of Willow Brook Christian Home
Christy Turner, editor
Phone: (614)885-3300



The Mystery of Relationships

I am seldom the biggest extrovert in the room, but I think most people would consider me a “people person.” I genuinely enjoy talking and visiting with people – which is probably a good trait for a chaplain to have! One of the true blessings of having spent my career in ministry is that I have met so many wonderful and interesting people through the years. I could write quite a book on the different personalities and quirky folks whose lives have intersected mine at some point. [You better be careful or you may get a chapter in there one day!]



Once, a pastor was asked what his favorite part of his job was. “Working with people!” he replied with enthusiasm. The interlocutor followed up with a second question inquiring about least favorite part of his job. “Working with people,” he admitted with a sigh. I second that!

Some of my favorite and most cherished memories directly involve the people in my life. Equally, some of the most stressful and difficult times in my lives have directly involved the people in my life – often the same ones who have brought me great joy! People are a complicated paradox: wonderful and awful, beautiful and ugly, loving and mean-spirited, can’t-live-with-them and can’t-live-without-them. You are that way. So am I.

If we are honest, I think most of us will acknowledge we are pretty difficult to live with. I mean, when things are good – sure, we are easy going, but when we don’t feel well or things aren’t going well (or we are hungry!) even the best of us can get kind of nasty.

To me, that’s always been one of the greatest testimonies of the Christian faith. Somewhere along the line, theology went a little sideways and made Christianity a kind of privatized, don’t-ask-don’t-tell ideology that you hold close to your breast like a get-out-of-hell-free card but doesn’t really affect your life. To individualize and privatize the Christian faith robs it of its very essence. Over and over again the Bible emphasizes calls to unity because God knew how difficult it is for us to live together and get along with each other.

I love the church because it is such an odd conglomeration of people who have no business even being friends. It seems impossible that such a hodgepodge group of people could accomplish anything good, but it has for 2,000 years: building hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, health care centers, schools and universities, housing initiatives, and retirement communities!

There are plenty of bruises and black eyes in the church’s past that have been heinous, and there has been a reckoning recently as some of this wickedness has been revealed. In the midst of its bumbling and stumbling forward, God has still used his church to do many incredible and amazing things. Willow Brook itself would never have existed if it wasn’t for the beautiful unity of God’s church. There are many people you would have never known (including me!) if it wasn’t for the beautiful menagerie of people that God calls his church. Psalm 133:1 states: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity!” May we all make it our highest effort to be united!