



Maintenance technician and bus driver, Scott Folchert, serenading the residents on Pizza Night at Willow Brook Christian Village in The Courtyard Restaurant. Scott often entertains the residents for special events.

Scott of All Trades

There is a reason why Willow Brook Christian Village maintenance technician and bus driver Scott Folchert won the coveted Second Mile Award last year: he is indispensable! There seems to be nothing he won't do when it comes to life at Willow Brook.

Says Village assisted living activity director Connie McNeal, "Scott has a

continued on page 6

*You find your vocation at the spot
where your deep gladness meets
the world's deep need.*

Frederick Buechner
1926-2022

Goodbyes are never easy – like when I headed off to college 54 years ago and watched Mom and Dad shrink away in the car's mirror as I sped off to meet my destiny; or when I buried a piece of my heart with my old cat Garth in his backyard grave; or when I delivered the eulogy for my lifelong mentor, Frank; and now as I prepare to leave Willow Brook after a 48-year run. Goodbye dear Willow Brook. Yes, goodbye.

I will be heading off into the proverbial sunset in just a few short months. January 31st, to be precise. I confess my heart is rent in two. I hear others send up shouts of joy as they step away from a job that has delivered scant satisfaction through decades of servitude. For them, eight hours a day were grudgingly traded for a paycheck. Indentured servants they were, just putting in their time until the day of release.

Boy, that's not me at all. I approach the end of my life's work with deep and abiding sorrow. Through the years I have recruited a dream team around me, most of whom look to be making life-long commitments of their own. We all are battle-hardened, having served together through times of both glory and pain. We know the elation of a perfect survey from the Ohio Department of Health. We have cut ribbons at the close of multi-million dollar construction projects. We know, too, the heartbreak and despair of a two-year war with Covid. I remember a morning conference call two years back when we cried together for the deaths of those in our charge we were helpless to save.

I will miss the daily company of these hand-picked comrades. They are the best!

I will miss kibitzing in the halls and kitchens and laundries with those on my team who break a sweat in their jobs – the aides and nurses and housekeepers and cooks and maintenance guys and gals who give their all every day in service to the people we have invited to our communities. I don't think I have told

them enough how some of them have inspired me with the sacrificial love they have shown in their daily service. I have dubbed them my earth angels.

I will miss the thousands of residents who have come to us in their final years and days. Janet and I count some as dear friends. For 15 years we have invited small groups to join us for weekly dinners in our restaurants, a practice we intend to continue into retirement.

I will miss the thousands of trees I have planted in our reforestation projects. Well, technically it was not I who planted them, but I did commission their plantings. I walked through them the other day on

a path at our Delaware Run campus and told them out

loud how proud I was of them. (Yes, I talk to my trees!) They are filling in and just starting to form a canopy, as I knew they would. Many hundreds of birds and creatures now are roosting and roaming among them. I will miss them all.

The flip side of my retirement coin is the promise of more time with Janet, my bride of 60 these many decades. We are perhaps that rare couple that genuinely enjoys each other's company. For two decades now, we have driven a couple times each year to Vermont, not only because we have found there a place we both love, but because we honestly enjoy our hours together in the car – she teasing me for miles on end; me responding with full-throated laughs that goad her to deliver even more. I swear she could be a comedy writer for Stephen Colbert.

We will spend hours and days together power walking at the mall, perusing stacks at the library, pampering our little granddaughter Ora, and returning to my three Willow Brooks as visitors. As visitors! That will be an out-of-body experience for sure, but neither of us could just walk away from 48 years of memories.

This ministry is woven into our DNA. Willow Brook is embedded in our hearts, and there it will remain.

Larry Harris, CEO
lharris@willow-brook.org



Lessons for the Journey

Q: What has been the best and worst thing about your time at Willow Brook?

A: The best thing was having the chance to attend the board of trustees meeting and cabinet meetings, and working with different department managers. The worst time was when eleven residents tested positive for Covid.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory, or something impactful that you learned (or both!) that you will carry with you when you leave here?

A: My favorite memories are the morning visits I made to all the residents. The residents looked forward to [my visit] every morning and we really bonded. Indeed, I will really miss the residents. I loved them and treated them with respect and love. I hate to say goodbye.

Q: How has your time at Willow Brook impacted your own life and your leadership skills?

A: I underestimated the difference I made until I saw the lives I touched at Willow Brook. Leadership is by example and Willow Brook taught me all the skills of becoming a good leader.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share?

A: It's a good feeling when God shows up just in time, but the best feeling is when you realize He has never left you.



Administrator-in-Training, Mariama Olama, gives a heartfelt farewell to Willow Brook leaders as she embarks on her next adventure.

This past summer, Willow Brook Christian Home welcomed a nursing home administrator-in-training, Mariama Olama. Mariama was mentored by the Home's longtime executive director, David Chappell, who is a licensed nursing home administrator (LNHA). Mariama was able to participate in every aspect of day-to-day life as a nursing home administrator and also build relationships and shadow employees from other departments at both of Willow Brook's Delaware campuses.

Mariama's last day with us was September 9. Her plans are to move to Georgia, closer to family, and herself become an LNHA. Before she left, we asked her about her time with Willow Brook. We think her answers exemplify her joyful and life-giving presence. Mariama, we already miss you.



The Central Ohio Symphony used Willow Brook at Delaware Run's Summit Room to rehearse for the upcoming season. Our residents were invited to listen in and witness a rehearsal first hand –what a special opportunity! The upcoming season starts on October 1.



Margaret Alexander
Dianne L. Almendinger
Glenn & Sara Beaber
Robert & Mary Holm
Ann N. Tyler

Richard C. Atkinson
Carol A. Roden

Marion & Anita Blaszkowiak
Irene C. Blaszkowiak

William "Nick" Briscoe
Andrew & Peggy Black
Mark & LuAnn Latorre
Karl Petzinger

Frances Carlton
April L. Jackson

S. Frank & Betty Chappell
Larry & Janet Harris
Karen Susenna

Linda Carol Davidson
Thomas & Rena Brown
Ed & Clarice Butler
Randal & Patricia Lucas
Darlene M. Kelch
James & Patricia Moore
Barbara Pettit
Lucretia M. Wellman

Nancy DeTray
Lisa Mack

Alma Eshelman
Thomas & Jane Eshelman

William "Bill" Gingrich
Corinne D. Esau
Theodore & Judy Gach
Sarah Smith
Lucretia M. Wellman

Audrey & Alberta Harris
Larry & Janet Harris

John T. Hayes
Karen S. Hayes

Tribute Gifts

Memorial Contributions

June 6 – August 25, 2022

Alexander "Alex" Heingartner
Bernard L. Derr
Peggy Steffel

James E. Jackson
Mitchell & Dyana Welch
Robert W. "Bob" Johnson
Glenn & Sara Beaber
James & Rachel Shrader

Arden LeBlanc
Peter & Mary Grace
Wallace F. "Wally" Life
Robert & Barbara Kimball

Edmund "Ned" Paca
Theodore & Judy Gach

Ken Peterson
Corinne Lyman
Nancy Patkus
Joyce Peterson Laugen

Florence Poulson
Thomas & Sara Poulson

Gene & Maude Prince
Larry & Janet Harris
Rebecca L. Harris

Mary C. Roden
Carol A. Roden

William "Sheldon" Ross
Peter & Mary Grace

Don Rost
Thomas & Sara Poulson
Richard "Dick" Shower
Peter & Mary Grace

Jeanne Simpson
Mary Carolyn Fisher
Joyce Fleming
Donald Sommers
Edward & Rosemarie Dunne
Peter & Mary Grace
Corrine Snyder-Poulson
Thomas & Sara Poulson
Charles "Chuck" Townley
Lloyd & Alice Baker
Highlands Presbyterian Church
David Irish
Peter & Hilda Leffler
William & Judith McCartney
James & Marianne Rennie
Richard F. Seebode
John & Diane Sharpe
Paul & Karen Townley
Robert Whisman
Lois Whisman
David Wright
Lois Whisman
Michael Earl Wright
Francis & Nancy Rynearson
Nicki V. Zanetos
Lisa Mack

Tribute Gifts
To honor the living

Roger Pickens birthday
Melissa Ashmore
John Regalsky
Thomas & Jane Eshelman

Willow Brook Christian Home
55 Lazelle Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Phone: 614-885-3300

Willow Brook Christian Village
100 Willow Brook Way South
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: 740-369-0048

Willow Brook at Delaware Run
100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: 740-201-5640

WILLOW BROOK CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

not-for-profit • Churches of Christ • willow-brook.org

Independent Living • Skilled Rehab
Transitional Living • Respite
Assisted Living • Memory Care
Long-Term Care • Adult Day Program

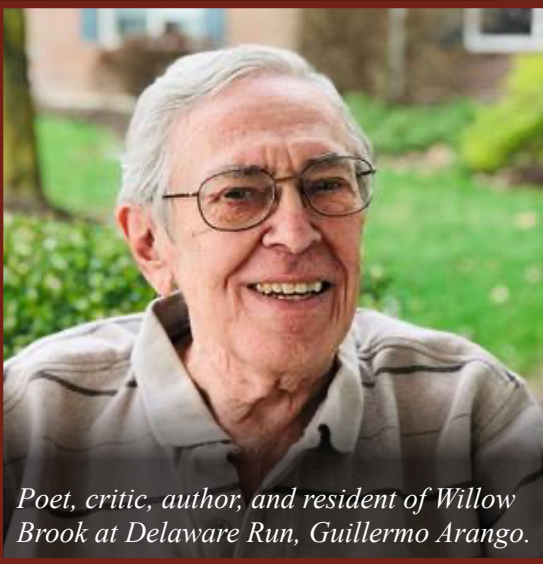
Reflections is published quarterly by
Willow Brook Christian Communities
Cathy Courtice, Editor
Christina Dresdow, Designer

The Sun Moves the Clouds

by Guillermo Arango

The sun moves the clouds,
I open the window curtains.
Neither of us likes
what we see out there,
but it does not matter.
Every dull day
Has its story.
The sun has the landscape.
I have poetry.

Sunset over the lake at Willow
Brook at Delaware Run.
Photo by resident Tracy McKirgan.



Poet, critic, author, and resident of Willow
Brook at Delaware Run, Guillermo Arango.

Story of a Scholar

Born in 1939, Guillermo Arango grew up in Cuba. In his late teens, Guillermo became the cinema critic for the journal *La Correspondencia*. Having earned his Ph.D. in Language, Literature, and Culture, it is unsurprising that he was also a member of the Cuban literary scene until he left Cuba in 1962.

Like many of his fellow countrymen, he left Cuba due to the political unrest and revolution. When he came to the U.S., he went first to Chicago, where he worked in factories. Guillermo also taught Spanish and later earned his Master of Fine Arts from Loyola University. He settled in central Ohio in the late 1960s,

when he was offered a teaching position at Ohio Wesleyan University, making Ohio his home for over 50 years. Additionally, he taught Spanish at The Ohio State University, Otterbein University, and the Westerville Public Schools.

A writer, he has published six books of poetry, as well as a book of essays and short dramatic works of theatre. As Guillermo says, he is moved to write “to catch the passing of time eternal in every second.” When not writing or reading, he is probably watching the *Turner Classic Movies* channel, or visiting with his two amazing daughters, Sara and Amanda, who both live in Columbus.

Guillermo says he is moved to write “to catch the passing of time eternal in every second.”

Why I love where I live: The Village Garden Homes

"I love living in the Garden Homes; we are like a family, we look after one another. And it's really nice to be on one level and not have to worry about stairs or elevators. Our mail is delivered inside the building, so we don't have to go out even if it is pouring rain or snowy. I think we really enjoy the camaraderie that we have." -Peggy Roach, resident



Left, a side view of the Garden Homes apartments from the outside.

"I love the Garden Homes as I feel as though we're a small family here at Willow Brook. We celebrate everyone's birthdays with cake and ice cream. We have bingo on Thursdays and exercise class twice a week [at the Garden Homes, specifically for Garden Homes residents], and we always have a puzzle in the making." -Jeanette Mills, resident



David Peters (A & B Holton Contracting) fits new windows as part of the construction project to join two studio apartments to create a larger two bedroom, two bath apartment in the Garden Homes.

Garden Homes residents, Donna Nelson, left, and Jeanette Mills piece together a puzzle in the common area.

continued from front page

special connection with our healthcare residents. His kindness to them comes through in many ways: he drives for our weekly bus trips, plays piano every Thursday afternoon, joins in with comic relief for group programs, assists with maintenance projects, and always stops for hallway chats."

Beloved by residents and staff alike, Scott is a shining example of the compassion it takes to make a good employee great. Love makes the difference! Thank you, Scott, for the everyday difference you make in the lives of our residents and our organization.

Scott Folcert and Willow Brook Christian Village resident, Bob Kimball, share a laugh together.



Scott Folcert, maintenance technician and bus driver at Willow Brook Christian Village, prepares to take residents on a bus trip.

The Christian Chronicle Visits Willow Brook



Bobby Ross, editor-in-chief of The Christian Chronicle newspaper, enjoys pleasant conversation and a delicious meal with Larry Harris (CEO) and Adam Metz (Willow Brook Chaplain) at Willow Brook at Delaware Run's Café 100 restaurant.

In honor of its 50th anniversary, Willow Brook Christian Communities has the privilege of being featured in an upcoming issue of *The Christian Chronicle*, a national newspaper for members of the Churches of Christ (the church affiliated with Willow Brook). In preparation for this article, Willow Brook was delighted to welcome the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Bobby Ross. Ross stayed for three days touring all three of our campuses, speaking with our executive directors, and learning more about the “Willow Brook way.” Our Chaplain, Adam Metz,

organized the visit and served as tour guide and chauffeur to Ross, making sure that he had equal time to learn about each of our campuses’ unique personality. Ross was able to speak with our residents one-on-one, and enjoy a special group lunch and discussion. On his last day at Willow Brook, Ross was joined by our CEO, Larry Harris, and Adam to enjoy a farewell breakfast at Willow Brook at Delaware Run’s Café 100 restaurant.



Friday Night Lights & Sunday Morning Pews

Adam Metz (Willow Brook Chaplain) is a football official for local high school and middle school teams. Here he is pictured in action at the recent middle school game, between Delaware Dempsey vs. Dublin Sells.

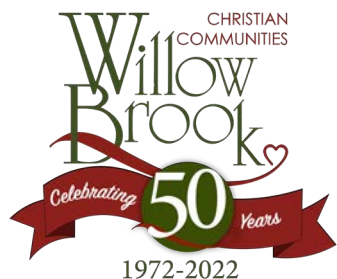


Reflections

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

Address service requested

*Please call 740-201-5688 when you
have an address update.*



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DELAWARE, OH
PERMIT #102



*Autumn foggy morning overlooking the lake at Willow Brook at Delaware Run.
Photo by Christina Dresdow (Social Media Coordinator at Willow Brook).*