



A word from the CEO...



This month marks Willow Brook’s 50th anniversary. March 15th, to be exact. On that date in 1972, Willow Brook’s board ponied up \$175,000 to purchase a diminutive 25-bed nursing home just north of Columbus. That fragile little care center was beset with many troubles. When I came on board in 1975, the organization technically was bankrupt (although it was an undeclared bankruptcy) and plagued with all manner of operational demons. The Ohio Department of Health had just revoked its license due to staffing inadequacies and code violations. Staff members were downtrodden. The board was discouraged. Talk about a humble beginning!

That was the start. Just look today at all we have become. Willow Brook Christian Communities serves from three grand communities in central Ohio, offering a wide array of services to older adults. We started with 25 residents. Today we serve 650. Our annual budget back then was \$300,000. Today it is \$28 million. In 1972, we had 6,500 square feet under-roof. Now there’s 684,000.

We’ve come a long way baby!

Through the years, many thousands of residents and their families have been served. Much good has been accomplished, and we have become a beacon of hope for our older friends. As we approached the half century mark, we were in hopes of throwing a grand anniversary bash. Turns out Covid had other plans, so we will just have to wait on that party. But I call on everyone associated with the Willow Brook ministry to quietly reflect on the past fifty years, consider the good that is done every day within our walls, and then offer up a prayer of thanksgiving.

Much love to all,
Larry Harris, CEO

News and Happenings

PROPERTY TAX LETTERS for those living in the twin-single and Garden homes are available and can be picked up from the Village Manager, Marie McCreary, during normal business hours.



WILLOW BROOK SHUTTLE is available Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **PLEASE...**schedule your appointments between those hours and call at least one day in advance to reserve a ride at 740-602-6028.

Effective March 1, 2022, Willow Brook will no longer accept Medical Mutual of Ohio **ADVANTAGE PLAN**. We will continue to accept Aetna, Anthem and Humana Medicare Advantage Plans. **NOTE:** This **does not** affect any Medicare supplements plans. Questions/



concerns, please reach out to Nicole Ketron at 740-368-4596 or extension 1163.

The threat of **severe thunderstorms and/or tornado season** is upon us. Please know the difference between a watch and a warning. A **watch** means weather conditions are favorable for the formation of a severe thunderstorm or tornado. A **warning** means severe weather is approaching the area and to take safe shelter immediately. If you do not have one already, an investment in a weather radio is a good idea.

Warm weather also brings out more **uninvited solicitors**. If you experience or see someone soliciting in the Village, please call the front desk immediately at 740-369-0048. If it is after 5:00 p.m., please call and dial 0 for a nurse. They will take the necessary steps to have the person/group removed from the premises.

Please remember to notify the front office 740-369-0048 or extension 1009 if either you or your spouse go to the **emergency room or have been admitted to the hospital**. It is important that we are aware of your absence for building emergencies, billing and proper follow-up for nursing services.

Wellness office hours

Monday—3-7:30

Tuesday—8-11

Wednesday—Closed

Thursday—3-7:30

Friday—8-11

Thank You

“Thanks guys for all the cards, calls, and Quaker Bar for Ted’s birthday! Despite the snow storm, it was a good day for him! What a great bunch of people!” -Judy Gach

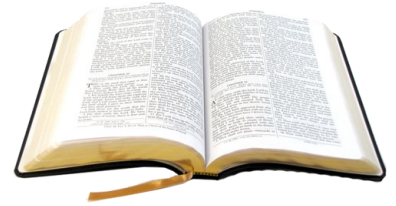
“Thank you for the many Christmas cards, birthday cards, the cake and a bag of delicious figs, dried apricots and cookies. –Frank Row

“Thanks to my Willow Brook friends for my beautiful cards and good wishes. So nice to be remembered.” -Winnie Wright



Naming Our Losses

Let me begin by saying a big “Thank you!” to everyone who has made me feel so welcome (and special!) in these first days serving as your chaplain. Residents and staff alike have been nothing but gracious, patient, and welcoming which has helped make me feel so appreciated. Eventually, I will even learn all your names – and if I have not met you yet, I hope to soon!



There is something cathartic beginning this journey as your chaplain as this year’s Lenten season begins. I didn’t grow up in a church that observed Lent – all I knew about it was that my friends at school sometimes showed up with a black mark on their foreheads, and they didn’t eat the pepperonis on our Friday pizza school lunches. Over the last several years, however, I have investigated the rich and meaningful practice of observing Lent, and it has become an important part of my spiritual journey.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2, this year) and continues on through 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Holy Week and Easter Sunday. It is a time for us to reflect on our personal walk with the Lord and come to terms with our own shortcomings. I would invite you, this year, to spend time during Lent reflecting on the losses we’ve experienced over the past two years as we’ve dealt with the Covid-19 virus. Regardless of how old (or young!) you are, we’ve all lost something. Some have lost their lives or the lives of loved ones; some have lost time spent with family, friends, or on vacation; children have lost important rites of passage like prom and graduation ceremonies; and we all have lost time. Time *is* fleeting isn’t it?

It is impossible to think that enduring these losses have had no effect on us – of course they have! They have left us feeling hurt, frustrated, angry, disappointed, sad, confused, disoriented, depressed, lost, anxious . . . and I could keep going, couldn’t I? In the middle of his Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us, “Don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34). The first step towards alleviating our worries is to name them. We *have* lost much, and it has left us troubled and worried. As a community, let’s use this season of Lent to name our losses and give them over to the Lord. 1 Peter 5:7 says to cast all your anxiety on him. Easy for him to say! But we who have faith in Jesus know that Easter is coming . . .

Adam Metz, Chaplain





Meet a Staff Member

Meet Jacob England. Jacob works in the culinary department. He started his job at Willow Brook at the suggestion of his mother.

Jacob was born in Westerville and raised in Delaware. His father, Eddie, is an IT specialist. His mother, Linda, is an accounting specialist. He has a brother, Matthew, and two sisters: Erin and Anna.

Jacob is a 2019 graduate of Delaware Hayes High School. He is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University where he is working towards a Bachelor's degree in social work.

He enjoys traveling to the Outer Banks, North Carolina every year, playing video games and playing with his dog, Simon.



Daylight Saving Time:
March 13, 2022
at 2:00 a.m.

Turn your clocks
AHEAD
an hour before going to bed.



From your Executive Director



Cherith Care Center and Willow Brook Christian Home are rated the best according to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). A nursing home's overall quality rating can be found on Nursing Home Compare at www.medicare.gov. CMS uses a 5-star quality rating to measure the quality of care, health inspections, and staffing levels. The overall ratings range from 1 star to 5 stars, with 5 stars indicating the highest quality. Cherith Care Center and Willow Brook Christian home are among the top 10% with a 5 Star rating!!

Please join me in welcoming Chaplain Adam Metz. He comes to us from the Alum Creek Church of Christ located in Lewis Center. Adam will serve all three Willow Brook campuses. Once he has settled into his role, we'll be sure to share his office hours.

Willow Brook's Gift of Love reception is usually held in April. However, due to the Coronavirus, we will likely not be able to hold our normal celebration. For all the newbies that are not familiar with this program, this is an annual reception to thank and honor our volunteers. During the reception, an exceptional volunteer from each Willow Brook campus is recognized with a special "Gift of Love" award. This person exemplifies the spirit of unselfish giving of one's time and talent. Be sure to watch for the nomination forms. This is your chance to honor someone who enriches the lives of Willow Brook residents in some concrete way, and does it without pay.

Warm wishes,
Nicole