

Family Ties

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

FEBRUARY 2019

A word from the CEO...



Boy, rough winter so far. As I write this the “polar vortex” is still in the prediction mode. I am hoping it turns out to be less than advertised, but still we need to heed the warnings. We’ll be hunkering down and taking precautionary steps.

Even without the “vortex,” we have seen some rough weather this season.

Thank goodness for furnaces, car heaters, and hot coffee.

I want to express thanks to our maintenance teams for their diligence in removing snow and ice from our pavement and sidewalks. Cold hard work for sure, and I am grateful for every hour they have put in so we can continue to function with some degree of normalcy.

And we owe a great big shout-out to our nurses, aides, housekeepers, and culinary workers who made their way in under a level 3, some coming from a county or two away!

Thank you dear Willow Brook workers, for your exceptional service.

We’re all counting the days till spring. These freezing, gray days will soon give way to warm breezes and sunshine. Can’t wait.

It is a high honor to serve you. Stay warm.

With love to all,

Larry Harris, CEO

What’s Happening in February

- ◆ Saturday, February 2
Hymn Singing and Fellowship Time
- ◆ Monday, February 4
Weather permitting a lunch trip to Sunflower Chinese Restaurant in honor of the Chinese New Year
- ◆ Wednesday, February 6
Meeting of the Activity Committee
Come help us plan how you spend your day
- ◆ Thursday, February 14
Valentine’s Day
- ◆ Monday, February 18
A President will be visiting us in the morning and talking about his life
- ◆ Tuesday, February 19
Jewelry Making with Lora & Michelle
- ◆ Thursday, February 21
Come sort reading glasses with us and pack them into boxes to be sent to Haiti
- ◆ Monday, February 25
Men’s Lunch and a movie join us for pizza and a western (Guys only! No Girls allowed)
- ◆ Wednesday, February 27
Let’s Play Chicken Feet! A wild game of Dominoes



Family Ties is a publication for the residents and families of Willow Brook Christian Home
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Chaplain's Corner

By Dana Slingluff

Lord, Teach us to Pray

Interesting! An extensive survey a few years back asked people why they attend church. Was it the inspiring sermons, the beautiful music, the friendly fellowship? While all of these were registered, the overwhelming desire was the prayers of the church... that is what made people feel closer to God. I have found the same to be true among those who do not assemble. Quite a few times during my years of ministry, people have come to an empty church building and asked for permission to pray. Why? Because they were seeking to get close to God.

It is no coincidence that Jesus' disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 1:1). They had observed the strength that the Savior derived from prayer in times of temptation and distress as well as concern over serious challenges and decisions that needed to be made. Prayer should be our first resource, not our last!

Men and women with great faith are men and women of prayer. In the 73rd Psalm, David speaks of frustration, disappointment and fear. How did he deal with these things? He went into the sanctuary of the Lord. He stated, "It is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I might declare all Your works" (Psalm 73:28). When we share our prayers, we share our strength – which is in the Lord. David found that drawing near to God, his fears were assuaged, his needs were met, his courage renewed. His response was to share the message of God's wonderful works. May we be a people of prayer. Pray with others and for others. May the church always be "God's house of Prayer" (Luke 19:36).

Where is your Treasure?

For years, one of my prize possessions was an early model Edison record player. You know the type, with the crank and a big metal horn that controlled the volume. I discovered it in my grandmother's attic when I was just a boy. My grandfather brought it home when my dad was just a boy. My grandmother soon declared, "Take that squawk box out of here." Eventually, I took possession. Through the years I imagined it would become very valuable, but I did not have a place to store it or the money to restore it. Recently I decided I had to do something with it. The years of being in basements and garage took its toll. There was rust. The records were warped and covered with mold. Even a man who restores such things said it was beyond hope.

Jesus warned about "laying up treasures where moth and rust destroy" (Matthew 6:19). Such is the nature of anything material. A better investment? "But lay up your treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:21). Paul challenged those who had earthly wealth "That they do good, be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life" (I Timothy 6:17-19).

Jesus put it this way, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Being overly concerned about material things is to focus on things that we are guaranteed to lose. Even worse, they keep us from focusing on things that are eternal. We are all focusing our lives on one of two places – this life or eternity.

Laying up treasures on earth is a bad investment! If we use the blessings God gives us to serve Him, he will reward us both now and in eternity!

Magician John Louis put on quite a show and included the audience in his performance.



Christy got in on the action when the balls the magician handed her kept multiplying.



Carrie and Bob check out the ropes to make sure they're not magic ropes.