

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2018



spirit

M A G A Z I N E

Celebrating the Spirit®



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A WORD FROM THE CEO



Rev. Kenneth Daniel
President and CEO

NOT BY ACCIDENT: OUR INTENTIONALITY IN MISSION

Fulfilling our vision of creating abundant life in community does not happen by accident. As a national leader in senior living services, United Church Homes has intentionally grown its mission and ministry in areas that enable us to address the needs of vulnerable and diverse populations.

It was not by accident that we serve older adults in regions with high concentrations of low-income individuals especially across the South or sensitive populations such as our Native American communities in Minnesota and Nebraska. We seek to provide services to the underserved and be an inclusive organization where each individual is valued and loved. In various ways, United Church Homes has taken a courageous stand toward diversity, from developing its outreach and expanding its programs to focusing on recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce.

In 2012, the Board of Directors voted for United Church Homes to become Open and Affirming, a designation within the United Church of Christ that encourages the welcoming of members of the LGBTQ community. The statement came from our theological understanding of caring for the whole person, but the Board also saw this as a justice issue. The LGBTQ community often is not afforded the same rights to equal treatment to access healthcare, housing or employment. United Church Homes is intentional in its actions to combat this and other forms of discrimination.

In late 2017, United Church Homes continued this commitment by becoming the first multisite senior living provider in Ohio to obtain the Platinum-level credential for SAGECare (see page 21).

But, as the late Ruth Frost Parker, a former Board member and United Church Homes' most generous benefactor, often was quoted as saying, "there is more work to be done." As we work to transform aging, the SAGECare certification serves as a tangible step that staff members can use to align the philosophical concepts within our mission with the practical steps the organization is taking to be inclusive of people who have experienced discrimination.

In fact, these tangible steps are our way of bending the curve of history toward justice while we shoulder the mandate of Christ to go out and serve the least of these. At United Church Homes, we continue to foster community, wholeness and peace within all those we serve, thereby creating the conditions that lead to a more just society.

We are in a period of time in our culture where our long-standing concern for the poor is being tested. While this is done in the name of fiscal restraint, the result is a shredding of the social safety net for vulnerable groups of people. That is our challenge. When programs and resources to fund those programs are being diminished, it falls harder on charitable organizations like United Church Homes to continue the momentum we have created to expand these programs and serve more people.

Yet within these challenges, we see opportunity. United Church Homes sees technology as an innovative platform for providing support and services and, yes, even community. We are exploring new ways in which we can learn how technology can be part of our strategy today and in the future. As we explore these options, our mission commands us to fight the causes of elder poverty and systemic injustices in our society through our work as a senior living provider. It is no accident, but our continuing response to a higher calling to serve.



ON THE COVER:
 United Church Homes supporters raise hand-painted hearts during the kick off for the Campaign for Abundant Life at Fairhaven Community.

spirit MAGAZINE

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The celebration included a ritual of blessing with wooden hearts hand-painted by Fairhaven residents. Each heart represented the vision of abundant life at United Church Homes.



FAIRHAVEN
COMMUNITY

REDEDICATION





In November, United Church Homes celebrated renovations at its flagship location, Fairhaven Community, and launched the public phase of the Campaign for Abundant Life, an effort to raise \$20 million over five years. UCH and its supporters celebrated the journey at Fairhaven, blessed the ministry and moved the mission into the future as they prepared for this historic initiative. Already nearly \$12 million has been raised toward the goal.

The celebration included a ritual of blessing with wooden hearts hand-painted by Fairhaven residents. Each heart represented the vision of abundant life at United Church Homes.

“Keep one for yourself as a reminder of how you have witnessed and contributed to the love found here,” said Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, during the ceremony. “Take one to share with someone else as you invite them to join us as we grow the community far and wide, welcoming others to participate in the vision of abundant life.”

The hearts then were lifted into the air for a blessing to continue the heartbeat of the ministry that is United Church Homes.

For information, visit unitedchurchhomes.org/abundant-life.



\$20,000,000
Goal

CAMPAIGN FOR ABUNDANT LIFE

\$20 Million Goal and
Year to Date: 2017–2022

\$11,627,152
Year to Date

\$9,374,534

Residential Campuses and
Healthcare Communities

\$1,318,361

Unrestricted Support, Charitable Care
and Quality of Life

\$691,390

Endowment/Deferred Gifts

\$105,661

Pastoral Care

\$104,400

Affordable Housing Communities

\$32,866

Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging

EXPLORING UPLANDS VILLAGE

Exploring the 500 acres of Uplands Village retirement community in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, may take four wheels and up to three days. But there is no shortage of hospitality, friendly faces and activism among the independent living residents who reside here.



Individuals from 38 states have moved to the rolling hills that make up Uplands Village. So, when potential new residents come to visit, they are offered the full guest treatment — three days and two nights in a guest apartment with a full schedule to see what life is like at Uplands.

Uplands Village is the latest community to enter a full-service management contract with United Church Homes Management. Both organizations have roots in today's United Church of Christ, leading to similar cultures of healing, teaching and caring for the least of these. Administrator and Director of Health Services Lou Buckner, a registered nurse, is working closely with David Zack, United Church Homes' director of operations in the Senior Living Services division, who is serving as interim executive director at Uplands.



Lou Buckner, Administrator and Director of Health Services

"I am thrilled to be working with United Church Homes at Uplands due to the wealth of resources that they offer," Lou said. "This collaboration has helped Uplands immensely as we navigate the evolving nature of senior living and continue our mission of providing homes and quality healthcare services to older adults."

Uplands has a long and storied history, which is captured in *Doctor Woman of the Cumberland*s, the autobiography of May Cravath Wharton, M.D. The book, first published in 1953, tells the story of Dr. Wharton, who arrived in Pleasant Hill in 1917.

A trailblazer in her own right, Dr. Wharton joined her husband in the small Tennessee town when he became principal of Pleasant Hill Academy, a "school for mountain youth" run for more than 60 years by the American Missionary Association of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Church.

According to the book's synopsis, "Her work with the mountain people of the surrounding area began during the flu epidemic of 1918 when she was 45 years old. At that time doctors' visits in the homes of highlanders were practically unknown and the nearest hospital was 85 miles from Pleasant Hill."

When her husband died in 1920, the people of Pleasant Hill convinced "Dr. May," as she was known on



Ann Meisamer and Dr. May Cravath Wharton

the Cumberland Plateau, to stay and be their "Doctor Woman."

Dr. May was especially committed to helping the aging population in the Pleasant Hill area.

Uplands Village residents Ann and Frank Meisamer know the story intimately. Ann was delivered by Dr. May, a distinction that earned her and the other newborns who came into this world under Dr. May's watch the title of "Dr. May's babies." Growing up, they wore yellow ribbons at the annual celebration of National Hospital Day, the social event of the season, to signify that status.

The Meisamers have lived in a variety of cities throughout the U.S., but they came back home in retirement. Frank was a hospital administrator who worked for the state health department, as regional director for the American Hospital Association, president for the Tennessee Hospital Association and

a board member of the American Hospital Association. The couple recall Dr. May's sense of humor and giving nature. Her presence and influence are felt 100 years later.

"Dr. May planted the seed and was responsible for the hospital (Cumberland Medical Center) in (the nearby city of) Crossville," Ann said. "She loved to take care of people. Dr. May was very generous."

Today, a home health service is offered for those aging in place. Residents hold the deeds to the more than 150 independent living homes on campus, in a unique structure compared to other independent living communities which provide homes on lease. The Uplands Village life plan community also has assisted living, long-term nursing care and a wellness center for skilled rehabilitation. Visitors will find community members are uniquely committed to social justice advocacy and environmental sustainability.

Uplands Village has a robust volunteer program for its independent living residents. These Wharton Association members are lead by Coordinator Mary Ruth, who retired as alumni director at Elon University and moved to Uplands with her husband, Bill, in 2010. She knows every person who lives at Uplands. When a new resident moves here, Mary brings them homemade mustard and invites them to dine at her home.

At the Wharton Association monthly gatherings, Uplanders trickle in for refreshments and a program. Visitors may notice there is an empty seat at each table.

"We always leave an empty space," Mary said. "That way, if there are latecomers, they don't feel there's no space for them."

Uplanders take on their own pet projects, as well. Gail Ford is interested in setting up community



Frank and Ann Meisamer

solar meetings to look into how alternative forms of energy can be used at Uplands.

"I want something for the community, not just for myself," Gail said. "We've really created an old-fashioned neighborhood here. We're more than neighbors; we're family."

Gail moved to Uplands from North Carolina after getting a tip about the community from a friend.

"I was looking for an intentional community, one that cares about sustainability and neighbors helping one another," she said. "I wasn't having any luck and was getting discouraged when a friend encouraged me to go see her mother at Uplands. Within two months, I had moved here."

That was in 2009. Today, Gail is an active member of the volunteer group with a special interest in arts and music.

"You just reach out, figure out what you're interested in and do something," she said. "I feel very inspired by my neighbors."

For more information on the history of Uplands or for a copy of the book, visit uplandsvillage.com or call 931.277.3127.





TRINITY STAFFER NAMED TOP ACTIVITIES PROFESSIONAL IN OHIO



Resident Activities Assistant Ron Wilson considers his role at Trinity Community to be part of a ministry with older adults in Beavercreek, Ohio. In October, he received the state's highest level of recognition for that role.

Ron received the Dr. Charles Peckham Sr. Award from Resident Activity Personnel in Ohio, the association for residential activities professionals in senior living communities.

Ron, who was elected to serve as RAP Ohio's 2018 president after 12 years on the board, thought he was being punished when he was told not to take pictures during the ceremony.

"I'm listening to the description of who got the award this year. Finally, they said, 'There's nothing else to say except there are no words to describe this person. The winner is...'" and they

named me. I sat there for probably 10, 15 seconds before I realized I had won. I turned as red as scarlet. I'm not a guy who doesn't have something to say about anything and everything. But I was just totally speechless. Then, the water starting flowing," Ron said.

Named after Dr. Charles Peckham, the award memorializes the man credited with starting activities programs in Ohio. Prior to his passing in March 2013, Dr. Peckham served as a mentor to Ron.

"He wrote the textbooks for training people to be qualified activities professionals," Ron said. "To win the award with his name on it means to me that I've lived up to Dr. Peckham's expectations.

"The whole thing was just a dream come true because I had been there to train the people in front of me to be

great activities directors and evidently, they saw it in my training that I was living up to what I was teaching them."

Ron moved to the Dayton area just before the blizzard of 1978. At the time, he worked with the Boy Scouts of America. He has been a UCH staff member for more than 21 years. He also is an ordained pastor with a degree in psychology.

"I used to have a church, but people will say, 'Why don't you get a church and get behind the pulpit?' I feel this is where I need to be," Ron said. "I see it as a ministry and I love the residents. We have a great time together."





TRANSFORMING THE CONVERSATION

WEEKLY BLOG EXTENDS UCH MISSION, VISION, VALUES

United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging releases a weekly blog with columns written by a committee of UCH staffers and a local clergy member.

The goal? To change the way we think about aging in our homes, schools, workplaces, churches, communities and society.

Abundant Aging: Transforming the Conversation focuses on transforming aging, including advocacy issues, spirituality and aging, housing- and health-related issues and challenges and opportunities with living longer lives. The writers approach the blog as pastors and chaplains who are interested in helping to transform the conversation about aging in the context of faith, spirituality and the church.

The blog is a direct extension of work that started more than three years ago when a committee developed a new vision, mission and core values statement. Early in the process, a small group reflected on the prayer of Jesus in the Gospel of John: "I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly."

"This idea of abundance began to take hold and would not free itself from the hearts and imaginations of those who were working on this process," wrote Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, in the introductory blog.

Bloggers collaborate on pieces highlighting UCH's Culture Change initiative, which is part of the new I LIVE IT Hospitality program. The *Say What?* series focuses on how language shapes perceptions about older adults. The goal is to move away from terms that originate in medical models toward language that highlights community and family settings.



MEET THE ABUNDANT AGING BLOGGERS



Rev. Beth Long-Higgins is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, musician, fiber artist and mother of two adult children.



Rev. Becky King is chaplain at Fairhaven Community in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and dean of chaplains at United Church Homes. For more than three years, she served as pastor at Community United Church of Christ, Fort Seneca, Ohio.



Rev. Cathy Lawrence is a registered nurse and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is a lifelong learner who loves to read and enjoys nature. She is the mother of two adult children and has one grandchild.



Rev. Beth Rodenhouse is chaplain at Pilgrim Manor, a United Church Homes community in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has served in parish ministry for eight years and as a chaplain for five years.



Rev. Jared Ruari lives in Mansfield, Ohio, with his partner Allison and their three cats. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ currently serving St. John's UCC.

Subscribe to the blog today by visiting abundantaging.org.

VOLUNTEER BREAKS THROUGH NOISE OF ALZHEIMER'S



Kroft Commons resident Patti Crookston used her Spanish language skills to reach a Chapel Hill Community resident living with dementia.

Volunteering in memory care

in a retirement community can be daunting. This type of work is for perseverant and committed individuals who strive to make an impact in the lives of older adults.

And every once in a while, they get to experience a breakthrough.

Patti Crookston, a resident of Kroft Commons independent living at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Ohio, meets one-on-one with residents of the healthcare center. Just more than a year after moving to Chapel Hill, Patti, a retired Spanish teacher, is involved in the assisted living and memory support neighborhoods on the Chapel Hill campus by volunteering.

“I love volunteering,” Patti said. “I’m just using the talents that God gives me. I was looking for something to fill my time and my spirit.”

When Patti met Tom*, he immediately began speaking to her in Spanish. Before that, Tom was communicating in broken sentences. As a child, Tom’s family primarily spoke Spanish in their home. Patti learned much more about him once she began communicating in his native language.

“I found out from the aides and nurses that he looked forward to my visits,” Patti said. “I could get him to do anything they needed him to do. I would compromise with him and explain why it would help him to follow the nurses’ requests.”

Researchers at Georgetown University Medical Center have found evidence that the processing of music and language depend on the same brain systems. For Patti, that just makes sense.

“When you start thinking about how the brain functions, the idea is to keep your whole brain going,” she said. “Doing things like music and art and languages encompass the whole brain because you can use creativity. As a teacher, I would use music in the classroom because it would help students remember or help calm them.”

Patti hopes her story will spark interest in others to share their language skills with older adults living with dementia. “It’s about them. It’s not about me. If I could just help one person, I’ll know that I was able to make a difference.”

Patti is a volunteer with the evidence-based Comfort Matters program for dementia care that United Church Homes has begun rolling out at its healthcare communities. Chapel Hill was the first United Church Homes community and the 14th in the nation to become certified.

The community recently was named the 16th best senior living community in Ohio by *U.S. News & World Report*. On the campus of the life plan community are leaders who are dedicated to empowering people living with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

In December, Chapel Hill Memory Support Director Caroline James participated in a call center for *A Journey Through Alzheimer’s*, the annual one-hour special by television station WCMH in Columbus. Caroline answered questions from people who are experiencing their own Alzheimer’s journeys with their loved ones.

United Church Homes was proud to co-sponsor the special as a

leader in memory care support services in Ohio, and Caroline was an easy choice to represent United Church Homes.



“A lot of callers seemed to just want to be heard and get confirmation that they’re not alone,” Caroline said.

Chapel Hill Community, like other United Church Homes campuses that provide safe, secure memory care neighborhoods, offers three evidence-based life enrichment programs as part of its commitment to provide abundant life for those living with dementia. The programs are Music & Memory, Opening Minds Through Art (OMA) and Comfort Matters.

United Church Homes became a Music & Memory partner in 2015, with trained caregivers creating personalized music playlists on iPods for residents. The playlists can tap deep



memories not lost to dementia and can reawaken residents, enabling those who are withdrawn to become social.

Next came OMA, an award-winning, intergenerational program for people with Alzheimer’s and dementia-related illnesses, designed to provide residents with the creative freedom to expand their choices and sense of control. OMA uses art and self-expression, coupled with person-directed care principles, to build a bridge across age and cognitive barriers.

United Church Homes has begun rolling out Comfort Matters training at its healthcare communities. Comfort Matters is a nationally recognized memory support program. It is a philosophy, a care practice and an evidenced-based accredited education program, offering a holistic and integrated approach to improve the quality of care and quality of life for people living with dementia.

Altogether, these programs offer hope and joy, opportunities for creative expression and a sense of peace for individuals and families.

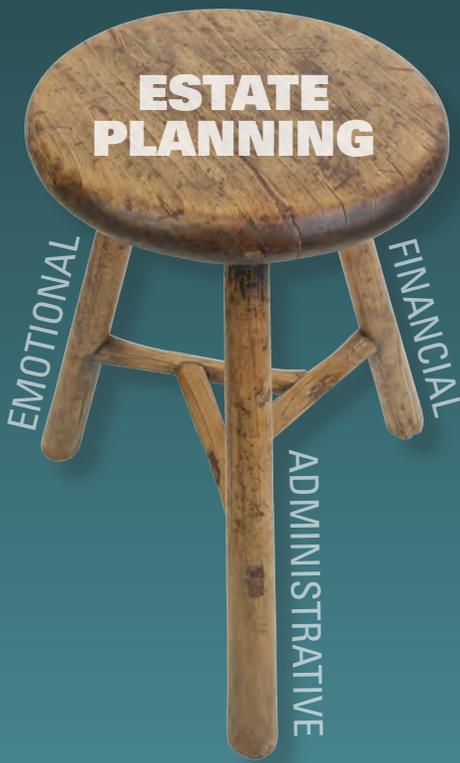
And sometimes, a breakthrough occurs in the least expected places, including the weekly worship services led by staff chaplains. Chaplain Rev. Erin McCreight from Chapel Hill reflects that these are soothing experiences for people living with dementia. Residents join together to sing hymns and church camp songs. Sometimes, they will just begin singing their favorites.

At the end of each service, residents lift up joys and concerns in prayer.

“They’ll pray for each other and staff. It’s really moving. It feeds my soul,” Rev. Erin said.



**Name has been changed to respect the privacy of the individual*



The Three-legged Stool

Estate planning often is viewed as something for wealthy people, when really it is important for everyone! Often this confusion comes into play because we don't think we have many worldly possessions, but that is only one piece of the puzzle. Estate planning can be viewed as a three-legged stool, each with a separate and unique purpose.

The first leg is the emotional side of planning. This tends to be the hardest part for most people, but it is the most important. I encourage everyone to handwrite letters to their loved ones. This isn't about who gets the microwave, the Crock-Pot or the Dodge Dart. This is about your hopes and dreams for your children, the life lessons you have learned and maybe even about your family history. For your spouse, you might talk about how you have no regrets and encourage them to move on after you are gone. These letters will be the single hardest thing to do, but will be something they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

The second leg of the stool is the administrative piece. This part is not about who gets what, but is focused on making sure we do not

leave behind a mess for those about whom we deeply care. We all have heard horror stories about those who leave behind boxes of documents, forgotten financial accounts and other valuables located in places the family might never find. For this reason, I encourage everyone to fill out an estate planning inventory. This document is designed to be a resource guide for those who are taking care of us during life when we're no longer able to do so ourselves and for our executor or trustee after we are gone. For a copy of this estate planning inventory form, please contact Gloria Hurwitz at ghurwitz@uchinc.org or 740.751.8702.

The third leg of the stool is the financial piece. Now, simply thinking about who gets your stuff when you are gone can be depressing, but many find great peace when they start planning for the impact and legacy they hope to leave behind. With the latest changes to our tax laws, now is a great time to review the impact you are hoping to make.



United Church Homes is pleased to offer our friends and supporters a valuable values-based estate planning service from an expert estate planning adviser. Paul Grassmann, from Thompson & Associates, visits Ohio monthly to meet with and assist families or individuals as they navigate through various practical, emotional and legal issues. If you are interested in learning more about this complimentary service, or scheduling an appointment with Paul, please contact Gloria Hurwitz, vice president of advancement and communications, at ghurwitz@uchinc.org or 740.751.8702.

Thompson & Associates
Values-Based Estate Planning



Paul Grassmann, JD, FCEP



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

UCH Partners with Community Foundations to Improve Quality of Life for Residents



MUIR MANOR

Residents of Muir Manor, a United Church Homes managed affordable housing community in New Albany, Indiana, were thrilled when Housing Manager Faye Banet announced the replacement of flooring in their apartments.

Muir Manor partners with many community organizations to improve quality of life for its residents.

In 2017, the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, Indiana, partnered with Muir Manor to replace 10 bathroom floors, 11 kitchen floors and bedroom and living room carpet in nine apartments. The foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to complete the project.

Faye said her tenants were ecstatic with the new flooring in their apartments. The project also benefited their guests.

“One resident said she felt like she’s a princess waking up to a castle every morning now,” Faye said. “These tenants, they’ve never had anything like this. This has been a new way of life. With the help of Horseshoe, we’ve been able to improve the quality of life for our residents.”

Additional funding of \$6,362 in 2013 went toward an exterior door and outdoor sign, and \$2,500 in 2014 funded replacement flooring. The 2015 grant amount of \$3,036 paid for a storage shed and parking lot repair. All grants came from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County.

Community foundation partnerships are integral to the United Church Homes mission to transform aging. With affordable housing communities in 14 states and two Native American nations, each location has its own set of challenges, which are met with innovative approaches individualized to meet the needs of each community.

“The Horseshoe Foundation is pleased to support organizations who are doing such great work in our community and we hope to continue our partnership in the future,” said Jerry Finn, executive director.

The AARP and the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University show in *Housing America’s Older Adults: Meeting the Needs of An Aging Population* that the existing housing stock is unprepared to meet the escalating need for affordability, accessibility, social connectivity and supportive services.

“As the demand for low-income housing increases, we also are observing competing needs for the limited funding available to provide programming and capital improvements in our communities,” said Alissa Clouse, director of major gifts and grants at United Church Homes. “Partnerships with local foundations are integral for providing quality homes with services for low-income older adults. We are incredibly grateful for foundation support, which provides abundant life for residents in our communities.”





Dan Miller (left), Executive Director, Parkvue Community, and Ken Keller, Retired Administrator, Parkvue Community

Longtime Parkvue Leader Retires, Welcoming Back Former Colleague

In 1994, Dan Miller followed in the footsteps of Ken Keller to assume the administrator role at Fairhaven Community in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. In December 2017, almost 25 years later, Dan and Ken experienced déjà vu when Dan did it again at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio.



PARKVUE COMMUNITY

Ken Keller retired as administrator effective Dec. 15 and Dan Miller was named the new executive director. Over the first quarter-century of Parkvue's existence, Ken has been a strong leader and friendly face at Parkvue and throughout United Church Homes.

Ken began his tenure with United Church Homes in 1989 when he worked in the Central Office Human Resources Department under former Vice President of Staff Relations Timothy P. Hackett.

From August 1990 through October 1994, Ken was the administrator at Fairhaven Community. This was followed by spending time at both Fairhaven and Parkvue in the later portion of 1994 and 1995. Dan said Ken, who has a natural ability to lead, has been an excellent mentor for him over the years. Ken said it was a pleasure to collaborate with Dan during that transition as a team-oriented colleague.

Parkvue Place opened in 1992 with 87 independent living apartments, celebrating 25 years in 2017. Parkvue Health Care Center opened in the spring of 1995.

“There is a great amount of longevity with the team at Fairhaven and Ken has built a similar team from the ground up at Parkvue.”

Parkvue was a new campus that originated with the vision of Ruth Frost Parker, an Erie County resident, former United Church Homes Board member and the largest single benefactor in its more than 100-year history. As early as 1995, Ken learned of Ruth’s dream to add a state-of-the-art Aquatic Center at Parkvue. Over many years and multiple capital projects, Ruth’s dream was fulfilled with the dedication of the Aquatic Center on April 7, 2016. Even after her death in February 2015, United Church Homes continued to implement her ideas, including renovations at Parkvue Place and the memory care neighborhood, known as Follett Court, of the healthcare center. Most recently, UCH embraced another of Ruth’s visions at the Parkvue campus by initiating the first of three phases to add 44 independent living cottages.

Ken said United Church Homes’ senior leadership shared Ruth’s vision for a life plan community in Erie County and they became collaborators on many projects, including the development of apartment homes for older adults at Parkvue Place to a full-service campus.

“Ruth had a deep sense of caring and wanting to help and fill needs for the older population in the area,” Ken recalled. “Because of her idea and support, we were able to expand the original plan for Parkvue to add skilled nursing with a special area for memory care. It’s now evolved into a true life plan community. United Church Homes’ mission of creating and enabling abundant living was a perfect match with Ruth’s visions.”

“It’s been fun to develop that culture of family, hospitality and teamwork,” Ken continued. “As hard as it was

for me to leave Fairhaven, I saw an opportunity to be closer to my wife’s family and a professional opportunity to start a new community. What a challenge and opportunity!”

“There is a great amount of longevity with the team at Fairhaven and Ken has built a similar team from the ground up at Parkvue,” Dan said.

Dan’s father, John Miller, was the administrator and chaplain at Fairhaven from 1973-77. Dan grew up within its walls, spending first through fourth grades living nearby and joining his dad to visit residents. During his final semester at what then was Heidelberg College (now Heidelberg University), Dan accepted a part-time internship at Fairhaven.

“It was like coming home,” he said. “I spent a lot of time there as a kid. There’s a great sense of community and care.”

Dan worked seven months at Trinity Community in Beavercreek, Ohio, while finishing the administrator-in-training program and received his license in March 1991. He also spent time at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Ohio.

After 18 years at Fairhaven, he resigned in 2012 and accepted a position with another organization. But Dan said he always knew he wanted to return to the United Church Homes team.

“United Church Homes is very innovative and keeps on the leading edge,” he said. “There is a family atmosphere here and I also appreciate the Christian orientation through the affiliation with the United Church of Christ. I see a lot of similarities between Fairhaven and Parkvue including the

closeness of the staff. Ken has done a wonderful job here, building that.”

Ken said he has appreciated the opportunity to develop deep relationships at Parkvue and execute “good-hearted” visions.

“The staff has become like family,” Ken said, tearing up. “I’ve watched the kids of the staff grow up. The staff was very dedicated, caring and hard working. They are very committed to enabling abundant living, and embrace a culture of hospitality. They have become my colleagues and I will miss them. I’m happy that it’s Dan who is following me. I am confident Parkvue is in good hands. If Ruth were still here, I know she’d be happy.”

Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes, said Ken led the organization through many changes.

“He was forward-thinking and progressive in his leadership,” Rev. Daniel said. “I’m proud of him and what he has done at Parkvue.”

Chuck Mooney, senior vice president of Senior Living Services and chief operating officer at United Church Homes, explained Dan’s position is executive director, a new title that reflects the community’s transformation in recent years to a life plan community offering a full continuum of care, housing options and hospitality services.



Fairhaven Chaplain Earns Board Certification to Enhance Ministry

Pastor Cites Key Support from UCH



Rev. Dr. Rebecca King and Joyce Gwartz

Last fall, Rev. Dr. Rebecca King, chaplain at Fairhaven Community, took her ministry a step further when she was approved as a board-certified chaplain through the Board of Chaplaincy Certification Inc. of the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), a national nonprofit professional association.

She was the second United Church Homes chaplain to become certified through the APC after Rev. Dale Brown, chaplain at Trinity Community in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Rev. Becky was called to ministry with United Church Homes in March 2013, first as interim chaplain and then as the full-time chaplain in February 2014. She came to ministry after working as an optometrist in northwest Ohio.

In 2004, Rev. Becky saw a message in her church bulletin that asked, "If you could do anything in the world, what would you do?" She immediately thought, "I would be a full-time minister." The thought did

not just come and go; it stuck. In fact, it would not leave her alone.

After talking with friends and family and processing her call to ministry, it became clear to Rev. Becky that she should enter seminary.

Rev. Becky said UCH leadership demonstrated their commitment to staff development by lifting her up throughout her year-long process to become a board-certified chaplain.

The process is designed to elevate professional standards, enhance individual performance and designate professional chaplains who demonstrate the knowledge essential to the practice of chaplaincy care, according to the APC.

Attendees of a UCH leadership summit in Columbus, Ohio, whistled and shouted their support when Rev. Becky called President and CEO Rev. Kenneth Daniel to share the good news in October.

"I called Rev. Daniel to say that I received approval from the certification committee and he put me on speaker phone," Rev. Becky recalled. "I could hear everybody clapping and yelling their congratulations. Their support meant so much to me. The UCH chaplains and the staff at Fairhaven, including Administrator Lori Marsh, offered additional support."

Through the process, Rev. Becky had two mentors: Rev. John Cramton, a UCH Board member, and Rev. Greta Wagner, director of Pastoral Care CPE and supervisor of the Accredited Clinical Pastoral Education site at Trinity Community. They both reviewed the materials Rev. Becky wrote for her application to provide feedback.

Now, Rev. Becky is hoping to pay it forward by becoming a mentor to other UCH chaplains as they consider the process to become board-certified.



UCH Welcomes New Board Member, Makes Leadership Changes



Phil Moots, a central Ohio attorney, has joined the United Church Homes Board of Directors.

Phil is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church with a law practice that has focused on nonprofit institutions including church-related organizations. He graduated from The Ohio State University and Harvard Law School. He was the founding director of the Center for Constitutional Studies and an associate professor of law at the University of Notre Dame

before returning to his native Ohio to continue his law practice.

UCH Board Vice Chair Philip E. Mallott introduced him to United Church Homes and identified him as a valuable potential new member.

“I admired (Philip Mallott’s) general acumen about policy and related issues in higher education,” Phil said. “I admired his commitment to his church, and the two of us happened to join together in our affection for the Cleveland Indians.”

Two areas struck Phil when he considered joining the Board. One was the historic church roots of United Church Homes, which was started more than 100 years ago by pastors who served in what would become the United Church of Christ. That relationship continues today.

The other area was United Church Homes’ mission to transform

Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace.

“Most institutions like United Church Homes tend to focus solely on their own communities, but I appreciated United Church Homes’ ambitious agenda of transforming aging beyond its own communities.

I thought that was worth some investment and time,” Phil said.

An attorney since 1965, Phil serves as legal counsel for the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. He is active in his local church and serves on a number of other boards, including the Ohio Poverty Law Center and regional legal aid boards in Ohio. From 1972-75, Phil served as executive assistant to Ohio Gov. John J. Gilligan.

Phil and his wife, Marilyn, have three adult children scattered throughout the U.S. They have been married 25 years.



The leadership team at Chapel Hill Community has undergone big changes, but familiar faces are leading the way.

Former Administrator Debra Durbin has been promoted to executive director and Toni Montgomery, who previously served as director of marketing, now is administrator of the life plan community in Canal Fulton, Ohio. Jerry Martin is director of marketing.

Debbie has been with Chapel Hill and United Church Homes since April 2013. A graduate of the practical nurse program at Canton City Schools, Debbie holds an associate degree in nursing from

Walsh College, a bachelor’s degree in management and a master’s degree in business administration from Malone University.

Debbie, who was the first person from either of her parents’ families to graduate high school, often tells mentees that their pasts need not define their futures.

“I graduated from high school with a GPA of less than 2.0,” Debbie said. “Just because you weren’t successful in the past, doesn’t mean you are destined for a life of poverty or need to stay in your current situation.”

Debbie is passionate about leading Chapel Hill Community and enjoys working with the leadership of United Church Homes. She said the vision, mission and values of the organization set it apart.

Toni has worked in long-term care for over 25 years. A graduate of The Ohio State University, she has a bachelor’s degree in social work and a minor in psychology. She completed the administrator-in-training program under Debbie’s leadership and received her license in January 2016.

Since joining UCH in October 2012, Toni has been an integral part of the Chapel Hill team. Her new role includes a focus on clinical outcomes, resident satisfaction, expense control and recruitment and retention of staff. Her goal over the next year is to gain a better understanding of new regulations. But more importantly, “be the best I can be for my residents, staff and company.”

“I have a great mentor to show me the way,” Toni said.



FARMER FINDS ABUNDANT LIFE IN PARKVUE COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Resident Bob Hermes was named honorary foreman for new construction of independent living cottages at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio (above)

Like many farmers, Bob Hermes is close to the land — especially where he lives today at Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio. Looking over the acreage outside the healthcare center, Bob gets a glimpse of his life in another era.

When he moved to Parkvue more than a year ago, Bob was having trouble walking. His physical limitations were contributing to an overall sullen demeanor. He just wasn't himself.

Bob's life began to change when he and an old acquaintance became roommates at Parkvue and he acquired a motorized scooter to get around the campus. Then, construction started on 10 new cottages, the first phase of a three-

part project to add more residential living options at Parkvue Place. Bob blossomed quickly, showing increased interest in going outdoors and interacting with the construction crew and his fellow residents.

"When the weather's nice, I take my scooter and watch them build the houses," Bob said. "I try to go out a couple times a day. I watched them put all the cement floors in and then I watched them build the houses. I can picture what this land used to look like."

In the 1950s, Bob, who graduated from Sandusky High School in 1943, farmed part of the 160 acres where Parkvue sits today. He spent many hours hauling tools from the

homestead where he lived until he moved to Parkvue in early 2017.

"It was good ground to work," Bob said. "I knew the man who owned it, Mr. Kobe. This was old-time farming."

Bob farmed all his life with his parents, two brothers and sister. He likes to joke that he was 12 years "late" — his siblings were much older, so he inherited the homestead after his older siblings worked it. The family dairy farm is located in Bloomingville, about 7 miles southeast of Sandusky.

Bob still reminisces about his life there, recalling the rural atmosphere and hard work that contributed much joy to his childhood.



Bob Hermes poses with tractors in a field where new cottages are being built on the campus of Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio, circa 1950



Pictured is a rendering of one type of cottage that is being constructed at Parkvue Community (above)

The middle of the 20th century was a time of increased innovation as agricultural machinery manufacturers developed more sophisticated machines. Bob took advantage of the new technology and upgraded from his team of draft horses to a big red tractor.

Bob saw the development of the entire area around U.S. 250 (Milan Road). He remembers when a stone quarry took up the space where a mall sits today. Much of the land was used for farming. Today, the area boasts a variety of retail stores and lodging for tourists.

Bob is happy with the work done thus far on the cottages. In the fall, the team from Thomas & Marker

Construction invited Bob on a tour, named him honorary foreman and presented him with his own hard hat.

“Bob is a great example of a resident who was able to find abundant life in community,” said Rev. Catherine Lawrence, chaplain at Parkvue Community. “He has really come out of his shell since construction began. The project has given him new meaning and we’re thankful to know him. We are blessed to have Bob’s active presence in our community.”



PARKVUE COMMUNITY

The first of three phases to add independent living cottages at Parkvue Community could wrap up as soon as Memorial Day. An active lifestyle awaits at the full-service retirement community in Sandusky, Ohio.

New Cottages at Parkvue

Ready by May 2018 to Accommodate Your Active, Care-free Lifestyle

PHASE 1 INCLUDES:

- 10, two-bedroom, two-bath cottages with an optional den
- 1-car garages
- Furnished with washer, dryer, dishwasher, stove and refrigerator

CAMPUS AMENITIES INCLUDE:

- State-of-the-art aquatic center
- Two ponds, paddle boats and outdoor fire pit
- Access to Parkvue Community’s exceptional dining experiences

Sandusky community offers residents of Parkvue:

- Full array of dining, shopping, movie theaters and medical offices with a large retail area less than a mile from campus.

All Parkvue residents have access to a full life plan community including independent living, assisted living, a health and wellness center, therapy, skilled nursing and a newly renovated memory care neighborhood, which opened in February 2017.

- Phase 2 of the project will include 12 more cottages
- Phase 3 will add 22 cottages and a new community center

The entire project is expected to be complete in 2019.

For more information, please contact Megan Williams, corporate director of sales and marketing, at mewilliams@uchinc.org or 804.839.2157.

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY: Seven Decades in the Making



Carol Lesert's spiritual journey was more than seven decades in the making. After a search that lasted most of her life, she was empowered to find a church to call her own and discovered new friends and mentors along the way.

Carol moved to Pilgrim Manor in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in March 2017 and immediately hit it off with Rev. Beth Rodenhouse, the full-time chaplain.

As a faith-based nonprofit organization, United Church Homes is committed to providing full-time chaplains in each of its senior living communities. They foster spiritual wellness for all residents and staff.

"She came walking down the hallway and we started talking and the rest is history," Carol said of Rev. Beth, who told Carol about all the opportunities for spiritual care at her new home.

"She said, 'I'm not sure they'd like me because I haven't been to church in a while,'" Rev. Beth recalled. "I told her that was no problem and that God would be quite happy to have her."

"It was like God was smiling at me, even though I didn't know what He looked like," Carol said.

With a spiritual thirst and deep-seated curiosity about the divine, Carol has been on a pilgrimage since childhood. She had a desire for a deeper relationship with God, but until she met Rev. Beth, kept hitting roadblocks in her journey. Rev. Beth and Carol shared many conversations before Carol started attending chapel services on Sundays and Mass on Wednesdays.

Growing up, Carol had many Catholic friends with whom she attended church services. Her immediate family was not particularly religious, but inside, Carol continued to feel a pull toward her Creator.

Even when she was baptized by emersion in a Baptist church in 1983, Carol did not feel she had found her “regular church.”

That came after she started attending Pilgrim Manor worship services. She pondered where she belonged — did she want to join the Catholic church or become a member of another denomination?

“I told her that as far as I’m concerned, what brings us together is a whole lot more than what separates us,” Rev. Beth said. “I encouraged her to listen to her heart. I believe that the Holy Spirit was nudging her in the direction she should go.”

As she contemplated her faith, Carol became more certain that the Catholic church was where she belonged. She completed an expedited catechism in three months, rather than the typical one year, under the direction of Father Brian Johnson of St. Alphonsus Parish in Grand Rapids. She regularly visited with two parishioners, Barbara Hedrick and Gayle Neihoff, who supported her learning. When she completed her studies, Pilgrim Manor hosted an official worship service and reception to celebrate before a second ceremony at St. Alphonsus.

Throughout the journey, Rev. Beth encouraged Carol and supported her spiritual growth.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming
in from this time on and forevermore.*

Psalm 121:1-2, 7-8

“She helped just by talking to me, listening to me and answering the questions that I had, and believe me, I had a lot of questions,” Carol said.

“I think questions are good,” Rev. Beth responded.

Music, especially, was an area that spoke to Carol’s soul. It was what first drew her to the chapel at Pilgrim Manor, all those months earlier.

In fact, on the day Carol was confirmed into the church, the final hymn playing was one of her favorites: *How Great Thou Art*, a song that brings Carol to tears. Rev. Beth noted that music for services is planned months in advance.

“I just felt like it wasn’t a coincidence,” Carol said.

Carol’s favorite scriptures include the Book of Ruth and Psalm 121, a pilgrimage song that talks about God being on the journey with God’s children.

“Through our hellos and our goodbyes, He is on our journey with us,” Rev. Beth said.



As the needs of older adults in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area evolve, Pilgrim Manor is poised to grow with them. The retirement community has shifted its focus in recent years to person-directed care.



Renovations Expand Assisted Living Options

PHASE 1 INCLUDES:

- 16 new assisted living apartments
- This assisted living neighborhood is located near a wooded area, where deer and turkeys gather
- Located in a quiet neighborhood in a tight-knit community

PLANS INCLUDE:

- Bistro and dining room
- Fresh paint, new artwork and furniture for common areas
- Larger spectrum of rooms than previously available

WHAT REMAINS CONSTANT?

Pilgrim Manor’s commitment to the underserved continues into the new year and new century of service for United Church Homes.

- Phase 2 of the project will include four more suites, a new entrance with a screened porch and fireplace and additional parking.

The project is expected to be completed in 2018.

For more information, please contact Megan Williams, corporate director of sales and marketing, at mewilliams@uchinc.org or 804.839.2157.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NEWS AND NOTES FROM OUR NEIGHBORS



**Pilgrim Manor
Chaplain
Welcomed
into UCC**

Congratulations to Pilgrim Manor Chaplain Rev. Beth Rodenhouse for becoming an authorized minister in the United Church of Christ! To become an authorized minister, Rev. Beth took a course at Chicago Theological Seminary and wrote a 15-page paper on the theology of the UCC and her perception of its strengths and weaknesses. All churches in the Grand West Association were invited to review the paper. She was interviewed at the association's fall meeting and affirmatively voted to be accepted as an authorized minister. "I had a lot of support and this experience has given me a real sense of community, too. It furthers my rootedness in the UCC," Rev. Beth said. Ordained in the Christian Reform Church in 2005, Rev. Beth was a parish minister for seven years before serving as a chaplain at a mental health hospital. She has been with Pilgrim Manor in Grand Rapids, Michigan, since 2014.



FVC Named Best Retirement Community in Ohio Capital

Friendship Village Columbus was named the 2017 Best Retirement Community by *Columbus CEO* Best of Business awards. The 10th annual readers' poll attracted nearly 54,000 votes, up 44 percent from the previous year. As a Life Plan Community, Friendship Village Columbus provides a variety of lifestyle and healthcare services including independent living, assisted living, memory care, short-term rehabilitation and long-term care. FVC is a nonprofit community managed by United Church Homes.



Glenwood Community Earns Highest Honors in Resident Engagement, Satisfaction

Glenwood Community in Marietta, Ohio, has been recognized for its efforts in providing the highest level of service to its residents by Holleran, a firm that specializes in conducting resident engagement and satisfaction surveys. Glenwood achieved the distinction, which recognizes Holleran clients with survey scores that exceed benchmarks, during the first year for the survey. Holleran Executive Vice President Connie Wolfe congratulated Glenwood staff for their achievement. "They are outperforming the vast majority of communities in our national database within the domains of Voice, Fulfillment and Connection. More engaging communities are well-rounded and provide an environment that results in positive outcomes for both the residents and their community," Wolfe said.



LEADS Class of 2017 Graduates

United Church Homes is proud to announce the 2017 LEADS graduating class! LEADS stands for Leadership, Education, Achievement, Development and Success. United Church Homes teams up with the Alber Enterprise Center at The Ohio State University at Marion to develop this innovative and hands-on annual learning experience for current UCH staff. The 2017 class included Joseph Bertke, Trinity Community, Beavercreek, Ohio; Trisha Brown, Parkvue Community, Sandusky, Ohio; Mindy Campbell, Mill Run Place, Ashland, Ohio; Alyson Issler, United Church Homes Central Office, Marion, Ohio; Tiffany Latta, UCH Central Office; Jerry Martin, Chapel Hill Community, Canal Fulton, Ohio; Melba Osburn, Barrington Square, Acworth, Georgia; Jodi Reed, Trinity Community; Amy Seckel, UCH Central Office; Sherry Shaver, Harmar Place, Marietta, Ohio; Melanie Sims, Chapel Hill Community; and Tyson Whistler, Glenwood Community, Marietta, Ohio.



UCH Continues Focus on Quality

United Church Homes and its senior living communities continue their commitment to quality in 2018. Last year, United Church Homes owned and managed communities were recognized for top quality standards in a variety of ways. All campuses achieved 4- or 5-star Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) quality domain ratings. In addition, Harmar Place (Marietta, Ohio) and Friendship Village Columbus (Columbus, Ohio) achieved national recognition in the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living’s Quality Initiative Recognition Program, which honors member organizations for their individual work in achieving AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative goals. Harmar Place and Patriot Ridge Community (Fairborn, Ohio) also obtained the 2017 Silver National Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living.

United Church Homes has earned Platinum certification in SAGECare, cultural competency training for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The certification, which was issued in late 2017 and is valid for the 2018 calendar year, comes from Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders, commonly known as SAGE. The SAGECare program trains residential healthcare providers and others who work with and advocate for older adults.



“Many LGBT older adults may be uncomfortable or fearful being open about their identity or relationships. SAGECare training is a way to communicate that your community is invested in their well-being,” said Tim R. Johnston, Ph.D., director of National Projects at SAGE. “SAGECare Platinum communities have trained at least 80 percent of their staff using SAGECare content, which means eight out of every 10 people that LGBT elder interacts with will have completed at least an hour of LGBT cultural competency training.”



United Church Homes earned Platinum certification for 80 percent of its 1,800 staff members participating in the training the first time it was offered.

United Church Homes is the first multisite senior living provider in Ohio to have earned a SAGECare credential. United Church Homes is the fourth such provider, nationwide, to earn a credential, and just the third to achieve a SAGECare Platinum credential.

By completing the training, United Church Homes and its senior living communities have demonstrated their commitment to affirm LGBT residents, staff members and all others who step onto its campuses. It is another step in the process that began in 2012 with United Church Homes becoming the first health and human services agency in the United Church of Christ to earn the Open and Affirming designation.

“Our mission to create a culture of community, wholeness and peace is something very tangible when our employees can align those philosophical concepts with the practical steps the organization is taking to include people who have been discriminated against,” said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes. “It’s our way of fighting discrimination, and our mission is to fight the causes of discrimination, elder poverty and systemic injustices in our society through the work we do.”



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Our Mission is to transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace.

NATIONAL AND STATE AFFILIATIONS:

American Health Care Association: ahca.org

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM): chhsm.org

LeadingAge: leadingage.org

LeadingAge Ohio: leadingageohio.org

Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association (MAHMA): mahma.com

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging: ohioaging.org

Ohio Healthcare Association: ohca.org

Southeastern Affordable Housing Management Association (SAHMA): sahma.org

UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns: ucccoalition.org

170 East Center Street • PO Box 1806 • Marion, Ohio 43301-1806 • **740.382.4885 / 800.837.2211**
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