

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 3 • SUMMER 2017



spirit

M A G A Z I N E

Celebrating the Spirit®

**United Church Homes
and Pilgrim Manor
Join Forces!**

**Smoot Boys Choir Serenades
Heir of Historic Theater**
PAGE 12

**Baby Shower: Perfect Gift
for Mother, Daughter**
PAGE 14

**Women Find Love, Friendship,
Family at Parkvue**
PAGE 16



A WORD FROM THE CEO



Rev. Kenneth Daniel
President and CEO

BLESSED BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

United Church Homes officially welcomed Pilgrim Manor into the organization in May at a special covenant service in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dozens of people including Pilgrim Manor staff, former board members and others attended the service. The covenant service is a new tradition that welcomes new communities into the UCH family.

Leaders from Pilgrim Manor's supporting congregations, the Michigan Conference and Grand Valley Association of the United Church of Christ, UCH staff and Board Members thanked God for growing United Church Homes' mission and helping the expanding organization serve more people.

Denise Rabidou, president and CEO of Evangelical Homes of Michigan (EHM) Senior Solutions, a sister UCC-related senior care ministry, also participated in the ceremony. EHM Senior Solutions and United Church Homes are members of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ, an organization for which I began serving as board chair this year.

The covenant service celebrates our family of communities and reflects that Pilgrim Manor is not being absorbed into United Church Homes. It's becoming one of our communities with its own history and legacy in Grand Rapids.

During the service, colorful ribbons were added to a cloth weaving that symbolized the unique history and culture of both organizations as well as the new relationship and covenant between Pilgrim Manor and United Church Homes.

United Church Homes' mission is to transform Aging by building a culture of community, wholeness and peace. The weaving of the fabric symbolized the growth of our organization, our fellowship and the larger community of United Church Homes.

With the addition of Pilgrim Manor in Michigan and Harmony Apartments in Minnesota, United Church Homes now serves more than 4,500 residents in 70 communities and two Native American tribal nations. Michigan expands UCH's operations to 14 states.

This issue of *Spirit* is about community, which is an essential component of United Church Homes. Individuals can live together, but if they don't care for one another, about one another or support one another, then it's not a true community, according to Christian values.

United Church Homes works to create living environments that advocate for justice, are inclusive, respectful of diversity and embody the love of God.

Just as Jesus referred to the church as the "blessed community," United Church Homes follows the mandate of Christ to bring together people who share love and a common life. By doing this, our goal is to bring dignity, respect, care and compassion to each person in all UCH communities.

Woven together by Christ's abiding love, United Church Homes reflects this expanding tapestry of color and hearts bound together in blessed ties that never can be broken.



ON THE COVER:
UCH and Pilgrim Manor leaders
weave fabric at a covenant service
in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

spirit MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

FEATURES

12 Smoot Boys Choir Croons Tribute to 99-Year-Old Heir of Historic Theater
Boys choir delights residents

14 Baby Shower: Perfect Gift for Mother, Daughter
Baby shower brings joy to family dealing with dementia

16 Women Find Love, Friendship, Family at Parkvue
True friends; great blessing



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Covenant Service: Pilgrim Manor Joins UCH	2
UCH Welcomes New Executives to Grow Mission	4
Jim Henry, Alan Mikesell Recognized for Board Service ...	5
BOOM! Geo Leaves Imprint on UCH	6
A Message for Community Support	10
Chapel Hill Chaplain Retires After 16 Years	11
Glenwood Couple Played Key Role in United Church Homes Acquisition	17
Donor Spotlight: UCH Honors a Genuine Renaissance Woman	18

Correction: In the Spring 2017 issue of *Spirit*, the caption on page 7 did not include the name of former United Church Homes Board Chair Jim Henry.

United Church Homes and Pilgrim Manor recently joined together at East Congregational United Church of Christ during a covenant service in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“We believe that our organization is a family of communities and to bring new campuses into our family is kind of like a wedding. It has a spiritual significance — blending different histories, different traditions and different pathways of service,” said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, UCH president and CEO. “We want to bring them in, in a worshipful way, to celebrate our new relationship.”



Micki Benz, former Chair of the Pilgrim Manor Board of Directors



Denise Rabidoux, President and CEO of Evangelical Homes of Michigan Senior Solutions



Karen Messick, former Executive Director of Pilgrim Manor

The service was part of a relatively new tradition at UCH to welcome new communities into the organization.

During the ceremony, staff from UCH, Pilgrim Manor, the United Church of Christ and the churches that founded Pilgrim Manor wove together fabric that symbolized the hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* and the tangible relationship between the two organizations that residents should expect daily.



Rev. Beth Long-Higgins (center), Executive Director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, Rev. J. Bennett Guess (left) and Rev. Cheryl Burke weave fabric



James L. Henry, former United Church Homes Board Chair



Rev. Beth Rodenhouse, Pilgrim Manor Chaplain



Rev. J. Bennett Guess (right), former Vice President, Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, and Rev. Cheryl Burke, Associate Conference Minister, Michigan Conference of United Church of Christ



Linda Dailey



Megan Williams

UCH Welcomes New Executives to Grow Mission

Linda Dailey named executive director of Glenwood Community; Megan Williams named corporate director of sales and marketing

To help us advance our mission and continue to grow, United Church Homes recently welcomed Linda J. Dailey as the new executive director of Glenwood Community and Megan Williams as the new corporate director of sales and marketing.

Linda began her role at Glenwood in Marietta, Ohio, on April 26. She wanted to be a part of United Church Homes because of its mission, vision and values. In addition, Linda is extremely excited about working at Glenwood, which offers independent and assisted living services and has an active residents' association.

"When I first became an administrator, I was drawn to the community concept and communities where residents become a family," Linda said.

Linda joins UCH after serving as the administrator of Golden Living in Morgantown, West Virginia. Previously, Linda was the CEO of Fox Run Center for Children and Adolescents and deputy commissioner of operations at the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities in West Virginia.

David Zack, director of operations, said Linda was the best fit for the role because of her ties to the community and her work experience.

"As a resident of Marietta, Linda brings a great deal of local knowledge, energy, enthusiasm and professionalism to Glenwood. Her diverse background and experience will add benefit to Glenwood's team," David said.

Linda has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio Valley University and a Master of Business Administration from West Virginia University.

Additionally, United Church Homes recently named Megan Williams its new corporate director of sales and marketing. Megan began her role at UCH on April 17.

"United Church Homes is a great organization. I am excited about this new opportunity. I look forward to growing the brand and being a part of UCH's mission and vision," she said.

Megan has more than 27 years of marketing and sales experience in the senior living and retirement housing

industry. Most recently, she served as the regional director of sales and marketing at Life Care Services (LCS).

She also has experience as the executive vice president of marketing and branding for Shamrock Companies and the area director of admissions management for Kindred Healthcare.

"Megan's expertise and background in marketing and communications, particularly in the senior living industry, made her stand out among other candidates. We look forward to working with Megan and believe she can help the organization grow," said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, United Church Homes president and CEO.

Megan is a native of Washington, D.C., and has lived in Shaker Heights, Ohio, for the past 10 years with her three children. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing.



Former Board Members Saw UCH Through Tough Financial Times

Jim Henry, Alan Mikesell Recognized for Board Service



When Alan Mikesell and James “Jim” Henry joined United Church Homes’ Board of Directors in 2006, the organization was struggling financially and tough decisions needed to be made for UCH to survive.

Alan and Jim agree the organization’s financial outlook began to change after the Board named Rev. Kenneth Daniel the new president and CEO of United Church Homes, adopted new vision, mission and values statements and began focusing on what UCH was called to do.

“There was a lot of prayer as the decisions were made. But even during those difficult times, things never degenerated into finger-pointing. We all knew we had to work together. We just knew we had to get it right,” said Jim, a certified public accountant and managing partner in the firm Willis, Osmond and Beilstein.

“It was difficult. There were some painful things that had to take place, but we did what we needed to do to help the organization survive,” said Jim.

The organization not only survived, but is thriving.

Since the mid-2000s, UCH has acquired several new communities, including Pilgrim Manor in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Harmony Apartments in Long Prairie, Minnesota, and secured management contracts for six additional communities in Columbus, Ohio, and Martinsville, Indiana.

Rev. Daniel thanked Jim for his leadership over the last 11 years and honored him with the President’s Award of Distinction. This award celebrates people who have done something of such merit and impact that it creates transformative change.

Alan received recognition for his 11 years of Board service and received a signature clock given to Board Members as they finish their term.



Jim (left) and Alan share their accounts during the presentation recognizing their Board service

“Jim and Alan are two extremely talented men who made significant contributions to the Board. As Board Members, they gave their time and effort and believed in United Church Homes’ mission to transform Aging,” Rev. Daniel said.

“I was really honored to receive the Presidential Award of Distinction. I didn’t expect it at all,” Jim said.

Alan said he is pleased he contributed to the Board during both good and difficult times.

He described Jim as a talented individual who will be missed by the Board. But Alan said the new Board Members will make significant contributions.

“I think the Board improves all the time,” Alan said.

Alan feels one of the most significant decisions Board Members made during his term was naming Rev. Daniel the new president and CEO. He praised Rev. Daniel’s decision-making for turning the organization around.

“As soon as Rev. Daniel joined UCH, we began looking for people with specific strengths such as an accounting or financial background, a philanthropic background, attorneys or the healthcare segment,” Alan said.

Jim said the organization has seen “transformational” financial changes.

“Certainly, we’ve turned the corner. It was a great learning experience for all of us. It was just a great thing to be a part of,” Jim said.

Alan is pleased the organization is doing better financially and is expanding, but added he hopes UCH won’t grow too quickly and get back in financial trouble.

Jim said United Church Homes is in good hands.

“I think the organization has a lot of talented and gifted Board Members. I know they are going to be able to take the organization places I won’t be able to dream of and support the organization in new ways,” Jim said.





The former United Church Homes vice president of marketing and communications was with the organization for a short time, but retired with an almost mythic legacy.

George Schaefer, known by his friends as Geo, launched the award-winning *Spirit* magazine along with his colleague, Gloria Hurwitz, then vice president of advancement. *Spirit* magazine is the signature communication UCH uses to engage its growing number of stakeholders.

Geo helped coin the organization's new mission, vision and core values statements. He played a key role in securing former *Good Morning America* anchor Joan Lunden for the new Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging's inaugural Symposium and is remembered as a larger-than-life personality known for his famous line: "Boom!"

"I had fun. I was not afraid to be unorthodox. I was just me being me," Geo said.

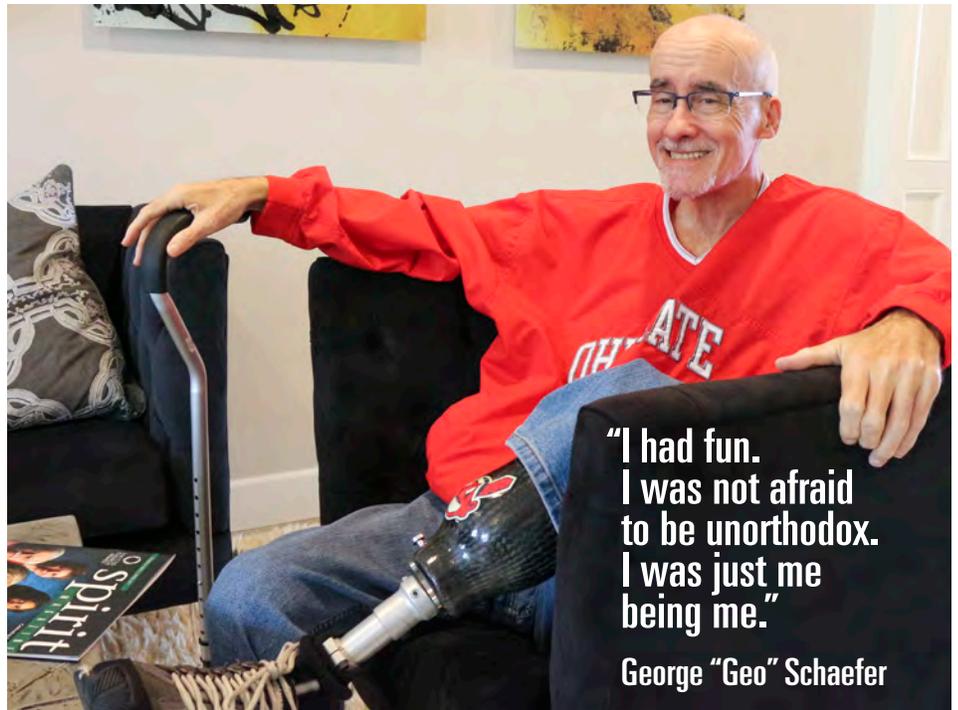
Geo's career at UCH ended abruptly after medical crises in 2016 resulted in the amputation of his left leg due to his 20-year battle with diabetes. In 2017, his condition forced him to take medical retirement to focus on his health.

Geo was among the 200 people who attended the Ruth Parker Center Symposium in October 2016. Joan Lunden jumped from the stage after her speech and hugged him so he wouldn't have to get up from his wheelchair.

His co-workers, Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, and Gloria, who now is vice president of advancement and communications, miss working with Geo.

Beth described Geo as creative and extremely dedicated to his role at UCH.

Beth admired Geo's work to rebrand and change the culture at UCH after he was hired and on the organization's *Community* video.



"The video captured, in the best sense and more than we ever had hoped, the vision, mission and values of our organization. It affirmed that everyone had embraced those traits," Beth said.

Beth understood Geo's creative side in ways some others did not and added his impact will be felt for years to come.

"He would always say, 'Think bigger than you are.' It was his way of moving us out of thinking too small. He wanted us to imagine ourselves to be the influencers in people's lives and realize our role within the larger culture," Beth said.

Beth said she wished Geo still worked at UCH. "I miss working with him, but I also recognize there are times when, for personal reasons, we have to do what's best for us," Beth said.

Gloria remembers Geo's signature line of "Boom!" when he had a great idea, and how he offered a \$100 bill to staff at leadership summits if they could answer trivia questions most people couldn't answer.

"Geo is a walking encyclopedia of random facts — he knows details about many things most people don't think about," Gloria said.

Another fond memory was when he entered a leadership summit pretending to play the Dire Straits riff of *I Want My MTV* while someone played guitar behind him as part of a marketing presentation to staff.

"That's great and a little sad. I always felt I had enough leeway, and the CEO had enough confidence in me, to do that. Every one of us is granted a dash and what you make of that dash is what matters," Geo said.

"In the end, oh my God, it was fun," Geo said.



Join United Church Homes' Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging in a discussion:

What it means to transform the way people think and talk about aging and older adults.



2017
ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM
SECOND ANNUAL

Abundant Aging in the 21st Century

 **Mark Your Calendars!**

Friday, October 20, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Marriott Columbus University Area
3100 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43202

Adults 65 and older are living longer, healthier and happier lives. What is the impact of longevity? Join the interdisciplinary conversation incorporating current research and everyday experience to help transform the thinking of individuals, communities and the wider society.

Panel of experts

- **Linda Mauger**, community health and aging consultant at the Optimized Care Network and former director of the office of geriatrics and gerontology at The Ohio State University
- **Jo Dee Davis**, founder, Healing Broken Circles, and director of WinWin Institute for Response-Able ReEntry
- **Rev. Mark Frey**, former senior minister at The Bath United Church of Christ, Bath Township, Ohio
- **Larke Recchie**, chief executive officer of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- **Pete Van Runkle**, executive director, Ohio Health Care Association
- **Dr. Lauren Southerland**, assistant professor, medical director and investigator in the Wexner Medical Center Department of Emergency at The Ohio State University



Registration: The cost to attend the Symposium is \$25 per person, which includes lunch. Online registration for the conference will be available through the United Church Homes website beginning August 20, 2017. To register by phone, call Erin Foes at United Church Homes at 740.382.4885. For more information, please contact Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director, Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, at 740.382.4885 or blong-higgins@uchinc.org.

**2017
KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

DR. LAURA CARSTENSEN

**Next Avenue 2015
Top Influencer on Aging**

Dr. Carstensen is a professor of psychology, the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Professor in Public Policy at Stanford University and founding director of the Stanford Center on Longevity. She will discuss her research and most recent book, *A Long Bright Future: Happiness, Health and Financial Security in an Age of Increased Longevity*.



**RUTH FROST PARKER
CENTER FOR
ABUNDANT AGING**

Watch Dr. Carstensen's 2010 TedTalk, *Older people are happier*, at ted.com/talks/laura_carstensen_older_people_are_happier

A Message for Community Support

My grandmother was living in the memory care neighborhood of a senior care community. It was convenient for me to see her before and after work. She had dementia and would become very confused. On occasion, she would refuse to take her medicine.

Despite the struggles the staff faced, they always treated her with love and respect. While I knew they had a deep relationship with my grandmother, the extent of that relationship wouldn't be clear to me until the last few days of her life. At the end of her life, those employees stopped by her room to say their goodbyes, just like family. Many sat with us, shared stories, prayed with us and were overcome with grief. Through this experience, I could see that despite her stubbornness and confusion, she had truly become a member of their family, too.

When I toured Fairhaven Community three years ago, meeting the staff and watching their interactions with the residents reminded me of the connection between care staff and my grandmother. Over the last few years, I have been reminded of my grandmother many times as I visit various United Church Homes communities. There is something truly special about United Church Homes

and the staff! It's clearly something that United Church Homes has built as a part of its culture that is not easily replicated. A belief in a true sense of community, where rising tides raise all ships, is evident!

In my work with Thompson & Associates, I meet with the friends and supporters of United Church Homes and have been able to hear so many stories of the impact United Church Homes has had on them and their families. I am proud to help these individuals and families create a legacy that cares for their families and supports the causes that are near and dear to their hearts.

For many people who wish to support the mission of a charitable organization like United Church Homes, simple legacy gifts can be created by adding specific language to your will, designating the charity or charities as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or IRA or redirecting assets to be transferred upon death. United Church Homes' support of this complimentary process is just one more way it is continuing to build a strong sense of community.



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 gthurwitz@uchinc.org or 740.751.8702.

Thompson &
Associates
Values-Based Estate Planning



Paul Grassmann, JD, FCEP

Chapel Hill Chaplain Retires After 16 Years



Rev. Sandy Hutchinson isn't done with the United Church Homes ministry or offering hope and comfort to people in need.

For 16 years, she has been the chaplain at Chapel Hill Community, a United Church Homes life plan community in Canal Fulton, Ohio, where she has officiated three weddings, six baptisms, 190 funerals and more than 800 Sunday worship services and Bible studies.

Sandy's last day as chaplain was June 30. She plans to spend time with her family, possibly go to school with younger people and continue her years-long connection to United Church Homes and the United Church of Christ, which is in covenant with UCH.

"There's always been some way I have been involved with United Church Homes. It's such a strong ministry in Ohio. It's a ministry that I've always felt connected with. I'm sure that will continue in some capacity," Sandy said. "A significant part of my life is going to change. But since I set the date and turned in the letter, there's been a calm assurance this is a good time to retire."

During a recent retirement celebration at Chapel Hill, Sandy thanked UCH staff, residents, her family and others for their support during her years as chaplain, but said she will miss the friendships she's developed with residents and their families.

"I'm a person who values relationships. I'll miss the relationships and not being with the people," Sandy said.

The families she's comforted say she will be missed.

Rev. Mark Frey, who recently retired from Bath United Church of Christ, has known Sandy for 20 years. He said he was "delighted" when she became chaplain at Chapel Hill.

"It was an excellent choice by United Church Homes. She's a people person. She also has a great connection with mature adults. She understands their concerns and needs," Mark said.

Five members of Mark's extended family lived at Chapel Hill during Sandy's time as chaplain, including his parents and his wife's parents. All five of them died in the last five years.

"She helped us through that. She has a loving spirit. She has words for the heart. She knows when to be available and when to back away," he said.

Mark said they enjoyed chapel services where Sandy displayed her sense of humor and at times sang, despite pleas for her to stop. "Sandy cannot sing. They would all laugh about that. But her messages are good," he joked.

Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes, said UCH was blessed to have Sandy as one of its chaplains. He said she has proven she has the competence and compassion to do the job.

"She has the consideration, concern, empathy and the total capacity to feel what it is like to be in someone else's skin," Rev. Daniel said.

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, executive director of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, said Sandy mentored her more than 30 years ago while she was in seminary and in the process of completing the requirements for ordination.

Beth described Sandy as a chaplain who is dedicated to the church and faithful to her calling.

"She is a wonderful pastor," Beth said. "Her deep connections to the church and the history of United Church Homes, which goes back to her experience as a local church pastor long before she took the chaplain position at Chapel Hill, will be missed."

Chapel Hill Administrator Debra Durbin also said Sandy will be missed.

"I think there's going to be a huge void to fill. She has built so many relationships with family members, staff, residents as well as within the United Church of Christ. Those are all things that we're really going to miss — the connections she has in the community," Debra said.

But Sandy said there's no doubt it's time for her to retire.

"I had that inner sense that God was saying, 'You've had a good ministry here, and that it's time to move into the next phase of my life,'" said Sandy, who is 68. "For 42 years, I've been active in ministry (with UCC churches). I feel called to explore new opportunities."





Smoot Boys Choir Croons Tribute to 99-Year-Old Heir of Historic Theater



During the concert, Betty, who turned 99 years old in May, smiled, clapped and sang along with the boys as they harmonized on classics like *In the Still of the Night*.

The tribute concert to Betty Smoot Dils was organized after she asked the director of a boys choir if they could sing at her funeral.

Smoot Theatre Artistic Director Felice Jorgeson responded quickly, saying the choir could do better than that: they could perform a concert in her honor at Glenwood Community in Marietta, Ohio, where she has lived for several years.

“It was my birthday present,” Betty said after the concert.

Performing for Betty was a treat for Janet Blessing, director of the ensemble, and the boys. “I hate for people to say all these good things after people are gone. We wanted to do it for Betty,” Felice said.

The Smoot family has had a major impact on the Parkersburg, West Virginia community. Betty, her sister and others helped save the historic theater in Parkersburg from being demolished and turned into a parking lot in 1989. She also is a part of the family that owned the Camden Theatre in Parkersburg in the early 1900s before it was destroyed by fire in 1929. Her family later purchased the Smoot Theatre, built in 1926 as a vaudeville house. Her father and uncle who owned the theaters were civic-minded men who worked in advertising and promoted events at the Smoot Theatre.

The Smoot Theatre was purchased by Warner Brothers in 1930 and for 56 years was primarily a movie theater. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. When Betty and others helped save it in 1989, it was returned to a performing arts theater and continues to provide live entertainment with the help of volunteers.



Betty grew up watching troupes perform at the Smoot Theatre, and as legend has it, she once sneaked on stage and sang along with performers until she was picked up and carried off stage, said Michelle VanNoy, the independent living activities coordinator at Glenwood.

As an adult, Betty was active in the community and at the theater. She attended shows, especially concerts by the boys' ensemble, sat on stage and educated the boys on the history of the theater and networked with local politicians.

"This is a tribute to Betty and her family and all the good work she has done for the theater and all the good work she has done in the community. She cares about people. She is truly one of those kinds of people who is altruistic and a giving soul," Michelle said. "She is generous with her spirit and she has all of the core values that United Church Homes is about."



Betty (clockwise from front, left) with her daughters, Susan Budros, Cookie Smith and Becky Miller

Gabriel Bookman, 13, of Belpre, Ohio, who has been member of the choir for two years, said singing for Betty and the family who founded the theater was special.

"The theater holds a special place in my heart and it will for a long time," Gabriel said. "I felt like I was doing something that was always intended. Typically, when you go into things like this you don't expect to sing to her in this special of a time. It makes her so happy. It's like traveling in a time machine."

Betty's daughters, Susan Budros, of Columbus, Ohio, Becky Miller, of Perrysburg, Ohio, and Cookie Smith, of Evansville, Indiana, said the concert was special for them and their mother.

"At 99, she's very happy to have this evening. This is really wonderful because she loves this choir," Becky said. "We all live out of town so to come back and experience this with Mom is great."

Bringing the concert to Betty gave her a treat her daughters didn't think she would have again because it has become challenging for their mom to go to the theater.

"I don't think there's been anything like this for Mom. It's over the top for her," Susan said.



BABY SHOWER

PERFECT GIFT FOR MOTHER, DAUGHTER

Jean Walters smiled, giggled and held tight to an outfit she picked out for her granddaughter during a baby shower nurses at Four Winds Community in Jackson, Ohio, threw for her daughter.

“She loved it,” said her 29-year-old daughter, Tauna Goble. “It’s been a while since she’s been that alert.”

The shower was a surprise for Tauna, who came to Four Winds on May 1 for what she thought was an annual discussion about her mom’s advanced dementia.

“I was in shock, initially. I was emotional. It meant a lot to me because my mom is not able to be a part of my life. The fact that they even thought of that meant a lot,” said Tauna, who gave birth to her second child in June.

Jean was diagnosed with early-onset, frontal lobe dementia nearly four years ago and given just 18 months to two years to live, Tauna said. The signs that Jean had dementia first were noticed by her boss. Jean was forgetting things and not performing the way she used to.

Tauna, of Waverly, Ohio, and her sister, Robin Dofflemyer, 43, knew something was wrong too, but both were shocked when their mother was diagnosed with dementia because she was only 64 and they were so young.

“She had been slipping probably a whole year before she was diagnosed.

We hadn’t had her tested. We had no clue. We just knew something wasn’t normal with her,” said Robin, of Piketon, Ohio. “Dementia never crossed our minds.”

People diagnosed with early-onset dementia often are in their 40s and 50s with children, careers and may be caregivers to their parents when symptoms begin. About 5 million people nationwide are living with a form of the disease, but only 5 percent or 200,000 have early-onset dementia. Most become symptomatic before the age of 65, according to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Krysten Garcia, a licensed practical nurse at Four Winds Community, said the diagnosis can be particularly challenging for young families.

“Typically, they are pretty upset. They don’t understand the process. They want to know how to fix it,” Krysten said.

Tauna and Robin took care of their mother for two years after her diagnosis, but Tauna struggled to take care of both her mom and a toddler. Jean always was trying to escape and wandering off. Going grocery shopping was difficult, Tauna said.

“Moving her into Four Winds was the hardest decision I have ever had to make. I searched all over the place before I found Four Winds. But even after I put her in there I felt guilty. But quickly I felt I had made the right decision,” Tauna said.



Tauna Goble, left, and Jean Walters, right

Jean’s quality of life improved after she moved into Four Winds and it may have extended her life, Tauna said.

But the disease has slowly robbed Jean of her mobility and ability to communicate.

“She quit walking six months ago. She’s not really able to talk. She sometimes shakes her head yes or no. I believe she still recognizes us. She still smiles when she sees us,” Tauna said.

Watching their mother’s decline has been an emotional rollercoaster for their family. It was especially difficult for Tauna while she was pregnant and delivering her baby.

“At a time in my life when you usually have your mom to share things with, like having babies, I don’t have that,” Tauna said.

But the pregnancy and baby shower were gifts that brought Jean and her daughter closer together.

Amanda Baxter, a nurse at Four Winds, said nurses wanted to make the event special for Tauna, and sought out help from Robin, Jean and other residents who helped make decorations.

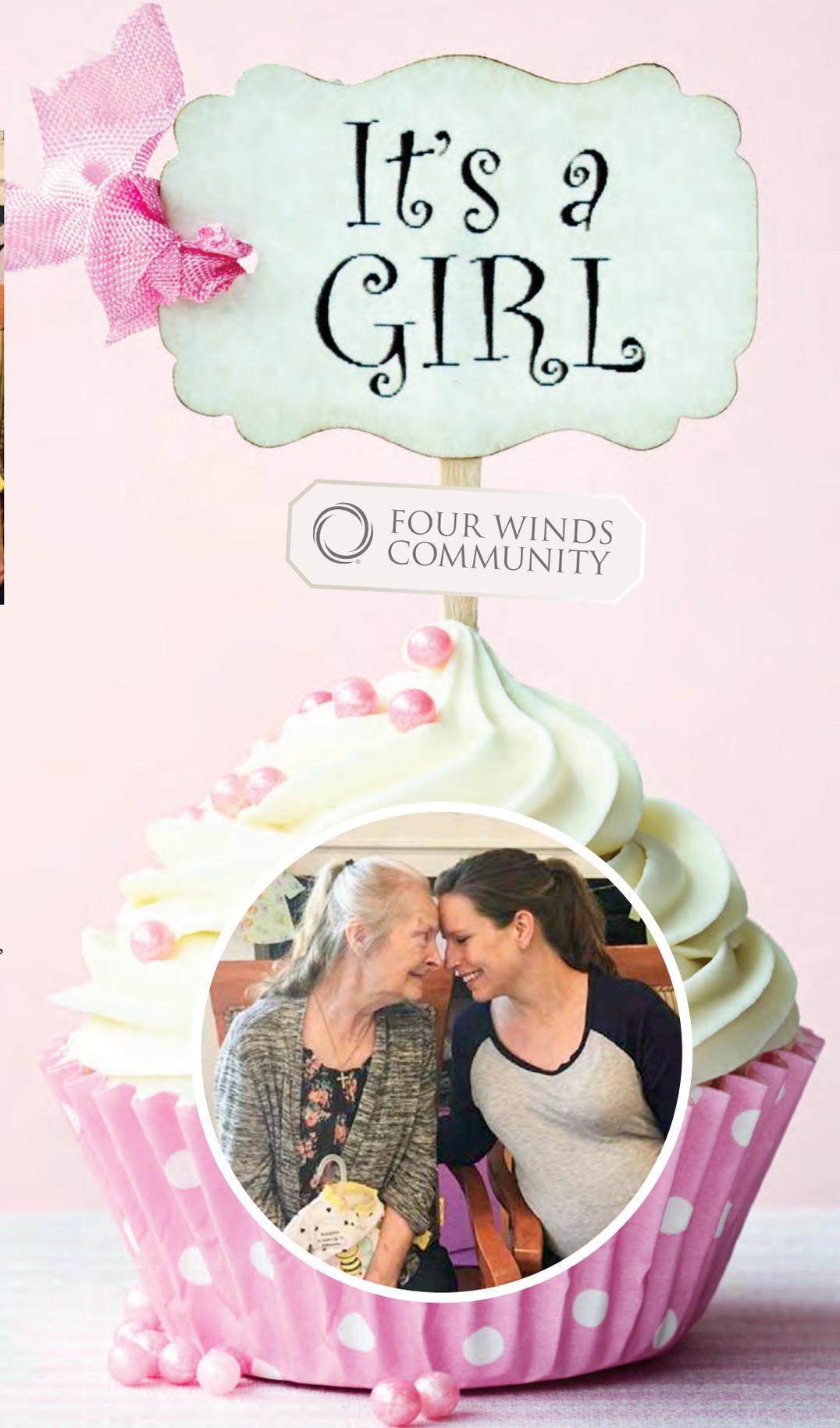


“Our intention was to make this as close to the real thing as possible, meaning a mother throwing a baby shower for her daughter and not a ‘facility-type party.’ We felt that it was important for Tauna and her mother to share the experience of having a baby shower,” Amanda said.

Robin said Jean showed signs of dementia when Tauna was pregnant with her first child. She slept during the labor and delivery, but was present, Robin said. It was tough for Tauna to go through the pregnancy and delivery of her second child without their mother, but having her at the baby shower was big, she said.

Jean was unable to attend a baby shower thrown by Tauna’s in-laws weeks earlier and she misses other family events because of her advanced illness. But Tauna and Robin said seeing their mother smile, laugh and hold onto the baby clothes was special.

“Anytime that we see Mom go back to her personality, even if just for a second, it’s special,” Robin said.



“The pregnancy and baby shower were gifts that brought Jean and her daughter closer together.”

Women Find Love, Friendship, Family at Parkvue



Frances Landin, left, and Georgianna DeNoewer, right

Georgianna DeNoewer's life has at times been difficult. But since moving to Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio, she has found a new friend and a loving family.

As an infant, Georgianna was placed in two foster homes. She moved to a county children's home before returning to her parents' home, where she says she was verbally and physically abused by her mother.

"It was horrible. My mother didn't want me at all," Georgianna, 79, said.

The mother of three said her adult life was going well until about six months ago, when she required rehabilitative care. While she was recuperating at Parkvue, Georgianna's children felt that Parkvue provided a safer environment than returning to her mobile home. Her family wanted her to live in a place where they knew she would not be alone and could receive the care she needed.

Georgianna now shares a room with 98-year-old Frances Landin, who has lived at Parkvue for 18 months. The women have become close friends and Frances' children treat Georgianna as if she's part of their family.

"I treat them the same. They are like two moms," Frances' son, Ron Landin, said.

Parkvue leaders intentionally placed Georgianna in a room with Frances, a friendly and talkative woman who is a former administrator at Lutheran Memorial Home in Sandusky.

Frances was married to her husband, Owen, almost 50 years before he died in 1992 of colon cancer.

Frances decided to live at Parkvue after she and her children agreed she no longer could care for herself.

Frances lived alone in her room at Parkvue until Georgianna's arrival and the decision to put the two in the same room has been beneficial for both women, Parkvue Community Chaplain Rev. Cathy Lawrence said.

Georgianna helps Frances, who has difficulty hearing and uses a wheelchair, and Frances has given Georgianna friendship and hospitality, and helped her settle into the community.

"To be able to get a roommate like Georgianna was a blessing to Frances and to be able to get a roommate like Frances was a blessing to Georgianna," Cathy said.

Frances said her family is thrilled she has Georgianna as a roommate and a friend.

"She is so easy to love. I'd be lonely if it weren't for her," Frances said.

Georgianna said the friendship and attention she gets from Frances and her family makes her feel loved.

"With just about everything they do, they include me. They've been more family to me than my own has," Georgianna said.

Ron said he visits almost daily and tries to make his mother and Georgianna happy.

"I laugh with them. Play games. Anything that breaks the monotony," Ron said. "Georgianna is such a nice lady. We're extremely fortunate to have her as my mom's roommate. We want to make sure she feels appreciated."





Glenwood Couple Played Key Role in United Church Homes Acquisition

United Church Homes faced opposition and concern from some Glenwood Community residents when the nonprofit organization sought to acquire the community from Memorial Health System.

But Roger and Sally Roberts, who have lived at Glenwood for seven years and have been leaders on the residents' council, helped to convince others the purchase would bring about positive change to the community.

During that time, Sally was secretary on the residents' council and Roger was president.

"We tried to emphasize it was a nonprofit acquisition, because they had heard too many horror stories about for-profit organizations. It was really a sign of relief that not only was United Church Homes a nonprofit, but it has a spiritual base," Roger said.

United Church Homes purchased Glenwood and Harmar Place Rehabilitation and Extended Care, both in Marietta, Ohio, in 2015.

Memorial Health System considered selling its property to United Church Homes to ensure Glenwood would remain successful.

"We understand the benefit of having an owner with more expertise and focus in the senior living industry," said Jennifer Offenberger, a spokeswoman for Memorial Health System.

Sally said several residents had reservations about the deal, but it was an easy sell for others.

"United Church Homes offered experience in housing; the hospital did not. It was also a nonprofit and a faith-based organization. It was a win-win situation," Sally said.

UCH leaders relied on Roger and Sally during negotiations and resident meetings about the deal to help ease residents' worries about the transition.

"Roger was invaluable to me as a liaison to the Glenwood residents. This made our transition all the more effective in building the residents' confidence and peace

of mind very quickly," said Rev. Kenneth Daniel, president and CEO of United Church Homes.

The Robertses, who met at a leadership conference committee meeting at West Virginia University, have worked together and with others to improve their communities wherever they have resided. Both say it's something they have strived to do most of their lives.

Roger served in the United States Air Force for two years as a legal officer. After his military career, he became an employee benefits specialist in Wheeling, West Virginia, and participated in several organizations to develop new housing. Sally served on local Girl Scouts councils and on the national board of directors. They both were a part of the Civil Rights Movement in the Wheeling area in the 1960s.

"Early on, we developed a social concern. It's just a part of our makeup. We've tried to have our voices heard," Roger said.





DONOR SPOTLIGHT



UCH Honors a Genuine Renaissance Woman

The **Ben M. Herbster Award** is presented to individuals who best exemplify the philosophy, leadership, philanthropic spirit and achievements of the late Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster.

Maryalice Roush was shocked recently when she learned she had been selected to receive one of United Church Homes' most prestigious awards for philanthropists.

"I was just stunned. I know another woman who got it years ago who was a big contributor. But I'm not even close to that. I never thought of myself as a big contributor. I never did it to get an award," Maryalice said.

Maryalice, 98, of Orrville, Ohio, was given the Ben M. Herbster Award, an award presented to individuals who best exemplify the philosophy, leadership, philanthropic spirit and achievements of the late Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, who was the first president of the United Church of Christ. She was recognized for more than three decades of consistent annual giving.

She was presented with the award at the Chapel Hill Donor Appreciation Dinner in June in Canal Fulton, Ohio, by UCH President and CEO Rev. Kenneth Daniel. Her friend, John Kropf, who she has known more than 70 years, provided a tribute.

John praised Maryalice for her deep faith in God, her generosity and for taking steps to conserve energy and protect the environment.

"She is an incredible leader by her example. She's not the president of organizations or even the chair of committees. The Bible says to lead by example. She is a person one should emulate because of the way she lives her life," John said.

Maryalice is a retired schoolteacher who taught art for 25 years. She has a bachelor's degree in art education and a master's degree in art from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

She regularly attends Christ Church United Church of Christ in Orrville and gives to multiple charitable organizations, including United Church Homes, although she does not live in a UCH community.

Maryalice now lives at Orrvilla Retirement Community in Orrville. But for several years, Maryalice lived in a passive solar house, a design that uses the sun's energy for heating and cooling.

She later moved into a straw bale house at 333 Wabash Ave. in Orrville. Maryalice designed the straw bale house herself after reading an article about the houses in *Better Homes and Gardens*. She said she misses living in both homes.

"I loved both. It came to a point when I couldn't handle the solar. It was much too big for me to take care of," Maryalice said.

She said her interest in being green and protecting the environment comes from her father, who objected to the use of pesticides.

"I grew up a little on the green side. My father tried to stay away from that stuff and with the environmental situation we've gotten ourselves in, I've gotten more concerned," Maryalice said.

Maryalice is adept at using her computer tablet and email and has a Facebook account. She is a member of local, state and national teacher's associations and the Smithville Garden Club. Maryalice is a 75-year member of Smithville Grange and once was a volunteer and secretary for Wayne County Habitat for Humanity.



Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster was a pastor and the first president of United Church of Christ after it formed in 1961. After his retirement as president, he also served as a member and chairman of the Board of Directors of United Church Homes.

Maryalice was a member of the board that established Habitat for Humanity in Wayne County. She said board members worked to get contributions to the organization, looked for properties where the organization could build homes and searched for families in need that the organization could sponsor.

“It was exciting and scary, too. We never knew when we were going to come out even,” Maryalice said. “In the beginning, it was word of mouth. They would encourage people to be thoughtful about it. It was just a grassroots thing. We just had our hearts and our mouths.”

In addition, Maryalice sponsors two children in Uganda.

She takes pride in helping others and said it’s nice to be recognized. But she never thought she would receive an award for giving to United Church Homes.

“I just considered that I’m doing what I should be doing. I didn’t do it for any honors like that,” Maryalice said.





UCH Awards Scholarships to Eight Employees, Dependents

United Church Homes recently selected eight employees to receive 2017 United Church Homes/Ruth Frost Parker Healthcare Scholarships. Each received a \$2,500 scholarship. The following individuals were selected: Serenity Hooper, dependent of Melinda Hooper, a unit manager at Fairhaven Community; Rachel Morgan, a state tested nursing assistant (STNA) at Harmar Place; Chelsea Oliver, an STNA at Patriot Ridge Community; Kay Pennington, a unit lead/medication assistant at Pilgrim Manor; Julian Pelfrey, dependent of Jean Pelfrey, an STNA at Fairhaven; Chelsea Pottle, a dependent of Jackie Porter, director of nursing at Patriot Ridge; Abigail Young, a dependent of Ken Young, UCH general counsel; and Chloe Balis, a dependent of Nancy Balis, a Central Office employee.



UCH Herbster Winner Inducted Into Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

Melvin J. Stauffer, a past United Church Homes Herbster Award recipient, has been inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame along with seven other Ohioans, according to the Ohio Department of Aging. Stauffer is a longtime supporter of United Church Homes and Parkvue Community in Sandusky, Ohio. He served as attorney to the late Ruth Frost Parker, a former member of the UCH Board of Directors whose legacy of giving contributed to a multitude of improvements at Parkvue. Last year, United Church Homes founded the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging in her name.

Trinity Community Employee Celebrates 40 Years of Service

United Church Homes congratulates Darlene Marrs for 40 years of service at Trinity Community in Beavercreek, Ohio. Darlene began working at Trinity as a dietary aide and now is a cook in the Trinity Sports Café. She enjoys working at Trinity because she likes the residents and staff. Since she started working at Trinity when she was 21 years old, the number of residents has grown from 50 to 200.

Over the years, Darlene has met residents who survived World War I and World War II, the Great Depression and the Ohio Flood of 1913. She became close to some of the residents after her mother passed on when she was in her 30s. "The ladies guided me along when I needed it. When I started having kids, they stepped up and helped me grow as an adult," Darlene said. She loves her job and has learned a lot along the way. "It's been a great 40 years," she said.





**Summer CPE Session
Draws Six Students;
Fall Applications Available**

Six students are part of Trinity Community's Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Center's 2017 Summer Intensive Group, serving as chaplain interns for the June 5 through Aug. 18 session. The CPE program integrates adult group learning and clinical practices throughout Trinity's life plan community. Chaplain interns are Debbie Pinnegar, Anthony Kirk, Courtney Geibert, Emily Howard, Alice Diebel and Corey Wagonfield. Applications now are being accepted for Level I and Level II CPE classes scheduled for Oct. 9 through March 19, 2018. Mail applications and a \$25 deposit, remitted to Trinity Community, to Marie Atwood, CPE support staff, Trinity Community, 3218 Indian Ripple Road, Beavercreek, OH 45440. For additional information, contact Rev. Greta A. Wagner, ACPE-certified educator, Trinity Community director of pastoral care and CPE at gwagner@uchinc.org.



UCH Acquires New Minnesota Community

United Church Homes recently reached an agreement to acquire a three-story, 47-bed affordable housing community in Long Prairie, Minn., from National Church Residences. The closing date for the community formerly known as Prairie View 400 was May 1. The community at 410 4th Ave. S. recently was renamed Harmony Apartments after a vote by residents.



CHAPEL HILL
COMMUNITY

**Rev. McCreight
Named New
Chaplain
at Chapel Hill**



Rev. Erin McCreight has been selected to become the new chaplain at Chapel Hill Community, a United Church Homes life plan community in Canal Fulton, Ohio. Erin previously served as chaplain at Harmar Place and Glenwood Community in Marietta, Ohio. Her last day there was June 23. She replaced Rev. Sandy Hutchinson, who retired June 30 after serving as the chaplain at Chapel Hill for 16 years of her 42 years of ministry.



UNITED
CHURCH
HOMES®
Celebrating the Spirit®

RETIREMENT AND LIFE PLAN COMMUNITIES: Ohio & Michigan



DID YOU KNOW?

At United Church Homes, we believe every older adult is meant to live an Abundant life in every phase of life. United Church Homes has provided retirement housing options to older adults for more than 100 years.

Our life plan communities offer independent living, cottages, assisted living, long-term care and rehabilitation services to older adults that all are located on one campus. Residents enjoy active lifestyles! From continuing education opportunities to fitness activities and social and leisure pursuits, our residents enjoy life.



Independent living in a United Church Homes community offers the comforts of home with spacious apartment plans, multiple dining options and life enrichment opportunities, meeting a variety of lifestyle and healthcare needs.



United Church Homes offers:

Life Plan Communities – offering a combination of independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing services.

Assisted Living – offering housing that provides personal care support services such as meals, medication management, bathing, dressing and transportation.

Health and Wellness Communities – offering 24-hour medical care, housing, rehabilitation and life enrichment programs for residents with chronic or long-term illnesses.

Fast Track Rehab* – short-term rehabilitation services that include, but are not limited to occupational, speech and physical therapy.

*branded by United Church Homes



Our communities offer: Independent Living (IL), Assisted Living (AL) and Health and Wellness Centers which include long-term care and Fast Track Rehab (FTR).

PILGRIM MANOR
Grand Rapids, Michigan
IL, AL, Health and Wellness Center/FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

PARKVUE COMMUNITY
Sandusky, Ohio
IL, AL, Health and Wellness Center/
FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

FAIRHAVEN COMMUNITY
Upper Sandusky, Ohio
AL, Health and Wellness Center/FTR

CHAPEL HILL COMMUNITY
Canal Fulton, Ohio
IL, AL, Health and Wellness Center/FTR

PATRIOT RIDGE COMMUNITY
Fairborn, Ohio
AL, Health and Wellness Center/
FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

Friendship Village Columbus
Columbus, Ohio
Life Plan Community, IL,
AL (memory care), Health
and Wellness Center

TRINITY COMMUNITY
Beavercreek, Ohio
IL, AL, Health and Wellness/FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

GLENWOOD COMMUNITY
Marietta, Ohio
IL, AL

TRINITY COMMUNITY AT FAIRWOOD
Beavercreek, Ohio
IL

HARMAR PLACE
Marietta, Ohio
Health and Wellness Center/FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

SEM HAVEN
Health & Residential Care Center
Milford, Ohio
AL, Health and Wellness Center/
FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

FOUR WINDS COMMUNITY
Jackson, Ohio
Health and Wellness Center/
FTR, Long-Term Memory Care

For information about our Health and Wellness Communities, please contact Megan Williams, corporate director of sales and marketing, at mewilliams@uchinc.org or 804.839.2157.



Chapel Hill Community Garden in Full Bloom

For some residents, the freshly tilled garden at Chapel Hill Community in Canal Fulton, Ohio, has brought back memories of canning, farming or planting flowers at their homes.

“Many of our residents hail from a rural background and often reminisce of the days when they plowed, planted, harvested and canned food for their families’ use over the winter months. This activity has appealed to many, especially the men

on the campus,” said Dale Smith, activities director at Chapel Hill.

Dale and dozens of others, including the Canal Land Girl Scouts and Jackson Local High School seniors, planted more than 200 annuals, tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables in the courtyard, main entrance and other areas around Chapel Hill in mid-June.

The project, funded by the Friends of Chapel Hill, not only further beautifies the campus but offers a place to socialize, enjoy the outdoors and reap the therapeutic benefits of working the soil.

“The ladies enjoy looking at the dozens of different colors and kinds of plants and the fellas enjoy reminiscing about the days on the farm. We also have a Fried Green Tomato Day that residents line the halls for,” Dale said.

Lewis Zeman, 85, who has lived at Chapel Hill for about three years, loves the garden. Lewis lived on a 100-acre farm in Portage County, Ohio, where they grew sweet corn, asparagus and pears.

“I’ve had a green thumb all my life. I love to farm,” Lewis said.

He planted two green peppers, tomato plants and hot peppers in the new community garden. Lewis tries to water the plants daily. Staff and volunteers tend the garden.

Although the vegetables haven’t sprouted yet, Lewis is looking forward to the harvest. “I was doing this on my own (before moving to Chapel Hill). It’s in my blood. I just want to prove to myself that I can still grow,” Lewis said.



CHAPEL HILL
COMMUNITY



GET SOCIAL WITH UNITED CHURCH HOMES!



At United Church Homes, it's all about connecting with others. These connections are vital to our ongoing mission to transform Aging and create Abundant Life. In this digital age of infinite information, you can connect and engage with us on social media at any time. United Church Homes maintains a presence on these social media channels.

Facebook: facebook.com/UnitedChurchHomes
Twitter: @UCHomes
Instagram: [unitedchurchhomes](https://instagram.com/unitedchurchhomes)

LinkedIn: [United Church Homes, Inc.](https://www.linkedin.com/company/United-Church-Homes-Inc)
YouTube: [UCHomesOH](https://www.youtube.com/UCHomesOH)
Google+: google.com/+UnitedChurchHomes

We encourage you to like, follow, comment and share!

If you see a story about a UCH community, send the link to Alissa Paoella at APaoella@uchinc.org.



UNITED
CHURCH
HOMES®

170 East Center Street
PO Box 1806
Marion, OH 43301-1806

Celebrating the Spirit®

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MARION, OH
PERMIT NO. 46

JOIN THE CONVERSATION | facebook.com/UnitedChurchHomes | twitter.com/uchomes

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**
unitedchurchhomes.org • Fax: 740.382.4884 • TTY: 800.750.0750