



Brooks-Howell Home
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*Prayer for Our Nation**

*O Thou, who art the Source of Life,
From whom there flows new strength,
Renew the vision of our land,
Throughout its breadth and length.*

*We read within the sacred Book
That truth shall make us free.
O, may Thy people know the truth
Which truly comes from Thee.*

Amen

–Juanita Kelly, former resident



* May be sung to the tune St. Agnes CM

From Our Administrator --



Greetings to everyone! I hope you had as good spring as ours was. As usual, our spring flowers were beautiful.

On several streets around Asheville small libraries are being installed. These mini libraries are made in the shape of large birdhouses, and designed to hold 20 to 30 books. Sara Marshall, a nurse here at Brooks-Howell Home, told us about the birdhouses and suggested that we build one. We are community minded, so we had one built. It is handicap accessible. It was installed on Wednesday (July 8). We also plan to have a ribbon cutting sometime next week. Reports from other birdhouse libraries are that children as well as adults love coming to see what's new. Many people bring their books to exchange; even some books on tape have been placed in the libraries. Kudos to the person who thought of this idea.

I know you are wondering-- and yes the wiring is done for the new medical reporting computers. Some of the training started last week, with more to start in early July. We are very excited and so are our staff. Next to be completed as part of the project is the new telephone system. Our current system is eighteen years old and is no longer being supported. The new system is the latest in technology and can do many amazing things.

We were pleased to have Becky Louter, Executive Secretary of the Office of Deaconess, Home Missioner and Home Missionary visit us. Please read the article in this issue which tells many interesting things.

Bears are showing up at many of our homes again, which prevents us from using our bird feeders, even Brooks-Howell has had bears several times, and we are in the middle of the city. See the picture in this issue.

New residents include Yvonne Sparks from the community, and Betty Ruth Goode, deaconess. (See the article about her.)

Our losses were Shirley Cagle and Jean Becker, members of the community who were in the health unit.

Until next time,
Nancy Garrison
Executive Director



Have you discovered that the *Serendipitor* may be seen on line—in color? Find the Western North Carolina Conference UMW e-Newsletter @ www.wnccumw.org . Find “Recent Conference and District News/Events” then find “Brooks-Howell Serendipitor” and click to open. To sign up to receive it regularly, find “Conference News/Posts,” and click where indicated to sign up for the email list. Choose the “Brooks-Howell Home Serendipitor” list, and any other list that you would like to join. (The file requires the free Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 7.0 or higher.) Or, find the Brooks-Howell website at <http://www.brooks-howell.org>. You will find it every two months, usually by the beginning of the second week, starting in January. If you decide to stop the paper subscription, please inform the editor (Esther Megill) at esthermegill453@gmail.com and your name will be removed from the mailing list. You will help save the trees, and the cost of printing and postage—and the color edition is much prettier!

Welcome—

Betty Ruth Goode



Betty Ruth Goode joined the Brooks-Howell family on May 11. She was born April 26, 1926, in Pearson, Louisiana, the first of two daughters of Woodie Watson Goode and Ruth Porter Goode. At the age of eight the family moved to Holopaw, Florida. After graduation from St. Cloud High School she entered Florida State University where she majored in social work with a minor in sociology, and immediately enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her Masters in Social Work. Summers during her college years were spent volunteering—one summer in a Methodist Youth Caravan, the others in youth camps.

Having achieved her academic goals, she began her lifelong commitment to serving others as a Program Worker at Homer Toberman Settlement House in San Pedro, California, where her aunt, Deaconess Caroling Porter, was the Executive Director. On January 18, 1952, she was commissioned a Deaconess at the Annual Meeting of the Women's Division in Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania. Three summers during her Toberman years she assisted in the US-2 training program.

Her six years at Toberman were followed by a Sabbatical Year at Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee, where she remained for a second year as an Instructor. In 1957 she was appointed to Centenary Methodist Community Center, also in Nashville. Her service there was interrupted by a four-year special assignment as Campus Travel Staff—crisscrossing the United States, visiting college campuses to recruit students for Church Vocations. Speaking to classes, Wesley Foundations and other student organizations, and in informal conversations in small groups and with individuals, she educated both students and faculty about the many opportunities available for church vocations, and the need for workers. At the conclusion of her time as Campus Travel Staff she returned to Centenary Community Center for another six years.

Her last appointment as a social worker was to Moore Community House in Biloxi, Mississippi, where she served for eight years. In March 1978 she moved from the coast of Mississippi to the island of Manhattan, where until her retirement in 1989 she served on the staff of the National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries in the Deaconess and Home Missionary Office—first as staff assistant and later as program assistant.

Betty Ruth loved New York City, especially the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist, where she was a Greeter and is still fondly remembered by some of the older members, and was an active member of United Methodist Women. Among her many interests was the great variety of Street Fairs throughout the city in the summertime.

Upon retirement in 1989 she returned to Florida to live with her sister, Carolyn and family in Kissimmee, to help care for her father. After his death a great deal of her time was devoted to her great-nephew, Vinny, until his graduation from High School. Deeply involved in the St. Cloud United Methodist Church, she taught Sunday School, served in many capacities in United Methodist Women, including two terms as president, mentored youth in confirmation classes, and was voted by them as “the most saintly person in the church.” She was a Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, regularly did Mission Moments, walked for CROP, promoted “Blanket Sunday,” was a regular visitor to the nursing homes and hospitals, and met weekly with the “Empowerment Hour” (Prayer Group). For two years she also served as church organist. She also served as the Clerk of her precinct for Voter Registrations and Elections for many years.

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Betty Ruth Goode (Continued from p. 3)

Betty Ruth loves travel and with her Aunt Caroline toured much of the world. In Kissimmee she was a member of the “Seasonal Saints,” who took regular trips together. Her other interests include reading, music and letter writing. Clogging and Tai Chi are two of her favorite recreational activities.

Some years ago she wrote of her “Goals and Aims in Life”:

In my work as a Deaconess I want to help people live more abundant lives, to be well-rounded individuals who know how to make the most of their resources and to live harmoniously with those around them. I want to do my part in helping make Christianity real—“right here, right now.”

Welcome, Betty Ruth.

—Betty J. Letzig

[Photo: Esther Megill]

Brooks-Howell Annual Spiritual Retreat



Jody Halstead and Laura Kirby facilitated the discovery of our Place at the Table with gentle faithful knowledge gleaned from their experience of the

Welcome Table and Respite hospitality of Haywood Street UMC at the spiritual retreat held on May 12. We were blessed with the presence of Robert Stafford, Joe Rob, and Kaki Daniels from the Haywood community. Scripture recounting the experience of Jesus’ disciples on the road to Emmaus helped us recognize Christ in the stranger we welcome unawares at our table.

We absorbed stories of Haywood Street community welcoming everyone with extravagant hospitality. The table is spread with cloth table covering and napkins, full service tableware, and persons sharing a feast of good food and loving

fellowship. Other services include clothing distribution, haircuts, housing and employment/training information, community garden. The Haywood Community works together to produce abundant living for all.

Humbly we participated in the preparation of dinner for the respite community who gathered at Haywood Street that evening. Meatloaf, green beans, mashed potatoes, and strawberry cake was the menu and our hands created the meal with love.



Ramona Turman and Alycia Johnson prepare food.



Cooks Jayne Smith and Don Turman

Introduced to the Welcome Table song of gratitude and caring, we knew the recognition of Christ at every table had entered our life of spirit.

—Marcia Knight

Book Review—

A Faith Expressed, by Helene Hill

Helene Hill shares a compelling faith from her devotionals given at the Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, NC. These insightful discernments of God’s grace in her faith journey introduce the reader to a counter cultural woman who challenges entrenched social, economic and religious values with candor and honest humor. With urgency she challenges us. Those who are searching and desiring to age with grace will receive valuable encouragement from Ms Hill’s rich menu in *A Faith Expressed*.

—Rene Bideaux, former chaplain at Brooks-Howell Home (deceased)

\$5.00 in the Gift Shop; add postage if mailing.

The Six Queens

Brooks Howell Residents enjoy helping high school and college students with their unique assignments. Carolina Country Day School asked us to be interviewed to help a group of students who had chosen a writing and performance workshop for their last week of school. Their assignment was to interview us and then to write a “skit,” using words and music to tell about their experience. The marvelous, thoughtful, awe-inspiring performance was presented to all the residents at Brooks-Howell on June 2--one week (five school days) later. They gave the script the title “The Queens of Brooks Howell.”

Six Queens (Missionaries and Deaconesses) A.J. Adams, Sara Frances Bowden, June Fischer, Ann Janzen, Jorie Ruegger, and Martha Strunk) nine Princesses (young ladies from the High School), one Prince (young gentleman from the school), one Lord and one Lady (Two teachers who were extremely dedicated to these youth and their project) met together in the Activities Building one day in May. After a quick and impressive tour of the main building they were escorted to the Activities Building where their interviewees were waiting and ready to share their lives and hopes with them. The students had sent questions ahead:

Why did you decide to do with your life what you did?

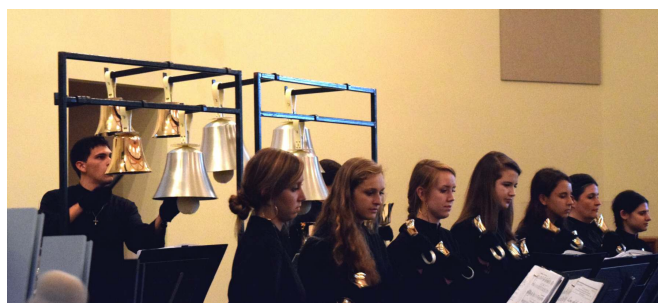
What were three important events in your life that helped to direct your path?

What advice would you give youth today ?

We are developing a “Readers’ Theatre” group and hope to be able to use the script as a program.

–June Fischer

News from Residents’ Service--



The Bells of Christ Church (from Historic Christ Church Anglican in Savannah, Georgia) presented a joyful program of sacred music on 12 octaves of handbells & chimes on Monday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Brooks-Howell Home Memorial Chapel.



IGNITE, a 55-voice Youth Choir from Pine Valley UMC in Wilmington, NC presented “WE BELIEVE,” a program of songs and sketches, for Brooks-Howell Home on Tuesday, June 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Memorial Chapel.

–Tracey Owens, Director Resident Services

[Photos Alycia Johnson]



We have had some interesting visitors lately. This bear is walking along the veranda outside the Chapel apartments.

[Photo: Rebecca Sloan, RN]

Becky Louter Visits

Becky Dodson Louter, Executive Secretary, Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, visited Brooks-Howell on June 25 to dialogue with Brooks Howell residents and to lead the Thursday chapel service. Her purpose was to share the work that is being done on legislation being prepared for the 2016 General Conference, update about administrative office activities and to hear from residents about any questions, suggestions or concerns.

To understand the proposal for being recognized as an order, it is helpful to understand that terminology changes over time. For example, in the past, commissioning was once used in recognition of a lifetime service for missionaries and others. The understanding and application of commissioning have changed over the years as individuals are now commissioned to volunteer mission trips, to go to annual conference and other short term assignments. For the 2012 General Conference, legislation was passed that reinstated the practice of consecration for deaconesses and home missioner reflecting the current practice that accurately reflects the life time relationship and commitment of Deaconess/Home Missioner (DHM). Deaconesses and home missioners are now consecrated to the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner recognizing the life time relationship and commissioned as well reflecting the sending forth act into ministry on behalf of the Church.

We are currently recognized in the Book of Discipline as an Office of The United Methodist Church. We have also been referred to as an order beginning as early as 1852 with one of the first calls for the establishment of a deaconess order in the Methodist tradition. We are not focusing as much on the past as to how DHM has been referred to as we are focused on the present on what language most accurately reflects who we are and provides the best interpretation for the current language and understanding in The United Methodist Church. In the 1996 Book of Discipline, the definition of order was defined with the basis of covenant community. In the study of lay order, it was a definitive conclusion by those attending the conference that covenant community is clear and consistent in the history and present of those in relationship with the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner. It has actually been lifted up by deacons and elders present in the review that the DHM community is the prime example of what it means to be in covenant community in The United Methodist Church. Becky shared that it is important for us to interpret who we are rather than waiting for others to interpret for us. There is no need to be apologetic for owning who we are as we seek to be the church in the world. This is not about status or recognition. It is about clarity and understanding for all. Our call to a full-time ministry of love, justice and service remains the same. It is with hope that the conversation this has begun focused on our one community will be of help to all in the denomination as we consider how we truly live out a culture of call that embraces all expressions of ministry.

A new paragraph in the Discipline (after paragraph 1314) as proposed in draft:

Lay Order –Individuals consecrated and commissioned to the office of Deaconess and Home Missioner in The United Methodist Church form a covenant community in service as a lay order. Like other orders in the church, they respond to a calling from God. In their distinct tradition, they commit to a lifetime vocation in full-time ministries of love, justice and service. In covenant with one another, they nurture and care for each other in their

(Continued p. 7)

Becky Louter (Continued from p. 6)

individual ministry calls and in community. They share a common study and are prepared based upon their unique gifts.¹

Rationale:

This legislation reflects the findings of the study that deaconesses and home missionaries are rightly understood as a lay order. A key aspect of the definition of order in par.306 Discipline is covenant community which is a model characteristic both now and throughout the deaconess history.²

A new paragraph is proposed after par. 1317 as follows:

Ecclesiastical Endorsement—Those commissioned as deaconesses and home missionaries are eligible for ecclesiastical endorsement to serve in appointments in chaplain ministries not requiring sacramental authority. The ecclesiastical endorsement and ecclesiastical approval policies, guidelines, and process for those commissioned/consecrated deaconesses and home missionaries are maintained and administered by the United Methodist Endorsing Agency. The process for appointments of deaconesses/home missionaries is managed by the administrative office for the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner with appointments fixed by the bishop of the annual conference in which a deaconess /home missioner holds membership.

Rationale:

In consultation with the United Methodist Endorsing Agency/GBHEM, this petition was crafted to create a path which recognizes the value and role of consecrated laity seeking to serve the church in chaplaincy ministries. Funding to be provided by participants and existing funds through the administrative office with United Methodist Women.³

There was opportunity for questions and comments.

Becky also shared the following information:

July 12 -17, 2015 the administrative office is hosting the Theology of Mission with interviews of 9 applicants for Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner at St. Paul School of Theology on the Oklahoma City University Campus.

While the administrative office will continue to host core study courses at Brooks Howell Home (the next one scheduled is Old Testament / New Testament starting July 20), the expansion of the courses to other locations and with our seminaries/higher education institutions supports the living into the vision of our community and the current as well as anticipated growth of the movement. A Polity & Doctrine course is in the planning stages to be held at General Conference in Portland, Oregon.

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¹ A draft prepared by a committee of United Methodist Women. Used with permission.

²Ibid

³Ibid

Becky Louter (Continued from p. 7)

On May 13, 2016, United Methodist Women with the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, United Methodist Men and General Board of Discipleship with Lay Servant Ministries will host a Laity Dinner at General Conference.

There will be a service of consecration for new deaconesses and home missionaries. The current estimate to be consecrated from the United States is up to thirty . This will be part of the morning worship on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in Portland (11:00 a.m. eastern time). The service will be live streamed and Debbie Pittman will work at Brooks Howell for broadcasting the service.

–Esther Megill (with help from Becky Louter)

Deaconess Barbara Markham

On June 25 Barbara Markham was reinstated to the relationship of deaconess in a special ceremony during Chapel services. Barbara (known by friends as Bobby) served as a deaconess for many years before having to leave the office for family responsibilities. However, as Bobby knows, once consecrated as a deaconess, one never loses that “deaconess heart” for ministries of love, justice, and service. Therefore, she was approved to be reinstated as a deaconess in the retired status. Deaconess Becky Louter, Executive Secretary of the Offices of Deaconess, Home Missioner, and Home Missionary, presented Bobby with a golden retirement deaconess pin. Deaconess Tracey Owens, Director of Resident and Social Services at Brooks-Howell Home, presented her with a deaconess scarf on behalf of the deaconess, home missioner, and home missionary community. Members of Bobby’s family were able to share her special day with her.

The chapel service included a message by Becky Louter. A litany of recognition and blessing was shared with all at Brooks-Howell who have

answered God’s call to be in mission and ministry including clergy, missionaries, deaconesses, and home missionaries. The service closed with the sharing of the Wesley Covenant Prayer and a blessing.



–Debbie Pittman

Did You Know?

Members of United Methodist Women are invited to visit Brooks-Howell Home anytime. We have a group of residents who provide tours of our facility. Your unit can also watch the new DVD, “Putting the Pieces Together.” We would love to have you join us for lunch as well. These opportunities give UMW members the chance to meet some of the Brooks-Howell residents and see firsthand what a wonderful community of retired deaconesses and missionaries live here.

To book a tour, please contact Tracey Owens at (828) 253-6712 or by email towens@brookshowell.org.

Brooks-Howell Home appreciates all the interest and support we receive from the United Methodist Women units in all the UMC Conferences.

--Tracey Owens, Director of Resident Services

From Our Chaplain—

Seeds of Hope

It was Thursday morning, June 18, when I first heard the reports about the nine people killed at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. I stood in shock in front of my TV as reporters talked about what had happened. I was glued to the TV screen as I heard the anguish in the faces and voices of people as they were interviewed. What now? How do we respond to this?

A few days before this horrendous act, I had eaten an apple as I drove back from Baltimore, MD. I was surprised to find the seeds inside my apple were sprouting! I had never seen this before. For a few days I kept the seeds in a wet paper towel, never finding the time to plant them properly. On Thursday morning, with my heart broken for the people who lost their lives, with anguish at the racism still prevalent in our country, I planted those seeds. I felt the need to do something positive. I HAD to do something that meant life. I encourage you to find some way to bring life into this world.

Following our chapel service Thursday afternoon, many of you expressed to me your anger, pain and tears for Charleston. This is why today, Friday June 19, I attended the “We are Charleston – A Service of Solidarity and Healing” at St. James AME Church in Asheville. The service was for the entire community. When they announced the event, they suggested we come early to get a seat. They weren’t kidding! I ended up in the far corner of the balcony. Even so, it was good to let the tears roll down my cheeks as we sang “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.”



It was healing to be a part of an interfaith and interracial gathering. Rev. Brent La Prince Edwards, who is from Charleston, reminded us of the importance of recognizing the symptoms of racism among us. But the most important thing is this: The God that gave strength to the people of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church to rebuild after their church was burned down, that kept them worshiping and working together for 31 years in hiding, that helped them rebuild after an earthquake destroyed the building again... that same God is still here. That same God still renews our strength. That same God still gives us hope. That same God calls us to not give up.

Together, we can overcome the evil of racism.

The gathering at St. James AME Church proves that we can work together across faiths and across races. This gives me much hope, and I pray it will do the same for you.

By the way, when I checked on my apple seeds this morning, both pots have little sprouts. Hope. Do not lose hope.

—Alycia Johnson, Chaplain



Cat's Eye View: Marcia's Lost Again



You may have heard this cry if you are a resident of Brooks-Howell, "Eliza, I'm lost come find me!" Sometimes it is a calm cry but sometimes it is downright desperate. When I am outside Marcia is walking with me. We have a very

pleasant and quiet association on our walks to facilitate my hunting. However, we sometimes encounter other Brooks-Howell residents and Marcia strikes up a conversation. I wait patiently for a few minutes but if this behavior persists I simply continue my pursuits while she is talking with the other person. When she is finished, she seemingly has no idea where I am. This is particularly frustrating if I have located a vole, squirrel, or other creature that has captured my focused attention.

What am I to do? Drop everything and respond to this mindless cry? Marcia should have followed me, as she usually does. Instead she is now lost and I am expected to find her. Sometimes I am in plain sight, sometimes I am in the bushes, sometimes I am in a completely different area of the Brook-Howell grounds. I wait awhile to see if she can find me. Most often I have to go find her. We have been walking these grounds together for three years and you would not believe how many times I hear this cry, "Eliza, I'm lost come find me! She repeats this cry many times in various parts of the grounds where she, I suppose, thinks I might be. It is embarrassing, so I find her and lose the focus of my attention and a potential satisfaction of my hunt.

One morning we were having a very nice walk together but Marcia decided to sit down and invited conversation with our next door neighbor Jorrie. Those two tend to go on and on when they get together. I hung around for a while but I got impatient and moved on with my walk and hopefully finding a vole to engage and come away with a trophy.

I heard Marcia calling but I ignored her to teach her a lesson about walking etiquette. This is our time and needs to be honored. Forty five minutes after hearing the cry, "I'm lost come find me!" it was clear that I needed to make an appearance and save Brooks-Howell residents from the constant noise of Marcia's cry. The reunion is always a nice ending to our separation and she always promises to pay better attention to me. We will see.

-- Marcia Knight

For Your Enjoyment

The preacher was wired for sound with a label mike, and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo while I asked,

"No, how are we alike?"

"You're both old," he replied

(From the Internet)



July

Residents

- 1 Juanita Hill
- 4 Donald Turman
- 9 Deborrah Pittman
- 13 James Hipkins
- 24 Carol Greenspan
- 29 Frieda Morris
- 30 Legrand Smith

Employees

- 1 Tat'yana Demets – Nursing
- 1 Crystal Reems – Nursing
- 2 Mike Walker – Resident Services
- 4 Effie Williams – Nursing
- 8 Nina Knighten – Dietary
- 10 Donna Anderson – Nursing
- 19 Pamela Rice – Nursing
- 23 Erika Sanchez Ortiz – Environmental Services
- 26 Lonnie Morris – Maintenance
- 29 Jeania Fisher – Nursing

August

Residents

- 8 Naomi Wray
- 11 Cynthia Ward
- 15 Coy Howe
- 17 Douglas Wingeier
- 18 Phyllis Handly
- 19 Helen Frey
- 29 Everett Woodcock

Employees

- 5 Kevin Smith – Environmental Services
- 7 Jill Banyai – Resident Services
- 8 Karen MacNeil – Nursing
- 8 Nadiya Marrengulye – Nursing
- 12 Aileen Mangum – Nursing
- 14 Amber Vellenga – Nursing
- 19 Anna Sheley – Nursing
- 22 Irina Antyufeyeva – Nursing
- 26 Sara Penley – Nursing
- 31 Melissa Harper - Nursing

