

# SERENDIPITOR

**The Life and Times at Brooks-Howell Home**

**(New Series) Volume I, Issue 2 NEWSLETTER March-April, 2016**

## WHAT IS LIFE?

Life is a challenge – meet it  
Life is a gift – accept it  
Life is an adventure - dare it

Life is a sorrow – overcome it  
Life is a tragedy – face it  
Life is a duty - perform it  
Life is a game - play it  
Life is a mystery - unfold it

Life is a song - sing it  
Life is an opportunity - take it  
Life is a journey - complete it  
Life is a promise - fulfill it

Life is a beauty - praise it  
Life is a struggle - fight it  
Life is a goal - achieve it  
Life is a puzzle - solve it

“Life is truly all of this! It is through the gift of grace that God, and we, help others achieve their glory.”

- From 2016 UMW Reading  
Book – “Not Worth Saving” by Ann L. Joyner, 2014, page 54

## NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

BREWIER WELCH  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



See Page 2

CAROLE GILHAM

HEALTH CARE

ADMINISTRATOR



See Page 3

## **FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome here at Brooks-Howell Home. I am very excited to be here working with residents and staff. What a unique and wonderful place we have here for you to live and our staff to work. It is such a blessing to be surrounded by like-minded people.

A special thank you goes to Nancy Garrison for her years of dedicated service to Brooks-Howell Home. We wish her the best as she embarks on her new life. Based on the short time I spent with her, I have no doubt she will continue to be active in her service with the United Methodist Women.

In the coming months and years, I have been tasked with identifying and implementing the best ways to keep Brooks-Howell Home a viable operation while adhering as closely as possible to its original mission. As I have told our Division Managers, I will be looking at and questioning everything we have and do, from the condition of the buildings and grounds to all phases of programs and operations. Our aim is to make changes only when changes are necessary; when they are in the best interests of the residents, the community, and the United Methodist Women; and only after much research and deliberation.

This is an exciting time and I look forward to getting to know and working with each of you.

“We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.”  
Psalm 33:20-22

Sincerely in Christ,      Brewier Welch

## **PRAYER LABYRINTHS FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE**

Brooks-Howell residents and staff are assisting United Methodist Women, national office, in getting finger-sized prayer labyrinths ready for General Conference 2016. As at past conferences, United Methodist Women will have a strong prayer presence at the 2016 session.



The quilted prayer labyrinths are being made by UMW members throughout the country for use by delegates and guests at the meeting in Portland, Oregon in May. To date, more than 1000 labyrinths have arrived at Brooks-Howell with a goal of 2000 total. Deaconesses Tracey Owens and Debbie Pittman have been counting, recording, and storing the labyrinths as they arrive.

In early March, UMW members of the Blue Ridge District (WNC Conference) will join resident volunteers in attaching tags, sorting, and packing the labyrinths for shipping. At the District Prayer Breakfast, Brooks-Howell's Health Care Administrator Carole Gilham will lead volunteers in preparing ‘thank you’ postcards to send to those who have provided labyrinths. Joint projects with UMW such as this one help us to live out our motto of ‘Called, Served, Serving Still! - Debbie Pittman

## FROM OUR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATOR

Hi everyone. My name is Carole Gilham and I am the new Health Care administrator for Brooks-Howell. While my position may be new, I have been at Brooks-Howell since March 1999. I was hired as an Administrative Assistant, progressed to Business/Human Resource Director, and in 2008 completed the administrator training to become the Assistant Administrator.

I am a member of Groce United Methodist Church, where I am a member of the Miriam Circle, and the secretary of the UMW Executive Committee. I am also the Membership Nurture and Outreach Mission Coordinator for the Blue Ridge District UMW.

My husband and I have been married 33 years. We live in Swannanoa, have three sons, five grandchildren, a dog and some chickens. Our families are spread out between Montana, New York and Florida – all great places to visit on vacation!

I am truly blessed to be a part of the Brooks-Howell Home family and appreciate the opportunity to be able to contribute to the quality of life of our residents in this manner. Our residents are all such an inspiration, and I am thankful for all the prayers and support from everyone. - Carole Gilham

## FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

I am ready for spring. I am ready to feel warm breezes and see bright sunshine. I am ready for the humming birds to return!

But wait ... it's still winter, and very cold winter, at that. I think we got spoiled. It was warm when we expected cold, and now that it's cold we expect warm.

We need to take a lesson from the tulip bulbs. They need the time spent in the cold ground to be able to bloom beautifully in the spring. They require a period of dormancy, and *cold*, to be at their best.

Did you know that if you don't have the opportunity to bury your tulip bulbs in the ground in the fall, you should keep them in a cold place, like a refrigerator, during the winter, and then plant them as soon as you can work the soil in the spring? The bulbs need a period of rest, of cold, of darkness, to be able to grace us with the beautiful flowers in the spring.

So even though we all look forward to spring, and to Easter, now is the time to sit in quiet, feel the darkness and cold of winter and Lent, because it's all a part of experiencing Easter in all its glory.

At our Ash Wednesday service, we read from the prophet Joel, and heard his call for us to have changed hearts. There is value in introspection, in changing bad habits and developing new ones. It is easy to think of these changing hearts and of giving up something for Lent, as depressing. But that is not our call. We know that Easter is coming!

So let us take this time of Lent, this time of winter, for self-reflection, for making necessary changes, but do so with peace filled hearts.

For now, we wait and reflect, and gather our strength. Easter is coming! And so is spring!

"The Lord is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love." Psalm 103:8  
(Common English Bible) - Alycia Johnson



## IN MEMORIAM

### FREIDA MORRIS (1914 - 2016)

From Frieda: I entered this world July 29, 1914, in a farm house near Hinsdale, New York. I had an ordinary childhood with the exception of the fact that pink eye left me a badly crossed left eye which was useless.

I grew up in a Christian home, a small Methodist Church, and attended a one room school eight years, then a small (50 students) four year high school near my home. Graduating from high school in 1932 at the bottom of the Great Depression, there was no money for college, so I took a one-year teachers training course in nearby Olean. After teaching two years in a one room school, I went to our conference junior college, Genesee Wesleyan at Lima, NY, then on to finish my BA degree at Allegheny College, Meadville, PA in May, 1941, mostly on work scholarships and loans.

In January, 1942, the Women's Division sent me to Harwood Girls School, Albuquerque, NM to finish the year for an ill teacher of 4-6 grades. In September, 1942, I went to Allen High School, Asheville, NC and stayed two years. Then I transferred to rural work, spending 12 years at North Barre Community House, Barre, VT; 15 years in rural church work in West Virginia; followed by shorter periods in Bledsoe, Co.; and Marlboro County, SC., where I retired in 1979. I took a sabbatical from September, 1962 to August, 1963 and spent it teaching English at Pai Wha Girls School, Seoul, Korea.

Upon retirement I decided to do some things that work had not allowed for. So I ended up spending 8 ½ wonderful months at Asian Rural Institute, Nishinasemo, Japan; one summer helping to reorganize the cooperative parish in the Espanola Valley, Northern New Mexico; 3 ½ years helping rural churches in Southern West Virginia; 2 years in an inner city church in Chattanooga helping them become a community church; and 4 years 7 months on Choctaw Reservation, Philadelphia, MS. All of the post-retirement jobs were as a volunteer. I did get a lot of travel in since I didn't feel obligated to put in 16 hour days, 6 days a week as I had on appointed positions.

I am proud of my 48 years as a registered Girl Scout, still going!

On September 15, 1992, I entered Brooks-Howell, that wonderful Home provided by the United Methodist Women for Deaconesses and Missionaries. Here I plan to do some of those things I haven't had time to do.

Thanks be to God for a wonderful fulfilling life!



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## IN MEMORIAM

### JOYCE LOUISE ANDEREGG (1921 - 2015)



Joyce was the eldest of 4 children born to Carl E. and Mercedes G. Anderegg in Warren PA. At a young age she became interested in missions through her mother's involvement in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. As an adult, Joyce became involved in the Women's Division on a regional basis and eventually visited missions in West Africa. After unification with the Methodist churches, Joyce became a delegate to two General Conferences, served as president of the conference UMW, taught in Schools of Christian Mission, developed educational programs for women and finance, served on the New York Conference Board of Trustees, and worked on developing plans for one-day training sessions for UM women in several languages across the country.

Joyce's greatest disappointment in life was not being able to complete her college education. As a result of the Great Depression and World War II, she had to enter the work force after high school, and worked in clerical positions for several years. Eventually she saved enough money to attend Houghton College, arranged lodging in a private home, and obtained a secretarial job in the bookstore. Shortly after her first semester, her grandmother was no longer able to care for Marilou, Joyce's younger sister, who had been paralyzed after a bout with scarlet fever as a child. Joyce and her parents realized that care for Marilou required three able-bodied adults. Joyce returned home to help her parents care for her. She worked for Sylvania Electric Company. For the next 29 years, she worked as a secretary and quality control technician. Both her supervisor and the plant manager recommended that Joyce be promoted to foreman, but the personnel department decided that a woman could not supervise a crew that included more men than women. Ironically, Joyce spent the next few years training foreman.

On one of her trips to Africa, she met Elaine Gasser, a missionary in Sierra Leone. Upon Joyce's retirement from Sylvania, she moved to New York, where she and Elaine bought a co-op apartment in Manhattan. Joyce worked as a consultant in the Current and Deferred Giving Program of the General Board of Global Missions. Upon her second retirement in 1990, she and Elaine moved to Maryville, TN and then on to Brooks-Howell Home in 1998. She was active in Biltmore UM Church until her health declined in recent years.

Joyce was predeceased by her dear friend Elaine M. Gasser, her parents, her sister Marilou, her sister Mercedes (Teedie) Habberg, her brother-in-law Rev. Frank G. Hagberg, and her brother, Rev. John P. Anderegg. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Bobbie Jean Anderegg, and her eight nieces and one nephew.

Donations in Joyce's memory can be made to the Brooks-Howell Home Endowment Fund to provided financial assistance to BHH residents.

# **BROOKS-HOWELL HOME ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

(Effective April, 2012)

Admission to Brooks-Howell Home is open to the following persons:

1. Retired deaconesses or missionaries related to the Women's Division of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church as of 1964, or a missionary of the Evangelical United Brethren Church commissioned prior to Union in 1968. (Those with more than 15 years service may be eligible for special rates.)
2. Approved at 100% of cost of accommodations and care are the following. (While rates are reasonable, applicants must demonstrate adequate financial resources.)
  - a. Retired deaconesses and missionaries
  - b. Retired United Methodist Women Staff
  - c. Retired United Methodist Women Directors
  - d. Church and Community workers
  - e. Retirees of Scarritt-Bennett Colleges/Center
  - f. Retired GBGM mission personnel and staff
  - g. Retirees of UM National Mission Institutions
  - h. Retired staff of Volunteers in Mission
  - i. Volunteers in Mission with 10 or more years in volunteer service
  - j. Retirees of Church World Service
  - k. Retirees of other Mission Boards with United Methodist relationships
  - l. Retired Clergy and spouses
  - m. Other United Methodist staff retirees approved by WD on a case by case basis
  - n. Retired mission personnel from other denominations approved by United Methodist Women Directors on a case by case basis.

There is no cost or obligation to apply for residency.

For More Information, Contact:

BROOKS-HOWELL HOME, 266 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801  
Phone: (828) 253-2712      Fax: (828) 225-2992      E-Mail: [info@brooks-howell.org](mailto:info@brooks-howell.org)

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**JEAN M. MORGAN**

Jean Morgan was commissioned at Buck Hill Falls, PA on January 20, 1956 along with other deaconesses and missionaries. Congratulations for serving as a deaconess these 60 years!

# MEETING THE FOLKS THAT MAKE IT HOME

## SMILING DANNY

The dining room staff is a well-oiled team, kind pleasant, and professional, helping each other out. One long-term member of the team is a special favorite of the residents – Danny Dunsmore. He almost always has a smile on his face and joy in his heart, and his laughter rings well-beyond the dining room, out into the lobby.



Danny was born in 1968. He was reared in Chapel Hill, where his father was a city employee and his Mom a minister. Danny attended Chapel Hill High School and Durham Tech where he studied upper management. He quit school when he got married in the early 90's. His wife was a minister who also hosted her own gospel radio show. After six years, his marriage broke up and, although he and his wife were still friends, Danny moved to Candler and then to Mars Hill. "I went there because of the beauty of the area. Most people don't know that I'm all about nature. I like to hike," he says. He first worked at Pisgah Nursing Home, a job he held for six years, but finally decided he lived too far from work. That's when he came to work at Brooks-Howell Home, about eight-and-a-half years ago.

Danny says, "I am a people person. I love the residents, and I love working here. I feel appreciated. It's a pleasant place to work. The staff help each other, and that makes the day go faster and easier," The residents love him, too. They respond warmly to his calling them "Buddy" or "Chief".

Today, Danny lives in the Asheville area with Kristie, his partner of ten years. They plan to be married in March. He has three step-children, Jevin (17), Hyatt (21), and Catelin (23), all of whom live in Michigan now. Danny is a big sports fan, cheering for the Carolina Tar Heels, the Alabama football team, the NFL Patriots, "and the Panthers of course". Asked what people may not know about him, Danny says, "I am a musician. I play bass and guitar for a small local congregation that meets in the Fletcher Feed and Seed Store." He has also recorded an album with a fellow church musician.

Asked about his philosophy, he answers very quickly, "Just be yourself. If everyone were the same, it would be a very boring place." Then he flashes his beautiful smile.

Keep smiling, Danny! Just keep on smiling! You add so much to the residents, to your co-workers, and to the atmosphere at Brooks-Howell Home. - Gail Hipkins

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Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of article about the employees at Brooks-Howell Home. We invite residents to write stories about any members of the staff they choose to interview. Get them to Betty or Art.

## BEYOND THE GATE

### BROOKS-HOWELL HOME AND 5 POINTS NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP

The 5 Points Neighborhood borders Brooks-Howell on the south by Hillside Street and on the west by Spears Avenue. The neighbors are well-organized, but they lack a good meeting space. Brooks-Howell has invited the Association to meet in our Activities Building which has been a great arrangement for the Brooks-Howell residents actively involved in the Association.



Recently Brooks-Howell administration was approached by our new Residents Council President, Mary Z. Longstreth requesting that Brooks-Howell purchase a 5 Points Neighborhood banner to be placed by our little free library on Hillside Street. The request was granted and we now proudly fly the banner.

The guest speaker at the most recent meeting was the Asheville Police Department Community Resource Officer, Lucas Lovelace. His report was very helpful.

Committees reported their plans, activities, and need for help. The Sense of Place Committee is working on a 6' X 6' garden plot located at Maxwell, Chestnut, and Monroe. The Transportation Committee is working on creating walking trails and sidewalk improvement. They are following the proposal and eventual new building for a Fire Station. Block Party Committee will be working on activities for Spring, Summer, and Fall.

There is a trash can at Woods and Dorch which needs to be emptied regularly. This is for collecting trash from people who use the woods for walking dogs and walking for exercise or recreation.

Neighbors commented how much they appreciate Brooks-Howell being in the neighborhood and the wonderful hospitality given to the Association for their meeting. Brooks-Howell residents appreciate the Neighborhood Association for including Brooks-Howell in their activities. This Beyond the Gate relationship is mutually beneficial.

– Marsha Knight

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### ELIZABETH LASLEY

Elizabeth Lasley, 89, of Arbor Acres, Winston Salem, died peacefully on January 6, 2016. A memorial service was held Saturday, January 9 in the fellowship hall at Arbor Acres. She served faithfully for several years as president of the Brooks-Howell Home Board. Her husband, the Rev. Joseph Lasley, was a resident at Brook-Howell before his death. They were residents at Lake Junaluska for years in retirement.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM - 2016

The 1<sup>st</sup> In A Series of Reviews ...

Joyner, Ann L.

*Not Worth Saving: How A Severely Handicapped Boy Transformed Lives.* Privately printed, 2014.  
159 pages. Paper, Illustrated.

Reading Category: Nurturing for Community

Matthew lived to the age of 21. He lived, loved, laughed and made friends, all without ever saying a single word. His name in Hebrew means “gift from God.” His mother shares their life with us as a message of hope.

You may need to read this book. — Art Swarthout

The Brooks-Howell library contains most of the Reading Program books for the current year and recent past years. Many district and local church UMW units also own some of the titles.

Watch for more reviews. See if you can read one or more titles in each of five different subject areas.

Please submit written reviews for future issues of the *Serendipitor*.

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## SPIRITUAL HUMOR

The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Shirley Green, who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.

The eighth graders will present Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The 1991 Spring Council Retreat will be hell May 10 & 11.

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when A. B. Doe supplied our pulpit.

## **RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITORS**

Thanks to “miracle workers” who produced our first 2016 issue. Here is our second team effort with a few new dimensions!

We begin a new column: “Meeting The Folks Who Make It Home”. We invite residents to write about employees in future issues. Another one or two will appear in the May-June issue.

This issue features our new leadership team. We will hear from them about their work in forthcoming issues.

We are printing the eligibility policy for admission to the Home, adopted in 2012. We believe some of our readers may be persons or know other persons who might like to live at Brooks-Howell. It’s a great place to retire!

We hope you enjoy reading the *Serendipitor*. We welcome your articles and suggestions for future issues.

Art and Betty Swarthout, EDITORS

Serendipitor TEAM: Residents - Gail Hipkins, Ann Janzen, Marsha Knight, Barbara Markham, Virginia Miller. Staff - Tracey Owens, Kim Miller, Colleen Ownsbey

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BROOKS-HOWELL HOME is owned and operated by the United Methodist Women, an agency of The United Methodist Church with world headquarters in New York City. The home is a caring community for retired deaconesses of the Church (and when space allows, other retired person who have served in mission roles in the Church). The Home provides facilities and activities for the care and enrichment of all its residents. There is independent apartment living and nursing care for most levels of health needs.

*Serendipitor* is a bi-monthly publication of the Home designed for residents, staff, families, and friends. It is prepared by residents and staff in the community. We welcome your suggestions and submissions for publication in future issues when they fit the mission of the newsletter.

The Home welcomes visitors and supports advance planning of your visits with us. Weekly Chapel services and other special events are open to the public. Groups, especially United Methodist Women units and other local church classes, are invited to tour our facilities and meet our residents and staff.

# BIRTHDAYS



## MARCH

### RESIDENTS

- 9 Pauline Dillon
- 18 Helene Hill
- 23 Virginia Bradford
- 24 Dana Tyson
- 26 Patricia Davis
- 29 Barbara Markham
- 31 Lela Maxwell

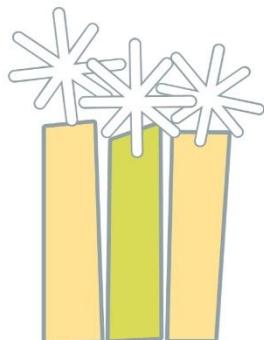
### STAFF

- 8 Alycia Johnson, Chaplin
- 13 Stephanie McCurry, Nursing
- 15 Michael Lee, Dietary
- 26 Sallie Tipton, Nursing

## APRIL

### RESIDENTS

- 3 Marjorie Ruegger
- 6 Edwin Brown
- 8 Eleanor Charlton
- 13 Marcia Knight
- 25 Betty Goode
- 28 Rosemary Scheuerman



### STAFF

- 2 Joachim Bruder, Gardener
- 4 Victoria Ruiz, Nursing
- 9 Ellen Coles, Nursing
- 9 Lyudmyla Kebap, Nursing
- 12 Jason Gerrie, Maintenance
- 13 Gussie Hines, Environmental Svcs.
- 20 Sharman Hess, Receptionist
- 21 Kiauna Hines, Nursing
- 23 Karen Stroupe, Resident Services
- 23 Patti Wilson, Gardener
- 24 Joan Page, Nursing
- 28 Annis Lytle
- 29 Anna Bayluk, Nursing

BROOKS-HOWELL HOME  
266 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28801-1218  
Phone: (828) 253-6712

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and operated by the United  
Methodist Women.

Items and publication should be  
sent to the Editors (above address)

Our next issue: MAY-JUNE  
Deadline for Copy: Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Fridays, March 4 thru May 6 - Great Decisions Program (Foreign Policy Association)

Wednesdays, March 9, April 13, May 11 - UMW Reading Program Book Reviews

Mondays, Three Part Series on “Preparing for Your Future”

April 18 “How to Plan Your Memorial Service”      May 9    “Writing Your Obituary and  
Questions for the Funeral Director”      June 6      “Advance Directives – Health & Durable Powers  
of Attorney, MOST form, DNR, Full Code/ No Code”

Tuesday – Friday, May 10 – 20 GENERAL CONFERENCE, The United Methodist Church –  
Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon

Wednesday, May 18 1:00 – 4:00 pm Our Spiritual Growth Retreat at Brooks-Howell  
Merit Wolff, Leader

Monday, May 16 3:30 pm Concert by Steve and Ruth Smith in the Chapel. Hammered dulcimer,  
guitar, and other instruments.