



BROOKS-HOWELL SERENDIPITOR

The Life & Times at Brooks-Howell Home
Volume 1, Issue 5 September/October 2016

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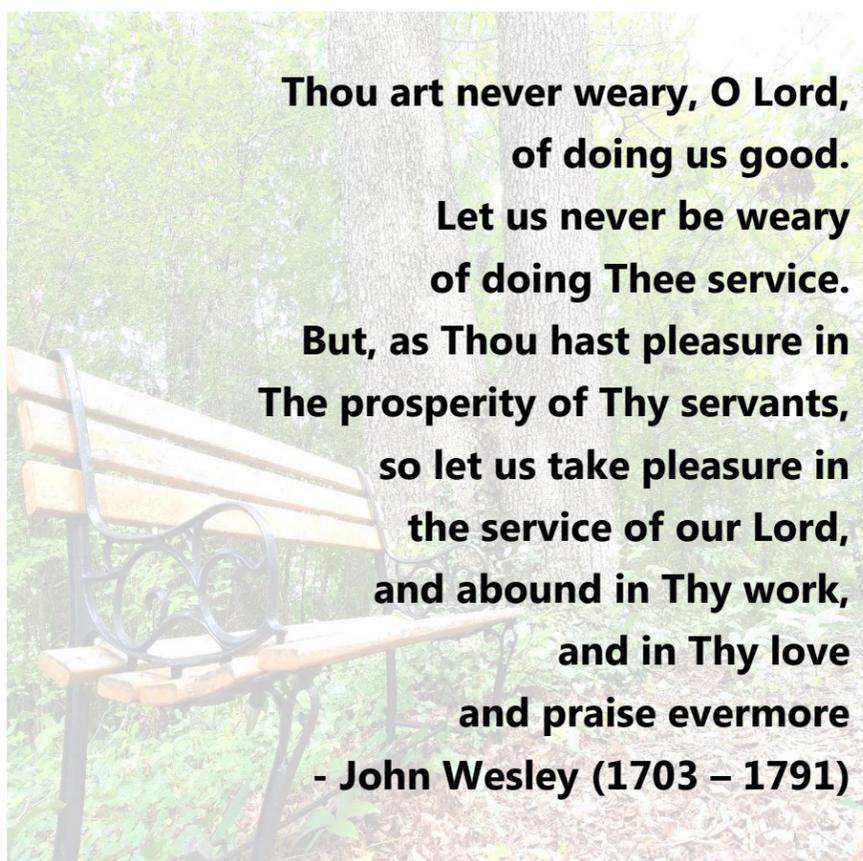
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OUR NEW LOOK

We are excited about the new look of the Serendipitor as we incorporate color printing, new fonts, and different formats. But the newsletter isn't the only thing getting a makeover around here. Our community has been working together to plan and remodel some of our residences in the apartment buildings, Village apartments, and the health care units. We have also installed new signage and lighting on Merrimon Avenue and over our front entrance so visitors can find us more easily. And we ALL agreed, it was time to update our logo and branding to capture the active and vibrant community that we are. If you haven't dropped by in a while, consider scheduling a visit. Our residents are always glad to share stories and tour guests around the place!



JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

As we go through life, it is easy to get distracted by the “big events”; things such as births, weddings, illness, and death. But in between are the everyday events, the things we take for granted, what I call “the little things.” I believe it is the little things that make life interesting, that brings us joy, and can give us the hope and strength to make it through some of the unpleasant big events in our lives.

I was recently reminded of this when one of our residents, who has been living in her apartment for several years, informed me that she would really appreciate having another electrical outlet in her bathroom. This seemed like such a small thing and was easily accomplished. Within two days of informing our Maintenance staff, the task had been completed. The resident was so thankful and happy from this one little thing. And I found that her joyfulness brought the Maintenance staff and me joy as well.

Over time, these little things add up into one big life experience. It is what keeps me and the rest of the staff at Brooks-Howell going. The residents bring us joy, and we want to return the favor. Thank you for allowing us into your lives.

I am pleased to announce that Mike Shelton, our permanent Environmental Services Director, has now officially taken over the position. If you have any questions or requests for Environmental Services you can direct them to Mike. His phone extension is 1235. Mike lives near Brevard with his wife and has many years of experience as an Environmental Services Director. Please give Mike a warm welcome when you see him.

-Gratefully Serving, Brewier Welch

NEWS FROM NURSING

FLU SHOTS: We need to know if independent residents want us to give their flu shots. They will be given on October 17, 18 and 19. There is a sign-up sheet on the green bulletin board near the mailboxes for you to indicate if we are to give your shot so that we know how many to order.

If you get your flu shot at the doctor's office or drug store, we will need documentation of that.

If you REFUSE the flu shot, you will need to sign a paper, just stating that it was offered, but refused.

TB TESTS: Also, the TB skin test will be given to the independent residents on **September 20th**. The test will then need to be “read” on the 22 or 23. Again a sign-up sheet is on the green bulletin board. This is an annual test. If you got it at the doctors' office, Devlyn O'Connor or Beth Buckner will need documentation to comply with state regulations. Thanks.

- Nurse Freda, Director

COMINGS AND GOINGS IN THE HEALTH UNITS

We are in the process of updating the BTU 1st floor resident "livingroom." A new tv and new music system have been installed. Residents also enjoy the new retractable canopy that overhangs the adjoining outdoor patio.

The following Outreach Ministry residents have passed away. We send our condolences to their families: Marguerite Hays, Donald Jones, Althea Watson, Nancy Johnson and Peggy Phillips.

- Tracey Owen, Director, Resident Services

NEW STAFF WHO MAKE IT "HOME"

Nursing: Shelia Robinson
Nurse Supervisor: Cynthia Rose
Marketing: Cameron Kempson, Director
Transportation Coordinator: Steve Chandler
Front Desk Receptionist: Dominique Harder
Dietary Aide: Hunter Shelton
Executive Chef (Metz): Sherlon Hyde
Environmental Services (Metz): Mike Shelton, Director

- Rebecca Brawn, Director, Human Resources

SUMMER INTERNS AT BROOKS-HOWELL

This summer our residents and staff were blessed by being a residence and home for three summer interns. They were variously placed in partnering churches and ministries in Asheville.

Dustin Farris was St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Cody Johnson served at Central United Methodist Church
Jessica Foster at Haywood Street Congregation of Central United Methodist Church

They ate with us, prayed with us, preached to us, and listened to our stories of mission experiences. We say to each of them, "Well done. You have brightened our lives and helped us remember our mission days. We hold you in our prayers as you move to follow the great commandment."

- Ann Janzen, Brooks-Howell Resident

I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE HERE AS AN INTERN. HAVING DINNER WITH THE RESIDENTS AND HEARING THEIR STORIES MADE AN IMPACT ON MY SUMMER EXPERIENCE. ~JESSICA

NEW DIRECTOR FOR OUR COMMUNITY GROWTH

I want to thank the residents, staff and community members who have welcomed me so warmly to Brooks-Howell Home. I have been hired as the Director of Marketing and will also coordinate enrollment for independent living. This position is near and dear to my heart as my father has served residents at Brooks-Howell for many years as an attorney and has also served on the Advisory Board. As a child, I grew up tagging along behind him here and also sitting among deaconesses and missionaries at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Asheville. In my adulthood, I discerned my own call to the order of deaconess. I was commissioned in 2009 after being mentored by many BHH residents. I'm delighted to say that working in this position feels like I'm "coming home."

One very important lesson I have learned in marketing, both in the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, is the value of relationships. Anyone can stand at a table and hand out a brochure. It is the personal connection we develop with others, however, that makes the biggest impact on how people value our organization.

One of the "selling points" of Brooks-Howell is the commitment to community among residents and staff. I continue to be moved by the stories I hear and observations I make, whether it's visiting in the halls, conversing around a dining table, or enjoying the beautiful campus. One of my goals is to create avenues to share those stories so friends, families, churches, and visitors understand the spirit of the place.

I have taken a cue from the active residents here and have jumped right into scheduling tours, attending United Methodist Women events, and meeting with community professionals. Making the opportunity to talk with groups in person serves to strengthen our connections locally, nationally and internationally. It keeps me busy, but I find that word of mouth and stories from the heart have served us well.

So how can you support the new marketing efforts?

- Share the Brooks-Howell story – If needed, we can provide talking points for a short "Mission Moment" and display for an event, such as UMW Sunday.
- Share your story - How has Brooks-Howell touched your life, and who might want to hear about it? Your church? Your UMW circle? Your active service/mission personnel? Your annual conference?

I am delighted to assist you in any way I can as you help us connect new people with our home. Please do not hesitate to contact me at ckempson@brookshowell.org.

- Peace and grace be with you, Cameron



Cameron began her work as the Director of Marketing at Brooks-Howell the beginning of July. Cameron is a native of Asheville, NC and a lifelong United Methodist. She was commissioned as a Deaconess in 2006. She and her daughter live on their suburban farm south of Asheville. Welcome Cameron!

BEYOND THE GATE: NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Sidewalk Cleaning Walking along the north sidewalk on Hillside Street has been a hazard to the neighborhood. There is much debris from trees including walnuts. One Brooks-Howell resident incurred a nasty fall while walking. One day I noticed that a small part of the walk had been cleaned. Later I happened upon the good person who was cleaning it at the request of her housemates. She was assigned to clean the walk. I engaged her in conversation. Lucinda does not know the owner of the house where the sidewalk is located but was cleaning the walk very well. I thanked her and she told me she is a veteran and is planning to relocate to Tampa, Florida. Lucinda has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education but has been unable to find a job in Asheville. I wished her well with her move and took a picture to share with you.



Fresh Flowers Brighten the Chapel and Rooms Trader Joe's is a grocery store in our neighborhood who has generously shared with Brooks-Howell the fresh flowers which did not sell. We receive those flowers once or twice a week. Trader Joe's manager declined an interview about this practice saying they do this to make people happy and not for the accolades. Brooks-Howell residents enjoy having the fresh flowers for the chapel altar each week. Thanks to Marilyn Benson for arranging them so nicely. Residents are also invited to take the flowers to their homes. Many times they are also used to greet guests and new deaconess and home missioner candidates. Thank you Trader Joe's for your gift of happiness from all Brooks-Howell residents.

- Marcia Knight, Brooks-Howell Resident

UMC NEWS: WESPATH New Name

Effective this past July the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church has been renamed "Wespath Benefits and Investments." The people and services will continue to support retirement, health and welfare plans, and manage investment funds. Wespath will continue "caring for those who serve" from its office in Glenview, Illinois.

UMW NEWS: UMW READING PROGRAM REVIEW

Summitt, Pat with Sally Jenkins *Sum It Up: 1,098 Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and a Life in Perspective.* (Three Rivers Press, 2013) Illustrated. Category: Leadership Development.

Pat Summitt renowned basketball coach of the Lady Vols, died June, 2016 after several years of battling early onset Alzheimer's disease. It is an autobiography penned with Sally Jenkins, and is on the United Methodist Women 2015 book shelf in the library. It is a well-written and interesting account of the life and career of a great coach and a remarkable human being. Don't miss it!

- Jayne Smith, Brooks-Howell Resident



MEETING THE FOLKS THAT MAKE IT HOME

A FINE, LONG FRIENDSHIP. . . KEVIN SMITH AND DAVID CARTER

When I first moved to Brooks-Howell (BHH), I kept seeing two guys working on housekeeping tasks so closely together, I never could tell which one was Kevin and which was David. I just called them “the Bobbsey twins”. After living here awhile, I finally began to recognize them separately: Kevin Smith (born in 1959 to Lois and Junior Smith) and David Carter (born in 1960 to Hobart and Barbara Carter).

Both came from Haywood County, attended school together, became friends in seventh grade, graduated together from Pisgah High School, and in college learned together to wire houses for electricity. They both played guitar and organized a band during and after high school. Both learned to do magic, and David became an Elvis impersonator. They entertained together locally in schools and special events, and David took the show throughout the southeastern United States. (Both have entertained at Brooks-Howell Christmas shows, where the residents enthusiastically applauded their work!)

David came to Brooks-Howell by way of his sister, sm LPN at BHH, said, “Brooks-Howell is a good place to work, and they need help in housekeeping.” Kevin went with her and was hired immediately. A year later, David followed Kevin. That was thirty years ago, and they’re still here in the same department!

Asked how they spend their time, Kevin says he once followed professional football, professional baseball, and college basketball, “But now I spend my time doing what I want to do, not watching TV.” David says he enjoys studying magic through books and videos. They both love travel and cruises, and they both enjoy Dollywood. They express goals of living life to the fullest.

When asked what they thought people might like to know about them. After a long silence they both gave answers. They have both been very healthy all their lives; they are handymen; they are both good at dealing with computers; they come up with good solutions to problems because “we talk stuff out to find the answers.”

When asked about the work here, David chuckles. “Thelma McGraw (former BHH administrator) hired us, but Jean Morgan (a long-time resident here) always says she hired us. She was our boss, the head of housekeeping then.”

Kevin adds, “We love it here. We build relationships, like one big family. It’s a good place to work.”

David adds, “You know, Kevin and I might disagree once in a while, but not often. If an outsider heard us talkin’, they’d think we’re fussin’. But we’re not, we’re just pickin’ at each other.”

Kevin Smith and David Carter have a fine, long friendship. The casual observer recognizes that it will not likely end as long as the “Bobbsey twins” live ... And who knows – maybe even longer than that!

- A. Gail Hipkins, Brooks-Howell Resident

LEAVES OF AUTUMN

Bright leaves of autumn drift to the ground
Easily falling with hardly a sound,
All in colors of russet and gold –
Once more the glories of nature unfold!
Bright green and scarlet against the blue;
Sunshine and shadow filtering through,
Who could create such leafy design,
In color and form so perfect and fine?
This by an artist would take too long,
God works through Nature, in color and song.
Beauty of earth that lovelier grows
Teach me the lesson that autumn bestows,
First came the bud, locked tight in the cold
Now is the leaf with its story all told.
It has come forth through sunlight and shower.
Making earth glorious hour by hour.
Soon all the leaves must fall one by one;
Forgotten are they – their life is done.
But birth comes anew when springtime appears
And only the glory and glow of the years
Remain in the memory of all who see –
This is the story of each leafy tree!
So may we beautiful grow in the light
On to fulfillment in that which is right;
Richer in virtues of heaven above;
Clearer our colors – greater our love.

- Helen Louise Fuller

Editor's Note: When I was in high school in Ithaca, New York, Helen was a faithful member of First Methodist Church though limited to a wheelchair. She was carried up and down the many steps in the front of the church by a team of men ready for the task each Sunday.

- Art Swarthout

IN MEMORIAM COY ELIZABETH PAYNE HOWE (1925 - 2016)



Coy decided to be a missionary when, at age five, she heard a missionary speaker from China. She pursued that dream through college and a master's degree in parasitology with intent of working with parasitic diseases in the mission field. World War II interrupted and soon afterwards she was reacquainted and married a childhood friend, John Howe.

Coy could not become a home missionary in 1958 when John was commissioned because the church did not accept married women in the home field at that time. She kept busy however launching the four children, helping as needed in the children's homes, and for five years, working in the Nebraska prison system. She applied to be a home missionary shortly before the family moved back to Council Bluffs and so, in the same church where she had decided for mission service 45 years earlier.

Coy's years of service were in Christian education: (1) in local United Methodist churches, and (2) ecumenically and community wide, with mentally handicapped adults. She has written United Methodist curriculum resources, and other church publications. For many years Coy has sought deeper understanding of the work and place of the Holy Spirit in our lives. A highlight of this study was three years at Creighton, a Jesuit University in Omaha, Nebraska.

Coy served as facilitator of spiritual renewal on the first leadership team of the National Association of Deaconesses and Home Missionaries. In that role she conceived the idea of going about meeting as many deaconesses and home missionaries as possible. She and John took six months in 1991 to travel 26,000 miles and to visit 80 wonderful folks in North Central and Western Jurisdictions. She had hoped one day to be able to complete the circuit.

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IN MEMORIAM BETTY RUTH GOODE (1926 - 2016)



In the chapel service at Brooks-Howell on Thursday, August 11, 2016, Betty Ruth was remembered and honored. She came to Brooks-Howell in 2015 after living in Florida with her sister. Here we share a few selected excerpts from a message Betty Ruth shared on May 9, 1999 with other persons in Christian mission:

"As I entered college in Tallahassee I did not know what I was going to be afterward. Fortunately for me there was a Methodist Student House on campus, staffed by a wise, energetic deaconess whom God used to help me grow. With her there was always something more to stretch toward, to learn, to do, to achieve. To direct my paths God also used another deaconess, Granddaddy Porter's youngest sister, my great aunt Caroline. I knew about her, but she was way off in California. She invited me to spend one of my college summers with her in San Pedro, California where she was the director of Homer Toberman Settlement House, a project of what was then the Woman's Division of Christian Service. What I found there so intrigued me that I knew I, too, wanted to be a settlement house worker. I studied to become a social worker, and committed that skill to God as a deaconess.

8

When I was commissioned a deaconess, I was back at Toberman working full time. Shortly after my return from the commissioning service a teenager in one of my club groups told me she had read about it in the paper. "Congratulations!" she said: "What is it?"

One of my deaconess appointments involved visiting college campuses across the country to talk with young people about the opportunities for service within the church, especially focusing on deaconesses. Part of the story was letting the students know a deaconess as a human being.

On one campus where I stayed a week, I went roller skating with a group. Before I left that campus one of the young men told me his image of a deaconess was still one of high topped shoes. My heart sank until he continued, "but these shoes are white, and they have wheels!"

At Toberman, located in the harbor of Los Angeles, the doors are open to everyone in the community. During my years there we had members representing over 30 different nationality backgrounds, mainly Yugoslav, Scandinavian and Mexican. It was a real thrill to work in such a setting, and a real growing experience.

I began working mainly with junior high girls and was very distressed over Mary Ann, a teenager who had come to Toberman since childhood, who had definite leadership ability but who through her emotional upsets made life difficult for several folks, including me. It was rewarding to observe her development and growing maturity, and when she was a senior I supervised her leadership of a group of grade school girls. As a poised college student she said, "Because the Settlement is here, I'm a child who had a chance. Today she's a skilled teacher in a California community.

I was privileged to work in two other centers, Centenary in Tennessee, which today is part of Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, and Moore Community House in Biloxi, Mississippi, where you continue to help provide invaluable daycare service for young children while parents work or study to learn a skill to enable them to support the family. While I was there we had the joy of welcoming the first Vietnamese child into daycare.

As you make your gifts to missions in the months ahead I hope you'll keep your kaleidoscopes at hand and visualize some of the individuals and groups you are helping. Remember the story of the men at work who were asked what they were doing? One said he was laying bricks, other mentioned various mundane tasks, and one said, I'm building a cathedral! What are you doing? You're helping change lives!

Before her retirement, Betty served in the mission program office in New York as administrative assistant.

In her talk, Betty quoted a wise one who said, "You say the little efforts that I make will do no good. They never will prevail to tip the hovering scales where justice hangs in balance. I don't suppose I ever thought they would. But I am prejudiced beyond debate to choose which side shall feel the stubborn ounces of my weight."

"I sought to hear the voice of God, and climbed the topmost steeple. But God declared: 'Go down again, I dwell among the people.' "

RAMBLINGS ABOUT THIS AND THAT FROM HERE & THERE

What a blessing! The Brooks-Howell weekly chapel service on Thursday afternoons at 3:15 is so often the highlight of our community life each week. Martha Strunk and the choir are talented leaders of our music. We are inspired when Patty Higgins is at the organ and piano. And how special to listen to prayers to God on our behalf offered by Alycia Johnson, our chaplain – and her creative messages for us!

And my, what appears on the screen with beauty and clarity – with the sound system that so many of us need – all from skilled creators and projectionists. The symbolism and beauty of the altar area speak in a quiet way to our hearts and minds. Thank you, thank you to all who contribute to our worship! –

- Betty and Art Swarthout, Editors
Brooks-Howell Residents

OUR NEW LOGO

The residents, staff and Advisory Board have agreed it is time we update the Brook-Howell branding and logo. Suggestions included:

- Removing “Home” from branding (but not from our official organizational name) because it makes people think of “going to the home.” Instead, we will refer to ourselves as a “community” or as “Brooks-Howell.”
- We wanted a logo that could be affiliated both the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women but would create a unique symbol for Brooks-Howell. The variation of red in the flame indicates we are a community of diversity.
- Using a new font with a contemporary format selected to indicate that our community is “young at heart” and current in social-cultural awareness
- Including of a tagline so people learn about who we are at a glance; inserting our “called, served, serving still” as a part of the tagline
- Apply color to the “Brooks-Howell” title so it draws attention to our name

The logo was reviewed, discussed and approved by our Residents’ Council and Advisory Board, including our NY Office UMW representatives. We’re excited about our new look. Next on our list—updating our website!





September

Residents

- 6 Barbara Campbell
- 13 Fletcher Anderson
- 21 Linda Page

Employees

- 1 Stuart Bryan
- 13 Christy Kachline
- 13 Linda Hemstreet
- 15 Marilia Trevisani
- 20 Todd Brigman

October

Residents

- 3 Helen Finley
- 4 Girtha Morrow
- 7 Alice Adams
- 8 Jack Smith
- 8 Denise Palas
- 13 Virginia Miller
- 21 Mary Z. Longstreth
- 22 Beverly Reddick
- 23 Greg Bieksha
- 29 Sarah Bowden
- 31 Eva Low

Employees

- 4 Rosemary Kelly
- 20 Shelia Robinson
- 21 Trironda Smith
- 28 Caretha Young

Some snapshots from our Summertime Ice Cream Social!



Employees: Nurse Freda, Carole, Tracey and our editors, Betty and Art



Mary Z and LeGrand

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

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(ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST)

SERENDIPITOR is a bimonthly
Newsletter from the Home owned
and operated by the United
Methodist Women.

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

Our Next Issue: November/December
Deadline for Copy: Monday, October 17

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

September 10 – Annual WNC Conference Mission Service at Lake Junaluska – Our active & retired deaconesses & missionaries are honored guests.

September 20 – UNCA and MAHEC Healthcare Innovations Collaborative with Brooks-Howell begins; this new project partners the medical engineering students from UNCA, training from Mountain Area Health Education Center, and residents from Brooks-Howell to develop adaptive equipment for mobility that is more streamlined and easier to use

September 21 – Parade of Peace in recognition of the Day of Peace

September 27 – Visit from Oak Forest UMW

October 5 – State Fair Day—come join us celebrate our own State Fair here at Brooks-Howell; we'll be having a special lunch then games and activities in the chapel at 3:00pm

October 15 – Ubuntu Day of Service – sponsored by the WNC Conference UMW—Women from all over Western North Carolina will join us from 9am-2pm to assist us with landscaping and other activities of service

October 19 – New Resident Reception