

[Type here]

SERENDIPITOR

The Life & Times at Brooks-Howell Home
Volume 1, Issue 4 NEWSLETTER July/August, 2016

THOUGHTS FROM MOTHER TERESA

We will never know how much just a simple smile
will do.

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin.

Like Jesus, we belong to the whole world, living
Not for ourselves but for others. The joy of the
Lord is our strength.

There are many people who can do big things,
but there are very few people who will do the
little things.

I must be willing to give whatever it takes to do
good to others. This requires that I be willing
to give until it hurts. Otherwise, there is no truth
in me and I bring injustice, not peace, to those
around me.

May God give back to you in love all the love you
have given and all the joy and peace you have
sown around you, all over the world.

- Selected from "In the Heart of the World:
Thoughts, Stories and Prayers", New
World Library, 1997



GENERAL CONFERENCE

United Methodist Women submitted
petitions regarding social policy and
structure. Of special note here is
General Conference action which made
the "office" of deaconess and home
missioner" the "Order of Deaconess
And Home Missioner" in The United
Methodist Church.

- Barbara E. Campbell

BOLD NEW GOALS for 2017-2020

- Make a million new disciples of Jesus
- Engage 3 million new people to make
a difference in the world
- Transform 400 communities for vital
abundant living
- Reach a million children with life-
giving health interventions
- Double the number of vital
congregations

- Betty L. Letzig

See page 3 and 4 for further details of
the General Conference in Portland,
Oregon, reported by Barbara E. Campbell
and Betty J. Letzig from their attendance
at the sessions.

[Type here]

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It has been another gorgeous spring at Brooks-Howell Home. The community is beautiful with all the flowering plants and trees. I have enjoyed the opportunities to walk outside, to see the flowers, hear the birds, and talk with the residents.

We have several property improvement projects in the works. They include: The mural in the dining room being repainted; automatic door openers being installed on the Activities Building and the restrooms doors near the Chapel; a retractable awning being installed outside the BTU Lounge and screens installed on the doors; the pool receiving some much needed repairs; sidewalk lights installed in the Village; outside pressure washing and painting being started; the driveway and parking lots being patched; and the speed limit reduced to 10 mph and one-way signs posted in the front driveway.

Perhaps the most exciting news is that we have hired Cameron Kempson as our Director of Marketing. She is a UMW Deaconess and will be starting on July 5th. Cameron lives in Asheville and has been visiting Brooks-Howell since she was a little girl. She knows and is well-known by several of our residents and is well known by many in the local United Methodist community. We are looking forward to her starting and helping to share the benefits and joys of living in Brooks-Howell Home with other like-minded people.

I continue to look forward to working with all the residents and staff in developing relationships and improving the services and appearance of Brooks-Howell Home.

Blessings to all. - Brewier Welch

NEW STAFF WHO MAKE IT "HOME"

Dietary: Tameika Featherstone

Environmental Services: Christian Littlejohn, Lonnie Morris

Maintenance: Rocky Owenby

Nursing: Tara Cole, Brittany Edwards

- Rebecca Brawn, Director Human Resources



[Type here]

United Methodist Women Outreach Evident

This was the Daily Christian Advocate (DCA) headline on United Methodist Women's Day at General Conference, May 16th. The highlight for many was the Consecration Service for deaconesses and home missionaries in the opening worship using the theme "As You Go, Call All" based on Matthew 22:1-4.

The Martin College Chamber Choir (Pulaski, TN) sang before the Call to Worship and Processional Hymn. Bishop Cynthia Fiero Harvey was the morning preacher, and with Bishops Rosemary Wenner (Germany) and Pedro Torio, Jr. (Philippines) performed the consecration.

Assisting were Gary Locklear (delegate/home missionary), Emma Cantor (president of DIAKONIA – Asia Pacific), Clara Ester (delegate/deaconess), Dr. Cristina N. Manabat (president of Harria College, Manila); and Harriet Olson (General Secretary of United Methodist Women.) National president Yvette Richards participated in the Call to Worship.

Twenty-six (26) Deaconesses and Home Missioners were consecrated including three from the Philippines. Several had resided at Brooks-Howell while attending required courses; and Halina Mui is the United Methodist Women national office liaison with the Brooks-Howell Advisory Board. About twenty (20) Deaconesses and Home Missioners were present as visitors.

The day following the consecration, a two-page descriptive article and list of those consecrated were published in the DCA.

Public Witness

During the noon hour United Methodist Women co-sponsored a "Public Witness" with area environmental groups on the theme "Don't Poison Our Water." Held in a large park across from the Convention Center 200-300 persons heard presentations related to the water crisis around the world, sang, waved posters, chanted slogans and enjoyed healthful snacks. The Witness was in support of petitions before the Conference.

At precisely 3:53 pm there was a seven-minute visual/musical presentation celebrating United Methodist Women's legacy of 150 years serving women, children and youth. (The presentation was carefully timed 6 minutes and 59 seconds to avoid overtime cutoff) Immediately following the presentation directors and staff greeted visitors and volunteers. Throughout the Conference persons enjoyed the multi-media Display and Lounge in the Exhibit Hall staffed by United Methodist Women volunteers. Betty J. Letzig and I enjoyed good fellowship as we greeted visitors and distributed resources at the Display on two afternoons.

- Barbara E. Campbell

[Type here]

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GENERAL CONFERENCE

THEREFORE GO was the theme for the Conference with all of the worship services built around it. The services were highly participatory as we sang new tunes for well-known words, new words for well-known hymn tunes and new music that emphasized how United Methodism encircles the world. The messages from our bishops during the morning worship services challenged us to stay humble, learn mercy, serve others and be the church that Christ wants us to be. They strongly emphasized the necessity of our staying united despite our theological differences.

WE CELEBRATED: the 20th Anniversary of the Order of Deacons; the 25th Anniversary of Africa University; the 30th Anniversary of Disciple Bible Study; the 60th Anniversary of the ordination of women; the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women; the 200th Anniversary of the death of Francis Asbury; and the 250th Anniversary of John Street United Methodist Church in New York City, the oldest Methodist congregation in the United States.

A **CONSECRATION SERVICE** for 26 Deaconesses, including 3 from the Philippines, and 1 Home Missioner and a **COMMISSIONING SERVICE** for 25 missionaries from 11 countries were held at two separate worship services and are believed to be the first time at a General Conference for such recognition of persons serving in mission.

The **IMAGINE NO MALARIA FUND** launched in 2008 has raised \$68m of their \$75M goal. Building on the learnings from that program, the General Board of Global Ministries is expanding the focus of a new program: “Abundant Health: Our Promise to Children” with a pledge of: by 2020 to reach 1 million children with life-saving interventions including: Promote Breast feeding and Nutrition; Ensure Safe Births; Prevent Priority Childhood Illnesses; Provide Treatment and Lifesaving Commodities; and Encourage Treatment for Childhood Illnesses. Pilot projects will begin in the US (especially focused on childhood obesity), Haiti, Liberia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique.

A **NEW HYMNAL** – the first since 1989 – will be Internet-cloud based and print-on-demand - the first high-tech hymnal for a mainline denomination. It will have a core, but individual congregations will be able to add whatever best suits their style of worship. A fifteen member Hymnal Revision Committee was authorized.

UMCOR SUNDAY the new name for the former One Great Hour of Sharing.

BUDGET FOR 2017-2020. The budget adopted of \$604 Million, approximately \$1M more than the budget for the present quadrennium. \$10 Million of the increase is designated for the Central Conference Theological Education Fund for the training of pastors and other church professionals in Africa, Europe and The Philippines, where our church is growing the fastest. – Betty L. Letzig

[Type here]

IN MEMORIAM LOIS BIDDLE MOHANSINGH (1923 - 2016)



I was born in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania and never considered being anything other than a missionary to China until India was laid on my heart in 1947. When the Great Depression forced us to move to the farm in 1932, it was preparation for living in Indian villages. Graduation from Lock Haven State College was a step toward that goal. In 1948, having been accepted by the Mission Board, I learned that my grandmother had been praying for twenty-five years that a missionary would go out from our church.

The first term of service (1948-1954) was spent in Ingraham Institute, Ghaziabd, India, helping to extend their vocational training for Christians out to the villages and down to a residential school for primary age children. I helped train teachers and also completed the language study program with three Hindi exams. In 1955 I earned a master's degree in Rural Sociology at Cornell University. From 1955 to 1961 I served as supervisor of women's work and village mission primary schools in rural Bulandshahr and several other districts of Agra Conference, opened a residential school for illiterate wives of some of our teachers and preachers, with emphasis on Christ life and faith, homecraft, and mothercraft in addition to literacy. I came to the villages as often as possible.

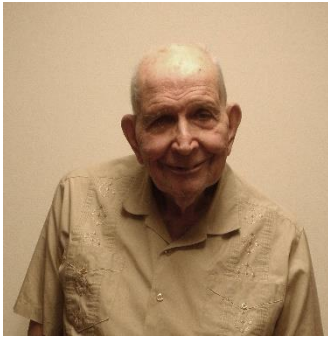
In 1963, on return from furlough, I married the Rev. Samuel Mohansingh and continued the district supervisor work in Hissar with him until we came to the USA in 1965 for study at Asbury Seminary. In 1966 I received my degree in religious education ten days before our son Timothy was born. Unable to return to India immediately, we served a rural charge in Central Pennsylvania Conference for two years before moving to Atlanta for study at Emory University. We learned that Timothy had been born with hemophilia. Working at the University Medical library made it possible for me to visit him easily when frequent bleeding sent him to the campus hospital.

In 1974 Samuel finished the work for his PhD and was offered a position at Leonard Theological School in Jabalpur, India. We were assured of medical care for Timothy. A church in Douglas, Georgia assumed salary support for us through the GBGM program for nationals serving in their own country. In faith we flew to India. While at Leonard I taught in the women's school. In 1976 we moved to Allahabad Bible Seminary where I taught English. But providing for Timothy was impossible. In June, 1977, we returned to the USA and accepted a charge in Central Pennsylvania Conference moving only three times before retirement. I was a pastor's wife but I never felt that I had left the mission field. Mission education was sorely lacking in the churches. I taught mission studies, and was active in United Methodist Women. Timothy graduated with two engineering degrees in 1990 but his fight for life ended in 1994.

In 1996 we retired to Williamsburg but soon found ourselves involved in the program of my home church. I accepted the challenge to revitalize the library and create a costume closet for dramas, eventually even writing the dramas and skits. Grandma's missionary had gone out from the church in answer to her prayers. God had used this missionary in many places. But now it seemed to be time to rest. We moved to Brooks-Howell in November, 2002.

[Type here]

Gordon "Fletcher" Anderson New Resident No Longer Living For Self



Fletcher Anderson, missionary to Latin America (most recently in Cuba), came to live at Brooks-Howell Home in April, 2016. His motto is II Corinthians 5:15, "And He died for all so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died and was raised for them." (NRSV) He has lived that motto through most of his 85 years.

Fletcher was born in Washington, DC to Gordon Fletcher Anderson Sr. (a civil engineer), and Lessie Bledsoe Anderson on September 13, 1931. His father lost his health soon afterwards, and the family moved to Tampa, FL, where his mother rented rooms to get by financially. One of Fletcher's earliest memories is seeing his mother bending over the bathtub washing sheets by hand on an old washboard.

After Fletcher graduated high school in Tampa, he went to Asbury College in Wilmore, KY, where he graduated with an A.B. degree in 1950. He then received a M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1953, and finally a MS of Sacred Theology from the Union Seminary of NY in 1961.

Fletcher says, "Under the influence of Asbury, I made the decision to do missionary work outside the US. Almost immediately after graduation, I went to Argentina through the LA3 program of The Methodist Church. I went for three years and remained for five, doing pastoral work in English and Spanish in Rosario and later Cardoba. While in Argentina, I met my wife, Ada Maria Cignoni, who was a social worker and a deaconess in charge of the children's home in Rosario. She was assigned to my parish, which is how we met. We were married just before we left Argentina. Ada's motto was II Corinthians 5:15, and Fletcher soon adopted it as well.

After studying for a year in NY, Fletcher and Ada were assigned as a missionary couple to Peru. He did pastoral work in Chincha Alta, while she founded a day school and did social work in the community. By the time they left in 1966, the school had about 150 students. One of them, five-year old Juan, had stolen their hearts. They became his foster parents and took him with them when they left to go back to Argentina. He lived with them for about ten years there. (Today that son has children and grandchildren of his own, and Fletcher has subsidized their education; he still visits the family in Peru whenever he can.) While Fletcher and Ada had no other children, they loved all the children they served as their own.

When they returned to Argentina, they worked under the national church because Ada did not want to live in a privileged position with reference to the pastors with whom she had studied. She became a teacher and then principal of a Methodist school in Buenos Aires. Their son Juan graduated from an industrial high school where he learned to be a machinist. He still practices that trade today.

[Type here]

Fletcher pastored in English and Spanish at the First Methodist Church of Buenos Aires. He was considered the first pastor of the Spanish language church in the modern era, working on the growing edge of evangelism. In 1974, Fletcher and Ada began serving five churches in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires, and Ada was caring for her aged parents. They both died before the couple returned to the US.

In 1978, Fletcher and Ada went to Florida to be near his ailing father. Although his father died in 1979, they continued to serve pastorates in Monroe, Dade and Broward counties until 1988. Ada finished her studies and was ordained by the Florida Conference in 1984. For many years she taught in the Women's Division School of Missions in both Spanish and English. In 1988, they were invited to return to service by the General Board of Global Ministries. They served for eight years as theology teachers in the John Wesley Seminary of Monterey, Nueva Leon, in Mexico. In 1992 Ada was diagnosed with hepatitis C. They both continued to teach and travel but finally retired from GBGM and the Florida Conference in December, 1996. Ada died on Good Friday, 1997.

After Ada's death, Fletcher continued to follow his motto to no longer live for himself but for Christ. He was invited to teach theology in Cuba, where he worked from 1999 until 2016, first in the Ecumenical Seminary in Matanzas, then in the Methodist Seminary in Havana.

With the political situation between US and Cuba, people are often shocked that Fletcher was free to work there. "Oh, I made very sure that I received all of the required paperwork from both US and Cuba before I left," he said, "and after I got there, I never went to the US administrative desk in the Swiss Embassy. I wanted to make it clear that I was there to serve the church and the people, and not the government."

Fletcher came to live at Brooks-Howell Home when he left Cuba because of "physical frailties". He enjoys reading, watching baseball, and resting. But he is always available when called on to teach Wesleyan theology or to discuss missions, especially in Cuba and other parts of Latin America. He always remembers his motto that "...those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died and was raised for them". – Interview by Gail Hipkins

ALTO AND BASS FLUTE CONCERT

Who ever heard of it? The residents of Brooks-Howell Home were treated to a fantastic array of music from 17 performers on flutes in a concert on Saturday, June 4th in the Chapel.

This group included persons from 10 different states. We assumed they must be on tour. Surprise! It turned out they were attending a workshop led by a world renowned flutist, Dr. Chris Potter. This was their one recital! We were blessed right at Home!

[Type here]

BEYOND THE GATE



Brooks-Howell is located in the Five Points Neighborhood of Asheville. There are many interesting people in the neighborhood. This article introduces you to Carlos Vera. When you visit Brooks-Howell take a drive down Hillside Street from Merrimon to Mount Clare and look to your left. You will spot a very interesting bungalow house painted orange and applied with a variety of paintings. The house and paintings are his creations.

It was a privilege to interview Carlos for this article. We met at his home which he sees as a blank canvas where he can have fun with paintings large enough for him to get inside the environment while painting. You anticipate seeing something interesting and new every time you pass by. Most of the time we are amazed and curious but always in awe of the creative genius.

Who is this person? How did he come to Asheville? Inquiring minds want to know. Carlos came to Asheville from Los Angeles 8 years ago. Most of his adult life was gypsy-like, following Art Festivals in the United States and Europe. These festivals feature visual artists performing by creating fast art in the midst of carnival acts, or musicians, or dancers. The artist's work together, creating the thematic installations prior to the festival event. Later, concept design for films gave him a different artistic experience which he enjoyed for 3 years.

Carlos was born in California and moved with his family to Mexico. As a child he was curious about art while watching his father, also an artist, and experimenting with his father's tools to create his own technique. His first official painting was at age 10. Even as a free-spirit, Carlos spent one year at the Boston School of Fine Art. He found himself creating more art on his own than in the school so he moved on. He spent 2 years in New York painting murals. He lived one year in Kentucky waiting tables and re-evaluating before returning to California to work in the film industry.

While in Boston, Carlos had met a kindred spirit who had created a not-for-profit called Boston Artists for Humanity Youth Project. He envisioned such an organization for California and spent a few days in Boston learning more about the program. He missed a flight to New York City on September 11, 2001, to spend a few more days in Boston learning about the program. That flight flew into the Twin Towers and greatly affected his future. California Artists for Humanity Youth Project became a passion which drained his personal financial resources but introduced 200 youth to their creative powers.

Carlos was looking for roots in a smaller city, close to nature, when he found Asheville. The house was a real fixer-upper but affordable. He embraced the challenge of rebuilding the dilapidated structure for shelter, home, and roots. The neighborhood has provided a community of like-minded progressive folks. He has cared for both of his parents during their health challenges: both are doing well and living here now. Sarah, his soul-mate, joined him. They are now married and very happy with their choice to stake their claim in Asheville. Thank you, Carlos, for sharing your story with us. - Marsha Knight

[Type here]

UMW 2016 READING PROGRAM REVIEWS

Spahn, Brenda and Irene Zutell

Miss Brenda and the Loveladies

Category: Nurturing for Community

Miss Brenda and the Loveladies tells the story of Brenda Spahn's welcoming 7 ex-convicts into her home and into her heart as she helps them learn to navigate the alien world of life outside of prison. This first year of Brenda's "Whole Way House" eventually becomes the Lovelady Center, the largest and most successful nonprofit transitional center for women in the country.

You will not be able to put this book down! Enjoy!

- Jayne Smith

Phillips, Linda Vigen

Crazy (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014)

Category: Nurturing for Community

A poetic novel based on the author's teen-age experiences growing up in a family with mental health issues. Even though much progress has been made both in understanding and treating the problem during the half-century since the novel's 1960 setting, the author hopes her work will further advance public and private acceptance of mental health as a medical problem, especially with regard to open acknowledgement and discussion.

- Jayne Smith

Yoasafzai, Malala

I am Malala, The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot by the Taliban (Little, Brown and Co., 2013, Paperback, 330 pp, color photos.

Category: Leadership Development

Malala is a winner of the Nobel Peace prize in 2014, the youngest person ever nominated. In October, 2012, she was targeted by the Taliban military group in Pakistan and shot in the head as she was returning from school on a bus. She miraculously survived and continues today her campaign for education. She spoke to the United Nations in New York on her sixteenth birthday in July, 2013.

Beautiful memoir worthy of your effort to read carefully and thoughtfully.

- Art Swarthout

Many local units of the United Methodist Women have these books and many others in their church library (including titles from past years that can be counted in your current reading).

The library at Brooks-Howell Home has nearly all the books in all the categories for all the most recent years, including the titles for children and youth.

Watch for more reviews in future issues of Serendipitor (or better yet, read a book and give us a review!)

+ + + B H H + + +

Brooks-Howell Book Club Since 2002, it meets the last Tuesday of each month on varied topics: NC authors, 1900 fiction, current historical fiction, non-fiction. The meetings consist of discussions, picnics, dinners out, guest authors, and guest speakers. Residents please join our group. See Sara Marshall or Don Thurman.

[Type here]

Ramblings About This and That From Here and There

Comings and Goings in the Health Units

We welcome the following persons to Brooks-Howell Home through the Outreach Ministry: Edwin Brown, Girtha Morrow, Peggy Phillips, Mae Fortner, Linda Page, Clara Muerdter and Donald Jones.

The following Outreach Ministry residents have passed away: Faye Glover, Alberta Gravatt and Yevonne Sparks.

This year is the 200th Anniversary of the death of Francis Asbury, the pioneering bishop in America who was ordained and consecrated in Baltimore at the famous Christmas conference of 1784 held in the Lovely Lane Meeting House. Asbury died on his way to General Conference in 1816, was buried in Virginia, then moved to a tomb in one of the Baltimore churches, and finally to Mt. Olivet Cemetery thus making him "itinerant even in death."

DENA TYSON has recently been informed that the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women published in their 2014 Journal in her honor. She received a copy. Congratulations!

In our continuing effort to provide for your convenience and safety, we have insulated coffee Airpots in the dining room. These Airpots have a cover to prevent spills and possible burns should you choose to use them. However, we encourage to take advantage of the table side coffee service provided by our Dining Room Staff.

Art Swarthout was recently elected as a member of the Board of the Emeritus Club at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV. His first meeting will be in October, 2016.

For all that's hidden from the hasty, thank you, O Creator. Teach us how to see and appreciate what is reserved only for us when we are quietly aware. Forgive us for the times we have missed your direction, in our rush to live and serve. Amen.

The greatest of all elections took place many years ago when God elected to send His Son into the world that each of us might have life and have it more abundantly. He elected the way of the Cross.

A reader lives a thousand lives before she dies.
The woman who never reads lives only one.

- George Martin

[Type here]



July

Residents

1 Juanita Hill
4 Donald Turman
9 Deborah Pittman
13 James Hipkins
20 Joseph Boaz
24 Carol Greenspan
30 Legrand Smith

Employees

1 Tat'yana Demets
1 Crystal Reems
2 Mike Walker
8 Nina Knighten
10 Donna Anderson
13 Mary Beth Owens
26 Lonnie Morris
29 Jeania Fisher
30 Kim Miller
30 Jennifer Owens

August

Residents

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

Employees

4 Shellie Constantine
5 Kevin James Smith
7 Jill Banyai
8 Karen MacNeil
8 Nadiya Marrengulye
12 Aileen Mangum
18 Tara Cole
19 Anna Sheley
22 Irina Antyufeyeva
26 Sara Penley
31 Melissa Harper

[Type here]

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

U. S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 396 Non-Profit Asheville, N.C.

(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: September/October
Deadline for Copy: Monday, August 15th

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Monday, July 18 – 4th and final part of the series “How to Prepare for Your Future” –“Estates and Executors” with Lawyers Barry Kempson and B.J. Kilgore

Wednesday, August 17 – Annual Ice Cream Social and volunteer Appreciation

Several groups will be visiting Brooks-Howell in the month of August: Sierra-Leone Reunion, WNC Conference UMW Executive and Finance Team, and the Deaconess/Home Missioner Retirement Seminar.

Two youth organizations will be volunteering at Brooks-Howell this summer: They are the Young People in Mission event at Lake Junaluska through the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church (Wednesday, June 29) and the Student Life Mission Camp (July 26-28).

- Tracey Owen