



Brooks-Howell Home
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266 Merrimon Avenue
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Web-Site: <http://www.brooks-howell.org>
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*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

From Our Administrator--



Eighteen years ago while at a district United Methodist Women's meeting Jeannette Byrd, the social services director from Brooks-Howell Home, told me about a job at Brooks-Howell. I was not looking for a job because I worked for Beverly-Grant Contractors, a wonderful company with outstanding owners and staff.

When I arrived home that night, my husband reminded me that I had been praying for something different in my life, to which I said, "That is true but I didn't mean my job." After a lot of prayer, I came to Brooks-Howell and what would turn out to be one of the most rewarding parts of my life.

I have met people who made a difference in others' lives, including mine. I have grown in knowledge and in my faith because of my wonderful Brooks-Howell family. As a child I decided I was going to grow up and become a missionary. (Of course, getting married when I was very young and having four children prevented me from carrying out that plan.) My friend Esther Megill told me; "Maybe you can't be a missionary, but you are taking care of them, and that is a mission." With encouragement from Esther and many of these folks I became a Deaconess, which has been and will continue to be my calling. I hope always to be mindful of the poor, suffering, and mistreated.

Now it is time to say goodbye. I have decided to retire on December 31, 2015. My husband Rick retired from the U.S. Forest Service two years ago and has been patiently waiting for me to retire so we could enjoy life together.

I would like to say a special farewell to my children (a name I fondly call my residents). After my parents and Rick's parents passed away, I felt very alone and you filled the void I felt. I have grown older with you and grieved with you as we have said goodbye to members of our Brooks-Howell family when they moved to Heaven. It is hard to leave after eighteen years with you, and I will always love you and miss you. However, I will leave you in capable hands.

Among our losses recently were local community residents Kay Gaw, Marjorie Jamison, and Gladys Kiger.

We welcomed local community people Nancy Johnson, Betty Jones, and Harold Levine.

May God be with you,

Nancy Garrison

Executive Director/Administrator

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!

Sallie Burns is unemployed ?



The rumor is true. Sallie Burns, Director of Nursing at Brooks-Howell, is unemployed and beginning to enjoy retirement. Sallie was walking with her father at eight years old to enter the hospital and u n d e r g o a tonsillectomy. It was at that moment she decided she wanted to

be an operating nurse. Her determination never wavered as she married and had her family. In 1974, Sallie became a licensed practical nurse (LPN). It was 1990 when she completed her studies to be a licensed registered nurse (RN).

Sallie worked in surgery for 20 years. She was led to Brooks-Howell from a Director of Nursing position at another elder facility in Asheville by Eevie Bryan Edmonds, a good friend and Business Personnel Director of Brooks-Howell, who told her of the need of a Director of Nursing at Brooks-Howell. Sallie has always loved the elderly and feels honored to have served them and learned from their lives and stories of service. She also enjoyed teaching CNA classes for Asheville Technical College on Saturday mornings at Brooks-Howell. Some of those students became employed at Brooks-Howell and Sallie considers them the cream of the crop.

Asked about the most difficult part of her service at Brooks-Howell, Sallie related her sadness in watching the persons she knew as independent residents decline due to dementia and other physical conditions. She considers Brooks-Howell residents as family and respects their lives of service. Therefore, serving them was a privilege. Sallie's wishes for the staff are for them to continue to grow in their profession, with additional education as they choose and to continue to love the residents. She trusted her staff and thinks they will do well. She believes they will support Frieda Woody in her role as Director of Nursing. Sallie also wishes the staff well in adjusting to all the changes with the new telephone system and new computerized reporting

requirements. She knows they are up to the challenge. Sallie's hope for the residents is enjoyment of their lives to the fullest, even as they move into need for more care. Her advice to independent residents is visit the health unit, find out all they can, and know what to expect in terms of care for their future.

On September 18 Red Hats and Purple were plentiful in the activities building at Brooks-Howell as people gathered to see if the rumor was true that Sallie Burns will soon be unemployed. Sallie greeted everyone with her great smile, white dress, and purple boa.

The room was crowded with well wishers, abundant food offerings including a master creation of a Red Hat Cake. Everyone was smiling and greeting each other as Sallie opened gifts and cards wishing her a satisfying retirement time.

—Marcia Knight

[Photo Mary Z. Longstreth]

Annual Library Book Sale

Each October the Brooks-Howell Library Book Sale offers residents, employees and friends just passing through the opportunity to purchase library overflows at bargain prices. It also is a time and place for socializing and sharing while looking at the books. The 2015 sale on October 12 and 13 provided \$260.00, to be used toward the purchase of 2016 United Methodist Women Reading Program books. Everyone may vote for books to be selected from the list displayed on the Miscellaneous Table in the library. The books are described in the Reading Program pamphlets on the same table. Of course we cannot afford to purchase all of them, so your choices will help us decide which ones to buy.

This year's sale changed location from the old Craft Room (now the therapy center) to Rooms 101 and 103. Room 101 housed sale books and 103 displayed give away books and magazines that were previously on tables in the downstairs hallway. It was a pleasure to occupy the light and airy newly decorated Room 101 and to be located on a frequent thoroughfare as folks came and went from lobby and dining room. Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's sale a success.

—Jayne Smith

Meet the 2015 New Residents

The Brooks-Howell Chapel is transformed for the annual reception of new residents. Tables are colorfully covered to receive pictures of our new residents' life photos. Balloons and refreshments complete the festive atmosphere. Brooks-Howell residents provide the hands of hospitality welcoming each one to the family. Welcome to Virginia Bradford, Ruth Clark, Jeanne Cosner, Patricia (Pat) Davis, Polly Dillon, Kay Gaw, Betty Ruth Goode, Phyllis Handy, Preston Hill, Nancy Johnson, Betty Jones, Harold Levine, Joyce Murtagh, Barbara Pontecorvo, and Yvonne Sparks. We are pleased to be enriched by your presence in our family at Brooks-Howell.

—Marcia Knight



New resident

Harold Levine

*Pauline (Polly) Dillon
greet's Nancy Johnson
(both new residents)*



[Photos: Mary Z Longstreth]

Employee Appreciation Day

October 21, 2015. The windows are dark. A scary skeleton sits at the cobweb-covered and spider-infested piano in the dining-room entrance. Excitement pervades the air. Twice as many people as usual enter the room to find it strewn with orange and black streamers and unusual Halloween decorations. The tables are graced with beautiful objects made by Carol Gilham, Assistant Administrator of Brooks-Howell Home (BHH). Sprinkled among the residents are staff members in clever costumes—a few unrecognizable. Today is Employee Appreciation Day!

Everyone enjoys an amazing meal under the direction of Susan Gerry, Manager of Dietary Services. Just the menu is intriguing; imagine how delicious the food is! The meal includes Grigot's Gruel, Monster Meatloaf, Bucket o' Bones, Voodoo Chicken and Waffles, Mash-Boo-Tators, Goblin Rice, Scarecrow's Corn, Scream Beans, Squeamish Squash, and Buttered Broomsticks. The salad bar holds Eye of Newt, Gillyweed Salad, Frightening Fruit, Stormy Shrimp Cocktail, Troll Salad, Petrified Cheese Log, Candy Corn Gelatin Mold, and Monster Mash. The desserts and treats? Pumpkin Pastie, Autumn Leaf Cookie with Pumpkin Dip, Witch's Purse, Licorice Wands, Bertie Botts Every Flavor Bean, Candy/Caramel Apples, and Fudge Fever. And, finally, drinks: Spot of Tea, Butter Beer, and Vampire Punch! Can you believe how full everyone is as they sit back to enjoy the program?

Susan first thanks her staff who worked for several days to prepare the feast. She is joined in resounding applause by those who enjoyed it. Then the following employees are honored by Nancy Garrison, Administrator, Carol Gilham, and Jackie Rio, Chairperson of the BHH Advisory Board: five-year awards to Joe Bruder, William Cowan, Kathleen Goldworthy, Crystal Reems, and Velia Valdez; ten-year awards to Jill Banyai, Sheila Freeman, Alice Luther, Caretha Young, Mike
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Employee Appreciation Day (Continued from p. 4)

Walker, and Charlene Wright; fifteen-year awards to Ellen Coles, Barbara Ingle, Annis Lytle, and Brenda Muse; thirty-year award to Kevin Smith; and thirty-five year awards to Sara Penley and Sallie Tipton. These long employee service records reveal their dedication to their jobs and to the BHH residents.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients and to all of the staff who work so hard to give the residents these great experience -- just one more reason why residents love life at Brooks-Howell Home!

–Gail Hipkins



Food



Waiter



Carol Gilham



Nancy Garrison and, Jackie Rio present certificates and checks.



(Back) Joe Bruder, William Cowen, Mike Walker , Latanya Lee, Devlyn O'Conner, Annis Lytle, Sheila Freeman, Caretha Young, Ellen Coles, Nancy Garrison

(Front) Sallie Tipton, Sara Penley, Kathleen Goldworthy, Christy Katchline, Velia Valdez, Charlene Wright, Jackie Rio

[Photos: Debbie Pittman]

I Remember —

His Mysterious Ways



February is the month of entrance examinations all over Japan. It often snows and even develops into a blizzard in the worse case, causing great predicaments for examinees. It was one such day in 1945, when I at

age twelve took an entrance examination for high school, my mother's alma mater and the most prestigious in the prefecture. To my dismay, I failed. In fact, the result was only to be expected. Just two months before, I with my mother and two younger brothers evacuated from Tokyo to my mother's hometown Hirosaki in the most northern part of the main island. The previous year until then I had little time to study, let alone prepare for the entrance examination. Most of my time was spent in a bomb shelter at home or at school avoiding the B-29 air raids. Thus, I grudgingly entered a Methodist girl's high school. It was but a second choice for me.

Hirosaki is a city with a strong Protestant background. It produced the first Methodist bishop in Japan. Yet, I had never been directly exposed to Christianity until I entered this school, just as a majority of my classmates had never been. The local pastor's once-a-month harangue at chapel was an ordeal. On the other hand, I was fascinated by abridged stories of the Old Testament I read in the library, stories of the serpent's temptation, the forty days' inundation, the sibling rivalry, strange dreams, the Red Sea split into two, etc., etc.

During the six years of my high school days a number of missionaries would come and go. Among these were austere Miss Byler, who taught the importance of punctuality, and gentle Miss Brittan, who encouraged me to go on to higher education. They both looked ancient, though they must not have been any older than I am now. The most memorable missionaries were J-3s, Japan

Threes, fresh out of college. Especially Miss Hartley and her Bible class after school were very popular. Her class had strong magnetism even for college boys around the town. This worried the older missionaries. Finally Miss Harley was transferred to the most southern part of Japan. I still remember her swollen eyes full of tears when she gave a hear-rending farewell message in front of the whole school gathered in chapel. How indignant and sad we girls were for her!

I received baptism before I graduated from the Methodist girls' high school. It was the beginning of my new life. Indeed He works in mysterious ways.

—Fusako Krummel

“Images of Mission”

On Saturday, September 12, nineteen residents and staff members attended the Saturday morning session of the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska. We were special guests (along with other deaconesses, missionaries and other special mission guests) for the morning event. We marched down the aisle to the seats reserved for us, and at noon were guests for lunch. At that time we sat with women who had volunteered to be our hostesses. There was much talking!

Residents Barbara Campbell, Betty Letzig and Esther Megill attended for the entire weekend, and thus were able to be at all the presentations by Paul Jeffrey, United Methodist missionary, photojournalist and senior correspondent for *response* magazine. On Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday mornings he gave inspiring, illustrated addresses, sharing his ministry through the use of many of his photographs. Those who wished attended his Saturday afternoon workshop on “Why are my Pictures so Boring?”

At our closing session we heard the following reports:

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News from Resident Services--

The Annual Ice Cream Social was held on Monday, September 14 in the Activity Building. Thirty-five residents, staff, and volunteers attended this event, sponsored by the Resident Services Department. Ice cream flavors provided were vanilla, chocolate, and no added sugar chocolate chip mint & strawberry, along with favorite toppings of chocolate syrup, caramel topping, peanuts, M & M's and whipped cream. Everyone enjoyed this time for fellowship and a delicious, refreshing treat!

The 2015 Ubuntu Day of Service at Brooks-Howell Home was held on Saturday, October 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This third annual event is sponsored by the Western North Carolina Conference UMW and is a day of volunteering at the National Mission Institutions in our conference. Other sites for Ubuntu are Bethlehem Centers in Charlotte & Winston-Salem, Pfeiffer University, Bennett College, and the UMAR homes in Charlotte and Gastonia.

According to the Ubuntu Day of Service brochure, “Ubuntu is a unique word. A Zulu phrase, it can be translated, ‘I am only because we are, and since we are, therefore I am.’ Or ‘I am human because you are human.’ It recognizes each human being as a part of a community. It moves us to action on behalf of our neighbor. Ubuntu is a celebration of being in community with people as mission.”

Forty-one participants, representing five districts, volunteered with the following projects at Brooks-Howell: sprucing up the grounds by weeding & raking; assisting in the archives; helping the Gift Shop in organizing greeting cards; cleaning out and organizing the Activity closet, and assisting several residents with personal needs.

Brooks-Howell is so grateful for the response of the UMW by living the example of “Faith , Hope, Love in Action.” We look forward to the 4th annual Ubuntu Day in October 2016. Mark your calendars and come join us!



Cleaning the Activities Closet—Sandy Petrudea and Eliza Matthews



Helping in the Gift Shop—Anna Hall (left), Kay Pollard

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Resident Services (Continued from p. 7)

The Fall Festival



Volunteers assist Gardener Joe Bruder

We just spent the afternoon (October 30) preparing for and enjoying the activities of the Brooks Howell-Home Fall Festival! This was definitely an event that involved our entire community! Resident Services staff began the planning but soon independent residents, volunteers, the dietary and other staff, and family members of our residents were contributing to the effort. When you turned the corner into the chapel area you were greeted with an array of items for completing a costume, an enticing display of food and drink selections including the delicious smell of spiced cider and the welcoming voice of a cackling “witch.” Waiting inside the chapel doors were games to tempt you to try your luck with bowling, fishing, jingo and bean bag tossing. The photo op allowed you to have a souvenir of the day. The finale came when you were able to spend the tickets you had won on an interesting item on the prize table, or maybe even do some early Christmas shopping.

Thanks to the efforts of our entire BHH community we all had to opportunity to celebrate the coming of fall and enjoy the company of our friends.

(Resident Services Staff – Tracey Owens, Alycia Johnson, Sheila Freeman. and Patty Higgins)
–Patty Higgins



Helping in the Archives–Joyce Gibson and Donna Anderson



Alycia Johnson and Patty Higgins

[Photos: Debbie Pittman]

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*Hallowe'en
Bingo*



*Bowling
Helene Hill and
Barbara Crouse*



Frieda Morris



*Prisoner!
Nancy Garrison*

DOTAC Conference

Porto Alegre, Brazil, Oct. 21-25

DOTAC -- “DIAKONIA of the Americans and the Caribbean” is an organization whose members are deaconesses, deacons and other diaconal workers. It is ecumenical and international with members from across North and South America and the Caribbean.

One hundred persons from twelve “Orders” (associations) in eight denominations attended this meeting, hosted by the deaconesses and deacons of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil. The 25 United Methodists present represented deaconesses/ home missionaries related to United Methodist Women (21) and deacons related to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

“The diakonia of Jesus – from crumbs to full communion” was the theme of the Conference based on Mark 7:24-30. The question posed was “who still today is living from leftovers under the table?”

The daily schedule included morning and evening worship and major presentations on the social/political economic contextualization of the theme; the Biblical/theological /diaconal approach; and the Diaconal Praxis: clues to a transformative diakonia. Each delegate was assigned to a small table group for discussions. One day was spent in visits to ministry sites in and around Porto Alegre; and there was the necessary business plus ample fellowship time.

All sessions were conducted in English and Portuguese with simultaneous translations. On Sunday members attended various churches including The Methodist Cathedral.

This was the thirteenth DOTAC conference. The next will be in 2019 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

-- Barbara Campbell & Betty Letzig

From the Chaplain--

Celebrating the Day of Peace

On the Fruit of the Spirit list (Galatians 5:22-23) the third fruit listed is PEACE, after LOVE and JOY. Once again, the wonderful residents at Brooks-Howell Home have demonstrated that the Spirit of God lives in them. As the city of Asheville, NC was holding lectures and parades celebrating and promoting peace, Brooks-Howell Home residents held their own Parade for Peace!

But first we gathered together to create banners and signs that promote PEACE. Then, on the day of the parade, we gathered in the chapel. We prayed for peace, and then we picked up the signs and banners we had created, and paraded down the halls and outside our building, showing others that we not only pray for peace but we work to bring about peace.

That is what happens when we pray. When we yearn for peace, and bring that yearning to God in prayer, God gives us the job to bring about that peace.

Residents of Brooks-Howell Home, you are amazing servants of God! May you always be filled with the Fruit of the Spirit. And may you continue to do as the psalmist encourages us to do "...seek peace, and pursue it." Psalm 34:14b

--Chaplain Alycia Johnson



Ann Janzen, Don Thurman, Carol Greenspan pushing Irene Hoefener, Marcia Knight, Marilyn Benson, Ronnie Sweeton Barbara Campbell & Betty Letzig in front



Grace Estel, June Fischer (others in background) Everett Woodcock pushing Lois Mohansingh Bev Reddick pushing Joyce Anderegg

[Photos Alycia Johnson]

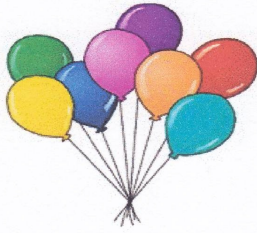
Images of Mision (Continued from p. 6.)

Love Offering \$7,422 (more will be sent in)

1,390 kits of various kinds, valued at \$18, 637

And the Western North Carolina Conference UMW was the largest giver in the nation in 2015—for the 14th year!

—Esther Megill



BIRTHDAYS

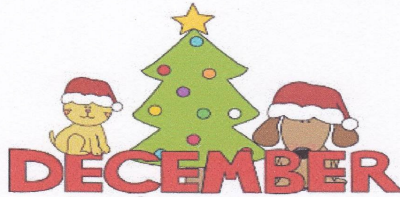


Residents

- 2 Martha Strunk
- 9 Lois Mohansingh
- 19 Grace Estel
- 19 Kathryn Jones
- 20 Alberta Gravatt
- 21 Barbara Crouse
- 25 Irma Higgins
- 30 Jane Mitchell

Employees

- 1 Wyndi Whitaker - Nursing
- 3 Tracey Owens – Resident Services
- 5 William Cowan – Nursing
- 9 Veronica Adams – Nursing
- 10 Sara Marshall – Nursing
- 11 OlenaMarrengulye – Nursing
- 14 Gordon Henry – Dietary
- 14 Natalya Zvarickevsk – Nursing



Residents

- 1 Irene Hoefener
- 2 Marguerite Hays
- 3 Richard Smyth
- 7 Jayne Smith
- 14 Harold Levine
- 18 Betty Swarhout
- 25 Susan Carmichael
- 25 Margaret Craven
- 30 Nancy Johnson

Employees

- 2 OrpaCandero – Nursing
- 2 Lindsey Greene – Nursing
- 7 Retina Halai – Dietary
- 13 Carletta Williams – Nursing
- 14 Jo Ann Muse - Nursing
- 14 Sheila McCarty – Nursing
- 18 Mallery Schaller – Dietary
- 18 Bessie Robbs – Nursing
- 21 Mary Harrin – Administration
- 22 Patrice Higgins – Resident Services
- 23 Brenda Muse – Nursing
- 30 Jasimin Knight – Dietary
- 30 Tiffany Austin - Nursing
- 31 JacynthiaLordman - Nursing

