



**Brooks-Howell Home**  
Phone: (828) 253-6712  
VOL. MMXVI No. 4

**266 Merrimon Avenue**  
NANCY GARRISON, Executive Director

**Asheville, NC 28801-1218**  
Web-Site: <http://www.brooks-howell.org>  
September-October 2015



## From Our Administrator--



Hello, Friends,

Finally, the computers are installed and are active! We still have thirty-two hours of training, and then we will be finished. The nurses and CN As are already using the system, and we will be learning how to print the reports.

The sidewalks at the apartments are so close to the ground in some places that they always looked dirty, and some were not as smooth as others. We recently put down a new coat of a product with a different color. They look much better.

We live in an area called the Five Points Neighborhood, where a group of people has formed a committee to improve and protect our community. We offered several months ago for the group to meet in our Activity Building. Most recently they planned a neighborhood block party geared mostly for children. The party was well attended, including many of our residents. Brooks-Howell gave a small offering to help with some of the food. We also had a corn hole game made for the event, with the idea that after the party our residents, even those in wheelchairs, would be able to use it. It was painted with very bright colors.

You will see the article about the mini library. There are several around town. They are made to look like bird houses (a very big birdhouse). We keep ours well stocked with a variety of books, CDs etc. The children's books especially go quickly. Neighbors can take a book or leave one. We have had a lot of positive feedback on this project.

Brooks-Howell gave a larger space to the therapy unit that is housed here. They will be having a grand opening soon. This space will be open to our residents for an exercise room also.

Sally Burns, our Director of Nursing, is retiring on September 18, after 21 years at Brooks-Howell.

New residents in the Health Units are David ( Andy) Anderson, Pauline (Polly) Dillon, and Kazuko (Kay) Gaw.

Our losses in July and August were Deaconess Ruth Walther and local residents Andy Anderson and Dorothy Smith.

Until next time,  
Nancy Garrison  
Executive Director

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**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](http://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](mailto: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!

## *In Memory—*

### **Ruth Marie Walther**

**October 13, 1924**

**August 8, 2015**

Ruth Marie Walther was born October 13, 1924 in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, to Richard C. and Alma Willey Walther. When she was six weeks old, the family moved to Platteville, Wisconsin.



Ruth had a heart for serving others, deciding at age

thirteen to become a missionary. She completed Platteville High School in 1942, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1946 with majors in mathematics and history. In 1951 she earned a MA in teaching mathematics from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

She applied to become a missionary and was told to serve in this country for a few years and apply again. She taught high school math for two years in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. She later had additional courses in School Administration from Western Carolina University, Appalachian State University and the University of South Florida.

She was proud of her service as a math teacher and as administrator at Allen High School in Asheville, North Carolina (1948-1974). She taught at the Asheville City Schools from 1974-1976, then moved to Tampa, Florida, to become the Principal and Executive Director of St. Paul United Methodist School, 1976-1989.

In 1963 she was commissioned as a deaconess.

After retirement in 1989 she worked for eleven years as a tax specialist for H&R Block, Tampa, Florida. She served as President of Tampa United Methodist Women and as Communications Coordinator for the Florida Conference UMW.

In 2000 she moved to Brooks-Howell Home, and joined Berry Temple United Methodist Church, where she remained active as long as she was able.

Life is eternal, love is  
immortal and death is  
only a horizon. Life is  
eternal as we move into  
the light and the horizon  
is nothing save the limit  
of our sight.

QUOTEHD.COM

Carly Simon

## *News from Resident Services--*

Brooks-Howell Home is the host for some of the core studies of the deaconess/home missionary candidates. The Old and New Testament classes, under the instruction of Rev. Dr. Eleanor Moody Shepherd, were held July 19-31. Twelve deaconess candidates attended the Old Testament class the first week, and seventeen the New Testament class the second week. The candidates also designed and led the July 30 Chapel service. Hymns, prayers, scripture, ministry stories, a testimony and a Deaconess Candidate Choir were part of the service.

Fun activities the candidates enjoyed were an Asheville Tourists baseball game, s'mores fellowship time with the Brooks-Howell residents, riding on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and enjoying the many varieties of cuisine offered in Asheville. We look forward to another group of candidates arriving in October.

--Tracey Owens, Director of Resident Services

## Community Block Party

Brooks-Howell participated in the Five Points Neighborhood Block Party, August 8, 2015. Organized by Five Points neighbors, the block party began at 2:00 p.m. and ran through 9:00 p.m.. Several Brooks-Howell residents joined the festivities which included several local bands. Our own Marilia Trevisani, CNA, played her violin to open the music venue. Marilia's longtime friend Jackie Forseth played base for another band.

A silent auction raised funds for the neighborhood association and \$5.00 bought a year's membership. A potluck feast brought smiles and well-fed sighs from all of us. There were games and activities for young and old. Brooks-Howell folks imitated vegetables. (See the pictures below.)

Thanks to everyone who planned, set-up, cooked or prepared food, and cleaned-up after the party. We surely had a great time.



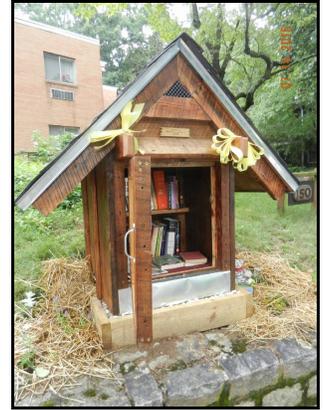
*Ellie Charlton and Bev Reddick*



*Ann Janzen , Jorie Ruegger and Marcia Knight enjoy the Block Party*

## Brooks-Howell's Little Free Library

On Wednesday, July 14, Brooks-Howell and our Five Points neighbors sponsored a ribbon cutting ceremony at our new Little Library. The Little Library is on Brooks-Howell's land at the 150 street sign on Hillside Street, above the sidewalk. It is housed in a very small building, designed and built by an anonymous friend. It seemed especially significant that he made it from wood that had been part of an old house in our neighborhood.



The concepts of "Little" and "Free" are unlike the standard City or County Library. You simply walk to (or stop your car at) the Little Library and choose a book or two that your neighbor has deposited in it. If you have a book that you are ready to share, you simply deposit it. No charge, no records, just the joy of sharing books.

Our one hope is that our neighbors will enjoy a book we have placed in the library as much as we are enjoying one that was placed there for us.

—Ann Janzen

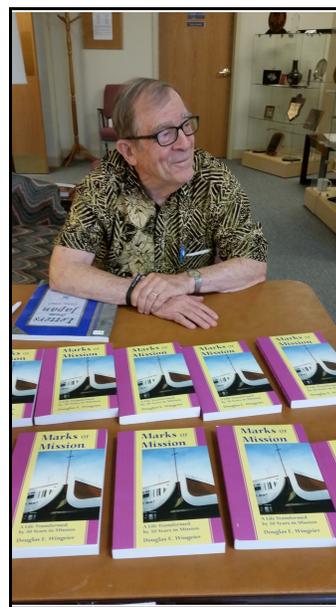


*Administrator/Director Nancy Garrison admires the "Little Library"*



*Sara Marshall, LPN, cuts the ribbon*

(Photos Mary Z. Longstreth & Marcia Knight)



*Doug Wingeier with a recent book*

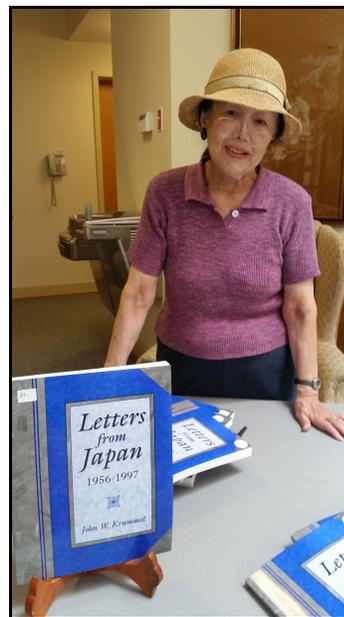
## **Brooks-Howell Book Signing**

One statement residents of Brooks-Howell often make to each other is “Well, there’s always something new happening here.” It has happened again! On Saturday, August 1, our Gift Shop sponsored its first Book Signing by authors who are or have been residents of Brooks-Howell.

If you have ever had even a casual interest in the people of Japan, India, Singapore and several smaller islands near it, Sierra Leone, Liberia, or our own United States, you should have joined the Missionaries and Deaconesses clustered around the tables. Writers were discussing mission work during the last half of the twentieth century. For example, one book reflects learning and growth on several continents while another recalls with deep appreciation the influence of her mother.

Some of these books are still available in the Gift Shop.

—Ann Janzen



*Fusako Krummel with a book written by her husband*

[Photos: Alycia Johnson]

*I Remember—*

### **A Venture of Faith**

I remember the beginning of Aldersgate College in the Philippines. It began with \$10,000 received from the United States government by the Province of Nueva Vizcaya as war reparations.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Pilar Galima, the district treasurer and an officer in the Women's Society of Christian Service, felt that the money should be used for a school, since the churches had been repaired. She was one of four women who began going to the church at 5:00 a.m. each morning to pray for a school. The money was used to purchase land for the school, but there was no money to build it.



In 1964 the Northern Annual Conference, at their meeting on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience, approved that a college should be built, to be named "Aldersgate."

I remember Bishop Valencia's saying to me, "Miss Tyson, the women are not going to give up. Will you help them?" Of course the answer was "Yes."

The W.S.W.S. of Virginia Conference sent 3,000 books; Ethel Born's home church sent the first ones. We also received 3,000 more books from Church Women United, and many other gifts followed.

I remember helping to search for a dean. When we could not find anyone, it landed in my lap. Bishop Valencia had asked me to help. I felt like John Wesley as I "went reluctantly to Aldelrsgate."

There were many people who helped to get the school started: hard work by the local people, the teachers and students; Deaconess Manuela Orani, who extended our Home and Family Life Program; and the Christian Children's Fund which helped five hundred children. Miss Orani organized them into twelve children's clubs and twelve parent clubs in different *barrios*.

The Family Life Program brought new challenges as family health was one of the priorities. I believe this was one of the most rewarding opportunities. I remember that I owe the acceptance of the project to Miss Gloria Ramos, one of our teachers, who said to me, "Some of our children are coming to school hungry."

Aldersgate College today is a graduate college with courses offered by internet to a college in Africa. Deserving much credit are Dr. Johnathan Guiang for his past twenty-five years as president, and Dr. Myrna Vievnes, one of the first graduates, who served for many years as academic dean.

—Dana Tyson



*Received by Dana on January 15, 2015*

[Dana was a missionary in the Philippines from 1955-1976.]

<sup>1</sup>After World War II the U.S. gave money as reparation for any property owned by U.S. organizations which was destroyed

## *From Our Chaplain—*

### **The Amaranth Plant**

If you eat lunch in the main dining room at Brooks-Howell Home, take a look out the windows that open onto the grassy garden area. You will have to look around a very tall plant that has tufts of purplish red flower/seed heads. It's huge! It stands at least 8 feet tall. Our gardener Joe told me it is called Amaranth, and that this plant usually only grows 2-3 feet tall. So I asked him if he knew why this one grew so tall. He shrugged his shoulders and said: good soil, and regular watering...



That got me thinking. We human beings are a lot like that Amaranth. The plant needs fertile soil to be able to grow. When the soil has all necessary



*Gardener Joachim (Joe) Bruder, tending the Amaranth plant.*

organic material, it can give the plant energy and help it exceed the gardeners' expectations. Likewise, when we are consistently reading and meditating on stories that demonstrate God's love for us, we too will receive energy. The Amaranth also requires water. God showers us with the waters of baptism, declaring us God's own. The image that comes to my mind is that God is the gardener and we are the plants.

When days of

drought or doubt come, the Holy Spirit sustains us with ever-flowing streams of living water to heal and empower us.

May all of us, like the Amaranth outside the Brooks-Howell Home dining room, grow so well that we surprise and exceed our Gardener's expectations!

—Alycia Johnson, Chaplain

[Photo: Alycia Johnson]

From early notes by Dana Tyson:

### **To Stand**

To stand by

the window

In the College library,

To look to the

mountains,

The beauty of the

sky,

The green, green of the

new rice,

The white blankets

of clouds.

To hope the day made

something better for at

least one student--

You were so close in those

moments, God.

Your child tried, you know!

—Dana Tyson

## Panda Comes to Visit

Jorie removes Panda's leash at the elevator, and she speeds down the hall to my place. She soon finds a hidden treat, and then goes quickly to the window, where she drinks water from a vase.



Jorie remarks, "You would think I never give her water."



*Jorie Ruegger and Panda*

Some time during the hour Jorie says, "Go see Dana," and she comes to be petted and with a shake of the paw sits for another treat.

After "Jeopardy" is over, Jorie says, "It's time to go home. Let's go see Irma."

Obediently, Panda sits up, Jorie puts on her leash, and she goes back down the hall.

—Dana Tyson

[Photos by Dana]

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## For Your Entertainment

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The Virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

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I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from e-mail. Amen."

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One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

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A little boy was overheard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

—Sources unknown

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Correction in July-August issue: There were not six angels. Dana Tyson was also an angel-making seven. Apologies!



## September

### Residents

- 1 Andregg, Joyce
- 6 Barbara Campbell
- 6 Carroll Hartman
- 17 Kiger, Gladys

### Employees

- 1 Stuart Bryan – Maintenance
- 13 Christy Kachline – Nursing
- 13 Linda Hemstreet – Nursing
- 15 Susan Gerrie – Dietary
- 15 Marilia Trevisani – Nursing
- 17 Evangelina Guardado – Dietary
- 20 Todd Brigman – Resident Services
- 22 Chenise Porter – Environmental Services
- 24 Veronica Wilson – Nursing

## October

### Residents

- 3 Patricia Finley
- 7 A.J. Adams
- 8 Jack Smith
- 8 Denise Palas
- 13 Virginia Miller
- 21 Mary Z. Longstreath
- 22 Beverly Reddick
- 23 Gregory Bieksha
- 25 Anne McKenize
- 29 Sarah Frances Bowden
- 31 Eva Low

### Employees

- 4 Rosemary Kelly – Nursing
- 16 Cindy Warlick – Dietary
- 21 Trironda Smith – Nursing
- 28 Caretha Young – Environmental Services
- 30 Reece Alice – Dietary

