A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO
Larry Monroe

The Importance of Christ In Culture

Much has been written about culture and the important role it plays in organizational success. Bryan Walker, Partner and Managing Director of IDEO, said “Culture is like the wind. It is invisible; yet its effect can be seen and felt.” Simon Sinek, author and renowned speaker on building great leaders and great companies, said “Customers will never love a company until the employees love it first.”

Perhaps one of the best examples in my lifetime of a company that put establishing and maintaining a successful culture first and as a result achieved stratospheric business success is Chick-fil-A.

In her book It’s My Pleasure: The Impact of Extraordinary Talent and Compelling Culture, Dee Ann Turner shares the keys to Chick-fil-A’s highly effective business model that began over sixty years ago by Founder, Truett Cathy. Truett created something special at Chick-fil-A, but as Turner points out he had the wisdom and humility to create something bigger than himself: an enduring culture that values people above everything else. The same has been true at Christian Village Communities for over fifty years. When you infuse Christ into a great culture you’ve really got something special.

Recently the daughter of a gentleman admitted for strength building and rehab in our Grace Center for Restorative Living at The Christian Village at Mason stopped at my office to speak with me. I admit that when I heard the words “I’d like to speak with the CEO” coming from my outer office, I took a deep breath to prepare myself for what might follow. The sad truth is that leaders of even the best of companies hear more from unhappy customers than they do from happy ones. On this day it was a very good meeting.

This daughter simply wanted me to know how happy she was that her Dad was in our community. It was interesting to me that she never mentioned our outstanding 5-Star clinical care. She didn’t speak of her father’s well-appointed rehab room, comfortable bed and extra-large LED TV on the wall. Missing was any reference to the exceptionally clean room and common areas throughout the building. The main source of her overwhelming joy was our team members and the way they treated Dad. She mentioned how the nurses and nurse’s aids have really gotten to know her father and shared how they laugh and joke with him - even the housekeepers. She summed it all up well when she said, “It’s obvious to me that you sincerely care about Dad, and it’s very evident in the way he’s being cared for. As his daughter and only child, this fills me with gratitude and gives me peace.” A culture of genuinely caring for our residents, patients and their family members, as well as every team member CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...
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working in our company as if they were our own family has been a steadfast hallmark of Christian Village Communities since our founding in 1960. “Serving with Excellence, Reflecting Jesus’ Compassion” has remained the purpose statement of our parent organization, The Christian Benevolent Association of Greater Cincinnati.

That daughter who stopped at my office reinforced for me the impact our organizational culture has on our success. Moreover, I was reminded that keeping that culture alive and well is one of the CEO’s primary responsibilities.

It’s my pleasure to serve alongside our board of directors and the over 400 team members who work hard every day providing Christ-centered care and treating others in ways that honor them and honor our God.

As you read this issue of the Connection my prayer is that you will be encouraged, inspired and reminded of the good work being done in our communities in Jesus’ name. To those who partner with us financially, I want to express the sincere thanks of every resident whose life has been enhanced, and who has experienced peace and security through your generosity.

To God be glory, honor and praise!

CVC Hosts LeadingAge Ohio Leadership Academy

By Lisa Cecil, VP of Health Services

Christian Village Communities is committed to serving each person as though they were our own family, with love, compassion, and excellence. Therefore, it is fitting to be a host site of LeadingAge Ohio’s Leadership Academy in order to serve those leaders in aging services that are pursuing further equipping and capacity in their roles. The Leadership Academy is a seven-month program that provides a challenging and engaging learning environment that enhances the leadership capacity of aging services professionals to better serve our profession.

LeadingAge Ohio (LAO) is a nonprofit trade association that represents approximately 400 long-term care organizations and hospices, as well as those providing ancillary healthcare and housing services in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities.

Any individual who works for a LAO member organization is eligible to apply to be a Leadership Academy Fellow and will receive over 50 hours of continuing education credit for participating. The four unique sessions include “Finding Our Authentic Leadership,” “Building Effective Teams,” Leading Change and Innovation,” and “Creating Strong Partnerships.”

The first of the four, two-day retreats comprising the 2019 academy curriculum began in February, and The Christian Village at Mason was the host site for the first session. On the second day of this session some of CVC’s senior leaders provided a panel discussion for the attendees. The discussion highlighted the thoughts and experiences of our executive team in what it means to lead intentionally. In addition, CVC leaders facilitated intimate conversations where their experiences were shared along with some of their professional and personal leadership stories.

Past academy graduates have given testimonials that shared the growth they have experienced in areas such as being a better manager, improving their public speaking skills, and improved listening skills. CVC was privileged to host the LAO Leadership Academy and takes seriously the responsibility of being a resource for the development of other leaders in our healthcare industry.

To God be glory, honor and praise!
The CBA Foundation will honor the following Christian leaders at its Hall of Faith banquet.

Kitty Garner is an executive with Omnicare, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of CVS Health Corporation. Prior to Omnicare her career included extensive experience in nursing, including working in a hospital and long-term care setting holding several positions of leadership including Director of Nursing. Kitty also served as a state of Ohio state surveyor for Medicare/Medicaid providers.

Kitty’s connection with the ministry of CVC spans many years. She currently serves on the board of The Christian Village at Mason and previously served on the board of the Christian Benevolent Association as well as the board of The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

Kitty holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Nursing, a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, and a Master’s degree in Science Administration.

Shawn McMullen is the editor of The Lookout, a publication of Christian Standard Media, and is Minister of the Vevay Church of Christ, Vevay, IN. He has published seven books and served as Director of Church Relations for the Center for Church Leadership. Shawn also was Senior Minister at Life Spring Christian Church in Cincinnati.

Shawn serves as Chair of the Board for The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy and also serves on the board of K CH造福基金会的发...
Last fall and winter saw many occasions of fun and fellowship at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy! Our eighth annual friends and family Thanksgiving dinner was held mid-November. As always, it was a delightful time of food, fun, and fellowship for the residents and many of their family members. Our terrific staff displayed their generous hearts as they served the meal for the residents and their loved ones.

December included a mystery destination surprise journey to Whitetail Acres reindeer farm, where our residents were able to feed and pet the animals. We also held a gingerbread-house-making contest, in which staff and residents participated for prizes. We had eleven houses entered into the contest, and residents voted to select the top three winners. It was incredible to see the creativity. Every kit had the same items, but each team supplemented with marshmallows, candy canes, and other candy treats to create some wonderfully unique entries.

Our resident choir performed a concert on December 14th, singing holiday favorites and playing two pieces on the choir chimes. On December 18, CEO Larry Monroe performed a Christmas concert with his guitar and then joined us afterwards for fellowship with some holiday cookies and cocoa. That week was also Holiday Spirit Week; The Human Resources and Life Enrichment departments joined forces to involve our residents and staff in some remarkable holiday fun. Events included a jingle bell walk, holiday sock day, holiday hat day, and an ugly sweater day.

The month wound down with our annual resident Christmas party, complete with a visit from Santa and gifts from our giving tree for each resident. These gifts were generously donated by the CVMH auxiliary, supporting churches, residents, families, and staff. Chaplain Jon Underwood led a Christmas Eve service that was much appreciated by our residents, reminding us that Jesus is the true reason we celebrate Christmas.

The month ended with a big game of “Jeopardy” on New Year’s Eve, accompanied by delicious hors d’oeuvres, sweets, and smiles. It was truly a blessed season filled with lots of love and fun!
An Exciting Collaborative Opportunity

CVC Teams Up with Scripps Center for Gerontology and LeadingAge Ohio on $1M Grant

In the fall 2018 edition of this newsletter we announced a new initiative to help Christian Village Communities recruit and retain STNAs (State Tested Nursing Assistants). Because of the demands placed upon STNAs, turnover is a challenge in virtually every facet of the healthcare industry. Additionally, aggressive construction of new healthcare centers nationally has increased demand for STNAs. Drive by almost any senior living or healthcare community and chances are you will see a sign saying “STNA Openings – Apply NOW.”

We took the bold step of creating a new position to help with our STNA recruitment and retention challenges - the STNA Training Coordinator. The Training Coordinator manages our online STNA employment ads, interviews applicants, makes recommendations to nursing management regarding hiring and helps with orientation and training. New hires are receiving additional support and training and perhaps most importantly, they are being mentored.

The results of this initiative have been astounding. From August 1, 2018 when the new position was created to yearend we hired nearly twice as many STNAs than were hired in all of 2017. Turnover within the first 90 days of employment has reduced by 50% over the previous year.

Our results have caught the attention of one our industry’s most prestigious research centers, Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Oxford, OH. Scripps is world-renowned for their research in aging services. Another organization anxiously monitoring our outcomes is LeadingAge Ohio, which represents over 400 Ohio member organizations in the not-for-profit aging services business sector. This has resulted in an exciting collaborative opportunity among our organizations.

In 2019 Christian Village Communities, Scripps Gerontology Center and LeadingAge Ohio will submit application for a $1M grant to the Federal Government’s CMP Grant Fund, administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The grant will make way for the Christian Village Communities’ STNA Training Coordinator model to be replicated in six to eight other Ohio long-term care providers outside our market area. It will also provide for expense reimbursement for the costs associated with the program that we implemented in 2018.

We are eager to share what we’ve learned with others, and it's exciting to imagine that the program we developed and the lessons we’ve learned could benefit communities and organizations like ours across Ohio - perhaps someday even throughout the country. By reducing STNA turnover, the quality and continuity of care for residents and patients and the satisfaction of their family members will be greatly improved.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:9


In The Spotlight
By Dave Melton, VP of Human Resources

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I introduce two of our newest leadership team members to The Christian Village at Mason (CVM).

Please join me in welcoming Andrea Harrison in the position of Director of Nursing (DON). Andrea joined our Mason community on January 21, 2019.

Andrea brings a breadth of healthcare knowledge to our organization with over 17 years of experience in caring for older adults in roles as an STNA, Charge Nurse/Supervisor, MDS Coordinator, Assistant Director of Nursing, and most recently as DON with CommuniCare Health Services.

At the very young age of 16 Andrea embarked on her career in long-term care as an STNA. In 2004, she became an LPN by attending the Great Oaks School of Practical Nursing. In 2015, she earned her Associate’s Degree in Nursing from the Galen College of Nursing and became an RN.

Andrea explained that she has a passion for providing the highest quality care for older adults with a special interest for those struggling with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

Andrea and her husband Jason have a full house with six children at the ages of 17, 14, 13, 9, and twins at the age of 6. Andrea spends most of her free time attending her children’s various baseball and dance events.

We are excited to have Andrea on our team and look forward to the many valued contributions she will make to our future success and efforts to provide the highest level of care for our residents and patients.

Also, please join me in welcoming Kyra Schroer in the position of Director of Fitness & Wellness. Kyra started at CVM on February 11, 2019.

Kyra brings over ten years of fitness and wellness knowledge and experience to our organization. She worked as a Certified Fitness Instructor at Fit4You, and most recently as a Health Coach and Group Fitness Instructor at TriHealth Corporate Health. Kyra is currently certified by the American Council on Exercise as a Group Fitness Instructor and Behavior Change Specialist.

Kyra has a passion for functional fitness that affords everyone the possibility to enjoy doing what they love to do for as long as they possibly can. She takes a holistic approach to wellness by addressing the entirety of a person from the perspectives of self-care, stress management, nutrition, sleep strategy, and overall health and well-being.

Kyra holds an MBA in Marketing from Xavier University as well as a BS in Marketing/Finance from Ohio State University. She and her husband Dave have one son and two daughters. She enjoys reading, music, hiking, running, and spending time with family and friends.

We are excited that Kyra has decided to join our team and look forward to and anticipate the contributions she will make to our future success and efforts to take our fitness and wellness programs to the next level for our residents.

Welcome aboard, Andrea and Kyra!
Memorial and Honor Gifts
Gifts Given Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018

Charles & Dorothy Abato
Bill & Susan Abate
Anonymous
Dorothy Abato
Daniel Dooney
James Arney
Shirley Arney
Patricia Baker
Joyce Drake
Margaret Barger
John & Vickie Hale
Roy & Margaret Bay
James & Gene McReynolds
Frances Beany
Jim & Carolyn Walker
Roy & Eloise Beatty
Larry & Kathy Monroe
Roy Beatty
Doris Odor
Alex Betley
James & Sherry Betlej
Bertha Bierbaum
Linda Thompson
Ruth Bloomhuff
Mark Bressert
Evan & Margaret Bolejack
Bud & Barbara Smith
Iona Bornemann
Roy Bornemann
Lila Bounds
Carl & Bettye Oney
Jonathan Bowers
Nancy Bowers
Ronald Brady
Beverly Brady
Harvey & Mary Ann Bream
Robert & Janice Bell
Donald & Donna Bisdorf
Nancy Bowers
Beverly Brady
Bright Christian Church
Christian Restoration Association
Alan & Rebecca Droge
Jack & Vicky Ernst

James & Donna Fehl
William & Marion Fotheringham
Anna Hanna
David & Pat Hargrave
Ronald & Esther Henderson
Steve & Debbie Henderson
Joanne Hensley
June Holland
Wesley & Diane Jackson
Andrew & Debra Ann Keith
Paul & Joann Lambert & Family
Lee & Karen Mason
Thomas & Joan Maxwell
Tom & Kay Moll
Amy Monroe
Harold & Fae Audre Rice
Maxine Scott
Ken & Shirley Shepard
Glen & Janet Snyder
Mark & Evelyn Taylor
Jon & Kathy Underwood
Marvin & Dorothy Breuer
George & Elaine Breuer
Forrest & Jesse Bridges
John & Dianne Hockstok
Mary Brinkman
Paul & Marilyn Poe
Courtenay & Carolyn Bythewood
Courtenay & Patty Bythewood
Harley Cann
Linda Cann
Neil Carstons
Joy Carstens
Russel & Grace Catlin
Gary & Ruth Claypoole
Larkin & Thelma Chaney
George & Elaine Breuer
Amanda Collins
Larry & Marsha Collins
Marie Cox
Donald & Wanda Cox
June Crabtree
David & Mildred Merkel
Ian Dasent
Andrew & Nancy Bledsoe
Ian & Jeannie Dasent
Ann Marie Harmon
Tom & Kay Moll
Elizabeth Panzeca
Frank & Linda Panzeca
Raymond & Mary Schultz
Dennis & Mary Schultz

Mary Davidson
Charles Davidson
Frieda Denhart
Howard & Sandra Blevins
Adele Yung
Milton & Mary Dills
Milton & Barbara Dills
Verna Dolle
Dennis & Barbara Barger
Claire Drennan
Robert & Chris Braun
Lori Finley
Steven & Diana Hengehold
Clyde Koehne
Wetherington Golf & Country Club
Charles Eger
Charles & Sadie Eger
Allan & Connie Payne
Rosemary Everhart
Carol Evans
Clyde Koehne
William Falk
David Falk
George & Margaret Frankenstein
William Frankenstein
Robert Fry
Lawrence & Joyce Kent
Martha Fulton
Steve & Sue Rider
Gregory Gardiner
Nancy Gardiner
Wayne Gardiner
Nancy Gardiner
Elfreda Gibson
Donald & Rebecca Kluba
Jerry & Gloria Green
Courtenay & Patty Bythewood
Russell Hoffer
William Gressel
Michael Gressel
Donald Griffin
Audrey Griffin
Enlow & Lucile Grubbs
David & Eva Grubbs
Lena Hanselman
Wanda Patrick
Helen Hedges
John & Vickie Hale
Gifts Given Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, 2018

Robert Ourada
White Oak Christian Church,
Lamplighters

Paul & Juanita Payne
Shelby & Mary Payne

Helen Peters
James & Carol Coy

Pamela Phipps
Joanne Hensley
Billie Lake

Christine Pille
Thomas Pille

Glenn Pinkerton
Elizabeth Pinkerton

James & Elaine Powell
Kenneth & Pam Pyle

William Proudfit
David & Linda Proudfit

Leroy & Dorothy Pryse
Kathy Michaels
Marjorie Pryse

Leroy Pryse
Janis Acus
Ann Arbogast
Charles & Bonnie Bauer
Josef & Charlotte Buschelmann
Marilyn Buzza
Carol Evans
Anna Hanna
Jim Renner
Harold & Fae Audre Rice
Joy Roth
Robert & Charlene Stevenot
Jim & Sandra Uhrig

Ken, Kay & Helen Rainey
Gary Riddle

Robert Ralston
Joyce Drake
Louis & Wilma Kressin
Robert & Susann Ralston

Giles Ramler
Louis & Wilma Kressin

Sandy Reuter
Linda Heinemeyer
Walter Reuter

Richard & Betty Richter
Kathleen Torrance

Ray & Bernice Roberts
George & Elaine Breuer

Dorothy Robinson
Joanne & Martha Meacham

Calvin Rocquemore
Sampson Perry

Harry Rohde
Richard & Joanne Biedinger
Robert Heideman
Roger Shepler

Viola Rook
Joe Rook

Robert Ruble
Jim & Cynthia Spicer

Sarah Ruskaup
Grace Ruskaup

Rosanne Russell
John & Susan Russell

Randy & Gayle Ryan
Robert Ryan

Tom & Goldie Ryan
Robert Ryan

Tony Salamone
Coletta Valentine

Zona Samples
John & Joyce Samples

Geraldine Severance
American Legion Post 681
Scott & Julie Anderson
Henry & Peggy Byrd
William & Judy Carroll
Ken Cash Family
William & Patricia Caudill
Chad & Denise Gallagher
Donn Heywood
Mike Hill Family
Benny Hynes
Fred Mindum
Christina Osterling
Jason Severance
Walter Severance
Walter & Brenda Severance
Debbie Simmons
Ruth Stamper

Doyle Sevier
Doris Wotring

Victor Shaffer
Wayne & Janet Stout

Jack Shallat
Tom & Cynthia Betcher
Kathleen Carissimi
Mary Ann Glaser
Tom & Kay Moll
Sally Osborn

Vera Shipley
Gerald Shipley

Willa Sims
Joanne Hensley
Billie Lake
Alex & Jackie Moreland

Blanche Skillman
Charles Skillman

Alma Skopic
Joanne Hensley

Thomas Guy Smith
Josephine Smith

Lawrence Smokey Sprong
Julia Sprong

Ina St. John
John & Phyllis DeBra

Melvin Stang
Kenneth Stang

John & Ruth Steele
Edward & Janet Steele & Family

Al & Norma Steiner
Paul & Rosemary Steiner

Gwen Stone
Nancy Bowers

Bebe Sturm
Don Sturm

Loren Swedburg
Alan & Jean Weber

Norma Tucker
David & Maxine Tucker

William Turnau
Jeff Turnau

Dorothy Tyrrell
Vincent & Jane DiMaggio

Donald Venseret
Bette Venseret

Rachel Venseret
Bette Venseret

William Vinson
Louise Vinson

Irene Voss
Joyce Drake
Louis & Wilma Kressin
Mary Walker  
Roger Shepler  
Donald & Anna White  
Glenn & Marie White  
Jean Wilson  
Carol Evans  
Susan Hill  
Clyde Koehne  
Bruce Wotring  
Doris Wotring

The Coyle Family  
David Coyle  
E. Richard Crabtree  
David & Mildred Merkel  
CVM Nursing Staff  
John & Ruth Bamber  
Donna Dalton  
Billie Lake  
Bob Dell  
Joyce Drake  
James & Donna Fehl  
Sally Maritt  
Mick & Gayle McLaughlin  
Timothy & Daphane Thornton  
Henry & Marilyn Wedig  
Joe & Di Ellison  
Wally & Barbara Rendel  
William & Marion Fotheringham  
Terri Baroch  
Robert Hamilton  
Robert & Faye Hamilton  
Robert Heideman  
Dave & Roberta Sheppard  
Thelma Hine  
James & Donna Fehl  
Rosena Hagee  
Mick & Gayle McLaughlin  
Joe & Donna Immelt  
Stephen & Susan Immelt  
Billie Lake  
Donna Dalton  
Doug & Carrie Lake  
Billie Lake  
Tom & Kay Moll  
Rollie & Joan Wilson  
Ken & Jane Morris  
Michael Morris  
LaVerne & Lois Morse  
William & Jerlene Bell  
Our Lord & Savior  
Carl & Carol Hager  
Marlene Parrott  
Gary & Diane Archer  
Ruth Poe  
Edward & Bonny Lyons  
Marie Stacy  
Steve & Linda Hoock  
Sam & Gwen Stone  
Virginia Taylor

Pete & Jan Taylor  
Allan & Janet Miller  
Frank & Maxine Owens  
Gail Turnau  
Jeff Turnau  
Lawrence Woodside  
Kevin Woodside

In Honor Of

Alma “Clio” Adler  
Robert & Deborah Adler  
Dick Alexander  
Larry & Carole Collins  
James & Donna Fehl  
Mick & Gayle McLaughlin  
David & Nancy Moore  
Virginia Babbitt  
Janet Pecquet  
Susan Babik  
Courtenay & Patty Bythewood  
Todd & Linda Snyder  
Frederick Bartholome  
John Bartholome  
James Bell  
Carmine Bell  
Donald Bernhardt  
Jennifer Moody  
Marian Bier  
Gregory & Mary Bier  
Howard & Martha Brammer  
Wally & Barbara Rendel  
Rene & Patti Buisson  
Billie Lake  
Betty Cain  
Gilbert & Carol Salue  
Larry Collins  
James & Donna Fehl  
Rosena Hagee  
David & Mary Lautzenheiser  
Mick & Gayle McLaughlin  
Darryl & Dianne Moulder

“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?”

I Thessalonians 3:9
Christine Hauser Retires After 29 Years

By Vickie Brashear, CFO

Cris Hauser has worked in The Christian Village Communities business office since January of 1990 when she was hired by Nursing Home Administrator, William Stauter who today is a resident at The Christian Village at Mt Healthy. During this time her duties included accounts payable, accounts receivable, general accounting payroll and human resources.

In her nearly thirty years of service Cris has seen a lot of change. When she first started the checks had to be typed on carbon paper, not printed on the computer.

Cris is often referred to as the “company historian.” She has an abundance of experience and knowledge from all of her years of service. Anytime that we have a question about the past Cris is one of our “go-to” persons. She usually knows the answer and if she doesn’t, chances are she can tell us where we can find the answer.

Among the many things that will be missed by staff and residents alike will be a well-stocked candy dish that always sat on Cris’s desk, filled with the best candies imaginable.

We wish Cris an amazing retirement with many years of enjoyment and blessings to come and thank her for nearly three decades of service!

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Your Gift Matters!

By Mark McKinney, Director of Development

Your gift to Christian Village Communities allows us to underwrite need-based subsidy funds for qualifying health care residents who exhaust their personal funds and have no other resources from which to cover the cost of their care.

EVERY CONTRIBUTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Proverbs 19:17 – “Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”

Make checks payable to Christian Village Communities, designate “Compassionate Care” if you want your donation to go to subsidy.
From the Churches -
Relationships Strengthened, Renewed, and Restored

By Steve Henderson, Director of Church Relations

The Joy of Ministry

It’s a joy to share our ministry with our churches. While visiting churches I enjoy many opportunities to preach. Such was the case on the last Sunday of 2018 at Forest Dale Church of Christ. Darin Pratt, the preacher at Forest Dale, asked me to fill in for him. Attending this church is Rod Blanton, who remembered me as his childhood preacher at Bainbridge Church of Christ. I knew his parents and grandparents well. I attended Rod’s Bible class that Sunday and was so pleased with his teaching from the book of Acts. I couldn’t help but think how proud his grandparents would be of the Christian man he has become. I was pleased that Rod was the one to introduce me before I preached. God is good in letting me reconnect with people through the ministry of Christian Village Communities.

On the first Sunday of this year I visited Ben Davis Creek Christian Church in Rushville, Indiana. Howard Bullard is the preacher there, and I knew his father well as a professor during my days as a student at Cincinnati Christian University. Howard’s wife is the daughter of a minister at a neighboring church during my ministry years ago in Washington Court House, Ohio. I was pleased to be given an opportunity to share the ministry of CVC with the congregation before the sermon, and after church the Bullard family invited me to lunch where we caught up on the Lord’s work and blessings in each of our lives.

These experiences are all a part of the blessings that we experience as a part of the family of God. I’m continually amazed by the personal connections I uncover as I travel representing our ministry.

I would like our church constituents to know that I would be pleased to present an update on our ministry for your congregation. Contact me at steve.henderson@christianvillages.org to set up a future date.

Save the Dates

CVC’s 3rd annual Senior’s Day will be September 27, at Restoration Acres (site of Hillsboro Family Camp) in Hillsboro, OH. Our featured speaker will be Wally Rendell and Art Bush will return to lead our singing. Bring a group from your church for the day of inspiration and encouragement. A delicious lunch will be provided.

Our 4th annual Church Relations golf scramble will be October 14 at Legendary Run Golf Course near Amelia, OH. Proceeds from this year’s event will go to the Stone Worship Center and Auditorium. Watch the CVC website for more information later this year.

Registration for these events will be available on the CVC website later in 2019.
The healthcare centers at our Mason and Mt. Healthy campuses both run exceptionally well due to the consistent efforts of all team members that genuinely and actively display “Service from the Heart.” We truly provide a sense of community for older adults.

We meet our residents and patients in their later years, and when their flesh and heart fail, we are often there. We will be with them until the end. We will comfort them if their family is not able to be there. We will know their favorite things and seek to provide them during the last hours. Most of all, we will love them as our own family, our hearts breaking each time we lose one of these beloved residents or patients. Despite the heartache, we will continue to do this over and over again with each resident or patient who calls our community their home.

Many of our residents and patients form deep bonds with our staff and other residents. Both of our communities are important when a resident or patient dies, and it’s important to create meaningful ways for everyone to share in the grieving process.

Death and its companion, grief, have a profound presence in long-term care facilities such as ours. Residents may wake up one morning to find someone they saw every day in the dining room gone. Nursing aides may arrive at work to find an empty bed, occupied the day before by someone they helped for months. On January 7, 2019, we instituted The Walk of Honor at both campuses, which created a formal way of expressing grief as a community. This practice is valuable to the resident’s or patient’s family and staff in assisting with grief and closure after the loss of a loved one. It’s also a beautiful and intimate ending to a life and gives families and staff a meaningful way to say goodbye.

The Walk of Honor takes place when one of our healthcare residents or patients passes away. All team members who are available are invited to gather and form two lines on each side of the hall, standing quietly with heads bowed as the funeral home staff pass by to exit our building with the body of the deceased. Showing family members the impact that a resident or patient has had on our community and just how much we value their loved one and the opportunity to serve them is a wonderful way to pay homage to their memory.

On January 7, 2019, the first Walk of Honor occurred at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. Resident daughter Kris Wilke’s reflection on the experience: “I was awed by all the staff I saw lining the hallway to say goodbye to my mom and provide love and support to my sister and me. It warmed my heart at a time it was really needed. Being able to hug and thank everyone for all they did for my mom, my sister Kim, and me was a fitting way to exit the building, with my mom leading the way. She wouldn’t have wanted it any other way! We are very grateful and blessed to have gotten to know all of the caring and wonderful folks at CVMH.”

Our hope is that The Walk of Honor will become a meaningful and lasting tradition woven into the fabric of our organizational culture.
We are excited to announce the kick-off of the public phase of a fundraising campaign for the construction of the Stone Worship Center and Auditorium at The Christian Village at Mason.

Named in honor of Sam and Gwen Stone, the Stone Center will be a 400-seat worship auditorium located adjacent to the existing Matthews Dining Room. The increased seating capacity will allow us to reach more people for Christ by allowing for growth in our crowded Sunday chapel services and will provide a new larger resident event venue to accommodate the numerous activities and special programs that take place throughout the year at CVM.

A silent phase of fundraising in 2018 resulted in gifts and pledges totaling $800,000 in support of the project. Our goal for 2019 is to raise the remaining funds needed for the $2.85M project.

Sam Stone served the independent Christian churches and churches of Christ Restoration Movement for many years as Editor at Standard Publishing. Additionally, he is an author, served as professor and Dean of the Graduate School at Cincinnati Christian University and has held many other leadership positions in churches, parachurch organizations, conferences and conventions nationwide. Sons Jeff and Dave Stone are also church leaders. Jeff is Senior Minister at Bright Christian Church, Lawrenceburg, IN, and Dave retired as Senior Minister at Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY. In December 2015 Gwen Stone passed to her heavenly reward, and in 2017 Sam became a resident at The Christian Village at Mason.

“At the dedication service for The Christian Village at Mason I made the comment that the healthcare facility doesn’t belong to the trustees of the CBA, nor to the staff members that operate it, nor does it belong just to the residents who will live in the beautiful facilities, but in a very real sense it belongs to God. It was dedicated that day to His glory to do the work that He has commanded us to do.”

- Sam Stone
A video has been produced on the background and rationale for the construction of the Stone Center and can be found at www.stoneworshipcenter.org. Included in the video is an amazing animated “build” of the worship center that beautifully illustrates the stunning architectural design of the building.

A mailing is planned in early 2019 to the constituency of the Christian Benevolent Association and its affiliate organizations. We invite all our friends to join us, and no gift should be considered too small.

Information about becoming a partner to help raise the funds to build the Stone Worship Center and Auditorium is at the Stone Center web page referenced above.

"We will be able to offer so much more for our residents in the Stone Center. Right now, we have to set limits on how many people can attend events due to room size restrictions. With the larger space we will not have to turn people away who want to participate in these special events."
- Director of Resident Life Services

"As Director of the CVM resident Ambassador Choir, I’m particularly excited to see the Stone Worship Center and Auditorium built. The limited size of the current chapel requires that we perform our concerts over two to three consecutive days to accommodate the total number of people who want to attend. The Stone Center will be large enough to hold everyone at one performance."
- David Lautzenheiser, Pastor of Pastoral Care and Seniors Ministry, Christ’s Church at Mason
First Resident of the Month at CVMH

Last December, we decided to initiate a Resident of the Month program at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy to help everyone get to know our residents a little better. We developed a “Resident Profile” questionnaire and placed one in the mailbox of each of our independent and assisted-living residents. These questionnaires were returned to the receptionist when completed, and from these we select one profile each month to determine our “resident of the month.” The first week of each month, the selected resident will be recognized in the Dining Room and will receive a small gift. The resident's photograph and biography/profile will then be displayed in the dining room for the rest of the month. Our first resident of the month is Mary First.

Mary was born in Cincinnati on June 6, 1924, one of eight children in her family. She enrolled in a vocational high school for business training, and after high school she took courses at Xavier University. She had a variety of work experiences, including owning her own sweet shop with her husband in Price Hill area of Cincinnati. According to Mary, her most interesting work experience was driving an eighteen-wheeler between Cincinnati and St. Louis. Driving up a hill required a lot of shifting, with your left arm through the steering wheel to keep the truck steady, while shifting with your right arm. Mary states that she was NOT good at double clutching! Sometimes Mary had another driver with her, and sometimes she drove alone. In certain situations another driver was not allowed to be in the truck, so when going through weigh stations Mary would let the other driver take the wheel while she hid quietly above the cab in the bunk to avoid being detected!

Some of Mary’s hobbies include painting and crocheting blankets for infants. She is an avid volunteer at CVMH, involved in many programs. Mary goes to Matthew 25 Ministries, St. Joseph’s Orphanage, and our Resident Card Club each month. During the card club, AL residents create cards to give to the residents in Health Care. Mary loves that she gets to know so many residents that way! Mary joined the CVMH community November 3, 2016. Her goal while here is simply to enjoy life at CVMH!
Mike & Joy Ryan

Mike and Joy Ryan first met at Cincinnati’s Playhouse in the Park, where Mike was the house manager and Joy was a volunteer ticket seller. They married in 1969 and Joy finished her second Master’s degree in Special Education at UC shortly thereafter. Her first Master’s, from the University of Pittsburgh, was in Library Science and her undergraduate degree was from Miami University in English Literature. After a ten-year journey to obtain an undergraduate degree in business from Xavier in 1969, Mike received his MBA from Xavier in 1971. From there, the Ryan’s moved to Lexington, where Mike got his doctorate from the University of Kentucky, and Joy worked as a special education media specialist. From Lexington, they moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where they were both on the faculty at the University of Alabama. Next stop was New York City, where Mike was on the faculty at Columbia University for five years and Joy studied art history.

It was in New York that they had their daughter, Anne, in 1977. Before Anne was born, however, Mike decided to have one last “hurrah” and bought a 25’ sloop at the New York Boat Show. Neither Mike nor Joy had any experience sailing other than on a hobiecat for a few hours the summer before. Mike was able to secure an instructor to teach him how to sail on a trip from Mystic to Rowayton, Connecticut. Anne was born shortly after, and when she was not any more than six weeks old, Anne was sailing, too. She has never been sea sick! They moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1981 but their boats stayed in Maine where they loved sailing the Maine Coast.

Many years and several boats later, Mike, Joy, and Anne had sailed all over the east coast, up to Canada, down to Florida, and in the Caribbean. Their cat, Ophelia, joined the crew in 2005. She loved to sit atop the dodger and watch the water, mesmerized.

Mike is also a licensed US Coast Guard captain and he chartered to paying guests during their last five years in Maine.

After considering retirement communities in Florida, Michigan, and Cincinnati, Mike and Joy returned to the Cincinnati area to retire in December 2017 and decided on The Christian Village at Mason as the best value to be. Joy enjoys playing Maj Jong and Mexican Train and goes to the Mason Community Center. She is also involved in two book clubs. Mike stays busy with weekly lunch outings with other CVM men and bluegrass music. He has also assembled a band, The Great Miami Bluegrass Band, which performed at The Christian Village at Mason on March 6. Together they join other CVM residents on trips to mystery lunch destinations, the symphony, and are looking forward to going to Reds games this summer. They are very glad to be residents at The Christian Village at Mason, and we are glad to have them!
Awards and Recognition Abound in Recent Months for CVC!

By Lisa Cecil, VP of Health Services

On a Local Level
Christian Village Communities was a finalist in The Health Collaborative’s (THC) Inspire | Healthcare Richard M. Smith MD Leadership in Quality Improvement Award. Inspire | Healthcare is the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region’s premier annual healthcare event and awards celebration.

The Health Collaborative is a Cincinnati-based nonprofit leading data-driven improvement initiatives that result in healthier people, better care, and lower costs. THC works with those who provide care, pay for care, and receive care, to find mutual solutions to healthcare’s most challenging problems. CVC is honored to have been a finalist alongside such prestigious company. Forty robust nominations were received for the awards, and finalists were chosen for their innovations in improving health and healthcare.

Cincy Magazine describes itself as a magazine for business professionals. Its annual awards program for our geographical area, Best of the North, is a celebration and competition between the top establishments from among many industries in Northern Cincinnati.

On October 17, all nominees were invited to the Best of the North celebration and judging at the Sharonville Convention Center. Attendees not only got to cast their votes for the “best of,” but also enjoyed sampling food. CVC won the title of Best of the North Retirement Community 2018! CVC has won this award now for six consecutive years! We are honored to have won this prestigious award and thank all who supported this event.

On a State Level
CVC was recognized in August with LeadingAge Ohio’s (LAO) Spotlight Award for our smart sock collaboration with Palarum and was presented the award at LAO’s 2018 Annual Conference and Trade Show. LAO is a nonprofit trade association representing approximately 400 long-term care organizations and hospices, as well as those providing ancillary healthcare and housing services in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities.

On a National Level
CVC had huge wins from McKnight’s 2018 Excellence in Technology Awards. McKnight’s is a national media brand providing news, perspective, and analysis for owners, operators, and other leaders of senior housing, independent living, assisted living, memory care, long-term care, post-acute care, and Life Plan Communities.

McKnight’s Senior Living awarded The Christian Village at Mason with its Gold Award in the category of High Tech/High Touch for its work with IncludeHealth from whom we purchased the Access Strength fitness machine, an inclusive fitness trainer that was created to be used by people of varying abilities and those who are standing or seated in a chair or wheelchair. The Include Platform provides outcomes-based data collections via a digital health and wellness platform.

McKnight’s Long-Term Care News also awarded CVC its Bronze Award in the category of High Tech/High Touch for its collaboration with Palarum. Our therapy departments have been testing and providing feedback on the smart sock and its application for therapy patients.
Oak and Acorns
New Inter-Generational Programming
A BIG HIT!

Study after study show the benefits of intergenerational programming, and we have long thought how wonderful it would be to incorporate children’s activities into our communities to enhance the lives of our residents. As He always is, God was upstream of our thoughts and wishes, and He blessed us by bringing the children and an amazing volunteer to us.

This past fall, Marsha Collins approached us with a ready-made proposal for a new weekly program — Oaks & Acorns Intergenerational Storytime. Marsha, a former teacher and retired Preschool Director at Christ’s Church at Mason, would lead a class for preschoolers accompanied by their parents with resident involvement. How perfect!

The class began in January, and we were amazed by Marsha’s thoughtfulness and planning. She had everything from cheerful name tags to themed children’s books, a music playlist to homemade noise makers, a mini bubble machine, and even a beloved dog puppet named Scruffy — who makes a regular appearance each week.

Residents help greet the families as they arrive. Moms of preschoolers often have babies in tow as well, who some residents offer to hold during the program as the moms sit on the floor with their preschoolers. Marsha energetically begins with the same song each week — “The More We Get Together,” and leads the group in a simple dance — residents included! She reads children’s books with great enthusiasm and incorporates other activities to go along with the week’s theme, whether taking turns jumping onto a white “snow” blanket, doing a simple craft, or singing a song and shaking the noise makers in all different directions. She knows how to engage a crowd!

A favorite part every day at Oaks & Acorns happens whenever one of our residents is celebrating a birthday. Marsha leads the class in singing, “Happy Birthday,” and afterward the children give that resident high-fives, hugs, and sometimes even run up to sit on their lap, as one curly-headed little girl did with Mr. Bob on his 91st birthday. Bob said that if nothing else happened that day, it was a great day because of the children.

We are so grateful for Oaks & Acorns, and the way Marsha Collins has brought new life and energy into our community.
The mission of Christian Village Communities is to guide older adults to joyful and purposeful life experiences in a faith-filled community.

Care is the heart and soul of everything we do. We are devoted to maintaining the highest standards of expertise and service in health and wellness. We are committed to serving each person as though they were our own family; with love, compassion and excellence.

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