They enter through our door day and night - wives, husbands, daughters and sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters, friends and other relatives. They come to visit a loved one who lives or is cared for in our Christian communities. Most days they come with hearts joy-filled with eager anticipation for a visit, but at other times the look on their faces gives away what must be a heavy heart, more burdened than joyful. You never know what’s on the hearts of those who enter our doors. Recently an encounter my wife Kathy had with a visitor in the hallway of our healthcare center at The Christian Village at Mason emphasized this point very well, and demonstrates that we encounter opportunities every day to make a difference in the lives of those with whom we come into contact. Sometimes when we least expect it.

From almost the day my wife Kathy and I arrived when I became CEO at Christian Village Communities, she has volunteered her time to do seasonal decorating for a significant portion of our healthcare center at The Christian Village at Mason. It’s Christian service she enjoys very much, is ably gifted for, and takes very seriously. As one holiday or season ends, she is at work decorating for the next.

One day in late November as Kathy was working on Christmas decorations, a woman approached her and asked, “Are you the person who does the decorating in this building?” Kathy responded that indeed she was. The woman shared that her father was in our healthcare center and that her visits to see him are becoming increasingly more difficult for her to endure. She loves him and she wants to be a good daughter, but because his health is deteriorating and he is growing increasingly angrier with his circumstances in life, she feels as though she bears the brunt of his unhappiness during her visits with him. She parks her car in our parking lot and takes a moment to work up the strength and courage to enter the building for her visits with her father.

As the daughter spoke with Kathy, her eyes filled with tears as she said, “It’s important for you to know that as I walk down these halls toward my father’s room your decorating lifts my spirits and helps to change my perspective on my visits. This is especially true at Christmastime. It takes me back to Christmases of my childhood; a time when there was much joy and happiness in my family, and a time when in my mind’s eye I can see my vibrant, loving and compassionate father gently tending to the needs of us all. Also, there’s the wonderful paintings of Christ in the halls of this building. They are so inspiring and comforting. Thank you for what you do.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
CONTINUED FROM COVER

You have no idea how it positively impacts and helps me." Kathy smiled and gave her a hug, then assured her that she would see that the CEO of the organization was made aware of her kind comments and words of thanks and gratitude.

Our team of over 400 employees daily embrace the opportunity to provide quality care and meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the residents and patients we serve. That’s to be expected because it’s the essence of what we do. But may we never forget that there are others who desperately need comforting.

In the case of Kathy’s encounter, I find it so interesting that it was not a handshake or a welcome, or even a touch on the shoulder. It was not a comforting word, a platitude, or a word of wisdom. It was a building filled with beauty. It was paintings of Christ on the walls. Rooms and walls can talk, and you never know what will bring peace to a troubled heart.

Christmas is past, the decorations are put away, but the memories of Christmas remain in our hearts and help to sustain us throughout the year. My prayer is that we all never forget that everyone with whom we come into contact is an opportunity for Christian service, and we should never underestimate the extent to which Christ will work through us to touch a human heart with His love.

Thank you for being a friend of our ministry. I pray that this issue of the Connection Newsletter will be a blessing to you. Exciting things are happening at Christian Village Communities, including two significant capital projects at the Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. Following a ribbon cutting in November of last year we have opened The Guardian Center for Memory Support. Now we continue with additional investments at Mt. Healthy with a construction project to build The Serenity Center for Nursing Care. We’ve seen great progress with our fundraising for the Stone Worship Center at The Christian Village at Mason. Details about all of this and so much more are in this issue.

To our stakeholders who have made partnering with us in their charitable giving a priority, THANK YOU! Your support helps us meet the needs of healthcare residents in our communities who reach the twilight of life without the resources for their own basic lifecare needs. May God richly bless you all, and remember, you never know.

WHEN GIVING COSTS YOU NOTHING

There is a “free” way you could give money to Christian Village Communities. If you have an Amazon account that you purchase items through, Amazon offers you the opportunity to select a charity for them to donate 0.5% of your purchase price.

To make this happen you must place your order through the “Amazon Smile“ website, https://smile.amazon.com. The website will provide you an option of selecting a charity for them to donate to. There are three options to choose from to support us:

1. Christian Village Communities
2. Christian Village at Mason
3. Christian Village at Mt. Healthy

Once you select your charity, 0.5% of every purchase you make will be sent our way each quarter.

While 0.5% may seem small, based on the potential volume of purchases it could become a substantial amount of money throughout the year. What a great way to give to a great cause at no extra cost to you!
A Year in Review

Bob Slade, VP of Operations

The year 2019 was very positive and successful for Christian Village Communities in many ways. We continue to produce quality outcomes while maintaining a positive bottom line, which leads to our ability for continued financial investment into our two communities.

The average skilled nursing census in our region is about 86%. Our communities achieved an annualized census of 92% in 2019. The 5 Star report published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is a key quality measurement often reviewed by families, residents and hospitals looking for placement of a patient or loved one into a nursing facility. The national average star rating for a community is 3 Stars. The Christian Village at Mason (CVM) and The Christian Village at Mount Healthy (CVMH) are both 5 Star rated. We also have made significant strides in reducing our length of stay during Medicare short term admissions. Length of stay in short term nursing is a quality indicator that has become an area of focus in the last few years, designed to drive down the cost of post-acute care and return patients home as quickly as possible. The national average length of stay for short term rehab was 42 days from the most recent data available. CVMH is at 17 days while CVM is at 22 days for length of stay. I am proud of the hard work and outcomes achieved in 2019 from the teams at both of our communities.

We were able to make several capital investments into our communities in 2019. CVMH had a major renovation to the third floor in the north tower. We converted independent living apartments into a beautiful, modern memory support area. The Guardian Center for Memory Support provides residents in need of specialized memory assistance exceptional care and supervision in a beautiful, safe and secure environment. The living space has been designed to most effectively help individuals and their families living and struggling with the difficult challenge of memory support. The Guardian Center opened in early 2020. In addition, CVMH is renovating the 5th floor of the south tower. In the past several years, the request for private skilled nursing rooms has grown and is becoming more of the standard in our industry. The 5 south renovation will convert this floor to 16 new private, long-term skilled nursing rooms. Currently the CVMH has only 2 long-term private nursing rooms. There are 13 private short-term, post-acute rooms located in the Faith Center for Rehabilitative Care. Upon completion of this new area which will be named The Serenity Center for Nursing Care, CVMH will have over 75% of our nursing rooms private. These renovations at the CVMH will help to keep us competitive and will be a key to our success in the future.

For the past several years we have poured significant capital into renovations at CVM as resident rooms and Garden Homes are vacated for new occupancy. This allows us to update our community gradually over time while managing our cash flow and revenue outlay. It also follows our strategic plan of focusing on opportunities that present the greatest potential for impact within our own communities that require reasonable capital investment at the lowest possible risk. At CVM we have renovated 70% of our Garden Homes, 67% of our Assisted Living Garden Apartments and 56% of our Guardian Center for Memory Support suites. The renovation work includes carpet and other flooring, trim, interior doors, appliances, HVAC, paint, kitchen and bathroom updates.

Our positive operational outcomes produce the revenue for community investment. We are very pleased with our progress and look forward to continuing God’s work at each of our communities.
Exciting Update on Stone Center Auditorium Campaign

Named in honor of Sam and Gwen Stone, the Stone Center will be a 400-seat worship auditorium located in the healthcare center at our Mason community. The increased seating capacity of the Stone Center will help our ministry in several very important ways. CVM is a very active community with a busy schedule of special events. The current chapel, with a maximum posted capacity of 99 is the largest nondining venue on the campus and is where concerts and most of the other special resident activities take place. This space is just not large enough to meet our needs.

Our Sunday morning chapel services have grown tremendously over the last several years, not only from resident participation, but with people from Mason, OH community at large. The popular worship service includes the singing of hymns, great gospel preaching, weekly observance of the Lord’s supper and frequent special music. Chaplain Tom Moll recently added a third service on Sunday to accommodate the growing crowds. The Stone Center will make it possible for everyone to worship together in one service, and provide space for growth, allowing us to reach more people for Christ. Fundraising in support of the Stone Center Auditorium at The Christian Villages at Mason continues to go well through the generous support of so many. In the last quarter of 2019 alone, over $500,000 was raised from several Christian Village at Mason Garden Home residents. This has been an encouraging blessing to all! Many thanks to our donors who continue to support the campaign.

We are approximately $200,000 away from our goal of $2,000,000 for groundbreaking. The projected total construction cost is $2.8 million. We continue in earnest prayer that God will provide the additional gifts needed to achieve that important milestone in this project.

A video about the Stone Center campaign can be seen at www.stoneworshipcenter.org. Information about becoming a partner with us to help build the Stone Worship Center and Auditorium is available on our website.

If anyone would like to discuss the Stone Center campaign and how to support the fundraising effort, please contact CEO Larry Monroe by calling 513-701-3448 or by emailing Larry at larry.monroe@christianvillages.org.
In many ways it was just an ordinary day like so many others. Christian Village at Mason Licensed Practical Nurse Amy Mann was on a mission to deliver some blankets and other household items to her parents. As she entered the home through the front door with several blankets in her arms, tragedy struck Amy. Her parents’ two dogs, which Amy had been around and interacted with on countless previous occasions without incident, attacked her. Knocked to the floor as the dogs pounced on her, Amy had the presence of mind to clutch the blankets around her throat and face. That decision may have saved her life. Amy’s sons, who were following behind her and carrying some items into the house, rushed in, trying to do what they could to get the dogs off their mother. By the time the dogs were able to be controlled, the resulting carnage was obvious to everyone. Amy’s arms and legs were slashed with numerous bites and she was bleeding badly. The dogs were permanently removed from the home.

Following extensive surgery to close wounds, repair damaged muscle and ligaments, Amy began the long journey of recovery which included many hours of therapy. She was off work for weeks. Being a single mom who is also raising her granddaughter, Amy’s financial situation soon became a concern. She had heard about the CBA Foundation and was vaguely aware of a program to assist CVC team members with financial aid when they experienced a life-altering disaster beyond their control. She contacted the Human Resource Department for more information and soon completed an application for a grant. If there has ever been an instance when the grant review committee approved a grant more quickly, it escapes memory. We all were horrified by what had happened to Amy, and eager to help provide her with a helping hand until she returned to work.

Amy is grateful for the ministry of the CBA Foundation, and is eager to share her feelings about the aid she received. “I’m a single mother of three children and I pay for childcare on my own. I was very worried and stressed initially when I was off work, because I had used up my sick time. When I heard the news that I was being awarded a hardship grant, I felt very emotional about it because the grant took a big weight off me. It assisted me with medical costs, especially co-pays for the emergency room, surgical procedures, doctor visits, and physical therapy. I am very grateful for an employer that would provide such a gift in a time of need.”

The area of greatest focus for the CBA Foundation is the resident financial subsidy fund, commonly referred to as the Compassionate Care Fund. We are living longer than ever before in recent history. At the time when most of our residents were working and planning for retirement, the average life expectancy in America was 69.5. Today the average for men and women is 77. Some are living well into their 90’s and are quite active. Medical advances are making it possible for us to live a longer, productive life. This means that even some who thought they had adequately planned for their retirement may face the possibility of outliving their nest-egg. When a resident in our healthcare center depletes their finances and they do not qualify for other aid, such as Medicaid and have no other sources of income, the CBA Foundation is there to be a lifesaver in the midst of a storm.

The CBA Foundation is fueled by the faithful giving of donors who stand with this ministry through prayer and financial support. Churches, individuals and corporations help to make it all happen. Without these stewardship partners we simply could not provide this life-changing aid in Jesus’ name. To all our donors we say, thank you, and to others we say, we need you!

Church or business leaders interested in learning more about how to become a partner with the CBA Foundation may contact CEO Larry Monroe by calling 513-701-3448 or by sending an email to larry.monroe@christianvillages.org.
Industry providers from the southwestern Ohio area attended the Leadership Networking Forum, sponsored by LeadingAge Ohio, on March 4th at The Christian Village at Mason.

LeadingAge Ohio (LAO) is a nonprofit trade association that represents approximately 400 long-term care organizations and hospices, as well as those providing ancillary health care and housing services, in more than 150 Ohio towns and cities. The continuum of care reflected by the member organizations serve an estimated 400,000 elderly Ohioans annually and employ more than 35,000 persons statewide.

The professionals that attend this type of forum include executive directors, administrators, chief executive officers/presidents, chief financial officers, and all members of leadership teams. This event was facilitated by Kathryn Brod, President/CEO of LeadingAge Ohio. Participants benefit from having face-to-face time with Kathryn and learning from her expertise. She provided updates on Ohio’s health policy as well as LeadingAge Ohio’s advocacy efforts. The Forum will be held twice yearly in different regions of Ohio, with the possibility of increasing their frequency depending on feedback and demand.

Recognizing that we are all better when we learn from each other, the time that leaders spend together improves the processes that we manage in our skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities. While there is a huge convenience factor in distance learning via technology, the value and integrity of in-person networking cannot be replaced. LeadingAge Ohio aims to deliver information on up-and-coming trends in healthcare, emerging technologies, and workforce solutions at these events.

It’s easy to justify passing on the opportunity to attend events such as this: we’re too busy, there are excessive demands on our time, or we need to focus on other priorities. However, by learning from each other and sharing best practices, we can develop and continue to grow effective leadership behaviors. It’s this leadership in long-term care and life plan communities that takes initiative and perseverance in order to provide exceptional quality of care and quality of life, safety, and person-centered cultures for our residents and patients.

There are several areas in which providers of long-term care services are pressured. Our highly-regulated industry is in a state of constant change. The long-term care survey process is changing, care transitions companies are involved in helping manage value-based care programs, and person-centered cultures within our communities are evolving, just to name a few areas of intensity for the long-term care leader. This particular meeting provided an update on important Ohio healthcare policy updates. In addition, Ryan Eder, Founder and CEO of IncludeHealth, spoke about their integrated, inclusive digital health and wellness platform, of which The Christian Village at Mason was IncludeHealth’s first location within senior living to provide an Access Strength™ to its residents. Also, Booker Moore, CEO of L.R. Webber, a full-service employee benefits consulting firm, provided valuable information to attendees.

Working together and learning from each other in order to navigate today’s healthcare landscape are the keys to lifting the quality of care that we all provide.
Memorial and Honor Gifts

Gifts Given August 1 – December 31, 2019

In Memory Of

Charles & Dorothy Abato
Anonymous

Dorothy Abato
Daniel Dooney

Henrietta Beitle
Mark & Karen Gambill

Alex Betley
James & Sherry Betlej

Bertha Bierbaum
Linda Thompson

Roy Blackmore
Pat & Marilyn Larrick

Lila Bounds
Carl & Betty Oney

Jonathan Bowers
Nancy Bowers

Harvey & Mary Ann Bream
Scott & Terri Bream

Forrest & Jesse Bridges
John & Dianne Hockstok

Mary Brinkman
Paul & Marilyn Poe

Russel & Grace Catlin
Gary & Ruth Claypoole

Margaret Claypoole
Gary & Ruth Claypoole

Norma Dallas
John Dallas

Milton & Mary Dills
Milton & Barbara Dills

Verna Dolle
Dennis & Barbara Barger

Louise Doyle
Donald & Cynthia Doyle

Claire Drennan
Robert & Chris Braun

Edward Duritsch
Michael & Terri Tooley

Charles (Bob) Eger
David & Mildred Merkel

Forest & Hermina Ellis
Allen & Barbara Riley

William Falk
David & Nancy Falk

George & Margaret Frankenstein
William Frankenstein

Ray French
Robert Dell
Donald & Edna Ellis
William & Martha Mendez
James Ruwe

Frank Gambill
Mark & Karen Gambill

Gregory Gardiner
Nancy Gardiner

Wayne Gardiner
Nancy Gardiner

Shirley Glorius
Vivian Barlow

Betty Goode
Henry & Nina Coyle

Donald Griffin
Audrey Griffin

Michael Hall
Elaine Hall

Robert Heideman
Michael & Gloria Heideman
Beth Kelsey
John & Genevieve Leesemann
Bob & Kathy Mits
Jack & Joyce Rosskopf

Ronald Henderson
Robert & Janice Bell
William & Jerlene Bell
Terri Burkhardt
Doris Clay
William & Marion Fotheringham
Kenneth & Jill Griffith
David & Eva Grubbs
Rosena Hagee
Emma Henderson
Esther Henderson
Steve & Debbie Henderson
Joanne Hensley
Sarah Leonard
Tom & Kay Moll
Howard Ransdell
Willard & Ruth Walls

Mary Ann Hester
Drew & Mary Ann Hester

Dorothy Heuer
Robert & Carol Siebenburgen

Michelle Hodges
John & Shelby Gillum

June Holland
Hedy Arrell
Richard & Joanne Biedinger
Marilyn Buzzza
John Hammons
Anna Hanna
William & Martha Mendez
John & Cynthia Prendergast
Neal & Maureen Prendergast
Neal & Joy Prendergast
Patrick & Lori Prendergast
Beth Rhorer

Rodney & June Holland
Margaret Jositis

Gilbert Hoobler
Donald & Patricia Taylor

Marie Howell
Oletha Howell

Paul Howell
Naomie Devitt
Ann Kelley
Thomas & Joan Maxwell

Judy Hunter
Donald & Phyllis Delay
Marilyn Pitzer

Samuel Jasper
Gwen Jasper

James & Boots Johnson
Sam & Donna Zalatoris

Philip Johnson
Gary & Janet Langhorst

Leon Jones
Maryellen Jones

Robert Keller
Joanne Hensley

Betty Kihnley
Linda Hilvert

William Knaebel
Robert Grundhoefer

Walter & Dorothy Koller
Ronald & Darlene Springman

Allen & Dorothy Kurtz
Steve Kurtz

Mae Lindner
Lloyd & Judith Lindner

James & Rosemary Maness
Greg & Brenda Martin

Marion Massmann
Barbara Murray
Memorial and Honor Gifts

Hank & Ellie McKay
   Mark & Karen Gambill
Virginia Melvin
   Patricia Dillon
Shirley Mitchell
   William & Jenny Vogt
   Craig & Beth Warmuth
   Amy Willging
   Vivian Willging
Ivan Morse
   Evangeline Morse
Topsy New
   Arnold & Mona Burge
   Betty Overstreet
Ivan Odor
   Kevin & Ginger Odor
   Our Parents
   Harold & Ellen Mains
Muriel Payne
   John & Shelby Gillum
Mary Pennington
   Neville & Joan Pennington
Doris Perkins
   Bonnie Clark
   Naomie Devitt
   Barbara Pettyjohn
Farley & Jennie Peveler
   Kitty Garner
   Farley Peveler Estate
JoAnn Planchard
   Jerome Planchard
James & Elaine Powell
   Kenneth & Pam Pyle
Ken & Helen Rainey
   Gary Riddle
Sandy Reuter
   Linda Heinemeyer
Richard & Betty Richter
   Kathleen Torrance
Calvin Rocquemore
   Sampson Perry
Marie Rogers
   Lance Rogers
Robert Ruble
   Jim & Cynthia Spicer
Ellen Ruff
   Elmer Ruff
Rosanne Russell
   John & Susan Russell
Betty Schreiber
   Fred & Eleanor Schreiber
   Robert Schreiber
   Norma Souders
Betty Sensibaugh
   Richard & Joanne Biedinger
   Doris Botner
   Michael & Kathy Dopson
   Mark & Karen Gambill
   John & Gail Parker
   Jim & Jill Sandidge
Victor Shaffer
   Janet Shaffer Stout
Vera Shipley
   Janet Aho
   Mary Coban
   Gerald Shipley
Blanche Skillman
   Charles Skillman
Thomas Smith
   Josephine Smith
Cooper & Dorothy Snyder
   Harry & Janet Snyder
Minnie Spahni
   Lovell & Deborah Revels
Florence Spengler
   Mary Spengler
Ina St. John
   John & Phyllis DeBra
Melvin Stang
   Kenneth Stang
Gwen Stone
   Virginia Taylor
Charles Streicher
   Patrick & Anita Ernst
   Thomas & Mary Jo Heintz
   Claire Korteckamp
   Sean & Emily McCabe
   Gerald & Sue Palermo
   William & Karen Rettig
   Robert Streicher
   Sylvia Zoller
Rita Tenkman
   Donald & Pamela Mortimer
David Topp
   Dwight & Cristina Anderson
   Dave & Gail Andre
   James & Mrs. Bengier
   William & Marie Brandl
   Jeanne Carter
   Richard & Mrs. Carter
   Eric & Nancy Cook
   James & Susan Crumpler
   Richard & Joan Dostal
   Janet Goodwin
   Griffis Custom Cleaners
   Jeffrey Jones
   Ruth Lewis
   Amy Thomas
   Charles & Cynthia Topp
   Geraldine Topp
Richard Trotter
   James & Carol Coy
   Louis & Wilma Kressin
   Sue Vogt
Norma Tucker
   David & Maxine Tucker
John & Dorothy Tyrrell
   Vincent & Jane DiMaggio
Alberta Vaughan
   John & Melinda Hampton
Donald Venseret
   Bette Venseret
Margaret Vogler
   Sally Maritt
   Jean Miller
Mary Walker
   Roger Walker
Willa Walsh
   Robert & Adrienne Walsh
Margaretha Warner
   Howard & Judy Warner
   Rosena Hagee
   Katie Havelda
   Joanne Hensley
   William & Martha Mendez
Patricia Weiss
   David & Beth Muskopf
Bob & Lucille Welker
   Carolyn Short
Donald & Anna White
   Tom & Rhonda White
Jerome Yarnell
   Susann Ralston
In Honor Of

Alma “Clio” Adler  
  Robert & Deborah Adler
Mary Bagamery  
  Bruce Bagamery
James Bell  
  Carmine Bell
Marion Bier  
  Andrew & Mariana Lorenz
Lois Bleakney  
  Shawn & Ree McMullen
Jeanne Brand  
  Rick & Liz Brand
Barbara Cottrell  
  Jack Cottrell
Henry & Nina Coyle  
  Stephen Coyle
Sarah Ferris  
  Barbara Pettyjohn
Marlene Flannery  
  Shannon Flannery

William & Marion Fotheringham  
  Terri Baroch
  Doreen Hilton
Kitty Garner  
  Nancy Bowers
  Omnicare, Inc
  Carl & Marilyn Padgett
Audrey Griffin  
  Griffs Custom Cleaners
Mary Ann Hester  
  Drew Hester
Joe & Donna Immelt  
  Stephen & Susan Immelt
Mark McKinney  
  Brian & Tonya Van Hoose
Mick & Gayle McLaughlin  
  David & Mildred Merkel
Tom & Kay Moll  
  Don & Phyllis DeLay
  Mark & Karen Gambill
  Joanne Hensley
  Gloria Hopkins

Ken & Jane Morris  
  Michael Morris
Marlene Parrott  
  Gary & Diane Archer
Barbara Pettyjohn  
  Gloria Hopkins
Wally Rendel  
  James Gladney
Walter Reuter  
  Linda Heinemeyer
Clara Sevier  
  Doris Wotring
Sam Stone  
  Virginia Taylor
Petey & Jan Taylor  
  Allan Miller
  Doris Wotring
Lois Tuttle  
  Tony & Linda Tuttle
Adele R. Yung  
  Howard & Sandra Blevins

The board of trustees and staff of
The Christian Restoration Association congratulate

Dr. H. Lee Mason

upon being inducted into the
CBA Hall of Faith

Gifts Given August 1 – December 31, 2019
In The Spotlight

Sue Durham – Director of Housekeeping & Laundry

Sue joined the management team at The Christian Village at Mason on November 19, 2019. Sue attended College of Mount St. Joseph for Business Management. She has over 40 years’ experience in Housekeeping and Management with Senior Living Communities.

Sue enjoys watching her son play baseball and going camping.

Kathy Jones – Director of Human Resources

Kathy joined the management team at The Christian Village at Mason on October 8, 2019. Kathy attended Northern Kentucky University for Social Work. She has over 25 years’ experience in Human Resources in Long Term Care/Senior Living Communities.

Kathy enjoys cooking, baking and spending time with family. She is expecting her first grandchild in March 2020.

Team Member Special Accomplishment

By Kathy Jones, Director of Human Resources

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Cecil has received her Licensed Nursing Home Administrator License. Lisa started with Christian Village at Mason on May 5, 2008 as Director of Nursing and on December 27, 2015 she was promoted to Vice President of Health Services. Becoming a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator takes a lot of work and studying, which makes this a big milestone in Lisa’s career.

When asked for comment about her achievement Lisa shared, “Having this additional knowledge gives me a wider view of all of the sources of information that we need in order to provide high-quality care while remaining in compliance with state and federal regulations. I’ve been blessed to work with seniors during most of my career, and most of that has been here at Christian Village Communities. Being part of a team that helps our seniors thrive and maintain their independence for as long as possible is most meaningful to me.”

CEO Larry Monroe shared his thoughts about Lisa’s accomplishment. “I’m proud of Lisa for accomplishing this goal in her life. In addition to the gratitude of seeing one of our team leaders expand upon her knowledge base and credentialing, it’s a plus for our organization to have another licensed LNHA on our team. This licensure is critical to accomplishing regulatory compliance associated with our healthcare centers.”
The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) has a long tradition of regular Sunday services in our chapel. Beautifully adorned with original artwork donated by the Standard Publishing Company, the chapel is a highlight of any tour of the facility. Every Sunday at 3:00 residents and guests gather there for a meaningful worship service led either by the chaplain or by a minister or team from one of our supporting churches.

Sunday is not the only day for services, however. We have initiated a number of special services that are held throughout the year. Three times annually there is a special memorial service to remember residents who lived at CVMH but have passed away. Residents are often unable to attend funerals and memorial services for their friends and neighbors because those services are almost always held off-site, at the resident's home church or at a funeral home. The triannual memorials give the residents an opportunity to remember and honor their neighbors in an appropriate worship setting. These services sometimes include music by the resident choir, congregational singing, and a devotional message. Always there is an “Honor Roll of the Deceased,” with names read between alternating moments of silence to reflect and remember. The second service each year happens near Memorial Day, so it becomes a Memorial Day service as well as a time to recognize our friends and neighbors.

In the spring, Good Friday brings an opportunity for a special worship service. Residents gather in the chapel for a special service that includes congregational singing and a message from God's Word. Occasionally there are recitations by residents and/or staff, special music by the resident choir or a soloist, and a guest speaker.

Each Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve our chapel becomes home to more thematic worship experiences. Along with typical features such as congregational and special music and a message, the Thanksgiving service often includes some special inclusion of residents and their own expressions of thanksgiving. On one occasion, residents were invited to write their expressions of thanks on large sheets of paper. Last year we solicited responses in advance and then summarized the results during the service. A Christmas Eve service is traditional for many residents' home churches, but the residents are no longer able to attend those gatherings. Having a service in our chapel meets a need these residents have missed out on in the past.

Since 2018 a new service has been added, though it does not take place in our chapel. The first Thursday in May is the National Day of Prayer, and for the past two years CVMH has hosted a National Day of Prayer Breakfast. Meeting in our Resident Community Center, residents gather for a delicious meal prepared by Director of Dining Services, Melinda Marquet, and her kitchen team. After breakfast a speaker gives an inspirational message, and that is followed by a time of prayer. Bob Stacy of the Spring Hill Church of Christ in Middletown was the inaugural speaker in 2018. Tom Moll, Sr. Chaplain at The Christian Village at Mason, was the speaker in 2019.

Last November Life Enrichment director, Shannon Bryant, initiated a new feature that is sure to become an annual event. On Veterans' Day we had a special service in our chapel to honor our veteran residents and to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because such men and women have been willing to wear the uniform of our country. A magnificent display in the south living room recognized our veterans for several days as well, with the photos displayed there being incorporated in a slide show during the service.

The public is always welcome at both our regular chapel services and these special gatherings. Come join us when you have the opportunity!
Announcing CVM’s Newest Manor Home

By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy

The Christian Village at Mason has a large independent living population with 189 single-story Garden Homes and approximately 250 independent living residents. When people visit the 85-acre campus, many comment on how beautiful and inviting the Garden Home neighborhood is. In addition to a beautiful setting, independent living residents have the benefit of a maintenance-free lifestyle with the peace of mind that if they ever need assisted living or nursing care, they will have priority access to CVM’s exceptional healthcare services.

CVM’s Garden Homes have a wide variety of floor plans. They are spacious, all with attached garages, four season solariums, and are renovated with modern, updated finishes including tiled bathrooms and granite countertops. For most, the Garden Homes are just the right size when downsizing to a Life Plan Community. However, there are some who still desire a larger floor plan with more room.

Two years ago, CVM had side-by-side Garden Homes that were vacated. Working closely with an architectural firm, a new floor plan was developed combining these two homes into one, naming it the Manor Home. Designed for the active, independent retiree, a Manor Home at CVM offers added storage, more living space, and a two-car garage. The first Manor Home was reserved even before construction was well underway! Not long after this first Manor Home was occupied by the new residents, another opportunity developed for a second to be created, and it was quickly reserved. These new residents joined the CVM community earlier this year.

Now our third Manor Home location has been identified, our largest so far. This one-of-a-kind, spacious stand-alone floor plan will include a 2-car garage, 2 bedrooms/2 full bathrooms/1 half bath, large master bedroom with his/her closets, open concept living space, breakfast room, den and expanded outdoor patio.

CVM is thrilled to be able to offer independent living accommodations that now provide more room to those who desire it. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about this unique Manor Home or any of the Garden Homes at CVM, please contact our Sales and Marketing Department today. We would be honored to be your next home!

(513) 701-3408 or CVMmarketing@christianvillages.org
Seeking the Next Generation of Stewardship Partners

By: Mark McKinney, Director of Development

In 1985 a country music song rose to the top of the charts. Recorded by legendary singer, George Jones, *Who’s Gonna Fill Their Shoes* is a soulful ballad that asks the question – who will come after the foundational greats of the country music industry when they are no longer among us. Why did this song become such a massive hit? Undoubtedly the fact that George Jones recorded it was a major factor. I suspect that another reason it was so popular was because its simple message resonated in the hearts and minds of many people - the preservation of a form of music so vitally important to millions of fans.

The question in this country music hit is also relevant for any not-for-profit organization that depends heavily upon the financial support of donors. To sustain the organization into the future there needs to be a continual effort to expand its reach to younger generations who will fill the shoes of those who went before them. In my role as the Development Director for our ministry, I see this ever-present need. We have an aging donor base and I find myself asking the question, who’s going to fill their shoes?

From the earliest days of The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) in the 1960’s to this very day there have been many who have invested their time and resources into our ministry. In the early years members of area churches worked in the kitchen and in other places at CVMH. Volunteers provided nursing assistance until laws prohibited volunteers from working in this capacity. People cleaned, painted, pulled weeds, mowed grass, and did a variety of other things to help the ministry grow. We have donors who as teenagers worked among others in their church youth groups to support the ministry of CBA. Our own Tom Moll, Chaplain at The Christian Village at Mason, was a teenager, parking cars the day that CVMH was dedicated in 1967.

At one time these supporters numbered into the thousands, but they are aging, and their numbers are diminishing. We must be sure that we tell our story to younger generations which include the children and grandchildren of many of our donors, so that the legacy of their prayerful and financial support will live on and the ministry of CVC will be sustained.

As I travel and visit with people I sometimes hear them say, “I love what you do and wish I could do more to help,” or “I wish I could come up with a way to do more.” We have an answer - help to introduce us to the next generation of donors.

In the weeks and months to come you will see more about NEXTGEN. Later in the spring I will mail a gift appeal which will include more information about NEXTGEN, including specific ways that you can get involved.

In the meantime, talk to family members and friends about the great work being done at CVC. Explain to them how the compassionate care fund is used by God to care for the elderly in their time of greatest need. Encourage them to partner with us in their personal charitable giving. Perhaps God will touch their hearts to move them to become a part of the next generation of donors. Ask your church leaders if a representative of Christian Village Communities can come and present our ministry to a young adult class. With your help we will reach new partners to fill the shoes of a generation that made our ministry what it is today.
Thou Art the Potter, I Am the Clay

By Doug Waters

As a young lad, I was a tad heavy.

Actually, that’s being kind. I hate to come right out and say I was a fat kid, so I’ll word it another way. God is the potter, I am the clay, and when I was young, I used up more than my fair share of the clay supply!

It started at birth. I entered the world at just under 10 pounds. That was big for the 1950s!

In first grade, I hadn’t thought about my weight until the day when the whole class had to be weighed and measured. We lined up and watched as one kid after another ascended the scale. As the little arm balanced to a stop, most kids weighed around 40 to 60 pounds. Then, the class fat kid, Rhonda, stepped up. Whack! went the little metal arm. Up, up, up the teacher slid the counterweight, until it finally stopped at 93 pounds. The class tittered. Rhonda turned red.

After several more skinny kids, it was my turn. Whack! went the cruel little arm. Up and up the teacher’s hand went, until the under-100 category had been exhausted. She looked at me. I looked at her. And for the first and only time that day, the 100-pound weight had to be used. Final tally: 103. The class tittered. My cheeks got hot. Wow, I thought, if Rhonda’s the class fat kid, what does that make me? I was tall for my age, but still, this was alarming!

Not so alarming that I cut back on food, of course. During the fourth-grade weigh-in, I again was the class leader, this time at 135. My teacher, a truly sweet, caring woman, took my face in her palms, smiled empathetically, and in her lilting, Southern accent said, “Duuhg, hunney, that really is too muuch.” My cheeks blazed again.

But I kept eating. In fact, I doubled down. Double Whoppers with cheese. Double scoops on my cone. Two-for-one pizzas – both for me, of course. Double helpings, double refills, double buffet trips. Add it all up, and I was quite a pair!

I topped out at 200 pounds in the 9th grade. After years of being teased as one of the school fat kids, I had finally had enough, and began working hard to get in shape. By the time I graduated, I had grown three inches, to around 6-3, and weighed about 190. I was able to head off to college and leave the “fat kid” label behind. Yayyy!

The point is, I know what it’s like to be embarrassed by my body. Even though my “condition” was self-inflicted, it still caused me anguish. And I know I was not alone. In fact, I’m convinced that nobody – not one single person – makes it through life without wishing something were different about his or her body. Especially for pre-teens and teens, any physical shortcoming, whether real or perceived, can cause emotional pain. And there are plenty of adults who carry regrets about their bodies for their entire lives. Whether we’re talking height or weight, ears or rears, hips or lips, everybody’s got something they don’t like. And if our bodies turn on us, such as when we’re struck down by a disease, or when the aging process causes all kinds of problems, it can be difficult to stay positive. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**
However, let’s remember what the Bible says about our bodies.

- Psalm 139:14: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Instead of obsessing over what we don’t like, let’s remember to praise God for the wonder that is the human body. That won’t change what we don’t like, but it just might help us handle it better.

- 2 Corinthians 4:7: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” The real treasure is not the jar (our bodies), it’s the treasure contained within, the Holy Spirit, the deposit guaranteeing our eternal inheritance. Let’s all agree to focus more on the contents than the jar! (This is true not only when we look at ourselves, but also when we look at those around us).

When it comes to our bodies, we, like Paul, can learn “to be content whatever the circumstances” (Phil 4:11). That may seem unlikely to someone who has spent years disliking some physical trait. But since the Bible says it can be done, shouldn’t we give it our best shot? 🙏
Howard and Martha Brammer

Howard and Martha became residents at The Christian Village Mason (CVM) in 2017 and immediately expressed a desire to get involved volunteering in resident life. Howard began a club for retired ministers in the Village and served as President of the Garden Home Resident Association. Martha coordinates the welcome efforts for new CVM Garden Home residents, created a resident Art Club, Memoir Club, and organized a Ladies Tea using her cup collection from around the world. She can be seen regularly visiting residents in all areas of the CVM Healthcare Center.

Howard served as Senior Minister at Trader’s Point Christian Church (TPCC) from 1983 until his retirement in 2005. Under his leadership the church grew from 400 to 2,100, and today Traders Point ministers to over 10,000 in weekend services. Howard also led in the establishing of the TPCC School, with grades K through twelve and an enrollment of 800. Howard has served as past President of the North American Christian Convention (NACC) and served other churches in Berry, KY, Batavia, OH and Fairfield, OH. He was “Chaplain to the Brickyard” for 25 straight years, having delivered the invocation prayer at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway NASCAR Brickyard 400. A 1967 graduate of Cincinnati Bible College, Howard was named as Class Orator of his graduating class and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Martha is an accomplished artist, having owned her own studio in Indianapolis, IN. Martha’s art features custom murals, handmade tiles, watercolors, pen & ink and oil paintings. In 2018 she received first place for her writing and second place for painting in the LeadingAge Ohio resident art contest. Martha has organized many volunteer programs for churches and communities. She has authored a women’s Bible study and directed women’s programming for the NACC. She also led a mega-church conference for women and served on the design committee for the last two building campaigns at TPCC. Martha is a 1966 graduate of Cincinnati Bible College and studied at the Columbus College of Art and Design.

Lee Mason

Lee Mason served as Executive Director for The Christian Restoration Association for 26 years. He is an author and prolific conference and revival speaker. Lee has held over 250 weeks of revivals in his lifetime. He also served in vocational ministry in Felicity, OH, Oceanside, CA, Downey, CA, and Cincinnati, OH. He was Adjunct Professor at Pacific Christian College, Instructor for Public Speaking at Cincinnati Bible College, and Instructor for Preaching at Louisville Bible College.

In 1967 Lee graduated from Cincinnati Bible Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts degree, followed by a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1968. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree from California Graduate School of Theology in 1975 and a Master of Arts Degree in Religion from Liberty University in 1997. Lee is married to Karen (Maxell) and they have four children and thirteen grandchildren.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Ken Henderson

Ken Henderson has over 55 years in ministry. His writings, speaking and music concerts have touched hundreds of thousands of teens, in the US and abroad. In 1970 Ken founded Teen Mission, USA, an outreach for teens and parents, serving as Executive Director. In 1985 Ken began Mission Journeys, an outreach of Teen Mission, USA that has sent over 9,000 teens and adults on nearly 900 evangelistic, construction, teaching, benevolent, disaster recovery, and medical mission trips.

Ken wrote extensively for Christian magazines, as Assistant Editor for Straight (teen magazine by Standard Publishing) and wrote “Straight From Ken” and many other publications for Standard Publishing.

Ken is a 1968 graduate of Cincinnati Christian University with BA degree in Ministry. Ken and his wife Carol have 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. They also have provided loving care for over 50 foster children.

Robyn Lana - We are pleased to welcome Robyn Lana and the Cincinnati Youth Choir back to the Hall of Faith. The choir wowed attendees at the 2019 Hall of Faith, and we look forward to their return this year.

The Hall of Faith banquet is scheduled September 18 at 7:00 pm at The Manor House in Mason, OH.

A mailing is planned later in the summer with instructions for registering for the Hall of Faith. Reservations may also be made anytime by contacting Christian Aquilino at 513-468-1247, or if preferred by email at christian.aquilino@christianvillages.org.

Traders Point Christian Church sends their congratulations to Howard and Martha Brammer upon being inducted into the CBA Foundation’s Hall of Faith. A well-deserved honor.
CVC Wins Best of the North Seven Years Running

By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy

For the last seven years, the Christian Village Communities has been nominated for Best Retirement Community in the prestigious Best of the North competition. Best of the North is an annual event hosted by Cincy Magazine. This competition between businesses and other establishments is a wonderful way to celebrate what is great about living and having a business in northern Cincinnati.

Readers of Cincy Magazine and the public vote to decide the top three nominees in several business sector categories. Finalists are invited to the Best of the North celebration where they compete in their category for the “best of” title. For the seventh consecutive year, Christian Village Communities was nominated for Best Retirement Community for the 2019 Best of the North Competition.

When the votes were all tallied, CVC again won the event in the category of Best Retirement Community! This award is a testament to the superior care offered by CVC for over 50 years and the outstanding reputation our organization has in the region. We are honored to have won this prestigious award and thank all who supported us at this event.

Esther Wilkey - An Ambassador at Heart

By Shannon Bryant, Director of Life Enrichment, CVMH

Esther Smith was born on September 5, 1938, to Harold and Thelma Smith. She and her brother Paul learned two lessons at an early age: work hard and faithfully attend church services and activities. Esther’s father was a minister and traveling evangelist, so family life was centered around church. Esther began playing the piano at the age of six, so she played a big part in her father’s ministry. Her father also had a wonderful singing voice and she loved to hear him sing “Victory in Jesus.”

As Esther grew up, she began attending Withrow High School in Cincinnati. She worked after school each day and on Saturdays as a robotyper for H&S Pogue Company. It was there that she met Ed Wilkey. At first, they were just good friends, but soon they began dating, and about a year later they decided to get married.

Ed passed away on November 28, 1994. Esther moved into The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy (CVMH) on May 9, 2009. She immediately began volunteering to help the Nursing Aids make beds, setting up Communion for the Sunday chapel service and serving in the dining room. She also served as an Ambassador, welcoming new residents to CVMH. She especially enjoyed leading and playing piano for the resident choir.

Esther continues to serve as a volunteer whenever she believes she can be helpful. If you stop by on Sundays, you can usually find her playing the grand piano in the main living room. Her heart is forever young because of her devotion to helping others. Esther is such a blessing to CVMH, and we are glad to have her with us.

There is a common misconception that a retirement community is just an old folk’s home where people go to sit and wait for the inevitable end of life’s journey. People like Esther shatter that thinking, as her life is a testament to the fact that personal joy and satisfaction can be achieved wherever you are in life, as long as you are willing to serve others in Jesus’ name.

The mission of Christian Village Communities is to guide older adults to joyful and purposeful life experiences in a faith-filled community.
Volunteerism at CVC

By Steve Henderson, Director of Church Relations

We have been blessed through years with so many who have given of their time to volunteer. If you have volunteered to serve at one of our communities or are currently serving as a volunteer, we thank you! Many of our area churches have participated. Volunteers have also come from local schools, family members of residents, and many of our own residents as well.

Benefits of Volunteering

It is an amazing feeling to do something for someone else, to give of yourself to make their day a little brighter. It’s a win-win situation as the one being served is blessed and the volunteer is richly blessed as well. Our residents, volunteers, and staff are instrumental in making our community more than just a place to live.

Recently we were blessed to have a large delegation of students, their parents and school administrators from Mason Middle School who volunteered at The Christian Village at Mason. Our halls were abuzz with energy, laughter and joy as over 65 students served our residents in a variety of volunteer roles. From the comments we received, it’s obvious that the volunteers seemed to get as much out of the experience as the residents. We have developed a volunteer brochure that describes various ways people can get involved. To receive one of these brochures for your own use or to share them with your church or school you can contact me at steve.henderson@christianvillages.org.

When we volunteer, we live out the meaning of Philippians 2:1-4 which says, “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
Christian Village Communities
Larry Monroe, President & CEO
Vickie Brashear, CFO
411 Western Row Rd
Mason, OH 45040
513-701-3448
www.christianvillages.org

The Christian Village at Mason
CVM Health Care Facility
Bob Slade, LNHA, VP of Operations
411 Western Row Rd
Mason, OH 45040
513-398-1486
www.christianvillages.org

The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy
Mark Oaks, LNHA, Executive Director
8097 Hamilton Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45231
513-931-5000
www.christianvillages.org

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.

Want to receive the Connection electronically?
Help us reduce our mailing costs by sending your email address to:
connectionemail@christianvillages.org

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.christianvillages.org