

A Christmas Message from Larry & Kathy Monroe

How can it be true that 2021 is coming to an end already? Does it seem to you that time just flies? When I was a child, I recall hearing the elders around me saying that time passes quicker the older one gets. I always thought that was a silly thing to say, because time is constant, not variable. But I declare, time seems to fly by quicker the older I get!

I had hoped that by now we would be well past the impact of COVID-19. This pandemic continues to disrupt our lives in so many ways. It is another reminder that we live in a world that can be very unpredictable at times.

Praise God that one constant in this troubled and changing world is His love. Lamentations 3:22-23 testifies to the unfailing love of God. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

At this blessed Christmas season, Kathy and I want you to know that as you celebrate our Lord's birth, our prayer is that God will bless you with an extra measure of peace and joy through Christ.

Merry Christmas!

Traditions of the Christmas Tree

- The first American Christmas tree can be credited to a Hessian soldier by the name of Henrick Roddmore, who was captured at the Battle of Bennington in 1776. He then went to work on the farm of Samuel Denslow in Windsor Locke, Connecticut, where for the next 14 years he put up and decorated Christmas trees in the Denslow family home.
- The first retail Christmas tree lot was established in 1851 by a Pennsylvanian named Mark Carr, who hauled two ox sleds loaded with Christmas trees from the Catskill Mountains to the sidewalks of New York City.
- The first president to set up a Christmas tree in the White House was Franklin Pierce, and the first president to establish the National Christmas tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House lawn was Calvin Coolidge.
- In 1882, the first tree lights were sold in New York City.



Birthdays, Celebrations and Updates



December Birthdays

This information is for
Christian Village at Mason residents.



Grocery Pickups

Please turn in one list per week into the Front Desk (4 or 5 items). Due to increased number of lists submitted each week and limited staff, you may not get your groceries until Friday. We will try to accommodate you in a timely manner.

Please give list and money to the Front Desk or call Transportation at (513) 703-3415.

CVM Transportation

Transportation services are available to all CVM residents. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Concierge Cards - \$25 for 12 round trips

For errand (non-medical) trips within 5 miles.

Appointments by Mile or Hour

For medical appointments or other trips that would not qualify as a concierge trip.

- \$2.00/mile from drop-off and pick-up
- \$30/hour for the driver to stay with you

Scheduling Transportation

Call 701-3415 to schedule an appointment

Village Clinic Hours - 7169 Village Drive

Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

RESIDENT UPDATES

This information is for
Christian Village at Mason residents.



December Anniversaries

This information is for
Christian Village at Mason residents.



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary or have the wrong date, please call the Front Desk at **(513) 398-1486**.

Chaplain's Corner

BY CHAPLAIN TOM MOLL

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”

Someone has said that “Christmas waves a magic wand over this world . . . and everything becomes more beautiful and magical.” It sometimes seems that December, more than any other month, is filled with compassion and a spirit that makes everyone realize what is most important in life. People come together and demonstrate love for each other.

What makes Christmas the most wonderful time of the year for you? Is it singing Christmas carols or watching favorite movies? Is it putting out favorite decorations that hold wonderful memories of Christmases past? Is it giving or receiving gifts? Is it baking special Christmas treats? Is it getting together with family and friends . . . or hearing from loved ones who live miles away?

Or is it the most wonderful time of the year because it points us to God’s indescribable gift? Is it the most wonderful time of the year because it points to the salvation and the hope we have because He came? May the Lord bless you this month as you celebrate His birth!

December Sermon Series

Join us for worship services on CVC TV each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. Up to 18 people who live in the Village Center can attend services in-person in the chapel.

- December 5 What Was Taking Place in Heaven on Christmas Eve?
- December 12 What Was Taking Place on Earth on Christmas Eve?
- December 19 What Will Be Taking Place in Your House on Christmas Day?
- December 26 What Happens When Christmas Is Over?

Stone Center

Although we do not know the official date when we will be able to begin holding services in the Stone Center, we are looking forward to that day. In the meantime we are anticipating the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and the dedication service. To God be the glory for bringing us this far!

Our Daily Bread Devotional Booklet

Our Daily Bread devotional booklets may be picked up outside the chaplain’s office. Let me know if you want one left for you at the front desk or dropped off at your home.

“Pray the Village”

We are down to our last month to “Pray the Village.” Thank you to those who have prayed faithfully throughout the year. Your prayers have made a difference.

Communion Sets Available

Communion cup and wafer sets are available for pickup in the outer lobby from noon on Fridays until noon on Sundays (or we will deliver to you—just let me know).

Offerings

Please continue to be faithful in your giving to the church at the Village. These offerings are used either for the Compassionate Care Fund or for the Stone Center, designated by you.

Contact the Chaplain

Phone: (513) 701-3406. E-mail: tom.moll@christianvillages.org. Please contact me with any needs or prayer requests that you may have.

This information is for
Christian Village at Mason residents.

Social Services

BY HEATHER CARTER, LSW, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CVM offers personal emergency response pendants for residents in the Garden Homes and in all areas of the health care center.

Regardless of age or health, these devices really can be lifesaving. In the event of an injury or other emergency, the button on the device is pressed and the staff from the facility is alerted to send help immediately. Having a personal pendant is sometimes better than just simply dialing 9-1-1, because a phone is not always readily available in the event of an emergency.

Garden Home residents' security panels are set up with an option to have a pendant that can be pushed in the event of an emergency. The pendant works just as the pull cords in the home and will alert someone in the main building that you need assistance. The device works within the boundaries of the Garden Home.

If you reside in the main building, you also have the option of using a pendant at an additional cost. These pendants work just as your emergency pull cords in the apartments or rooms would work, alerting staff you need assistance. These pendants will work anywhere within the main building and have a location sensor, to alert staff of the area in which you are closest.

If you have questions or would like more information about the pendant services offered at CVM, please feel free to give me a call at (513) 701-3403.



The Well

BY KYRA SCHROER, DIRECTOR OF FITNESS & WELLNESS

RFC Schedule • Monday - Friday: 8:00-10:00 a.m., 1:00-3:30 p.m.

The RFC is open to residents of Garden Apartments and Garden Homes by appointment only (subject to change). Please check CVC TV for any changes to these hours.

Fun in the Fitness Center

It has been my experience that many people don't use the words "fun" and "fitness" in the same sentence. Over the years, a lot of people have told me that I have a strange definition of fun. Merriam-Webster defines fun as "what provides amusement or enjoyment." How do you define "fun," and are you having enough of it?

The outdoor line dancing opportunities that we had in October and November were fun, and we were blessed with decent weather. I enjoyed meeting new residents and watching "seasoned" residents welcoming the newcomers. Seeing smiles and hearing laughter provides amusement and is very enjoyable.

The RFC has been open to both apartment residents and Garden Home residents with a short shut down period that made me more grateful upon reopening. Since residents don't wear masks while on the equipment, I get to see smiles and hear laughter. You can't see my smile under the mask, but if you've been in the fitness center you've probably heard me laugh.

The RFC is a wellness center and sociability is a large part of wellness. It is true that we have restrictions, but it doesn't stop us from having fun. I enjoy hearing who is cooking up a pot of chili to share with a neighbor or making a birthday cake for her grown up daughter. I see people brighten other residents' day with a joke or a story. It is encouraging to realize other people struggle with similar challenges, and it is easier to bear when we can laugh about it. *What is stopping YOU from joining the fun in the fitness center?*



Auxiliary & Resident Organization News

Auxiliary News

By Buzz Dorward

As my time as your president winds down, I wanted to thank all of you who became members of the auxiliary and those who supported our flower sales during the year. Without your support, we would not be able to fund the off-budget requests from Community Life Services and Nursing. I also want to thank the board for their support during the year.

This month we were going to have a ballot in this issue for voting on the nominees for the 2022 board. In as much as this is a non-contested election, it has been determined by acclamation that all the nominees are duly elected for the year 2022. The nominees are Ed Stagney, president, John Van Osdol, treasurer and Beth Stratman, secretary. In addition, Herb Schneider, Char Asbach and Pat Wilson are members of the board.

Betty Dailey has decided not to remain on the board. Betty has been a faithful member and diligent worker for many years. Betty's contributions to the auxiliary are much appreciated and will be dearly missed in the future. Our very best wishes to Betty as she enters retirement!!

If anyone has an interest in serving the community by being on the board of the auxiliary, please call president-elect Ed Stagney at 492-7020.

CVM CHRISTMAS FUND - 2021 "HEROES WORK HERE"

Our campaign for the Residents/Employees Christmas Fund has come to an end for 2021. We want to let everyone know how appreciative we are to all those who have given! This fund is a sure way to let the employees know how grateful we all are for the work they do here at CVM.

With the precautions still in place this year, we

maintained the theme "HEROES WORK HERE" again for our 2021 campaign. They are still just as relevant and deserving as ever. Please stay tuned to CVC TV to learn the final amount donated and the name of the winner of our "Guess the Amount" Contest. Frosty says, "Thanks again for all the support on this year's Christmas Fund Campaign!"

Kroger Community Rewards

By Pat Wilson #1, (513) 234-0982

Do others shop at Kroger on your behalf? Please encourage your friends and family to also join and support Mason Christian Village Auxiliary ID# UY336 through the Kroger Community Rewards program. In this way they will receive the fuel points while helping you as well as a share of Kroger Community Rewards for the auxiliary.

Some of the funds earned through the rewards program contributes to the purchase of "Deb", the machine in the RFC that can be used by all residents of the Village campus.

Library News

By Mary Ann Watrous

Christmas is just around the corner. Do you need to clean out books to make room for new ones? Don't forget the CVM Library. We depend on donations to keep Village readers stocked with reading material.

October/November Additions:

- Laura Dave, *The Last Thing He Told Me* (New)
- Liane Moriarty, *Apples Never Fall* (New)
- James Patterson, *The Jailhouse Lawyer* (New)*
- Lisa Regan, *Vanishing Girls, The Girl With No Name*
- Karen Slaughter, *False Witness*

John Grisham fans will like this!

Mason Public Library Outreach

Friday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.

Auxiliary & Resident Organization News

A Christmas Celebration

Mark your calendars for December 15 when at 7 p.m. pianist extraordinaire Tom White and our CEO, Larry Monroe will share a special Christmas musical celebration. Many are familiar with Tom White who plays regularly in the Matthews Dining Room and for other CVM special events. Tom will join Larry in a concert of beloved secular and spiritual Christmas songs and carols, consisting of a combination of featured instrumentals and singing. Larry will be including several songs with guitar accompaniment. Have a favorite request? Call it into Terri Burkhardt.

Welcome Amie Kocher

We are pleased to welcome Amie Kocher to the CVC team. Amie will assume Terri Burkhardt's role as Executive Assistant to the CEO effective November 15. Terri announced her plans to retire earlier in 2021 and will remain with us through the end of this year, training Amie in her new position. Amie and her husband Bill live in South Lebanon and have three children, Gracie (19) who is a sophomore at Miami University, Will (17) who is a junior at Kings High School (and star football quarterback) and Nina who is a 6th grader at CIS. Be sure to welcome Amie as you have occasion to meet or speak with her.

Upcoming Garden Home Activities

All reservations for Garden Home activities can be made at the front desk by calling (513) 398-1486.

Creation Museum & Lunch at Noah's Ark Café (Petersburg, KY)

The history of the Bible vividly comes to life at the world-class museum! Walk through biblical history. Encounter a realistic Garden of Eden, Noah, Flood diorama, stunning video displays and much more! If you need a break, grab lunch at the Noah's Ark Café.

Wednesday, December 8, 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$32 (price for museum ticket)

Transportation cost: \$4 (does not include meal)

Reservation only: (max. 22 participants)

Pick up: Picnic Shelter

Christmas Nights of Lights & Box Dinner from Apple Spice Junction (Coney Island, Cincinnati)

"Tis the season." Join us and experience this amazing light show synchronized to both traditional and rocking holiday music! While taking in the sights, enjoy a freshly home-made boxed meal from Apple Spice Junction!

Tuesday, December 14, 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 (includes ticket, meal, and transportation)

Pick-up: Picnic Shelter

(max. 22 participants)

Golden Lamb "Early" Dinner Outing (Lebanon, OH)

We are offering 2 separate dates for this outing because the restaurant can only accommodate 10 people at a time per group. You will only be able to select one of the dates.

Monday, December 20, 3:30 p.m. or Tuesday, December 21, 3:30 p.m.

Transportation Cost: \$2 (does not include meal)

Pick-up: Picnic Shelter.

You Never Know

BY RUTH ODOR,
GARDEN APARTMENT
RESIDENT

A CHRISTMAS CARD

Giovanni was a Franciscan friar living in Italy. He was an architect, engineer, and a classical scholar. We could say that he was a Renaissance pioneer. One Christmas Eve in the year 1513 he wrote this to Countess Allagia, a longtime friend and patron.

"There is nothing I can give you which you have not: but there is much that, while I cannot give you, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. TAKE HEAVEN. No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant. TAKE PEACE. The gloom of this world is but a shadow; behind it yet within our reach is joy. TAKE JOY."

That last sentence has always intrigued me. Can you really reach out and take joy? C.S. Lewis wrote that we can create situations in which we are happy, but we cannot create joy. It just happens. (In fact, he wrote a book entitled "Surprised by Joy". Perhaps you have read it.)

With that in mind, I decided to look for joy each day, and when I find it, reach out and grab it and hold it close.

Where do you find joy? In unexpected places.

The pink of sunrise as the day begins.

A flower in bloom.

A card or a gift from a friend.

A loaf of homemade bread.

A bird soaring across the horizon.

A word of encouragement just when it is needed.

An unexpected visit from a friend.

Fireflies flitting across the lawn on a June night.

Snowflakes dancing down from the sky.

And the inexpressible joy that comes from time with the Father.

Sometimes when I come to the end of the day, I find myself thinking, "I didn't find any joy today. Where was it?" And then I remember that it was the unexpected visit of a friend. The Bible tells us to rejoice. "Rejoice in the Lord always," wrote Paul in Philippians 4:4. To underscore it, he says, "I will say it again: Rejoice!" And back in the book of Nehemiah we are reminded that "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

Joy is there for the taking. But we have to look for it and find it. So this is my Christmas card to you: Lift up your heart; reach out your hand. Take joy.



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