

Connection

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Larry Monroe

A Stable Legacy in A Changing World

Helping Seniors Finish Well



I recently had the pleasure of being a part of touring a husband and wife inquiring about residency at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. It was a rare treat since I seldom have an opportunity to be hands-on with admissions tours. This couple had been on the African mission field for many years, perhaps most notably as linguists, establishing an alphabet for remote tribes so that the Holy Bible could be translated into their language. For years they have been affiliated with Pioneer Bible Translators in Joplin, Missouri. I can't imagine a way to begin to estimate the souls won to Christ because of the work of these two precious Christian servants of our Lord. They never made much money, not much of a nest egg, and now as they near the end of life's journey, they need help. They need our

help. I was honored on behalf of Christian Village Communities to show our community to these dear folks and to explore the possibility of our ministry assisting them in their time of need.

As this couple, their traveling companions and I stood in the lobby at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy a resident in a wheelchair approached. She introduced herself to us and noted that her involvement with our ministry went "way back" in time. I had not met her before. Her name is Judith Johnson. She shared that she had worked for Wilke Winter, who in the early 1960s worked with Dick Crabtree as a CBA board member in the days when our ministry was just getting organized. She was an administrative assistant of sorts, mailing thank-you notes to donors, individuals and churches who supported the ministry financially. How sweet it was to hear her story. Judith's health had taken a difficult turn. She had lost a leg to cancer. She needed help. She needed our help. Again, the ministry of Christian Village Communities was there for her, as it has been for thousands through the years. (Look for Judith's story in this issue of the Connection on page 21).

"Again, the ministry of Christian Village Communities was there for her, as it has been for thousands through the years."

As our guests and I continued to talk with Judith Johnson, we also discovered that she had been a student at Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS) in the 1960s at about the same time that one of our touring missionaries and the couple who brought them that day had also attended there. This broke into a time of sweet reminiscing about

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the “good ole days” at CBS, of favorite professors and beloved memories of life on campus at a time when I suspect many alumni would consider were among its best days. It was a reunion of sorts, of brothers and sisters in Christ, a kinship in the family God.

As I departed our campus that day, I felt a tremendous sense of gratitude for what I had experienced. What an honor to represent our ministry and share with a husband and wife who had poured themselves out in mission work most of their adult lives. I also thought of how my day was made richer by Judith and her story.

“In this world that is constantly changing in ways that often bring us deep concern, it is refreshing to know that the ministry of CVC remains faithful to our mission.”

In this world that is constantly changing in ways that often bring us deep concern, it is refreshing to know that the ministry of CVC remains faithful to our mission. Christian Village Communities has a rich history of aiding people at the time of greatest need. Many of those have been retiring missionaries. When a missionary’s failing health forces them off the mission field and back to the United States, where is home? Supporting the aging in their time of greatest need will continue to be a significant part of the ministry of CVC. However, the only way that we can continue to do this is with people who believe in our cause and support us financially. The faithful support of our donors will help ensure that the future of this ministry remains secure.

To our donors I say thank you. I wish you could have accompanied me on the tour that day. I believe the experience would have bolstered your belief in and commitment to our ministry. To those reading this article who may not be donors, I invite you to join us today. Your financial support will change lives, at a time when people need it the most! Together we can help God’s children finish well. ✝️



**GIVE
TODAY**



Special Moments and Memories at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy

By Victoria Irwin, Director of Life Enrichment

When family and friends come together to share in special moments, treasured memories are created. The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy has been busy making treasured memories all summer long! From picnics and parties to shopping and exploring; from learning and growing to relaxing and creating. We have done it all at CVMH!

Our Family and Friends Picnic was a complete success! Life Enrichment popped their famous popcorn, and everyone enjoyed delicious hot dogs and brats prepared by our Director of Dining Services, Melinda Marquet, and grilled by our Director of Environmental Services, Ed Wilson. Cookies were provided by Paul R. Young's Funeral Home, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of friendship and smiles. It was heartwarming to see all the families and friends of our residents getting to know one another and sharing stories and laughs. There were blankets spread on the grounds and the air was filled with the laughter of children.

The P&G Big Band Concert held true to its tradition of being an esteemed event for the entire community. Many new visitors arrived and marveled at our beautiful campus and manicured grounds. Several returning patrons commented on how the band never disappoints. There was dancing, wonderful food, delightful music, and excitement in the air the entire evening. Our residents sang-a-long to many of their favorite tunes from the good ole days. There were lots of smiles and a great time for all.

It just wouldn't be summer at CVMH without trips to Red's events. This summer we took in the Red's Hall of Fame. The picnic at Houston Woods was a hit, as was the trip to Grandpa Joe's Candy Store, apple picking at Tuken's Farm, and the ride across the Anderson Ferry! There have been learning opportunities such as the "Bee Friendly" Gardening Program and the "Animals Alive" Presentation. Our residents enjoyed learning about the art of making honey and the importance of bees and got to meet some new furry (and not-so-furry) friends!

To enrich the lives of our precious residents is a blessing beyond measure. The Life Enrichment Team is looking forward to creating more priceless memories and joyous moments as we enter into the exciting Holiday Season. We are looking forward to continuing to watch as families come together to share in more special moments and make treasured memories. ✚





Dinner at Dusk

By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy

We know new residents have numerous options when making the important life decision to move to a Life Plan Community, so it is an absolute honor when a prospective resident selects CVM as their new home. A move to a Life Plan Community can be overwhelming for some, but once a new resident is here and settled, I hear time and time again “Why didn’t I make this move sooner?”

It is important to us that we make new residents feel as welcome and as comfortable as possible in our community. We have 189 independent living Garden Homes, and we strive to find ways that new residents can meet and make new friends in our neighborhood-style campus. One way we have done this at CVM is to host an event we named Dinner at Dusk.

Our inaugural Dinner at Dusk was in 2018. The purpose of this dinner was to show our appreciation to new residents and give them the opportunity to mix and mingle with existing residents. For this event, we invited all new residents that joined our community in 2018 and existing Garden Home residents to an elegant evening dinner in Matthew’s Dining Room. Our first Dinner at Dusk was such a tremendous success, we decided that we should host it annually. Then, when the COVID-19

pandemic happened, we were forced to pause all large activities and events for the safety of our residents. Finally, this year, we were able to reinstate Dinner at Dusk. Since we had not hosted the event since 2018, we decided to honor and recognize all new Garden Home residents who had joined our community since 2019.

On Tuesday, June 20th Garden Home residents gathered for a banquet in the beautiful Stone Center Auditorium. The auditorium was packed, and it made the night truly one to remember.

We started the evening by ushering the resident guests to their tables. The auditorium was arranged banquet style with beautiful candlelight tablescapes. Guests first enjoyed a delicious two-bite appetizer and were given a program including pictures and biographies of all the new Garden Home residents who have joined CVM since 2019. While a pianist played, our Dining Services team served a delicious meal finished with lemon layer cake for dessert. During dinner, all guests had the opportunity to mix and mingle with friends new and old. In a post-event survey, one resident remarked after the event “Nice evening! Let’s do it again!”

We hope to grant that wish and look forward to our CVM Dinner at Dusk becoming a regular event. ✚

From the Boardroom to the Bedside

By Tracey Bray, VP of Human Resources

John Schwartzkopf joined The Christian Village at Mason in July as an STNA to work primarily in our Garden Apartments. That's wonderful news, but that's not the really interesting part of his story. John's journey to us is much more fascinating!

John graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1994, where he majored in Finance and Real Estate, before going on to obtain an MBA from Miami University. He then spent the next 29 years in corporate America working for Ohio National Financial Services. John's area of expertise at Ohio National was commercial real estate finance, and during his career there, he made loans totaling over \$2 billion. Along the way, John married his wife of almost 27 years, Jennifer (she is also a long-time employee of Ohio National, where she still works as an Actuary), and they have two daughters, Natalie and Sarah.



Even given a successful financial services career, a few years ago John realized that something was missing. He wasn't fulfilled. The work didn't "satisfy his soul". He needed more. And not necessarily more money or responsibility. Those didn't seem to be the keys. He desired service or ministry work. He had always enjoyed visiting with, talking to, and assisting elderly friends and family members, including his mom who has Parkinson's disease and advanced dementia.

With some soul-searching, he realized that what was going to give him what he craved was to provide direct care to an elderly population. He believed that if he could make that happen, he could develop relationships and thereby improve residents' lives.

"With some soul-searching, he realized that what was going to give him what he craved was to provide direct care to an elderly population."

Of course, this would mean a LOT of changes, not only for himself, but especially for his family. He and his wife discussed it at length and worked through the scenarios for almost 2 years. They planned through the reduction in family income and how they would make that work, which wasn't easy, as both of their daughters are currently in college. Through all of this, John expresses great thankfulness to his wife for her support and blessing.

John left Ohio National at the end of April of this year and then went on to train for his STNA license at the Warren County Career Center. As he was going through the clinical portion of his training, he realized that an assisted living community was probably going to be the best fit for him, as it would allow for the fellowship with residents and relationship building that he was seeking.

When John heard about the open STNA position in the Garden Apartments at CVM, he almost immediately knew that it was likely a perfect fit. This was what he wanted. The hours and days were going to work. This was what he had thought of when he began his journey in search of a change, a change targeted more toward life significance, and less about what the world sees as life success. This was it!

And the rest, as they say, is history. We're so happy that John and his wife made that difficult decision that brought him to us! 🌟



New CVM Pavilion Update

By Lizz Stephens, VP of Marketing and Business Strategy



In the last issue of the Connection Newsletter, we announced exciting plans to build a new outdoor pavilion at The Christian Village at Mason. CVM had a picnic pavilion to host events like cookouts, ice cream socials and concerts, however the design was not ideal. It was used only for picnics since there was no kitchen for meal preparation and no restrooms. We wanted to make this amenity more functional for our residents so we partnered with an architectural firm to help us brainstorm ideas on how we could improve it.

Our goal was to create a new pavilion that was beautiful, functional, had restrooms and a limited kitchen. After months of research and hard work, the final design is one that we can be very proud of as it accomplishes our goals, and the brand-new building is now nearing completion!

We are on track for the pavilion to be finished before the end of the year. A huge bonus with this new structure is a storage portion of the building which totals 3,500 sq. ft. The open pavilion portion totals 3,600 sq. ft.

The total cost for this project is about \$1.8M for the structure and sitework plus \$100,000 for furnishings. The use of \$1.5M of capital funds has been approved for this project; the remaining \$400,000 is being raised through a capital fundraising campaign.

We are thrilled to be adding this new amenity to our campus and invite you to be part of it by pledging a gift! Visit our giving page at www.christianvillages.org/donate/ to make a secure online gift.

We look forward to using the new pavilion in 2024 and experiencing the many ways it will enhance resident life in our Life Plan Community. ✝



Pavilion Progress as of October 2023

Christian Village Hospice

Completing the Continuum of Care



By Heather Carter, LNH, LSW, Assistant Administrator/Director of Hospice

Christian Village Hospice was established to provide comfort care and enhance the quality of life for individuals residing at The Christian Village at Mason and The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.


Hospice care is a compassionate approach that prioritizes the comfort and well-being of individuals with advanced illnesses and their families. Hospice care is an option for patients who have made the choice to shift their focus from seeking a cure for their condition to prioritizing comfort, symptom relief, and an improved quality of life. Christian Village Hospice received licensure from the Ohio Department of Health in March 2023.

Our focus is on comfort and quality of life for our residents with life-limiting illnesses and to provide Christian, comprehensive care to the terminally ill and support for their families and caregivers. We enrolled our first patient in April 2024 and have served 17 patients. Our experienced hospice care team provides support for residents and their family by creating a personalized plan that addresses the patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

On September 14, 2023, Christian Village Hospice completed our initial Medicare certification and accreditation survey with Community Health Accreditation Partners. (CHAP). CHAP will provide their findings to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Once approved by CMS, we will begin billing for hospice care.

Our team consists of a Clinical Director/Case Manager, an RN, Social Worker, Chaplain, State Tested Nurse Aide and Volunteers, as well as a Medical Director. Patients can continue to have their own primary physician manage their care if they prefer. Each team member visits patients routinely to provide individualized medical, emotional, and spiritual needs. This plan of care is integrated with the care plan and care that each patient receives in our facilities. Christian Village Hospice team members collaborate with The Christian Village at Mason and The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy teams.

We have been blessed to have provided orientation for several volunteers. These individuals provide extra support for our patients. Volunteers often help patients read, write letters, provide pet visits, music as well as many other services. The relationship our patients develop with the volunteers is incredible. We are proud to provide these services for our residents and their families. The continuum of care support from a patient's admission to one of our campuses through the duration of their illness, maintaining comfort and dignity is our mission. Hospice fulfills that mission.

If you or someone you know has interest in learning more about Christian Village Hospice or to become a part of our incredible volunteer program, our team would be happy to talk with you. Contact Heather Carter at heather.carter@christianvillages.org or at 513-701-3403. 



New Leaders at CVC

Christian Village Communities



Liz Retherford

Liz Retherford joined the Finance Department at CVC in April where she is responsible for payroll and various accounting functions within the organization. Liz has twenty years of experience in the service and construction industry where she ran the day-to-day operations of the business.

While she is new to the healthcare industry, her background has always been focused on HR, payroll, and accounting and we're certainly capitalizing on her expertise.

Outside of the workplace, Liz enjoys spending time with her husband and their 12-year-old son, bowling in a league, and playing sand volleyball.

The Christian Village at Mason



Michael Sayre

Michael Sayre joined CVM as Grounds Supervisor in the Maintenance Department in July of this year. He is a graduate of Northwest High School where he studied welding.

Before joining our team, Michael worked for twenty-five years as a floor tech supervisor for AIC Contracting.

In his spare time Michael enjoys riding his motorcycle and grilling out. He also enjoys seeing live bands and going to local festivals. Michael loves talking to and working with the residents in our community.

The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy



Nicole Sharpe

Nicole Sharpe joined CVMH as Director of Social Services in February 2023. She graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Social Work and started her career as a Mental Health Case Manager in hospitals prior to working fifteen years in long-term care.

Nicole's favorite part of her job is developing relationships with residents and their family members. She is passionate about caring for others and takes pride in helping ensure our residents have the best possible quality of life.

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Nicole is married and has 3 children, and will soon welcome her 6th grandchild. She spends much of her free time with her grandchildren and enjoys visiting various parks with her family.



Melisha Beatty

Melisha Beatty joined CVMH as RN Supervisor of The Faith Center for Rehabilitative Care and The Serenity Center for Long-term Nursing in March 2023. She previously worked at CVMH as a STNA (State Tested Nurse Aid) while she attended nursing school and we're so happy that she chose to return to us!

Melisha earned her Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing from The Bethesda School of Nursing at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. She then went on to work for five years in The Behavioral Health Department at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Melisha earned her Bachelor's in the Science of Nursing degree from The Good Samaritan College of Nursing in 2021.

Some of Melisha's favorite pastimes include watching Jeopardy!, WWE Wrestling, reading books and shopping.



Azia Troutman-Logan

Azia Troutman-Logan joined CVMH as Director of Human Resources in March of this year. She is a graduate of Eastern Gate Community College with an Associate degree in Human Resource Management and Business Management. She is also a graduate of Franklin University receiving her Bachelor's degree in Business Management with a focus in Human Resource Management.

Azia is part of several community-based programs, teaching English overseas for 6 years on an ESL team (English as a Second Language), now with a focus on academic advisory and race relations.

Azia is a sports and car fanatic. She and her family are Bengals, Reds, Pistons, and University of Michigan fans. She enjoys fine dining, car shows, and sporting events with her husband.

Azia has 3 children. She enjoys playing competitive games with her kids such as kickball, attending their sporting events, and participating with them in Girl Scouts and Scouting. 🏹

Memorial and Honor Gifts

In Memory Of

Charles and Dorothy Abato

Anonymous

Alma "Clio" Adler

Robert and Deborah Adler

Jo Ann Anderson

Bobbie DeRosa

Tom and Kay Moll

Barbara Pettyjohn

Vivian Anthony

Ronald and Mary Anthony

John Bamber

Ruth Ann Bamber

Frances Beany

Jim and Carolyn Walker

Roy and Eloise Beatty

Larry and Kathy Monroe

Alex Betley

James and Sherry Betley

Ray and Fern Brestel

Dick and Jerilyn Clegg

Neil Carstons

Joy Carstens

Freda Carter

Jim and Winnie Carter

John and Fern Carter

Jim and Winnie Carter

Marie, Luke and Frank Clayton

Winifred Clayton

Robert Clayton

Winifred Clayton

Corrine Crawford

Jerry and Helen Rohrer

Peter Rouette

Alice Ruebusch

Marie Schoettmer

Marilyn Schwarz

Catherine Wells

Edward and Mabel Curd

Ken and Shirley Shepard

Ian Dasent

Jeannie Dasent

Robert Dell

Richard and Joanne Biedinger

Marilyn Buzza

Joyce Drake

William and Marion Fotheringham

Roger and Betty Kahle

Robert and Jean Kerr

Louis and Wilma Kressin

Mary Lohman

William and Martha Mendez

Tom and Kay Moll

Robert Moorehead

Ronald and Mary Reitz

Julia Sprong

Howard and Mary Ann Watrous

Naomie Devitt

Mary Jo Bryant

Ann Kelley

Alvin and Helen Voorhis

Johnetta Dumont

Joy Carstens

Erica Eastwood

Judith Johnson

Robert Eger

Charles and Kay Cline

Edna Ellis

William and Martha Mendez

Jane Engelhard

Donald Engelhard

Jean Geist

Herman and Nancy Samendinger

Daniel Hall

Andrew and Roberta Lewis

Millie Hastings

Myron and Joyce Leistler

Richard Henke

Ron and Liz Morris

Robert Johnson

Wilbur and Phyllis Dils

Irene Key

David and Jennifer Key

Jack, Joe, and Judy Kimmey

Vicki Kimmey

William Knaebel

Robert Grundhoefer

Paul Lahmann

Kathryn Briggs

Stephen Leslie

Rita Leslie

Ellen Mains

Marilyn Buzza

Judith Johnson

Douglas and Jane Kieninger

Gary Mains

William and Martha Mendez

Susann Ralston

Julia Sprong

Ralph and Marion Massmann

Barbara Murray

Henry and Imogene McAdams

Dan and Sherry Johnson

Dale and Judy McCann

Sunny Aauderud

Daun Layman

Philip Mitchell

Tom and Kay Moll

William Oliver

Milton and Maribeth Pippenger

Wayne Siferd

Ronald and Diana Struve

Randy Swarz

Blanche Walker

Virginia Melvin

Patricia Dillon

Marilyn Meyer

Fred Carty

Robert and Dorothy Monroe

Larry and Kathy Monroe

Dolores Montanye

Dean Montanye

Bert and Pat Morris

Ron and Liz Morris

Ivan Morse

Evangeline Morse

Topsy New

Arnold and Mona Burge

Betty Overstreet

Gertrude Omps

Bonnie Brockert

Marilyn Buzza

Doris Dicken

Marjorie Ellsworth

Julie McKay

William and Martha Mendez

Herbert and Dianne Schneider

Charlotte Stiens

Barbara Vogt

Robert and Susan Wilson

Mary Pennington

Neville and Joan Pennington

David Phillips

Hazel Phillips

David Surma

Tom Poston

Marilyn Buzza

Louis and Wilma Kressin

Susann Ralston
Julia Sprong
George Routsong
Mary and Ronald Anthony
Robert Ruble
James and Cynthia Spicer
Ivy Scheffel
Kenneth Scheffel
Eugene Schiele
Jim and Carolyn Watson
Janet Shelton
Roger and Kathy Gross
Julia Sprong
Gerald Siddall
Roger and Kathy Gross
Julia Sprong
Genevieve and Richard, and Sandra Simonton
Terry Simonton
Earl and Willa Sims
Scott and Kimberly Sims
Florence Spengler

Mary Spengler
Sam Stone
Robert and Cindy Orndorff
Loren Swedburg
Alan and Jean Weber
Norma Tucker
David and Maxine Tucker
William Turnau
Gail Turnau
Mary Walker
Roger Walker
Max Walker
Blanche Walker
Kenneth Wernicke
Ann Appleton
Robert and Cheryl Frey
Angela Gilligan
Ed Riedinger
Donald and Anna White
Tom and Rhonda White
Edwin and Myrna Wilson
Janna Markle

In Honor Of

Ambassador's Choir
George and Elaine Breuer
Susan Babik
J Todd and Linda Snyder
Dr. Charles Eger
Charles and Kay Cline
William and Marion Fotheringham
Terri Baroch
Doreen Hilton
Robert and Helen Fry
Lawrence and Joyce Kent
Milton Green
Mercy Moshe Meira
Moses Niwe
Mildred Merkel
Deanna Bartholme
Doris Odor
Richard and Nancy Shonkwiler
Ruth Odor
Wally and Barbara Rendel

The Required Minimum Distribution

A Great Way to Give for Many Donors

Occasionally donors ask about giving to our ministry through the RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from an IRA or Employer Sponsored Retirement Plan.



Depending on a donor's financial situation, gifts made directly from the RMD to a qualified not-for-profit may be an advantageous way to give. In some cases, the income from these required withdrawals is not really needed, and in those instances, it just adds to taxable income. By rolling these distributions directly to a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization such as The Christian Benevolent Association or one of its affiliates, donors can make a significant gift to the ministry and avoid the tax on the withdrawal. It is important to consult with your financial advisor or tax consultant for assistance with these gift transfers, as certain IRS forms are required for a RMD transfer to qualify.

If you would like additional information about how to accomplish a gift of your RMD, please reach out to Jeff Bradley, Vice President of Development at jeff.bradley@christianvillages.org or call him at 513-701-3345. ✝

Night of Stars

On September 14, 2023, Christian Village Communities hosted the 2nd annual Night of Stars Banquet in the Stone Center Auditorium. The Night of Stars recognizes our incredible team members for extraordinary performance in carrying out our mission. Were it not for the over 400 dedicated team members who deliver unprecedented quality care and attend to the needs of the over 650 residents and patients we serve, there would be no Christian Village at Mason and Christian Village at Mt. Healthy.

Prior to the event, managers at both communities were asked to nominate team members they considered to be among the “Stars” in their departments. Stars are considered individuals who are deeply compassionate in the way they deal with and regard others. They have an ability to live out the heart and soul of our mission in the execution of their job responsibilities. They treat people in ways that truly demonstrate they care. Nine well-deserving team members were selected to be honored at the event.

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“In the quietness of these moments, can you hear it? The beating of His heart...a heart that beats with humility...with service...with compassion...and with sacrifice.” - Kay Moll

The Christian Village at Mason Honorees



Mary Brown
Social Services



Bonnie Collins
Housekeeping



Jacqueline Prater
LPN



Penda Sow
STNA



Brittany Williams
STNA



The response was overwhelming with tickets selling out quickly. In addition, many business partners were eager to be part of the event by being a sponsor or donating goods or services.

The night was extraordinary. After CEO Larry Monroe welcomed all attendees and Stars, an elegant dinner was served. Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Kay Moll, gave a presentation that was truly “From the Heart” touching everyone in the audience. The next part of the evening focused on the honorees, and after viewing individual videos and interviews with each Star, each honoree was presented on stage with a beautiful award. The audience was able to learn about their stories and understand more fully what earned each one the distinction of Star.

We are happy the Night of Stars is becoming an annual event providing opportunities for even more team members to be honored and celebrated. 🌟



The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy Honorees



Donna Atkins
STNA



Michelle Shuck
Housekeeping



Hattie Sprawl
LPN



Flora Vincent
LPN

Chalk Talk

Martha Brammer's Introduction to an Art Form

Martha's introduction to seeing a live chalk drawing was when her dad was asked to draw one for a Farm Bureau meeting. He declined the invitation because he had never had an art lesson and had limited art supplies. He was a plumber not an artist. His toolbox was filled with wrenches, hammers, and nails rather than chalk and a newsprint pad, and his ladder would never serve as an easel.

But an artist her father was. It was a thrill for Martha and her siblings to watch him practice drawing on the back of their Mom's leftover wallpaper. He practiced night after night while they watched in amazement. Martha said, "We had no idea he could draw such beautiful pictures. We felt it was our duty to get the word out, and we did. I told George Allen the bus driver and my brothers and sisters told their teachers. The news spread fast. That's how the head of the Farm Bureau heard about it. Dad declined the first invitation, but he accepted the second one. We were proud of him and couldn't wait for the meeting to take place."

Martha's dad had driven into town a few days earlier to buy an easel and a pad of newsprint paper. He was now prepared for the challenge of drawing in front of a crowd. He was hoping the crowd would be slim since farm folks didn't usually come out on cold, rainy nights; however, the word had gotten out that he was doing a live chalk drawing, and the seats filled up fast. Her mom kept watching the door as people arrived. Martha was excited and nervous for her dad. The crowd swelled to around twenty. It was a big crowd for the Farm Bureau.

"If a picture is worth a thousand words, then I am truly blessed. I hope the residents feel the same."

Martha's dad chose a farm scene for his subject. He drew a red barn with a haystack and a silo off to one side. A split rail fence wrapped around the barnyard with white billowing clouds hanging in the sky. Martha and her sister, Mary sang "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and as their dad took his seat, a man in the back of the room called out "if that's Old MacDonald's farm, where are the animals?" Her dad answered, "in the barn." It was a big success which turned into a lifetime of live chalk drawings for Martha's dad. He drew for more Farm Bureau meetings, but most of all, he enjoyed drawing for area church revivals. When he finished a drawing, he would turn his color wheel on while Martha and Mary sang a hymn. People were mesmerized as they watched the colors change.

Years later, Martha took up the trade. She started by drawing chalk portraits of her high school classmates. When she enrolled at the Cincinnati Bible College, she drew for youth rallies and church revivals. (This is how she and Howard met.) She continued drawing throughout Howard's ministries which has brought her to the present where she feels honored to take her chalk and easel to various areas of The Christian Village at Mason and paint live paintings for the residents. Martha says, "If a picture is worth a thousand words, then I am truly blessed. I hope the residents feel the same." 🌸





Welcome Jeff Bradley

Vice President of Development

We are excited to welcome Jeff Bradley to our team as Vice President of Development.

Mr. Bradley is a 1996 graduate of Cedarville University with degrees in Business Management and Biblical Studies. His work history includes 16 years in mortgage banking, 4 years in wealth management and 5 years in fundraising for Reaching Souls International, a Christian organization that places and supports hundreds of missionaries around the world.

Jeff's father and grandfather were both ministers. He demonstrates a committed Christian walk, a deep faith in Christ and a commitment to serving others in Jesus' name.

Jeff enjoys just about anything that has to do with athletics. Standing 6 feet 7 inches tall, you'd be correct if you assumed that in his past, he has spent considerable time on the basketball court. He also enjoys the game of golf.

Jeff is anxious to begin traveling to connect with our constituents and to acclimate himself to his new leadership role. As you have the opportunity, please extend a warm welcome and wish him success.

Jeff began his new role in support of The Christian Benevolent Foundation on September 11th. His office is at The Christian Village at Mason, and he reports to the CEO. ✚

Fishing is "Reel" Fun

Recently our Director of Community Life Services, Tracy Wolcott hired the new Activity Coordinator, Sheila Meiners for Garden Apartments. One of the first things Sheila did was to survey our residents, requesting feedback on activities they would like to see added at CVM. One activity listed on the survey was very popular - fishing!

Residents had their first fishing event at the lake at CVM on October 4th. Many laughs and smiles were shared. The weather was beautiful. Colorful fall leaves were falling and blowing in a gentle breeze. Everyone caught a fish which made it even more exciting. It was extra special for resident Barbara Miller since it was her 85th birthday. She caught a 2 lb. bass! We called it her "Birthday Bass."

We plan to invite our Mt. Healthy residents to participate in a group fishing outing at CVM next summer. ✚



Garden Apartment resident, Barbara Miller, with the first catch of the day!

Resident Spotlight: Pete Metzger

Born November 8, 1936, Pete started his music career at a very young age. At the age of 5 he took up the piano accordion. His mother and his grandmother would ride the streetcar and carry the instrument for him to his practices. In 7th grade he started playing the trumpet. He attended Hughes High School in Cincinnati and played the trumpet for their marching and concert bands. As a junior and senior, he was asked to play “first chair” in the trumpet section.



After graduating, he planned on studying mathematics at the University of Cincinnati, but soon realized that mathematics wasn't for him, and he applied for a scholarship to U.C. Conservatory of Music. The admission coordinator told Pete that they already had too many trumpet players, but they did have scholarships

available for French horn players. Pete had never played the French horn but was encouraged by the music instructor that he would have no problem learning how to play. The university offered Pete a scholarship for \$50 to play the French horn.

Over the college 4-year program, Pete played for University of Cincinnati's marching band, orchestra, and the brass choir. After graduation, he had to apply for the military draft, and he auditioned for the U.S. Naval Academy Military band. He was selected and played from 1955 to 1963. After serving in the military, he continued to play based on available opportunities.

Pete taught music at Sycamore Schools for 30 years. After 10 years of employment, he took over the high school marching and concert bands. In addition to teaching, he founded the Sycamore Community Band in 1974 and the New Horizon Band in 1999.

Pete was the Director for the Sycamore Community Band until 2021 (47 years). Under Pete's direction, the ensemble grew into a fully symphonic band, consisting of fine musicians from all walks of life.

“Under Pete’s direction, the ensemble grew into a fully symphonic band, consisting of fine musicians from all walks of life.”

When reflecting upon the history of the New Horizon Band, Pete recalls, “Our first rehearsal brought out about 8 or 9 people. We started with fifth and sixth grade music, playing whole notes and half notes, since some of our ‘bandsmen’ hadn’t played for decades. We had no tuba and no drummer, so when we staged our first concert, we invited a few other musicians to sit in with us.”

Pete was married to his wife Rosemary for 55 years and has a daughter, Michelle who lives in Indianapolis, IN. Six months after his wife passed away in 2022, The Christian Village at Mason had the great future to have Pete move into a Garden Apartment. This brought opportunities for Pete and New Horizons Band to perform for the enjoyment of the residents at CVM. We are pleased that Pete decided to call CVM his new home. 🇺🇸



Launching Into the Digital Age:

Introducing the CVM Resident App



By Hailley Stachowiak, Marketing Strategist

At Christian Village Communities, we pride ourselves on utilizing resident feedback to evolve as a community and provide a personalized resident experience. We use also competitor analysis and research to discover innovative

ways to elevate our resident experience. This year, CVM residents voiced their desire for an enhanced communication platform rather than relying solely on our historical means of communication, such as our community-wide television video feed, the Village Newsletter, and written communications.

In response to this request, we spent time researching the possibility of implementing a resident app to increase communication and engagement within our community. We are committed to keeping pace with the ever-evolving digital age, ensuring that our residents have access to an array of convenient communication tools.

After thoroughly researching senior living communication options available on the market, we found an app that offered the desired features and communication tools for our residents. We presented the possibility of the app in an April resident CEO Town Hall meeting and received a very favorable response.

Over the course of a few months, we worked to design an easy-to-use app for our community. The Resident App offers an array of features carefully crafted to keep residents connected and engaged within our vibrant community.


Within the app, there is a searchable Activities Calendar to effortlessly stay updated on the latest community events. The app features a Resident/Staff Directory to encourage seamless communication with neighbors and staff. Residents can also receive timely messages from our leadership team directly to their phone or

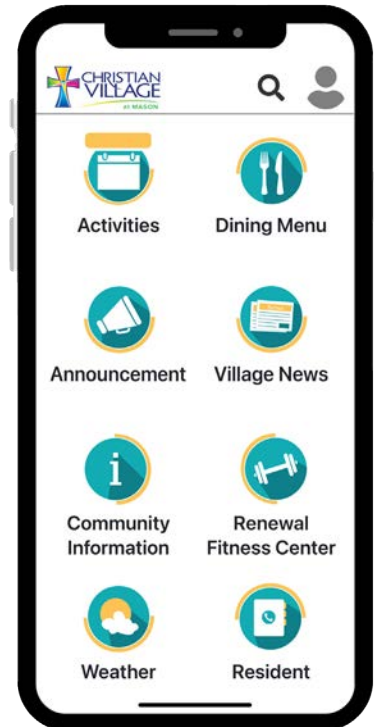
computer. The app includes additional features, such as weekly dining menus, Village Newsletters, prevalent community information, local weather, and more!

To celebrate this notable step for our community, we hosted an app launch party to unveil the app, walk through the app download process, share the various features, and help residents access it on their

phones, tablets, or computers. It was an exciting event where we witnessed firsthand excitement and anticipation from residents as they embraced this new technology. A team of staff ambassadors personally assisted each resident.

Since the launch of our community app, we have received positive feedback from our residents that the app is easy-to-use and useful for staying connected! Residents who have adopted the app find themselves using it almost daily and love the ease of access to information about our community.

We look forward to this new chapter in our technological journey as we utilize the app as a tool that will grow and evolve with our community. The Resident Community App is more than just an innovation; it's a testament to our dedication to providing residents with the best possible experience at Christian Village Communities. 



Summer and Fall Happenings at The Christian Village at Mason

By Tracy Wolcott, Director of Community Life Services, CVM



Wow, this year certainly has flown by. Just like the common phrase, "Time flies when you're having fun." Our residents have had great times sharing experiences together and making new friends. We were rockin' to the 50's this summer with our 50's buffet dinner which included some tasty foods (sliders, fried onion rings, Jello salad) from that era. After dinner, residents attended and listened to the 50's dancing tunes played by the Cincinnati Jump and Jive Band.

Some of our popular ongoing monthly activities have been our Men's Breakfasts, the hiking group, and our lunch outings. Missy Philpot, from maintenance, (former dining supervisor) prepares a delicious hot breakfast selection for the men every other month. This has been a great opportunity for men to get together and have fellowship with each other. Our hiking ladies have hiked in a variety of parks: Sycamore Community Park, Cincinnati Nature Center, Glenwood Gardens, Woodland Mound just to name a few. Some of our other summer outings

included attending the Red's ball games, BB Riverboat lunch cruise, and recently going to the Monet art exhibit downtown, followed by lunch at the Buckhead Mountain Grill in Bellevue, KY.

Another highlight from the summer was a Garden Home resident overnight trip to Amish country in Berlin and Walnut Creek, Ohio. We spent time shopping and eating at some authentic Amish restaurants while waiting to check into the hotel. The Carlisle Inn was beautiful and set on a hillside overlooking the Amish farms.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Top: Hiking group at the Cincinnati Nature Center, Bottom Left: Lunch outing at the Incline Public House, Bottom Right: Men's breakfast, p19 picture: Garden Home trip to Amish Country

After getting settled into the hotel, we went next door to the “Der Dutchman” Amish restaurant and enjoyed the savory tastes of home-cooked Amish food. After dinner it was off to the musical, “Udder Nonsense” which provided a lot of laughs. After the show, we headed back to the hotel to settle in for the night and to our surprise, there were fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies and popcorn left out for us. The next morning, we woke up to a Continental breakfast buffet, packed up and headed to Hershberger’s Farm and Bakery in Millersburg, OH before returning to Mason.

Residents sometimes say that their schedules have never been as busy as when it comes to the many activities Christian Village Communities plans for their enjoyment. It is a pleasure for me to serve them in my role as Director of Community Life Services. ✚



So Glad to be Here



By Jeff Bradley, VP of Development

Have you ever heard the popular quote, “You never get a second chance to make a first impression”? This axiom has been attributed to Will Rogers, who was widely known as the Cowboy Philosopher from rural Oklahoma. I’m embarrassed to admit that I thought that this phrase originated from an old Head and Shoulders shampoo advertising campaign! Nevertheless, whatever its origin, the phrase remains true as first impressions truly matter.

As I was prayerfully considering the Vice President of Development position at Christian Village Communities (CVC), I was relying on my first impressions of the grounds and the facilities. I recalled the well-manicured lawns, trees and landscaping, the immaculately kept buildings, and the wonderfully maintained streets and parking areas. It seemed as if attention was given to even the smallest detail.

I also remembered the amazing people that I had the pleasure to meet and spend time with as I asked God for His direction. As it came time to make my decision, I leaned heavily on those first impressions, obviously affected by what I had seen and heard, but also cautious that, as another old saying goes, things are not always as they seem. As I am now completing my first days on the job, I am overwhelmingly satisfied that my first impressions are actually the standards by which CVC exists and operates, and that acts of love and kindness are the rule, not the exception.

However, the most impressive characteristic that I experienced thus far is a community that proudly portrays and “lives out” a faith in Jesus Christ. In a time when this may not be as accepted as it was in days past, the people of CVC embody the words of Romans 1:16...” For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” (NKJV)

I look forward to contributing to the exciting mission of the CBA Foundation and Christian Village Communities! I am so thankful to have been received so warmly during the last few days. Thank you all for welcoming me into your home and community and making me feel like a part of this wonderful family! ✚



Volunteerism at CVC


Our ministry was founded upon volunteerism. Had it not been for volunteers in churches and throughout the community at large we would have struggled to get CBA underway. Sadly, through the years we have seen a decline in interest in volunteerism.

Indications are that in more recent years there appears to be a resurgence of interest in volunteerism, particularly among the younger generations. This is also true in our churches. We therefore see an opportunity to breathe new life into our ministry's connection with volunteers. We believe there is much opportunity to build upon our relationship with our church partners through volunteerism.

Prior to the COVID pandemic we had begun to connect with friends in the tristate who were visiting our campuses to volunteer. Several of our area churches connected with us in this way. Volunteers also came from local schools, and family members of residents and some of our own residents had begun 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.

We have developed a volunteer section on our website at www.christianvillages.org. Click on which of our two communities where you have an interest in volunteering. You will find a brief application to which we will promptly respond with more details.

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."* 

One Resident's Amazing Journey to CVMH



Judith Johnson has been a resident of The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy since June 2022, a journey which began over 55 years ago when she worked as Academic Dean Wilke Winter's secretary at the Cincinnati Bible Seminary (CBS). In that role she typed the minutes of the CBA board meetings, and it was then she first learned about the development of a nursing home in Mt. Healthy.

Judy is an inspiring example of someone who has dedicated her life to serving her Lord. From 1969-1975, Judy worked at the Church of Christ in Washington Court House, Ohio as the secretary for the Christian Education Director. She then received a call from CBS inquiring about her becoming the Dean of Women. Judy accepted the offer and left the church, taking on the responsibility of overseeing 200 women for the next 5 years.

After working at CBS, Judy moved on to become the secretary for Covenant Christian (LifeSpring) Church. Just three years later, Judy was appointed as the Missions Director and held that position for the next 27 years. Judy's work in this position was twofold: connecting American churches with a ministry in Ukraine and providing missionaries to Bosnia. Judy traveled all around the world to check in on the missionaries. Her commitment to her faith and service to others is admirable, especially given the long years she dedicated to this work.

In 1999, Judy was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer and was not expected to survive. During her chemotherapy, a blood clot had developed in her heart and traveled to her leg. Ultimately, the only solution was an amputation above the knee. Following the surgery, Judy's body went into DIC – a deadly condition that causes clotting and bleeding in the body. She was given end-of-life Hospice care, yet after a month, she began to improve and amazingly she was soon able to return to her home. Despite the medical world's pessimism, Judy is convinced that God had answered the prayers from all over the world - from missionaries in California, churches in Ukraine, and a college in India which held an all-night prayer vigil for her. Eventually Judy continued to travel to various countries to share her miracle and serve the Lord. With fervor and a passionate voice, she shared her inspiring testimony.

In April of 2005, Judy called her mother to wish her a happy birthday and was told by her that she wanted to move to Mt. Healthy Christian Home. Judy remembered all the CBA board meeting minutes she'd typed. She was delighted to hear of the financial aid provided through the CBA Foundation which she knew would be critical to her mother's ability to be at CVMH. Dorothy moved into the apartment immediately beneath the one in which Judy currently lives. As time went by, Dorothy's health began to deteriorate, and she eventually moved to the nursing floor in 2006.

Judy loves the sense of community and family that CVMH has provided for her. She thinks that it is amazing how she has come full circle from typing up minutes about CVMH to living there. Through her struggles, she became an example of the power of God's healing, love, and hope.

At CVMH, we understand that each resident has a unique and rewarding life story and we are honored to be part of Judy's. ✚



Introducing Sunrise Vista

By Lizz Stephens, VP Marketing & Business Strategy

In 2017, our organization took a significant step toward its future growth and development by acquiring a 10-acre parcel of land from Christ's Church at Mason which is located adjacent to The Christian Village at Mason (CVM) campus. This strategic acquisition has provided us with a unique opportunity to expand our mission and grow our community.

Since the acquisition, the CVC management team has been diligently working to envision the best use of this land. You may have read in previous editions of the Connection that we will soon be building independent-living homes on this land, and this exciting project is now well underway.

We have solidified floor plans for these new large, open-concept independent-living homes. The homes, which will be called Manor Homes, will be a mix of single-family and duplex homes. All Manor Homes will feature a double-car garage, three bedrooms, three full bathrooms, modern finishes, and a fireplace.



Top: Clubhouse for Sunrise Vista, Left: Interior of the Manor Homes, Right: Exterior of a Manor Home.

In addition, some will have a basement option, giving residents even more space to gather with families or added space for storage. When we build the Manor Homes, we will also build a beautiful, modern clubhouse. The clubhouse, which will be available to new and existing residents, will feature a grab-and-go bistro, game room, and private dining room. With all the excitement and hard work that has transpired to bring this project to life, we believe it deserves an inspiring name, one that resonates with our vision and captures the essence of this new development.

“With Sunrise Vista, we aim to create a harmonious living environment that enhances the lives of our new and existing residents.”

Introducing Sunrise Vista, the future home of our new Manor Homes and clubhouse. This name was carefully chosen to reflect the symbolism of the land’s location. Situated to the east of CVM, the land offers beautiful views of the rising sun, representing new beginnings and a bright future. With Sunrise Vista, we aim to create a harmonious living environment that enhances the lives of our new and existing residents.

As we forge ahead with this exciting project, I invite you to join me in embracing the name Sunrise Vista, a symbol of our commitment to a brighter future for all residents who call CVM home. Together, we will continue to grow, thrive, and create a nurturing environment that fosters independence, happiness, and well-being.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more or has an interest in becoming part of our growing waiting list for Sunrise Vista please contact me at 513-701-3408 or lizz.stephens@christianvillages.org.

Thank you for your unwavering support as we embark on this exciting journey towards Sunrise Vista. Stay tuned for updates in future editions of the Connection. ✝



Top: Interior of the Manor Homes, Bottom: Interior of the Sunrise Vista Clubhouse



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If you have an address change or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email amie.kocher@christianvillages.org



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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 support the ministry of Christian Village Communities?
Visit www.christianvillages.org/donate to learn more about supporting our foundation and providing financial relief to our residents and employees.

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

