



A Christmas Message from Larry Monroe

My first Christmas as your CEO was in 2012. I recall that Kathy and I attended the resident Ambassador Choir Christmas Concert that year, which at that time was held in Hockley Chapel.

As Kathy and I enjoyed the concert I looked across the aisle and noticed a woman seated next to a gentleman in a wheelchair. He was slumped a bit in his seat, with eyes looking down. There was a bit of a drool from his lips. She gently stroked his arm and hand and patted his lips with a cloth. I later learned that this was a husband and wife, who had moved to our community into a Garden Home. His diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease was one of the main reasons they came to CVM. As the disease advanced, she could not care for him at home any longer and he moved into Special Care, our secured, long-term nursing memory care unit. At her request, the nursing staff had brought him to the concert to sit next to her.

This gentleman's disease was so advanced that he had no memory of loved ones and no comprehension of his surroundings. This horrible disease had robbed him cognitively of the man he was and the life he once lived. But what I witnessed in him that night as the choir sang astonished me and would help set the stage in my heart and mind for how I would view my position and my responsibilities as CEO.

When the choir began to sing Christmas hymns, the man's downcast eyes began to lift. His face reflected a hint of awareness that was previously void. His lips began to move. He was singing! He was mouthing the words to the hymns, Silent Night, Away in a Manger. She gripped his hand, and together they sang as tears welled up in her eyes. For just a moment, her husband was back. I sat there gazing, not paying much attention to what was going on at the front of the chapel. With a lump in my throat, and I distinctly remember saying to myself, "Oh Lord, what have I done to deserve the blessing of serving these people." That was one of the first times I truly comprehended that I was not leading just an organization, I was leading a ministry. I was humbled by what I witnessed, and it helped to shape me as a leader.

At this time of the year, when our hearts and minds turn toward the giving and receiving of gifts, I want to thank each of you for the gift I have been given to serve you. My life has been richly blessed by the past twelve years, and I am a better person because of my time spent as your CEO.

As you celebrate Christmas, Kathy and I pray that God will bless you with a special measure of His joy through Christ.

Merry Christmas!

Birthdays, Celebrations and Updates



December Birthdays

This information is for
The Christian Village at Mason residents.

Village Clinic Hours

7169 Village Drive

Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

If you need to contact the nurse outside these hours, please contact Diane Reed, R.N., Queen City Skilled Care, Home Care Coordinator at (513) 314-0562 or Heather Carter at (513) 701-3403.

Grocery Pickups

Please turn in one list per week on Monday or Thursday into the Front Desk. (4 or 5 items).

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

CVM Transportation

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

*Concierge Cards—\$36 for 13 trips

For errand & medical trips within 5 miles.

*Appointments by Mile or Hour

For medical appointments and other trips over 5 miles, or if you require the driver to stay with you, pricing listed below:

- \$3.00/mile from drop-off and pick-up
- \$40/hour for the driver to stay with you

Scheduling Transportation

Call (513) 701-3415 to schedule an appointment.



December Anniversaries

This information is for
The Christian Village at Mason residents.

RESIDENT UPDATES

This information is for
The Christian Village at Mason residents.

Chaplain's Corner

BY CHAPLAIN DAVID RAY



What child does not love the wonder of Christmas? What adult, for that matter? Eyes and hearts dancing with excitement. And much of this brought about because of the time of **WAITING**.

But how different it must have been on the first Christmas, when the wait had been for centuries and expectations were all-but-gone.

Until a woman, long judged barren, surprisingly conceived a baby to help lead the preparation; and a young virgin was told she would miraculously become the mother of the son of God.

What can we learn from those who were schooled through the hard work of waiting? What might it teach us about the reward that can come through our own **"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"**?

ADVENT, within the life of the church, is a time of expectant preparation. Join us again this year as we light the Advent candles during Stone Center Sunday worship and a special sermon series helps ready our hearts for Christmas' coming.

Last year, we added two new traditions to our **CHRISTMAS EVE** gathering: **WASSAIL & SCONES** in the Hockley Chapel, followed by a **CAROL WALK** to a **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** in the Stone Center.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

5:00-5:45 PM -

WASSAIL & SCONES

in the Hockley Chapel, featuring returning guest harpist.



5:45-6:00 PM - An old-fashioned CAROL WALK led by a vintage-dressed lantern carrier.

6:00 PM - A Candlelight CHRISTMAS EVE service with Songs, Words, & special Media elements.



Contact Information

Tune to CVC TV for the Chaplain's Devotions (Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 a.m.) and Stone Center Worship (Sunday, 10:15 a.m.).

Office (513) 701-3406, **Cell** (513) 218-6548, or **Email** david.ray@christianvillages.org.

If you need assistance to attend worship, desire Communion, or would welcome a visit, please contact us.

This information is for
The Christian Village at Mason residents.

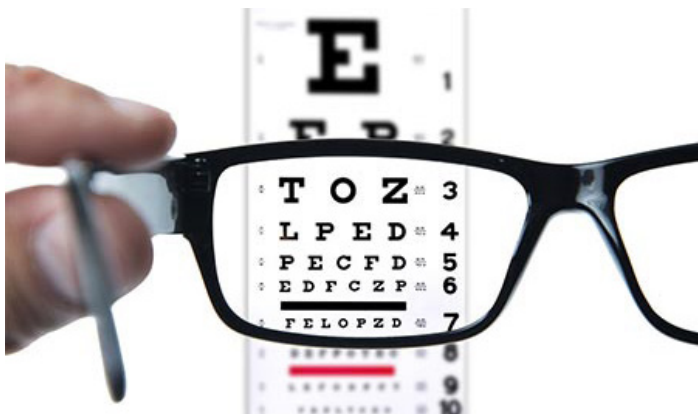
Social Services

BY HEATHER CARTER, LSW, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Did you know Christian Village at Mason offers ancillary services for our residents?

Podiatry, Vision and Audiology services are available to all residents on our campus.

Podiatry - Many of our residents may be familiar with Dr. Norman. Dr. Norman provides podiatry services for residents of the Garden Apartments at the Garden Apartment Nurses Office. Visits are typically scheduled approximately every 60 days. Similarly, Dr. Norman provides services for Garden Home residents in the Village Clinic.



Vision - Dr. Timothy O'Leary provides optometry services for residents of our campus. Dr. O'Leary is usually on campus about every 45 days. He provides comprehensive eye exams, manages eye medications and orders prescription eyeglasses for those who need them. He will coordinate care with previous providers, such as Cincinnati Eye Institute and Midwest Eye Center.

Audiology - We are pleased to share our recent partnership with Family Audiology. Lindsey Amend, is a Hearing Instrument Specialist that works alongside audiologist at Family Audiology. Lindsey can provide hearing health consultations, hearing screenings, otoscope exams, and hearing aid cleanings onsite at Christian Village at Mason. Her first visit to our campus will be on December 18, 2024. Visits should be scheduled in advance.



If you are interested in scheduling with Lindsey or have questions about the other ancillary services please contact Mary Brown at **513-701-3403**.

The Well

BY TOMI MARUNA, DIRECTOR OF FITNESS & WELLNESS

Merry Christmas to Us!

This holiday season, we're getting an early visit from Santa with an extra special gift for everyone in our community! We're thrilled to announce that new strength training equipment is coming to our fitness center. This upgrade is part of our ongoing commitment to help residents enjoy better health, strength, and vitality.

We can't wait to get everyone familiar with the new equipment and trained on how to use it safely and effectively. Stay tuned for more details on the specific times and dates that the equipment will be arriving. We will have to shut down the fitness center for a brief time to get everything set up.

It's truly a gift to work for an organization that places so much importance on the health and well-being of our residents. Seeing people grow stronger and enhance their quality of life here is so rewarding!

The Healing Power of Light

For some, light symbolizes hope and renewal. In winter, when natural light is scarce, it becomes even more important to create our own sources of light—both physically and metaphorically. This could be as simple as spending time in a sunny spot during the day or adding more light into your living space. Open curtains during the day, use soft lighting in the evenings, and perhaps even decorate with battery operated candles or string lights to create a cozy, inviting atmosphere.

Staying Active and Engaged

Physical activity is a powerful way to combat the effects of winter's darkness. Exercise stimulates the production of endorphins, the body's natural mood lifters, and can help counteract feelings of lethargy or sadness. Engaging in community activities can also bring light into your life during the winter months. Whether it's participating in a group activity, attending a holiday event, or simply spending time with friends, staying connected with others is vital for maintaining a sense of warmth and belonging.

While winter may bring darkness, we can seek ways to bring more light into our lives.



Auxiliary & Resident Organization News

Auxiliary Update

By Ed Stagney

The Auxiliary was severely affected by Covid-19 in 2020, 2021 and 2022. There were no Quarterly meetings until August 2022. The Spring Flower Sale, Fall Mum Sale and Kroger Rewards were the main sources of funds during these years. In 2023, the Craft Sale, as well as a small Bake Sale, were re-started resulting in additional funds for the Auxiliary.

However, 2024 was one of the best years since 2019. Dues and donations were the highest ever. The Craft Sale was expanded to include a White Elephant Sale. Dine-Outs were resumed and the Bake Sale was bigger. This increase was due to the help of a lot of people. It would be very difficult to name everyone who contributed to these successes, but here are the leaders: Craft Sale—Lowell Bowie; White Elephant—Barb Poston and Dave Doty; Dine-Outs—Dee Bartholme and Al Shelton; Bake Sale—Joyce Adams, Lynne Little, and Judy Stagney. And “thank you” to the great number of residents and employees who helped with these projects, even if it was only to purchase a baked item. Proceeds from the Bake Sale were \$1,590 and \$2,135 from the White Elephant Sale.

The best thing that happened is that we were able to accomplish the mission of the Auxiliary which is to “enhance the living situation of all residents of CVM with emphasis on those residing in our Health Care Facility.” By the end of the year, we will have given away about \$15,000 which is slightly more than we took in.

\$1,200 - CVM Entertainment—Queen City Sisters, Barbershop Harmony Society, Juggler, Wild Honey Band, and Delta Kings Chorus
\$7,000 - CVM Fitness Center—NuStep machine, small equipment items for exercise classes
\$1,500 - CVM Grandparent's Day Co-Sponsor
\$500 - CVM Library—large print books
\$4,000+ - CVM Health Care Residents Christmas presents

Now it is time to look forward to 2025 and expand on 2024 results. If you are interested in becoming a board member, or chairing or co-chairing a project, we would love to have you. Elections will be held at the January 8 meeting, so now is the time to step up and help the Auxiliary. I am reminded of a saying I saw some time ago—“Volunteering doesn't make cents, but it is very rewarding.” Have a Merry Christmas and a great 2025!

Christmas Fund 2024

The 2024 Christmas Fund Campaign has come to an end. We all need to recognize how grateful CVM residents are for our employees' hard work year 'round on our behalf. The gift checks are heartfelt evidence of that appreciation. Frosty says, “Thank you so very, very much! We are all invited to the fun Christmas party on Thursday, December 12, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Matthews Dining Room to celebrate this year's campaign with Santa, music, snacks and the distribution of the gift checks to our employees!

CVM Book Club

The Christian Village Book Club is alive and well. We meet the second Monday of each month in the activities room from 9:45-11:00. Books are provided by the Mason Public Library. Large print books are also available. Members return and receive books at the meetings.

We have set a size limit at 20. Currently there are 2 openings. If you are interested in joining the book club (we do discuss the books and we do have fun,) please contact Barb Hobe (513-503-7816) or Joyce Hackbarth (440-552-4887) or any member of the club. We will start a waiting list, if necessary. The club meets every month.

Safety Reminder

As it begins to get darker earlier, we want to ensure the safety of residents walking in the Village. Please always stay on the sidewalks and wear reflective

Auxiliary & Resident Organization News

clothing or carry a light source when walking at night or in the early morning so others can see you clearly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you for a wonderful 2024!

By Matt Hilderbran, VP of Development

The Christmas season is upon us and with that comes a time of thankfulness and reflection. As I reflect on 2024, I want to personally thank you for all you have given and done during this past year. With your generosity we were able to accomplish great things, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of Christian Village Communities and helping to fulfill the mission of the CBA Foundation in 2025!

With your help, the CBA Foundation has made great impact on the lives of our residents and associates. We are so thankful for your support...nothing we do would be possible without you!

We look forward to doing even more in 2025 and perpetuating the mission of Christian Village Communities and helping others live joyful and purposeful lives. Merry Christmas and may God richly bless you and your families this upcoming year!

Upcoming Music Concerts

Ambassadors Christmas Concert - Tuesday & Wednesday, December 3 & 4, 7:00 p.m.

What a great way to kick off the Christmas season with a special concert performance by our very own CVM residents and other choir members sharing the joyful sounds of Christmas.

P&G Band Christmas Concert - Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m.

The P&G Big Band is a 20-member ensemble made up entirely of Procter & Gamble employees and retirees. Back by popular demand, they will be performing

several holiday tunes featuring big band arrangements of classic holiday songs.

CEO, Larry Monroe & Tom White Musical Christmas Celebration - Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Pianist extraordinaire, Tom White, and our CEO, Larry Monroe, will share a special Christmas musical celebration.

Library News

By Mary Ann Watrous

October/November 2024 Additions:

- Harlan Coben, Think Twice
- Michael Connelly, The Waiting (New)
- Tess Gerritsen, Listen to Me
- Robert B. Parker, Colorblind
- Louise Penny, The Grey Wolf (#19) (New)
- Nicholas Sparks, Counting Miracles

Non-Fiction

- James McBride, The Color of Water
- Wolfgang Samuel, German Boy
- Gregory Howard Williams, life on the color line

Large Print

- Barbara Delinsky, Commitments (LP)
- Elin Hilderbrand, The Identicals (LP)
- Celeste Ng, Little Fires Everywhere (LP)
- James Patterson/Bill Clinton, The President is Missing (LP)
- Nicholas Sparks, The Wish (LP)
- Danielle Steel, Joy (LP)

Mason Public Library Outreach

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

Please remember to turn in your used books to the craft room for pick up.

You Never Know

BY RUTH ODOR,
GARDEN APARTMENT
RESIDENT



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Often the best gifts we can give are intangible gifts, gifts that can't be put in a bag or box and tied with a bow. One of those gifts is the gift of time--an afternoon or evening, or even just an hour, totally given to someone else. Maybe we thought we didn't have that time to give or maybe there was something else we had to do. But we gave the time anyway.

Closely linked to this is the gift of listening. We didn't want to listen to a recital of someone's aches and pains; we have enough of our own. But we listened, really listened. Sometimes listening is more than hearing; it is understanding, reaching for what that person is really saying. Someone has called it "listening with the third ear." I remember the first time I entered the office of the one who holds the position of top management here. I don't know what I talked to him about. But I remember thinking, "This man really listens."

There is the gift of compassion, of caring. He wrote about it in one of his columns. As he walked hurriedly down the hall with his mind on a heavy problem, he did not notice the residents sitting there. One woman remarked to her friend, "He doesn't care." She didn't realize that her voice carried, that he heard her. He stopped, turned around, and walked back to where the woman sat. He knelt before her wheelchair and took both of her hands in his. "I'm sorry," he said. "I do care." And they talked. As he left and went on his way, the woman said to her friend, "I was wrong. He does care."

The gift of touch seems like such a little thing, but oh how we miss it, especially after our spouse is gone. A handshake, a hand on our shoulder, a side-hug from someone standing near, a hug around the neck from someone who really cares.

The gift of encouragement does not seem like much, but it means a great deal to the recipient. A word of encouragement to one who has just lost a loved one; to someone recovering from an illness; even to someone in management who is having a difficult day. There are many verses in the Bible about the importance of encouraging one another. "Encourage one another daily" (Hebrews 3:13). "Let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

And then there is the gift of gratitude--thanking someone for the way in which you have been helped. Gratitude for a helping hand; for words well spoken; or even just for a smile.

So, no need to worry if we can't go Christmas shopping. We can think of those gifts that will bring joy to others.



The Christian Benevolent Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, religion, age, qualified handicap or veteran status.