

Celebration of Life Ceremony

Over the past year, Christian Village Hospice (CVH) has had the honor and privilege of providing services for many of our residents. Our hospice philosophy is to care for not only our residents, but also patients and their families. Our care does not cease at end-of-life as we continue to support our families for at least a year after their loved one has passed away. As our desire is to support all our family members who have lost a loved one, not just those who are engaged with CVH, we encourage and invite you to attend our first annual Celebration of Life.

The Celebration of Life will be held on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, at **11:00 a.m.** in the **Stone Center**. During this ceremony, we will celebrate the lives of all residents who passed away this last year. We hope you will join us in the Stone Center for this meaningful service. Formal invitations will be sent to families.



Birthdays, Celebrations and Updates



February 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.



February Anniversaries

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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



There may be no word in the English language used more often, or in more different ways, than “LOVE.”

We love candy, we love rainbows, we love a good night's sleep, we love puppies, we love...well, all kinds of things in all kinds of ways. “Love” describes so many things that it almost defies a simple definition.

But during the days of the early church, there was a word for “love” that was somewhat unique. You've probably heard it, a Greek word: “**AGAPE.**”

There were different words used in the New Testament world to describe different kinds of love—like there are different words to describe different kinds of snow in Alaska. There was a Greek word to express the kind of love shared within a family; another to describe the love between friends; and yet another to convey a romantic, or more erotic type of love.

But *agape* was a more rarely used word that Christians seem to have adopted and refined to describe a higher kind of love, like the love God has for us and that we should have for each other.

We often think of love as a *feeling*, but *agape* is something more! I had a professor in seminary who defined *agape* love as: “intentional high regard.” I'm not sure how much someone you love might be impressed if you told them (however tenderly) that you had “intentional high regard” for them.

But what the professor was trying to communicate was that *agape* love is more than a feeling; it is a product of our will.

You might even say that an *agape* kind of love is a *verb*. It is something you choose to *do*, to *give*. And, like grace, it is not *earned* but *freely given*.

No place in the Bible better describes this higher kind of love more eloquently than 1 Corinthians 13 (NLT):

4 LOVE (AGAPE) is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Agape is the kind of love that remains even when feelings fail, because it is not based on whim or circumstance, but upon an intentional act of the will. There is nothing wrong with the *other* kinds of love, but *agape* stands far above them all. Far more than just words on a card or the lips, it is the selfless and demanding expression of the will. And that kind of love is eternal!



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

Social Service Scoop - Community Resources

Periodically we have requests from residents for urgent care or little clinics located in the area. Below is a list of a few resources. Please keep in mind, these resources are not for life-threatening situations. Please call 911 if you have a serious life-threatening illness or situation.

Urgent Care and Little Clinics

Care First Urgent Care – Mason

3187 Western Row Rd Ste 116, Maineville, OH 45039
(513) 770-4122
8:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m. (hours may vary on holidays)

TriHealth Priority Care – Mason

8350 Arbor Square Dr, Mason, OH 45040
(513) 346-3399
M-F 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. (hours may vary on holidays)
Sat-Sun 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

TriHealth Priority Care – Liberty

8020 Liberty Way
West Chester, OH 45069
(513) 346-3399
Hours as listed above

Kroger – Little Clinic

5100 Terra Firma Drive
Mason, OH 45040
(513) 492-5787
8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Caregiver Support Group –

The caregiver support group meets the **2nd Tuesday** of each month from **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** in the **Village Clinic at 7169 Crescent Drive**. If you or someone you know is providing care for a loved one, we encourage you to join our group of caregivers to share ideas and learn more about caregiving resources.



CVS – Minute Clinic

6632 S State Route 48
Maineville, OH 45039
(513) 697-4881
M-F 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sun 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Well

BY TOMI MARUNA, DIRECTOR OF FITNESS & WELLNESS

Keep the Beat: Heart Health Made Simple for Seniors

Your heart is your body's most important muscle, and taking care of it is the key to staying active, happy, and healthy. Exercise strengthens your heart and improves your circulation. The increased blood flow raises the oxygen levels in your body. This helps lower your risk of heart diseases such as coronary artery disease and heart attack. Regular exercise can also lower high blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglyceride levels, all of which are risk factors for heart disease.

Fitness Tip: Move More, Sit Less

Even small movements can make a big difference. Try a daily walk, take a ride on one of our great NuStep bikes in the Renewal Fitness Center, or join one of our fitness classes. If you're not sure where to start, focus on exercises that raise your heart rate but still allow you to talk comfortably. Think of it as giving your heart a little workout!



Motivation: Think About What You Love

Keeping your heart healthy allows you to enjoy the things you treasure most—spending time with loved ones, traveling, or even dancing at a family wedding. Visualize those moments and let them inspire you to keep moving and eating well.

Nutrition: Eat for Heart Health

Eating heart-healthy doesn't have to be complicated. Focus on adding more fresh fruits and vegetables to your plate and choosing whole grains instead of refined ones. Foods rich in omega-3s, like salmon or walnuts, help protect your heart. For a sweet treat, a small piece of dark chocolate (70% cocoa or higher) can improve blood flow and reduce blood pressure.



Caring for your heart is about making practical choices every day. By moving regularly, staying motivated, and nourishing your body, you're taking steps to ensure your heart stays strong and steady. Remember, every beat counts—so keep it going!

Auxiliary & Resident Organization News

Get to Know the CEO! Vickie Brashear's Plans to Connect with Residents in 2025

Vickie Brashear, CVC President & CEO, is eager to personally connect with each of our residents over the coming year. She welcomes residents to schedule individual meetings at their home to get to know them and share thoughts about living in our community. If you are interested in scheduling with Vickie this year, please contact her Executive Assistant, **Amie Kocher, (513)-701-3448**. She looks forward to this opportunity to get to know all of you.

CVM App Pictures

by Lizz Stephens

As you know, our community offers residents access to our CVM app where you can find announcements, important messages, our activities calendar and a resident and staff directory. We are pleased many of our residents are using our app and have had feedback that they desire the ability to have their picture as part of the directory.

Effective immediately, if you would like to have your picture added to the resident directory in the CVM app, simply email the photo of yourself to our Marketing Strategist, **Audrey Mays** at **audrey.mays@christianvillages.org**. Audrey will then upload your photo for you.

We appreciate our resident feedback about the app and the opportunity to serve you!

Christmas Fund

By Bob Moorehead

On behalf of the CVM Christmas Fund Committee for the recently completed Campaign for 2024, we would like to say a grateful THANK YOU! for your generous gifts this year. Despite a continuing difficult economy, the total amount of over \$56,000 speaks volumes in saying in a very tangible way that you recognize and are grateful for all the employees' services throughout the year, and especially at Christmas time!

Valentine's Prime Rib Buffet & Live Entertainment

Celebrate love and friendship at a special Valentine's Dinner featuring a delectable Prime Rib Buffet in the elegant **Matthews Dining Room** on **Wednesday, February 12th**. Indulge in a chef-prepared feast with all the classic sides and sweet desserts to make your evening truly memorable.

After dinner, enjoy a live performance by the talented Wild Honey Band, filling the night with music that will make your heart sing.

This event is open to everyone—Please join us for an unforgettable evening of delicious food, great music, and warm company. Don't miss this festive celebration of Valentine's Day!

The Veterans Memorabilia Display Case

by Dick Biedinger

In 2003, Veterans Association commander, Tom Plummer, approached me regarding a request by several CVM veterans who were interested in displaying personal and military items from their time in the service. It was decided to purchase a memorabilia display cabinet to be placed in the main hallway where it could be seen by all the residents.

On August 7, 2003, the memorabilia case was delivered and put into immediate use with me as committee chairman. Except for a brief time when I was Commander of the Association, it has remained my duty to make a monthly change of exhibits. The information and exhibits have been provided by our veterans beginning with WWII and all the conflicts since.

Thank you to all the men and women who have served our country.

If you're interested in displaying items, please contact me at **(513) 339-0491**.

Auxiliary & Resident Organization News

Caring with a purpose: Grateful Hearts

By Matt Hilderbran, CBA Foundation

Christian Village Communities has hundreds of team members dedicated to the mission of providing joyful and purposeful life experiences in faith-filled communities. Each day, a resident, a family member, or a team member is likely to interact with members of the nursing, dining, housekeeping or other teams. Many of those that are served are impacted in a positive way and want to express their gratitude.

The CBA Foundation introduces Grateful Hearts. Grateful Hearts provides an opportunity to say "thank you" in a meaningful way to those that have made a difference in someone's life. All donations are given to the CBA Foundation in their honor and a personal note of thanks is given to the honoree (and manager) commemorating their exceptional service.

There is great benefit in recognizing team members who make a meaningful difference in our communities. The gifts given and the words of gratitude and encouragement go a long way in continuing to make Christian Village Communities an outstanding place to live and to work.

Grateful Hearts donations received go to Charitable Care and are designated for our Hardship/Scholarship Grants. These gifts provide financial assistance to CVC employees who have experienced a catastrophic event which has caused a temporary financial hardship beyond their control or are pursuing continued education.

For gifts received by February 14th, your honored individual will receive a Valentine treat!

To give a gift, fill out a brochure located at the Front Desk (or throughout campus), visit our website www.christianvillages.org/donate, or contact **Matt Hilderbran (VP of Development) at 513-701-3345**.

THANKS for ALL you do for our communities!

Upcoming Music Concerts

Wild Honey Band - Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Returning for another performance, this seasoned and talented five-member group bring fun and enthusiasm to their audiences. Whether pop, blues, Latin, jazz, or country, they perform a variety of popular songs. You don't want to miss this show!

Glen Bowles, Singer - Tuesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.

Glenn Bowles is a multi-talented singer/entertainer. For 25 years Glenn was one of the frontmen for "The Nations's #1 Rock n' Roll Revue" The Van-Dells. Glenn is also the first man to hold the title of World Champion Elvis Tribute Artist.

Library News

By Mary Ann Watrous

December 2024 and January 2025 Additions:

- Janet Evanovich, *Now or Never (Thirty-one On The Run)*
- Karen Kingsbury, *Fame; Forgiven; Found; Family (series of 4)*
- Freida McFadden, *The Teacher; The Coworker*
- Ariel Lawhon, *The Frozen River*
- James Patterson, *The House of Cross (New)*
- Riley Sager, *The Only One Left*
- Jacqueline Winspear, *The Care and Management of Lies*

Non-Fiction

- Jacqueline Winspear, *Next Time This Year We'll Be Laughing (Autobiography)*

Mason Public Library Outreach

Friday, February 7, 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



CAMPFIRES ON THE SHORE

My most memorable trip was riding down the Rhine and Mosel Rivers in a riverboat. We docked at the riverbank and walked into the village to sightsee. If we wanted to visit a village or city some distance away, we rode a motor coach. At night our captain picked up speed and all we could see out our little cabin window was darkness. Except on Saturday nights. Then we could see campfires here and there along the shore. I wondered why people came to the shore and built campfires and wished that I had asked. Probably for different reasons and for the same reasons that we would.

One group must have been fishing for they seemed to be frying fish over their campfire. I almost thought I could smell those fish in the skillet. Down the river was a large group sitting on a covering on the ground. They had brought their own food. It was a picnic. What fun they were having as their voices came across the water. Farther down the riverbank sat a couple. They were just sitting there and looking at the reflection of the campfire in the water. How good it must have been to get away from the noise and bustle of the city.

As I watched those campfires I thought of the early morning campfire by the Sea of Galilee so long ago. The disciples had fished all night but caught nothing until a figure on the shore told them where to fish. And then there was a miraculous catch. When they saw it was Jesus they hurried to shore dragging their nets. And Jesus cooked them breakfast over the campfire.

Some days we are burdened with trials. We don't know which way to turn. The sky is dark, and we cannot see any light at all. Then suddenly we can see a campfire on the shore-
AND JESUS IS THERE.



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