

SPRING 2006



SOARING

A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities



SITES TO BEHOLD

*A Mild Winter makes
The Villas at Woodcrest
a Summer Reality*

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MHC TEAMS WITH SIMERAL CONSTRUCTION



Mennonite Home Communities has teamed with award-winning Simeral Construction of Lititz for our newest offering, The Villas at Woodcrest. This collaborative effort provides new villa residents with the exceptional quality of Simeral's expert craftsmen and the legacy of excellence that is Mennonite Home Communities. There is good news for our future residents. The milder than expected winter, in spite of our February snowstorm, has positioned us ahead of schedule with an anticipated completion of the first villas in May 2006.

The humble beginnings of Simeral Construction in 1987 afforded a high touch supervision of detailed craftsmanship which has become the trademark of Simeral projects. Mark Simeral's 35 years of construction experience, coupled with the acclaimed residential design of his wife Becky, have produced an impressive resume of commercial and residential projects throughout central Pennsylvania.

Their workforce of 25 skilled professionals are focused on Simeral's core mission; providing a superior product

through excellent customer service. Mark's hands-on approach to operations and construction services assures a company that delivers quality craftsmanship and dedicated project management to each of their clients. Becky Simeral is the creative design talent responsible for the awards garnered by Simeral Construction including the architectural designer and builder of *Country Living* magazine's 2004 House of the Year. Simeral's leadership team is complimented by Dale Shenk, Vice President of Operations, with 25 years of construction experience that is employed to manage field operations and to grow the commercial project capabilities.

Unique to Simeral, is the direct employment of their own craftsmen. Simeral customers enjoy the benefits of in-house, on-site quality control, consistent attention to detail management, and schedules that are realized as promised. The design staff has been repeatedly recognized for its superior design ability resulting in a project that is custom designed down to the last piece of trim, a continuum of service from design to completion, and superior quality for an unparalleled value.



CHARLOTTE YODER

VICE PRESIDENT OF INDEPENDENT LIVING

Retirement Interview

*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
— Oliver Wendell Holmes*

What makes Mennonite Home Communities (MHC) so successful? The people who dedicate their time, energy, expertise and love. Charlotte Yoder, Vice President of Independent Living, dedicated herself to the staff and residents of MHC for 28 years. She first began her long history with Mennonite Home when her grandfather, the late Galen Hostetter, who was on the Board of Directors at Mennonite Home, asked her to consider the RN Supervisor position. The year was 1965, and at that time Mennonite Home had 33 “Infirmarium” beds, 80 “guest” residents, and a nursing staff of 25. She loved working with the elderly and stayed at Mennonite Home for three and one-half years before leaving to be a full-time mother.

In 1981, when her third child began kindergarten, her dedication to the elderly and to Mennonite Home brought her back as the part-time evening charge nurse. Charlotte became the Director of Nursing in 1985, where she monitored and managed the nursing department. As Charlotte continued to grow in knowledge and expertise, she exhibited a genuine and gracious leadership style, which allowed her to move forward in her career. In 1989, she became the Assistant Nursing Home Administrator while preparing for her NHA license. She then became the Administrator of Health Care from 1990 to 1999. As MHC continued to grow, Charlotte was needed at Woodcrest Villa, and was promoted to Vice President of Independent Living, where she provided oversight to the daily operations and became actively involved with the expansion of the Community.

When asked what Charlotte has enjoyed most about working at MHC, she states, *“I’ve enjoyed working with the residents and always being blessed with a great staff. I love the elderly and people in general.”* For anyone who has had the privilege to work with Charlotte or watch her interact with the staff and residents, it is easy to see her love for people. For Charlotte, the people at MHC have been like an extension of her family. When her grandson, Tyler, was seriously ill with Leukemia in 1999, MHC rallied around in prayed for her, her family and Tyler. She stated that even today it means so much to her that people still ask about Tyler.

“Retirement will be an adjustment, but I am looking forward to a welcome break from the hectic pace of working life. With the transition, my future plans will include spending more time with my family, especially the grandchildren, volunteering, traveling with my wonderful husband, Titus, and pursuing other interests. The flexibility will be great! ‘We turn not older with years, but newer every day.’ (Emily Dickenson) Retirement is a new beginning and I will begin to write a new chapter in my life. I am grateful and blessed to have been a part of the Mennonite Home Communities Organization. I leave you with this blessing, ‘May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, and give you His peace.’”

How do we say goodbye to our coworker, boss, leader, and FRIEND? For 28 years of hard work and love to make MHC a wonderful place to work and to live? How do we thank her husband and family for their support? From all of us who ever worked with you or lived at MHC, and from all of us whom you have touched, Thank You! We wish you the best in this new chapter of your life!



PARKVUE LOBBY RENOVATIONS

Today was a special day in our journey called the Parkvue lobby renovations. This day was special in that we saw the third phase near completion.



The past few days have been filled with anticipation as the carpenters, wallpaper hangers and a host of other trades worked in concert to finalize this beautiful area. The “Main Street” concept is taking shape. Let your mind imagine as we walk through this area.

The “Main Street” design has several focal points. The Country Store is located on one side. The bay windows provide a glimpse of some of the unique items that are found in this space. In fact, along most of the store you will find windows that give the feeling that you are indeed walking along a street. As soon as you step inside you are greeted with a wonderful aroma and colorful displays of all kinds of interesting keepsakes. The store also has candy and crackers for those with a sweet tooth. We are blessed to have the auxiliary provide staff for this wonderful space.

As soon as you cross the hallway, you see tables and chairs that give the feeling of an outdoor café. The wood trellis and columns provide a setting that one would expect in an outdoor café. The store and cafe together form the “Main Street” picture that carries throughout the remaining areas.





In the center room, the fireplace takes center stage. The stonework and mantel provide a wonderful homelike setting. The seating in this space is soft and inviting and with the flat screen TV make it a great place to catch the latest news and weather reports. The green wallpaper selections give this room a fresh and inviting feel.



The sunroom is the new space that was added to this project. The room is positioned to face the south and with the large windows, allows tremendous amounts of sunlight into the room. The wicker furniture gives a real open and summertime feel to this bright space.

The receptionists' area is another important element in the lobby design. The old concept placed the receptionist behind a series of glass doors very similar to a bank teller profile. The new design places the staff person into the open space and allows for easy conversation with the residents and visitors. Incorporated in the front desk area is a touch screen that allows easy access for resident information. With the touch of the screen and by entering the first few letters of the residents last name that information is available.

There are still new frontiers to complete. The Parkvue dining area will also undergo a transformation as will the remainder of the corridor between Parkvue and Rosevue. All of these improvements are designed to make our residents feel that this is truly their home.



Keeping within the Main Street theme of the newly renovated Mennonite Home lobby, the Main Street Café was designed to be a place where you can come to relax and experience the feeling of café dining. Whether it is sitting right on the main street, or relaxing next to the cozy fireplace, or just sitting and looking outdoors from our four season's area, we know that our customers will enjoy the environment. Our focus is to make the customer feel relaxed and comfortable and ready to indulge in the fine foods that will be served.

Highlights of the day will be our coffees, cappuccinos and creamy hot chocolate. Cold beverages will include well known brands of sodas, frappuccino and specialty waters. To go along with the beverages, there will be a variety of pastries, cakes and pies. Gourmet items will be a special feature on selected days.

Light fare will include breakfast sandwiches, soups, sandwiches and vegetarian plates.

Everybody loves ice cream and we have ice cream. Among some of the favorites will be sundaes, floats, ice cream cakes and novelty specials.

Visit us today and experience the Main Street Café.



THE VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

Our Special Volunteer Wish List:

We are really in need of volunteers to transport residents on wheelchairs to physical therapy, the beauty shop or special activities. This would be either in the morning or afternoon, once or twice a month. If you have a few spare hours and would like to make a difference in someone's life, please contact Kathy Maule at 390-7971.

June Fest June 17, 2006

This year's annual event will raise funds for the special needs of our residents. We are especially in need of donated items and services for the silent auction. Our hope is to offer a variety of gift certificates, quilted and hand-crafted items, baked goods and theme baskets. If you or a business you know would be willing to donate ANYTHING that could help us, PLEASE contact Kathy Maule as soon as possible. June Fest will be a success thanks to your generosity.

Anyone interested in volunteering on a regular basis or simply once a year for our June Fest, please call Kathy Maule at 390-7971. Thank You.

Mary Ella Herr is the epitome of faithfulness and selfless giving to others. Her active lifestyle has always included examples of goodwill and humility.

Born in West Lampeter Township, Mary Ella lived on a farm for the first twenty years of her life. She graduated from Lancaster Business College and devoted 37 years to PP&L, first in a secretarial capacity and then as a Senior Technical Clerk. After retiring in 1983, Mary Ella worked the next 20 years on staff at the Mennonite Information Center as a tour guide. She began teaching Sunday school at Willow Street Mennonite Church in 1939 and continues to instruct an adult class to this day. In 1946, she led the initiative to start a library in the church and served as librarian until 1996. In 1970, Mary Ella and Arlene Hess facilitated the organization of the Landis Home auxiliary. She advanced from Secretary Treasurer to Treasurer. For 11 years, Mary Ella was an integral part of the Chicken BBQ success. Presently she serves as a key person for Woodcrest Villa in the combined auxiliary efforts.

Mary Ella's volunteer work at Mennonite Home Communities began in 1978. Her role expanded to becoming the Secretary of the Mennonite Home Association's annual meeting. The year 1980 marked the beginning of 13 years as an active board member. In 1981, she helped with the coordination of the Mennonite Home auxiliary. Mary Ella was asked to serve as editor of "Highlights," our Community's monthly newsletter, from 1984 to 2003. She has been the Treasurer of the Thrift and Gift shops at Mennonite Home since 1996 and is responsible for bookkeeping at both shops. Mary Ella has been keeping our greeting card area at Woodcrest Villa well stocked since 2002. She is also on call for the front desk and newspaper delivery. She is a volunteer driver for our residents and has been driving other Woodcrest Villa residents every 4th Sunday afternoon of the month to Mennonite

Home allowing spouses and friends to spend time together.

In addition to her lengthy accomplishments, Mary Ella still finds time to participate in the first Resident Council for 6 years. She presided as Chair for the last 2 years. Currently, Mary Ella participates in both the Marketing and Activities committee. For the past 8 years, Mary Ella has led Bible studies at Mennonite Home every 1st and 4th Tuesday of the month. She enjoys playing the accordion with "Melody Strings Group", a volunteer musical group. Over the past 20 years, Mary Ella has also devoted time to the Water Street Rescue Mission in Lancaster and to the "Books Abroad" program, a missions ministry started in 1987. In November 2003, she was moderator for the Mennonite Home Association's annual meeting, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Mennonite Home.

Mary Ella certainly deserves the recognition of being our featured volunteer. She is a wonderful person, and it's easy to see that her dedication and service to others through these years has touched countless people and organizations.

Mary Ella Herr
WCV Volunteer





Mennonite Home Communities

Shining Stars

Recognizing employees for the dedication and hard work that is done each and every day to make Mennonite Home and Woodcrest Villa a wonderful place for residents to live.

October



Katie Siglin
WCV Food Service



Tina Bard
MH Food Service

November



Bryan Bitzer
Laundry Service



Deborah Foote
Laundry Service



Efren Lacanlale
Laundry Service



December
2 · 0 · 0 · 5
**SHINING STAR
OF THE YEAR**

Rebekah Robinson
WCV Resident Services
Coordinator

Mennonite Home Communities

1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA, 17601

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One

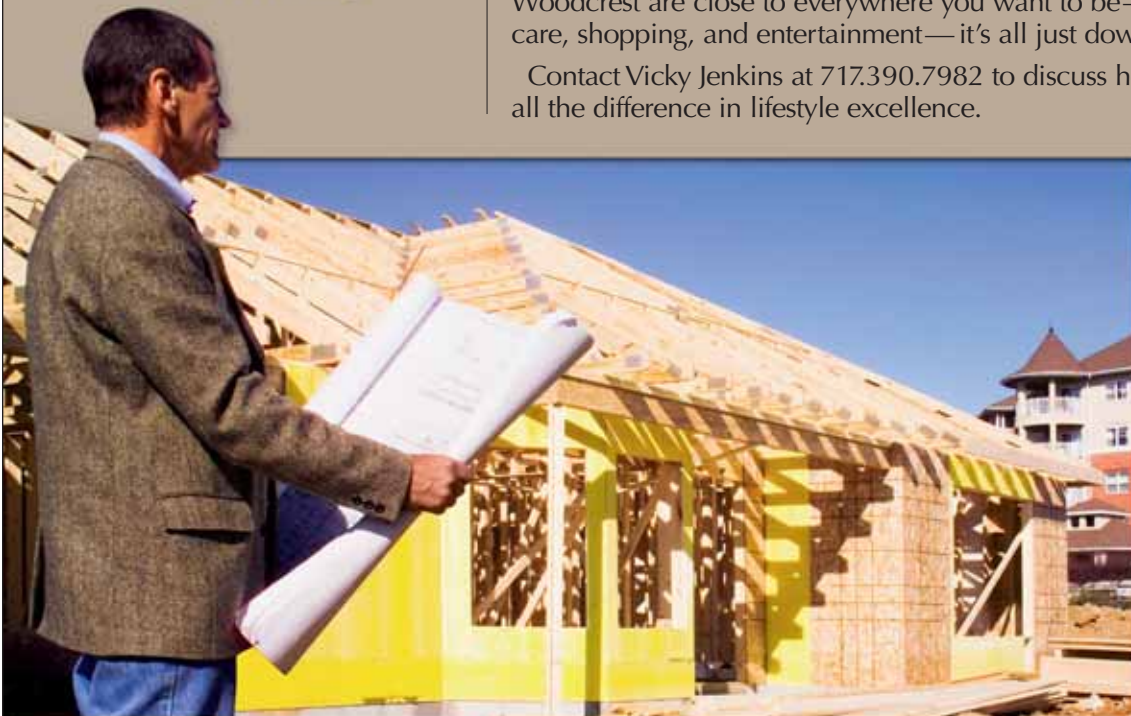
One Purpose, One Standard,
One Community.

The success of any joint venture is determined by a shared purpose, a commitment to excellence and oneness of heart.

Mennonite Home Communities, a premiere continuing care retirement community defined by excellence, is growing again to include the Villas at Woodcrest, the latest expansion of 32 spacious villas. We have teamed with Simeral Construction, an award-winning designer and contractor of custom-detailed residences. Their experienced and dedicated craftsmen understand the importance of getting the details right for an exceptional residential project of unparalleled value.

Nestled amidst picturesque Lancaster countrysides, the Villas at Woodcrest are close to everywhere you want to be—including health care, shopping, and entertainment—it's all just down the street.

Contact Vicky Jenkins at 717.390.7982 to discuss how “One” can make all the difference in lifestyle excellence.



SIMERAL
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY



The **Villas**
AT
WOODCREST

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