

SPRING 2008



SOARING

A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities



PLANNING & PLANTING

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Residents Prepare for New Growing Season

If you have ever had a vegetable or flower garden, you can appreciate the planning and planting that goes into such an endeavor. Some of our residents receive great satisfaction from growing their own vegetables and flowers.

Gardeners eagerly anticipate the seed catalogs in January. "What's new? Is my favorite variety of tomato still in the catalog or shall I try something new?"

In the middle of March, the Woodcrest TV channel invites residents to reserve a garden plot. After the garden area is plowed, fertilized and tilled, resident Warren Weaver divides the area into 20 plots with 36" rows to accommodate tilling. Warren enjoys planting tomatoes, peppers and over 200 gladiola bulbs each spring.

Each gardener fertilizes, plants and waters; soon tiny plants emerge from the ground. Of course, one must always be on the alert for the critters and insects that prey upon the tender plants! Gardeners create bonds with each other through the shared experience of their favorite pastime.

When resident Lucy Eyster moved here, she transplanted day lilies and irises from her previous home. She planted them along a common walkway for all to enjoy their beauty.

Ed Rutt enjoys working in the soil - it gives him purpose. This past year, he forgot that he had planted potatoes, and sowed his soybean seeds on top of them! The soybean plants grew very large but the potatoes did not fare well at all! Ed is diligent in trapping the ground hogs that love to eat the plants.

Cover Photo:
Residents **Helen Musser** and **Norman Bender** attend to the MHC greenhouse.



Planting

Skip and Phyllis Newcomer love working in their flowerbeds. As a child, Skip inherited this love from his mother. The Newcomers beautify the grounds around their apartment with lots of begonias and impatiens. They attribute their success to the good Lord, a little help from Miracle-Gro and water!



Help Yourself to Cherry Tomatoes

Visitors to Mennonite Home may notice Norman Bender's sign by the garden. With his son's help, Norm tills the space every Spring, planting various vegetables, including those prolific cherry tomatoes.



Norm is in the garden weeding and watering nearly every day. *"When you grow up with your hands in the ground, the love of growing vegetables never leaves you."* The residents of Meadowvue eagerly await Norm's fresh produce.

A greenhouse allows Garden Club members to grow many cactus varieties, cyclamen, amaryllis, orchids, a bird-of-paradise, and even a hibiscus tree. Club members sell plants from the Parkvue ground floor hallway, and donate the proceeds to the Home. They also tend raised beds of annuals in the courtyard.

Several Garden Club residents maintain their own outdoor flower beds of eye-popping perennials. Helen Musser says, *"I'm glad for the fresh air, sunshine and exercise that tending my flower bed provides. I enjoy all of the pretty flowers."*

Our mobile garden is housed in a wheelbarrow. Cora Kaylor, Therapeutic Recreation, notes, *"The residents love it! We've planted spring bulbs, potatoes and now geraniums. Last year we grew a small vegetable garden!"*

Thanks to many tender, caring hands, Mennonite Home is a bloom all year long.



These beautiful flowers are the prized possessions of Woodcrest Villa resident **Skip Newcomer**.

TRAVEL

Most people dream of a retirement that includes travel. Just think of it: in one week abroad you can experience a unique geography with beautiful vistas; thousands of years of history; ancient churches and castles; delicious cuisine; new people and their culture. Travel invigorates our lives and provides memories, stories and pictures to last a lifetime.



Woodcrest Villa residents are finalizing plans for a week long trip to Ireland in the Spring. Resident Regina Rice says, *"I have been to Ireland and enjoyed the experience. I'm going again to revisit familiar sights and experience the Kilmainham Jail, which played dramatic roles in Irish history for 150 years."* Other travelers are eager to see the authentic town of Shannon, the Blarney Stone at Killarney, scenic Galway Bay and the bustling capital of Dublin.

Residents appreciate our trips because of the ease of travel – all of the planning is done, hotel moves are minimized, and they travel with friends in safety and security. Good planning eliminates the unknowns.

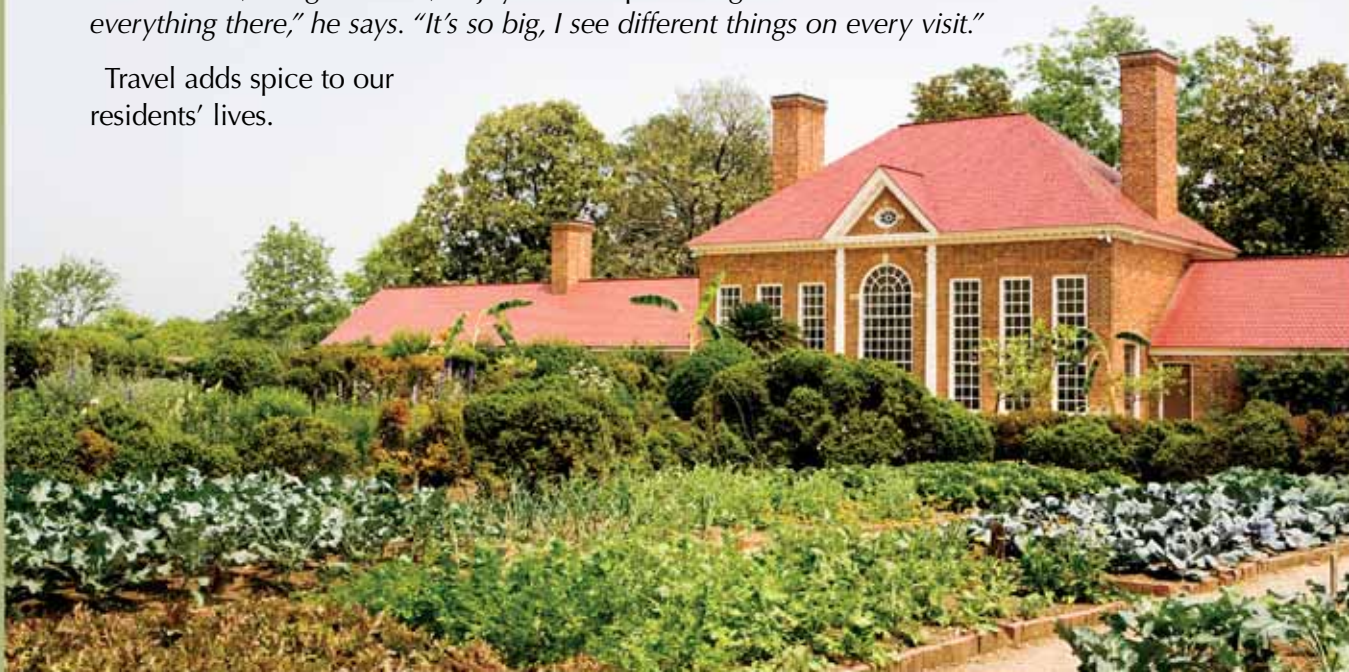
A resident trip committee suggests nearby places to visit during overnight trips, such as Cape May and West Virginia. Day trips like Mount Vernon are also extremely popular.

At Mennonite Home, the wheelchair bus accommodates residents who enjoy local travel. Bi-monthly scenic drives are popular in the warmer weather, taking residents to familiar homestead sites as well as to local attractions such as a white-tailed deer farm or a dahlia greenhouse. A volunteer maps out scenic routes and then acts as a tour guide.

Other favorite trips include the Jigger Ice Cream Shop in Mt. Gretna, Landisville Camp Grounds for gospel concerts, or a beautiful drive to see Christmas lights.

Resident Marian Schneider says, *"The drivers are very good and dedicated to their work."* Robert Shirk, a regular rider, enjoyed the trip to Longwood Gardens. *"I like everything there," he says. "It's so big, I see different things on every visit."*

Travel adds spice to our residents' lives.



PERSON CENTERED CARE *Update*

*P*erson Centered Care raises many questions. What exactly does it mean? What changes will it bring to Mennonite Home? How will it impact the routine of the health care residents who are used to the current hospital model of care?

Some long-term care experts now admit that society chose the wrong model for nursing homes. Today's nursing homes are based on a hospital model, but few people would like to live in a hospital long-term. Person Centered Care is the term Mennonite Home uses to describe our culture change journey to put the word "home" back in nursing homes.

In our personal homes, we have a kitchen, dining room, living room and even a family room (parlor). We incorporated all of these rooms into the design of our households and neighborhoods. When the reinvention project is complete, we will have seven households with 16-22 residents and two neighborhoods of 28-29 residents.

Person Centered Care places more choices in the hands of residents while maintaining the best practices of nursing care. Another goal is identifying and fulfilling individual resident daily pleasures. Person Centered Care components include; allowing the residents to awake at the time of their choice, serving breakfast on demand, exploring relaxing medication schedules (with physician permission), exploring lessening dietary restrictions, and enhancing resident access to snacks.

We are excited by this new care philosophy that is evolving at Mennonite Home. We look forward to your participation with us as we continue the Person Centered Care journey.



Person Centered Care accommodations provide a home-like setting for residents.

ROSEVUE REINVENTION

Take a short ride down Harrisburg Pike and you will see the first of several dramatic changes to the Rosevue building. The new facade continues the stone, peaked roof lines and curved elements initiated during the Parkvue renovations. The slight expansion of the front of Rosevue created space for household parlors where Care conferences and family celebrations, such as birthday parties, will occur.

Behind the Rosevue building are the foundations for the new dining areas. Plans

are to construct the first floor section and then wait until the front parlor area is completed.

On the west end of Rosevue, Benchmark Construction continues work on the visitor entryway and elevator. The activity in this area is very intensive. Providing access to the elevator from ground floor required reconfiguring the Therapy Department.

After the elevator tower is built, workers will install the elevator and complete the visitor entryway.

Parkvue 4th floor is moving along at a rapid pace. Workers completed the drywall, painting, wood trim and flooring installation during February. We plan to move residents into this area around early spring, realizing our dream of implementing Person Centered Care.

THE VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

As a child raised on a farm outside of New Danville, Clayton Thomas learned to work hard, to appreciate the outdoors and to love mowing grass. Boy, does he ever love to mow grass! Now 90 years old, Clayton has been mowing for over eighty years.

Clayton remembers moving to Mennonite Home in 1986, after years of farming and mowing for New Danville Mennonite School, Millersville University and others. He immediately asked how he could help, and a maintenance man invited him to start mowing “wherever there is grass.” Clayton enjoyed working with the machinery and his mechanical skills allowed him to repair and even improve the equipment.

During the summer months, Clayton can be seen mowing on both the Woodcrest Villa and Mennonite Home grounds. He puts in a good forty-hour week during the grass season if the weather permits. Clayton’s sharp wit and good nature make him a favorite of the maintenance department. The “boys” are always glad for his help and advice.

Clayton serves our community in many other ways. He has served on resident council, he delivers the Sunday newspapers and assists the pastors with church service. He is always looking out for other residents. Years ago, his concern for his fellow residents led him to research the problems with the old furnace system and recommend a reasonably priced thermostat option that gave better heating control to the residents.

George Eckman, Director of Maintenance, says “We really appreciate the incredible amount of time Clayton volunteers with our grass operation. We will need another man if Clayton ever retires.” Nelson Kling adds, “Clayton Thomas is one of the greatest volunteers any organization could hope for – he is just a gem.”

In November of 2004 Mennonite Home recognized Clayton as the outstanding volunteer of the Month. It is now time once again to say thanks, Clayton, for your years of service to your community.



June Fest

TEMPORARILY CANCELLED

Due to the Rosevue construction project, it is necessary to cancel JuneFest this year. JuneFest will resume as soon as possible. Thanks to all the diligent volunteers who have worked in the past to make JuneFest a success.

Mennonite Home Communities

13th Annual Golf Tournament

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2008

Par Line Golf Course
Elizabethtown, PA

Call 390.4105 for an application
or www.mennonitehome.org/happenings.htm





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



Linda Greenawalt
MH Trayline Leader



Andrea Sauder
WCV Cook



Kimberly Retallack
MH Food Service Worker



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**SHINING STAR
OF THE YEAR**

Janet Myers
MHC Office Coordinator

Mennonite Home Communities

1520 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA, 17601

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Annual Campaign Results

Many of our friends who read Soaring also support our Annual Campaign, some by using the IRA Transfer gift law. Here is a Report Card of your support:

MEASUREMENT	RESULT
Number of Gifts from IRAs	4
Amount of Gifts from IRAs	\$23,000
Number of Traditional Gifts	144
Amount of Traditional Gifts	\$32,313
Total Number of Gifts	148
Total Amount of Gifts	\$55,313

Specialized, directed Gifts made through IRA transfers (included above) [m]Power System for Woodcrest Villa and the Bladder Scanner for Mennonite Home.

The residents of Mennonite Home Communities thank you for your generous support. All non-directed gifts will support the Benevolent Care fund for those who have limited finances.

New System, Cleaner Data, Better Service



Betty Ann Smith (Development, seated on left) reviews current data with Woodcrest Villa residents (left to right) **Lucy Sanders**, **Doris St. John** and **Judy Harnly**.

The Development Department maintains over 5,000 name and address records that control many of the mailings you receive from Mennonite Home Communities. We are implementing a new system that will streamline our operations, reduce clerical effort, reduce costs and provide more customized service to our various groups of friends.

During April, Woodcrest Volunteers will call to confirm your address and areas of interest with MHC. They will ask if you are interested in: Soaring, our Golf Tournament, educational seminars, JuneFest and the Annual Campaign.

We want to communicate only the type of information you desire. With the new system – you are in control. We appreciate you taking a minute to think about how you would like to hear from us. Thank you!