



SOARING

A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities



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Woodcrest Villa Resident Ed Geisler is
**IMPACTING
THE WORLD**

Letting His Light Shine

Woodcrest Villa Resident Introduces Newest Invention

If Ed Geisler can save at least one life with his newest invention, then his time has been well spent. Ed, a Woodcrest Villa resident since 2005, is a retired manufacturing test engineer. This past fall he unveiled his latest creation, Amish Safety Lamps, by testing them on horses pulling buggies at Abe's Buggy Rides and Plain & Fancy Buggy Rides in Lancaster.

In creating the light, Ed took a simple concept – making the horse more visible – and combined it with electronic technology. The result is a small LED flashing light that affixes to the front of the wooden shaft that goes to the side of the horse. The buggy driver can activate the light from inside the buggy and have it blink for as long as he would like. The flashing yellow light brightly alerts oncoming traffic to the presence of the horse and buggy, which is particularly helpful when turning. Although horses and buggies do have several lights and reflective signs, additional safety precautions are beneficial for everyone.

Ed began work on his invention this past summer. He went through about five different versions before arriving at his final design. Hand assembling the devices takes him 4-5 hours and installation is 1.5 hours. As demand builds, he is hoping to have a manufacturer produce the lights for distribution through the company that he and his wife, Sylvia, have started – Yorktowne Electronics. His ultimate goal is to sell the lights and installation kits wholesale to buggy shops, which would then take care of the sale and installation. The lights currently retail for \$89.95.

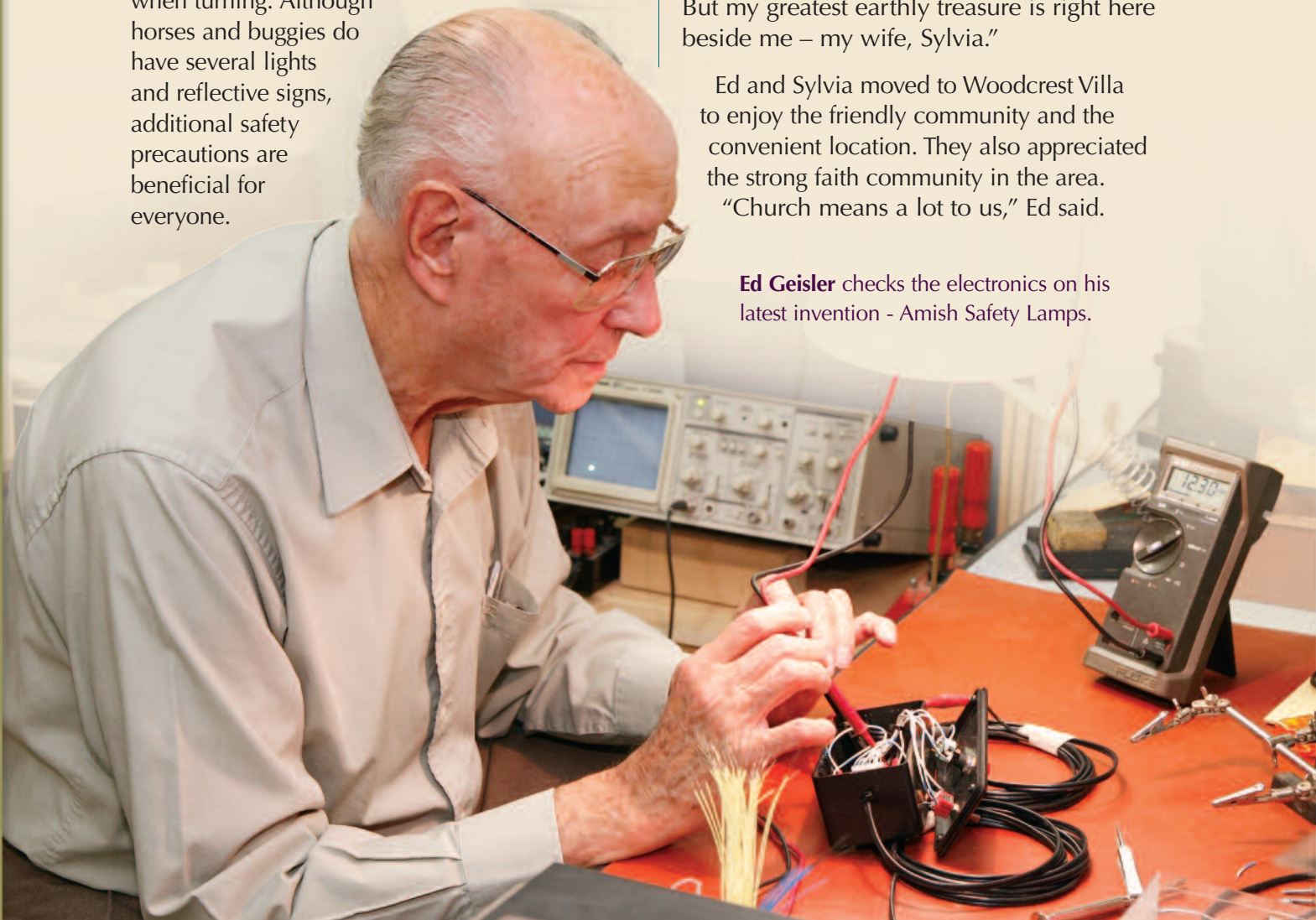
Inventing new devices is not a new concept to Ed. Throughout his career he has earned several patents and is a member of the American Society of Inventors, which meets in Philadelphia.

"I find my inspiration through the Lord," Ed says. "He gives to us daily – ideas and riches. But my greatest earthly treasure is right here beside me – my wife, Sylvia."

Ed and Sylvia moved to Woodcrest Villa to enjoy the friendly community and the convenient location. They also appreciated the strong faith community in the area.

"Church means a lot to us," Ed said.

Ed Geisler checks the electronics on his latest invention - Amish Safety Lamps.



Within Woodcrest Villa, Ed can often be found cobbling away at his work bench in the wood shop, which is where he created the Amish Safety Lights. He also enjoys the fellowship he finds with his friends in the billiards room. Both Ed and Sylvia say they have made a wonderful group of friends at

Woodcrest and often go to dinner with them. "We're like a bunch of kids," he jokes.

Like Ed, Sylvia also enjoys staying active. When she's not serving as a sounding board for Ed and his ideas, she likes to sew, play games and spend time with her close group of friends. "We like laughing and having a good time," she says.

Wood Shop Works Wonders



Creativity and art abound in a special room located in Cardinal Wing at Woodcrest Villa. As home to the Woodcrest Villa Wood Shop, this activity hub houses a variety of craftsmen who enjoy designing beautiful pieces of art and inventing new ways of doing things.

About 20 Woodcrest Villa residents are members of the Wood Shop. They pay yearly dues and have a Board of Directors and other officers who are elected yearly. As members, they have their own workstations and access to shared tools and equipment. Many members also bring in their own tools specific to their trade. Many of the residents come by daily to work on a variety of projects, from jewelry boxes to chairs and even miniature wooden ships.

Members are encouraged to work on a "buddy system" and let others know when they are working in the Wood Shop. New members go through an orientation process to familiarize them with the use and operation of all equipment and the rules and regulations of the Wood Shop.

The Wood Shop provides more than a place to build and dream – it's also a social experience where residents enjoy interacting with and learning from one another.



Ray Hargraves (above) does finish sanding on his latest project while **Mary Stumpf** finds yet another use for husband **John's** custom mallet.



On the Cover

Ed Geisler stands beside a horse equipped with Amish Safety Lamps and horse owner **Miriam Meyer** of Plain & Fancy Buggy Rides.

Residents Touch Local Community

Woodcrest Villa residents are always finding ways to give back to the community at large, making a big difference in the lives of others.

- Woodcrest Villa residents donated 35 turkeys to The Salvation Army for distribution to local families, through a Stauffer's of Kissel Hill holiday program.
- Donations of nearly \$20,000 from Woodcrest Villa Sunday morning chapel services were distributed among 15 different local charities.
- This fall, residents and staff collected 111 teddy bears for the children served by Susquehanna Valley Emergency Medical Services.
- At the annual Christmas party, residents collected mittens, hats and scarves in support of The Salvation Army's Winter Coat Distribution.
- Woodcrest Villa "Critters," a club that knits and crochet, donated several handmade blankets to the family of Chris Harrower, who passed away in a house fire. He is survived by his wife and seven children. Woodcrest Villa Garden Café employee Colleen Myer's son is married to one of Harrower's daughters.
- This Spring, residents donated 23 cartons of food to the Lancaster County Council of Churches.



Personal Care & Assisted Living

Recently, Pennsylvania enacted new regulations that require retirement communities to modify how they describe what were previously called "assisted living" services. Previously, the terms "assisted living" and "personal care" were often used interchangeably, but moving forward, the Department of Public Welfare and Department of Health have created more descriptive definitions to each phrase to make them separate and distinct.

In January 2011 at Mennonite Home, our "assisted living" services became "personal care" and are no longer referred to as "assisted living." This is a change in name only as our services have not changed and we continue to provide the same levels of care for residents requiring assistance with activities of daily living. Personal care homes will continue to be governed by the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare. We have made this change in our promotional materials and website as well.

The term "assisted living" continues to exist in Pennsylvania, but is now more narrowly defined and will be governed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Assisted Living and Personal Care residences can differ in terms of nursing care provided and design of the accommodations.

Assisted living is designed as part of "aging in place" concept. The term "aging in place" signifies the ability for people to remain in their own residence and receive supplemental nursing care services without moving to a specialized facility.



Personal Care staff and residents visit.

At Mennonite Home, our Personal Care accommodations also incorporate the "aging in place" concept by helping residents to continue to function at their optimal level as long as possible. With three different levels of care offered through Personal Care, residents can access the services that best meet their needs.

For more information, visit www.MennoniteHome.org.

The 4C's of Mennonite Home Communities

These are our Core Values:

Commitment • Community • Compassion • Competency

Each and every day, the employees of Mennonite Home Communities exemplify our Core Values. Early in October, we took COMMITMENT to a whole new level with our Employee Capital Campaign for our newly renovated Person Centered Care (PCC) households. The previous hospital model of care where residents tended to congregate around the nurses' stations had limited choices for residents.

As soon as the campaign began, the employee donation cards started pouring in. Some employees contributed multiple times, and many voiced their gratitude for the opportunity to support this worthy cause.

The official title of our employee campaign was "Making our House a Home." While people driving down Harrisburg Pike can physically see Woodcrest Villa and Mennonite Home, they can't see the invisible employee-built bridge that connects them to the residents.

December 1st marked the conclusion of our successful employee campaign. Some lucky employees received grand prizes donated by the following local businesses: Lancaster Arts Hotel, Eden Resort & Suites, Miller's Smorgasbord, and Sight & Sound. We are proud to say that we reached 100 percent of our campaign goal!



Someone has wisely said, "The measure of a society is how we treat the youngest and the oldest among us." For me, giving through the Securing Our Second Century Campaign is a small way of helping ensure that our seasoned citizens are treated with dignity and honor – and it's an investment in our own future as well. I also feel that the campaign has been a way for me as an employee to "give back" to MHC.

• RANDY SHREINER, MHC Maintenance

IRA Gifts

Congress reinstated the popular IRA Charitable Transfer Gift for the years 2010 and 2011. Under this law, individuals 70½ years of age and older can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly to a charity. The charitable donation must go directly to the charity. The donor cannot direct the gift to a foundation or a donor-advised fund.

Please note that gifts of any size are permissible. The IRA Charitable Transfer Gift counts toward the donor's Required Minimum Distribution for the year of the gift.

For taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions on federal income tax forms, IRA Charitable Gifts are a good way to avoid paying taxes on their charitable contributions. For more detailed information, see www.mennonitehome.org/giving where we have links available.

Please consult your financial or tax advisor for details, or call Greg Pierce, Director of Development, at 717.390.4903.

SOARING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Greg Pierce, Editor
- Connie Buckwalter
- Nelson Kling
- Jennifer Murr
- Denise Paterson
- Nan Rush
- Betty Ann Smith
- Jennifer Walters

MHC Welcomes

Virginia **BADGER**



Virginia Badger grew up in the Pittsburgh area and earned a degree in Chemistry at Geneva College. She worked in the field while her husband, Barry, attended Dental School at the University of Pittsburgh. They discovered Lancaster while searching the state for the best location to open a dental practice and raise a family.

While organizing the bookkeeping functions for Barry's dental practice, Virginia discovered a love of accounting. She earned a B.S. degree in Accounting at Franklin & Marshall College, passed her CPA exam and joined Miller & Miller as an accountant.

Today Virginia is a partner in Acuity Advisors and CPAs, helping clients reach their goals as business owners and individuals. She also serves on numerous boards, including Geneva College, the North Foundation, Manheim Central Foundation for Educational Enrichment, and previously, the Worship Center.

Virginia is a dedicated Christian and devoted family person. She and Barry are blessed with a wonderful family that includes a son, daughter-in-law and grandson who reside in North Carolina and a daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter who live in Elizabethtown.

In addition to family, Virginia and Barry enjoy Manheim Central Baron Football and traveling. They recently completed a two-week dental mission trip to Jordan.

Virginia loves accounting and helping her clients achieve their goals. She joined the Mennonite Home Communities Board because of its strong reputation, solid finances, and the interaction of staff, management and the Board. Virginia enjoys the challenge of applying financial and business expertise to new industries. She notes that she always receives more from Board Membership than she gives.

Joan **NICHOLSON**



Joan Nicholson and her husband Robert moved into the Pyrus Place cul-de-sac at Woodcrest Villa in 2005. As the wife of a Methodist pastor, Joan was accustomed to changing communities, making friends quickly, and finding numerous ways to serve others.

Joan was raised in the Philadelphia and Upper Darby area. She worked as a secretary at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital before she married Bob. They have three children: two daughters and a son.

When her children were in school, Joan entered the newspaper business in Wayne and became manager of the Classified Department. During her 20 years of service the classified section expanded from 4 to 40 pages!

In retirement, Bob and Joan moved to Lancaster and began working for Kirby Smith Associates, a Christian fund raising group, before joining the Woodcrest Villa community.

Joan quickly became involved with the Activities Committee to meet as many residents as possible. She was elected to Resident Council, currently serving as the Vice Chair. She also serves as Chair of the Food Committee and is a member of the Scholarship Committee and the Resident Financial Advisory Committee. Joan also volunteers at THE MARKETPLACE, scheduling volunteers and working the counter. Joan's hobbies include reading, travel, spending time with family and collecting angels and Lladro figurines.

In her position on the Board, Joan will represent the residents' perspectives and promote continued positive two-way communications.

New Board Members

Merv **HESS**

Merv Hess was born and raised in Lancaster, earned a degree in chemistry at Millersville University and began a career in hospital laboratories in Boston. He advanced through the management ranks and also earned a Master of Business Administration degree at Northeastern University before relocating to Blake Medical Center in Bradenton, Florida as Laboratory Director.

At Blake Medical Center, Merv achieved increasingly higher levels of responsibility and ultimately retired as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

He and his wife Nora have two children, a married son living in Canada and a daughter in Lancaster working for the Mennonite Mission Network. Nora travels the country as a consultant to hospitals in the areas of Laboratory and Medical Imaging Management. Merv and Nora maintain homes in Florida and Lancaster, where they come to escape the Florida humidity and enjoy friends and family.

In retirement, Merv uses his expertise and passion for seniors and children to guide his volunteering and service on several boards, including as a past board member of Sunnyside Retirement Community in Sarasota. Merv delights in using his skills in the service of the Lord. He believes that the mission of the organization should guide its pursuit of excellence in serving others. We welcome this servant leader to our Board!



Andrew **STECKBECK**

Andrew was born in Mechanicsburg and moved to Lancaster at the age of six. He was educated at Kraybill's Mennonite School, where his father still teaches, and graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School. At Messiah College he earned a B.S. degree in Accounting and fell in love with his wife, Joy.

Andrew and Joy have children in the seventh, fourth and first grades at Locust Grove Mennonite School. Joy is also an accountant and works part-time. The family attends Petra Christian Fellowship in New Holland, where Andrew serves as the treasurer. This summer the Steckbeck family traveled to Disney World, a new adventure for them. They normally enjoy family time at the beach and at a church retreat camp in the mountains.

For relaxation, Andrew reads primarily business and non-fiction books and enjoys many sports. He has participated in soccer and basketball at Lancaster Mennonite High School and tennis at Messiah College and now supports his children's sports teams and occasionally gets in a round of golf.

As CPA and Partner, Audit and Accounting Services with Simon Lever, Andrew specializes in non-profit services. He also advises clients in real estate, construction, HVAC and home-building, and also serves on the Boards of several church and non-profit groups.

Andrew believes in living out his faith in ministry. With mounting government budget deficits, Andrew expects increasing challenges in the provision of quality eldercare. He relishes creating new solutions to serve our expanding numbers of seniors. Andrew will apply his expertise on the Finance and Building & Property committees of the Mennonite Home Communities Board.



Mennonite Home Communities

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If you would like to receive information about **Residential Living at Woodcrest Villa**, call Linda at 717.390.4103.

If you would like to receive information about **Personal Care or Health Care at Mennonite Home**, call Mindy at 717.390.7979.

If you wish to have your name removed from our mailing list, call Betty Ann at 717.390.4105.

New Day. New Course. Same Great Cause!

Mennonite Home Communities

16th Annual Golf Outing

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011

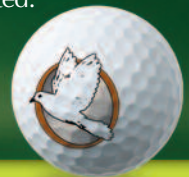
Royal Oaks Golf Club • Lebanon, PA

Mennonite Home Communities will be hosting their 16th Annual Golf Outing on Thursday, July 14th at the **Royal Oaks Golf Club**. This new location is one of *Golf Digest's* Top 5 Pennsylvania Golf Courses with a 4-star rating.

The day will begin with registration at 7:00 am and a shotgun start at 7:30 am. Afternoon registration begins at 12:30 pm with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Both morning and afternoon rounds are scramble formats. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, cart, a delicious meal and prizes.

All proceeds of this outing benefit the Mennonite Home Communities Benevolent Care Fund, which provides care for residents whose personal resources are exhausted. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Registration information will be emailed or visit www.MennoniteHome.org/Golf.



Coming Events

For more information visit www.MennoniteHome.org

MAY 7

1903 Legacy Society

MAY 21

Capital Campaign Celebration

JUNE 4

June Family Day

JUNE 22

Marketing Open House

JULY 14

Mennonite Home Communities
16th Annual Golf Outing