



SOARING

A Publication of Mennonite Home Communities

CELEBRATE SUMMER!



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National Recognition of Landscaping



MHC Grounds Crew (pictured left to right): **Tim Sheaffer**, Supervisor, **Don Mayers**, **Greg Groff** and volunteer/resident **Clayton Thomas** (seated) were honored by Walker Equipment for their meticulous grounds keeping at Mennonite Home Communities.

Walker Equipment manufactures high quality lawn maintenance equipment. They also ran a world-wide Beautiful Places Calendar Photo Contest for pictures of the best commercial landscaping for inclusion in their 2009 calendar. The employees of Walker Equipment selected, from hundreds of submissions, a Woodcrest Villa photo for their month of July picture.

Tim Sheaffer, Grounds Supervisor, credits his incredibly hard working crew of Don Mayers, Greg Groff, and one faithful volunteer, Clayton Thomas, for this honor. Tim says his crew is absolutely the best group of people with whom he has ever worked. Together they maintain about 150 acres at Mennonite Home Communities. The highly maneuverable Walker equipment helps to automate mowing in tight spaces that previously required hand mowing.

The diverse Woodcrest Villa residents are what Tim finds so satisfying about his work. Some folks want to stay involved with the landscaping and Tim encourages their participation. He realizes this is their home and the residents take pride in the beauty of the grounds.

Consider the experience of Louise Franze. Her three sisters from Minnesota accompanied her to a Marketing luncheon. As they walked around the buildings and grounds, Louise was pleased that her sisters continued to find beautiful vistas

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“I’m very proud of our grounds crew and the great pride they take in their work.”

.....

-Tim Sheaffer



Excellence

and small intricate spaces outside of every window. They knew that their green-thumbed sister would be delighted in her new home!

In May, Louise hosted the Women's Garden Club of Lancaster for a tour and luncheon at Woodcrest Villa. The members of the club appreciated the contrast between what Woodcrest Villa did with the broad panoramas, contrasted to the small intimate spaces gardened by the residents.

Herb and Jane Berkheimer are avid gardeners. Pulling into their driveway, a warm and colorful display of perennials and annuals greets their guests. Jane feels that a splash of colorful flowers offers an important and welcoming gateway to their home.

Behind their home, the Berkheimers created a soothing oasis. Jane claims that "flowers are essential to my well-being." She created a relaxing atmosphere with lovely views at her new home. Herb also wanted to spice up the back patio and didn't mind doing the heavy digging. They worked cooperatively with the grounds crew to create their garden treasure.

Their sanctuary offers an incredible assortment. The serviceberry trees offer a haven for various birds, as do a bird feeder and bird bath. Jane incorporated a beautiful trellis from her previous home in recreating a rose arbor. Containers of flowers and a cutting garden compliment the landscaping. Flowers are chosen for season-long color and the ability to attract butterflies.

Residents appreciate the thoughtfulness of the grounds keeping staff. For example, in the fall, after trimming the holly bushes, they collected the clippings and made them available for residents to use in Christmas decorations.



Jane and Herb Berkheimer's labor of love are on vivid display.

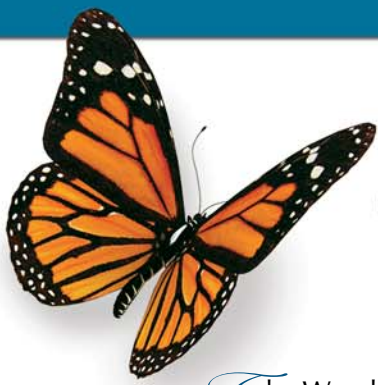


Beautiful landscaping and peaceful settings adorn the colorful MHC campus, attracting residents and nature alike.



Landscaping at Woodcrest Villa is environmentally friendly. The grounds keeping crew chipped the fall shrub trimmings into mulch for the nature trail. Each apartment wing has a container for yard waste collection. This is later composted with other yard waste and used as fertilizer on the residents' gardens.

The grounds crew and resident gardeners at Woodcrest Villa, working together, create a beautiful environment for all to enjoy.



Gardens

of Hidden Delights

The Woodcrest Villa and Mennonite Home campuses have many beautiful outside treasures to enjoy at this time of year. You don't have to go to the mountains to see God's creation. At Woodcrest Villa, our nature trail reveals birds, wildflowers, trees, a meadow skirting Swarr Run, ducks and deer. The huge rocks along the way may remind you of walking in the mountains. Benches provide plenty of places to sit down and relax.

Outside the Garden Café, the duck couple returned to the small pond (photo, bottom of page). It is delightful to enjoy lunch while watching the ducks and fish enjoy the pond. The new waterfall keeps the pond aerated and healthy.

The "Park" is another unique area where residents and their guests enjoy summer band concerts. While relaxing on the swing, you may become mesmerized by the dazzling fish swirling about in the pond. The hill behind the pond features the handiwork of residents who share their passion for continuous flower blooms.



Judy Harnly and **Jan Roth** enjoy a cool drink on a warm day.



Dick Zook looks on at the fruit of his labor.

Some of our residents enjoy gardening. Plots are available for those who want to dig in the dirt to provide fresh vegetables and flowers!

The courtyard behind Mennonite Home is a great place to visit with friends, read a book, or just enjoy the great outdoors. A variety of colorful flowering trees and shrubs enhance this area. Residents enjoy planting an assortment of ever blooming annuals in the raised flower beds. Outdoor concerts, ice cream socials, picnics and other gatherings happen here.

Some may be surprised to learn that Little Conestoga Creek borders the back of Mennonite Home. Residents can watch a variety of waterfowl in this area. Occasionally baby ducks toddle around the banks of the creek and blue heron take up residence. The creek is stocked with trout in the spring – much to a fisherman's delight! Residents enjoy watching the scenery along Little Conestoga Creek change throughout the seasons.

The many and varied "niches of nature" at Mennonite Home Communities invite you to rest and enjoy.



Paul Bowman prepares his line for a big catch.



Who are these Ladies Wearing Purple with Red Hats?

By Connie McMullin - Red Toppers of Lancaster

Little did Jenny Joseph, world renowned contemporary British author, realize in 1961 when she penned,

*“When I am an old Woman, I shall wear purple
With a red hat, which doesn't go and doesn't suit me.”*

that she would change the lives of women world wide. Her poem, “Warning”, sparked the women’s movement known as the Red Hat Society. Today, the Society has greater than 40,000 chapters gathering (red hat jargon for “meeting”) in every state and 30 foreign countries.

“Red Hatters” are passionate, like-minded ladies who BELIEVE in the joys of sisterhood at any age. Having achieved age 50 frees us to throw out the “rule book” and greet middle age with verve, humor and élan. Silliness is adopted as the comedy relief of life and recognizing we are all in it together, we join hands and go for the gusto. Underneath the frivolity, we share a bond of affection forged by common life experiences and a genuine enthusiasm for wherever life takes us.

Woodcrest Villa’s chapter has 40 such lovely, passionate, ladies! We gather quarterly in a fashion of dis-organization to share our “scarlet sparkles” (serendipitous happenings in our lives that have some sort of reference to the aging process) and plan how we are going to “play” until the next gathering. As long as we are suitably dressed for the occasion in purple, a red hat and our royal name tags, we can do anything. After all, what else does one need when one has fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment with love and laughter!

Our sisterhood extends a Red Hat welcome to all female residents and employees, at least 50 years old, who would enjoy meeting new “sisters,” making new friends and or solidifying existing friendships. Happy Red Hatting!



The MHC Red Hatters regularly gather to celebrate life over 50!

Aunt Denise

Sixteen unrelated individuals call me Aunt, and I love it! Let me explain.

The Aunts and Uncles program invites non-nursing employees and volunteers to adopt a household. They can spend time visiting, playing games, reading books or walking with residents through the gardens.

Becoming an Aunt in the Trout Run household was a great way to create wonderful new friendships and make a real difference in the lives of residents.

Every week, I assist residents with their noon meal. What a joy it is to see them - the different personalities make life constantly interesting!

Recently I witnessed Person Centered Care at its finest. One sunny afternoon, Speech Therapist Ron Zielinski entertained residents at mealtime with his guitar, harmonica and booming voice. The residents were delighted when Ron even took requests!

It is truly a gift to be “Aunt Denise” on Trout Run. Anyone who wants information about becoming an Aunt or Uncle should call Kathy Markward, Director of Household Life at 717.735.2688.



Denise Paterson, Recruiter helps resident **Thelma Frankford** navigate through the Lancaster Newspaper.

MHC Welcomes New

..... Dr. James Spicher

The 21 year-old son of our newest Board Member is currently bicycling towards Paraguay, yet Dr. Jim Spicher sleeps well at night! That is a result of a lifetime spent together teaching, riding, coaching and sharing a deep faith in God. Dr. Spicher is grateful that his son can experience this wonderful adventure.

Dr. Spicher grew up near Pittsburgh in a strong Mennonite family. His mother, a nurse, encouraged Jim's love of science, which he pursued at Eastern Mennonite University. He met his wife, Carol, in college.

Jim completed medical school at Penn State College of Medicine at Hershey. The Spichers returned to western PA for Jim's residency at the University of Pittsburgh. Following residency Jim accepted a position at General Internal Medicine of Lancaster and the Spichers settled in Mountville.

The Spicher's other son, Jason, 16, is a sophomore at Lancaster Mennonite High School. The family enjoys bicycling, flower and vegetable gardening and restoring their Victorian home.

Dr. Spicher's interest in serving seniors led him to specialize in gerontology and achieve certification as a Medical Director for retirement communities. He currently serves as Medical Director for St. Anne's Retirement Community and Homestead Village. Having served on the Boards of Philhaven and Physicians Alliance, Dr. Spicher understands the challenges and satisfaction of Board service.

Asked about his interest in Mennonite Home Communities, Dr. Spicher said, *"Many of my patients from Woodcrest Villa rave about the care they receive at Mennonite Home. It has an excellent reputation. Person Centered Care is the icing on the cake!"*

..... Phil Leaman

How can a career leap from trading commodity futures at the Chicago Board of Trade to service on the Board of Mennonite Home Communities?

Phil Leaman's journey began while completing his degree at Goshen College. He married his wife, Ruth, and they moved to her hometown of Evanston, IL. After eight hectic years trading commodity futures, they returned to Lancaster to raise their family.

In Lancaster, Phil joined a church affiliated non-profit insurance company. As the company grew and prospered, the Board selected Phil to serve as CEO.

Resource Partners serves Mennonite, Brethren and

Quaker organizations with risk management and insurance alternatives such as self-insurance. They provide general and professional liability insurance to organizations across the country. Phil delights to experience the passion of his clients for their various missions.

Phil's business expertise developed through working with many continuing care retirement communities. Phil combines a heart for seniors with a passion for Person Centered Care.

Phil and Ruth have four children, Jacob, 14, Emily, 11, Caleb, 9, and Elizabeth, 7. The children attend Hinkletown Mennonite School, where Phil served on the School Board.

They are a close family who enjoy sports, family vacations, and visiting with the Evanston cousins.

Board service at MHC allows Phil to express his fiscal conservatism, desire to improve services for seniors, and concern for benevolent care for the poor. He understands the blessings of giving financially and giving back through service.



Mennonite Home Communities is proud to welcome (left to right): **Dr. James Spicher, Phil Leaman and Roy Bomberger, Jr.** to its Board of Directors.

Board Members

..... Roy Bomberger, Jr.

As a young man, Roy Bomberger, Jr. learned the importance of giving back from his father. In 1968, Roy Bomberger, Sr. joined the Board of Directors of Mennonite Home Communities and began teaching Roy Jr. valuable life lessons.

Roy Jr. is the fourth generation of the founding family of Bomberger's Store in Lititz. The store employs 140 people in four divisions — hardware, floor coverings, lawn and garden, and cabinetry.

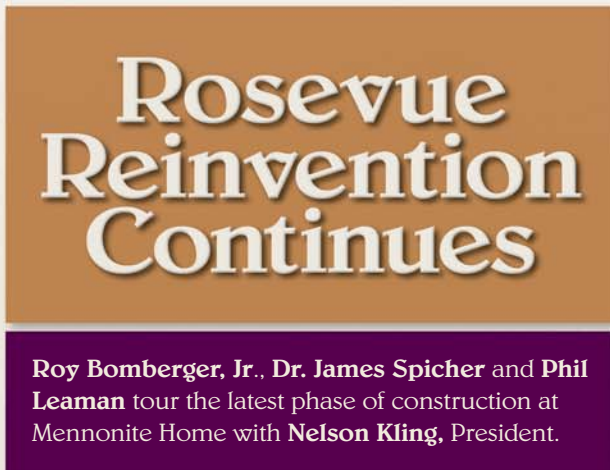
Roy Jr. sees strong parallels between his business philosophy and that of Mennonite Home Communities. Both are fiscally conservative, which allows them to weather economic storms. Both provide quality products at fair prices with an emphasis on service. Both recognize the importance of strong management; grounded in their heritage but able to adapt to new conditions. Finally, both

recognize the importance of dedicated employees who help operate their businesses.

Family is very important to Roy Jr. He and his wife Evelyn met at Eastern Mennonite University and have three children. Emily, 21, is a senior at Messiah College. Sarah, 16, and Benjamin, 13, attend Manheim Central.

Roy Jr. expresses his faith through service on the board of Global Disciples, a group who promote Christian missions through outreach and training. He enjoys international travel and one-on-one contact with people from various cultures.

Roy Jr. sees Mennonite Home Communities as being at the forefront of providing exemplary service to seniors. He concludes, *"The Lord has His hand on the direction of Mennonite Home Communities. We will succeed if we continue as responsible Christian stewards."*



The pace quickens as Mennonite Home Communities moves towards the final phase of Person Centered Care renovations.

Meadow Run and Reed Run opened the first week in June. This phase went very smoothly because Benchmark Construction completed the facade modifications and dining room extensions during an earlier phase.

Meadow Run is the household located on the east hallway, overlooking Park City. It features a lovely living room adjacent to a spacious parlor area. Other amenities include a private laundry center and a beautiful spa. Multiple frosted windows bathe the spa in soft light. Meadow Run also presents the new modified private room

configuration that allows each resident their own personal space and a beautiful European shower.

In addition to similar amenities, Reed Run offers a panoramic view of the Little Conestoga stream with the beautiful meadow, mature trees and a variety of wildlife. Herons, ducks and Canadian geese are regular visitors to this idyllic location. This household provides ample dining space and a kitchen that feels just like home.

Our renovations will be completed in the fall of 2009. We are delighted to offer the superb service of Person Centered Care in our completely remodeled households.

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 **Assisted Living 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.

Circles of Blessings

Reviewing this issue of Soaring, I am reminded of the many blessings God has bestowed on Mennonite Home Communities. It started with the land which John and Lydia Landis so graciously donated in 1903. They were touched by the vision of the original Board of Trustees to provide a Christian haven for the elderly, widows, widowers, orphans and other needy people, regardless of their financial means.

Mennonite Home Communities impacts our region like a pebble hitting smooth water, creating circles of blessings. Over the years, our mission has grown and prospered. Mennonite Home provides a loving home for 350 people, of whom more than 130 have outlived their resources. Driving down Harrisburg Pike, observing the lovely grounds and updated facilities, it is easy to lose sight of these folks.

Has your family been blessed by the services of Mennonite Home Communities? Could you help to keep our services available for those less financially fortunate? Are people today as committed to quality care for elders as those long forgotten original Trustees?

Might you toss a pebble of financial support into our circles of blessings? Some folks still have significant assets. Others might use windfalls like a tax refund or stimulus payment. Your gift of any amount will extend our circle of benevolent care.

Please mail a check, payable to MHC, to Development Department, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Your gift will be such a blessing!

Greg Pierce,
Director of Development

