

# The Serendipitor

Fall 2020

## MESSAGE FROM CAROLE

As I reflect on the past year, oh brother, what a year it has been! No one could have imagined all that we have seen and continue to see, all the changes made and continue to make, and all that we have been through in living during these unprecedented times of COVID-19. It has been hard, frustrating, and sad as each new guideline, test, or loss has come our way.

And yet, there is so much to be grateful for. I am grateful for each new guideline, however frustrating it is to put in place, it is meant to protect the people I love. I am grateful for each negative test that is received. And as sad as it is to come so close to getting back together in visiting, communal dining and activities, only to have to suspend that for now, I am grateful for the brief opportunities that we've been able to do so.

I am grateful for our staff and leadership team that is dedicated, committed and determined to continue to deliver the care and services you have become accustomed to in spite of all the added responsibilities that COVID-19 has brought to each department.

I am grateful for each family member. You have continued to be so supportive and encouraging to all our staff with snacks, meals, cards, etc. I cannot imagine how difficult this has been for you. Your kindness has meant so much.

I am so grateful for all of our residents. They have been through so much in their lifetime, and their graciousness, understanding, knowledge, and love have made these difficult times interesting and bearable.

Most of all I am grateful to God. I am grateful that we have been as safe and healthy at Brooks-Howell as we have been. I believe that God puts us where we need to be when we need to be there. I am so grateful that we have the community of Brooks-Howell where the love and support of each other has helped keep us safe and healthy through this difficult journey together. I pray for continued good health and safety for each of you in the coming year. There is light at the end of the tunnel, and we will get there together.

*By Carole Gilham  
Executive Director, Administrator*



**BROOKS-HOWELL**

A retirement community that is called, served, and serving still

## CONNECTING FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH HEALTH CENTER RESIDENTS

Brooks-Howell is continuing its diligent efforts to connect Health Center residents with family and friends while implementing its stringent precautionary COVID-19 protocols. Residents are able to visit safely with family and loved ones through outside visitation, window visits, visitation in their rooms or in our inside Compassionate Care corner through a plexiglass wall. We are able to offer these types of visits based on current guidance. Brooks-Howell also offers regular FaceTime and assistance with phone calls.

One family member shares, "My family appreciates so much Brooks-Howell's diligent efforts to keep my mother safe, and when allowed, seeing my loved one means so much to not only her, but also to my family."

A friend of a resident shares, "I have a weekly visit with my friend at Brooks-Howell through FaceTime, and we delight in sharing our latest news. And what fun to show him my new dog!"

Tracey Owens, Deaconess and Director of Activities, shares "We are so grateful to our employees who have made visitation, FaceTime and phone calls with our residents possible - from the CNAs to nurses, to the Activities Department, Therapy Department and the Leadership Team, and especially to our Visitation Coordinator, Katie Brown."

Brooks-Howell appreciates the understanding of the family and friends as we strive to keep visitors, residents and staff safe.



**Brooks-Howell  
conducts COVID-19  
testing on all staff  
and Health Center  
residents on a  
regular basis.**



## BROOKS-HOWELL CELEBRATES!

Engaging in fun activities is all the more important in these times of safe social engagement. And, Brooks-Howell knows how to do it! For Halloween the staff trick-or-treated with the Health Center residents, the Independent Living residents enjoyed a yummy ice cream social, and the Brooks-Howell Olympics offered the Health Center residents a social and exercise time. Plus there were many more!



Left: Carole Gilham, Executive Director, and Susan Sessoms, resident, enjoy Trick or Treating.

Dr. Fauci paid a visit! Alycia Johnson, Chaplain.



Judges of Brooks-Howell Olympics



Ice Cream Social

# RESIDENTS' HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE

**Residents are  
grateful for:**

**Fellowship**

**Nature's beauty  
throughout the  
campus**

**Grace expressed  
in varied forms**

**Our caring  
community**

**United  
Methodist  
Women's  
Division**

***And more***

In the midst of all the turmoil currently besetting us -- COVID-19, political dissension, isolation and separation, disruption of familiar routines, an uncertain future -- it feels hard to be thankful. But we can take heart from these words of scripture: "May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light." (Colossians 1:11-12) Here we are reminded that, even in the midst of uncertainty and challenge, we can find strength, patience, and -- yes-- joy. Our community of caring and encouragement ("the inheritance of the saints in the light") fulfills this promise day by day. Thanks be to God.

*by Doug Wingeier*

Years move on; independence is less self-assured. We enter the Brooks-Howell community. We acquire, perhaps subtly, 'ease' receiving support, care. We are thankful for grace expressed in varied forms. We more gently receive (genuinely "take in") gracious giving. John 1:12 affirms this. To receive grace wakens a more glorious thanksgiving. As a member of the Brooks-Howell community my spirit generates thanksgiving for our staff, the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, and the undergirding generosity of United Methodist Women members nation-wide. Thank you.

*by Richard Smyth*

I am grateful for Alycia Johnson, our Chaplain, who leads wonderful worship services and who also leads exercise classes. (Currently both are on our internal TV station.)

*by Ann Janzen*



# GRATITUDE ABOUND AT BROOKS-HOWELL

I am deeply grateful to be going through COVID-19 in this wonderful community. Every morning I walk around the ground's perimeter and soak up the beauty around me--the stately trees, the beautiful flowers so carefully tended. I meet all the workers who by their hard work enable me to live more safely and comfortably. And then at lunch other residents and I greet each other and become more connected by the closeness this isolation has created. And at 4:00 pm, us seniors walk together to strengthen our bodies and souls as we ask for the blessings of another day. Brooks-Howell allows me to be in a place where spirituality is honored, and for that I am deeply grateful.

*By Carol Greenspan*

My thanks to all the staff and friends here and around the world for friendship and caring.

*By Dana Tyson*

I am grateful for the animals at Brooks-Howell.

Squirrels...how fun to watch their antics--from play to storing nuts for winter.

Bunny rabbits nibbling on grass not sure to hop away or just be still.

An occasional woodchuck slowly passing by.

And bears!!...oh! The bears!!

They do cause excitement when they visit.

*by Ellie Charlton*

I am grateful to Brooks-Howell because I am:

living in a community of friends who have become "family,"

being surrounded by caring leadership,

finding nature's beauty throughout the campus,

having my soul fed by word and deed.

*by Joyce Hill*

Laughter, joy, sharing, loving, caring all my life - growing up at home, at church, at school, at work while serving others. Laughter, joy, sharing, loving, caring, serving still in retirement at Brooks-Howell in its feeling of being in community and my family is here. I thank God for the United Methodist Women for heeding its call to provide Brooks-Howell for tending God's sheep.

*by June Fischer*

**Residents are grateful for:**

**Brooks-Howell's Chaplain**

**Caring staff**

**Animals on Brooks-Howell's campus**

**Friends around the world**

**Brooks-Howell honors spirituality**

***And more***

# WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

(See photos on back page)

## GLENDA AND GENE HILL

Glenda and Gene Hill have found the answer to retirement, living in Village unit 42, moving in on October 27.

The pair met when Gene met Glenda's plane in Santiago, Chile, in 1970. She was a brand-new United Methodist missionary. He was there as a contract worker through the GBGM. Their supervisor just happened to be his sister, Area Secretary Joyce Hill. They returned to the States and married on New Year's Eve 1972.



They raised their son Misha and daughter Annika in New Wilmington, PA, where Gene was a faculty member in teacher education at Westminster College for 24 years. After retirement, they moved to Sioux City, IA, to help care for Glenda's parents. In 2008, Annika with her husband Clint and daughter Riley moved to Las Vegas, NV. Gene and Glenda moved to Williams, AZ, to be a little closer to the grandchild. After adding a son Ryder, they moved to New Hampshire in 2018. During this time, Misha married Hope, graduated law school and Lorelei and Anneliese were born, all in Boston.

In all locations, Glenda has been active with United Methodist Women and the church in general. In Desert Southwest Conference UMC she was chair of Church and Society and has tenured out on being a conference and district officer in UMW. Gene has been active with the church in all their locations and has sung in choirs as well.

After 11 years in Arizona, they have arrived at Brooks-Howell—a little closer to their progeny.



## NANCY AND JOHN LONGSTRETH

Nancy and John Longstreth joined Brooks-Howell's Independent Community in November and bring their rich history in the United Methodist Church. An extra blessing to John and Nancy is John is the brother of Mary Z. Longstreth, one of Brooks-Howell's residents.

Born in Iowa, Nancy received her BA in History at the University of Missouri, and her later graduate work was in Bank Management, Library Science and Financial Planning. Her passion for service led her to become a Missionary in 2001, serving in the Czech Republic offering the love of Christ to a country where Christians had been persecuted. Nancy's banking career included helping to found the Women's Bank in Virginia.

Nancy's interests include singing and travel. Nancy's love of travel has taken her to many countries. She had her pilot's license and owned her own plane!

John was born in Carrollton, MO, the son of a United Methodist minister, and his mother served on the WSCS National Board. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in social work. John also received a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and his 34-year career as a Michigan State Police officer included supervising pastors in the Chaplain's Corps of the department. A life-long United Methodist, he has served as a lay leader, a Sunday School teacher, sang in choirs and has had financial leadership roles in churches.

*(continued on back page)*

# STAFF APPRECIATION

Brooks-Howell honored its hard-working, dedicated staff on November 12th by giving each staff member a treat-filled bag and its heart-felt thanks. Twelve employees were recognized for their length of service, from five years up to 40 years with a combined total of 110 years! Brooks-Howell is truly grateful for each and every one of its employees.

**5 Years:** Orpa Canderio, CNA; Lewis Ruhf, RN; Joshua Settle, Grounds Maintenance;

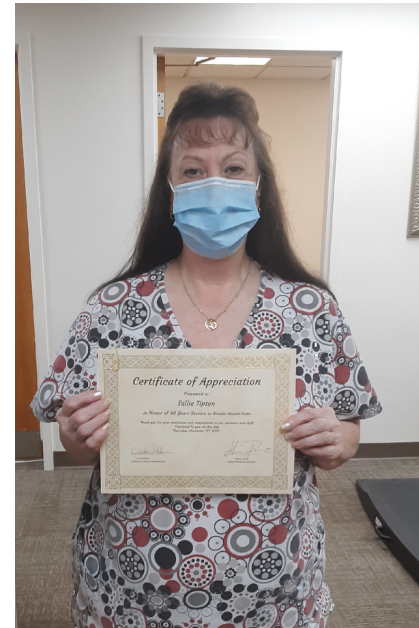
**10 Years:** Jo Bruder-Grounds Supervisor; Crystal Reemes, CNA; Velia Valdez, Housekeeper; Kathleen Goldsworthy, Front Desk Receptionist;

**15 Years:** Alice Luther, CNA; Caretha Young, EVS Supervisor;

**20 Years:** Annis Lytle-Front Desk Receptionist; Brenda Muse, CNA;

**35 Years:** Kevin Smith, EVS Floor Tech;

**40 Years:** Sallie Tipton, CNA



To practice social distancing, the honored employees gathered only through photos.

**BROOKS-HOWELL IS  
GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF OUR  
DEDICATED STAFF!**

**Above right: Sallie Tipton, CNA**

**40 years**

**Right: Kevin Smith, EVS Floor Tech**

**35 years**








**BROOKS-HOWELL**  
 A retirement community that is called, served, and serving still  
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**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



United  
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**Go green! Contact [jknight@brookshowell.org](mailto:jknight@brookshowell.org) to receive The Serendipitor by email.**



## **CONTINUED: NEW RESIDENTS: JOHN AND NANCY LONGSTRETH**



John's hobbies include photography and, like Nancy, has a passion for travel. John has enjoyed travel to 49 of the 50 states.

John has two children and four grandchildren, and Nancy has two sons and two grandchildren.

