

BROOKS-HOWELL SERENDIPITOR

The Life & Times at Brooks-Howell Home
Volume 11, Issue 2 SPRING 2017

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You may not know this but weekly, someone at Brooks-Howell Home receives a card from a UMW circle or unit from across the United States. Whether it's a staff person or resident who is “called, served and serving still,” we are remembered by United Methodist Women as they read about us, pray for us, and celebrate us through the UMW Prayer Calendar.

It is this spirit of support that nurtures us as we continue to live out our call as people of faith. It is this sense of connection that joins us as a community even if we live miles apart.

Over the years, United Methodist Women from circles, units, and conferences have visited, toured, met, retreated, listened, learned, and volunteered at Brooks-Howell Home. The mark they leave is indelible and the stories they share, priceless.

We are so grateful for these countless women who have committed their time, talent, and resources to enrich the lives of staff and residents at Brooks-Howell Home. You truly are a blessing to us.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of our residents recently asked me what my “hope” is for Brooks-Howell. This is a very poignant question and one worthy of answering here. My “hope” is this:

- I hope to preserve the sense of family and close spiritual togetherness that makes Brooks-Howell so unique.
- I hope that Brooks-Howell will flourish into the future and be the retirement location of choice for United Methodist Women Deaconesses, Home Missioners, and Missionaries.
- I hope that Brooks-Howell will continue to serve the great need that exists for those who are seeking to spend their last years in fellowship with like-minded believers.

These are not only my hopes, but my goals and they are all achievable as we work together to enhance the programs and services we provide to our residents.

Brewier Welch

WELCOME NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

During Winter 2017, we added four new Directors to our team:

Director of Clinical Services: Becky Rice

Director of Dining Services: Maria Diprima

Director of Environmental Services: Jessi Whitt

Director of Social Services: Audrey Ray

Each of them brings years of experience in their professional areas and have begun to make changes in their respective departments. They all share a passion for working with residents and look forward to growing into their roles at Brooks-Howell Home. If you have not already met them, please take the time to stop in and say hello.



L-R: Jessi Whitt, Maria Diprima,
Becky Rice, Audrey Ray

DEPARTMENT NEWS

MAINTENANCE

Ron Gowing and Patti Bailey

We now have a new member of our Maintenance Team here at Brooks-Howell. Tom Ricketts has joined us as a Maintenance Technician and Painter. Tom comes with a lot of experience and a fantastic personality. We are all excited to have him on board and are grateful for his expertise in completing future projects.

Just in time for Earth Day! Our gardeners, Jo Bruder and Josh Settle, have built and installed our new compost bins. The three-compartment design is not only beneficial for our composting program but also supports our mission of caring for creation.



MARKETING

Deaconess Cameron Kempson

Spring 2017 will be a busy season for us at Brooks-Howell. With the gardens in full bloom and the weather warming up, several groups are headed our way for meetings, retreats, and conferences.

If you are interested in visiting as an individual or scheduling as a group, we have a few items of note for you to include as you organize your plans:

- **Overnight stay:** For individuals, please call us in advance if you would like to arrange a room. For groups, please contact us at least two weeks in advance so we know if there are enough rooms available.
- **Meeting space:** We have a lovely activities building, a media room and a chapel to host UMC/UMW events as well as others that are coordinated through our marketing or activities departments. Please call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a space.
- **Meals:** We do need to plan ahead for meals to ensure we have plenty for everyone. Please schedule with the front desk if you plan to join us.
- **Tours:** If you or your group would like a tour, we ask that you call to schedule a time. We want to make sure that we have someone available to meet with you/your group personally and answer questions.

Please contact the front desk, and they will assist you or direct you to the appropriate staff person. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SPRING 2017

April 8
Calvary Baptist Choir
Cantata
Chapel

April 20
Baby grand piano
dedication during
Chapel service

April 28-29
Jesus Seminar on the
Road (see article for
details)
Chapel

May 4
BHH Earth Day
Service featuring

Chapel

May 15
Frank Southecorvo
and friends Jazz
Concert
Chapel

June 19
Musicke Antiqua
concert
Chapel

RESIDENT NEWS

Winter 2017 brought us an early and a late snow at Brooks-Howell with a lot of activities in between. We have been so fortunate to host a variety of speakers and musicians and rounded out the end of winter with our beach party!



We want to thank the Swarthout family for giving their parents, Art and Betty, a storyteller for Christmas. Well, not their own storyteller but a performance by one! Sean Gaskell inspired us with his music and words, and we are so grateful.

During March-May, our residents have been hosting and presenting the Great Decisions series. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today. Brooks-Howell's discussions are being held on Friday afternoons from March 3rd to May 5th. All are welcome to participate.

Our Beach Party was the highlight of our winter here. Just like the State Fair, various departments hosted games and activities. Dining Services provided a lovely snack buffet filled with healthy beach treats. Healthcare and independent residents ate, laughed, and played together. They filled the chapel with stories and smiles.



BROOKS-HOWELL RESIDENT RECEIVES TECHNOLOGY THROUGH *SIMPLYHOME* AND EBLEN CHARITIES

It has been a great help to me because I can use it on the go.

~Rev. Charles Pittman

Rev. Charles Pittman, a retired United Methodist minister, received his first appointment at only 19 years old. During his 48 years of ministry, he also served as an Army Chaplain in Ethiopia and Thailand.

“I fulfilled my call to God by baptizing more than 3,000 men at Fort Polk before they left for war,” he notes as he smiles through the tears.

In his late forties, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which the VA says is a direct result of spinal trauma in the military. Now a resident of Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, North Carolina, Rev. Charles receives occupational therapy (OT) as part of his health care plan. Monica, Charles’ OT assistant, realized that his priorities and needs could be best addressed by a combination of natural supports, assistive technology, and community relationships.

Monica contacted Cameron, Brooks-Howell’s Director of Marketing and former employee of *SimplyHome*, LLC, and together, they connected Charles with *SimplyHome*’s [No Place Like Home](#) program with Eblen Charities. Through this community resource, Charles received an iPad and wheelchair mount. His new tablet gives him more freedom to move around the community and to connect with friends and family through his touchscreen tablet.

“I like to go out in the sunshine. With my iPad, I can listen to music, and I’m not bound to my old computer in my room,” said Charles.



Rev. Pittman with his new iPad and mount



Melody and Charles look on as Steve from *SimplyHome* demonstrates how to connect and move the iPad on the mount

We are so grateful to both organizations.

Want to learn more?

www.simply-home.com

www.eblencharities.org

UPDATE ON BROOKS-HOWELL HOME WEBSITE

If you haven't visited our website yet, please take the opportunity to stop by www.brooks-howell.org. We've updated our look and have also added information that will help prospective residents, involved UMW groups, and interested families to access information about our mission, our daily activities, our campus and our neighborhood. If you have any suggestions about what you would like to see included, please contact Cameron Kempson, Director of Marketing, through the Contact Us page on our website.

IN MEMORIAM AND IN CELEBRATION: HELENE HILL

Deaconess Helene Hill passed away at Brooks-Howell Home on March 15, 2017 after a period of declining health. She was born March 18, 1920 in North Baltimore, Ohio, the fifth child out of seven and the first girl.



Helene spent thirty years with the national Division of the Department of Community Centers, Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church in Ohio, Delaware, Florida, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Michigan. In June 1950, she was commissioned a Deaconess in New York City and was consecrated in the Central PA conference. In 1978, she was consecrated a

Diaconal Minister in the West Michigan Conference and served as a social worker for many years.

She retired from full time ministry in June 1986 but remained very active by traveling the world doing peace work. Even while retired, she secured a school bus for Colegio Bautista, Nicaragua.

Helene and her daughter, Barbara Crouse, came to Brooks-Howell Home in 1995, and joined Jubilee Community Church in downtown Asheville.

Helene's service was a time celebrated by family, friends, and the Brooks-Howell community. Her minister, Rev. Howard Hanger, and our chaplain, Rev. Alycia Johnson officiated a service filled with singing, interpretive dance, stories, and laughter through tears. Rev. Hanger reminded us that for each of us, Helene's life called us to be engaged in social justice.



Family and friends alike reminded us that we could not be fooled by her passion for shopping, bling, and teddy bears. She was a woman of faith filled with gumption and sass, both which served her well as a family member, a deaconess, a diaconal minister, and a social worker. We love you and celebrate you, Helene.

MEETING THE FOLKS THAT MAKE IT HOME

BROOKS-HOWELL STAFF: STEVE CHANDLER

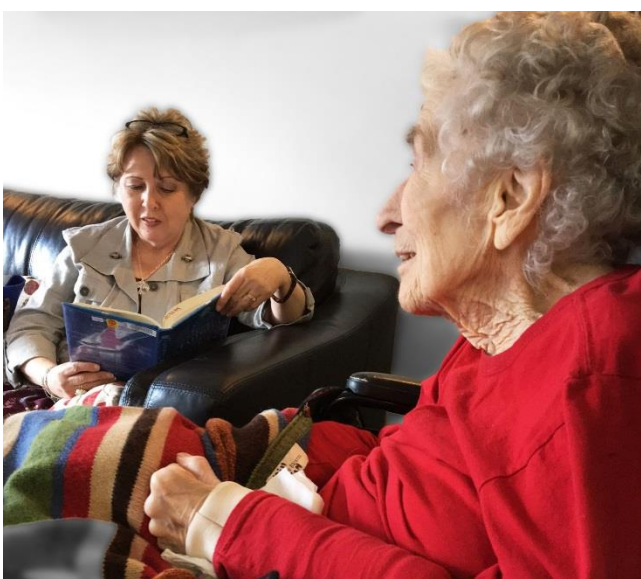
If you stop by the Resident Services office, you're not likely to see Steve Chandler. He's usually out and about with residents, running them on errands, to medical appointments or on field trips. Steve, a native of Asheville, joined Brooks-Howell in August 2016 after working for the The Boys and Girls Club.

"I love working here. I appreciate the opportunity I have to get to know the residents, and it makes me feel good to take them off campus. Oh, and I enjoy giving them a hard time, too!"

Steve's humor is just one reason our community benefits from his presence here. We are so grateful for his service.



COMMUNITY PARTNER: OUR VOLUNTEERS!



One of the most special group of people that join us regularly are our volunteers. We are so grateful to families, friends, and community people who come share talents, visit with residents, or provide entertainment.

Brooks-Howell has many opportunities for volunteerism. Examples are arts/crafts, music, visiting, reading/writing for residents, flower arranging, working in the gift shop, etc. Our volunteers use many & varied skills in order to enrich the lives of our residents. If you are interested in any type of volunteer work at Brooks-Howell, please contact Tracey Owens, Director of Activities at 828-253-6712 or towens@brookshowell.org. We would love for you to join the volunteer team that so richly bless our retirement community.

REGISTER NOW: JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD

Brooks-Howell Home is partnering with the Westar Institute to explore the surprising history behind one of Christianity’s most controversial figures, Mary Magdalene. The sessions will be led by guest scholars Shelly Matthews of Brite Divinity School and Perry Kea of the University of Indianapolis.

Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon sessions open to anyone. Continuing Education Units offered.

Jesus Seminar



on the Road

The Historical Mary Goes to Church

April 28-29, 2017

Brooks-Howell Home

Asheville, North Carolina

For more information and registration

www.WestarInstitute.org

“Jesus Seminar on the Road-Asheville, NC”

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