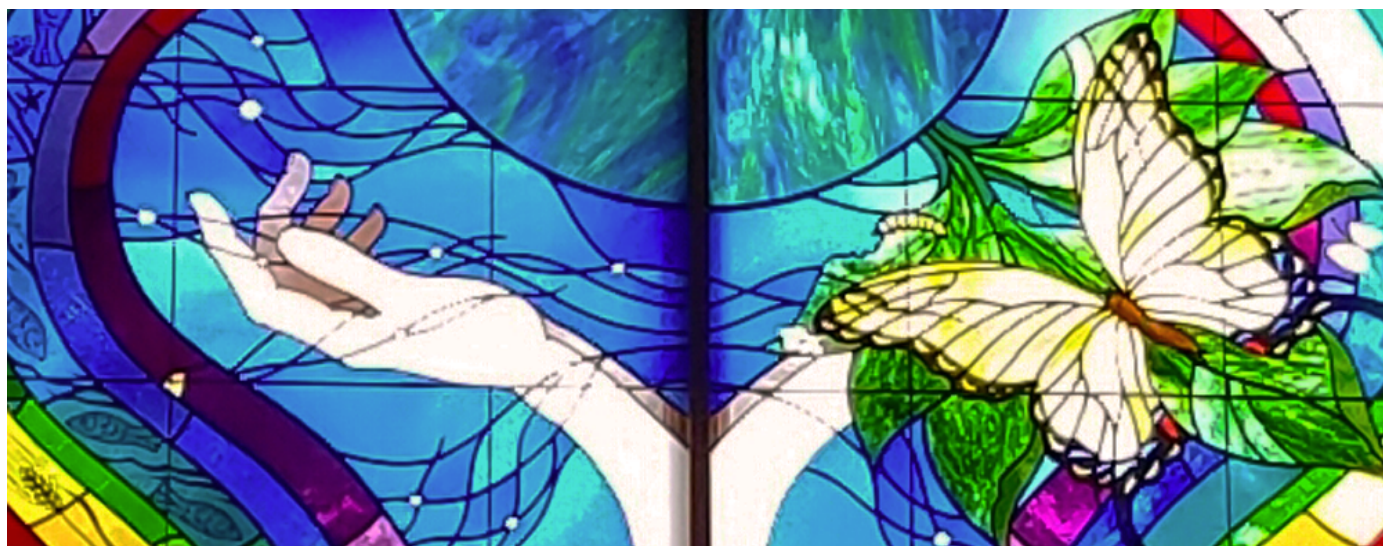


THE SERENDIPITOR

The Newsletter of Brooks-Howell, a United Methodist Retirement Community



Emblems of Promise

By Jill Knight with Sylvia Smyth

A dove, butterfly, and God's hands, these stand ready to inspire you in the stained glass window in Brooks-Howell's chapel. Birthed through the inspiration of residents, a resident committee was formed in 2002 to bring the idea to fruition. The committee trusted their commitment to use a custom-made design, rather than a commercially ready-made one and to use an Asheville glass studio. A Brooks-Howell resident, Sylvia Smyth, was asked to design the window. Her design development was led by studying the Bible to enrich and refine the vision of a covenant theme and by listening to residents' insights about their spiritual journeys.

The final outcome is "Signs of Promise". One resident wrote "Our spirits are lifted by signs that fill our earth: its space-perspective centered in a cross, surrounded by vibrant color, a covenant of refracted light in contrast to glowing points of white light, God's gifts-the I AM – The Light, present enabling and future promise."

The window was completed in June 2003, and the Brooks-Howell family is grateful to an anonymous donor for underwriting the window's production.

Amazing Amenities



Our heated aquatherapy pool

In our community, residents can enjoy the many amenities of Brooks-Howell ranging from faith-based activities to social activities. Brooks-Howell offers weekly worship with a choir in our lovely chapel with its stunning stained glass window and a rose garden for contemplation and prayer. One enjoyment is to reflect on the artifacts in the International Room that tell stories of our past and present resident's mission service on five continents.

Also, residents can participate in engaging art, music and exercise activities. To foster a healthy lifestyle, Brooks-Howell offers outpatient therapy services, an on-site medical clinic, pharmacy services, a heated aquatherapy pool, and access to gym equipment.

Residents find the on-site gift shop, sewing room and beauty

salon convenient. A monthly calendar details the activity offerings which are coordinated by Deaconess Tracey Owens, Director of Activities. Check out the latest calendar at www.Brooks-Howell.org.

New Resident Spotlight: Wayne Montgomery, M.D.



Wayne Montgomery, M.D.

Dr. Wayne Montgomery was born in Battle Creek, Michigan and grew up in Madison, Indiana. A WWII navy veteran, he received his pre-med education at DePauw University and his medical degree from Wayne University Medical School.

“One highlight of my life was my residency in orthopedics at the outstanding Campbell Clinic in

Memphis, Tennessee.” A resident of Asheville since the early ‘50s, Dr. Montgomery was one of the founders of Blue Ridge Bone and Joint, an orthopedic medical group, and served the community as Asheville’s mayor and city councilman.

A life-long sports enthusiast, he has enjoyed swimming, played baseball, basketball and tennis. When in high school, he was even offered a contract with the Boston Red Sox!

Dr. Montgomery and his wife, Betsy, had five children. Dr. Montgomery joined the Brooks-Howell family in April 2018.

Want to keep up with the latest Brooks-Howell news and events?

You can find all that and more on our Facebook page and the Brooks-Howell Blog! Like us at facebook.com/BrooksHowellHome, and check out our blog at brooks-howell.org/news.



Clark Webb

Happy Birthday!

Happy 102nd Birthday to Clark Webb! Clark turned 102 on July 20th, celebrated with family, friends and residents at a luncheon at Brooks-Howell. Clark wears his veteran's hat, proud to have been a paratrooper in the Pacific during WWII. We honor you and wish you well in your 103rd year.

Morris Dancers



On July 17th Brooks-Howell residents were treated to the Asheville Morris dancers and the Ashgrove Garland Dancers. These groups perform a traditional English folk dance dating from the 1400's. With bell pads on shins, sticks and handkerchiefs, residents could not help but tap their toes to the dancer's rhythmic steps. A kaleidoscope of flowers arched over each woman, and their partners' sashes and hats with flowers or feathers proved a pretty match. One resident shared "My smiles continued all day!"

While the exact origin of the Morris dance is unknown, the earliest record of the dance is in 1448. Also performed in European courts, by the 16th century Morris dancing had become a fixture in English church festivals. Shakespeare joined in the dance's praise in no less than four plays.



Stay tuned and check the activities calendar (under the "News" section of the website). Join your neighbors in the next exciting event at Brooks-Howell!

Jeeps, Motorcycles, and Hiking

by Dana Tyson, Missionary



Dana Tyson, Missionary

In 1962, my first month in Nueva Vizcaya in the Philippines the District Deaconesses and I decided we would visit all of the churches in the District. We were only able to reach each one by jeeps, motorcycle-tricycles and hiking. One day we decided to go to a small village about three miles from the road. A couple more miles and the village was near – excitement was in the air!

The children spread the news first, then neighbor to neighbor. We followed the whole village toward their destination. “Come, come with us to the house,” they cried.

As Domingo Guiang Ramon, the District Deaconess, and I walked toward a very small stilt house, called a nipa, a young girl approached. “It’s the blind lady. It’s the blind lady. She’s just had a

baby!” Domingo and I began to think; we have nothing with us, nothing to give this small new babe.

As we entered the house, there was a special awe in the little room.

One of the special moments you sometimes feel in church, a special kind of holiness, an extraordinary moment! We looked down on the mat at the young Madonna and child, the young father kneeling beside her. In the beauty of that quiet moment, Domingo and I also knelt by the mat. We knelt there a few minutes, and I broke the silence by asking the mother if we could pray. Domingo prayed for the baby and family. We tarried as if reluctant to leave a holy place.

As we walked down the path from the house, we slowly began to express our feelings. It must have been like that when the Christ Child was born. We felt as if we had been to the manger, felt awed at what we had experienced, and offered our gift of love through prayer. May we feel the spirit of Christ in our lives and offer our gifts to Him.

Spiritual Life at Brooks-Howell

by Fletcher Anderson, Retired Global Ministries Missionary

We residents who have spent all of our lives in the service of the Christian mission have a special appreciation for the opportunities offered at Brooks-Howell to continue cultivating the spiritual life. Centerpiece of these opportunities is the weekly chapel service on Thursday afternoons. The extended instrumental prelude gives occasion for quiet meditation and centering.



Fletcher Anderson, Missionary

We sing hymns that we learned at our mothers' knee, and others that fit the Gospel to the context of today. The sermons of our chaplain, the Rev. Alycia Johnson, are always vibrant and bring a challenge to action. The segment, "Sharing Our Joys and Concerns", binds us together into a fellowship of mutual intercession.

Retreats and other special events complement the weekly chapel service. The "Sunday School" on Saturday mornings features singing and a half-hour talk by a resident or a visitor. Many of the attendees come from the Health Center and are wheelchair-bound.

A weekly Bible study on Tuesday afternoons has explored First and Second Corinthians, the Gospel of Mark, the Book of the Prophet Amos, and has recently studying the Epistle of James.

A number of residents actively participate in activities of United Methodist Women and Church Women United.

Residents actively join together in giving thanks in the dining hall at breakfast and lunchtime. (At suppertime, you're on your own!)

A number of residents who are physically able to do so attend local churches in the community.

All in all, we Brooks-Howell residents find ample opportunities to continue the nurture of our spiritual health in retirement!



Get to Know your Neighbors: Marcia Knight, Missionary



Marcia Knight, Missionary

Born in eastern Kansas, Marcia decided at a young age to become a missionary and her goal was realized after graduation from Baker University, a small Methodist College in Baldwin City, Kansas, when she became a US2. As a US2 she worked in Camden, New Jersey, as a social worker with day care centers. In addition, she was

on the staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs/Ecumenical Institute enabling local people to realize their dreams for the future of their community. Also, she was a trainer with Training, Inc, in Indianapolis, Indiana, training unemployed and under-employed persons in office clerical skills to enable them to secure employment.

Her passion for missions led her to establish a peer-mentoring group of men re-entering the Indianapolis community from prison. She also coordinated the Faith Care Team of North UMC who mentored young women re-entering society from prison. "This was the most important mission in which I have ever been privileged to participate", said Marcia. Marcia's experience at Brooks-Howell "has proven to be the generous nurturing community I expected it to be".

Contact Us

Brooks-Howell
266 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
828-253-6712
www.Brooks-Howell.org

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