



Seasons

UNITED METHODIST HOMES

A NEWSLETTER FOR STAFF, RESIDENTS & FRIENDS OF UNITED METHODIST HOMES

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short-term rehabilitation*

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*Independent living, adult care, assisted living,
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Hilltop Campus, Johnson City, NY
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Tunkhannock Campus, Tunkhannock, PA
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Personal care

Wesley Village Campus, Pittston, PA
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*Independent living, personal care, skilled nursing,
short-term rehabilitation*

This is the third article in a three-part series about planning ahead for the long-term. Part one on planning ahead for senior living (July 2010) and part two on discussing planning and care (August 2010) are available in the electronic newsletter archive on United Methodist Homes' website at www.unitedmethodisthomes.org – click on News.

Getting Ready to Sell Your Home



If you're considering a move to a retirement campus, the difficulty of downsizing the accumulation of a lifetime and selling your home has doubtless crossed your mind. Whether you've lived in the same big house for 50 years or have already downsized once, getting ready to make a change is never easy. United Methodist Homes offers the following suggestions to make the process smoother.

Think about your house from a buyer's perspective.

Your home may serve your needs well, but may not stand out from the crowd to impress buyers. According to a 2008 survey by the American Seniors Housing Association, nearly 25% of seniors have gone a decade without making a home improvement. When you're ready to sell, think about your house as though you were a buyer – would it appeal to you? If not, plan to make at least minor cosmetic changes and perhaps some functional repairs that can positively impact your sale. Set a budget – many home shows advise about \$1,000 – for such fixes and then prioritize what changes will provide the most return on investment.

Small cosmetic changes can have a big impact on the bottom line.

Enlist a pair (or two) of fresh eyes. Ask a younger friend, relative or neighbor to take a look at your house and make some recommendations about changes. Removing old curtains, replacing worn or outdated floor coverings and applying fresh, neutrally-colored paint are simple

and fairly low-cost fixes that reflect well on a home for sale. Also consider key points such as the main door and the surrounding landscaping, which provide the “curb appeal” that welcomes buyers.

Consider major renovations carefully – you may not see a return.

“Kitchens sell houses” is a common real-estate adage. However, according to *Realtor Mag*, the average cost of a kitchen renovation is between \$21,000 and \$56,000, and sellers recoup only 76-79.5% of that value upon resale. A bathroom renovation averages nearly \$16,000 and provides a slightly lower percentage return. So if your kitchen and bathroom are decades out of date, consider a slight reduction in sale price to make up for these drawbacks rather than taking on the expense and stress of remodeling prior to sale.

Use staging to showcase each room's best features.

Staging is the art of creating a neutral palette in your home to help buyers visualize themselves and their belongings in the space. It means packing up personal knick-knacks and photos, minimizing items on the kitchen counter, moving toiletries off the bathroom vanity and taking pictures and artwork off the refrigerator, all to maximize the appearance of space. Since you're moving, you'll be packing anyway – staging helps you get a jump on the process.

EDITORIAL Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations



After three years with the Homes, I have concluded that the best thing this job has brought into my life is a wealth of interesting older people ready and willing to share their lives and their stories.

I'm in my early thirties, and am both surprised and envious at how many of my peers still have grandparents peopling their lives; I have a single surviving grandparent who lives thousands of miles away. But to my great fortune, lovely, unrelated people have filled the grandparent-shaped holes in my life since my childhood, sharing tales of the past, encouragement for my future, and their love in the present.

The first of these was an older neighbor when I was growing up. Throughout high school, I stacked her firewood, cleaned

her windows and did yard work, and afterward sat before the fireplace in her living room, soaking up stories about her life. On college breaks, when I drove too fast on the turnpike and going directly home would have revealed this to my parents, I instead bypassed their house and pulled into her driveway. The genuine delight in her face at seeing me on her porch unexpectedly is a gift that still glows in my memory.

In my twenties, a woman in her eighties moved into the apartment below mine. A kindred spirit – the sort who understands why the candles must match the dinner-party napkins – and fellow night owl, she would sit at my kitchen table at midnight to chat with me while I baked cookies. I would stop by to see her almost daily after work, still in my gym clothes, to talk about anything and everything. Although I've bought a house, we still visit, take day trips and enjoy each other's company.

And now, at United Methodist Homes, I receive the continuing blessing of 1,200 residents and all the stories and love they have to share. At events, at visits to campuses, during interviews, during photo shoots – I have met amazing individuals who have told me about their childhoods, the war years, college, working, raising families, adventures abroad and right here at home. I thank all of them, who help me connect the present to the past, who share insight and provide encouragement, who hug me when I come to visit, and who serve as mentors for living a great life. Twelve hundred grandparents, twelve hundred friends – you can't beat that. Thank you all.

Soden writes and edits Seasons each month. If you have story ideas or information to share, contact her at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288, or at ssoden@umhwc.org.

Around The Block

A new series featuring our amazing residents

We interact with and pass by dozens – or even hundreds – of people each day. But how often do we think about their lives – where they came from, where they've been, what they've done? What fabulous stories are bubbling just below the surface? With 1,200 residents, United Methodist Homes is full to bursting of stories about lives well lived. In a new series called Around the Block, Seasons will profile residents who explain their big adventures, how they've made a difference, and how they want to be remembered.

Jane Howe Glassman, Highlands

Born in Boise, Idaho, Jane Howe Glassman moved to Seattle with her family as a high school student. "My sister had terrible asthma, and our doctor recommended a climate change," she said. The move altered the course of her life: In a Bible study class, she met Eugene

Glassman, and it was love at first sight. He went on to college and seminary, she to Bible college and missionary medical school, and they married at Christmas 1945.

Though the Glassmans felt called to Afghanistan, it was closed to Westerners. So in the fall of 1947, the Presbyterian Mission Board sent the couple and their infant son to Pakistan, which was in turmoil over Partition. Two days into their ocean crossing on the Queen Elizabeth, a cablegram from the mission board directed them not to leave due to the precarious political situation, but it was too late. Shipboard a week later, Jane discovered she was pregnant with their second child. The couple would spend 19 years on the subcontinent, rearing three sons and a daughter, all but the first born there.

Gene proved to be a linguistic whiz, mastering 11 languages in the 42 years they lived abroad, while Jane tackled seven. Gene led Bible study, taught theology in seminaries and completed Bible translations, including a full translation of the New Testament into Urdu. He spent the majority of his time teaching English and writing language

textbooks – one on Dari for Afghanistan and one on Urdu for Pakistan, both of which are still in use. Jane worked in child care and hospitality and later (in Iran, Bangkok and Hong Kong) as a librarian and secretary.

In the mid-1950s, unable to reliably get their children across the border to boarding school in India, the Glassmans helped found the Murree School, which is still in operation in Pakistan. The Glassman children had a wide-ranging educational experience, from local schools to boarding schools in the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In 1966, the Glassmans' long-held dream of serving in Afghanistan came true when they were invited to Kabul to prepare a language course and run the language school. Their daughter finished high school at the American International School there, and their sons flew in to visit on college breaks, when the family enjoyed trips to Bamyán to see the Buddha statues (destroyed by the Taliban in 2001) or to the lakes at Band-e-Amir. In 1973, the Glassmans and their mission group were forced to leave when the Afghan king was

Continued on page 4

Wesley Village Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Wesley Village staff honored campus volunteers during a special recognition banquet on August 13. Volunteers celebrating one and five years of service each received a pin, a certificate and a flower. Charles Ferguson (inset photo), who gave 1,378 hours of service in one year, received a special award. Ninety-nine volunteers were honored! Shown at the event are (standing, left to right) Administrator John Lopatka, Activity Director/Volunteer Coordinator Tami Chesniak, Assistant Activity Director Shelli Ratchford, (seated, left to right) volunteers George and Janet Chadwick, Beverly Hollenback, Joyce Jones and Louise Stuart.



Homes Staff Participate in MDS Education Sessions

In early September, United Methodist Homes staff from both states took part in three-day education sessions to learn about the newest version of the MDS (minimum data set), the standardized federal assessment tool completed at routine intervals for all Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing home residents. The MDS serves as the foundation for resident assessment and care planning as well as reimbursement for Medicare, Medicaid and some insurance plans.



Hilltop Campus staff worked together to answer one of the in-training quizzes.

The training sessions helped staff understand the new version, called MDS 3.0, which debuts on October 1, 2010. It is drastically different from the current format: For the first time, the resident has a voice in the process; currently, the assessment is based entirely on staff observation. MDS 3.0 eliminates questions that can't be verified ("Do you have difficulty falling or staying asleep," for example), and is completed by several members of the care team rather than a single registered nurse assessment coordinator. The new MDS is "technology-friendly" and will be supported by COMET, United Methodist Homes' resident data system, which will pre-populate many of the information fields from the resident's electronic medical record.

Said Kate McHugh, RN, RAC-CT, Director of Quality Management and Clinical Services, "Interviews have been added to the MDS 3.0 to provide residents with a voice in the assessment. This change allows for emphasis on how the resident thinks and feels, and drives resident-centered care."

During the training, staff learned how to complete the new tool and practiced coding the MDS 3.0 using different example scenarios and role-playing. President and CEO Keith Chadwick served as the "practice" resident during New York training, and Board member Calli Berg did so in Pennsylvania. Both threw the staff a few curveballs while giving their answers to provide an opportunity for discussing the unexpected.



Elizabeth Church Manor Activity Director Diana Husnay interviews "resident" Keith Chadwick during MDS 3.0 training in New York.

Staff Announcements



Shane McGuire, CPA

Shane McGuire, CPA, has joined United Methodist Homes as a Senior Financial Analyst. In this role, he will conduct the more complex activities of financial analysis and provide analytical and decision support to senior management.

He will also participate in the preparation

of the annual 990 not-for-profit tax returns and assist in budget forecasting, cost reports and other related financial projects. He comes to the Homes from ParenteBeard, LLC, in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he was a senior accountant.

McGuire earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Keystone College in LaPlume, PA. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is the treasurer of the Keystone College Alumni Association's Board of Directors, and also serves as an advisory board member to the college's accounting department.

McGuire will split his time between the Corporate Office in Kirkwood and the Corporate South Office on the Wesley Village Campus.

Getting Ready to Sell Your Home *Continued from page 1*

Be sure each room's purpose is clear.

If you've been using the dining room as an office, replace the desk with a table. If you're using an extra bedroom for storage, put in a bed so buyers can see it set up as a bedroom. If you have too much furniture or "stuff" to allow for appropriate staging, it may be helpful to rent a storage unit temporarily, or to have a storage pod brought on-site that you can fill with large furniture or other items. The packed pod is then stored off-site or shipped to another location, such as your new home, a child's home out of state, etc.

Sort smart.

Downsizing your possessions can indeed be one of the most challenging aspects of a move. Start by thinking about what you won't need once you move to an apartment or retirement campus. Consider including your appliances and outdoor equipment as part of the sale of your home. For other items, sort into categories such as *keep, give to family or friends, donate to charity, sell or toss*. A good rule of thumb is that if you haven't used it, thought about it or looked for it in a year, you don't need it. Ask for help – family and friends may be excited about the opportunity to look through old photos, books and fashions while helping you sort and pack.

Be sure the price is right.

Consult with a real estate professional

to decide on an appropriate value for your house. If the price he or she suggests surprises you, consider your neighborhood's overall appeal and location, and how its relevance to your area has changed over time. What may have been a sleepy suburban neighborhood when you moved in may now be closer to the action of a new business district, or may be a destination spot for young families. Conversely, your neighborhood may now be less desirable based on factors such as traffic volume, distance from shopping, preferred lot sizes or other factors beyond your control. Setting your price in a range close to comparable homes in your area is smart, and will hopefully contribute to a quick sale.

Look forward, not back.

Rather than allowing each change to make you sad or to register as a loss of happy memories, think ahead to the next phase of your life. Your house will be a happy home for someone new – think of the work you do as preparing it for them! In addition, retirement campuses offer a wealth of benefits to look forward to, including the opportunity to connect with new people, the ability to take advantage of planned and spontaneous activities, and the option to have someone else do the cooking and cleaning!

For more tips about preparing for a move, visit www.unitedmethodisthomes.org/admissions/moving.asp.

Around the Block

Continued from page 2

overthrown. Then it was on to Iran, where they lived and worked until the fall of the Shah in 1979. Said Jane, "What should have been a six-hour flight to Bangkok took us six days – we camped out at the airport in Tehran until we could get a plane, bringing only what we could carry." The Glassmans stayed in Thailand for a little over a year, then spent three years in Hong Kong, and wrapped up their lives abroad with six years in Nepal. They returned to the United States in 1989 and lived in various locations until settling at the Highlands on the Hilltop Campus in 2004.

As unlikely as it sounds to modern ears, Jane cites Iran as her favorite place to live overseas. "After so much time in countries where my activities were circumscribed because I was a woman, I felt like a bird out of a cage in Iran. I could stretch my wings," she said.

Gene Glassman passed away in February 2009. Jane continues to enjoy their 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and corresponds with the schools and programs that use Gene's language texts. Her explanation for their successful life abroad, their happy family, and their legacy of love and language is simple: "We gave our lives to God. He directed us."

To make a suggestion for the Around the Block series, contact Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288. Amazing stories don't have to involve international travel or living abroad. Residents are welcome to suggest themselves!

St. Louise Resident Raises Funds to Purchase Audiobooks



St. Louise Manor resident Joan Bomboy has started a unique fundraising project: Proceeds from the sale of decorative coat hangers she embellishes with yarn and ribbon are enabling the purchase of audiobooks about the lives of blind or visually-impaired individuals.

Bomboy has been blind since childhood, and although she reads Braille, she also enjoys audiobooks. This project is her first foray into educating the public about vision loss, and she said, "I would like to help people learn more about losing your vision or being blind, and thought audiobooks about inspirational visually-impaired individuals would be a great way to do that." She has been a St. Louise resident for nearly a year and a half.

The audiobooks are available for any resident to borrow from a CD lending library at St. Louise. The first selection purchased for the library was "The Story of My Life" by Helen Keller. The decorated hangers are available for purchase in the Coffee Café at St. Louise Manor.

Joan Bomboy with some of her completed hangers.

Hilltop's Next Top Models: Cycle Two



For readers familiar with the reality television show "America's Next Top Model," United Methodist Homes is pleased to present "The Hilltop Campus: Cycle 2!"

With the success of the inaugural fashion show in January, Hilltop activity staff and Oakdale Mall Christopher & Banks shopkeepers partnered again to offer the experience to a new crop of runway walkers, along with a few resident models from the first show. A week before the show, participating residents visited the store to select two outfits each.

On the evening of August 24, the Hilltop Auditorium was packed with residents and family members excited to view their friends and loved ones on the catwalk. Each model was accompanied by Activity Leader Chris Rash, sporting a tuxedo loaned by Men's Wearhouse.

Thank you to our brave models: Viola Allen, Doris Bennett, Judy Casiuk, Alice Crittenden, Jane Glassman, Madeline Isham, Mary Jubinsky, Happy Ludlam, Helen Martin, Janet Rice, Eleanor Ronk and Wilma Rose!

Doris L. Patrick Campus Employee of the Month



Lisa Cook, RAC-CT

MDS Coordinator Lisa Cook, RAC-CT, was named the Doris L. Patrick Campus Employee of the Month for September. According to her nominator, in addition to her regular

responsibilities, Cook has also willingly pitched in to assist with employee health, staff development and other nursing responsibilities. Said her nominator, "Lisa is a valued member of the Gilmour team and is deserving of our Employee of the Month Award."

Congratulations, Lisa!



The entire modeling crew, including (front row, left to right) Madeline Isham, Viola Allen, Mary Jubinsky, Judy Casiuk, (back, left to right) Eleanor Ronk, Wilma Rose, Helen Martin, Doris Bennett, Happy Ludlam, Jane Glassman, Alice Crittenden and Janet Rice.

facebook

See more photos from the shopping trip and the fashion show on United Methodist Homes' Facebook page!

Shorts

United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick was recently named to the Board of Directors for Southern Tier Health Link, a not-for-profit New York regional health information organization (RHIO) which uses technology to bring together health care providers and consumers while at the same time improving quality of and access to care and reducing costs. Said Chadwick, "I'm excited to join the Southern Tier Health Link Board. I believe their mission to connect people's health records among various providers and settings throughout our area is vital as medical care becomes more complex." For more information, visit www.sthlny.com.

On August 24, United Methodist Homes Development Director Bonnie Slocum attended a meeting of development directors for church-connected long-term care organizations within the new Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Attendees used the opportunity to get acquainted and discuss various group fundraising appeals. After their meeting, the participants took part in filming introductions of their respective organizations; the video was shown during the Susquehanna Conference's session in Williamsport on September 11.

The Corporate Office welcomes Staff Accountant Matthew Zeitz, who began on August 31. He came to the Homes from the New York State Small Business Development Center at Binghamton University.

On September 11 in Williamsport, PA, United Methodist Homes President and CEO Keith Chadwick attended a special session of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Chadwick had the opportunity to explain United Methodist Homes' services, and to express the Homes' desire to work cooperatively with the new conference.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Church Manor Director of Nursing Donna Bendzel, RN, BSN, RAC-CT, who recently completed the MDS 3.0 course through the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators (AANAC) and is now credentialed as a certified resident assessment coordinator.

Sarah Soden, United Methodist Homes' Director of Marketing and Public Relations, has been accepted into the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce's Broome Leadership Institute Class of 2011. Established in 1988, the six-month program helps local business leaders learn more about the community in order to work more effectively and expand their sphere of civic activity.

Hilltop resident Edith Cutting hosted a book-signing event at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Vestal, NY, on September 18, autographing copies of her book *Lore of an Adirondack County*.

Special thanks to housekeeping staff throughout the organization, who celebrated Housekeeping/Health Care Environmental Services Week September 5-11. We appreciate your hard work all year!

Staff Longevity Highlighted

Long-term care is a field that typically experiences high employee turnover for a variety of reasons. At all of its campuses, United Methodist Homes is fortunate to have a large proportion of staff with many years of service. Said Joe Corey, United Methodist Homes' Vice-President of Human Resources, "Our number of long-serving employees speaks volumes about the type of organization we are, and how highly we value our dedicated staff."

United Methodist Homes is delighted to introduce you to our longest-serving staff members from each location.

45 Years

Claudia Brown, Dietary Assistant, Elizabeth Church Campus

Brown was hired on November 1, 1965 – when the Beatles, the Supremes and the Rolling Stones were rocking the airwaves, and man had yet to walk on the moon. She points to the friendships she has developed with her coworkers as the highlight of her long career with the organization, and her reason for staying so long. Brown's work environment has changed significantly since her first day on the job: "The new kitchen I work in is quite different from when I started." Her coworkers and the residents are what she likes best about working for the Homes.

34 Years

Keith Chadwick, President and CEO, Corporate Office

Chadwick joined the Homes on January 1, 1976 – America's bicentennial year – as the Administrator at the Hilltop Campus, and assumed his current role in 1980. He points to his chairmanship of the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHS) from 1990-1992 as one of the highlights of his career, along with his role in building new residences on many campuses. What's changed most from his hire date to the present? Chadwick cites the addition of numerous government regulations and mandates, as well as increased knowledge about aging within the long-term care field. "We now know much more about the mental, physical, social and spiritual needs of our elders," he said. Chadwick counts the dedication of Homes staff to the organization's mission – quality of care and quality of life – as well as a supportive Board as his reasons for staying with the Homes for his entire professional career.

33 Years

Irene Saunders, Certified Home Health Aide, Hilltop Campus

Saunders began her career with the Homes on July 6, 1977, just a week before the famous New York City blackout. She cites the addition of new levels of care, including assisted living and specialized dementia care, as the biggest change during her career. What she likes best about her job and what's made her stay with the Homes so long are one and the same: "I love working with the elderly, and with my coworkers. The highlight for me is interacting with the residents and talking with them about their lives."



Claudia Brown



Keith Chadwick



Irene Saunders



Donna Casey



Barbara Soltishick



Charlene Duddy

33 Years

Donna Casey, Administrative Assistant, Wesley Village

Casey became an employee on October 3, 1977 – the same year "Star Wars" debuted in theaters and Elvis passed away. Casey notes a number of changes since her hire date, including increased licensing survey stringency, substantial growth in the resident population, and use of the full continuum of care rather than residents entering and staying at one level. Her long tenure is due to the Homes being "a great place to work" and her enjoyment of spending time with residents. Casey has kept Wesley Village in the family – her daughter Cassandra worked in the dietary department for five years before earning her LPN license in May 2009; she now works in the east unit.

26 Years

Barbara Soltishick, Housekeeping/Laundry Aide, Tunkhannock Campus

Soltishick was hired on September 10, 1984, the same year Chrysler introduced the minivan and Bruce Springsteen released "Born in the USA." She says the highlight of her career with the Homes is the residents: "They just make me feel more appreciated more than anywhere else I've ever been. It's been a chance to have 37 grandparents!" She cites residents' length of stay as the primary difference from her start date to the present, noting that people now seem to go to higher levels of care more quickly. Her favorite part about working at the Homes is the gardening she's done at Tunkhannock Manor for the past 25 years: "It gives me a chance to be a little bit creative, and gives people something beautiful to look at," she said.

18 Years

Charlene Duddy, Environmental Services Manager, Doris L. Patrick Campus

In 1992, the European Union was formed, "Golden Girls" went off the air, and the Homes opened its new Doris L. Patrick Campus. Before the campus had even opened to residents, Charlene Duddy was the first employee hired, on May 18, 1992. Duddy says interacting with the residents each day and helping them feel at home has been the highlight of her career with the organization. She's enjoyed watching the campus' landscaping mature over time: "The trees that were small when we moved in are now large and beautiful. And the new garden for residents and family members to enjoy is a great addition." Her favorite thing about working at Gilmour is the intimacy of a small facility. "I feel like we are part of a family, and am able to know everyone on a personal level." In 2009, Duddy was honored with a Long-Term Care Employee of Distinction Award presented by the New York State Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHS).

Mahalo (thank you), Summer!

On August 27, Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility, Anderson Personal Care Facility and Myers Manor residents and staff enjoyed an end-of-summer luau. Shown ready to serve "mocktails" are (from left) Activity Aides Mary Ann Battista, Loretta Chmura and Beverly DelGiorno, volunteer (and Shelli Ratchford's daughter-in-law) Sierra Bufalino, Assistant Activity Director Shelli Ratchford and Activity Aide Suzie Mizzer. Entertainment was provided by Windfall and ambrosia was served.



Nursing Home Residents Participate in Study

In the spring of 2010, residents of all United Methodist Homes' skilled nursing facilities participated in a national pressure ulcer prevalence study sponsored by the Hill-Rom Company, a medical device manufacturer. This is the twenty-first year of the study, and more than 800 organizations and over 100,000 patients and residents took part, representing nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, hospitals and other acute-care settings. Participating facilities selected a 24-hour period within a three-day window on which to collect their data.

The study's objectives were to assist in pressure ulcer prevention protocols, produce actionable feedback, identify departmental patterns and assess patient environment safety metrics. Participating facilities collected data which was then transmitted to Hill-Rom for aggregation in a benchmarking database for comparison and report generation. In 2010, pressure ulcer prevalence for all participating facilities was 11.7%. United Methodist Homes facilities came in under this mark at 10.8%.

A pressure ulcer is a localized injury to the skin and/or underlying tissue, usually over a bony prominence, as a result of pressure or pressure in combination with shear and/or friction. A number of contributing factors are associated with pressure ulcers, such as being bedridden or wheelchair-bound, having fragile skin, having chronic conditions such as diabetes or vascular disease, having urinary or bowel incontinence, improper nutrition and other factors.

Preventing, identifying and treating pressure ulcers is critical. Special thanks to all the registered nurses who participated in performing the study, all the staff members who assisted them.

Letters of Appreciation

To the Tunkhannock Campus

Thank you to all the staff and residents – you touched my mother's life. I know she was content at the Manor. I can't thank you enough for all you gave to her but I can say thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

To the Elizabeth Church Campus

I would like to thank all the personnel of Elizabeth Church Manor for the wonderful treatment I received while in your care. When my doctor found out I was going to your place, he said "Good choice!" It is clean, well-organized and peaceful, and the food was excellent! I enjoyed the physical activity. The rehab unit helped me regain some of my physical power. In all, I was treated with compassion and dignity. Thank you again.

To the Wesley Village Campus

Our family wishes to extend our gratitude to the rehab staff, Pat in social services, Elaine in admissions, nurse Lise and aide Kathy and all the nurses and aides on the east unit for the loving care our mother received. She spent many years volunteering in the Wesley Village gift shop. When the time came that she needed care, Wesley Village was her first and only choice. Our entire family appreciates all the love and care the staff gave Mom. Your jobs are not easy and it takes special people to work with the elderly. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

To the Hilltop Campus

Thank you for taking such wonderful care of our husband and father. Your kindness helped make a difficult time easier to bear.

Tomato Sandwich Social



To mark the annual Pittston Tomato Festival, held August 19-22 this year, Wesley Village residents had their own tomato sandwich social on August 16! Locally-grown tomatoes from Martin O'Malia Farms and Greenhouses in Plains, PA, and fresh-baked Italian bread from Agostini Bakery in Old Forge made for perfect sandwiches. Shown enjoying the event are (from left) Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Yolanda Tancredi, Activity Aide Jean Lewis and Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Antoinette Denisco.

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Visit our website at www.unitedmethodisthomes.org to view contact information for each campus, as well as monthly activity calendars, news releases, or to view back issues of the newsletter electronically.

Visit our Facebook Page for updates, event info and photos. Go to www.facebook.com and search for United Methodist Homes.

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It's Just Ducky at the Doris L. Patrick Campus

In mid-summer, residents at the Pearl and Everett Gilmour Nursing Facility on the Doris L. Patrick Campus took part in a duck-hatching project. Activity Director Danielle Giordano purchased 11 white Pekin duck (also known as the Long Island duck) eggs from a bird farm in Madison, NY. The eggs spent four weeks in an incubator, with residents turning the eggs, misting them with water and candling them (see explanation below) to view the embryos' development.

Six of the eggs hatched successfully, and residents and staff delighted in watching, holding and playing with the fuzzy yellow babies in the Activity Room. The ducklings doubled in size every three days, which presented a challenge in providing them with nesting space! Staff members thoughtfully provided a wide variety of items, including bedding, a watering dish, a holding trough, a swimming pool, a swimming bin and more.

After two weeks, the ducklings went home with staff members Dee Cutting, LPN, and Nicole House, RN, both of whom have farms. Said Giordano, "The ducks have nice country settings to live in, with swimming holes and other birds and animals to play with. They are all doing great." Pekin ducks have an average lifespan of nine to 12 years, so they should have many summers of swimming to come!

What is candling?

If you grew up on a farm, you may have candled an egg or two in your day! Candling involves holding a very bright light behind an egg for one of two purposes: to determine if it is fertilized or not in order to gauge its suitability for cooking, or to watch the growth process taking place inside a fertilized egg.



Resident Juanita McIntyre with one of the ducklings.

**Get your
Seasons!**



Residents:

If only one of your family members (the adult child who is your primary contact, for example) is receiving *Seasons*, we're happy to add others to the mailing list. Keep everyone in the loop about events and activities at your campus!
Call Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288 to add someone to the list.