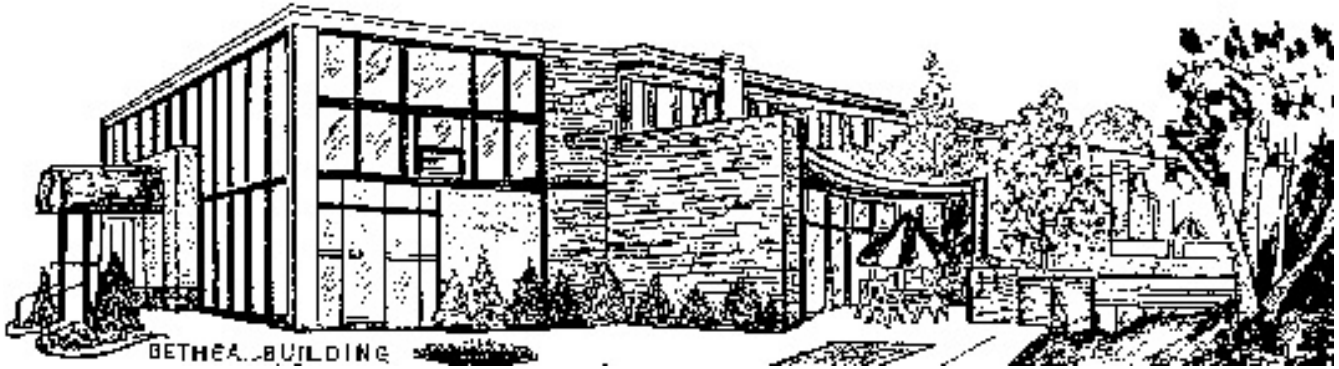


# SERENDIPITOR



Brooks-Howell Home

Phone: (828) 253-6712  
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266 Merrimon Avenue

Fax 252-7071      Web-Site: <http://www.gbgm-umc.org/brooks-howell-home>  
NANCY GARRISON, Executive Director

Asheville, NC 28801-1218

July- Aug 2009

## *Prayer for Our Nation*



O Thou, who art the Source of Life,  
From whom there flows new strength,  
Renew the vision of our land,  
Throughout its breadth and length.

We read within the sacred Book  
That truth shall make us free.  
O, may Thy people know the truth  
Which truly comes from Thee.

Amen

—Juanita M. Kelly, former resident



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May be sung to the tune "St. Agnes CM."

## From Our Administrator - -



Brooks-Howell Home is beginning to be on the map. Becky Louter from the Deaconess Program Office was recently here with a group of Deaconess Candidates for their final two-week class and under

the leadership of Dr. George McLain. I think they enjoyed visiting Brooks-Howell and seeing our lovely mountains. I know they enjoyed Dr. McLain's classes. He is a most interesting professor.

While Dr. McLain was here, and because he has been very deeply involved in the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) he gave two very interesting talks. We were so pleased to have him and the Deaconess candidates with us for two weeks.

I would like to take this time to thank Becky Louter for having her twin girls on June 16 in honor of my birthday. Wasn't that thoughtful of her? What a nice family Michael and Becky have: two older brothers to take care of the new baby girls.

On May 19 we had our annual employee appreciation luncheon. Of course our dining staff did a great job with food that matched our Island Theme. We honored Julie Latino, Aileen Mangum, Ellen Moore Marselino Plascencia, and Effie Williams for five years of service; Carole Gilham, Linda Hyde, Joan Page, Marlene Parker, and John Smith with ten years of service; Sallie Burns, Debra Lambert, with fifteen years of service; Jo Ann Muse twenty years and Jeannette Byrd thirty years of service. We are proud of these people who dedicate their time to care for our family here at Brooks-Howell.

In the last issue I told you we said goodbye to our Chaplain René Bideaux and one month later we said our final goodbye. René passed away on May 13. Joining René in Heaven was Nellie Mitchell on May 24.

God be with you,

--Nancy Garrison, Executive Director



*Carole Gilham, Nancy Garrison, Bonnie White  
(Brooks-Howell Board Member)*



*Marselino Plascencia, John Smith, Joan Page,  
Ellen Moore  
(Dana Tyson, resident, in foreground)*



*Jeannette Byrd, Debra Lambert, Sallie Burns*

(Photos Esther Megill)

## Called to Serve, Serving Still

On May 12, 2009, seven Brooks-Howell missionaries and deaconesses began a virtual tour to Korea and over the United States when the Korean Christian Television Stations from Seoul, Korea, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Atlanta interviewed us. Among the group were three former deaconesses—Arlene Merritt, Frieda Morris, (Lucy Gist left for Korea that day, but had attended the Celebration); three former missionaries, Roberta Rice and Lela Maxwell, and Doug Wingeier, a former visiting Professor and Director of the doctoral program at our Seoul Methodist Seminary.

On May 8 Young H. Kim, the director of the Washington Christian Broadcasting Network, led about one hundred members of the Korean Business Men's Association from Washington, D.C. to the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. There, with the help of Koreans in the mountain area, they held a delightful and entertaining "Celebration of Mission to Korea" to honor missionaries who had helped bring the gospel to Korea.

The seven of us, along with several others who had served in Korea, began the celebration with a delicious Korean feast. Then we attended a full church worship service in which the sermon was entitled "Beautiful Feet."

The celebrants were welcomed by Kyung Chul Gam, President of the Christian T.V. Congratulatory remarks were brought from Myung Bak Lee, the President of Korea, and others.

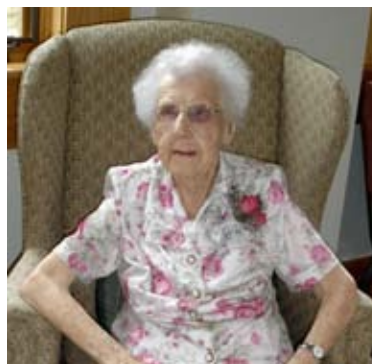
Representatives of the Baptist, the United Methodist and Presbyterian missionaries spoke of their work in Korea. Each missionary present was presented with a beautiful special medal of honor which stated "honorable missionary sown the gospel seed on the nation."

The entertainment was presented by singers, dancers and drummers who had entertained at the Olympic Games in Korea. The whole celebration was a time of delight and joy. CTS, the Korean Television Company with stations in Seoul and

multiple stations in the United States, will make possible the sharing of this experience over a very wide area. We thank God for the many blessings He has brought to us and others through their "Celebration of Mission to Korea." Their beautiful presentations and witnesses are much appreciated.

—Roberta G. Rice, M.D.

### FRIEDA MORRIS celebrates her 95<sup>th</sup>, birthday



It was the afternoon of June 19, 2009 when Brooks-Howell residents were invited to the Chapel for this special event. As we entered the Chapel foyer, the first thing we saw, on a small table, was a beautiful bouquet of white lilies rising above rippling white satin and beyond this center piece a long table draped in white.

On that long table were three beautifully decorated white cakes trimmed with pink, a large bowl of fresh fruit, **and** bowls of nuts, cheese and crackers. Two or three steps beyond was orange juice. ( I hope you are not hungry when reading this?)

Our lovely Chapel was also festive with tables of four set up for guests. We each went in to congratulate Frieda with her pretty corsage and welcoming smile. "Lots of memories!" "Almost too many to believe they actually happened!" She welcomed each of us personally and introduced her niece Gale, who came down from Pennsylvania to help celebrate. With camera in hand, Gale visited every table making a pictorial record of this special birthday for Frieda.

—Eunice Sluyter



*Dr. Roberta Rice*

## In Memory - -

**René Bideaux**

August 22, 1931

May 13, 2009

### *Saying Farewell to Rene Bideaux*

The last issue of the Serendipitor included René Bideaux's *farewell message* to the Brooks-Howell community as he was retiring from his responsibilities here as Chaplain. He reflected on his and Becky's pain of losing their adult son in April, and spoke of plans for the future, with time for reading and reflection. Little did any of us imagine that this next issue would voice another farewell to René, one of remembrance, with sadness for our loss and with celebration and gratitude for his time among us. René died very unexpectedly of a heart attack on May 13. Services for René were held both at Biltmore United Methodist Church and here at Brooks-Howell. Don Turman, our new Chaplain, led the service at Brooks-Howell, little expecting that such a service would be among his early responsibilities here. The service concluded with the scattering of René's ashes in the Brooks-Howell Rose Garden.

René came to North Carolina to study forestry, and worked for two years in that field. He then felt called into the ministry, and was ordained after seminary studies at Duke University. His thirty-eight years in ministry included: five years with his wife Rebecca as missionaries in Costa Rica; pastorates in North Carolina, Massachusetts and Rhode Island; District Superintendent in Connecticut and Massachusetts; Director of the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, North Carolina; and seven years as Associate General Secretary of the National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries. Following his retirement in 1994, he devoted ten years to the Academy for Spiritual Formation of the Upper Room. His collection, *A Book of Personal Prayer*, was published in 1997. He was the chaplain at Brooks-Howell from 2004 - 2009. *Farewell, René*. We are grateful for your years among us.

-Elaine Gasser

**Nellie Mitchell**

August 31, 1908

May 24, 2009

Nellie was born the youngest of eight children, into a Christian rural home in Spencer, West Virginia. At age eleven she surrendered her life to Christ and knew as a very young girl that she wanted to give her life in His service in some way.



One brother was a minister. When he left home to attend Garrett Biblical Institute, he took Nellie with him. She entered North Central College at Naperville, Illinois. While there, she contacted the Deaconess office in Chicago about becoming a deaconess and was accepted. During her last semester in college she ran out of money and borrowing power. At that time she was given a position as Director of Boys' Work in the tenement district in an Institutional Church in Chicago. The Lord had apparently not given up on her yet. While working in Chicago, she attended Deaconess Training School in the evenings. The old Lucy Ryder Myer Training School was still going strong at that time.

In 1935 she was appointed to District Work in Portland, Oregon, where she served mostly problem churches under the direction of the Board of Missions. Nellie was finally consecrated as a full-fledged Deaconess at the Annual Conference on June 26, 1935, by Bishop Titus Lowe.

In 1939 she went to Baltimore, Maryland, again to serve in District Work, and one day per week as a hospital visitor. She then went to the West Virginia coal fields to serve as "Head Resident" in a Wesley House. This was in a seventeen-mile "holler" with ten thousand residents. At one time she had a hundred Girl Scouts under her leadership.

(Continued page 5)

Nellie Mitchell (continued from p. 4)

All this time she had worked without even finishing college. So in 1950 she went to Morris Harvey College (now Charleston University) and obtained a BA degree. Most important to her all through the years was that God had used her to influence many people for good. She quoted Cory Ten Boom who said, "God can use a crooked stick to hit a hard lick."

Finally family illness called her home to West Virginia again. This was before the days of public kindergartens. So, for sixteen years she conducted a church kindergarten in St. John's United Methodist Church in Spencer. This was entirely different from the type of underprivileged children with whom she had worked before, and was a great joy.

After retirement she remained at home, caring for a dear sister, the last of her siblings, until the sister's death, July 1998. She moved to Brooks-Howell Home at the end of October that year and joined St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Asheville.

### ***Singing Nellie Home***

During the days of Nellie Mitchell's final illness, just three months shy of her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, a visitor from *Hospice* stopped by a few times with her guitar. She asked Nellie if she would like her to sing for her, and received an enthusiastic assent. "Would you like country music?" "No!" "What about gospel music?" "No." "What about hymns?" A positive "Yes" was the reply, punctuated by a big smile. For the next several minutes the visitor played and sang familiar songs: *Amazing Grace*, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, *Blessed Assurance* and many others, joined by residents who were in the room to visit Nellie. Though Nellie was known to be hard of hearing, it was obvious that she sensed the music and the love that surrounded her, and was soothed by them.

Not many days later she said to friends who came to visit, "I won't be seeing you tomorrow. I'll be going somewhere else." There was no question what she meant, for from a very early age, her one

desire was to give her life in God's service. In her memorial service, friends and co-workers from her days in West Virginia shared remembrances of some of the ways she lived out that commitment. Now she can join in the singing!

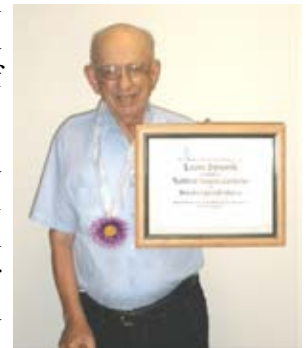
--Elaine Gasser

### **May Planting Day**

Residents, staff and employees gathered on May Planting Day to celebrate our appreciation for this beautiful earth we live on and our commitment to caring for it. We came together with staff members from Resident Services, under the huge oak tree in front of the Village Apartments for what can best be described as a rollicking good time. The weather was warm, clear and beautiful; so that many residents had their first opportunity to greet and enjoy the spring. Wheel chairs, walkers, folding chairs and the sturdy oak to lean against provided support.

We sang as we gathered, starting with songs that had flowers in their names. The hit of this section of the event was when Mabel Ehrsmann from Cummings Health Unit sang the second verse of "Daisy, Daisy" and received a rousing round of applause.

David Williams, head gardener of Brooks-Howell Home, presented Leon Strunk, resident volunteer gardener, with an award certificate which read:



"Be it known that this day, May 20, 2009, Leon Strunk is declared Resident Master Gardener of Brooks-Howell Home and is entitled to all the benefits and flourishes due his position."

Leon also received a medal to honor his devotion to Brooks-Howell gardens.

(Continued page 6)

## May Planting Day (Continued from p. 5)

Residents had an opportunity to transplant seedling flowers that Leon had grown for the occasion. The pots into which they were planted will grace several locations on the grounds. As we walked and wheeled our way back into the Bethea Building, our hearts were warmed with gratitude for Brooks-Howell, a very special place.

—Ann Janzen

## Report from Resident Services:

Now that summer is here, the residents at Brooks-Howell are enjoying the many cultural activities that are available in the Asheville area such as the Flat Rock Playhouse, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, and the Concerts on the Quad at UNC-A. In May, several residents enjoyed trips to Mt. Pisgah for lunch and to Lake Junaluska to visit the World Methodist Museum. We also enjoyed visits from several UMW groups. We especially thank the Newland UMC who brought Billy Drysdale to sing for us and Groce UMC Children's Choir.

On May 20, we celebrated May Flower Day. This gave many of the residents an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the beautiful gardens. Leon Strunk was also recognized as our Master Gardener Extraordinaire. Leon has donated countless hours to making the Brooks-Howell gardens such a beautiful and worshipful place.



On June 17 several residents participated in the Terrific Tie Workshop. This was our nod to all dads

whom we honored on Father's Day, June 22. The following morning we held a parade to show off our wonderful ties. The cheers from the onlookers were a testament to the creativity of all who participated!



*Frances Burns, Phyllis Glahn, Frances Rogers,  
Ed Ehresman*

One group that works tirelessly for Brooks-Howell is our auxiliary. This group meets every other month on the second Wednesday to plan their activities. This group volunteers so that our gift shop is open three times a week. They plan special events such as an Ice Cream Social in August and a tea at Christmas, and they financially provide for needs from medical equipment to social services. In May the auxiliary had a luncheon and invited United Methodist Women of the Asheville District as their guests. More auxiliary members are needed, not only to continue the work being done, but so that work may be expanded. You do not need to be a United Methodist Woman or even a United Methodist to be a member. The next meeting will be July 8 at 1:30 P.M. If you wish to participate in this most worthy organization, you are invited to attend.

“ And God is able to make all grace abound in you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

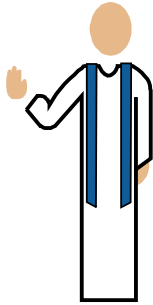
--Bess Redmond/Alycia Johnson, Resident Services  
(Photos Don Turman)

# From Our Chaplain - -

## First Impressions

June 2009

Prior to my becoming chaplain, Ramona and I had been residents of Brooks-Howell for more than three years. Because we were still spending a large part of each year in Indonesia, our apartment at Brooks-Howell was a place for renewal and preparation for the next trip to Indonesia. Our involvement in the life of Brooks-Howell and our knowledge of what goes on here were very limited.



All of this is rapidly changing. Our plans for continued involvement in ministry in Indonesia are being revised and our thoughts are more focused on life and ministry at Brooks-Howell. Not surprisingly, it seems that we are just now beginning our residency here and it feels good.

My first impressions of Brooks-Howell from the perspective of chaplain have been very positive. Here's what I have observed:

The facility is well designed and equipped for the safety and comfort of both residents and staff. The choice, placement and maintenance of flowers and plants throughout the campus create a peaceful setting that is uplifting and makes it easy to feel that one is in God's presence.

Caring, dedicated and loyal staff are found in every position. It is obvious that for most employees, their work is not just a job, but an opportunity to serve others. The welfare of the residents is the focus of their attention.

Residents are united by the reality of the frequently used trilogy, "called, served, and serving still." It is the latter of the three that inspires and encourages me – still responding to the needs of others, even as age and physical mobility dictate adjustments. Decisions by the director make it clear that Brooks-Howell exists to serve people.

Friendliness and kindness best describe daily interaction between residents and staff. Conversations are easy and frequent in this atmosphere that seems like a big family in which mutual caring is the norm.

It is no wonder that residents are happy and enjoy much fulfillment in their long lives. It is also no wonder that I am doubly blessed to be a resident and to be the chaplain at Brooks-Howell Home.

--Don Turman, Chaplain

## New Residents

Several new residents have arrived since the last issue of the *Serendipitor*. They are:

Beverly Reddick, Retired Deaconess

Eleanor Charlton

(They have just arrived, and are waiting to get into an apartment in the village.)

Health care residents from the community:

Cassie Rabb (wife of Stuart Rabb,  
a health care resident)

Josephine O'Brien

John Planey

Lora Coffey

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The *Serendipitor* is now on the web! Beginning with this issue you may view it there—in color—if you wish. To do this, go to the WNCU United Methodist Women home page at [www.wncumw.org](http://www.wncumw.org) and click on the "Join our email list" button right at the top of the home page. When you enter your email address, and click on the "submit" button, you will be taken to the profile page, where you can fill in your information, including choosing from which list or lists you want to get email. The list for the *Serendipitor* is there, third one down. You can choose to subscribe only to the *Serendipitor* list, or also join the main or other lists as well; you just need to check the boxes next to the list(s) you want to join. When you finish completing the profile information and checking lists, click on the "Save Profile Changes" button at the bottom of the screen, and click the *Serendipitor* link.

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**ALPHABET SPRING**  
**BY CUMMINGS UNIT RESIDENTS**



Apple trees bloom  
Bees buzz  
Cabbage is planted  
Dirt is dug  
Earth produces

Flowers spring up  
Growing things  
Happy children  
In mud puddles  
Joy



Kitchen smells  
Light shines  
Moon shines  
New born babies

Orange trees bloom  
Planting  
Queue up for games  
Roses are red  
Smiles



Time to play  
Umbrellas drip  
Violets are blue  
Water flows  
Yellow daffodils



Zebras in the sunshine.

# Birthdays

## JULY



### RESIDENTS

1 BILL SESSLER  
4 DON TURMAN  
6 LUCY ROWE  
11 EVELYN DEVRIES  
18 FAYE LANCE  
25 BETTIE SUE SMITH  
29 LORA K COFFEY  
29 FRIEDA MORRIS  
30 LEGRAND SMITH



### STAFF

2 MIKE WALKER, RESIDENT SERVICES  
3 SHAMIRA GASKINS, DIETARY  
4 EFFIE WILLIAMS, NURSING  
5 LORRAINE PONDER, NURSING  
6 MADINA MAMONTOVA, NURSING  
7 EVELYN WARREN, NURSING  
8 NINA KNIGHTEN, DIETARY  
10 DONNA ANDERSON, NURSING  
19 PAMELA RICE, NURSING  
20 DIANE CARTER, NURSING  
21 DENISE MILLS, NURSING  
25 GAYLE RILEY, NURSING  
26 LONNIE MORRIS, MAINTENANCE  
30 SANDY HARRISON, DIETARY  
30 SARAH SISLER, NURSING  
30 AARON JARRETT, NURSING

## AUGUST

### RESIDENTS

4 DORIS ALEXANDER  
8 NAOMI WRAY  
15 COY HOWE  
15 MARGARET STEWART  
17 DOUGLAS WINGEIER  
25 LORRAINE GRIBBENS  
29 EVERETT WOODCOCK  
31 ELIZABETH HOWELL

### STAFF

5 KEVIN SMITH, ENVIRONMENTAL SVS  
7 JILL BANYAI, RESIDENT SERVICES  
11 DEBORAH CLOSE, NURSING  
12 AILEEN MANGUM, NURSING  
13 CHRIS HENKE, MAINTENANCE  
19 ANNA SHELEY, NURSING  
22 IRINA ANTYUFYEVA, NURSING  
26 SARA PENLEY, NURSING  
29 MARY SHETLEY, ENVIRONMENTAL  
30 KELLY BRUCE-AUSTIN, NURSING  
31 MELISSA HARPER, NURSING

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**AUGUST 21 - JOHN & COY HOWE**  
**AUGUST 29 - EVERETT & VERA WOODCOCK**  
**AUGUST 31 - DON & RAMONA TURMAN**

