

# SERENDIPITOR



Brooks-Howell Home

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March-April 2010

## The Temptation of Jesus

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.*

*As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide,  
Yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus with us abide.*

*Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

—Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873



## From Our Administrator - -



I hope you will be attending the Assembly in St Louis the end of April. We are in a buzz here preparing for our display. We love for our area to be one that showcases our residents

and the countries where they served. Brooks-Howell is the beneficiary of many very interesting artifacts from around the world, but to see them all would require a visit to the home.

We are so very fortunate to have Deaconess Debbie Pittman moving here soon and in the meantime Debbie is helping us remake and update our video in CD format. We have plans for it to be ready to bring with us to Assembly.

Like many of you we have had our share of rain and snow this winter; but from a positive point of view our reservoirs are full and that may mean we will not have the drought conditions we have been faced with in the past few years.

As usual our residents have cabin fever and are on the move again. Naomi Wray went to Africa this winter, Faye Lance is off to India for a month, Dana Tyson is going to the Philippines Legrand Smith to South America and several folks are taking cruises.

### NO ROCKING CHAIRS FOR THESE PEOPLE

We are happy to report that no one has left us this month, and we have five new local community residents: Mr. Bill Harpe, whose wife has served on our Brooks-Howell Board, Ms. Pearl Howard, Ms Anita Wolfe, Ms. Cathy Nicholson and Ms. Dena Peterson.

Have a Sunny Spring,

Nancy Garrison, Executive Director

## Enlarge My Heart

February 21, 1985

I will walk the way of thy commandments when  
Thou shalt enlarge my heart. Ps. 119:32 (KJV)

Enlarge my heart, dear Lord,  
I care not how  
Nor what the means Thou shalt employ,  
But Lord, just now  
I pray, enlarge my heart  
To such degree  
That others may behold the Christ  
Instead of me.  
As from my heart shall pour  
A love unceasingly,  
That needy ones, the lone, the lost  
Be drawn to Thee.  
Enlarge my heart to such capacity  
That Thou canst love Thy world  
O Christ, through me.

—Ruby R. Harned, former resident

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## In Memory

### Lorraine Eloise Gribbens

August 25, 1920

December 29, 2009

Lorraine Gribbens was born August 25, 1920, in Chicago to Emma and Lee Earl Gribbens. After both parents died when she was eight, she was raised by various relatives. She moved from place to place and attended five grammar schools, including one in California, and Lake View High School in Chicago.



In 1938 with only \$1.00 in her pocket, Lorraine got a job as a proofreader for \$8.00 a week, a job she had for five years. She then found another job in a war manufacturing plant. By working nights and going back to high school during the day, she picked up some science and math courses she had missed. When the war ended, the plant closed. A friend mentioned that the University of Illinois at Chicago needed laboratory workers and the direction of her life was altered forever. She served as a lab assistant in the blood bank. As an employee she was allowed to take an under graduate course as part of her "fringe" benefits. Through two doctors in the University manufacturing pharmacy department, she discovered the essential role of pharmacy to those needing medical care. Eventually she enrolled in the College of Pharmacy, while still working part-time. In 1953 she received a B.S. in Pharmacy.

The dean of the college hired her as a research associate preparing allergenic extracts for skin testing in the Pharmacy Department of the University. Lorraine loved her work, but felt God was pushing her to do something else with her profession. During a young adult meeting at church, a film was shown of a missionary doing construction work. She wondered whether there might be a need

for a pharmacist in the mission field, and applied to the Woman's Division of the Mission Board of The Methodist Church, and in 1958 was on her way to Sarawak, Borneo to work as a pharmacist at Christ Hospital. She worked primarily with the Iban tribe, and for several months studied the Iban and Mandarin languages.

The plan was for Lorraine to work in Sarawak for three years, but she finished her term eighteen years later. While on her first leave, Lorraine was commissioned a missionary and also began work toward a Master's degree in Christian Education at Scarritt College in Nashville. The next stop was Fiji, where there was a great deal of suffering and need. She left Fiji in 1978 and did not return because there was no money to keep the hospital open. In 1979 she went to Harlan, Kentucky as a staff pharmacist at the Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital for six years. After her retirement she served as a volunteer in Hospital Lumiere in Haiti for more than three years.

She moved to Asheville and was active in Biltmore United Methodist Church, as well as in local and district United Methodist Women. She also was a member of Blue Ridge Brailers, helping school children by transcribing Braille.

She is survived by cousins in Chicago and a large circle of friends. Memorials may be made to Biltmore United Methodist Church or to Brooks-Howell Home where she had lived for the past eight years.

A Memorial Service was held Thursday, January 7, at 3:00 p.m. at Biltmore United Methodist Church, Asheville. Officiating was the Rev. Suze Pillsbury-Taylor and Rev. Ashley Crowder-Stanley. A scattering of the ashes will be held at Brooks-Howell Home in the spring.

## Helen Carter

June 8, 1910

December 30, 2009



Helen Carter was born, the third child of Dexter L. and Minnie Wharry Carter, in Thompsonville, Illinois. Her grandmother's dream was that she would be a missionary to China, but when she became a deaconess, her grandmother commented, "I knew God would use you in a very special way."

She trained to be a school teacher at Southern Illinois University, teaching school for a time. She then went to National Training School for Deaconesses and Missionaries in Kansas City, and there felt clearly that her field of service would be with small children.

She began her career in Benwood, West Virginia, staying there nine years. Then she went to Oklahoma City for one year and then back to school for a year. Her next appointment was as Director to Bladgett Community Center, Hazelton, Pennsylvania, and was there until leaving because of the illness and death of her parents.

In December, 1953 she was appointed to McCarty Center, Cedartown, Georgia, where she intended to stay "a year or so." She retired from that appointment twenty-two years later.

From the day she arrived there she was faced with challenges and opportunities. There was no kindergarten program in the town so she was able to do much with four and five-year-olds, as well as with their parents. The Center provided not only services for preschool, but an after school program also.

The plight of African American children weighed heavily on her heart. As a result, the center was able to initiate a program for children and youth in that community.

Helen was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce as well as other civic organizations and her church. During her last eight years she served on the Executive Committee of the North Georgia Conference United Methodist Women.

Helen said of her work: "It has been a joy to serve Christ through these agencies, and I have been able to help and encourage some of His 'Little Ones' into a life of meaning and purpose."

Helen moved to Brooks-Howell Home January 1, 1980. She became an active member of Groce United Methodist Church. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

## My Kenya Pilgrimage

For the past seven years or so I have been supporting my daughter-in-law Sherryl in a project to provide improved educational, economic and health conditions for girls in the small fishing village of Muhuru Bay, on the shore of



Lake Victoria, in Kenya. Dr. Sherryl Broverman became friends with a Kenyan woman, Rose, whose story and whose dream was the starting point for the creation of this school which changed the village itself.

Rose, who is a daughter of the village Chief, ran away from Muhuru Bay at age thirteen, in order to avoid marriage and in hope of continuing her education. With great difficulty and suffering she succeeded in completing her doctorate, and teaches today in a nearby college. She met Sherryl at an international meeting, and they became friends. Sharing stories, they also shared dreams. Rose told Sherryl that no girl from Muhuru Bay in the past twenty years had continued her education. Her dream was to return there and make the dream happen.

They both visited the village, and a long process began, working with the village people themselves, and dealing with many aspects of life which are involved in empowering girls to become valued members of the community. Sherryl, professor at Duke University, involved in Global Health, education, and managing the Duke volunteer program, was in a good position to supply workers and support for the project. A formal program titled

(Continued p. 5)

My Kenya Pilgrimage, continued from p. 4.

“Women’s Institute for Secondary Education and Research” (WISER), was formed. A Duke alumnus volunteered to live in the village and manage things on site, and Duke students and staff began volunteering. More than a thousand have worked, researched, planned and contributed since then.

The High School is simple, and will serve one hundred twenty girls, with boarding facilities, six classrooms, an internet café and a science lab. In arranging for a water supply for the school it was possible to plan for the eventual inclusion of the whole village. Similarly, in planning latrine arrangements, it became clear that it would be suitable to teach the whole community to improve their conditions, and help them to build the necessary facilities. This is the area of Kenya with the highest incidence of HIV and many other diseases. Any efforts to improve the lives of the young girls have extended to great effect to the whole community. Part of the purpose of the visit at this time was for the WISER committee to choose the staff for the new school. They had already found a highly motivated and educated woman to be Principal. The teachers would have to live with the students and teach a variety of classes, live within the village, becoming part of the community which is facing a tremendous change in its life and attitude toward young women. These women with the principal and the WISER committee chose thirty girls from among more than one hundred girls who had come to the new, as yet partly unfinished, campus to face the questioning of the committee.

With the new Principal came a bus load of her former students from the college where she had been teaching. They painted the building in a cream and fresh light blue pattern around doorways and windows, cleared and cleaned up the inner courtyard, raised bamboo poles to hold up awnings, and prepared tents and shelters for the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of visitors who were expected to arrive for the festivities later in the week. The college students were joined by young people from the village, and some international youth who had been involved in the project over the years, including my

own granddaughter and a classmate of hers who traveled with us, and a Duke student who represented a group of WISER volunteers who had organized themselves to continue to support the project.

Finally, on the tenth day, the ceremony during which the names of the girls who would be accepted into the first class of the new school were announced. A name was called; the girl came forward, surrounded by her family and friends, clapping, shouting, joyous, then quiet while the precious words were spoken and the certificate given. It took a long time, but everyone was patient, because this was a great and hopeful day. When it was finished and prayers were said, we were dismissed. Then the families moved all around through the empty buildings and the grounds, rejoicing, dreaming of what is to come, meeting each other, sharing the excitement, in love with each other and with the bright promise of life.

I am very grateful I was able to be a part of the event which opened this hopeful new school. They said I was the oldest woman there, and that I did them honor by coming! I was honored to be able to attend . . . and more than just proud of my daughter-in-law and granddaughter. I was proud that finally a school which foreigners were involved in creating for people of another culture was prepared in a manner which respected both their needs and their own way of life.

—Naomi Wray



## Welcome Gathering

Friday afternoon, February 10.

Winter weather outside; but inside, with balloons of different sizes, shapes and colors, tables set for four, it was warm and inviting in the chapel.

Thirteen new residents and some of their family members who live in the Asheville area were officially, and at the same time informally, welcomed by residents and staff of Brooks-Howell Home. The Courtesy Committee of the Brooks-Howell Residents' Council, under the direction of their new chairperson, Lucy Gist, was responsible for arrangements and the gathering. Cookies and punch were prepared by our dietary staff. It is a joy for all of us at Brooks-Howell Home to welcome to our home the following persons: Agnes Jones, Eva Low, Pearl Howard, Bill Harpe, Barbara Davis, Louise Crawford, Dena Peterson, Marie Nailling, Dorothy Weyhenmeyer, Anita Wolfe, James and Gail Hipkins, Cathy Nicolson and Helen Frey, who is here for a short stay.

--Pat Riddell



*Greeting the new residents—Pat Riddell*

(Photos Esther Megill)

## Chapel Cross Dedication

On Thursday, January 14, the chapel service included the dedication of a beautifully carved wooden cross and flame, made possible by a gift from the Rev. Charles Turkington, former chaplain at Brooks-Howell, and his wife, Mary Kay.

Executive Director Nancy Garrison spoke some opening words, and Charles Turkington responded. The cross was then consecrated with prayer.

The cross was carved by Kenneth Glahn, the husband of the Rev. Phyllis Glahn, in Social Services.



*The cross and flame in the chapel*



*Don Turman, Nancy Garrison, Charles & Mary Kay Turkington, Ramona Turman*

## News from Resident Services

The theme for January was snow, and boy did we see enough of it! In the warmth of Brooks-Howell Home though, the health care units decorated snowmen for a door decoration and made beautiful snowflakes out of coffee filters. To remind us that warm weather will come again, we had a Beach Party in the Craft Room. Decorations of beach towels, shells, sand buckets and shovels, along with beach music and cookies and lemonade made us feel a little warmer, at least in our hearts.

A concert by the bluegrass band “Blue Plate Special” was held on January 20. Stephen Boyer, resident John Planey’s son-in-law, is a member of this group and John’s daughter. Ruth was the guest vocalist. Sounds of the banjo, mandolin, guitar and bass filled the Chapel. Sandra Gudger, Appalachia storyteller and humorist, enchanted us with her mountain stories. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy this afternoon of toe-tapping entertainment.

February brought thoughts of love as we prepared for Valentine’s Day. The “Guess how many candy hearts are in the container” contest was a success. Barbara Markham (independent resident) guessed the exact amount – 167. Pat Riddell and Jane Stentz were the health care winners, and Charlene Wright was the staff winner. They each got to choose a special prize from the “prize box.”

On Shrove Tuesday, a.k.a. Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras, a party was held in the Craft room with King Cake and hurricane punch. We discovered that pancakes are eaten that day in order to get rid of the fat and flour before Lent begins. In Great Britain, foot races are held where the runners flip pancakes as they run. We listened to jazz music and had a great time of socializing.

–Tracey Owens



*Blue Plate Special*  
*Rick Ott, Stephen Boyer, Guest Vocalist Ruth Planey,*  
*Bev Clark, Jim Bagley*  
(Photo provided by Ruth Planey)

## New Art Exhibit

Brooks-Howell now has an art exhibit which displays the original artwork produced by the health care residents. It is located across from the independent residents’ exhibit which is located adjacent to the main hallway.

Currently, feather paintings that BTU and Cummings residents did are on display. Stop by and check out the lovely art created by the residents of our health care units.

–Tracey Owens

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Faye Hackney Lance is in India on an extended visit to friends in the country in which she lived and worked for many years.

Dana Tyson left for the Philippines this week, where she and her sister Marjorie (a former resident) once served..

LeGrand Smith is making his annual trip to Bolivia.

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# Serving Still—

## Dignity to Our Kin

I have recently read a book that tells us we are all related. If so, then why do we treat our brothers and sisters with such disregard—yes, with prejudice at times? There are those among us who have plenty of money and others who are in need. It has been the way of the world for many long years.

In these days it is very difficult to find a job that pays a steady wage of enough to feed a family. Some of these people are from other countries and do not speak the same language we do. Some of them come to ABCCM for help (Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry).

How fortunate we are at Brooks-Howell to have people who can speak their language. Among them are Ruth Clark, Pat Richardson and Jory Ruegger, who all speak Spanish fluently. They also work as volunteers at ABCCM. They share their knowledge graciously when they are needed at their work site. They work either in the headquarters on Cherry Street or in the Medical Clinic. They work one place or the other or both at different times.

Volunteers have their own work to do, whatever they do, but their schedules are sometimes interrupted by the need for someone to interpret, so that people or families can get the help they need. These volunteers graciously leave their work to serve as bridges for people new to our country who need help in getting their feet in a new setting. Sometimes there are several interruptions, and sometimes just one or two. At times the groceries that ABCCM is able to give are sufficient to be the boost the clients need while getting settled in a land new to them.

We rejoice that we have people who can do this. We would like to give special thanks to them and others like them who use the talents they have to



help their brothers and sisters— and that Brooks-Howell residents are “serving still.”

—Helene R. Hill



*Ruth Clark*



*Pat Richardson*



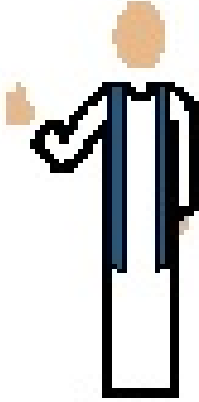
*Marjorie (“Jorie”) Ruegger*

(Photos E. Megill)

## From Our Chaplain-

### Keeping God's Commandments

These days of Lent are days of invitation to examine ourselves in the light of God's expectations. It is an opportunity to see how we are doing with the habits of Bible study, prayer, meditation and service that produce new insights into God's will and new strength to live it out in our daily lives.



During this Lent I have thought a great deal about how keeping God's commandments is an indication of my love for God. Jesus had this to say about it:

- *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)*
- *"They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." (John 14:21)*
- *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (John 15:10)*

Keeping commandments is the mark of our love for God. And, in many ways spiritual growth can be measured by how much more perfectly we are fulfilling God's commands. Actually, Jesus did not give many new commands and those that seem to be commands were intended to help us practice love for one another. As he said, "I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another." (John 15:17)

Lent is indeed a time to look deep within ourselves to examine our attitudes, thoughts and emotions. But observing Lent by focusing on keeping God's

commandments causes us to examine our actions toward other persons, whether they are family, friends or strangers. We will also benefit by asking how well we are doing in relating to and serving "the least of these" in our society. We will do well to remember one very clear commandment that Jesus gave: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

--Don Turman, Chaplain

### Report from the Spiritual Life Committee

Lent is the time of reconciliation, reconciliation between sinners and a forgiving God. At Brooks-Howell the season of Lent was opened by a service on Ash Wednesday when the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday service were used to trace a cross on the worshiper's forehead. Throughout the service there was a call for repentance and a statement of forgiveness.

Lenten symbols that remind us to come to God will be on the altar throughout Lent. Good Friday which calls us to remember Jesus' offering of himself and the grief of his followers will be observed, followed by celebrations of the resurrection on Easter.

--Ann Janzen



## Christian One Liners

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God does not purpose to judge a person until he or she is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete—thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one they stay home from?

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them – He'll clean them.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

—Anonymous

# BIRTHDAYS

## MARCH

### RESIDENTS

3 DOROTHY WEYHENMEYER  
6 ETTIE PHILLIPS  
6 SAMUEL MOHANSINGH  
7 PEARL HOWARD  
12 ESTHER RUSSELL  
16 IRIS WILLIAMS  
18 HELENE HILL  
20 SUE CRAIG  
21 BETTY FONNER  
24 DANA TYSON  
29 BARBARA MARKHAM

### EMPLOYEES

13 STEPHANIE MCCURRY, NURSING  
13 DONNA PRUITT, NURSING  
13 DAVID WILLIAMS, MAINTENANCE  
15 MICHAEL LEE, DIETARY  
15 FARRELL WILSON, NURSING  
18 STARTRICIA BETHEA, DIETARY  
20 TARRA HENDERSON, NURSING  
20 ALICE STEGMANN, NURSING  
26 SALLIE TIPTON, NURSING  
31 JOHN D SMITH, ENVIRONMENTAL SVS

## APRIL

### RESIDENTS

3 JORIE RUEGGER  
7 MARIE NAILLIN  
8 ELLIE CHARLTON  
8 STUART RABB  
14 AGNES JONES  
15 BETSY EWING  
21 BETH GRIFFIN  
22 MARCELLA MATHYS  
28 ROSEMARY SCHEUERMAN  
29 JANE STENTZ  
30 JEANNE WINTRINGHA  
31 LELA MAXWELL

### EMPLOYEES

9 ELLEN COLES, NURSING  
9 LYUDMYLA KEBAP, NURSING  
10 HARRIET LOVELY, NURSING  
11 KATHY BOWENS, NURSING  
12 JASON GERRIE, MAINTENANCE  
20 SHARMAN PITTMAN, ADMINISTRATION  
24 JOAN PAGE, NURSING  
  
26 MARIANNE STEPHANSON, NURSING  
27 STEFFORD CRAIG, DIETARY  
28 ANNIS LYTLE, ADMINISTRATION  
29 ANNA ANTYUFEYEVA, NURSING

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