

SERENDIPITOR



Brooks-Howell Home

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May-June 2011

My Weeping Cherry Tree

My weeping cherry tree

Bloomed today.

Pink blossoms

Crying

For the people of Japan.

—Sara Marshall, LPN



From Our Administrator - -

2011 MS Walk-Asheville



Greetings to All--

All of our residents were invited to the “televised” version of the Royal Wedding. The Royal couple was married on a large screened TV in our Chapel, followed by a reception in our Royal Banquet room (chapel foyer). My sister Carolyn Earley and Carole Gilham, the Wedding Planners, decorated the rooms and they were truly fit for a King. We had a very pretty wedding cake complete with the Queen’s Royal Coat of Arms on it.

In attendance were the Royals (Residents), Tracey Owens, The Duchess of Brooks-Howell and many other commoners. Read more and see photos on page 7.

I attended the Women’s Division’s board meeting in April and as usual they were hard at work. I am very excited to hear of the restructuring of the Women’s Division. These women are on the move again. As United Methodist Women we need to join forces and get on the band wagon with them.

Also while there I attended a lovely Deaconess commissioning held at the Church Center where one of our own Asheville women, Laura Draughon Kirby, was commissioned.

Among our losses were Rosema Brewer from Asheville, Patricia Richardson, and Marcella Mathys. We are glad to welcome Clara White.

Have a Happy Spring,

Nancy Garrison
Executive Director

Brooks-Howell was represented at the recent National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s annual MS Walk by Deb’s Bunch. Those participating included Marilyn Benson, Tracey Owens, Samuel Owens and Debbie Pittman. Marilyn and Tracey walked two miles in spite of the 80+ degree weather. Debbie and Samuel made it two and one-half miles. The team later enjoyed a relaxing meal together. During the walk, we learned that more than 365 known cases of MS exist in Buncombe County, with many more going unreported to the MS Society. This was shown visually with a field of orange flags, one for each known case.

While there is no cure yet for MS, the new drugs developed in part with funding from the MS Walks can help slow the progression of the disease for many. Deb’s Bunch raised more than \$900 for research and direct services such as lending closets, support groups and advocacy for individuals with MS. Thanks to our Brooks-Howell family and all the others who contributed. Samuel is already making plans for our walk next year!

–Debbie Pittman



The Walkers
(Back, L to R) Marilyn Benson, Tracey Owens
(Front, L to R) Debbie Pittman, Samuel Owens

(Photo by Barbara Blevins)

In Memory - -

Patricia Eileen Richardson

June 4, 1929

May 2, 2011



Born to Clarence and Ethel (Hargrave) Richardson in Indianapolis, Pat Richardson grew up primarily in Chicago.

She graduated from DePauw University in 1951, worked as an educational assistant for a year, then as an English High School teacher before being accepted as a candidate for foreign service with the Methodist Church.

She did Orientation at Scarritt College, was consecrated at the Women's Assembly in Milwaukee in 1954, and then sailed to Argentina.

Her first assignment was at Colegio Americano, where she served for seven years as an English teacher, Christian Education teacher, leader of activities for boarding students, and for a time as interim director.

After obtaining her Master's in Christian Education at Garrett Biblical Seminary, Pat served as Executive Secretary for the United Board of Missions, an Interdenominational Argentine Board which sponsored work among the Toba Indians.

After twenty years the Bishop asked her to serve part-time as pastor of a small English-speaking church while continuing other work. That challenge led her to feel that God wanted her to dedicate her full time to pastoral ministry. With support from the Argentine church, she completed studies and was ordained. Later she was elected District Superintendent (the first female superintendent in the Argentine Church.)

After serving a total of forty-three years in Argentina, she returned to the U.S. and became a resident of Brooks-Howell Home in 1997. She was Vice President of the Brooks-Howell Residents' Council and volunteered at ABCCM Medical Ministry. She attended Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church.

She is survived by a brother, James Richardson, and wife Diane of Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

(Photo Esther Megill)

Marcella Rachel Mathys

April 22, 1931

May 3, 2011

Marcella Rachel Mathys was born in Muncie, Indiana, on April 22, 1931. Her father was a carpenter and her mother a housewife. They had three sets of twins. Marcella and her sister Madeleine Rose were the second set. In addition there were three other children. Her brother Bill, who was a pastor in Indiana Conference, is still living.



Marcella finished Ball State College in Muncie. Not long after graduation she participated in a work team project in Farr, Texas. On the last night of the project, she felt God's call and went to the altar to pray and give her life to mission. As soon as she returned to Muncie she telephoned the Board of Missions in New York. After acceptance for full time mission service she was sent to Scarritt College for two years and received the Master's Degree in Christian Education. She then went to Costa Rica for language school.

Her first assignment was to teach English as a Second Language to elementary school children in Chihuahua, Mexico, in Colegio Palmore, a Methodist school. After a number of years Marcella was asked to return to Costa Rica to study the Bible in Spanish. During her forty-two years in northern Mexico she served in a number of areas, but always as an English teacher to elementary age children. Her final assignment was to Instituto Dr. Andreas Osuna, a Methodist school in Piedras Negros, a Mexico-Texas border town. She worked there for twelve years.

There she was also asked to teach English at Juarez University. During her years in the Mission,

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Marcella Mathys (Continued from p. 3)

Marcella was active in the local church, and on the district and Conference levels. She also invited a number of persons from Indiana to serve on work teams in Mexico.

Marcella came to Brooks-Howell Home on October 15, 2005. She was a member of Abernethy United Methodist Church.

Deaconess Sybil Dodson, a few weeks before her own death, gave a gift of remembrances for Marcella, who during her illness with Alzheimer had lost so many. She spent many hours compiling letters, documents, and photographs that Marcella had collected, and made a scrapbook which she presented to the Archives Library at Brooks-Howell Home.

(Photo Esther Megill)

I Remember...

(The following paper was found in Pat Richardson's collection, so we are sharing it with you at this time as we remember her life.)

The Longest Night

It was the last night of the trip. Two weeks earlier I had boarded the ship with Lois and Elsie in New York City. We stood on the deck and waved at my parents who stood on the dock. It would be five years before I would return to the United States. The three of us were being sent by the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church to serve as missionaries in South America. Elsie would work in a social center in Rio de Janeiro [Brazil], Lois in Crandon Institute in Montevideo [Uruguay], and I was headed for a school in Rosario, Argentina. There were three of us, and we were going to three different countries along the eastern coast of the continent.

The trip had been great. We stopped at two islands in the Caribbean for sightseeing and then in Bahia, a Brazilian city known for its 365 Catholic churches. When we sailed into Rio, there was a band on the dock welcoming us with rousing music. Among the many people waiting to receive arriving friends and relatives, we spotted a group from the institution where Elsie would be working. They held large

signs so that we could easily see them from the ship. How exciting it all was! Lois and I debarked with Elsie and were graciously shown about the city. Then came evening and time to say goodbye to Elsie.

The next stop was Santos, and then we arrived in Montevideo. The ship docked early and we were still in our cabin when a half dozen folks from Crandon appeared at the cabin door to welcome Lois and help her with her hand luggage. They gave us a royal welcome and took us to see the city and the school. Then evening came, and time to say goodbye to Lois. Suddenly I was alone. Well, not really. The ship was still full of people, but not my people. The overnight trip from Montevideo to Bueonos Aires was starting, and I felt completely alone.

When the dock was no longer in sight, I headed for the lounge where all the remaining passengers were to go through the immigration formalities. Argentine officials had boarded the ship and did they ever look official. If only Elsie and Lois could have been with me to go through this ordeal—

I hardly slept that night, but lay on my bunk listening to the waves of the River Plate (el rio de la Plata) hit against the side of the ship and wondering about the coming day. I had never doubted my decision to go to Argentina for five years until that night when I found myself alone in a cabin meant for three or four.

At daybreak I was up quickly, rushing to the deck, ready to see the land that I would call home and hoping to see someone or if possible, several some ones, there to welcome me.

Nobody was in sight except the dock workers, busy securing the ship, letting down the gang planks, and ignoring the passengers hanging over the railings. Oh, and a few sea gulls. Running along the dock was a long grey drab building, something like a warehouse. No band, no people to welcome our boat, none at all.

Finally, the loud speaker announced that passengers could disembark. I picked up my belongings,

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The Longest Night (Continued from p. 4)

swallowed an unborn tear, and made my way to the gangplank. On dry land we were herded into the grey building where the larger luggage had been unloaded and was stacked all over the huge area. After wandering, and being accidentally pushed and shoved by others just as confused as myself, I noticed large signs hanging from the rafters. Each sign has a letter of the alphabet, and it didn't take too long to discover that the luggage was placed in areas according to the name on the label. So off I headed to find the R luggage. At this moment a young woman rushed up and asked, "Are you Pat Richardson?"

The surprise and relief left me speechless, so I nodded. She turned out to be Helen Safstrom, a missionary who served as Director of the School in Rosario. With her was a man, who spoke no English, but who I learned was the President of the Board of Directors of the school. He and his wife had driven Helen the three hundred kilometers from Rosario to Buenos Aires.

Helen explained that no visitors were allowed on the dock. Neither were they permitted in the customs building. She was quite sure that Sedor Petit had bribed the guard to get them in.

So I breathed a sigh of great relief. The long night was over, and I was no longer alone.

—Pat Richardson



Asheville District Prayer Breakfast

The Asheville District United Methodist Women gathered at the Weaverville United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 26 for their annual Prayer Breakfast. Each year this is a time for worship, fellowship and inspiration for women throughout the District. Arrangements for the gathering were prepared by the Weaverville Church unit, and an abundance of memorable food was prepared by the Grace UMC unit.

Sharing in the Memorial Service was, as always, an important part of the worship service at this Breakfast. A representative from each unit came forward and a flower was presented as the names of those who have passed into the church triumphant during the year were read. Several of these had been residents at Brooks-Howell Home. Scripture, music, and singing framed the shared joy of the participants.



Deaconess Debbie Pittman, who is a resident of Brooks-Howell, shared the story of her ministry and of her faith as she spoke about the Lord's Prayer. She brought each member there into her own life by telling us of the humor of a music major who

is not a singer, of the irony of a Southern girl being sent to the Dakotas for her first assignment as a Church and Community Worker, of the need to adapt as her health deteriorated, and of the joy she has found in God's presence in her life and in those around her,

All of us who shared in this year's Prayer Breakfast are ready to sign up again for next year. It was wonderful!

—Ann Janzen

(Photo Esther Megill)

News from Resident Services

Milal Missionary Choir Performs at Brooks-Howell

Brooks-Howell was honored to have the Milal (Korean) Missionary Women's Choir present a musical program for us on April 19. This talented group of Korean women are from New York, Atlanta, and even Italy! They were each dressed in their traditional gowns.

Under the direction of Jeong-Jin Lee, the choir sang several selections in Korean, as well as English. "How Great Thou Art" was sung by a bass/soprano duet and a lovely soprano sang "Sing Praises, Be Joyful." "Amazing Grace" was played on three flute-like instruments in which each "flute" was in a different key. One of the oldest members of the group accompanied the choir with a drum. The handbell players were magnificent in their playing and technique. They shared a lovely rendition of "Jesus Loves Me," as well as an Easter medley.

A few of the women brought their children with them. One of the little girls was crying for her mother, so the mother let her stand beside her while they sang. She was adorable.

The highlight of the program was when the women took our residents' hands and sang to them and then prayed with the residents. There were many happy tears shed.

After the program was over, the choir surrounded Korean missionaries Dr. Roberta Rice, Lela Maxwell, and Anne McKenzie to have a group photo taken. As I watched, several of the women got on their knees and bowed down to the missionaries in honor of their service to Korea. What a moving sight it was.

Many of our residents expressed that this presentation was one of the best we have ever had. So we cordially invited them to return to Brooks-Howell any time they possibly could.

—Tracey Owens, Activities Coordinator



The Korean Milal Singers, with Residents who had served in Korea in the past



Some of the Koreans with Lela Maxwell, Roberta Rice, M.D., Anne McKenzie

(Photos Esther Megill)

Many residents also enjoyed hearing a group of Blair Children's Chorus on April 9. The chorus program is part of the pre-college division of Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.
—Editor

Royal Wedding Celebrated at Brooks-Howell

In honor of the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton on April 29, the staff and residents of Brooks-Howell wore lovely hats to lunch. Of course the wearing of the hats is a British tradition.

At 3:30 that afternoon, a reception with cake was held in the Chapel. A re-broadcast of the royal wedding that occurred early that morning was shown on the big screen television.

–Tracey Owens, Activities Director



Cake with U.K. Royal Coat of Arms



Watching the Video



Lela Maxwell



Helene Hill

(Photos Esther Megill)

Resident Volunteers

On Monday, May 18, the Residents' Council of Brooks-Howell Home at its regular quarterly meeting recognized resident volunteers. The program title was "Brooks-Howell thanks you for your commitment." Regular and sugar-free mints were distributed to volunteers at the close of the meeting.

Tracey Owens of the Resident Services staff announced that a total of 5,945.83 documented hours of volunteer work at Brooks-Howell and 1,708.75 documented hours of volunteer work in the Asheville community were reported for 2010. Some residents stated that they probably had worked more hours than they reported, and they will be more careful to report them in the future.

Resident volunteers included Sarah Frances Bowden, Susan Carmichael, Ellie Charlton, Grace Estel, Loise George, Ann Janzen, Esther Megill, Lela Maxwell, Virginia Miller, Lois Mohansingh, Debbie Pittman, Beverly Reddick, Roberta Rice, Jorie Ruegger, Nola Smee, Bettie Sue Smith, Jayne Smith, Dana Tyson, Ruth Walther and Naomi Wray.

Volunteers who are not resident at Brooks-Howell will be recognized at a luncheon on May 18.

–Ann Janzen

From Our Chaplain - -

Our Journey Through Lent

For many of us at Brooks-Howell Home our experience of Lent this year was shaped by our study of the Gospel according to Mark. Our daily readings in Mark were supplemented by the devotionals in Greg Weyrauch's book, *Journeying through Lent with Mark*.

As we listened for what Mark's gospel had to say about the identity of Jesus we wrestled with what it means to be a disciple of Jesus at this time in our lives. As we attempted to make our study more than a quest for knowledge, we sought to experience the gospel in life changing ways. We sincerely asked, what is new for persons like us who have studied the Bible and served in the church for many decades?

Our study highlighted our need to be involved in an ongoing Bible study/discussion, so on May 6 we will begin a study of *The Acts of the Apostles*. This will coincide with Bishop Goodpaster's challenge for all WNC United Methodists to engage in a study of Acts between Easter and Pentecost.

Holy Week was highlighted by a liturgical Communion Service on Holy Thursday and a Nails of the Cross service on Good Friday morning. We reflected on the "nails" that represented attitudes and actions that contributed to the crucifixion of Jesus -- pride, betrayal, envy, indecision, cruelty and hatred. We examined ourselves to see how these qualities may exist in our lives.

Most of us were able to attend joyful and triumphant Easter worship services in local churches and others were able to watch the livecast from Central UMC on closed circuit TV.

We have had a very meaningful and inspiring journey through Lent as a community at Brooks-Howell Home. We now endeavor to live fully as an Easter community in new and challenging ways of



service to each other, to our local community and to the world.

--Don Turman , Chaplain

From the Library--



This Child Will Be Great, a memoir by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia (and first-ever female president of an African nation), tells the story of this remarkable lady's career. Her training and experience have made her a top-notch economist; her intelligence and integrity, plus her willingness to speak her

mind even when it is dangerous to do so, have made her an unusual politician. Ms. Sirleaf was elected to the presidency in 2006 for a six-year renewable term.

The book is replete with intimate glimpses of Liberia's convoluted political history, told in a well-written and interesting style. It is from the 2011 UMW Reading Program's new category of Leadership Development. The library has copies in both regular and large print.

The library shelf devoted to the UMW Reading Program books has a new arrangement. All large-print books from the years 2005—2011 are grouped in one place marked LARGE PRINT to make them easier to locate. The library is indebted to Frieda Morris for this brilliant idea. THANKS, FRIEDA!

--Jayne Smith

A Serendipity Gift

Recently we received a note and a \$200 check from Manatee UMW in Bradenton, FL. The unit had just had their program on "The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" that featured Brooks-Howell Home.

In the note, Ann Maring wrote that the unit had received a "serendipity" gift and they had voted to send half to Brooks-Howell. It seems that at a recent rummage sale, one of the members found \$400 in the pocket of a pair of trousers. They held it for six weeks and no one called about it. So they decided to share the money with Brooks-Howell for "all the good work you are doing for retired missionaries and deaconesses."

Thank you, Manatee United Methodist Women, for sharing your "serendipity" with us.

--Jeannette Byrd, Social Services

Our Gardener Reports



The gardens spring forth with rejuvenating blooms. Winter fades from view as rainbow colors celebrate our natural world. Gratitude comes to mind. This past winter winds carried me to Ecuador. The primary reason, to nurture seeds for preserving our fragile planet, and to find where, what and

how I fit into this puzzle.

Quayaquil, a sprawling delta city of four million, was my first stop. My old Peace Corps friend, Eric Von Horstman, has been the protector and director of Cerro Blanco Forest Reserve for twenty years. A treasure of fauna and flora survives on 5,000 acres of coastal dry forest habitat, a remnant of what once

was a thriving bio-diverse habitat on the entire Ecuadorian coastline. During my two months' backpacking I was able to spend a week deep in the forest with the distant owner of the forest reserve, the National Cement Company, excavating the surrounding hills. There was a constant reminder of our world in relationship. The outspoken Howler monkeys, anteaters and the cacophony of birds are echoing in my mind.

After feeding "all" the mosquitoes and departing with hundreds of chiggers intact, I bussed over the scenic Cajas National Park to Cuenca, a world heritage city in the southern Andes, my choice for a week of Spanish school with a home stay. Well, my Spanish improved, but there's a long row to hoe.

The rainy season became more evident as I traveled to Puyo, a frontier town of the Amazon. I found out why it's called a rainforest . . . in up to my ankles in water for two days.

The most exciting place is the fifteen-acre orchid garden, a thirty-year labor of love to preserve a piece of the incredible bio-diversity of the Amazon rainforest. The corridor between the jungle and the Andes Mountains has brought 300 varieties of orchids as well as numerous animals like the sloth and thirty species of praying mantis. Omar Tello and his wife have given a gift that truly keeps on giving.

My next bus ride carried me back over the Andes via Quito to the Rio Muchaco Farm, a twenty-year permaculture project started by a couple from New Zealand. Here I was treated to a tree house room as a volunteer worker. The Ecuadorian government has recognized this farm project as an example of their future. They have established permaculture methods in fourteen elementary schools along the coast, offering students plants to take home to grow their own food.

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Our Gardener Reports (Continued from p. 7)

The adventure then changed dramatically, when my wife Elizabeth joined me in Quayaquil. We traveled on the coast to the Valley of Longevity and to the Amazon together. We engaged in the festivities of the Carnival by tossing water on the bustling streets of Vilcabamba's celebrants. Our primary focus on this journey was with the Pachamama Alliance to the Achuar Territory in the Amazon. We joined other facilitators of the climate change symposium on this eleven-day tour. Elizabeth and I have been presenting this multimedia, internationally recognized program for over a year. We have organized a symposium at our Unitarian Church for Earth Day since 2009. The intention is to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, socially just and spiritually fulfilling human presence on this planet as the guiding principle of our time. The Pachamama journey to the Amazon for us was nothing less than miraculous. It did not rain at all while we were there. The indigenous guides were most generous in sharing their Achuar culture.

Our first encounter with the village of forty, Tinkias, was for a volleyball game. We lost all of our games to the very agile Achuar. Fortunately, we introduced a frisbee to the younger children. They caught on quickly, so we enjoyed a large circle of frisbee tossing. Fun, Fun, Fun!

Our last visit was for sharing cultures, dance, singing, how to use a blowgun, as well as a feast. The food choices were Piranha, wild turkey guts, shish kabob grubs and "chicha." Chicha is a manioc root that is chewed and fermented daily. This is the primary sustaining food for the people. Our cultural exchange was a song, juggling, and we danced the Hokey Pokey to loads of laughs with Achuar joining us. Our sacred ceremony with the village shaman/elder gave us insights to our unity with all life as well as its utter impermanence. The journey to Ecuador has opened a door into a growing perspective of our relationship with Mother Earth, the "WE" experience. –David Williams

Earth Day Celebrated at Brooks-Howell

The Creation Care Team (formerly the "Green Team") sponsored several events for Earth "Day" Celebrations.* On Wednesday, May 27, residents were invited to meet with the gardeners in the Chapel. The gardeners told about what they did to care for our beautiful campus, and questions were asked by those present.

On Thursday morning, the 28th, Dr. Dorothy Sulock, a professor at UNC-A, spoke about greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane being the most common) which damage our climate and the earth, and how we can make fewer "carbon footprints." For example, we can drive our cars less often, and use less energy by reducing our use of water and heat in laundry, bathing, etc. She stressed ways of producing renewable energy, such as geothermal heat, wind power, water power, and sunlight. We must strive for sustainability, that is, having an earth that will endure. This can be done by using fewer resources and developing and using new technologies which will produce a healthy environment.

The chapel service on Thursday afternoon, "Serving Still, Caring for Creation," was led by several residents, Don Turman, Chaplain, and our gardener, David Williams. With hymns, Scripture, a "Dialogue Between Earth and Humanity," litanies and prayer we were reminded of the importance of caring for creation as part of our Christian faith, were led to confess our part in the misuse of the Creation which God has given us and challenged to do our part in preserving the Earth.

A highlight of the service was the introduction of the new power point equipment which enabled the program to be projected on the wall. This will be improved when the screen is available and the projector placed behind and above us

–Editor

*Earth Day was on Good Friday, so we observed the day the following week.

BIRTHDAYS

RESIDENTS

2 ETHEL RADDON
15 MARILYN BENSON
16 ELAINE GASSER
19 JUNE FISCHER
21 PATRICIA RIDDELL
24 JEAN MORGAN
28 RUTH PALMER
29 ROBERTA RICE
31 RAMONA TURMAN

EMPLOYEES

9 BARBARA INGLE, NURSING
21 FRED A WOODY, NURSING
27 VELIA VALDEZ, ENVIRONMENTAL SVS.
28 BRITTANY MCGAHA, NURSING



RESIDENTS

1 RUTH LEUTENEGGER
4 PAT RICHARDSON
9 EVELYN JONES
14 MABEL EHRESMAN
19 GAIL HIPKINS
20 LEON STRUNK

EMPLOYEES

6 BRITTANY EDWARDS, NURSING
7 CAROLE GILHAM, ADMINISTRATION
7 JEAN METCALF, NURSING
7 GLENDA SIMMONS, NURSING
8 DANNY DUMORE, DIETARY
8 CAROL JONES, ENVIRONMENTAL SVS.
11 KARIN DOSS, NURSING
12 LYDIA DUNCH, DIETARY
16 NANCY GARRISON, ADMINISTRATION
22 LINDA HYDER, NURSING
23 MARSELINO PLASCENCIA, DIETARY
27 TIFFANY LEE, NURSING
30 AUDREY HUSKA, NURSING



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 6 - ED & MABEL EHRESMAN
JUNE 17 - RICHARD & SYLVIA SMYTH
JUNE 18 SAM & LOIS MOHANSINGH
JUNE 20 LEGRAND & JAYNE SMITH

