

# SERENDIPITOR



**Brooks-Howell Home**

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Nov-Dec 2009

## *Thanksgiving*



**O God of Life and Love and Peace,**

**Whose blessings never cease;**

**With grateful hearts to You we raise**

**Our thankfulness and praise. \***



**Amen**

–Ruby R. Harned, former resident



\* May be sung to “St. Agnes CM”

## From Our Administrator—



For one who is seldom cold, today I had to put on a jacket, which tells me Fall is here. Because of the wet summer, the leaves are not as brilliant as they have been in past years. However, we are grateful for the summer rains as it made the flowers around Brooks-Howell beautiful.

Our Green Team is on the move again, and will begin with a retraining skit on what and where to recycle. Our state government has told us that we are no longer allowed to put plastic bottles in the dump. We were one step ahead of them in that department, as we have been recycling for a long time. We also encourage everyone to stop using so much “Plastic Water” my term for bought water in a bottle, although it is a handy thing to have in disaster situations.

In September Deaconess Becky Louter from the Deaconess Program Office held a seminar here at Brooks-Howell entitled “Planning for The Retirement Journey.” It was a three-day event with Linda Crain doing Bible study, Nathan Johnson from the Social Security office speaking on Medicare, Manuel Vargas from the Board of Pensions, Doris Gidney, on Important Records, Jeannette Byrd The Five Wishes, Betty Doll, Long Term Care, Wendy March, The Emma Project, and Nancy Garrison, Life in a Retirement Home.

Special guests for the event were Hanna and Elizabeth Louter. The three month old twin girls did not provide much entertainment as they wanted to sleep all the time.

On October 27 Brooks-Howell will have our Board Meeting and are honored to have Martha Knight, the Treasurer of The Women’s Division, with us. The residents of Brooks-Howell feel very reassured to have the Division take such special interest in us.

New residents from the local community include Marie Nailling, Elsie Massie, Agnes Jones, Dorothy Weyhenmeyer and Barbara Davis

I hope you enjoy the Thanksgiving and Christmas season .

Deaconess Nancy Garrison  
Executive Director

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### **From Church Bulletins--**

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: “The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.”

# Serving Still—

June Fischer seems to have found a pattern that enables her to “continue serving,” and to make others happier by what she does. She is involved as the Chair and Convener of the Green Team, our newest committee, that tries to make real our mandate to fight global warming. She visits in our two Health Units and sometimes reads to them; when needed, she pushes wheelchairs to get people to many activities. She often plans activities for the entire population of Brooks-Howell. We will not soon forget the Camping adventure, nor will we forget the facilitation she does to make our Friday afternoon discussions of books go smoothly! The Health Unit patients are glad for her company and attention for reading and other activities.



She helps at her church, too. Sometimes she is Assistant Cook, and when needed, she helps to serve the food.

June has been a Community Center worker, and is familiar with many ways to help. So why does she do these things-- to make life richer and more meaningful

for people who sometimes have long days and quiet nights, to make life richer and happier for all. And of course she makes her own life more full and rich as she reaches out to God’s other children. She knows the meaning of our motto, “Called, served, serving still.”

—Helene R. Hill

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Have you found the *Serendipitor* on the internet yet? If not, find [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org) and follow directions found in the last issue. You could save trees and money if you subscribe in that way—and it is much more attractive! Just let the editor know at [megill@bellsouth.net](mailto:megill@bellsouth.net).

## Brooks-Howell “Park” Refurbished

On one wall in the Brooks-Howell Dining Room is a lovely mural, known by some as the Brooks-Howell Park. Over the years it had begun to show the effects of the years. (Don’t we all!) Some months ago, Jo Lovelace brought in her paints and brush, and gradually began to restore vitality and beauty to the wall. We enjoyed freshened color and an occasional spot of new greenery. As it regained its original, inviting condition, people appeared to walk in the park. Jo insists she doesn’t know who they are. She is considering an “expansion” to the Park on to an adjacent wall.

Jo worked at Brooks-Howell for about fourteen years before retirement – two in the kitchen, and twelve working in the office with Jeannette Byrd. She also drove the Brooks-Howell bus during those years, taking residents on occasional fun trips. If you visit Brooks-Howell on some afternoons, you may be welcomed by Jo, who frequently works as receptionist, as she has for the past five years. When you visit Brooks-Howell, be sure to take a “walk” in the Park. You may even get to visit with the artist.

--Elaine M. Gasser



Jo at work on the “Park”

## Brooks-Howell Starts a Weekly UMW Reading Program

One day when four of us were sitting at the breakfast table, talking as usual about friends in our Home, and what was going on with each of them, we became aware that some of our friends could no longer enjoy reading any books at all.

Somehow the creative activity of the Holy Spirit began to work within our conversation. We were gifted with the idea of using the UMW Reading Program to involve those of our community who can no longer read easily in fellowship with those who can still read and enjoy discussing the books they read. We were joined by another, and we spent many creative breakfast hours working out the details. We then began to ask committee approval, official sanction, and for others in the community to join us.

By mid-September the UMW Reading Program began to meet every Friday afternoon for an hour. The first book discussed was *Three Cups of Tea*, a current bestseller, which is on the reading list. Helene Hill reviewed it for us. It elicited much conversation and excitement among the thirty-five participants.

At that time the program was explained: that those who could not read will receive credit for the books when they attend, and their own church UMW can report their reading credit. Others who participate are helping them as well as enjoying the discussion.

Books to be reviewed and discussed include several books by Brooks-Howell authors whose books have been chosen by the UMW Reading Program Committee. The participation in this program has been rewarding and exciting. Each event is a new adventure. The books come alive, not only because the presenters love the books they present, but because the people are involved in responding in real and meaningful ways. These times together have become more than just counting up some credits. They have become times of thinking and feeling and growing together.

The Dreamers and Planners are:  
Glady Kiger, Margaret Stewart,  
Harry Burton-Lewis, June Fischer, Naomi Wray  
—Naomi Wray

## Evening Prayers

I have been a Brooks-Howell resident for a little more than three years. During this time I have been curious about our evening meal prayers. I knew that Mary, our receptionist, distributed them on Friday afternoons. I wondered who wrote them. They are so meaningful and beautiful.

Today I asked Mary who wrote them. She said they were from Juanita Kelly's small book of prayers. Juanita, now deceased, was a resident here. Mary also said that Dr. Krummel, who was also a resident here (Fusako's husband) typed them up to be more legible.

Mary showed me a drawer where she has them carefully arranged according to months. Every Friday before she leaves for the weekend she changes the prayers. Also, when she goes on vacation she separates envelopes for her substitute at the lobby desk to put them out for her while she is away.

So thank you, Juanita and Dr. Krummel, and maybe you would like to say thank you to Mary.

So now let us join in saying the beautiful prayers that were lovingly prepared for us.

—Sarah Frances Bowden

[Many of the hymns we read or sing at our noon meal were also written by Juanita Kelly.—Ed.]



## News from Resident Services

Resident Services would like to welcome Tracey Owens as our new Activities Coordinator for the Health Care units. As a lifelong United Methodist, Tracey worked in the Christian Education field for thirteen years in North Carolina and Georgia. She is originally from Greensboro, North Carolina. Before coming to Brooks-Howell, she was the Administrative Assistant at Biltmore United Methodist Church.

Tracey is married to the Rev. Warren Owens, who is the pastor at Avery's Creek United Methodist Church in Arden. She has a nine-year-old son named Samuel who is in the third grade at Avery's Creek Elementary School.

If you haven't already done so, please stop by the Resident Services office and welcome Tracey. She looks forward to working with the staff and residents of Brooks-Howell Home.

Tracey will be working specifically with the residents of Cummings and Bancroft-Taylor Health Care Units. Phyllis Glahn will be responsible for Social Services and activities for independent residents.

### Fall Festival

#### Anna Circle of Central United Methodist Church

On Friday afternoon, September 25, the Anna Circle of Central United Methodist Church entertained residents at a delightful gathering in the chapel foyer. Bouquets of late summer flowers welcomed from each table for four. Pumpkin or apple pie, nibbles, and cider were served by circle members. The weather was ideal, the tables charming, and conversations sprightly as both residents and hostesses enjoyed the time together.

(See the photo on p. 8)

## A Visit from a Congolese Missionary

We met Jacques Umembudi Akasa, a United Methodist missionary pilot for Wings of Caring Aviation, on Sunday, October 11, first in the chapel lobby and then in the media room where he showed slides of his life in the Congo. Flying is the



only way to connect to villages with people and necessary supplies.

Jacques is a man of faith, in himself and his work, flying above the cloud cover by instruments and landing by educated guess and guts!

The world's biggest head of broccoli, say passengers when they look down on the canopy of virgin forest covering much of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The forest stretches for hundreds of miles over DR Congo's equatorial belt. Over the remoter parts you could easily fly more than an hour without seeing a road, a clearing, river or house.

This mission started after World War II and now has three Congolese pilots and an Aviation Resource Department for technical advice, where new safety equipment and training is available.

Mr. Umembudi told about the time his plane crashed, fortunately not killing anyone. He was injured, but not seriously. The plane, however, was destroyed. Without it remote villages are going without critical supplies, and people who wish to reach some of the church institutions have to drive for many hours.

He is speaking in a number of churches during his leave, and is seeking funds to replace his plane. (He told us that the Board of Global Ministries does not want any church or person who is contributing to his support to give instead for the plane, but other contributions are welcome.)

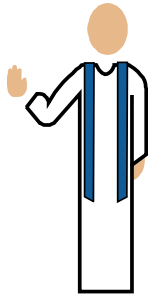
In the library there is a copy of the July/August 2009 *New World Outlook*, which shows pilot Jacques

(Continued p. 6)

## From Our Chaplain - -

### Simplicity and Generosity

It was a Sunday afternoon and Ramona and I were taking a walk on a back road on the outskirts of Asheville. Since we had been reading Adam Hamilton's book, *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*, our conversation was about how we could live more simply and be more generous. As we walked we noticed a few houses that were obviously the homes of residents native to the area and many homes of affluent newcomers.



As we approached a small, much older, weatherboard house I exclaimed, "Now there is a good example of simplicity in lifestyle!" The residents of this home raised chickens and even though summer was ending there was still a productive remnant of what had been a large vegetable garden. As we passed I looked through the shade trees and spotted the raised arm and hand of an elderly gentleman waving a greeting to us. I waved back and commented on his fine garden.

Since the road was a dead end, it was necessary for us to pass by this house on our return to our car. This time the man had moved his chair into the open yard beside the front porch and his dog was barking but wagging its tail in a friendly manner. Together with the man's wide grin it seemed like an obvious invitation to conversation so we walked up the drive and enjoyed a short visit with John and his brother, Jack. They were born in this house and had come back to it in retirement to spend their latter years. It was apparent that they were content and enjoying life. When we were ready to leave they asked us to wait so they could get some corn and peppers from their garden. With those in hand we were told that if we would come back in a few days more corn would be ready.

We continued our walk feeling very honored to have experienced this genuine demonstration of hospitality and generosity, and we were so thankful that we had taken the time to visit with John and Jack.

It is not necessary for me to leave the Brooks-Howell Home campus to find persons who value simplicity and generosity. That is the norm here and I feel privileged to live among so many who have discovered the joy of living simply and giving generously of themselves.

Several points from Adam Hamilton's writings have also become standards to achieve in order to be defined by generosity. The first is that God has created us to be generous and therefore we have a need to be generous in order to find completeness and contentment in life. The second is that we should learn to live "below our means" so that we can be free to be generous in responding to the needs of others.

All of these witnesses to the joy of living in simplicity and generosity inspire me to allow God to shape my life to become more like them.

--Don Turman, Chaplain

### Congolese Missionary (Continued from p.5)

with a group of children who greeted him at the airstrip. A real super hero!

--Cynthia Ward

[Some information about the ministry was taken from the article "Aviation Ministry" by missionary Stephen Quigg, pp. 26ff in the above magazine.]



## *I Remember—*

### **God At Work Through Wesley House Centers**



I was fortunate to serve on the staff of Wesley House, and I tell my story so that you will know what God brought to pass in that place. You have to realize that any story I tell about what happened there is a story of what Wesley House meant to the neighborhood.

For instance, there was a little boy named Jerome (not his real name, of course), about eight years old, who came often to the playground. He could not participate in playground activities because he could not focus on what he should be doing long enough to be part of the group. He would play about thirty minutes, then he broke down and turned over tables, chairs, playground equipment all over the place. He could not stand being unable to do it all himself, and I had to take him home because he simply could not function on the playground. His mother was an alcoholic, which made life extremely difficult for him.

One day while he was having such a hard time they came to get me to come and take him away from the other children. I brought him to the office and closed the door. He spat on the floor. I told him that was enough of that kind of behavior, and he would need to clean the floor. I got him a bucket and some rags and I got down on the floor and helped him. We got the mess cleared up, and I showed him how to put the bucket away.

Jerome began to change as he grew older and when he ran into “no-no” flags, I tried to help him understand himself and the world he lived in. I saw him learning to think before he acted. He made it to high school, and one day he told me that he wanted to go to college. I had already made arrangements for him to go to a technical school because I felt sure that was the place where he would have the greatest possibility for success. But Jerome was determined to go to college. I felt that he deserved my support in making his own decision.

I talked to the President of Andrew College. I also made a serious commitment to the college to try to help Jerome. I made many trips to bring him home, and on one trip when I had to go get him, I was aware of his anxiety as he asked me why everybody didn’t have the same kind of problems he had. I told him that the things that happened to him at home and in other places made it difficult for him to take responsibility for his own actions. We talked more, and he seemed to find some peace.

He came back home and went to Technical School, where the stresses were not so extreme for him and he had more understanding and support. He was nineteen then, and he felt the year at college had helped him. After graduation he got a job in a local store. He told me how pleased he was to be able to make his own money. One morning while we were talking, he said, “Miss A, you understand me better than anybody else.” I knew that he had grown up. He had matured enough to work on his problems himself. When our office was moved Jerome continued to come by just to stay in touch.

—Doris Alexander

(This is the story that Doris Alexander told to me about her time at Wesley House in Atlanta, Georgia. I loved working with her on it. Ann Janzen)

## Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand  
My faltering step and palsied hand.

Blessed are they who know that my ears today  
Must strain to catch the things they say.

Blessed are they who seem to know  
That my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.

Blessed are they who looked away  
When coffee spilled at table today.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile  
who stop to chat for a little  
while.



Blessed are they who never say,  
“You’ve told that story twice  
today.”

Blessed are they who know the  
ways

To bring back memories of yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it known  
That I’m loved, respected and not alone.

Blessed are they who know I’m at a loss  
To find the strength to carry the Cross.

Blessed are they who ease the days  
On my journey in loving ways.

—Esther Mary Walker



### He Bade Me Come

He stood tall  
with blistered hands  
and a finger nail as  
black as night.

His presence beckoned me  
to come.

No words need fall  
nor any voice call.

I went

because he showed authority.  
But more ‘twas the true  
humility of his humanity  
that drew me toward him.  
Because this carpenter  
with well-worn hands and bruised  
bade me come.

I went.

© Linda Frost (former resident, deceased)

Creator of this wondrous world,  
With all its beauty now unfurled,  
Each newborn leaf is from Your own hand,  
Gift to enhance and bless our land.  
Our hearts are filled with gratitude  
as we give thanks in reverent mood;  
Yours the glory now and for aye,  
Dear Lord, we pray. Amen.

—Juanita M. Kelly (former resident, deceased)

## Fall Festival, Anna Circle, Central U.M.C.



*Mariella Dumont, Miriam Parsell, Betsy Ewing, and  
Bettie Sue Smith enjoy refreshments  
at the Fall Festival*

# BIRTHDAYS



## November

### RESIDENTS

1 ILO STEWART  
2 MARTHA STRUNK  
4 MARIELLA DUMONT  
7 LUCY GIST  
8 JANET HUTCHINSON  
9 LOIS MOHANSINGH  
12 JOHN HOWE  
12 NOLA SMEE  
19 GRACE ESTEL  
19 HELEN GRANT  
21 BARBARA CROUNSE  
22 LIBBY JOHANNABER

### EMPLOYEES

1 WYNDI WHITAKER, NURSING  
3 TRACEY OWENS, RES SERVICES  
5 WILLIAM COWAN, NURSING  
7 JEANNETTE MAYFIELD, ENVIRON SVS  
10 SARA MARSHALL, NURSING  
11 OLENA MARRENGULYE, NURSING  
14 NATALYA YEREMENKO, NURSING  
20 JULIE BRASSINGTON, NURSING



## December

### RESIDENTS

3 RICHARD SMYTH  
4 ELIZABETH THOMPSON  
5 GERALD EISNITZ  
7 JAYNE SMITH  
9 PATRICIA ROTHROCK  
13 EUNICE SLUYTER  
18 LORETTA GRUVER  
20 CASSIE RABB  
21 PAULINE CHAMBERS  
25 SUSAN CARMICHAEL  
25 MARGARET CRAVEN  
28 VERA WOODCOCK

### EMPLOYEES

7 RETINA HALAI, DIETARY  
10 SALLIE BURNS, NURSING  
12 JEANNE GRESKI, NURSING  
14 JO ANN MUSE, NURSING  
14 SHEILA MCCARTY, NURSING  
17 TIFFANEY DIXON, DIETARY  
21 MARY HARRIN, ADMINISTRATION  
23 BRENDA MUSE, NURSING  
30 JO LOVELACE, ADMINISTRATION  
31 JACYNTHIA LORDMAN, NURSING  
31 MARY JO MESSER, NURSING

## ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER 7 - MARTHA & LEON STRUNK

DECEMBER 31 - RAMONA & DON TURMAN

