Seeding a Heritage

Read the story about Wesleyan Homes resident

Al Greeberg
(pictured on the cover)

and his proposal to grow heritage trees at
The Wesleyan at Estrella Independent Living.

His story is featured in a new online blog:

Mission Moments.

To read Al’s story or others, visit
https://wesleyanhomes.wordpress.com/
and join us in sharing the mission of
Wesleyan Homes.
Building Community
By Dr. Dale Schultz, Chairperson, Wesleyan Homes Board of Trustees

And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I will be there. – Jesus
Matthew 18:20, The Message

Welcome to another Wesleyan Window!

In this issue, we give you a view inside Wesleyan Homes that helps you see how we build community through residents, family members, volunteers and staff.

Community: Shared relations that empower, deepen, and strengthen faith, life, and faithful living.

Jesus modeled authentic community. He connected with persons, creating relationships. He responded to human need with compassion, expressing genuine care. His faith was show-and-tell as he walked the walk. Jesus taught his followers to grow beyond the intellectual teacher-student learning to actively help persons to be transformed through belief in God’s gift of Life.

Wesleyan Homes learns from Jesus how to build authentic community. As you read these stories about how we do this, celebrate that your prayers and generous gifts help make our community thriving and vital.

Thank you for praying! Thank you for giving!

In Christ,
Dale
Community comes from within. It can’t be imported, delivered or purchased. It is something we create together. And, every community is unique because of the individuals who belong to it, the qualities they bring, the shared experiences and the people who live and work here. It is not uncommon to hear residents describe one another and the staff as neighbors or family.

Perhaps no one is in a better position to observe the unique qualities of the Wesleyan community than the irrepressible Michelle Munk, Life Enrichment Director at The Wesleyan at Estrella Independent Living. She is also an award-winner for creating a multi-faceted wellness program that has garnered national attention.

With obvious pride, Michelle stated, "Wellness is one of our core values and at least 80% of our residents enjoy taking part in our activities. We have four classes a day including balance, yoga, and chair aerobics and we have around sixty people participating daily. That’s important because these regular interactions contribute to a strong sense of community."

"From the first day residents arrive, the Welcome Committee does a great job in making them feel at home. We get to know new residents while they are on the waiting list and have lunch with them in the dining room for the first day or two. That may seem like a little thing, but it makes a big difference."

"We have so many activities for residents to choose from – from eating out, going to theatre productions or concerts, shopping excursions or just a drive to see the bluebonnets in bloom. Whatever the destination, we are building community through shared experiences. But some of the best community building comes from casual conversations in the lobby or during a meal."

"With the new addition at The Wesleyan at Estrella Independent Living, we’ll have even more common community space for people to come together. It’s exciting to think about what the future will bring."

The Power of Community

Lunch is a time of laughter and friendship for Independent Living residents. (From left to right: Dena Hill, Martha Steele, staff member Shannon Sansom, Beverly Bendall, Mary Lee Fiorschuetz, and Esther Goederl.)
“Any of us who are having struggles might get a card from half the people who live here. We all sign cards to help support people who are sick or grieving or struggling. In our worship time on Wednesday nights, we pray for whoever is sick or in the hospital. It’s very caring place.”

Anita Nelson stated, “The most important thing about living here is that we care about and love each other. People say to me, ‘How do you like it there?’ And I say, ‘How would you like to be surrounded by 140 people who care about you?’ I don’t think there’s a person here who is not cared for. The other day someone stuck their head in the door of my room and said, ‘We prayed for you tonight.’ I’d been a little under the weather that day and somehow cared enough to tell the person who was leading the service about me. It’s that kind of caring that’s just so amazing and it continues day after day.”

Esther added, “Beverly befriended Martha and got her to come down every day and get involved. Now she’s outgoing and visits with everybody.”

Beverly said, “If Martha needed anything, I was there. And I still am. Next week is her birthday so we’re all going out to Dos Salsas to celebrate. It’s the most popular Mexican restaurant in town so we’re going at four o’clock to make sure we can get a table!”

Dena Hill observed, “The staff treats us wonderfully. If we need anything, they can ask for it and they’ll do it. I’ve never had them refuse to do something that I asked for. For example, I can signal to Shannon by holding my cup up and I’ll get a new cup of coffee. It’s like magic.”

Shannon Samson came up to the table with a big smile. “He’s a favorite of the group. He was asked how he would describe the group and quickly replied, ‘They are a handful!’ The ladies laughed loudly and agreed with him! Shannon started working with Wesleyan Homes at the old Retirement Home on University Avenue when he was 17 years old. Thirty-two years later he has not lost his love for the mission of Wesleyan Homes.”

Dena recalled, “We almost lost him a few years ago. He had kidney failure and was in a coma for six days, so we decided to have a prayer vigil for him. The idea didn’t come from the .”

spaces to offer: an expanded fitness center, swimming pool, a café, crafts center and a large activity room that will hold all the residents for entertainment, lectures and special events. Recently, we had a theatrical performance directed by two women who moved here from Sun City where they were actresses in the local community theater. They are talented actresses and write and direct plays, too. Their recent performance was such a success that they took it ‘on the road’ and performed for the residents at Assisted Living, too.

There is no better way to understand the sense of community than to share a meal with a group of Wesleyan Homes residents. One group of lively Independent Living ladies sits together at meals and consider one another great friends. Their ages — which they volunteered with pride — run from 72 to 93, but with their spirit, conversation and sense of humor, they seem decades younger! When asked what brought them together, they all had something to say: “We just gravitated together.” “This is a very caring bunch.” “We’re a happy table.” “We laugh and enjoy each other.” Sometimes we laugh so loud that other tables talk at us like we’re a little crazy. We like that!

Martha Steele spoke quietly, “I’m legally blind and so it wasn’t easy for me when I first moved in. When Beverly Bendall moved next door, my life changed.”

Mary Lee Floschuetz shared, “I got into this group after my kidney failure and was in a coma for six days, so we decided to have a prayer vigil for him. The idea didn’t come from the .”

Anita Nelson stated, “The most important thing about living here is that we care about and love each other. People say to me, ‘How do you like it there?’ And I say, ‘How would you like to be surrounded by 140 people who care about you?’ I don’t think there’s a person here who is not cared for. The other day someone stuck their head in the door of my room and said, ‘We prayed for you tonight.’ I’d been a little under the weather that day and somehow cared enough to tell the person who was leading the service about me. It’s that kind of caring that’s just so amazing and it continues day after day.”

Esther added, “Beverly befriended Martha and got her to come down every day and get involved. Now she’s outgoing and visits with everybody.”

Beverly said, “If Martha needed anything, I was there. And I still am. Next week is her birthday so we’re all going out to Dos Salsas to celebrate. It’s the most popular Mexican restaurant in town so we’re going at four o’clock to make sure we can get a table!”

Dena Hill observed, “The staff treats us wonderfully. If we need anything, they can ask for it and they’ll do it. I’ve never had them refuse to do something that I asked for. For example, I can signal to Shannon by holding my cup up and I’ll get a new cup of coffee. It’s like magic.”

Shannon Samson came up to the table with a big smile. “He’s a favorite of the group. He was asked how he would describe the group and quickly replied, ‘They are a handful!’ The ladies laughed loudly and agreed with him! Shannon started working with Wesleyan Homes at the old Retirement Home on University Avenue when he was 17 years old. Thirty-two years later he has not lost his love for the mission of Wesleyan Homes.”

Dena recalled, “We almost lost him a few years ago. He had kidney failure and was in a coma for six days, so we decided to have a prayer vigil for him. The idea didn’t come from the .”

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wheelis
Mr. & Mrs. Carl V. Cawood
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Chandler
Dean Humankind (Matching Gift)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Aymond
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Disch
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bullard
Rev. John & Lucy Aymond
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Canet
Mr. & Mrs. D. Hawthorn
Mr. & Mrs. R. Ray Young
Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Wright
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Disch
Dena Hill observed, “The staff treats us wonderfully. If we need anything, they can ask for it and they’ll do it. I’ve never had them refuse to do something that I asked for. For example, I can signal to Shannon by holding my cup up and I’ll get a new cup of coffee. It’s like magic.”

Shannon Samson came up to the table with a big smile. “He’s a favorite of the group. He was asked how he would describe the group and quickly replied, ‘They are a handful!’ The ladies laughed loudly and agreed with him! Shannon started working with Wesleyan Homes at the old Retirement Home on University Avenue when he was 17 years old. Thirty-two years later he has not lost his love for the mission of Wesleyan Homes.”

Dena recalled, “We almost lost him a few years ago. He had kidney failure and was in a coma for six days, so we decided to have a prayer vigil for him. The idea didn’t come from the.
administrators, but from us. We told people we were going to gather in the activities room in the afternoon and the word spread. That afternoon, the room was packed with residents and staff gathered to pray for Shannon. To me, that’s the definition of community.

“His mother told us that she believed our prayers made a difference. Eventually he came out of the coma, recovered and came back to work. The first day that Shannon came back, he was standing by the front door and everybody stood up and clapped for him. He is loved by everybody.”

Mary Lee says, “I give a lot of credit to the administrators who choose the people who work here. They just don’t hire anybody. They find people with a caring heart. We care for them and they care for us. That’s true at every level from the administrators to the kitchen staff and maintenance workers.”

Dena surprised the group with a story. “One of the things I like best is the chance to get to know the staff members. We have a driver who has tattoos and must cover them up ... and made me understand why they were meaningful to him. Up until then I didn’t have a good feeling about tattoos, but he changed my mind because he took the time to talk to me. He’s a very sweet boy and I’m fond of him.”

The group agreed that one of the most important reasons for the strong sense of community at Independent Living is that it is a faith community. They also appreciate the length of service of so many staff members. Some of them have been with the Wesleyan Homes for 30 years or more. They realize that you can’t buy that kind of loyalty.

Anita had the last word and the last laugh: “Occasionally, I hear somebody grumble about the food and I always say, ‘Oh, did you have 365 days of perfect meals at your house? That is amazing!’ When people start complaining, we don’t have time for that. We have more important things to do.”

For this community, the “important things to do” are caring for and loving one another through both times of laughter and times of tears. A recent visitor remarked, “You can tell that this is a very special place as soon as you walk through the door. It’s not just a place to live, it is a genuine community.”

IN HONOR OF WESLEYAN EMPLOYEES

Mrs. LaTrelle Adams
Mrs. Doris Alexander
Mr. Stacy Allen
Mrs. Bernice Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Don Barrosh
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Been
Mr. Robert Bentley
Ms. Louise W. Bird
Ms. Kaye Bishop
Mrs. Evelyn Bonfacic
Mr. William Boyce
Mr. Frank Briner
Mrs. Gladys Brokhausen
Mrs. Gladys Brookin
Ms. Sally Brownfield
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Byrd
Ms. Peggy M. Calore
Ms. Jeannene Carmichael
Mrs. Anita Carter
Rev. Ray Carter
Dr. Virginia Carwell
Mrs. Carol Case
Mrs. Linda Major Clark
Mr. Travis Lynn Cook
Ms. Katherine Council
Mrs. Willie Fay Coverston
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Cox
Ms. Mollie Crane
Mrs. & Mrs. Ralph Croteau
Mrs. Peggy Cummins
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Daniel
Mrs. Gloria Daniel
Ms. Christine Dawson
Ms. Ima Dean
Mr. Leon Dixon
Mr. Jimmie Dollins
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Eiberbach
Mr. Chris Edwards
Ms. Paula Edwards
Mrs. Jane Finch
Mrs. Frances C. Fly
Mrs. Lena Fraser
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Friedrich
Mr. & Mrs. James Fry
Mr. Charles Galea
Mrs. Genevieve Gelles
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gleason
Ms. Anna Gomez
Mrs. Esther Goodfet

Mrs. Jackie Green
Mr. & Mrs. Al Greenberg, Jr.
Mr. George Griffin
Rev. & Mrs. Norman E. Griffith
Mrs. Billie Harlow
Mr. & Mrs. James Harrington
Mrs. Mildred Harris
Mrs. Norma D. Harris
Mr. & Mrs. John R. Hawkins
Mr. John Henderson
Mr. & Mrs. Walt Henderson
Mrs. Dena Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hoenerhoff
Mrs. Jerry Holton
Ms. Jeanne Hollebeck
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holliday
Ms. Nita Hornbeck
Mrs. Lula Dimple Johnson
Mr. Bill Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Randy P. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Jones
Mrs. Eleanor Lynn Juhl
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Kahn
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Katz
Ms. Olga Keane
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Keller
Dr. Dennis Kennedy
Ms. Lois Eleanor Kilpatrick
Mr. Alfred Kircher, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dan S. Kirklin
Mrs. Lou Knudsen
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Larsen
Ms. Katherine Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Royce Lindsey
Mrs. Louise Loyd
Mr. & Mrs. Craig A. Lynam
Mr. John Maclay, Jr.
Ms. Gloria Maire
Mr. Daniel Margolis
Ms. Ruth Masey
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Marwiczak
Mrs. Louise G. Maxfield
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin McCray
Mrs. Judith H. McDowell
Mrs. Pam Meyners
Mr. John L. Miller, Jr.
Mr. Arthur Mischke
Mr. Ned Morris
Mr. William Allen Munson
Ms. C. Maye Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Neal
Mrs. Anita Nelson

Mrs. Katherine Nethery
Ms. Pamela Norton
Mrs. Marjorie Owens
Mr. John Park
Mrs. Deanne Peek
Mr. & Vera G. Percy
Mrs. Shirley Perrin
Mrs. Rena Aldrich Perry
Mrs. Alyce Phillips
Mrs. Minnie C. Pilgren
Mr. David Pina
Mrs. Tracie Poche
Dr. & Mrs. Jesse Purdy
Mrs. Mari Quinlivan
Mrs. Dorothy Radebaugh
Ms. Gale R. Radebaugh
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Ramsey
Mrs. June D. Reuther
Mrs. Erma R. Reynolds
Ms. Jean Rippel
Ms. Marilyn Ritenour
Mrs. June Rymes
Mr. Ray Sansom
Mr. & Mrs. William Saul
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Schemack, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Don Schoen
Dr. & Mrs. Everett Schum
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Scott
Ms. Joanne Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Fremon Shevally
Mrs. Wanda Shields
Mrs. Grace Singleton
Vicky Simwell
Mrs. Bonnie Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. John Steele
Mrs. Martha Steele
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Sumpter
Mrs. Barbara Swenson
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Syers
Mrs. Joyce Tally
Mrs. Barbara Nelle Taylor
Ms. Virginia M. Thomas
Ms. Jimmie Tidwell
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Toft
Mr. William H. Tommy
Ms. Elaine J. Torossian
Mr. Earl Truesdale
Mrs. Novella Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wallace
Ms. Cynthia Warren
Mrs. Mary Warrington
Moving to Assisted Living

Resident Anne Wise enjoys a walk outdoors with Assisted Living Life Enrichment Director Laura Pittman.

Moving is always stressful, but moving because you need more assistance with daily activities is a decision many of us dread. Making the transition from living independently to living with assistance requires an acceptance of our limitations, support from family and staff members, and the courage to make a major change. On The Wesleyan at Estrella campus, our Independent Living and Assisted Living communities are only 500 yards apart. But, for the resident needing a higher level of care, the psychological and emotional distance can be vast.

Anne Wise, a resident of The Wesleyan at Estrella Assisted Living, made that transition two years ago. She explained, “I lived in Independent Living for four years and loved it. I was on the Resident Council, used the putting green and was active in a knitting group. I had a lot of good friends and didn’t feel that I was old because I was having such a good time.” “Then I began to have some falls and that worried me. I also had to take a number of pills every morning and one day I took two of the same pills and got really sick. Within a week, I was talking about moving to Assisted Living.”

Anne’s daughter, Dotty Culig, who lives locally, treated the move to Assisted Living much as she and her siblings had an earlier move to Independent Living. Dotty recalls the initial decision to move to The Wesleyan at Estrella, “Mother was living in Conroe. We took advantage of a visit my sister, who lives in Florida, made to Texas to take a tour of the Independent Living community. Even though Mother had been on the waiting list, when we brought up the tour, she hesitated and said, ‘I’m not ready for this.’”

“My siblings and I told her that it was just a tour, and she did not have to make a commitment.” The tour is important because often seniors have a misconception of what today’s senior living communities are like. After Anne visited Inde-

Mr. Bob Florence (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mr. Duane Florschuetz (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Toft
Mrs. Nettie Ruth Bratton
Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo Gleason (Wendland Chapel Windows)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gleason
Mrs. Hazel Harbert (Hospice)
Mr. Joe Harbert
Ms. Geneva Harris (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Hart
Mr. Sam Harris (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Mickan
Ms. Helen Haynes (Benevolent)
Mrs. Tamara Jan Woolheater
Ms. Cecilia Heiskell (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Porter
Mr. Albert Hoelck (Benevolent)
Ms. Joyce Hoelck
Ms. Anna Marie Huser (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Hazelwood
Ms. Helen Jansen (Benevolent)
Mr. George Jansen
Mrs. Sue C. Jones (Benevolent)
Mrs. Helen Johnson
Mr. Kent Johnson
Bishop & Mrs. Joe Wilson
Ms. Georgianne Hewett
Ms. Elizabeth Kerr (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mr. Paul Kerr (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mrs. Midge Krieg (Benevolent)
Mrs. Lauren Peck
Mr. Robert Kunetka (Benevolent)
Mrs. Evelyn Kunetka
Mr. & Mrs. Montel Lowe (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Duke
Ms. Emma Meadows (Benevolent)
Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Brueckner
Mr. Don L. Mitchell (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Delr Warren
Mr. Roy McIndree (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Guarnowski
Mr. Jimmie Mitchell (Benevolent)
Mr. Keith Mitchell
Ms. Joyce Darlene Murff (Wesleyan at Scenic)
Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Brueckner
Mr. Claude Nelson (Benevolent)
Mrs. Linda Guarnowski
Mr. & Mrs. George Nelson (Benevolent)
Mr. George Jansen
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Peace
Ms. Elizabeth Oatman (Benevolent)
Dr. & Mrs. Jake B. Schrum
Mr. Harold Riggs (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Yarbrough
Ms. Peggy Rudaell (Hospice)
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Weatherbee
Dr. Stan Rupert (Benevolent)
Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Brueckner
Ms. Renee Schogal (Benevolent)
Mrs. Jeanne Sorbel
Ms. Ann Smith (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mr. Clinton Sorbel (Benevolent)
Mrs. Jeanne Sorbel
Mr. C. H. Stubblefield (Hospice)
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Stubblefield, Jr.
Ms. Amanda Teague (Benevolent)
Ms. Jeana Jones
Mr. Frank Todd (Benevolent)
Mrs. Tess Todd
Ms. Eileen Voss (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Voss
Mr. Phil Walden (Benevolent)
Mrs. Theresa Walden
Mr. Murray Wier (Benevolent)
Mrs. Marjorie Wier
Ms. Dorothy Zuluaf (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin R. Jones
Ms. Viola Davis (Home Health)
Ms. Joyce McGinnis
Ms. Mary Ellen Cromer (Benevolent)
Mr. Richard B. Murphy
Ms. Vivian Desum (Benevolent)
Mrs. Jackie Brawner
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Duke (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Duke
Ms. Virginia Evers (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. R. Doug Davis
Mr. & Mrs. William “Bill” Flagg (Benevolent)
Rev. Mary Powell
Mr. Steve Barrett
Mrs. Gloria Flagg (Benevolent)
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Ramsey
Mrs. Carol Case
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Wright
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Bonner
Mrs. Esther Gooderl
Ms. Georgianne Hewett
Ms. Argentine Mary Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Toft
Mr. & Mrs. John Fisher
Mrs. Nettie Ruth Bratton
Ms. Bob Florence (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mr. Duane Florschuetz (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Toft
Mrs. Nettie Ruth Bratton
Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo Gleason (Wendland Chapel Windows)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gleason
Mrs. Hazel Harbert (Hospice)
Mr. Joe Harbert
Ms. Geneva Harris (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Hart
Mr. Sam Harris (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Lester
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Mickan
Ms. Helen Haynes (Benevolent)
Mrs. Tamara Jan Woolheater
Ms. Cecilia Heiskell (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Porter
Mr. Albert Hoelck (Benevolent)
Ms. Joyce Hoelck
Ms. Anna Marie Huser (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Hazelwood
Ms. Helen Jansen (Benevolent)
Mr. George Jansen
Mrs. Sue C. Jones (Benevolent)
Mrs. Helen Johnson
Mr. Kent Johnson
Bishop & Mrs. Joe Wilson
Ms. Georgianne Hewett
Ms. Elizabeth Kerr (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mr. Paul Kerr (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mrs. Midge Krieg (Benevolent)
Mrs. Lauren Peck
Mr. Robert Kunetka (Benevolent)
Mrs. Evelyn Kunetka
Mr. & Mrs. Montel Lowe (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Duke
Ms. Emma Meadows (Benevolent)
Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Brueckner
Mr. Don L. Mitchell (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Delr Warren
Mr. Roy McIndree (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Guarnowski
Mr. Jimmie Mitchell (Benevolent)
Mr. Keith Mitchell
Ms. Joyce Darlene Murff (Wesleyan at Scenic)
Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Brueckner
Mr. Claude Nelson (Benevolent)
Mrs. Linda Guarnowski
Mr. & Mrs. George Nelson (Benevolent)
Mr. George Jansen
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Peace
Ms. Elizabeth Oatman (Benevolent)
Dr. & Mrs. Jake B. Schrum
Mr. Harold Riggs (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Yarbrough
Ms. Peggy Rudaell (Hospice)
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Weatherbee
Dr. Stan Rupert (Benevolent)
Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Brueckner
Ms. Renee Schogal (Benevolent)
Mrs. Jeanne Sorbel
Ms. Ann Smith (Benevolent)
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence
Mr. Clinton Sorbel (Benevolent)
Mrs. Jeanne Sorbel
Mr. C. H. Stubblefield (Hospice)
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Stubblefield, Jr.
Ms. Amanda Teague (Benevolent)
Ms. Jeana Jones
Mr. Frank Todd (Benevolent)
Mrs. Tess Todd
Ms. Eileen Voss (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Voss
Mr. Phil Walden (Benevolent)
Mrs. Theresa Walden
Mr. Murray Wier (Benevolent)
Mrs. Marjorie Wier
Ms. Dorothy Zuluaf (Benevolent)
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin R. Jones

Transitions in Aging: Moving to Assisted Living

Anne Wise, a resident of The Wesleyan at Estrella Assisted Living, made that transition two years ago. She explained, “I lived in Independent Living for four years and loved it. I was on the Resident Council, used the putting green and was active in a knitting group. I had a lot of good friends and didn’t feel that I was old because I was having such a good time.” “Then I began to have some falls and that worried me. I also had to take a number of pills every morning and one day I took two of the same pills and got really sick. Within a week, we were talking about moving to Assisted Living.”

Anne’s daughter, Dotty Culig, who lives locally, treated the move to Assisted Living much as she and her siblings had an earlier move to Independent Living. Dotty recalls the initial decision to move to The Wesleyan at Estrella, “Mother was living in Conroe. We took advantage of a visit my sister, who lives in Florida, made to Texas to take a tour of the Independent Living community. Even though Mother had been on the waiting list, when we brought up the tour, she hesitated and said, ‘I’m not ready for this.’”

“My siblings and I told her that it was just a tour, and she did not have to make a commitment.” The tour is important because often seniors have a misconception of what today’s senior living communities are like. After Anne visited Inde¬
From October 20, 2016 to March 20, 2017, Wesleyan Homes gives thanks for the individuals and organizations who, through their gifts, contribute to the fulfillment of our mission.

**In Honor**

Mr. James B. Adams (Benevolent)  Mrs. Margie Anne Avery
Mrs. Beverly Bendall (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Randy Bendall
Dr. Douglas Benold (Benevolent)  Mrs. Jeannine Fairburn
Dr. Dan Bonner (Benevolent)  Ms. Georgianne Hewett
Mrs. Nettie Ruth Bratton (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Norman Roe
Ms. Peggy Calcote (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Koog
Rev. Ray Carter (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Joyce Lindsey
Mrs. Willis Fay Coverston (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Keith Carter
Estrella Staff (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Claude Folta
Georgetown First United Methodist Church (Benevolent)  Mrs. Ruth Verhoef
Georgetown First United Methodist Church, Pastors and Staff (Phase III)  Mrs. & Mrs. Herschel Koberlein
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gleason (Benevolent)  Dr. Melinda Hester & Mr. Larry Hester
Ms. Bettie Hagar (Benevolent)  Ms. Jennifer Bollman
Mrs. Linda Hutchings (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Hugh E. Grantstaff
Mrs. O. V. Johnson (Benevolent)  Mr. Barry Johnson
Mr. William Krieg (Benevolent)  Mrs. Lauren Peck
Mrs. Rochelle Margolis (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Carl Seth
Mrs. Shirley McKinney (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Michael McKinney
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Parham  Dr. & Mrs. Eric McKinney
Ms. Mary Morgan (Benevolent)  Ms. Dolly Shubbert
Mr. Allen Munson (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Munson
Mrs. Alyce Phillips (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. John Phillips
Mrs. Julia Schrum (Benevolent)  Dr. & Mrs. Jake B. Schrum
Mr. Tim Stuteville (Wesleyan at Scenic)  Ms. Kathleen To & Mr. Harold Bresnahan
Rev. Travis Summerlin (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Ed Komandosky
Dr. B. Gayle Twiname (Benevolent)  Ms. Peggy Reed
Mrs. Alice Ambrose (Benevolent)  Mrs. Corrine Davenport
Ms. Lela Mae Anderson-Watt (Benevolent)  Ms. Diane Sansom
Mr. & Mrs. H. V. Beck (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Grayson Browning
Ms. Elaine Becker (Benevolent)  Mrs. Ruth Mueller  Mr. & Mrs. Jim Albers
Rev. Donald Bendewald (Benevolent)  Mrs. Betty Horn Bendewald
Mr. & Mrs. Buz Bessac (Benevolent)  Rev. Dr. Martha Bessac
Mrs. Charles Boleson (Benevolent)  Mrs. June Boleson
Ms. Irene Bourwell (Benevolent)  Mr. George Jansen
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Brady (Benevolent)  Mrs. Norma D. Harris
Mr. Glen Breaux (Benevolent)  Mrs. Doris Breaux Garey
Mr. Wally Brown (Benevolent)  Mrs. Barbara Brown
Mr. Wally Brown (Hostpice)  Mrs. Barbara Brown
Mr. Ralph Carter (Benevolent)  Mrs. Judy Gravett
Ms. Katherine Council (Benevolent)  Rev. Nancy Woods
Ms. Mildred Crawford (Benevolent)  Dr. Melinda Hester & Mr. Larry Hester
Mr. & Mrs. David Crawford (Wendland Chapel Windows)  Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gleason
Mr. Horace C. Davidson, Jr. (Wendland Chapel Windows)  Dr. Jane D. Davidson

**IN MEMORY**

Mrs. Alice Ambrose (Benevolent)  Mrs. Corrine Davenport
Ms. Lela Mae Anderson-Watt (Benevolent)  Ms. Diane Sansom
Mr. & Mrs. H. V. Beck (Benevolent)  Mr. & Mrs. Grayson Browning

*Anne Wise*

“Making the moving was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

I’ve also kept up with my friends from Independent Living. They come to visit me here and I go over and visit them. Once a month we host a tea at Assisted Living and invite everyone from Independent Living to join us. I haven’t lost my old friends, but added a whole new group of people I enjoy.

“One day I saw Pete Mireles, the head of maintenance at Independent Living, and told him that I missed seeing him. The very next morning he came over to Assisted Living and I knew he was responding to me. I feel like the staff are my buddies. I don’t need anyone to walk with me in the building, but if I’m going outside I have someone with me. And I love to walk! Sometimes I take two walks a day because it makes you feel so good. I’m not much on sitting around doing nothing. We do a lot of crafts here and if I get stuck the staff will help me finish it and then I can say, ‘Look what we did!’

“Not everyone has that attitude and it makes adapting to change easier.”

Anne has become an advocate for those who need Assisted Living, but can’t bring themselves to move. “I’ve told a lot of my friends at Independent Living that I love it here and that they will love it if they decide to come. I’ve been here for two years now and making the move was one of the best decisions I ever made. I made a decision to be happy and I intend to keep it that way.”

Mrs. & Mrs. Carl Seth

---

**Ease Your Transition**

- Take a tour of the facility
- Enjoy a meal, join in an activity, and meet the residents and staff
- Add your name to the waiting list. Get your family members on the same page
- Work with doctors and staff members to make an assessment
- Listen to one another's concerns
- Recognize that it is a hard decision
- Acknowledge sense of loss
- Celebrate the benefits
Nurturing Spiritual Community: Wesleyan Chaplains Bring Comfort, Hope and Peace

Wesleyan Chaplains Bring Comfort, Hope and Peace If there is one quality that sets Wesleyan Homes apart, it is the Christian values that led the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church to establish it in 1962. Those values still guide us today. Beautiful buildings and great amenities certainly help create a comfortable home-like environment, but the heart of our work is ministering to older adults – body, mind and spirit. Our entire staff is involved, but Wesleyan Homes’ four chaplains lead efforts to support the spiritual life of our communities. Here’s how:

Dr. Gary Whitbeck
The Wesleyan at Estrella Independent Living

“The worship experience sets the tone for my ministry. I spend a lot of time in preparing two sermons each week because I want to talk about something that will be meaningful to the residents and challenge their thinking. I believe they deserve the best I can give them. The personal conversations I have with them are often spurred by the sermons.

“One of the best ways to build community is one conversation at a time. I did my doctorate in Pastoral Counseling and that training has been invaluable. Our residents know that they can talk to me about anything and that it will remain confidential.

“If you take an active interest in people, it makes all the difference in the world. Most people could care less what you did in the past, but I love finding out about people’s experiences. We have a resident who worked on Broadway for much of her life and another who was a judge and did several Supreme Court cases. One resident worked for NASA and helped train Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin when they were becoming astronauts.

“I want to help residents see that faith is the one place in life that they can find meaning no matter what is going on. God is their anchor. I want them to leave worship or a pastoral conversation knowing that if they go to the hospital or face bad news from the doctor, it’s their faith that gets them through it. God is with them in each situation. They get that through worship, music and personal counseling. It all ties together.”

The Reverend Mary Powell
The Wesleyan at Estrella Assisted Living

(Rev. Mary Powell is the newest chaplain to join the staff.)

“When I retired from United Methodist ministry, I moved to Independent Living. I enjoy volunteering and substituting for Gary Whitbeck as needed. I keep trying to retire, but God has other plans for me. At Assisted Living, I’ll preach, serve as a counselor and spiritual director, do hospital visits, teach Bible studies and organize volunteers to help us in our services.

“I believe strongly that God is a resident here, too, and try to help residents be aware of God’s presence in all that we do. Wesleyan Homes is a Christian community and the chaplains build on that foundation. Recently, I was visiting a resident in the hospital, and his son said, ‘Be sure and tell everyone about Gary Whitbeck.’ I left with the thought that I need to promote Gary’s ministry and pray for others to reach out to him.

“At Independent Living, we have several Bible study groups that are open to everyone. We share when we have felt closest to Christ during the week and when we have not done our best. Then we talk about prayers and concerns, and what our plans are for study and spiritual growth in the coming week.

“Nothing is more important than getting to know our residents. When I have a meal with someone and learn about their life, I almost always ask them to tell me about their spiritual journey. What’s been good? What’s been a struggle? Is it the best way to build community? Is it the worst? How did you get through it? What does God mean to you? It’s a beautiful way to get to know someone.”

The Lola Wright Foundation
The Wendland Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tipton
Mrs. Tess Todd
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Tofte
Town Square Floors
Mrs. Jean H. Traster
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Tribble
Mr. Earl Truesdale

Ms. Kathryn Tullos
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Turley
Mr. Michael Turner
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Turpin
United Methodist Women CTC
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Urias
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Veals
Ms. Emily Wallace
Mrs. Ann Weaver
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Welch
Ms. Joan B. Wertzberger
Wesleyan Residents
Mr. Travis Wheat
Mr. & Mrs. Berkley Whipple
Rev. Lara Whitley-Franklin

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sites
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Stroman
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Taylor
The Joe B. & Louise P. Cook Foundation
The Lola Wright Foundation
The Wendland Trust
Mr. George Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Tipton
Mrs. Tess Todd
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Tofte
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Tribble
Mr. Earl Truesdale

Ms. Kathryn Tullos
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Turley
Mr. Michael Turner
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Turpin
United Methodist Women CTC
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Urias
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Veals
Ms. Emily Wallace
Mrs. Ann Weaver
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Welch
Ms. Joan B. Wertzberger
Wesleyan Residents
Mr. Travis Wheat
Mr. & Mrs. Berkley Whipple
Rev. Lara Whitley-Franklin

Mr. Weldon Whitten
Ms. Nena Williams
Ms. Jean Williamson
Bishop & Mrs. Joe Wilson
Mr. Robert Wilson
Mr. Darrell Woelk
Rev. Nancy Woods
Mrs. Tamarah Jan Woolheater
Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Wright
Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Kendall Young

Mother’s Day
Sunday, May 14, 2017
A Benevolent Gift

Recognize mothers by donating in their honor or memory to the Wesleyan Homes Benevolent Fund. For 55 years, Wesleyan Homes has provided financial assistance to seniors in need. The gift you make today will extend care and compassion to others.

To make a gift, make your check payable to Wesleyan Foundation and mail to PO Box 486, Georgetown, TX 78627-0486 or visit us online at www.wesleyanhomes.org/giving.php
I meet people where they are.

building community as a hospice chaplain.

one of the keys to being there, holding a hand, sitting by a bedside, and by that there’s someone exactly what’s called for. Patients know that there’s someone with her at a tough time. For but I could start to relax. She sat here in the chapel for 45 minutes and I held her hand. Eventually, she went to sleep.

better.’ That was her faith tradition and, as I prayed, she said, ‘I know if you’ll just pray for me I’ll get better.’ That’s what God put in you and it’s still here.

“Sometimes just being there with them is the most important thing I can do. That’s called a ministry of presence and may not require words. Just being by a bedside, holding a hand, sitting in silence may be exactly what’s called for. Patients know that there’s someone by their side, someone who cares. That’s one of the keys to building community as a hospice chaplain. I meet people where they are.”

“The main ways we build community at Scenic is through our worship services on Thursdays and on Sundays. I have an opportunity to preach and remind people who they are. Some feel that they have outlived their usefulness and have nothing to offer others. I tell them that they still have opportunities to be instruments of God’s peace, love and mercy. It’s not about what you do but who you are in God’s sight. Whatever God put in you is still here.

“Serving others can be as simple as sharing a smile or listening to another person. One resident who had just recovered from a serious illness told me, ‘Chaplain, I just invited a new resident to come to our service. And you’ll never believe what she said to me. ’Does this mean that I’m now a part of your community’ I told her, ‘Yes, it does.’ That’s God’s spirit in action.

“As chaplains, we must remember that there’s a big difference between curing and healing. Community is about being sensitive to where people are. If someone says, ‘I never thought I’d be here. My body is betraying me.’ As they are coming to grips with that, my job is simply to be there with them. I can’t fix it or undo what has happened. What I can do is listen and respond. I might say, ‘That’s really hard. What are you feeling?’ Community is paying attention and letting people know that they are not alone.

“One day a resident came looking for me because she was in some pain. She said, ‘I know if you’ll just pray for me I’ll be better.’ That was her faith tradition and, as I prayed, she started to relax. She sat here in the chapel for 45 minutes and I held her hand. Eventually, she went to sleep. I couldn’t change things, but I could be with her at a tough time. For me, that was one of those pivotal moments when I realized this is why God has me here.”

The Reverend Inell Claypool
The Wesleyan at Scenic

“The main ways we build community at Scenic is through our worship services on Thursdays and on Sundays. I have an opportunity to preach and remind people who they are. Some feel that they have outlived their usefulness and have nothing to offer others. I tell them that they still have opportunities to be instruments of God’s peace, love and mercy. It’s not about what you do but who you are in God’s sight. Whatever God put in you is still here.

“Serving others can be as simple as sharing a smile or listening to another person. One resident who had just recovered from a serious illness told me, ‘Chaplain, I just invited a new resident to come to our service. And you’ll never believe what she said to me. ’Does this mean that I’m now a part of your community’ I told her, ‘Yes, it does.’ That’s God’s spirit in action.

“As chaplains, we must remember that there’s a big difference between curing and healing. Community is about being sensitive to where people are. If someone says, ‘I never thought I’d be here. My body is betraying me.’ As they are coming to grips with that, my job is simply to be there with them. I can’t fix it or undo what has happened. What I can do is listen and respond. I might say, ‘That’s really hard. What are you feeling?’ Community is paying attention and letting people know that they are not alone.

“One day a resident came looking for me because she was in some pain. She said, ‘I know if you’ll just pray for me I’ll be better.’ That was her faith tradition and, as I prayed, she started to relax. She sat here in the chapel for 45 minutes and I held her hand. Eventually, she went to sleep. I couldn’t change things, but I could be with her at a tough time. For me, that was one of those pivotal moments when I realized this is why God has me here.”

The Reverend Larry Zabcik
Wesleyan Hospice

“As a hospice chaplain, I work one-on-one with patients and family members. More than 80% of our patients are residents at Scenic and most have come from Independent Living or Assisted Living.

“I depend entirely on the Holy Spirit for everything I do. As I go through the day, I pray that whoever I see, wherever I go; I take God’s peace with me and carry that spirit into every conversation. When I ask, ‘What can I do for you?’ residents and families almost always ask me to pray for them. And I don’t say, ‘I’ll keep you in my prayers.’ I ask, ‘Why don’t we say a prayer right now?’ I never want to miss an opportunity for prayer.

“If they are not people of faith, I might say, ‘I’m happy just to be here with you. If there’s ever something spiritual you’d like to visit about, I’m willing to listen.’ Working with family members is essential. When the patient has decided that they want to be on hospice and want no further treatment, there may be family members who need some comfort and encouragement to accept that decision. Most of the time they agree that hospice is the right choice, but that doesn’t always make it easy.”

“If they are not people of faith, I might say, ‘I’m happy just to be here with you. If there’s ever something spiritual you’d like to visit about, I’m willing to listen.’ Working with family members is essential. When the patient has decided that they want to be on hospice and want no further treatment, there may be family members who need some comfort and encouragement to accept that decision. Most of the time they agree that hospice is the right choice, but that doesn’t always make it easy.”
For the seniors who will benefit from comfortable, caring living at The Wesleyan at Estrella for years to come, we thank the following donors:

Mrs. LaTrelle Adams  
Mrs. Anna Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Anderson  
Mr. Andy Anderson  
Mr. Curtis Andrews  
Anonymous  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Backus  
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Bailey  
Mr. Phillips Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Godfrey Baldwin  
Mrs. June N. Barnes  
Ms. Ronnie Barrera  
Dr. William Barrick  
Mrs. Jo Marie Beck  
Rev. & Mrs. Ron Bellomy  
Mrs. Beverly Bendall  
Mrs. Bettie Horn Bendewald  
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Benold  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Benold  
Mr. Robert Bentley  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Bereteau  
Rev. Dr. Martha Bessac  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Blackwell  
Mrs. Trona Blaha  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Bucho  
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Bonner  
Mr. Nathaniel Bonner  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Booth  
Dr. & Mrs.リンクS BRANDMILLER  
Mrs. Betty Lee Brandt  
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bratton  
Mrs. Roselle Braun  
Braun Family Limited Partnership  
Mrs. Jackie Brawner  
Mrs. Karan Breeden  
Mr. Ralph A. Brenneman, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. George Brightwell  
Mrs. Sue Brock  
Mrs. Gladys Brokhausen  
Mrs. Gladys Brooking  
Mrs. Barbara Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. James Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Bucho  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Buford  
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Buie  
Mrs. Mary Beth Burns  
Mrs. JoAnne Cage  
Mrs. Jeanne Carmichael  
Ms. Peggy C. Case  
Mrs. Carol Case  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gerald Cassna  
Rev. & Mrs. Jim Chandler  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Chandler  
Mrs. Lois Chatham  
Mr. & Mrs. John Chiello  
Mrs. Janice L. Christensen  
Col. & Mrs. Rex E. Cloud  
Mr. James B. Comer  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Connor  
Mrs. Robbie Nelle Cook  
Mr. Jack Cooper  
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Cowan  
Mrs. Ernestine Cox  
Dr. & Mrs. Philip H. Crayton  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Crouteau  
Mr. & Mrs. James Daniels  
Dr. Jane S. Davidson  
Mrs. Trina Davies  
Rev. & Mrs. Raleigh Denison  
Mr. Walter Denny  
Mrs. Dorothy Deuzle  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy R. Die  
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie R. Douglas  
Mrs. Rose Marie Dubois  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dyke  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Ecklen  
Mrs. Jeannine Fairburn  
Mrs. Alice K. Fay  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Flagg  
Mrs. Nancy K. Florence  
Mr. Martin Florence  
Ms. Jenna Follis  
Mrs. Becky Foltz-May  
Mr. Tom Forbes  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ford  
Mr. Jim Foshee  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Fought  
Mrs. Judith Lee Fox  
Mr. & Mrs. Sid Frost  
Ms. Judi K. Galloway  
Dr. & Mrs. George Garver  
Georgetown First United Methodist Church  
Georgetown Healthcare Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gerding  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gleason  
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Glover  
Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Goode  
Mrs. Esther Gooder  
Rev. & Mrs. Don Goodwin  
Mrs. Jane Griffith  
Mr. Jim Gross  
Ms. Mary Gurley  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gustowski  
Mrs. Mildred Harris  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hastings  
Mrs. Mandy Hastings  
Mr. Joe Hatley  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Hawthorn  
Mr. & Mrs. Claude A. Hays  
Mr. & Mrs. David Hays  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Hazelwood  
Mrs. Patricia Helms  
Mrs. Helen Henderson  
Mrs. Carolyn Henry  
Mrs. Stephanie Hernandez  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Hewlett  
Ms. Joyce Hooblin  
Mr. Jerry Holden