

Seasons *at Kirkwood by the River*

A Ministry of Independent Presbyterian Church

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The Summer Sun Shone on Kirkwood by the River

Aloha! Kirkwood residents kicked off summer with a luau featuring live music, a barbecue, hula-hoop competitions and a tiki bar. With little umbrella drinks, Hawaiian shirts, leis and lots of fun, we could almost hear the waves and feel our toes in the sand as we celebrated the summer season.

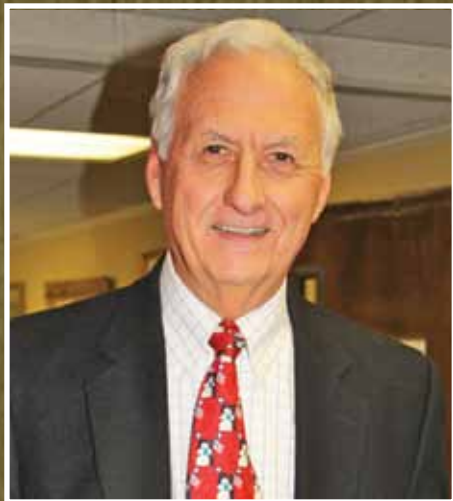


Our friends at the Hoover Senior Center hosted an event for the Fourth of July saluting America's Heroes. Mrs. Simpson and other residents were honored as part of the ceremony for serving our wonderful country. We are thankful for all of our veterans and for those who continue to defend our freedom!



Kirkwood
by the River

Mr. Ashley, A Farewell Fit For A President



Kirkwood, Mr. Ashley is not only one of our staff members with the longest tenure, but also the longest-serving President and CEO in the history of Kirkwood.



After 22 years of outstanding service as the President and CEO of Kirkwood by the River, Mr. Gene Ashley has announced his retirement. The Kirkwood Board of Directors has completed their search process, and we are excited to announce that Mr. Chad Carter from the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia will assume the position as the new President and CEO of Kirkwood. We look forward to his leadership as we move into the next generation of Kirkwood.

Before joining our community, Mr. Ashley served as an executive with Liberty National Fire Insurance Company. He was also a Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, but he describes his time at Kirkwood as “the most meaningful part of his professional career.”



Mr. Ashley has served with great dedication and commitment to our residents, their families and the staff at Kirkwood. Through his allegiance to making Kirkwood a community of comfort, warmth and personality, he has made a point to get to know each and every one of our residents, and as opportunities arise, to get to know their families as well. On a number of occasions, Mr. Ashley, accompanied by his wife, Pinkie, have moved into Kirkwood during winter storms to ensure that he would be present to deal with issues that might arise.



From Mr. Ashley's start at Kirkwood on March 2, 1992 as the Assistant Administrator, he showed significant leadership and assumed the CEO role only a few months after his initial hire. With 22 years of service at



Along with the day-to-day administration of Kirkwood, Mr. Ashley headed a number of significant projects throughout his term as President that have helped to expand our ministry, enhance the quality of life for our residents and add to the physical beauty and functionality of Kirkwood.



In 1995, the Skilled Nursing Wing was significantly expanded, adding rooms, beds and enlarging the activity room. In 2007, Kirkwood also began providing Medicare services to both our residents and the community at large. Most recently, in March of 2013, we completed a six-month major renovation project that enlarged the Dining Room and the Cahaba Room, made significant exterior improvements and included a major interior renovation in Skilled Nursing and other parts of Kirkwood.



and keep everyone happy. His wonderful spirit will always be remembered and will live on at Kirkwood.” Staff members also give him accolades. One said, “He helped raise me. I’ve known him half of my life.” Another said, “Gene Ashley has the ideal blend of skills, gifts and personality attributes to make him the perfect leader at Kirkwood - and that is what he has been for these 22 years!” The board, the staff, the residents and their families express appreciation and deep gratitude for all that has been accomplished by Mr. Ashley for Kirkwood by the River during his tenure as President.



Mr Ashley - We will remember your stable and committed leadership, your significant achievements, your high morale, your warm and loving nature, and of course your Christmas “hats,” all of which have helped make Kirkwood the very special place that it is. Congratulations on your outstanding career, and we wish you only the best as you enjoy your retirement.



Across Kirkwood, residents and staff speak with great affection and admiration of Mr. Ashley and his leadership.

One of our residents wrote: “Gene Ashley is a true Southern gentleman, exemplifying what is best about Southern hospitality with his charm. He is not only a good listener. He does whatever is possible to solve problems



We visited Peach Park in Clanton, AL, to cool off from the summer heat with some of the finest ice cream around! Plus, what's summer without a basket full of fresh peaches?



Volunteers from Hand in Paw bring furry friends to visit with our residents monthly. These cute and cuddly companions provide camaraderie and joy, and always seem to light up our residents' faces!

We traveled to Morgan Creek Winery in Harpersville, AL, in late July for a tour and wine tasting. On our way to the winery, we stopped at The Pita Hut in Chelsea for delicious gyros, Greek salads, falafels and more. During the tour, we learned the process of winemaking, the history of the family winery and tasted some of Morgan Creek's best sellers. We even left with some of our favorites in tow!



Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year – so why not celebrate it twice?! Santa Claus came to town on July 25 to help residents escape the heat and ring in the holiday cheer with refreshments, Christmas music and a friendly game of Dirty Santa. Each resident left with at least two gifts of items donated from friends in the community such as Chickadee Boutique, Chick-Fil-A, Cracker Barrel, Johns-Ridout's, Magic Muffins, Oscar's at the Museum, Piggly Wiggly, Publix, Right at Home, Sam's, Smith's Variety, Stein Mart, Taziki's Mediterranean Café and Winn-Dixie.

Employee Christmas Fund - A word from our Residents' Council Treasurer

Residents, remember that this is the time of year when we make our contributions to the Employee Christmas Fund, thanking our truly wonderful staff for the magnificent way they care for us 24 hours a day! The marked box is waiting at the

Reception Desk for your checks. Be generous; this takes the place of tipping for all the service we get.

For more information, please contact:
President, Fred Rogers or Treasurer, Edith Bauman.

Chapel Chimes

by Reverend Richard B. Hanna, Chaplain

Transitions *Behold, I make all things new. Revelation 21:5*

Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher, once said, “Change is the only constant in life.” Here at Kirkwood by the River, we are going through a time of change as we make a transition from the leadership of Gene Ashley to Chad Carter as President and CEO of Kirkwood by the River.

The Bible tells us of a number of significant transitions in leadership throughout its pages. Moses led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt and through forty years in the wilderness but it was Joshua who was entrusted with the task of leading the Israelites over the Jordan River back to the “Promised Land.” King David united the Twelve Tribes and built Israel into a strong nation, but it was Solomon who built the Temple and expanded on what David had built. Peter was the disciple of Jesus who assumed early leadership of the Church after Jesus’ ascension and helped to spread the Gospel in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria – but it was the emerging



leadership of Paul who helped to take the Gospel into the world. Each of those transitions was challenging. But each of them was necessary and ultimately led to bold new accomplishments and achievements. Change. Transitions. A constant of life.

Unquestionably, all of us will miss Gene Ashley as we say farewell to him after 22 years of outstanding leadership at Kirkwood. He has served exceedingly well in guiding Kirkwood for more than two decades and in helping it to become the very special place it is for all who live and work here.

But as God’s Word reminds us in Revelation 21:5, “Behold, I make all things new.” As Kirkwood makes this transition in leadership, we, the staff, the residents and all connected to Kirkwood, look forward to welcoming Mr. Carter - and will continue, under his leadership, to do all that we can to support and strengthen the loving community and productive ministry we share together at Kirkwood by the River.

From the Heart of a Resident...

When I look around this room
Do you know what I see?
I see a good looking bunch of folks
Just a staring back at me.
But when I look a little closer
I don't feel one bit surprised
That I see love just a shining
From each little pair of eyes.
Now I don't mean love just for me
You all understand.
I see genuine concern and love
for your fellowman.
And that's just one of the reasons
That I would like to testify
That I'm so thankful to be a resident
here at Kirkwood
and I plan to live here until I die.

-Jack Adkins



Resident Spotlight Meet Grace Etheridge

Grace Etheridge, one of the newest members of our Kirkwood family, moved to our community from Albany, GA, on June 28 of this year. She was born on June 20, 1938 in Gadsden, AL, and attended Gadsden High School. Upon graduating in 1956, Grace went to Howard College (now Samford University), where she received her degree in math. After college, Grace began her first year of teaching at Phillips High School in downtown Birmingham.



Grace lived at the YWCA of Birmingham, just four blocks from the school, and would walk to and from work each day. It was while living at the YWCA that a friend of hers on the hall, who was dating the football coach at Demopolis High School, set Grace up on a blind date with the Demopolis math teacher, William Thomas "Tom" Etheridge.

The two quickly discovered they had more in common than just their vocation and love of numbers, and they were married in 1962. After two

years in Demopolis, they moved to Orlando, FL, for one year, then LaGrange, GA, for two years and finally landed in Albany, GA, where they lived for more than 45 years.

When Grace and Tom weren't molding the young minds of Albany, they traveled across the country in their fifth-wheel camper. From the coast of Maine to the desserts of Utah, Grace explained, "We may have hit every state in the United States except Hawaii."

When Tom passed away two years ago, Grace knew she wanted to be back in Birmingham, close to her brother, sister, nieces and nephews who live here. Along with the proximity to her family, one of the reasons she chose Kirkwood was because "the residents and staff are very friendly," she said. "They welcome you with open arms." When not visiting family in the area, Grace loves to read, quilt, play bridge and attend activities on Kirkwood's community calendar.

What advice would Grace give to new residents and those looking to move to Kirkwood? "Be willing to participate in the activities offered here," she said. "It's how you meet people and make connections." Grace attends the exercise class three days a week, the weekly Bible study, the worship services and other special events.

We're Social at Kirkwood

Have you joined the nationwide community online? More and more seniors across the nation are participating in social media. Social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, are online platforms used to create communities to share information, ideas, messages, pictures and more. Follow Kirkwood by the River at www.facebook.com/KirkwoodbytheRiver to stay up-to-date on events and happenings at Kirkwood, see and share pictures of our residents and find out information on life in our Continuing Care Retirement Community.

Do you or your family members shop online at Amazon.com? If so, there's an easy and

automatic way for you to support Kirkwood by the River every time you shop - at no cost to you! Simply go to smile.amazon.com for the exact same products, low prices, convenient shopping experiences and account information as you would find on Amazon.com. Then, search and select Kirkwood by the River, and shop knowing Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Kirkwood!



Staff Spotlight Meet Sarah Sexton

Sarah Sexton, Kirkwood by the River's Outreach Coordinator and the newest addition to the Marketing team, joined Kirkwood in July of this year. She was born on March 24, 1989, in Dothan, AL, and attended Houston Academy from elementary school through her junior year of high school. Sarah was very involved in the local community theater, and the summer before her senior year, she and her mom decided to move to Birmingham so that Sarah could have a more concentrated, theatrical study in the classroom. Sarah graduated from Homewood High School in 2007 and studied musical theater at Birmingham-Southern College for two years before transferring to Auburn University, from where she graduated with a degree in public relations.

Growing up the middle sister of two brothers, Sarah learned at an early age the

importance of patience, mediation and keeping up with a fast pace, especially at the dinner table. She has always sought volunteer roles, internships and job opportunities that allow her to be creative through writing, design and presentation as she gives back to the community. Her background in multimedia story and web development, social media management, traditional public relations, marketing and email marketing gives her the attentive enthusiasm, unique perspective and unquestionable charisma to help build relationships within the community and keep Kirkwood on the forefront of our community's mind.

When not serving as a cheerleader for Kirkwood, Sarah enjoys spending time outdoors, catching local concerts, cheering on her Auburn Tigers, being with family and snuggling up with her 9-year-old lab, Tucker, and



her 4-year-old cat, Muddy. Sarah also volunteers at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where she and her husband Charlie are members and where they were married in May of this year.

What's one thing Sarah loves about Kirkwood? "Kirkwood feels like home," Sarah says. "The atmosphere, the energy and the people who live and work here are incredibly welcoming and warm. I couldn't ask for a friendlier place to be!"



Kirkwood
by the River

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Marketing Memo

As the Marketing Director for Kirkwood by the River, I have had the opportunity to see amazing things happen in our community every day. With more and more families joining ours, activities and events for all to enjoy, and a centered heart on our loving Lord, our Kirkwood community continues to flourish as we offer only the utmost in attention and service.

Because we offer varying levels of care, you have the chance to join an active, independent and maintenance-free lifestyle with access to health care if needed.

Whether or not you have considered a retirement community for your future, we would love the chance to get to know you better. Take a tour of our community, share a meal with us, or join our residents in an activity or special event. Our doors are always open to you. When you don't want to leave, you know you've found the right place.



Independent Living
Assisted Living
Memory Care Assisted Living
Skilled Nursing
Medicare Rehabilitation
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