

The Messenger



YOUR CARING HANDS SINCE 1949

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FALL 2010

Fourth Annual Caring Hands Tournament And Auction a Classic Success

Even Atlanta's fickle weather could not dampen the spirit of the fourth annual *Caring Hands* Classic and Ceilidh Auction benefiting Presbyterian Homes of Georgia's *Caring Hands* charitable fund.

The fun and fund-raising began Sunday evening October 24th at the East Lake Golf Club with the *Ceilidh* Auction. Ceilidh is a Gaelic word for party, and with many committee hosts in kilts and full Scottish regalia, the mood on this beautiful, balmy autumn evening was festive indeed. The

200 guests bid on many items, including beautiful jewelry, deluxe travel and original artwork. Lucky bidders Charlie Cantrell and Chuck Hawkins won the unforgettable opportunity to meet and have lunch with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

On Monday morning, the action moved to the Atlanta Athletic Club in Johns Creek. The weather shifted overnight to rainstorms, heavy winds and even a tornado warning. Yet, in spite of it all, 156 intrepid golfers stayed the



Don Brim bids on a golf trip package.

Continued on page 4

In This Issue

Engifted 2

Will Power: Calvin Court Residents
Get Pro Bono Advice. 2

Covington Choir Visits
Presbyterian Village 3

Philips Tower Residents
Reach Out to Those in Need 6

PHQ Water Aerobics Class at
Quitman. 7

Remember God's Senior
Children With a Gift to
Presbyterian Homes 8

Breezeway Gallery Displays Residents' Works of Art

The two-story breezeway connecting the residential apartments and health services building at Presbyterian Village has been transformed into an art gallery, featuring works by more than 20 resident artists.

The idea for the Breezeway Gallery began with a beginners' art class taught by Jacque Whitaker, an artist who, with her husband Whit, lives at Presbyterian Village. "Jacque took six students under her wing and taught us quite a bit," said Lou Alice Coffin, who with her husband John are five-year residents of the Village. Mostly working in acrylics, the students tried their hand at any number of subjects. It wasn't long before the enthusiastic students came up with the idea of displaying their art work. "The breezeway was a totally blank space," Lou Alice said. "It just seemed perfect for a gallery."

Continued on page 3

Our Mission:

Presbyterian Homes of Georgia, Inc., is a Christian ministry providing exceptional services to enhance the quality of life for senior adults.



engifted: (v.) to provide with gifts;
*For by grace you have been saved
 through faith, and this is not
 your doing; it is the gift of God.*
 —Ephesians 2:8

By Dr. Frank H. McElroy, Jr., President and CEO

The completion of our 2011 operating budgets led naturally to a discussion of our nation's stagnant economy and its effect upon Presbyterian Homes. I was asked if I worried about our ability to continue serving residents who have exhausted their personal resources, but who continue to need the nurture and care of this ministry. As operating budgets approach \$40,000,000 and with 10% of that budget funded by annual giving to the Caring Hands Fund, paying for quality care might seem to be a daunting responsibility. If this responsibility were mine alone it would certainly be worrisome, but I reminded our staff that we are not in charge. Our responsibility is to follow God's leading for this ministry.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) When we seek God's leading and employ the talents and abilities He has given us, then we can faithfully rely upon Him to sustain this ministry in furtherance of His kingdom on earth.

Faith is strengthened by its exercise. For more than 60 years our faith has been sustained not because of our success, but because God has opened doors and provided for our every need. God calls just the right people at just the right time into the life of this ministry. These include Trustees with loving hearts who rely upon God's leading as they direct how we will grow and serve. God calls compassionate staff with good skills and great attitudes who provide the caring hands that daily touch the lives of our residents. And God's senior children who have faithfully served the church and who now need the nurture and care of this ministry provide each of us with the opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love.

Examples of God's leading this ministry are documented from its origin through today. Thirty-five years ago I recall entering the office of my father Dr. Frank McElroy, Sr. on the day before pay day and he said we are \$5,000 short of meeting the payroll. He said, "Let's pray about it tonight

Continued on page 6

Will Power: Calvin Court Residents Get Pro Bono Advice

Calvin Court's Resident Council is an active group, offering programs and sponsoring activities of interest to 240 residents all year-long. Recently, a seminar was presented by the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF), which discussed the need for an updated will as well as the importance of reviewing and understanding medical and financial attorney directives.

The wills and directives program was presented as one of Calvin Court's regular Wednesday morning get-togethers where residents enjoy a delicious brunch while often hearing a stimulating program. The AVLF was created in 1979 to provide lawyers and paralegals the experience of pro bono work with persons needing legal advice who cannot necessarily afford it.

In addition to the seminar presentation, some 15 residents chose to meet privately with an attorney duo at a later time at Calvin Court to write and complete their will and other important papers. Resident Penny Parker chaired the Resident Council committee which arranged the pro bono work with the AVLF with the cooperation of Tonya Richards, Services Coordinator at Calvin Court, and AVLF contact Amanda Donalson.

Nationwide surveys show that almost 60 percent of Americans do not have updated wills. ♦



Presbyterian Village Breezeway Gallery – cont. from p. 1

Word spread among residents that the group was looking for original works of art by resident artists to display in the light-filled breezeway space. The works could have been completed at any time in the artist's life—past or present. The only stipulations were that submitted pieces had to be the artist's own work and that artists limit the number of works to only a few.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

The response was beautifully overwhelming—and overwhelmingly beautiful. The eclectic works range from paintings by professional artist Mary Ann Doty Esty to pencil sketches, needlepoint pieces and first-time works. The oldest, dating to 1936, is “My Front Yard,” a charcoal sketch by Iris Eskew.



“When we started this, we had no idea that so many of our residents are so artistic and talented,” Lou Alice said. Even more remarkable is the number of artistic staff members who have emerged since the gallery opened. Their works are now displayed on a rotating basis in the parlor of the assisted living center, adding another special touch to that welcoming space. ♦



Members of the Covington First Presbyterian Church's Ambassador Choir performed recently at Presbyterian Village for residents of the Health Services Center. Choir members and other guests from Covington then toured the Village and enjoyed lunch with campus representatives. In the week following, the Covington Church invited Presbyterian Homes' staff to present a Program on "Navigating Retirement and Elder Care Issues". This program explains retirement residential choices and care options available in our state, and is available to any church or community group wishing to provide that information to its members.

Golf Tournament and Auction

Continued from p. 1

course—literally. Play began when the clouds miraculously parted and the storm passed so that a great day of golf was had by all! This year's church team versus church team challenge to win the coveted Knox Cup was won by Lawrenceville's Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, led by John DeBarry. The team won in a tiebreaker edging out Covenant-Reid Presbyterian from Augusta.

The tournament and auction, which this year included an on-line eBay Giving Works auction, netted more than \$90,000 for Presbyterian Homes' vital ministry: *In more than 60 years of serving Georgia's senior adults, no resident has been asked to leave a Presbyterian Homes community due to outliving his or her financial resources.* ♦



(L-R) Kay Stewart, Milton Crossway, and Tammy Cantrell look over auction items.



Pat Patrick (C) and Sandy Morehouse (R) watch Rev. Billy Wade make a putt.



Golfers warm up on the driving range prior to the shotgun start of the tournament.



(L-R) Rev. Donna Wells and Martha Weber welcome guests at Ceilidh Auction registration.



Host Jerry Patrick (R) is joined by Susan Hagood (L) and her husband Tom Hagood (C).



Rev. George Wirth (R), and teammates (L-R) George Mattingly, Michael Kane, and David Williams are ready to play the course.



The Peach State Freightliner Team watches a putt head toward the hole.

Philips Tower Residents Reach Out to Those in Need

From sewing machines for the school next door to funds for Haiti earthquake victims, the Outreach Committee at Philips Tower is busy touching the lives of people in need both near and far. “One of the many amazing things about our residents is how giving they are,” said Administrator Russ Fitzgerald. “They are a remarkable group of people.”

A case in point is disaster relief for the people of Haiti. “When the earthquake struck in January, our residents immediately started asking, *What can we do, what can we do,*” said Florence Fivecoat, who along with Robbie Corbett co-chairs the Outreach Committee. The committee acted quickly distributing flyers and putting up posters, suggesting donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church USA. In just three days, the residents raised almost \$800. “It was an amazing response,” Ms. Fivecoat said. “We have a diverse group of residents here from many backgrounds and nationalities; I think they felt a strong connection to the people of Haiti and wanted to help.”

Closer to home the committee also supported resident Beryl Taylor’s idea to help young students next door at the Global Village School at Decatur Presbyterian Church. A talented seamstress, Ms. Taylor volunteers at the school on Fridays, teaching girls how to sew. The students, ages 13 to 20 years, are refugees from all parts of the world, including Afghanistan, Burma and Zimbabwe. “They are learning English and they are learning fast,” she said. A retired



Beryl Taylor and Florence Fivecoat.

preschool teacher, Ms. Taylor views sewing as a useful skill with many practical applications. She began teaching the girls using borrowed sewing machines, but strongly believed the students needed a machine of their own.

Philips Tower residents held a bake sale and raised \$159 for the sewing machine project. Now with their own sewing machine in place, the girls sew craft projects, including small bags that they fill with soaps and potpourri and sell them to raise funds for the school. “It’s a fulfilling experience for everyone involved,” Ms. Taylor said. ♦

Engifted:

Multiplied Blessings – cont. from p. 2

and if necessary we will ask the bank for a loan tomorrow.” The next day we received a check in the mail from a former Trustee with a note that simply said, “Use this \$5,000 check wherever you need it.” The faithless will call it coincidence, but the faithful respond, thanks be to God.

An unanticipated heating and cooling equipment failure during 2010 challenged us to fund the \$1.6 million replacement cost with only a half million dollars reserved for capital equipment replacement. During this year three equally unanticipated major gifts were received to enable the complete funding of this essential equipment. Even though we did not plan it, the premature replacement of our heating and cooling equipment will improve operating efficiency

and reduce cost for years to come.

Each of the nine McElroy children was assigned a Bible verse at a very young age by our father. My verse is “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not upon thine own understanding, but in all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5 & 6) As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and claim His promise of salvation, we continue to faithfully minister to God’s senior children in the confidence of God’s love and the generous continuing support of our partners in this ministry. May God bless each of you in unexpected ways now and throughout the coming New Year. ♦

PHQ Water Aerobics Class at Quitman

Water Aerobics class made a big splash this summer at Presbyterian Home and Retirement Community in Quitman. After taking a break for a few seasons, the PHQ Water Aerobics Class returned better than ever to the delight of many residents in the retirement community.

“It’s great for exercising, getting a little sunshine and having fun socializing,” said resident Jimmie McGlamory. “Water aerobics helps my joints, and I feel wonderful after each class,” said Mary Weaver.

According to the Aquatic Exercise Association, health conditions, such as diabetes, arthritis, menopause, cardiovascular problems, back problems and osteoporosis, can benefit from water aerobics. Studies have shown that strength training through water aerobics can significantly improve muscle tone and cardiac health, and can even lower blood cholesterol levels in seniors.



Jimmy McGlamory

“I like to make it fun for the residents, and I get the benefits too,” said instructor Sharon Powell. “We use water noodles and water weights, laugh a lot and just have a ball!”

The new class started in May and concluded in September with a graduation celebration and cookout by the pool. According to Retirement Center Director Blanche Inman, water aerobics will be missed for the winter months, but other exercise classes and opportunities will continue for residents: “We want our residents to be healthy and happy, and we know that exercise is good for their bodies, minds, moods and memory.” ♦



(L-R) Charles Failing, Jean Failing, Sharon Powell, Jimmie McGlamory, and Betty McPherson



Ralph and Mary Weaver.



(L-R) Jimmie McGlamory, Ralph Weaver, Sharon Powell, Charles Failing, and William McPherson.

Remember God's Senior Children With a Gift to Presbyterian Homes

The Christmas season brings loving ways to give to our most vulnerable residents. Your gift will bring a smile to the face of a senior in need.

Santa Claus Express

During the Christmas season, caring individuals and church organizations, including Presbyterian Women across the state, donate toiletries and small gift items for our nursing care residents and other senior residents in need. The gifts are delivered by the jolly old elf himself at the annual Christmas party. To learn how you can be a part of this special giving opportunity, please contact the Development Office at 404-231-5758 for more information.



Angel Offering

Christmas brings the opportunity to support our Christmas Angel Appeal for the Caring Hands Fund. These gifts are especially needed in this challenging economy. Presbyterian Homes sends a Christmas Angel Offering request to friends and supporters

statewide. Financial support is deeply appreciated as are the hundreds of return angel cards, signed and personalized by donors, for our frailest residents. Look for your Angel Offering card coming in the mail soon. Or contact the Development Office at 404-231-5758 for more information. ♦



Presbyterian Homes of Georgia
3675 Crestwood Parkway
Suite 370
Duluth, Georgia 30096

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