



CHURCH OF CHRIST CARE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

23575 Fifteen Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035 • website: www.cofccc.org • phone: 586-285-7128 • e-mail: info@cofccc.org

Spring/Summer 2026

85 Years and We Need Your Help to Get to 100!

There are not many places like this in America. The Church of Christ “Home for the Aged” began near the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 in a very humble facility, caring for 6 widows on Troy Street in Ferndale. (It’s still there!) The state of Michigan would probably not let us keep elderly folks there today due to lack of elevators and other issues found in older homes.

Through the years we have had many wonderful people to serve on our board and help in many ways—especially in giving! L.C. Utley was a key figure on the board in the early days at Ferndale. He became the administrator when they moved to Romeo to have a beautiful place to grow. Some of the extended Utley family were instrumental in helping establish a new church in Romeo. Alas, Romeo was not to be made the permanent location for operations as there was another move to Clinton Township. This is where a lot of growth took place, not only in numbers of residents, but tremendous physical expansion. We are blessed to have this beautiful campus.

Churches of Christ have not had many places to assist elderly folks over the years. While research has been limited, it appears our *(continued on Page 4)*



David Stewart, CEO

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In Memoriam

John Belasco - known by many and Godly servant to all

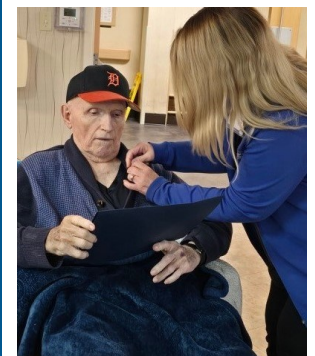
John Belasco went to his heavenly reward on April 2, 2026. He served as a gospel minister at the Royal Oak Church of Christ for 28 years and his church preaching ministry spanned more than 50 years. But this only tells a part of his story as he was a successful fundraiser and prominent in raising funds for several organizations, including Lockett Academy, a Christian school he held dear. He loved boating on Lake St. Clair and loved being a chef for events and other hobbies. His wife Judy, was a partner and close to his side for 63 years. John and Judy had five children together. When John retired, he and Judy moved to the Care Community campus for two years in independent living housing, before moving to Texas. When Judy died, John returned to Michigan to again live on this campus. He then met a resident by the name of Carol Halsey and their relationship led to a wedding ceremony on our campus. John is thought of very affectionately by those who know him. He has counseled and cared for many people through the years. Thank you for blessing us with your presence, John.



A younger John Belasco



CHURCH OF CHRIST
CARE COMMUNITY



John Belasco was very proud to be a veteran. He participated in this Veteran’s Day activity in Assisted Living to honor our vets.



Doug Edwards

COMING UP: The Bowling Fellowship, Steak & Corn Roast, and the Golf Classic are all on the horizon!

For our public, this is an exciting time of the year to participate in three fun events while helping the Care Community raise funds. Here are the dates:

Bowling Fellowship — May 16, 2026 — Arrive 11:30 — Astro Lanes
32388 John R., Madison Heights, MI 48071

Steak & Corn Roast — August 8, 2026 — Dinner 5:00 p.m.— Century Banquet Ctr.
33204 Maple Lane Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Golf Classic — September 19, 2026 — Check-in — 7:30 a.m. — The Orchards Golf
62900 Campground Road, Washington, MI 48094

The Steak & Corn Roast is excited to present “ALLENTOWN: A Billy Joel Tribute” band which will consist of 6 excellent musicians. The lead singer is not an impersonator per se, but is an excellent pianist and an outstanding singer of Billy Joel’s songs. See page 7—You will love this show! There is also fabulous food (delicious steak)! There is a silent auction, a photo booth and more! We look forward to having you join us for a night of fellowship and fun.

For the Golf Classic, we are back at THE ORCHARDS as our golfers love this place as one of the top golf courses in the state. It may cost a bit more than some places, but it is a great destination you will enjoy! We will all enjoy a great meal afterwards and awards will be presented to top golfers.

Donor Celebration Event Postponed

TO OUR WONDERFUL DONOR FRIENDS: we apologize that we will be postponing our previously announced donor celebration time as we make new plans for a future date. Our donors are very dear to us and we want you to know how important you are. We know that taking care of our precious residents at the Care Community is the thing foremost in your mind. Over our 85 years, donors have sustained us in times of need. Continue to pray for our Care Community as our work is “bumpy” at times, but we depend on the hands of God to guide us.

Yes, I want to help care for elderly residents!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Gift In Memory/Honor of: _____

Please Acknowledge to: _____

AmEx ___ VISA ___ MC ___ Disc ___ Sec Code _____

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to be used for:

Credit Card #: _____ Expir _____

Unrestricted gift for greatest need

Infrastructure Campaign

My company (name) _____ is a matching gift company

Other _____

Please remember the Church of Christ Care Community in your will or trust:

I would like to discuss my final estate plans.

I want to acknowledge that I/we have included the Care Community in my/our Estate Plan.

If you wish to make a gift online, please go to:

www.cofccc.org/ways-to-give

5/2026



Constance “Gale” Edwards Believes She Has Been Blessed Her Whole Life and is Grateful God is Now Providing a Slower Pace

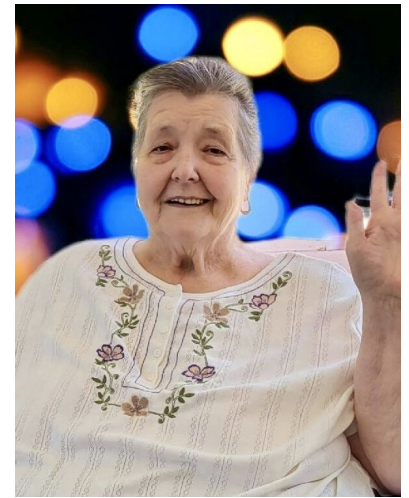
Story by Doug Edwards

The name, Gale Edwards, was familiar to me as an art instructor of Rochester Christian University (to use the most recent name of this Christian university) but I had not formally met her. I know she is younger than me, though I do not know her age. We are not related, to my knowledge, unless you go back closer to the days of Adam!

Since I also served as a part-time art professor at another Christian college many years ago, I wanted to meet her when I heard she was now a resident of our campus. It has been a joy getting to know her. We share many friends in common, and as I am writing this story, I am realizing her brother, Warren, is a long-time friend of mine! I did not know they were related. I actually served as an elder of a church where Warren attended in our previous years. Our world is quite small!

Gale confirms she has lived a very blessed life! “I have been blessed my whole life,” she emphasizes. She goes on to share that she was born into a Christian home with parents who knew Jesus, and they made sure she had teaching that would help her to know Jesus as well. At church, she loved having Christian companions who were from similar Christian homes. She relished those experiences and the blessings of her childhood.

When Gale was ready for college studies, her parents had long planned and hoped she would attend Michigan Christian College (now Rochester Christian University). She found this to be a safe place to not only prepare for her profession, but to become “my own person.” She was blessed in so many ways in this college. Here is where she made many of her friends in life. “Some I still hold dear, forever friends, eternal friends.”



Gale Edwards

While a student at MCC, she was invited to ride a bus monthly to visit an “old folks home in Romeo, Michigan. It was a beautiful place that included a big mansion. She loved to visit and do a lot of singing of hymns with the old folks. Little did she know it was the forerunner of our current campus.

Gale had prepared to teach elementary school art classes, but God apparently had other plans! She came back to her alma mater at MCC where she taught art courses. She also instructed in communications and theatre. As she moved forward in her career plans, she also taught at Valley Christian Academy and Oakland Christian School. OCS was conveniently located just a half-mile from her home.

During her visits to Romeo back in the old days, Gale likely never envisioned that our new campus in Clinton Township is where God wanted her to eventually live. “A place I’m sure God prepared for me long before I needed it”, she shared. Before she found our campus, she was sent to a rehab facility with much better amenities in some ways. However, coming here, she feels much more at home in this Church of Christ facility. We are pleased to have her on our campus.

“As they say, it is not easy getting old” she says! But God provides a slower pace of life to read His word and ponder it more fully each day. Gale’s final words about her life: It is *“blessed from beginning, to end, and beyond.”*



(continued from page 1) Care Community may be the oldest Church of Christ related senior care facility in continuous use for Christian elderly care and there are certainly few that remain in operation today.

We have had lots of ups and downs over the years, but we always weathered the storms. Until recent years, we have had fairly good reserves to handle most emergencies that came our way. But we never anticipated a pandemic like COVID that would do so much damage at the Church of Christ Care Community and other senior care facilities in our region. We lost millions of dollars when we lost a significant number of residents. There is a fundamental shift in our resident's care needs since COVID: younger, sicker, and more mentally challenged.

Since the beginning of COVID, the Care Community has been fighting up-hill to try to gain equilibrium. Our future remains a bit clouded as we plan our next steps. What we know is that we must shore up Assisted Living, which has had a lower occupancy rate than desired from its very beginning in 2002, when the current three-story building was built. We rarely meet budget with that facility. It is our newest building and is a beautiful place. However, we live in a time where big, beautiful, spacious facilities with lots of amazing amenities, are being built all over our region. Some of them also have occupancy issues. But it has become harder to compete with many of them. They tend to charge higher rates and still sometimes outdraw our facility.

A larger Christian facility, related to Churches of Christ located near Dallas, Texas, had similar issues a few years ago. Somehow, through some complicated processes with another organization, they were able to continue quality senior service. They were purchased and integrated into a different faith-based company. Our prayers are that God will help us find long-term solutions. Meanwhile, our HUD subsidized independent living facility is filled and has a waiting list. Our nursing home facility is not as full as it once was, but we are working hard to build it up stronger.

Meanwhile, we are asking God's guidance as we move forward with confidence. He will guide us in the right directions. We solicit the prayers of all who read this publication as well. We believe there is a need for what we offer in our Christian Ministry.



Mike Winters and team win the Golf Classic again in 2025. Can you do it again in 2026, Mike? Team left to right: Mike Winters, Joey Mazzola, Noah Winters and Blake LaBaere

Steak & Corn Roast (August 8, 2026)

SILENT AUCTION

We need great merchandise of all kinds for auction to benefit our Care Community! Consider:

Nice household items, appliances, or art. Luxury ideas like VIP events, Cruises, or vacation homes. Favorite restaurants....and many more ideas. What do you have available?

Contact our host Jill Mostek at:

**Call 586-945-9385 or
E-mail jillmostek@wowway.com**



RESIDENT AND DAUGHTER ENJOY PHOTO



LUTZ SCHOOL CHOIR SINGS CHRISTMAS CAROLS



FAMILY ENJOYS CHRISTMAS DINNER ON CAMPUS WITH LOVED ONE



CHEF ASUNDA SERVING BREAKFAST TO RESIDENTS



MOTHER'S DAY PARTY FOR RESIDENTS THIS YEAR



RECENT ENTERTAINER



VETERANS HONORING OUR VETS



HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS FROM OCTOBER 4, 2025 TO MAY 1, 2026

GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

John Belasco Dale and Laura Sawyer
Coreena Carey Donna Prince
Jane Carlisi Mark and Debra Bateman
Doug and Janet Edwards Dale and Laura Sawyer
Ken, Brian & Nathan Mickey Linda Case

GIFTS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Nicholas Carlisi Mark and Debra Bateman	William and Alice Gillespie Fredrick Gillespie
Homer and Mary Case David and Jaqi Case	Nellie Gondek Kim Kusnier & Jerry Vanneste
Tedd Case Linda Case	Randa Griffith Mark and Niki Frost
Jim and Nell Chamblee George and Jeanne Price	Vernon and Opal Hampton Dan and Peggy Hampton
Graydon & Edna Chester Martha E. Bouman	Dave and Helen Hands Mark and Debra Bateman

Robin J. Matthews Donna Prince
Thomas Edward "Jack" Mayes James D. Luther Jerry and Dana Mayes
Wallice and Virginia Mays Timothy Mays
Phil McCullough Doug and Shelia Selke
Don McElhaney Doug and Shelia Selke

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Rose Agati Donna Prince
Kathy Anspach Mark and Niki Frost
Ross and Ollie Bateman Dan and Anne Bateman Mark and Debra Bateman
Kristin Marie Begy Donna Prince
William Bernard Donna Prince
Ronald Biskner Mark and Niki Frost
Alexander Bolen Linda Bolen
Elda Brady Hugh Brady
Charlie Brewer Donna Prince
Devron Shondel Bumphis Donna Prince
Bill "Buster" Buttram Donna Prince
John and Nannie Campbell Lorene Armstrong

Gail Churikian Samuel Churikian	Asa Harris Jeanette Harris
Ronda Colella Donna Prince	Bert Heger Mark and Niki Frost
Robert Coppedge Mark and Niki Frost	Florence Henk Annette Anderson
Judy Crawford Donna Prince	Waurine House Richard House
Nola Cucheran Mark and Niki Frost	Sara Hurianek Bill and Frankie Yen
Lily DeKlerk Donna Prince	Walter & Cordelia Jankowski Diana Woloszyk
Tim Dunn Mark and Niki Frost	Marilyn "Muggy" Jones Mark and Debra Bateman Bob and Robin Wrobel
Ruby and Britt Ellis Norma Castellucci	Robert Dwayne Jones Julie Boag
George Elsey Glenn Elsey	Blanche Kaminski Lois Carrier
Rita Finn Joseph & Marsha Mahaney Linda Wieske	Jeanne "Gram" Kilgore Doug and Shelia Selke
Diane Foster Robert and Karen Loshner	Alex Leonard Donna Prince
Faye Fox Mark and Niki Frost	Dave Marshall Donna Prince

Carolyn McMichael Mike and Jeanne Embry
Lillian McUsic Roger and Kathleen Mourad
Janet Kay Meeks Donna Prince
Richard "Dick" Messier Bob and Sue Wilson
Bill and Sharon Rottier
John Mikle Patricia Mikle
Kathy Minnier Donna Prince
Lawrence E. Moebs Mary Moebs
Gene and Mary Monroe Bob and Sue Wilson
Betty Moore Larry and Mary Lund
Jimmie Morgan Donna Prince
John and Jane Mostek Gary and Jill Mostek
Mary Motsinger Martha E. Bouman
Florence Muellenhagen Lauris Muellenhagen

Honor-Memorial names are in bold and alphabetized by last names



Allentown

A Billy Joel Tribute

COMING TO STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN!!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026—5:00 PM

39th Annual STEAK & CORN ROAST

BENEFIT: Church of Christ Care Community

Performing at the CENTURY BANQUET CENTER

33204 Maple Lane Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Tables for 8—\$700.00 Individual tickets for food & entertainment—\$100 each

Tickets online: www.cofccc.org, or contact Bill Nocita at 586-7141 directly with card

Checks to: Philanthropy Office, COFCCC, 23575 15 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48036

MEMORIAL GIFTS (continued from Page 6)

Bertha O'Rourke
Doug and Janet Edwards
Mark and Niki Frost
Doug and Shelia Selke

William Putty
Helen Putty

Tom Schafsnitz
Mark & Niki Frost

Elizabeth Sovages
Donna Prince

Mary Vsetula
Jane Vsetula

Debbie Panzica
Jim & Wendy Burcham
Doug and Shelia Selke

Wendy Quinn
Donna Prince

Oliver & Dorothy Schick
Martha E. Bouman

Bob and Beve Stanger
Bradley & Linda Stanger

Jimmy Ward
Jim & Benita Ward

Mary Parry
Bradley & Linda Stanger

William Rabenau
Patricia Mikle

Jeannette Schiele
Mark & Debra Bateman

Bonnie Stockard
Nancy Brown

Rita McClary Warren
Donna Prince

Tex Perte
Donna Prince

Bill J. Robbins
Steven & Katherine Ferguson

Dottie Shafer
Donna Prince

Walter & Laverne Szych
Linda Case

Virgil Weare
Mark & Niki Frost

Debbie Petri
Mark and Niki Frost

Carolyn & Dorsey Roberts
Martha E. Bouman

Mary Shaw
Donna Prince

John Taylor
Mark & Niki Frost

Harold & Leora Willert
Don & Nancy Christenberry

Clarence Pratt
Donna Prince

Rosalie Roberts
Margaret Reiss

Rose M. Simek
Jane Vsetula

Lois Thacker
Gwendolyn Brock

Bob & Mary Jean Wilson
Bob & Sue Wilson

Lou Prince
Donna Prince

Patricia Rogers
Michael & Mary McMonigle

Nina Sims
Joe & Lori Mason

Helen Marlene Theys
Dennis & Jeanne Walkowicz

Willie Rutherford Wilson
Donna Prince

Sarah Provine
Jim and Benita Ward

George Sanders
Donna Prince

Frederick R. Sitter, Jr.
Bonnie Sitter

Edward Vadney, Sr.
Donna Prince

Frank Woloszyk
Diana Woloszyk



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To Our Special Friends:

We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit. The Newsletter is published two times per year.

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If you wish to remove your name from this Newsletter mailing list, please contact us at 586-285-7141 or bnocita@cofccc.org

Church of Christ Care Community **SPRING/SUMMER 2026**

Where the special needs of aging are met with special care.



Meet Us for Golf at THE ORCHARDS on September 19, 2026!