

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



"The Lord Cometh!"

October—December 2022

Volume XXXVI 4

~ We Must Look to the Future! ~

Brian Halstead, CEO



Brian

Many stories are worth repeating. One, of course, is the Gospel. The hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story," comes to mind as a way to repeat the story of God's redemption. May we never tire of the story of "unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love." The second story I

love to repeat is of how much Maranatha Village means to me, its people, their spirit of volunteerism, and what God has accomplished here over almost 50 years. This story is one of a rich and long legacy worth rehearsing.

I reminisce about my visits to Maranatha Village since 1982 when my grandparents resided here, and I recall the time my dad served as Administrator. These visits led to my long desire to serve as administrator here. I see the past and present fulfillment of desire that God has allowed, and I am excited about the future. In God's perfect timing, I am here!

As April 23, 2023 draws near, and we prepare to celebrate God's faithfulness for 50 years of ministry at Maranatha Village, the future is bright as we seek the Lord's will for another 50 years! Change is inevitable and needed. As we begin to foresee the building of the new **Legacy Center** which will house a craft room, fitness center, and porch, additional projects and improvements are being evaluated and prioritized. Beyond buildings, we are preparing other enhancements that will benefit our current residents and prepare for the future wellbeing of the Village.

In the days and months ahead, we will have opportunities for you to help move Maranatha Village forward. Some may take a step of faith financially, while others may use the gifts and talents that the Lord has given them. Everyone can do something as we pool our resources, praying for God's guidance for the years ahead.

As we begin fundraising efforts to accomplish our goals, we want to be clear that our step of faith into the future will not include debt. The Village must remain financially healthy. Projects will only be undertaken once they are fully funded through God's provision.

Because of the past, we must look to the future, continuing to build upon the rich heritage and foundation that was established before many of us became part of this community. For our future to blossom into all that God directs, your help will be needed. What can you do?

- **PRAY!** Pray and consider how you might take part in the advancement and legacy of the Village.
- **GIVE!** There are many exciting plans for ways you can give financially, and we are seeking funds from other avenues to alleviate the bulk of the burden from our residents.
- **PLAN!** Plan your strategy as to how you will fit into this future adventure.

Would you prayerfully consider your part in the future of Maranatha Village? Your one-time gift or a monthly gift of any amount will bring the Legacy Center closer to being a reality. We thank you for being part of an exciting time at Maranatha Village! We are grateful for your partnership as we move forward together!



Steve Milligan Gift to the Village

Steve Milligan served 13 years as Maranatha Village's Maintenance Supervisor. When the Lord called him home to glory, Carol asked that he be remembered by friends and family with memorial gifts given to the Village. The family desired to purchase a pickup truck to replace the 20-year-old current truck that desperately needed retirement. Steve's family and friends responded magnificently, raising over \$24,600 for that purchase.

The included photo shows the result of their generosity. After much searching, not only in our local area but with a friend's nationwide help, we could not locate a suitable vehicle. At this same time, we were looking for a new administrator for the Village. The Lord led us to Brian Halstead. Brian, hearing of our fruitless search and owning a pickup truck that he was not planning to bring to the Village, suggested the possibility of his vehicle. It was a 2017 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup with only 40,000 miles. The wholesale value of this truck is over \$38,000. Brian was willing to accept the amount raised in honor of Steve, and now the Village owns a great pickup! A heartfelt thanks goes out to Carol and all those who helped make this happen. Steve will be pleased!



whole week! However, though closed for the week of August 29-Sept 1, the pool was still busy, just not with swimmers. We had, a company, ***Absolutely Beautiful Concrete Coatings*** to recondition the pool deck. They first power-washed the deck, sanded down any projections, and applied two coats of epoxy.

Many of you have had this done to improve your driveways which gives the villas a much nicer look. We wanted the same for the pool, providing added beauty, increased safety, and better durability under our Florida sun. An added blessing is that this renovation cost the Village nothing! A gift was given to pay the total cost for this work to be accomplished. We praise God for those donors who bless the Village in so many ways.

He wasn't finished with blessings! Another donor volunteered to pay for and supply 15 new deck lounges for the poolside. The old PVC furniture had seen better days, not able to withstand the sun, heat, and mold/mildew that continually plague us. The new lounges will be built out of wood composite material that will withstand the elements better. This donor also supplied 15 sets of cushions for the lounges. The Village will build a strong shelter for the cushions when they are not in use, keeping them dry so mold and mildew will not grow on them.

Village Swimming Pool

No one likes to see the pool closed, especially for a



New Village Residents

Jim & Kathi Weaver



Kathi & Jim

We first learned of Maranatha Village (hereafter MV) in the 80s when we were here to visit Glee and Bill Harris. He was our former pastor in Rittman, Ohio, and also officiated at our marriage in 1975. At the time of our visit with the Harrises, retirement was not on our radar screen, and thus we didn't think

about MV for more than 40 years.

Last year, however, retiring did come up on our radar screen in a big way. We had come to western Florida in April 2021, hoping to find something to rent for the winter. We quickly realized that nothing reasonable was available in the area. As it so happened, we had a prearranged visit with our friends Geof and Cindy Livezey at MV. During this visit, we learned that renting something at MV might be a possibility. We liked the Village very much and made an appointment the next week with Gerry Carlson to see if anything was available to rent. He assured us that there was, and we began the application process. Our application was accepted, and we rented the promo at 36 Maranatha during the months of January through March of this year.

The unit we rented was providentially right across the street from another of our former pastors in Rittman, David Welshans (who succeeded Bill Harris). It

was good to reconnect with David and to reminisce over the 40 years that had gone by. Sadly, he passed away on March 2.

Since his family did not want to purchase his home at 23 Maranatha (and since David instructed his family on his deathbed that he wanted us to acquire it), we were able to purchase his villa. After doing some renovations, we moved to MV on June 8 of this year.

We feel blessed to be here and to be part of the Village. We enjoy the amenities, the people we have met, and the Christian atmosphere. We look forward to many happy days here and the opportunity to meet you!

In order to introduce ourselves more fully, we have two adult daughters, one of which lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and the other in Bellevue, Kentucky. We have three grandchildren in Carlisle whom we plan to visit whenever we can.

Kathi enjoys reading, walking, and riding her bike. She was a registered nurse before she retired at the beginning of 2021, having worked in surgery, pediatrics, and an eye surgery office.

Before retiring in 2018, Jim was an acquisitions editor for textbooks to be used at Christian colleges and evangelical seminaries. The companies he worked for include Baker Book House, Thomas Nelson, and Kregel Publications. He also had his own publishing firm for five years before selling it to Lexham Press (the publishing arm of Logos Bible Software).

Patient Assistance Program (PAP)

Just a reminder to all permanent residents of Maranatha Village:

We are blessed with a group of dedicated ladies who have organized to help residents see if their expensive medications can be covered by a **Patient Assistance Program (PAP)** and to help with that application process.

If you have a need, please contact **Mary Magnuson** at (863) 214-5435 to get the process started.

If you are already enrolled in a PAP program through the assistance of this group, your group member will soon be contacting you regarding 2023 re-enrollment for your medication.

Maranatha Manor Assisted Living Facility

Patricia Dale, Administrator



On March 11, 2020, all licensed assisted living facilities received emails from The State of Florida Department of Emergency Management with an Executive Order in response to the Covid-19 public health emergency, a severe threat to the entire state of Florida. Administrators were to lock down the facilities and screen all staff and caregivers for Covid-19 before allowing entrance into the facility. Residents were not to leave the building or have visitors. To protect the residents from the spread of Covid-19, the order restricted residents to their rooms, no public dining, no social activities. Focus was on safety and protecting the most vulnerable.

As you know, this was an exceedingly difficult time for our residents and staff. We made it through with God's protection, prayer, and encouragement from our Maranatha Village friends and church members.

The Agency for Health Care Administration has lessened restrictions over the last year and a half. Today we are no longer under executive orders. Assisted Living facilities are to follow the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control.

We are open for visitation with less restrictions, however, we are required to screen visitors as well as staff members for signs of Covid-19 before they enter the building. We are limited to the number of visitors

in the building as staff ensures a safe visit with infection control. Visitation may also take place on the porch with greater numbers of visitors and residents.

Residents are not restricted to staying in their room. There are No limitations. We are encouraging everyone to get back to church, shopping, eating out, playing games with friends, and doing arts and crafts. For those whose health may present difficulties in these areas, we encourage friends and families to visit and take residents out for a walk in the Village, for a walk with a wheelchair, or a golf cart ride. Even a short trip to get ice cream would be an encouragement.

I would like to thank all our volunteers and staff who have shown up for over two plus years to provide care and to serve our residents. Covid-19 is still a factor, and we need to be respectful and cautious of how our health affects everyone we encounter. Let's do all we can to be safe and get back to living and serving Christ in our community.

Pray for the Manor Residents & Workers!

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Ephesians 6:18



Cook's Korner

Creamy Garlic Tuscan Chicken

- 1 ½ lb boneless skinless chicken breasts, thinly sliced
- 2 T olive oil
- 1 c heavy cream
- ½ c chicken broth
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- ½ c parmesan cheese
- ½ c basil, fresh leaves, chopped
- ½ c sun dried tomatoes



Maranatha Village Cookbook

In a large skillet add olive oil and cook the chicken on medium high heat for 3-5 minutes on each side or until brown on each side and cooked until no longer pink in center. Remove chicken and set aside on a plate.

Add the heavy cream, chicken broth, garlic powder, Italian seasoning, and parmesan cheese. Whisk over medium high heat until it starts to thicken. Add the basil and sundried tomatoes and let it simmer until the basil starts to wilt. Add the chicken back to the pan and serve over pasta if desired.

*If you are serving over pasta and like it saucy, definitely double the sauce.

Diane Bailey

Chicken Lasagna Casserole

- 9 lasagna noodles (cooked)
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 3 cans chicken or 3 c cubed chicken
- ½ c chopped green pepper
- 8 oz cheddar cheese, shredded
- ⅓ c milk
- ½ c parmesan cheese
- ½ c chopped onion
- 8 oz mozzarella cheese
- 3 T butter



Maranatha Village Cookbook

Preheat oven to 350°. Sauté pepper, onion & butter. Cook noodles in a separate pan. Add soup and milk to the onion/butter. Heat through. Place thin layer of white sauce on bottom of a greased 9"x13" pan. Layer 3 noodles, sauce, ½ the chicken, ¼ c Parmesan cheese, 4 oz cheddar cheese and a small amount of sauce. Repeat this twice. Top with 3 noodles, sauce and 8 oz mozzarella cheese. Bake 350° for 45 minutes.

Lorraine Harris

* The Maranatha Village Cookbook is obtainable in the Village Office for \$10.00

There is Joy in Volunteering!

John Pyche, Volunteer Coordinator



Linda & John

A hymn writer wrote, “*There is Joy in Serving Jesus.*” That joy is our hope and prayer as we believers in Christ serve our Savior, our Village, and one another in this area of volunteering. We begin this first article from the Volunteer Coordinator

with a big thank you to those who have served before me to help meet the needs of Maranatha Village. A special thank you to John (and Rosanne) Olson for his years serving as the coordinator.

As your new coordinator, I look forward to building on the foundation that has been established. My wife, Linda, and I have had the privilege of already meeting with some of you volunteering in this ministry and look forward to learning about all the ways we can help one another. By definition, a volunteer is “a person who per-

forms a service willingly and without pay.” Maranatha Village, is rich with people who could be defined in this way. Not only have the residents spent most of their lives being volunteers in their churches, communities, and some even in foreign lands, they live with the desire to continue to serve this way until they can’t.

Maranatha Village itself was founded on the principle of “*Helping one another until Jesus comes.*” Through almost 50 years of existence, residents have helped each other. We cannot say our motto enough, because it’s a Biblical principle by which all Christians should live. If you were at the Village Dinner on August 18, you heard the announcement that there will be a new email address (Volunteermv1@gmail.com) purposely designed for volunteer information. Feel free to share your thoughts, ideas, and needs by emailing them to this address. As we work under the leadership of the Village administration, we look forward to serving you.

Maranatha Village Maintenance “Matters”

Bill Katka, Facilities Superintendent



Bill

Hello from your friendly local MMD (Maintenance Department). The regular maintenance crew and our valuable volunteers are busy daily as they work to make life here in the Village as carefree as we can. Our goal is to take care of your needs in as

timely a manner as we can. We do, however, have the same constraints as many businesses around our country. Supply issues, rising costs, scarcity of people who want to work (not our people, but those around us). In addition, we have crew members who may have medical issues. All of these factors contribute to an inability at times to complete tasks as quickly as we would like. We ask for your patience.

Our excellent crew of maintenance workers is daily hard at work fixing, moving, mowing, upgrading, and generally looking after our beautiful grounds and facilities. We are blessed to live in this place and the maintenance guys who do their work so conscientiously are a

big part of the smooth-running experience in our Village.

Of course, any ministry needs the material support of God’s people. So we don’t hesitate to share those needs with those who are familiar with the vital role that Maranatha Village plays in the lives of many retired Christian workers. We list needs because we know God’s people want to help but don’t always know what they can do.

Needs list:

- A generator large enough to run the maintenance area during storms.
- A small portable generator useful for operations in remote locations.
- Golf carts or utility carts to replace our aging fleet of maintenance carts.
- Ryobi 4AH 18 volt tool battery @ \$70.00
- Two shovels (round point) @ \$37.98
- Two soil rakes @ \$34.98

We can take contributions of actual articles or monetary gifts designated toward a particular project.

New Village Resident

Wendy Schittone



Wendy

Matthew 17:15-20 are the verses that shaped my Christian life. I was born on Long Island, New York, into a family of two denominations. My father was Catholic, and he married my mother who was Lutheran. Their children were brought up Catholic. I have a younger sister and two brothers,

one older and one younger. Although religiously different, my parents both loved the Lord, and I never had any doubt that God was in heaven and one day we would all be there with Him. I went to Mass every Sunday and to catechism class on Wednesday nights. Our very ecumenical family at one time consisted of two Catholics, two Lutherans, and two Baptists.

Growing up, we lived next door to a Baptist family, and the Baptist church was down the street. The girls next door came home from Sunday school with pictures of Bible stories they had colored. As a child, coloring pictures and playing at church during VBS was much more appealing to me than the nuns and the big formal Catholic church. Mrs. Evelyn would teach the girls the Bible in their kitchen, and they invited me to join them. When I was asked if I believed in Jesus and wanted to go to heaven, I replied with an emphatic "Yes!" That day I opened my heart and received Christ as Savior. I never got to color pictures or go to VBS at that time. Dad explained that I was Catholic and had to go to that church.

I was diagnosed with epilepsy as a toddler. I knew enough about it to recognize that I was different from the other kids and wanted no part of it. I read in Matthew that another child had it and that his father asked Jesus to heal him. I learned about faith the size of a mustard seed, and I had a necklace my grandmother, my mother's mother, had given me with a mustard seed in it. With those two things covered, I knew Jesus could heal me and that certainly sustained me through my growing-up years. It wasn't until my teen years, when my older brother had come home from his service in the Navy, as a new Christian, that I had a deeper understanding of accepting Christ as my Savior. But

I did know, as the hymn says, God took care of me all those years, especially as I attended public school and lived with epilepsy. Under my brother's influence, I started attending a Pentecostal church and their youth group. I was baptized in the pool at the church camp. I was married in that church, which by then had changed its name and become a non-denominational Christian church. My husband and I moved, and we drifted away from church for a while.

Twenty years later, we moved again to Rochester, New York. Shortly after, I was widowed and without a church. God led me to Open Door Baptist Church, where I felt like I was a child again in that kitchen learning from the Bible with my neighbors. I still had epilepsy and was now living alone. One evening in the kitchen, I wasn't feeling quite right and cried out loud for God to do something because I didn't think I'd be able to live with such uncertainty. I went to the doctor and was advised that surgery would be a better option than continuing with all the medication I was on. After brain surgery, I was taken off the meds and became alive! Later that year, I went on my first mission trip to Australia, helping a church that Open Door supported and conducting a VBS for the children. Again, God took care of me.

Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." No matter that you forgot about them, God didn't. He did heal me from epilepsy, and I not only got to go to VBS, I participated in it in a big way.

Another twenty years later, He kept that promise one more time. I was so busy maintaining a job and managing a big house on my own that I didn't give any thought to what else I could do. Once I retired, I was waiting on the Lord to show me what He wanted me to do. Through a series of events, He led me to Maranatha where now I no longer need to maintain a big house. I have the perfect size home and plenty of room to plant flowers, another desire He knew I had. I no longer worry about security, or what I should do because as the song says, God will take care of you. And He's doing exactly that. In this wonderful community, I will serve Him.

~ Launching the Legacy Center Project ~

Dr. Gerry Carlson, Marketing and Development

Maranatha Village is a beautiful community that God raised up fifty years ago. Now we have the privilege of participating in the next epoch of Maranatha's ministry through the **50&Forward Campaign** to help build the **Legacy Center** near the south lake on our campus. The purpose of this building is to enhance the fitness and fruitfulness of our residents and guests.

The **Legacy Center** will house a fitness room equipped with exercise machines, a craft room for teaching and creating crafts to serve others, and a beautiful porch facing the lake where spiritual refreshment and fellowship can occur. The estimated cost for the project is about \$450,000. Already the Village has set aside \$100,000 toward the total needed. Will you pray that God will burden many friends to be willing to participate in this exciting venture?

We remain committed to our motto, **"Helping one another until Jesus comes."** We are not merely a traditional retirement community but a ministry Village which exists to provide a place where we can live and continue to serve God and others in our "grey-headed" years. People who wholeheartedly embrace the **ethos** of MV see this as a place where they can live with others of like precious faith while continuing to serve their Lord and His people. We also enjoy "younger" retirees who still have the physical capability to **volunteer** and use their skills to work among us. Maranatha Village will also continue to be a place where those who **need assistance** can live and be treated kindly and honorably.

The new **Legacy Center** is designed to assist in all these ministry aspects. Now our new website, with an online giving capability, makes it easy for residents and friends of MV to participate in the **50&Forward Campaign**. To contribute, look on the front page of our website (www.maranathavillage.org) for the **Donate Online** button.

Pray for us, and thanks for considering a donation.

Subscribe for building updates

Donate Online

Click on the button, and the box on the right will appear. It is an easy way to give. You will receive an acknowledgment and receipt in your email when you donate.

THE ONLINE GIVING function is available right now. You can use it today. Remember that this is used **only** for your donations—NO VILLAGE PAYMENTS.

When Connie and I moved here in 2014, we wanted to see a long-term development fundraising program launched at Maranatha Village. Now is the time that our faithful Lord is answering that prayer. Part of our privilege in moving to Maranatha Village is the opportunity to invest in the ministry and leave a legacy for others who follow. Will you join us in this effort?

Designate your gift to a fund

50 & Forward Building Fund

One-Time

Monthly

Quarterly

Yearly

\$25

\$50

\$100

\$500

\$1,000

\$

Other

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Maranatha Village Trumpet

RG Watterson, Editor

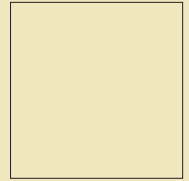
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*“Believe on the
Lord Jesus Christ
and you will be saved.”*

The Village Fitness Center



A survey of some folks who regularly use the fitness center revealed that only four machines are ever used. We had *Habitat for Humanity* remove the unused machines. A gift was given that paid for a goodly portion of a set of *free weights* that several had asked about. As those who use the fitness center know, it needed a thorough cleaning. John Pyche enlisted some residents to do the job. Now it is spic and span. Our Volunteer Coordinator is looking for someone to undertake the ministry of ensuring that the Fitness Center stays fit and clean. If you want to volunteer for this ministry, contact John Pyche in person or by email at *Volunteer-mv1@gmail.com*. As our Lord enables, we will continue to upgrade the Fitness Center in preparation for the move into the new Legacy Center.

The Blood Donor Honor Roll



Thank you for participating in the blood drive at Maranatha Village on June 30 and August 25. Each procedure can save up to three lives so that means 42 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at Maranatha Village. The blood donated at your blood drive is usually transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours.

June 30, 2022

Alice Hamblen
Anita Sorrells
Douglas Peacock
Frederick Faust
Janet Jeffers
Maxine Arter
Steven DeGroft
Terry Arter

August 25, 2022

Anita Sorrells
Fran Bowers
Janet Jeffers
Bruce Hendsbee
Frederick Faust
Mary Jo Wilson