

Westbury World



*Published by Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury
A Life Plan Community*



Volume XXVII Number 12

December 2023

Gabriel's Message

In the first chapter of the Gospel According to Luke we read the story about a young woman named Mary who is engaged to a man named Joseph. She is making plans to get married, to set up housekeeping, and to raise a family.

Everything is going great. But then, suddenly, everything changes. Things aren't going as planned -- at least not according to Mary's plan. Although still a virgin, she becomes pregnant before she gets married, and questions begin to race through her mind. What will Joseph think? What will he do? What will others think? How can this be? Mary is frightened, to say the least.

Amid this chaos, an angel appears – an angel named Gabriel. And to Mary, Gabriel says, *"Fear not. I am an angel. And my message is that God loves you. He loves you very much and has special plans for you. This child to whom you will give birth will be the Savior of the world. And remember with God nothing is impossible."* (Sort of reminds you of the old TV show *Touched by an Angel*, doesn't it?)

Think about times in your own life when you thought you had everything worked out and suddenly you were tossed a life-changing challenge that caused you to put all your plans on hold, or perhaps even abandon them altogether.

Think about those times when, like Mary, you may have wondered what was happening. Think about those times when, like Mary, you may have been afraid. Think about those times when, like Mary, you may have looked heavenward and asked, "How can this be?"

I think about my life – situations I've been in, plans gone awry, uncertainty about what to do with the hand life had dealt me – and, if I really think deeply and try to remember accu-

ately, very often there was a voice, a voice that spoke to me.

Sometimes the voice was present in the words of a friend or acquaintance, other times it was simply felt, and still other times it wasn't even recognizable, but was there, nonetheless.

Often in my life I have wondered and been afraid, and more than once have asked, "How can this be?"

During this time of year, it is especially helpful to remember that God is present with us in ways both seen and unseen, and that God continues to be revealed to us in a myriad of ways: sometimes through the acts of kindness shown to us by others; sometimes in events we call coincidences; sometimes in events we call miracles. And sometimes through the birth of a little child, whose arrival we joyfully celebrate this time of year.

Merry Christmas!

Chaplain Bill Everhart



Message from Our CEO

As I sit down to write my article this month, I am thinking of all the things I am grateful for this year. SVWC has so much to celebrate.

I am thankful for all those who call SVWC home. It is an honor and privilege to get to know our residents. The fact that they chose SVWC is indeed quite humbling and something that is never taken for granted. I am thankful for all our volunteers who give selflessly of their time and talents. This includes our Board members and residents. I am thankful for the residents who work so hard to keep our campus, trails, and ponds a priority.

I am thankful for our dedicated staff who have been here for 35 years, and those who have been here for 35 days.

I am thankful for the donors who support our employees and residents when they need it the most. I am thankful for the business partners within the broader Winchester/Frederick County area collaborating with SVWC to make our community a better place to live.

On a personal level, I am thankful for my faith. I had a resident ask me not long ago what kept me going, and the answer is my faith. I love working for a faith-based, mission-driven community committed to doing the right thing every day.

We never know what tomorrow may hold so I hope each of you takes time this holiday season to reflect on the blessings in your life and on those things that bring you joy.

From our SVWC family to your family: have a wonderful, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Jeannie Shiley



Santa Paws Donations

One of our favorite SVWC events is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, this year.

Residents and employees give cat, dog, rabbit, or gerbil food for the animals at the Winchester SPCA and the Esther Boyd Animal Shelter in Frederick County.

Donations will be collected outside of Morgan's Tavern and in front of the Gift Shop. Those that give may then pick up a free, to-go hearty breakfast in the Bistro.

We love to fill the truck as all food donations are matched pound for pound by All Pets Cremation Center of Omps Funeral Home.

SVWC has led the pack in donations in recent years, so please let's continue to be generous for the local animals in need of help.

Sylvia Wilson



Christmas Activities

- December 1 - **Kimberly's Pop-Up Shop**
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. (Commons)
- December 3 - **Special Movie:**
"Christmas Jars" 6:00 p.m. (Abbey)
- December 7 - Start of the **Twelve Days of Christmas Give-a-way**
- December 7 - **Santa Paws Breakfast** 7:00 a.m. (Bistro)
- December 10 - **Sharon Voldt's Piano Students present The Christmas Story**
7:00 p.m. (Abbey)
- December 12 - **Sherando High School Concert** 12:30 p.m. (Commons)
- December 15 - **Variety Show** 2:00 p.m. (Abbey)
- December 17 - **First Presbyterian Church Christmas Performance** 2:45 p.m. (Chapel)
- December 18 - **Christmas Door Decoration Judging**
- December 20 - **Christmas Door Winners** announced at Coffee with Administration
- December 23 - **Cottage Luminary Walk** begins at 5 p.m.



Photo by Bill Young

2023 EAF Gifts to Employees

The 2023 Employee Appreciation Fund (EAF) gifts to all current employees of SVWC were given to the administrators of their departments at the November 15 Coffee with Administration. EAF gifts will be mailed to eligible former employees. The amount of each gift was determined by the number of hours worked by each employee.

The gifts were made possible by the generosity of 85% of the SVWC residents. The Resident Association Officers and members of the EAF Committee worked through the year to organize and promote the giving campaign, and at a recent meeting to sign the checks and place them in the correct envelopes.

Thanks are due to all the current and future residents who contributed so generously to the EAF, and to the family members and friends who contributed in memory of their loved ones. The gifts are greatly appreciated by the SVWC staff.

Peggy Kenney



Two of the Creches on Display in the Commons

Photo by Bill Young



From the Archives

A Nature Walkers adventure from 20 years ago, as reported in the Westbury World for December, 2003:

The November Nature Walkers had to change their planned route along Wappacomo Trail to the National Fruit Products Company. A huge fallen tree blocked their path.

Two brave souls crawled underneath, but a fence prevented an end run so the walkers turned back on another route, passing a chicken coop.

About a dozen hens ran toward them right through the fence made to keep them in. All six hikers returned a little wet, tired, cold, and invigorated and unaccompanied by chickens.



Nature Walks will begin again in early spring. Try it. You'll like it.



Jill Asamoah and Donielle Weatherholtz-Palmer (l to r) at the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) in Raleigh, North Carolina, receiving the PAC Designation Award for Blue Ridge Hall.

Thursday Night Programs

- December 7 **Westbury Choristers** presented by Sue Correll
 December 14 **"Winchester Tales"** presented by Mike Robinson
 December 21 **Blue & Grey Barbershop Chorus** presented by Ross Curtis
 December 28 **No program** - Happy New Year

The programs are presented live in the Abbey most Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Residents are invited to attend in person. Programs are also shown live on Channel 970 and streamed on the portal if there are no copyright issues.

To help plan and obtain speakers and programs, please contact Margaret Richardson.

Merry Christmas

Thomas Pandolfi Returns

The Bistro Concert on Friday, December 8, will feature the return of the internationally acclaimed classical pianist Thomas Pandolfi. Since early in his career, his passion has been to make the works of the great composers available to music lovers everywhere, in venues modest and grand. His program will feature works by Gershwin, Debussy, and Chopin.



Pandolfi studied as a full scholarship winner at The Juilliard School in New York City as both an undergraduate and master's degree student. As a young prodigy he caught the attention of Vladimir Horowitz and composer Morton Gould.

He has sold out some of the world's famous concert halls, including The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Strathmore, Kiev Opera House (before the war in Ukraine), Bucharest's Romanian Athenaeum, and London's Cadogan Hall. He has toured four times in China, three in the U.K., seven in Romania, and across the US and Canada.

Morton Gould said of a Pandolfi program, "It's the finest performance of Gershwin ... since the composer himself". *The Washington Post*: "... a master of both the grand gesture and the sensual line...". He is recognized as one of the great interpreters of Polish masters such as Chopin and Paderewski.

This will be his 12th appearance in the Bistro Concert series. From his earliest performances here, we have found Pandolfi to be a gifted educator, offering audiences charming and concise insights about each piece and its composer.

The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 cash at the door. Part of the proceeds benefit the Fellowship Fund. The Bistro Concerts are sponsored by Atlantic Union Bank.

Bob Sherwood



Library Acquisitions New in December

Fiction

Let It Crow! Let It Crow! Let It Crow!	Donna Andrews
Bright Lights, Big Christmas	Mary Kay Andrews
Clive Cussler Condor's Fury	Graham Brown
Saving Emma	Allen Eskens
Code Red: A Mitch Rapp Novel	Vince Flynn
	and Kyle Mills
The Armor of Light	Ken Follett
The Running Grave	Robert Galbraith
The Exchange: After the Firm (LP) *	John Grisham
The Woman at the Wheel	Penny Haw
The Oceans and the Stars	Mark Helprin
Blessing of the Lost Girls (LP)	J. A. Jance
The Last Devil to Die (LP)	Richard Osman
12 Months to Live (LP) *	Patterson Lupica
The Caretaker	Ron Rash
Second Act (LP) *	Danielle Steel
The Twelve Dogs of Christmas	Susan Wiggs

Non-Fiction

Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune	Anderson Cooper
The Coming Wave	Mustafa Suleyman
To Infinity and Beyond	Neil deGrasse Tyson

*A copy in Wappacomo Library



Photo by Bill Young

Lawrence Gallery Exhibit

"A Visual Journey- Color, Form, Texture" is the title of the Lawrence Gallery Exhibit scheduled for November 21 through January 29, 2024.

Artist Constance Fisher is a Clarke County/Shenandoah Valley artist who is a signature member of both the Virginia Watercolor Society and the Baltimore Watercolor Society. She is also a member of the National Watercolor Society, the Society of Layerist in Multi-Media, and the Shenandoah Arts Council.

Connie studied at the Carnegie-Mellon College of Fine Arts, the Maryland Institute College of Art, Towson University and Johns Hopkins University. She was an illustrator in the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine at Johns Hopkins.

Her art is best described as Expressionism in which she explores light, form, atmosphere, mood and movement. Her work often combines abstract elements with representational images to create an emotional affect. The result of Connie's diverse techniques in watercolor, acrylic and mixed media are beautiful paintings which appeal to both the eye and the spirit.

Loretta Johnston

Patriotic Events

On November 10, Lt. Col. Joe Fluett (USMC, Ret.) cut the traditional cake on the occasion of the Corps' 248th birthday.



Photo by Bill Young

On November 11, Veterans Day, Jimmie Harp rang SVWC's bell located near the main entrance for about 15 minutes in keeping time with a nationwide tradition.



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Published and distributed by
Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury
300 Westminster Canterbury Drive
Winchester, VA 22603 - - - - - www.svwc.org
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Welcome to Our New Neighbors

JoAnn Kammerdeiner and Tom Benson moved into 1400 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 104 from Burke, VA.

Linda and Tom Smith moved into 1410 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 202 from Manassas, VA.

Bob Zidek moved into 1400 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 204 from Winchester, VA.

Joyce and Gordon Clark moved into 610 Feldspar Court, Apt. 102 from Oil City, PA.

Sandy and Mark Lore moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 302 from Winchester, VA.

Jane Crittenden moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 300 from Stephens City, VA.

Sandi Esty moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 200 from Alexandria, VA.

Ginny and Ron Hamme moved into 1410 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 203 from Elizabethville, PA.

Nancy and Marty Tabaka moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 100 from Winchester, VA.

Mary and Jim Riley moved into 1400 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 102 from Winchester, VA.

Judy Eure moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 301 from Strasburg, VA.

Lynne and John Donovan moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 201 from Middleburg, VA.

Mike and Linnea Turner moved into 1420 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 202 from Broad Run, VA.

Parker Wigton moved into 1410 Bold Rock Drive, Apt. 101 from Berryville, VA.

Donna Gwyer moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 207 from Hermitage, PA.

Thelma and Roy Schwarz moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 405 from Winchester, VA.



Photo by Bill Young

Resident Involvement Dessert Social



Photos by Bill Young

What a buzz of conversation as thirty seven resident committee chairs and activity leaders were in the Commons, the Private Dining Room and the Activities Room on November 13 to let residents appreciate the variety of opportunities available at SVWC to be busy and actively involved in an area of their interest.

Over 30 new residents from all areas of the campus eagerly visited the various tables and displays. Current residents explored the possibility of a new endeavor. Questions were asked and answered with enthusiasm.

As a result, many individuals signed up to be added to a committee list or for a gathering for a game.

Yes, delectable desserts were provided by Dining. They disappeared very quickly as residents could not resist their appeal.

In case you didn't get to see everything, or were unable to attend, this one, another reception will be held December 11.

Don't miss out!

Sylvia Wilson



Photo by Bill Young

The Murder Mystery Returns

The Foundation's Fellowship Fund Committee for Special Events held a murder mystery fundraiser on November 3rd. The production "Million Dollar Murder" was directed by Joan Claybrook.

The Million Dollar Murder Mystery cast: (Floor) Jill Hazelbauer-Von der Ohe; (Seated) Joan Claybrook, Margie Sheppard, Jim Wilcox, Cari Sherwood, Cummie York; (Standing) Kitty Zuckerman, Kate Reed, Sue Correll, Ginny Eisenstaedt, Rick Eisenstaedt, and Jean Trumbore.

Bob and Robin Bolan solved the mystery and won a "Million Dollar Bar" (Note: that's the candy's name). The event raised \$2,725.

The committee also held a money tree guessing game before the play which raised \$546. The evening of the play, the Committee held a silent auction; this event raised \$2,730.

Thanks to the three fundraising efforts, plus a \$5,000 sponsorship from Tandem Senior Living Advisors, the committee raised nearly \$11,000 to benefit the Fellowship Fund.

Kitty Zuckerman

Mission Statement

*Shenandoah Valley Westminster-
Canterbury is a not-for-profit, intimate, church-
related continuing care retirement community
that is committed to enabling residents to use
their gifts fully, live their lives richly, and enjoy
with dignity the years God has given them.*



Paul Arnold

Westbury World's Beloved Editor
November 2014-November 2023
Paul, Luna, Mariella, and Jane

Westbury  World

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