

Westbury World

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A Life Plan Community*

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Our Chaplain's Christmas Message

We recently completed a five-week study of Adam Hamilton's book *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*, in which he invites his readers to slow down and enter the story of Christ's birth with fresh eyes by exploring Mary and Joseph's experiences, the political tensions of the era, and the physical realities of the journey to Bethlehem.

Hamilton calls us to look afresh at the humanity of Mary and Joseph - their fears, hopes, and obedience - as they stepped into God's plan. Through that lens, the Nativity story becomes not just something that happened long ago, but a living invitation for us to respond to God's call in our own lives.

Hamilton suggests we use Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage to Bethlehem as a pattern for our own spiritual journey: one that involves waiting, listening, and making room for Christ. Advent, he says, is often overshadowed by busy schedules, consumer pressures, and cultural noise, and he stresses the importance of getting back to the essentials - hope, peace, joy, and love - as we are reminded that God often comes in quiet, surprising ways.

My prayer for us all during this special season of the year is that God will deepen our faith, strengthen our sense of wonder, and reconnect us with the core of the Christian story. In walking the road to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph, may we find ourselves better prepared to welcome Christ anew into our lives and our world.

Merry Christmas!

Reverend Bill Everhart

Winter Elegance Fashion Show

The Winter Elegance Fashion Show, held on November 20, was a sold out event. It was coordinated by the Fellowship Committee for Special Events. The event raised \$13,225 (including \$1,775 from the Fiber Folks quilt raffle) for the Fellowship Fund. Jay Foreman moderated the event. A special thank you to Tandem Senior Living, sponsor of the event.



Photos by Bill Young

SVWC Develops New Strategic Plan

Since June, SVWC has been working with Greystone, a consulting firm out of Dallas, TX, to develop a new three-year Strategic Plan for our community. Participants in developing the plan included residents, staff members, and trustees of the Board. To kick off the process, a survey was sent to all residents and staff. The goal of the survey was to get feedback on the culture, experiences, services, and future vision as it relates to SVWC. Greystone then conducted a market analysis. This included defining our primary market area and analyzing demographic, economic, real estate, and market supply data. This information, including industry trends, was shared at the kickoff meeting held on June 25th.

Over the next several months, there were lots of discussions about identifying and prioritizing potential opportunities. Evaluation criteria were established to ensure the plan was actionable and quantifiable. During the process, affirmation statements were defined. These statements reflect current organizational governance, values, and actions that drive continued operational excellence and success. The statements were:

- Honor SVWC Culture
- Uphold Financial Sustainability
- Attract and Retain Talent
- Elevate Dining Experience
- Provide Effective Communication Avenues
- Enhance Technology
- Expand Community Partnerships

Three strategic initiatives were identified. The first involves refining our mission statement and creating a vision statement for SVWC. The second is to determine the future of wellness and healthcare services.

The final initiative is to develop a master plan to create a long-term road map for SVWC growth and replacement of aged facilities while retaining opportunities for future flexibility.

On November 17, Greystone presented the final plan to the Corporate Board of Trustees and to residents and staff the following day.

I would like to thank everyone, especially the members of the Property and Planning Committee, for their diligent work over the past

five months. This strategic plan will serve as our road map for the next three years. The Strategic Plan can be found on the resident portal under SVWC Information, and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Jeannie Shiley, CEO

Welcome to Our New Neighbors

Ruth Curley moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 106 from Winchester, VA.

Ann Garrett moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 306 from Amissville, VA.



Annual Santa Paws Pet Food Collection & Breakfast

Tuesday, December 9
7:00 to 9:30 a.m.
The Abbey/Main Dining Room

Donate cat and dog food for local animal shelters and receive a complimentary breakfast.

Drop off your donations at the Lawrence Hall vestibule or in front of Morgan's Tavern and enjoy your complimentary breakfast.

Donations are matched pound for pound by All Pets Cremation Center of Omps Funeral Home.

Mother Nature's Team Receives Award



The Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District has recognized SVWC's Mother Nature's Team (MNT) as the winner of its 2025 Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) Award.

The MNT, under the leadership of Judi Booker, received the Award for its extensive landscaping project to improve Goff Pond and its surrounding area.

Goff Pond serves as a rainwater retention pond that feeds Redbud Run. It collects stormwater runoff from approximately 22 acres of the SVWC campus. The project has included the drainage way to the Pond, a meadow buffer along the Pond edge, native wetland plugs for pond bank stabilization, and extensive shrub plants to help retain soils and replace invasive species. The project totaled over 6,400 square feet of native plantings, one of the largest projects in size and water quality impact for the Lord Fairfax District, providing a great benefit to the City of Winchester and Frederick County.

Lifelong Learning

SVWC Lifelong Learning will host sessions every Monday in December starting at 2:00 p.m. and ending at approximately 3:00 p.m. in the Abbey.

The sessions **Monday, December 1 and 8**, feature the return of resident Ron Hamme leading "**A Journey Through Art.**" His first session is on "**Humanity's First Signature – Prehistoric Art.**" In 1875 Marcelino de Sautuola, a Spanish amateur geologist and archaeologist, excavated a cave near Santillana, in northern Spain. Inside he found some black wall paintings and split bones of the later Paleolithic Period including a skeleton of the giant cave bear. His 13-year-old daughter, Maria, who accompanied him, was the first to sight the famed colored ceiling paintings in a side cavern, today regarded as the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistory." This was the Altamira Cave, and it contains the earliest known examples of Stone Age painting. But who were the artists to be the first to express their interpretations of their environment here and elsewhere from 60,000 to 30,000 years ago? Whose handprint is that on the wall – the first signature of humanity?

On December 8, Ron will present "**Egypt – Gift of the Nile.**" Few places in time incite more mystery and fascination than ancient Egypt. For over 3,000 years it rose to become a powerful country in history, especially in Antiquity. Time was intended to stand still for Egypt and more than any other country it almost achieved that. What was it about this intriguing and fascinating culture that draws us today to look back at it and study it still? Its art and architecture, the beautiful sculptures and its famous pharaohs call to us from the most remote times as if in an almost unreal dream world.

Monday, **December 15** will feature the late Jeanne Robertson and other comedy portrayals of senior living. The special Christmas event in the Bistro follows the program.

On **December 22** the Westbury Choristers, led by Sue Correll, will provide the opportunity to hear and sing traditional holiday music.

December 29 will feature a TED Talk by Brene Brown that should add value to New Year's Resolutions and lives in 2026.

Bob Bolan and Ron Hamme



Library Acquisitions New in December

Fiction

Terminal Velocity (LP)	Tom Clancy
	M. P. Woodward
The Killing Stones	Ann Cleeves
The Proving Ground	Michael Connelly
Gone Before Goodbye (LP)	
	Harlen Coben/Reese Witherspoon
Sharp Force (LP)	Patricia Cornwell
Denied Access	Vince Flynn/Don Bentley
Circle of Days (LP)	Ken Follett
The Widow (LP)*	John Grisham
Once Upon a Holidate	Susan Mallery
The Impossible Fortune (LP)*	Richard Osman
The Picasso Heist (LP)	
	James Patterson/Howard Roughan
In The Time of Five Pumpkins	Alexander McCall Smith
The Portrait (LP)*	Danielle Steel
Christmas Witness	Charles Todd

Non-Fiction

The Gales of November:	
The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald	John U. Bacon

*A Copy in Wappacomo Library



Employee Appreciation Fund Thank You

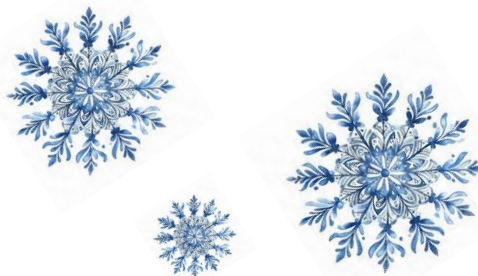
Thanks to the generosity of SVWC residents and to the great ideas and hard work of the Employee Appreciation Fund Committee, the 2025 campaign set two records. Contributions, including interest accrued, totaled an unprecedented \$355,470.60 while resident participation rose from 90% last year to 91.2% this year. The Committee increased the amount of money employees will receive on November 19 when the 385 eligible employees will get gifts ranging from \$50 to \$1400 depending on how many hours they worked.

The Committee members, Linda Botens, Jacki Brown, Rick Eisenstaedt, Mike Jeffries, Marty Tabaka, Marge Toxopeus and I are grateful to all the residents who contributed and to Loretta Johnston for her creative and colorful posters.

SVWC, can we do even better in 2026? Please remember that contributions can be made at any time between November 1, 2025 and October 31, 2026, in a lump sum or in convenient increments.

Pam Curtis

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Introducing Our New Staff

Leslie Knotts, the new Director of Human Resources, joined SVWC in early November. Leslie resides in Winchester with her husband and three daughters. She was previously employed at American Woodmark in Human Resources.

Leslie graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor's in Business Management and obtained a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from Southern New Hampshire University. In February, she received her certification as a Senior Certified Professional from the Society for Human Resource Management.

In her free time, Leslie enjoys spending time with her family, whether is it just cooking and eating together or traveling to new places that most likely involve a beach and ocean for the best views

Josh Heavner, our new Assistant Director of Dining Services, also joined SVWC in November. Josh lives in Lovettsville with his wife and four year-old daughter. They are looking forward to the birth of their son very soon.

Josh has worked in healthcare settings for the past seven years, including at a local hospital. He has a degree in Hospitality Management with minors in computer science and business.

In his free time he loves to travel, spend time with family, and working on old cars (he is rebuilding a 1967 Ford engine for a Mustang). Josh also enjoys astronomy.

Josh is very excited to get to know all the residents along with getting to work with the amazing team here!



Photos by Bill Young

Thursday Night Programs

- December 4: Tiffany Lamps
Presented by Jim Barnard
- December 11: General Philip Sheridan
Presented by Jonathan Noyalas
- December 18: To Be Announced
- December 25: Merry Christmas (no program)



Holiday Events

- Dec 3: IL Christmas Tree Decorating with Youth Group 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 5: Kimberly's Pop-Up Shop 11:00 a.m. Commons
- Dec 8: Mary Kay Pop-Up Shop 10 a.m. Outside of Tavern
- Dec 8 - 23: The Twelve Days of Christmas Giveaway (2 winners each weekday)
- Dec 9: Variety Show 2:00 p.m. Abbey
- Dec 15: Admiral Byrd Middle School Girls Honor Choir Performs 10 a.m. Abbey
- Dec 15: Dining Services Christmas With Santa Event 2:00 p.m. Bistro
- Dec 15: Trip: IL Christmas Light Ride 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 16: Mystique Christmas Party 3:00 p.m. Cafe
- Dec 18: Trip: Annual Christmas Lunch, Airport Inn, Hagerstown, MD 11:00 a.m.
- Dec 19: Donut Bingo & Christmas Party 10:30 a.m. Abbey
- Dec 22: Christmas Gift Swap Party 2:30 p.m. Commons
- Dec 22: Trip: IL Christmas Light Ride 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 3, 2026: New Year's Eve Gala 7:30 p.m. Abbey



Saluting Our Veterans



250th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps

Tom Smith, our youngest Marine, cutting the cake with his sword.



Veterans Day Luncheon

The Annual Veterans Day luncheon included two guest speakers. Bill Keech (above) spoke of his Honor Flight trip to the D.C. war memorials. Speaker RADM William Stubblefield, NOAA (ret.), (below) gave a talk on the Arctic seaways along the northern coasts of Canada and Russia and around the North Pole.



Photos by Bill Young

Master Pianist Thomas Pandolfi Returns to the Bistro

The world-renowned piano virtuoso Thomas Pandolfi, a long-time favorite here, will play in the Bistro Concert on Friday evening, December 12. It will be his 14th performance in the series.



A graduate of The Juilliard School, Pandolfi earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees as a full scholarship student and won the prestigious Julliard Concerto Competition. At his Lincoln Center debut, the legendary Vladimir Horowitz told him that he had the four Ts, which he considered essential elements of pianistic success: talent, tone, temperament, and technique.

DC Metro Art notes that his performances are "...a rare mix of technical accuracy and cool confidence." His performances of Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Chopin, Liszt, and Gershwin have made him a popular and much beloved concerto soloist. His repertoire spans musical history from Bach to Gershwin, with Morton Gould saying, "It's the finest performance of Gershwin I have heard since the composer himself."

Thomas' international concerts have carried him across the globe to extended tours in China and rave reviews in Eastern and Western Europe. His career encompasses solo recitals, chamber music, and 'crossover' works. He has sold out many of the world's most prestigious stages, including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, The Strathmore, The Kennedy Center, Kiev Opera House, Bucharest's Romanian Athenaeum, and London's Cadogan Hall.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Admission is \$10 a person, cash only. Atlantic Union Bank sponsors the Bistro Concert Series.

Nina Frederick, Linnea Turner, Bob Sherwood



Our Therapy Department Wishes You a Merry Christmas!

Westbury  **World**

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