



# Seasons

UNITED METHODIST HOMES

A NEWSLETTER FOR STAFF, RESIDENTS & FRIENDS OF UNITED METHODIST HOMES

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Compliance Officer

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## Nursing Home Week 2013

Never thought you'd participate in Spirit Week again post-high school? Think again! Annual Nursing Home Week celebrations give staff and residents a great excuse to go all-out on a fun theme. Read on to discover what happened at each campus. And, the next time you see activity staff members, be sure to thank them for planning and carrying out another special week of fantastic programming! *Editor's note: As a personal care facility, the Tunkhannock Campus does not celebrate Nursing Home Week.*

### Hilltop Campus, James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home

**Theme: Countries**

**Activities:** On their armchair trip around the world, James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Home residents and staff enjoyed a wide range of activities. Everyone was challenged to decorate for each day of Nursing Home Week, and to dress in colors and themes matching each country. The celebration began with the US, featuring apple pie, a visit from the ice cream truck and a staff and resident baseball game (postponed until Czech Day due to inclement weather). Italy followed, with biscotti, cappuccino and a lecture on the Pope. On to Japan, with morning exercise led by a sumo wrestler (aka Personal Trainer Nick Sees in an inflatable costume), a sushi-making demonstration and a chance to try sushi-making firsthand! Czech Day included real and imagined Czech costumes (Public Relations and Marketing Director Sarah Soden visited in her custom-made Bohemian outfit), and fake (but entertaining!) folk dances. Mexico Day featured a Mexican fiesta, with a "best sombrero" contest, and a full-building walk-through by Soden and her chihuahua Azalea, wearing (what else?) her taco costume.



Activity Leader Christa McEwan (right) helps resident Mary Ann Fertig choose a biscotti. The resident baking group made homemade biscotti to be included on the tray as a choice along with the store-bought options.



Hold onto your sombreros, everyone, and don't get between resident Clara Sarday and her piñata! Residents took turns at bat during Mexico Day.



Unit Secretary Barb Wayman cuts a rug with resident Jane Nedoptylski during Czech day! Wayman is wearing a dirndl (okay, we know that's German) made by resident Hedy Strauss for her daughter!

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**Tunkhannock Campus, Tunkhannock, PA**  
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*Personal care*

**Wesley Village Campus, Pittston, PA**  
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*Independent living, personal care, skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation*

## Editorial

### Donald Prutisto, Compliance Officer



With our annual compliance training scheduled for summer, now is a good time to reflect on why United Methodist Homes repeats

these educational sessions for staff each year. There are a number of reasons that compliance training is not a “one and done” part of employee orientation, including:

#### Staff members are the front line

United Methodist Homes’ employees are the ones interacting with each other, residents, family members, visitors, vendors, agency employees and other individuals. It’s critical that our staff understand the compliance implications of on-the-job decisions, whether it’s determining who is entitled to clinical information or whether the Homes can legally deal with a certain vendor.

#### Rules and regulations change

The content of my compliance education presentation is not recycled year to year – the government constantly amends old rules and adds new ones. The annual education session is a way for me to provide those updates to staff.

#### Setting off the light bulb

If even one staff member has an “aha” moment in a compliance training session, it’s worth it. An employee may hear information during training and remember something he or she has experienced personally. It’s important for staff to have the opportunity to connect their front-line work experiences with the ethical and legal side of the coin.

#### Repetition helps you remember

Hearing something once is great – but hearing it multiple times is what gets it to stick in your head. My goal is for employees to understand that even if they don’t know chapter and verse of

compliance regulations, there are internal resources (supervisors, administrators, myself) and ways to ask for help and clarification on issues of concern or instances that create a question.

#### Complacency is the enemy

In the same way that some people feel like exceptional drivers who can therefore competently text and drive, we may each think we are fully versed in compliance. Complacency is what opens the door to compliance violations. We must each be constantly aware of our workplace surroundings and our responsibility to the residents and staff and the clinical, financial and personal information we steward.

*Prutisto has been the Homes’ compliance officer since 2011, and looks forward to seeing everyone during compliance education sessions this summer! He can be reached via his office line at (607) 775-6400, ext. 290, or on the compliance hotline at 1-800-646-9066.*

## Around



Our “Around the Block” series profiles United Methodist Homes residents who explain what their lives have been like, what their big adventures have been, how they’ve made a difference, and how they want to be remembered.

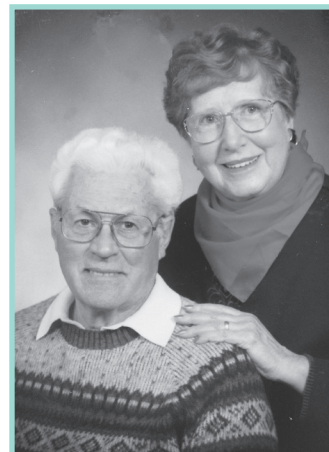
### Max Jones James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Facility, Hilltop Campus

*Editor’s Note: Max Jones passed away in late May – his story appears posthumously with his family’s permission.*

Max Jones was born in 1918 on his parents’ farm in Kingsley, Pennsylvania. When Jones was small, his father became a rural delivery mail carrier (with a horse and buggy!), so the family moved to town. His mother stayed home to take care of Jones and his younger brother.

Upon graduation from high school in 1937, a classmate persuaded Jones to attend the Luscombe School of Aeronautics in Trenton, New Jersey. Once coursework was complete, Luscombe hired graduates to work in its Trenton manufacturing operation. The company was a pioneer in the fabrication of all-metal aircraft, using the external metal skin of the plane to help support the structural weight. Not long after starting in Luscombe’s service department, which tested each plane to ensure flight readiness, the department manager left for another job. He recommended Jones to take his place. Jones recalled, “There I was, 21 years old with a staff of 10 people!”

A few years later, Jones became the chief mechanic of a large flight school in Fort Collins, Colorado. At the start of World War II, he was hired by American Airlines, which had a government contract to fly military freight to weather stations inside the Arctic Circle. The company sent him first to Presque Isle, Maine, then to a Canadian posting in Goose Bay, Labrador. In his role as flight engineer, he kept the



*Max and Marie Jones around the time of their marriage in the mid-1980s.*

Douglas C-47 airplane flight-ready, no mean feat in temperatures rarely above minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit. “On trips with overnight layovers, we would put wing covers on. In the morning we would start the engines two hours before we were scheduled to leave. I remember asking one of the base soldiers at an Arctic Circle posting if the extreme cold was unusual, and he said, ‘Well, our thermometer goes to -50 F and the mercury is curled up at the bottom.’” While working for American, Jones had

*Continued on page 5*

## Jacobs Inducted Into Hall of Fame



*Cory Jacobs (center) accepts her award from SUNYCUAD Board Member Michael Frame (left) and SUNYCUAD Board President Amy Kremenek.*

On June 6, Vice-President of Development Cory Jacobs was inducted into the State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD) Hall of Fame. She received the recognition for her continuous work in fundraising, especially securing the SUNY system's second largest cash gift – of more than \$1 million – for Binghamton University's "Bold. Brilliant. Binghamton." campaign. She was nominated for the honor by the full SUNYCUAD board.

Jacobs was recognized during SUNYCUAD's annual conference in Long Island, and received her plaque from SUNYCUAD Board President Amy Kremenek and SUNYCUAD Board Member Michael Frame.

The Hall of Fame was established in 2003 to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves, their institutions and the state university system with significant contributions to its mission of service and education. Inductees must have a minimum of five years of service to SUNY and have an exceptional work record.

Jacobs has worked in development since 1999, joining United Methodist Homes in January.



## Crunching His Way to 100

Elizabeth Church Manor resident Ted Whipple celebrated his 100th birthday on June 14 with a party organized by his family. He credits his longevity to two decades of eating a bowl of Cap'n Crunch cereal every morning and Lorna Doone cookies every evening! Son Bob Whipple wrote to the Quaker Oats Company, which makes Cap'n Crunch, and told them about his father's devotion to their cereal. Quaker issued a fan proclamation naming Ted "The Ripe and Honorable Fellow of the Loyal Order of the Cap'n," and sent a Cap'n Crunch t-shirt. Ted also received a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Ted (seated) is shown with Bob and the original Whipple painting the family donated in honor of Ted's birthday. Ted painted the windmill at Ericeira, Portugal, in 1971, and calls windmills one of his favorite subjects because they are so distinctive.

## Elizabeth Church Manor Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On May 17, Elizabeth Church Campus residents and staff celebrated the campus' 50th anniversary by opening a time capsule buried during the campus' 25th anniversary in 1988.

Administrator Vicky Morabito opened the capsule with help from special guests Mary Lou Faust, former campus administrator, and retired CEO Keith Chadwick.

The metal capsule, measuring about 10 inches high by 5 inches wide, contained lists of staff and employees from 1988, postcards and letters donated by residents, photos, a cassette tape, a history of the property written by Frank Boland, an artificial flower corsage (which were presented to residents on their birthdays), and Faust's kazoo, which she used to serenade employees on their birthdays. The capsule had been buried beneath an engraved stone near the St. Louise Manor portico.

Seven staff members who were employees in 1988 still work at the campus, and several were on hand for the ceremony in the courtyard. Said Morabito, "We'd like to bury another capsule later this year to be opened on the campus' 75th anniversary, to remind people of what 2013 was like."



*Former campus administrator Mary Lou Faust, retired CEO Keith Chadwick and Administrator Vicky Morabito posed with the time capsule before its opening.*

**Nursing Home Week 2013** *Continued from page 1*

**Wesley Village Campus, Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility**

**Theme: Decades**

**Activities:** The campus hosted activities for the 1930s through the 1970s. Throughout the week, staff and residents wore decade-themed clothing, and era-appropriate music played each day. The 1930s day included a radio show, and 1940s featured a showing of *Casablanca*. A sock hop with root beer floats and a hula hoop contest rounded out 1950s day, followed by a groovy 1960s party. The 1970s disco “dy-no-mite” party included singing, dancing and seventies trivia, plus crackers with Easy Cheese (spray-can cheese was introduced in that decade). Activity Aide Lindsey Heinzlmeir and LPN Gerri McDonald were the winners of the paddleball contest.



Myers Manor resident Mary Doran (left) and Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Margaret Doris Davies (right) with Partridge-Tippett Activity Aide Michaline Gubitoso – in era-appropriate clothing – before the screening of *Casablanca*.



Swing those hips! Activity Aides (from left) Lindsey Heinzlmeir, Rosarie Musto, Mary Ann Battista and Assistant Activity Director Shelli Ratchford gave the hula hoop contest the old college try!



Aide Marilyn Kilbourn assists Myers Manor resident Betty Lou Furman during the hula hoop contest.



**Elizabeth Church Campus, Elizabeth Church Manor**

**Theme: Staff and Residents Working Together**

**Activities:** Elizabeth Church Manor residents and staff enjoyed a wide range of activities during Nursing Home Week, including several “Music of the Decades” events, featuring music from the 1930s to the 1960s (with era-appropriate clothing), a “craft stop” afternoon in which staff and residents were invited to test out their creativity (some items were added to the cache of bingo prizes!) and a make-your-own ice cream sundae event. Included in the week’s festivities was a building-wide “Marathon Bingo” activity. Cards and markers were distributed and staff and residents paired up to participate. Excitement built through the day as numbers were called overhead in groups of 10 on the half-hour. A steady stream of staff and resident winners reported to the main lobby to pick up their prizes. The Nursing Home Week celebration also included opening a time capsule (see story on page 3).



CNA Cameron Lehr (standing) assists Eleanor Austin (in profile) and Martha Talkiewicz (facing camera) with Marathon Bingo.



Dietary created made-to-order wraps for staff during Nursing Home Week. Food Service Manager Bobby Yacuzzo hands Social Services Director Joann Kunkle her wrap.



Receptionist Sue Vredenburg was in charge of calling the Marathon Bingo game.

# Service Anniversaries Celebrated

## Wesley Village Recognizes Service

Wesley Village employees celebrating between five and 35 years of service were honored at a recognition luncheon in the Irene Raeder Community Center at Brooks Estates on April 17. Wesley Village Administrator Danielle Janeski welcomed attendees, and Board Chair Calli Berg, President and CEO Brian Picchini and Chief Operating Officer John Lopatka each made remarks. Department heads presented their staff with their recognition certificates.

*Congratulations to:*

### 35 Years

Donna Casey, Administrative Assistant

### 30 Years

Gloria Mattioli, Nurse Aide

### 25 Years

Beth Barnic, Receptionist; Mary Lou Langdon, RN; Marie Maida, Nurse Aide; Kate Micklasavage, RN; Patricia Tanski, Restorative Aide

### 20 Years

Diane Policare, PCA

### 15 Years

Renee Correll, Housekeeper; Tina Echkhart, Dietary Aide; Oliva Leonardi, RN, Staff Development Director; Linda Musick, RN Supervisor; Elizabeth Romanowski, Housekeeper

### 10 Years

Joanne Cousin, PCA; Robert Griffiths, Night Security Guard; Anne Karlotski, Receptionist; Robert Matrunich, Janitor; Rebecca McDaniels, Nurse Aide; Wendy McDermott, PCA; Stella Schwink, PCA; Christine Williams, PCA

### 5 Years

Marie Chiazza, Nurse Aide; Carole Dougherty, Nurse Aide; Barbara Gregorio, Laundry Aide; Neil Harley, Maintenance Assistant; Thomas Kivak, Dietary Aide; Linda Kondratick, Nurse Aide; Michele Lacomy, Nurse Aide; Danielle McGlynn, Dietary Aide; Michael Perlock, Administrative Intern; Elizabeth Rettura, Nurse Aide; Christine Savage, Nurse Aide; Jill Tigue, Nurse Aide



*At the recognition luncheon, 35-year honoree Donna Casey (second from left) and 30-year honoree Gloria Mattioli (center) posed with (from left) Board Chair Calli Berg, Administrator Danielle Janeski and President and CEO Brian Picchini.*

## Corporate Office

On May 16, United Methodist Homes Corporate Office staff celebrating service anniversaries were honored at a luncheon. President and CEO Brian Picchini thanked those in attendance for their dedication and service. Special guest Keith Chadwick, CEO Emeritus, joined in the celebration.

*Congratulations to:*

### 20 Years

Chris Felter, Resident Accounts Specialist  
Peggy Jones, Cash Manager  
Chet Lowrie, Vice-President of Building Management

### 10 Years

Sue Morrow, Network Manager  
Randy Reynolds, Vice-President of Information Technology

### 5 Years

Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

### 1 Year

Don Prutisto, Compliance Officer  
Joe Quanne, Technical Support Specialist



*Honorees included (standing from left) Randy Reynolds, Joe Quanne, Don Prutisto, Chet Lowrie, (seated from left) Sue Morrow, Peggy Jones, Chris Felter and Sarah Soden.*

## Around the Block *Continued from page 2*

assignments on five of the seven continents!

Jones' last American Airlines posting was in Ardmore, Oklahoma. At the conclusion of American's contract there, the company wanted to transfer him, and he wanted to stay. "I had worked at Ardmore Municipal Airport, and they were looking for someone to operate it, so I bought it. I stayed in Oklahoma for a few years." After years as an aircraft mechanic and airport owner, Jones finally earned his own pilot's license.

In 1957, Jones came to the Triple Cities to work in manufacturing product control at IBM in Owego, specializing in components destined for NASA projects. He retired from IBM in 1982 after 25 years of service.

Jones had inherited his parents' farm, so he returned to Kingsley with his dog. Not long after his arrival, his minister asked him if he would be willing to take in two teen boys finishing a rehab program associated with the church's Christian camp. "They had made positive life changes, and didn't want to go back to Philadelphia," he said. The teens ended up staying with Jones

long-term and, he explained, "It worked out great – one liked to cook, one liked to clean, so between the three of us we didn't do too badly!" Jones enjoyed his retirement, whitewater canoeing with his nephew and doing whatever captured his interest.

In 1986, Jones (who had been married once before but had no children) married his friend Marie, a widow with three adult children. In 2009, the farmhouse burned, and the couple needed a new home. A friend who volunteered at St. Louise Manor recommended United Methodist Homes, so they toured the Highlands and moved in soon after. In the fall of 2012, Jones moved to the James G. Johnston Memorial Nursing Facility, and in the spring of 2013, Marie moved to the main Hilltop Campus to be close by.

Jones' secret for living? "Have a job that keeps you active, don't smoke or drink, and do work you enjoy."

*To make a suggestion for the Around the Block series, contact Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288. Residents are welcome to suggest themselves!*

## Wesley Village "Senior" Prom

On May 3, 13 student council members from Pittston Area High School came to Wesley Village for their 10th annual and highly-anticipated annual "senior" prom event! Entertainer Tom Rogo supplied the music, and residents from throughout the campus moved and grooved with the students, representing grades 10 through 12. Myers Manor resident Tad Cheshelski (center), never one to pass up a party, danced with two lovely ladies – Marina Maida on the left and Madeline Moss on the right! Editor's note: Tad Cheshelski passed away in late May...dancing until the end!



## Crossing the Century Mark!

On May 14, Tunkhannock Campus resident Miriam (Mimi) Walton celebrated her 100th birthday in style at a pink-themed bash in the campus' lower-level activity room. With her fellow residents, Walton enjoyed music and dancing, plus a special serenade by trumpeter Jim May, who was on hand to sound the horn in honor of Walton's 100th! Thanks to Wyoming County Commissioner Tom Henry (at left) for coming to the party to present Walton (seated) with a recognition certificate.



## Everyone loves the ice cream truck

With temperatures in the high 80s, May 31 was the perfect day for the ice cream truck to roll up to Wesley Village! Residents and staff could step up to the window and ask for a vanilla, chocolate or twist cone...and boy, did people take that offer seriously! Assistant Activity Director Shelli Ratchford (left) hands Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Wilma Hurst her cone – and CNA Beth Hemingway is ready to roll Hurst off to enjoy her treat!



## How does your garden grow?



About half a dozen Tunkhannock Campus residents began gardening on campus in March – residents Doris Harter (left) Agnes Thorne (right) are shown hard at work planting. The group put in broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, squash and four varieties of tomatoes in raised beds accessible from wheelchairs or a standing position. (Special thanks to Activity Director Terry White and her husband Ron, who constructed the beds.) Resident

Irwin Messick spends time daily watering and weeding. Produce from the garden is brought to the campus kitchen to be added to resident meals.

## Remembering a Friend

On May 13, Corporate Office staff gathered to dedicate a flowering tree in memory of Executive Secretary Mary Hoskins, who passed away last November. Her husband, three daughters and granddaughter also participated in the ceremony, which was followed by an ice cream (Hoskins' favorite dessert) social. Chief Operating Officer John Lopatka and Vice-President of Finance Shane McGuire (on the left of the table) are served by Purchasing Director Dianne Paige and Finance Manager Kyle Harchar (on the right). President and CEO Brian Picchini and Board Member Bob Montgomery are in the background.



## Which came first – the chicken or the egg?



This spring, Tunkhannock Campus residents and staff had the opportunity to incubate a dozen chicken eggs and watch the hatching process. The eggs were supplied by the Wyoming County Conservation District, and residents who attended an egg-welcoming activity had the opportunity to name the egg of their choice. Eggs were kept in a self-turning modern incubator, although Activity Director Terry White brought in her grandfather's 1930s incubator for the nostalgia factor. Penn State Extension Educator Karen Bracey gave a presentation on "candling" eggs to see if they were fertilized and how to observe the growth of the embryo. Less than two weeks after their arrival, all 12 eggs hatched. The "peeps" stayed on campus until their adult feathers began forming, and then moved on to a quiet place in the country to become laying hens. Resident Margaret Reid is shown getting up close and personal with one of the chicks.

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Access our page directly at [www.facebook.com/UnitedMH](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedMH).

## Donating to the Homes

If you would like to make a donation or consider a planned gift to United Methodist Homes, please call Vice-President of Development Cory Jacobs at (607) 775-6400, ext. 281. Checks may be mailed to 10 Acre Place, Binghamton, NY 13904.

## Happy Mother's Day!

Nearly two dozen moms at the Tunkhannock Campus were celebrated at a May 10 event featuring entertainment by singer Tom Faulkner and singer/guitarist Mike Hauver. Residents joined in on the singing and even got up to dance! Special thanks to the Tunkhannock Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which provided a beautifully-wrapped gift for each resident attending the event. Hazelle Brooks (101 and still cutting a rug!) dances with Activity Assistant Dana Clark.



## Accommodations Available

If you're visiting a resident at the Elizabeth Church or Hilltop Campuses and hotel prices are out of reach, let your loved one's social worker know. Danielle House (160 Riverside Drive, Binghamton, NY) offers temporary housing for a nominal daily donation. For more information, visit [www.daniellehouse.org](http://www.daniellehouse.org) or call (607) 724-1540.



## Tiny dancer's personal fan club

Four-year-old Arianna Barbaro, granddaughter of Tunkhannock Campus Dietary Director Fran Barbaro, shows her May 24 recital participation medal to resident Jeane Courville. For the past two years, Courville has been attending Arianna's Stage Door Dance Studio recitals in Tunkhannock. Said Fran, "Jeane's daughter took dance classes, and Arianna reminds her of those times. Jeane talked all winter about waiting for that spring recital!" Three cheers for intergenerational friendships!

## Shorts

Hilltop Campus residents who participate in weekly Mass with Father Matthew Brown surprised him with a cake and an engraved pocket watch on May 22 to help him celebrate 50 years in ministry. Recently retired from Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Vestal, Brown has led weekly services on campus for almost two decades. Thank you and congratulations, Father Brown!

Members of the most recent class in United Methodist Homes' home health aide training program received their certificates on May 23. Congratulations to Catherine Bennett, Jeanne McLaughlin and Lauren Smith (all Hilltop Campus), and Karen White (St. Louise Manor). Good luck as you begin your new jobs!

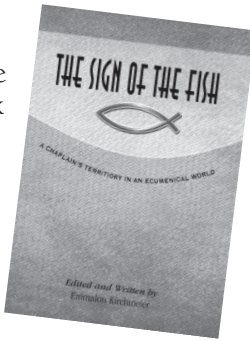
## Chaplain Harding Authors Book Chapter

Hilltop Campus Chaplain Lea Harding is the author of a chapter in the recently-released book *The Sign of the Fish: A Chaplain's Territory in an Ecumenical World*. The book was published this spring by WestBow Press.

In each chapter, a chaplain reflects on what he or she wishes had been taught in seminary. Harding focused her submission on ministry in the nursing home. She begins by explaining her appointment to the Hilltop Campus, which she attributes to "God's sense of humor." Trained as a parish minister, her first assignment out of seminary was half-time to a small parish and half-time to Hilltop. She was concerned she had nothing to offer people more than twice her age. But, by the end of her first year, she was thrilled to learn that Hilltop would become her full-time ministry.

Harding's turnaround was rooted in the challenges of learning how to minister to individuals with dementia and those from different faith traditions, how to handle frequent deaths, as well as minister to staff not affiliated with a community church. She has now married employees whose officiant would otherwise be unknown to either party and conducted the funerals of staff members. "Baptism was initially a sticking point for me," she said. "This rite is typically performed within the worshiping community, so when a CNA asked me to baptize her children, the question was, 'What is the worshiping community for this particular family?' The answer became clear: The campus and the residents were the family's faith community. We involved residents from the employee's unit in the ritual, serving as witnesses and presenting Bibles and baptismal candles. As I watched the interaction between the parents and residents, I realized that this was as close a connection between a family and a worshiping community as any church of which I've been a part."

To read Harding's full chapter, check out the book – now available on Amazon.com or wherever books are sold!



## Wesley Village Presents Annual Awards and Scholarship

At the annual Wesley Village nursing dinner on May 8, CNA Emma Beck was named the recipient of the 2013 Wilbur A. Myers Certified Nursing Assistant Award by a vote of her peers. Said Director of Nursing Wendy Dzanis, RN, "Emma is a wonderful person and a wonderful worker. Her residents love her and never want her to have a day off!" Beck received a medal commemorating the award, and her name will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque on display in the Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility Lobby. Congratulations to the other nominees for the award, CNAs Rebecca McDaniels and Jolene Rabbitz.

At the same event, CNA Adam Cislo was presented with the Wilbur A. Myers Scholarship, which is awarded to a nursing employee interested in continuing his or her nursing education. The scholarship recipient is selected by a vote of supervisors. According to Dzanis, "Adam provides excellent care to our residents. He has grown in knowledge by leaps and bounds since starting with the Homes." He is still deciding which school to attend.

PCA Debbie Gaylord was named Personal Care Aide of the Year. She was selected for the honor by residents and coworkers on all three shifts. According to Personal Care Administrator Sharon Ritsick, "Debra is an exceptional person with a heart of gold. She truly demonstrates what a caregiver should be, caring, loving and understanding, and patient." Congratulations to the other nominees for the award, PCAs Dorothy Leptuck, Donna Mudlock and Janet Sebastianelli.



CNA of the Year Emma Beck (center) with Administrator Danielle Janeski (left) and Director of Nursing Wendy Dzanis.

### About the Myers Award and Scholarship

The Wilbur A. Myers Certified Nursing Assistant Award and the Wilbur A. Myers Scholarship were instituted in 1993 by a trust established by Myers for the benefit of Wesley Village's skilled nursing employees. Myers was a prominent Wilkes-Barre area businessman whose wife was a Wesley Village resident. Myers believed his wife received exceptional care at Wesley, and he wished to offer recognition and advancement opportunities for staff by creating a trust that funds both the award and half the cost of the scholarship winner's registered nursing courses (United Methodist Homes pays for the other half).



## Letters of Appreciation

### To the Hilltop Campus

My mother often asked me to be sure to tell her Hilltop friends how much she appreciated them. She was grateful for the joy and times shared, as well as the understanding, support and kindness given, the fun and games, the dinner conversations, the gentle touches, and the love received. She found a loving, welcoming community at Hilltop. She, and we – her family – thank you for this.

### To the Wesley Village Campus

A special note of thanks to the nurses, caregivers, administration and other staff who worked with my mom. Our family has the greatest sense of appreciation to you all for your unending, continual and compassionate care you gave my mom while she was at Wesley Village. She would often say, "You know, they take really good care of me here." We will always be in your debt.

### To the Hilltop Campus

Thanks to Social Worker Aaron Ampula for your kind thoughts and all of the help you have given to my mom and our whole family over the past seven years. You were always a pleasure to work with, and we greatly appreciate your courteous, prompt and helpful answers to all of our questions.

### To the Tunkhannock Campus

Tunkhannock Manor was my mother's home for the past six years. Mom loved the baby grand piano, and began playing again soon after moving in. She also enjoyed gardening with Barbara, planting flowers and pulling weeds. I cannot say enough about the peace and love the Manor gave to my mom, our family and myself. The staff are so wonderful – stopping by her door to see if she needed anything, sitting for a few minutes to talk or pray or share a story. Some even called on their days off to check on her, and others came in on a morning shift with hot coffee and warm cinnamon rolls. The staff, who hold all different jobs, are such compassionate people with hearts of gold. They treat the residents as they would treat their own family members. These staff have the highest caliber work ethic. Our family will never be able to repay the staff for what they have done for us, but we feel so blessed. May God bless each of you.



## "Take me out to the ballgame..."

In early May, six Wesley Village skilled nursing and personal care residents traveled to their first Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders (formerly the Yankees) baseball game of the season at the recently-renovated PNC Field. Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Donald Collins (left) and Anderson Personal Care resident Bill Barrett were ready for the game in their baseball caps and jackets!



## Reeling them in!



In early June, half a dozen Wesley Village residents headed to Frances Slocum State Park in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, for a fishing trip. Special thanks to Plant Operations Director Jerry Sulkoski and several of his staff who, along with Activity Aide Laura Godlewski and CNA Joanne Barcelon, accompanied the residents, assisting with hook baiting, untangling lines and other fishing tasks. Fish of all kinds were biting, and most of the residents caught one if not more, mostly sunfish and bluegills. After everyone had their fill with rods and reels, Sulkoski and his team barbecued up a great picnic lunch. Partridge-Tippett Nursing Facility resident Bob Godomski watches Barcelon unhook the fish he caught.

## Happy 65th Anniversary!



St. Louise Manor resident Millie Zimmer (left) and Elizabeth Church Manor resident Carl Zimmer (right) celebrated their 65th anniversary on May 29. (If you're doing the math, that's a 1948 wedding!) Son Chuck (center) brought cupcakes and flowers to mark the occasion. Congratulations!

is published for the staff, residents, family members, friends and campus neighbors of United Methodist Homes. Please direct all inquiries about *Seasons* to Sarah Soden, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, at 10 Acre Place, Binghamton, NY 13904. If you no longer wish to receive this publication, please call Sarah at (607) 775-6400, ext. 288. If you are receiving duplicate copies of the newsletter, please let us know so we can amend the mailing list.

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### Hilltop Campus

Hilltop Campus residents and volunteers Joan Shanahan (left) and Irene Tegeler – laughing it up over dinner! – were two of the 119 volunteers invited to a recognition dinner on May 1. The campus' volunteers donated more than 8,500 hours of their time in 2012, assisting in a wide range of activities. Event attendees enjoyed beef tenderloin for dinner and pound cake with mousse and strawberries for dessert. Thank you to all these dedicated individuals, and special thanks to Volunteer Coordinator Vicky Benarick for her hard work in volunteer recruitment and organizing the event!



### Tunkhannock Campus

Activity Leader Dana Clark (left) helped her parents Don and Tess Davenport celebrate at the Tunkhannock Campus' volunteer recognition event on April 25. Nearly two dozen individuals were honored for their volunteer work at the campus throughout 2012 – their efforts totaled 2,000 hours for the year! United Methodist Homes Board member Jan McCabe attended the event. Dinner music was provided by Mike Hawver of Nicholson,

Pennsylvania, who graciously donated his time for the event. Attendees were thanked by Activity and Volunteer Director Terry White: "Our residents so appreciate all the volunteers do to enrich their lives, including prayer groups, crafting, gardening or just helping in any way they can." Administrator Joe Corey and Chief Operating Officer John Lopatka also spoke.

### Elizabeth Church Manor

Elizabeth Church Manor honored its volunteers with a dessert social in April. The group enjoyed a variety of sweet treats and camaraderie at the event, as well as recognition for their time and talents.

Elizabeth Church Campus volunteers contributed 1,044 hours during the past year! Attendees included (from left) Doris DiRado, Fred Hinman, Rose Ackerman, Carole Schramek, Joe Sirsen, Art Gregory, Lorraine Kessler and Catherine Schafer.

