



# NEWS LETTER

A quarterly newsletter for the friends and family of Christian Care Retirement Community

February 2022–April 2022

## Navigating These Unusual Times

Christian Care Retirement Community, along with everyone else, has experienced an unusual past two years. The stress everyone experienced has affected us individually and collectively in unique ways.

The Board of Directors and our employees have navigated these unusual times by making various adjustments, while keeping in mind our main goal of “keeping our staff and residents healthy.” Our current leadership team (pictured below) and our faithful employees, are looking forward to 2022 with anticipation of attaining full employment so we can admit residents desiring admission. We have adjusted our employee wages, hiring procedures, and staffing to accommodate the current employment environment. We will continue to make necessary adjustments as needed in the future.

We are very thankful for the patience and prayerful support our residents, family members and community have given our staff during the past few difficult years. We ask for your continued support in 2022 and beyond.

- Leon Gerber  
Executive Director

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#### *Compassionate Care*

Our mission is to empower our residents to live the fullest, most vibrant lives possible. We embody this mission every day by delivering personalized care in a warm, Christ-centered environment.



# Activities Department

As winter draws to an end and we await the warm spring weather we have kept busy with activities like wheel chair rides, van rides, making fresh chocolate chip cookies and many other activities. Covid continues to be a damper on some of our group activities. My hope is that in February we will be able to have our entertainers back in the building and to continue with regular scheduled church in the chapel. Our activity team has done a great job keeping the scheduled activities running smoothly.

A huge thank you to all who made Christmas special for our Orchard and Golden Apple residents. They were so excited, and thankful for their gifts. They enjoyed hot chocolate floats and Christmas music during their Christmas party. We are so blessed to be a part of an amazing church and community.

Rene continues to keep our assisted living residents busy doing a lot of creative games, van rides, shopping trips and many other activities. They had a “Snowman” on the shelf, and the residents who found him

received a gift. Assisted Living residents enjoyed the Christmas light tour around Bluffton in December. Unfortunately Healthcare was not able to see the lights this year, but they were able to watch on our community channel. I am sure Rene will have a year full of creative ideas.

We are fortunate to have our community channel. I am able to live stream church from different churches in our community, watch movies, exercise programs, trivia and many other online activities. During the Christmas season, we were able to watch Christmas carolers who would normally come into the building. This has helped keep our residents' minds and bodies moving when we are not able to come together for group activities.

The Golden Apple residents have kept busy doing crafts, van rides, baking and many group activities. We baked blueberry and apple pies. That sure smelled and tasted wonderful. Sarah and her team do a wonderful job keeping the residents busy.

- Betty Lough  
Activity Director

## Welcome Maria and Jen!

I'm incredibly excited and honored to be the new AIT at Christian Care! While I will no longer be serving as the Social Services Director, I can't wait to continue working with the amazing CCRC team in this new role. A little about myself - I was born, raised and currently reside in Bluffton with my husband, Jackson and two daughters, Raleigh and Evie. I've always worked within the Bluffton community, fostering relationships and serving others. I look forward to ensuring Christian Care remains one of the best places to live and work!

- Maria Bates  
AIT



I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve our residents and families as the new Director of Social Services and Admissions at Christian Care! My family roots are in Bluffton, and I currently reside in Bluffton with my husband. I look forward to developing relationships and assuring the residents at Christian Care continue to have the most engaging and highest quality of life!

- Jen Kinyo  
Social Service Director



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Web Site:  
www.christiancarerc.org

E-mail:  
info@christiancarerc.org

Retirement Community consisting of:  
Independent Living

- North Shore Estates
- Lakeview Estates
- Patio Pines Apartments

Assisted Living

- Three Oaks Apartments
- Sugar Maple Suites
- Willow Lane

Skilled Nursing

- The Orchard
- Golden Apple

### ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director ..... Leon Gerber  
Administrator ..... Donna Emshwiller  
AIT ..... Maria Bates  
Director of Nursing ..... Kaitlyn Ort  
Business Office Manager ..... Donna Geisel  
Social Services Director ..... Jen Kinyo  
Hospitality Services Director ..... Deb Dove  
Maintenance Supervisor ..... Dion Dubbeld  
Human Resources Director ..... Katie Holloway  
Activity Director ..... Betty Lough  
Assisted Living Director ..... Melissa Clark

Members of:

- Leading Age Indiana
- Wells County Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement:

**“Enriching senior living with Christian values and compassionate quality service.”**

Board of Directors:

Brad Fiechter, President  
Gene Gerber, Vice President  
Keith Steffen, Sec/Treasurer  
Toby Steffen, Director  
Gene Longenberger, Director  
Trent Bucher, Director  
Klint Moser, Director  
Jim Isch, Director  
Brian Tonner, Director

# Happy Birthday!!!!!!

## Residents

Larry Farling.....	March 2
Alvin Fiechter.....	March 6
Evelyn Gerber.....	March 8
Susie Ellison.....	March 10
Les Meyer.....	March 14
Barbara Haffner.....	March 16
Arlene Habegger.....	March 17
Judy Cupp.....	March 20
Jacob Fluke.....	March 21
Robert Koch.....	March 22
Marjorie Arnold.....	March 23
Walter Erxleben.....	March 26
Betty Longenberger.....	March 29
Joan Koch.....	March 30
Elizabeth Schwartz.....	March 30
Norma Smith.....	March 31
Marilyn Gerber.....	April 3
Florence Kellogg.....	April 5
Jauneanne Monroe.....	April 9
Jill Ellenberger.....	April 10
Jerry Flack.....	April 10
Connie Frauhofer.....	April 12
Patricia Mitchel.....	April 12
Gloria Reeves.....	April 12
Dwight Troxel.....	April 14
John Steffen.....	April 17
Joyce Ebbinghouse.....	April 20
Elizabeth Diehl.....	April 21
Thelma Hill.....	April 28
Rosemary Gerber.....	April 29
Ed Bryan.....	April 30
Carolyn Osborn.....	April 30
Tom Frauhofer.....	May 3
Lester Gerber.....	May 4
Sandy Myers.....	May 5
Lynn Osborn.....	May 6
Bill Longenberger.....	May 8
Barbara Howe.....	May 9

Carolyn Meyer.....	May 10
Nellie Sleppy.....	May 10
Josephine Schwartz.....	May 12
Bernice Thomas.....	May 14
Shirley Adams.....	May 16
Delores Heyerly.....	May 17
Carol Stern.....	May 19
Marjorie Baumgartner.....	May 20
Betty Bynum.....	May 24
Justine Gerber.....	May 28
Luann Fahl.....	May 30

## Employees

Bailey Engle.....	March 1
Mason Gledhill.....	March 6
Deborah Schultz.....	March 9
Marie Winkler.....	March 10
Wyatt Girod.....	March 13
Rachel Quillen.....	March 15
Marissa Miller.....	March 18
Deanna Stuckey.....	March 20
Kayla Meyer.....	March 22
Jeff Neuenschwander.....	March 22
Rachel Baumgartner.....	March 30
Sarah Speheger.....	March 30
Diane Johnson.....	April 5
Shannon McEvoy.....	April 5
Barbara Werling.....	April 5
Emma Rhoderick.....	April 8
Donna Emshwiller.....	April 13
Jonathan Prater.....	April 13
Michael Laux.....	April 14
Beverly McCartney.....	April 14
Madison Speece.....	April 16
Jonilda Blair.....	April 20
Jeff Dynes.....	April 25
Beth Geisel.....	May 6
Dylan Craighead.....	May 7
Dillon Higginbottom.....	May 7
Zara Eisenhut.....	May 8
Penny Herman.....	May 10
Hannah Mosser.....	May 13
Kaitlyn Ort.....	May 18
Mark Geisel.....	May 21
Sarah Bothast.....	May 23
Cathy Halterman.....	May 24
Luann Fahl.....	May 30
Beth Hanni.....	May 31



# Welcome!!!!!!

## Admissions & Discharges

### Health Care welcomed...

- John Cupp
- Tom Frauhiger
- Lucile Frauhiger

### Health Care discharged...

- Lucile Frauhiger

### Independent Living welcomed...

Robert and Joan Koch – Robert and Joan were both born and raised in Wisconsin. Robert was in the cheese making business and was a 3rd generation cheese maker. Robert and Joan relocated several times through the years for his job and enjoyed remodeling homes. They have two sons and one daughter. They have six grandsons and four great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter. Robert is a Vietnam veteran. Joan enjoys knitting socks and Robert enjoys woodworking and fishing.

Jayne Gibson – Jayne was born and raised in Wells County. She worked as a banker for most of her career, retiring as a branch manager from Wells Fargo Bank. Jayne is a widow and has three children. Two of her children live in the area and one lives in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Jayne attends the Bluffton First United Methodist Church. She enjoys golfing and currently works at Lighted Gardens, where she helps prepare food for catering events. Jayne says she loves doing this to keep busy and because she loves to interact with others.

## Christian Care Says Farewell

Patricia Huffman came to Healthcare on December 22, 2020 and passed away on November 18, 2021. She is survived by two sons, three daughters, 15 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. She enjoyed playing Bridge and was part of a Progressive Supper Club. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Angola. She was active in the Angola Women's Club, volunteered for Meals on Wheels and also at Cameron Hospital. We express our deepest sympathy to her family.

John Cupp came to Healthcare on November 18, 2021 and passed away November 28, 2021. He is survived by his wife, two brothers, four children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He retired from National Oil in 2014. John enjoyed all sports, and seldom missed his children's or grandchildren's games. He was a longtime member, and very involved at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale. We express our deepest sympathy to his family.

Imogene Abbott came to Healthcare on December 26, 2017 and passed away on December 21, 2021. She is survived by one sister, four children, 15 grandchildren, and 41 great-grandchildren. She managed their home and the finances of their farm, while cooking, canning, and caring for her family. She was a Sunday School teacher and church secretary, while teaching her children a love for God and for each other. We express our deepest sympathy to her family.

*In Loving Memory*

# Hospitality Services

It's a New Year!!

Let's begin by looking forward to some fun ideas: we recently had Hot Chocolate Floats for our residents, and they were a big hit with both the residents and staff (Who doesn't like ice cream and hot chocolate?!) Since they were liked so well, we will be having them again on January 31st for National Hot Chocolate Day.

Looking ahead, we have some dates in mind for national food days, such as National Pizza Day on February 9th, and National Pi Day on March 14th (Who doesn't like pie?!)



Along with different food days, we can look forward to Spring and seeing the flowers bloom, trees grow, and sun shining on us. We can take a moment to go outside and just breathe in the fresh air.

Not only can we be thankful for the sun physically, but Easter is on April 17th, when we are able to celebrate the Resurrection of the Son.

Let us focus on the blessings we have today and the promise and hope for the future.

James 1:17 says: *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

– Deb Dove  
Hospitality Services Director



# Nursing News

## Closing A Successful COVID Unit

In December 2021, we experienced a COVID outbreak in Healthcare that led to our COVID Unit re-opening. In total, eight residents were diagnosed and treated for COVID-19 and spent approximately two weeks in our COVID Unit. While in COVID isolation precautions, each resident received continuous assessments, monitoring, and treatment for their symptoms related to COVID-19 infection.

We are pleased to share that all eight of our residents recovered from COVID-19. There is recognition that running the COVID Unit takes tremendous effort from all departments. The success of our COVID Unit would not have been possible without the diligence of our clinical providers and nursing team, commendable teamwork amongst all departments, support from our community, and the love and support from our residents and families.

Opening a COVID Unit is not something that we look forward to doing. There is fear, challenge, and hardship created with any single case of COVID-19. Although we have experienced heartache as a team and a community due to the negative implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to bind together to provide high-quality care to the community that we serve. We are thankful for all who have worked alongside us, prayed for us, and supported us. We are truly blessed!

– Kaitlyn Ort, DON  
Director of Nursing

WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP  
**CORONAVIRUS**



# Volunteer Corner

We had a great turn out for our volunteer open house and in-service. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. It was nice to see all of your smiling faces.

My hopes are to continue to grow the volunteer program. You are all so vital to the success of Christian Care.

There are several volunteer jobs available, from wheel chair rides, snack-n-chat, van rides, ice water, Sunday church escorts and beauty shop. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Betty Lough, Volunteer Coordinator @ 260-565-3006, ext 2172, or blough@christiancarerc.org.

My hopes for 2022 are to continue to provide support to our residents, their families and our team members, as we begin to see the light at the end of tunnel and return to a “normal” routine.

*“Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope.”*

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

– Betty Lough  
Volunteer Coordinator



# Thanks to Our Volunteers!



720 Dustman Road • Bluffton, Indiana 46714-1214  
Phone (260) 565-3000



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### The Good Samaritan Fund

2021 is over, but the good news is that you can still partner with us financially in 2022. The great blessing we were able to experience the last month was to see that the generosity of our community and mission supporters met the \$125,000 match made by a local family. These funds will be used to replenish the cash reserves used the past two years, and possibly this year, for wage increases that were not covered by government payments or resident rate increases. Here are reasons to consider making a donation to Christian Care’s Good Samaritan Program.



*Good Samaritan*  
Charitable Program

#### YOUR DONATION:

1. Helps residents continue to receive the care they need after exhausting their financial resources.
2. Provides employees with scholarship and continuing education opportunities, which benefit resident care and organizational success.
3. Helps Christian Care attract and retain necessary workers by offering competitive employee benefits and compensation.
4. Assists Christian Care with campus improvement projects that improve resident quality of life experiences.

#### READY TO DONATE? YOU CAN DONATE BY:

**Check:** Made payable to Christian Care  
(Mail to: 720 E. Dustman Rd., Bluffton, IN 46714)

*All donations, memorials, and other gifts are tax deductible.*

**Licensed Assisted Living!**

- These private suites are designed for the mobile senior who requires extra assistance with activities for daily living.
- Sugar Maple Assisted Living Suites offers: Medication administration and other needed medical services for our residents.

- MEAL SERVICES
- HOUSEKEEPING
- PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Contact Leon Gerber, Exec. Dir, or  
Melissa Clark, Assisted Living Director  
720 E. Dustman Rd. • Bluffton  
260.565.3000  
www.christiancarerc.org