



# NEWS LETTER

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

February 2025–April 2025

## Reflections & Possibilities

As we bid farewell to 2024 and step into a promising 2025, it is a fitting time to reflect on the key events of the past year, while looking ahead to the possibilities before us.

Throughout 2024, Christian Care welcomed 76 healthcare/rehab residents, 17 assisted living residents, and 14 independent living residents. We also said goodbye to 33 friends and residents, whose presence will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers remain with their families.

We conducted CNA classes in 2024 and plan to offer three more in 2025, continuing our commitment to professional development and excellence in care.

Operationally, we made significant strides by implementing a new payroll system, Ahola, at the start of the year. This system has proven beneficial, providing excellent customer service to our Human Resources and Business Office staff. In June, we introduced a new accounting system, followed by the adoption of a new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system in August. As we move into 2025, we will build on these improvements and fully integrate complementary modules to enhance organizational efficiency.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Donley for her years of dedicated service to Christian Care. Her compassionate care and unwavering commitment have left a lasting impact, and we are immensely thankful for her contributions. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

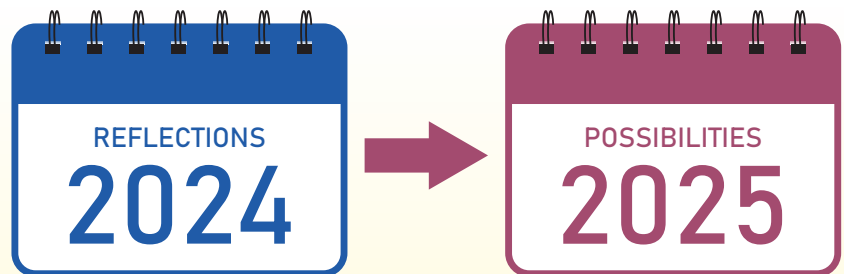
We also warmly welcome Dr. Gresla, an Adams County Memorial Hospital physician, who brings extensive experience in long-term care medicine. We look forward to his positive contributions to our community in the coming year.

- Leon Gerber  
Interim Executive Director

*Reflections  
on 2024,  
Possibilities in  
2025.*

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## Nursing Notes

With the new year here and winter in full force, we are already looking forward to spring. An encouraging quote that I thought about is “*No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.*” This quote reminds us that change is constant, and new beginnings follow difficult times.

Healthcare is ever changing, and we all know that change is not always easy, but often necessary, and often a good thing.

With Dr. Donley retiring at the end of January and Christian Care getting a new medical director, we are also going to have a new Nurse Practitioner. We will miss our current NP, Melisa Renner, but look forward to working with Tim Reed, who will be taking over for Melisa in March.

We continue to offer frequent COVID vaccine clinics through the Wells County Health Department and have recently started to offer RSV clinics through the Health Department. The RSV vaccine is offered every two years. We have sent out consent forms, and several residents have already received the vaccine. If this is something you would like your loved one to have, even if you originally declined, please let us know.

RSV is a respiratory virus that can cause mild cold symptoms, to more severe symptoms such as pneumonia. Major risk factors include: being 75 years of age or older, having chronic heart and lung disease, having a weakened immune system, and living in a nursing home.

We love our residents, and want to do everything we can to keep them safe and be a blessing to them as much as they are a blessing to us. I think I can speak for all of us at Christian Care that it truly is an honor that we have been entrusted to care for our residents!

- Melisa Clark RN  
Director of Nursing

## Nutritional News

What better way to reach someone’s heart other than through watching families and friends fellowship with food. Walking past the dining room and hearing stories and laughter with residents having guests eat with them continues to grow. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve. Our Nutrition Mission program continues to grow, and we are blessed to be able to serve others. A huge THANK YOU to our staff for their hard work and dedication towards our residents, visitors, team members, and community.

We can look forward to spring and see the flowers bloom, trees grow, and sun shining on us. 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 20th, 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.

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

- James 1:17

- Deb Dove  
Nutritional Services



720 E. Dustman Road  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714-1214  
Phone (260) 565-3000  
Automated Phone (260) 565-3006  
Administrative Fax (260) 565-3009  
Nursing/Orchard Fax (260) 565-3003

Web Site:  
[www.christiancarerc.org](http://www.christiancarerc.org)

E-mail:  
[info@christiancarerc.org](mailto: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
- South Woods

### ADMINISTRATION

Exec. Director/Admin.....Austin Smith  
Interim Executive Director ..... Leon Gerber  
Director of Nursing ..... Melissa Clark  
Business Office Manager ..... Donna Geisel  
Social Services Director ..... Jen Kinyo  
Nutritional Svcs. & Purch. Dir. .... Deb Dove  
Maintenance Supervisor ..... Dion Dubbeld  
Human Resources Director ..... Katie Uppfalt  
Activity Director.....Betty Lough  
Residential Services Coordinator ....Michelle Gould  
Environmental Services Director.....Keoka Gephart

Members of:

- Leading Age Indiana
- Wells County Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement:

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

# Happy Birthday!!!!!!



## Residents

Bonnie Wall.....February 1  
 Dave Reinhard .....February 2  
 Barbara Pfister.....February 4  
 Joyce Neuenschwander .....February 6  
 Carl Fiechter.....February 7  
 Nilah Aschliman.....February 9  
 Phillip Johnson ..... February 10  
 Jerry Hook .....February 11  
 Wayne Fiechter..... February 12  
 Alice Curry..... February 13  
 Gloria Riveros..... February 13  
 Lorena Steffen .....February 14  
 Richard Lee Deam..... February 15  
 Eugene Bulmahn .....February 17  
 Dorothy (Dottie) Jones.....February 18  
 Esther (Marty) Davis..... February 20  
 Betty R. Gerber.....February 21  
 Sharon Gentis..... February 22  
 Donna Shatto.....March 1  
 Aleyce Lowe .....March 3  
 Betty Frauhiger.....March 4  
 Evelyn Gerber .....March 8  
 Mabel Geisel..... March 10  
 Susie Harnish..... March 10  
 Joan Schauss..... March 12  
 William (Bill) Gerber .....March 14  
 Les Meyer .....March 14  
 Barbara Haffner..... March 16  
 Judith Cupp.....March 20  
 Helen Sommer.....March 20  
 Robert Koch..... March 22  
 Marjorie Arnold..... March 23  
 Walter Erxleben..... March 26  
 Betty Longenberger..... March 29  
 Sherry Gerber .....March 30  
 Joan Koch.....March 30  
 Thomas Hiester..... April 2  
 Marilyn Gerber..... April 3  
 Phyllis Montgomery ..... April 4  
 Jaunianne Monroe..... April 9  
 Sylvia Anzaldua .....April 10  
 Jerry Flack.....April 10  
 Carolyn (Sue) Deam.....April 11  
 Connie Frauhiger.....April 12  
 Kerry Miller.....April 12  
 Dwight Troxel.....April 14

Robert Stuck .....April 15  
 Elizabeth Diehl .....April 21  
 Pearl Taylor.....April 23  
 Neil Gerber .....April 26  
 Bruce Holland .....April 26  
 Steven Yoder .....April 26  
 Rosemary Gerber.....April 29  
 Barbara Hasty.....April 30  
 Carolyn Osborn .....April 30

## Employees

Lily Crispin .....February 1  
 Katy Harris.....February 2  
 Alex Lyons.....February 2  
 Eliza Elzroth .....February 3  
 Kylie Gerber.....February 3  
 Tamara King .....February 3  
 Justice Tappy .....February 3  
 Stephanie Beckman .....February 4  
 Alydia Bertsch .....February 5  
 Merry Bell ..... February 10  
 Sara Nisly ..... February 10  
 Lindsey Collier.....February 14  
 Ambrosia Hughett.....February 14  
 Brooke Hummer ..... February 15  
 Eric Craighead .....February 21  
 Cynthia Petty ..... February 23  
 Melodee Gerber.....March 2  
 Savannah Rasor .....March 6  
 Deborah Schultz.....March 9  
 Perla Leman..... March 10  
 Milanna Pepper ..... March 10  
 Kathy Geisel .....March 14  
 Raleigh Bates..... March 18  
 Savanna Hughett ..... March 20  
 Austin Smith..... March 20  
 Deanna Stuckey ..... March 20  
 Dakotah Jennings ..... March 21  
 Melanie Bertsch ..... March 22  
 Kayla Meyer..... March 22  
 Jeff Neuenschwander ..... March 22  
 Emma Bredemeyer ..... March 24  
 Amber Pfister..... March 24  
 Elly Bertsch..... March 26

Donita Harris..... March 27  
 Rachel Baumgartner..... March 30  
 Sarah Speheger ..... March 30  
 Haleigh Reinhard ..... March 31  
 Diane Johnson..... April 5  
 Shannon McEvoy ..... April 5  
 Michelle Denton ..... April 7  
 Emma Rhoderick..... April 8  
 Taylor Benedict ..... April 9  
 Kendra Pfister.....April 11  
 Cassie Bowers .....April 12  
 Jonathan Prater .....April 13  
 Beverly McCartney .....April 14  
 Cyla Stout.....April 14  
 Savannah Baumgartner.....April 16  
 Chloe Bredemeyer .....April 17  
 Jonilda Blair.....April 20  
 Ashlyn Bertsch.....April 24  
 Jeff Dynes.....April 25  
 Aubrey Dunsmore.....April 26  
 Jennifer Mounsey .....April 26  
 Alexander Mechling.....April 28  
 Saela Gerber .....April 30



# Welcome!!!!!!

## Admissions & Discharges



### Christian Care welcomed...

- Maureen Setser
- Gary Schwartz
- William Harris
- Rex Aschliman
- Donald Christopher
- Carolyne Isch
- Don Haines
- Barbara Hasty
- David Downs
- Wendell Kemplen
- Clarice Kelly Porter
- Raymond Lanternier
- Paul Haffner
- James & Barbara Felger
- Donna Dillman

### Christian Care discharged...

- Susan Scherer
- Donna Dillman
- George Horn
- Linda Brinson
- Carolyn Roberts
- Rex Aschliman
- Wanda Huffman
- Michael Kindler
- Don Haines
- Carolyne Isch
- Gary Schwartz
- Norman Fogwell
- Clarice Porter
- Betty L. Gerber
- Jerry Moss
- Paul Haffner
- Raymond Lanternier

## Christian Care Says Farewell

William “Bill” Harris passed away October 12, 2024. Bill was born in Wells County and was a 1952 graduate of Bluffton High School. Bill was employed by Sterling Casting Corp. as a maintenance supervisor for 45 years. He was a member and trustee of Six Mile Church, and also served for many years as a board member for the Six Mile Cemetery Association. Bill was a board member of the Wells County Historical Society, member of the Old Fort Model A Club, and Model A Restorers Club. Bill is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons, ten grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren. We express our deepest sympathy to his family.

William “Bill” Mann passed away October 21, 2024. Bill was born in Woodlawn, Maryland, and was a veteran of the Indiana National Guard. Since 1954, Bill helped establish, manage, and operate Bluffton's pretzel manufacturing businesses, including Duchess Pretzels Corp. with his father, Bachman Foods in 1970, and finally, partnered with his friend, Bill Huggins, to establish Pretzels, Inc. in 1978. Bill enjoyed golfing, reading, cruising with family, and he loved telling stories while being surrounded by loved ones. Bill is survived by four children, 13 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. We express our deepest sympathy to his family.

Fern Leman passed away October 25, 2024. Fern was a 1962 graduate of Roanoke-Benson High School in Roanoke, IL, and later moved to Bluffton in her twenties. Fern worked for S.S. Kresge Company as a secretary for 23 years. Fern was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and enjoyed praising God by playing the piano and singing.

Fern is survived by one brother, one sister, and twelve nieces and nephews. We express our deepest sympathy to her family.

Dorothy Maxey passed away on October 25, 2024. Dorothy was a 1942 graduate of Hometown High School and later pursued a career in nursing, graduating from LPN school in Fort Wayne in 1972. Dorothy spent many years caring for patients at Caylor-Nickel Clinic, and served as the camp nurse at Lake James Christian Camp. Dorothy especially enjoyed time spent in Mexico at Casa de Ninos orphanage. Dorothy was a member of the First Church of Christ in Bluffton. Dorothy is survived by three daughters, four step-sons, seven grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and 16 great-great-grandchildren. We express our deepest sympathy to her family.

John Meyer passed away November 9, 2024. John was a 1951 graduate of Bluffton High School and worked as a milk hauler for Gerber Dairy. He was drafted into the United States Army, where he served honorably as a medic in South Korea and was discharged in April 1955. John retired after working 19 years at Masterson's Clothing Store in Bluffton. John and his wife, Carolyn, enjoyed hosting large family gatherings in their home for the holidays. John was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. He is survived by his wife, four children, ten grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. We express our deepest sympathy to his family.

Sharon Lautzenheiser passed away November 15, 2024. Sharon was born in Huntington, Indiana. She retired from the Bluffton Kmart store, where

she served as the assistant store manager for over 15 years. Sharon enjoyed sewing, candy making, traveling, scrapbooking, and was a big supporter of wildlife organizations. She was a member of the First Church of Christ in Bluffton, Red Hat Society, and Women's Hospitality group at church. She is survived by four children, 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and her beloved dog Gracie. We express our deepest sympathy to her family.

Arlene Habegger passed away December 2, 2024. She was born in Wolcott, Indiana. Arlene was a homemaker, and aside from raising her children, she assisted her husband with their poultry and grain farming operations. Arlene was a prayer warrior and loved to help anywhere she saw a need. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. She is survived by three sons, three daughters, 26 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, and 2 on the way. We express our deepest sympathy to her family.

Darrell Gilbert passed away December 17, 2024. He graduated from East Rockcreek High School in Wells County and later served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Darrell worked for REMC for over 30 years as a lineman and eventually Branch Manager, retiring from White County REMC. He was a board member of Northern Wells Community Schools and loved all sports. Darrell was a former member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Uniondale. Darrell is survived by one daughter, one son, four grandchildren, one step-grandson, eight great-grandchildren, and one step-great-grandson. We express our deepest sympathy to his family.

# Activities Department

## Happy New Year, 2025!

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. We felt so blessed this Christmas season and want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who shared their love, time, and generosity. From the delicious treats to the carolers spreading joy, and especially those who contributed to making our Christmas gift party a success, your kindness and compassion mean the world to us.

As a community, we are truly fortunate to have so many amazing individuals coming together to support one another.

## Staying Busy This Winter

As winter winds down and we eagerly anticipate the arrival of warmer spring weather, our residents have been keeping active with a variety of activities! From wheelchair rides and van trips to crafting and baking goodies, our activity team has done an excellent job organizing engaging events and ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Courtney continues to bring energy and creativity to our Assisted Living and Independent Living residents with games, shopping trips, and more. She will soon conduct a survey to learn about new activities and special interests to enhance our event calendar.

## Upcoming Easter Events

We are excited to announce another Easter Egg Hunt in April! Stay tuned for details as the date approaches.

Mark your calendars for Easter Sunday on **April 20, 2025**. Good Friday church service will be held on **April 18, 2025**. Please note there will not be a church service on Thursday, April 17.



## Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are the heart of our Christian Care community, and your contributions are vital to our success. We are looking for individuals to assist with a variety of opportunities, including:

- Meal delivery
- Wheelchair rides
- Snack & Chat
- Van rides
- Ice water service
- Sunday church escorts
- Beauty shop assistance

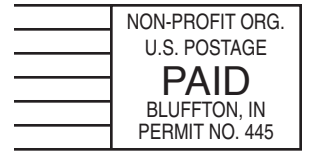
If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact:

**Betty Lough, Activity Director**  
260-565-3006, ext. 2172  
blough@christiancarerc.org

*“Seek the Lord and His strength;  
seek His presence continually!”*

– I Chronicles 16:11





**Return Service Requested**

## A Living Legacy...

...continues to live on because many of you have contributed to Christian Care's Good Samaritan Charitable Program in memory of a loved one. We always want to remember our loved ones. Memorials were given in memory of the following persons in 2024:

- Harold Arnold
- Phylliss Doescher
- Clarren & Joyce Gehring
- Don Gerber
- Earl Gerber
- Margaret Gerber
- Becky Isch
- Arlene Habegger
- Jay Kipfer
- James Lantz
- Sharon Lautzenheiser



- Fern Leman
- Marilyn Leman
- Bill Mann
- Dorothy Maxey
- John Meyer
- Lonnie Moser
- Elizabeth Schwartz
- Arno Sonnenberg
- Toby Steffen
- Wanda Steffen
- Chuck & Alice Stevens

We thank all of our charitable contributors for their generosity and consideration of being a Good Samaritan and offering "A Thoughtful Tribute with a Living Legacy."