

# NEWS LETTER

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

August 2025–October 2025

## Roofing Project



During the first week of June, Christian Care completed a significant roofing project that replaced the entire roof of the main building. This important work was prompted by damage sustained during a hailstorm. Bill's Roofing, a trusted contractor, was selected to lead the project.

Extensive planning and coordination went into preparing for the week, with special emphasis on ensuring the safety of our residents, visitors, and staff. The timing of the project coincided with visits from several groups attending the Apostolic Christian Bible School, including a Bible School Lunch Stand, making the week particularly full of activity.

Originally scheduled to take all five days, the project faced a potential delay when rain halted work on Thursday. However, Bill's Roofing anticipated the forecast and dedicated extra resources to both Wednesday and Friday's work. Thanks to their preparation and commitment, the team was still able to complete the project on time.

We are incredibly grateful that the project was completed safely and with minimal disruption. We give thanks to God for His provision and protection during this busy week. Please enjoy the photos that captured the progress and teamwork throughout the roofing project!

– Austin Smith  
Executive Director

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# Nutritional Services

We tend to think that we wait so long for summer to come, then in a blink of an eye it is coming to an end. We've been able to get the grills out and the staff have cooked some great food. A light refreshing reminder of summer is Lemons & Sunshine: Lemon Meringue Pie Day is August 15th!

We are looking forward to cooler temperatures, patio visits and sweatshirt weather. What better way to celebrate than Bluffton Street Fair... and we will be serving our own fair food that week! Some items will be taco salads, pancakes and sausage, curly fries, corn dogs, and Italian sausage with grilled peppers and onions.

Moving into October we'll have some fall favorites such as apple pie or dumplings, apple cider, and the changing of leaves to show God's beauty around us.

What a privilege it is that we can serve our residents, families, and team members in such a supportive community.

– Deb Dove  
Nutritional Services

*“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”*

*Psalms 107:1*



**“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**



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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  
Administrator in Training ..... Katie Uppfalt  
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 ..... Vikki Hilliard  
Activity Director ..... Betty Lough  
Residential Services Director ..... 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.”**



# Activities Department

## Greetings,

What a warm summer we have had! We have kept busy with activities these past months. Residents enjoyed a trip to Wilshire, Ohio, to get ice cream – one of our favorite places. If you have never been, you should go – it's worth the drive!

Residents continue to enjoy bingo, golf cart rides, patio time, and attending church in the chapel. These simple joys bring so much happiness to their days.

## New Golf Cart Announcement

We are happy to share that we have a new golf cart for our residents, families, and staff! The old golf cart was breaking down and had been out of commission for awhile this summer, so this is a much needed improvement.

The new golf cart has six seats, each equipped with seat belts to ensure safety and comfort for everyone riding. We look forward to using it for golf cart rides, outdoor activities, and transportation around campus to continue enriching the lives of our residents.

The key and golf cart location will remain in the same place. If you have any questions about its location, please contact the front office or Betty Lough, Activity Director.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!

## Special Thank You to Apostolic VBS

A special thank you to the Apostolic VBS kids for singing for us this year. The residents loved seeing all the little children sing with so much enthusiasm. We also enjoyed playing bingo with the older class of VBS.

This year, we were able to livestream the VBS program on our community channel. Residents were thankful and amazed to see all the children participating in VBS from the comfort of their rooms. Thank you to the Apostolic Church for including us.

## Bluffton Street Fair Plans

We have plans to take the Christian Care bus through the parade at the Bluffton Street Fair. We also hope to take residents to the fair to enjoy lunch one day. More information will follow as we finalize details.

## Fishing Derby Highlights

We held our 3rd Annual Fishing Derby at the main campus pond in June. It was a wonderful event with a great turnout from the community. Residents enjoyed fishing and spending time with their families. Many big fish (and small ones) were caught. We love creating these special memories together.

## Volunteer Corner

We have several openings for volunteers. If you have a heart for serving and a few hours a week – or even just a few hours a month – we have a place for you!

I will be planning the next volunteer in-service and training soon – date and time to be announced.

Thank you to all our volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents to our residents.

*“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”*

– Audrey Hepburn

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

– Romans 15:13

Thank you for your continued support of Christian Care and for helping us make every day special for our residents.

– Blessings,

Betty Lough, Activity Director.





# Happy Birthday!!!!!!

## Residents

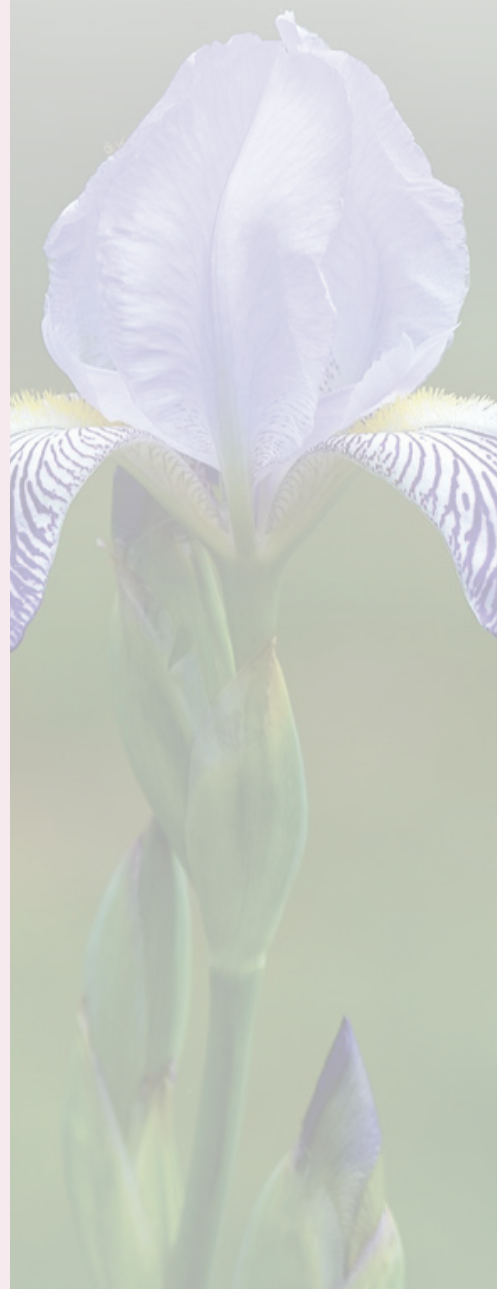
Ellen Geisel.....	August 2
Eleanor Benes.....	August 7
Wendell Kemplen.....	August 7
Marilyn Baumgartner.....	August 11
Barbara Johnson.....	August 16
Bertha Maynard.....	August 17
Marlene Schlagenhaut.....	August 19
Arlene Elliott.....	August 21
Diane Holland.....	August 21
Sandra Wright.....	August 22
Darlene King.....	August 23
Dorothy Eibling.....	August 26
Bev Troxel.....	August 26
Joyce Gilliom.....	August 28
Paul Haffner.....	August 28
Etta Steffen.....	August 28
Rita Reinhard.....	August 29
Clara Sharlow.....	August 30
Barbara Felger.....	August 31
James Brinson.....	September 1
Claire Yergler.....	September 1
Marilynn Triplett.....	September 4
Jan Curry.....	September 7
Joan Noonan.....	September 16
Jerry Murray.....	September 17
Hedy Vaughn.....	September 29
Nancy Shane.....	September 30
Von Heyerly.....	October 3
Norma Sanders.....	October 4
Contstance Dawson.....	October 5
George Schlagenhaut.....	October 5
Karen Yoder.....	October 7
Glenna Plummer.....	October 9
Colleen Ringger.....	October 10
Wayne Geiger.....	October 12
Keith Prough.....	October 13
Roland Lach.....	October 17
Leota Reinhard.....	October 18
Mahilda (Joan) Gerber.....	October 21
Charlotte (Deeda) Skiles.....	October 21
Richard Gerber.....	October 26
Mary Jane Park.....	October 26
Vickie L. Osborn.....	October 27
Jerry Shaw.....	October 27
Boyd Byerly.....	October 28
Lauretta George.....	October 28
Laurena Harter.....	October 28
John (Bob) Hiester.....	October 28
David Gerber.....	October 29
Betty Steffen.....	October 30
Jayne Gibson.....	October 31

## Employees

Martha Stoller.....	August 1
Jarie Stroncsek.....	August 1
Adalee Steffen.....	August 3
Kila Shelley.....	August 4
Julia Kaye Summers.....	August 4
Stacey Bagley.....	August 6
Bridget Lantz.....	August 8
Carol Klopfenstein.....	August 10
Cierrah Walden.....	August 10
Rebecca Hardesty.....	August 14
Kiley A. Eccles.....	August 17
Kristin VanDeman.....	August 20
Corinne Isch.....	August 22
Courtney R. Brandt.....	August 28
Contessa Crumbley.....	August 28
Jadalyn Bombolewicz.....	August 29
Debra Dove.....	September 1
Jennifer Heyerly.....	September 1
Alexander Maggard.....	September 5
Libby R. Arnett.....	September 6
Tiffany Roe.....	September 8
Avah Miner.....	September 9
Paige Mellon.....	September 10
Samantha Garcez.....	September 11
Lana Summers.....	September 11
Leon Gerber.....	September 15
Robin Ginger.....	September 15
Joni Early.....	September 18
Luci Steffen.....	September 18
Kiersten Boots.....	September 20
Ella Hullinger.....	September 21
Laura Baker.....	September 25
Lynn Glassmire.....	September 25
Hannah Landis.....	September 26
Lisa Marie Koughn.....	October 1
Haley Gibson.....	October 4
Levi Jennings.....	October 7
Luke Jennings.....	October 7
Alicia Shoemaker.....	October 11
Bristal Chapman.....	October 14
Kaitlee Reinhard.....	October 17
Dion Dubbeld.....	October 22
Megan Garza.....	October 22
Angela Turner.....	October 22
Makenzie Fuess.....	October 23
April Birchfield.....	October 24
Shelby Cole.....	October 24
Macy Smith.....	October 27
Lydia Aschliman.....	October 28
Rebecca Lengerich.....	October 29

**To every thing there  
is a season, and a  
time to every purpose  
under the heaven**

**— Ecclesiastes 3:1**



# Welcome!!!!!!

## Admissions & Discharges

### Christian Care Assisted and Independent Living welcomed...

- Mary Lou Barger
- Christine Melick
- Elizabeth “Betsy” Strahm
- Richard & Sherry Gerber

### Christian Care Healthcare welcomed...

- Barbara Brown-Haffner



## Christian Care Says Farewell

Carolyn S. Wimmer passed away May 26, 2025.

Carolyn was born on Oct. 23, 1930, in Marion, to Polk E. and Jane T. (Wolfe) McClain. On May 25, 1951, Carolyn and Ronald C. Wimmer were married in Marion. Carolyn was a volunteer at Caylor-Nickel Hospital for over 18 years. She was a longtime member of the Bluffton Elks Lodge #796. Carolyn had a great love for the arts and loved to entertain. She loved her family and was always ready to spend time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Survivors include a son, two daughters and a sister, along with five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Diane K. Mason passed away June 12, 2025.

Diane was born in Bluffton on July 22, 1951, to Leonard and Wava (Steffen) Bertsch. She was a graduate of Bluffton High School, class of 1969. Diane worked in human resources, managing payroll and bookkeeping, at General Manufacturing in Bluffton and retired in July 2017. She was artistic, liked watching movies and enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Diane never met a stranger and was a friend to everyone. Diane is survived by three children and seven grandchildren.

June D. Zerbe, formerly of Big Rapids, passed

away June 16, 2025. She was born on June 30, 1929, in Wyandotte, MI, the daughter of John and Catherine (Schoen) Gering. June was a woman of great warmth and unwavering devotion to her family. On December 2, 1950, she married the love of her life, William L. Zerbe. June had a kind and social spirit. She loved playing cards with friends and family, always quick to share a smile or story. June was deep in her faith and attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church for many years. She is survived by three children, 20 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

Irene L. Parsons passed away on July 1, 2025.

Irene was born on Aug. 29, 1942, in Adrian, Michigan to Herbert E. and Lenore M. (Gould) Burch. On August 19, 1961, Irene and Kenneth W. Parsons were married by her father, the Rev. Burch, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. At that time, Irene went to work to help put her new husband through school. Ken became a pastor, and the couple began their mission of pastoring in churches in Ohio, Virginia and Indiana. Upon his retirement in 2004, the family moved to Bluffton. Survivors include two sons and two daughters. Irene was a loving

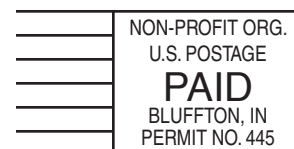
grandma to five grandchildren, along with nine great-grandchildren and one step-great-granddaughter.

Sharon E. Gentis passed away July 2, 2025.

Sharon was born on February 22, 1939, in Wells County, Indiana, to John and Helen (Clark) Gregg. On March 30, 1956, in Bluffton, Sharon married her partner for life, Bill Gentis. Sharon and Bill co-owned Bluffton Tire (Goodyear). Later, when the kids had grown and flown the family nest, they wintered in Orange City, Florida for twenty years or more, but they always called Wells County their home. Sharon was a member of the Bluffton First Church of Christ and a former member of the Domestic Church of Christ. She was also a longtime member of the local Eastern Star and served as past Matron. Survivors include four children and two sons-in-law, 17 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. She hosted entertaining family dinners and was known for her delicious homemade noodles. A lover of flowers and birds, she was also an accomplished oil and watercolor artist. Sharon loved her new home at Christian Care and spoke highly of the staff, their friendship, and the care they so lovingly provided.



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Return Service Requested

## Memorial Giving *A Thoughtful Tribute with a Living Legacy*

A Living Legacy continues to live on, because many of you in the past few months 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 have been received In Memory of:



Good Samaritan  
Charitable Program

- Curtis Allen
- Evelyn Eymer
- David Gilliom
- Diane Mason
- Carolyn Wimmer
- Bonnie Worden
- Virginia Zaugg

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."

– Sincerely, Leon Gerber and Austin Smith