

#### Summer 2020 - Our Final Issue



#### **Our Home Has Been Their Home**

It is both heartwarming and bittersweet to look back over the years and understand how important the Episcopal Home has been to both our residents and our diocesan family. From the start, churches rallied to support a common cause. Their collective love, prayers, and compassion kept this diocesan mission viable for 93 years. To parishioners, it didn't matter that the Home may not have been in their hometown, or that they didn't know any of the elderly residents. It was a source of pride and a place for which they felt ownership - a place where they could provide the opportunity for aging persons to live with dignity in a comfortable, home-like atmosphere.

To many members and leaders of our diocese, the Home has truly personified the belief that caring for others is an honor. In a broad sense, the Episcopal Home residents, employees, volunteers, board members, clergy, and every parishioner who has supported the Home might be considered "Home" owners. We have been bound together by a continued commitment to our family home, and it is with profound sadness that after decades of providing quality care to both residents who could pay for the full cost of their care, as well as those who needed benevolent care, we say goodbye as we prepare to close our doors.

# 1927 In The Beginning



The Episcopal Home was established in 1927 in the original rectory next to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Shippensburg. The house was converted into a residence for three women of the diocese who were alone and without family. Endowed with \$60,000, the Home operated in a very limited capacity during that time.By the mid-1950s, it had become home to six women, expanding to 9 women by 1959.



#### From the April 21, 1927 issue of The Chronicle

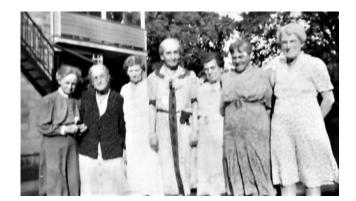
#### **TO BE OPENED APRIL 25**

(excerpt from the article)

"The Episcopal Home for the Aged on East Burd Street will be opened Monday, April 25, when several guests are expected to arrive. The formal opening of the Home has been planned for May 17, when Bishop Darlington and others prominent in the Episcopal Church are expected to be here for the occasion. A meeting of the trustees of the Home was held Monday afternoon when plans for the opening were completed. The home has been thoroughly renovated and equipped for the accommodation of the guests. The home has been made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Margaret and the late J.C, Phillips and others prominent in the Episcopal Church, and will no doubt be a great blessing to many aged folks in the coming years."

#### **Early Residents**









Mrs. Doris (Carlton) Jones, seated at the far head of the table, served as Executive Director of the Home from 1954 until her retirement in 1983. Mrs. Jones insisted on "proper" dining as a "family."



Mrs. Doris Jones (front right) with the nine residents who lived here prior to the 1959 expansion.



A resident relaxes in one of the original rooms.

### Gratitude

### A Message From The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson, EH Chaplain



One of the treasured gifts of our very incarnational faith is the revelation of the presence of the Risen Christ through our relationships. It is in close and intimate relationships, where hearts and souls mingle, that we can be most aware of the goodness and love of God. Being the chaplain of The Episcopal Home for the past 8 years has shown me the glory and love of God in ways that previously would have been beyond my imagination.

To be invited into the wisdom and grace of our elders, to learn from their life experiences, to be engaged in opening up the sacred scriptures in new and sometimes challenging ways, to laugh, to pray, to read their poetry, to hold their hands and their hearts, to hear their voices shout, "Alleluia, Alleluia!", to celebrate milestone birthdays, to press the blessed Body of Christ into their fragile yet open hands, assuring them of God's presence and love, to be present as they enter their final days before being ushered into the life to come through prayers and anointing, to lay my hands upon their heads and pray from the depths of my

heart and soul for God's healing to be upon and within them, has been a gift of a lifetime, which will continue to shape my soul for the rest of my days.

I give thanksgiving to Mary Grace and the staff of the Episcopal Home who have created this holy container for God's work of care, compassion, and healing to be possible for God's holy people. God's truth has been and is evident here at this ministry center—and that truth carries forward, in our hearts, in the lives of all the many people who have been touched by the grace of God through their interaction with the Episcopal Home, and in our prayers, for we have been transformed by seeing the love of God made real—and that, is a gift of a lifetime, for each one of us.

### "May God bless and keep us all, in the love of Christ,"

**Mother Barbara** 

# 1956 A Call For Expansion

"Our facilities at the Episcopal Home for the Aged in Shippensburg are inadequate and outmoded.

Something has got to be done about this situation and it has got to be done right now.

We have no right to deny accommodations to any elderly and deserving member in any parish in our diocese. We do have an obligation to provide a Christian Home where these good ladies can live in modest comfort and worship in our Church...

These ladies come from homes like yours - some day a member of your family may need a Christian Home like this instead of an institution."

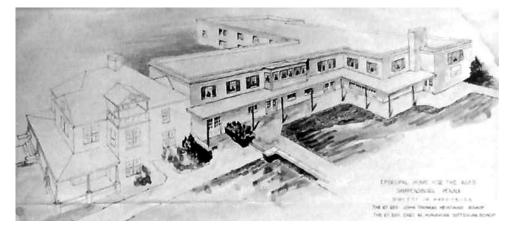
- The Rt. Rev. John Thomas Heistand, Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg. (The Harrisburg Churchman, December, 1956)

#### 1959 A New Vision



In 1959, a new addition was built as an integral part of the old structure. The modern twostory structure added a dining room, public areas, an elevator, and rooms for 22 residents, including, for the first time, men. Each resident had his/her own room with free access to all parts of the building. Residents were free to go shopping, to movies, watch television or attend lectures at the local university. They could sew and make crafts for an in-house gift shop. Prayer services were conducted each weekday morning in the home,

and many residents attended church services on Sundays.



#### Architect's rendering of the new \$200,000.00 addition.

Each parish in the diocese organized committees for solicitation of monetary gifts, pledges, and bequests to help defray the cost of construction. Recommended "fair share" amounts were issued to every parish in the diocese.



August 15, 1959:
Construction on the new addition to the original house begins



Excavation for the new foundation



Footings are placed and the foundation walls begun

# 1960 Vision Becomes Reality



### Visitors to Episcopal Home Sunday Should Delight in New Facilities

#### By DORIS KERT ZONIS

"Ohs" and "Ahs" and dropped mouths and wide opened eyes will be in abundance when the people of the community attend the open house to be held at the Episcopal home on East Burd st., Shippensburg Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

The unexpected beauty of the newly erected addition and the redecorating of the old part of the home is quite something to behold.

One can't help but be impressed by the really beautiful dining room, the Carlton Jones Memorial room. The furniture in lovely cherry wood, with Ducklive chairs, Dutch cabinets, a corner cabinet and a wonderful block front credenza is set off by the soft greens in the draperies and the walls. The upper half of the walls are papered with a French Bakery scene. Gleaming, rich silver tea service enhances the credenza.

An eye catching planter at the entrance to the dining room is beautifully planted with greens that do not take a great deal of care, but will always be lovely to look at. The bottom of the planter is of perma-stone that stretches across the hall and becomes part of the enclosure of the office occupied by Mrs. Calton Jones, manager of the home. The lighting fixtures, the inter-com system, the soft music piped throughout the building, the sound proof ceilings all add to the efficiency and beauty of the Home.

In the kitchen visitors will find efficiency and simplicity in the equipment. The kitchen facilities include a walk in freezer, a walk in cooler and a large pantry.

The down stairs also houses two (Continued on Page Five)

### "Folks are not mere 'statistics' here. Each is welcomed and treated as an individual person within a large family group." - The Rev. Ralph T. Wolfgang, former EH Chaplain, c. 1960



Residents enjoyed their new comfortable, private rooms



Writing desks were essential when letter writing was the norm for communicating.



A new upstairs sitting area and library provided residents a place to relax, chat, or read.



A new dining room was one of the high points of the new facility.



The new entrance led to a lobby and gift shop. This is the area where the activities room is located today.



Prayer services were offered in the new dining room.

# 1961 A Diocesan Call to Pay Off the Mortgage

### Congregations Unite For Campaign



The Rt. Rev. John Thomas Heistand (Bishop), Mrs. Carlton Jones (Executive Director), and the Rev. Ralph T. Wolfgang (Chaplain) met to complete plans for speaking engagements regarding a campaign to raise funds to eliminate the mortgage on the Home.

"We are all involved in this because it is our Home.

We will all be giving to remove the shadow of indebtedness.

By our action we will show that our Diocesan Home reflects the concern of every Episcopalian for those who need their help.

Make your gift from your heart."

- The Rt. Rev. John Thomas Heistand



### Pride

#### A Message From Effie Hershey, Head Cook

(19 years with EH)



### "I am proud of how we all come together."

I have seen a lot of changes over the last 19 years, working as cook, aide, and sometimes other duties and then move on the Head Cook/Kitchen Manager. I will always remember that one resident said to me, "Effie, you wear a coat of many colors and it's a pretty coat and it suits you well." I replied. "I am proud to wear that coat."

I remember the days that we had to have white tablecloths for Sunday dinner, but other than that, we could dress and decorate the tables for the residents as we liked. We used to have a doctor or nurse come to give residents and staff any needed shots. In later years, we learned to test blood sugars and give insulin shots.

The best part of my job working here has been the residents - getting to know them and learning from them, as well as the interactions I had with baking clubs, taking care of their diets, and the fun we had choosing desserts for their birthdays (some were very interesting combinations!). I have seen residents and staff come and go, and have fond memories of getting to know past and present pastors and church members from St. Andrew's.

I will really miss the Home. We are family and we have separate jobs, but I am proud of how we all come together when needed. I had my room picked out here for my later years, and other staff did, too. We always joked around about who was coming here first to live. So, with a sad and heavy heart I have already had to say goodbye to residents and staff, and will soon be saying goodbye to everyone and Mary Grace, who deserves a big thank you for everything she has done over the years.

"God bless, and please have faith, love, and hope,"

#### 1970s, 80s, & 90s And Into the New Millenium

During this time, the Home experienced a period of growth, offering residents of any denomination a Christian home where they could forge new friendships, stay active, and enjoy a safe place to live and receive compassionate care.

In 1983, a young social worker, Mary Grace Shearer, was hired as the new Executive Director. Under Mary Grace's leadership, the Episcopal Home community continued to thrive and grow.

Mary Grace has served the Home from 1983 until the present.









Mary Grace brought youthful energy and enthusiasm to her new position. Her willingness to participate in activities was like a breath of fresh air to residents who enjoyed many new and interesting events and activities under her leadership.

























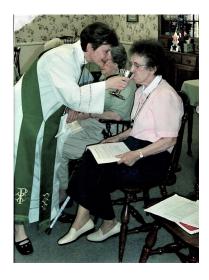
















#### A Message From Becky Elliot, Head Nurse

(served the EH for the past 14 years, and overall for 30)



### "We are family, each and every one of us."

I was asked to say some parting works about my time here at the Episcopal Home, but where do I begin? First of all, I would like to say "thank you" to Mary Grace, our wonderful administrator for hiring me so very long ago. It's been an honor and a privilege to work side by side with you. We grew to become friends as well as colleagues and I want to thank you for everything you have done to help me through the years. I wish you well in all of your future endeavors.

Secondly, this is the hardest part that I need to say. I want to thank ALL the employees that have given their time and hearts and love to these residents and this home. Without all of you, we would not have made it this far. We have cried together and laughed together, and even disagreed with one another, but in the end, we came together like a family. My love and prayers and good wishes go with you into the future. Wherever that may take you, always remember where it all started.

I saved the best for last! I want to thank all of our dear residents that we have met over the years and to the present. Thank you for letting us have the honor and the privilege to take care of you and to love you. You will always have a place in my heart! We are all family, each and every one of us, because without all of you, there would not have been an Episcopal Home. Always remember us "crazy girls" when you feel sad or down, because I will be doing the same. May God bless all of you wherever you are, and remember there was no place like the Episcopal Home.

All my love,

### 2000 Episcopal Home Expands Again

Additional Rooms and a new upstairs entrance and sitting area were completed. Spacious private rooms with private bathrooms and large windows were added, bringing the capacity for residents to 32.



"It's the people that keep you here. It's home - you get to know all the people, you hear about their families and their lives, the hard times and the good ones, You laugh and you cry with them. In a small home like this, you really get close."

-Susie Mackey, former personal care aide, pictured at left.



Nursing assistant Susie Mackey assists Blanche Crouse, 100, at The Episcopal Home in Shippensburg, which recently added a 4,600-square foot wing to increase the number of residents.



Among many upgrades with the new addition was a cozy sitting nook on the second floor.



An outside view of the new addition

### 2002 Episcopal Home Celebrates 75 Years

# Episcopal Home still going strong after 75 years

The 32 residents and the Episcopal Home staff welcomed the public to help celebrate its 75th anniversary with food, smiles, and an open house.

"We have just 32 residents and they get all this loving care."

- Chris Armstrong, former Activities Director

"Take one step inside and you can feel the warmth and friendliness from both staff and residents. It only takes a minute to realize it's not an institution, but a home."

-Jan Rose - former board member and volunteer

# 2011 Honored by the Local Community

# Thank You for voting us Shippensburg's #1 Personal Care Facility!

### **Recent Years at the Home**

**Some Gone But None Forgotten** 

### **Residents & Staff**









































































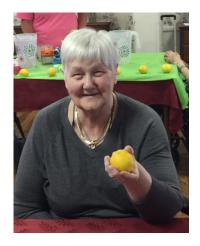






























#### **EH Board President**



Our church has a number of bird nests. One that is used each year was in the transom window by the back door. We don't use that door often, so I guess the birds see it as a safe place. The fun part is that I can watch the birds sitting on the nest and when the baby birds hatch, I can sometimes see the little heads pop out of the nest and watch the little babies being fed.

Then one day, the nest is totally empty. The baby birds have learned to fly and the nest is no longer needed. In some ways, I pray, The Episcopal Home has been like a bird's nest to you. I pray you have been nurtured and fed and loved in your time here. You have learned wonderful ways to live in community. You have brought your spirit and your love to this community. You have learned things that your new home or your new place of employment will benefit from. You will bring your beautiful selves and all of the ways you have learned to love and live in community to a new place.

# "We are like those baby birds leaving the nest to find life in new ways."

Love, Rebecca+

#### **Volunteers & Visitors**













Gmail - Our Last Newsletter...











































Saint Andrews Episcopal Church Quilters Group Quilt Raffle Queen Sized Drawing: December 2, 2019 \$1.00

























### Resilience

A Message From Mary Grace Shearer, Executive Director
(37 years of service to EH)



## "Our continuing goal is to provide excellent care ...until we close because that is our mission."

It has been almost three months since the Episcopal Home closing was announced to staff, residents, and responsible parties. A lot has happened since then. Some residents have already left the facility and are adjusting to new routines, new buildings, and new communities. We periodically hear how they are doing, and it seems they are doing well because they are so resilient. Others who remain in the building are thinking about their options and applying to various facilities. For the current residents, it is a worry to think about where they will do, yet there is also comfort in knowing that those who have left are making new lives for themselves. We are continuing to try to find appropriate places for residents to live where they will fit in and adjust to new schedules.

We have been dealing the Covid-19 on a daily basis and it is sad that family and friends cannot visit, nor can residents leave the building. Virtual medical appointments and family visits have become the norm. We are practicing social distancing, with many of the residents taking meals in their rooms rather than eating in the common area of the dining room. We are fighting the good fight against Covid-19 with due diligence and sheer will.

Someone asked me the other day if I had any difficulty closing the program and dispersing the EH community. I must say I pondered my answer for some time. No, this is not easy for me, but it is the right thing to do because we are doing it on our own terms because of financial unsustainability and not because we are in "trouble" with the Dept. of Human Services. Our continued goal is to provide excellent care via healthy meals, clean rooms, sound health care, and a general community feel until we close because that is our mission.

Our staff is working as hard as ever trying to work with daily duties in addition to infection control and reassuring residents regarding their options for new housing. They are doing a wonderful job, and they too are resilient. It's difficult for them to say goodbye but they are professional and remain faithful in their care for our residents.

On behalf of the Episcopal Home, thank you to all who continue to pray and work for the EH residents. Thank you to all the groups, parishioners, organizations, and individuals who have provided financial help, gifts, visits, and activities. Without your help, we couldn't have stayed afloat for as long as we have.

- May you have good memories of those who cannot be with you.
- May you appreciate yourself, what you do for others, and what others do for you.
- May we treat each other with kind words and thoughts and always be fair

Kind wishes, Mary Grace

There's no place like home.