

From Our Administrator

Thoughts from Campus Pastor Gene

Greetings Beacon Hill,

Well, we have reached the end of another year. And wow, what a challenging year it has been. COVID-19 has not been kind to us, creating many challenges and hoops to jump through. From following infection control protocols, like wearing masks, social distancing and the emphasis on hand sanitizing, to outdoor visitation and scheduling to see our loved ones. And even worse, staying away from our loved ones. In general, it has changed how we respond and react to one another.

Despite everything that has happened, we have adapted, overcome and survived. Although we have a long way to go, we are moving closer to seeing the end of this pandemic.

On a lighter note, As we enter this Christmas season, let us not forget why we celebrate this time of year. “**Jesus** is the reason for the season.” What does Christmas mean to you? To me, it is a time to come together with friends and family, but also a time to reflect on the miraculous birth of Christ. This birth was a new beginning set in motion for mankind. The beginning of God manifested in flesh to fulfill the prophecy of our Salvation. This is something that I think about often. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” What a powerful and inspiring verse. I pray you find as much inspiration from this as I do. I wish you all a happy and safe holiday season.

Merry Christmas & God’s Blessings,
Barry Spiers, Campus Administrator

As we enter the Advent season, I want to reflect on the second coming of Christ and the call to be awake. “The coronavirus is a God-given wake-up call to be ready for the second coming of Christ,” says Rev. John Piper, and I agree. Jesus said there would be signs of his coming, like wars, famines and earthquakes (Matt 24:8) as birth pains.

Jesus wants us to see the birth pains, including coronavirus, as reminders and alerts that he is coming and we need to be ready. Matthew 24:44 records his words, “You ..must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” He is saying to be on guard, since you do not know when the time will come.

Stay awake. Stay awake! The birth pains of the natural world are meant for this message. Many people are asleep, and the peril is great. Coronavirus is a merciful wake-up call to be ready.

The only way to be ready is to come to Jesus Christ, receive his forgiveness for sins, and walk in his light.

So then we may be with those Paul writes to, “Let us keep awake...For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”

In Christ’s love and service,

Chaplain Gene Sipprell
952-948-2474
gsipprell@preshomes.org

Beacon Hill



This Remains Constant – YOU are special to PHS!

Year's end often sparks reflection. This certainly was a year like few others. We continue to pray for your protection and peace of mind.

Yet one thing remains the same—**YOU are special to your PHS community!** Your friends, neighbors and employees appreciate and care for you. The simple act of smiling is still noticed and felt even as we continue to don masks. Thank you for keeping your community close to your heart and in your prayers.

We have received financial gifts from residents and their loved ones throughout the year. Donors tell us again and again that giving brings them **hope**. And **hope** reminds us there are still many blessings to count.

This year has demonstrated—yet again—that **all gifts make a difference**. If a gift is personally meaningful to you, it is every bit as meaningful to your PHS community. **Thank you!**

Points to remember:

- If you direct your charitable donation to your community, 100% of your donation goes to your community.
- To support residents, gifts to greatest needs, benevolence and spiritual life are welcomed.
- Many want to show gratitude to employees. You may direct your gift to employee appreciation, employee education assistance or employee hardship.
- Any gift may be made ***In Honor or In Memory*** of a loved one.

A note about timing: Some gifts take more time to complete. If your year-end giving plans include gifting stock or a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA, please know that these gifts take time for brokers or advisors to process. If you need assistance, please call the Presbyterian Homes Foundation at 651-631-6408 or 651-631-6418.

Thank you for all you do to make your PHS community great. May your Christmas season be filled with much love!



Beacon Hill

Tips & reminder to stay safe and keep others safe

- Wear a mask around others
- Wash and sanitize your hands frequently
- Try not to touch your face or mask, and wash your hands if you do.
- Keep 6 feet of physical distance in social situations.
- If you have any symptoms, please get tested and self quarantine.



Look in the December Calendar, and watch for flyers, regarding holiday celebrations and fun, such as:

Tree Trimming

Christmas Crafts

Crazy Christmas Sweater Day

Finding Elf on A Shelf

Residents' Christmas Open House and more.



Residents, Mitsue Shindo and Jan Thomas, helped load backpacks for ETS Veteran's street outreach on the last weekend before the snow arrived.



Call today for information or to schedule a personal tour, 952-988-8810



Beacon Hill
5300 Beacon Hill Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

952-988-8800

www.beaconhillphs.org

Postmaster: address correction requested



Presbyterian Homes & Services is a nonprofit organization and an equal opportunity employer serving older adults through community services, housing, and health care.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.
ALL FAITHS WELCOME.

God's light shines at Christmas and throughout the year

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ~John 1:5

How wonderful that Christmas comes in the darkness of winter. This holy day brings the light of God's love revealed in Jesus to our lives and our world. The Gospel of John proclaims, "In him was life and that life is the light of all" (John 1:4). This familiar passage echoes Jesus declaring, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Christmas is the season of good will, reminding us that we are called to share the light of his love with one another.

Yes, this Christmas will be different in the season of COVID. These past months have granted us renewed sense of that which is essential. The residents, families, volunteers and employees of PHS have stepped up in amazing ways to fight fear, carry each other through long days and provide hope. While our bodies may have become accustomed to physical distance, our souls continue to reach out for connection. It is in these

connections with each other that we see the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

The mission of Presbyterian Homes & Services, "to honor God by enriching the lives and touching the hearts of older adults," is grounded in the belief that all we do is motivated by God's love revealed to us in the light of Jesus Christ. God's light in Jesus shines brightly at Christmas to remind us that we are loved and capable of loving in return. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ or stop his love from shining within and among us. The darkness cannot overcome the light. COVID cannot overcome our joy.

May the light of Christ's love be with you and yours this Christmas and throughout the year to come.

Merry Christmas