

From the Administrator's Desk

Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." This year has been a year like no other. The staff and residents at Lake Minnetonka Shores have persevered in one of the toughest years I have known. They have pushed through multiple challenges and kept their faith. Many of you are celebrating milestones of 2020 in unique ways: video calls, emails, window visits, distanced outdoor visits, small groups, weddings and graduations viewed from your living room — using devices such as smartphones and laptops, always-changing plans, missing the company of each other, the gesture of a hug or handshake that would occur without second thought, the smiles of staff and smiles of each other. Our staff and residents have kept smiling, and the phrase of the year has been, "I can see it in your eyes!"

I am so grateful for you all and our team of dedicated staff who have endured the rapid change and tensions this year. In the past we have usually celebrated our employees' dedication to serve at Lake Minnetonka Shores with a nice banquet, meal, fancy dessert, and award presentation. We have had to adapt our plans this year and are celebrating in a different way. Nonetheless, we would like you to know that we have 19 staff who have reach a milestone year with PHS and Lake Minnetonka Shores. Please honor these individuals and thank them for their dedication to remain in our ministry at PHS when you see them.

I wish you all an upcoming year of perseverance, peace, and hope and a very Merry Christmas!

10 Years in 2020

Alberto Mendoza, Maintenance
Lydia Buetow, Administration
Midhaga Bekelcho, RN Care Center
Lynn Sonnichesen, Resident Assistant Commons
Nick Abrahams, Resident Assistant/TMA Care Center

15 Years in 2020

Sarah Towers, Child Care Director
Hanni Pulley, RN Care Center
Richelle Pullis, LSW Care Center
Nick Vosylius, RN Care Center
Faith Berglund, RN Commons

We believe employees are the most important resource in our ministry. LMS cannot thank you all enough for the difference you make!

Lydia Buetow, Interim Campus Administrator

20 Years in 2020

Al Che, LPN Care Center
Gideon Akosa, Resident Assistant Care Center
Helen Chun, Culinary
Gary Gilbertson, Culinary
Susie Hart, Rehab Program Manager
Reggie Dasrat, Environmental Services

25 Years in 2020

Mary Hartman-Benjamin, RN Clinical Administrator

30 Years in 2020

Linda Skochenski, Environmental Services- Laundry
Pam Kretz, Health Unit Coordinator Care Center

Lake Minnetonka Shores Campus

Court Terrace ~ Villa Terrace ~ Commons ~ Arbor ~ Gables

LAKE MINNETONKA SHORES

Spiritual Care By John Cordova, Chaplaincy Director

Have you noticed that Christmas music is filling the airwaves on the radio and at the malls? I'm glad that these songs have returned. I love Christmas music; I would not be opposed to singing Christmas Carols throughout the year. Christmas is that special time for the Christian Church to join as one community to celebrate the arrival of her King. In fact, many songs have been written to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus together. For me, my three favorites are in this order:

1. O Holy Night
2. O Come, O Come Emmanuel
3. What Child is This?

Although I love these three Carols, I look forward to hearing and singing other songs. I am sure that you do as well. So, why do we sing these songs? The Bible teaches in Isaiah 9:6 that someone special is coming and it would be to our benefit to receive Him. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Further, in Colossians 3:15, we read that this special person should not only be invited into our homes and families, but into our hearts to live and to rule. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." So, Christmas is not only the anticipation of the arrival of the Prince of Peace but as the Person we are to let rule in our hearts as the Christmas Carol, Joy to the World announces, "Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room," That is the message of Christmas Carols, letting the Prince of Peace rule in our hearts.

May this be a wonderful Christmas for you and your loved ones as you invite the King to rule in your heart.

PHS Foundation

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:

- Please know that if you direct your charitable donation to your community, that 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: 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!

LAKE MINNETONKA SHORES

Honoring Our Veterans



Villa Ceremony



Our new banner featuring LMS veterans. To be hung at our Veteran's memorial display.



Court Ceremony



Flags lining the street in front of LMS with our tribute banner to our veterans.



Table Set For One
For POWs and MIAs who haven't come home.
They are missing but will never be forgotten.

LAKE MINNETONKA SHORES

VOLUNTEER NEWS

By Sue Wagener, Volunteer Director

Growing Older; Gaining Wisdom

I am sure you will agree with me that time has a way of slipping by until all of a sudden you realize another year has past.

This happened to me recently when my husband and I realized at the end of October that 20 years have past since we built our dream home in Winsted. How can that be? Before moving to Winsted, we farmed in Waconia for 28 years moving there after we were married. That means I have been married over 48 years. It is hard for me to wrap my mind around how quickly the time has come and gone.

I know you all can relate. Time is limited and our mortality is imminent. But what else has time done? Have we grown wiser with the passing years? Have the experiences of our lives benefited us in any way? Are we sharing those times that have marked our lives with our kids and grandkids so that our memories will serve them as you have learned from those experiences?

I remember asking my grandmother Klein how they got through the dust bowl days? We were

going through a drought that year and we weren't sure we would have enough feed for our 150 head of cattle to get us through the winter. Grandma told me you just had to do what you had to do. They cut the road ditches and weeds and anything else that they thought would keep their cattle alive. And then, she said, it started to rain again. That gave me hope and courage until it started to rain again.

When I share with my kids and grandkids the hardships and joys of my life as well as my parents and grandparents, they will remember. And I hope something from these stories will help them in their lives. Maybe their faith will be strengthened or their endurance be built up in order to hang in there during a tough time. They will know these things too will pass.

Growing older means growing in wisdom. Share your stories with your loved ones this Christmas season. Make an impact and they will remember.

Happenings

Outings

Buses will continue on shopping trips for independent residents only. Watch the calendar for those outings. You must sign up as there are only 5 spaces available on the bus.

One shopping trip per week per resident.

Entertainment and Special Events

Arbor, Gables, Villa/Court & Commons continue to have group activities in their living spaces with limitations. Find these programs on the calendar delivered to your door.

At this time we can not co-mingle the Arbor, Gables, Commons and Villa/Court.

Also listed on Channel 991 or, if no converter 16.2 you will find the daily activity schedule for Court/Villa, and Commons.

**Please Contact Donna Olsen, Campus Life Enrichment Director,
at 952-471-4407 if you have questions.**

LAKE MINNETONKA SHORES

Special Moments during COVID 19



Election
Day





Lake Minnetonka Shores
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Spring Park, MN 55384

952-471-4000

www.lakeminnetonkashores.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