

Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Winter 2025

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Valley View Voice

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Lynn and Janice Miller

by
Victoria Wilbanks

Lynn was born in Nebraska into a Mennonite family, and enjoyed the companionship of a brother and four sisters. His parents farmed row crops, and the family enjoyed a rural upbringing. Later on, when Lynn was five, his family moved to Nampa, Idaho. Lynn says he really enjoyed Idaho, and the family continued to farm there. While living in the Pacific Northwest, Lynn attended and graduated from the Western Mennonite school. After graduation, Lynn volunteered for a two year commitment in Ohio serving children with disabilities. It was there he met Janice, and they decided to marry. They made their home in Idaho, and had three children. Lynn continued with his farming career until, at age 27, he was called to the ministry. This prompted Lynn to seek more training to prepare himself for the ministry, so they embarked on an adventure to Harrisburg, Virginia for a two year certificate in Biblical Studies.



They then were called to pastor the Mennonite Church in McMinnville. In 1979 they returned to Virginia for seminary. While there Lynn pastored the Lindale Mennonite Church. Then in 1990, they returned to Oregon and he pastored the Albany Mennonite Church. After 10 years there he became chaplain at Mennonite Village in Albany, retiring in 2008.

Janice was born into a Mennonite family in Fairview, Michigan, and her background was quite similar to Lynn's. Janice said there were three girls and four boys in her family, and Janice was the third child. The family farmed, and grew hay to feed the dairy cows they raised. Janice's father was also called to the ministry, so the family moved to a small town in Michigan called Lachine.

(Miller continued pg. 3)

From Bill's Desk



Welcome 2025. I have been serving Rock of Ages for a year. I am glad to be able to continue into 2025 with our mission to be a caring community where we are nurturing friendships and serving each other, representing Jesus and His servant example to all people.

Part of my role is to travel to meetings to learn about industry trends, growth strategies, education and networking. In March this year I will be attending the MHS Association assembly in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and the theme is "magnify." Magnify is to increase in significance; intensify or exaggerate. In worship songs we use magnify. "O Magnify the Lord for He is worthy to be praised. O magnify the Lord for He is worthy to be praised. Hosannah! Blessed be the Rock Blessed be the Rock of my salvation..." Perhaps you can hear these words being sung in your mind. Here is a YouTube link you can search for if you would like to listen to a church singing this song, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyMh-h5_Gbs

What do I want to magnify this year? As a Christian I magnify God, not just in singing songs but in all I do. My identity is in Christ, and I want to magnify

God in my life. I also want to magnify our mission at Rock of Ages.

Some things to look forward to this year at Rock of Ages will be continuing the highest quality of care in the industry to our residents. Each resident is a gift to our community, and I am thankful for them and their families. I look forward to getting to know our residents better this year. We will be expanding our in-home care services to more of our community in McMinnville and surrounding areas. You will see new staff this year as we hire to meet the needs of our community. I am also thankful for each staff member and their desire to be part of our mission.

You will see more changes around the campus as we seek to update and improve our facilities. We have contracted to update our internet service to improve connectivity, access and internet speed. Our maintenance department will be working on several projects this year including painting, landscaping, building improvements, repair of walking paths and more. I appreciate the maintenance team and their good work.

Inevitably there will be more changes and projects that you will see this year. Some of these we plan for, and others will take us by surprise. In all these changes I hope we can magnify the presence of God in our lives for 2025.

Chaplain's Corner



Greetings in the New Year, 2025! Usually, people make resolutions at the beginning of the year and I would like

to encourage you to experience God much more this year. The most important value and purpose of our life is to experience God and to glorify Him. Let our experience of God be an example for other people..

We had a wonderful Christmas Eve service. I want to thank everyone who took part in this blessed celebration of our Savior. Christmas is over but let's live with the spirit of Christmas in our hearts every day this year! We started a new Grief Support Group on 7 January. We meet every Tuesday at 3:00 pm in the Activity Center. If you are interested please come. You can watch our services online on our Shilo Way Chapel

channel. Also we have changed the time of our community walk to three pm so join us to walk along and enjoy some nice fellowship and the beauty of nature. Our spiritual activities such as prayer meetings, Bible studies, chapel services are available for you. Please join and participate. First Sunday every month we have communion/Lord's Supper. Bette Suderman and Mary Hill are leading the Lady's Bible study on Mondays, exploring the book of Acts, and Mel Nice leads the Bible study for everyone on Thursdays. Our spiritual care team is available for anyone who needs emotional and/or spiritual support so don't hesitate to reach out and ask for help and prayers. Let our experience of God be an example so other people may want to experience Him.

Honoring our Employees

Employees of the Month (EOM)

September: Kristy Hawes & Anarbol Manzo



Kristy is a housekeeper in the MAIDS department. She works on campus and in the community to keep our places clean. She always has a smile and goes out of her way to help all she can.



Anarbol has been working at Rock of Ages for almost a year. He is a fast learner and hard worker, and everyone loves to work with him. Residents love him for his compassion, good care, and the fun environment he creates.

October: Paytyn Hutchinson



Paytyn has been a valuable caregiver with our MAIDS department. She is so sweet and kind to our residents. She has just recently switched to working at our adult foster home, and they love her

2025 Community Garden

It's time to be planning and preparing for the 2025 Community Garden growing season. Visions are under way for a bean trellis, maybe a grape vine, a bed of cutting flowers, bee pollinator flowers, and a row or two of corn in the new garden section. The squash patch and original raised beds will be in full operation again. Our garden has full sun which makes it a great growing location. There is room for you. Contact Teresa or Jan if you are interested.

The Lighter Side

An elderly couple travelling in the South come to Natchitoches and begin arguing about how to pronounce the name of the city. They keep on bickering until eventually, they decide to stop for lunch. At the counter, the man smiled at the pretty waitress and said, "Mam, before we order, could you help us settle an argument, please?" The young waitress smiled and said, "Sure! How can I help you, honey?"

(Miller continued from pg. 1)

Michigan was where Lynn and Janice were married 60 years ago this year. They made their home in Idaho after their marriage, and raised four children. Vonnie, LaRee and Matthew were their biological children, and Jessica was their adopted daughter. Jessica was much younger because she was also the last of their many foster children. Before her marriage to Lynn, Janice had worked a year as a nannie, which helped her build the skills she needed to care for all of the foster children she and Lynn worked with during their marriage. The couple specialized in caring for new born foster children, straight from the hospital. Janice mentioned they did not embark on their challenging foster care career until their own children were teenagers.

As a couple, they shared many interests. They both enjoy the outdoors, and love to hike. Janice loves to sew pieces to contribute to quilt construction. Lynn pointed out that Janice is very creative, and loves to do crafts of all kinds. Lynn himself is a woodworker, and works in the community workshop at Rock of Ages. They are both avid readers, and they love to travel. As well as traveling in the United States, they have enjoyed other countries including Israel, Puerto Rico and Canada. They intend to add more places to their list of international travel when they embark on a special European tour in the near future, which will commemorate 500 years of the Anabaptist Mennonite Movement. Another of their favorite endeavors is spending time with their twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren, with one more great grandchild on the way. They proudly point out that the oldest grandchild is 30 years old, and the youngest is four years old. This is because of the age difference between their oldest biological child, and Jessica, their adopted daughter.

The transition to Valley View/Rock of Ages seems to have been a very natural one for them, because of their backgrounds and life journey, which brought them not only to the Pacific Northwest, but to McMinnville. They are very happy in their comfortable home with its superb view of the valley, and are a wonderful addition to the campus.

"Could you please pronounce the name of where we are right now, very slowly?" said Jeff.

The young waitress leaned over the counter and said, "Yes sir! It's Burr-r-gerrr Kiiing."

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