

# Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Autumn 2018

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## Valley View Voice

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## Alan and Teresa Brandon

by  
Victoria Wilbanks

Alan and Teresa Brandon can be found working at their little cottage, planting flowers and adding all sorts of attractive decorations in the yard. Their excitement about their new home is apparent. They are particularly excited to have the trees and wooded area around them, reminding them of the country living they had enjoyed all of their lives.

Alan was born in North Bend, Oregon in 1957, and was the youngest of three children. Beverly was the oldest, then came Denny. There was a gap of 10 years before Alan was born. Alan was raised on a dairy farm until the age of 9, when the family moved into town.

However, soon after the move, the call came for Alan's parents to move back to nearby Hauser to take care of their aging parents. When the family finally ended up in Yamhill County, Alan attended and graduated from Amity High School, where he met his wife Teresa. Alan laughingly says that he was attracted to her because of the great distance she could throw a basketball into the net, but then quickly adds that she was also quite beautiful.

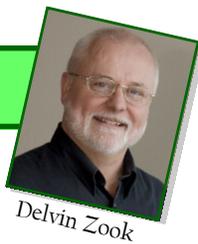
Alan spent most of his early working years on farms both during school and after graduation. He mainly worked for Walker Farms, but later got an opportunity to work for Burch Concrete, a family owned company which today is known as Cal-Portland, where he continues to work until he decides to retire. During his career at this organization, he has worked in many positions, becoming very familiar with the entire operation.

Teresa was born in 1958. and grew up on "Trestle View Farms" at the edge of McMinnville. Her parents are Lyle and Fern Tresham who also live at Rock of Ages/Valley View. Their farm raised strawberries, corn, walnuts, hay, wheat and farm animals. Teresa said that she had an idyllic childhood, and got her first horse when she was ten. She also remembers the year they had a bumper wheat crop, and were able to afford to build an in-ground swimming pool, which was a great source of joy for herself, her older sister Judy, and her two older brothers Roger and Kenny.

(Brandon continued pg 3)



## From Delvin's Desk



Delvin Zook

Operating a charitable not-for-profit organization has many facets that seem to have a way of evolving which requires staff and leaders to continually be on their toes to remain in compliance with governing rules and guidelines. The number of regulations continues to grow. State and Federal regulations DO NOT produce a higher quality. Government regulations are made to help maintain acceptable standards. We, at Rock of Ages, don't want *acceptable* standards, but rather strive to produce quality that goes far above what is considered acceptable.

Community Based Care (CBC) in Oregon has been, and is regulated under the Department of Human Services. A couple of years ago, Oregon legislators passed regulations requiring the leaders of Residential Care/Assisted Living facilities to fall under a regulatory Long Term Care Board (LTCB). Three additional members from CBC communities have been added to the LTCB. It has always been my

belief that to have quality care you must have strong, knowledgeable leaders, so I agree with this directive and am hopeful it will produce good results. This will require administrators to be accountable to the LTCB. Being involved in, and Past Chair of the National Association of Long Term Care Boards, I am seeing leaders whose main goal is to prepare strong leaders for the future of Long Term Care. We also need to guard against regulations that move us toward institutionalization and away from our focus of person centered care.

Quality and compassionate care start with strong leaders who have hearts to see frail and elderly individuals cared for with compassion. I know Rock of Ages is one of the best and we have quality staff members that really love their jobs here in our little community. This is demonstrated by their big hearts and willingness to work beyond the call of duty. Thank you each one for giving of yourselves to brighten the lives of our residents, and for our volunteers and those who also give beyond the call of duty—you truly make a difference. Thank you!

## Chaplain's Corner



Mark Nissley

### Packing your Life Journey Travel Kit

Since moving to Oregon from the East Coast, we have travelled a good bit more than we ever anticipated. When we travel, Ruth does most of the packing. I'm extremely grateful for her willingness to pack. I'm sure if I were the one to do the packing, I would miss some essential item or pack the wrong thing as is rumored that Delvin Zook, our CEO, once did. Something about mismatched shoes. Ask him.

Going on a trip can be compared to our journey through life. As we travel we'll enjoy the warmth of home, and experience exotic people and places. We will stumble along rocky paths and soar high above every day cares. We will laugh, cry, pray and praise, and as we journey through life, we'll love and grow. Here are some things we will need in our life's journey travel kit:

We will need **nourishment**; a long journey requires strength and resilience. To keep our bodies strong,

we should fuel up with goodness grown from the earth and food fashioned with care. And to keep our spirit in top shape, pray and meditate on the Lord Jesus daily. We must never stop learning, always giving ourselves time to digest the experiences that form our days and years.

The more we travel the more we need **flexibility**. Delays, detours, disappointments inevitably become part of the fabric of our life journey. Let's be willing to adapt to change, embracing the blessings that flow from unexpected events, allowing ourselves the flexibility to go with God, "off the beaten path," to discover even more of His wisdom and wonder.

Don't forget to pack **inspiration**, often, when we're faced with a particularly difficult problem along the road, we need not reinvent the wheel to get going again. Instead we learn from others, invite the wisdom gained from others' experiences, and build upon their lessons to forge ahead. God's Word through His Spirit gives us the foundational inspiration we need.

(Chaplain continued on pg 5)

## Honoring our Employees

### Employees of the Month



**Mark Nissley** was named Employee of the Month for July. He started working at Rock of Ages July, 2013 as our Chaplain.



**Cindy Caswell** was named Employee of the Month for August. She began working at Rock of Ages, September, 2016. Cindy is one of our energetic MAIDS and works mostly at night in the TLC Building



**José Ortiz** was named Employee of the Month for September. José began working at Rock of Ages March, 2016. He is in the Maintenance Dept., mostly taking care of our beautiful grounds, but he is also a good plumber.

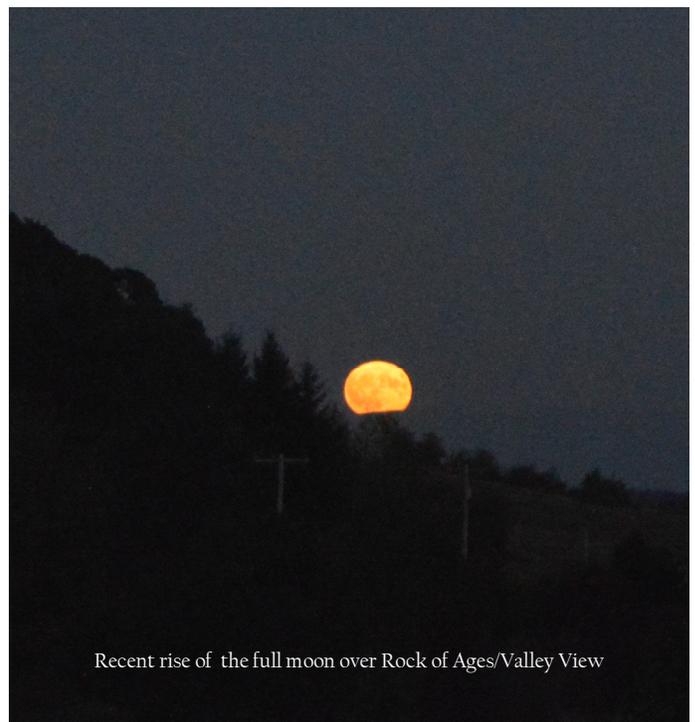
(Brandon continued from pg one)

After her marriage to Alan, the couple purchased a couple of acres from their parents, and built a beautiful family home where they raised their children. The family really enjoyed their small farm, and raised their own beef. They also harvested walnuts, had a huge vegetable garden, and really enjoyed canning everything they grew in the garden. Camping trips were also a great source of enjoyment for the Brandon family. Teresa worked for five years for Safeway before working for three years with the government office of agriculture in McMinnville, but she mostly stayed home to raise their two boys; Denver, born in 1986, and Logan born in 1992. Teresa also has good memories of working at Rock of Ages in the kitchen for three years, about 15 years ago. Their boys followed in their parents' footsteps, and graduated from Amity High School. Alan and  
(Brandon continued above right)

Teresa are very fortunate to still have their children living close to them. Logan is the Sports Editor of the News Register, and Denver and his wife both work at A-Dec in Newberg. Currently Alan and Teresa are enjoying three grandchildren. Teresa takes care of the youngest grandchild one day a week, which she says is a real joy to her.

After Teresa's parents sold their farm, Alan and Teresa also sold their lovely country home, and moved to a subdivision in McMinnville. However, they soon discovered that town life was not as much to their liking as farm life, and they eventually sold their home in town after five years, and with open minds proceeded to find something more to their liking. Since Lyle and Fern Tresham, Teresa's parents live at Rock of Ages/Valley View, it was not surprising that Alan and Teresa stumbled upon the little vacant cottage that needed some tender loving care. The cottage needed them, and they needed the cottage. It seems that this is where they were meant to be, close to family, and in a home that they are really enjoying.

After purchasing the home, the couple worked very hard to make it just the way they wanted it to be, both inside and out. They are still upgrading certain things, but they both say that they feel very blessed to be where they are, and are sure that this is where God wants them to be.



Recent rise of the full moon over Rock of Ages/Valley View

# Life in the Village

By  
Gordon Martin

## The Boring Project

Last Spring I noticed that we were using a lot more water than normal. After several months of trying to find a leak, José discovered a wet spot near the lodge that proved to be the culprit. After we fixed the leak and isolated that section of the water system, our usage went back to normal. We wanted to restore the ability to isolate sections of the system in case there are future problems which meant we needed to replace the section of pipe from the pump house to the lodge. We



The machine that did the boring



Welding the pieces together



The weld  
ABS/PVC fitting  
The new pipe connected to PVC system

could either dig up the water feature and the road to lay a new pipe or try boring a hole for a new pipe. Delvin was able to contract with a specialist who not only bored the hole under the water feature and fish pond and up to the Lodge, but also pulled a new three-inch pipe through it! Then, since the new pipe was ABS plastic, a special fitting was welded onto each end that allowed José to join the new pipe to the existing PVC piping system. Quite a project!

## The Sidewalk Projects

We have seen two sidewalk projects be completed in the last month. In September, Delvin decided to finish the sidewalk from Shilo Way down between the Mason's and Martin's duplexes to the walking path by the creek. Delvin did most of the excavating with the little Kubota backhoe, and then José spent several days cleaning out the excavation and building the forms for the walkway. A pumper truck was hired and was able to reach all the sidewalk in just two sets, starting at the lower end. All was in readiness...and then the rain began! The concrete truck was late and the rains started

almost as soon as the concrete started flowing. The crew worked valiantly but it was a pretty miserable day for them...they were all soaked. The Blue Spruce Builder's crew that was working on the Martin's sidewalk project at the same time, jumped in to help and they all got it done. The new walk is being enjoyed by many residents. If you walk the loop down this sidewalk, across to the sidewalk that runs up to



(Projects continued pg 5)

(Chaplain continued from pg 2)

Take plenty of **Creativity**. Do you feel like the way you're on is leading nowhere? Or do you feel stuck? Play the game of "What if..." Think beyond where you are. Imagine yourself improving, growing, succeeding. Use your God-gifted creativity to take the tools you have at hand and turn them into something marvelous and moving. God does far more than we can imagine. He's good that way.

No matter where we go, we will need **rest**. Traveling from one activity to another, from one high-energy event to another, can be exhausting. Our spirit can despair when it is tired, and we become more prone to miss-steps. We must pack into our itinerary enough time to rest, meditate, be quiet and alone. From the refreshing waters of silence and reflection, your spirit will renew and shine. Jesus set a good example by going into the wilderness to pray and rest.

**Faith** is perhaps the most important thing to take with us. Going through life without faith is akin to going on a trip without our wallet and phone. No matter how much our society would have us believe otherwise, we cannot journey wonderfully, hopefully, and joyfully through life without faith in God. Our Lord is the brightest star, giving us direction. He is the gentle voice within who guides us. He is the fount of unlimited strength, courage, goodness, and love and...with faith firmly at the top of your travel list, you will never be led astray.

Happy Traveling!

Adapted from *What to Pack in Your Life Journey Travel Kit* by Maureen Pratt

(Projects continued from pg 4)

the chapel and back to the point you started; you have walked a quarter mile.

## The Second Sidewalk

We Martins had a sidewalk that was wood chips over landscape cloth that was getting kind of "ratty," so we decided to take that all out and put in a concrete sidewalk, properly designed for us elder folks. I decided even though I have done that kind of work before, I wasn't as young as I used to be, and we hired the Blue Spruce Builders to put it in for us. Wise decision! They were great at doing the project to our specifications, especially making sure the drainage of water was all away from the house and

(Projects continued above right)



yet have the concrete cover the drain lines properly, etc. Now Dolores says, "In the future when I'm in my wheelchair, I can roll right from the front door clear around to the back deck without stopping"...that is if someone will open the gate for her!

## The Lighter Side

*From the Cloverdale Farms reader board:*

- The best way out is always through.
- Truth only has to change hands a few times to become fiction.
- If you can't do something about a problem then it's not a problem, it's a fact of life!

Bible Mennonite Fellowship, Inc. dba

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## Rock of Ages Christmas Banquet

Mark your calendars for the  
Rock of Ages/ Valley View  
Christmas Banquet  
December 11, 2018

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