

Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Autumn 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Will & Laura Burgess</i>	1
<i>From Delvin's Desk</i>	2
<i>Chaplain's Corner</i>	2
<i>Honoring our Employees</i>	3
<i>The Lighter Side</i>	3
<i>Christmas Banquet</i> ..	4

Valley View Voice
Published quarterly
by
Rock of Ages/Valley
View Retirement
Community
15600 Rock of Ages
Road
McMinnville, OR
97128

Editor:
Gordon Martin
Photography:
Gordon Martin
Contributing Editors:
Victoria Wilbanks

Will and Laura Burgess

by
Victoria Wilbanks

Will Burgess was born in Porum, Oklahoma in 1932 and grew up with his family on a farm. Laura was born in Texas, and also grew up in a farm environment with her family. The 30's were difficult years in the United States, and the people of our country faced many challenges which included the great depression, and the infamous dust storms that devastated family farms and the livelihoods of those who farmed. Both Will and Laura's families left their homes for California, hoping for better opportunities and to escape economic hardships. Will and Laura found themselves in high school together in Northern California, where they became close, and eventually married immediately after graduation. After marriage, the couple moved to Berkeley, and Will attended the University of California, eventually earning a degree that qualified him to teach Spanish in high school. Laura went to work to help support the family, and they eventually reached their goal of having Will graduate and secure a job as a Spanish teacher in Newman, in the San Joaquin Valley. However, change was in the air, and one year into Will's teaching career, he was called up to do his service with the US. Army at Fort Hood, Texas. Will was assigned a post in the army which matched his talents very well—he became a reporter for the Fort Hood *Daily Sentinel*, a job that he really enjoyed. He says that he had an opportunity to witness many events that were new and unusual to him, and he learned a lot.



During the time that Will was in the army, Laura gave birth to their daughter Marlee. Later, when Will had completed his time in the army, the family moved back to the San Joaquin Valley, and Will resumed his teaching job at the high school, where he stayed until retirement twenty two years later. Soon after returning to his teaching job, the couple's son Jeff was born. Laura was a homemaker, raising their two children, and pursuing her many hobbies, which included painting and sewing. She loved to sew clothes for Marlee, which she found both fun and economical. Laura enjoyed her time at home pursuing her many interests until Jeff entered first grade. She then started college with the goal of

(Burgess continued pg 3)

Delvin's Desk



Delvin Zook

We have had some beautiful fall days, and the air is cooler and down-right cold on some of these frosty mornings. The leaves are so beautiful. We live in such a beautiful setting—this morning the sunrise over the Cascades was spectacular.

As I drive through the Village and see the beauty of each place and the landscaping the folks have done—trees, bushes, flowers, etc., I want to thank all of our residents who take pride in their homes. There are many of you who enjoy gardening. We are blessed to have several new folks moving into homes the past couple of years, many making changes and upgrading. As most of you have heard me say, *Folks come to Rock of Ages/ Valley View to live*, not as some surmise, for other reasons. It warms my heart to see many changes in the homes: additions, remodels, landscaping, and other changes.

Along with making life enjoyable for yourselves I also see so much community! Neighbors helping neighbors, reaching out to each other, words of

encouragement, literally lending a hand or a supporting arm to lean on is such a common occurrence here. When we added the Transitional Life Care program, the whole focus was on *living better* even while receiving Hospice services. I see residents supporting and encouraging other folks as we champion each other on.

A week ago Twila and I drove the bus to the beach! What a great time spending the day with friends. Thank you all for choosing our “little village” and living life with the rest of us!



Photo by Delvin Zook

Chaplain's Corner



Mark Nissley

One of the goals of Rock of Ages / Valley View is to give residents and their families the opportunity to participate in life-enriching activities. This includes quite a variety: dining room singalongs, men's open forum, Sunday chapel services, ladies quarterly tea, weekly shopping trips, outings to parks, museums and the coast, movie night, Bible study at Memory Care, and more. However, one of the challenges we face is keeping our residents informed, so I would like to tell you about another activity you might not think would fall under the Chaplain's responsibilities.

Every Thursday morning we have an excursion to *Coffee Klatch* at the McMinnville Senior Center. About 8:45 AM, our bus will go through the village picking up village residents, along with several Memory Care and Lodge residents, then head into

town. Through the years, as the bus driver, I have seen this short outing provide an excellent opportunity to interact and build relationships with each other. There is always plenty of laughter, words of encouragement and interesting stories.

Should you choose to go along, you will find yourself on the bus heading to Roth's to pick up the doughnuts. (No, you may not eat any until we get to the McMinnville Senior Center 😊) Arriving at the Senior Center, we find the “McMinnevillers” eagerly anticipating the doughnuts. So grab a cup of coffee and a doughnut, sit down and enjoy some good conversation. This outing also provides a great opportunity for residents to meet and interact with other seniors of McMinnville and the surrounding area, thus building relationships as we enjoy each other's company. Then around 10:25, we head back to Rock of Ages. We most often take a different

(Chaplain continued on pg 4)

Honoring Our Employees

Employees of the Month



Marcela Ponce-Garcia was named Employee of the Month for June. She started working at Rock of Ages March, 2019, in Memory Care.



Candice Armour and Stephanie Diaz were named Co-Employees of the Month for July. Candice began working at Rock of Ages, December, 2005, and is currently Director of Food Services.



Stephanie began working at Rock of Ages September, 2012, and also works in Food Services.



Ismael Ramirez was named Employee of the Month for August. Ismael began working at Rock of Ages May, 2011 in the Maintenance Department.

(Burgess continued from pg one)

becoming an elementary teacher after graduation. Laura taught elementary school until she retired. During the time the couple were raising their family, they all enjoyed camping, and along with their beloved black lab, traveled all over the United States during summer vacations. Laura reports that Jeff is still an avid outdoorsman, due to the family's influence on him. Both Laura and Will enjoyed hiking together, and Will was also an avid hunter. Will's other hobby was tennis, which he loved and enjoyed playing for years. The children eventually

(Burgess continued above right)

(Burgess continued from below left)

grew up and left home, and Jeff became a lawyer, who now works for the State of Oregon, Department of Labor and Industries in Portland, and Marlee is a dental hygienist, living in Vacaville, California. Both have families of their own. Over the years, Will and Laura traveled from California to visit their son in Oregon, and because of the distance, always stopped overnight in Grants Pass. They became very fond of Grants Pass, and eventually bought property there, and lived there for fourteen years in a beautiful home.

After retirement from teaching, Will and Laura began to travel abroad. They traveled to many places, including Europe, Canada and Mexico. They had a time share which they really enjoyed, and one of their favorite places was a property in Spain. It bordered the Mediterranean where they had wonderful views. They also continued with their outdoor activities.

Because their son Jeff lives in McMinnville, Will and Laura discovered Rock of Ages/Valley View when visiting him, and made the decision to retire here. The choice was an easy one for them, even though they had to wait a year before being able to purchase their current residence. Since the couple moved to Rock of Ages/Valley View, Will has had some very serious health challenges, which he has now recovered from, after undergoing a long and difficult rehabilitation. Both Laura and Will say they were happy to be located at Valley View during this difficult time, where they received much support and friendship. Laura is now able to continue her volunteer work at her church which she very much enjoys, and on warm, clear days, they can be found happily enjoying views of the valley from their deck.

The Lighter Side

From the Cloverdale Farms reader board:

- If you are paying \$3 for a bottle of *smart water*—it's not working!!
- In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—only consequences.
- Nothing worthwhile comes easily.

Bible Mennonite Fellowship, Inc. dba

Rock of Ages

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MCMINNVILLE, OR
PERMIT NO. 11

*Valley View Retirement-M.A.I.D.S.
15600 SW Rock of Ages Road
McMinnville, OR 97128*

Return Service Requested

Label

Rock of Ages Christmas Banquet

Mark your calendars for the
Rock of Ages/ Valley View
Christmas Banquet
6 PM
December 10, 2019

(Chaplain cont'd from pg 2)

route returning than we did going, just to see some of the beautiful landscaping work in McMinnville, as well as keeping an eye on the construction taking place on Hill Road. It's our responsibility as *volunteer inspectors!*

Interested in just getting out for a short off-campus outing? I invite you to take the trip to the McMinnville Senior Center Thursday mornings. We think you'll enjoy it and it's likely that you will brighten someone else's day.

Bring a friend and join in some interaction that will enrich your life. Just as the early church was, we too, are designed for fellowship with others.

Acts 2:42: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching *and to fellowship*, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Done any fellowshiping lately?