

Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Summer 2022

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Valley View Voice

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Les & Mary Wolfer

by

Victoria Wilbanks

Les Wolfer was the youngest of nine children born into a farming family in Whitson, a small community between McMinnville and Amity. He attended Western Mennonite School, and after his school years worked in farming briefly before travelling to Portland, where he worked at Good Samaritan Hospital for the next 35 years. This is where he met the love of his life, Mary, right there at Good Samaritan Hospital in Northwest Portland.

Mary was born in Ohio, into a Pennsylvania Dutch farming family in an Amish community. To this day she can still speak the language. Mary had a wonderful childhood, along with her five other siblings, and she reports that she even



had her own horse and buggy. Mary loved animals, and much preferred to work with all of the many critters around the farm, including horses for work, and those kept for travel. Mary said that she always chose an animal from all of the groups of animals she took care of, and had many special pets. Mary's mother told her that she was much more suited to working outside on the farm, than helping with household chores. To this day Mary has in her possession the little black dress and the white apron worn over it for church. She remembers wearing the dress with its pleats, and a pocket which held her treasures. In 1962, Mary decided she wanted to do mission work, and ended up in Portland, Oregon, where she became involved with Good Samaritan Hospital.

Both Mary and Les found their career niches at Good Samaritan Hospital. Mary worked in pediatrics, and Les worked in respiratory therapy. Both Mary and Les were very dedicated to their chosen professions, and ended up working at the hospital for many years. They did not meet right away; both were single for awhile, and finally met and married in 1975. When they discussed their futures, they talked about the possibility of adopting children, but decided that they were both perfectly fulfilled with each other, and since they had married later in life they were perfectly

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From Delvin's Desk



We live in unprecedented times. Some call it the *post pandemic era*. People are concerned about how they will support their families. Businesses are wondering where all the folks that were employed before the pandemic have gone. The workforce seems to have diminished so jobs are hard to fill. Like Rock of Ages, many companies are resorting to new techniques, trying new ideas to fill positions. Ultimately the demand that causes organizations to raise pay scales to attract new employees in turn effects the consumer with increased rates needed to be charged to allow an organization to remain viable. Immigration can be part of the solution, but what is happening now is disturbing, chaotic, and dangerous. We need structured immigration for people to move safely and not endanger children and families. We here at Rock of Ages have always welcomed and employed people of various ethnic groups, including: American, Mexican, Hattian, Congolese, Paraguayan, Cuban, filipino, and others. To all we are grateful!

A great opportunity to help meet the growing demand in caring for an aging population is the Rock of Ages Voluntary Service program. The need has not been greater than now for churches and other organizations to answer the call in the James 1:27 *to care for the orphans and widows in their affliction*. It is demanding yet truly is a rewarding career to serve where you know you are making a difference in lives

of those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and other challenges for residents. There is nothing more rewarding than helping to bring joy to those we serve. Unfortunately many have left the mission field of caring for the elderly due to stress that the pandemic brought, and have gone to less stressful work. This has left an even greater employment vacancy needing to be filled.

However, there are those, who, through thick and thin, and through stress of COVID and other challenges, have stepped up and not away during the recent challenging times and have truly changed lives. I would like to highlight one who over 25 years ago came to serve faithfully here at Rock of Ages.

Karen Nisly, MAIDS Administrator, has been a faithful servant and when staff left because of COVID, she stepped up and volunteered to add staff scheduling, one of the least appreciated administrative jobs, to her own significant responsibilities as MAIDS Administrator.



Karen has shown *true grit*, a heart of gold, and one deserving a huge "Thank You"! Not that Karen is the only one, because there are others who have been here for years, stepping up rather than stepping away from one of the most challenging and yet rewarding occupations today!

Thank you, Karen, and other colleagues who have been so faithful.

Chaplain's Corner



Lynn Miller

When my wife and I arrived at Rock of Ages last August, we came as volunteers for six months. We have enjoyed being here so much that we have now completed 12 months. What is it about Rock of Ages that draws people here? Why do we stay?

The first impression was the amazing view. We see the foothills of the Cascade Range, and at times snow covered Mt. Jefferson. Green fields, orchards, and forests make this such a peaceful, pastoral setting.

As time went by we noticed the wildlife. We don't find *wild life* among the humans that live here, but we see wildlife elsewhere almost daily. We've seen deer, chipmunks, squirrels, snakes, a turtle, a bobcat, blue heron, eagles, ducks and geese. Even when a neighbor's sheep made themselves at home in the front yard we sort of hated to see the owner retrieve them.

We have become acquainted with the residents of Rock of Ages, people from all walks of life. What an enjoyable bunch! We often hear the words like, "We

(Chaplain continued on pg 3)

Honoring our Employees

Employees of the Month



Judith Brink is the April Employee of the Month.

Judith always has a smile and is willing to help out where she is needed. She is always busy making the place look beautiful and clean. She makes sure everyone around her is good and always gives

encouraging words. We are blessed to have her on our team; with her positive outlook on life, she makes everyone's day better.



Nakinja Ntasharha is the May Employee of the Month.

Nakinja also does a wonderful job keeping our place looking beautiful. She has been a trooper and is helping the M.A.I.D.S. out while we are in the process of hiring new staff. She is working nights at TLC and loving on the clients.

to places like Alaska, Nova Scotia, and many more places across the United States. They also took cruises, and generally enjoyed themselves. Being a family oriented couple, Mary says when they traveled, they were always drawn towards her community in Ohio, where they enjoyed visiting their many relatives.

As one visits with this couple, it is apparent that they have led fulfilling lives of service, and when they have spent time traveling, they have enjoyed themselves immensely, having all kinds of adventures. Mary says that when she reached her 85th birthday, she was treated to a hot air balloon ride, and she enjoyed it so much that she intends to take another one when she reaches 90. In planning for their retirement living, the couple found themselves drawn to Rock of Ages, and were eventually offered their current cottage, which they are enjoying immensely. Because of Les's strong connection to this area, he did know quite a lot about Rock of Ages, since some of his family members had lived here; however, they had never giving much thought to spending their retirement years here. But when the time came, it was an easy choice for them to make, and they really feel very blessed for having made such a good decision, especially as they encounter the small health challenges associated with aging. Mary said she feels very safe and secure in their home at Rock of Ages/Valley View.

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happy with their lives as they were, although Mary is quick to add that they have many beautiful nieces and nephews with whom they still are close. Les and Mary began married life in their first home together in NE Portland, but later moved to the community of St. Johns, North Portland, where they enjoyed their home until retirement.

Mary retired from Good Samaritan hospital, but Les was caught in a large personnel layoff ,which included his boss. Although this seemed sad at the time, he went to work for a retirement community in St. Johns, where he used his skills with Alzheimer's patients. Mary reports that he was wonderful with the folks he worked with, and seemed gifted in the way he communicated with them. Eventually when Les reached retirement age too, the couple began to accomplish their travel goals. They had a good sized travel van, which served as their home on wheels when they traveled

(Chaplain continued from pg 1)

missed you.” “Where have you been?” “Can I help you?” “What do you need?” and “We hope you stay!” These invitational and warm comments made among folks here help to create a wonderful feeling of community.

The staff is friendly, polite and helpful. The food is delicious, plentiful and healthy. And along with all this is the enjoyment of Christian fellowship. Rock of Ages has become like family to Janice and I. There is a sense of the Presence of God in this place. Surrounded by His marvelous creation, godly people, and so much Christlike kindness that it is hard to miss.

These are among the reasons we hope to stay. Thank you for making these months so enjoyable.

Life in the Village

by Jan Noland, photography by Gary Noland

How Grows the Garden

After a slow cool start, Village garden crops are off and growing.



The Community Garden has two big improvements this year; drip irrigation in the squash patch means no more soaker hoses to waste water & grow weeds, and hopefully, a layer of weed guard will lessen weeds amongst the squash. We hope to produce: acorn, spaghetti, butternut, and of

course, zucchini squash. Look for decorative gourds to climb up the fence facing the sidewalk. However, this year's garden will not produce the 300+ gourds grown last year that decorated our campus and homes last fall.



You will also see beets, tomatoes, peppers, onions, broccoli, peas, beans, garlic, carrots, leeks, kale, Swiss chard, salad greens, rhubarb, and a variety of cucumbers growing.



Visit the Binders' raised driveway-growbox-garden with June's potatoes, carrots, radishes, and broccoli.

As usual, Dolores's backyard garden is a sight to behold with her flowers and veggies. She never knows what might pop up from year to year. Maybe we'll see pear shaped tomatoes at coffee hour again this summer? They were yummy.



Flowers – God's Gift to Us

Look around as you are outside and notice all the beautiful color spots in yards and common areas. Thanks to Teresa & Eleanor we have multitudes of marigolds lining walkways & streets. Enjoy visiting the many colorful Village yards. The Lodge has flowers both front & back thanks to Teresa. Now is the time to appreciate the variety of colorful lilies blooming around campus. You will find them along the walking path, activity center, lodge, and lower sidewalk behind the TLC building.



Visit the creative & colorful flower garden created by the Kadells & Jurhs. Walk down the path from Chuck & Carlene's corner following the sidewalk



that goes by the Community Garden to view their whole creation including colorful birdhouses & the bear family roasting marshmallows. Enjoy the beauty of the pond and field as you stop to savor the view from one of the benches.

See more *Life in the Village* on pg 6

Rock of Ages Fun Festival

August 13, 2022



3 Heath Brothers



The Cragun's



The GillyGirls Band



Bethel Mountain



Gospel Echoes NW

Concerts and activities are **FREE!**

9:00am - McMinnville Aircraft Modelers

Car Show

Kids Village

10:00 - Puppet Show

11:00 - Candy Bomber

11:30 - Second Winds Band

2:00 - Gospel Echoes NW

3:00 - Puppet Show

4:00 - Bethel Mountain Band

5:00 - The GillyGirls Band

6:00 - 3 Heath Brothers

7:00 - The Cragun's

Valley View Retirement Village

15600 SW Rock of Ages Road

McMinnville, OR 97128

503-472-6212

www.rockofagesvalleyview.com

Visit us on Facebook!

Your donation of canned food
for local food banks is
appreciated.

Directions: Old Sheridan Road to Peavine Road, turn left on Youngberg Hill Road, continue to Rock of Ages entrance and concert site. Follow the signs!

Bible Mennonite Fellowship, Inc. dba
Rock of Ages

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Wednesday Exercise Class

The gym is enjoying an increased number of residents using the equipment and attending exercise classes. It's also great to see many residents walking around the campus and track.



Come try out the Wednesday 9:45-10:30 exercise class lead by Physical Therapists Pierre Zook and Peter Martin. The class focuses on chair, standing, and resistive weight exercises designed to help improve our muscle strength & endurance, balance, and coordination. Pierre & Peter always welcome specific questions any of us may have regarding our own physical challenges.

We have a lot of fun, so come check it out.

Rock of Ages Endowment

(501-C-3 organization)

Thank you for considering Rock of Ages Endowment in your estate planning! Your gift will keep giving and help Rock of Ages provide loving care for those we serve.

Call 1-800-280-CARE(2273)
for additional information