

# Valley View Voice

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

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## Valley View Voice

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### Editor:

Gordon Martin

### Photography:

Gordon Martin

### Contributing Editor:

Victoria Wilbanks

## Judy Wells by Victoria Wilbanks

Judy was born in New York State, in the little town of Waterford near Albany. Waterford was the first incorporated village in the United States. It is very rich in history, and was first settled by the Dutch. Judy recalls that when she was a child, she played on a canon which was a remnant left from the American Revolution. She recalls telling her family about it, and they were surprised! As a result the relic is in a museum to this day. Judy also recalls that the Erie canal runs through the town of Waterford. Judy was the oldest of three children, 10 years older than her sister, and four years older than he brother. Her father was a Credit Manager for the Lerner stores, and her mother was a homemaker, but was also trained as a nurse, and used those skills in later years. Judy was extremely happy growing up in Waterford, even though the family had to move around several times due to lack of housing after the war. Judy graduated from Averill Park high school in New York. Later in her father's career, he was obliged to move to the Los Angeles area in California, where the family settled. Judy recalls she met Paul, her husband, there at her place of employment.

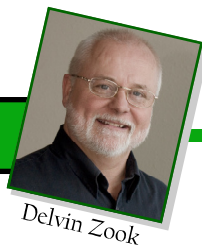


After the move to California, Judy chose to find work, rather than go back to school. She set out to look for employment even though she really did not have any work experience. Like most people of that era, experience came with on-the-job training and learning. This is how Judy gained status in the field of her choice, the insurance business. She made great strides in her career, and became more and more experienced and valuable to her employer. At the age of 34, she was working with a gentleman with whom she was becoming more and more frustrated due to his unreasonable work demands. One day he literally brought her to tears. Her tears caught the attention of a fellow employee who comforted her, and later asked her out for a drink to relax. She accepted the offer, and that invitation turned into more

(Wells continued pg 3)



## Delvin's Desk



Delvin Zook

We have come to the end of another summer. I love these fall mornings, beautiful days, and cool evenings. The other evening we enjoyed a delightful evening on the deck with family. The highlight was stacking dominos with my grandson, Everett. Except for Boxelder and stink bugs, the evenings are beautiful sitting on the deck and watching the evening sky come to life. The juniper trees begins to stand out first even before the night is dark. You might think you see a star or even a jetliner's lights, but no, it's the planet Jupiter. On clear nights when the sky darkens, stars



Submitted photo

his youth group. The group of 21 were in Oregon for a week and got several projects completed. The main accomplishment was painting the big deck at Ann Scott Estates Foster Home. They also did some painting and yardwork at the main Rock of Ages campus. It's always so much fun getting to know youth from various parts of the US



Submitted photo



Submitted photo

begin to pop and fill in across the sky. At Rock of Ages, about 9 to 9:30 p.m., a lower flying jetliner goes over. I've been told it is an airplane landing at PDX, a daily flight coming into Portland from Hawaii.

About a month ago we welcomed a youth group from Indiana. They were from the Lamb of God Mennonite Church near Fort Wayne. For those who met Shawn Webb, a volunteer here, this was



Submitted photo

and see their work finish projects that are hard to complete without their help. Not only did they work hard but also had trips to the Oregon coast, and a couple evenings using the water slide here on campus. A lot of fun times and great fellowship



Submitted photo



Submitted photo

We are so grateful to all the youth and their sponsors who come and make a tremendous difference for our residents. Thank you.

## Honoring Our Employees



**Brant Nice** is employee of the month for June.

Brant is one of our summer maintenance men. He has really worked hard this year and the residents are enjoying his great attitude and work ethic. He, along with the other maintenance men, worked long and hard in the heat to get everything ready for our Air Show this year. Thank you, Brant, for your commitment to Rock of Ages.



**Maria Martinez** is employee of the month for August:

Maria works in the kitchen in the summers, and weekends during the winter. She is an amazing worker. She is very motivated and tackles some of the big cleaning jobs on her own. We all enjoy her positive attitude and beautiful smile. Thank you for all you do, Maria.

(Wells continued from below left)

wonderful adventures was when she became a docent in the Placerita Nature Center, in Placerita Canyon, Newhall, CA. Judy took many classes on wildflowers and the history of indigenous dwellers in the canyon, and became a very skilled guide for children and small groups.

Judy loved this volunteer job, and recalls the many animals and creatures that touched her life, including an incredibly soft and fluffy owl, and a huge six-inch diameter boa constrictor snake.

When asked about hobbies during their marriage, Judy said that her husband really loved to walk. A pastime that she shared with him, and that he had learned to enjoy from her. They hiked and walked extensively, along with the family dog. Sadly, Paul developed MS, and became less and less able to walk. He did however make use of all of the little pathways in town, and while walking the dog, gained lots of friends, which was not hard for him to do, as he was very outgoing and well liked. After all, this is how Judy met him in the first place. He loved to talk to everyone in the office, and originally she dismissed him as a flirt, until their meeting when she was so distressed, and he showed so much care and compassion. Paul's illness progressed to the degree that he could no longer work, and Judy became the breadwinner and caregiver. This was a natural progression for her, because her previous training as a nurse enabled her to keep an eye on her husband's condition and care. During the leisure time they shared, one of Paul's accomplishments was writing and publishing a book on crossword puzzle solving titled *World of Words*. It is still for sale to this day, and she has placed a copy in the Rock of Ages library. Judy became very interested in genealogy, and has made some amazing discoveries about her lineage. She is also a very avid reader, and loves reading about history.

Paul and Judy moved to McMinnville and purchased a home after she retired, following in the footsteps of her sister. She learned about Rock of Ages from the Legacy nurses. When the TLC building became ready for occupancy, Paul became the very first patient. Judy recalls the care and attention Paul received in TLC, before, during and after his death was amazing. After Paul's death, Judy was fortunate enough to sell her home and buy a place on the Rock of Ages campus. Judy feels so grateful to be living where she is today in her home on Shilo Way.

(Wells continued from pg one)

little outings. Before long Judy and Paul realized they were falling in love. Judy remembers that they were "soul mates" even though they were very different from each other. Inevitably, their relationship led to marriage in 1978. Paul was the father of seven children from a previous marriage, although one had passed away from cancer, but the remaining six were a great joy to Judy, who recalls that she gained an instant family and really loved them. She loved them so much, that she dreamed of having them come to live with them full time instead of just on weekends, but when the couple thought it through, they realized that the children had to go to school, and they had to work. Their wonderful fun-filled weekends had to end and make way for more practical endeavors.

Judy has always been an avid walker and hiker, and she enjoyed many wonderful camping trips with her sister to many of the national parks and national forests in the western states. Another one of Judy's

(Wells continued above right)



## Chaplain's Corner



Lynn Miller

Our editor, Gordon Martin, has asked me to share some of the things I experience as chaplain. Much is confidential, but I would like to share some of the blessings of this role. I well remember how I drug my feet when it was first suggested that I become a retirement community chaplain. I was enjoying being a congregational pastor and wasn't sure about working every day with "old people" (Well, now I am one!). I've learned being a chaplain has many blessings.

What a blessing to sit and listen to the stories and experiences of others. *Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?* Job 12:12 One person shared with me a five foot-long shelf of her diaries. She began writing when in Junior High and now at 88 she enjoys reading and reliving those long-ago experiences. Another kept record of every penny she and her husband spent in their 62 years together and also records of the hundreds of jars of fruit she canned. When her children asked why she kept such records, she simply replied, "Because it is important." God keeps records, too. It must be important.

Being chaplain has given me opportunity to meet and make many friends. So many have shared of their close relationship with Jesus. One 102 year old said, "God has been so good to me, better than I have been to Him." It is always wonderful to hear stories of how folks have walked together with God for decades. Aging is not fun. However, I remember one dear soul telling me, "Growing old may not be fun, but it is a privilege." It seems to be much more so for those who have lived their lives for Jesus.

I am learning so much about love and compassion as I watch spouses stand by their loved one even when there is little or no recognition. It is love and commitment that keeps a spouse coming in every morning at seven AM to assist his wife with her breakfast. Others come simply to sit for long moments in silence holding hands. One lady spent over 25 years after a stroke without being able to speak. Often when a staff person did something for her she would grab their hand and plant a kiss on it. Another, at 101 years, told me about her long career

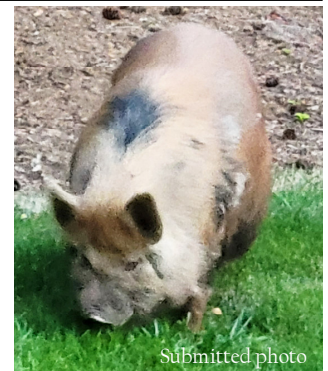
as a teacher. "I never spanked a child," she said, "without spanking I let them know who was in charge." Then she added, "One day I saw someone else spanking a child with a yardstick. I laid my head on my desk and I cried." Compassion!

Some have asked about dealing with death and dying. Yes, that is part of this role but what a wonderful opportunity it offers to bring hope and assurance to residents and to their families. It also brings with it surprises. One day I went to a resident's memorial service. As I entered the daughter said, "I am so glad you are here, we need someone to lead this service."

Yes, I am grateful that the Lord has given me the privilege of being a chaplain. I sometimes wonder now why I drug my feet. I have been called Chap Lynn, I guess for obvious reasons. I turn 80 this month so now it is time to pass on the baton.

## The Lighter Side

We had some unexpected visitors to our campus last week. One of our residents looked out her window and saw three pigs heading toward her flower beds. She immediately did a flanking maneuver and two of them headed home, but the third one headed East toward the Event Center.



Submitted photo

Herding pigs is not for the faint hearted, but since we have recently had practice herding sheep on our campus, what was a few pigs! They weren't huge pigs, just some mid-sized ones of the potbellied variety. But we discovered that they can do a lot of rearranging of the environment in a very short time. The next day they were here again headed toward Eunice's flowers. She headed them off and two went home but the third one went running for it's life, this time up into the woods. Eunice chased it up into the woods because she thought it might get lost and never find it's way home. She never caught it. All she came home with was scratched up legs from running through the brush. Pigs are smart critters. I'm sure it found its way home. We haven't seen them again so maybe the neighbors fixed their fence.

## Life in the Village by Gordon

### When the fire trucks came!

Last week we had some excitement. As the kitchen crew was getting ready to lock up and go home Friday evening, one of the staff noticed some smoke coming out of a light fixture in the ceiling of the dining room! They didn't know what was causing the smoke so they called 911 and the fire department responded pretty quickly along with two ambulances and some sheriff's deputies. The residents on the second floor of the lodge were evacuated and personnel were standing by to evacuate the first floor Memory Care if necessary. Fortunately there was no fire, just an overheated HVAC motor that produced the smoke. There was not enough smoke to set off the smoke alarm or activate the sprinkler system. Ismael came back out and he and the fire crews went up on the roof to identify and isolate the problem. Hopefully, the HVAC will be fixed before too long. Praise the Lord that everyone was safe except for a little elevated blood pressure!

### The Super Suckers

We have our own septic system at Rock of Ages. So that means we have to maintain it. In this picture you can see part of the Recirculating Gravel Filter and the four pumps that pump effluent from seven septic tanks through it to filter out the bad stuff. There is a 16,000 gallon holding tank in the ground next to the gravel filter. Every 10 years we need to pump out this large tank to get the sludge out that settles to the bottom. This was the year! A & B



Septic sent out four pumper trucks and pumped and hauled away 11,800 gallons of sludge.

### You know Fall is here when...



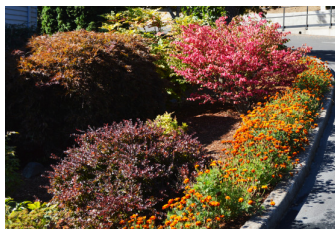
...the maples along the path look like this.



...Harriet's goose is dressed like a pumpkin.



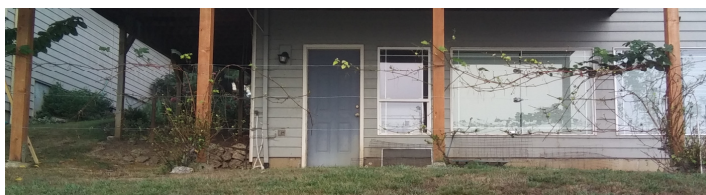
...the gourds have been harvested.



...Eleanors's garden is mature and shows the touch of a Master Gardener.

### Where are the deer hunters when you need them?

There will be no grapes this year. I thought I was doing a good deed when I pruned Marv Balwitt's



grapes and put up three wires for them to climb on. The grapes started out really well and put out a lot of foliage and started making tiny grape clusters this spring. Then the deer found them. I didn't know deer liked grape leaves but they sure have decimated these. They even ate all the green grape clusters! I guess I just made it easier for the deer. Maybe I will try moving the wires up higher for next season.



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## Rock of Ages Christmas Dinner

Mark your calendars for the  
Rock of Ages/ Valley View  
Christmas Dinner

December 8, 2022