

# Valley View Voice

Valley View Retirement Village • Rock of Ages Mennonite Home • M.A.I.D.S. • McMinnville, Oregon • Spring 2023

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## Valley View Voice

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## Barbara and Mike Burr

by

Victoria Wilbanks and Gloria LaFata

Barbara Burr grew up with 5 siblings in New York, and other areas of the US. Her father worked for IBM, so the family moved frequently. The positive to all this moving was that Barbara learned how to make friends, wherever she landed. She graduated from the University of Idaho with her BA. degree and later earned her MA. degree in Organizational Psychology from Antioch University, Seattle. Before retirement, she spent 35 years as a human resource professional working in libraries and private colleges.

Mike Burr was raised in a blended family in Southern Idaho, with two brothers. The family moved to Central Washington when he was in 5th grade and later moved to the Seattle area when he was in junior high. He earned his BAA degree from Western State College in Bellingham, WA during the turbulent 60's, and later graduated from American Baptist Seminary in Berkeley, CA. He also studied at the Gestalt Institute. In the Bay area, he worked as an Assistant Pastor and Pastoral Counselor and worked closely with at risk youth. His passion has always been peace and justice issues. Mike served many congregations in his long career, including Seattle, WA, Moscow, ID, Issaquah, WA, and Grand Junction, CO where he served as Pastor for 10 years, before retiring to McMinnville.



After Barbara and Mike met and married, they blended their family of three children, two girls and a boy. It was during this time Mike got his Doctorate and wrote his dissertation on blended families. Together, they now have four grandchildren. The Burrs moved to McMinnville a year after Mike's retirement, so they could be near one of their daughters and help with their toddler granddaughter. They were well acquainted with McMinnville and First Baptist Church, because their daughter had graduated from Linfield, and Mike had often attended conferences or meetings at Linfield over a period of 25 years. They are very active in First Baptist Church. Barbara is the church treasurer, is on the board, the finance committee, is co-facilitator for the Connections Sunday school class, and participates in Sister Circle. Together, they love camping, hiking, traveling, and spending time with their family, and many friends. Barbara loves sewing, decorating, baking, podcasts and genealogy. Mike is Chair of the Pastoral Relations

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## From Delvin's Desk



### Volunteer Service

We have been blessed here at Rock of Ages and Valley View Retirement by the many folks that volunteer. In March, the Wes and Denise Miller family from Hutchinson, Kansas, came and worked most of a week in the activity building. They installed architectural faux wood beams, that replicate rough walnut beams. Our own Gary Binder designed brackets painted black with real bolts making it look very authentic. It was really impressive the amount of work that got done in a few days. Wes and Denise, son Jeremy and daughters Jasmine, and Brianna, all worked together. You won't find a finer lift operator than Jeremy. It was fun having them in our community for a short time. We even got an afternoon to go to Pacific City and out on the cape where the Millers enjoyed seeing a lot of starfish and other sea critters. Thank you so much to the Millers for all their work and contributions. May you be blessed richly for the sacrifice of time spent at Rock of Ages.



submitted photo



submitted photo

We are excited to have Anson Mullet here from Indiana. He is a very responsible young man who has committed three months of his time to serve here at Rock of Ages. Anson is from the Goshen IN area where he owns his own Bed and Breakfast business. His mother, Trina, is helping him by managing the business while



Anson serves his volunteer term here. Anson also works with his father Lynn, and an uncle in a battery business. He has a married brother and one other sibling. Anson's Christian character and willingness to serve others is obvious as he demonstrates it by sharing his talents while helping others.

It truly is a blessing having Anson here at Rock of Ages and he has already picked up projects that needed to be completed. Anson enjoys woodworking and has a desire to build tables combining wood and epoxy. He also enjoys most sports. Thank you, Anson, for your commitment to Rock of Ages! We're hoping your time and commitment will inspire others to come and serve.



submitted photo

We were blessed a year ago when Lewis and Esther Schwartz came and began serving as our Volunteer Service house parents. Their commitment to the BMA organization was for one year. They sold their home and bakery, retired, and were at a time in their life when they could have done other adventures, but chose to come and serve the Lord here in our community. Lewis, a carpenter by trade, has been a blessing picking up handyman work on campus. Esther and her baking talents have truly blessed so many folks with incredible desserts and breads. After serving a year, they committed for an additional three months to be house parents for Anson Mullet who now serves in the maintenance department for his three month term. This also gave Lewis and Esther more time to work out housing as they contemplate heading back to Kentucky. Lewis and Esther truly have blessed our little community and have befriended many folks. Thank you both for giving a part of your lives to serve the folks here at Rock of Ages/ Valley View. May God continue to guide and bless you for all you do for others.



## Chaplain's Corner



Rock Of Ages/Valley View, even by its <sup>Lynn Miller</sup> name sounds like a sanctuary where a person can live in a quiet and peaceful atmosphere, sort of a haven before heaven. This last year one of our residents in memory care passed away. She had lived for many years in much pain. When she still could, she would walk the circle around the hallway. Then she fell and things got worse until she finally was on oxygen and could only stay in her room. Through it all, she had a supporting family, loving caretakers, and even a fellow resident who said, "I tucked her into her bed each night." From where does this kind of care and compassion come? How do caregivers, some for decades, find the fortitude and strength to keep on giving? As I am sure you too have found, there is a certain amount of reciprocal reward in giving of ourselves. But that in itself can hardly be enough to explain the uniqueness of this place. In addition to our staff caregivers several spouses and children give care to their beloved. March third

was National Caregiver Appreciation Day. They ALL deserve a loud applause for their patient care and loving kindness. I often wonder why it is that visitors so often say, "There is something different about this place."?

I believe II Corinthians 2:3&4 explains it: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

Our Heavenly Father, through his Son, Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit account for the 'difference'. Much prayer is offered for our staff and for our residents. God hears and responds.

All this is not to say or even suggest that this place is perfect. Mistakes are made, misunderstandings happen and sometimes things get overlooked. But efforts are always ongoing to fulfill our mission to "...exemplify Jesus Christ and his teaching of service to all mankind."

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Burr continued from pg one)

Committee which he created, is active in the Star Program, the Matthew 25 Committee, the Chapel Class and is occasionally guest Pastor. He is a strong voice for justice issues in the church and in the community. The Burrs love their recent move to Rock of Ages and enjoy helping their new friends and neighbors. How fortunate we are to have this talented, generous, loving couple in our midst. Thank you Mike, and Barbara, for choosing First Baptist Church as your home church, and Rock of Ages/Valley View as your new place of residence.

It seemed like divine intervention when Barbara and Mike were invited to view a residence on the Rock of Ages/Valley View campus. They tell the story of how they were able to buy the property when it was shown to them after being offered to all other qualified applicants ahead of them, who rejected it because of the major refurbishing involved. They were energetic and motivated enough to accept the challenge, and the result is nothing short of incredible. A tour of their home reveals a complete

and tasteful overhaul. Their beautiful home includes new custom cabinets, new floors, paint, and light fixtures throughout, quartz counter tops, tasteful new white interior doors with a design reminiscent of a country cottage, two new entry doors sporting glass design work, stainless steel appliances, a new heating system, and much more. Enough interior construction has been done to eliminate all traces of specialized equipment and transform the rooms into beautiful living spaces. Of course the couple could not improve upon the beautiful view from their front window. It seems to be a reward to them for all of the love and hard work they put into their new home. They say they enjoy the peace and tranquility of their surroundings, and live in gratitude every day for their blessings.

## The First John Herbert Hogan Scholarship awarded

The Board of Directors approved the first Scholarship from the NAB funded John Herbert Hogan Scholarship. The Rock of Ages Board of Directors approved \$1000 to Katya Ciriano, Administrator of Memory Care. If you would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund you can do so by contributing to the Rock of Ages Endowment and designate the gift to the John Hogan Scholarship fund. We are so blessed having Katya here at Rock of Ages. Here is what she wrote when she applied for the scholarship:



*My name is Katya Ciriano. I have worked at Rock of Ages for almost five years. I started here as my first job as a caregiver, and I like how Rock of Ages has a mission to serve and provide the best quality care for the residents. I have grown and matured at Rock of Ages. Working as an administrator has taught me so much from the family's and caregiver's points of view and how both parties work together to provide good care for the resident. It's a rewarding job; I love spending time with*

*the residents and making them laugh. One thing that I enjoy the most about my work is to problem solve. I like how I can make things possible, and of course, I wouldn't be able to do this without my fantastic team. I went to school at Chemeketa Community College for Hemodialysis, but I decided to stay here at Rock of Ages. I didn't have to look far to see that my calling was here. I'm continuing my education at Chemeketa Community College. My goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration at Portland State University. One of my favorite quotes is, "Work hard, dream big." Because I believe that everything is possible when you have good intentions and God is in your heart.*

### Scholarship's Purpose

The purpose of the John Hogan Scholarship is to encourage and support staff members to seek a higher level of education and encourage careers in long-term care organizations. It is hoped that by funding further education and training, the scholarship recipients will continue the legacy of John Hogan in becoming compassionate, strong leaders in long-term care settings. Those wishing to pursue careers in Administration, Nursing and other degrees in long-term care would be eligible to apply.

## Village Life

By Jan Noland

### Plastics Recycling

Some of us expressed interest in grouping together to recycle plastics that do NOT go in the red recycle bin. Naming a few of these plastics includes



plastic silverware, black or clear plastic take out containers, salad tubs,

bread tags, prescription bottles, all lids and much more. A Plastics Project rep is willing to train us on how we can easily do this at Rock of Ages. Let Jan N know if you want to be part of the Rethink Refuse Reduce Reuse Recycle group.

### Community Garden

It's time to start prepping the garden and thinking about planting and ongoing garden maintenance for the 2023 season. All are welcome to participate in the Rock of Ages community garden. We are exploring new ways to partner and share in this season's garden. Gardeners at this point include Bette S, Mike B, Teresa B., and Jan N. If you are interested in being part of the garden, chat with Teresa B or Jan N. Stop by the greenhouse that is now almost full



of Teresa's marigolds, that we all enjoy, but there is room for other veggie & seed starts as well.

## Honoring our Employees

### Employees of the Year

We have chosen one employee from each department for their outstanding service and commitment to our community this past year. A big "THANK YOU" to each one of them for making Rock of Ages a better place for our residents.



**JESSICA DIAZ**  
M.A.I.D.S.



**TOMMIE CRUZ**  
MEMORY CARE



**MARIANA ROMERO**  
KITCHEN



**CANDICE ARMOUR**  
OFFICE



**FERNANDO RAMIREZ**  
MAINTENANCE

## Valley View Wildlife by Gordon Martin

### Too Many Ducks

A year ago, in this newsletter, I ranted about having too many ducks around this place. I said they crap all over everything and make a mess. Then our chaplain's wife said, "But the baby ducks are *sooo* cute!" Well, there is that, I guess. I also said we had picked up over 50 eggs...doing a little population control. This year Gary B. and I have picked up over 100 eggs! So I guess our population control isn't working very well. I haven't seen any nests yet. Most of the eggs have been laid in the pond. Nobody ever said ducks were very smart. I guess I shouldn't get exercised about the ducks. I will just keep walking in the poop and lamenting the demise of the Red Legged Frog population. As one of our other residents said, "They are just one of God's creatures." Yeah right, just like moles and mosquitoes.

### Active Killdeer

Have you noticed the Killdeer this year? They seem to be all over the place. I haven't seen any nests yet but there must be some because they go crazy every time you get within 100 yards of them. I think they take the prize for being the noisiest critter on earth. Fortunately their vociferousness is up in a range that my hearing aids don't amplify very much.

### Ailing Koi

The Koi are just starting to wake up from their winter fast. I've just started to feed them again this Spring. They still are not wanting to eat very much because it has continued to be cold. Greedy Gus and Goldie are doing well but Pearl has a tumor in front of her dorsal fin. It is about the size of a golf ball. The growth doesn't seem to bother her any. I guess it's like when you have a zit on the back of your neck... it doesn't bother you since you can't see it.



# Rock of Ages

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