

Pinecrest Press



Volume 9 Issue 1

January/February 2015

Reflections from the Desk of Fero Labash, CEO

I'm very pleased to share my space in the newsletter this month with the Illinois/Wisconsin Church of the Brethren District Executive, Kevin Kessler.

Kevin spoke recently to the Pinecrest Board of Directors about Church of the Brethren values and how those values tie into the work we do at Pinecrest. We asked Kevin if he would share those thoughts in this month's newsletter and he graciously agreed.

Please enjoy this article by Kevin:

According to its mission statement, Pinecrest Community is a not-for-profit, continuing care retirement community organized exclusively for charitable and benevolent purposes. This statement is certainly true from an organizational perspective. But, at a deeper level, Pinecrest Community is an extension of the church. More specifically, it is an extension of the values and beliefs of the Church of the Brethren.

For any organization or group to have a vital mission, it needs a guiding light, something which gives it direction. The Church of the Brethren receives its guidance from the Bible, its rule of faith and practice for understanding how to live for God and others. As an extension of the church, Pinecrest Community is directed by this same sacred text as demonstrated in the ministry provided to the people it serves. Pinecrest takes seriously its call to serve all, living into the scriptural affirmation, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

In the book of Acts, we learn that the early church was "together and had all things in common; that they sold their possessions and goods and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need...and that they had at heart the goodwill of all the people." (Acts 2: 44,45,47) Throughout history, the church has continued this practice of mutual aid in a variety of ways such as calling the community together for a barn raising or providing funeral dinners for families in the throes of grieving. Pinecrest embraces this concept of community in its mission as well. Staff, employees, and others connected with Pinecrest pool their time,

talents, and resources to provide care for the residents. Additionally, Pinecrest reaches out to the community of Mt. Morris to help ensure that the viability of the town is sustained. It should come as no surprise that "community" is a part of Pinecrest's identity.

A practice near and dear to the heart of the Church of the Brethren is feet washing. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, an act of deep humility and service, and enjoined them, and us, to do to others as he had done to them. Literally washing another's feet figuratively symbolizes providing humble service to others in our daily living. As an extension of the church, Pinecrest Community's staff, employees, and volunteers serve others daily. This service, like washing feet, is not always pleasant and can frequently be difficult. Yet, this servant community holds true to the biblical directive to "be hospitable to one another without complaining [and] like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, [to] serve one another with whatever gift each...has received." (I Peter 4:9-10)

Continued on page 2

The Pinecrest Family extends our deepest sympathies to the family of Diane Schmidt. Please see page 3 for Diane's obituary.





Area Students "Deck the Halls"

Thank you, students from Rahn Middle School art club and first graders from Oregon elementary who donated their time and talents making artwork for the Manor halls.



Several first graders stopped by to drop off their artwork early one afternoon (pictured top left). The Rahn Middle School Art Club stopped by after school with their creations (pictured bottom left).



New Popcorn Machine

Thanks to a generous donor, this December Pinecrest received a new popcorn machine (pictured above) to replace the one that was not working properly.

...Continued from front page

Pinecrest's commitment to the people they serve is a witness to the command given to the church to love one another. I John 3:16 says, "We know love by this, that [Jesus] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another."

Residents of Pinecrest Community have varied states of dependence. Those serving the residents give up some of their independence to share with those who are dependent. Such giving is a laying down of one's life and is a testament to the dedication of staff, employees, and volunteers to build up the lives of those they serve. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

Humanity is multi-dimensional, meaning humans are spiritual, physical, emotional, social, relational, mental, and psychological beings. The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 12 speaks about the church in terms of the human body, that all parts, although different and with unique purposes, work together for the good of the whole. Each part, then, receives proper attention in order to remain strong and support all the other parts. Pinecrest Community understands the multi-dimensional aspects of its residents and is devoted to caring for each dimension contributing to the health of the whole person.

Pinecrest also understands the value of each person they serve. Pinecrest, as does

the church, sees each person as an image of God. Regarding people in this way puts everyone on a level playing field, meaning no one is any less than or greater than another, rather all are a creation of the Creator. Thus, Pinecrest offers care and support based on the understanding of the equality of humanity and the church's appreciation of Paul's message to the ancient church in Galatia: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

A visit to Pinecrest Community would certainly reveal that its mission is an extension of the church. Evidence of biblical direction, service, love, care of the multi-dimensions of humanity, and equity in relationships would be apparent in the actions and lives of those who routinely but steadfastly provide benevolent and faithful service in myriad ways. Therefore, Pinecrest Community is much more than a not-for-profit retirement community.



It is truly a mission, an extension of, in many ways, the values and beliefs of the Church of the Brethren.

Kevin Kessler
District Executive
Illinois/Wisconsin District of the Church of the Brethren
December 19, 2014



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With Our Deepest Sympathy...

It is with great sadness that we share the obituary of our beloved friend and colleague, Diane Schmidt.

We extend our deepest sympathy and love to her husband and fellow Pinecrest employee, Dick Schmidt, as well as her children and extended family. We are grateful that God allowed us the time to celebrate her life and contribution to Pinecrest Community during an open house and dinner during the month of November. We will be forever changed by the brave example she was to us - of a deep, abiding faith, courage beyond understanding in the face of adversity and a friendship that will be treasured always.

MOUNT MORRIS — Diane J. Schmidt, age 53, died Friday, December 19, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer, in Pinecrest Manor Nursing Home, Mount Morris. Diane was born October 24, 1961 in Milwaukee, Wisc., the daughter of Donald and Shirley (Haug) Calhoun.

Diane grew up in Brookfield, Wisc. and graduated from Brookfield East High School in 1980. She received a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Carthage College in 1984 and then she received her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1985.

Diane moved to Mount Morris in 1986 to take the position as Director of Social Services for Pinecrest Community, a job she thoroughly loved.

On April 16, 1988 Diane married the love of her life Richard

Schmidt. Diane is survived by her husband.

One of her greatest joys in life was raising her two children, Megan (Ethan) Grant, Madison, Wisc. and Mark Schmidt, Mount Morris.



Diane is also survived by her parents Donald and Shirley Calhoun, Menomonee Falls, Wisc.; brothers Glenn (Judy) Calhoun, Waukesha, Wisc., and Bruce (Susan) Calhoun, St. Paul, Minn.; step-sons Colin (Dena) Schmidt, Yorkville, and Chad (Vicky) Schmidt, Copley, Ohio; six grandchildren Ryan, Ashley, Elaine, and Erin Schmidt, Ashley and Courtney Phillips. Diane is also survived by many family and friends.

Diane was preceded in death by her grandparents Donald and Katherine Calhoun Sr. and Charles and Florence Haug; and her father and mother-in-law Albert and LaVonne Schimdt.

Services were held Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2014 at 12 p.m. in Disciples United Methodist Church, Mount Morris, with Rev. Dwight Stewart officiating. Burial was in Fairmount Cemetery Polo. Visitation was Tuesday, December 23, 2014 from 10 a.m. until service time in Disciples United Methodist Church.

Memorials can be made to Pinecrest Manor Nursing Home, Serenity Hospice and Home, and/or DUMC Youth Mission Group.





Report from Howie Herman, Director of Independent Living
New Year's Resolutions

Mark Twain once said, "New Year's is a harmless annual institution, of no particular use to anybody save as a scapegoat for promiscuous drunks and friendly calls

and humbug resolutions." As clever and witty as Mr. Twain was known to be, most of us wouldn't agree with this sentiment, and instead we want to put our mistakes and bad memories behind us and look forward to the new year as a time of hope, visiting family, and new experiences.

No matter what your age, you can still make plans and look positively at the year before you – to renew an old acquaintance, clean out your messy desk drawer, visit that restaurant you've heard of, or read that book in your pile of "to dos." Setting a goal or two just might be a good idea! You can post it on your refrigerator, tell a friend who can help you keep it, even let your grandchildren or extended family know about

your goal.

How about reading the "funnies" in the paper, collecting and sharing jokes, and generally keeping the humor side of things at the top of your day? Perhaps writing down your thoughts and desires will give your outlook on life the boost it needs.

If you find your new year's resolution is to be more adventurous, or be more active, or to downsize, or to spend your retirement doing things you want to do, and not doing things you *have to do* like lawn care, shoveling, and home maintenance, consider taking a tour at Pinecrest Village apartments or Grove homes. Help us help you achieve your goal of a happy retirement.

Have a great new year!

Call me at 815-734-4103 x239 to schedule a no obligation tour and as always, lunch is on me!



What's Happening at The Grove Community Center,
by June Jacobs, Manager/Services & Activity Coordinator

New Year, New You!

January is here and as most of us try to do, we want to start the new year off right!!!

To help you get motivated to get fit in 2015, the Wellness Center is

offering a New Year's special. Join before February 28 and receive ONE free month membership with any new member orientation.

The Grove Community Center Wellness Center is fully equipped with the tools you need to get in shape or stay in shape. And at only \$10 per month, it is quite a bargain! Personal training sessions are available at an additional fee.

The Wellness Center is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 am—7 pm and on Saturday from 7 am—11am.

Start this new year with a new you, give me a call at 734-2103 for a tour or to schedule your orientation!

Spectacular Light Show & More

The Grove Community Center was proud to be host to the Mt. Morris Christmas on the Village Square celebration this year. The center was "abuzz" with holiday cheer and children running through the halls.

This year, the celebration, which included a balloon artist, magician, Santa, cocoa and popcorn, and cotton candy, culminated with a light show presentation.



The audience watched in awe through five Christmas melodies and accompanying dancing lights (pictured above). This program was free to the public and made possible by many generous sponsors from Mt. Morris and the surrounding area.



Welcome To Pinecrest Pastor Caldwell!

Pastor Rodney Caldwell has accepted the call to become Pinecrest Community's chaplain.

Chaplain Caldwell is an ordained Church of the Brethren minister and has served in pastoral ministry for over 25 years in Northwest Illinois. In addition to his pastoral ministry, Chaplain Caldwell has worked more than 10 years in social service agencies as a therapist/counselor.

Chaplain Caldwell grew up on a farm in central Illinois. After earning his Bachelor of Science from Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill; he felt God's call into ministry and went on to earn his Master of Divinity from Denver Seminary in Denver, Colo. Chaplain Cald-

well and his wife, Denise, live in Winslow, Ill. and have four children at home. Chaplain Caldwell is the current part-time pastor of Cherry Grove Church of the Brethren in Lanark, Ill., and he will continue in that role in addition to his duties at Pinecrest. Chaplain Caldwell began his employment on December 30.



We all extend a warm welcome to Pastor Caldwell!



Meet Kris Brunner, Director of Social Services

Kris Brunner has accepted the position as Director of Social Services. Kris began working at Pinecrest in July of 2010, assuming the position of social worker on the Terrace as well as working with Diane Schmidt on our short term rehab unit.

Kris became acquainted with both Diane and Judi Bright through a social service professionals organization many years previous to coming to work at Pinecrest. It was through that connection that Diane re-

cruited Kris for the social service department at Pinecrest. Despite the 50 mile commute Diane was able to persuade Kris to make the transition to Pinecrest, and for that Kris will always be grateful.

Kris was the Director of Social Services at Lena Continental Manor Nursing Home in Lena, IL from 1987 to 2010, where she also managed a 16 apartment independent living complex, Doll Memorial Apartments.

In her free time Kris enjoys biking, walking, volleyball and hanging out with family and friends. She is also an avid 'junkie' and thrift store enthusiast.

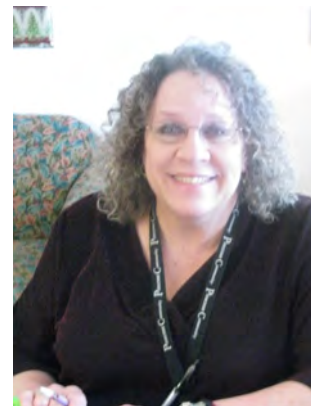
Pinecrest Welcomes Lynne Lovstad, Social Worker

Lynne Lovstad, Pinecrest's newest Social Worker began work at Pinecrest on November 17, 2014.

Lynne has lived on a small farm with her family raising and caring for cattle, goats, and guinea hens, growing corn and hay, on Ridge Road for the past 30 years. She loves gardening and serving others.

After graduating from NIU with a Bachelor's of Science in anthropology in 2006, Lynne was a social worker at Catholic Charities, Children's Home and Aid; and most recently a social worker at Neighbors, and Rosewood.

Pinecrest is happy to have Lynne as part of the family!



A Busy Season For Santa

Santa was busy at Pinecrest this year! In addition to attending the Pinecrest Christmas open house, and visiting the Manor, Terrace, and Village residents at their individual Christmas

parties, Santa offered visits to the community for a donation to raise funds for the Good Samaritan Fund. Santa, aka board member Gary Henderson, raised \$200 to benefit the residents of Pinecrest.

Thank you Santa for your hard work!





Report from Diana Roemer, Director of Advancement

It's been the dream of the advancement department for some time now to find a way to bring newer technology to our residents without breaking the bank. After all, it is hard enough to see when your eyes are 90 years old (or more!) let alone be viewing a 20-inch TV screen from a distance. We wanted to bring media alive for our residents, many of whom watch their Sunday services from area churches on a small TV in the Manor Chapel during the week.

Enter the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. In December, we were overjoyed to receive notification we will receive a grant that will pay for the newest technology for our Manor residents—a giant 65-inch curved smart TV that, (according to its reviews and advertisements) will provide "the ultimate immersive experience." The TV advertises exceptional color and no picture distortion. It has a dramatically improved field of view that creates a panoramic effect and helps the picture feel (even) bigger."

We can't wait to buy it!

If we shop carefully (hoping for some January sales), the grant will also provide two mobile laptops for the

nursing staff to use for their online in-services, and mobile carts to move the laptops from place to place. We also hope to introduce our residents to Skyping (or a similar video communication activity) so that they can communicate with their loved ones who are far away. Finally, the laptops will allow potential employees who do not have connectivity to fill out our online job application on site.

It was indeed a Merry Christmas for our department. And we want to thank Trinity Lutheran here in Mt. Morris, as well as all the other congregations who support us for offering to chip in on this technology upgrade and supporting our residents with their regular gifts.

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Reminder: I am your go-to person for the investment of a charitable gift annuity. If you decide after talking to your accountant that avoiding taxes on prior investments coming to maturity would be wise, please talk to me about the value and benefit of a Pinecrest Community Charitable Gift Annuity. Who wouldn't want an income stream for life combined with the benefit that Pinecrest would receive? Give me a call at 815-734-4103, ext. 273.

Happy New Year!

Café Expands Menu

McKendrie Street Café, located inside the Grove Community Center, 500 Evergreen Lane, has expanded its menu to include many more delicious dining options.



When the café first opened in May of 2014, diners were excited with the offerings of a variety of ice cream options, cheesecakes, soup, and deli sandwiches. Now the café has expanded its menu to include hamburgers, Philly steak sandwiches, gyros, several hot dog choices,

nachos, Italian beef, and a kids menu. Owner Ken Foss added "I recently purchased a pizza display and am planning on adding pizza by the slice several days a week."

In addition to the menu changes, Ken has added a digital POS register where employees simply click on a picture of the items ordered. And Ken will soon add a digital 55" television menu board.

This January the café is holding a New Year kick off raffle. For every sandwich purchased customers will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of three cheesecakes. The raffle will be held at the end of the month, and winners will be contacted and announced on the McKendrie Street Café facebook page.

The café is currently operating under winter hours Monday—Sunday 10 am—8 pm. Stop by for a treat!





Another Successful Open House

Pinecrest residents, staff, board members, and families enjoyed a full slate of activities at the annual open house held Saturday, December 6 from 2:30—4pm. In addition to the traditional kettle corn, cinnamon donuts, and cookies, visitors were treated to entertainment by Carol and Warren Reckmeyer, **Leola Meyers, and Pinecrest's resident bell choir** (pictured above left) led by Tricia Crumley, Activity

Coordinator. Santa visited with residents and families and posed for plenty of pictures.

The annual craft and vendor fair and bake sale held in the Village raised over \$900 to benefit the Good Samaritan fund (pictured top far right).

Thank you to all who attended and especially to all of the volunteers who work tirelessly to make this event enjoyable for the Pinecrest family.

Valentine Balloons

Balloon bouquets will be available once again this year at a sale to benefit the United Way, a Pinecrest Community partner. Surprise your loved one with a valentine balloon with a small bag of candy attached.

Bouquets are \$6 each and will be delivered on February 13. Bouquets are

available to be ordered for Manor, Village, and Grove residents.

To order your gift, contact Amy at 815-734-4103 x 277 by February 9. Or order online at pinecrestcommunity.org and click on the donate now button; and be sure to make note that you are ordering a bouquet and include the name of the resident you wish to receive the bouquet.



Thank You!

Thank you to all of our supporters! It is with your help we are able to provide a continuum of quality care to all of our residents regardless of their finan-

cial ability. If you have made a contribution to Pinecrest in 2014 and would like a tax letter, please contact Amy Sikyta at asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org or 815-734-4103 x277. Donors whose contributions have exceeded \$250 will automatically receive a tax letter in the mail; no call is necessary.





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Our Mission —

Pinecrest Community is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community organized exclusively for charitable and benevolent purposes that:

- ◆ Provides high quality residential and health services as expressions of Christian ideals and values.
- ◆ Invites and welcomes all people, without discrimination.
- ◆ Promotes an active retirement and healthy lifestyle with respect, dignity and security for the whole person.
- ◆ Recognizes a responsibility to work in concert with other providers and the community to improve the quality of life and health services for older adults.

Pinecrest Press is published bi-monthly by Pinecrest Community Marketing Department, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054. 815-734-4103. If you have suggestions for articles, you may contact the department directly. See contact information below.

Pinecrest Press would like to "Go Green" in the future. If you would like to join our efforts by receiving this newsletter by email, contact Amy Sikyta: asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org.

If you no longer wish to receive this mailing, please send a request for removal to: Pinecrest Community, Attn: Amy Sikyta, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris, IL 61054 or email asikyta@pinecrestcommunity.org. You may also call Pinecrest at 815-734-4103.