



## CEO TRANSITION SIGNALS A NEW SEASON IN THE LIFE OF PCSC

As the mission of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina moves into a new decade, new leadership is preparing to lead the ministry forward. It comes with a familiar face – The Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant, PCSC’s current Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations, will assume the role of President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective June 1. This follows the fall 2019 announcement by current CEO Kathy Ligon that she would retire at the end of May 2020.

“I have a long and rich connection with this ministry, and so the opportunity to lead it into the future is really, really exciting,” Franklin shared. “I’m honored the board has placed this confidence in me. That’s very meaningful, but it’s also very humbling. Kathy Ligon has had a tremendous impact on PCSC, and we look forward to celebrating her 33 years of service.”

Franklin has long been a servant of South Carolina’s Presbyterian community – serving as a pastor at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church in Columbia and as a board member at PCSC – but his career began in business. He worked in accounting

and consulting for Arthur Andersen & Co. in Columbia and KPMG, LLP in Washington, DC. He also served as an Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of New Hampshire, and he was a Visiting Scholar at the Securities and Exchange Commission where he worked for the Chief Economist. Franklin says his business experience, coupled with his long history of service to PCSC and the church, makes him a good fit for the CEO position.

“What people have come to expect from Presbyterian Communities, from quality of service and loving care to the enrichment of life that folks have when they live with us, is going to continue,” Franklin said. “The board is very pleased with the trajectory we’re on and the initiatives that we have, so my taking over the CEO role is not about making big changes, but more about keeping the course and moving forward.” He also shared that the board has charged him to maintain and strengthen the close relationships PCSC enjoys with the Presbyterian churches in the state. “These churches established PCSC over 60 years ago and we continue to serve as their ministry to seniors,” he added.

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*Franklin Fant has been selected to succeed Kathy Ligon as President and CEO when she retires June 1.*

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# GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE IN THE LEADERSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

For 33 years we have been blessed to enjoy Kathy Ligon's presence at Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. Kathy has joyfully and successfully served as our Chief Executive Officer during the last 13 years. When she announced her intention to retire last fall, our Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Board of Trustees appointed a Search Committee to recommend a candidate to serve as our next CEO. Members of this Search Committee included current trustees Stacey Brennan, Robin Gorman, Dan Holloway (Chair), Jay Nexsen, and former board member John Brearley.

Our national search resulted in more than 20 candidate applications. Our Search Committee reviewed applicant information and conducted personal interviews with four candidates.

After months of due diligence and much prayer, our Search Committee unanimously and enthusiastically recommended Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant for election as the next CEO of PCSC. Franklin brings unique and diverse gifts to this position that make him an exceptional candidate for this work. He has served successfully in several fields, including in the business world, as a college professor, as a church pastor, and for nearly five

years as the Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations for PCSC. Franklin is well known around the state of South Carolina, where he has spoken in many churches and called on many individuals to share the story of our organization and invite support.

Our Search Committee was likewise impressed by the depth of our conversations with Franklin and the careful and thoughtful way in which he responded to our many questions. We, likewise, are grateful that he understands this job as a continuation of his call from God, and that he is excited about taking this next step in that lifelong call. We were pleased to have the PCSC Board of Trustees agree with our recommendation and elect Franklin the incoming CEO.

On behalf of the Search Committee, we are deeply grateful for the privilege of engaging in this work and honored that the board had confidence in choosing us for this special task. We believe God's hand has led us to this place.

With Gratitude,



Dan Holloway  
Search Committee Chair



*As we plan to celebrate Kathy Ligon's 33 years of service,  
please share your memories and/or words of encouragement with us at*  
**THANKYOU.KATHY@PRESCOMM.ORG.**



*The PCSC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization that receives and manages charitable gifts given to support the mission and ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC). You can make your charitable gifts to PCSC payable to the PCSC Foundation. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

# A NOTE ON IRA'S AND THE SECURE ACT

The new SECURE Act was signed into law last December to encourage savings for retirement, bringing tax-implications with it. Now is a good time for the charitably-minded to review their situation and see if any actions regarding their retirement accounts are in order. Of course, it is always recommended that individuals consult with their tax or financial advisor, but the observations about IRA's below might help start those conversations.

## Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's)

The SECURE Act raised the age at which RMD's from traditional IRA's must commence, from 70 ½ to 72. This means IRA owners who do not need the income can put off these mandatory, taxable withdrawals for another year and a half, while hopefully continuing to grow their IRA.

## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's) to charity

These are gifts that owners of traditional, rollover, and inherited IRA's can make to charity directly from their IRA, in lieu of taking the mandatory withdrawals. These gifts are not tax deductible, but they do bypass the income tax that would otherwise be paid on the RMD. It is worth noting that the SECURE Act did not raise the age at which IRA owners can begin making QCD's, leaving it at 70 ½.

## Inherited IRA's

Individuals inheriting a traditional IRA may well prefer not to take the distribution as a lump-sum, as the entire amount would be immediately taxable. An alternative is to take RMD's. In the past, these RMD's (and the accompanying taxes) could be spread out over one's lifetime, allowing the inherited IRA balance to possibly grow if returns exceed distributions. However, while the SECURE Act continues to allow this for spousal beneficiaries, non-spouse beneficiaries (such as children or grandchildren) are now required to receive the entire balance over a maximum of ten years. Thus, inherited IRA's can no longer provide direct, lifetime income for non-spouse beneficiaries. This can still be achieved, however, by setting

up a charitable unitrust for the benefit of one's heirs and making the trust the beneficiary of one's IRA.

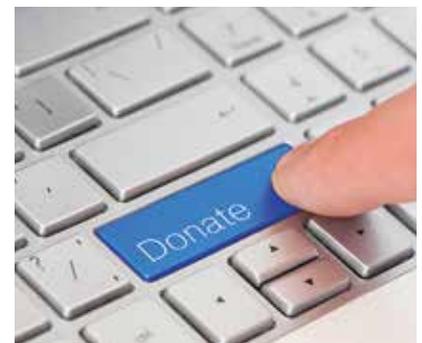
## Making a charity like PCSC your beneficiary

Assets in a traditional IRA are heavily taxed when left to individual heirs, but assets in one's estate are not taxed at the federal level unless the estate is quite large (over \$11.58 million in 2020). This means there can be significant tax benefits to leaving a planned gift to charity through a beneficiary designation and leaving one's other assets to family via the estate (versus leaving a charitable gift in one's will and leaving the IRA to family). This has not changed with the SECURE Act.

If you would like to know more about using your IRA or other assets to create a charitable legacy of support for PCSC's ministry, please call Franklin Fant at (803) 772-5885 or email him at [Franklin.Fant@PresComm.org](mailto:Franklin.Fant@PresComm.org). You can also find helpful information at [www.PresCommunities.org/planned-giving](http://www.PresCommunities.org/planned-giving).

## It's easy to support PCSC or your favorite PCSC community online!

You can make a gift by credit card or debit card, and it's so easy. Go to [giving.prescommunities.org](http://giving.prescommunities.org). We will send you a letter thanking you for your gift and will also send an acknowledgement notifying others of memorials or honorariums.



**CEO Transition**

*Continued from page 1*

Franklin admits he has big shoes to fill. For 13 years, PCSC has thrived under the thoughtful, compassionate and dedicated leadership of President and CEO Kathy Ligon.

“I don’t know of another position that I would have ever had that would allow me to meet so many wonderful people in support of a ministry,” Kathy said, reflecting on a total of 33 years of service to PCSC. “They have blessed my life. Our people are everything.”

Kathy led PCSC through a tremendous season of growth, including the 2018 acquisition of Laurel Crest Retirement Community in West Columbia and the construction of an 88-bed



*Franklin Fant and resident Florrie Steele.*



*Franklin Fant greets residents Dorothy Vedder and John Ford.*

Health and Rehabilitation Center completed in 2018 at The Village at Summerville. Ligon believes Franklin’s professional experience and dedication to PCSC will translate to continued success.

“I have complete confidence in Franklin. I think his leading this organization was absolutely meant to be,” Ligon said.

For now, Franklin will work to ensure a seamless transition on June 1, while beginning the search to fill his current role as Director of

Foundation Services and Church Relations. In the midst of all the change, Franklin has faith the next chapter in the story of PCSC will be a good one.

“I am very thankful,” Franklin said. “So often we don’t always see what God is doing in our lives. This isn’t a place I ever expected to be, and it’s really astonishing to look back and see where God has called me to, and that through the hand of God all things have come about by his design.”

If you would like to hear more from Franklin in his own words, you can find a video of him on PCSC’s homepage, [www.prescommunities.org](http://www.prescommunities.org).



*Clinton LPN Vernell Jones (third from the left) is recognized upon her retirement. With her (L-R) are Crystal Gibbs (Director of Nursing), Tina Watts (Administrative Services Coordinator) and Paul Pridmore (Executive Director).*

**CLINTON LPN RETIRES**

Vernell Jones, an LPN with The Clinton Presbyterian Community, was recently honored for 15 years of professional, dedicated service.

“Vernell has been an exemplary nurse and committed team member,” according to Crystal Gibbs, Clinton’s Director of Nursing. “Besides having great nursing skills, she is self-motivated and has always been ready to help. She consistently put resident needs first and invested in building great relationships with those around her.”

Vernell will be missed, but the example she set will continue to inspire her co-workers. PCSC thanks her for her hard work and devotion and wishes her a wonderful retirement!

## PCSC PILOTING MONTESSORI-BASED DEMENTIA CARE AT FOOTHILLS

In an effort to help dementia residents lead fuller, more meaningful lives, PCSC is implementing a new Montessori-based model of care in The Bridge memory care household at The Foothills Retirement Community. Research has shown that the same insights and practices Maria Montessori originally generated for the education of children are also well-suited to older adults challenged by dementia.

PCSC's Director of Program Advancement, Mandy Stamper, presented this concept to management and has overseen the initiative. PCSC's implementation has been guided by Jennifer Brush, a consultant affiliated with the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) founded by Maria Montessori in 1929.

"We choose to work with an AMI-affiliate because we felt that their approach would provide the highest level of enrichment for the residents," shared Mandy. Besides guiding implementation at Foothills, Brush is preparing Foothills' Memory Care Coordinator Anna Hatcher and Life Enrichment Director Lucie Price to become certified by AMI as Practitioners in Montessori for Dementia and Aging.

The goal of using the Montessori approach is to help residents maintain their abilities and interests,

and so live at the highest level of functioning possible. As with the Montessori Method used with children, much of this is task-based. "But this is not about giving residents busy work to keep them occupied," says Mandy. "It is about first knowing what they find meaningful and then helping them find or even relearn activities and roles to provide that meaning or to maintain necessary skills." In other words, the Montessori approach to dementia care is highly personalized.

For instance, if a resident enjoys cooking, the staff might invite her to do some cooking-related tasks. As another example, Mandy shares, "It is very important to one of our Bridge residents that he continue to shave himself every day. So the staff invites him to do tasks that help maintain the fine motor skills needed for that task."

"We also have a memory care resident who is a former missionary and pastor's wife. She still possesses a great knowledge of the Bible, so she is more than able, and is encouraged, to lead devotionals. This is something that gives her great satisfaction."

Another aspect of the program is having what is known as a "prepared Montessori environment," where materials are visually and physically accessible to nurture a natural desire for independence.



An example of this is having signs to help guide residents. These can be helpful invitations when a resident is unsure of what he or she can or should do. For instance, beside a pitcher of water and drinking glasses, there might be a sign that reads, "Pour yourself a glass of water."

Foothills' Executive Director, Karen Nichols, who has developed an expertise in dementia care through years of work in the area says, "For me, the Montessori approach to aging and dementia is really another advance in the person-centered approach to care and quality of life. It helps us understand that the most important thing we can do for our seniors is focus on meaning and purpose."

After the Montessori-approach is fully implemented at the Foothills Community, PCSC hopes to begin incorporating it at other communities.

## COLUMBIA RESIDENT GEORGE RENTZ AWARDED ORDER OF THE PALMETTO

George Rentz, resident at The Columbia Presbyterian Community, served as the first President and CEO of the Lexington Medical Center (LMC) and held that position for 22 years. Its first significant innovation was a commitment that all patient care rooms would be private. This was a big change from the wards and semi-private rooms that were common at the time. George's work to build and operate the hospital was recognized as a significant service to the State of South Carolina in December of last year, when George was honored with the Order of the Palmetto, the highest award given by the Governor of South Carolina. The award was given in the lobby of the new North Tower at LMC.

"They were pretty sneaky about it," George says. "The current CEO at LMC, Todd Augsburger, headed up a committee to put together the nomination. My family was in on it, and they told me to dress up in my Sunday best for a meeting at the Medical Center. When we got there, TV cameras and reporters and state officials were on hand, and Governor Henry McMaster presented the award."

Those who know George agree that he fully deserves all awards that come his way. The fight to establish Lexington Medical Center consumed 15 controversial years, battling red tape and competitors' opposition. His advice to young people: "Don't try to start a hospital unless you are willing to fight for it. And win."

*Written by Columbia resident Jackie Perrone*



*Governor Henry McMaster (left) presents the Order of the Palmetto award to Columbia resident George Rentz.*



*George Rentz addresses the crowd in attendance at his award ceremony.*

## COLUMBIA WELCOMES NEW MARKETING DIRECTOR

The Columbia Presbyterian Community is delighted to welcome Leigh Ann Helo as its new Director of Marketing. In this role Leigh Ann will assist potential residents who want to learn more about senior living and will help them find the answers and opportunities they are looking for.



Leigh Ann comes to the Columbia Community with a marketing background and has spent 16 years in the healthcare field. A native of Kentucky, she has two teenage children. "Family and friends are incredibly important to me, and I am passionate about helping others," she shares. This, of course, makes her a great fit for PCSC!

If you or someone you know is looking to learn more about retirement living in general or living at the Columbia Community in particular, please contact Leigh Ann at (803) 227-8342 or email her at [Leighann.Helo@PresComm.org](mailto:Leighann.Helo@PresComm.org).

## PCSC ANNOUNCES DATES FOR UPCOMING AMBASSADOR MEETINGS

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina proudly serves as a faith-based ministry of the Presbyterian churches in the state. Its treasured relationships with those churches is one of its greatest strengths and blessings. Undergirding these relationships are the PCSC Ambassadors who serve as liaisons to their churches. These Ambassadors serve an important role in communicating the work and mission of PCSC to their local church, as well as relaying questions and needs to PCSC.

Each spring, the Ambassadors convene at five annual meetings held at PCSC communities around the state. These meetings are opportunities for Ambassadors to receive updates on the ministry of PCSC, but they are also opportunities for PCSC to hear from the Ambassadors. Pastors are also encouraged to attend.

PCSC recently announced the dates and locations of the spring meetings. Ambassadors and pastors are invited to attend the meeting of their choice.

DATE	COMMUNITY
Wednesday, March 18	Columbia (in Lexington)
Thursday, March 26	Foothills (in Easley)
Tuesday, March 31	Florence
Wednesday, April 1	Summerville
Thursday, April 2	Clinton

Besides hearing the latest update on what is happening with PCSC, these meetings are a great opportunity to connect with friends and tour the communities. These meetings will also be wonderful opportunity for attendees to connect with CEO Kathy Ligon as her retirement approaches.

**If you are interested in supporting your church's ministry to older adults by serving as an Ambassador or if you would like to see if your church has an Ambassador (we welcome having more than one!), please call Franklin Fant or Cathy Jackson at (803) 772-5885 or email [Franklin.Fant@PresComm.org](mailto:Franklin.Fant@PresComm.org) or [Cathy.Jackson@PresComm.org](mailto:Cathy.Jackson@PresComm.org).**

## PCSC STAFF PROVIDES STATE-WIDE LEADERSHIP

All PCSC staff work internally to support the mission of serving older adults, but some also provide key leadership outside of our organization.



*Laura Shirer, PCSC's Director of Employee Relations*

One of these is Laura Shirer, PCSC's Director of Employee Relations, who serves on the Board of the South Carolina Healthcare Human Resources Association (SCHHRA) as a representative of the long-term care industry.

SCHHRA supports human resources personnel working in the healthcare industry across the state, by providing education, legal and regulatory updates, sharing of best practices, networking opportunities, and ethics guidance. With very high employment levels and continued demand for workers in the healthcare industry, human resources professionals in this field need all the support they can get.

In addition to providing leadership at SCHHRA, Laura also benefits from her service, as does PCSC. "It is exciting to connect with a great audience in the healthcare field, which extends far beyond senior living," she shares. "Through my time with SCHHRA, I have gained helpful insight into how other healthcare organizations handle human resource challenges through staff recruitment and retention, as well as incentives and wages."

## COLUMBIA VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE AWARD

PCSC thanks and congratulates Mary Jacobs and Antoinette Taylor, who both volunteer at The Columbia Presbyterian Communities. Because of their generous contributions of time, energy and caring, they have been honored with the *2020 Volunteer of the Year Award* by the South Carolina Activities Professionals Association (SCAPA).

Antoinette and Mary were nominated by the Columbia Community Life Enrichment team for their ongoing, excellent and unwavering service to Columbia residents. They serve in all areas, from independent living to healthcare. You may see them pushing residents for the campus walk, leading a devotional, playing games with residents, organizing closets, exercising with residents, or just spreading hugs and love everywhere they go.

When told they were receiving this award, Mary stated “There’s always plenty of opportunities to volunteer and plenty of people who need help. You just have to be willing to step in!” Life Enrichment Director Rebecca Richardson shared, “Their joy and happiness is infectious! You can’t help but smile when they walk into a room. These ladies care about the residents and are willing to do whatever is needed to enrich their quality of life.”

Antoinette and Mary will travel to Myrtle Beach in March to attend the awards banquet at the SCAPA Conference, where they will receive their plaques and be honored in person. Please congratulate them if you see them!



*Antoinette Taylor and Mary Jacobs are treasured volunteers at the Columbia Community.*

## CLINTON HELPS TRAIN A FUTURE ADMINISTRATOR

Last year it was the pleasure of The Clinton Presbyterian Community to train Eva Aseno Odhiambo as part of her preparation to become a licensed nursing home administrator.

A native of Kenya who relocated to the U.S. with her husband over twenty years ago, Eva has traveled many miles in her journey of learning. Her initial career in Kenya was teaching high school, but after arriving in the States she moved into a nursing career. After serving as an LPN in the skilled nursing setting, she decided she wanted to continue to make a difference in this arena as an administrator, and subsequently

completed her MBA from North Greenville University.

Serving as an Administrator-in-Training (AIT) in a senior living setting was the next step in her preparation. Clinton Executive Director Paul Pridmore agreed to supervise Eva in this capacity over a nine-month period that ended last fall. During this time, Eva spent a segment of time with every department from Marketing to Maintenance to learn about the ins and outs of each department’s management and staff responsibilities. Eva has a gentle, loving and kind spirit, and



*Eva Aseno Odhiambo with her son Adrian, a music minor at USC Upstate, who shared his talents at the piano with residents.*

those at the Clinton Community enjoyed their time with Eva. They thank her for her commitment and achievement and wish her the best in her career.

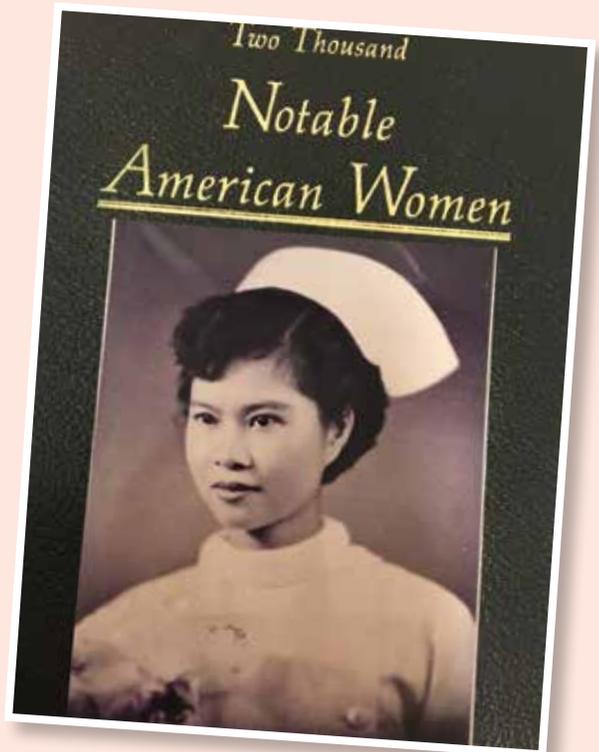
## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: A LITTLE GIRL'S DREAM COMES TRUE ... *... albeit through determination, hard work and a dinner in New York City!*

Residents of The Village at Summerville know that little girl as fellow resident Marcelina Narciso, or Marcie. Born in Badoc Ilocos Norte, Philippines, she has retained her love of her native country while, at the same time, adopting the lifestyle of a new country. Marcie says, "As a child I always dreamed of coming to the United States, and because of this desire I read American newspapers and spent countless hours in the library reading about America."

Her focus was to find hospitals that offered nursing programs and would accept foreign exchange students. In 1957, she enrolled at the Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital in New York City and received her nursing degree. She also received diplomas from New York University. She became certified as a medical and surgical nurse with training in the field of nephrology, and she worked as a phlebotomist for the American Red Cross. Marcie also worked at the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn, caring for the first wounded to return home from Vietnam.

Marcie also shares a story of how a dinner in New York City changed her life. As a new arrival at the school of nursing, she met another student from the Philippines. One evening as they were in a local restaurant, they noticed a "handsome American sailor." They agreed that his facial features resembled someone of Philippine descent, but they were not certain. They plotted and decided upon a plan. As he walked near their table they began to converse in Tagalish, the native language of the Philippines. The plot worked – he recognized their language, stopped at their table and said, 'Como esta?' The rest of the story is predictable. A short time later he contacted Marcie and took her – and her friend! – out on several dates. About six months later, before being shipped overseas, he proposed to Marcie and they were married.

After his discharge the couple lived for many years in Goose Creek. Marcie has now lived at The Village for about a year and a half. A former ballroom dancer, she enjoys crocheting and swimming. As the saying goes, "Still water runs deep." Quiet Marcie has had an exciting life!



*Village Resident  
Marcie Narciso  
as a young nurse  
(above) and  
today (left).*

*Written by Village resident Margret VanOrden Maloney*

## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

On January 1, 1971, Clinton Community resident Avery Smith began keeping the grounds at the First Presbyterian Church in Clinton. This was in addition to his full-time job working for the State Department of Education, but after growing up on a farm, Avery was no stranger to hard work. The church became a Friday afternoon and Saturday task. And sometimes, it became a “family affair” as his whole family pitched in. When times were particularly busy, Avery would take annual leave from work to catch up on chores at the church.



*Avery Smith (center) with his wife, Dorothy, and family.*

Upon retirement from the State in 1994, Avery continued to keep the grounds. In January 2001, he added the responsibility of cleaning the church’s new Christian Life Center to his other church duties, and served another 16 years before finally retiring in 2017.

Avery was recently honored by the church for his years of service. The commemorative plaque given him reads, “Your church family gives thanks to God for your more than 46 years of service. Your selfless dedication to the life of the church has been an example not only to your own family, but to our whole congregation.”

Reflecting upon his years of service, Avery said, “I enjoyed my work at the church very much and was grateful for the opportunity to serve while maintaining a full-time job and leading a family. I realize now that God was with me every step of the way and I could not have accomplished it all without His help.”

The Clinton Community is proud to have Avery as a member of the PCSC family and, along with the church, celebrates his accomplishments and true servant’s heart.

## PROMOTING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

In recognition of National Diabetes Month last November, the Clinton Community partnered with Prisma Health to offer a lunch-and-learn called “Diabetes 101” for residents and guests from the local community. Michelle Stancil, Diabetes Management Manager with Prisma, shared information about diabetes such as risk factors, symptoms and blood sugar levels. She offered tips and ideas for simple meal and lifestyle changes to help attendees better manage diabetes. Dining Services provided a healthy lunch for everyone to enjoy.



*Clinton residents Chuck and Anna Hull talk to Prisma’s Michelle Stancil.*



## GRAND OPENINGS!

The Clinton Community recently celebrated the completion of two new amenity spaces. The first was a new Wellness Center, which the community looks forward to using to stay fit. Small group fitness classes, exercise equipment (including an additional NuStep), and fun Wii games are all part of the offerings in the Wellness Center.

Several weeks later, Café 801 opened its doors. This new dining venue offers a relaxed setting for residents to gather, enjoy conversation, and delight their palate with tasty items. The ribbon-cutting showcased menu samples such as Lobster Pasta, Pimento Cheese topped with Pepper Jelly and Bacon, Ham and Pineapple Honey Cream Pizza, and Tenderloin with Shoestring Fries. Good food with good friends is the perfect recipe for success!

*Left: Resident Council President Peter Hobbie cuts the ribbon at the new Wellness Center. Right: The new Café 801 dining venue.*



*Left: Residents Pat Sells and Ken Sledge get their cardio exercise in the Wellness Center.*



*Resident Betty Youngs leads a watercolor workshop.*



*The Busy Fingers Group can't wait to deliver the baby caps they created.*



*Left: Participants of the Half Hour Power class are excited to try out their new space.*



*The new therapy team is ready to serve.*



*Residents enjoy a boat ride on a crisp, fall day, courtesy of Maintenance Director Curt Brown.*



*Dr. Louis Stephens and Clinton High School Jr. ROTC students after the Veterans Day Program.*



*Presbyterian College students take a break from washing windows during a service day to play cards with a few residents.*



*Sara Byars, 102, can still bring the heat during a cornhole game.*

## NEW GENERATION MARINE CORPS MEETS A HERO

Columbia Community resident Pete Wickwire is a retired United States Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel. He received the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action and the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service while in Vietnam. Many articles have been written about Pete and his command of the 1st Battalion 3rd Marines and their successful missions against the Viet Cong.



*Lt. Col. Pete Wickwire and Marine Sgt. Joseph Jacob shared their experiences as Marines.*

The Columbia Community staff reached out to the local Marine Corps recruiting office, and it didn't take long for them to say they'd be honored to come and meet such a highly decorated officer. Sgt. Joseph Jacob and Staff Sgt. Kyle Nangauta from the Columbia Marine Corps Recruiting Station came to visit with Pete. For over an hour, they spent time getting to know each other, sharing stories, looking at pictures and talking about their mutual love and respect for the United States and the Marine Corps. They ended their time together with handshakes and enthusiastic cries of the Marine Corps motto, "Semper Parati!"

*Written by staff member Cindy Enfinger*

## NEW VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR LEADS SAINTS ALIVE CHOIR

The Saints Alive Choir members are excited to be back to doing what they love most – singing beautiful music. They were thrilled to welcome their new volunteer director, Irma Van Scoy, who has made this possible. Irma has been singing in choir since grade school and has assisted at her church with the music ministry. She has been a member of the Lexington County Choral Society for 12 years. A former Associate Dean of USC's College of Education, Irma is now mostly retired and is excited to help the residents on their musical journey. She has already added much to the choir, and in December she added percussion, flute and violin to the beautiful repertoire of Christmas music. The Choir is also grateful for the return of accompanist Shirley Harwell who has played for the choir in the past. The Saints Alive Choir welcomes all residents, staff and volunteers that are interested in singing and love music. They rehearse every Monday at 1:30 pm in the Chapel at the Columbia Community if you'd like to come and join them or just listen!



*The Saints Alive Choir gave a Christmas concert at the Columbia Community. New Director Irma Van Scoy is seen in the back row, right.*

## ACTIVE AGING WEEK

Active Aging Week is designed to give as many older adults as possible the means to experience wellness activities and exercise in a safe, supportive environment. It also promotes the benefits of healthier, more active lifestyles across the life span.



*Columbia resident Herbert Croxton and staff member William Arthur shake hands after Bocce Ball.*

To celebrate Active Aging Week, Columbia Wellness Director Jenny Nance hosted a series of contests between staff and residents. The competition was fierce, but friendly! Staff and residents went head to head in games including Bingo, miniature golf, Bocce ball, balloon volleyball and Wii bowling. It was a close race, but the staff came out on top! Everyone is looking forward to next year.



*Ann Dobbs and a new friend from the scouts.*



*The High Seas Homicide cast delivered a great murder mystery!*



*Executive Director Jason Basile announces William Arthur as the Employee of the Year, then laughs as William waves and thanks the crowd.*



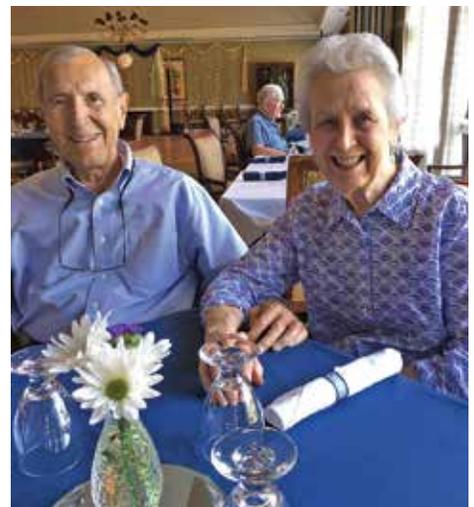
*Jane McGregor and volunteers from Southeastern Freight play Bingo.*



*Puera Gifford and Joan Pauley ham it up during the Halloween Play.*



*The 2019 Barbeque Cookoff judges perform taste tests. The distinguished judges were Nancy Jacobs, Joe Pinner, Jason Basile and Beth Donahue.*



*Nancy and Ron Jacobs at the Sapphire Ball, which was hosted by Dining Services.*

## NOVICE KNITTERS

The Novice Knitters are a group of residents at The Florence Presbyterian Community who knit for a cause. Led by resident Sue Haigler, six residents meet weekly to knit and enjoy fellowship with each other. Their big project for 2019 included making lap robes for several of our healthcare residents. Each lap robe was lovingly made with comfort and care in mind for their fellow residents. The group produced 12 lap robes, which required many, many hours of knitting. At Christmas, the knitters made Christmas bells for healthcare residents to wear. The Florence Community is grateful for the dedication of the Novice Knitters and their kind hearts!



*Above: Novice Knitters Mary Butler, Sue Haigler, and Kate Powers show off some of the beautiful lap robes they made for healthcare residents at the Florence Community.*



*Right: Florence resident Ann Lyons enjoys a lap robe made by the Novice Knitters.*

## BIKE RIDING FOR HEALTH AND FUN

For many of us, riding bicycles as children created some of our best memories. Not surprisingly then, residents at The Florence Presbyterian Community are very excited about the addition of three-wheel adult bicycles at their campus. The Florence Community promotes a healthy, active lifestyle, and these bikes are a wonderful way to encourage fitness. They can be ridden in the halls, as well as outside.

Many studies show that biking can actually slow down the aging process in a variety of ways. Some of the benefits for seniors who bike are: preserving memory, promoting weight loss, boosting heart health, preventing cancer and enhancing overall well-being. And riding a bicycle is not only an effective workout, it is fun!



*Left: Resident Bill Moore takes a three-wheel bicycle enjoys the hallways of the Florence Community.*



*Right: Florence resident Duna Humphries enjoys riding a three-wheel bike around the Florence campus.*



*Duna Humphries and Grace Blackman ring in the new year together.*



*Florence residents enjoyed competing during a game of Family Feud.*



*Phil Hart shares a laugh and a smile.*



*Delicacies were enjoyed by all at the Healthcare Center Christmas party.*



*Tom Kellam is honored by Honor Guard Captain James Leslie during the Veteran's Day program.*



*Preston Gunning waits for the Veterans Day program to begin.*



*Serious play begins during the Staff Cornhole Tournament.*

## LAUREL CREST'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY!

Last August, Laurel Crest Retirement Community celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening in 1994. Fun was had by all. There was dancing to music provided by Bob Michalski and Friends, and food was courtesy of Laurel Crest's wonderful Dining Services department. There was even a photo station where guests could have their picture taken with friends. The pictures were printed out that evening and placed in a commemorative folder.



*Residents Pauline Bresko and Georgia Hildreth enjoy getting a little silly while taking a picture.*



*Dining Services provided culinary delights – all beautifully presented – for Laurel Crest's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.*

## A CHRISTMAS PARTY TO REMEMBER

The Laurel Crest Employee Christmas Party has become an event that no one wants to miss, and employees are encouraged to bring their families. There are crafts and slime-making stations for children, Saran wrap ball games, yummy food, a s'mores station, door prizes, and let's not forget ... pictures with SANTA!



*Below: Charles Easley and Mary Morrill, members of the Executive Committee of the Resident Council, pose with Cessandra Cater, Director of Health Care Services. Charles and Mary were on hand to represent all the residents as they handed out employee appreciation gifts to the staff.*

*Above: The Laurel Crest "Elf on a Shelf" (Director of Plant Services, Stevie McCaston) enjoys bonding with Santa.*



## THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND LIGHTS

The holiday season is such a special time. Laurel Crest likes to start its Christmas season with a Celebration of Life and Lights. This annual program honors those lost over the last year, but also celebrates the season the community is embarking upon. This is a special time when the community invites family members of former residents to come back, remember and celebrate with them. The program includes music, readings, a sing-a-long and a reception. It truly is a magical event.



*Resident Ron Edge plays "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" on his accordion.*

*Jim Boatwright and Paul Bodie practice "Little Drummer Boy."*





*What a beautiful setting and an inviting Christmas feast! Residents enjoy the delicious food at the Laurel Crest Christmas party.*

*Left: Bob Michalski provided a fun atmosphere at the Christmas party.*



*Left: NICU nurses at Prisma Health Baptist Hospital display renewed Christmas spirit thanks to our knitters. The Christmas babies were truly decked out.*



*Knitters Judy Turnipseed, Carole Myers, Dot Rogers, Betty Gabriel, EmmaLou Easley and Fran Dadisman provided over 300 hats and gloves to the homeless.*



*Fran Dadisman with a couple who benefited not only from the hats and scarves, but also from the warmth of fellowship at an event at First Baptist.*

## VILLAGE RESIDENTS LEARN ABOUT FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Natalie Rumph, owner of The Wildwood Flower Designs (and granddaughter of resident Pat Hollifield), brought a fun and creative afternoon program to The Village recently. Natalie taught the residents about floral design, ways to use herbs, and many other “outside of the box” garden ideas. The Creative Arts Center where Natalie made her presentation not only smelled wonderful that afternoon, but also was adorned with many beautiful arrangements! Residents were able to make their own floral arrangements, and some shared theirs with the community by placing them in the front lobby and by the Chapel. It is always fun to learn something new at The Village!



*Several Village residents explore flower arrangement.*



*Eleanor Grayson displays her arrangement*



*Resident Beth Wyckoff is escorted by staff member Joey Shakespeare as she models an outfit from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Thrift Shop.*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> CHANCE FASHION SHOW

In November, volunteers from the 2nd Chance Thrift Shop in Summerville put on a fun and stylish fashion show, complete with clothes from the store! A few Village residents also served as some of the models.

Resident Beth Wyckoff served as Chairperson of the thrift shop for over 23 years, and now she serves as a Board member and sales volunteer. Hazel Berry, MaryJo Young, Faith Sellers and Nancy Shows are other Village residents who also serve on the shop’s Board of Directors and volunteer in various capacities.

## VILLAGE ADDS CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT

As the number of residents served at The Village at Summerville has increased, so has the need for additional chaplaincy services. Last fall, The Village was excited to welcome Johnny “Bo” Hamilton as its new, part-time Chaplain Assistant. Village Chaplain Achim Daffin is excited to have him on staff and said, “Bo has provided a most compassionate and caring element to our community, taking time to listen, and in every way he seems to capture the very heart of our mission statement.”

Bo is a Commissioned Lay Pastor for Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery and also serves on the staff of the Summerville Presbyterian Church.



*Chaplain Assistant Bo Hamilton shares his sense of calling to The Village at the December meeting of Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery.*



*Resident Ludy Waldman plays with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra at Oktoberfest.*



*Linda Wigfield happily watches at one of the shucking tables during the Oyster Roast.*



*Cane Bay Middle School Band and Chorus perform in the Palmetto Unit.*



*Above: Mary Ruth Aiken, B.J. Moore and Rhodine Floyd wait for the Seated Christmas Dinner to begin.*



*The Van Gogh Exhibit at The Columbia Museum of Art made for a great outing.*



*Below: Residents and staff enjoy the outdoors during Food Truck Friday.*



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