



THANKS, KATHY!

*Katherine R. Ligon concludes her tenure as
President and CEO and 33-year career with PCSC*

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina celebrates and gives thanks for the visionary leadership and devotion of Katherine R. Ligon, who retired June 1 after serving 13 years as its President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Her career with PCSC has actually spanned a remarkable 33 years, over which her contributions have been many and diverse. As CEO, Kathy has been the chief architect of PCSC's significant growth and transformation over the last two decades. At the same time, her long history with the organization has enabled her to be the keeper of its culture, values and institutional memory.



Board of Trustees Chair, Jay Nexsen, presents Kathy Ligon with an award recognizing her impressive 33 years of service to PCSC, including 13 as its President and CEO.

From Construction Site to Vice-President – Kathy Builds a Career of Relationships

When Kathy graduated from Columbia College, her first job was at a construction site. As those who know her will attest, she is not afraid of hard work. These humble beginnings added to the character of the servant leader people know and love.

In 1987, she came to Presbyterian Communities (then called “Presbyterian Home”) to serve as the Assistant to Vice President Brown McCallum and President Reverend Ron Crossley. She had previously worked at the Trinity Presbytery office where she added some “bricks” to her foundation in church relations by getting to know the area pastors. This gave her the ability to see the ways in which PCSC's church roots would remain vibrant through the years. Kathy says one of her greatest joys was getting to know the organization's founders, Reverend Dr. Charles Robert Tapp and Reverend Dr. William McLeod Frampton, Jr. Their ministry helped to shape the path she would walk throughout the years at PCSC.

Kathy says there were two “business women” she looked to as mentors throughout her life and career. She admired her maternal grandmother as an example of servant leadership in the business world. The other was Emily Dillard, who served at the First

Continued on page 6

ALSO INSIDE

A Note from the
Outgoing CEO.....page **2**

Message from the
New CEO.....page **3**

Stepping Up to
Meet the Challenges
of COVID-19.....page **14**

A FINAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Most of you reading this note from me know that I just retired, effective June 1, 2020, which marked the end of 33 years with PCSC. I only wish I could see you all, face to face, to say thank you for your support, advocacy and interest in this magnificent ministry to seniors across South Carolina.

Few have been as blessed as I, working with a strong team committed to excellence and customer service, providing an enriched life to the seniors we are privileged to serve. PCSC has always invested significant time to initiate and cultivate relationships, whether they be with and among residents and their families, employees, Presbyterian churches and their pastors, volunteers or business partners.

Leading PCSC is a group of talented and passionate individuals who comprise the Board of Trustees. These dedicated leaders generously share their expertise and time, ensure resources are available, provide strategic guidance and uphold the mission of the organization.

Generous donors have helped make PCSC what it is today. From the very beginning of development for a Presbyterian ministry to seniors in 1954, donors have contributed for bricks and mortar, programs and amenities. There are also those who have served as PCSC Ambassadors, liaisons between PCSC and their churches, communicating the message of the Mother's Day offering and other information to their congregations. Churches provide special events and programs, and volunteers help with resident programming throughout the year.

Numerous changes have occurred in the senior living field, and Presbyterian Communities has been able to adapt, and sometimes lead the field in innovation. The people who work in the communities are innovative and strive for excellence, demonstrating compassion to all they serve. I am indebted to each of them who touch lives and provide compassion, sympathy, encouragement or whatever is needed at the appropriate time.

And, of course, the residents! Getting to know them, being inspired and motivated by them, learning from

their wisdom and observing, in awe, their adaptability, strength and graceful aging. I have been able to befriend many residents, and my life has truly been enriched by them.

I have been able to serve in this ministry for almost half of my life. This is a blessing from God that I could not have imagined so many years ago. Many people, beginning with the Board, and including churches, donors, residents, families and employees, have placed their trust in me, and my life has been so abundantly blessed. The memories I take with me from you and this meaningful journey will provide joy and reflection in the years ahead.

None of us could have anticipated a global pandemic and the restrictions placed upon us. I had hoped to be at all the communities and PCSC Ambassadors' meetings, saying thank you and sharing some stories. But I will tell you that I couldn't be more proud of the response from the PCSC team in their extraordinary efforts to keep residents and staff safe. There will likely be a "new normal," and PCSC will be prepared, learning from this experience.

As I leave, I will truly miss the challenge of the work, the strategic planning and the opportunity to work with and know so many people. I want to thank you for the honor of serving with you and for you. I am grateful for serving in a ministry whose culture is strong and faith-based, where compassion is evident and where lives are enriched each and every day. Just know how grateful I am for your trust and belief in me, and for the opportunity to serve in this meaningful and necessary ministry to seniors.

Through God's providence, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved Franklin Fant as the next President and CEO of PCSC. I join him in his excitement for the next chapter, and will keep all of you in my prayers. And please know how very much I will miss you!

I pray God's richest blessings on all of you! To Him be all Glory and Honor!

Katharine R. Ligon
Kathy Ligon

STRONG, FAITH-BASED MINISTRY CONTINUES

There can be no doubt that the retirement of our beloved Kathy Ligon marks the end of an era. And what an era it has been! Kathy led PCSC through a number of changes critical to its survival. Its mission has been preserved and expanded. Now stronger and more dynamic thanks to Kathy's efforts, PCSC is well situated to serve the needs of older adults and their families in a rapidly changing world. At the same time, in an age when so many non-profits have drifted from their faith-based roots, Kathy worked hard to ensure that PCSC remains a ministry of the Presbyterian churches of South Carolina.

It is such an honor for me, as the new President and CEO, to be called to shepherd the tradition of faith-based caring and excellence that Kathy fostered at PCSC!

I receive this new role having been blessed to know PCSC in multiple ways over the years: as family of residents, as a church member who stills sees many of the saints who helped raise me living in our communities, as a pastor who had many congregants living with us, as a member of the Board of Trustees, and lastly as an employee overseeing the PCSC Foundation and church relations.

Having experienced and served PCSC from so many angles over many years, I take the well-being of PCSC quite personally. I look forward to ensuring that this ministry continues to thrive and remains a ministry of our churches.

And how grateful I am that there are so many strong partners working collaboratively to enrich the lives of the seniors we serve! We have a strong Board whose members care passionately about what we do. They faithfully bring expertise and diligence, guiding the strategic decisions of the organization.

We have devoted, caring and tireless employees at our communities. They directly touch the lives of residents and their loved ones. The coronavirus pandemic has truly put the entire staff of this organization to the test, but they have risen to the occasion. They have worked tirelessly through difficult times, keeping the residents safe and encouraging their spirits. They have responded creatively to face the new challenges caused by the pandemic.

We are also blessed that our churches continue to embrace our faith-based mission. They pray for us, support us financially, send volunteers, and promote PCSC as "our" senior living ministry. We are especially grateful for those churches who promoted the Mother's Day Offering this year, even when their congregations could not meet to collect the Offering in worship. When PCSC, like every other senior living organization in the face of the pandemic, did not have enough masks to keep every staff member and resident safe, church members stepped up to sew literally hundreds of masks.



Our residents also need to be mentioned and appreciated here. As you know if you work with us, volunteer with us, or visit a loved one living with us, our residents possess a special character of warmth and generosity. They care for and look after one another, and they care for the staff. And while the residents themselves have been tested by the restrictions on daily life caused by the pandemic, they have been more cheerful and patient than we could ever have hoped or imagined.

Such a wonderful network of leaders, staff, residents and churches engaged in a common ministry of serving and being served could only have been assembled by the hand of the Lord. Truly, God has blessed Presbyterian Communities, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this ministry in yet another capacity.

Franklin Fant
President and CEO

PCSC WELCOMES JENN PADEN STANLEY

Jennifer Paden Stanley was recently named the new Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations as Franklin Fant transitioned to the role of President and CEO. Jenn comes to PCSC from Presbyterian College, where she served in the Office of Advancement as a Major Gifts Officer. There she worked to build relationships with prospective donors and help them achieve their charitable goals toward PC.



Jenn holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religion and Christian Education with a minor in Psychology from Presbyterian College where she played on the Women's Golf Team. After graduation, she served as the Youth Minister at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Greenville. Later, she moved to Thornwell Home for Children where she served in two roles, first as the Director of Faith Formation and Christian Nurture, and subsequently as a Mission Advancement Officer.

Jenn has a robust background in the Presbyterian Church in this state and its affiliated organizations as well as fundraising experience.

"I am excited to serve in this role and build on the program Franklin advanced over the last five years," Jenn said. "This position blends three of my passions together: strong church roots, ministry, and relationships. I look forward to meeting the PCSC family."

Jenn is married to Taylor, and they have two-year-old twins, Maggie and Will.



Remember ... it's easy to support PCSC or your favorite community online! You can make a gift by credit card or debit card by visiting:

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.



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.

CLINTON RESIDENT'S PAINTING FEATURED ON 2020 MOTHER'S DAY CARD

THE ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

PCSC first collected the Mother's Day Offering in 1954, the same year the generous gift of land was offered to build the first community at Summerville. The Offering was initially collected to help build that community. However, the need of residents for financial assistance presented itself and the purpose of the offering changed, making it the foundation for the ministry of charitable care. This strong tradition of caring for those we serve, who through no fault of their own have exhausted their financial resources, must continue. In 2019, your gifts at Mother's Day and throughout the year enabled PCSC to provide \$1,184,889 in charitable care. That is nearly \$3,250 each and every day needed to assist residents who depend on your generosity for their care. Your gifts lift burdens, give hope and touch lives in meaningful ways!



ABOUT THE ARTIST

The beautiful watercolor on the cover of this year's Mother's Day Card was painted by Mrs. Betty Youngs, who lives with her husband, Don, at The Clinton Presbyterian Community. A native of Virginia, she graduated from UNC Greensboro and went on to a career as a public school music teacher in Michigan, where she and Don raised their family.



After retirement, Betty and Don moved to McCormick, SC, where she began to take art lessons, first in drawing and later in watercolors. Her skill progressed to the point that in 2015 her paintings were selected for exhibition by the McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah, an organization that promotes art, culture and education in the area.

Betty generously shares her expertise with fellow residents by teaching painting classes at the Clinton Community.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Charitable care is one of the most highly cherished aspects of the mission at PCSC and has significant history. With God's help and the support of generous donors like you, PCSC has maintained this program through many ups and downs over the decades. It remains central to the identity of the organization.

As you know, COVID-19 has drastically changed the way many people live their lives. Life at the communities has looked different since the beginning of March, but PCSC employees have worked tirelessly through this global health crisis to provide special and personalized care to all residents while in quarantine. Nevertheless, the need for charitable care remains. Since churches were not able to gather for services in person, the historic Mother's Day Offering was not collected in the typical fashion of passing the plate down the pews. Please use the enclosed envelope to give generously to this vital ministry if you are able at this time. You can also give online at:

giving.presbyteriancommunities.org

Thanks, Kathy!

Continued from page 1

Presbyterian Church of Greenville, retired to the Clinton Community, and was a constant cheerleader and confidant for Kathy. The leadership of both of these women helped pave the way for the generation of women who came after them.

Being a lifelong Presbyterian and raised in South Carolina, Kathy said when she moved into the Director of Development role at PCSC that so many people already knew her story and that was comforting. She enjoyed serving in this role because she was “friend-raising” more so than fundraising. Kathy jumped into the role by doing as much as she could with residents from pool parties at a staff member’s home in Clinton to seeing the Radio City Rockettes in Myrtle Beach with the Summerville Community. Over the next 15 years she learned everything she could about the business of senior living and PCSC. She took the time to get to know employees and residents on a personal level at each community.

Long before becoming a resident of The Clinton Presbyterian Community, Dick Swetenburg had the opportunity to work with Kathy, first as a Trustee, and then as Interim President of PCSC after Ron Crossley retired. Mr. Swetenburg said that Kathy provided tremendous support and information covering all aspects of operations, finance, admissions and development. “She was instrumental to my understanding of how all the pieces of the organization worked



Left: Kathy Ligon congratulates former Clinton resident Joe Gettys on his 109th birthday.

together. I continue to be thankful and appreciative of her efforts to assist me in my duties in serving the wonderful mission of love and compassion of PCSC.”

Emma Doughty has also had the fortune of knowing Kathy from three different perspectives, as fellow employee, Trustee and resident. “Although Kathy is many years younger than I, she has been a role model for me in many ways. When we were co-workers in the Columbia management office, I found her determined to learn all she could about homes for seniors. She kept all of us on our toes by setting the example of working until the job was completed – and completed properly.

“Later, as a Board member, I found Kathy was always prepared and able to answer any questions,” Emma said. “But the true test of Kathy’s leadership came when my husband and I moved to The Village at Summerville 10 years ago. Kathy sincerely cares for every individual staff member and resident here and that is reflected in the competency, caring and friendliness on this campus. We will miss her!”

Kathy rose to become Vice President of PCSC in 2005 and served for

Below: Kathy Ligon and Clayretta Shannon admire the corsage celebrating Clayretta’s 39th year with PCSC.



two years in this role before the next chapter of her career began. Reflecting back on the beginning of her career over three decades ago, Kathy recently shared, “It is humbling to know how many people still believe in our mission – our residents and their families, employees, churches, volunteers, donors, presbyteries and beyond.”

Leading as President and CEO – A Season of Growth and Change

In 2007, Kathy succeeded John Kelbaugh as President after a nationwide search. It was not the best time in the senior living field to be assuming the helm of a system of retirement communities.

John Bearden was a PCSC Trustee at the time who served on the Search Committee that recommended

Kathy. He remembers that time well and said, "It was my privilege to serve with Kathy and work with her on an almost weekly basis as she began her tenure as CEO."

He added, "Kathy assumed the position of CEO in times that were not favorable for senior living homes among financial institutions. Banks were not willing to extend credit to new or existing organizations. Under Kathy's leadership, the organization was streamlined and planning directives under the Board's direction were developed to guide the communities toward financial strength. Through her leadership, each community became profitable and financially stable. Her carefully selected and directed staff helped to make the organization one of the top organizations focused on senior living."

Declining occupancy at Frampton Hall in Clinton was one of the first challenges Kathy faced. Operating Frampton Hall (which had originally been the Mary Musgrove Hotel) along with The Clinton Presbyterian Community simply represented too many senior living accommodations for the Laurens County area. After much discussion, the Board reluctantly decided to close Frampton Hall. Most of these residents moved into the Clinton Community, boosting occupancy levels there. The subsequent sale of Frampton Hall to Presbyterian College represented a silver lining, as the property was kept in the "Presbyterian family." The building now houses PC's School of Pharmacy.

One of Kathy's first initiatives in 2007 was to add Medicare-reimbursed post-acute rehabilitation services at PCSC's communities. This was an extremely demanding endeavor that took several years, as it represented a sea change in healthcare services for PCSC and brought with it significant

"Kathy ... always asks herself what is in the best interests for the residents that PCSC serves. Because at the end of the day, the residents can only be served if the organization is well-run and successful."

Jay Nexsen, Board of Trustees Chair

regulatory oversight. But it was also a significant step forward for the ministry. Offering Medicare rehabilitation has allowed PCSC to help seniors who would otherwise never have come to be served by the organization. It has also increased the strength of PCSC's operations.

Early in 2008, PCSC took another step forward when it separated the cash and marketable securities held in its endowment, along with other financial gifts raised from donor contributions, into a separate foundation, now known as the PCSC Foundation. The

Foundation was established to receive and manage charitable gifts for the sole purpose of supporting PCSC's ministry, and it is governed a Board of Directors, all of whom are appointed by the PCSC Trustees.

Additional challenges in the senior living field continued as the Great Recession emerged in full force in 2008. As the assets of many individuals declined due to drops in housing prices and the financial markets, many seniors who would have otherwise moved into a PCSC community deferred that decision. The ensuing decline in the number of residents created financial difficulty for the organization. And yet, with God's help and Kathy's leadership, PCSC emerged from the Great Recession stronger and ready for a new chapter.

Indeed, even that difficult time saw some unique opportunities for PCSC. Taking advantage of reduced construction costs, PCSC built a chapel for The Columbia Presbyterian Community with the help of Mrs. Eunice Medhurst, the lead donor for the project and a resident of The Columbia Presbyterian Community.

Another opportunity presented itself when a residential real estate development next door to The Village at Summerville went into foreclosure. After Kathy and the Board negotiated an advantageous purchase price, PCSC was able to add over 40 undeveloped acres to the footprint of The Village. This would later become the site for a new healthcare center.

Continued next page

Continued from page 7

As the economy improved and as Kathy's leadership saw an increase in the financial strength of PCSC, the ministry was ready for a new season of growth that continues today. Significant projects undertaken and completed include:

- Conversion of a wing of excess healthcare beds to a memory care household (Jasmine Place) at the Florence Community
- Construction of a Medicare rehabilitation wing at Florence
- Construction of two independent living apartment wings at the Foothills Community
- Construction of a memory care household (The Bridge) at Foothills
- Construction of a three-story, independent living apartment building at The Village at Summerville (including a café)
- Construction of an 88-bed Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center at The Village

All of these projects were undertaken with the intention of expanding the ministry of PCSC while providing increased stability to the organization, and that is indeed what has happened. As Kathy retires, she leaves the organization positioned to continue projects such as these that will both strengthen the ministry and allow it to serve more seniors, and to serve them better.

A tremendous burden on the organization was lifted when PCSC was able to discontinue its defined benefit retirement plan. In its place, a 403(b) (defined contribution)



Foothills Chapel Ground Breaking (L-R): Rev. Debbie Foster, Dorothy Vedder, John Ford, Rev. Julie Schaaf, Karen Nichols, Kathy Ligon, Brian Boyer of Bayer Construction.

plan was put into place that allows contributions by both PCSC and employees.

In 2016, a chapel was finally built at The Foothills Retirement Community with the help of donors led by Foothills resident John Ford. When completed, PCSC reached a long desired goal of having a chapel at every one of the communities it then operated.

A notable highlight in both the history of PCSC and in Kathy's career as CEO came when PCSC purchased Laurel Crest Retirement Community at the beginning of 2018. Initially built by First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, Laurel Crest became PCSC's sixth campus and the first retirement community ever purchased by PCSC.

Kathy's tenure also saw a significant change in governance. When she began as CEO, the five Presbyterian Church (USA) presbyteries of South Carolina appointed all the members

of the Board of Trustees. But as the senior living field became increasing complex and litigious, PCSC and the presbyteries agreed that all would be better served if PCSC were to legally separate from the presbyteries and operate under a Covenant Agreement with them. This arrangement has worked well in allowing PCSC to seek out various types of expertise in its Board members, while still continuing to function as a ministry of the five presbyteries. Further, while the Board is now self-perpetuating, all Board members continue to be selected from Presbyterian churches to this day.

One of the most recent developments at PCSC under Kathy's leadership has been the creation of a new physical therapy department. Since the origination of the Medicare-reimbursed rehabilitation program, physical and occupational therapy provided at PCSC communities had been done through the use of a contracted provider. Last fall, however, PCSC added almost 100 staff members and brought its

therapy services in house. This allows PCSC more direct control over the delivery of these services.

Other fee-for-service programs added to PCSC's ministry during Kathy's watch as CEO include Home Health and Vital Living, and both have been very popular with residents. Home Health provides independent living residents a variety of medical services in their residence. Vital Living provides a variety of helpful, non-medical services that can include sitters, help with bathing, or even walking a dog.

Kathy's service to the senior living field and the connections she formed with others across the industry must also be mentioned. She served as a Board member and Secretary of the Board for the Presbyterian Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, a network of Presbyterian-affiliated senior living organizations from across the country. She served as Board member for LeadingAge South Carolina, which represents senior living non-profits in the state. She was Convener for the national LeadingAge CEMO (Chief Executive Officers of Multi-Site Organizations) group for many years, and she served as Coach for the LeadingAge National Leadership Academy for two years.

These connections were not only important means of service to the senior living field; they also gave Kathy the means to stay on the cutting edge of developments in the industry, and helped her to form mutually supportive relationships with industry leaders. Through these



Some of Kathy's family joined her at the party to celebrate her retirement. Pictured with Kathy are (L-R) husband Bill Ligon, son Will Ligon, and daughter-in-law Tiffany Ligon.

connections, Kathy was able to help others, while also gaining ideas and support to strengthen PCSC.

Reflecting on Kathy's long and productive years of leadership, Board of Trustees Chair Jay Nexsen shared, "Kathy has made a huge impact during her 33-plus years with PCSC. Her last 13 as President and CEO have been determinative. Without her leadership, PCSC might not even be here, but definitely would be a different entity than it is now."

He added, "Kathy is dedicated to the ministry of PCSC. This has been evident in everything that she has done and every decision she has made. She always asks herself what is in the best interests for the residents that PCSC serves. Because at the end of the day, the residents can only be served if the organization is well-run and successful."

Admiration and appreciation of Kathy extends to many of the staff. Asked about her experience

of Kathy's leadership, Clinton Marketing Director Dina Hair shared this: "I have really been blessed by knowing Kathy and working with her. She has so many God-given gifts that she has faithfully applied in her work at PCSC, but one I have particularly appreciated is her gift of encouragement. She has a special ability to find ways to support others and build them up."

Chief Financial Officer Chad Melven has worked with Kathy at PCSC longer than anyone else currently with the organization. He said, "During the 28 years I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Kathy, I have observed her dedication, perseverance, passion and extraordinary ethical standards. She is an exceptional person and for PCSC she has been a transformational leader. Kathy's enduring legacy is in the culture

Continued next page

Continued from page 9

of integrity and transparency that her leadership has created, and in the many lives that she has touched along the way.”

Incoming CEO Franklin Fant, who worked closely with Kathy while serving on the Board of Trustees and later as PCSC’s Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations noted, “Kathy has wisely seen when PCSC has needed to change, adapt and grow as the world changed over her 33 years with this ministry. But at the same time, she has been the guardian of its mission, making sure that PCSC remained rooted in its original values and in the Presbyterian churches of this state that founded it. She has blessed us with a remarkable legacy of both adaptation and constancy.”

Stacey Brennan, former Chair of the Board, shared, “It has been a joyful nine years for me to serve on the Board of Trustees under the oversight of Kathy Ligon. She is overwhelmingly committed to seniors. With her vision, she has enabled us to grow and thrive in a very competitive time.” She added, “Kathy knows that there is a grand specialness about PCSC, and has focused to keep this at the forefront. She has kept our resident standards high, provided a motivating environment for our staff, and pursued expansion opportunities to meet the needs of our anticipated future residents. I wish for her a most happy and fulfilling retirement.”

“I will always be grateful for the privilege of serving under Kathy’s dynamic leadership,” said Trustee

Emeritus Bud Nalley. “She is a dedicated and hard-working leader. Because of her dedication, determination and ability, Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina has been able to overcome many issues that could have been detrimental, except for the sincere and tireless efforts of Kathy. She has all the attributes of a dedicated leader. The tougher the issue, the harder she worked. She truly loves

PCSC and it is obvious to everyone she comes in contact with.”

He concluded with a statement that captures how so many feel about her, “Kathy is a person that I admire like a sister and respect like a mother.”

PCSC is truly family to Kathy. For the many years of Kathy’s strong and loving service, PCSC and its supporters give thanks to God.

THE VILLAGE WELCOMES NEW HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Robbins joined The Village at Summerville as the new Healthcare Administrator in late January. Cindy is responsible for the day-to-day operations of The Village’s Health and Rehabilitation Center and works closely with the Executive Director.



Cindy comes to The Village most recently from Blue Ridge Healthcare in Georgetown, SC, where she served as Administrator for their 84-bed skilled nursing facility. Prior to that Cindy served as Assistant Administrator at the 170-bed skilled nursing facility at NHC Healthcare in Lexington, SC, where she was responsible for oversight of Medicare rehabilitation services.

Cindy began her career in long-term care as the Admissions Coordinator at Lexington Medical Center’s 383-bed Extended Care facility in Lexington, SC, where she was responsible for maintaining high census through her marketing and customer service efforts.

“I am blessed to have the opportunity to serve at The Village at Summerville,” Cindy said. “The residents and team members are quickly becoming part of my family. I look forward to working with the community for many years to come.”

Cindy holds a MBA-Healthcare from Southern Wesleyan University.

The Village and PCSC family are excited about the energy, passion, knowledge and experience she brings to the team in her leadership role.



*Left: Eileen Goos,
Foodservice Director
at The Village at Summerville*



VILLAGE'S DINING SERVICES TAKES PART IN TASTING FESTIVAL

Food-centered events and tasting festivals are becoming increasingly popular, especially in metropolitan areas. But it's rare to see a chef from a hospital or college participating in these events. That's why Eileen Goos, foodservice director of The Village at Summerville, was thrilled when her operation was asked to take part in Scrumptious Summerville, a local fundraiser benefiting victims of child abuse.

An article on *FoodserviceDirector.com* recapped the event and comments by Goos. "We were the first retirement community to be asked," she said, an honor she attributed to the positive word of mouth from residents and guests about the Village's in-house catering.

The Village, which contracts with Cura Hospitality, makes everything from scratch, and Goos and her executive chef, Mark Hammel, prioritize presentation. "We really enjoy doing intricate appetizers that show off our creativity," Goos said. "It's a lot of fun to take a popular entree and turn it into a bite-size treat." Resident favorites include a grits cake topped with skewered shrimp, as well as beef tenderloin crostini topped with caramelized onions and blue cheese.

For the Scrumptious Summerville event, Hammel prepared 1,000 samples of beef brisket shepherd's pie with wild mushrooms and a roasted garlic mashed potato topping. "With our selections, we dispel the myth that [senior dining] serves institutional food," he said.

Community involvement can be a great marketing tactic, as The Village at Summerville discovered. Members of the planning committee for Scrumptious Summerville had attended a Chamber of Commerce reception for the grand opening of the Village's new healthcare and rehab center, Goos said, which led to additional exposure: "They couldn't believe it was catered in-house, and a few months later, they contacted us to participate in the event."

PCSC HONORED WITH TWO VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR!

"Activities Are Out of This World" was the theme of the 2020 South Carolina Activity Professionals Conference, where Columbia Community volunteers, Mary Jacobs and Antoinette Taylor, were named "Volunteers of the Year"! It was the first time in the organization's 30-year history that more than one person received the honor.

Life Enrichment team members Amy McCormack, Kimberley Koon and Cindy Enfinger attended the three-day conference, which was full of networking with other activities professionals and educational workshops. Mary and Antoinette were honored at the Awards Banquet that week with a beautiful plaque that will be displayed for all to see. These ladies spread sunshine and joy wherever they go! Congratulations to this "dynamic duo."



South Carolina Activities Professional Association Board member Margaret Zeigler (right) presents Antoinette Taylor (left) and Mary Jacobs (center) with SCAPA's Volunteer of the Year award.

PCSC LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE PARKINSON'S DISEASE THERAPY

Parkinson's disease is a common neurodegenerative disease, and as of 2010, an estimated 630,000 individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with this disease. Those living with Parkinson's disease have a high risk for developing a weak voice that can lead to serious speech and swallowing issues.

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina is offering a new and effective Parkinson's Voice Program for those living with Parkinson's disease. This program combines education, individual speech therapy sessions (SPEAK OUT!), and small group speech therapy sessions (LOUD Crowd) from a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist who is trained and certified in SPEAK OUT! and LOUD Crowd.

The Parkinson's Voice Program begins by educating patients and families on basic information about Parkinson's disease and how speech and language can be affected. The education session explains how using intention can improve one's communication, as well as other motor movements, such as writing and walking.

The next step in the program is SPEAK OUT!, which typically consists of 12 individual speech therapy sessions. The program participant will complete speech, voice, and cognitive exercises with a Speech-Language Pathologist using



a specialized workbook from the Parkinson's Voice Program. These individual speech therapy sessions emphasize speaking with intent and converting speech from an automatic function to an intentional act.

Upon completion of SPEAK OUT!, the program participant will transition to LOUD Crowd, which are small group therapy sessions. Due to the progressive nature of Parkinson's disease, consistent home exercise practice and follow-up is necessary. The LOUD Crowd consists of weekly group sessions where SPEAK OUT! exercises are performed and participants practice speaking with intent. These group sessions provide accountability, camaraderie, education and support to each program participant to ensure risks for speech and

swallowing issues can be minimized as the disease progresses.

If you are living with or know someone who has Parkinson's disease, please contact a PCSC Director of Rehabilitation at one of our locations and they will assist with questions and/or enrollment into the Parkinson's Voice Program.

CLINTON

.....(864) 833-5190

COLUMBIA

.....(803) 796-8700

FLORENCE

.....(843) 665-2222

FOOTHILLS

.....(864) 859-3367

LAUREL CREST

.....(803) 796-0370

SUMMERVILLE

.....(843) 873-2550

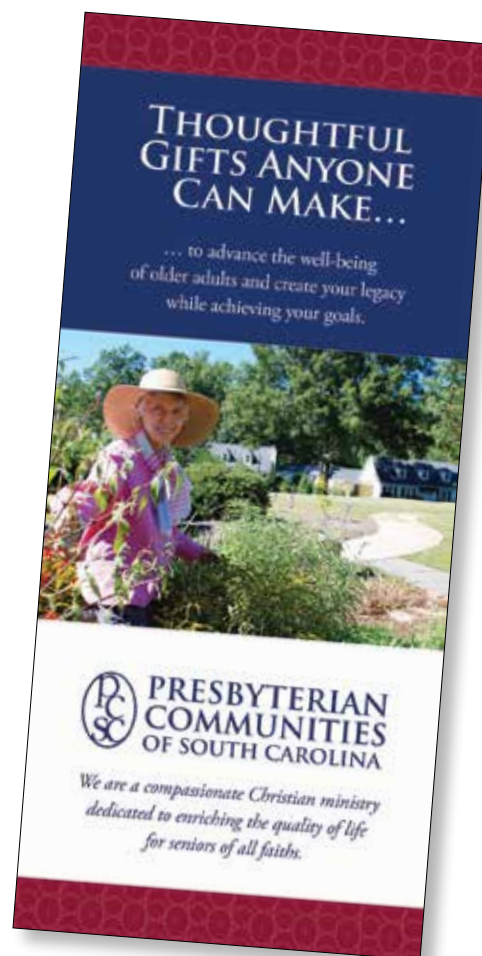
THINK ABOUT THIS WHEN THINKING ABOUT A PLANNED GIFT

*P*lanned gifts (sometimes called *deferred gifts*) are part of one's estate plans that leave a legacy for a charity that is important to you. While there are a number of ways to make a planned gift (using a will, an IRA account, a trust, gift annuity, or life insurance policy, for example), which one is right for you? What are the different considerations?

The first and most important factor is your charitable intent. Planned gifts are not about making money, but rather about leaving a legacy to bless others. At the same time, this can be done in a variety of ways to best meet the needs of you and your family.

Besides your charitable intent, there are three very practical things to think about:

- 1 ***Can I change my mind in the future?***
Some planned gifts, such as bequests in a will or beneficiary designations on life insurance and IRA accounts, can be revoked if you choose. Others, such as charitable gift annuities, cannot. Typically, if you reserve the right to change your mind about a gift, it will not be tax deductible for the present. However, since you are not making a current gift, the assets are there for your future use if you need them.
- 2 ***Do I need a stream of income?***
Some planned gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, provide an assured stream of income for the rest of your life. The residual, if any, goes to the charity. Because the expected value of this residual can be calculated, you also receive an income tax deduction today. Certain trusts can also be used to yield current income for you or a loved one, as well as tax benefits in the present.
- 3 ***How does the gift redirect my taxes?***
Gifts that cannot be revoked provide an income tax deduction that allows you to do more to benefit the charity or your family. Further, making these gifts with appreciated securities can partially avoid or defer capital gains taxes. Certain revocable gifts can also provide very positive tax benefits for your estate and heirs, even if they are not currently deductible for you.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

PCSC Foundation has a brochure, *Thoughtful Gifts Anyone Can Make*, describing how planned gifts can help you plan for the future and achieve your charitable intentions. Please check the box on the enclosed envelope indicating your interest and return it to PCSC Foundation. You may also call Jenn Stanley at the Foundation office at (803) 365-0844 for a copy.

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OLDER ADULTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

It is somewhat clichéd at this point to note that the world has changed dramatically in the last few months. This is true for the vast majority of Americans, but it is especially true for senior living organizations like Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina, their residents and their staff. Older adults are highly vulnerable to COVID-19, and this risk is further heightened if they are in poor health.

Since Governor Henry McMaster issued an Executive Order on March 13 restricting visitation to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, things have looked and felt quite different at PCSC's communities. To protect all residents and staff from contracting and transmitting the disease, a number of uncomfortable but necessary changes to life in the communities were put in place. These changes have been trying – both to residents and staff to varying degrees. But they have also been most effective at achieving their goal: preventing infection and minimizing spread.

Infection Control

Besides the suspension of visits by friends and family, the most notable change was the cancellation of all group gatherings of residents. This meant that meals in the dining rooms, on-campus group activities, outings, Sunday Vespers services, etc. were halted for the time being. Residents were asked to stay in their rooms and to avoid any unnecessary contact with others to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, should any of them be infected. Staff began going room-to-room multiple times a day, taking temperatures and asking how residents were feeling.

PCSC has heightened its infection control procedures in a variety of other ways. Before beginning work at each shift, staff are questioned about possible exposure to the virus and their temperature is taken. An initial concern faced by virtually every senior living organization in the country was the



Nurses wearing PPE prepare to screen healthcare residents and employees.

shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff in all areas. PCSC has spent an enormous amount of money and effort securing adequate supplies.

To help cope with the national shortage of face masks, PCSC's Director of Clinical Services, Ellen Imperial, set up a sewing room in the large conference room at PCSC's Management Services Office in Columbia. There, she and other staff began cutting and sewing material to make face masks that could be used by both residents and community staff. Volunteers from Presbyterian churches and other friends of PCSC quickly joined the mask-making effort. Soon, an adequate supply of these face coverings was available in all the communities.

Tireless purchasing efforts have also ensured that PCSC nurses now have adequate protection for themselves and their patients for any level of care. This includes surgical grade masks, N95 masks, gowns, face shields, gloves, and



Staff at PCSC's Management Services Office pitch in to sew masks for residents and non-direct care staff at the communities.



PCSC delivered banners to each community celebrating the work of their dedicated staff. Here, members of the Clinton staff proudly display their banner.

so forth. A variety of additional cleaning supplies and equipment have also been purchased.

Ongoing Care and Support

Some of these changes have been challenging for residents and staff alike. Meals began to be delivered room-to-room. Life Enrichment staff had to develop new ways to provide engaging activities for residents. What is remarkable is the creativity that has been unleashed to address these challenges. Chaplains have learned to lead Bible studies through video. Wellness Directors record exercise videos for residents to watch on TV, residents are escorted to fitness areas one-by-one, and the equipment is then wiped down before the next user. Staff at one community video-recorded a talent show to broadcast to resident rooms. PCSC purchased additional iPads so that staff could help residents video-conference with friends and family through FaceTime or Skype.

A Willing Attitude All Around

During all this, the staff have rallied and persevered through adversity. They have continued to provide the highest level of care for residents. This is despite the fatigue due to additional work, despite wearing masks at all times, and despite challenges the pandemic has created for some in their personal lives. Through it all, they have remained steadfast and cheerful. Always considered “family” by so many of the residents, the staff have become more so now that visits from friends and family have been suspended. They continue to faithfully carry out the mission of PCSC, which is to “enrich the lives of seniors.”



Seven Oaks Presbyterian member Tish Lowe discusses making washable gowns with Ellen Imperial, PCSC Director of Clinical Services.

Likewise, the residents have accepted the virus-imposed restrictions with patience and fortitude overall. They are grateful for the diligent care they are receiving. They appreciate the protection from illness. Not surprisingly, PCSC has received a number of notes from family members, as well, who are grateful for the support and protection that their loved ones would not otherwise have had.

“Opening Up”

As the state of South Carolina begins to “open up,” PCSC leadership is working hard to put a plan in place that will relax restrictions at the communities at the appropriate time. Plans are being made to allow limited, scheduled visits for independent living residents, as well as to re-open beauty salons.

From the very beginning of the pandemic, PCSC has paid careful attention to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, and this will continue to be the case. Loosening of restrictions at the communities will be done in a thoughtful, careful manner that will continue to place the highest priority on the safety of both residents and staff.

Keeping Up

Those interested in learning more about how PCSC is dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, details about incidents of infection, and steps to be taken in opening up are invited to visit PresCommunities.org/updates.

PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTS THE BENEFITS OF LIVING AT PCSC

Deciding to move to a retirement community is a major decision – one that may include months of research, planning, downsizing and decision-making. Those who chose Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina as their home had a variety of reasons for doing so. And during the recent pandemic, many residents were reminded of why they had opted for PCSC.

A Helping Hand in Difficult Times

Phil Hart, a resident of the Florence Community, shared that one of the reasons he selected the community nine years ago was “one too many ice storms!” Living at PCSC means residents have support and resources to help them weather many types of storms. Whether it is a flood or hurricane, an outbreak of the cold or flu, or even the death of a spouse, residents have at their disposal a myriad of resources coupled with a responsive and caring team to help them through the crisis.

This peace of mind extends to family members who rest assured that their loved ones are well cared for. Family member Andy Walters said, “My mom has been so happy since moving to [the Florence Community]. The staff is caring and attentive. Their quick reaction and safety focus during the COVID-19 crisis has been phenomenal. While it has been hard not being able to see her, I am happy to know she is in such caring and professional hands.”

More than Just Real Estate

Property experts will tell you the three most important factors in determining the desirability of real estate are “location, location, location.” But experts in senior living now know the vital importance of *connection, connection, connection!*

Social isolation and loneliness are a problem that some medical experts believe to be the primary cause of chronic illness, making seniors more susceptible to cardiovascular disease, dementia, poor sleep and depression. A Harvard University study found the number one factor to longevity, health and happiness was being in relationship with others and social connection.

Social distancing required to minimize the spread of COVID-19 has made us realize the importance of staying connected and being a part of a larger community such as PCSC. Residents have had the support of staff regularly checking on them, the comfort of having neighbors nearby, and assistance with technology to keep them in contact with family.

A Faith-Based Community

There is something special about a community that has a faith-based culture. New residents are quickly welcomed like old friends, and neighbors and staff become like family. From the nursing staff to dining services, from campus chaplains to the life enrichment team, PCSC team members genuinely care for older adults, going above and beyond in their service to others. In difficult times, it's comforting for residents to know that PCSC values people before profits.

As our lives slowly return to normal, residents will begin to gather with their friends and neighbors for delicious meals and lively conversation. They will rejoin their exercise groups and gather for worship and Bible study. Laughter will fill the air over movie nights and games of dominoes. And we will rejoice at having each other as a part of a wonderful, compassionate community.



“They helped me set up weekly Zoom visits with my family. Once, we had 19 family members and 4 generations on one call. I couldn’t have done that without some help!” said Clinton resident Jane Cunningham.



“I never worried about grocery shopping or what I will fix for dinner,” said Anne Pitts of Clinton, “because the staff delivered hot, delicious meals right to my door!”

Around the Communities



So much has happened at PCSC since our last newsletter. Photos shown in *Around The Communities* may include events and activities that occurred before the pandemic. During COVID-19, PCSC followed all safety restrictions and social distancing guidelines.



Above: The lovely ladies of the Clinton Community made wreaths for Easter.

Left: Clinton resident Mary Alice Schmoyer works on her fitness!



Clinton residents Gin Jacobs and Peter Hobbie take a baking class.



Columbia residents participate in a craft devotion with volunteers.



Residents of the Columbia Community go out to see Little Women.

Around the Communities

FOOTHILLS



Foothills Community residents Jane and Harry Fritts celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on April 18, 2020! The staff delivered flowers, balloons and an anniversary cake for the occasion.



The ladies of the Foothills Community enjoy a trip to the Atlanta Botanical Garden.



Rocky Coronato works in his garden.



The residents and staff at The Foothills Community participated in a potting class. They look forward to watching their peonies, elephant ear, and caladium bloom soon. Several of the residents were former gardeners and farmers and enjoyed getting their hands dirty again!



DID YOU KNOW?



You can enjoy a variety of videos produced by PCSC staff, residents and supporters! Hear residents talk about life at their community, take a tour of a patio home, do a simple workout, listen to Kathy Ligon share about her retirement, or watch a devotion. Go YouTube and search for Presbyterian Communities of SC or visit:

tinyurl.com/WatchPCSC

And be sure to find and follow us on Facebook and Instagram, too!



Around the Communities

FLORENCE



*Above: Florence residents enjoy dinner with a steel drum performance.
Right: Mr. Westermeier enjoys his twice weekly delivery of ice cream.*



Left: Laurel Crest residents share a moment at the piano.

Right: A resident of Laurel Crest does a little dance for a Cinco de Mayo treat!



LAUREL CREST



SUMMERVILLE

On April 1, staff at The Village at Summerville put on a Fool's Day parade to brighten things for the residents and have some fun during the COVID-19 quarantine. Costumes were graciously loaned to The Village by Bruce's Costume Shop at no charge. The residents watched from their doorways and windows and loved it. The son of a resident led the parade in his 1929 Ford Pickup Truck.



Management Services Office
2817 Ashland Road
Columbia, SC 29210

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CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITIES:

The Clinton Presbyterian Community	(864) 833-5190
801 Musgrove Street, Clinton, SC 29325	ClintonMarketing@PresComm.org
The Columbia Presbyterian Community	(803) 796-8700
700 DaVega Drive, Lexington, SC 29073	ColumbiaMarketing@PresComm.org
The Florence Presbyterian Community	(843) 665-2222
2350 W. Lucas Street, Florence, SC 29501	FlorenceMarketing@PresComm.org
The Foothills Retirement Community	(864) 859-3367
205 Bud Nalley Drive, Easley, SC 29642	FoothillsMarketing@PresComm.org
Laurel Crest Retirement Community	(803) 796-0370
100 Joseph Walker Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169	Marketing@LaurelCrest.org
The Village at Summerville	(843) 873-2550
201 W. 9th North Street, Summerville, SC 29483	SummervilleMarketing@PresComm.org
Management Services Office	(803) 772-5885
2817 Ashland Road, Columbia, SC 29210	Info@PresComm.org

WWW.PRESCOMMUNITIES.ORG

WE ALSO OFFER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ELECTRONICALLY!

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