

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



July – September 2020

Volume XXXIV 3



“Sew,” How Can We Serve?



The Crisis

In December 2019 in a city far, far away, the COVID-19 virus reared its ugly head. It was a threat that seemed so far removed from our comfortable home at Maranatha Village. But it didn't stay far, far away. It began its spread around the globe, hitting the United States in mid-January. In late February, it struck a nursing home in Kirkland, Washington with tragic results. It was taking a huge toll on a very vulnerable population: those in assisted living and nursing care facilities. The week of March 14, Florida Governor DeSantis issued an order restricting access to these facilities in Florida and ordered all residents and staff to wear face masks. Patty Dale, Administrator of Maranatha Manor, struggled with how she could comply. She posted a plea for help on Facebook.

The Call to Action

Meanwhile, as the COVID-19 threat grew, Sharon Soulsby and Sue Lawton were each led to scour the Internet for information about how to construct fabric masks because of the shortage of commercial ones. They both saw Patty's plea for help. Sewers were needed to provide cloth masks to protect the residents of the Manor. The presence of a Craft Cottage made it easy to identify ladies who enjoy sewing and could be rallied to this cause.

The Cadre

On March 23, Sharon brought this information to the Craft Cottage and formed a cadre of four ladies to sew the first 6 pleated fabric face masks for the Manor. The team met again on March 24 and March 25 to fulfill the goal of supplying 60 masks to our Manor residents and workers. The small group could meet and work at the Cottage while maintaining the appropriate social distances.

The Continuation

The Pastors and Village staff also needed protection: an additional 40 masks were provided. Requests started coming in from neighbors and friends, asking for masks to help protect them as they ventured into town. To handle these requests in an orderly fashion, a signup / fulfillment process was put into place to identify who needed masks and to provide them with the number requested. **Sharon Soulsby, Sue Lawton, Deana Doughman, Cindy Livezey, and Carol Fraser sewed masks** daily in their own homes, delivering them to Sharon and Bruce Soulsby for distribution. By April 2, an additional 134 masks had been provided to the general village and church population. The teamwork was a wonderful example of Christian love at work!



“Meanwhile, as the COVID-19 threat grew, Sharon Soulsby and Sue Lawton were each led to scour the Internet for information about how to construct fabric masks....”



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Well-Disguised Blessings!

Dr. Gerald Webber



Jerry

After losing the 1945 election, Winston Churchill was said to have been discussing his defeat with Mrs. Churchill. She apparently opined that the loss may have been a blessing in disguise. In a typical Churchillian response,

he replied, “Madame, if this is a blessing, it is indeed well-disguised.”

Hindsight helps us recognize well-disguised blessings as we consider the coronavirus pandemic of 2020. From where I sit today, it seems we are past the peak of the crisis, where we can begin to see silver linings behind those dark clouds. My list is doubtless incomplete, but here are several reminders that may qualify as well-disguised blessings.

- A reminder that health is fragile. In a matter of weeks, a virus too small to be seen by the naked eye brought the world to its knees. It defied boundaries, showed no respect of persons, and has no known cure.
- A reminder that we are vulnerable. We should have heeded the warning of the apostle Paul: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” Enjoying the good lives, we were blindsided by a disease for which we had no immunity.
- A reminder that people are mortal. COVID-19’s death rate is not much greater than that of the common flu. At least 94% of those infected have recovered. And yet, the fear of death is palpable. Perhaps America needed the reminder that “it is appointed to man once to die, and after this the judgment.”
- A reminder that fear is contagious. In his inaugural address, FDR said, “...*the only thing we have*

to fear is...fear itself....” An overstatement, perhaps, but an acknowledgment that fear can be as debilitating as any enemy.

- A reminder that relationships are vital. A familiar mantra of this season is, “We’re in this together.” Far from the seats of government, people are demonstrating that, black or white, rich or poor, liberal or conservative, we need one another. Are our politicians listening?
- A reminder that knowledge is incomplete. A more elite team of medical experts has probably never been assembled. But not only do they not always agree with one another, they don’t concur with their own conclusions from one day to the next. This pandemic has given us a chance to be humbled in the face of our own ignorance.
- A reminder that government is fickle. This whole process has been a series of missteps, miscues, and mistakes, from the top down. No one can accuse the authorities of not trying, but face it: government, be it federal, state, or local, can be just as confused and hogtied as the rest of us.
- A reminder that rights are revocable. It’s shocking to see how easily we surrendered precious privileges for the “greater good.” We need to remember that rights afforded by government can be revoked by government. It’s up to us to see which rights are truly “inalienable” and cling to them.
- A reminder that God is merciful. In a broken world there will always be disease and natural disasters. Sometimes God saves us from them, and sometimes He leads us through them. Either way, God is good and “His mercy endures forever.” In this case, those of us in the Village have been mercifully spared from the spread of the coronavirus within our borders, for which we should be duly thankful.

Blessings are blessings, however well-disguised they may be.

Maranatha's Interim Pastor!

Dr. Ernie & Mrs. Gen Schmidt



Gen & Ernie

Ernie was born in Princeville, Illinois and lived in north central Illinois while growing up. Much of the time he lived on a farm where he enjoyed the freedom of making forts and raising animals including his pet pig Susie. God graciously saved him as a teen. He was greatly influenced by Danny Orlis books in his understanding and

accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. He says, "Soon after I got saved, I knew God wanted me in ministry."

Gen (short for Genevieve) was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota as a pastor's daughter. She grew up in the country where she attended a one room schoolhouse. She made a profession of salvation when she was 3 or 4 but struggled with assurance until God used His Word to bring her to salvation as a senior in Bible college.

They attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, Minnesota, where chapel seating was alphabetical, Schoepf (Gen's maiden name) and Schmidt put them next to each other. They also both worked in the dining hall. At one-point, Gen became a cook, and Ernie washed dishes, so Gen was his boss. She was two years ahead of Ernie, so following graduation she stayed at Pillsbury and got a master's degree. They married the year before Ernie's senior year, during which he was interim pastor at Sherburn Baptist Church in Sherburn, Minnesota.

Following graduation, Ernie became pastor at Bible Baptist Church in Lindstrom, Minnesota, which later changed its name to Chisago Lakes Baptist Church. While pastoring, he was a full-time student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary (40+ miles away) where he received his M.Div.

Preaching while teaching or teaching while preaching became his pattern of life. He taught at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College twice, Northland Baptist Bible College twice and Faith Baptist Theological Seminary where he also served as Dean. He later returned to Faith as Interim President. During his teaching years, he preached in nearby churches most weekends. He also served in interim pastorates and started a church. In 1996 he obtained his D.Min. from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. During the previous years mentioned, Gen also taught, was librarian, and served as President's Administrative Assistant for six different presidents in three institutions.

Ernie's pastorates include Chisago Lakes Baptist Church in Chisago City, Minnesota (2 times), Grace Baptist Church in Owatonna, Minnesota, Bozeman Baptist Church in Bozeman, Montana (where he revived a church that had ceased meeting), Parkers Lake Baptist Church in Plymouth, Minnesota, Sterling Baptist Church in Sterling, Alaska, and Community Baptist Church in Ankeny, Iowa. When Ernie finished his ministry at Faith, he never declared retirement but rather semi-retirement. Since then, he has spoken for conferences, camps, as pulpit supply, and as interim pastor.

Ernie also has enjoyed teaching on site in the Bible lands. He has led two tours to Greece and Turkey where he shared at the sites of Paul's second missionary journey and the seven churches of Revelation. He has also led 17 tours to Israel and frequently has added Jordan and/or Egypt. He says, "When we are in the Bible lands, we do not use power point. We just point and say this is where it happened." He also enjoys sharing his knowledge via virtual Bible lands tours. Additionally, he taught courses overseas in Ukraine, Romania, India, and Peru.

The Schmidts enjoy spending time with their two children and their spouses Cyndie (David) Mumford and John (Stacy) Schmidt. Their lives are enriched by their six grandchildren, one of whom is married.

Ernie and Gen both enjoy reading and browsing thrift stores and used bookstores. His favorite pastime is reading. He keeps a stack of books nearby ranging from theology to Louis L'Amour, reading portions in several at a time. Gen has enjoyed collecting children's books, especially **Golden Books**.

The Schmidts visited Maranatha Village for two weeks in January 2017. They enjoyed their stay so much that they stayed in a promo January through March in 2018 and then became winter residents by purchasing a mobile at 221 Timothy Road. Their children say it reminds them of their growing up years at Northland and Pillsbury. To them Maranatha seems like a "grandparent's camp."

Ernie still serves as an adjunct professor at Faith Baptist Theological Seminary and as a representative for Shalom Ministries, a ministry to the Jews led by Craig Hartman. He began as interim pastor at Maranatha Baptist Church in Sebring, Florida, in March 2020.



Wagon Wheel Mini Golf

Dr. G. Carl Barton



Wagon Wheel

Paul Hefflebower took a concept idea from Carl Barton and drew up plans that got the project of a circular mini golf course started. It may be the only one like it in the world or at least in the United States, or at Maranatha Village! Fred McNeil and Larry Shreckengost volunteered to head up the physical work, with many men pitching in to help. People wondered, ***“What are we building?”*** as the men worked on and on for a little over a month. What started as an idea on March 6, 2019, has turned out to be a wonderful recreational addition for Maranatha Village. The Village Board and Management stepped out by faith to sup-

port the project; paying for it out of the Horizon Fund.

Each of the eight spokes of the circle is a putting lane toward one central hole. Each lane begins at the same distance from the hole. The goal is to putt the golf ball down each lane into the hole with the least strokes possible. Par for the course is 24 strokes. A hole in one stroke is most desirable, and after 5 strokes, one should give up and move on to the next spoke.

The spokes or lanes are numbered 1 thru 8 going counterclockwise. Each lane has a different obstacle to add some challenge to the game.

The project is now completed and awaits your attempt at putt-putt golf. As one person said, ***“It is a wheel of putt-putt fun.”*** Enjoy!



Wagon Wheel Workers

The Minnesota Picnic

A perfect warm evening added to the enjoyment of 36 Minnesotans who spent an evening of food, fellowship, sharing, and recalling Minnesota trivia.



“Sew,” How Can We Serve?

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The Crunch

On April 3rd, the Center for Disease Control recommended that all people wear cloth masks when in public. This put the team into crunch mode. Between April 3 and April 13, they constructed and delivered 260 additional masks. They had plenty of donated fabric (as the team members gave generously from their own fabric stock) but elastic was not available for purchase. Donations of elastic poured in, usually just in time to meet the needs and keep the team sewing.

The Counts

By the end of the 3-week period, these ladies had made 525 masks, using over 53 yards of fabric and more than 200 yards of elastic!

The Conclusion

God is in control, even providing the people, the materials, and the talents to meet the needs of His family. This team of ladies feel blessed to be able to be used of Him in this effort. It is a fitting illustration of Maranatha's motto: “Helping others ‘til Jesus comes.”



Cook's Korner

Cream Cheese Cookies

1 8 oz. package cream cheese at room temperature
2 sticks butter
2 cups flour (May need a little more.)

Blend cream cheese and butter well.
ADD flour. If dough is sticky add a little more as needed.
WRAP dough in Saran Wrap and place in refrigerator several hours or overnight.
When dough is chilled:
ROLL dough out on a floured surface and cut into 2 inch squares.
Drop your favorite preserves with a teaspoon into center of dough.
Pinch corners together.
Bake on parchment lined cookie sheet.
Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes or until browned.
Cool and sprinkle with powdered sugar.



Submitted by Sharon Hoopes

Hamburgers

1 to 1 1/4 pounds ground beef
3 tablespoons A-1 sauce
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 teaspoons minced garlic
3/4 teaspoon oregano
1 to 2 tablespoons minced onion



Mix together. Make into patties.
Cook 6-8 minutes on each side.

Submitted by Pat Wells

Orange Julius

6 oz. can frozen orange juice
1 cup milk
1 cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla
10-12 ice cubes

Mix all in blender.
Serve immediately



Submitted by Gen Schmidt

The History of Orange Julius

"This cool, creamy drink was born from an orange juice stand, opened in the mid-1920s in Los Angeles by Julius Freed. After a few years of stagnant sales, a new, creamier, more frothy drink was created to make the acidic orange juice less bothersome. It was a hit. People began lining up at the store and shouting, "Give me an Orange, Julius!" And so the name of the drink was born."

by Kelli Foster



New Village Residents

The Three Sisters



Polly--Mary--Carolyn

I, **Polly Banks**, was born on a small farm near Hamilton, Michigan, the oldest of six children born to George and Doris Bauman. I was a little farm girl making mud pie messes, wearing cut-out brown shoes and feed sack dresses, enjoying Holly Hock dolls and fishing in the creek, making cucumber boats and playing hide-go-seek. I have many fond memories of happy days, with hardworking parents giving God due praise. Our family wasn't poor because we were rich in love, trusting and loving our God above.

We attended First Baptist Church of Holland, Michigan, but it was my mom that explained my need for Jesus as my Savior at the age of six. As a child, I doubted my salvation, always worried I didn't do enough or say the right things. In my early twenties, my husband & I were taking an evangelism class with

Pastor Earl Dannenberg when I finally had real peace as I understood that Jesus paid it all. As a sinner, I was not able to do anything to save myself but trust Jesus as my LORD and Savior (Romans 5:1-11).

I married Art Banks right after high school. We were only 18 & 19, but God had a plan. We were married 57 years before the Lord took him home. We have three daughters: Rebecca (Ron) Parido of Florida, Rachel (Peter) Koert of Michigan & April (John) Bercaw of Ohio. I am wonderfully blest to have 6 grandchildren, 4 grandchildren-in-law, and 5 great grandchildren.

In high school God directed me into business math, going down an office & bookwork path. Many years I was at home as a mom fulltime, working a bit for church by God's design. Later my husband bought a tool & die shop, and a full-time office job was what I got. I know God helped me as I worked and learned, doing the business math for which I'd yearned. For 15 years we worked together, until his eyesight deteriorated and wouldn't get better.

Now the tables have turned, and my girls mother me. But they love me, oh, so tenderly. And as I look back on my life, I surely can see all the ways the good Lord took care of me. Now enjoying Maranatha, I'm thankful for all of you.

I, **Mary E. Taylor**, was born on April 8, 1942, in Michigan, the second girl in a small farming family. Our dad also worked in Holland at Baker Furniture. I loved the farm and being outside, playing in the mud, fishing, and roaming our land. When I had to be inside, I loved to read. At the age of seven, I asked Jesus to forgive my sins, and I was saved. I was baptized the same day as my sister, Polly.

My sisters and I went to a two-room school where I graduated from 8th grade with five other classmates. We were then bussed into Holland where there were 200 in my graduation class. In the 12th grade, I worked Co-op as a Pinkie at Holland High. When I was in my late 20's, I rebelled against all I had been taught. From this experience, I learned that man is not faithful but only God is faithful and true. I went on to Branson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing. In 1963, I started working as an RN at Holland Hospital. In all, I worked almost 59 years in nursing. I retired in 2004 as my husband was ill. We traveled a lot until 2010. He died in 2014.

I am so very blessed to live with my sisters at Maranatha. I love to walk, garden, read, and enjoy all of God's blessings.

I, **Carolyn (Katie) Murray**, was born (3rd girl) in a family of six, 3 girls, then 3 boys, to wonderful Christian parents. I was saved at a young age and baptized at 10. We lived on a small farm in East Saugatuck, Michigan. Dad worked at and retired from Baker Furniture. Mom stayed home and had her hands full with children: making our clothes, tending a large garden, and canning and freezing all its produce.

From kindergarten until 8th grade, we attended Sunnyside Elementary, a two-room school a little over a mile from home. No, it wasn't all uphill, but we walked. Then I went to Hamilton High School. I went from having seven in my grade to 72. What a shock that was! We went to First Baptist of Holland, where, by the way, I got my first kiss in the balcony on New Year's Eve. I went to Pine Rest School of Nursing and *continued on page ten*

Caps for Alaska, Michigan & New York

Mrs. Joy Logan



Susan-Marty-Jane-Kathy

their beautiful knit caps; they donate them to minis-

Did you ever read the book *Caps for Sale* to your children? It's a tale of a peddler, some monkeys, and their monkey business.

During the 2020 season new ladies joined the round loom knitting class at the Craft Cottage. Our ladies do not sell

tries. This year, hats went to a camp in Alaska, and children's ministries in Michigan and New York.

The Craft Cottage is a great way to meet new friends and work on a project that encourages others. If you have a ministry at your church that would be interested in baby hats or hats for children or adults let us know. Because shipping is a large expense, this year, individuals from our Village are delivering the hats to the different ministries as they return North.

A huge thank you goes to Polly and Randy Pigott for making many, many knit caps in their Ohio home and bringing them to Florida. Perhaps there is a way that you could be involved in the ministry yourself.



An all-day fishing trip on Thursday, March 19th was a fun time for nine of us guys from Maranatha Village: Tom Moen, Tim Moen, Calvin Duvall, Ken Cook, Jack Werke-ma, Mel Jones, Terry Dale, Bruce Hendsbee, and Don Laven. We went out on the Gulf of Mexico about 20 miles on the Dolphin Deep Sea Fishing vessel called "The Two Georges."

We left the dock at Tarpon Springs at 8 AM. The boat has a capacity of about 60 passengers, but due to the beginning stages of COVID-19 there were only about 30; last year the boat was occupied to capacity. We caught about 160 Grunts, similar to a large-size pan fish. A couple men on the boat (not from our group) caught about

a half dozen very large Grouper weighing 5 to 8 pounds. But these had to be thrown back into the Gulf because the date was out of season. The weather co-operated this year. The temperature was in the 80-degree range; the skies were sunny, and the wind was out of the South at 8 mph. We arrived back at the dock at 4 PM and walked across the street to a very nice Greek eatery called Hellas Restaurant and Bakery for a meal. *Let's Go Fishing* next year see you then!

Don Laven



The Three Sisters

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graduated in 1966 as an LPN, making 95 cents an hour. I stayed in nursing for 46 years. God was and is so good! I always had a job.

I have two children, Ron 52, his wife Karen and my only grandchild, Robert who is 20. My daughter, Candy 45, lives with me and is mentally and physically challenged, two conditions which have been a gift from God. Among other things, they have given me a

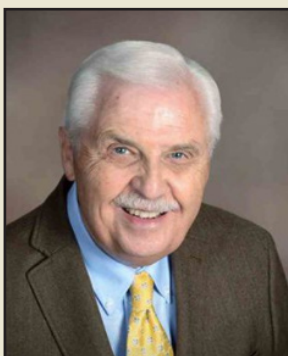
greater insight into the lives of challenged patients I took care of. Candy doesn't have many inhibitions and will tell anyone who will listen how to be saved.

I retired in 2012 and began coming to Bradenton for a month each winter.

We three sisters began coming to Maranatha in 2017, and now you are stuck with us!



~ Maranatha Village Is Affordable! ~



Gerry

Maranatha Village is an affordable place, but that does not mean it is cheap or substandard. Our Village is attractive and comfortable, but also very reasonable in cost compared to other living options and retirement communities in Florida and around the nation. We are not a luxurious high-rise beach resort, but we have a beautiful

campus with solidly built homes that are regularly being upgraded when new residents move into the Village.

In recent years, many improvements have been added to enhance the overall appearance of the Village and boost the quality of life for residents and guests. All the Villas have been upgraded through fresh, colorful coats of paint over the past ten years. Many residents have invested their efforts and resources in developing the landscaping around their homes, and a host of volunteers have worked diligently to beautify the common areas. Numerous residents have enlarged and remodeled their Villas by personally funded projects that add value and expanded living space.

At the same time, many of our Mobile Home residents have devoted considerable personal effort and financial expenditure to improve their homes. The results are easily seen when you drive through the



Mobile Park. These improvements are abundant and greatly enhance our entire Village. Our Mobile Park stands out in contrast to other local

parks due to the well-kept homes, wide spacious lots, and healthy tree cover.

God has entrusted a unique stewardship to those of us blessed to live in Maranatha Village. Everything we have, individually and as a community, is a provision from the hand of our great and gracious God. It is our responsibility to be faithful stewards of all that the Lord has given to us. But also, as residents, it is a privilege to invest our time, talent, and treasure into God's work. Certainly, Maranatha Village is God's place.



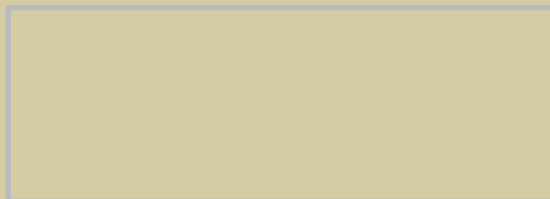
Local officials indicate that purchasing a home in Highlands County at this time will cost about \$115 per square foot. Consequently, houses comparable to our 2-bedroom, 2-bath, Villas are selling in the \$140,000 price range. In comparison, the initial outlay for acquiring a life-lease for a Villa is

substantially lower here than in other places. Costs for upkeep and maintenance in our Village are very stable, whereas the comparable costs for local ownership could vary significantly.

In addition, all Maranatha Village residents invest in our community – which is a distinctively Christian community. Every resident participates in God's work, and we all share in a Village where we glorify the Lord together. Good stewardship of God's resources encourages us to invest in things that have eternal value. Maranatha Village is a place dedicated to perpetuating a ministry of stewardship. It is a place where we can serve one another until Jesus comes. Maranatha!

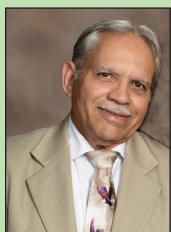
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***“Believe on the
 Lord Jesus Christ
 and you will be saved.”***

Maranatha's Gabriel Laundromat



Angel

Angel Gonzalez, along with his wife Silvia, have served the Lord together for many years. When Angel heard a mention of bringing a little spark to our laundromat building, he excitedly volunteered. He has given his talent to Maranatha Village free of charge and has presented us with a lovely seaside mural.

Thank you, Angel, for the many hours you have given to beautify our building.



Maranatha's Blood Donor Honor Roll



Thank you for participating in the blood drive at Maranatha Village on Tuesday, March 24, 2020!

Blood Donor Honor Roll

Duvall, Calvin	Price, Colene
Little, David	Kershaw, Deborah
Young, Dolores	Welshans, Doris
Peacock, Douglas	Little, Gary
Webber, Gerald	Thorp, Jeanette
Thorp, John	Little, Kathleen
Shreckengost, Larry	Byers, Linda
Peacock, Linda	Mohr, Stanley
Little, Teresa	