

The Maranatha Village Trumpet



"The Lord Cometh!"

April — May 2017

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The Underdog Plant!

Jerry Webber, Village Administrator

Like most people, I have an affinity for the underdog—you know, the little guy that gets bullied, pushed around, and has his lunch stolen. Or the kid who gets labeled as a “nerd,” just because he has to wear glasses to see the blackboard.

I feel something like that toward Spanish moss, and feel badly about the bad rap it gets. So, let me get this off my chest, and try to set the record straight.

Hanging off trees and landscape plants, Spanish moss is a familiar feature of Florida’s environment. Despite its name, Spanish moss is neither Spanish nor a moss. It comes from Central and South America, was once known as “French hair,” and is really a bromeliad—a perennial herb in the pineapple family. Most bromeliads are epiphytes that grow on other plants without relying on them for sustenance. They take nutrients from the air and debris that collects on the plant. Spanish moss has permeable scales that “catch” moisture and nutrients.

Spanish moss prefers moist environments, but its ability to trap water lets it survive dry periods. The plant can also go dormant until moisture conditions improve. It attaches to its host by wrapping its stems around a surface, and does not need roots for water and nutrient uptake. It’s commonly found on oak and cypress trees, but can grow on other plants as well.

Many people think that Spanish moss kills

trees. This is not the case, because the moss is not parasitic. The only thing Spanish moss uses trees for is support. Heavy moss on a tree can shade leaves and slow growth, but healthy trees will grow faster than the moss. If you want to remove Spanish moss, feel free, but it’s an exercise in futility, since it will just grow back after a while.

Spanish moss has practical uses. It was once harvested for stuffing material in automobile seats, furniture, mattresses, and even insulation in homes. Today it is sometimes used for stuffing or packing material, but is more widely used for floral arrangements and mulch. Birds build nests with the moss, and other species use moss clumps for shelter.

Love it or hate it, Spanish moss is here to stay. Personally, I think it contributes to the southern ambiance of this unique peninsula. Some of it will be blown down in the occasional windstorm, but don’t expect to see me standing in my yard with an upheld rake, ripping it off the trees. I did say I have an affinity for the underdog, didn’t I?

P.S. Most of the above information is sourced in an article on the *Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation* website. You’ll look in vain for a contrary opinion.



The Administrator's Perspective!

LEARNING FROM THE LORD OF THE RINGS

Dr. Gerald Webber



Jerry

Recently I read an article by Tim Challies, in which he extolled the brilliance of J.R.R. Tolkien, specifically citing the development of characters in his classic novel, *The Lord of the Rings*. Here's what he said:

"The characters in *The Lord of the Rings* know they are set within a wider drama that began ages prior and will continue ages hence. They are determined to act in ways that honor their forebears and leave a worthy example for their descendants. Their valor is motivated by their understanding that history has called them to this time, this place, and this set of circumstances. Their nobility is inseparable from their history. They speak and live as if every word of the mouth and every tap of the hammer will honor or dishonor those who have gone before and shame or bless those who will follow."

Challies was quick to make application to current-day Christianity. He said, "We'd do well to learn from their example. We, too, need to set believers within their history. We, too, need to teach them they are small but significant players in a much wider, grander drama. They must always be aware of those who have gone before and always think of those who will follow." He closed his comments by observing, "What Tolkien did so well is what we do so poorly."

What is true for Christendom as a whole is true for Maranatha Village as a part. Each of us "must always be aware of those who have gone before and always think of those who will follow." Failure to do this, corporately or individually, will sound a death knell for this incredibly vital ministry. Let me cite just one illustration.

Recently, Maranatha's Board of Directors, with my encouragement, revised the "buy-in" process for

new residents seeking a life-lease on villas. For years, the Occupancy Bond represented a major portion of a lessee's "investment," and was returned to him intact upon his departure, or to his estate at death. In the past, when interest rates and return on investments were higher, this was a win-win for everyone. The Village enjoyed significant usable income, and the lessee eventually got the majority of his investment back. That's the historical perspective.

Today, with interest rates almost negligible, and return on conservative investments underwhelming, the situation has changed. In order to provide "spendable" cash for maintaining and improving aging Village property and facilities, it has become not just preferable, but necessary to reduce the percentage of the Occupancy Bond and increase the amount of the acquisition fee (once called the "foundation gift") for new residents. The ratio is now 50/50, down from 75/25.

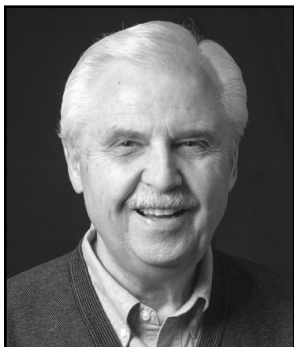
For those who "bought in" prior to this, nothing has changed. Your bond is safe. It only affects contracts finalized subsequent to 1/21/2017, when the policy was modified.

So, how does this affect Maranatha's future? Frankly, it's meant to "bless those who will follow." The board and administration of Maranatha Village has a sacred duty to ensure (to the best of their ability) that the blessings we enjoy today will endure for another generation, should the Lord delay his return. If we don't properly interpret history, and accept responsibility to make good—albeit hard—decisions today, we will shortchange those who follow.

Challies says of Tolkien's characters, "They speak and live as if every word of the mouth and every tap of the hammer will honor or dishonor those who have gone before and shame or bless those who will follow." Our generation has not always been good at seeing that, but we must learn to be. The future—even the future of Maranatha Village—depends upon it.



New Horizons Fund Progress



Gerry

In the last issue of the *Trumpet* the **NEW HORIZONS FUND** was introduced as an opportunity for residents and friends of Maranatha Village to participate in the ongoing development of our wonderful community. My wife and I have been privileged to live in the Village now for three years – and what a delight it is to be here. God is so good to allow us to live and serve in this special place.

What a blessing to see folks already joining in to give to this new funding venture. Thus far several individuals have contributed to the **NEW HORIZONS FUND** and the current total received has already reached **\$15,000**. That is truly exciting! God is providing for Maranatha Village through His people.

In the last issue of the *Trumpet*, we said, “The purpose of this fund will be to provide for improvements and enhancements that will benefit the residents and guests of the Village without adding extra burden to the annual budget.

Many needs, possible improvements, unique challenges, and great opportunities are before us here at Maranatha Village. Over the years the Lord has been exceedingly faithful to raise up and sustain this Village for the glory of His name and the blessing of many dear servants of God. Our goal is to see that legacy continue until the Lord returns for His saints.

In order to accomplish that goal, we need to plan wisely, work diligently and efficiently, and trust in God explicitly. Many, many folks who have gone on before us have invested their time and treasure in this special place. Our task today is to carry on the work that they have initiated for us. Many improvements to the Village have been made over the years, and many residents and winter guests have benefited from the sacrifice and sweat of our forerunners.

The torch has been passed to us to continue the work of building Maranatha Village for God’s honor and to serve the needs of His saints. Have you, or your family, benefited from the Village’s blessings? Would you consider contributing to the ongoing ministry of Maranatha Village by giving a gift to the **NEW HORIZONS FUND**?

Gerry Carlson

Power Pool Lift



A world of thanks to the family of Mike and Alice Hamblen for the gift of an ADA-compliant power pool lift. This piece of vital equipment now enables those who have thus far been unable to negotiate the steps down into our swimming pool to enjoy its comforts and benefits like everyone else.

Thanks, too, to our Maranatha maintenance staff for a highly technical installation job that gained the approval of the Highlands County inspectors on the first try!

This device is only for the use of those disabled to the point where they would otherwise be unable to enter the pool. Access to the key, the required battery, and instructions as to its use are available through Steve Milligan, our maintenance manager.

Thanks, Hamblen family!

New Village Resident

Ginger Edwards



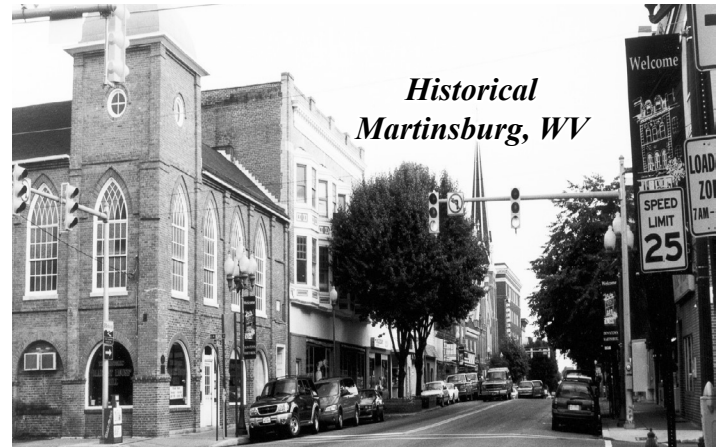
Ginger

What a wonderful blessing to be at Maranatha Village. I, along with Mary Pyle - my housemate and friend, arrived here the first of December and have been going full throttle ever since. Coming here from Martinsburg, West Virginia, meant leaving behind my son, his wife, and my three precious grandchildren. Needless to say Christmas was a bit sad without them.

I was saved at the age of five. My mother was a Christian, my father was not. It was from my mother that I learned of God's unconditional love for me as I watched her demonstrate it daily. I was in and out of churches but wasn't really in a good church until I was much older. Most of my adult life I worked in high volume food service. The last ten years, I worked for the transit authority at a national park driving a shuttle bus. It was the best job ever. I was also involved in ladies' ministries, a rehab program, and missions in our former church.

I am so happy now to be cooking breakfast at the

Manor four days a week. What a blessing to be able to get to know the residents, volunteers, and employees at the Manor. I am thankful for the good preaching/teaching and music at Maranatha Baptist Church. Until Mina and Ed Oglesby introduced us to Maranatha, we never knew a place as special as this existed. I believe it is as close to heaven as you can get here on earth. I feel so blessed to be here and to be experiencing the wonderful fellowship with so many seasoned Christians. I am looking forward to ministering alongside you all as I see how God will use me here.



*Historical
Martinsburg, WV*



The Hoosier Cook-out & Picnic



When did the name Hoosier begin? Hoosier /'hu:zər/ is the official demonym for a resident of the U.S. State of Indiana. The origin of the term remains a matter of debate within the state,^[1] but "Hoosier" was in general use by the 1840s,^[2] having been popularized by Richmond resident John Finley's 1833^[2] poem "The Hoosier's Nest." Anyone born in Indiana or a resident at the time is considered to be a Hoosier.^[3] Indiana adopted the nickname "The Hoosier State" more than 150 years ago.^[1] On **January 12, 2017**, the Federal Government officially changed the nickname of people from the state of Indiana from "Indianans" to "Hoosiers," making Indiana the first state to not have a version of their state name in their nickname ("Illinoisans," "Texans," etc.). *Copied-----From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.*

The third annual Indiana cook-out took place on March 17, 2017. Twenty-five Hoosiers gathered at the Fogle Pavilion in Conway Memorial Park. These folks represented those from South Bend/Mishawaka on the north to Aurora on the south. We enjoyed the food and fellowship of those who are currently or former residents, who call or once called Indiana home. Lord willing, we will do this again next year.



The “Michiganders” took the top spot in attendance figures against all the other state picnics at Maranatha Village. We had 96 people attend the potluck dinner at noon on Tuesday, February 28. The picnic was held at Fogle Pavilion. It was a great day with sunshine, temperatures in the 80’s, and a slight breeze. Yvonne White gave the announcements concerning the “Michiganders.” She invited all, even those that are not from Michigan, to attend the summer Maranatha Village Reunion. It will be held sometime in July or August. Yvonne will have a date set before June first. Please contact her by email mikeyvonnewhite@yahoo.com or you can call her at telephone number: 616-970-4948 to find out the date of the reunion and to make reservations. The cost is \$ 10.00 each, plus a tip. A

lot of people come about 10 AM for a time of coffee and fellowship. The dinner is at noon. The location of the Maranatha Summer Reunion is at Alpine Baptist Church, 6727 Mile Road, Comstock Park, Michigan 49321. Comstock Park is a suburb of Grand Rapids, Michigan. You are all invited whether you are from Michigan or not. A lot of the people who come are on vacation in Michigan. After the announcements, Duane McNeil led in prayer, thanking the Lord for all the blessings He has given us and for the food and great Christian fellowship. Everyone had a great time, and we are looking forward to seeing each of you at the 2017 Summer Reunion. Or perhaps we will see you “Michiganders” at the Michigan Picnic in the year 2018.

The Minnesota Fellowship



This year 37 attended the annual Minnesota Gathering at Maranatha Village. We missed several due to sickness, but the group attending was nearly as large as last year. The weather was a perfect 80+ degrees and

everyone enjoyed the delicious food and joyful fellowship around the tables in the Fogle Pavilion. Such a wonderful place for gathering!

Then we took advantage of the fire pit and the surrounding patio area to join for a campfire and song time. The group was transported back in time to our youth group and summer camp days as we sang the old choruses and familiar songs. Included was a testimony time where various ones reflected back on the

blessing of God’s working and leading in their lives around similar campfires years ago. We were able to recount God’s faithfulness and praise Him for His goodness in our lives. The

singing of “How Great Thou Art” was a fitting conclusion to an inspiring evening.



“...the fire pit area is so conducive to fellowshiping, singing and testifying.”

A big thank you goes to Michigander Dick Rounds for coming and bringing his guitar to aid our singing. The layout of the fire pit area is so conducive to fellowshiping, singing and testifying. Even the convenient electrical outlets provided much appreciated support to power the guitar and a microphone. Truly we have wonderful facilities that can be used for God’s glory.



Pudding Dessert

Brown 2 cups of coconut in 300° oven and set aside.

Crust: 2 cups of all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons of sugar

1 cup of butter

Blend & press into a 9" x 13" x 2" pan.

Bake in 350° oven for 30 minutes.

Cool

Mix together: 1 (8oz.) package cream cheese

1 cup powdered sugar

Then fold in one cup of Cool Whip and spread onto cooled crust.

Filling: 3 small boxes of instant vanilla pudding
4 cups of milk

Blend on slow speed; mixing well.

Let thicken and put on top of cream cheese mixture.

Next: Put on remaining Cool Whip and top with browned coconut.

Note: You can buy 1 large Cool Whip for this recipe or 2 small Cool Whips.

Submitted by Helen Smith

Black Walnut Bundt Cake

Mix together in a large bowl:

2 cups sugar

2 sticks of melted butter

½ cup milk

6 eggs

Add: ¼ teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 teaspoon black walnut flavoring

1 cup coconut

1-12 ounce box of vanilla wafers, crushed

Stir well.

Place 1 cup black walnuts in a bag with 1 teaspoon of flour to coat the nuts. Shake well then add to mix.

Pour into a greased & floured bundt pan.

Bake at 340° for 65 minutes.

Drizzle frosting:

1 cup powdered sugar

2-3 tablespoons of milk

Dash of vanilla

Submitted by Marie Moore

Jiffy Corn Casserole

Printed from COOKS.COM

1 can whole kernel yellow corn, undrained

1 can cream style yellow corn

1 (8 oz.) carton sour cream

2 eggs, beaten

1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix

1 stick butter, melted

Mix all together and pour into large, lightly oiled casserole dish.

Bake at 350° for 55 to 60 minutes.

Submitted by: CM

Max & Louise Lanz

Recipe used at the Michigan picnic—February 28, 2017

Chinese Chews

(Date-Nut Balls)

Submitted by Barbara Eaton

¾ c. flour

1 tsp. baking power

1 c. sugar

¼ tsp. salt

1 c. dates (chopped)

1 c. walnuts (chopped)

2 eggs

Combine dry ingredients

Add dates and nuts

Beat eggs and add to dry ingredients

Mix thoroughly.

Place mixture in greased, shallow 8" x 8" pan

Spread as thin as possible.

Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Remove from oven.

Cut into small squares.

Roll into balls, and then roll in sugar.



LAKE PLACID COUNTRY FAIR

ARTS & CRAFTS



Sharon Hoopes

Crochet, Embroidery, & Sewing

I really enjoy making and entering art items in our local fair when I am in Ohio. When Mary Schuster told me that I could enter my art work at a fair here in Florida, I said, "Boy, that would be fun!" So this year, I entered a crocheted baby blanket, a

tablecloth, and an embroidered pillow.

I received a third place on the blanket, a first on the pillow and tablecloth. But, the real surprise was the People's Choice Ribbon for the tablecloth.

I enjoy crocheting, embroidering, and sewing items to enter them in the fair. I then give them away to someone special.



Mary Schuster

Every February

Attention! Attention! Everyone:
Here's a chance for lots of fun.
Any craft that you might do
Could win a ribbon and money, too!
Each win, I'll tell you, brings much joy.
It makes you want to shout, "Oh, Boy!"
Down at Lake Placid's Country Fair,
Take down your crafts, and enter there.

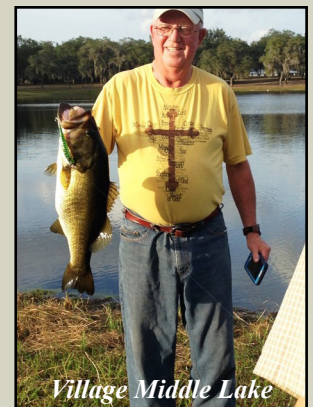
Village Photos of Interest



Rosalie Parmelee
She did it!
A hole in one!



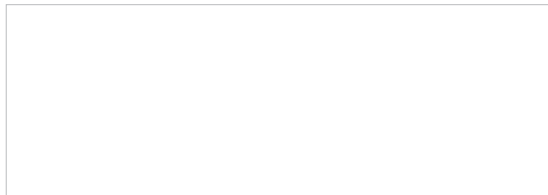
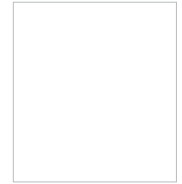
Rodney & Stan
What-d' you say,
Rodney ?



Wayne Mott
That smile says it all!
10 Pound Bass

Maranatha Village

11 MARANATHA BOULEVARD
SEBRING, FL 33870-6817
863-385-7897
fax 863-385-7954
office@maranathavillage.org
www.maranathavillage.org



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

Walt Douglass Retires



Walt something to do as he was one who could not be idle. In late fall, late one evening, Walt and Elvera arrived in a rental truck with furniture and personal belongings. The maintenance men had gone home for the day, and there was no room in the guest house. We found a place for them that evening, and the next day we moved them into 29 Amos Street.

Walt joined the maintenance crew on November first, and at that time everyone did everything: mowing grass, fixing water leaks, digging ditches, and minor repairs in the apartments. Walt had experience

The summer of 2001, the Village had conversation with Walt Douglass about coming to the Village and becoming part of the maintenance team. Walt was retiring from the ministry and was wanting

in the electrical field before the Lord called him to the ministry, which became very beneficial to the Village.

Walt has probably changed an electrical outlet, added a ceiling fan, or added an extra TV cable connection in almost every apartment in the Village. When work needed to be done in an attic, it was Walt who would shimmy into the scuttle hole, cross air conditioning trunk lines and push the electrical wires where they needed to go for the next connection.

Walt was always busy with one thing or another, whether sorting inventory, stocking shelves, or keeping his cart loaded with items for the next repair job.

At 91 years of age, health issues have caused Walt to join the ranks of the retired. March 15th was his last day working for the Village. The maintenance guys celebrated his retirement at Hibachi Buffet where Walt was given a certificate for 15 plus years of service to Maranatha Village, *The National Electrical Violations Plaque of the Golden Bulb Award* for 15 years of no houses burning down.

We will miss Walt, as he was always available if a need arose.

Wes Halstead