

# The Maranatha Village Trumpet



*“The Lord Cometh!”*

December 2017 – January 2018

Volume XXXII 1



## Focus On Village Staff



**Jeanne Mullineaux**

### **Front Desk Receptionist**

The tour bus stopped on Arbuckle Creek Road. “Look out the windows on the right side of the bus and you will see the new Christian retirement community, called Maranatha Village. It is in the process of being built,”

said Mr. Ellsworth to the tour bus load of Chamber Singers from Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. We were on a spring break tour presenting concerts in Florida in 1973. The bus had stopped in front of what was to be Maranatha Village with only a sandy path leading into the ‘Village.’ Someone (probably Orlin Bestrom) was on the backhoe digging out the front lake, and there were many large piles of sand to be seen. Our choir director went on to say, “...and who knows, someday some of you might just be living there.” Laughter erupted from the bus load of college kids. After all, we were in our early 20’s and the word ‘retirement’ was not in our vocabulary. It was a joke to us at that time. (But it was not a joke to God.)

Thirty years later, after teaching elementary grades in Christian schools in Pennsylvania and New York State, the Lord directed the big yellow Penske Truck, driven by ‘J & J Thorp Moving Company,’ (John and Jeanette Thorp) down Arbuckle Creek Road, not to be parked outside the village, but driven in on Maranatha Boulevard to 3 Mark Street.

After several major surgeries and the (continued on page 4)

### **Financial Bookkeeper**

I was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan with three brothers. Since we had Christian parents, we were in church whenever the doors were opened.

Before coming to Maranatha Village, Dave and I were involved in every church we attended as Awana workers, Junior church workers, SS teachers, and helping out wherever there was a need. We had a hog farm in Perry, Michigan, where we marketed 1200 hogs a year and raised five children. Then we sold the farm and moved to northern Michigan, where we had our own real estate business, while doing craft shows, selling wood products. We moved from northern Michigan back to Lansing to be caregivers to our parents. I worked as a bookkeeper for my brother for 13 years. After losing our parents, we continued doing craft shows every weekend from the end of April thru October.

We visited Maranatha Village in April of 2011 for a month in the RV park. While here, we thought maybe someday we would retire here. Upon returning home, I was contacted about the bookkeeper job opening. Would I be interested? After praying about it, God worked things out during the month of May, 2011, for us to come to Maranatha Village and assume the bookkeeper position. I have been in that position since June 1, 2011. I perform the job of handling the finances in the Village office. ■



**Jeanette Howard**

# *The Administrator's Perspective!*

## *“Scammed”*

*Dr. Jerry Webber, Administrator*



*Jerry*

One of the most lamentable features of contemporary society is the business of scamming—a veritable growth industry. Sadly, its most vulnerable victims are people like you and me – God-fearing, law-abiding, people-loving folks who just want to do the right thing and stay out of trouble.

The most common, and sadly the most effective, of these diabolical schemes are called “imposter scams,” and are frequently inflicted upon the elderly. Following are several of the “biggies” making the rounds.

**IRS SCAM.** Claiming to be agents of the IRS (Internal Revenue Service), these scammers make contact by phone, email, or text message, using fake names and bogus badge numbers. The most adept of these may even alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They assert that their victim owes money to the government, and that if it is not paid, legal action will be taken. If the contact is made by phone, they will often insist that payment be made while they are on the line, and will offer a convenient means of remittance, usually by pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer.

The IRS has strict protocols with regard to contacting people. They will almost always use the mails, and will never ask for debit or credit card numbers over the phone. Don’t fall for this ruse.

**TECH SUPPORT SCAM.** This scam usually involves a phone call from a “support representative” of a well-known technology company (like Microsoft), claiming they had detected a problem with your computer. Typically, they will ask for remote access to your computer, offering to correct the problem. If you grant them access, they will be able to do any-

thing with the computer that you could do, including installing malicious software and/or stealing personal information. A particularly vicious form of this scam is called “ransomware,” in which the scammer infects the computer and hold systems or data hostage until a ransom is paid. Even businesses and corporations have been victimized by this insidious scam. Other forms can be introduced as innocently as opening an attachment in an email from someone or some organization you do not know (called phishing.) The best preventive for this scam is to deal with, or respond to, only those entities you know to be trustworthy.

**GRANDCHILD SCAM.** In this ruse, a scammer, posing as a young relative (like a grandchild) calls and tries to trick an elderly grandparent or relative into wiring them money to help get them out of trouble in an emergency. They will sometimes avoid using names, and introduce themselves as “your favorite grandson.” Others will use a familiar name harvested from social media such as Facebook. This often works, simply because many seniors have difficulty recognizing voices over the phone. The “emergency” may involve an accident, a theft, or even an arrest for something like a DUI. The grandparent will be sworn to secrecy, so the parents or other family don’t uncover his embarrassment. Sympathetic grandparents by the thousands have been taken by this scam. An elderly San Diego woman ended up unwittingly sending \$132,000 to a scammer in China. In most cases, the loss of wired funds is \$1000 or less, but the pain of having been victimized may be worse than the financial hit.

The Bible affirms that in the last days “evil men shall wax worse and worse.” It doesn’t get much worse, in my opinion, than preying on the elderly and taking advantage of their (our) weaknesses. It behooves us, without becoming cynical and unduly suspicious, to beware of the threats to our vulnerabilities. Let’s not get scammed.





# Reflections On Hurricane Irma

*by Gerry Carlson*

It has been several months since we were visited by Hurricane Irma. In some ways things seem to be back to normal; in other ways not so much. Most unresolved issues are due to the backup of insurance claims throughout the area. Contractors are swamped with a back-log of jobs, and insurance companies are overwhelmed with many claims to process.

Through it all we are profoundly aware that God protected our Village during a very ferocious storm. We know that Maranatha Village fared much better than much of the surrounding region. Within three weeks our debris had been collected and burned, or hauled to the landfill, while many large piles of vegetation and building materials still lined the curbsides of local streets more than a month later. We have been blessed.

There are three words that summarize what I observed about this experience. They are: PREPARATION, COMMUNICATION, and PARTICIPATION.

## **PREPARATION**

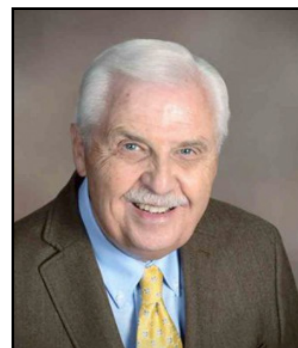
- Maranatha Village was especially blessed that our damage was less than other parts of Highlands County. Much of our success can be attributed to the excellent preparation of our Village Emergency Preparedness team led by Steve Milligan, and supported by our maintenance staff.
- The Maranatha Village board is also to be commended for upgrading so many of the roofs of our villas over the years since Hurricane Charley in 2004. The metal roofs weathered Hurricane Irma extremely well.
- The residents of Maranatha Village displayed remarkable faith and good sense during the preparations for the storm, and then trusted the Lord implicitly during the night of howling winds.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Communication was a challenge because of the loss of power and traditional telephone service. Smart-phones became invaluable to those who had access to generator power for charging.
- Facebook proved to be a valuable link to the outside world. Family members of residents, winter snow-birds, plus many friends benefited from the Facebook updates that were published.
- We learned that many residents were not equipped to communicate directly with family and friends. Aiding residents in developing personal communication strategies will be a worthy goal for the future.

## **PARTICIPATION**

- Helping one another was the instantaneous response of staff and residents immediately after the storm. Everyone sprang to action and worked tirelessly to clean up the debris that littered the grounds of our beautiful community.
- Very quickly, friends of the Village began to respond with financial contributions to help with the expenses of repairing and rebuilding. What a blessing to receive spontaneous gifts and support from so many different friends.
- We greatly appreciate all gifts given to the Hurricane Irma Relief Fund. If you would like to participate in this effort, we would love to hear from you. This is God's village – we want to be faithful to serve the Lord by maintaining this haven of refuge for Christians to gather, live, and serve. ■



*Gerry*

# *New Maranatha Residents*

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## *David & Doris Welshans*



*David & Doris*

Dave was born and raised in the South Buffalo region of New York State; I, Doris, hail from Rochester. Both of us came from nominal Christian homes: Dave coming to Christ as a child, and I was saved as a teen. We were actively involved in area Youth For Christ activities as teens. In 1955, we were led to attend Bob Jones University. It was there that we met. We were married upon Dave's graduation in September of 1959.

We immediately entered full time ministry, first as assistant superintendent at the Marion, Ohio, Union Rescue Mission, and then subsequently, Dave became Pastor of Italy-Naples Baptist Church in Naples, New York.

It was here that our family began to expand, eventually including three daughters, Deborah, Sharon, and Patricia who have given us thirteen wonderful grandchildren. The four oldest grandkids have married wonderful mates and recently have blessed us with the addition of two (plus one on the way) great grandchildren. We are thankful for children and grandchildren who all love the Lord and are seeking to put His will first in their lives.

After that first rural pastorate, Dave held four other senior pastorates as well as serving other ministries as assistant pastor, youth pastor, and Christian Education Director. Other opportunities included maintenance

supervisor of Southland Christian Camp in Ringgold, Louisiana, (where I also served as cook and life guard), and maintenance supervisor at Tri-City Baptist Church in Kansas, Missouri. We also assisted in the establishment of a new church plant in Liberty, Missouri, plus counseling several churches without pastors and serving as Interim Pastor in four churches. In 2004, we had the privilege of moving to Northern Wisconsin to serve as volunteers on the staff of Northland Baptist Bible College for seven years. It was at Northland that we became friends with Doug and Marie McLachlan who introduced us to Maranatha Village. We have enjoyed spending winters here for six years before buying our present villa at 23 Maranatha Boulevard. It was while visiting last March that we felt the Lord was directing us to become permanent residents. Once the decision was made, events moved so rapidly that we were able to sell our home and move here all in the space of two months.

I enjoy playing piano and organ, swimming, running 5 K's, reading, some quilting and keeping up with the grandkids. Dave's hobbies include woodworking, leather craft, developing his artistic abilities, and looking for that incredible "barn find" antique car at a price that I will agree too! However, his greatest passion is the opportunity to preach and teach God's Word.

We are thankful for the privilege of living here, enjoying the fellowship of some of God's choicest servants, and being involved in the life of the Village and Church.

Y' all come visit us sometime, ya hear!

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## *Front Desk Receptionist*

Homegoing of my parents, it became very clear to me that the years of teaching were coming to an end. What now? Earle and Donnabelle Harriman were a major influence in my life during my years of teaching at Horseheads Christian School, where Earle was Administrator and Donnabelle was teaching. It was through them that I came to Maranatha Village to work in the Village office. John and Jeanette Thorp were willing to move me from Binghamton, New York, to Sebring, Florida. (They had moved me several times before.)

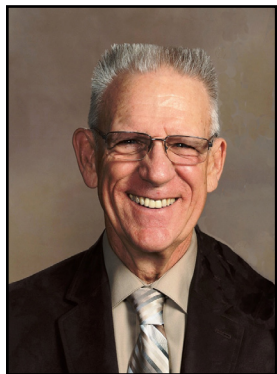
These have been 14 wonderful years of my life.

Maranatha Village residents are my adopted family. The ministry of Receptionist/Secretary in the Maranatha Village Office is just that...a ministry of serving the Lord and His people. There is no better place to be than in the center of the Lord's will. I don't know the future, but I do know that no matter where His will leads me or takes me, I'll follow Him all the way, desiring only to be in the center of His will at all times. If God has another plan, then I am assured that my Heavenly Father knows what's best for me. My desire is to FINISH WELL. ■

# Focus On Village Staff

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## **Tom Abrams** **Maintenance Foreman**



**Tom**

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan was where I was born and raised. My family was not saved and only when I decided on my own to go to church did I attend. I made a profession of faith as a young boy, but it didn't have any impact on my life. At the age of 17, I accepted Christ as my Savior and was baptized.

Dorla and I attended junior high and high school in the same grade. We started dating toward the end of our senior year. We were engaged in 1963 while I was on leave from the Navy and were married July 31, 1964 while I was still in the service. Dorla attended Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary for 2 1/2 years

while I was in the Navy.

I joined the Navy while still in high school and served a three year term. After being discharged from the Navy, I attended Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary for one semester. Then the Lord moved us to Wisconsin where we lived for about 34 years, and raised our four children. We served the Lord in the local church doing just about every job there was to do during those years.

We moved to Maranatha Village in 2002. We were familiar with the Village because Dorla's parents lived here, and we had visited them several times. I worked ten years for the Village, full time, and retired. Now I am again working part time for the Village as Maintenance Foreman. I enjoy working and being a part of the Village. ■

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## **Phil Schmitt** **General Maintenance**

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on February 19, 1948. Being raised in a Roman Catholic family, I was educated in a Catholic convent school. After high school, I attended Jacksonville State University for three years. Upon completing my third year, I joined the United States Navy and served six years aboard a nuclear attack submarine. Dianne and I have been married for 48 + years, and we have two sons (David & Joseph), a daughter-in-law (Andrea married to Joseph), and one grandson (Joshua).

While living in Dothan, Alabama, I worked for ten years for the Alabama Power Company at the Farley Nuclear Plant near Dothan. During this time, I accepted Christ at the age of 27. With the conviction and working of the Lord in my life, I attended Bible school for four years (1984 — 1988) at Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, Tennessee. When I graduated from Tennessee Temple University, I served under Macedonia World Baptist Missions for four years. It was during this time that I went to Jamaica to relieve a missionary family in order for them to have a needed furlough. I pastored the New Town Baptist Church near Maypen, Jamaica.

**Missionary Ministry:** I retired from Baptist Mid-Missions after a full-time service of 21 years.

- Eight years at EBI here in Sebring.
- Five and one-half years in the Republic of Ireland.
- Five years in Slovakia (just after the fall of Communism).



**Phil**

**Maranatha Village:** Dianne and I purchased an apartment here in the Village in March, 1998, while still on the mission field in Eastern Europe. We then moved here full-time in December, 2005, while at EBI. In October of 2012, I was hired by Wes Halstead as part of the Village staff. My duties became a part of the general maintenance (grass cutting, tree trimming, a little electrical, a little plumbing, and whatever else is needed). Dianne and I are living at 22 Daniel Road. ■





## *"Not All Who Wander To The Kitchen At Midnight Are Lost!"*

### *Sawdust Pie*

- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1 ½ cup coconut
- 1 ½ cup chopped nuts
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- 7 egg whites

Mix all by hand and turn into unbaked 9 inch pie shell.  
Bake at 350° degrees for 35 minutes or until center is firm.  
DO NOT cut until cooled.

Jean Bush & Shirley Cousins

### *No Fail Peanut Butter Fudge*

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup milk
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 tsp cream of tartar

Combine and cook to softball stage

Add:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 18 large marshmallows
- 1 tsp vanilla

Stir into hot mixture. Mix thoroughly.  
Pour into buttered pan.  
Chill.

Cut into squares.

(If you line your pan with parchment paper, you can lift it out to cut squares.)

Trudy Smith

### *Creamy Vegetable Casserole*

- 1 head cauliflower
- 1 bunch broccoli
- 5-6 carrots, pared and sliced
- 7-10 fresh mushrooms, quartered
- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 4-6 T. butter
- 5-10 T. flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 T. parsley flakes
- Pepper to taste
- 1 cup vegetable cooking liquid
- 2 cups half & half
- Canned onion rings

Cook all vegetables until tender but crisp. Reserve 1 cup cooking liquid off the vegetables. Place vegetables and almonds in casserole. Melt butter. Stir in flour, broth, parsley and pepper. Gradually stir in vegetable liquid and half and half. Cook over low heat, stirring until mixture comes to a boil and forms a rather thick sauce. Pour over vegetables and stir.

Bake at 425° for 15-20 minutes. Sprinkle with onion rings over the top and bake 5 minutes more. *A tasty vegetable dish!*

Maribeth Smith



# 2018 Bible Conference & Concert Schedule

## **Dr. Doug McLachlan** **January 14 — 17**

Dr. McLachlan has served as pastor in churches in Minnesota and Michigan. While senior pastor of Fourth Baptist Church in Plymouth, Minnesota, he also served as President of Central Baptist Theological Seminary and taught in the areas of homiletics and pastoral theology. He also taught at Northland Baptist Bible College. Doug retired from formal pastoral ministry in May, 2007. Currently he is dedicating time to writing, continues an itinerant Bible conference and teaching ministry. He and his wife, Marie, are enjoying spending time with their 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.



## **Pastor J. O. Purcell** **February 11 — 14**

J. O. Purcell retired from 50 years of ministry December 31, 2014. He started three churches during that time. His first was Bible Baptist Church in Romeoville, Illinois, his second in Lakeland, Florida, and his last in The Villages, Florida. J. O. has served on many boards on the state and national level. He has served on the Council of 18 for 35 years and on the Evangelical Baptist missions board for over 25 years. He also served on the Illinois-Missouri Council of 8 and the Sunshine State Fellowship Council of 10.



## **Dr. Ernie Schmidt** **March 11 — 14**

Dr. Schmidt has pastored for over 25 years in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, and Alaska. He has taught Bible, Theology, and Pastoral Theology in three Bible Colleges for about 30 years. He also served as Seminary Dean and Interim President at Faith Baptist Bible College. Dr. Schmidt has led numerous Bible lands trips and taught in several foreign countries. Currently he preaches in churches, holds conferences, and is Midwest representative for Shalom Ministries.



**Forever Be Sure** is a music publication and performance ministry that composes new, content-rich choral arrangements and new hymns



## **Forever Be Sure** **Friday, January 19, 2018**

for God's glory and the building up of Christ's body. They travel throughout the year with other like-minded musicians, presenting the songs that have been born out of their personal walk with the Lord and the study of His Word.

## **Benjamin (Ben) Everson & Family** **Friday, February 23, 2018**

Evangelist Ben Everson is the director of Bible Revival Ministries, which he founded in 1999. He is a gifted communicator, creative musician, and enjoyable preacher of the Word of God. His passion is to see God's people living vibrant Christian lives, seeing the reality of God in all that they do. He and his wife were married in 1999 and have 4 children: Miles, Elena, Daren, and Brandon. They live full-time on the road residing in their 5th wheel RV trailer.



## **Eduard & Christine Klassen** **Friday, March 16, 2018**

Eduard Klassen was born and raised in Paraguay, South America. Playing the harp has been his passion since 1977. His tours have taken him to 23 countries. Christine was born and raised in Ontario, Canada, and has played the piano since 1976. She has just recently started playing keyboard alongside her husband. At age 36, Eduard accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, and since then has followed the call into full-time music ministry.



# Maranatha Village

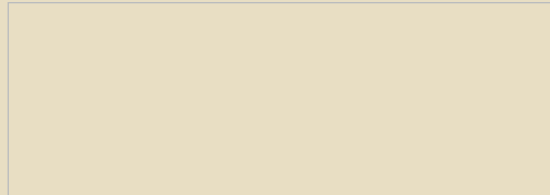
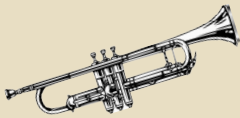
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**“Believe on the  
Lord Jesus Christ  
and you will be saved.”**



*“We greatly appreciate all gifts given to the Hurricane Irma Relief Fund. If you would like to participate in this effort, we would love to hear from you. This is God’s village – we want to be faithful to serve the Lord by maintaining this haven of refuge for Christians to gather, live, and serve.” Dr. Gerry Carlson*