



Maranatha Village Trumpet
Fall 2023
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[Editor's note: In this issue of the Trumpet, we are addressing the topic of transition, which is familiar to all of us in one way or another. Our desire is that the articles here are a source of encouragement to you as you navigate your own transitions of life.]

The Paradox of Transition

Donna Messenger

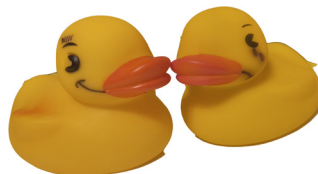
No matter where you came from, you went through some sort of transition to Maranatha Village. We all have felt pangs of that transition from other parts of Florida, other states, or even other countries. Certainly, the moving companies advertise that they can make your move easier. And who wouldn't want a smooth transition?



Many of you know that I served in Ukraine with ABWE for about a decade. I've been back in the States for many years, and the Lord has given me a variety of ministries with MKs (missionary kids) and missionary families, which I really enjoy. Most of what I do is help them manage all the transitions of global living.

One definition of paradox is that two statements, seemingly contradictory, are actually both true at the same time. For me, it would have read like this, "I'm so excited to move to Ukraine; and I'm so sad to leave all my friends in Grand Rapids." In every transition, there is always loss and something to look forward to.

The "Pair-o-Ducks" of Paradox



These two little ducks are brothers who represent the "Yay" things that are the positives of transition and the "Yuck" things that are the negatives. They always swim together. There is a "both-and" part of transition that is often difficult to grasp. The trick is learning to live in the "and."

I moved to Maranatha Village in 2020 — during the pandemic — not an easy time to move. Annette Williams moved here two weeks after I did. We knew each other from ABWE but were not really friends until we decided to be "new" together here. One major principle of managing transition well is to not do it alone — try to work through transition together with someone else.

My brother, Tim, moved here a few months before I did. He is mostly blind and walks with his white cane. He can find his way over to Hamman Hall for Village dinners or other events. He can find his way to the mailbox or to my house. He said, “I went through two kinds of transitions at the same time. I was adjusting to blindness and a whole new community.”

In the last few years, we’ve seen others face medical transitions — some have transitioned from walking free to walking with a cane, and then walking with a walker. We mention volunteers in other articles, but many of them have had to adjust what they can do as various health issues change.

So, Maranatha Village is constantly in transition. In the three years that I’ve lived here, we have seen many people come and go. There are those who have moved back up north to live near family. And new people who have moved into the Village. Others have moved from a villa or a mobile to the Manor. We’ve seen residents promoted to glory. For their spouses, that transition involves grieving and adjusting to living alone. That’s when this community shines — reaching out to others for encouragement and comfort. We miss those who’ve gone before us, but the fellowship in this community is rich and caring, and we are grateful.

Some transitions involve a change of jobs, others involve a change in geography. Sometimes both. Maybe the change involves a relationship — loss of a loved one or a broken relationship. Retirement is a huge transition. Many of you moved here at that stage of your life. Some of you lost your spouse before you came, others experienced that loss here in the Village. Both situations indicate a significant life transition. The word “transition” can be both a noun and a verb. It is both the event and the process through it.



The Halstead Transition

With the arrival of Brian Halstead, a year ago in September, a new era began in our Village. The top of his to-do list was to plan and provide a week of activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Maranatha Village. That’s no small task even without a change of leadership!

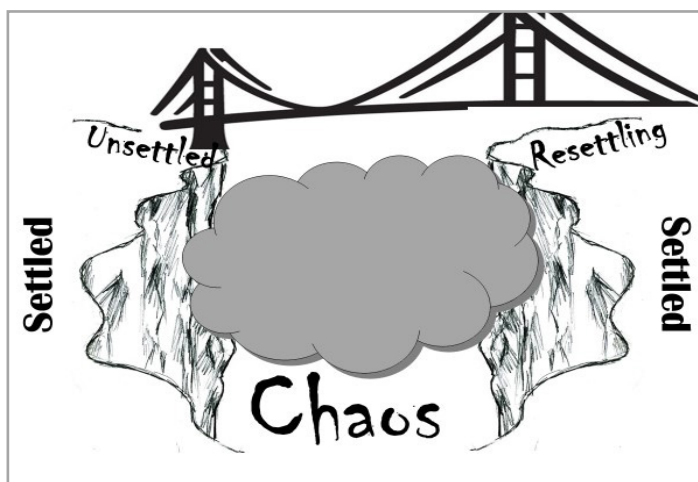
In talking with both Brian and Kaye, this move to Florida was one of the most difficult transitions of their lives. In January of 2022, Brian interviewed with the Executive Board for the Administrator position. In March, the Board interviewed both Brian and Kaye together in a Zoom call. Brian was offered the job later that same day. And so, the transition began!

They both wrapped up 25-year careers at Mayo Clinic. They had rental property to sell in addition to the house in which they had been living for 34 years. Brian was facing two surgeries in the spring and summer of 2022. In September, just two weeks after his hip replacement surgery, Brian came down to MV to begin his work as Village Administrator.

Kaye stayed in Minnesota to keep working on downsizing and packing their house. She came to visit at one point, and he went back to pack the garage (his job, of course), but all told they were separated from each other for four months before Kaye came here to live. That makes for a tough transition, likely not their ideal plan for the move.

Brian commented that he had never hired a moving company before. They encountered quite a few glitches, including the truck not showing up on the scheduled day, not answering their phones, and overcharging them.

Even though their transition is challenging (notice the present tense—they are still in transition), they had come here to visit for many years. Brian’s parents (Wes and Bonnie) are here now, and they are currently living with them.



Facing Challenges

Brian started officially in the office in the middle of September 2022. Five weeks later Hurricane Ian swept through Florida leaving quite a mess in its path. We had three days without power. All you could hear was the roar of generators up and down each of the ovals. Even without electricity, people were out helping each other clean up branches and debris. The piles were high on the sides of the roads.

We also experienced a rash of golf cart thefts. Our office staff and administration were on top of these thefts immediately, and in cooperation with the Highlands County Sheriff's Department, the thief was brought to justice, though only one of the golf carts was recovered.

Managing Village expenses is challenging in today's economy. Brian is grateful to work with a staff that has a heart for ministry in the midst of a changing world around us.

The Halsteads are doing significant renovation to their villa on Gabriel St. Brian said he's found that Florida contractors are not like contractors up north. They have run into difficulties on every side — "getting tile, appliances, and services have been an endless struggle," he said. Please pray for Brian and Kaye—that their house would be completed and ready for them to move in by the end of September.

tran·si·tion

/trənˈziʃ(ə)n/

Noun the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

"students in transition from one program to another"

Verb undergo or cause to undergo a process or period of transition.
"he transitioned into filmmaking easily"

FROM COMPUTER TO COMFORT

For the last eight years or so, Bob Watter-son has served as Editor of the *Trumpet*, the quarterly newsletter for Maranatha Village. After a full and blessed ministry with Baptist Mid-Missions in Ghana, West Africa, Bob and Ruth came back to the Cleveland area in order to work in the BMM home office.

Bob's responsibilities included manning the sound board for BMM conferences, recording conference messages, and making copies available for people who desired them. Bob was the editor and graphic designer for a periodical called "It's About Time." This periodical was a continuing education paper for the Baptist Mid-Missions family.

In 2009, Bob and Ruth retired from BMM and moved to Maranatha Village. Jerry Webber was pastor of MBC at the time, and knowing Bob from his BMM days, he recruited him to help with the sound system team for the church. Within a few weeks of their arrival, Bob joined the team and began to serve in this important ministry at the church. He did many of the same things he had done for BMM in producing and sending out copies of sermons on CDs and DVDs.

Carl Barton also understood Bob's abilities and recruited him to be coeditor of the *Trumpet*. Bob's favorite part of the job was the layout and design work. He learned new computer programs in order to make the newsletter look great. This past spring, Bob de-

cided to step down from the Editor role and retire. Thanks, Bob, for your faithful work in so many ways for so many years! Job well done!





In March of 2022 the Executive Board of Maranatha Village invited Brian Halstead to become the next Village Administrator. He aimed to be in Sebring by mid-September of 2022. As Brian began thinking about the new job and what projects he might want to pursue, one of his first “dreams” was to have some sort of visual memorial to honor veterans.

The larger event on his agenda, however, was the 50th Anniversary celebration. Even as those plans were getting underway, he still had a desire for a Veterans Appreciation Day. It was scheduled for Presidents Day on February 20, 2023.

Though not officially connected to the 50th anniversary celebrations, the idea of honoring our veterans was carried on to the Legacy Stroll on March 7. It was a solemn event to honor both veterans and loved ones or friends. Funds were raised to begin the project for a Veterans Memorial Park. Later in March, Brian Halstead reported that over \$1400 was raised to begin the project for flags and flagpoles to honor each branch of the armed services of our country. “Several veterans donated service flags in honor of their branch of the service,” Brian added. “On June 14 we celebrated Flag Day by dedicating the flagpoles and raising these new flags in honor of our veterans that served.”

In May, small flags were available for purchase and placed along Maranatha Boulevard near the main entrance. Additional funds have been given to help with the purchase of the poles and the cement work to create the park itself. \$1400 more is needed to finish paying for the project. If you would like to participate, please contact the office.

We are grateful for this beautiful display of flags visible whenever we gaze across the north lake. Thank you to all of you who have served our country and to all who have given so we can celebrate our country in this unique way.



HEY! THIS REALLY WORKS!

Pauline Dark

I attended the Town Hall meeting for MV on July 13, 2023. When we arrived, we were given hand-outs of the PowerPoint slides that Brian Halstead was going to be covering. I usually don't pay that close attention as some of the information I already know, or it did not really apply to me. But there was one point that somehow caught my attention, and I know the Lord gave me a little nudge to pay attention.

Brian mentioned that some of us might qualify to receive assistance with our electric bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program can help. He gave us the contact name, phone number, and eligibility information. I thought, "Pauline, you would qualify; you should check into it." So, I started the process, not knowing if I would qualify or not. They sent me the application and instructions. I filled out the paperwork and sent it in. I did not hear anything for weeks and figured I had not qualified or had not filled out the application properly. Then on

August 28, I got a text from Duke Energy saying that a \$500 payment from LIHEAP had been made to my account and each month money will be taken from the \$500 to pay my electric bill.

I went online and double-checked my account and sure enough I had \$500! Praise the Lord! Thank you, Brian! It pays to stay awake at Town Hall Meeting and pay attention! If anyone would like the information and feel you might qualify, here is the slide Brian gave us at the Town Hall meeting.

(We have learned that they are not taking any more applications until after the first of October.)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Contact: Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc.
Al Miller
Phone: (863) 956-3491 Ext. 212
amiller@alpi.org



You may be eligible if you meet the following requirements:
Have a total income no more than 60% of the Florida State Median Income;
Be responsible for paying your home heating or cooling bills;
Be a resident of Florida; and
Be a U.S. Citizen, qualified alien or permanent resident of the U.S.

You may qualify for help if your total household income does not exceed the household income limits listed below. The local agency will help you determine what is included as income.

Household Income Limits By Household Size

Household Size	Maximum Monthly Income	Maximum Annual Income
Family of 1	\$2,311.25	\$27,735
Family of 2	\$3,022.41	\$36,269

Welcome

James & Sally Pitcher
1 Matthew



The Pitchers come to Maranatha Village from Johnson City, NY, where they have lived for the past 35 years. James was a coach operator for Broome County Transit for 30 years before he retired, and then he worked for the local school systems. Sally worked for Broome Developmental Center for 20 years before she retired. They married in 1973 and worked at River Valley Ranch in Millers, MD, for a year and a half before moving to Wellsboro, PA, for a couple years. They lived in Binghamton, NY, for eleven years before buying a home in Johnson City, NY. They were members at First Baptist Church in Johnson City, NY. James worked with the security/safety team at the church and Sally worked in the children's department assisting with nursery, AWANA, and Vacation Bible School. They have one son and four grandchildren — one granddaughter and three grandsons.



Fall Conference
October 16-17



Speaker: Terry Thompson
Southside Baptist Church
Sebring, FL
sunshinebaptist.net

Pre-Conference Fellowship
Sunday Night, Oct. 15

Ladies Fall Meeting
October 10
Guest Speaker, Marcy Smith
"Holding the Ropes"

GIVING UP!

Jerry Webber



Kathy and I moved to Maranatha Village in 2006. Although we were arriving at the time to assume the pastorate of Maranatha Baptist Church, we had “bought in” several years earlier and resolved that this would be (at least) our winter home. Settling into our villa on Gideon Road heightened the sense of permanence, and we realized that our roots were deeply planted.

Fast-forward 16 years, and we could see that a transition of a different kind was coming. It was time to seriously consider assisted living. We always knew that Maranatha Manor was an option, but we realized then it was inevitable. Patty Dale, our administrator,

made the process painless. In no time at all, we were happily settled in our new home.

Now, nearly a year later, it occurs to me that others may be approaching that point. It seems only fair that a trusted neighbor should admit that making this move may require giving up certain things. I certainly found it so. For instance, I had to give up preparing and serving meals three times a day. Here you have to let them serve you breakfast, dinner, and supper in the dining room, along with snacks in your room every evening. They won't even let you in the kitchen! Sure, the meals are wonderful, but I really miss my prep times with Marie Callender. Then, too, I had to give up doing laundry once or twice a week. Now they pick up our hamper each Wednesday evening, and in the morning our clothes come back all clean, and either folded or neatly hung on hangers. Not only that, they insist on laundering our towels and bed linens every week. Mind you, we still straighten up and keep things neat, but I also had to give up cleaning. Someone comes in weekly and dusts, vacuums the floors, and even cleans the bathroom! We were shocked the first time, but we've had to get used to coming back from breakfast in the morning to find that someone had sneaked in, made our bed, and emptied the wastebaskets. I can't tell you how much I also miss my weekly trips to Walmart for groceries. It was so much fun finding a parking place, negotiating the packed aisles, looking for out-of-stock items, and searching for congenial staff to help in the search.

Well, there's more, but this gives you some idea of things you might have to give up if you ever get serious about moving into the Manor. It does take some getting used to. Although, you know, I think I'm getting there.

SOMEBODY FIXED MY DOOR!

Donna Messenger

I have a shed on one side of my carport that houses my washer and dryer. I've always had trouble shutting the door. I'm surprised my neighbors haven't complained about the noise as I usually had to slam it several times before it would latch. Last spring when our duplex got a lovely blue coat of paint, I appreciated the crew of volunteers who worked faithfully (in between golf games) to make the house look so nice! I went out one day to do a load of laundry and realized that someone had fixed the door to my shed! What a nice surprise! It gave me pause to remember that some volunteers serve unseen. The more I thought about it, the longer the list of secret tasks became in my mind. Thank you to all of you who help with the big tasks that need to be done around the Village, but we also want to thank those of you who serve in secret, unseen ways!

MARANATHA VILLAGE STREETS



D	A	R	O	A	A	R	D	S	T	M	P	I	A	E	K	U	L	A	E
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B	M	A	R	U	E	H	R	H	I	L	E	L	L	H	T	L	E	M	A



Maranatha Blvd

Gabriel

Luke

Timothy

Matthew



Mark

Daniel

Job

Gideon

Micah Rd

Amos

Jude

Ruth

RV Park



THE VOLUNTEER VOICE

Linda Pyche

“Wait until the Northerners come” was the phrase we heard often when we first shared our volunteer ideas with the permanent residents here at Maranatha Village. “There are so many of them who are willing to serve; besides, the weather is much cooler when they are here.”

Since we had moved here in July and the weather that year was mild

in comparison, we were anxious to begin our list of projects that needed to be done. But the words shared turned out to be partly true. We were not from the South; however, we had no real knowledge of the heat and high temperatures and humidity that can be detrimental to Florida life during the summer months. And not having experienced the onslaught of arriving guests in January, we had no perception of such wonderful, additional volunteers.

But this year the anticipation is great, because we have gained the experience of “when the Northerners come.” When you take a group of caring, giving people who serve others daily, weekly,

and monthly, and you add a fresh group of willing and giving workers, so much can be accomplished. With willing bodies, serving hearts, and loving emotions, much work can be done through His servants.

We have seen what a group of workers can do on a “Tom Sawyer Day” of painting white fences; and we anticipate great things when we take care of the pool fences and building this coming winter season.

We have seen old, tired villas get a fresh coat of paint. We have experienced the beauty of bushes, shrubs, and flowers trimmed and refurbished by those who enjoy tending God’s creation. And we were impressed with the volunteering for pool duty, guard house duty, and security duty during the months of extra workers.

Volunteering is a way of life, whether you are here year-round, part-time, or only seasonal. We praise the Lord for the good work that is done. Thanks for caring.

(Linda Pyche and her husband John are Volunteer Coordinators for Maranatha Village.)

