

engage!



Then and Now

A Time of Transition

Oh What a Difference

From Homelessness to Hopefulness

Managing Board

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and Public Relations*

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Gary Engelstad,
Giving Officer

Rebecca Roe,
Donor Relations Coordinator

Robbie Voloshin,
Corporate Director of Marketing

Matt Weinbaum,
Digital Marketing Strategist

Cover Photo: PineRidge of Montclair resident, Myrna Cavallo, embraces a page from her cherished photo album displaying three snapshots of herself, all taken during her teenage years in New York City.

Correction: The spring 2018 engage misidentified the cover photo, which should have read: Kaitlin Eamigh, healthcare administrator, United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen, anticipates spring with a cheerful floral arrangement. We extend our apologies.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We all have a “Then and Now.” By virtue of age, however, some of us have more “Then” than others. In a fast-paced information technology age, access to personal and family history is just a click away. Kits like 23andMe offer ancestry and genetic information. Perhaps your idea of “then” dramatically shifted upon the results of such irrefutable evidence and with it, not only your perspective of “now,” but also plans for the future.

Likewise, a treasure-trove of genealogical research done by a tenacious relative, passionate about tracing the family lineages and history, may prove consistent or discordant. Notwithstanding, I believe that truth will eventually emerge and withstand the test of time.

Remarkably, 2018 marks the 111th year of operation for United Methodist Communities Organizations also possess life cycles influenced by changing technology, medical discoveries, demographic trends, business practices, government regulation, etc. Consider how frequently cell phones, iPads and personal computers morph into the next iteration.

My tenure with United Methodist Communities began in 1999 and I’ve witnessed vast changes throughout those years. The 1999 annual report contrasted that time with the founding year, 1907, and stated, “Today, lifespans are longer, health care bears no comparison, lifestyles are dramatically different, and the interests and expectations of residents are diverse and challenging.”

Fast forward to 2018 and those forces still ring true, but the shifts are increasingly far-reaching and occur in a more condensed timeframe, demanding innovation, creativity and sound management. We offer you a glimpse of some changes since 1907 within these pages!



Janet M. Carrato



A TIME OF TRANSITION

By Robbie Voloshin

In September 2018, Virginia Samuel-Cetuk, chair of the United Methodist Communities Board of Directors, steps away from her role and turns the gavel over to Nona Ostrove. Ginny began her board service in 2003 and was elected board chair in 2010.

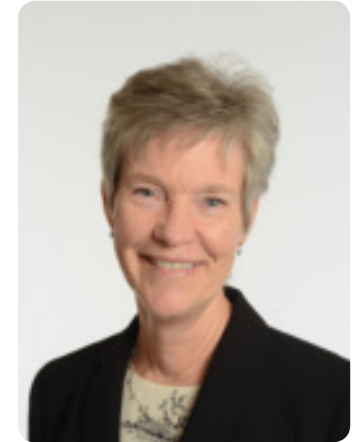
During her tenure, she played an instrumental role enacting many changes at UMC, including the hiring of a new president and CEO in 2011. Ginny recently retired from her position as the Associate Dean of Contextual Learning at The Theological School, Drew University, and is reworking her book, *What to Expect in Seminary: Theological Education as Spiritual Formation*.

Of her time as chair, Ginny articulates, “My tenure on the board reflects my personal values and my commitment to United Methodist Communities. I thank my fellow board members and associates for our mutual accomplishments and am confident that my successor, Nona Ostrove, will lead with passion and vision. From the bottom of my heart I am grateful for my 15 years of serving the residents, associates and leadership team of United Methodist Communities. God bless you all.”

As hard as it is to say goodbye, we eagerly welcome Nona Ostrove as our newest board chair. Nona has



Left: Nona Ostrove, the newly-installed board chair, possesses a strong record of public service.



Right: Since retiring from Drew Theological School Ginny has been appointed as the Administrative Pastor at Princeton United Methodist Church.

been in private law practice for over 35 years and was elected to the UMC board in 2010. At her local church, she chaired the building team and is the former secretary for The United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey Board of Trustees.

Nona states, “I look forward to taking on a more active role guiding this ministry as it faces the demands of a growing senior population.”

Robbie Voloshin is Corporate Director of Marketing.



WE’RE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE . . .

Great Place to Work Institute has honored United Methodist Communities with certification as a Great Place to Work. The certification process considered anonymous and confidential associate surveys submitted from across all United Methodist Communities’ locations.

Great Place to Work, the global authority on high-trust, high-performance workplace cultures, evaluated more than 60 elements of team members’ experiences on the job. These included associate pride in the organization’s community impact, belief that their work makes a difference, and feeling their work has special meaning. Rankings are based on associates’ experiences, regardless of job title and professional responsibilities.

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOPEFULNESS

By Asia Saxton



United Methodist Communities at Bishop Taylor, located in East Orange, opened in 1989. Twenty-nine years later, it continues to offer affordable apartment homes to seniors, families with a disabled member, and the homeless in their community.

While New Jersey currently has about 8,941 homeless men, women and children, Essex County at 24 percent, accounts for the highest percentage. Associates at Bishop Taylor have long recognized the need among all these groups in Essex County. One strategy, building partnerships with shelters, Salvation Army locations, nursing homes, hospitals, faith-based and social services organizations, has proved both successful and satisfying for all stakeholders.

“Part of our social consciousness, as well as our UMC values of compassion, respect, stewardship and service, compels us to be a resource for the homeless. Over the last five years, 45 percent of our residents were formerly homeless,” states Tanya Preston, housing administrator.

While Bishop Taylor maintains a waiting list, they aspire to remain flexible in accommodating people. Circumstances vary as some may have lived with a family member, in a healthcare setting, or even their

car while seeking permanent housing. For example, one senior lived in a shelter with their adult child before securing an apartment at Bishop Taylor.

Consistent with United Methodist Communities’ goals, Bishop Taylor continues its affordable housing ministry with outstanding hospitality, compassion and care so older adults can have abundant life.

Statistics on homelessness in Essex County:

- On the night of January 24, 2017, a total of 2,048 persons, in 1,507 households, experienced homelessness in Essex County. This represents an increase of 269 persons (15.1%) and 158 households (11.7%) from 2016.
- Of the 1,507 homeless households counted in 2017, 273 (18.1%) were families with at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult. These families included 795 persons, 465 children under age 18, and 330 adults.
- 32.7% (669 persons) of homeless persons reported having some type of disability.

Source: 2017 NJ Counts Point-In-Time Homeless Study

Asia Saxton is Social Service Coordinator at United Methodist Communities at Bishop Taylor.

A MESSAGE TO OUR DONORS BENEVOLENT CARE HAS A NEW NAME!



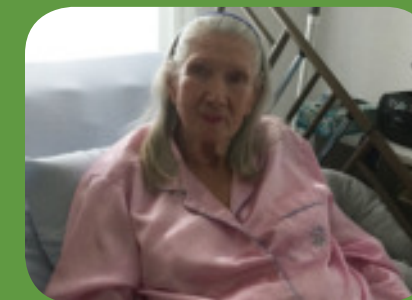
Since our beginning in 1907, providing benevolent care to seniors has been central to United Methodist Communities’ mission. Like all organizations serving older adults, our needs have changed over time and forward thinking strategies were needed to sustain this vital element of our ministry.

The Gift of Care Circle is a group of compassionate organizations and individuals who rally around our seniors when they have, through no fault of their own, exhausted their financial resources. Churches, residents and their families, associates, individual donors, corporate sponsors, and foundations are all working together to provide the resources that make it possible for UMC residents to age in place and experience life in abundance.

Find out how you can join the Gift of Care Circle today by visiting <https://foundation.umcommunities.org/gift-of-care-circle/> or contacting Susan Sharp at 732-922-9802 x2122.

MEET AGNES, HOMEWORKS’ VERY FIRST CLIENT

By Matt Weinbaum



Above: Agnes at home in her pink pajamas.

Top Right: Agnes (leftmost) and her mother-in-law at a formal event.

Bottom Right: Agnes (leftmost) and her three sisters.

Agnes used to be a very independent person, running a library for 35 years and always taking care of her family. While she never thought she would need a caregiver, she couldn’t be more pleased to find HomeWorks. Type this link into your web browser to experience Agnes talking about her life and HomeWorks.

<https://bit.ly/2HCtwpr>

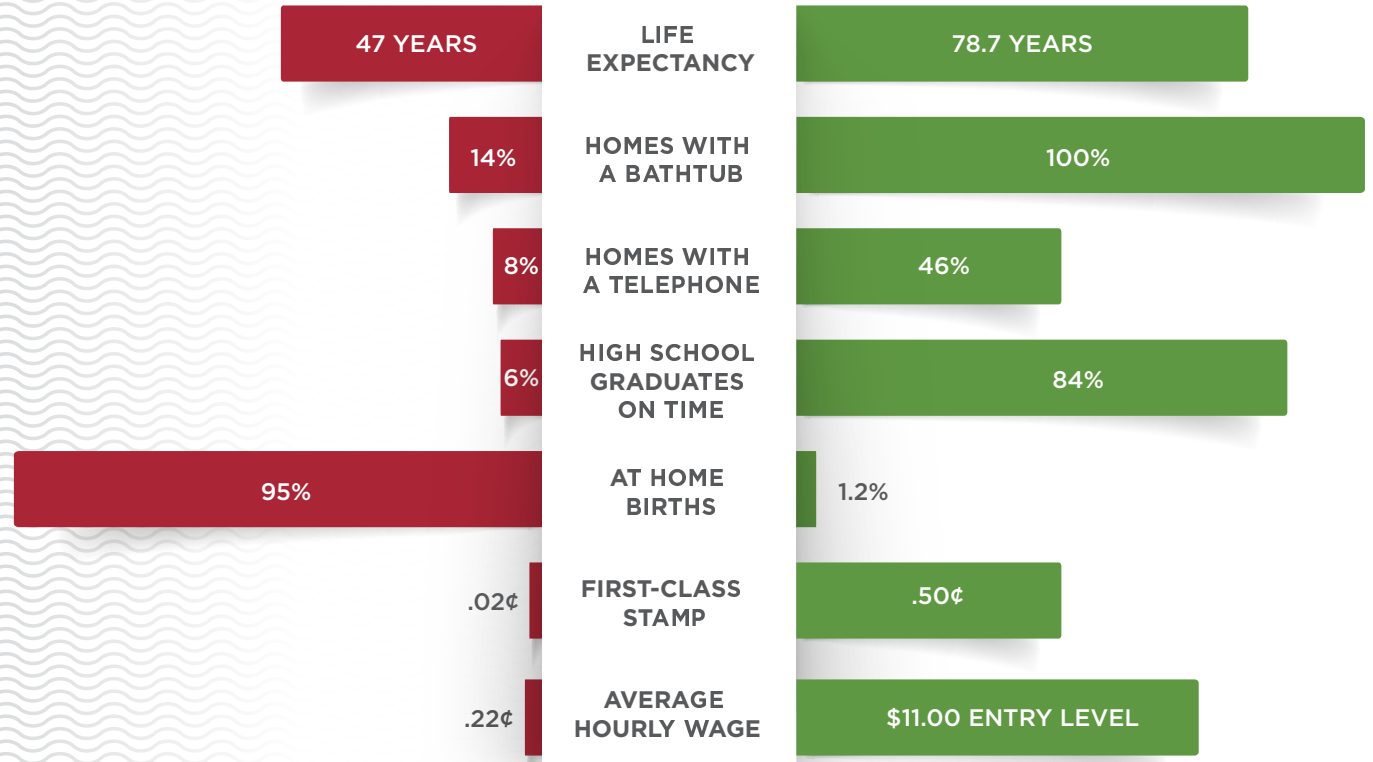
Matt Weinbaum is Digital Marketing Strategist.



OH WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

1907

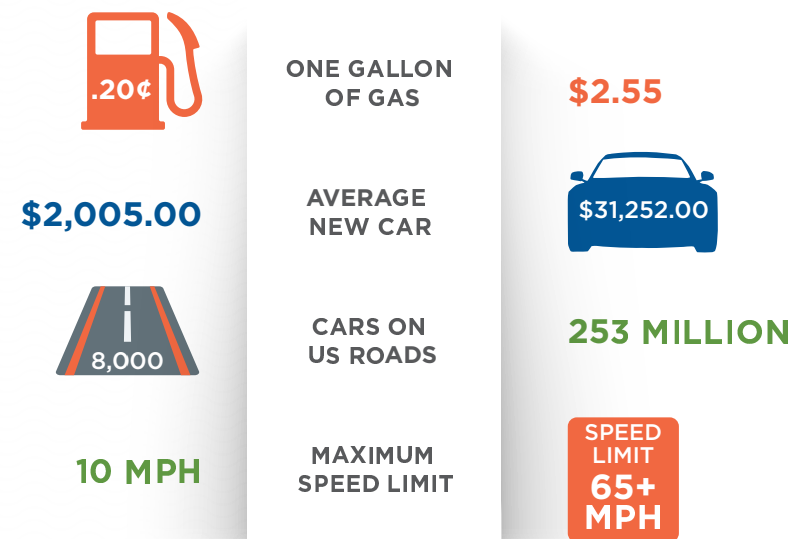
2017



1907

2017

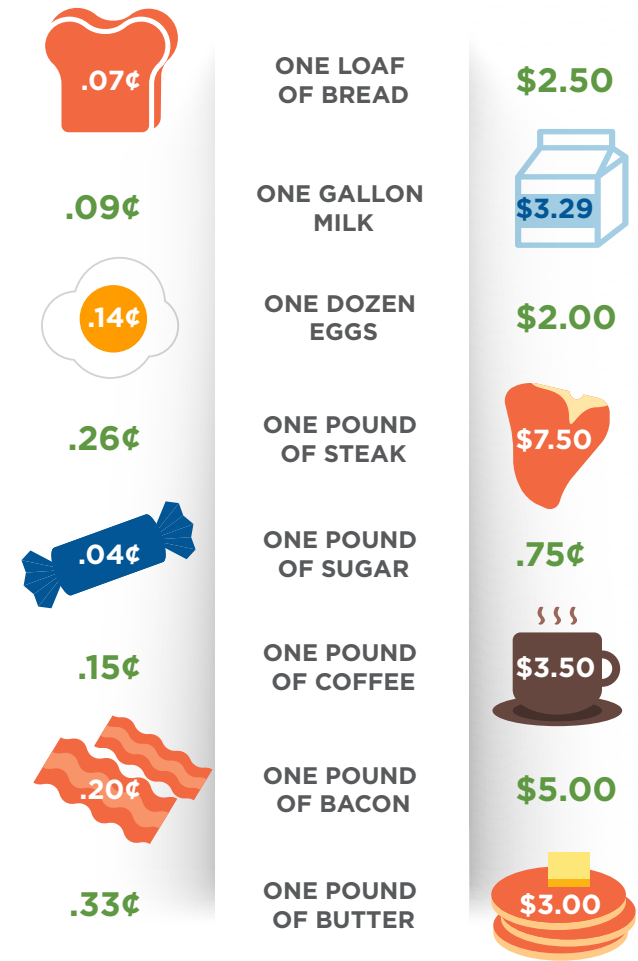
Automobiles



1907

2017

Food Prices



1907

2017

Five leading causes of death



PROFILES IN PHILANTHROPY

HOW TO MAKE LEMONADE WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS - Eva Sharpe and Joe Feather

By Gary Engelstad



A photo portrait of Eva as a young child.

United Methodist Communities at Pitman resident Eva Sharpe would have every right to be a little bitter about the cards life has dealt her. Her mom died when she was only 10-years-old — just two years later, she lost her father. The Sisters of St. Joseph raised her at an orphanage in Philadelphia.

Years later as a married mother of five children, her husband, Norman Feather, worked three jobs just to make ends meet: RCA in Camden, selling goods on the weekends, and dabbling in real estate.

“Vacations were the neighborhood group playing softball in the schoolyard,” their oldest child, Joe remembers. “We walked all over the place by ourselves and all our parents cared about was that we came home on time for dinner. That’s a big difference between now and then.”

With children from ages 6 to 20, tragedy struck once again. Joe recalls, “Dad just went to bed one night and never woke up. My mom didn’t drive, didn’t have a job and didn’t know how to pay bills. It was really hard watching her go through the whole thing.”

Despite these hardships, Eva and Joe persevered. Joe enrolled in a local community college. On and off over the years, Eva attended the same college to become more proficient in office work. They graduated on the same day. “She was right behind me in line,” Joe proudly exclaims.

Tom Sharpe, a mail deliverer, met Eva when she held a clerical job. They married and spent 27 great years in Florida. Then the couple moved into United Methodist Communities at Pitman. Tom passed away a few years ago, but Eva is doing great. “She just raves about the staff all of the time,” Joe said. “They all feel like family.”



Eva and Joe outdoors at Pitman.

Joe and his wife, Marlene, are strong supporters of the UMC Foundation. “We like what Pitman does for our mom. We appreciate that everyone is so helpful and really nice. Knowing UMC’s tradition of benevolent care is very important to us.”

Joe lives in nearby Mickleton and gets together with his mom once a week for lunch. “We just hang out and talk,” Joe remarks.

Gary Engelstad is Annual Giving Officer for the United Methodist Communities Foundation.

A longer version of this article will appear on the UMC Blog in November.



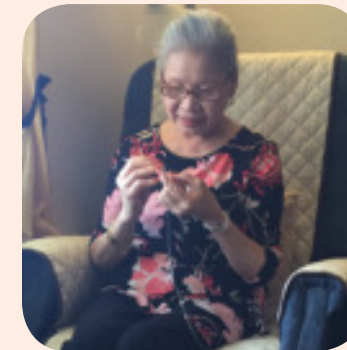
AT THE WESLEYAN

“Then & Now” Conversations with Residents

Virgie Mastelero and Dolores Pappas

By Rebecca Roe

VIRGIE MASTELERO



Virgie likes settling down in a comfortable chair to crochet useful and decorative items.

Where did you grow up?

I lived in a remote province of the Philippines, where my father farmed and my mother was a dressmaker. Our house had no electricity or running water. We didn’t have much money, but we were happy with what we had.

What did you do for fun?

I made my own dolls. I used my mother’s supplies for clothing and corn silk for hair, so all my dolls were blondes! My mother taught me to crochet, which I still enjoy doing today. I also liked playing jump rope and tag with other kids.



Virgie proudly displays a cherished photo of her eight children at a past gathering.

Do you remember your first job?

In the Philippines, we didn’t work while we were in school because our education was our job. When I married, my husband supported our family. He was an engineer, which meant we could live comfortably in the city and afford nannies and drivers to help me with our eight children.

We moved to America when I was in my 50s. My husband was sick and could no longer work, so I searched Red Bank for my first job. I was hired by the Navesink House to be a housekeeper and caregiver.

After a few years, I got my private home health aide license. I’m very good at taking care of people and have made a lot of friends through my work.

DOLORES PAPPAS



Dolores shares a photo montage of her family members.

Who were your favorite celebrities growing up? Do you have any new favorites?

Guy Mitchell and Perry Como were my favorite singers, and John Wayne was my favorite movie star. When I was younger, Cary Grant happened to be staying in the same hospital as my mother. I was waiting for the elevator to take me downstairs, and when the doors opened up — there was John Wayne! He’d come to visit Cary Grant.

I don’t watch many new movies — too much gore and bad language. I stick with Turner Classic Movies so I can see all my old favorites.

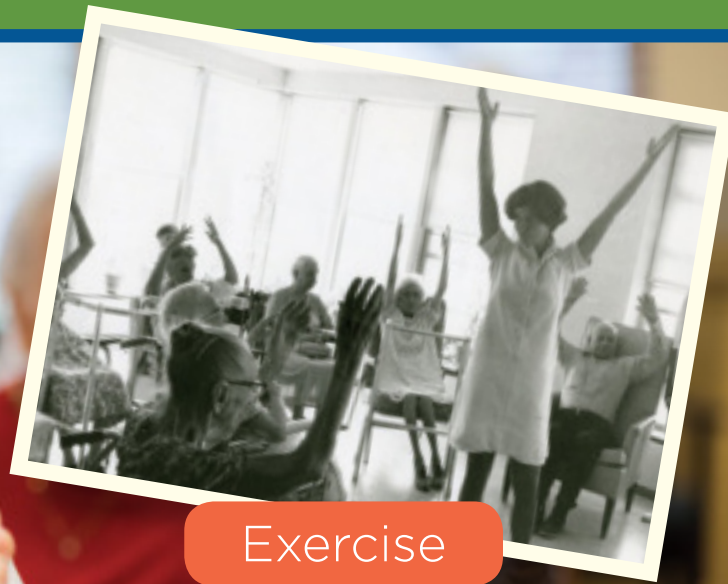
What is your favorite childhood memory?

Spending time at my grandmother’s house in Connecticut! I loved my grandmother, and also had a cousin there to play with. I stayed in Connecticut for a whole summer in the 1940s because there was a polio outbreak back in New York and my parents wanted to keep me safe.

Rebecca Roe is Donor Relations Coordinator for United Methodist Communities Foundation.

THEN VS NOW

THEN VS NOW



Exercise



Apartment



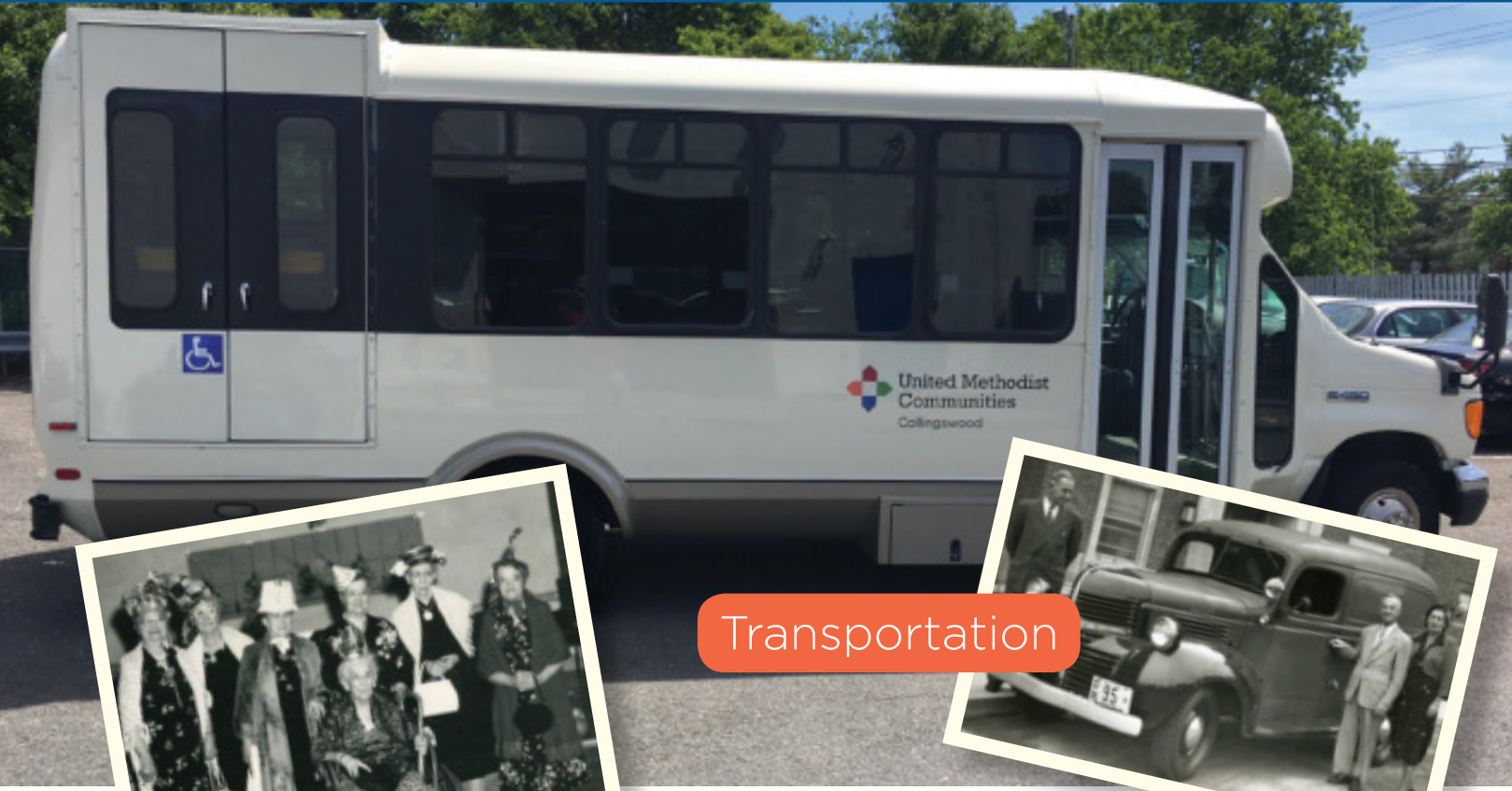
Resident



Visiting

THEN VS NOW

THEN VS NOW



Transportation



Funny Hats



Quilting



Residents

LEAVE US A REVIEW

Share your feedback about any of United Methodist Communities' four full service locations on Facebook, Caring.com and Google (permissible only with a Gmail account)!

 **United Methodist Communities**
Bristol Glen

Facebook <http://bit.ly/2oNXwuk>
Caring.com <http://bit.ly/2AZ9qTU>
Google goo.gl/mmazYX

 **United Methodist Communities**
Pitman

Facebook <http://bit.ly/2BzAxGf>
Caring.com <http://bit.ly/2B0Rc4o>
Google goo.gl/mJcFXN

 **United Methodist Communities**
Collingswood

Facebook <http://bit.ly/2ByYXj2>
Caring.com <http://bit.ly/2kldmle>
Google goo.gl/v3SmiG

 **United Methodist Communities**
The Shores

Facebook <http://bit.ly/2D3EcfL>
Caring.com <http://bit.ly/2ByZyRO>
Google goo.gl/3qq36D

BLOG TIME!

Check out United Methodist Communities' blog posts. We feature a new blog every Wednesday.

Upcoming topics include:

SEPTEMBER

Tips for Seniors: Cyber Crime Prevention

OCTOBER

5 Things Every Senior Needs to Prepare for Winter

NOVEMBER

How To Make Lemonade When Life Gives You Lemons

DECEMBER

A Day in the Life of a Home Health Aide

UMCommunities.org/blog

2019 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

SPRING: Associate Stories

FALL: Fabulous Food

YOU'RE INVITED...

You're invited to a Fall Harvest, Apple Festival, Memory Screening Day, Right Sizing, Healthy Hearts, Antique Road Show, Parade of Apartments, Stress Management, and other community events! Visit any of the full service community websites (back cover) and click events to see the current calendars.



INFINITE GREEN

Practice the 3Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle. You can also sign up for a digital engage subscription at UMCommunities.org/engage-magazine. Reducing Earth's carbon footprint benefits everyone!



Please Remember United Methodist Communities in Your Will.

OUR SACRED MISSION

OUR MISSION THEN AND NOW

By John Callanan



Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us that there is a time for everything within God's creation: birth, death, planting, harvesting, mourning, dancing, weeping, laughing, procreation, abstinence, love, hate, war and peace, to name just a few examples cited within the text. The message is that all of our human experience falls within the sovereignty of God. As we contrast our theme, Then and Now, we honor all the seasons in our ministry and acknowledge that it is God who inspires our mission and motivates our service.

Started in 1907 as The Monmouth Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged, our first home opened with 14 rooms, 8 inmates and 2 matrons. We now are a statewide organization with 9 campuses, roughly 1,200 apartments and living spaces, 1,400 residents and more than 1,000 associates, and we have executive directors, rather than matrons.

Our ministry began as a philanthropic mission to provide retirement housing for Methodists, when healthcare consisted of a doctor who made house calls and conventional wisdom advised "the restorative benefits of the fresh ocean breeze." We are now a diverse ecumenical and inter-faith community, healthcare is a complex, highly regulated industry and our mission is expanding into home and community based services through HomeWorks. Started by compassionate neighbors helping neighbors, we are now a leader and expert resource in senior living and care throughout New Jersey.

Although much has changed in 111 years, our mission and values remain strong. We embrace religious diversity, yet value our strong relationship with the United Methodist Church in Greater New Jersey, and celebrate our Wesleyan heritage and proud tradition of benevolent care. We remain a faith-based, nonprofit, ministry, continue to provide compassionate and respectful care to seniors, maintain the highest business standards as faithful stewards and deliver exceptional service inspired by our Wesleyan-Christian values.

Rev. John Callanan is Corporate Director of Mission and Pastoral Care.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Compassionately serving in community so that all are free to choose abundant life.



United Methodist Communities

3311 State Route 33
Neptune, NJ 07753

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Twitter



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UMCommunities.org

Full Service Communities

Offering a continuum of care for adults 65-years and over. Contact the community of your choice for information.

Independent Living | Residential Living | Assisted Living | Memory Support
Respite Rehabilitation | Long-Term Care | Hospice & Palliative Care

Bristol Glen

Newton, NJ | 973-300-5788
BristolGlen.UMCommunities.org

Pitman

Pitman, NJ | 856-589-7800
Pitman.UMCommunities.org

Collingswood

Collingswood, NJ | 856-854-4331
Collingswood.UMCommunities.org

The Shores

Ocean City, NJ | 609-399-8505
TheShores.UMCommunities.org

Affordable Housing Communities

Bishop Taylor

East Orange, NJ | 973-676-9057
UMCommunities.org/BishopTaylor

PineRidge of Montclair

Montclair, NJ | 973-746-0003
UMCommunities.org/PineRidge

The Wesleyan

Red Bank, NJ | 732-936-0760
UMCommunities.org/TheWesleyan

Covenant Place

Plainfield, NJ | 908-791-9430
UMCommunities.org/CovenantPlace

Wesley by the Bay

Ocean City, NJ | 609-399-6701
UMCommunities.org/WesleybytheBay

In-Home Care for Seniors

HomeWorks | Ocean Grove, NJ | 732-838-1950

HomeWorks | Newton, NJ | 973-940-6300

UMHomeWorks.org

