A Time to Celebrate

Long before September 11 became a day of remembrance, it was Patti Jones’ birthday. Patti is a resident at Jones Serenity Circle, and this year she celebrated her 72nd birthday.

So it was fitting that September 11 was chosen for two other celebrations - the dedications for the porticos and the new memory support neighborhood at The Heritage - two projects that she and her husband Dick were integral in making possible.

The morning started with the dedication of Jones Serenity Lane, the expansion of St. Paul’s memory support neighborhood on the fourth floor of The Heritage. The project added accommodations for up to 25 additional residents with Alzheimer’s disease or other types of dementia.

Around 40 board members, residents, family members, community partners, legislators and staff attended the ceremony. Dick Jones was one of the keynote speakers. “Patti gets the best, most loving care that I could ever imagine,” he said. “It’s amazing that it’s been 150 plus years that St. Paul’s has been here. To me, it’s such a small part that Patti and I play, but we are so grateful that we could play a part in helping St. Paul’s continue to be the most loving, caring facility that I’ve ever seen.”

Attention then shifted to the porticos. Almost 100 major gift donors, board members, residents and staff gathered for the ribbon-cutting in front of The Heritage, the fruition of a $500,000 fundraising campaign.

Past board chair and major gift donor Doug Anderson was one of the speakers at the ceremony. “I can count dozens of family members as well as close friends who have benefitted from the caring compassion that has been rendered by the employees of St. Paul’s,” he said. “Collectively as the Anderson family, we’ve been fortunate to have the opportunity to support St. Paul’s mission through many years.”

After the ceremony, the Anderson family graciously provided a bus to transport attendees to see the two other completed porticos at The Ridgewood and The Villas. Then everyone enjoyed cake and refreshments.

Ribbon-cutting at The Heritage portico.

Patti & Dick Jones with her birthday cake.

Development Specialist Dawn Hartman with portico major gift donor Autumn Colby and President-CEO Chris Wright.

Ridgewood residents enjoyed a picnic and ribbon-cutting for their portico later in the day.
A Fond Farewell

For those of you who like to read, the anticipation of getting to the next chapter of a good book can be very exciting. When you have finished the book you so enjoyed reading, there may be a feeling of sadness because you didn’t want it to be over.

The positive spin is that there are many great books to read with many new chapters.

On October 12, I will be starting a new book as I leave St. Paul’s in search of a long and healthy retirement, filled with many new chapters to experience. Even though I am excited, there is sadness as I leave behind something that was much more than just a “job.”

I have built relationships with many of you in the St. Paul’s family that will remain with me forever. I have been blessed one hundred times over with friendships that have grown and matured over the years.

Thank you for your generous support and consideration of St. Paul’s mission over the years that helped make my work in the Charitable Giving Office a joy and success.

The Magic of Music

Because of the support of a very generous donor, St. Paul’s is now offering music therapy at The Villas, The Ridgewood and The Heritage. At the beginning of August, music therapist Cindy Legwaila started visiting once a week to provide music therapy one-on-one and in small group sessions. What she has brought to life at St. Paul’s is nothing short of magical.

Residents with dementia who struggle to communicate are singing, playing instruments and engaging with the world around them during therapy. Residents with depression and anxiety are seen laughing and smiling. Residents who are constantly wandering are still, captivated by what Cindy is doing.

Life Enrichment Coordinator Patti Arensberg is a big fan of music therapy and what it’s doing for the residents. “Our entire neighborhood is being positively impacted,” said Patti. “Cindy is like the Pied Piper. In my time here, residents [in Jones Serenity Circle] don’t usually just come out to an activity on their own. But they gravitate to her. Every person wants to be a part of this. They are engaging in what she is doing. It really is amazing.”

This is a beautiful example of the difference donors can make at St. Paul’s. To find out how you could make a difference, please contact VP of Charitable Giving Diane O’Brien or Development Specialist Dawn Hartman at 724-588-7610.
From 1867 through today, the United Church of Christ and its members have supported St. Paul’s mission. Walter and Mildred Courtley were one such couple. St. Paul’s received a generous bequest from the Courtleys’ estate this year for benevolent care.

Walt & Mildred moved to The Colony in 1995. High school sweethearts, they had spent most of their lives in the Pittsburgh area. They had two children – Darrell, who lives in New Jersey, and Lauren in Connecticut.

With their children far away as they neared retirement, their history with the UCC - even though they were now Unitarian Universalists - led the Courtleys to St. Paul’s. Walt & Mildred grew up in Trinity Reformed Church in Wilkinsburg, later raising their own children there. “St. Paul’s was part of our consciousness always,” said Darrell. He recalls making trips when he was young to take Christmas presents to the orphans.

“Church was always very important to them,” said Darrell. “They taught Sunday school, served on boards and committees, helped with fundraising campaigns.” It was at Trinity they became close to two important figures in St. Paul’s history - their minister Dr. E. Roy Corman and Rev. Collins Defibaugh.

Corman served on St. Paul’s board for 51 years, 40 of those as Chair. Defibaugh was St. Paul’s fourth Executive Director from 1971-1989.

In the late 1970s, the Cormans, Defibaughs and another close friend of Mildred’s were all living at St. Paul’s, so they visited often. When Walt & Mildred started thinking about their own retirement, St. Paul’s was the natural place to go. “They were delighted about being at St. Paul’s,” said Darrell. “They really, really loved it there. It was a good fit for them.”

“Both my mom and dad were really service-oriented,” said Darrell. “Not just to religious organizations, but also community groups.”

It wasn’t surprising that the Courtleys chose to commit one more act of service in their will. In addition to St. Paul’s, they left bequests to their churches, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and Rotary International.

“Those were all charitable organizations that were important to them in their lives,” said Darrell. “They wanted to see their good work continue.”

Darrell and his wife Mary have fond memories of St. Paul’s and the peace of mind that came with knowing his parents were well-cared for. After Walt passed away in 2004, Mildred continued to live independently until 2010 when she transitioned to The Heritage. “The staff at St. Paul’s really watched over her,” said Darrell. “Being hundreds of miles away, I really appreciated that attention. It meant a lot to us.”

Even as her dementia worsened, Mildred still cherished St. Paul’s. “She started repeating herself a lot,” said Darrell. “One of the things she would always say was, ‘This is a good place!’ She just really loved it there.”

We are grateful for friends like the Courtleys, who choose to remember St. Paul’s in their will. Estate gifts enable St. Paul’s to provide richness and meaning in life for all residents and quality healthcare and services to those in need. To find out more, please contact the Charitable Giving Office at 724-588-7610.
The *Giving and Gratitude* newsletter is all about thanking you - our donors - for your support and showing you the amazing things you make possible, whether it’s a music therapy program or benevolent care for a person who desperately needs care and services but doesn’t have the resources to pay for them.

If your life has been touched by St. Paul’s in some way, whether you were in the orphanage many years ago or are a family member of a resident here today, please consider giving back.

When you *give* to St. Paul’s, you give smiles, laughter and *peace of mind*. That can make all the difference in someone’s life.