Then and Now
A Time of Transition
Oh What a Difference
From Homelessness to Hopefulness
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
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.

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

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

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.


Matt Weinbaum is Digital Marketing Strategist.
OH WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

1907

- 47 YEARS LIFE EXPECTANCY
- 14% HOMES WITH A BATHTUB
- 8% HOMES WITH A TELEPHONE
- 6% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ON TIME
- 95% AT HOME BIRTHS
- .02¢ FIRST-CLASS STAMP
- .22¢ AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

2017

- 78.7 YEARS LIFE EXPECTANCY
- 100% HOMES WITH A BATHTUB
- 46% HOMES WITH A TELEPHONE
- 84% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ON TIME
- 1.2% AT HOME BIRTHS
- 5¢ FIRST-CLASS STAMP
- $11.00 ENTRY LEVEL

1907 Food Prices

- .07¢ ONE LOAF OF BREAD
- .09¢ ONE GALLON OF MILK
- .14¢ ONE DOZEN EGGS
- .26¢ ONE POUND OF STEAK
- .04¢ ONE POUND OF SUGAR
- .75¢ ONE POUND OF COFFEE
- .20¢ ONE POUND OF BACON
- .33¢ ONE POUND OF BUTTER

2017

- $2.50 ONE LOAF OF BREAD
- $3.29 ONE GALLON OF MILK
- $2.00 ONE DOZEN EGGS
- $7.50 ONE POUND OF STEAK
- .75¢ ONE POUND OF SUGAR
- $3.50 ONE POUND OF COFFEE
- $5.00 ONE POUND OF BACON
- $3.00 ONE POUND OF BUTTER

1907 Automobiles

- .20¢ ONE GALLON OF GAS
- $2,005.00 AVERAGE NEW CAR
- 6,000 CARS ON US ROADS
- 10 MPH MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT
- 84% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ON TIME
- 95% AT HOME BIRTHS
- .02¢ FIRST-CLASS STAMP
- .22¢ AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE

2017

- $2.55 ONE GALLON OF GAS
- $31,252.00 AVERAGE NEW CAR
- 253 MILLION CARS ON US ROADS
- 65+ MPH MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT
- 78.7 YEARS LIFE EXPECTANCY
- 100% HOMES WITH A BATHTUB
- 46% HOMES WITH A TELEPHONE
- 84% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ON TIME
- 1.2% AT HOME BIRTHS
- 5¢ FIRST-CLASS STAMP
- $11.00 ENTRY LEVEL

1907 Five leading causes of death

- PNEUMONIA AND FLU #1
- TUBERCULOSIS #2
- DIARRHEA #3
- HEART DISEASE #4
- STROKE #5

2017

- #1 HEART DISEASE
- #2 CANCER
- #3 RESPIRATORY DISEASES
- #4 ACCIDENTS
- #5 STROKE
**PROFILES IN PHILANTHROPY**

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

*By Gary Engelstad*

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.”

Despite these hardships, Eva and Joe persevered. Joe and his wife, Marlene, are strong supporters of the United Methodist Communities 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 family weekly 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**

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.

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 us 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.

A photo portrait of Eva as a young child.

A photo montage of Dolores family members.

---

**DOLORES PAPPAS**

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.

We welcome your comments and questions about engage at info@UMCommunities.org

---

**UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITIES ENGAGE! | FALL 2018**
Share your feedback about any of United Methodist Communities’ four full service locations on Facebook, Caring.com and Google (permissable only with a Gmail account)!

**United Methodist Communities**

- **Pittman**
  - Google: goo.gl/mJCfXN

- **Collegewood**
  - Google: goo.gl/v3SmfG

- **The Shores**
  - Google: goo.gl/5qq3fD
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.
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.UMCommunities.org

### HomeWorks
Newton, NJ | 973-940-6300
UMCHomeWorks.org