

CARING



FALL 2020



Newlyweds Catie and Andy Backstrom visited Catie's grandmother Cathy Gale.

Estate Planning: The Greatest Gift You Can Give Your Loved Ones!



Learn About Wills & Trusts with Estate Planning Attorney **STUART BEAR**

Wednesday, November 18
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A well-thought-out estate plan ensures that your wishes are followed. You can also perpetuate your values by leaving a legacy for organizations important to you.

Sign up for this Zoom meeting by contacting Tyler at thauser@mtolivethomes.org or 612.821.3151 by November 16.

Year-End Giving Focuses on Closed-Circuit Television Channel

Year-end gifts will be used to set up a closed-circuit channel at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home.



The channel will enable residents to see worship and other activities as well as event schedules from their room television. See page 8 for more information.

Finding Joy and Connection In the Midst of COVID-19 Restrictions

Since March 2020—when the Minnesota Department of Health mandated restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic—staff, residents, and their families have had to find new ways to interact and stay in touch. And though life has changed, creativity, careful planning, and the will to bring people together has inspired all kinds of delightful and joyous experiences, as well as new opportunities.

Here's just one snapshot of what's possible (see above): Although resident Cathy Gale could not attend her granddaughter's wedding, the bride and groom stopped by Mount Olivet Careview Home that day to celebrate with Cathy and give her the bride's bouquet. It wasn't what had been planned, but it was a heart-warming moment for both the bride and the grandmother!

Of course, the first focus is on residents, their comfort and concerns, which has meant finding new methods of gathering and interacting. During the first five months of COVID-19 regulations, for example, residents ate meals in their rooms. Lydia Kljucaricek, director of dietary services, says, "August was our first month of congregate dining at Mount Olivet Home, and it was very exciting for our staff, who missed seeing the residents. The residents were absolutely thrilled. Staff members have all worked at being flexible and adapting to what seems like daily changes to their routines." She adds, "In the next few weeks we will open all dining rooms at Mount Olivet Careview Home for congregate dining while meeting the six-foot distancing guidelines, so residents can enjoy socializing with others. We also have added an additional 10:00 A.M. snack with fresh-baked goodies, yogurt parfaits, and special chef choice treats that residents enjoy as a 'break' in their day."

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Offering a continuum of high-quality care for seniors and children in an intergenerational setting

Online at www.mtolivethomes.org

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“From the moment COVID-19 closed Mount Olivet doors, I saw the therapeutic recreation (TR) staff kick into high gear,” notes Laurie Hancer, volunteer coordinator. TR creativity was stretched to provide modified programs to meet the psycho-social needs of the residents within COVID-19 restrictions, in the face of isolation from families and friends. Brenda Howard Larson, director of therapeutic recreation, says, “We were challenged to offer programming without touch, without handling items, in limited times, and in resident room spaces. TR has been creating individual bags of supplies for a particular craft, making leisure packets for every resident, and coming up with outdoor sidewalk programs for the residents to view from their room windows.”

Accustomed to designing and delivering large parties and big group events, Brenda notes, “the TR department found that as programs diminished, the workload doubled—now requiring 200-plus one-on-one programs each day. On top of the individual programs, TR facilitated an abundance of social media visits through Zoom, FaceTime, and Skype.”

TR staff have found themselves taking the place of the family residents couldn't see. Brenda notes, “We have needed to keep up the energy for everyone and create magic even when we

didn't feel magical. We have recognized it is the little things that matter—picking up a McDonald's cheeseburger for a resident, giving up a peach we couldn't wait to enjoy at lunch, purchasing items from the gift shop for some, tidying rooms, putting away laundry that family used to handle, singing the Lord's Prayer with a resident, learning that a cinnamon roll could soothe a resident refusing care.”

Pastor Lori Youngvorst has revamped her visits with residents. “When able, I have brought an iPad to an individual resident's room, and we have watched either the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church Sunday worship service or the service at the resident's home congregation.” It doesn't make up for gathering though. Lori observes, “We have not been able to gather in Lund Chapel for our worship services. This time together is deeply missed. Residents ask me often when worship services will begin again. We look forward to that day.” She adds, “A few times in the past six months, I have led a devotional time for the staff and residents at Mount Olivet Day Services via Zoom, and I will continue until we can gather again in person.”

And as restrictions change, activities change. Lori says, “When we could socially gather residents in their hallways, we began a Prayer and Praise service. I am looking at beginning Bible studies again.” She adds, “God is good and continues to be with us on this journey—supporting, guiding, and empowering us to move forward every day.”

Physical movement is important for the well-being of residents. When staff members have free time, they enjoy sitting or walking outdoors with residents, It has been a rich time



Chaplain Lori Youngvorst (l) and resident Shirley Oquist (r) walk together regularly.

for both staff and residents. Lori says, “Shirley Oquist is my weekly ‘walking buddy,’ and our time together has been a delight. Shirley and I walk around the block. She knows the yards where the perennial flowers grow, and when we approach them she stops and admires the blooms, sharing her knowledge with me along the way. We both look forward to this time together.”

And it's not just residents who have needed special attention. Julie McChesney, director of social services, says, “It is increasingly important to be in touch regularly with family members, to reassure them that their loved ones are coping. In addition, staff members are doing little things for the residents that their families would normally do.” Julie adds, “We do miss the regular in-person interactions with families.”

In the admissions area, the biggest change has been that on-site tours are not possible. For Tom Litecky, marketing director, it has meant developing a new skill. “I had to get creative and learn to use the iMovie app on my phone to put together video tours of Mount Olivet Careview Home, Mount Olivet Home, and the Mount Olivet Transitional Care Unit since family members cannot visit in person. Our occupancy remains strong.”

*Finding Joy and Connection,
continued on page 6*



Barnyard Buddies greeted residents through the windows.

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARIAN

ELTON CLAUSSEN

Elton Claussen begins his 100th year in October. He was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Garret and Ruth Claussen. His father was the foreman of the shipping department in a large meat packing plant. He grew up in Sioux Falls with his sister, Margery, graduating from high school in 1940.

By 1942 he was an Army MP (military police officer). He served in Iceland, and after the war in France and the Netherlands.

He met his wife, Marle, in Sioux Falls at a dance. In 1947, they married. They had four children—Dean, Janice, Jim, and Dennis.

Elton began working as a clerk for the railroad after the war. Then, for a time he worked in Mason City, Iowa, helping on his father-in-law's farm. In 1953, the family moved to Minneapolis, where he worked for a carpet company—the job he held until he retired.

In 1956, he and Marle bought a house in south Minneapolis. His children still live in that house! Golfing, bowling, and walking were some of his favorite hobbies.

In 1968, Marle died, and he became a single dad of four children. Elton remembers the great kindness of the women in his church, Our Savior's Lu-



99 and going strong!

theran Church, Minneapolis, bringing food for the family. Another great sadness was the death of his son Jim while serving in the Army in Vietnam.

Elton has lived for three years at Mount Olivet Careview Home. He is an avid reader who always has stacks of books surrounding him. Friends frequently drop off books—which he enjoys, as well as watching television and playing Bingo.

Julie McChesney, director of social services, says Elton “is one of the nicest men at Mount Olivet Careview—always positive and content.”

Happy birthday, Elton, and happy 100th year!



Elton enjoys fishing.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

TIM HOKANSON

Dear Family and Friends,

It is hard to imagine a more challenging time for our dear residents and their families. However, this is the circumstance our nation and world is in. With the help of our wonderful staff who are all heroes, our residents and families can be assured they are receiving the care and safety they deserve. The COVID-19 guidelines established by the Minnesota Department of Health are very restrictive, but they are in place for the safety of both our residents and staff. We sincerely hope that a vaccine for this virus is soon to come so we can all get back to normal.

I want to thank so many of you who have contributed to our Caring Fund, which has provided crucial communication equipment so residents and their families can have face-to-face online visits. The fund has also provided a special box lunch from week to week for our staff as a big thank-you to them.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of giving to our 2020 year-end appeal, which will bring facility activities and events to our residents through a closed-circuit TV channel. We would be so appreciative of your support. This is one more way we can ensure that our residents stay connected.

Best,

CARING

FALL
2020

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Mount Olivet Day Services Celebrates 25 Years of Caring for C



Mount Olivet Day Services was a dream waiting to happen in 1995 when this photo was taken.



Mount Olivet Day Services is intergenerational, providing a place for both seniors and children.

One year after its opening, participants and staff gathered to mark its first anniversary.



In 1995, Mount Olivet Day Services opened its doors on South Lyndale as one of the first freestanding intergenerational daycare centers in Minnesota. It soon became a model for others throughout the country. In 1997, the Garfield House opened and the preschoolers moved to this new location only one block away. In late 2003, an expansion of the program opened on the main floor of Mount Olivet Home.

Ginny Cullen, adult program director, says, "In 1995, a building was constructed and an intergenerational program was born. Over the years, we've been a place of friendship, support, activity, and joy. Though we've needed to re-design and re-build our program during the pandemic, our mission of providing quality services remains. Roberta George was a driving force twenty-five years ago and continues to share her talents and support today."



Children and Seniors!

Roberta George, longtime adult program staff member, was there at the beginning. She says, “In January 1995, I started working at Mount Olivet Care-view Home and watched Mount Olivet Day Services being built from the ground up. This intrigued me, so I transferred over there. I stayed with Mount Olivet for 25 years because of all the participants and staff that I met throughout the many years. Our staff worked so well together that if one of us needed help, we didn’t even have to ask, someone would be right there to help. From day one I loved and treated each and every one of the adults like they were part of my own family, and every day we laughed, joked around, and had a lot of fun. For all those years I enjoyed and appreciated working at Mount Olivet Day Services.”

For twenty-five years now, it has offered a safe and stimulating place for children and seniors.



Some children and seniors are back at Mount Olivet Day Services each day. Activities are carefully planned to keep everyone safe and involved.

Chuck Ball, U.S. Navy Seal

Chuck Ball attends Mount Olivet Day Services three days a week. But in the 1960s he was part of the Navy Seals, a special operations force. He served in Vietnam, primarily de-activating explosives and setting up underwater devices.

His wife Ramona says the training was very difficult, requiring a great deal of strength and endurance. In San Diego, “they would train all day, then sleep on the beach. It was hard work, and a lot of men dropped out.”

But Chuck really enjoyed the military. “The Navy was the real deal for him. It was hard—they learned how to jump from planes and spent a great deal of time in the water—but he really bonded with those guys.” Ramona says, “Chuck has always said that the main thing was supporting your buddies.” Reunions with his fellow Seals have been rich and thrilling times for Chuck.

Chuck grew up in Minneapolis and graduated from South High. The draft was in effect at that time, and he decided to enlist in the Navy. He returned to Minneapolis after his four-year stint was completed, although he seriously considered re-enlisting. “He really enjoyed the service,” Ramona says. “He has a stubborn constitution, so it fit him. It’s one of the things he’s most proud of.”

We have a hero among us.



Imagine! A Wedding at Day Services

Mount Olivet Day Services has become an important part of the lives of teachers and participants alike.

Ginny Cullen, the current adult program director, says that a high point for her of the last twenty-five years was the wedding of Roberta and Tom George in 2012. Everyone had a role in the wedding—making the decorations and flowers, helping Roberta buy her dress, preparing food, planning the ceremony, and more.



Here’s a picture of the happy event, including (back row, l-r): Ginny Cullen, Tom and Roberta George; (front row, l-r): Cayden Lennox and Carson Christensen, Roberta’s grandsons.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

JUNE 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

MOUNT OLIVET CAREVIEW HOME

ESTATE GIFT:
Clara Pierson

IN MEMORY OF:

RODNEY AABERG

Nancy Knutson

CARL ANDERSON

Jane & Mark Callahan



**CHARLES "CHARLIE"
CUNNINGHAM**

Anne Miller

**MARGARET "PEG"
ERICKSON**

Norma Jean Leary



EUNICE GARIN

Carol Christian

Patricia Eagle

Clarence Gosewisch

Diane & Michael Kelly

Robert & Mary Moncur

Mary Murphy

James & Sandra Nelson

BERNICE HOJUM

Betty Ostlund

TINCIE HUTSON

Jenny Ehrnst

Beth & George Honadle

HIROKO JEPSEN

Kimi Peña Landowski

NAOMI JOHNSON

Barbara Hardie

Lori & Gary Holland

Linda Holstrom

Jean Melin

Marilyn & Delbert Strand

JIM KOTSONAS

Beverly Anton

Janet Nelson

CAROLINE MELHUS

Todd Holmes

Meghan Shrewsbury

Melanie Wheeler

IDA RONNING KITTELSON

William Kittelson

MARGARET ROSEN

James and Kathryn Bratley

Carrie & John Sandgren

DAVID STRAND

Jane & Doyle Stotesbery

IN HONOR OF:

ELEANOR LAUMB

Rick Laumb

JOHN NOBLE

Ginger Downing

We apologize if your name was

omitted or misspelled. Call Tyler

at 612.821.3151 for corrections.

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Christine & Evon Bent

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Steve Broste

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Virginia Ross

Donald Russell

Julie Schroeder

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Lois Tureen

Gordon & Laurie Vetsch

Peter & Heidi Youngdahl

Susan, Ann, and Rich

Ziegler

GIFT:

Nila Poole

GIFT IN KIND:

Lyndale Plant Service

THRIVENT CHOICE:

Carol & Keith Hilgendorf

MOUNT OLIVET HOME

IN MEMORY OF:

HIROKO JEPSEN

Douglas & Georgiann

Eckheart

John & Bonnie Hayden

Richard & Lisa Nelson



NANCY LINDBERG

Roger & Joyce Amdahl

Diane Anderson

J.C. & Lori Anderson

Beverly Anton

Jean Berg

Robert & Margaret Berglund

Karen Blomberg

Richard & Mari Carlson

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Bobbe Daggett

Lester & Dawn Dahlberg

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John Gesme

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Dave & Sue Haberle

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Sandra McCalvy

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Chris & Chad Mezera

Terry & Joan Morehouse

Norma & John Munson

Roger & Nancy Nash

Christopher & Nancy Nelson

Janet Nelson

Mary Nevers

Dan & Jill Nichols

Vivikka Niehaus

Sharon Nielsen

Scott Niemeyer

John & Nancy O'Shea

Janice Palkowski

Jeanette Parks

Heidi Hagge &

Thomas Pearson

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Mike & Kristin Welbaum

Douglas & Lindsay Welch

John & Holly Widen

Aaron Youngdahl

GIFTS:

June Morton

Karen & Ted Olson

MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

IN MEMORY OF:

NANCY LINDBERG

Carol & Tom Lindborg

IN HONOR OF:

MATTIE WIDEN

Mary Jones-Morris &

Norman Morris

GIFT:

Martha & Richard Purcell

Finding Joy and Connection, continued from page 2

Staff members have been affected too. Donors have contributed funds for special lunches to provide encouragement and say thanks.

In March, Rachel Hastings, music therapist, and Pastor Lori Youngvorst began a weekly prayer group for staff. "It is a sacred time for us to be togeth-

er, supporting each other during these changing and challenging times."

Kevin Bender, director of environmental services, describes just one way regulations affect their work: "We have increased our cleaning duties all over the facility. High touch point cleaning is carried out multiple times a day in lobbies, entrances, restrooms, resident rooms, and dining rooms. Our staff has had to adjust, and we are a stronger unit because of it."

Josh Koempel says, "In the engineering department, one major thing we have done is laid brick between the northeast side patio and the sidewalk so families can visit with their loved ones, while minimizing risk of contamination, with a piece of Plexiglas between them."



Members of the Quanbeck family visit Philip & Dora at the patio, protected by plexiglass & masks.

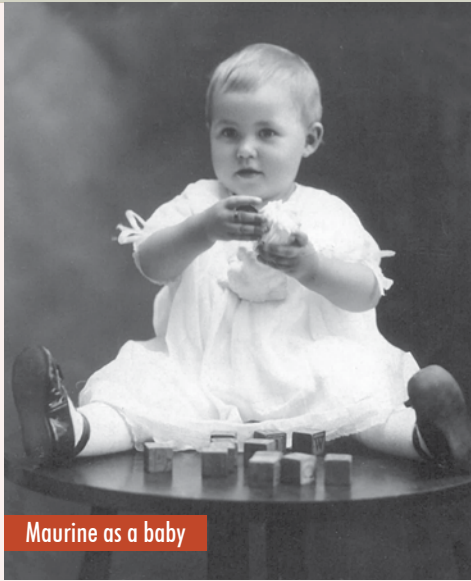
Residents, staff, families, prospective residents—all are affected by the current COVID-19 situation. Lori Youngvorst sums it up: "As I reflect on all the changes and procedures that have taken place in the last six months, I am once again reminded and proud of the resiliency of our staff and residents through it all."



Staff members have enjoyed complimentary lunches from donors as a show of support.

CELEBRATING OUR CENTENARIAN

MAURINE BROSTE



Maurine as a baby

Maurine Broste was born just north of St. James, Minnesota. “She’s a country girl at heart,” her daughter Susan Weaver says. Maurine lived



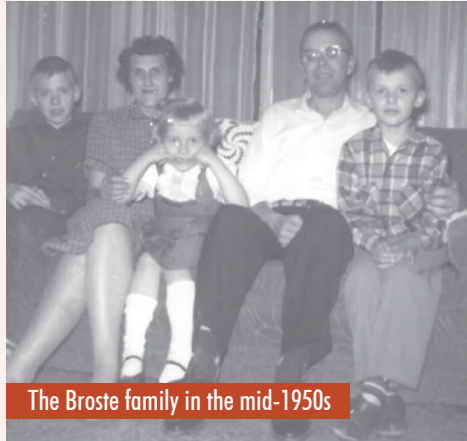
As a young woman

on the family farm with her parents, Bruno and Mabel Nelson, and her younger brother Mauritz. The Nelsons were Swedish, Bruno having immigrated from Sweden as had Mabel’s parents. “She grew up with cousins,” Susan says, “and remembers those times very fondly.” When Maurine was in high school, the family moved to town; it was the depths of the Depression and farming was difficult.

After high school, Maurine worked at Ulebergs, a dry goods store in St. James. “It was a really happy time in her life,” Susan says. “She could tell you today who she worked with at the store.”

While working there she started dating Philip Broste. They were married on May 11, 1945. It was World War II, and Philip was in the Army, stationed at Williams Field in Mesa, Arizona. Maurine went with her husband to Mesa. But soon Philip was shipped out to Hawaii, and Maurine went home to St. James.

When Philip returned, they lived in several apartments there before moving into a large, beautiful three-story turn-of-the-century house. They had three children—David, Steven, and Susan.



The Broste family in the mid-1950s

Susan says that their Augustana Lutheran Church was key in their family’s life. “My mom served for fifty years on the altar guild and sang in the choir for forty years, and my dad was also deeply involved in numerous ways.”

Maurine was always “a meticulous housekeeper,” according to Susan. “She took her responsibilities seriously, was devoted to our family, and took care of her parents when they required it. Our family was the center of her life.” She was a den mother for her sons and for Susan. And she sewed. “I still have Barbie doll clothes she sewed for me!” Susan pauses before she says, “She was a mom and a homemaker.”

When her oldest son went off to college, Maurine started working at the J.C. Penney store in St. James. She stayed close to the women she worked with through the years, until she left St. James.

Maurine and her husband traveled a good deal in later years. Their trip to Scandinavia—visiting her Swedish relatives and his Norwegian relatives—was a highlight, and they journeyed to numerous places in the U.S. as well.

When her husband’s health began to fail, they sold their big house and moved into a new apartment in St. James. Philip died three months later.

Susan says her mother then “stepped into a group of women friends—the ‘39ers’ who were high school classmates, cousins, and church friends.” She treasured those friends through the years and stayed very close to them.

Maurine remained in good health until suffering a knee injury which required rehab. “It was perfect timing,” Susan says, “because a place in an assisted living residence was available for her.” She lived there until 2018 when she moved into Mount Olivet Home.

“She has done really well here,” Susan says, “though COVID-19 has been devastating, with short visits and no touch.” Maurine has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Susan sums up, “My mom is a lot stronger than she looks. She’s resilient. She’s resourceful. She’s easy to get along with. She’s unfailingly kind.” A lovely description of a lovely woman!

Happy 100th year, Maurine!



The Broste family in 2015



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



Dear Friend and Supporter,

I am grateful to our senior staff for sharing some of the poignant moments they have had during the last seven months for the cover article. Every department had to pivot in programming. Their stories give us hope and prove anything is possible when you think positively and use your creativity!

You won't want to miss our virtual estate planning session led by attorney extraordinaire Stuart Bear on November 18, 10:00-11:30 A.M. Call or email Tyler Hauser at 612.821.3151 or thauser@mtolivethomes.org to sign up. Using a Zoom link sent to your email, you will be able to participate from the comfort of your home.

We are excited that construction of the new portico in front of the Careview entrance is underway. With backlogs at City Hall due to COVID-19 issues, permits took much longer to be issued. But Kraus-Anderson says the portico will be completed before winter, giving residents much-needed protection from

the weather as they come and go. The heated pavement will help prevent slipping on ice. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all donors who supported this important upgrade!

Our 2020 year-end fundraising will support staff and resident needs, including the development of a closed-circuit TV channel so residents can participate in activities from their room. The channel will also provide the daily schedule and the latest happenings around the homes.

Please keep Mount Olivet Home, Mount Olivet Careview Home, and Mount Olivet Day Services on your charitable giving list! Watch your mail for our year-end mailing. We would be most appreciative of your support! There are many ways to make a donation, so call or email to discuss the best way for you. Thank you!

Stay safe and be well!

Mari Carlson, Director of Development, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church & Affiliated Organizations | 612.821.3150 | mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org



Construction has begun on the portico for Mount Olivet Careview Home on 55th Street.



Once completed, residents, family members, staff, and visitors will enjoy protection from the weather.