FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Family Member and Friend,

These are challenging times for our country and the world. At Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home, we feel that too, but I am confident our incredible staff will see this pandemic through. I am impressed that our staff, even though they are concerned about their own health, they are equally concerned about the health of our residents. We are taking every precaution as a facility to fight the coronavirus. Under these circumstances, that is a comfort to all.

Our staff keenly realizes the burden that social distancing has had on our residents who not only enjoyed but thrived on family visits. Now those visits can no longer happen. Although it is best for everyone, it is still hard. I am so proud of our staff for being very creative in trying to bridge this gap.

The state of Minnesota has mandated that all nursing home residents and staff be tested. This was welcome news. Before this mandate, tests were only available to those residents and staff.

From the Administrator, continued on page 5

Support our Caring Fund that fulfills resident needs and staff appreciation.

Send your gift to:
Mount Olivet Careview Home
Development Office
5517 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419

You also can contribute online at mtolivethomes.org.

There are other ways to give, so call 612.821.3150 for more information.
Mattie Widen

Mattie has been a five-days-per-week participant in Mount Olivet Day Services. Her daughter, Mary Jones-Morris, says that Mattie has so loved her time there each day: “She loved playing Scrabble; she loved having the children come in; she loved the special music. Especially she loved talking and interacting with people. And she got a nice lunch, tailored to suit her. That staff is so wonderful! She really misses it.”

Mattie was born in Iowa on January 27, 1920, and three days later her mother died—probably as a result of the flu epidemic that was sweeping through the country. Her father already had a 13-year-old son and a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, so Mattie went to live with her Aunt Mary and Uncle Will, and they provided a home for her. “They were so good to me,” Mattie says. She did see her sister occasionally, but throughout her life recognized her uncle and aunt as her parents.

Mary says that Mattie often talked about growing up on a farm, riding in the winter on a horse-drawn sleigh that traveled over fences because of the height of the snow. Her uncle and aunt raised her near Des Moines, Iowa, until they lost the farm in the Great Depression and moved to the Willmar, Minnesota, area to start over again. Mattie graduated from Buffalo High School, then graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing in 1942.

As World War II began, Robert Widen worked on Mary and Will’s farm. Mattie married him on Palm Sunday 1943, then traveled with him as he served in the armed forces during the war. They lived in many places, including Texas and Tacoma, Washington, where Robert cooked for officers.

After the war, Mattie and Robert moved to Minneapolis. Robert was an electrician for Northern Pacific Railway, fixing their diesel engines—a job he maintained his whole career. Mary says that he might have had other ambitions, but “he was determined to support his family,” so he held on to that job. He clearly remembered the hunger and need of the Depression, and he wanted to be sure to care for his family.

In 1948 Mattie and Robert bought a house in south Minneapolis, the house where Mattie still lives.

She raised her two children—Mary and Roger—and kept busy volunteering as PTA president, in church circles, and playing piano.

Roger was a hunter, and Mattie saved feathers from the birds he shot to make hats for herself—when women wore hats to church each week and to many other events. “She was so creative!”

“She sewed all our clothes,” Mary exclaims. “Our family went camping every summer, and she made matching shirts for all of us. She had so many talents and skills!”

When her kids were in high school, Mattie started teaching practical nursing as part of the Minneapolis vocational program. She specialized in geriatrics, Mary notes, mostly at Augustana.

At age 65, Robert died of heart issues that had plagued his family, and Mattie was left a widow.

She traveled to many churchwide women’s events and continued volunteering in numerous ways.

Now Mattie loves to go for car rides. “I’m so grateful her eyes are good. She loves to go out and see things,” Mary says as they are about to leave for a tour of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Mattie has memory issues, Mary says, “but she’s so pleasant about it. It’s all positive!”

Congratulations on 100 years, Mattie!
Elizabeth Ronning

Elizabeth “Betty” Ronning was born on April 10, 1921, to Elizabeth & Rudolph LaHay. They lived in south Minneapolis, where Rudolph was an iron worker and mom Elizabeth was a seamstress and homemaker. Betty graduated from South High School, then went to the Minnesota School of Business, where she studied secretarial science. She worked in that career during World War II.

Her husband, Gene Ronning, was a South High classmate who served in the Navy during the war. Upon his return, Betty and Gene renewed their friendship and were married. They lived in south Minneapolis with their two children, Gene Jr. and Nadine. Gene was a manufacturer’s representative for multiple sporting goods companies. Betty served as his assistant, handling the accounting and office work, as well as making a home for the family.

Betty was a “fun mom” recalls Nadine. “She was always doing creative things with us like kitchen table science. And she was an animal person. We always had cats. If we complained of being scratched, she’d ask, ‘What did you do to the cat?’ It was never the cat’s fault!”

Betty and Gene were active in PTA, and Betty served as den mother for Gene Jr.’s Boy Scout troop. The couple square danced and loved to bowl. Betty bowled into her 70s and ice skated at 80.

Summer weekends and holidays were spent at the Ronning grandparents’ lake cabin until the couple built their own cabin in Wisconsin.

Travel was always a passion. “When we were kids, it was family road trips, mostly in the five-state area,” says Nadine. Later, Gene and Betty traveled farther afield, including Hawaii and Europe, and they spent winters in Arizona.

Betty and Gene shared a long life together with neither having significant physical issues. Gene died in 2014. Betty initially participated in Mount Olivet Day Services and then moved into Mount Olivet Home in 2016. Betty was a resident in assisted living and then moved to memory care. “She just started using a walker this year,” Nadine remarks about her mother’s mobility at 99.

“Betty loves to sing! She loves all the old songs. She always loved music and she is still singing,” noted Nadine.

Reflecting on the visitation restrictions during COVID-19, Nadine says, “Betty is handling it well. She knows that she needs to wash her hands frequently. She knows to stay away from people. We’ve been able to talk on the phone.”

Nadine adds, “When I think of my mom, I think of animals. They have been her abiding passion. When she lived with me, my own dog loved her more than me and became her constant companion. Every conversation includes the phrase, ‘Remember to feed the birds.’”

“My mom was always an elegant lady. She was always well dressed. She loved shopping. And she had a wicked sense of humor! Even today.”

Betty’s 100th birthday will be next April. Happy years, Betty! And keep sharing that wicked sense of humor!
Beatrice Gustafson was born on May 22, 1921, to Ole and Anna Gustafson, Scandinavian immigrants living in Minneapolis. One of six children, her father was a street car driver (later a bus driver) and her mother was a “devoted housewife,” according to Beatrice’s daughter Linda Campbell.

“My mother had a twin sister named Bernice, and they were very close. My aunt died just a couple years ago.”

Beatrice attended Washburn High School and graduated from Vocational High School. After graduation, she worked in a store until she married Philip Hawkinson, who she met on a blind date set up by her twin sister. They had three children: Linda, Susan, and Gary. Philip worked as a salesman, eventually working for Georgia Pacific, where he sold lumber products.

“My mom was a typical 50s housewife,” Linda says. “She was a very good cook and kept an immaculate house. She stayed home and cared for her family,” Linda says.

Beatrice didn’t drive until she was 40. Then things changed, Linda recalls, because she could move around the city on her own. She became very active as a volunteer, for many years at Fraser School. She bowled, she did ceramics—a lot of crafts. She also was devoted to her church, Richfield Lutheran, where she served on council, participated in a women’s club, and taught Sunday school. Beatrice was “extremely social,” Linda says. “She always was the life of the party.”

Philip died early, at age 57, from cancer, leaving Beatrice and their three children. Linda recalls, “She worked at a children’s clothing store part time, after my dad passed. The owners teased her because she always spent her paycheck on clothes for her grandkids and never brought any money home for herself.” Linda adds, “She delights in her grandchildren!”

Some years later, Beatrice married Ray Westermo. They did a lot of traveling and enjoyed 20 years together.

Beatrice has five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. “Family is important to her. She continued having Christmas Eve gatherings including extended family well into her 70s.” Linda remarks, “She is a devoted Swede, and celebrations always had a distinctively Swedish tone.”

“One of the memories we all have of her is that she wore spike heels well into her 80s. We had a big 90th birthday party for her and her sister at Richfield Lutheran, and my mother was dancing the polka there—at 90, in her spike heels!” Linda remembers with laughter. “In fact, a couple years ago she started dancing the polka at Careview, with her walker! She has always loved music.”

Linda’s last remark about her mother: “She has an outgoing personality!” Congratulations to Beatrice on 99 years of life—lived exuberantly!
Scholarships Assist Staff’s Education

Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home recently awarded nine staff members scholarships so they may further their education:

- Sarah Johnson—Lloyd & Jane Salin Endowed Scholarship
- Enock Kebati—Edgar M. Carlson Endowed Scholarship
- Erick Nyabiba—Naomi M. Nechtel Endowed Scholarship
- Evans Matara—Eleanor T. Heegaard Scholarship
- Jairus Mayaka—Lorraine & Jeroy Carlson Endowed Scholarship
- Ashreen Mursalim—Philip C. Helland Scholarship
- Japheth Nyaata—Ken & Ruth Jarcho Endowed Scholarship
- Evelyn Ogetonto—Ken & Ruth Jarcho Endowed Scholarship
- Evans Ribo—Niles & Helen Joseph Endowed Scholarship

Scholarships are an important benefit for staff at Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home because ongoing learning improves care for residents—always our primary goal. We are very grateful to the generous donors for providing our staff with this opportunity!

If you are interested in establishing a staff scholarship, please contact Jennifer Carlson at 612.821.3154 or jcarlson@mtolivethomes.org.

From the Administrator, continued from page 1

who were exhibiting symptoms. Testing will give all nursing homes a snapshot of where the virus may be present so we can concentrate our efforts in those areas to mitigate it.

We are waiting for the final recommendations from the Department of Health for policies about opening up visits between family and residents. We know this can only be done in a protective area with proper barriers and distancing. We have developed plans for this next step and are confident it can happen soon. We understand the burden this separation has caused for families and their loved ones. It was necessary for the country to stay ahead of this stealthy virus.

I want to thank our staff, residents, families, donors, volunteers, and friends for their heroic efforts in every regard: loving care, patience, encouragement, support for our Caring Fund, and prayers.

We are in this together and will come out of this together.
Neighbors showed their appreciation and staff celebrated their work during this time of pandemic.

Residents peer through windows to greet friends and family, watch the activities of visitors, and see staff activities.

Staff assembled activity and gift bags for residents, and received homemade masks from volunteers for our residents.
Gymnasts from Circus Juventas (top) performed, and animals with their tenders from Barnyard Friends (bottom) lingered outside Mount Olivet Home, entertaining the residents inside.

Residents (top to bottom) Linnie Nolan, Donna Helbig, Carol Kosak & Catherine Stathis enjoy making art, following social distancing protocol.
The Legacy of Love and Service on Lyndale

Mount Olivet Home Celebrates 60 Years
Mount Olivet Careview Home Marks 55 Years
Mount Olivet Day Services Observes 25 Years

The corner of 55th and Lyndale in Minneapolis was once referred to as a “mercy spot” for its red-brick shelter for unwed mothers, children needing care, and a vocational hospital next door that housed and trained practical nurses. As times changed, the need to care for children was replaced with a need to care for the elderly. When the owners donated it to Mount Olivet in 1956, they asked that it be used for senior care.

Mount Olivet Home was dedicated in 1960 and in 2020 celebrates 60 years of service. Today it is a 94-bed, semi-independent living facility with private rooms, spacious lounges and outdoor patios.

The Vocational Hospital next to the redbrick building was torn down in 1965 and rebuilt as Mount Olivet Careview Home for 150 in-
individuals needing skilled nursing care. Both facilities have dedicated memory care units.

Tim Hokanson, Mount Olivet Home and Mount Olivet Careview Home administrator, said, “In the past 30 years, almost every square inch of both buildings has been renovated.” This includes the kitchen, lobbies, lounges, resident rooms, and the nursing stations. “The biggest change was in 2018 when a $26 million renovation at Mount Olivet Careview Home began,” added Tim. “This transformed the building into a state-of-the-art facility that is enjoyed by both residents and staff.”

**MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES** was dedicated in 1995 and this year is celebrating 25 years of intentional intergenerational interaction for children and seniors. The goal of helping seniors live independently longer has been achieved many times over. Children appreciate having unconditional love from a “grandpa and grandma.” Today, 35 seniors and 75 children gather daily (pre-pandemic) to develop friendships, explore learning opportunities, and just have fun!
Mount Olivet Day Services Works to Stay Connected

No one disputes we are living in a challenging time due to COVID-19. We have learned many new terms and phrases like “social distancing,” “flatten the curve,” “PPE,” “curbside pick-up” (my favorite). Through it all, we ask ourselves: How can we continue our mission of intentional intergenerational interaction. I have reached out to participants through phone calls, emails, greeting cards, and other mailings, including activity packets filled with fun activities. A staff photo was sent out to express our good wishes. One staff person wrote an uplifting limerick which was mailed. Volunteer Lori Tate emails pictures of her wonderful golden retriever, Honey. They are a real hit!

The first week we were closed, I decided that my most important role is to continue our mission of intentional intergenerational interaction. I have reached out to participants through phone calls, emails, greeting cards, and other mailings, including activity packets filled with fun activities. A staff photo was sent out to express our good wishes. One staff person wrote an uplifting limerick which was mailed. Volunteer Lori Tate emails pictures of her wonderful golden retriever, Honey. They are a real hit!

The week of April 6, one staff person was able to hand out gift bags to participants for Easter, and that set the stage for our Doorstep delivery program. I contacted a local music store and placed an order for CDs of the old favorites! I read the list to him, and he nodded again and again as an indication that he remembered them. I especially like ‘On Eagles Wings,’ and Dick really likes ‘Gather at the River’ and ‘Jesus Loves Me.’ Thanks so much for sharing this CD. What a wonderful gift! We will play it many times.”

A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS:
“Dick was tidying up around his chair tonight and pulled up your bag with the CD in it, so we have been playing it. How beautiful, and such wonderful choices of the old favorites! I read the list to him, and he nodded again and again as an indication that he remembered them. I especially like ‘On Eagles Wings,’ and Dick really liking ‘Gather at the River’ and ‘Jesus Loves Me.’ Thanks so much for sharing this CD. What a wonderful gift! We will play it many times.”

by Ginny Cullen

Mount Olivet Careview Home

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31, 2020

We apologize if your name was omitted or misspelled. Call Tyler at 612.821.3151 for corrections.

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Mount Olivet

Careview Home

ESTATE GIFTS:

JOAN KEP S
VICTOR MOOSE, JR.

IN MEMORY OF:

PAUL & ELIZABETH CARTWRIGHT
S I G U R D & L I L I A N R U DI
Eileen & William Cartwright
S Y L V I A C A R L S O N
Richard & Ann Carlson
L E O N A F O G A R T Y
Michael Fogarty
ELEANOR HEEGAARD
Renee Rodier
WILLIAM "BILL" RODIER
Renee Rodier
OSITHA RUPERT
Marsha Kamiliar

DAVID STRAND
Friends & Family
Ginny & Brian Beste
Kurt & Sandra Casper
H.D. Christenson
Keela Cottew
Tom & Julie Fuggle
John & JoAnn Gross
D. & B. Ralston
Gillian & John Schoonover
Carolyn Stefanich
John & Marsha Stowe
Tavis & Susan Strand
George & JoAnn Swanson
Joan & Larry Wilken
Marlin & Kathy Zahn

IN HONOR OF:

MARI CARLSON
Annelise Carlson

RUBE & BERNICE DORNFIELD
Sandy & Darrell Nortling

GIFTS:

Bruce & Joan Boetcher
Robert & Sharon Harlestad
Tyler Hauser
Jane Michaels
Karen & Ted Olson
Mark Opheim
Steve & Elaine Roach
Arthur & Margaret Rosen
Susan Wiesner

GIFTS IN KIND:

Brenda Becker
Peter & Michele Borne
Annelise Carlson
John Cook
David Honningford
J erry's Foods
Lake Harriet Floral LLC
Kimberly & Jay Rathenberg

THRIVENT CHOICE:

Brenda Kolf
Chris & Jim Duchow
James & Lois Dust
Brian Farr
Annette Johnson
William & Susan Kirkpatrick
Richard & Sandra Vigen
Kathleen Witzman

IN MEMORY OF:

JAMES DEAN
Rosemary Dean
C.L. & W.R. Gonyer
Kay Nelson
RICHARD HOLTE
Kay Nelson

BETTY ANN NELSON
Patricia Collins

GIFT:

Dan Erdanson

THRIVENT CHOICE:

Anna Nekola

Caring Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

EVELYN ANDERSON
Rich & Sandra Vigen
LEONA FOGARTY
Michael Fogarty
DONNA HELBIG
Renee Rodier
CAROLYN HOVELSRUD
Sallie Quammen & Charlie Fazio

Nancy Wagner
JERRY JALLO
George & Maryly Kotsonas
VELMA JOHNSTON
Karen & Todd Hesla
NAOMI JOHNSON
Nancy Craig
Les and Anne Miller
DAVID LUND
Michael Lund
DON MUNSON
Richard & Sandra Vigen
NAOMI NECHTEL
Lisa Warren/Thrivent Match

IN HONOR OF:

BETTY RONNING’S BIRTHDAY

Nadine Ronning

GIFTS:

Dennis & Doris Bahn
Bruce & Joan Boetcher
Cliff Bolstad
Mary Jane Burdorf
Susan Burwell
Richard & Mari Carlson
Scott & Mary Carollo
Eileen & William Carwright
Kathryn Crawford

Yvonne Drege
Catherine Gale
Elena & Bruce Graff
Fredric & Stephanie Groth
Lorraine Hanson
Mark & Victoria Helseth
Gary & Vicki Johnson
Karen Johnson
Lester & Janice Klos
S u s a n Lewis
Mary Melhus
Daniel Murphy
Pamela & Colin Nelson
Scott Niemeyer
Jeanne Olsen
Paul & Mary Olson
Scott Parker
Steve & Elaine Roach
Rebecca & Tyrone Rosson
Donald Russell
Catherine Salin
Rand, Barb, & Glenn Sobert
Kevin Stowe
Jean & Cary Sundolf
Chuck & Paula Swanson
E s a b e l t t a n a s w a n s o n
Victoria Circle
Lois Warnsley

Mount Olivet Day Services was created as a social and health-oriented program. We are a friendly community, so I have missed seeing participants, caregivers, and staff. Our goal is to be creative in adapting and sustaining our relationships with others.
FACES AND PLACES
AT MOUNT OLIVET DAY SERVICES

While the adult program is closed, the children's program remains open.

Shooting baskets!

Reading together

Can you find your way through the tube?

Camo baby is happy!

Some floor time

Reading a magazine

Puzzle time

While the adult program is closed, the children's program remains open.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Friend and Supporter,

Every day I am grateful for the generosity of our donors! We are appreciative of the support and truly inspired by these acts of kindness! One inspiring moment came from a 10-year-old boy named Oliver who lives with his family in our southwest Minneapolis neighborhood. I had to call Oliver’s dad Matt to clarify why a thank-you letter should go to Oliver when the online gift came from Matt. To my surprise and great delight, I received the following response. It warmed my heart.

Matt explained, “Every week Oliver and his sister Annika receive an allowance from me. Part of Oliver’s allowance is for him to spend however he likes, but part of it is put aside in the ‘donation jar.’ For the last couple of years, we have emptied out the jar at Christmas time and made our decisions then about what causes we want to support. This year, because of the pandemic, I talked to the kids about how needs are greater than usual, so they recently made their donations, with Oliver choosing to give to Mount Olivet Careview Home. To get Oliver’s thoughts on giving, I did a small interview.

Matt: Why do we set aside part of your allowance every week for charity?

Oliver: Because I know that people need it more than I do.

Matt: How did you choose where to give your donation?

Oliver: I saw a clipping in a newspaper that said ‘12 Dead in Southwest Senior Homes’ and so it made me really worried about the people who live at Mount Olivet. You told me they weren’t letting any visitors in or out, and that made me feel like they would be extremely lonely and they could use the help. I’m really happy that I made my donation, because I know that it will help people.”

Thank you, Oliver, for your kind gesture. Your gift made a difference helping us purchase iPads, CD players, and other items so our residents could stay connected with their families! And, Matt, thank you for teaching your children the joy of giving. There is no greater gift!

If you are interested and able, we would be so very grateful to receive your gift of any size. We continue to have needs for our residents and for our staff who continue to give of themselves to better serve our residents during the pandemic.

Send your gift for the Caring Fund to Mount Olivet Careview Home, Development Office, 5517 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419, or make an online gift at mtolivethomes.org. Call 612.821.3150 with questions.

Thank you so very much for your prayers, for gifts, for making hand-sewn masks, and for sending notes of encouragement and support! We are grateful for all!

Stay safe and be well!

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