



the UPdate

a quarterly newsletter from the United Presbyterian Home

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Residents Talk About Their Move to Kerr Hall as We Celebrate the Building's 20th Anniversary

- Rev. Dr. Buckwalter to Speak About the 'Alzheimer Tsunami'
- New Pavilion on Campus
- Remembering Those Who Passed Away in 2014



‘Original’ Kerr Hall Residents Celebrate 20 years of Life on Campus

The supply wasn’t keeping up with the demand and the waiting list for the United Presbyterian Home was getting far too long to be able to fulfill people’s request of living on campus. In 1990, the wait list for cottages was approximately ten years and for small apartments in the Main Building the wait time was approximately 20 years. It was obvious that that the UP Home needed to do something to continue to meet the needs of those who wanted to move on campus after retirement.

“We decided to conduct a study, so we sent a letter out to those people on our waiting list asking if they would move in to an apartment building, what size of apartment that would want, what price they would pay and so on,” said CEO Mike Moore. “The study showed quite a bit of interest so we proceeded with a second letter and then we started pre-selling apartments.”

It was a long process from beginning to end. Conversations started in 1990 when the UP Home received their first set of plans from Engelbrecht & Griffin Architects P.C. Next, several members of the Board of Directors visited similar facilities in Des Moines and Minnesota to get ideas of what amenities Kerr Hall should offer. Then in 1993 the construction began, and by February 1995 it was ready for move-in.

“I would describe Kerr Hall as modern condominium-style apartments,” said Moore. “They are very private and quiet with double thick walls complete with extra batting; balconies and a garage space.”



The original Kerr Hall residents pose for a picture in the skywalk which connects the Main Building to Kerr Hall. (Left to Right) Betty Gipple, Mary Jean Pearson, Carl & Helen Dallmeyer, Walter Gowan, Marjorie Fullerton, Lou Slight, Shirley and Dean Garrett. Not pictured is Dorothy Soucek, Marge Overett, Bob and Ella Mae Ruppert.

Kerr Hall is made up of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments that are all ADA compliant. All of the apartments have large walk-in closets with plenty of storage. The two- and three-bedroom apartments have two bathrooms, one with a walk-in shower and one with a bath tub.

“Six months after Kerr Hall was built we had all but three apartments filled and within the first year it was full,” said Moore.

When Kerr Hall opened, it was filled with people from California, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and all over Iowa including Des Moines, Ainsworth, Crawfordville, Fairfield, Sioux City, Washington and Columbus Junction. Twelve of the original Kerr Hall residents are still residing in their apartments with no regrets about their move to campus. Marjorie Fullerton, age 99, never thought that she would move to a retirement community but she says it all just fell in to place for her and she has been completely satisfied.

“My daughter and I would always have lunch on Friday and one day she mentioned that the UP Home was building a new apartment building. I didn’t think much of it and nothing else was said until one day when I was in Washington I decided to stop in and inquire about it,” said Fullerton, a former Columbus Junction resident. “There were only two one-bedroom apartments left and only one with a view to the south. I knew that was what I wanted and if I didn’t take, it someone else would.”

Fullerton put a For Sale sign in her yard and the very next day it sold. The only problem with selling her house so quick was that Kerr Hall wasn’t completed yet. She picked the items she wanted to take to her 755 square foot, one-bedroom apartment and told her kids to pick what they wanted and she sold the rest.

She moved September of 1994 to a room in Fulton Hall above where the Main Office is at the UP Home. This is where Fullerton and a couple other new residents resided until Kerr Hall was complete. She lived there for a few short months before taking possession of her brand-new apartment with cathedral ceilings.

“It’s a wonderful place and it’s been the right answer for me,” said Fullerton about her move to the UP Home when she was 78 years old. “I’ve made some special friends since I’ve lived here and have so many wonderful memories here.”

Dean and Shirley Garrett lived just a block from the UP Home campus and learned about the Kerr Hall addition by word of mouth. After learning about the

new building project, they decided to participate in the study and they put a deposit down to hold their spot and help further the project.

Their house sold before putting it on the market, but they continued to live at home while the buyer sold their house. They returned from a vacation to Acapulco, Mexico, in February 1995; and Dean decided that was the weekend to move. Most people wouldn’t want to move during the winter months in Iowa; but it was a rare 70 degrees, so they took advantage of it.

“We had just returned from vacation, we had laundry to do and I wasn’t ready to move,” said Shirley with a smile.

“It’s a wonderful place and it’s been the right answer for me. I’ve made so many special friends since I’ve lived here and have so many wonderful memories here.”

Marjorie Fullerton,
20 year resident

They moved their larger items in that weekend and brought other things over gradually. The Garretts have a three-bedroom, corner apartment on the first floor where they love to watch the activity of the campus. They were amazed that their apartment has 19 windows which is actually two more windows than the house they moved here from.

“It’s fun to sit and watch them mow and move snow,” Dean said with a smile while sitting at his kitchen table looking outside. “We love watching the birds at our bird feeders, having a housekeeper and the skywalk to the main building is heaven, we don’t have to go outside in this cold weather.”

They also enjoy the heated garage and their patio in the warmer months. When they moved on campus, Dean was 65 and Shirley was 60. They rode bikes, golfed everyday and made the decision to move so they didn’t have to worry about the upkeep of their house and yard anymore.

“I don’t understand why people wait so long to move,” Shirley said. “The sooner you move in, the more you get to enjoy it.”

The Garretts are high school sweethearts who met at a Church skating party. They will celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary this year as well as 20 years living at the UP Home.

Building of Kerr Hall



first floor



second story



finishing touches

Happenings at the UPHOME

Here is a glimpse of what's been happening at the United Presbyterian Home since you heard from us last:



Holiday Music

It was standing room only in the Parlor on the Tuesday morning before Christmas as Martha Chalupa and Gwen Ying serenaded residents with piano, violin and flute music. They sometimes played different versions of the same song, each one to the delight of residents. Gwen dreams of putting together an orchestra of talented UPH residents for a program next year. She insists that each person has a talent to be developed through opportunity, teaching, desire or a combination of the three.



Cookie Walk

Chef Cory Evans and the dining staff sponsored a Cookie Walk in the Town Center in conjunction with the Christmas dance. As residents came and left the dance they were able to choose from a dozen cookie varieties and fill plates to take home to their freezer for future holiday gatherings. Some residents may have nibbled on their way home.



Three of Hearts Book Signing

Larry Cuddeback and daughter Cheyenne Cuddeback Miller have once again recognized deserving men and women with WWII connections with the completion of their second book of personal and deeply moving stories of heroism, perseverance and passion. The *Three of Hearts* is a continuation of WWII stories passed along to Larry and Cheyenne from veterans themselves or through the stories told to family members. Their first collaboration, *We Lucky Few*, was compiled of face to face interviews with living veterans. The United Presbyterian Home

was honored to offer a book signing for The *Three of Hearts* with seven residents present to sign their page in history including Birchard Holden, Ezra Jones, Dorothy Koehler representing her first husband, Louis Koehler, George Masson, Paul Swank, Elizabeth Terrones and Ruth Zehr. Other UPH residents and former residents contributing stories to the book included Stew Bell, John Duvall, Mel Jaspering, Ralph Marshall, Bill Potratz, Harold Stephens and Bob Ruppert.

BLAST from the PAST

United Presbyterian Home resident Mildred Meyer Houseal and former resident Maurita Darnell Stout posed for a picture of their 4-H uniforms at the Iowa State Fair in 1936.

Mildred is now 90 years old but still has a vivid memory of this moment when she was just a teenager. "We won first place for our demonstration on how to can chickens, which was really a difficult process," said Mildred.



Mildred Meyer Houseal (right) with her friend Maurita Darnell Stout

After winning at the Iowa State Fair, Mildred and Maurita were invited to Chicago for Nationals. "It was quite the trip," said Mildred, "We stayed in hotels, attended dinners and went to several museums."

**If you would like to submit a *Blast from the Past* photo of a UP Home resident, please email Diana at drich@uphome.org with the photo and a detailed description.

You're Invited!

Mark your calendars for the
Kerr Hall Open House

Thursday, March 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm
at the Main Entrance, located on the East side of Kerr Hall

Please join us to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Kerr Hall with a Tasting Tour. Guests will tour a variety of apartments in Kerr Hall with tasty treats along the way.





Kitch's Korner

Spiritual Wellness with Rev. Kitch



One of the Bible Study groups at the UP Home is currently engaged in the study of a book called *Ten Rules for Growing Older with Dignity*. The author, Dr. Richard Cox, starts with Psalm 92:13-14: "planted in the house of the Lord [the righteous] will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green..."

This speaks to the richness of life that we can attain EVERY day and EVERY year of our lives, including those nearest to the end of life on this earth. As lifespans increase with better health standards, living conditions and medical care, we are confronted with how to add quality of life to its quantity – otherwise it is without value.

There is sanctity of both life AND death. The journey toward that day that comes for each of us is a sacred gift from God. But, as Dr. Cox writes, there are rules for engagement for the process. We not only live in old age, we live with it! Sometimes that is a big challenge, one of those that we take up at the UP Home, hoping to add value to the days of our lives.

UP Home CEO Mike Moore Received National Mentor Award



In October 2014, United Presbyterian Home CEO Mike Moore received the Dr. Herbert Shore Award at the National LeadingAge Meeting in Nashville.

Mike received this prestigious award for his dedication, compassion, innovation, integrity and acting as an advocate, role model and mentor during his 37 years at the UP Home as an aging-services leader.

Leaders of organizations across Iowa and the nation have benefited from Mike's willingness to share experiences and advice on issues throughout their careers. Those who know Mike well understand that he takes the greatest pride in helping others grow.

New Pavilion on the South Side of Campus



The United Presbyterian Home expanded on the south side of campus with a new pavilion this past fall. The pavilion is located near the campus garden and walking path.

"We were able to build the pavilion on campus with memorial money," said Erin Drahota, COO and -addition to our campus. This will provide another nice space for our residents to enjoy the outdoors as well as a place for us to hold events and activities."

The pavilion is furnished with a few benches and a table with the hopes of purchasing grills and a few more seating options this summer. Residents and their families can reserve the pavilion by contacting the Main Office.

Rev. Dr. Georgine Buckwalter will Visit Eastern Iowa to Discuss The Future of Spiritual Care for Our Elderly



A specialist in spirituality and aging, Rev. Dr. Georgine Buckwalter will be visiting Eastern Iowa for two days this spring. Rev. Buckwalter's trip will include meeting with church and community leaders to discuss *Challenges and Opportunities in the Future of Spiritual Care for Our Elderly*. The United Presbyterian Home is co-sponsoring this event with the Presbytery of East Iowa which will take place in Washington, Iowa on April 15.

Dr. Buckwalter is a powerful and dynamic speaker who has specialized in pastoral care for the elderly for over 25 years. She is well known for her work with the elderly patients she cares for and their families. Her passion for the elderly has compelled her to teach, mentor, publish, and speak to church, educational and professional groups.

During her trip to Eastern Iowa, the United Presbyterian Home will be hosting her stay. She will travel to Cedar Rapids and Davenport on Tuesday, April 14, and then will spend the day in Washington on the 15th. The UP Home will be hosting a closed seminar and luncheon for members of the Washington Area Ministerial Association featuring Dr. Buckwalter.

The evening event on Tuesday, April 15, will be held at the United Presbyterian Church in Washington at 7:00 pm and is open for anyone to attend. Dr. Buckwalter will speak about implications for churches as aging in place trends continue to develop. She has particular interest in what she calls the "Alzheimer Tsunami" which she will speak of during her presentation. We hope you can make time to stop by and listen to her message of hope, inspiration, and comfort for patients, family members, caregivers and other professionals.

Wish List for Improvements on the United Presbyterian Home Campus

Once a year, we mention our need for gifts and prayers for specific improvements on campus and for helping us continue to offer financial assistance through the Benevolent Fund to those Home members in need. You may send a general contribution or designate your gift for a specific use. Please know all gifts and contributions are greatly appreciated and allow the United Presbyterian Home to serve residents' needs, continue to offer extraordinary care and maintain our commitment to Quality First. Thank you!

Here are a few projects we hope to accomplish in 2015:

- Tables & Grill for Pavilion
- Ice Cream Machine for Town Center
- Ping Pong Table
- Lift Chairs for Health Center
- Portable Bladder Scanner for Health Center
- Large Print Books



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In Loving Memory

We are honored to share in the lives of United Presbyterian Home residents. We feel blessed to have known them and to have our lives touched by them. As 2014 has come and gone, we take time to remember those who have passed, treasuring the memories made with these residents, their families and friends and holding that remembrance close to our hearts.

Margaret Simpson	December 16, 2013	Bessie Robins	June 6, 2014
Ramona Byerly	December 18, 2013	Charmian Magruder	June 17, 2014
Margery Goodlander	December 19, 2013	Marcella Greiner	June 17, 2014
Tom McKeone	December 31, 2013	Athena (Tina) Drain	June 18, 2014
Winifred Porter	January 2, 2014	Velma Cortum	July 14, 2014
Bernice Logan	January 4, 2014	Lewis (Jack) Dempsey	July 19, 2014
John Duvall	January 6, 2014	Robert Huber	July 23, 2014
Betty Stewart	January 15, 2014	Corinne Duvall	August 11, 2014
Rev. Louis Wollenberg	January 24, 2014	James Clegg	September 5, 2014
Helen Gildersleeve	January 29, 2014	Lawrence Zuehlke	September 8, 2014
Kenneth Bauer	February 14, 2014	Beulah Walton	September 20, 2014
Louise Holmes	February 19, 2014	Gerald Hoyle	September 26, 2014
Betty Allbaugh-Sarton	March 3, 2014	Richard Swailes	September 27, 2014
Stewart Bell	March 8, 2014	Robert Logan	October 1, 2014
Dora Erlenbush	March 23, 2014	Margaret Skinner	November 19, 2014
Bette Turnipseed	April 6, 2014	Joan Hoyle	December 31, 2014
Clara Potratz	May 4, 2014		

*Please note our last newsletter that included our *In Loving Memory* section was December 2013. The section included anyone who had passed away between January 1, 2013 through December 1, 2013.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, March 13th at 2:00 pm in the Main Dining Room to honor the residents of the United Presbyterian Home who passed away in 2014. If you are a family member of one of the residents who passed away between January through December 2014 you are invited to join us. Please RSVP to Carol in the Main Office by March 6th if you plan to attend.