Stories From Home: Otis Norman Shands

In his favorite chair in his Independent Living Apartment on the campus of The Baptist Home-Chillicothe, Dr. Shands breaks the ice on an interview for this newsletter by telling this self-deprecating story on himself in the gentle and calming voice of his native Georgia. “My wife and I used to have this ongoing discussion about where we would live when we retired. Catherine argued for Florida and I always fought against it. I always said I did not want to live in a place where everyone was old—and look where I wound up!”

The decision to move to the campus of The Baptist Home-Chillicothe was something he and Catherine considered over three years time when they were living in Liberty. “God seemed to be leading after much thought and prayer. We were impressed with the cleanliness and friendliness and the atmosphere of a genuine Christian ministry,” Norman said.

His concern that Catherine be in a place where she would be taken care of “should anything happen to me,” was matched by “her full impression that I could get what I needed here,” Dr. Shands said. It turned out that Catherine needed a higher level of care only a few weeks after they moved to their Chillicothe apartment. Suffering from congestive heart failure, Catherine was hospitalized in early April 2004, was transferred to an intermediate care room at The Home on April 26 and passed away on May 17.

Norman and Catherine decided to use burial plots on campus. Catherine said the place of her burial was “where I wound up!”

Serving as Chaplain

In 2005, another connection to the ministry was forged when the 89-year-old minister became the Interim Chaplain for The Home at Chillicothe. Looking at his resume, very few men could possibly be better qualified to assume the role of chaplain at The Home. In addition to degrees from Mercer University and Southern Baptist School of Theology, Dr. Shands has pastored large churches in South Carolina, Georgia and Missouri.

His interest in the chaplaincy dates all the way back to seminary days. One of his friends and fellow students was Wayne Cates, a pioneer in the field of religious psychology. “While the rest of us were hustling to get our first student pastorates, Wayne got a job as an orderly at the hospital. He persuaded some doctors to begin giving lectures on the patients and turned it into an internship,” Norman said.

That early interest came to full fruition a quarter century later when he served as a Chaplain Intern at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City. He earned four units of Clinical Pastoral Education through the hospital and Midwestern Baptist Seminary.

He also served as a military chaplain in the United States Navy, 1945-46, and was Chaplain at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1976-79. He was a staff counselor at Dunwoody Counseling Center (GA) and Dunwoody Community Chaplain, 1980-86.

Common Bond

In spite of his impressive credentials, Dr. Shands feels his greatest asset as a chaplain to residents may be the common bond he has with them as an aging resident. “One of our residents was facing an anniversary of his wife’s death. And the staff paved the way for me by telling him that I was dealing with the loss of my wife, too.”

“This (The Baptist Home) is such a caring community. One of the primary reasons for that is that there is nothing a resident faces here that others have not gone through.”

He is one of them in other ways. He takes almost all his noon meals in the Hearth Room of The Home. “One of the greatest bargains in the world is that Independent Living residents can purchase a meal here for $2.00,” Norman said.

As in the above photo, he frequently shares a lunch table with friends Jim Arnold, also an Independent Living resident, and Brad Eschenbach, Maintenance Supervisor for The Home.

Staff Member

Dr. Shands works about twenty hours a week as Chaplain which includes a regular Sunday morning worship service, a Wednesday afternoon Bible study and two staff meetings. On Tuesday morning he participates in a care plan meeting, and on Wednesday he meets with other department administrators. Administrator Lynn Jackson is especially thankful that “Rev. Shands is part of our management team. He is a true asset to The Baptist Home. Residents and staff alike benefit from his genuine interest, experience and spiritual insight into all kinds of situations,” Lynn said.

Part of his role as Chaplain is simply being there for residents. His friendship with Jean Hedges goes back several years to when both were members at Second-Liberty. He kids Jean that surely she holds the record the longest time on the waiting list. Jean made application when The Home at Chillicothe opened in 1988 and came as a resident in 2005.

Jean had other friends from Liberty at The Home in Chillicothe. Bill and Marilyn Oberkom, Clyde Beck and Jim Arnold were all from her home town. “The
thing that really sold me on what a great place this is was when the staff offered to come and pack up my extra stuff for the auction. I think half the administrative staff including Vicki and Ruthie, Brad and even Lynn came to help,” Jean said.

This remarkable lady lived in an upper floor apartment in Liberty with no elevator and gives partial credit for her good health to walking those stairs several times a day for years.

She fits the profile of seniors who continue to thrive in many other ways. Jean is a perfect example of one of Frank Fain’s bywords—seniors that plan their futures do better than those that don’t. Norman recalled that Jean not only planned to come to The Baptist Home seventeen years in advance, she made up her mind that she would be happy when she did come up. She is. So is Norman. It is obvious how very much he enjoys his work. He reiterates his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chaplain at The Home in Chillicothe. “Great gratitude” is one of the expressions he uses.
Retreat Leaders
Preacher
Dr. Harlan Spurgeon
Springfield, Missouri

Music Leader
Dr. Bob Woolley
Jefferson City, Missouri

Bible Study Leader
Rev. John Gilbert
Memphis, Tennessee

Devotional Leader
Margaret Woolley
Jefferson City, Missouri

Retreats are sponsored by The Baptist Home, The Missouri Baptist Foundation, and The Baptist Senior Adult Ministries Foundation. Retreats are held at Windermere Baptist Conference Center, Lake of the Ozarks. For more information contact Dr. Frank E. Fain at The Baptist Home, 573-546-2709 or ffain@thebaptisthome.org

“Going and Growing in Grace”
I Peter 3:18

SENIOR ADULT RETREAT
September 25 – 28, 2006

Preacher
Dr. Harlan Spurgeon
Springfield, Missouri

Music Leader
Dr. Bob Woolley
Jefferson City, Missouri

Bible Study Leader
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Memphis, Tennessee

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Special Events
“Broadway on the Driveway”
Broadway Classics Show Tuesday Evening Fellowship
Retreat Variety Show
Retreat Participant Show Their Talents at Wednesday Evening Fellowship

General Schedule
Retreat begins with the Evening Meal on Monday evening and ends with Lunch on Thursday.

Daily Events include:
Morning – Lakeside Devotional, Bible Study, Worship and Enrichment Conferences on Health, Spiritual, Social, Family, Missions/Ministry Issues

Afternoon – Crafts, Enrichment Conferences, Fishing, Mini-Golf, Horseshoes, Washer Games, Tennis, Hiking, Kayaks, Wave Runners, Retreat Choir and More Fun Activities

Evening – Worship Service, Concerts, and Special Fellowships

Cost
Program fee and meals are $100 per person, PLUS lodging charges.

These Lodging rates are per individual per night unless otherwise stated.

Motel Rooms - $45 per night

Double bed and two twin beds linens are furnished and towels changed daily.

Cedar Grove R.V. Park – $ 15 per night per site.

There are 26 R.V. sites with full hookups, picnic tables, a bathhouse, and laundry facilities.

All Lodge Rooms – $95 per night

Queen bed and four twin (bunk) Handicap rooms available.

From Our Home to Your Church...
Roger Hatfield

By the mid 1950’s, the churches in Missouri were sending some 10,000 quarts of food per year, along with unpasteurized milk and wild game, to feed the residents of TBH in the Arcadia Valley. It was the only Baptist Home campus at the time. In 1957 when the Nursing Home Licensure Act was signed, all of that food was gone from the shelves of The Baptist Home because of new Missouri health laws. The churches and individuals stepped up to the plate again to help out with these extra costs. In 1959, then Superintendent J. Burney remarked, “Appeals from churches constantly remind us of our need for more room. … We believe the Lord wants us to ‘lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes.”

While some things change, such as food regulations and ministries, other areas have not changed in the nearly 100 years of The Baptist Home ministry. The most significant piece of The Baptist Home ministry is the involvement of local churches in the life of the residents.

We continue to suggest ideas to churches and individuals that would be a wonderful contribution to the ministry of TBH campuses:

• Senior Adult Celebration is a new event for 2006 and will be held March 29-21 at First Baptist Church, Jefferson City. For more information about this exciting event, contact Dr. Frank Fain, TBH Senior Adult Ministry Specialist at 573.546.2709 or e-mail him at ffain@thebaptisthome.org.

• Music is a mainstay with older adults. Could your church, however small or large, invite the music director or Minister of Music to bring one or more choirs or musical groups to lead in worship? Do you have hand bells, mime, guitars, a small orchestra, a chamber stringed music group, harmonica or kitchen band? Call the campus chaplain at the facility to see if you can agree on a day that will work best for everyone? Your people and the residents will love the experience.

• Bar-be-ques and homemade ice cream is a joy for all of us! Your church, even along with a sister church, could sponsor one of these for the residents of one of the campuses. Spring and summer are coming. Now is the time to get this on the calendar now for the church as well as TBH campus.

• Children, children, children! There is nothing like senior adults and children for a winning combination (see p.5). Come on Saturday or Sunday afternoon or during your school’s spring break. Come on a summer’s day after their VBS time. The children can sing, play instruments, play board games, bring small gifts of a flower or homemade item for the residents. This is a wonderful time to begin teaching children to build relationships with older adults.

• Matching gifts to charitable organizations. There may be individuals in your congregation who work for a company or who have retired from a company that has a program of matching gifts to charitable organizations. The Baptist Home can work with you to know what those are and how to request those matching gifts.

• Evaluate constantly your church’s contributions to The Baptist Home. You may send those directly to TBH or through other channels. If you desire to send Anniversary Offerings to a convention office, please designate those as Anniversary Offering-The Baptist Home, since offerings without The Baptist Home designation will not be sent to The Baptist Home.

• Ask the senior adults of your church to become prayer partners weekly for TBH residents and staff. Even better, you may call or e-mail TBH campus for individual residents to pray for by name. You can ask for names of those wonderful employees who serve the residents daily as well as the administration that carry such a critical load in decision-making.

If people would read The Story of The Baptist Home by J.B. Hawkins, available through TBH office, they would realize how many times the Baptist of Missouri stepped forward to provide food, money, supplies, encouragement and prayers on behalf of The Baptist Home.

Milford Riggs, founder of The Baptist Home, wrote in May 1920, “We are continually moved to expressions of gratitude for the vast number of friends and helpers that have been raised up for the Home all over the State. The Home was founded in prayer, and we are persuaded that the prayers of God’s people have been and are among the largest factors in its growth and maintenance.”

From the hearts of those of us who serve The Baptist Home to the homes and houses of the Baptists of Missouri, we thank you. Your continuing and growing support for this ministry now serves some 300 residents from independent living through the high care level in the nursing wings, not including family members.

With God’s providence and the help of his people, we now move into a new chapter under the leadership of president Steve Jones. In the words of John Burney, “we believe the Lord wants us to ‘lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes.’”
The Baptist Home - Arcadia Valley’s New Residents

Fern Davis
(High Gate - St. James)

Frances Sterling
(Oak Grove - Lomeda)

Harold Vaughn, ILF
(Shiloh - Robertsville)

Margaret Taff, ILF
(Fee Fee)

Mary Elizabeth Adams, ILF
(Kirkwood)

Paul and Ada Mason, ILF
(First - Harvester)

Joy Phillips, ILF
(First - Ironton)

Arcadia Valley Valentine’s Day

Tim and Jennifer Randall from First - Ironton supplied music.

Cherry Pruett and Mary Tripp prepared the refreshment table.

Ruth Short and Betty Collier served refreshments.

To the left was Cupcake heaven, some were sugar free.

To the right are some antique valentines.

Karl, Sherri & Jennifer harmonize.

Some of the residents wore Valentine red.

Clyde & Joyce Larrew, ILF
(Fee Fee)
Did You Know?

Did you know that each issue of The Baptist Home Newsletter has a postage paid envelope for you to use?

You can use the envelope to:

- Request Information
- Have a name added to the mailing list
- Make a gift, including a memorial or honorarium

You can use it now, or save it and use it later.

Burch Harrington, ILF (First - Chillicothe)
Jan Albertson (First - Milan)
Lula Thomas (Calvary - Chillicothe)
Peggy Busley (First - Chillicothe)
Frankie Baker (Pleasant Valley - Liberty)

The Baptist Home - Chillicothe’s New Residents

Partners in Education

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Jan Albertson (First - Milan)
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Frankie Baker (Pleasant Valley - Liberty)

Jim Arnold (Pleasant Valley - Liberty) celebrated another birthday with lots of candles on his cake.

Ethel Perry Celebrated her 100th Birthday in December.
In Memory Of....

Rev. Emery Adams by Mrs. Dorothy Funk, Cape Girardeau; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Graham, Cape Girardeau; Mrs. Giotte Endemond, Francesville; Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Springfield.

Edward Tiffany by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Funk, Columbia.

Betty Ellington by Mr. and Mrs. Mary Jane Martin, Waynesville.

Leota Eddy by Mrs. Dorothy Seitz, Centertown; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hargrave, Warrensburg; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Graham, Waynesville.

Lula Gewelt by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Loyd, Fourchon.

Velma Jennings by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Loyd, Fourchon.

Our 58th wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tipp, Florissant.

Our 67th wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Triplett, Bloomington.

Our 50th wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Dugal, Bonne Terre.

First Baptist Church-Bonne Terre Preschool Dept. by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Toma, Sr., Jackson.

Forrest Jackson by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Toma, Sr., Jackson.

Rev. and Mrs. Esther Johnson by Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Hash, St. Louis.

Rev. and Mrs. John Martin by Rev. and Mrs. Robert Toma, Jr., Jackson.

Rev. and Mrs. Harry Hargrave by Rev. and Mrs. Eunice Simons, Creve Coeur.

Rev. and Mrs. Ray Loyd by Rev. and Mrs. Eunice Simons, Creve Coeur.

Rev. and Mrs. William Parry by Rev. and Mrs. Eunice Simons, Creve Coeur.

Rev. and Mrs. Bill Belmar, Creve Coeur.

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Alden and Frieda Neely by Mt. and Mrs. Wesley Schuman, Kansas City.

Thomas Nelson’s 93rd birthday by Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, Jefferson City.

Iva Rayme by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ward, St. Louis.

William Riggs by Mr. and Mrs. David Fulk, Liberty.

Our 60th wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Scott, Warren.
The Baptist Home - Ozark’s New Residents

Dorothy French  
(First - Camdenton)

Rule Burton  
(First - Rogersville)

Louis & Pearl DeBerry  
(South Haven - Springfield)

Floyd & Edith Ash (First - Mexico)  
were selected as Valentine King and Queen.

Betty & Virgil Kearney of Bolivar recently celebrated their 55th Anniversary. The Kearneys have many ties to The Home, including friendship with the Burneys which dates back to when Virgil was pastor at First-Ironton.

Leta Whitt - Suttee (Temple - Springfield)  
with her Senior Adult Pastor.

Gayford Lowrance (Glenstone - Springfield)  
speaks in chapel.

Red Hat Ladies visit Frankie Scroggins  
(First - Pleasant Hope)

Pat Miles  
(Southgate - Springfield)

Louis & Pearl DeBerry (South Haven - Springfield),  
have fun with one of their signs.

Nina Jackson (First - Huntsville)  
with daughter.

Ruth Funk (First - Kimberling City) &  
Modena Pitts (First - Rogersville) with  
“Pink Hat” (not yet 60) lady.

Mary Howell  
(First - Neosho)

Red Hats & Marie Clift  
(First - Wentzville)

Red Hats & Josephine Davis  
(Fellowship - Warrensburg)

Myrtle Claussen  
(Second - Springfield)

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