

BAPTIST VILLAGE



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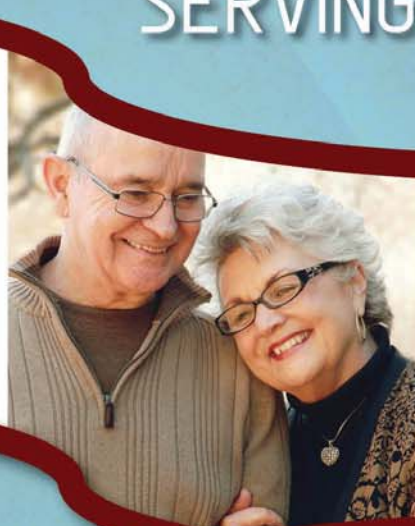


IN GOD'S TIMING

Lake Texoma and Oklahoma City Welcome
New Leadership
(story on page 6)



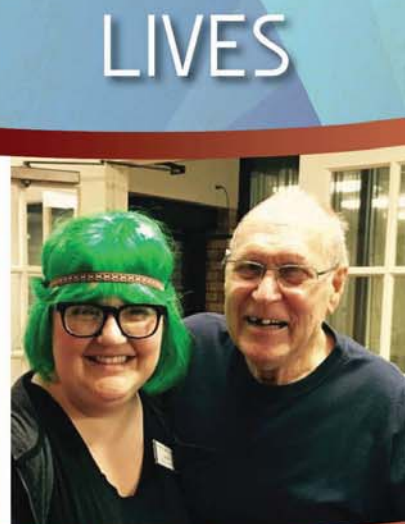
SERVING GOD
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THE BEAUTY IN SERVING OTHERS

(LOOK FOR THE LESSON TO BE LEARNED HERE)

Galatians 5:13b says...“through love, serve one another.” Please allow me to make several points about the beauty of serving others.

1. Serving others in Christ is for all of life.

Don't retire from that. In fact, not having a full-time job brings increased opportunity. If we live to be 100, Galatians 5:13b does not change for those in Christ. As people age, don't "remove" or "take away" opportunities to serve; offer new opportunities.

2. Is 100 old?

It certainly is not if we believe we are going to live forever in Christ. Think about that.

3. Understand the Baptist Village Communities mission in four statements: Honor God...Create communities and services...That enhance lives...And enable people to serve God and one another.


Truly, that means our Villages become places where people have opportunities that have been created to enable them to serve God and one another. Moving to a BVC campus is not primarily about being served, but serving one another in Christ.

4. This kind of thinking creates purpose - and mission!

Everyone, regardless of age, needs purpose and mission. This IS the opposite of depression, idleness and "nothing to do." There truly is a dynamic beauty in serving others in Jesus' name.

5. Serving God, Serving You, Serving Together...is our theme.

A fancy chandelier and a brand new building are not the most important things to be found in a senior services community... not by a long shot! Purpose, an enhanced life, serving God and one another...aren't these the truly important things?

Come serve with us in a Baptist Village Community. Discover the beauty...of the most important thing. 

Dr. Bill Pierce,
President



**To learn more on how you
can serve, visit our website:
www.baptistvillage.org**



HUMBLE SERVANTS

GIL AND GENEVIE KETTLER QUIETLY MAKING A PROFOUND IMPACT

A famous old adage goes, "actions speak louder than words." A wonderful couple at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City personifies this axiom.

Gilbert (Gil) and Genevie Kettler have a humble, soft-spoken spirit. But thanks to their servant-minded attitudes, their presence is strongly felt for Baptist Village Communities (BVC) and beyond.

The Kettlers have called the Village home for five years now. California was their home for 37 years. While there, Gil taught middle school math for three decades, and Genevie also served in the classroom as a teacher's aide.

They returned to Oklahoma in 2004, which brought them much closer to their original stomping grounds. Genevie grew up in Lindsay, OK, while Gil is a Texas native.

They moved to the Village in 2012, and the Kettlers enjoy it very much. "We enjoy being here. I don't have to cut the grass or anything," says Gil.

"Plus, there's something going on here on campus every day. Many opportunities to take trips and participate. You develop relationships."

Though the Kettlers don't seem to be ones for the spotlight, their services were soon utilized upon moving to the Village. Director of Chaplain Services Chris Finley made sure of that.

"Chaplain Chris got Gil involved in several things at the Village," says Genevie. One of these many avenues is church services at T.B. Lackey Health Center on campus. On Wednesday afternoons, Gil can be found serving alongside Chaplain Finley and the Singin' Saints resident choir, of which Gil is a member. He's also a member of the Village resident council.

Not to be outdone, Genevie plays an integral role in the annual Back to School Bash at the Village. She, fellow resident Joyce Shelby and others organize large quantities of resident-donated school supplies into gifts for Village Friends Team members' children.

Friday afternoon is a great time to find Gil busy serving again, this time in the Rehab Neighborhoods. He and others man the greeters' desk in the main entry, welcoming guests and family to the Village and providing them with direction and a friendly face.

Gil and Genevie serve alongside each other in multiple ways. A nearby elementary school, Harvest Hills, is honored to have them and other residents visit the school on Mondays. They have the opportunity to mentor students there and give them support.

A well-known organization also has been a passion of theirs over the years. For quite some time, the Kettlers have worked with Gideon's International, an organization known for distributing God's Word all over the country and the world. This even included a special journey with Gideon's to Russia.

Recently, Gil and Genevie have found another way to give back to the place they call home – through the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma and BVC's Adams Assistance Fund.

It was a natural combination. "We met with Kathy Lee (Hatchett) and completed a charitable gift annuity plan," says Gil. "We had several places that we wanted to include in our giving."

Turns out the Adams Assistance Fund was one of the benefactors of the plan. When asked why they decided to give to the Adams Fund, Gil replied, chuckling, "Because we may need that Fund one day!" He continued, "The Village seems like a place that could really benefit from the Adams Fund. We know that things in life can get expensive. So this is a way we can give back to something worthwhile."

"We're happy to help those who really need it."

Whether serving in wide and varied capacities at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City or giving generously to the Adams Assistance Fund, Gil and Genevie Kettler truly are selfless servants.


"You turn around, and the Kettlers are there," says Chris Finley. "Great volunteers. They know what we need without us even asking them. They are very unassuming and humble, but we couldn't do what we do without them."

Their actions speak volumes to their character and continue to benefit the Village and those they serve with on a daily basis. They embody



Gil Kettler at the greeters' desk in The Neighborhoods at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City.

everything that Baptist Village Communities stands for in Serving God, Serving You and Serving Together.

Baptist Village Communities would love for you to partner with them in assisting those we serve. For more information on the Adams Assistance Fund, call (405) 942-3000 ext 4205, or visit baptistvillage.org. 

*By Jason Davis
Development and Public Relations
Specialist, Baptist Village Communities*





IN GOD'S TIMING

LAKE TEXOMA AND OKLAHOMA CITY WELCOME NEW LEADERSHIP

God has a tendency of providing exactly what we need at exactly the right time. Two new Baptist Village Communities (BVC) leaders are living proof.

BVC is excited to introduce Baptist Village Lake Texoma's new campus director, Lindsy Skinner, and Baptist Village of Oklahoma City's new assistant campus director, James Duehning.

Their paths to BVC certainly were different, but God's hand was undoubtedly upon both transitions.

Lindsy's journey to us came about in an unexpected way.

"Growing up in Muskogee, OK, I lived with my grandpa and dad," says Lindsy. "I didn't know it at the time, but I realize now that I was developing a passion for aging services, especially for families transitioning into a different home environment and how challenging that can be."

She recalls, "I was at a celebration for one of my friend's grandmothers. I ended up talking to a lady whose daughter and I attended high school together. I told her I was concerned about what I

wanted to do, as I was getting ready to graduate college."

"God definitely has a way of surprising you. Lo and behold, this lady just happened to be related to (BVC president) Dr. Bill Pierce. She gave me his contact information."

Lindsy, while a student at Oklahoma Baptist University, had written her senior thesis on Medicare and Medicaid. She emailed Dr. Pierce about how much she loved the aging services profession and sent him a copy of her thesis.

"He emailed right back and asked if I would like to come to the Home Office and talk. Of course, I said yes!"

Lindsy told Dr. Pierce that she had some job opportunities lined up, but none of them were what she really wanted to do. Her degree is in communications studies, but her passion is aging services.

Turns out the meeting was more than just coincidence.



"Dr. Pierce informed me that (former campus director) James Rosson and his wife Nancie were making a transition to Ardmore to be close to family. He then said that BVC had been praying for a campus director, and that I was 'the only one that showed up!'"

"After that, I returned to my car and almost cried with happiness. This is exactly what I also had been praying about and is what I wanted to do. After a dinner meeting in Broken Arrow with several others and meeting with James at Lake Texoma, I knew that I wanted to do it - and I'm totally loving it!"

James Duehning brings a great deal of professional experience to his new role at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City, where he also serves as director for T.B. Lackey Health Center.

James has worked in virtually every level of service Baptist Village of Oklahoma City offers, from residential living and assistance in living to skilled nursing and memory support. And much like Lindsy, God opened up a door for him at just the right time.

"I've always been in healthcare. I love this field, but I had reached a crossroads at my previous job. It was at that moment in time that Dr. Pierce

reached out to me. I'd known he and Steve Thomas for quite some time, but there hadn't been an opportunity available to me with Baptist Village in the past."

He continues, "When (former administrator) Michelle Billings made the decision to move close to family in New York, it opened up the opportunity I had been looking for. The timing was definitely right. I'd been wanting to serve with BVC for a while, and it just all fell into place."

James has worked in this field for a long time, serving in communities in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas. He's been in a management role since 2001.

He is the first to attest, though, that BVC is different from any other place he's served.

"The atmosphere, moving from my previous experiences to Baptist Village, has been a huge change for the better. It's hard to put into words. Here, it truly is about the people we serve. It was evident within the first week. You can tell Baptist Village Communities truly cares about people. It's not just words on a board, 'this is what we do.'"

continued on next page



Lindsi Skinner and James Duehning enjoy spending time with a resident from each of their campuses. Baptist Village is thrilled to have both of them on the Friends Team.

Lindsi also quickly realized BVC is special.

"What excited me most about Baptist Village was the concept of 'Serving Together'. I had never heard anything like that before. I'm not just serving them, and they're not just serving me. We're serving together. I just thought that was the coolest thing ever."

At BVC, residents are placed before the task. This results in enhanced lives for the residents and a wonderful camaraderie with the Friends Team.

"When I had my first resident move in, I was so excited to get to know him," says Lindsi. "At first, he was a little upset, saying that he felt bad I had to assist him and do a couple of things for him. I told him, 'Well first off, you've served your entire life, so let me serve you now. But tomorrow, you get to serve me!'"

James agrees. "If you're in this field for the right reasons, it's all about the residents. Getting to know them, getting to know their stories. The Friends Team knows that and is bought into the idea. It makes you want to stay in this field. Even on the tougher days, all I have to do is walk in and see the residents and it automatically makes my day better."

"I'm not just serving them, and they're not just serving me. We're serving together."


Lindsi Skinner

What also impressed both Lindsi and James was not just the wonderful residents, but the equally great Friends Team that welcomed them.

"There are many team members here that have served for five, 10, 15, 20 years or more," says James. "People don't stick with a company that doesn't care about them. It's clear that BVC invests in its people, and that's put back into the ministry."

"It's such a family environment," says Lindsi. "When I wake up in the morning and go get coffee, there are my fellow team members and residents there. We chat and do our thing together."

It all goes back to prove God is always in control.

Says Lindsi, "All of those fleeting thoughts and things you really want to do but don't think they are possible or achievable - God likes to prove you wrong. And I'm glad he did!" 

By Jason Davis



SHAPING THE FUTURE

BVC LEADING THE WAY IN AGING SERVICES THROUGH UNITY SQUARE

Unity Square at Baptist Village of Owasso is thriving. Opened in 2016, the renovated and rebranded neighborhood now features a spacious and welcoming common area, café and living room. It is a new, unique living concept for anyone 55+, called "living assistance."


"Unity Square's unique combination of housing with an array of supports and services is an affordable option for those who have needs that are somewhere between living independently and an assistance in living community," says Steve Thomas, Baptist Village Communities (BVC) vice president - operations. "In my experience, there are many, many older adults who are in that situation and looking for a place like Unity Square."

Unity Square lifestyle includes an apartment with utilities, three daily meals, secured access,

medical alert system, housekeeping and laundry as well as exciting life enrichment opportunities. Residents also have access to a neighborhood services coordinator, who plays a key role in enhancing their lives on a daily basis.

In addition, Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village (EH) offers special wellness packages and personalized service options to choose from - and at an affordable rate. The additional services available through EH include options such as medication reminders, daily wellness checks, case management and medical equipment.

Unity Square is a vibrant, family-oriented neighborhood that provides a practical solution to the challenges many families face every day. With the gap that exists between residential living and assistance in living, a service like living assistance certainly is needed and is truly unique in our profession. It's just another way BVC is shaping the future of aging services.

For more information on Unity Square at Baptist Village of Owasso, call the Village at (918) 272-2281. 



*By Ava Baggett
Director of Marketing,
Baptist Village Communities*





ALWAYS ON THE GO

JIM KOLB LOVES HELPING OTHERS

Jim Kolb doesn't like to sit down. It has become pretty apparent that all the 80-year-old wants to do is be active.

Jim has been a resident of Baptist Village Lake Texoma since 2016. Hailing from Dayton, Ohio, he moved to Oklahoma to be closer to his three sons, who live in nearby Durant and Madill. As a matter of fact, he gets to see his youngest son, Gary, daily. Gary serves as director of environmental services for the Village.

Mr. Kolb has lived and worked in nine states. He is a retired field technical supervisor, which explains his extensive travel in the states as well as in Europe.

He has always been independent. He moved all on his own from Ohio to Baptist Village – at 79 years of age. His active spirit soon took shape at the Village.

"I love working outside," says Jim. "It seems like every place I've lived, I've landscaped. I fixed up my home in Ohio and made it look beautiful. When I arrived at the Village, I noticed that my skills could be put to use here. When I learned that the residents here could serve too, I thought 'hey, that's great exercise for me.' So I got out there and started working away."

Jim has become a default associate maintenance man. He has greatly enhanced the aesthetics of the Lake Texoma campus; trimming trees, hedges and clearing brush. About five months ago, he saw another opportunity to make a difference.

"I was cutting trees one day and saw a branch that had a 90-degree angle on it. I thought to myself... 'I wonder if I could make a walking cane out of that.'"

That is exactly what Jim did. In fact, he has made upwards of 20 canes since then. He hand-carves nearly every feature on each cane, personalizing each one into unique creations. He has since sold some canes and donated others for people to enjoy and use.

"I'm perhaps not as social as some people. But I know everybody here and am willing to help anyone here. If a resident's TV goes out, they let me know and I can fix it for them. I've also helped move furniture in an apartment."

Campus Director Lindsy Skinner is quick to sing praises for Jim and what he brings to the Village.

"It is truly a privilege to know Jim Kolb. I have never met someone so willing to do anything for anybody at any time. Jim is a good man, willing to

talk, willing to listen, and willing to help. Anyone who knows him would say he is a true treasure at Baptist Village Lake Texoma. He is constantly outside working on a project; he makes our Village look so nice."


"I know everybody here and am willing to help anyone here."

Jim Kolb

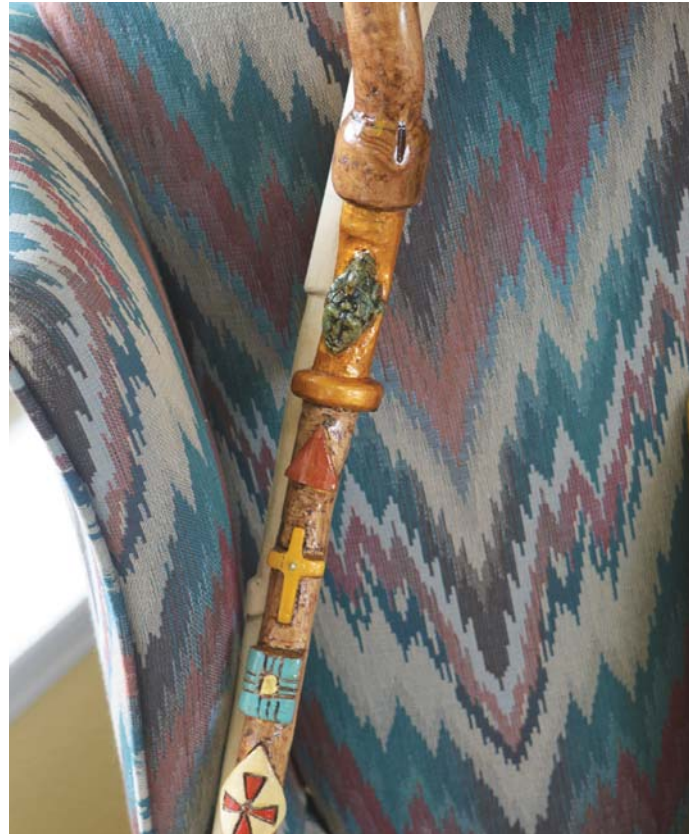
Jim enjoys living at the Village, but even more so contributing to its appearance and environment.

"I like the Village. I love being active. I can't stand just sitting down. I've gotten to the point where I don't hardly watch television anymore. I'm just go, go, go."

Lindsi agrees. "I don't think a day goes by that Jim doesn't go out of his way to help someone. I could not be more thankful for him!"

Baptist Village Communities is thankful to have people like Jim serving together with us. 

By Jason Davis



A detailed look at one of the many walking canes Jim Kolb personally creates.



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Many Baptist Village residents say living at the Village is the happiest time of their lives. They even say, "I really wish I'd moved here a long time ago!" Call the location nearest you today to find out why!



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Artist's Concept Shown. Actual Design May Vary.

TOGETHER WE SERVE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) continues to progress in the "Together We Serve" campaign, benefiting multiple eastern Oklahoma Villages.

Thanks to others' generosity and servant-minded spirit, multiple projects have been completed, with more to come.

Baptist Village of Owasso's Unity Square renovation and rebranding has been a major success. Residents enjoy unique living services in a neighborhood setting.

Two outdoor life enrichment venues are now completed and being utilized. The outdoor life enrichment venue at Baptist Village of Broken Arrow opened last year and has already been host to multiple special events for residents, families and the community.

The newest addition to Baptist Village of Okmulgee, Bailey Life Enrichment Venue, was dedicated in October. BVC is grateful to the Bailey family and many others for making this beautiful campus enhancement a reality.


The highly-anticipated addition to Baptist Village of Owasso, a new memory support neighborhood, is in the final planning stages. We look forward to

turning dirt for the neighborhood very soon.

None of these would be possible without the loving support of those who have bought into our mission and invested in the lives of those we serve. Currently, BVC has received nearly \$2.7 million toward the campaign. Your generosity is making a major impact, and we thank you very much!

Corky Eshelman, vice president - marketing and development, invites you to partner with us. "BVC is excited to be in position to make cutting-edge changes that will enhance the lives of those we serve in innovative and creative ways. These changes can be accomplished if you will join us in investing to shape the future of aging services together."

There are many ways available for you to support this campaign. You can send a check to the BVC development office - 3800 N. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. You also can donate on our website at www.baptistvillage.org/donation.

To those that have given, thank you! To others, prayerfully consider your part in our ministry. Help us Serve God, Serve You and Serve Together! 

By Jason Davis



LEGACY OF SERVICE

KISER HONORED WITH BVC'S HIGHEST AWARD

Mary Lou Kiser is the latest recipient of Baptist Village Communities' (BVC) Legacy Award, given to BVC friends who display a history of loving support for our ministry. It is BVC's highest honor.

Mary Lou has been heavily involved with BVC for many years, particularly at Baptist Village of Cleveland, which is near her hometown of Drumright, OK.

Her son, Tommy, sums up his mother best. "Our mom has always been a helper of others, especially those in need. Her heart is as big as the world. She has never cared much about recognition, just helping and caring for others. Mom has served faithfully on the Support Team at Baptist Village of Cleveland for the past six years. During that time, she traveled with them on many of their field trips. My brother David, sister Vicki and I always found it funny when our 80+

year old mother informed us she was going on an outing with Baptist Village as a chaperone to help with the 'older people.'"

Baptist Village Communities is honored to call Mary Lou our friend and is thankful for her generosity and legacy of service. ❤️

By Jason Davis



Top: Mary Lou and her children; Tommy, Vicki and David. Left: Dr. Bill Pierce and Cleveland Campus Director Terry Dennis present Mary Lou with her award.



RADIATING JOY

ANNETTA RODGERS BRINGS HAPPINESS AND HUMOR TO THE VILLAGE

Ever been to Booger Hollow, Arkansas? Annetta Rodgers has. She was born there more than 96 years ago, and does she have stories to tell.

Annetta spent the first six years of her life in Booger Hollow. In 1928, she and her family moved to Okmulgee so that her father could work at the relatively new Phillips Petroleum company in town.

"My daddy was a welder," Annetta recalls. "He liked the idea of working in a refinery and bringing home a paycheck every two weeks to feed his

family, rather than working the fields only to have them get scorched or flooded.

Laughing, Annetta says, "Life growing up could be summed up in one sentence - we were B.C.

Annetta by her cake at her 96th birthday party.




That stands for 'Before Computers.' And it was great."

Fast forward to 1984. Baptist Village of Okmulgee was about to be opened, and Annetta was there. In fact, she was one of the first residents to move in when it opened 33 years ago.

"It's a nice place to live," says Annetta. "And now that I'm 96, most of the residents here are upwards of a generation younger than me! But it's fun, because they talk to me, and I talk to them, and between the two generations, we come up with something entertaining."

Entertaining is a good word for life with Annetta. "She has a wicked sense of humor," attests Sherri Powell, Baptist Village of Okmulgee campus director. "She is very spry and can outrun anyone 40 years her junior in the neighborhoods!"

Annetta loves sharing that spirit with others. "I wake up every morning and praise the Lord that I'm here. It's delightful. I like radiating joy to people or saying something nice to someone who needs it. It takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile!"

Baptist Village of Okmulgee smiles when they think of Annetta and the happiness she brings to Village life. 

By Jason Davis

STATE DIGNITARIES CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH BVC

(From Left to Right)

1. ADA - Tracy Scheer, State Senator Greg McCortney, Steve Thomas
2. BROKEN ARROW - Dr. Bill Pierce, State Senator Nathan Dahm, Andy Chrisman, Arvella McCollom
3. CLEVELAND - Wendell Short, State Senator AJ Griffin, Terry Dennis
4. ELK CITY - Cathy Henderson, State Representative Todd Russ, Steve Thomas
5. HUGO - State Senator Joseph Silk, R.C. Pruet, Steve Thomas, Dan Stiles, State Representative Justin Humphrey
6. LAKE TEXOMA - James Rosson, State Senator Josh Brecheen, Ken Mills
7. OKLAHOMA CITY - Ken Mills, State Representative Jon Echols, Martin Hall
8. OKMULGEE - Wendell Short, State Senator Roger Thompson, Sherri Powell
9. OWASSO - Nathan Purifoy, State Representative Dale Derby, Linda Derby, Dr. Bill Pierce





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