

# TREELINES



STANDING STRONG

LIFE IN THE  
TREZEVANT  
COMMUNITY  
FALL 2020



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## From the CEO

Kent Phillips

At Trezevant, we are methodically navigating a return to normalcy. We are excited, yet cautious. We are accelerating our pace, while keeping a glance in the rearview mirror. We are continually reminded that relaxing restrictions is far more complicated than imposing them. Nonetheless, we eagerly progress toward the day when the Pandemic is finally behind us. While “normal” will certainly take on an amended meaning, we are confident that the core of Trezevant – that essence which makes us great – will not change.

What is the source of this confidence?

In a word, strength.

The quick and decisive action of our COVID-19 response team prepared an early roadmap for our staff, developing confidence in our ability to contain infection and mitigate its spread. Our staff responded well, taking the myriad precautions seriously while comforting each other as new tensions ebbed and flowed. Residents and their families noticed this confidence – they told me so. Many procedural changes were not well-liked, but seemed to be fully understood, a testament to the new communication channels we developed to disseminate information quickly. I continue to be amazed at the high level of cooperation and support of our efforts by residents and their families. The events of 2020 were new to all of us; none of us responded perfectly. But amid uncertainty, the entire Trezevant family of residents and staff grew stronger and continues to do so.

No wonder that our efforts before and during this Pandemic were recognized by the American Health Care Association, and its sister organization, the National Center for Assisted Living. Trezevant was recognized this year with Silver-level Quality Awards in both Allen Morgan and The Terrace – an amazing designation during normal times, an extraordinary feat during a Pandemic. To be clear, these awards are part of the Baldrige Excellence Framework and require continual performance improvement, superior outcomes, response to regulatory demands and team engagement. Five awards were given in Tennessee, two of those were in Memphis and those two belong to us.

We are humbled by these awards, but proud of the effort we undertake to achieve them. We know our good work is appreciated by you, our residents and families. We know we are strong. Perhaps these awards will broadcast that strength to the greater Memphis community.

## From the FOUNDATION

Stacey Sears



Vincent Van Gogh once said, “As we advance in life, it becomes more and more difficult, but in fighting the difficulties the inmost Strength of the heart is developed.”

Strength has many definitions throughout life. Strength to get up in the morning, to walk that last mile, or to be that rock for another person when you yourself is falling apart. I dedicate this TreeLines to Strength because I believe we need a little more during these hard times.

I witness everyday at Trezevant the Strength of our residents who keep their spirits up by playing cards with friends or talking outside in Hope’s Garden. Showing Strength can mean to just listen to others and how they are doing day-to-day.

It is such a pleasure to work at Trezevant and seeing the incredible resilience from the residents and staff gives me Strength everyday. If you can take just a moment of your day to listen to someone, care for another or just sit in your peace, strength will come.

I have been charged with building the Foundation. I will take the strength from others and ask that we work together and make sure the Foundation is strong today and for many years in the future.

*Stronger*  
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## From the CHAPLAIN

The Rev. Julie McKenna



My usual Treelines article is an outline of what's happening in spiritual care—our new chaplains' classes, weekly offerings, etc. but that is all in our Tidings each month, and Treelines reaches more of you on the outside of Trezevant than within it, so instead, I'd like to devote some thought to the theme Stacey has for this issue: **STRENGTH**.

It has been a rough year for everyone here, as well as around the globe. Covid precautions and government guidelines have meant many have been separated from families for months. At the time in their lives when the support and concern of family is critical, it has been hardest to come by. Fears of covid encroaching on campus have made many folks who have been very social and active in the community retreat to their apartments. Loneliness has taken its toll on many. And family members have been equally distressed. Many want to come and help their mother or dad, and being unable to has left them feeling helpless, guilty and frustrated.

Yet, as always there is inspiration in these times. The resilience of our residents is admirable. The saying "when Life gives you lemons, make lemonade, is in full force here at Trezevant. Residents' willingness to find creative ways to connect with others and bring health and healing to those around them is nothing short of amazing.

Theologically astute retired clergy on campus rose to the occasion and have shared their time and their talents with the community in the leadership of our chaplains' classes. Ben Bledsoe, Milton Winter, Linda Mischke have each taken a month to teach 2 chaplains' classes each week since June.

Anne Carriere has led a weekly class on Lectio Divina (praying the scriptures) since June in which residents could meet and discuss the lectionary reading for the upcoming Sunday. We are booked with chaplains' classes through January—thanks to Linda Mischke, Julie Walton, Walter Mischke and Mary Edith Walker.

Others have been active in other endeavors to brighten the campus. Anna McNeill and Ann Knox rolled out "The Rainbow Project," and made free cards available to residents to celebrate birthdays on campus, and send reassuring notes to residents in quarantine or separated from loved ones in Allen Morgan and the Terrace. Marilyn Dunavant got us going on collecting expired goods for feeding the poor via Constance Abbey, a non profit connected with St. Mary's Cathedral, and the Knit, Pray Love group made 16 neck warmers to be donated to Calvary's knitting ministry. Of course, being the capable giving people they are, they didn't stop with neck warmers. Each of the 16 warmers was packed away in an attractive bag tied with a ribbon. Each bag also included a coat, hand warmers, lip balm and other helpful items in the pockets!



## The joy of the Lord is her strength

by Mary Alice Quinn

If you ask Yvonne Walton about her previous employment Journey, be sure you are sitting in a comfortable chair with several soft pillows for back support.

The list is long and interesting but it leaves plenty of room for the next adventure down the pike. For each new opportunity, she gives God thanks for the opportunities and people that she has met along the way. She says the Joy of the Lord is her strength Nehemiah 8:10 and she takes that strength everywhere that she goes. Yvonne is originally from Memphis, but her parents moved the family to Chicago when she and her other 5 siblings were very young. She says Chicago will always be home.

Yvonne graduated from high school, and then attended, Harry Truman Community College, Chicago State University, and 2 years at DePaul University. She later attended and received a teaching certificate from the Moody Bible Institute.

Yvonne began her employment journey as a pre-school day care teacher's assistant, then Bank teller at the Lake Point towers Of Chicago, Midwest bank and Trust, promoted to Vault Manager, where she worked with the Federal Reserve Bank

A move to Dallas found her working at a hotel reservation call center, the American Express obtaining suitable accommodations for travelers and airline tickets across the country. Her next move was a return to Memphis where she landed a temporary assignment job at WMC, Channel 5, then at Regional One Hospital.

Through a temporary service, Yvonne was assigned to come to Trezevant. She came for a job interview with CEO Kent Phillips, and his assistant, Michelle Charbonnet, soon a full time position was offered.



"The residents were charming and became the reason I accepted the position," she says. "The Lord placed me here. Someone with my customer service abilities and personality was needed in this position. I love people – they are my weakness. What I do for the residents is what I would do for my parents."

In her spare time, Yvonne enjoys reading, cooking (favorite recipes: gumbo and cream cheese pound cake), and roller skating on a hardwood floor. She has come to the conclusion to retire for the second time here in Memphis. Friends are abundant here at Trezevant and the city has become welcoming as well. "I love to come to work and see my friends and make their day a little better," said Yvonne. Trezevant has found a gem and is very lucky to have someone like Yvonne manning the desk.



# Our Stories

by Jack Richbourg

Born in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, she still has remnants of a Canadian accent when she says “house” and “about.” It’s very subtle. You’d miss it if not paying attention.

Her parents moved from Kingston, when she was 3, to the Canadian version of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a town called Deep River, Ontario thirty miles from the Chalk River Nuclear Reactor, where her father worked. Her Dad earned a Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry in Berlin under the Nobel Prize winning Otto Hahn in 1939, the same year as Kristallnacht and the invasion of Poland. When his young daughter, Joan, asked him about it, he’d only say, “It was awful. What could we do? It was a machine, an engine.”

Escaping Berlin, Leslie Cook returned to his native Canada where his daughter, Joan Cook, now Chesney, spent her childhood swimming in the summer and ice skating during the cold, Canadian winters common to northern Ontario.

“We walked to the small school when it was forty below,” she shuddered recalling the cold. “Ice would form on the inside of our windows,” she explained, describing the homes erected quickly and cheaply by the Canadian gov-

ernment to house the families of scientists working at Chalk River.

Celebrities were always coming to tour the nuclear reactor.

“I shook Princess Margaret’s hand, Sukarno of Indonesia visited, and a young, naval, submarine officer named Jimmy Carter came to fix a leak in the reactor in 1952,” she recalled.

After the war, the entire family moved to Schenectady, New York, where her father worked in General Electric’s research laboratory. Her girlfriends threw her a big going-away pajama party and gave her a Pat Boone record to remember them by. She teased them later about how dated they were when she heard the new rock and roll sensation, Elvis Presley, never dreaming she would one day live in his home town.

Her mother and father and 2 siblings all received green cards and then became naturalized citizens in 1962. She graduated from the University of Rochester that same year and then McGill University School of Medicine in 1966, returning to Rochester for her residency.

There she met Russell Chesney. He was one of the medical students she had trained on the finer points of pediatrics while she was a resident.

“He was the most interesting man I ever met and very

good-looking. They married in 1968 and had three children, Karen, Chris and Gillian, while teaching medical students and treating patients at the Universities of Wisconsin and California at Davis before coming to Memphis.

But why, pray tell, Memphis, of all places?

Well, . . Remember when St. Jude threatened to move to St. Louis awhile back? Joan and Russell are the reasons they didn’t. St. Jude wanted a more academically grounded pediatrics department and thought Washington University in St. Louis was the answer. So, the University of Tennessee with the help of the governor and others raised five million dollars to fund five academic chairs of excellence in their pediatrics department, and Russell, a native of Knoxville, was lured to Memphis to chair the newly funded department.



Joan Chesney

That made St. Jude happy. They remained in Memphis, and it turned out to be a package deal. UT wanted Joan, too. Now Joan, her husband’s mentor in Rochester, became a member of his faculty at Tennessee.

Goodbye, Pat. . . . Hello, Elvis!

Daughter, Gillian, and son, Chris, grew up in Memphis and eventually graduated from Harvard like their father. Gillian now works at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, and Chris, with two children of his own, is a financial adviser in New York.

Their eldest daughter, Karen, was diagnosed with autism and lives in Senatobia, Mississippi at the Baddour Center, a home for adults with special needs. Joan discovered Baddour when Karen was competing in the Special Olympics.

“I noticed the Baddour athletes were very happy, enthusiastic, and well organized. I thought they might help Karen,” Joan explained.

Dealing with Karen’s autism while parenting the other two children was Joan’s biggest challenge in life. The needs of all three were so important to her and, yet, so different.

“It turned out well,” Joan volunteered, “because all three are very happy and exactly where they need to be.” The Special Olympics



were special, indeed, for Karen.

She went all the way to the international competition and won the Silver Medal in Tennis, barely losing the Gold to Yugoslavia.

After building the now nationally acclaimed pediatrics department at UT, Russell suddenly died five years ago. It was his heart, and a terrible loss for Joan.

“We had developed a deep and abiding friendship during our life together. We thought the same way and enjoyed the same things. His death was debilitating for me.”

But she continued to work. She had previously revamped the residency program at the University of Tennessee and now tackled the research and clinical fellowship programs at St. Jude resulting in much better qualified candidates for both institutions.

After a long and distinguished career, Joan finally retired on June 30, 2020. Her children thought the activities at Trezevant would be good fit for their energetic mother, and so, she became our neighbor. It didn’t take long to get to know her, either.

Immediately, as always, she saw a need and tried to help. With the election coming up, people needed to register to vote. Joan flew into action and staffed a committee. Now, many of our residents and employees are ready to vote. She was recently on television explaining the program, and an article is coming out in The Memphis Business Journal recounting her efforts.

A colleague wrote Joan on her retirement: “You may not know it, but I’ve been your biggest admirer over the years. I’ve watched you over and over making life better for so many people.”


Her friend is right. Joan wants to make life better; for her family, for her patients, for her students, for her colleagues.

And now, she’s here, making life better for us.

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Trezevant

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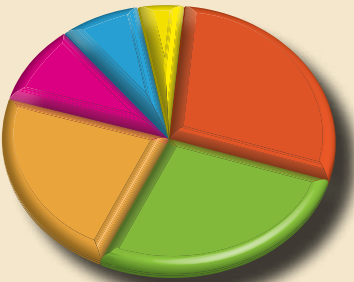
OTHER GIFTS

Anonymous  
William Carrington Jones  
Ms. Lee Ann Smith Roman  
The Estate of Hope Salvatori  
Ms. Nancy Wheat  
Mr. and Mrs. Williamson  
Mrs. Barbara Wilson

*\*The Trezevant Foundation has made every effort to ensure that the information on this donor page is correct. However, if you should find any errors or omissions, please contact the Foundation Office at 901.251-9235.*

FOUNDATION GIFTS  
2019 / 2020

Annual Giving	28%
Major Gifts / COVID Meals	27%
Honor / Memorial	23%
Special Purchases	10%
Estate Gifts	8%
Scholarship / Chapel	4%



Trezevant Foundation Annual Giving Campaign

Leader

Ms. Sara Heckle  
Mrs. Anna McNeill  
Ms. Ann Powell

Builder

Ms. Peggy Bodine  
Mr. John D. Canale  
Mrs. GeeGee Chandler  
Dr. Jim Dorman  
Mr. David Edwards  
Dr. Suzanne Gronemeyer  
Mrs. Peggy Hancock

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Krausnick Jr.  
Mrs. Barbara Nash  
Ms. Stacey Sears  
Faye and Donn Southern  
Mary and Philip Vaiden  
Ms. Jacqueline Williamson  
Dr. and Mrs. George F. Wortham, III

Acheiver

Ms. Sara Thomas

Innovator

Ms. Honey Cannon  
Ms. Joanne Fleming  
Mrs. Virginia A. Trenholm  
Mr. and Mrs. George Walker  
Mrs. Susan Whitehead

Friend of Trezevant:

Anonymous  
Ms. Betty Brewster  
Dr. Anne Connell  
Mrs. Jack Gordon  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harvey  
Mrs. Libby King  
Ms. Caroline Nance  
Sally and Ray Podesta

Terry and John Robertson  
Ms. Elaine Schuppe  
Donna Sue and Wayne Shannon  
Mr. and Mrs. John Wade  
Mr. Brian Wilmarth  
Mrs. Thomas Wood  
Rinnie and Keith Wood

Trezevant Foundations new year started on August 1, 2020 and goes until July 31, 2021. These Annual Fund gifts represent gifts received through October 15, 2020.

The Annual Campaign Kicked off on October 12, 2020.  
Please consider giving a gift today.



After 6 months on the Little Store door, I have taken down the poster that read, "Keep Calm and Carry On".

We are still heeding those words, but now we are steadier on our feet and we are embracing the new normal.

What choice to do we have. Plus, I really wanted to change up the Little Store décor with some fall seasonings!

So we move on.

It has been my great pleasure to work at Trezevant. In early 2021, Dan and I will be moving to Charlotte for our next adventure. My last day at Trezevant will be December 31, 2020.

Over the last year I have said the Serenity Prayer over and over: *“God grant me the serenity to except the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can. And the wisdom to know the difference”*.

These words have grounded me through turbulent and unsettling times. They are simple and true.

This I know for sure. Your strength has made me braver. Your wisdom has made me wiser. Your faith has made me stronger. I don’t mind the going, but it’s the leaving that is so hard. They are two different things. I am not the same person that walked in the Manor door 6 years ago. For this I have you to thank.



With heartfelt gratitude, Retail Robin

Trezevant Foundation Annual Giving Levels:

Circle of Excellence	\$10,000 and above
Circle of Honor	\$ 5,000
Leader	\$ 2,500
Builder	\$ 1,000
Achiever	\$ 750
Innovator	\$ 500
Friend of Trezevant	Up to \$ 250

Ben Thinking

“Is there ever a conflict in your mind between acting only in your own best interest or acting instead in the best interest of the greater community?”



Rainbow Project:

By Ann Knox

“Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud”. This quote from Maya Angelou has inspired many residents to help brighten the days of their Trezevant friends and neighbors, especially those who are confined due to Covid 19. This resident-driven Random Act of Kindness program provides free cheerful cards for adding personal messages, ranging from “Welcome” to “This too shall pass!”. These are delivered by volunteers to residents in Allen Morgan Health Center and Trezevant Terrace as well as Independent Living residences. Additional volunteers are writing birthday cards for all Trezevant residents, as well as inspirational messages for Allen Morgan and Trezevant Terrace residents. The Rainbow Project cards are available outside the pool entrance, along with designated delivery boxes.







A



B



A. Tony Williams and Tommy Stuck  
Security for Trezevant

B. It's time for Fall Flowers!

C. Dorsey Wade volunteering at Dottie's  
Digs.

D. Namaste, doing a Yoga Class in  
Hope's Garden

E. Julia Maddux and Dorothy Stevenson  
volunteering their time and having fun

F. Anna King, working hard at Dottie's Digs



C



D



E



F

## B I R T H D A Y S

### NOVEMBER

2 Jeffrey Gross  
2 Gail Weesner  
2 Karen Canale  
4 Dottie Grayson  
5 Faye Southern  
5 Carolyn Gay  
5 Betty Drew  
5 Jim Springfield  
7 Richard Williams  
7 Mary Alice Gordon  
8 Barbara Christensen  
8 Fannie Sammarco  
8 Irene Nielson  
8 Kaki Whitney  
9 Ann Knox  
9 Edina Douglas  
10 Spence Wooten  
11 Will Hergenrader  
12 Nancy Cross  
13 Barbara Williams  
14 Dixie Power  
19 James Alexander  
20 John Grayson  
21 Myra Egdorf  
23 Beth Hill  
26 Katharine Habison  
29 Ted Johnson  
30 Jerry Jaucher

### DECEMBER

1 Jacquelyn Thompson  
3 Hal Brunt  
3 Diane Hern  
5 Ron Terry  
5 Virginia Hollon  
5 Julie Mills  
6 Barbara Froom  
8 Ben Bledsoe  
8 Anne Bunting  
9 Linda Spiese  
10 Sarah Gratz  
10 Ginny Webb  
11 Carol Morris  
11 Patty Calvert  
15 Benson Darnell  
16 Ida Holmes  
16 Royanne Bogg  
24 Thea Dotson  
25 Naomi Long  
25 Betty Jane Harris  
26 Jim McDonnell  
29 William Hill  
29 Betty Johnson  
30 Tommie Saxton  
30 Barbara McGinnis  
31 William Morehead

### JANUARY

1 Lynn Murff  
1 Terry Robertson  
6 Rusty Loth  
8 Sally Hergenrader  
8 Anna Pyland  
9 Shirley Schroeder  
10 Kathryn Johnson  
11 Grace Crocker  
11 Mary Virginia Rogers  
12 Roger Lowery  
12 Ann Powell  
13 Patsy Smith  
16 Jane Cash  
16 Billie Fortas  
17 Caroline Nance  
18 Jo Maxwell  
18 Anne Timmons  
18 Christine Garrett  
21 Nancy Erb  
22 Norma Atkins  
23 Edward White  
24 Gee Gee Chandler  
25 Alice Anne Miller  
25 Julie Walton  
26 Ruth Hurst  
26 Dion Pogson  
27 Mary Edith Walker  
30 Robert McCallum  
30 Jean Reynolds





# Trezevant

A Tradition in Retirement Excellence

177 North Highland

Memphis, Tennessee 38111

901.325.4000 [trezevantmanor.org](http://trezevantmanor.org)

Address Service Requested

**WE HEARTILY WELCOME OUR NEWEST RESIDENTS**

# **WELCOME**

**Susie and Mike Osborn  
Anne Timmons**