

# TREELINES



*the Coming New Year*

LIFE IN THE  
TREZEVANT  
COMMUNITY  
FALL 2021

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## From the CEO

Kent Phillips

The leaves are finally starting to drop and the night air is becoming crisp – an annual reminder that the holiday season is approaching. It is a time to celebrate the unique and engaging life Trezevant has to offer, our good fortune and, most of all, each other.

Two recent events here at Trezevant exemplify the joy of good fortune and the blessing of social engagement. First, our Celebration of Centenarians honored the 100th birthday of four Trezevant residents in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Theatre Memphis in early September. Around 150 of us met at Theatre Memphis to enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a private showing of "Hello Dolly". One hundred years of family, friendship, and service to the Memphis community – This was an event we will remember for a long time! Not that we are keeping score, but we actually have seven centenarians living here at Trezevant, a wonderful testament to life well-lived!

Second, we resumed our annual fashion show this year, another terrific event! I want to thank Lilian Hammond for her leadership and energy in ensuring the success of this show. Lilian worked with our Foundation, Life Enrichment, and Dining Services teams to create a truly memorable event. Lilian's life story is highlighted in this issue of *Treelines* and is well worth the read. Lilian led the effort to partner with the greater Memphis community to donate items for our silent auction, which raised considerable funds to benefit Hope's Garden. In addition (and perhaps incredulously), she convinced our Board Secretary, Estella Mayhue-Greer, to model for the event.

The tradition of life enrichment continues at Trezevant with a busy holiday social calendar. I look forward to seeing you all and enjoying the season with you!



## From the FOUNDATION

Stacey Sears

As 2021 comes to an end and 2022 is on the horizon lets reflect on the wonderful events and history made at Trezevant. Watching hundreds of people come to Trezevant to receive not only their first COVID vaccine but also their second was monumental. Highlighting the four centenarians at Trezevant still living in Independent living was history making. Having a Fashion Show Fundraiser for Hope's Garden residents, friends and families got to celebrate again. There is so much more coming up for the holidays to bring everyone back together and celebrate life at Trezevant. We are grateful.

I cannot gush anymore about Trezevant without bringing up the obvious and that is the philanthropic spirit that surrounds the campus. There are so many givers of time and talent at Trezevant that I would like to say thank you. You do hear that you can't thank someone enough and it is true. With the closing of one year and that opening of a new one I would be remiss if I did not make a last appeal for support.

I would like to give you 5 reasons to Give at the end of year and my personal thoughts about it.

**GIVE...**because it is the end of at the year and you always are generous at the end of every year!

**GIVE...**because donating to the annual appeal is the right thing to do yearly.

**GIVE...**because Trezevant is the best in Memphis and annual support is needed.

**GIVE...**because Trezevant has touched you personally or a family member with its' stellar service and dedication.

**GIVE...**because it makes you feel good.

I have given you 5 reasons to give to the Trezevant Foundation and support Trezevant, The Manor, The Place, Allen Morgan and The Terrace. Don't you want to feel good?

Please know we are all grateful for Trezevant and the wonderful residents, families, and leaders it has touched throughout the years. Please consider giving back to the Trezevant Foundation with the attached envelope and thank you for being a generous supporter of our mission.

I would like to take a moment and wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Years!

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## From the CHAPLAIN

The Rev. Julie McKenna

### Special Events in Spiritual Care

The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!  
Tuesday, Nov. 2nd at 3:00 pm in St. Edward Chapel --Join us for a special chaplains' class with Bishop Phoebe Roaf, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee.

NEW! "A Prayerful Pause" Beginning Wed., Nov. 3rd at 1:30pm at the Prayer Tree we will offer a brief 15-minute weekly prayer service led by residents and staff. Come check it out!

Sunday, November 7th, 2021 at 10:30am—All Saints' Celebration

Come join us for a special worship service with Holy Communion celebrating the lives of all those we lost since last All Saints (Nov. 8, 2020). Special music provided by Howard and Beverly Vance on guitar and flute.

Wednesday, December 22nd at 4:00 pm - Candlelight Christmas Service

Join us for a late afternoon of beautiful music, candlelight and communion celebrating Christmas. Guest musicians, Dr. Joel Chapman (vocalist), Donna Wolf, (violinist), and Jane Crum, (pianist) will help make this a special occasion!

Chaplains' Classes: Wednesdays at 3pm in St. Edward Chapel

November 3rd and 10th "Race: A Complex Conversation" Join Rachel Shankman from "Facing History and Ourselves" as we discuss the topic of race and examine how we relate to one another. This is a dynamic, interactive study of a complex and timely topic. Come join us!

November 17th-- Community Hymn Sing-- Join us as we sing some of our old favorite hymns.

December 1st, 8th and 15th: Advent Study with New Testament Professor, Dr. Mitzi Minor. Details TBA.

December 29th—Christmas Hymn Sing! Come join us as we sing some of our favorite Christmas Carols!

January 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th: Rev. Walter Mischke will explore the relationship of Christianity and Judaism in New Testament times and in the modern era.

February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd: Jack Richbourg will share readings from his Biblical Reflections, and invite participants to write and share reflections of their own.

Other offerings: Family Caregivers' Support Group--Third Thursday of Every Month at 12:00pm in the Gallery Dining Room— If you have a spouse or a family member living with dementia, join us for a boxed lunch from one of our vendors, and fellowship with other caregivers. Support Group facilitated by Lowry Whitehorn, Social Worker for Crossroads Hospice. Contact the Rev. Barbara Kirk-Norris at bkirknorris@trezevantmanor.org for more information.

Calling all knitters—new service project: The Knit, Pray, Love group that meets every Thursday at 4:00pm in the Music Room is knitting hats and scarves for the homeless and donating them to the Hub. Patterns and excellent knitting advice available for all who would like to participate. Some needles and yarn available as well.

With our theme of endings and beginnings, I thought this Psalm on Aging felt appropriate to share with you.

### Psalm on Aging

*There is a shock in growing old;  
Friend after friend fails and dies,  
Couples become singles,  
Houses and beds become empty.  
"What can you expect when you get to  
be our age?"*

**NO!**

*Others will never define who I am.*

*Only you, God may do so.*

*In you I am more than body.*

*I am spirit, ever young and vibrant.*

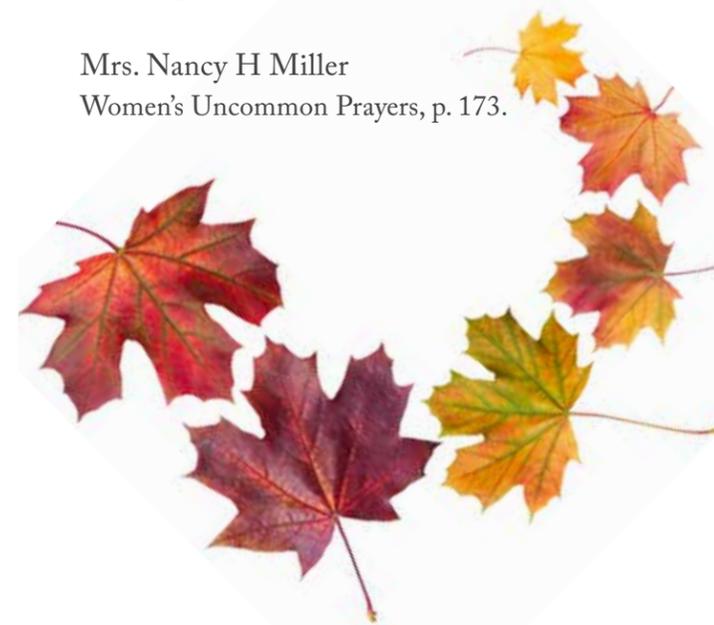
*Praise to you, the God of new beginnings.*

*I delight in your possibilities,*

*Knowing there is much more left to be done.*

Mrs. Nancy H Miller

Women's Uncommon Prayers, p. 173.



Meet Trezevant's new Executive Chef Antony Field. Originally from over the pond, Antony and his family moved to New York. There is his dad played professional soccer with the team New York Cosmos and famous player Pele'. The family moved to Memphis when Antony's father played for the Memphis Rogues. Antony found himself graduating from Christian Brothers High School and then attending Memphis State University. He later went to the Culinary Institute of America which is an American private college and culinary school specializing in culinary, baking, and pastry arts education.

Antony's experience is vast and he truly a creative soul in the kitchen. "I really enjoyed creating dishes at Flight Restaurant and Wine Bar as well as Southern Social", said Chef. "I was able to do what I wanted as Director of Culinary".

Going through some crazy interview questions I wanted to get another side of Chef Antony so here we go...

**If you were a new crayon what color would you be and why?**

"I would want to be silver because it is special".

**Name some bands you loved listening to in the 90's.**

"I like Pink Floyd, R.E.M, U.2., and INXS.

**If you could any animal in the world what would you be?**

"I would want to be an elephant because they never forget and it is all about family".

**What inspires you?** "I like ingredients. Not just the food but what makes up the taste and look of a dish".

**What are known for?** "My creativity".

**If Spiderman and Batman were in a fight who would win?**

"Well, I would assume it would be a draw but me personally I would choose Superman. He would beat both of them".

Chef Antony has 2 children a Daughter Ro-Jan, 21 and a son Leandre, 23. Currently, the Chef is working on opening up the Bistro and creating interesting dishes to serve at Snowden dining room and the Bistro. When you have a chance to say hello please introduce yourself and wish him well!

# Our Stories

by Jack Richbourg

Will and Fannie Dodson enjoy a vantage point on the wall of Lillian Hammond's bedroom. They stare grim-faced in that black and white photograph. Born slaves, Will died in 1945, but Fannie, of African American and Choctaw descent, lived to be 98 before dying in 1962 when Lillian was 21. If they could talk, what would they say? I suspect they might be very proud of their great granddaughter.

Lillian was born at John Gaston Hospital in Memphis to Gilbert and Ruby Nelle Fisher. She lived in Lemoyne Garden, attending St. Augustine Catholic School, until 1951 when her Southern Baptist family moved to South Memphis. There, she went to Hamilton graduating in 1959.

Summers in high school, she worked at her father's neighborhood store, but after graduation, she told her father she wanted a real job and became the salad girl at the University Club.



"I was just 17 years-old and that was my first experience around white folks." It was a good experience for her. She made friends quickly, and people loved the young, new salad girl at the U Club.

That Fall, Maxine Smith, civil rights leader and friend of her parents, asked Lillian to enroll at then segregated Memphis State University. The NAACP was looking for a test case to force the University to admit blacks.

Lillian wasn't interested. "I didn't want to be a guinea pig," she said. That Fall, the "Memphis State Eight" successfully desegregated the University. It could have been the Memphis State Nine with Lillian. It's just as well there were only eight for the sake of that memorable rhyme, if for nothing else.

Lillian wanted to attend Fiske University, but her mother, hearing her son's tales of revelry at Tennessee State, thought Nashville was not for Lillian. So, she enrolled at Lincoln University in more sedate Jefferson City, Missouri, majoring in psychology and sociology and graduating in 1963.

She decided to teach, but that required student teaching in Jefferson City. Lillian was the first black student teacher in an all-white Jefferson City school, something her conservative principal did not appreciate.



He was a gruff, intimidating man who made her stand for his 40-minute interview with her, but the faculty welcomed her. They gave her a party at the end of the term. Her supervising teacher said she was a blessing, and the children loved her. Later, other aspiring, black students followed the trail blazed by Lillian in Jefferson City.

In Memphis, Lillian taught history at Manassas Junior High. She planned on a Master's Degree at Wayne State, but when her grandmother developed cancer she attended Memphis State at night, teaching during the day.

She met Allen Hammond at the Manassas-Melrose football game. She had a date with someone else but caught Allen's eye. When he called, she didn't want to talk to him, but her mother said, "Lillian,

you need to talk to this man. He's got the nicest voice I've ever heard." She accepted the call, and they began dating. The Reverend Jim Lawson married them in 1965, and the couple adopted Al, Jr. in 1970.

Later, she taught at Cory Junior High and was about to transfer to White Station when she got a call from Memphis State in 1968, a tumultuous year in Memphis. Huge protests demanded more black staff at Memphis State. The University searched for black talent. Lillian's graduate school professor recommended her, and Memphis State hired her as one of the first black counselors at University College.

"It was funny," she said. "I didn't want to be a guinea pig integrating Memphis State as a student, and here I was a guinea pig, after all, integrating the staff 10 years later."

She began to wheedle and cajole the administration to improve conditions for blacks. She complained that she was assigned black students only and that the registration process was segregated. Those policies quickly changed.

Dr. Jess Parrish coaxed her to join his staff at newly formed Shelby State. She finally agreed and rose to the position of Dean of Institutional Advancement which oversaw public relations,



Lillian Fischer

research and development, as well as serving as liaison to the public school system. With five directors underneath her, she helped start Middle College High School, a joint venture between Shelby State and the Memphis City Schools, which identified intelligent but disadvantaged children, in danger of dropping out. Lillian facilitated their enrollment in Middle College enabling them to enter college at a sophomore level.

Her husband's illness forced her retirement in 1991. Allen died in 1997 of lung cancer. She began doing consulting work at Memphis State, again, and then later at the Hyde Foundation which, with Lillian's assistance, helped fund the first charter school in Memphis, KIP (Knowledge is Power) Charter School.

"And that's when I met George Brown!" She declared. George was Circuit Court judge, and a good friend of her husband. In fact, he had been one of the pall-bearers at Allen's funeral. He offered his legal help. They began dating and married in 2002.

After that, Lillian's fortunes waned. She fell while showering requiring extensive surgeries. A year later, she had a stroke. With good physical therapy, her health returned, but illness took a toll on her marriage. She and George divorced in 2020.

"I was already good friends with Ann Knox and Dina Smith so, Trezevant seemed like a natural fit," she explained. She came in 2020 and immediately made her presence known. She's joined the Scholarship Committee, the Acts of Kindness Committee, the Black History Committee, and produced a fashion show that raised over \$30,000 for Hope's Garden, all within a year of her arrival, just prior to her eightieth birthday.

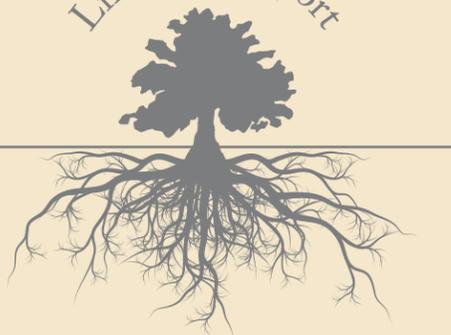
I wonder. What must they think -- Will and Fanny Dodson -- watching all this unfold from the bedroom wall? Unlike them, she was born free, but, like them, she faced obstacles. How delighted they must be at her success!

I would imagine they are very proud, indeed, of their great granddaughter.

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Gail M Weesner

**Scholarship Gifts**

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Ms. Quinn  
Mr. John Stroupe  
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Mr. and Mrs. Williamson

**\*\*S- Scholarship Fund**

**L- Library Fund**  
**MS- Memory Support Fund**  
**C- Chapel Fund**  
**HG - Hope Garden**

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**For giving to the Annual Fund Campaign**



**Ben Thinking**

*“What you know of ‘love’ depends on all the experiences of love you have had in your life. I can understand love only by loving and being loved, not from analyzing love. Now understanding yourself (and others): ah, that’s another matter.”*

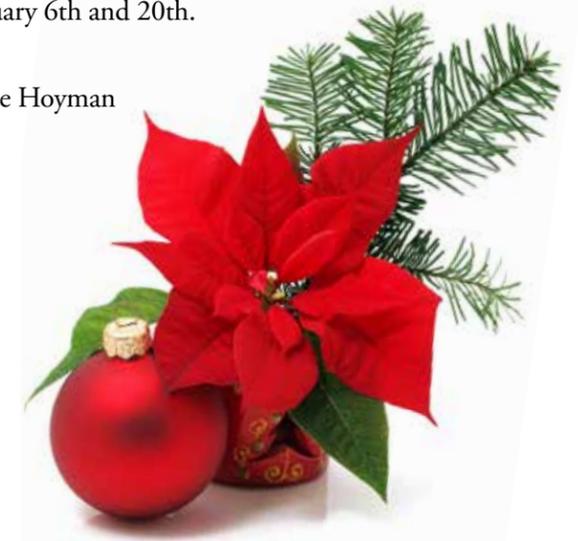
# Forward With Hope

The Holiday's are upon us. The New Year is around the corner. We all have different ways of celebrating, traditions, and activity's that make it feel special to us. One thing is for certain it's an emotional time of the year. It always takes me back to my childhood. Halloween was the beginning when you knew it's almost here. The Holiday' s were almost herewith great anticipation. As I have gotten older the anticipation has turned into a melancholy sort of anticipation. The New Year always has a way of bringing it all together for me. I remember all the Lovely Christmas memories', make some new ones, and get ready for a brand-new year. The past few years have been so hard on so many people.

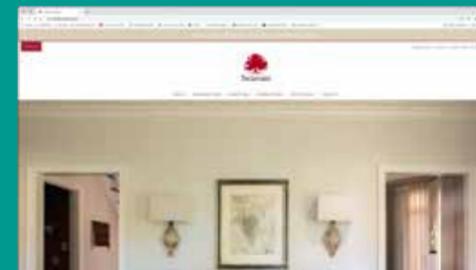
Going forward into 2022 with hope and prayer the New Year will renew our spirits as we go forward, with each new day.

Upcoming dates for Dottie's Digs: November 4th and 18th, December 2nd and 16th and January 6th and 20th.

-Julie Hoyman



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**Trezevant**  
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A



B



- A. Model Barbara Nash
- B. Models Sylvia Adams and Her Granddaughter
- C. Gathering
- D. Resident Host Lillian Hammond and Coming Attractions Host Babbitt
- E. Silent Auction
- F. Attendees got a great show and the event raised \$30,000 for Hopes Garden Improvements



C



D



E



F

## BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Jeffrey Gross
- 2 Gail Weesner
- 2 Karen Canale
- 4 Dottie Grayson
- 5 Faye Southern
- 5 Jim Springfield
- 7 Richard Williams
- 7 Mary Alice Gordon
- 8 Barbara Christensen
- 8 Kaki Whitney
- 9 Ann Knox
- 9 Edina Douglas
- 10 Bobby Leatherman
- 11 Will Hergenrader
- 12 Nancy Cross
- 13 Barbara Williams
- 14 Jan Bell
- 14 Dixie Power
- 15 Dorothy Craddock
- 19 Gail Murray
- 20 John Grayson
- 22 Nancy Stephenson
- 29 Ted Johnson

### DECEMBER

- 1 Jacquelyn Thompson
- 3 Hal Brunt
- 5 Ron Terry
- 5 Virginia Hollon
- 8 Ben Bledsoe
- 8 Anne Bunting
- 9 Linda Spiese
- 10 Sarah Gratz
- 10 Ginny Webb
- 11 Carol Morris
- 11 Patty Calvert
- 15 Susanne Darnell
- 16 Ida Holmes
- 17 Betty Green
- 22 Gloria Baxter
- 24 Thea Dotson
- 25 Naomi Long
- 25 Betty Jane Harris
- 26 Jim McDonnell
- 29 William Hill
- 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 Mary Linda Wardlaw
- 11 Mary Virginia Rogers
- 12 Roger Lowery
- 12 Ann Powell
- 16 Jane Cash
- 17 Caroline Nance
- 18 Christine Garrett
- 18 Jo Maxwell
- 18 Anne Timmons
- 19 Esther Brady
- 21 Nancy Erb
- 22 Norma Atkins
- 24 Gee Gee Chandler
- 25 Alice Anne Miller
- 25 Juliet Walton
- 27 Mary Edith Walker
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