

BAPTIST VILLAGE

Fall/Winter 2015 Magazine • A Publication of Baptist Village Communities • baptistvillage.org



returning to the creek

Residents Experience God at Falls Creek

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Fall/Winter 2015 Magazine

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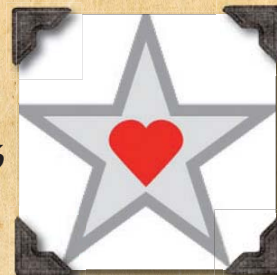


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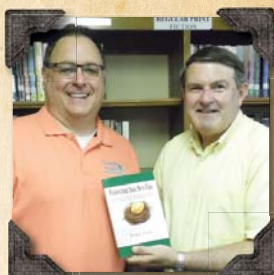
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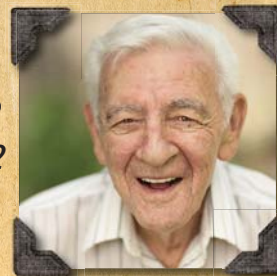
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Moving into 2016 by Shaping the Future of Aging Services

Dr. Bill Pierce, President

Join us in shaping the future of aging services. You will be involved in a very rewarding and challenging field. Baptist Village Communities (BVC) is focused on serving from a position of humility that reflects the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. All of us are serving together. The need for our services is growing in our state, our country and our world. Join us.



This year, BVC has had a focus on prayer and evangelism. The people living on each campus and the Friends Team have been encouraged to share their story on the website *mostimportantthing.org*. We have seen both residents and Friends Team members come to faith in Christ.

We experienced a tragedy this year when our assistance in living building under construction in Elk City burned to the ground. We are very thankful to God that there were no significant injuries and that none of the surrounding neighborhoods were affected. We were very blessed by the community as they rushed to our aid and loved and supported BVC in every way. We experienced firsthand the ministry of First Baptist Church of Elk City, Baptist Disaster Relief, fire departments and first responders from nine communities and the community as a whole. We are pleased to announce that we are rebuilding. God brings new things out of ashes. Thank you for your continued prayers.

There is a great need for contributions to the Adams Assistance Fund. All of the dollars you give go to support those who need financial assistance to live in one of our communities. The people who receive these funds are so appreciative and often cry tears of joy because of your generosity. I want to thank you for giving to this Fund. The need is growing and you can make a great difference right now through your gift.

The Board of directors has authorized the "Together We Serve" capital fundraising campaign which will bring important improvements to our campuses in eastern Oklahoma. We are praying that God will lead the friends of BVC to make a significant difference by making extraordinary gifts over the next several years.

Lastly, the Rehab Neighborhoods at Baptist Village of Oklahoma City have been open for a little over a year. What a difference The Neighborhoods are making. People are experiencing progressive, innovative therapy that transforms lives. One guest shared, "This place is incredible. If you or anyone you know has to have skilled nursing, I would highly recommend this place. The people are wonderful, and the food is superb. It's like you're staying in a resort and being pampered. Now you know why I wanted to come and stay awhile." Your faithfulness helped to create such a wonderful place.

Looking forward to 2016 as you and I shape the future of aging services...together. 

returning to the creek

residents experience god at falls creek

Jason Davis

"A thing to behold." These words by Dr. Bill Pierce, BVC president, echoed most everyone's sentiments the day of October 22 at Falls Creek.

More than 200 residents, Friends Team, Board members and support team members, representing all eight Baptist Villages, gathered at the nearly 100-year-old camp for a fantastic day of reliving the vintage Falls Creek experience.

"Wow...to God be the glory!" declared Dr. Pierce. "The Falls Creek reunion tour was a very worshipful and Godly time, not to mention a tremendous success. What a blessing to experience this amazing time together and share how God has worked in the lives of his people across generations."

The day began with an arrival of countless buses and vans bringing the hundreds to camp, giving those in attendance a camp tour. Residents noted that the modern Falls Creek was a far cry from the grounds they remembered decades ago.

"We had no air conditioning, no hot water at all back then," recalled Don Hutchings, resident from Baptist Village of Owasso. "But we loved every minute of it!"

Many residents attended Falls Creek as campers or sponsors 40, 50 or 60+ years ago. A couple of residents even attended Falls Creek in the 1940s.

After tours, all in attendance gathered for an old-fashioned worship service, led by none other than the legendary Dr. Bill Green and his wife, Linda. Loud proclamations of "Victory in Jesus" and "Saved, Saved, Saved" filled the Massey Chapel. BVC Director of Chaplain Services Chris Finley delivered the message from God's Word. But more importantly, people came to know Christ that morning.

Following lunch and fellowship together in the dining hall, all gathered in Ada, First's cabin for a cabin devotional led by Dr.



Pierce. This is where the Falls Creek experience really came alive in people.

Resident Doris Calvert, Cleveland, shared her testimony. "My late husband and I first took our Muskogee youth group down to Falls Creek in 1970. This originally small group grew amazingly through the following years. I cooked for 33 years at Falls Creek. Through it all, we were able to reach not only a lot of children but their parents, too. My son Larry, who was saved at Falls Creek, now brings youth to camp himself, just like his parents!"

Vicki Lang, Owasso resident, shared this with the group. "Since I was 12, I wanted to go to Falls Creek. We went to the Church of God camp, but I still wanted to go to Falls Creek. By the time I was old enough to go to Falls Creek, our family had moved from Depew to Tulsa. There wasn't a Baptist church nearby, and at that point the Church of God camp wasn't around anymore. Long story short, it's written in the Bible that God will give you the desires of your heart. And here I am today at Falls Creek, years later!"

Roy Wilburn of Baptist Village of Oklahoma City happily tells his story. "I was thinking of all the groups and churches my wife and I brought down to Falls Creek for 26 years and all the lives that have been changed. We'd go back to churches and watch these young men and women give their testimonies and then go into God's work. I know when I get to heaven I'm going to meet a lot of people that will say, 'Thank you for taking us to Falls Creek and what it's meant to us.'"

Seeing more than 200 people, young and old, lifting voices together in praise and giving testimonies of their Falls Creek experience truly was a thing to behold. Baptist Village Communities is grateful to God for allowing this amazing event to become reality. 💕





Shop, Save, Support BVC!

Jason Davis, Development and Public Relations Specialist

Do you shop online? Do you like to save money? Do you like to support Baptist Village Communities (BVC) and our mission? Tribute is perfect for you!

Tribute is an online donation company that connects a host of retailers to charitable causes. In BVC's case, Tribute supports the Adams Assistance Fund, enabling residents with financial challenges to live at Baptist Village.

How does it work? Simple. First, sign up for Tribute (don't worry - it's free!). Once you sign up, every retailer that participates with Tribute will show our logo and the percentage they will donate to the Adams Fund, should you purchase the product or service through that company.

And here's one of the best parts - it costs you, the consumer, nothing extra! Tribute is contracted with thousands of retailers, so the percentage does not affect your cost at all.


One Friends Team member gives a great example of how to use the program. "I am currently in nursing school, and I needed a textbook for one of my classes. I simply went to Google and typed in 'textbooks'. Several sources popped up, and since I had Tribute installed, the BVC logo with donation percentage was displayed above several book sellers. I found the best price and simply chose the source with the largest donation percentage."

There are, literally, thousands of retailers that partner with Tribute. Many are well-known national outlets, such as Amazon, Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Home Depot, Expedia and JCPenney. Retailers offer special discounts, coupons and updates for Tribute users. Some of these can be significant offers. Tribute also will send notices of weekly specials to your email.

Signing up is easy. Type this address into your web browser - <https://bvc.tribute.support/dn-bvc/>. Scanning the QR code below also will take you there. Once you've signed up, click on the FAQ section





at the bottom of the page. Under the “How do I add the support button to my web browser” section, search for the browser you use most. Tribute supports Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox and Safari. Follow the steps to get the button installed on your computer or handheld device.


If you have any questions on how Tribute works or the process of signing up, contact the BVC development office at (405) 942-3000 ext. 4207. We hope you will partner with us and Tribute to shop, save and support BVC! 


RIGHT: A Google search for “Textbooks”, yielding at least four sources with donations to BVC. The largest percentage donation is highlighted.


BELOW: The main page of the BVC Tribute site.

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 Total Raised for Baptist Village Communities: \$5.00
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 Invite Friends & Family


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Today's Top Deals


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 Shop Now **1.5% DONATION**



FREE GIFT
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Hottest Stores All Stores



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1.5% DONATION
 17 Offers



2% DONATION
 17 Offers


2.5% DONATION
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- Deals!
- For Guys

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

Jason Davis

Who can you reach with your salvation story? This is the question Baptist Village Communities (BVC) is urging everyone to ask themselves.

In 2015, one of BVC's goals has been a strengthened emphasis on prayer and evangelism. The emphasis reaches out across the ministry to include residents, guests, family members, visitors, Friends Team members and Board members.

Mike Napier, evangelism specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO) trained the BVC leadership team on a very effective method, especially with Baptist Village residents – *mostimportantthing.org*.

BVC President Dr. Bill Pierce shares about the importance of the site. “Most Important Thing’ is a wonderful tool to share your salvation story and the story of God’s provision in your life. You can tell people you have known your whole life and people you are meeting for the first time how to access your story. All it takes is access to a computer and the internet.”

“We concluded that many Village residents have a salvation story to tell but have never written it down to share with family and friends,” says Chris Finley, director of chaplain services.

This is where Most Important Thing comes into play. You answer three specific questions: 1) Explain how your life was before asking Christ to be your Lord and Savior, 2) How did you come to Christ, and 3) What has your life been like since Christ has come into your life?



No.
1

Share Your Story

Sharing your story on the MostImportantThing.org is easy! Just answer three questions and click submit. Once your story has been approved, you'll be sharing the Gospel all over the world!

Send us your story and we will host it for free. Just submit your story and be sure to include the name of your church. The Most Important Thing website is made possible by the donations of Southern Baptists to the [Cooperative Program](#). The [North American Mission Board, SBC](#) is proud to present this website to help individuals and churches fulfill the Great Commission.

Disclaimer: *MostImportantThing.org* has the right to not post any testimonies for any reason it deems necessary.

Before submitting your story, be sure you have the following information:

- Your contact information (email address, phone numbers, mailing address)
- Your story broken down into three sections (before you met Christ, when you met Christ, and after you met Christ), with each section having no more than 100 words.
- A photo file of yourself (ex. [timsmith.jpg](#)). A photo is not required to submit a story, but it is helpful. **Photo must be 50 KB or less** or it will not post.
- Click the "Share Your Story" button below to begin.

If you have questions, contact us by clicking [here](#).

Share Your Story

Sharing this story on the *mostimportantthing.org* website gives anyone, including family members, the chance to read these important testimonies.

The process is simple. Once on the site, the user clicks the "Share" tab at the top. A brief tutorial appears. Clicking the "Share Your Story" button at the bottom allows the user to transfer their salvation story to the website. Even more, each time a visitor reads the user's testimony, the website automatically sends this person notice that someone has read his or her story.

Napier and Finley have conducted seminars for Most Important Thing at all BVC campuses.

Mike Napier adds, "Some of the many comments we've heard include, 'We all have a lot in common' or, as one resident said to another, 'I never knew your story, thank you for sharing. I feel so much closer to you now.' We have seen God do some amazing things."

In 2016, the plan is to continue this evangelism emphasis and to have more residents place their story on *mostimportantthing.org*. 

NEW FACES IN ENTRUSTED HEARTS

Jason Davis



Shannon Ryan

Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village (EH) is excited to welcome two new team members. Shannon Ryan has been named EH director, while Eric Herrera has come to Baptist Village Communities (BVC) as case management supervisor. Both took different paths to BVC.

Shannon Ryan is not new to BVC. For eight years, Shannon has been a vital part of the Baptist Village of Owasso team as resident services director. Now, she is stepping into her new Entrusted Hearts role, a transition some time in the making.

"BVC has given me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally," says Shannon. "It's a wonderful thing to be able to serve God and others every single day. I was personalized services coordinator with the EH office in Owasso for two years. I have always had a love for home health, providing services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Home health climate is changing every day, and I am very happy to be a part of that change."

Eric brings much experience. "I worked in case management for those affected with severe mental illnesses. In aging services, many individuals we serve have their realities changing due to Alzheimer's, dementia and so forth."

He knew right away that EH was the next chapter in his life. "It felt kind of like coming home. After I interviewed, I spent time in prayer saying, 'Lord, you know I want to be here, but I will follow your will.' with my fingers crossed that His will and mine were pointed the same way. After I confirmed with my wife that the Lord

Eric Herrera



“It’s a wonderful thing to be able to serve God and others every single day. Home health climate is changing every day, and I am very happy to be a part of that change.”

- Shannon Ryan

was leading me here, I got the phone call.”

Eric has hit the ground running. “I am proud to work with Godly character people in the services they provide. I can go to work every day and serve with dedication and conviction without having to present the ‘diet soda’ version of my faith.”

Shannon wholeheartedly agrees. “Entrusted Hearts by Baptist Village is a special ministry, and I am thankful to be where I am, doing what I’m doing. It’s very exciting.” 💕



Cole Presents Great Resource to Baptist Village

Page Cole, friend of Baptist Village Communities (BVC), has authored a book, *Protecting Your Nest Egg: Fraud Protection for Senior Citizens*. Cole has graciously presented a copy of his book to Dr. Bill Pierce, BVC president. In addition, Cole’s book will be made available to all Baptist Village

campuses. This will ensure that all residents have the opportunity to learn about protecting their finances. To purchase a copy of Page’s book, search for the book on Amazon.com.

WE GIVE...WILL YOU?

Jason Davis

I GIVE

Baptist Village Communities (BVC) is blessed to have hundreds of people support BVC financially every year. Through this, we have been able to help hundreds of residents and Friends Team members in many ways.

The "I Give" program encourages Friends Team members to provide support in three areas. The Adams Assistance Fund provides assistance to residents with financial challenges. The Heyland Education Assistance Fund assists Friends Team members with furthering their education in the aging services profession. Finally, the Employee Emergency Assistance Fund is there for crises that arise periodically for Friends Team members.

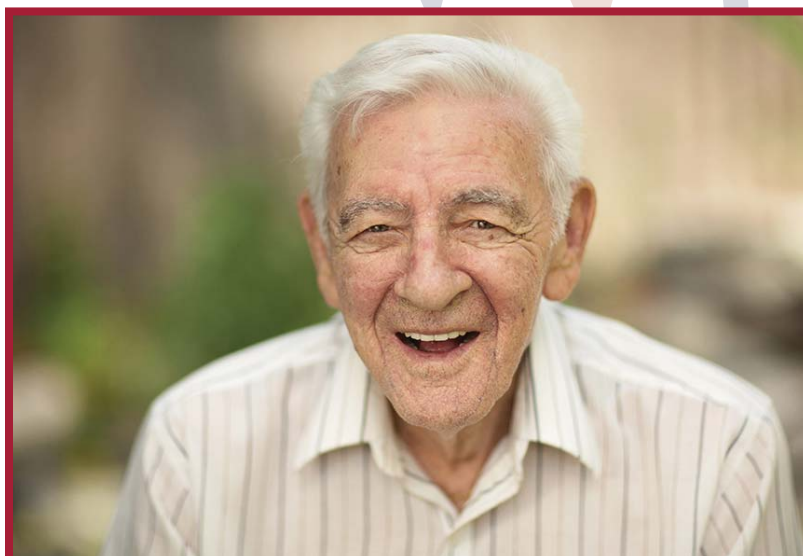
Baptist Village has promoted giving to these Funds as part of our I Give program the last few years. The program has seen a radical jump in Friends Team members giving, from about 35 when the program started to now approximately 250 givers. As a result, the Funds have all benefited.

Alison Boyd, Friends Team member, serves the Oklahoma City campus as nurse practitioner. "I have many reasons why I give to BVC. First, I give to partner with something bigger than my own world. Second, BVC influences aging individuals, their families and other aging services entities at the state and national level. I view it as a privilege to partner in this arena to share in that influence."

"It is an avenue for me to give back monetarily a small portion of what God has provided me through BVC. It is also a way to say thank you to the ministry that provided assistance for me to complete a portion of my own education (Education Assistance Fund). I am thankful for what God is doing through our ministry."

Baptist Village has exceptional financial support from its Board members. Board member Linda Gibbs shares why she supports BVC. "Early on after being asked to serve on the BVC Board, I discovered the extent to which BVC fulfills God's directive from James 1:27 - to 'look after widows (or widowers) in their distress.' Though BVC supports the spiritual needs of residents, it can also support

the financial needs. I contribute to the Adams Assistance Fund, a Fund that carefully and prudently helps those with financial challenges call the Village home."




BVC also is thrilled to have residents who give. One resident from Cleveland, Jake, shares why he gives. "I love helping others. I know when I give just a little money to the Assistance Fund that it goes a long way. I am excited that what I give helps many residents here on campus."

The Education Assistance Fund started several years ago with only about \$6,000 available. Today, there is more than \$90,000 available to Friends Team members. Likewise, the Emergency Assistance Fund had about \$5,000 in it for many years. Thanks to increased giving through "I Give", we now have more than \$50,000 available.

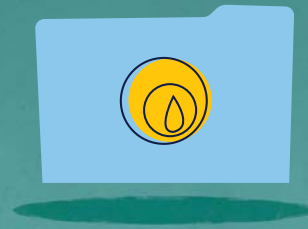
The Adams Fund provided \$22,000 in assistance in 2000. Last year, BVC provided assistance to the tune of \$472,000. This need is constantly growing.

Because the other two funds currently are funded well, BVC is asking Friends Team, residents, Board members, support team members, and you to consider giving to the Adams Assistance Fund. With BVC on pace to give out more than \$500,000 in assistance this year, it will be very challenging to keep up with the growing demand.

There are many ways to give monetarily. One of the easiest ways is to do so online at www.baptistvillage.org. You also are more than welcome to give to Baptist Village via cash or check. These gifts can be mailed to the Baptist Village Development Office: 3800 N. May Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Prayerfully consider how you can help us support those we serve. Thank you! 

www.baptistvillage.org



ONLINE ESTATE PLANNING IS HERE!

Estate planning is an essential step in preparing for the future and protecting your family. Through the Foundation, you can complete your estate plan entirely online.



Visit bfok.org/plan to learn more, and watch the Patterson family complete their estate plan!



THE BAPTIST FOUNDATION OF OKLAHOMA

Church at the Village Enhancing Spiritual Lives

Jason Davis


Baptist Village of Oklahoma City and Surrey Hills Baptist Church are meeting residents' spiritual needs. A creative concept called "Church at the Village" has been implemented at the Oklahoma City campus.

Dr. Bill Pierce, Baptist Village Communities (BVC) president, is thrilled to speak to the program's significance. "It opens a world of possibilities for ministry," says Pierce. "The church brings opportunities for residents to serve seven days a week and offers a ministry presence of Bible study, worship, outreach and even baptisms. Imagine this – more than 500 residents and rehab guests including their families, and the Friends Team who serve them and their families...suddenly, you discover there are perhaps more than 1,000 people that can be touched by the ministry of 'Church at the Village' on any given day."

Church at the Village is an extension of Surrey Hills' ministry to meet the needs of residents. Wendell Lang, senior pastor at Surrey Hills, approached the Village with the idea. At the same time, retiring pastor Mike Murphy joined Surrey Hills and felt led to serve as pastor of Church at the Village.

One advantage of the church at the Village concept is that there is no great expense or overhead for a church building itself. It is essentially a self-sustaining meeting place. Director of Chaplain Services Chris Finley says, "Although BVC is an aging services community that offers spiritual services and ministry opportunities, our ministry was never intended to take the place of the local church."

He continues, "On many occasions, residents have moved from their homes and are no longer able to attend their 'home church' which gave such purpose and meaning to their lives. They have a strong desire to serve, minister and grow in faith. This is where Church at the Village fills the void. We have already seen multiple resident and Friends Team salvations and baptisms as a result of the Church at the Village."

Pastor Lang concludes, "We are not always sure what God is up to, but I believe God has much more in store for Church at the Village. All we know is that lives are being touched and people are being baptized. That's enough to know God is up to something great." 



Above: Surrey Hills' Darrell Schantz leading Church at the Village in worship.

Below: Mike Murphy baptizing one of several that have come to Christ from the Church at the Village ministry.



“All we know is that lives are being touched and people are being baptized. That’s enough to know God is up to something great.”

- Wendell Lang





*The mission of Baptist Village Communities is to honor God
by creating communities and services to enhance lives
and enable people to serve God and one another.*



BAPTIST VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

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