

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024 — MONIQUE FARRELL** *Director of Development*

**Colossians 3:23**, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

Every day, I feel blessed to work at such an amazing organization. And there are 453 other employees that I know feel the same way. Our team comes to work every day knowing that we are working towards a mission. To paraphrase our mission statement, we are committed to providing quality care and a meaningful way of life to our residents and staff...and strive to be a place where residents and staff become an extension of family that recognize the dignity and worth of each individual. That mission is in conjunction with our corporate values of honesty, fairness, compassion, cooperation, dependability, humor, kindness, loyalty, patience, and conscientiousness. We are called to incorporate our mission, vision and values into our daily working experience. Everything that we do, and are, stems from these ideals.

During this Week of Prayer for Older Adults, we have felt your prayers. We hope that this week has helped you focus on how you, too, can help older adults around you. Perhaps it has caused you to call or visit an older family member, or to seek out volunteer opportunities at your local senior agency. Additionally, we are immensely grateful if this week has inspired you to make a gift to the Foundation or to another charity that directly supports older adults. We could not do this work without your prayers and gifts of support.



## 2024 Week of Prayer and North Carolina Offering for Older Adults



**JANUARY 28, 2024 UNTIL  
FEBRUARY 2, 2024**

Any gifts received will provide quality care for older adults who cannot afford the care they need and deserve!

**BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES  
FOUNDATION**  
FAITH • FAMILY • FULFILLMENT

**BROOKRIDGE - WINSTON-SALEM  
TAYLOR GLEN - CONCORD  
TAYLOR HOUSE - ALBEMARLE  
ARDENWOODS - ARDEN**



*Online contributions accepted at*  
**THRIVEMORENC.ORG/FOUNDATION**

## MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024 — REED VANDERSLIK *President & CEO*

**John 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Love is shown in many different ways as listed to the Christians at Corinth. The Bible verse above struck me that Jesus is not suggesting it is a good idea to love others but instead it is a commandment.

In our mission of supporting older adults, love is critical. When our employees (team members) demonstrate love for our residents, the residents’ lives are enhanced, and so are our team members’. That love is demonstrated in many ways; checking in on a resident after they have lost a loved one, stopping by someone that is lonely because they aren’t as mobile this week, and taking a moment to call a family member that is worried about their parent.

We also show love to our team members when a crisis arises in their personal lives. We have a fund through our Foundation called Employee Assistance for team members experiencing a hardship in their personal lives. We have helped team members dealing with a house fire, help with funeral expenses for a sudden death in the immediate family, and assisted with a rent payment for someone who was facing an unexpected health crisis. The application is approved by their supervisor, organization leadership and a board committee to ensure integrity to the process. This is a command from Jesus in showing love to our team members, but we know in turn they will pass that love along to our residents, their teammates, and their extended families.

Our team members are the secret sauce to make us different than other communities. As you pray today, please pray for our organization and our team members that we will follow the command from Jesus to love one another.

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## TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 — WESLEY BERRY *Church Relations Manager*

**Psalms 138:8** “The Lord will perfect that which concerns me, thy mercy O Lord endures forever. Forsake not the works of thine own hands.”

It is always fun when life brings you full circle. My father announced his call to preach at Dover Baptist Church in 1967. That was 10 years before I was born. This fall, I found myself standing in the same pulpit representing the significant mission of Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation. It has not been until the last few years (a time frame in which life has allowed me significant times of reflection) that I have fully understood all the things my father overcame in childhood, and how courageous the choices were that he made in early adulthood. Those choices shaped my life, and help fuel my desire to ensure that the Baptist values of generosity and stewardship continue to march forward. My father is 87 now, still preaching, still pursuing God. This is the picture of coming full circle we see in Psalm 138. We find hope that from the beginning of our life to the end of our lives, God will fulfill the purpose for which He has created us, a purpose not complete until God says so. Our Foundation ensures that through your generosity we provide the most adequate care possible for those in our care, as they to continue to live out their purpose.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 — HAL BILBO *Church Relations Manager*

**Hebrews 6:1a; Ecclesiastes 11:1-2** “Therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrines of Christ, and go on to maturity...”

This transition statement in the book of Hebrews points ahead to a “full assurance of hope” so we will not be sluggish but imitate the examples of faith and patience of those who have gone before us.

In going on to maturity, we leave behind pettiness, insecurities and fears from the past. Going on to maturity builds on the wealth of knowledge and experience to enrich the lives of others. It requires that we let go of things that hold us back or hold us down, like past hurts, disappointments and grudges.

Maturity accepts and prepares for changes that come in life’s journey. Arnold (not his real name) and his wife of many decades moved into one of our communities. As the health of his wife declined, she received the best care possible while he received loving support from his community friends.

While going on to maturity, we invest who we are and what we have into the lives of others. As Ecclesiastes advises, “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, or even eight, for you do not know what evil may happen on earth.”

Your gifts to the Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation support the lasting, quality care of older adults across North Carolina.

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## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 — STEPHANIE SHAFFER *Church Relations Manager*

**Luke 10:27** Watching major changes in a family close to you can be painful. The father of one of my dearest friends was diagnosed with early onset dementia which progressed rapidly. Due to his drastic decline, the family had to find a safe place for him to live and have care available 24 hours a day. This also meant that my friend’s mother had to prepare to sell their family home, find an apartment near her husband, and completely alter her plan for retirement in order to ensure he had the care needed.

This story is not unfamiliar. Aging adults are being forced to make changes and difficult decisions every day. As Christians, we are taught to care for those who find themselves in unexpected and unfortunate situations. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus instructed us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your might- and love your neighbor as yourself.” While there are many different ways to love our neighbors, one of the most vital is ensuring access to resources like appropriate housing, nourishment, and medical treatment.

Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation is a leader in caring for our neighbors who need support. Whether that care is paying for medications or working to build inclusive dementia care facilities, BRH Foundation is determined to follow Jesus’ commandments in loving our neighbors. We pray you will join us in these good works.

