

by Sherry Geiger

Spiritual Fitness For a Balanced Nursing Practice “Who Are You? and What’s It All About?”

The following work is included in an anthology of essays on the theme of spiritual preparedness for nursing practice for and by nurses; the anthology was published by Mindful Living Productions in 2006 and is an effort to support the nursing profession in hopes that it might improve the morale of nurses. We reprint here with the permission of the publisher. The book is available through www.MindfulLivingProductions.com.

If you watch the TV series CSI, you may or may not recognize the show’s theme music “Who Are You?” recorded by the popular sixties rock group called “The Who.” I believe that knowing who we are and how we relate to others is essential to “living in the moment (well)” and gaining insight into the meaning of our very existence. My personal quest for spiritual wisdom begins with considering how the nurse part of me impacts who I am and how I relate to others.

I became a registered nurse after graduating in 1967, having entered nursing directly from high school in 1964. It was a time when there were few career options for women other than secretary, teacher, or nurse. These professions were what you did while waiting for your prince charming to sweep you off your feet and give you a nice home and lovely children.

As a high school student, I fell in love with the idea of becoming a nurse while delivering dinner trays to patients in our local hospital. I loved the nurses’ crisp

white uniforms and caps, white stockings, and even their sensible, no nonsense shoes. I most admired their ability to organize and meet a myriad of responsibilities while still finding time to do the small things that brought comfort, reassurance and greater understanding to anxious patients and families. For me, the hospital was a magical community that exemplified all that is best about human beings, a place where people worked together and helped those who were humbled if not frightened by disease, aging, or some unknown infirmity.

I still enjoy the challenge of being part of solving that mystery, becoming an instrument of healing, of serving and loving others. I suspect that I learned those ideals from my family and church teachings that were central in my early life. I left organized religion when I was thirty-nine. I attribute that change in part to gaining a broader concept of God as developed through experiences with diverse patients and developing more knowledge of and respect for a variety of cultures and religions. I believe my current understanding of God makes him truly omnipotent and even more loving than the God I learned to love as a child.

Over the past thirty-eight years I have worked in labor and delivery, med-surg, acute care psych, cancer research, prenatal and immunization clinics, school nursing with severe behaviorally handicapped and

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In Memoriam



Kathleen McGuire Biedenbender, '31, a 2004 winner of our distinguished alumni award, has died. An OR nurse who began her career in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Mrs. Biedenbender later moved to Colorado and worked in an obstetrical practice.

According to her daughter, Suzanne, she remained proud of her Christ education all her life. Although she was not able to journey here to receive her award in person, she received her plaque in a ceremony staged by her daughter in the facility where she spent her last years.

Dates to Remember

Alumni Reunion *

June 9, 2007

Alumni Seminar *

October 24, 2007

* Reservation required

Spiritual Fitness For A Balance Nursing Practice

“Who Are You? and What’s It All About?” (Continued)

multi-handicapped students, and, currently, in home care as a gerontological nurse. Each of these roles has brought expanded knowledge and new skills for living as well as allowing me to witness many of the divine mysteries of life. I’ve seen many joyful births and the pain of stillbirth or anomaly. I’ve rejoiced with those who have overcome deep depressions and psychotic breaks as well as wept with staff and families when those who appeared to be getting well, ended their own lives while out on hospital pass or shortly following hospital discharge. As a school nurse I was challenged and often frustrated working with parents who had little time or apparent interest in their children. At the same time, I was awed by families who, despite all odds, were providing special needs children with endless patience, love, and exceptional care twenty-four/seven . . . year after year. On the cancer research unit I was part of technologically advanced care that returned patients to active, productive lives. I held

the hands of young and old as they lay dying. Knowing why I became a nurse tells me a bit about what my family and church taught me about myself and about the world. Choosing to continue to be a nurse affirms those same values and explains the core of who I am.

Nursing can be very challenging work that requires considerable energy. It’s work, however, that allows me to grow in love for humanity and for myself. A quote from Dostoyevsky says it best: “If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day, and you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love.” These words have special meaning for me as a nurse because I believe we work in a milieu where there is frequent human and divine interplay.

Nursing gives me a sense of purpose and fulfillment. What other profession could offer such diversity and breadth of

experience? How many jobs could hone such practical everyday life skills that make us better sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, neighbors? There are days when my job is less than rewarding, and I sometimes speculate on the road not taken, a different career, but ultimately I have resolved that nursing for me is the means to “have come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love” and I am happy with who I am and my small place in the world.

Sherry Wooley Geiger, '67, has worked full- or part-time, in hospitals and in public health for 38 years. She and husband, Bruce, have three daughters, two grandchildren, and always at least one dog.

Poor Class of '82!!

Time for a 25th reunion, and no class agent to organize the fun.

To volunteer, call Melanie Garner at (513) 585-0750.

New Place, Same Part of Town

Planning ahead is essential to sponsoring a seminar and, since we must do it, we thought we would offer you the opportunity to do so, too. So here’s our news: **next fall’s seminar will be in a new location.** Our October 24 event will be held at Receptions, a beautiful facility on Boymel Drive off Rte 4. This is the same general area as the conference center we have used for the last several years, but perhaps easier to find.

We will still be offering continental breakfast and a buffet lunch as part of your seminar fee. You will probably still be approaching from the same direction. Just remember, if you tend to go to automatic pilot when you get in your car, we will no longer be at the Ramada Springfield Conference Center. You will get more information as we get closer to our fall date.

Heads, Up, Class of '58

Those plan-ahead gals from 1958 want you to **mark your calendars** now for a great 50th anniversary celebration. Save **June 13, 14, and 15** for a great party. Details to follow!

Planning a Golden Day

by Wilma Wind

The **Class of '57** will celebrate its 50th anniversary in style with events on June 9 and 10, 2007. We will start the celebration by attending the alumni luncheon at the hospital on Saturday (see lunch reservation form in this issue). On Saturday evening, we will gather for dinner at the Vernon Manor's roof-top patio, where we will enjoy a view of the Christ tower as we party. Our celebration will conclude with brunch at the Clovernook Country Club on Sunday, June 10.

Rooms have been reserved at the Vernon Manor for Friday and Saturday nights at a cost of \$95 per night. Make your room reservation by calling the hotel's reservation line at (513) 281-3300. To receive the special rate, be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Christ Hospital Class of 1957, and make your reservation by May 19. Rates can not be changed at check-in or check-out times.

Watch your mail for a letter with more details. See you there!

WOW! Let's Celebrate 60 Years

by Charlotte Korte

Let's celebrate with a good turnout! Many of our classmates are coming in Thursday afternoon, June 7. We'll party from then until check-out time on Saturday.

To join our slumber party, call the Vernon Manor (513-281-3300) to reserve your room. Be sure to mention the block of rooms reserved for the class of 1947. Make your luncheon reservation using the form in this newsletter, and be there by 11:00 for our class picture.

Special activities are in the planning stages. Watch your mail for details.

Class of 1967 Baby Boomers!

by Sherry Wooley Geiger (sgeiger@chdmc.org)

How can it be **forty years** since we hugged goodbye after August graduation? Where did all those years go? What have you been doing since then? Hopefully you have returned the form to me with a synopsis (you may include a few photos too) of your life post TCHSN and have circled **June 9 REUNION** on your calendar. I will put together some sort of class scrapbook if enough forms are returned. If you are coming from out of town you may want to stay with other Christ grads at the Vernon Manor. You may phone for reservations (513)281-3300 or reserve a room on line at <http://www.reservations@vernonmanorhotel.com>. The hotel provides shuttle to and from the airport. There are still several of us who live in the area and the letter I sent in December has contact info to aid in planning overnights and get-togethers. I still have a guest room available.

Reservations are required for the Homecoming Luncheon at Christ Hospital...see the form in this newsletter. Don't forget to come early for a class reunion photo. Let's celebrate our launch into adult life and recall how it all began in that beautiful old TCH dormitory. Hope to see all of you boomers in June!

Think Spring!

It's not too soon to begin thinking about our reunion. As in previous years, it will be held in the hospital cafeteria, with lunch at noon. **If yours is a special anniversary year, please come at 11:00 and check the schedule for class pictures of anniversary groups.** Use the form below to register.

If this is a special anniversary year for you, why not call your class agent to see if you can help organize a special event?

Reunion Reservation

Yes, I plan to join my classmates on June 9, 2007, for the annual reunion. My check for **\$16.50**, payable to the **CHSN Alumni Association**, is enclosed. Reservations must be received by June 4.

Lunch begins at 12:00. The building opens for tours at 10:30.

Name _____

Graduation Name _____
(If different)

Class _____

Mail to:
Reunion
The Christ Hospital School of Nursing
2139 Auburn Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45219

In The News

- ◆ Two of our first year students, Sarah Cornett and Alysa Frangione, have received the 2006 Leadership Award from the Wellness Community for their hard work in organizing the Wellness Walk, which was described in the previous issue of this publication. They not only raised the most money (over \$5000) but also did it in the shortest amount of time for all organizations that participate in the Wellness Community.
- ◆ **Tim Conroy, '85**, was recognized for his managerial skills recently when the Health Alliance employees ranked their work environment the best on a survey sponsored by the Great Places to Work Institute. In response to the statement *Taking everything into account, I would say this is a great place to work*, 100% of his employees responded positively. The national benchmark on this question was 87%, so Tim is clearly special. He manages 30 employees in the testing centers at The Christ Hospital, Mason, and Delhi.
- ◆ Two more to add to the fall ranks for Daisy Award winners! **Susan Schlechtinger Eilers, '73**, was a winner at St. Luke West, while **Sandy Bolia Heim, '78**, was honored at Christ. Susan is an ICU nurse; Sandy works in the special care nursery.
- ◆ **Peggy Hoyt Martineau, '65**, was one of fifteen nurses in the Miami Valley region to be recognized by Wright State University School of Nursing with a Cameo of Caring award. This alumni recognition was in response to Peggy's expertise and the superlative care she provides as a medical/surgical nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Ohio.
- ◆ **Penny Back Schoeler, '83**, has been selected as clinical manager of the new Wound Healing Center to be opened at The Christ Hospital. Penny has worked at Christ for twenty years, most recently as manager of the Endoscopy Department.
- ◆ **Lois Baehner Posival, '46**, was honored with the *Outstanding Caregiver Award* from the Caregiver Assistance Network. The award was presented during a ceremony at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral and honored Lois for "being an outstanding representative of the mission" of The Christ Hospital. Lois is a Christ volunteer.
- ◆ Two Christ grads made the short list when the annual Medical Staff Associate Awards at The Christ Hospital were announced in December. The awards, now in their 25th year, recognize Christ associates who excel in terms of professional competence, loyalty, participation in department activities, initiative, leadership, and involvement in technical and professional groups. Nominations are from other associates. Included among the five winners are **Joyce Dittleberger Burke, '74**, manager of PACU, and **Betty Scott Williams, '78**, from the Cancer Center.
- ◆ January's Daisy Award winners include **Tony Doyle, '05**, who works on 4 SE at St Luke West Hospital and was recognized for his exceptional care of patients and their family members. Congratulations!
- ◆ Faculty member **Laura Jones Joy, '85**, has been elected to Sigma Theta Tau Rho Theta at Northern Kentucky University, where she is working on an MSN with a nursing administration focus.
- ◆ **Shirley Schmidt Raymond, '83**, had a poster presentation accepted for the 2007 conference of the American Society of Anesthesia Nurses in Anaheim, California.
- ◆ **Mary Robinson Nicholson, '75**, was a key part of the Christ team recognized by the Anthem Hospital Quality Program. The team, consisting of staff members from Same Day Surgery, 2 South, OR, CVICU, and CVSU as well as Mary, collaborated on a project that resulted in a 65% reduction in patient infections. Their abstract, "Preoperative Staphylococcus Aureus Nasal Screening: Impact on Reducing Infections in Two Surgical Services," received the Meritrius Award.
- ◆ Several alumni recently passed their certification exams for PCCN (Progressive Care Nursing). Congratulations to **Sherry Atkins Bosken, '93**, **Trish Blank Witwer, '90**, **Patty Siemer, '05**, and **Bonnie Albert, '04**.

NEWS

My Personal Philosophy of Success

Michael Bobonick

Editor's Note: This essay, judged the best submitted by our students, will be sent to Houghton Mifflin for their national contest. The top three national winners receive \$1,000 scholarships and the school representative/ paper/author are given an award from Houghton Mifflin naming them as such. The contest is open to students enrolled in a college success/study skills program.

What is success? The definition can vary greatly depending on whom you ask. In today's world it seems most commonly defined by salary, but financial success is only a facet of the bigger picture. In many ways I feel successful already. Over the past year and a half I have found the love of my life and married her, and now we have a child on the way. Finding my wife wasn't a calculated effort, but a matter of intuition and faith. I see intuition as a strong tool in my personal success and I feel that the principal steps towards success need to depend on more than my logical mind. The mind has larger resources than the intellect, and I believe that one should, as Joseph Campbell put it, "Follow your bliss."

I've made major decisions in my life recently, and my goals are being redefined. I want a good, full life for my family and myself. Financial success has become a focus, but I do not intend to sacrifice my personal values and integrity to achieve it. I need to continue to grow as a person by developing interdependent relationships, by

embracing change and by knowing myself. I need to keep the vision of my goals in my mind, knowing that there is no beeline to those goals. I will have to make a conscious effort to stay on course to achieve what I would consider success.

The path I've chosen to meet financial and ethical needs in the professional world is nursing. This decision was based on the joy that can come from helping people and the need for nurses in our society. The salary of a nurse is adequate for the life I envision, and the variety of experience and ongoing education appeals to me. The first step toward this goal is the foundation of my nursing education. I intend to maintain excellence in my studies by attending all classes, being attentive in class and devoting the necessary time and effort to facilitate my education and maintain an "A" average. Nursing is a cumulative learning environment, and a strong foundation will set the stage for my learning for the rest of my professional career.

As a person above and beyond my career, I intend to continue to grow. Raising a child will play an enormous part in my personal development. Even in anticipation of the birth of our child my world is shifting greatly. I know that our baby will be the center of our lives, and ego will need to fall aside; however, I will not forsake my personal development. From my experience, I know the greatest and

most thorough method of teaching a child is to lead by example. I believe the dark parts of ourselves, though not consciously transmitted, do make their way into a child's psyche. I need to be a wholesome parent, knowing myself consciously and unconsciously, always moving towards greater self-awareness. I will continue to develop and maintain interdependent relationships, basing my efforts from the nucleus of my family and reaching out to my friends and the rest of the world. I'll keep on track through honesty with others and myself, and I will embrace and incorporate change as it comes. When I reach an obstacle I will work through it and not lose hope. There is always a way through if you are willing to see the light in the darkness.

Overall the path to my success will be a cumulative and dynamic process. The journey is as, if not more, important than the ultimate goal. With perseverance I can live the life I dream. By maintaining direction towards my goals, being firm in my beliefs, and consciously and intuitively taking the countless small steps necessary to move towards my visions and goals, I will live the life I choose. With these efforts, I will be able to look back in my old age and smile at the amazing journey I have had. And hopefully, the legacy of my life will live on in generations to come.

Obeying Your Mandate

In addition to being a time to reconnect with friends, our annual June reunion is also the annual meeting of our alumni association. At our 2005 meeting, some of you asked questions and spoke clearly about a financial matter, and your wishes were carried out at the association's February 5 board meeting.

The annual meeting always includes a financial report, and in 2005, several audience members questioned why the association had the comfortable financial balance it did. The next questioner wondered why this money was not being used to help the school. The board responded to these questions by taking a very positive action.

After that annual meeting, the board decided to invest money in certificates of deposits, with the aim of benefiting the school. Two

certificates were purchased, one for \$10,000 and one for \$20,000. Those certificates have now matured.

At February's board meeting, the board voted to redeem the \$20,000 certificate, which with interest is now worth \$20,807.01, and donate it directly to the school. The remaining certificate is now worth \$10,399.78. Of that amount, \$10,000 will be reinvested and the interest given to the school. Keeping this cushion allows the organization to continue earning money to donate and also provides seed money for other projects as needed.

Our school/college is fortunate to have the support of a dedicated alumni association. You are protecting the future of nursing.

The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Off to a Good Start

The first-year, first-ever students in The Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences made a proud showing academically in their first semester. Those earning honors are listed below.

First Honors

(3.5 – 4.0 GPA)

Hartman, Becky J.
Reynolds, Stacy L.
Ericson, Kristina M.
Patterson, Lorraine
Bashor, Andrea L.
Littleton, Marci N.
Randall, Cara M.
Regan, Karen M.
Kelley-Laemmler,
Bridget K.
Dickman, Kari S.
Jobst, Jessica A.
Hobe, Derek S.
Bohan, Jennifer L.
Dowden, Lori D.
Hamilton, James D.
Purcell, Rebecca J.
Clark, Jenev V.
Smith, Chelsey E.
Forte, Christine A.
Morin, Monica N.
Olis, Heather N.
Veeneman, Emily A.
Pearce, Jacquelyn R.
Ruf, Cynthia C.
Schofield, Melissa A.
Nix, Arianna B.
Rutter, Christina M.
Mueller, LeeAnn M.
Dalton, Kimberly L.
Wallace, Megan R.
Cain, Corrina A.
Stettler, Joel A.
Godfrey, Angela M.
Barlow, Alice F.
Calvert-Smith, Jennifer L.
Ruhlman, Deborah L.
Steinmetz, Katherine R.
Waters, Samantha J.
Staley, Susan E.
Stanghetti, Gina

Kraemer, Kelly J.
Bowman, Brett W.
Cadle, Vickie S.
Roach, Anthony J.
Lange, Jennifer C.
Pentecost, Ann M.
Klosterman, Jessica L.
Hollman, Amy J.
Ihlendorf, Rebecca A.
Behlert, Amy R.
Priest, Lisa D.
Reddy, Melaine S.
Bogges, Stephanie J.
Kroeger, Lisa M.
Escobar, Carlisa W.
Oghenede, Eugene O.
Price, Leigh H.
Spears, Margaret E.
Figueiredo, Stacie O.
Lake, Rachel
Thompson, Jessica A.
Hickman-Begley, Kelly A.
Siatwaambo, Joy A.
Jowers, Stephanie R.
Riley, Bonnita A.
Young, Laura
Pursley, Jamie L.
Mueller, Jennifer M.
Johnson, Mark D.
McKelvey, Sarah A.
Madden, Laura E.
Preston, Brittanie N.
Schoeler, Lindsey E.
Johnson, Lauren N.
Gallaher, Kristy L.
Folger, Dusti L.
Heald, Shawna C.
Fishburn, Karla A.
Hall, Russell W.
Crockett, Jessica B.
Gardon, Aimee N.
Frangione, Alysia A.

Second Honors

(3.0 – 3.49)

Murphy, Angela
Hughes, Carrie M.
May, Kathryn M.
Ison, Amber L.
Kinney, Nichole E.
Shen, Thomas Y.
Wilking, Mindi K.
Hofmann, Elizabeth B.
Crawford, Evan D.
Hilling, Theresa A.
Thomas, Cherie A.
Wolfer, George J.
Braun, Datocha C.
Clark, Kellie D.
Francher, Anita M.
Ervin, Kelly M.
Mullins, Amber J.
Cornett, Sarah J.
Luna, Ashlee E.
McDonald, Elizabeth M.
Smith, Corey E.
Fogel, Christy L.
Ordell, George A.
Murray, Ian W.
Henson, Cheryl A.
Nichols, Jennifer L.
Helcher, Jennifer A.
Plattner, Deborah K.
Dietzman, Cara K.
Spies, Amanda M.
Franks, Jamie L.
Limbach, Sarah M.
Lofton, Jasmine M.
Siemer, Andrew G.
Kump, Sarah L.
Brown, Ashley D.
Bailey, Lauryne M.
Gillespie, Karen K.

Nguyen, Angela H.
Walters, Krista L.
Cremer, Leslie M.
Poynter, Angela M.
Miller, Diana G.
Donithan, Ashley R.
Gutzwiller, Katherine N.
Chen, Anne A.
Wolf, Morgan A.
Poland, Kathryn E.
Chuhak, Erin M.
Hesse, Brittany L.
Gibson, Jessica N.
Jacobs, Kimberly I.
Irish, Siana.
Jones, Elaine E.
Stepp, Shenay D.
Myers, Shantay D.
Stamper, Sara M.
Huth, Taryn M.
Kennedy, Megan E.
Menchhofer, Della L.
Stewart, Holly A.
Bikas, Emily N.
Petsche, Paul R.
Furney, Carissa A.
Grandy, Carrie L.
Brown, Lindsay K.
Gerth, Sarah M.
Monson, Tricia A.
Ulliman, Amanda L.
Toole, Pamela A.
Golden, Stephanie M.
Alsept, Ronnie P.
Swartz, Tiffany L.

Not To Be Outdone

Second-year students, the last in our diploma program, also made a proud showing with grades for their first quarter, with 98 earning honors.

First Honors

(3.5 – 4.0 GPA)

Anderson, Barry
Baptista-Wise, Ana
Byrd, Lisa
Cai, Min
Carlascio, Julie
Costa, Lori
Davis, Kristen
DeMaria, Jeffrey
Durr, Robin
Fleenor, Janet
Frederick, Cherry
Garner, III, Hoyal
Grant-Elam, Janice
Hodge, Jennifer
Hope, Shelley
Korb, Ellen
Krieg, Amanda
Lear, Benjamin
Murphy, Megan

Powers, Helen
Price, Kathy
Richards, Michele
Roberts, Sheri
Rowe, Satrah
Scheidler, Daniel
Shoemaker, Jamie
Storgion, Melissa
Taylor, Nadya
Werner, Ashley
Wilson, Diana
Wittich, Mary

Second Honors

(3.0 – 3.49)

Allen, Helen
Alvarez, Theresa
Baker, Brittany
Bibelhausen, Jessica
Bishop, Stephanie
Blied, Jennifer

Bramlage, Jennifer
Brinker, Lynne
Butler, Dean
Cody, Christina
Cornell, Crystal
Curtis, Kathryn
Davis, John
Dorion, Cinnamon
Dunn, Heather
Durham, Betty
Fatherree, Danielle
Feazel, Raye
Gaut, Susan
Gilkerson, Jennifer
Hack, Sarah
Hart, Benjamin
Hill, Tishena
Hubbard, Maureen
Hudson, Dawn
Johnson, Ashley
Johnson, Maria

Jolicoeur, Angela
Jones-Topmiller, Beth
Kemper, Shannon
Maisel, Erin
Matern, Amanda
Meyers, Shauna
Miller, James
Miller, Sara
Mungle, Leslie
Nardelli, Maria
Osei-Tutu, Nana
Palassis, Andrew
Parker-Kist, Dana
Petro, Jennifer
Phillips, Robbie
Pickering, Wendy
Powell, Wendy
Puls, Emily
Ramsay, Richard
Reeves, Matthew
Rocklin, Tamala

Scantland, Susan
Schlabach, Rachel
Sealschott, Stephanie
Segrist, Jennifer
Sharp, Neringa
Shore, Michael
Shulaw, Rhoda
Staneva-Anguelova, Roumiana
Stenard, Lysa
Stivers, Morgan
Stone, Tiffani
Thompson, Julie
Weber, Katherine
Westerkamp, Christina
Willets, Danette
Withers, Kimberly
Wright, Jennifer
Wyatt, Jamie
Zimmerman, Felicia

Another Reason to Be Proud

The NCLEX pass rate for the class that graduated in July is 93.6%.
Congratulations!

Still Known For Our Compassion

The following is a Make it Happen Story submitted anonymously to the Christ Hospital; it won for best story in December. It's a reminder that we are still doing an excellent job of instilling compassion in our students.

A few weeks ago, Cincinnati experienced its first snow storm. Although the accumulation was small, road conditions were slick and hazardous. Sitting at the stop light on Auburn Avenue, in front of the hospital, I saw an older woman slip and fall in the crosswalk. After a few moments, it was evident that she was unable to get up on her own and, although there were

plenty of people around, no one stopped to help her. Soon a young woman emerged from the traffic, took off her shoes to avoid slipping, and helped the woman up and to the curb—a considerable task given the conditions of the untreated road and her small stature compared to the woman. As the young woman returned to her car, I noticed her attire and realized she was a nursing student. I parked near her in the hospital garage and was able to get her name, Breanna Bird.

Even though the woman was not a patient at our hospital, she was a member of our community. Ms. Bird should be

commended for showing the compassion of a nurse and the true passion of our hospital—caring for the individual. Ms. Bird's actions were a positive reflection on The Christ Hospital and on her genuine spirit as a human being. She "made it happen" against all odds and deserves our applause.

Expressing Our Gratitude

This year's annual appeal was once again an encouraging demonstration of affection, pride, and support from our graduates. As of January 31, we were within \$5,000 of our goal of \$70,000. The lives of numerous first-year students in our new college have been greatly improved as a result of your generosity, and our retention rate is enhanced by the lessening of financial stress which

your gifts provide. Thank you to all who contributed and all who have pledged a future gift.

Donors to our annual appeal for scholarship funds are listed below. Memorial gifts and gifts specified in honor of someone will be listed in a future issue.

Donor List

A note about giving clubs: **Tower Society** members (those giving \$5,000 or more) are designated with five asterisks *****. Those whose gifts put them in the **1902 Society**, with **centennial members** giving \$1,000 or more, are designated with four asterisks **** after their names. **1902 Society Members** contributing \$500-\$999 are marked with three asterisks***. Members of the **Emmeline Mathews Society** (\$250-\$499) are designated by **. Finally, those giving at the **Century Club** level of \$100-\$249 are designated by one *.

Friends of TCHSN

John Bartolomucci *****
Carol Intrieri *
Mr. Michael Berger *
Nathan Long ****
Teresa Goodwin ***
Ms. Julie A. Stalf
Mr. Michael J. Smith ***
Ms. Donna Medlock
Mr. Edgar A. Hastings
Col. Warren H. Metzner *
Ms. Nancy Trokan-Mathison *
Mrs. Kathleen D. Carissimi
Samuel McConkey *****

1931

Mrs. Kathleen Biedenbender

1932

Ms. Grace Schaibly

1933

Mrs. Adeline Maggart
Mrs. Alma M. McMillan *

1935

Ms. Marian P. Easton
Ms. Dorothy Hoskins *
Mrs. Dora. Porter *

1936

Mrs. Edna M. Groen
Mrs. Wilda B. Loftin
Mrs. Catherine M. Mathews

1937

Mrs. Shirley Carr Snow *****
Mrs. Theodate Farkas

1938

Mrs. Kathryn DeCarbo
Mrs. Virginia P. Jacobsen

1939

Ms. Marzetta Kohlsdorf
Mrs. Elizabeth Hanson
Mrs. Dorothy Vanbuskirk
Mrs. Virginia Trump *
Mrs. Fern Brestel *

1940

Ms. Alice Shelby
Mrs. Grace S. Agre
Mrs. Pauline Altman
Ms. Elaine Panabaker
Ms. Nina Jones
Ms. Helen Witwer
Mrs. Jean L. White
Mrs. Donna G. McKee

1941

Mrs. Virginia Y. Jarrold
Ms. Ruth L. Moeller
Mrs. Dorothy C. Ahrens *****
Mrs. Jeanne P. Phelps
Mrs. Mary E. Arnold *
Ms. Irene E. Rein

1942

Ms. Margurette Helmich
Mrs. Charlotte Greenacre *
Mrs. Virginia E. Jean
Ms. Wilma Engebretson *
Mrs. Hilda Hines *
Mrs. Jane C. Hackett

1943

Mrs. Alice G. Nazzaro
Mrs. Irma Rohls
Ms. Helen J. Hancock ***
Mrs. Dorothy Ribariu *

1944

Ms. Elizabeth L. Wallace
Mrs. Betty F. Guthrie *
Ms. Mildred S. O'Connor *
Mrs. Lois E. Newkirk
Mrs. Nancy A. Pleas *****
Ms. Marcia H. Desotelle
Mrs. Wilma Beyersdorfer
Mrs. Suzanne S. Martin
Mrs. Betsy A. Stadler
Ms. Mary Ruth Stevens *****
Mrs. Elizabeth C. Gerth
Ms. Noreene Heuser
Ms. Betty J. Reising
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And While We Are Saying Thanks,

We would like to acknowledge the Fleischmann Foundation, Lucy Ward and Bill Ward, and Ken Toepfert for the financial support they provide for specific scholarships. The Fleischmann Scholarships are given annually to second-year students, as is the Shirley M. Toepfert Memorial Scholarship. The Pearl Randal Kenney Scholarship funded by the Ward family is a full scholarship given every other year to an entering student who is a non-traditional female student.

At Sea, With a Mission

Robyn McAlpin, '99, has spent much of the fall and winter on a mission of mercy, using her nursing skills and her faith to assist the less fortunate. Here is her account of her voyage and accomplishments as of the end of the year.

Mercy Ships is an international nonprofit Christian ministry organization which operates floating hospital ships. Our mission is to bring hope and healing to the poor and sick of developing nations around the world, in the name of Jesus Christ. We spread the Gospel by being an example of Jesus Christ through our actions with our patients and each other on the ship and in the communities.

I am part of the crew of the *Tema Outreach*. In mid February we will finish up in Ghana and sail to Liberia where in March we will begin a ten-month outreach. Our last surgical date in Ghana will be February 2. Here is some of what we accomplished.

In the area of reconstructive surgery we performed 277. Common patients I see include hemimandiblectomies related to facial tumors, thyroidectomies related to goiters, burn contracture release after acid burns (abuse) and fires, and benign tumor removals. We also helped 31 women in need of vesicovaginal fistula repairs. Many more are scheduled beginning in January. Please pray for courage for these women as they re-enter society after being abandoned for many years. Our dental clinic cared for 2,565 patients. In our eye clinic, we performed 968 cataract surgeries and trained some local personnel: 15 eye workers and 17 eye professionals.

HIV/Aids care and prevention was a big part of our mission. We trained 83 volunteers from 23 community churches to teach the locals. Although malaria kills more people in Africa than AIDS, much education is needed in this area. Common myths like the idea that sleeping with a virgin will cure those afflicted keep this disease alive.

In addition to direct health care, we were involved in expanding the elementary school to include a junior high. Many influential government leaders are sending their children here. Please pray for the staff as they have a daily impact on the future of Ghana. Other projects in development include building a maternity ward and a youth center. Activities to assist with economic empowerment include improvement of water supplies and sanitation, agricultural training, and empowering women by training them as beekeepers and helping them start snail, rabbit, or mushroom businesses. Education is crucial to all these efforts, and those we train are asked to make a commitment to train others in turn.

We have experienced several miracles during our time here. One of our volunteers collapsed and experienced heart stoppage. After having CPR and being given electrical shock five times, she revived, and her heart began to beat on its own. After two days during which she remained stable, she returned to the states for placement of a defibrillator. Another patient who had endured a massive thyroid tumor for years bled profusely after surgery, requiring massive transfusions after she lost eight pints of blood. She, too, recovered with no complications. We see God's power in these miracles. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue our mission.

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	Fern Brestel	(513) 573-9978	1968	Nancy Rowley	(513) 851-4594
1942	Dorothy Roush	(937) 913-8003	1969	Jacki Elam West	(513) 761-3017
1945	Thelma Lindner	(513) 825-5141	1970	Cathy Thistelthwaite	(513) 624-9120
	Jeralyn Roberts	(513) 829-4015	1971	Marianne Patton	(513) 922-5487
1946	Need new agent		1972	Cindy Bradford Schuster	(859) 586-9146
1947	Charlotte Korte	(513) 481-4565	1973	Debbie H. Brummett	(513) 202-9822
1949	Kay Storch	(513) 459-8839	1974	Carolyn Hunter	(513) 791-7408
1950	Dorcas Gleaves	(513) 561-5238	1975	Doris McBride	(513) 761-9433
1951	Barbara Wright	(513) 733-3403	1977	Cynthia Reed Rahe	(859) 485-9080
1952	Rose Mary King	(513) 894-2368	1978	Mariena Henn Koize	(513) 681-3088
	Janet Nailor	(513) 598-1488	1979	Donna Stout Kloth	(513) 678-1913
1953	Mary Ann Abernathy	(513) 922-4667	1981	Lisa Luehrmann	(513) 272-3503
1954	Roslyn Leedy Evans	(513) 522-0498	1983	Joni Gilbert	(513) 271-8045
1955	Mary Lee Montgomery	(502) 732-4671	1984	Bob Kelly	(513) 738-5226
	Carol Haschart	(937) 433-1714	1985	Karen Miles	(513) 741-3952
1956	Ann Peacock	(513) 934-0585	1987	Lauren Craig	(513) 677-2011
1957	E. Frances Howard	(770) 425-4567	1990	Karen Fielding	(904) 691-1860
	Wilma Wind	(513) 522-9733	1991	Bobbie Frietsch	(513) 741-0873
1958	Page Grad	(513) 385-5724	1992	Kathy White	(513) 683-1590
1959	Barbara Stretch	(859) 635-4545	1994	Juliet Bockhold	(513) 769-6236
1960	Margaret Wolber Fain	(765) 647-5450		Janet Durbin	(513) 231-3232
1961	Judy Ekel Heck	(239) 774-7272	1995	Kathleen Griffith	(513) 891-2980
		(513) 941-2244	1996	Heidi Miller	(513) 661-1650
	Wanda Price Cotton	(239) 530-3625	1997	Carolyn Faust Adee	(513) 793-5099
		(606) 636-5256	1998	Carol Allman	(513) 528-4940
1962	Romaine Kling	(513) 899-2558	1999	Jennifer Walsh	(513) 451-1851
1963	Cris Sparks	(502) 848-0107	2001	Julie Verdin Carver	(606) 796-9476
1964	Dixie Mays	(513) 353-4409	2002	Bobbie Turner	(513) 895-1835
1965	Mary Sue Walker	(859) 299-1767	2003	Lori Moster	(812) 744-5342
1966	Patricia Williams	(513) 777-7914			

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Serious Omission

by Melanie Garner

For years I have joked that my secret weapon for the annual appeal phonathon is Mary Crank, who recent graduates know well from her work in the financial aid office. Every years Mary calls for several nights, with impressive results. I wish I could clone her. Having said that, I don't know how I omitted her name from the list of thank you's in the last issue. **Apologies, Mary, and BIG THANKS.**

Coming Attraction

To commemorate the last class to graduate from The Christ Hospital School of Nursing (July 13, 2007), as well as the first class (1903) and all those in between, the memory walk in front of our school will soon be graced with a memorial to the school's illustrious history. A beautifully designed granite tribute, the memorial is a gift to the school from John Batolomucci in memory of his wife, **Ruth Rentz Bartolomucci, '44**, and the school she loved.

The monument is the brainchild of Dean Butler, President of the Class of 2007.

Class Notes

It's easy to e-mail your class notes and address changes to garnerma@healthall.com.

The Forties and Fifties

Bonnie Murray Ashbaugh, '40, writes, "Due to a stress fracture of the pelvis bone and other health problems, I am now in Bethany Lutheran Village, Pavilion #30, an assisted living nursing home facility. I will be 88 in April, so I expect to be here the rest of my years. I enjoy the news so much. Hello to all."

Here's the story of a woman determined not to ruin a celebration. **Johanna Saupe Edwards, '44**, went to Stuart's Draft, Virginia, to attend her granddaughter's wedding. The night before, she had symptoms of a heart attack but, not wishing to spoil the fun, attended the wedding and reception without acknowledging her problem. The next day, her daughter contacted her doctor, who ordered her to the ER, where it was determined that she had had a major heart attack. One week later she was recovering from quadruple bypass surgery at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Johanna now lives with her daughter.

We are happy to report that **Lois Harrell Thomas, '53**, is out of the hospital after a forty-day stay.

Alice Leedy Schwab, '54, spent the summer of '06 traveling, first to Branson, Missouri, then west for sixteen days to Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, and Las Vegas. She finished up with ten days in Hawaii and had a wonderful summer. She still works intermittently and loves it.

Nancy Fulton McClory, '55, writes, "Walter and I now live full time in Florida. Our arthritis could no longer take the Ohio cold. Wish Florida alumni could meet and talk."

Page Haisley Grad, '58, spent three wonderful weeks in Italy visiting her daughter's family. Every

meal became a contest, as two grandkids and a poodle vied for lap space. Competition will be even tougher when Page's California-based daughter, age 41, gives birth to twins who are expected in early June. The Italian grandchildren are busy picking names for their eagerly anticipated cousins, a boy and a girl.

The Sixties and Seventies

Judy Manly Blakeney, '63, and her husband are living on a ranch they bought seven years ago and have turned it into a Christian retreat and prayer center. You can visit them at www.mvministries.com. They can host up to 30 at a time.

Barbara Shade Slough, '67, writes, "Hi! I'm having lots of health problems. I had back surgery in November, 2005. I have severe degenerative disc disease and am now disabled after 49 years at Middletown Regional Hospital. I'll be having one more back surgery in March. My mother, Betty Shade, passed away in September, 2003."

Debbie Heitzman Brummett, '73, has signed on as class agent. With the 35th anniversary coming in '08, she urges classmates to attend the alumni reunion luncheon this year so they can reconnect and begin to plan for the big event. Debbie can be reached at (513) 202-9822.

Sherel Clock Hoyer, '76, proudly shares, "Teresa Lee Hoyer, my six-year-old daughter, auditioned with



more than 150 children for just 15 available roles and was selected to perform

with the Cincinnati Ballet in the *Nutcracker*, 2006."

The Eighties, Nineties, and Beyond

Diana Harvey Spencer, '80, earned her BSN in 2003 and is now teaching nursing at Oklahoma City Community College. She is beginning work on her masters in nursing education. Says Diana, "Like Diane Frese, I miss all my buddies."

Delois "Tommie" Richardson, '85, wishes a happy new year to all. She writes, "I had my right leg amputated in August, 2006; things are slowly improving. Had a nice visit from classmate **Laura Joy** while an inpatient at Christ. Would love to hear from the evening class of 1985."

Kimberly Peach Latham, '90, writes, "I achieved CCRN certification in 2006 and continue working in the post anesthesia care unit at Christ. The upcoming year is much anticipated since our twins, Ben and Shelby, will celebrate their fifth birthday and plan to start kindergarten in the fall."

Andrea Pittman Schmidt, '99, announces, "John and I had our third baby girl, Kate Sophia, on October 19, 2006. Allison (4) and Rachel (2 1/2) are enjoying their new sister."

Brenda Smith Guillams, '99, writes, "After working three years at a mission hospital in Kenya, Africa, I returned to the states and married Michael Guilliams on November 25, 2006. We currently live in Cincinnati, where I am working as an agency nurse for Nurse Finders."

Kevin Ponder, '00, writes, "I have been accepted into nurse anesthesia school at the University of Pennsylvania. This has been a personal and family goal for several years. I know that a number of students have CRNA school as a

Class Notes (Continued)

future goal and can be a resource for people interested in the process of applying to graduate school. I am excited about representing Christ at an Ivy League university, specifically at University of Pennsylvania, the number 1 ranked nursing program in the country.”

Jennifer Kattenhorn Koenig, '04, was married on October 14, 2006. She still works at Christ in the neuron/ortho unit.

Michelle Jennings Davis, '06, married Anthony Davis on November 4, 2006.

In Memoriam

Kathleen McGuire Biedenbender, '31, died February 7, 2007, in Colorado Springs.

Mary Linkle, '34, died January 15, 2007.

Melda Johnson Silberman, '36, died December 20, 2006, at the age of 91. Melda lived in Dallas and has donated her body to the medical school at the University of North Texas in her home city.

Theodate “Teddi” Bigney Farkas, '37.

Nina Newman Jones, '40, died February 6, 2007.

Helen Smith Boland, '41, died December 4, 2007.

Roberta Wellenberg Limberg, '44, died November 13, 2006.

Mary Fox Anderson, '45, died January 8, 2007. She lived in Arizona.

Kathryn Lewis Berman, '47, died January 14, 2007.

Marilyn Raisbeck Arthur, '63, died January 24, 2007. Marilyn worked as an ICU nurse at Veteran’s Administration Hospital for twenty years and at the University Hospital in neuro intensive care.

Jacquelyn Colley Langford, '64, died November 28, 2006

Lisa Hattan Kisling, '83, died May 8, 2006.

Condolences to

Fern Rust Brestel, '39, on the death of her husband, Ray, in December.

Marjorie Buel Brenner, '45, on the death of her husband, Orleestas, on December 27, 2006.

Helen Jane Maisch Shumacher, '53, on the death of her mother.

Mary Jo Wesseling Gadd, '78, on the death of her mother.

Margaret Michaels Haddad, '83, on the death of her mother.

Amy Beth Schablein, '97, on the death of her mother.

Moving? Changed your name? News to share?

*Complete the form below and send it to
Melanie Garner, Alumni Affairs, The Christ
Hospital School of Nursing, 2139 Auburn
Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45219.*

Name _____

Graduation Name _____

Address and ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Class of _____

We want to hear from you, and so do your friends! Please send us all the news about the events in your life. We'll share your news in the next issue of the newsletter.

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