

BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOME

THE HEALING HANDS NEWSLETTER

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DEDICATED TO THOSE WHOM WE HAVE FORGOTTEN: “I’m Old,” more precisely, “I’m Old, Old”

By Pastor Vera Isaacs

I am truly honored and privileged to use Melton Crump’s essay, *I am Old*, written as caption for this issue of the Healing Hands Newsletter. His concern for the old and frail people, like himself, he has written these two essays: “I am Old and I’m Frail,” as a supplement.

The lack of understanding of the older generation by the younger generation (or by the older generation like himself) should not be surprising,” states “Emeritus Crump.” Among his concern is that there are no books “that connect inter-generational difficulties” with “developmental” conflicts that senior adults must work through.” Survey shows that only three category of books “in the aging section in bookstores and libraries: 1) “the ‘peppy paper’ on how to stay perky in spite of aging, 2) the ‘existential papers’ on the grim life of loneliness, uselessness, and boredom that awaits the aged,” and 3) how to “Manage the unmanageable older adult.” Crump states that one of the problems of being old is that the younger family members or friends seem to think that “the old should behave the way they do, only that they are a few years older.”

It is unfortunate that society is reluctant to accept that age changes people. Old age is experienced differently by each individual, partly, depending on each individual’s status of life experienced.



Compassionate Care in Brooklyn!
Celebrating 131 years!

When you’re ‘old’ there is the belief by many that they can do as they please and get away with it. You’re old! You get up when you feel like it, you no longer having to rush for the bus or train for work, you can pretty do as you please, sleep in all day if you please, you will be excused on account of age. If this were totally true it would be a blessing to the elderly. Unfortunately, being old at times can be the greatest of fear for elderly and their family in our Society. In order to give proper care to our “old and frail” we need to take into consideration the advantages and disadvantages of aging.

(Cont’d on page 7)

BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOME RESIDENTS' ACTIVITIES



**Volunteers and
Residents**

ACTIVITIES ~

These pictures show some of the activities of BUMCH Events for the Residents! Throughout the year many activities are held for the residents, which incorporate inside as well as outside events: dancing, games, parties, barbeques, picnics, and special concerts by Youth Ministries and other volunteers.



TO BUILD A SOLID MINISTRY

REV. KENNY YI

LONG ISLAND WEST DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

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Christian leaders, either clergy or laity, are only human; we have strengths and limitations just like everyone else. In spite of this fact, many of us live under a cloud of guilt because we cannot do everything well.

For the last five years of my tenure as a District Superintendent, I met so many leaders with such a low morale because of the toxic situation where the level of disrespect is so high in the ministry context. Perhaps it had been carried as an emotional baggage so long.

Have you ever felt guilty for not being able to do it all? If so perhaps your expectations need more adjusting. Maybe you need a fresh understanding of what you can and what you cannot do. Paul understood it so well and shared his experience with the Lord in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

To maintain a servant's heart and a right perspective toward ministry, I've compiled the following seven statements for leaders to remember. They all begin with "we cannot" because the more we observe the Lord's supernatural power, the more we realize what we can and cannot do.

- We cannot control everything.
- We cannot change or fix anyone.
- We cannot explain many things.
- We cannot meet everyone's expectations.
- We cannot dodge the tough questions, decisions, or tasks.
- We cannot concern ourselves with who gets the credit.
- We cannot cling to the past.

These statements do not imply that leaders have no responsibilities. But they do free us to be *ministers of grace*, able to admit and accept our

own limitations and to trust completely in Christ to do what we cannot do.

So, then what can we do? The following positive statements outline some principles upon which to build a solid ministry.



Rev. Kenny Yi

1. Whatever we do, let's do more with others and less all alone. Ministry is not a solo flight for daring adventures. It's a community of people supporting one another with each member contributing his or her special gift.
2. Whenever we do it, let's place the emphasis on quality. Excellence must be our goal. Let us not compromise with mediocrity.
3. Whoever may respond, let's keep a level head. A thriving ministry will have its critics and fans. Keeping a level head means not allowing either group to tip us to the extremes of depression or cockiness.
4. However long we minister, let's model a servant-hearted attitude of our Lord, Jesus Christ!



As we approach Mother's Day, I think about Polly's and my mother and how they, though no longer with us, continue to be remembered and to influence who we are as we become, for the

first time grandparents! My daughter will present to us a granddaughter at some point in the middle of June. Both of our mothers died in the hospital after brief illnesses but either could have spent time in a nursing home. This reality is the reason I expect that most of us continue to make sure that BUMCH not only continues its mission to care for the frail elderly but does it well. Sometime during May, I will be sending out to all our friends a letter asking for financial support – this in addition to our Fall Dinner Dance (November 5th) is a new way of giving to the Home. In that letter and here I want to share great things about the Home.

The highlight of last year, in my opinion, was the Board retreat last October. Our own Foundation provided the funds that enabled us to bring in Sharon Carlo, an experienced nursing home consultant, as a facilitator for the event. She led us in a process of goal setting and future planning. Out of this discussion emerged both a bylaw restructuring process led by Board member, Lucille Bjorneby, and the establishment of a Strategic Planning committee also chaired by Lucille.

This new committee will help us develop a five year plan which, while recognizing the shifting ground for funding in the elder care industry, will allow us to maintain and improve the core

mission of the Home – the one hundred and twenty beds of our skilled nursing facility. This process will incorporate the present development of a dialysis unit in the space used currently for Adult Day care as critical part of the expansion and diversification that we must do to be successful as we move forward.

Due to State changes in funding formulas we have been transitioning the Medical Model Day care to a Social Model. However, the State has not yet decided, finally, if the Medical Model will be phased out entirely. As a result we will continue to house a much smaller Medical Model in the space currently used for group dining and will continue to develop the larger Social Model off site. After a protracted attempt to merge the two facilities, the Bethany Board has decided not to move on and the space which had been developed for the Social Model at the site of the United Methodist adult residence at Bethany is no longer available to us. Our staff is now looking for suitable housing for the growing Social Model Daycare. More suggestions for possible diversification will come out of Strategic Planning as the five year plan emerges during the following months.

Currently in the third year of a five year shift in funding to what the State calls regional pricing as part of the general move to Managed Care, we along with most other not-for-profits have been averaged downward in terms of our per-diem for resident care.

(Cont'd on page 8)

REV. ROBERT EMERICK

Dear Friends of BUMCH,

Why We Need Faith-Based Human Services –
Like Brooklyn United Methodist Church Home

For at least two decades, we've been hearing that government spends too much on human welfare services, they have to "cut back" because the funds to support these services simply aren't there. We're also told that public service unions are mostly to blame for this.

Well, the truth is that our elected officials are not telling us "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" on this *extremely important* issue.

Yes, public funds have diminished because the tax base has diminished. There are several reasons for this:

- 1) Wealthy Americans are not paying their fair share of taxes. Under President Dwight Eisenhower, the marginal tax rate on the highest incomes was *more than double* the current rate.
- 2) Lawmakers, many of whom benefit from contributions of the very wealthy, have made it legal to hide money from taxation, in "offshore" accounts – in 2006, over \$1.6 TRILLION was sheltered from taxation by wealthy *individuals*.
- 3) The middle class tax base has not increased sufficiently to make up for the above-mentioned factors because the average American worker has not had a real raise in 30 years.



To compound the tragedy and confusion, we are constantly told that private, for-profit enterprise can do everything better, cheaper, and faster. This is not true. In fact, regarding elder care facilities, non-profits deliver higher quality care.

And, in the midst of the prevalent public policy prevarication, the ones who pay the price are the clients, residents, and patients we are trying our best to serve. In this new anti-service culture, the client/resident often is seen as a profit opportunity.

BUMCH, and other faith-based service providers, need to stay and "fight" for the privilege of serving God's children who need us. And, most important of all, we need to maintain the Chaplain service because it addresses the person's spiritual needs and concerns – in places in which those needs and concerns are often ignored.

Wealthy Americans are not paying their fair share of taxes. Under President Eisenhower, the marginal tax rate on the highest incomes was more than double the current rate.

As usual, we have been extremely busy. We have recently undergone our annual New York State Department of Health inspection, and apart from minor issues identified during the inspection the results were very good. So congratulations are in order to the staff for their hard work and dedication.

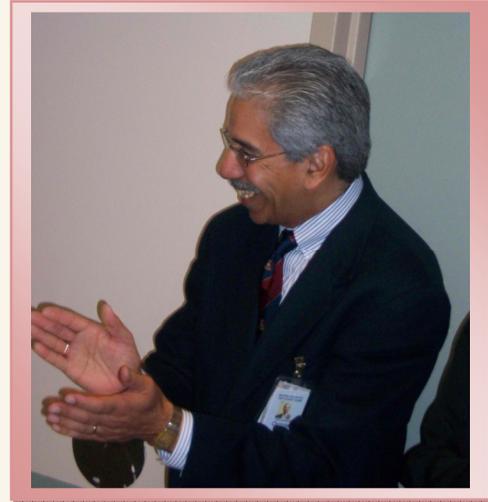
In addition to the State inspection, BUMCH has received Certificate of Need approval from the Department of Health to move forward with a Dialysis Center Project. We submitted our application for the project, last year on 10/22/13 and we were approved on December 30, 2013. Currently we are working on contingencies as identified by the Department of Health, and once those contingencies are satisfied we look forward to commencing construction for the project. We are optimistic that we can satisfy our contingencies and start construction for the site sometime later this year.

Of note, the BUMCH Board of Directors and senior staff scheduled and attended a retreat in October of 2013, and many new and exciting changes are to take place as a result of the retreat. We are working collaboratively (Board and Staff) to implement changes that are forward thinking and provide for the continued viability of BUMCH.

Last but never least, we as an industry are preparing for a transition from traditional Medicaid to the Medicaid Managed Long Term Care world. We have initially dealt with this issue a few years back when the Adult Day Health Care program was impacted by the Managed Care Plans.

Well here we go again, just on a larger scale. This transition will provide numerous challenges to the industry at large and BUMCH individually, related to the provision

THE ADMINISTRATOR!



of care and availability of resources. I ask you all for your continued support and prayers during this transition. We will need it

Thank you and enjoy the summer.

Community Sharps Program

As a service to the community, BUMCH will accept household sharps for appropriate disposal every Wednesday in the front lobby, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

“Sharps” include needles, syringes and lancets only. The sharps containers must be:

- 1) Shatter proof, leak proof and puncture resistance;
- 2) Sealed with a tight fitting screw top or heavy-duty tape; and
- 3) Labeled “CONTAINS SHARPS” It is recommended that the containers be bought at a surgical supply store.

Director of Pastoral Care and Outreach



As an individual gets older there are physical and mental changes that will occur. The changes in skin texture, wrinkling of the skin, the physical changes and structure of your body is very hard to deal with. For some it is the fight to lose the added weight gain, for others it is a fight to maintain weight.” Then there is “dementia.” I believe this to be the greatest fear in the life of the aged because they are no longer capable of maintaining their autonomy, their independence has been lost. To be mentally lacking is very disheartening, not just for the individual but also for family members and care givers.

Yet this seems to be one of the biggest issues with which we are faced in an aging population. A concern for so many that has not been properly addressed in our society. Loneliness is also one of the big disadvantages of becoming old. Those without loving families are at a bigger disadvantage than those with a caring family.

At BUMCH, the resident’s total needs are taken care of Physically, Emotionally, Intellectually and Spiritually. As the spiritual leader, I continue to stretch forth a hand with hope of reaching and for healing. I continue to explore, engage, empower, and encourage each resident in the hope they will maintain their autonomy and possibly regain self-efficacy.

B: Believing we can

U: Upholding the rights of all

M: Merciful Servant

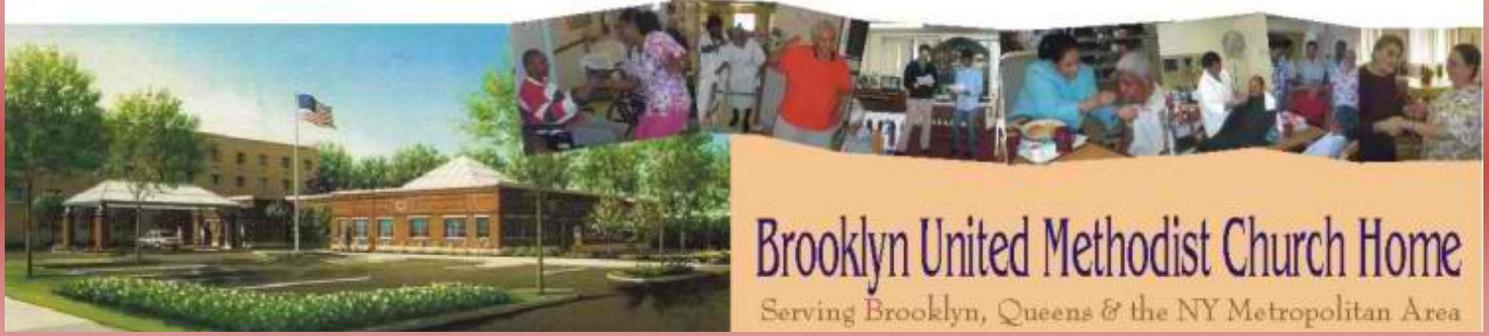
C: Compassionate and Caring

H: Honesty in Responding

“I’m Old” An Essay on Aging by Milton Grum 2011

Old Age

Where once I had cheeks, I have only bone;
when I sit down, I’m sitting on stone.
When I sit down, I’m sitting on stone
Hair won’t grow where it used to grow;
it grows on my ears, so all can know
that I’m up in years.
My steps once had spring,
but now I hobble like an old starling.
Yet I mustn’t complain about growing old:
these are the years assayed as gold.



REV. JOHN COLE *(Cont'd from page 4)*

For profit homes have actually received increases under this plan! Nonetheless, thanks to the vigilance and hard work of our Administrator and CFO, we have been able to hold our own and the overall financial health of the Home is good. There have had to be some cut backs in staff hours due to this funding shift but we feel that our Administration has done what needed to be done without affecting our care of clients.

Let me close by thanking all of the staff for their outstanding efforts in making our Home a place we can be proud of during the last year. From staff time and Board efforts to bring off not one but two dinner dances due to hurricane Sandy and the extraordinary service we provided to the community in emergency situations to the positive outcome of the yearly State audit of the program this spring it is clear that we have a great team

of folks working together here at BUMCH. A special thanks to our Chaplain who continues to provide worship opportunities for our residents, outreach to the churches of the community and spiritual support to all. During this year we also said "goodbye" to our long term head of the dietary department, Mr. Watson, and welcomed a new Director of Nursing, Rizwana Sakkari.

The only constant in the aging process, I believe is change – this is also true in the care for the elderly that we have been attempting to do here at BUMCH for over 125 years. I believe we continue to do this well – a final thanks to all of you who make it possible.

1485 Dumont Avenue in East New York | Brooklyn New York 11208
phone 718.827.4500 | fax 718.277.1700

www.bumch.org

BECOME A VOLUNTEER Call us 718-827-4500

The Home is still in dire need of volunteers and we are inviting our local congregations, United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men, and Youth Ministries to help us in this area.

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014

**BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH HOME**

27TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER DANCE
6:30PM~Reception & Silent Auction
7:30PM ~ Dinner

Russo's On The Bay
162-45 Crossbay Boulevard
Howard Beach New York

Celebrating 131 Years of Ministry!