

HANDS of COMPASSION

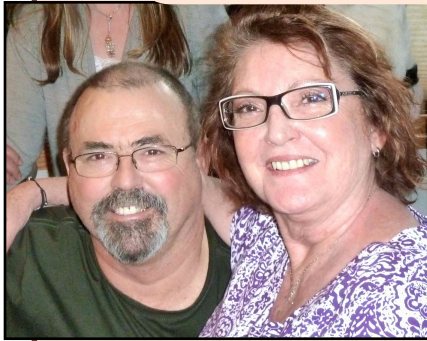
A ministry of the Rochester Church of Christ

Rochester, Minnesota

December 2013



“Remember the promise, Joe; we will see each other again.”



Joe & Pam De Young

In May of 2010, Joe was diagnosed and had surgery to remove a carcinoid tumor from the small bowel. In September of 2011, he was diagnosed with leukemia CMML, a rare form of two blood cancers combined. On July 21, 2012, a third diagnosis was made indicating he had large B cell lymphoma. What followed were fourteen months of extreme chemotherapy of many different types. Joe passed away on Wednesday, September 11, 2013.

Joe and I were introduced to the House of Compassion by my sister Lynette Doherty and her son Patrick, the youth minister at the Woodbury, MN, Church of Christ. What a blessing for us to be allowed to stay at the House through Joe's chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic. While there we attended the Church of Christ in Rochester. It was during our stay at the House of Compassion that we got to know Stacy Sikes and Debra Lawrence, whom Joe and I both agreed were God sent because we so desperately needed them. The House is so needed by the people who are sick and dying. It is not just a place to sleep or to keep your things while you navigate the clinic. It is a beautiful ministry set up by God. He is the One who has picked such caring and loving people as its overseers.

We met many wonderful people during our stay. Joe loved to feed House guests with his awesome cooking and to share recipes. You would usually find him in the kitchen whipping something up for all to enjoy. Debra, the housemother, has such a ministry of her own. She ministers to others by such a caring spirit and willingness to listen and to help patients to navigate the Clinic. Often Stacy would visit us in the afternoons and share with us the goodness of God and His promises. Especially most important to us were God's promises for eternal life. Stacy helped us to understand God's gift of everlasting life and that, in Christ, we could have Life and see one another again. “Remember the promise, Joe; we will see each other again,” were my tearful last words to my husband.

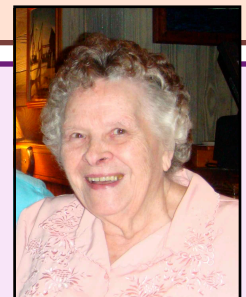


Though Joe and I were both baptized as children, we realized we really didn't understand. Therefore, with understanding of the full meaning of God's promise for eternal life, we wanted to be baptized into Christ. And so it was on a beautiful Thursday, June 13, that Stacy made the trip to our home in Spirit Lake, IA, and, yes, baptized us both in Big Spirit Lake. Brrr! The water was a bit chilly but certainly worth every minute. What a wonderful memory for me to have now that Joe is gone. Joe and I were so blessed by our stay at the House where our lives were saved and forever changed. *-Pam De Young*



Boots Has 90th Birthday

On November 19th our beloved Boots turned 90. This is our Boots who served for over 27 years as the first House Mom of the House of Compassion. Her daughter Beverly makes daily visits to see her mother and described her physical health as being good though she walks with a walker. She says that Boots does not talk but seems very contented and happy. God is praised for what He has done through Boots to minister to the needs of thousands. Mail for Boots can be sent to her daughter: Bev Ray, 3501 Robin Ct. SE, Canton, OH 44707.



Boots Young



J.T., Rebecca, & Mary Kathryn Harrison & Stacy

“Our Home Away From Home”

This year our family spent a total of almost three months at the Mayo Clinic. One of the most important things we found during our time there was the Rochester church of Christ, a small, but loving, church with a huge ministry called the "Hands of Compassion". We quickly found the House of Compassion, its centerpiece for serving others, was not just a place to sleep. It is a place of caring and wonderful people. Our daughter Mary Kathryn said it has become "our home away from home." We totally agree!

Although our family has health insurance, the cost of housing would be too much to bear without the blessing of HOC. The cost of staying in a local hotel or motel can make it impossible for some families like ours to receive their much needed medical care. It is only because of the generous donations of

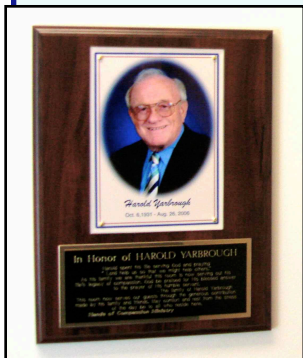
caring people like the church and friends of HOC that have made it possible for us to receive medical care at the Mayo Clinic. We are so thankful for all those who support this great work! It has forever made a difference in the life of our daughter Mary Kathryn. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Those who come to the House of Compassion very quickly find out it's not just about affordability. It is so much more! It has been a place of comfort for our family. It is truly comfort for the soul. It has been a place to gain both emotional and spiritual support during a very critical time in our family's life. We immediately found there were other families like ours who needed what doctors could not give. Rebecca especially loved finding people with whom we became instant friends. These friends provided us with a shoulder to lean on, a friend to cry with, and a person to pray with although they, too, were facing challenges, some with even more critical medical circumstances than ours. They were God's hands and feet to minister to our souls. Because of our trips to HOC, our family has developed lifelong friendships: People like Debra Lawrence and others connected to the church along with others from all over the country with whom we have shared a common bond. These friendships will always be a blessing to us. At HOC we found a house filled with people and a house full of compassion! *J. T., Rebecca, and Mary Kathryn Harrison*



“Help us, Lord, so that we might help others.”

This is how our loved one, Harold Yarbrough, always ended his prayers. His prayer alone exemplifies the kind person he was. He was one of the most generous men. He loved the Lord, he loved his family, and he loved people. Most of all, he loved helping people. He was often heard saying, “You can’t out give God.”



Harold Yarbrough plaque for room 1

Growing up with this influence is exactly why we, his family, wanted his legacy of giving to continue on through his room at House of Compassion. He would be so proud to see this room and to know peace and comfort are offered in his name through Christ.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1(KJV)

[The Yarbrough room is room 1 in our 840 House. Last May Dee Yarbrough (Harold’s wife) and two daughters, Rhonda & Kim, visited HOC and refurnished the room with a new bed, chair, dresser and night stand. Harold’s prayer was stenciled on the east wall. We are very thankful that the Yarbrough legacy of helping others is being demonstrated through the Hands of Compassion ministry.]



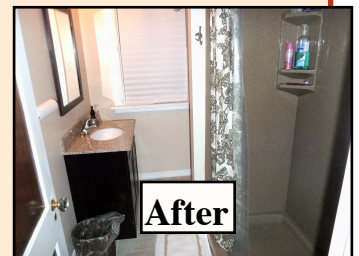
Yarbroughs, (Kim, Dee, Rhonda) with Stacy



Before

Remodeled Bathroom for 830

By the gift of appreciated stock from a generous donor and the hard work of Don McMillon, 830 House has a beautifully remodeled bathroom. The old double sink and bathtub/shower were replaced with a single sink and full shower resulting in a more spacious bathroom. HOC is very thankful for Don’s work as well as the contribution of stock. We would also like to encourage more contributors to consider stock as an avenue of donation.



After



Steve Sikes - New Minister for the Rochester Church of Christ

We are delighted to introduce you to Rochester's new minister Steve Sikes and his wife Patti. Steve is also a new HOC Board member. Steve began working with the Rochester Church of Christ in August, 2013. He has brought a wealth of ministry experience to the church: children's, youth, adult, and family ministries, children's home work, and teaching experience from pre-school to university levels.

Steve and his twelve siblings were raised by parents, Jack & Robbie Sikes, who worked in multiple christian children's homes for over 35 years. Steve received his A.A. from York College (York, NE) and his B.A. and M.A. from Harding (1974, 1975). In 1985, Steve completed his PhD in Human Performance at Indiana University and his MMFT (Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy) degree from Abilene Christian University in 1992.

Steve has thirteen years of teaching experience at the college/university level; York College and Indiana University. He has preached for congregations in Texas, Indiana and New Jersey. Steve also spent 4 years as the assistant superintendent at Cornhusker Christian Children's Home. Steve's childhood and ministry experiences have impressed on him that many families are in need of "wounded healing."

Steve and Patti Klein Sikes have been married for almost 40 years (December 30) and have four children and 5 grandchildren.

MEMORIAL LIST

05.05.13 to 11.15.13

DALE AUSTELL

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

RALPH BILLINGS

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

DOLORES

CAMPBELL

David & Tish Spencer & Family

KAY CHRISTIE

Gladys Willis

GARY CLEVELAND

Fond Du Lac Church of Christ
Dwight and Sandy Dietz
Susan Overton-Walker

TINA COBB

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

JOE DEYOUNG

George & Nancy Smithson

ALLEN & MARGIE

DUNN

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

KATIE HOWARD

Robert & Elizabeth Howard

LARRY KEIRN

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

OREN KEIRN

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

DOYLE & GWEN

KEIRN

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

WANDA & GERSTER

LENTZ

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

CHES LIEDLICH

Dale and Dot White

KENNETH LOWREY

David & Tish Spencer & Family

ROGER MAXFIELD

St. Cloud Church of Christ

DON OERTLE

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

RONNIE OSTEEN

Donald & Sharon Walker

RAYMOND &

THELMA RYAN

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

GEORGE SEALS

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

JIM CATO SHEERER

Allan & Virginia Heggedahl

LORALYNN SHEETS

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship

ESTHER SIMPSON

Ted & Janet Mountjoy

JACK SIKES

Gladys Willis
Arthur & Susanne Keller
Margaret Anderson

MARION

STINCHFIELD

Linda Klas

EDWARD

SEUFFERLEIN

Susanne Keller

BRUCE VERHULST

Lavina Goddard

C.R. WHITE

Sara Christopher

HONORARIUM LIST

05.05.13 to 11.15.13

GARY & DEB

CLEVELAND

Ted & Janet Mountjoy

STACY SIKES

Gladys Willis
Delois Yarbrough

BOOTS YOUNG

Grand Avenue Church of Christ & New Creation Christian Fellowship
Florence Lindamood
Gladys Willis

HANDS OF COMPASSION

A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Don & Kathy McMillon
(Picture taken on their 50th
Wedding Anniversary
November 16th, 2013)

Don McMillon Retires as Hands of Compassion Board President

“What a joy and honor it has been to serve as President of the Board of Hands of Compassion for over fifteen years. Though I have resigned my position as President, God willing, I will never resign serving where I can. I believe the Hands of Compassion ministry is one of the greatest works of the church. May God richly bless the new leadership and the entire Board. *“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 1:6). I will always love the work of Hands of Compassion.” - Don McMillon

(The Hands of Compassion ministry is very indebted to both Don and Kathy for their many years of sacrificial giving. It was Don who personally purchased the 840 lot back in 2002 to make sure that, when HOC was financially ready to expand, that lot would be available. It is Don who, for more than 16 years, has used his skills and diligence to keep up the grounds and maintain the houses in good repair. No one man has volunteered more time and energy to this work than Don. Both he and Kathy have given much in the serving of others and to help make Hands of Compassion what it is today. On behalf of the HOC staff and Board, we thank you. -Stacy)

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www.rochesterchurchofchrist.org