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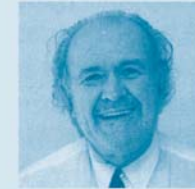
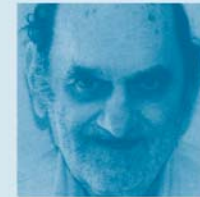


*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

# Paxton MINISTRIES

VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2011



## FACES of PAXTON

*Celebrating 30 Years of Service*



HOUSING, HELP & HEALING IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

## TAKING STEPS OF FAITH...

"We all have our "boats" of safety and security. However there are times when we are called to take a step of faith that is risky—an invitation to water-walking!

That is what the founders of Paxton Ministries did 30 years ago."

**O**n November 5, we gathered to celebrate Paxton Ministries' 30th anniversary. It was a good time to connect with old friends and meet others who have a heart for the ministry. The focus was on the many "Faces of Paxton"—people who have been changed all because a group of people shared a burden for the needy and took a huge step of faith to establish Paxton Ministries. The founding board—Woody Dalton, Glen and Beth Frey, Dr. John Kreider, and David Miller—took extraordinary steps to follow God's leading.

I've recently been reading and re-reading the book, "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg. Although we often hear Peter's water-walking portrayed as a lack of faith, the author points out that Peter took a huge step of faith when he got out of the boat. And what an experience that was! He left the safety

and security of the boat to do something extraordinary. He experienced something no one had ever done, and he knew it was only by God's power that it could be possible. Even when he saw the wind and started to sink, he had the unforgettable experience of having Jesus lift him up when he most needed help.

We all have our "boats" of safety and security. However there are times when we are called to take a step of faith that is risky—an invitation to water-walking! That is what the founders of Paxton Ministries did 30 years ago. They stepped out of the boat when they committed to provide a home for disadvantaged people. God continues to call us to step out of our comfort zone to go on an adventure with Him. I hope that we—as individuals and as Paxton Ministries—are always willing to listen for God's invitation to join Him for a walk on water. ■

Jodie Smiley, Executive Director

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## Give a gift... BLESS A RESIDENT FOR CHRISTMAS



Christmas is just around the corner! At Paxton Ministries, we ensure that all of our residents receive a personal gift every year on Christmas day. This year, we would like to extend that giving opportunity to all of you. Would you consider buying a gift for a resident this Christmas?

We would love to give you some specific gift ideas for one individual, which you could use to purchase a gift totaling no more than \$20. If shopping is not your "gift", a second option is to donate \$20 towards the purchase of a gift for one resident.

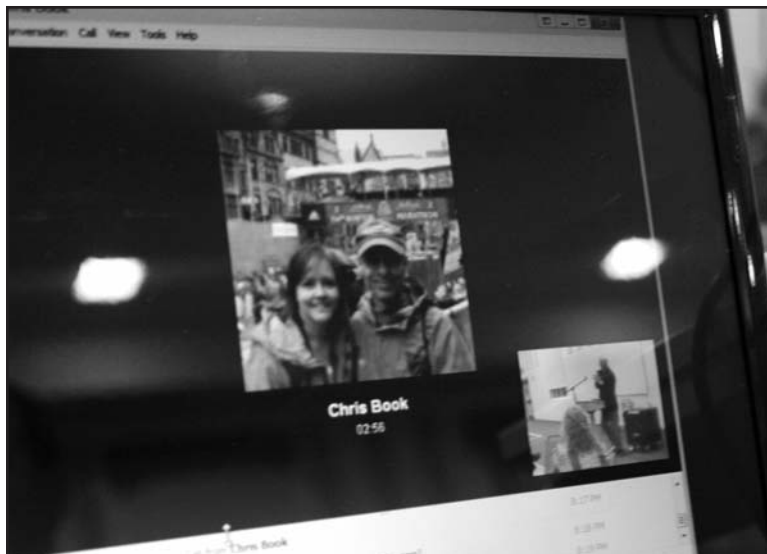
Please contact Activities Coordinator, Hannah Ritch ([hritch@paxtonmin.org](mailto:hritch@paxtonmin.org)) by December 2nd if you are interested.

*Thank you, and Merry Christmas!*

# Celebrating 30 Years of Service...



Residents Stephanie & Robert enjoy the celebration after blessing us with their piano music.



We had a special greeting from Chris and Marlys Book, all the way from Zambia via Skype and the internet.

**"People are hurting, if you listen, you know about it. Some people settle down and adjust but it takes time. When staff take time to talk it means a lot. Some of us are not used to people giving in this way. This helps the residents to adjust and makes us feel like we have something to look forward to"...**

Resident Jesse P. (1991)



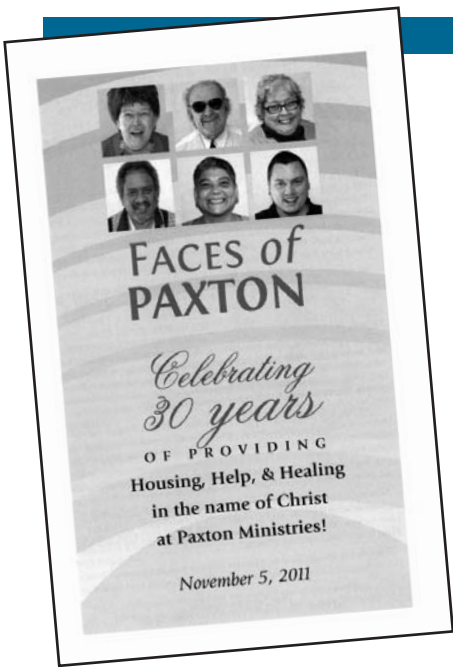
Staff member Kevin Noll, resident Mary Ellen, and staff members Tim & Cathy Lyne stand to join in our closing song, "To God Be the Glory".

*"I know you. You're the doctor that eats with us." When I was on call, I made it a practice of eating my evening meal in the patients' dining room. I never forgot that statement. It continued to impact how I related to persons with mental illness. I saw that same kind of practice at Paxton Ministries. The staff attempted to be people with the residents and not just caregivers. Caring flowed from the staff to residents and back again. Thus a ministry becomes a community – a healing community.*



Dr. Herb Myers  
(30th. Anniversary speech)

*"Paxton Street Home has been a faithful model to the Christian community, a true extension of the body of Christ, and a faithful witness to the world around it."*  
Darrel Reinford ((July 2001)



The group that started Paxton Street home did not get distracted. They were not too busy to fulfill God's purposes. They did not let the mountains that stood in front of them deter them from the plan God had revealed to them. They went out on a limb, "put their money where their mouth was" and offered to buy the former Messiah Home.

Steve Schwartz (1996)  
*Reflecting on the beginning*



Pastor Woody Dalton, one of the founding board members of Paxton Ministries, addresses those who gathered to celebrate Paxton Ministries 30 years of service.

"Paxton Ministries exists because of our residents. We are here to serve some of the people closest to the heart of God...Over and over our hearts are warmed by a resident's story or our interaction with them. They make us laugh. They make us cry.".  
Faithe Zercher  
(April 1997)



Current residents Sherman and Mary Ellen share how Paxton Ministries has helped them in their life's journey.



Paxton Ministries current Board President, Dale Laninga shares some thoughts with those celebrating our 30th anniversary.

"Paxton Ministries is a place where the Spirit of Christ resides and is welcome. We are convinced that as long as the name of Christ is lifted up, as long as worship and prayer remain central to all activity, God's anointing will rest on Paxton Ministries."  
Chris & Marlys Book (Spring 2010 Farewell)

## THE FACE(S) OF PAXTON MINISTRIES...

This November, Paxton Ministries celebrated its 30th anniversary of providing housing, help, and healing to disadvantaged adults in the Harrisburg area. At our anniversary dinner on November 5th, nearly 140 current and former staff and board, volunteers, donors, residents, family members, and prayer partners joined together to honor the “Faces of Paxton” and to give thanks for God’s ongoing work in and through this ministry.

Listening to vignettes of Paxton’s past and present faces led me to reflect on my own memories of individuals I’ve walked alongside during my six years on staff, and I was struck by how many lives have been touched by Paxton Ministries. This realization was reinforced as I paged through some old newsletters yesterday, in which I recognized surprisingly few faces and names. Countless people I’ve never met (and will likely never know) have poured their hearts into this ministry and experienced healing here.

When I first started working at Paxton, I couldn’t imagine the ministry without certain personalities. How could Paxton exist, I wondered, without certain long-term staff? Equally important to my understanding of the place was our unique mix of residents. I couldn’t fathom a day of work without a note of encouragement from Pat, for example, or Tom’s daily homage to Penn State, or the sight of Millie and Betty lovingly sharing their mid-afternoon snacks.

But it wasn’t long into my time at Paxton before I grew familiar with the painful goodbyes that happen all too soon in a place where love abounds. Betty, Millie, Tom, and Pat – along with countless other residents and staff – have moved on; some to other homes or jobs, and others to their eternal home. To those of us who remember these dear faces of Paxton’s past, it seems hard to comprehend how any new residents, staff, or volunteers can possibly appreciate the richness of this ministry without knowing the stories that we hold in our hearts.

But then I’m reminded, as I was at our anniver-

sary celebration, of the countless faces that have given and received love in this place prior to my arrival, and I’m humbled by the awareness that none of us, regardless of how many years we’ve been part of this community, can fully appreciate the magnificent and ongoing story of God’s kingdom coming in and through Paxton Ministries.

In the midst of this incredible story, faces come and go. Through our individual encounters with these changing faces of Paxton, each of us has the opportunity to encounter the one face that remains the same. And as long as we continue to see the face of Jesus at Paxton Ministries, we know that the story is not yet finished. We therefore look to the future with hope, joyfully anticipating the many lives yet to be transformed by God’s love working in and through Paxton Ministries. ■

Rachel Petersen, Community Living Programs Manager



## Thank You!

to our volunteers, vendors, auction donors, special guests, staff, board members & residents who made Paxton Fest 2011 so special. We are truly grateful!

Please join us in a special thank you to the following businesses who partnered with us.

American Insurance Administrators, Inc.  
Benefit Design Specialists, Inc.  
Drayer Physical Therapy Institute  
Edu-Care/Imperial Beverage  
Harrisburg Wall & Flooring, Inc.  
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Mid-Atlantic Pension Specialists, Inc.

*Thank you to the following volunteers who helped out from September through November 2011*

Laura Adkins	Kim Diffendall	Jerry Hess	Jay McDermond	Julie Schmidt
Mackenzie Alexander	Michael Diorio	Casey Hetrick	Tony Meadows	Rachel Schmuck
Janice Ames	Jeanette Dourte	Cassie Hoover	Lloyd Melhorn Jr.	Penny Scott
Bruce Apgar	Emily Ebaugh	Betsy Howell	Cindy Miller	Charles & Carolyn Seifert
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Darren Asper	Lorie Eckenroad	Colleen Innerst	Derrick Morris	Carissa Sherer
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Bonnie Bentz	Philip & Cindy Engle	Glenn Jones	Jay & Kim Mumper	Jim Smiley
Amanda Bert	Sharon Engle	Sarah Jones	Stephen Myer	Jack & Jean Smith
Morgan Bolt	Ken Espenshade	Rachel Jordan	Chrissy Myers	Liz Smith
Chris & Marlys Book	Josh & Kate Evans	Dylan Kalogris	Dana Newswanger	Sarah Solberg
Bill & Barb Bostic	Jamie Fackler	Esther Kauffman	Carman & Joan Niesley	Jesse Sopp
JoAnn Bowles	David & Naomi Fidler	Howard & Cena	Paul Nisly	Diana Spears
Mark Brandt	Jason & Gina Fleager	Kauffman	Bob Noll	Ken & Terri Stambaugh
Theda Breneman	Dan & Wanda Frost	Shannon Kelly	David Noll	Charlie & Martha Starr
Jayne Brinkley	Christina Fuji	Matt Kempf	Jen Noll	Kelby & Lisa Steele
Katie Bull	Vicki Fulford	Mariah Kendrick	Helene Norman	Chris Steiner
Don Burgard	Christine Gale	Dave & Beth King	Jason Nuss	Wayne & Lily Steiner
Ron & Dianne Burgard	Brian Gallagher	Rob Kivlan	Jim Nuss	Ron Stern
Eldon Byer	Deb Garman	Betsy Klinefelter	Penny Nye	Adam St oak
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Meghann Connor	Emily Hasbrouck	Crystal Mahibir	Judy Riley	Ben Wolf
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	Cheryl Hershey	James & Tina McCoy	Esther Schaeffer	

**Groups**

Beech Creek Wesleyan Church  
 Beta Sigma Phi—Alpha Pi Master  
 Country & Town Baptist Church Youth  
 Devonshire Church Youth  
 Diakon Wilderness Center Flight Program

Grantham BIC Church Youth  
 Harrisburg BIC Church Youth  
 Harrisburg Discipleship Center  
 Hope Grace Brethren Church  
 Lancaster BIC Church & Youth

Messiah College  
 New Hope BIC Church  
 Therapy Dogs International  
 Trinity High School  
 Redfern Therapy Dogs