

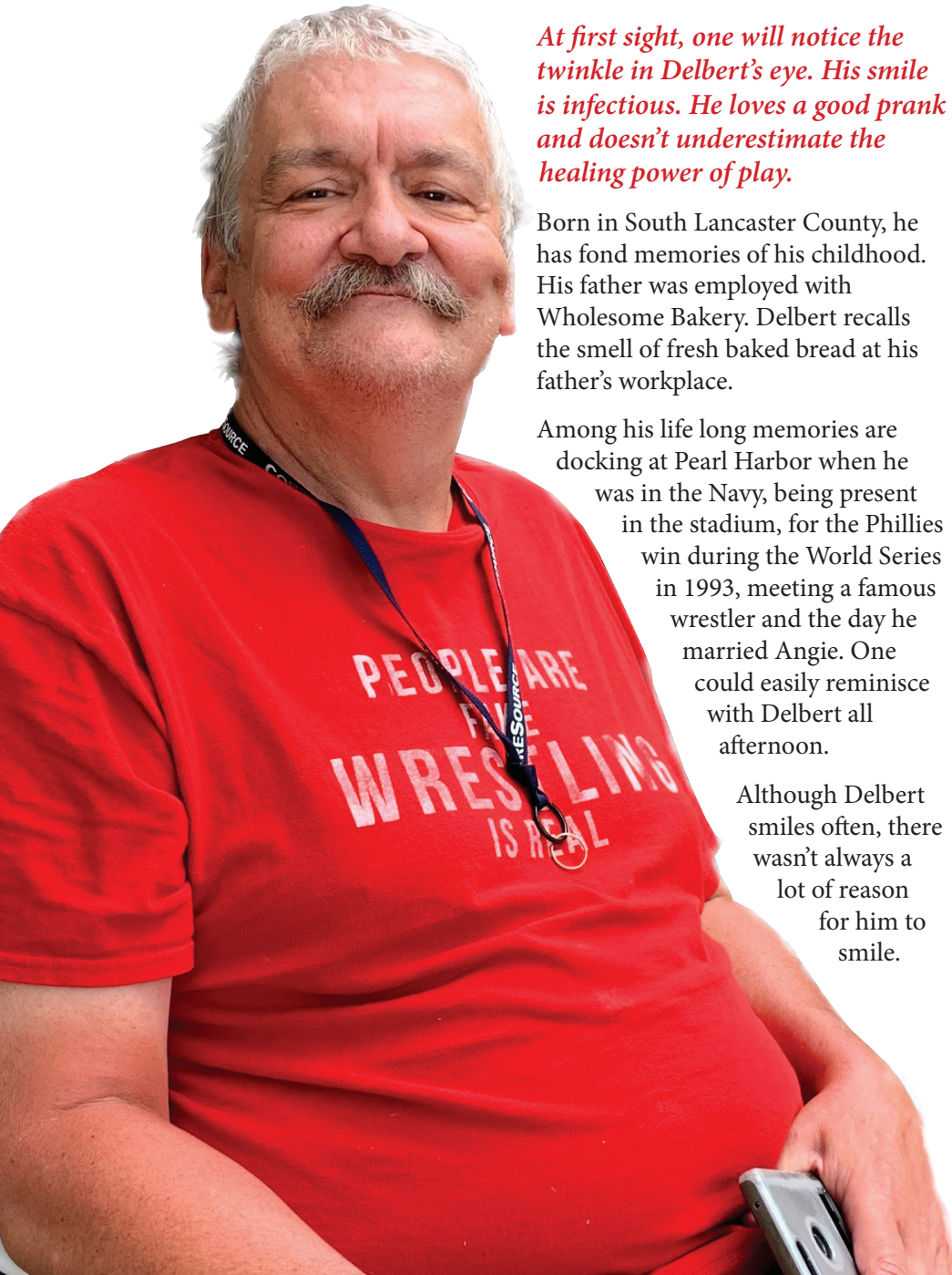
# FAMILY MATTERS



Summer 2020 Newsletter

## *Meet the Family: Delbert*

**Two years of homelessness —  
until Delbert found a forever home at Faith Friendship Villa**



*At first sight, one will notice the twinkle in Delbert's eye. His smile is infectious. He loves a good prank and doesn't underestimate the healing power of play.*

Born in South Lancaster County, he has fond memories of his childhood. His father was employed with Wholesome Bakery. Delbert recalls the smell of fresh baked bread at his father's workplace.

Among his life long memories are docking at Pearl Harbor when he was in the Navy, being present in the stadium, for the Phillies win during the World Series in 1993, meeting a famous wrestler and the day he married Angie. One could easily reminisce with Delbert all afternoon.

Although Delbert smiles often, there wasn't always a lot of reason for him to smile.

When asked what brought Delbert to live at The Villa, he became serious as he went back to 2004 when his mother passed away. This loss was made palatable by meeting his wife Angie, who he credits for helping him through his grief.

When Angie passed away, all the grief returned and suicide was the only way Delbert could think of to stop the pain in his soul. By way of what Delbert describes as a miracle, the suicide attempt failed, and after medical intervention he was discharged to Water Street Mission.

Delbert credits the caring staff at Water Street and his Pastor from Heritage Baptist Church for where he is today. The care and support he received the two years he lived at Water Street provided him the healing he needed to make a choice to find his forever home.

As scary as change can be, Delbert said he felt something different at Faith Friendship Ministries. He felt God here, and he also has found a family with staff and residents.

*Delbert turned 60 this year, he is looking forward to making his home in Mountville and living out God's purpose for his life.*

# A Message From Our Board President

As the year 2020 began, I doubt anyone could have predicted what March 2020 would bring. For me personally, in February I was just settling into my role as Board President when Covid-19 hit. We, on the Board, were greatly concerned, to say the least, about how everyone would get through the crisis while overseeing the care of over 70 adults living in close proximity to one another.

FFM's "family feel" was one of the main reasons I got involved in the ministry in the first place. This spring, however, the family closeness was a detriment.

But the other thing that had drawn me to FFM was the obvious presence of God's Spirit residing in the Villa — through the care and compassion of the staff as they care for the "peeps," and the love of the family members for one another. As with any crisis, looking back gives a vivid picture of God's power and protection.

We are sad at the loss of three family members during this time—one due to the virus—but are also amazed that God has brought us through this time by protecting so many residents and

staff from symptoms, and healing so many that were stricken by Covid-19.

We are thankful we can look back and see God's hand at work, and for the prayers and support of donors during this time. Isaiah 26:3 says "He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in Him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord." (Living Bible)

*We trusted in Him; what else could we do? And He came through. Praise be to God!*

— Diane Adams, Board President

## A Message From Our Executive Director

This year has been a challenge as we navigate through a world of coronavirus. Words like "social distance" have become our new normal. My fear is that social distancing has become social disconnecting.

A coworker recently shared a scenario from a book called "Three Cups of Tea". The story highlighted an American living in Pakistan. His goal was to build schools in remote areas. He was to build one school per year, using local labor and supplies. The project was almost discarded because the man's goals didn't fit the culture. Finally, a trusted advisor explained that in this area, you will not be included until you are invited for tea. The first cup of tea means you are an acquaintance. The second cup means you are now a trusted friend, and the third cup means you are now accepted a family.

At Faith Friendship Ministries, we consider each other family, and as our supporter, you are family too! We invite you to stay connected through our website, Facebook, email or phone. Faith Friendship is where faith and friendship create family.

— Gwen Didden, Executive Director

Check out our website for weekly updates on our Covid-19 progress. Our re-opening plan will also be posted when finalized.

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## Dear Friends and Supporters of Faith Friendship Ministries:

It is with decidedly mixed feelings that I come to my final days at Faith Friendship Ministries. My last day is Friday, July 3, because God has directed me to a new ministry with much the same purpose as I came to FFM: to document processes, improve processes, and help bridge between crucial staff transitions.

My time with FFM has been joy filled, satisfying, challenging, and so very precious. The work I've done has included a wide variety of different tasks and experiences. I've had the privilege of getting to know everyone on staff and seeing their dedication, hard work, and heart to serve God shine through the most unprecedented and unexpected circumstances. I've met some wonderful service providers and seen their kindness and support to FFM through a willingness to show up early, stay late, reduce or discount charges, and provide what we need to the best of their skills and knowledge. It has all been a blessing.

But what will stay with me the for the rest of my life are my relationships and experiences with our family members. Our Villa is home to some of the most precious, lovely, caring folks you will ever meet. We have those that work hard, that write beautifully, that paint with amazing giftedness; we have those that like to garden, always volunteer to help, enjoy a good joke, and care for others; we have those that are unwaveringly friendly and welcoming and that seek to reveal the love of God in their daily lives. All of our family members carry their individual burdens of illness and challenge with great grace and very little complaint. Our Villa is so much more than a personal care home. It is an intentional family, built by God, sustained by His love and grace, and filled with His presence.

*To be part of Faith Friendship is to be part of a work of God unlike any other. It has been a privilege and an honor to have been given the opportunity to be part of all that God is doing at FFM.*



Kay Bower



It's Jim Zook, Care Ministry Director, driving our new, recently-donated Kia! Many thanks to *Workman Funeral Home*, our neighbor at Faith Friendship Ministries.



*This father-and-son project  
makes good "plane" sense!*



Father and son Dan and Micah Neff worked together on a "Covid project," making these colorful wooden airplanes. They personalized them with the community name, and installed them at long-term care communities throughout the county. Picture here is the one for FFM. The Neff's own a successful food store business in Lancaster.

Check out our website at [faithfriendship.org](http://faithfriendship.org)  
and follow us on Facebook.

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## *In Memory of:*

We lovingly say goodbye to three of our family residents who have passed away this year.



**Joan Carpenter**  
3/11/1929 – 6/9/2020



**Ron Miller**  
3/28/1953 – 5/27/2020



**John Douglas**  
11/22/1944 – 7/15/2020