



**Fellowship Square**

**50** Years of Housing and Hope

# Prime Times

Volume 26, Number 3

Summer 2011

## Meet the Residents



### Frances Yancey-Olaifa

*by Judith Koucky*

“Why does it seem like I’ve been here before?” Frances Yancey-Olaifa asked herself as she entered her apartment at Largo Landing Fellowship House for the first time six years ago. Not the House, but the surroundings outside, made her feel that she had returned to a familiar place from her past. One day a family member pointed out that Largo Landing had been built on the very farm where Frances’s brother-in-law had once raised tobacco. Then Frances remembered that as a young married couple short of funds, she and her husband had lived for a while in her brother-in-law’s farmhouse on that land.

For Frances, that convergence of past and present meant that Largo Landing was the right place for her to live, and so it has been. Having an affordable apartment has allowed her to better plan her expenses, she says. She enjoys the House’s social activities, but also likes her quiet apartment for reading and reflection. Confident that at Largo Landing she’s living in a secure atmosphere, Frances regularly goes out to care for people in need of physical and spiritual nurturing.

*Continued on page 4*

## AOL Brings Monster Help Day to Lake Anne Fellowship House

The Dulles office of telecommunications giant AOL celebrated the company’s Second Annual Monster Help Day on May 20 by sending 50 employees to work and play at Lake Anne Fellowship House. The AOL Dulles volunteers brightened up the House exterior with paint and flowering plants, helped residents to finish a load of blankets for the March of Dimes, and set up a House lab with AOL-donated computers. They spent fellowship time playing board games with the residents and conversing with them over a morning snack and an afternoon lunch.

An AOL Dulles employee familiar with Lake Anne from past volunteer work there recommended the House as a local service project for AOL’s Monster Help Day, and Volunteer Fairfax coordinated the event. Monster Help Day was observed this year by 33 other AOL offices worldwide. According to AOL Chairman and CEO Tim Armstrong, “Monster Help Day is our way to give back to the communities that give us so much as a business. We have thousands of employees all over the world partnering with the most helpful community organizations.”

The entire Fellowship Square family gives thanks to AOL’s Dulles office employees for esteeming Lake Anne Fellowship House as a “most helpful community organization,” deserving of AOL’s partnership support. ■



*Under AOL volunteers’ guidance, Lake Anne residents tie blankets destined for the March of Dimes.*



*Residents and AOL volunteers enjoy lunch provided by the company.*



*Computers set up and donated by AOL.*



*Residents have great fun assembling puzzles with a little help from AOL volunteers.*



*AOL volunteers beautify the patio and front entrance with flowers.*



*AOL volunteers give Lake Anne a fresh look by painting curbs, parking lot stripes, and patio benches.*



## Fellowship Square

50 Years of Housing and Hope

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**Design:** D Banzon Design

# House News

## Lake Ridge Starts Bed Bug Program

Lake Ridge Fellowship House has started a program for the prevention, detection, and eradication of bed bugs. Through an instructional hand-out produced by ProTech Pest Control of Woodbridge, VA, residents are learning what they can do to prevent bringing bed bugs into their apartments—such as vacuuming their suitcases when returning from a trip, then sealing and disposing of the vacuum bag. The House staff has also made photos and a video available to residents so that they may identify bed bugs from the bugs' appearance, habits, and bites. A team of ProTech technicians is conducting bimonthly apartment checks using "Inspector Roxy," the company's trained bed bug-sniffing dog. Every turnover unit is treated to ensure that it is free of bed bugs and other pests before a new tenant moves in. If the ProTech team discovers a bed bug infestation, the team will destroy it with either chemical or non-chemical means as needed. ■



*Inspector Roxy, the bed bug-sniffing dog*

### Lake Ridge Fellowship House



*Lake Ridge residents receive Brown Bag food from USDA via the Service Coordinator every month.*

*Lake Ridge residents enjoy a favorite pastime: Bingo. They can play the game every weekday afternoon and evening, and all day on some holidays!*

### Hunters Woods Fellowship House



*Hunters Woods driver Nat Nguyen readies the bus for the residents' shopping trip.*



### Largo Landing Fellowship House

*Largo Landing's annual Resident Appreciation Day featured a Fourth of July cookout with patriotic trimmings!*



*Largo Landing residents celebrate St. Patrick's Day.*



# Annual Meeting Highlights

by Rev. Faye R. Coddling

Over 50 corporate members, staff, and invited guests attended Fellowship Square's annual meeting, held on May 14 at Hunters Woods Fellowship House. Participants greeted one another at a breakfast buffet prepared by Capital Cuisine, as resident pianist Soussanna Kolker played classical pieces in the background. The conversation continued at tables that corporate member Mary Schmidt had decorated with spring flower arrangements.

At President Charles Wortman's request, Fellowship Square Chaplain David Berg opened the meeting with a devotion describing the organization's "ministry of relationships." Corporate members then approved the previous year's minutes, adopted a by-law change, and elected board members.

Keynote speaker Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County, VA Board of Supervisors, described the county's response to the unstable economic conditions of recent years. She and her fellow supervisors, Ms. Bulova said, took very seriously their responsibility to combat homelessness by providing the county with affordable housing. Noting that the county's population was aging as well as becoming more diverse, she mentioned such initiatives as the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and the Center Without Walls—a virtual center that provides programs, activities, and services to older adults. Fairfax County officials want the county to be an "engaged community," Ms. Bulova stated, and to that end, they find ways of working in partnership with such non-profit organizations as Fellowship

## Board Election News

Re-elected to the board for 3-year terms were Rev. Richard Reichard, Rev. Larry Schmidt, James Spedden, and John Thillmann. John Kelly was chosen for a 1-year term, and Rev. David Percy was elected as a new member to a 3-year term. President Wortman thanked retiring board members Phil London and Morris Hymes for their service. Mr. Wortman also paid tribute to former board member Joanne Brownsword, who passed away in June 2010.



Administrator Louneta Beckles reports on Lake Anne Fellowship House.



House Administrators David Digby (Largo Landing) and Susan Bickell (Lake Ridge) answer questions during the panel discussion.

Board members Ric Fisher (left) and Brian Grzelak listen to a presentation.



Square. Ms. Bulova then took questions from the audience.

Returning to Fellowship Square matters, President Wortman spoke about recent developments and future initiatives. He announced that James Garrett had resigned as executive director as of April 1, and that the Board of Directors was engaged in a search for a new executive director. Mr. Wortman would himself assume the executive director's duties for the interim. Board priorities for the coming year, according to Mr. Wortman, are studying the organization's board and committee structure with a view to its improvement; expanding resident services; considering refinance options for Lake Anne Fellowship House; and exploring an enhanced relationship with National Lutheran Communities and Services.

A new feature at this year's meeting was a "Question and Answer Panel" composed of the four House Administrators, Director of Operations Kelly Amorin, and Chaplain David Berg. Panel members responded to questions from the audience. Several queries dealt with the eligibility requirements for acceptance as a Fellowship House resident, and the process used in considering applicants. Issues of aging in place were also discussed. Some audience members complimented the staff for their ability to maneuver through complex federal and state regulations that seemed to differ from House to House. Others thanked the staff for the compassion and sensitivity with which they treated residents and their families.

The meeting concluded with a showing of "A 50-Year Journey," the video produced by corporate member Rev. Phil Carl and his son, Matt, on the occasion of Fellowship Square's 50th anniversary in November 2010. Rev. Carl offered the closing prayer. ■

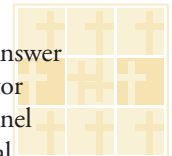
To access the Fellowship Square Annual Report for 2011, as well as individual committee reports, go to [www.fellowshipsquare.org](http://www.fellowshipsquare.org) and then to "Annual Meeting 2011" in the lefthand column.



President Charles Wortman joins a corporate member for continental breakfast before the meeting.



President Wortman chairs the meeting.



## Congratulations to Our 2011 Fellowship Square Award Winners

- Donor of the Year – Rev. Larry Schmidt and Sue Schmidt
- Congregation of the Year – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Herndon, VA
- Corporate Donor of the Year – Lutheran Trust
- Lake Ridge Fellowship House Volunteer of the Year – David Wall
- Largo Landing Fellowship House Volunteer of the Year – Rev. James Green and Karen Green
- Hunters Woods Fellowship House Volunteer of the Year – Ruby Seering
- Lake Anne Fellowship House Volunteer of the Year – Rev. Mark Moretti, St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church, Reston, VA

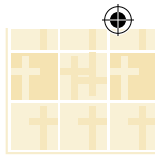


**Fellowship Square**

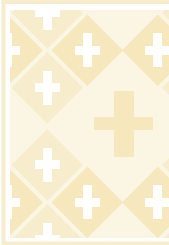
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## Are you interested in helping the residents of Fellowship Square?

One excellent way is to prepare a **WELCOME BOX!**

These gifts, filled with basic household items, are presented to new residents as they move into our Fellowship Houses. The following items are needed:

- Plastic shoe box sized container with lid
- Small laundry detergent
- One roll of quarters
- Small liquid dish soap
- Dish towel
- Sponge
- Small flashlight and batteries
- Small box of tissues

Contact the Fellowship Square offices for delivery directions.

If you have an idea for an item you think would be a good fit for a Welcome Box, please let us know by emailing to [jjohnston@fellowshipsquare.org](mailto:jjohnston@fellowshipsquare.org) or by calling 703.471.5370.

For other ways you can help the residents of Fellowship Square, visit our website at [www.fellowshipsquare.org](http://www.fellowshipsquare.org)

### Frances Yancey-Olaifa, *Continued from page 1*

Frances, a firstborn child, was raised in Louisa County, VA, east of Charlottesville. She describes her parents as hardworking, pious farmers who lacked many material goods but who were lavish with love for their 10 children. Frances liked to help her parents as the “banker” in charge of making change and guarding the cashbox when the family sold their produce.

Frances left school after the 9th grade to marry schoolmate Lewis Yancey. The couple had a daughter and two sons. While Lewis worked as a locksmith, Frances sold women’s clothing at Grayson’s in Washington, DC. Later she worked for 9 years at the Dow Jones facility in White Oak, MD and for 21 years at the Disabled American Veterans’ local headquarters. Frances says she liked “moving-around work” such as distributing mail, running errands, and using the copier machine—often fixing the machine when no one else was able to.

Retirement since 1996 has given Frances time to nurture more people. At Largo Landing, Frances leads a weekly prayer group. She helps with the after-school program at nearby Riverdale Baptist School. As a 21-year member of the First Baptist Church of Glen Arden, MD, Frances has enriched the lives of many through her participation in the Willing Workers’ social ministry and the Sisters in Discipleship’s spiritual modeling training. Frances treasures her relationships with the other women in the Divine Discipleship for Sisters group, all of whom help each other to become “dynamic disciples” of Jesus. Undergirding these activities is Frances’s thorough knowledge of Scripture and her discipline of prayer.

Frances realized in 2008 her long held goal of finishing high school. At age 71, she received her diploma in a ceremony at the Prince George’s Plaza Library. A photograph of her in cap and gown hangs on her living room wall beside the cherished diploma.

When asked to name her greatest blessing, Frances points to her lifelong relationship with God in Christ Jesus. Foremost among her other blessings is a loving family, which now includes 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Grandson Seaman Payton Young, Jr., surprised the family last March by showing up in person when they were gathered at a television screen expecting to talk with him on a video hookup from his ship. Payton had gone along with the trick for the “Coming Home” series produced by the Lifetime TV Network! Besides her family, Frances counts as blessings her friends from church and work, her high school studies mentor Betty Sonneveldt, and her many friends at Largo Landing. ■