

- \* Providing honor, help & hope for homebound seniors;
- \* Providing encouragement for widows, widowers, & caregivers;
- \* Providing volunteer opportunities for the community;
- \* Providing KOINONIA— Christian fellowship to “one another.”

www.ksicare.org  
316-209-9028

# KSC CONNECTION



## Koinonia Senior Care Newsletter

November 2021



### The Thanksgiving “Special” Bouquet

People enduring hardships and loss may find it difficult to be thankful during the thanksgiving season. May this story enrich your soul and prompt you to display a vase for a very special Thanksgiving bouquet this month.

I recently read an old story about a florist who sold “Thanksgiving Thorn Bouquet” arrangements of long-stemmed thorny roses without the beautiful rose petals, just the thorny stems.

The significance for its buyers kept them coming back each year for another bouquet of remembrance and thanksgiving for the thorns in life.

Each of the florist’s customers, including the florist, had been through some very difficult circumstances and could find very little to be thankful for at Thanksgiving. The florist gave them a new perspective and gifted them an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses without the roses.

The florist shares that she’s learned to be thankful for thorns. She had always been thankful for the ‘flowers’ of life, but it took thorns to show her the beauty of God’s comfort. So with the comfort she has received, she hopes to comfort others. (2 Corinthians 1:4) Now she keeps a vase of stems to remind her of what she’s learned from ‘thorny’ times. One customer labels each thorn for a specific ‘problem’ and gives thanks for what that problem has or is teaching them. The florist attaches the following card to her arrangements:

*My God, I have never thanked You for my thorns. I have thanked You a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the life I bear; teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed closer to You along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of Your rainbow look much more brilliant. Amen.*



NOVEMBER

3 KSC Training

11 [Empowered Seniors](#) Botanical & online 10:00

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 GriefShare Support Group, ONLINE 7:00pm

17 Blessing Gift Make & Take

Thursdays @ 7:00 am ZOOM Conversations w/Christine

Thursdays @ 3:00 Bible study at Oxford Grand

“Aunt Babe,” our guest columnist, writes about her reflections on life. She is 98 years young and is still using her gifts to bless others. She is an inspiration to me because she lives in a land of silence since her hearing loss 7 years ago, yet she so wisely encourages others to “keep a song in your heart.” See her article on page 2 & 5.



## Aunt Babe's Reflections

### Bountiful Thanksgiving

When I was a youngster the main holidays I recall were Thanksgiving and Christmas. Usually before the actual day arrived, Mamma would be busy in the kitchen and the smell of the season was spices and pumpkin as she would be making goodies for a crowd. It wasn't unusual for us to have big crowds for Thanksgiving dinner, at least 20 or more, you never knew for sure, so it was well to be prepared. Sometimes even neighbors visited and extended good tidings about noontime!

On Thanksgiving, early in the 4a.m. hour, was nothing new to Mamma, for she would need to start very early to get Tom turkey to baking, for the bird was always large enough to feed a crew. If quail had been trapped, then they were placed around the big bird later, to be well seasoned in the tasty dressing, and backed to a golden crust and oh, so delicious! Two dressings were often made, one with giblet gravy added. There were a variety of vegetables and a sweet slaw. Deviled eggs, watermelon preserves, and other berry jams were added to the mix.

The dessert bar was in the kitchen and usually had an array of pies, with pumpkin, mincemeat, cherry, and chocolate. (continued on p.5)



## Opportunities

### 4 U held at

Tyler Road Baptist Church

571 S. Tyler Road

### BLESSING GIFT

### Make-&-Take

Wed. Nov. 17 @ 1:00

### November TRAINING

Nov. 3 @ 1:00

**Alzheimer's Assoc.**  
has access to many  
virtual groups  
across the state &  
country. Contact  
their 24/7 hotline at  
**1-800-272-3900** or  
locally **316-267-7312**

1820 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS

## Caregiver's Corner

*Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.* Proverbs 11:25b



We all need refreshment and that is just what these cards are doing for my mother as she recovers from 2 major surgeries. She has received many cards and we reread them often.

Mom is also over the card ministry at KSC which refreshes others. We are humbled,

blessed, and appreciative of each card, thought, and prayer as Mom continues to rehab with a goal of being home before Thanksgiving!

Thank you, KSC, for the Caregiver Blessing Gifts that we were able to give to those nurses, techs, RT's, PT's, OT's and room cleaners who did their job with joy, friendliness, and extra care. We are so appreciative!

### EMPOWERED SENIORS

November 11

10-11:30 am

Botanica

"Untapped resources &  
your Nest Egg"

[RSVP](#) in-person or ZOOM

*Thank you*

*To Caregivers in  
families and facilities  
**YOU MATTER!***

# Church Homebound Appreciation Brunch



Pathway Church hosted a *Caregiver Appreciation Brunch* in October. Each person in attendance consistently visits one or more Homebound Seniors connected with Pathway Church, Westlink Campus, or is part of the card ministry who send cards to those not getting out often. The homebound enjoy receiving mail and visits from their church family! These humble and faithful volunteers want no recognition, only to serve, but we appreciate them coming out for a time of inspiration from guest speaker, Janet Carlson, who encouraged us as we walk alongside others with the love of Christ Jesus. Thank you, Gwendolyn Lewis, for making this event happen and for ALL you do in the Care & Local Outreach ministries at Pathway! Your vision and your passion are God-sized! And the centerpieces from your garden were a special fall touch of beauty and warmth.



The following is a testimonial to Marylyn's faithful visits and calls to one of Pathway's member's mother:

"I just want to thank you for the wonderful years we've had Marylyn in Josie's life. When we told Josie we had found a place for her in Arizona close to us and that we were coming down to move her, she said "I don't know. I can't move. I've got a friend here - Marylyn!" Marylyn came by today and she and Josie said good-bye. It was very very touching....a sweet friendship they've kindled, so thank you and God bless you! - Shawndra

*Koinonia Senior Care* welcomes the opportunity to share with you helpful tools on how your church or community can start an outreach to their homebound, or give you ideas for a *Caregiver Appreciation Brunch*. Call/text Christine at 316-209-9028 or email her at [Christine@ksicare.org](mailto:Christine@ksicare.org).



As this goes to print, my mother has been in the hospital for 23 days and is recovering from two major surgeries before moving to rehab. There are many God-sightings and beautiful people we have met on this journey thus far. They are the kind of people God puts in your life “for such a time as this” and ***we thank*** each and every one of you: her friends and acquaintances, her medical team, floor personnel, and even the warden at the front desk who wouldn’t let a fly by without noticing and asking what room they were visiting. (1 visitor rule)!

As I peer out Mom’s window with only a view of brick walls and rooftops, I was reminded of this story worth pondering and sharing with the hope we can all be this kind of person to others God puts on our journey.

### **The Hospital Window: A Short Story** (Author Unknown) ([www.sofearchon.com](http://www.sofearchon.com) )

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room’s only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, and where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite details, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band—he could see it in his mind’s eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words. Days, weeks, and months passed.

One morning the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, “perhaps he just wanted to encourage you.” *Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.* Proverbs 11:25b

## November's Touch Someone Challenge

Invite homebound seniors to your home or church Thanksgiving dinner for a time of food and fellowship. Fill them a plate to take home with them for later. Let them know how thankful you are for their role in your life. Share a copy of this month's newsletter or *GIFT* them a free subscription. ***Happy Thanksgiving!***

### *Losing a loved one*

*is one of the hardest things many of us will ever face.*



***Koinonia Senior Care***

**will be hosting an online session of**

***“Surviving the Holidays”***

**in November and one in December.**

**For more information, contact Christine at either 316-209-9028 or by email, [Christine@kscare.org](mailto:Christine@kscare.org)**

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(Continued from page 2—Aunt Babe) Mamma's devils food cake and nutty lemon bars make a good variety. Gean said, "I'll start this line by taking a slice of cake!" No one was ever disappointed at this table! But if you don't eat everything up, guess what we will be having for supper, so eat up!! Then Gean brought out a fancy bottle of Mogen David Wine and said "this wine has already been blessed, and I'll pass this glass around to bless one and all for the magnificent meal; and to God above for this very wonderful Thanksgiving Day, and may there be many more. Amen.

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

*My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them and they follow me. John 10:27*

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**Thank You Riverlawn Christian Church for the opportunity to share with your YOUNG AT HEART group about KSC and to hear of all God is doing in and through RCC. Thank you to the folks who took "Coinage for Koinonia" medicine bottles to fill with coins to support our ministry!**



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**Count your blessings  
name them one by  
one**



More inspiration @ [www.kscare.org](http://www.kscare.org)

 [www.facebook.com/kscare](https://www.facebook.com/kscare)

***This newsletter has articles of encouragement for widows, homebound seniors, caregivers, and the local church/community who reach out to the needs of widows, caregivers & homebound seniors, wherever they call home.***

#### **OUR MISSION**

Christian Fellowship  
Assistance  
Respite  
Errands & transportation

**Enriching the lives of  
homebound seniors and  
their caregivers, and  
inviting our community to  
join us.**

Community Projects  
Action Opportunities  
Resources  
Education & awareness

#### **OUR MOTTO**

To captivate our community  
with the character of Christ  
through compassionate  
**CARE**

**KSC is a 501c3**

#### **OUR VISION**

To be a model community of churches, neighbors and businesses who bring moments of joy, honor, help and hope to widows, the aging and their caregivers through personally providing **CARE** for those God puts in their path.

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