Making A Move

New Residents, Fred and Judy Sargent answer questions about their journey from living in Connecticut to moving into a new cottage home.

See the full text of interview at www.landishomes.org

Why did you choose a retirement community lifestyle?

Judy’s parents moved to a retirement community in 1969. It was a completely foreign concept to us then, but we could see how happy they were. Other family members and friends have also made similar moves. Without exception, all wondered why they hadn’t done so sooner. Fred’s parents chose to remain in their home. We clearly saw how difficult life became for them, and for their children, as they aged. It was very comfortable for us to explore a retirement community for ourselves.

How did you choose Landis Homes?

In addition to conversations with the family members and friends mentioned above, we did a lot of online research and prioritized retirement community attributes. Christian foundation, non-profit and continuing-care were our top three requirements. We focused on this area because we wanted to be closer to our only daughter and her family, who live in Wilmington DE. Last summer, we visited eight or nine communities that fit the bill, one of which was Landis Homes. Of particular appeal here was the “green-ness” of the expansion project.

How was selling your property in the current economy?

It was an adventure much more enjoyable in hindsight than in reality. In January, when we were offered a Phase II cottage - at least a year sooner than expected - we decided to go for it.
From our beginning, Landis Homes has been a community of lifelong learners. Fifty years ago in 1961, prompted by an offer of land in Strasburg by Emma Shenk, Lancaster Mennonite Conference embarked on a journey of learning about retirement living that led to Landis Homes welcoming our first residents on February 18, 1964.

According to the 1994 history of Landis Homes by A. Grace Wenger, on September 19, 1961, the LMC Bishop Board, supporting the vision of providing for retired missionaries, directed the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities to be responsible for planning the retirement community.

Grace writes, “On October 31, Clayton Keener, Charles Good, J. Mowery Frey, Musser Herr and Ira Buckwalter drove to Goshen to attend a conference on ‘The Church and Its Aging.’ As he recalls the meeting, Charles Good admits he has forgotten many of the good thoughts presented, but vividly remembers a drama produced by Goshen College students showing the problems of adjusting to retirement.”

We continue to learn as the Landis Homes Board and Staff explore ways to both maintain the strength and vitality of the retirement community, and explore new models of affordable living and providing services at home.

I’m reminded also of the learning about life that comes through our school experiences. Landis Homes is blessed to have many teachers among the resident community, and I’m particularly grateful for a number of residents who were my teachers and mentors. These include my mother, Betty Zook (Kindergarten), Lois Witmer (1st Grade), Charles Longenecker (High School) and Dr. Gary Reighard (College).

I’m grateful for my teachers and the many other former teachers here at Landis Homes, as well as other education connections, such as our art student award collaboration with Lancaster Mennonite School, the Grandpals program with Hinkletown Mennonite School, the High School students who volunteer or work at Landis Homes, and last but not least, the Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning which provides wonderful learning opportunities for residents and for many of our age 55+ neighbors living throughout the Lancaster area.

I’m reminded most of all of the wisdom that comes from seeking God’s direction in all of life. As a student at Lancaster Mennonite School, the school motto appearing on the front wall of the chapel summarized the essence of lifelong learning well - “Teach me thy way, O Lord.” (Psalm 86:11).

It is truly special to be part of a learning community!

Larry Zook, CEO

Charles Longenecker, biology teacher at Lancaster Mennonite School, 40 years
Gary Reighard, EdD, professor and Vice President of Student Affairs at Millersville University, 30 years
Lois Witmer, grade school and high school English at Locust Grove Mennonite and Faith Mennonite Schools, respectively, 29 years
Betty Zook, kindergarten at Locust Grove Mennonite, 17 years
Three First Place Awards

Landis Homes was named a favorite by Lancaster Newspaper readers in three categories this year in the Reader’s Choice Awards. Annually local readers select their favorite local businesses and service providers in many categories, including dining, apparel, leisure, financial, educational, medical and home improvement.

Voters who participated in the Readers Choice Awards chose Landis Homes as a favorite Assisted Living Facility, Retirement Community and Home Health Care Agency. This is the first year Landis Homes was voted favorite in all three categories.

Another Landis Homes partner with a center on campus, Hildebrandt Learning Centers, was selected as favorite child day care. And PNC Bank which has a branch on campus was also named as the favorite local bank.

Following the announcement of the awards, a celebration was hosted by Landis Homes on campus for residents, team members and volunteers.

Allen Heinly, VP of Human Resources in his invitation to the event wrote, “Thanks to each of you for serving others and creating supportive communities and relationships where lives are honored and enriched.”

Hybrid Homes Receive Awards

By Linford Good, VP of Planning & Marketing

Newly constructed hybrid homes received recognition at the Excellence in Construction Awards Gala hosted by the Associated Builders and Contractors, Keystone Chapter. Benchmark Construction Company of Brownstown won the Award of Excellence in the Residential New Multi-Unit category for construction of the homes.

Benchmark also won the LEED Green Award. The judges said this, “An alternate to traditional residences, hybrid homes provide a higher density living model with a more compact footprint, which helps to preserve open space.”

Eighty percent of the 67 completed homes in the LEED registered project are occupied or reserved. To reserve one of the remaining homes contact Donna Shank at 717.581.3935 or email residencyplanning@landishomes.org.

A Walk for Others

A team of walkers representing Landis Homes participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Saturday, September 24 at Longs Park in Lancaster and surpassed their fund raising goal. The team of 11 persons including employees and their families and persons connected with Adult Day Services at Landis Homes raised a total of $2,290 for the Alzheimer’s Association. Pictured are two of the Landis Homes walkers Harold and Lydia Yarnell.
The Bouncing Castle was a popular place with the younger crowd and their families.

Many shoppers came early for the Yard Sale which opened at 7:00 a.m.

Auxiliary volunteers work at the chicken BBQ takeout line on Friday evening.

The Barrel Train ride by John and Esther Wenger put smiles on many faces.

Hudson Guengerich enjoys time at the courtyard railroad.

The Bouncing Castle was a popular place with the younger crowd and their families.
Because of the wonderful support of residents, families, team members, volunteers and the community, the Chicken BBQ and Benefit Auction were two events rich in fellowship. This year was atypical because flooding from Tropical Storm Lee and the need to reschedule a week later. Many friends rallied together and were generous and spirited in their support. The Landis Homes Auxiliary Chicken BBQ proceeds of approximately $9,000 is designated toward the purchase of a special wheelchair van. Net proceeds of $87,500 from the Benefit Auction will support the Caring Fund. Landis Homes truly is supported by a community who cares deeply!

Alonna Gautsche Sprunger
Director of Gift Planning

Thank You!

Many persons stood in line early to sign up for their favorite Share-a-Meal Adventure.

Auctioneers kept the live auction interesting most of the day.

Quilt Coordinator Rachel Thomas Pellman describes a quilt.

A variety of quilts wait their turn.

Making a Move, Continued from Page 1

and we both believe that is exactly what happened. The person who bought our house had been looking for more than a year and decided on ours the day she saw it. That very day, we were on the way home from Lititz, after signing for our cottage.

How is life now that you are here?

Borrowing a phrase from Mary Poppins, practically perfect in every way! Because of the timing and circumstances of our move, we felt led every step of the way from CT to PA. We did not expect an earthquake, a hurricane and flooding the first month we were here, so our move has been considerably more dramatic than anticipated. We are enjoying meeting new people and exploring this lovely area. It’s nice to have kin nearby, but we miss the family, friends and church we left behind.

What advice would you have for others considering a move to a retirement community?

Do your homework. Decide what matters most to you. Talk with people who have already made the move. Take the advice of professionals. Above all, PRAY!
Providing Peace of Mind
Planned Giving Opportunities

by John R. Buckwalter, Planned Giving Counselor

An individual, who is planning to move to Landis Homes, has already caught the vision of being part of a caring community. She desires to support Landis Homes’ benevolent programs and wants to help provide peace of mind for others who can no longer cover the full cost of their care. She inquired about ways to become involved.

**Gift Annuities** – At age 80, our friend qualifies for a lifetime fixed gift annuity payment rate of 7.5%. This rate, multiplied times her proposed gift amount will provide her with an annual fixed payment for the remainder of her life. Part of this fixed payment will be tax free until the year 2020, when she outlives her life expectancy. Her payment will be fully taxable after 2020.

This person will also receive an income tax deduction for a portion of her gift amount. Many persons give cash to purchase a gift annuity and others give appreciated securities when the market is favorable. A Landis Homes Gift Annuity can be written for $5,000 or any higher amount that fits within the donor’s giving budget. A no obligation proposal can be provided for consideration.

**Charitable Bequest** – This friend can also provide for a legacy gift through her estate which will be realized at the time of her death. A bequest in her will or revocable living trust can be expressed as a percentage of her estate, as the residue after specific personal bequests, as a share equal to shares designated for children, or by another designation. A charitable bequest is a tax free distribution of an estate.

**IRA Rollover Gift** – Another option to consider is a gift from an IRA of any amount that does not exceed $100,000 in one year by persons age 70½ and older. No income tax is due on the transfer directly to a charitable organization, and no income tax deduction is earned on the gift transfer. Some persons transfer their annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) as a charitable gift. Forms can be provided to help initiate this transfer.

**Life Insurance Gift** – This friend is able to designate Landis Homes or a specific Landis Homes fund as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or irrevocably assign ownership of the policy to Landis Homes. Both arrangements have special tax advantages.

In the Gift Planning Office we recognize that tax savings are not always a primary motivation for giving. However, taking advantage of legal tax savings and deductions can help generous people be even more generous. We are available to hear and discuss anyone’s questions about these or other planned giving opportunities. Please feel free to call us at 717-509-5490.

**November Art Reception**

The Landis Homes fall art show will feature the works of Lindsey Stauffer, a watercolor artist from Lititz. The exhibit will consist of her most recent works including still life, landscape, and the human figure.

She says, “My inspiration comes mostly from local scenes along with ideas from family vacations in Acadia, Maine.”

Lindsey is also a musician and is currently pursuing a degree in music education at Millersville University and will graduate in the spring of 2012. Prior to college she was a full time artist for almost 5 years honing her painting skills through watercolor workshops, and individual experimentation. She also had works accepted into national juried shows including the American Watercolor Society and as a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society.

Lindsey is primarily self-taught and has taken advantage of art classes offered locally or through long distance learning. She especially appreciated the instruction of well-known Arizona artist Hal Weber.

The opening reception, on Thursday, November 3, will be held in the Harvest View Galleries from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. For more information call 717-381-3550 or visit www.landishomes.org. All are welcome to the exhibit that will continue through January 2012.
### Calendar

**October 27**  
Coach trip to Seeing Eye School, Morristown, NJ,  
With a train ride out of New Hope, PA.  
*Contact Life Enrichment for more information*

**November 3**  
Artist Reception  
Watercolors  
Lindsey Stauffer  
Harvest View Galleries  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

**November 18**  
Nursing Graduation  
Eastern Mennonite University  
West Bethany Chapel  
7:00 p.m.

**November 21**  
Parkinson’s Support Group  
“What’s New in Treatment of Parkinson’s?”  
Xuemei Huang, MD  
Hershey Medical Center  
Westview Community Room  
2:00 p.m.  
717-509-5494

**November 23**  
Thanksgiving Service  
With Landis Homes Choir  
West Bethany  
7:00 p.m.

**November 24**  
Thanksgiving Service  
With Landis Homes Choir  
East Bethany Chapel  
10:00 a.m.

**November 29**  
Christmas Bazaar  
Homemade Goodies & Poinsettias  
Proceeds Benefit the Landis Homes Caring Fund  
Harvest Room in Harvest View & Dogwood Commons  
9:00 a.m. – Noon

**December 9**  
Christmas Program  
Lancaster AARP Chorus  
West Bethany Chapel  
1:00 p.m.

**December 20**  
Locust Grove Hand Bell Choir  
West Bethany Chapel  
10:00 a.m.

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**Please Give Us Your Feedback!**

**HORIZONS NEWSLETTER SURVEY 2011**

1. Which aspects of the newsletter do you like or find useful?
2. What features would you like to see omitted or improved?
3. Any other suggestions?
4. Do you have family members or others you would like to add to our mailing list?

**You can do this in one of 4 ways:**

- Fill out the live survey at [www.landishomes.org](http://www.landishomes.org)
- Email your answers to: [info@landishomes.org](mailto:info@landishomes.org)
- Land Mail your answers to:  
  Horizons Newsletter  
  Landis Homes  
  1001 East Oregon Rd.  
  Lititz, PA 17543
- To request a paper form to fill out and return call: (717) 569-3271
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
To change your address or add/remove your name on the mailing list, please call 717-581-3935

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Recent Issues of Horizons may be downloaded from www.landishomes.org

Landis Homes will be showing: Adult Day Services, New Hybrid Homes, New Cottage Homes

Open House
Explore Retirement Living
Saturday, October 22, 2011 – 9 AM - 4 PM
No appointment necessary – just drop by!
www.exploreretirementliving.org