

WHITINSVILLE RETIREMENT SOCIETY INC

Celebrating 50 Years

SPRING 2025



Happy

Birthday

50

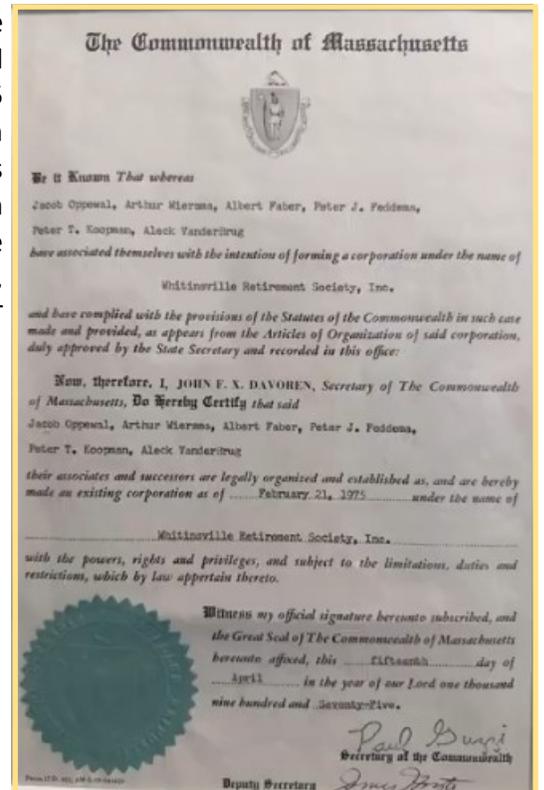
On Friday February 21, 2025 WRSI celebrated its Golden Anniversary with residents, staff, families and friends at its Golden Jubilee Gala— 50 years to the day it was legally incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!

Our Golden Jubilee Gala was a testament to extol God’s goodness,

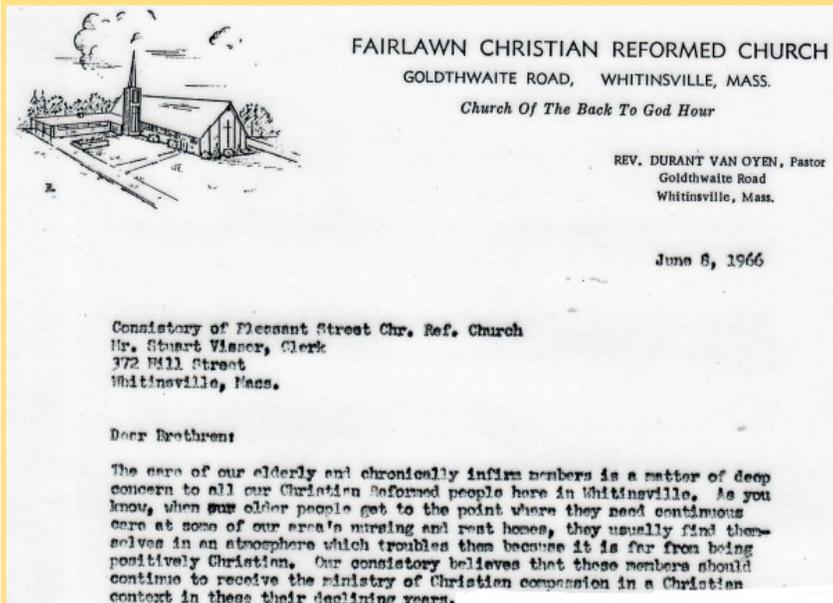
dedication and love these past five decades and beyond. In early ‘75 supporters from the Fairlawn and Pleasant Street churches met and elected an interim committee of six people consisting of Albert Faber, Peter J Feddema, Peter T

Koopman, Jacob Oppewal, Aleck VanderBrug and Arthur Wiersma. One member along with families of the five others were presented with golden certificates “in recognition of your remarkable vision, dedication and leadership in founding the Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc.” Current/former residents, staff, WRSI members and community were also honored that great night.

This special newsletter takes a brief look back with excerpts from articles and such over the years. Check out www.WhitinsvilleRetirement.com for more about WRSI’s history along with portions of the Golden Jubilee Gala (video, program, sponsors, etc), the first of three special events commemorating our 50th year...the next is our Family Cookout later this Summer followed by an Open House this Winter— to God be the Glory!



1st part of a letter nearly 10 years before WRSI...Fairlawn pastor Durant Van Oyen writes Pleasant Street about caring for the elderly together



1980 EXCERPTS

This past year ['88] was a good one for us at the Retirement Home. The residents were happy to receive visits from the students of the Whitinsville Christian School twice! The middle school choir, under the direction of Mr. Franz Kuder, performed a short Christmas program and the first graders performed a Valentine's Day program. Both were greatly enjoyed by the residents—especially those who had grandchildren or great-grandchildren performing.

We had two "family" events this past year. In the summer we had a pig roast with approximately 200 friends and family members picnicking in our yard! It was a beautiful summer day and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. We also had a Holiday Open House in December which provided a chance for over 100 people to see the Retirement Home and meet the residents.

During this past year, the area between the Apartments and the Retirement Home was landscaped. Grass, flower



Significant addition to the mansion in the early 80s more than doubles the number of residents we can accommodate.

2000 EXCERPTS

On Monday, October 24th ['05], with Bernie Wiersma in the driver's seat and the senior ladies in the WCS van, we set out on a tour of some main streets and back roads of our country. It was the season for viewing God's way of painting hillsides, lakes and properties with color. A stop at Clearview Farm and Orchards in Leominster was a pleasant interlude. There were pumpkins, apples, flowers and gifts a plenty. Traveling Rte 140 north is truly New England in much of its rural beauty. Of course, what is a day trip without a good meal—noon dinner reservations were at Barbers Crossing in Sterling. Everyone appreciated the goodness of hot food in abundance on this outing...The background music of Christian hymns was a bonus. "Our God is great and greatly to be praised"!

Our monthly pizza parties [at the Apartments] are one of our most well attended events! We usually have around 20 residents participate. It's become a nice way for our newer residents to meet everyone...Sonia Cullen, one of our residents, taught yet another class on making jeweled pins. It was time to replenish our selection at the Lace Closet gift shop at the Retirement Home...BINGO IS BACK —the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month starting on November 8th, 6:30-8:00pm. Mark your calendars and have some fun!! All of our programs and upcoming events are posted on the bulletin boards at 2 and 10 Chestnut street. Please be sure to check these locations on a regular basis.

2010 EXCERPTS

For your convenience, the Lace Closet is now open daily [’10]. If you find an item to purchase and no one is near by to take your payment, there is an “honor system” box for your use within the Lace Closet itself. Some of the items in the Closet are knitted items, jewelry, knick-knacks, doll clothes for an 18-inch doll, cookies and candy. The Auxiliary is currently a group of women (but open to having male members) who support the activities of the Retirement Home residents and, on occasion, may provide items that are needed but do not fit into the regular budget of the Home. The Auxiliary has provided the means for an annual fall foliage trip which includes “dinner out”, concerts, vouchers to the Lace Closet for Bingo, purchased the flagpole now located just inside the property near the driveway, a camera for home use, flowers for the area where the fountain was previously, floral supplies to decorate the home and more.

We had a festive Christmas season [’15] with visits from the GEMS, and the Children’s Chorus group from the Whitinsville Christian School. We also enjoyed a Senior Tea sponsored by the Pleasant Street Church. The staff had their Christmas party at the Grafton Inn, and enjoyed a delicious dinner sponsored by the Board of Directors. Our annual family picnic was held in July. It was a beautiful day... We added Kevin Conway to our staff last spring. He was hired to concentrate on the outside maintenance and to help Ray Majeau some indoors too.

2020 EXCERPTS

The Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc. welcomed a new Director just as Covid-19 was starting to spread [’20]. New regulations had to be implemented in an effort to keep everyone safe. We managed to get through the year safe and sound but it has had its challenges. Staffing the home for various positions became increasingly difficult as more and more people quarantined and unemployment was offered through the CARES ACT. Staying safe, sourcing food, cleaning supplies, paper



2025 Congratulations— apartment residents Mae & Bob Schulze recently celebrated their 69th Anniversary !!!

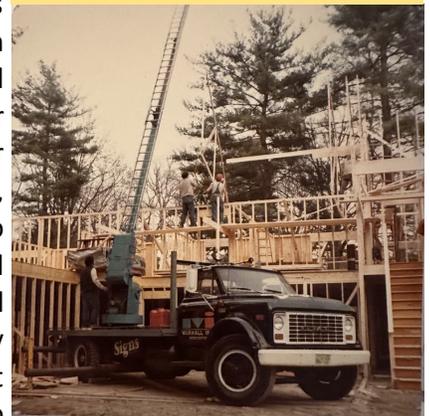
goods (like toilet paper and paper towels), latex gloves and figuring out ways to keep everyone safely spaced while eating became the main priority for spring. Activities were limited to what we could do in the home ourselves. As the weather turned, we were able to do outdoor concerts for both buildings. It was dubbed “Concert on The Green”! We had the end of summer event in September with popcorn, pizza, ice cream and two performers, Polka Paul and Folk singer Phill Stockwell. It was a very relaxing sunny day that was enjoyed by all who

attended. We celebrated many birthdays in 2020. Jack Crossen requested corn from Foppema’s Farm, Jack husked all the corn himself, something he said he loved to do. As the vaccine rolled out and politics consumed the news, we did our best to maintain a positive healthy atmosphere, to support one another, and to stay the course. Thank you to Donna Wiersma, Sue McClure, Darlene Chesley, Deborah Gray, Kevin Conway, and Kathy Marchand for the constant support and unwavering dedication. Also, to Andrea Casey, Kathy Johnson, Geri Jutras, Sarah Lydon, Doreen Drake, and Kay Buckley for coming to work for us in the middle of such a difficult time, and our newest employees Jim McPherson and Lynne McPherson. Thank you to all of the residents and their families. Last but not least Thank you to the Society for all of the support, prayers, and donations. The dedication to this endeavor is remarkable, the staff, board, and society that has been devoted and ever at the ready to do what needs to be done is commendable.

The one constant is that no matter who is in the Directors seat, on the board, in residents, or employed the home is perpetual, withstanding, resilient, beyond us all. As it continues on, all become a part of the foundation that supports and maintains the strength and love of the mission. It is a house full of God and to him be the glory. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28



Sign announcing the upcoming Apartments along with early construction in the late 70s, occupied by July 1980.



Become a member today!

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters;

With loving residents living together independently, we're celebrating our golden anniversary— last February the Whitinsville Retirement Society began its fifth decade! We hope and pray the Whitinsville Retirement Home and Elderly Apartments continues to bless those entering their doors as well as their larger nearby community.

The Whitinsville Retirement Home provides a loving community within a homelike setting and includes all meals, housekeeping, weekly laundry along with basic cable, phone, wifi service and more. Each resident has a private room and bath, along with several common social areas, which allows for both carefree living and companionship.

The Whitinsville Elderly Apartments offer individuals secure, comfortable living in a pleasant environment at a very reasonable rent. Amenities include laundry facilities, inside mailboxes, a community room for both informal gatherings and special functions and even a gazebo where they can enjoy the beautiful grounds.

Currently an eight-member Board of Directors oversees both the Retirement Home and the Elderly Apartments. Typically, between six and nine board members volunteer to serve a three-year term, and each year two or three new members are elected to replace those completing terms. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the Board or a Committee (using the form below) serving to support the mission of this wonderful establishment.

To those of you who are members, your prayers and financial support of the Whitinsville Retirement Society (a non-profit organization) continue to be a blessing to those who live there and others who someday hope to make it their home. To anyone that is not currently a member, we'd like to ask you to please consider joining. To become a member, simply complete the form at the bottom of this letter or visit our website and join online. Details for either method are found below. If you would like to support the Society in more tangible ways in addition to being a member, please note that on the membership form or speak with a board member.

The residents love visitors, we encourage you to take time to visit. Please pray for the residents, staff, Board and Committees as they work together to make the Home and Elderly Apartments the best places they can be.

Sincerely,

WRSI Board of Directors

Randy DeVries, Chris Epplett, Rolly Gjeltema, Deb Koopman, Tom Kuik, Scott Schneider, Laurie Vander Bann and Christina Wielsma



To join this year or renew your annual membership, please mail this portion with your check (made payable to the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc.) to: Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc., 10 Chestnut Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 or visit our website (www.whitinsvilleretirement.com) then under the "Payments" tab select "Society Membership" and populate the form to complete your membership online!

Name: _____	Annual Membership:	\$40.00
Address: _____	Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ _____
_____	Other:	\$ _____
Email Address: _____	Total:	\$ _____

I am interested in serving on a Committee or the Board of Directors (please check one):

Yes - I am interested in a **Committee** or **Board** (please circle one or both)

No - Not at this time

Possibly - Please call me with more information @ (_____) _____ - _____