

# Calvin Connection

Spring 2021 • A quarterly publication for friends of Calvin Community

## Three Generations at Calvin

Meet Donna Stanger, a long-time Des Moines resident of the Beavertdale neighborhood, member of the Mission Church, and retired nurse. She has called Calvin home since 2018, but her connection to Calvin Community began several decades ago. Donna is the third generation of her family to enjoy the comforts of Calvin.

The story begins in the early 1990s when Donna's maternal grandmother, Dora Belva Starnes, who requested to always be called by the name 'Grandmother' by her grandkids, moved into apartment 275 at Calvin. While there have been renovations to the rooms since then, Grandmother's apartment is just across the hall from where Donna currently calls home. Grandmother was living in Cape Coral, Florida when she became widowed, had some health concerns and needed to be closer to family in the Midwest. Calvin was the right choice because they liked the homey feel and it was close to the family home.



Dora 'Grandmother' Belva Starnes

Up next are Donna's parents, Don and Frances Womacks, who moved to the Calvin campus during the summer of 2007. Don liked to spend a lot of time outside, working on the lawn of their Beavertdale home, when eventually it was too much to keep up with and the harsh Iowa winters were taking their toll.

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Don and Frances Womacks

## Chaplain's Corner

What Christian song was written in 1950 because the writer was encouraged to write it by his neighbor John Wayne? "It is No Secret What God Can Do" by Stuart Hamblin. Stuart was the son of a Methodist preacher and was known as the singing cowboy. He starred in Western films and has a star in Hollywood.

In 1949 Billy Graham came to Los Angeles and met Stuart Hamblin and was on his radio program. Billy invited him to come to his crusade and reluctantly Stuart did. A couple of days later he knocked on Billy's hotel door at 2:00 am. "This is between you and God and I'm not going to get in the middle of it." Three hours later Stuart gave his life to Christ and his life changed.

John Wayne heard about it and asked Stuart if it was true that he was a changed man. Stuart said to John, "You know, it is no secret what God can do." John said that sounded like a title to a song and that Stuart ought to write it and he did. That night at midnight he wrote the song in 17 minutes.

"The chimes of time ring out the news another day is through. Someone slipped and fell.

Was that someone you? You may have asked for added strength your courage to renew. Do not be disheartened, for I bring hope to you. It is no secret what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you. With arms wide open, He'll pardon you. It is no secret what God can do."



Pastor Lamberts

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## 3 Generations

The couple moved into Calvin West and it was the perfect choice for them because of the convenience. The Womacks remained active members of their church and community, and best of all they didn't have the upkeep and maintenance of their yard and home to manage.

The story continues with Donna, who needed a facility to help with short-term rehabilitation. It was at this time that Donna and her kids began to think about a long-term place with the comforts of home. With the help of her family, Donna toured several places and ended up right here at Calvin.

The familiarity of Calvin is what brought her back, "When I came here, I learned the people are from Beaverdale, I went to school around here, the neighbors I have at Calvin are the same neighbors I had when I was growing up," Donna said. Donna remembers family gatherings that were held in Calvin's Recreation Room, Atrium, and Multipurpose Room when the family grew so big they needed a community space for holiday celebrations. "Everyone here calls each other by their name, they're all friendly and talk to each other, they're all so nice." When asked what she would say to someone considering living at Calvin, Donna said "It is a wonderful place, I would recommend it to anyone."

## Employee Recognition

# Years of Service

Employee Recognition - On Wednesday, May 12th we honored some of our long term employees as part of Long Term Nursing Care week. This year we honor employees who have served Calvin for five, 10, 15, and 25 years!

### 25 Years

Jane Hemminger - Dietitian, Foodservice Department

### 15 Years

Kathy Wonders - Assisted Living Nursing

### 10 Years

Senada Durmisevic - Assisted Living Nursing

Kaitlyn Freudenberg - Foodservice Department

Nana Hasanovic - Assisted Living Nursing

Esthealla Sackie - Health Center Nursing

Donna Wonders - Assisted Living Nursing

### 5 Years

Khadiga Agbna - Health Center Nursing

Tania Cochran - Assisted Living Nursing

Gary Dicks - Bus Driver, Activity Department

Sara Davenport - Assisted Living Nursing

John Gichanga - Health Center Nursing

Mike Hand - Maintenance Department

Jason Hildenbrand - Foodservice Department

Admira Kandzic - Activity Department

We thank these employees and all Calvin staff who are dedicated to enriching the lives of those who call Calvin home!



Donna Stanger, center, and her family celebrating the Christmas holiday in Calvin's Recreation Room.

# Meet Mary Fergus

Mary Fergus joined the Calvin Volunteer program “around 2002 or 2003”, after becoming familiar with Calvin when her mother-in-law was looking for somewhere to call home in 2000. At the time, there were volunteer opportunities to assist with starting a poetry class and continuing the monthly card club, a group that created handmade birthday cards for each Calvin resident born in that month. As a retired elementary school teacher, Mary decided these opportunities would be a good fit, and a fun way to occupy her time in retirement. Mary used to lead her students in creating cards for special holidays like Mother’s Day and Valentine’s Day; no wonder she’s an old pro at this!

As the designated Card Club volunteer, Mary designs each month’s birthday cards, gathers the materials they will need, and then leads the group through the creation. Mary finds inspiration for the cards from the seasons, usual birthday themes, and materials she comes across such as patterned napkins that can be incorporated into the design. While the cards are meant to follow the same design each of the member’s cards come out a little different based on their creative expression. As you might imagine, with the Calvin coffee shop nearby, this is also a great opportunity to socialize, tell stories, and joke about how the crafts are coming together.

When visitation at Calvin was restricted due to COVID-19, we had to



Mary Fergus

suspend much of our volunteer interactions, but Mary already had the next few months of birthday cards planned! Knowing how special it is to receive a handmade card on your birthday, Mary continued designing birthday cards, and made them all on her own to ensure each person who calls Calvin home was recognized throughout this past year. Mary has been a devoted Calvin volunteer for more than 18 years, and her true dedication was shown through this time. Mary, we are grateful for your service and so glad we could welcome you back into the building in April.

Are you considering joining the Calvin volunteer program? Mary says she would “encourage anyone interested to look into the many opportunities at Calvin.” As we begin to re-incorporate volunteers back into the fabric of Calvin, we are looking for friendly folks to join the program! Contact Jamie Spina, Activity Director, at (515) 633-2512 for more information.

## NEW!

### Pam’s Kitchen



Check out one of the new features of our website and join us at the table: Introducing Pam’s Kitchen!

Pam Carberry knows food brings people together; she’s been feeding Calvin Community residents, staff and guests for more than 40 years.

Pam’s Kitchen will feature the weekly menu that is served in each level of care, as well as some of our favorite recipes, tips and tricks in the kitchen, and an introduction to some of the culinary team members. There’s even a form for YOU to submit a recipe, tip, or kitchen advice, and you might be featured on our page! Come on in to Pam’s Kitchen - you can find it by clicking “Community Life” at the top of our website homepage. [www.calvincommunity.org](http://www.calvincommunity.org)

## We’re Hiring!

Calvin is hiring for multiple positions! We are looking to hire in the nursing, maintenance and house-keeping departments. Visit our website at [calvincommunity.org](http://calvincommunity.org) or call Tiffany at (515) 633-2506 for more information about each of these great employment opportunities!



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Activity Calendar

## May - June Activities

**Piano Music by Adam Poole:**  
*Wednesday, May 26th 3:30 pm in Garden View, and 4:00 pm in the Health Center*

**Piano Music by Betty Mahaffey:**  
*Wednesday May 26th at 3:30 pm in the Main Lounge*

For more information about visitation, activities and events at Calvin Community, please call 515-633-2512 to reach the Activities Department.

**Music by Merrymakers Antique Harmony for HC and AL:** *Thursday, May 27th at 2:00 pm in the Main Lounge*

**Meals from the Heartland volunteer service:** *1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month, 10:00 am in the Main Lounge (June 2 and 16).*

Calvin tenants assist with labeling bags that are later filled with food to serve those in need.

**Social Drumming for HC and AL:**  
*Monday June 28th in the Rec Room*



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