Love—it’s everything!

Being a good neighbor must come with the territory at Christian City. When Bob and Raenelle (Rae) Stockmeier moved into their retirement home five years ago, their neighbors quickly extended invitations to their church homes. The Stockmeiers may be partial to their particular neighborhood, but the couple agrees that the Harper Valley community at Christian City is a special place to live. "We all look out for one another," says Rae. "We're following the two greatest commandments in the Bible when we love the Lord our God with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves," she stated.

The Stockmeiers’ home is next in line for renovation as part of an update of the patio homes in Harper Valley, located just down Red Oak Road from the Christian City Welcome Center. A new exterior façade, new carport and completely remodeled kitchen will be welcomed by the Stockmeiers, since they plan to live out their retirement years at Christian City. Bob commented, "Ours is one of the last buildings to be renovated. We're ready!"

A native of Ohio, Bob taught history, English and geography to middle and high school students for 45 years before retiring. He celebrated his 75th birthday in August, just eight days after the couple celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. "We enjoyed a great trip to Gulf Shores, Alabama, where we celebrated with some of our children, grandchildren and a great grandchild," Bob said. But the party (continued on page 3)
Resident Reminder

Troutman Sanders offers free legal services to residents of Christian City. For information about pro bono Wills, Advance Care Directives (Living Wills) and Financial Powers of Attorney, please call Lisa Tolleson at 770-703-2689.

Fun on Campus

- People’s Club every Thursday at 3pm, Sparks Inn.
- Birthday Celebration, 3rd Monday of the month, Sparks Inn—all residents welcome to attend. Starts at 7pm.
- Coffee & Classics, scheduled monthly through October, Welcome Center, 5pm.
- Swimming Classes held week days. For class times and availability, call Nicole Rogers 770-703-2674.

The man from the Andes Mountains, Jose Reyes, plays the enchanting music of mountain flutes! People’s Club, Sept. 29, Sparks Inn Auditorium.

Fun off Campus

- Georgia Sports Hall of Fame (Macon)—Tues., Sept. 13. Shuttle starts pickups from JSM at 9am. Bring a sack lunch or $$$ for lunch. Estimated return time 3pm.
- Southside Theater—Tues., Sept 13. Shuttle and/or bus starts pickups at 6:30pm.
- Apple Trip (Blue Ridge) - Tues., Oct 4. Pickups start from JSM at 8:30am. Expected return 6pm. Bring $$$ to purchase your favorite apples, pies & other goods; bring a sack lunch or buy lunch (venue to be decided). Travel time: 1-hour 45 mins. each way.

Space is limited and reservations are required for all of the above activities. Call Elena at 770-703-2614. (Schedule is subject to change.)
didn't end there. Rae’s birthday follows Bob’s nine days later. When some people envision retirement, they anticipate fewer commitments and more time to relax. Not the Stockmeiers! Rae often plays the piano or leads singing during Bible studies in the Christian City Nursing and Rehab Center. She also helps the chaplains’ office with recordkeeping before heading to her part-time secretarial job at Lester Road Christian Church.

The Stockmeiers don’t limit their volunteering to the Christian City campus. Before attending worship service on Sunday at their home church, Fairburn First Baptist, both volunteer at Fairburn Health Care where Rae leads singing and Bob occasionally teaches the Bible lessons when he is not teaching Sunday Bible class at church. In addition to choir and worship team practices, Rae sings with the Jubalheirs. On Tuesday nights, Bob and Rae teach English as a Second Language class at their church.

Bob coordinates The People’s Club, a weekly program created for the enrichment of senior residents at Christian City. He books speakers, promotes the sessions among residents, and facilitates each program.

In his spare time, Bob serves as the Harper Valley neighborhood courier, delivering newsletters and other communications. Both serve on the Arts Alliance. "We just try to go where the Lord needs somebody," Rae said. "We both would like to make time for water aerobics, but we can't seem to fit it into our schedules."

"We're following the two greatest commandments in the Bible when we love the Lord our God with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves." - Rae Stockmeier

Truth be told, the Stockmeiers have never been keen on waiting around for things to happen. In fact, they married just three months after meeting in Ohio. Rae's best friend was dating Bob's brother, and the two arranged a blind date introduction. A few years and four children later, the Stockmeiers came to Christian City to become house parents at the Home for Children. They actually followed in the footsteps of Rae’s parents who served as house parents shortly after Christian City was established in 1965.

"I remember shopping trips to Richway on Old National Highway in the '70s," said Rae. "I'm sure people did a double-take when they heard 14 children calling us "mom" and "dad!" Their cottage housed ten girls along with their own four children. (Their fifth child was born 13 1/2 years after their fourth!)

Bob fondly remembers managing the Union City "Colts" baseball team, especially when the 1973 team won the local Georgia Amateur Baseball league title. After three years as house parents, Bob went back to teaching and Rae embarked on a career as a telephone operator and programmer with Southern Bell (now AT&T).

Both Bob and Rae say they can feel the spirit of the Lord at Christian City. They felt His presence here in the '70s and they believe the Holy Spirit is alive and well at Christian City today. "Now is the time for us to do things for the Lord (and for others) while we are physically able,” says Bob.
Best Kept Secret?

Did you know the pharmacy located on the Christian City campus provides free delivery of prescriptions to campus residences. The pharmacy is located next to the Sparks Inn Assisted Living Facility at 7300 Lester Road, Building P. Delivery services are not offered on the weekends. Please call 770-210-5900 for more information.

Remembrance Service
Tuesday, September 27 3:30pm
Dining Room Auditorium

Angelina Nolasco (N&R)
Ann Redding (N&R)
Anna F. Knowles (N&R)
Audrey Lowery (SI,N&R)
Barbara Reid (LMM)
Betty Jarrett (N&R)
Carol Killings (JSM)
Ethel Teal (N&R)
Frances L. Spivery (N&R)
Helen Hay (N&R)
Howard Muldrow (LMM)
Ida Taylor (N&R)
James Masson Jinks (HV)
Kuyong Cerri (N&R)
Lena Anderson (N&R)
Lucrecia Reneau (N&R)
Mary Head (LMM)
Mary S. Williams (N&R)
Randall Morgan (N&R)
Telford E. Manners (SI)
Summer of '42
Broadway Review, Pt. 2
Signature Concert Series

Christian City
Arts Alliance
presents
Coffee & Classics
Concert & Arts Event

Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:00 pm
Christian City Welcome Center
Chapel and Lobby

Featuring
Pops String Ensemble
and Vocalists

Seated Coffee & Dessert served after
concert! All Christian City residents &
guests are invited to attend
free of charge.

RSVP Requested! 770-703-2683
www.ChristianCity.org

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Calling Christian City’s
Best Bakers!

Bake your favorite dessert to be sampled at
the 2016 Chair-ity Event on December 1!

Over 300 guests will enjoy your dessert that
evening as they bid on auction items
to support The Children’s Village at
Christian City. Your donated dessert,
with your recipe and photo, will
promote Christian City. Guests
will learn that we are a home for
children and 1,000 senior adults.
If you would like to volunteer
to bake, please contact Annie at
678-466-1106 or asingh-quern@
christian-city.org. More info to follow.
The Chaplain’s Corner

There is something unusual on the square of a small town in southern Alabama known as Enterprise. A century ago, the people there erected a monument to an insect – the Mexican boll weevil. It’s not that they had a special affinity for what is a less than desirable bug; rather, it’s about what was brought about through the difficult experience the people of that community had to endure.

In 1915 the boll weevil began to destroy the major crop of that area, cotton. The destruction of the boll weevil decimated the local economy, bringing with it trial and suffering to the town and its people. In desperation to survive, the farmers had to diversify, and so they tried another crop – peanuts. By 1919 the area’s peanut crop was many times what cotton had been at its height of production. It was in that year of newfound prosperity that the monument was erected.

Their experience, and how the people of Enterprise came to appreciate their trial has a lesson for us. They recognized that new growth and success is at times born of struggle and crisis. It is true that a great portion of the truly great achievements of man have come about in response to adversity rather than in ease. And so it is in our lives/walk with God.

Every event and issue of life is a potential opportunity for moving forward in a positive direction. What a great way to begin each day – to see everything as having the potential for greater things. Paul admonishes us to give thanks in all circumstances – because He works for the good in all circumstances! He knew well what can happen in any circumstance if God is a part – and so he calls us to do the same. There is no telling what possibilities are yet out there for us as we seek Him!

Carl

The chaplain’s office is temporarily located at the Welcome Center during building renovations. Contact Carl Ryden at (770) 703-2670 or carlr@christian-city.org