



WESLEY WOODS  
FOUNDATION

FALL 2019

# THE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM WESLEY WOODS



(L to R): Rev. Dr. Candler Budd and  
Mrs. J. C. Malone



(L to R): Lillian Budd Darden and  
Diane Vaughan

## VISIONARY

*ADJECTIVE* (especially of a person) thinking about or planning the future with imagination or wisdom.  
“a visionary leader” synonyms: inspired • imaginative • creative • inventive • insightful • ingenious

To have the foresight in the 1950s that affordable housing would be one of the primary concerns facing older adults today was extraordinary vision! With Rev. Dr. Candler Budd as the driving force, North Georgia Methodists embraced that vision with the establishment of the first Wesley Woods community on the campus of Emory University in 1965.

Since its inception, Wesley Woods has expanded from one campus to 10 communities across North Georgia—three in Atlanta, two in Athens and Blairsville, and one each in Augusta, Newnan and Roswell. Responding to our Christian call to be in ministry with people on the margins of society, half of these communities are HUD-subsidized and serve older adults with low incomes. The Wesley Woods vision is as inspiring today as it was in the beginning!

As president of the Foundation, it is my joy to have the opportunity to build upon the legacy established earlier by my friend and mentor, Lillian Budd Darden. My 30-year career with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta has allowed me the perspective of what children and older adults have in common: they are kind, thoughtful, fun and *vulnerable*.

I have traveled throughout North Georgia visiting each Wesley Woods community, United Methodist pastors, and generous donors, and it has become abundantly clear that **while Wesley Woods provides affordable housing for older adults, there is so much more to our mission!**

Every Wesley Woods community offers pastoral care, wellness programming and financial assistance for housing and meals—all made possible by generous and caring donors. The mission of Wesley Woods, to create communities of connection, well-being and promise, is evident in the lives of the residents I meet. Our mission is possible because of gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations and churches—all who, along with us, envision a world in which older adults are celebrated for the lives they live, the wisdom they share and everything they have yet to teach us.

Gratefully,

Diane Vaughan  
President, Foundation of Wesley Woods



## MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

*Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.  
(Proverbs 31:29)*

For 43 years, churches of The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church have received the Mother's Day Offering for Wesley Woods. This generous support funds meal and housing financial assistance to residents who have the gift of a long life but may have outlived their savings.

One recent example of how your gifts have made a difference is a resident who was the primary caregiver for her ill husband for 20 years. After his death, she quickly realized she could not make ends meet due to the combination of medical bills from her late husband's illness and her limited social security income. Thankfully, she was able to remain in her Wesley Woods home because of gifts from the Mother's Day Offering.

Thank you! ❤️



## LIFE AT ITS FULLEST

Falls are the most common reason older adults decline. Wesley Woods is committed to reversing this trend by implementing an innovative wellness program, funded by philanthropic support, in all 10 communities. The program is designed to foster independent living by focusing on increasing mobility and balance while improving strength and flexibility. Through *Matter of Balance* support groups and on-site wellness nurses, Wesley Woods residents, such as Martha Knight, are improving their well-being.

Martha was living independently in her Wesley Woods of Augusta home. In one year she suffered multiple falls, which resulted in subsequent hospitalizations for each. Staff determined Martha needed personal care but realized she could not afford the additional related costs. Through generous gifts to Wesley Woods, Martha was able to move to the personal care floor of her community and keep the friends and surroundings that had become her home.

**Martha also participated in the *Matter of Balance* class taught at her community. With the oversight of the personal care team and the lessons learned in class, Martha has gone more than a year without a single fall or hospitalization. This is the Wesley Woods difference!**



"Thanks to everyone who gives to Wesley Woods. Please know how much it means to each of us!"

- Martha Knight,  
Wesley Woods resident

## THE WESLEY WOODS DIFFERENCE

Wesley Woods provides communities of joy, laughter and inspired living. For those who are blessed with the gift of years, a full life may also include more opportunities for grief and loneliness. To ensure that residents enjoy all that life has to give, the Wesley Woods Pastoral Care program provides dedicated United Methodist pastors to each of our communities. Made possible through a generous gift from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation, the director of pastoral care, Rev. Karen Kagiyama, leads the chaplaincy team to ensure residents have opportunities for continued spiritual growth through the practice of their faith.



Wesley Woods chaplain, Rev. Rick Nevard (*pictured left*), shared the story of a resident who came to his office after he started a grief support group. She confided she had been abused as a child and carried the burden of this sorrow for almost 70 years! She poured out her pain and the journey of grief she traveled to find peace and offer forgiveness. **When she finished, she remarked, “I don’t know why I told you all of this. I guess it’s because I feel safe and know I can trust you. I am so glad you are here.”**



Physical limitations, transportation challenges or relocation may keep older adults from their lifelong church home. Our chaplains encourage residents to stay connected to their faith by providing weekly worship, prayer and Bible study in their Wesley Woods communities. The chaplains visit older adults in the hospital, counsel through loss and loneliness, and help residents find joy, vitality, purpose and hope.

In the past three months, Wesley Woods chaplains have provided:

**306**  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES

**108**  
BIBLE  
STUDIES

**90**  
PRAYER  
GROUPS

**3,229**  
PASTORAL  
VISITS

**386**  
COUNSELING  
SESSIONS

## LEAVING HER LEGACY

The very first philanthropic gift I ever made was to the Wesley Woods Mother’s Day offering in honor of my mother, Katherine Brannen.



I felt called to contribute to Wesley Woods because, while I was a student intern and part-time employee in physical therapy at Georgia State University, I came to understand that not all older adults have a strong family or financial background. That belief, along with the message from my church pulpit from current residents who expressed the joy of not having to worry about how they would make ends meet, truly touched my heart. They shared how

important the mission of Wesley Woods was in allowing them to reside in a community that felt like home and fostered their independence and health.

Over the years I have both volunteered and served professionally with Wesley Woods. Now, as a board member, I am even more proud of what charitable giving allows the organization to offer residents. I know that my contributions enable access to pastoral care and wellness services, as well as provide housing financial support and personal care for those who have limited means.

When I think about how blessed I am, I know that inclusion of the Foundation of Wesley Woods in my estate plan will help enable this legacy and mission to continue long after I am gone.

– Beth Cayce

While Wesley Woods relies heavily on current contributions, the needs of our residents could not adequately be met without the foresight and generosity of individuals who include the foundation in their estate plan. Please contact [ty.tippett@wesleywoods.org](mailto:ty.tippett@wesleywoods.org) or (404) 728-6290 to learn more.

## HEROES, SAINTS & LEGENDS

We each have our own definition of a hero, a saint and a legend. It is rare to find persons who encapsulate all three, yet Wesley Woods honors such iconic leaders through the annual Heroes, Saints & Legends Gala. The 30th anniversary event raised a record-setting \$355,500 to support the mission and ministry of Wesley Woods.

You will not want to miss next year's gala on **March 19, 2020**, chaired by Lillian Budd Darden, as we honor **Dr. Carolyn** and **Coach Bill Curry**, and **Cecelia** and **David Ratcliffe** (pictured below).

These heroes, saints and legends will be recognized for their lifetime commitment to leadership, service and devotion to the community; they have truly transformed lives and communities for the better.

***Visit [wesleywoods.org/foundation](http://wesleywoods.org/foundation) to learn more.***



## YOUR GIFTS ARE IMPACTING LIVES



### PASTORAL CARE

On-site chaplains providing ministry through hospital visits, counseling, Bible study, grief support and worship.



### WELLNESS

On-site nurses for medication and health counseling, and classes to increase strength, balance and flexibility.



### CHARITABLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance for housing, personal care and meals.

**To support the mission and ministry of Wesley Woods, please give online at [wesleywoods.org/](http://wesleywoods.org/) donate or contact us at (404) 728-6286.**

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