

## FAITH CONNECTIONS

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# NEWSLETTER

*Faith Connections* shares inspiring stories and pertinent updates that reflect our values, celebrate our community, and strengthen the bonds between families, churches, volunteers, and supporters.



### Bell Dedication

Thanks to a generous donation by Bishop John and Elaine Hopkins, the historic school bell from the original Ebenezer Orphan Institute of the Evangelical Association Administration Building, which dates to circa 1888, has returned home. After a vigorous restoration process, the Bell was dedicated on July 30, 2025, in the Outdoor Therapeutic Center at the Flat Rock Homes Main Campus. The Hopkins's joined residents, Board members, staff, and guests for the ceremony and reception, celebrating Flat Rock's 159-year history.

Full story at <https://www.flatrockhomes.org/news/>



Top Photo (L to R):

Bishop John Hopkins; Nancy Hull, Former Flat Rock President and CEO; Elaine Hopkins; and Karen Kilgo, current President & CEO of Flat Rock Homes, Care Center, & Community Services.

Bottom photo:

Dedicated restored bell.

## Birthday Appeal Update

Because of your generosity, our birthday appeal raised nearly \$9,000 in support of the Community Services' Journeys project at the Seybert Center. This exciting initiative creates greater independence through community outings, peer connections, volunteering, and new experiences. Funds raised enable individuals like David to enjoy fishing and to volunteer at the Loaves & Fishes food pantry and Meals on Wheels, creating purpose, connections, and hope.

Your support allows us to enrich the lives of those we serve, nurturing a compassionate and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. Together, we are making a difference, one birthday at a time.



David enjoying his favorite pastime.



### Autumn Fun with the Life Enrichment Team

We welcome Autumn with a Fall Festival at the Care Center on October 4. Games, pumpkin painting, donuts & cider, and more will be on hand for this fun event for residents, and their families.

Rounding out the month is a Halloween Dance with costumes, themed music, and loads of fun for our Care Center residents. No doubt the staff will enjoy this, too! Watch our social media for timely photos!



### "Celebrating Value and Talent"

The U.S. Department of Labor has chosen **"Celebrating Value and Talent"** as the theme for the **80th anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month**, October 2025.

"The Department of Labor remains committed to ensuring all people have the opportunity to find meaningful work."  
<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/od/odep20250626>.

Read about Allan, who lives in a Flat Rock Community Services home, and holds a satisfying part-time job with Flat Rock!  
<https://www.flatrockhomes.org/allans-story-3/>.







Clockwise: W.O.W. Service, with Pastor Ed Kovacik, Life Enrichment planetary fun, feathered friends visit Flat Rock, Community Services day at the Lake Erie Crushers game and Fit Club fun!



## Meet The NOMADS



The NOMADS volunteers tirelessly worked to update and beautify the Seybert Center!



Blessing the Sybert Center and sending the NOMADS forth in faith and service

**NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service)** are volunteers called to serve God by providing hands-on labor for historically Methodist organizations across the country. They express God's love not only through their work, but also by building relationships with those they serve.

NOMADS travel, work, and serve together as a faithful community—showing love in action, one project at a time.



Up



Down



And all around