

December 2023

# Bishop Hills Newsletter

Bishop Hills Assisted Living | 4951 11 Mile Rd NE, Rockford | 866-8227 | [www.bishophills.org](http://www.bishophills.org)



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## December Events

For more information see the calendar on our website at  
[www.bishophills.org](http://www.bishophills.org)

Find us on Facebook @bishophillsrockford  
Bishop Hills Elder Care for updated pictures



- 5<sup>th</sup> Rockford Library Book Delivery at 1:30
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Deck the Halls Party**- open house 5:30p.m.-7:00p.m.  
Extra poinsettia plants will be for sale on this night if you missed our fundraiser.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Harmonica Traditions Music Program at 2:15
- 10<sup>th</sup> Music Program with OLC Family Group at 10:30a.m.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Acrylic painting class with Peg at 1:00
- 12<sup>th</sup> Fred Walker music program at 6:30p.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Chaplain Val Visit Today
- 13<sup>th</sup> Marty Miller music program at 6:15p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Hymn Sing at 2:30 with Three Angels Church
- 19<sup>th</sup> Resident Council Meeting at 1:15
- 21<sup>st</sup> Music Program with OLC Family Group at 6:15p.m.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Chaplain Val Visiting and Christmas Pageant at 2:15
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve! Please see note on back about taking residents out on holidays.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day!
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mass at 9:00
- 27<sup>th</sup> Music Man Program at 5:30
- 29<sup>th</sup> New Year's Eve party at 2:15 with music by David Molinari
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve! Welcome 2024!

### **Christmas is coming...Employee Christmas Fund**

During the Christmas season many of the residents would like to give back to the staff. We have set up a "Christmas Fund" for residents and their families to give to all of the Bishop Hills staff. If you would like to contribute to this fund please make checks payable to **Bishop Hills** and **please note in the memo section on the check for "Employee Christmas Fund" before Friday, December 1st**. The money will be presented to all of the staff at the staff Christmas party. Please remember that our policy does not allow staff to accept personal gifts or money from residents or their families.

## Who Has Time For Peace?

Peace is a popular word at Christmas time. We hear it in songs. The theme of one Advent Sunday is peace.

Eve the shepherds in the Christmas story heard the angels say, "Peace On Earth".

It is obvious the shepherds, angels, and everyone else has not lived my life. Who has time for peace? My family has things for me to do. There are special services to rehearse at church and the assisted living facility. Shopping for gifts and food keep me running. We have get togethers with family and friends. Then there was the year my dad decided to become ill during the holidays. Inconveniently, he passed away and really took away from my idea of the perfect, peaceful Christmas season.

The Angels singing, "Peace on Earth", was an announcement that Jesus was born. Jesus had arrived on earth as the Prince of Peace. The Shepherds did the most beautiful thing. They went to be in the presence of God. God had arrived in the flesh, in a baby, in a stable. In the stable, the shepherds were assured that everything would be o.k. God's presence was with them. In 1864, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was feeling the way many of us have felt during the Christmas season. It seemed life had its ups and downs. Longfellow was feeling quite down during the Christmas season.

He was living during the Civil War. His son had been seriously wounded in the war. He was grieving the loss of his wife. Grief is love that has nowhere to go. As a poet, he sat down and composed a poem.

"I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old, familiar carols play; and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: 'There is no peace on earth,' I said, 'For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men.'

We've all felt that way. We are down because life isn't the way we want it to be. Longfellow was a person of faith. He didn't end his poem with head bowed down. He ended his poem with the peace of God strengthening him during a difficult time. "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: 'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men.'"

Chaplain Jeff Meyers

## Having a meal or get together with us?

The kitchen is happy to provide meals to family members or guests for donation of \$5.00 per meal. Parties of more than two will need to provide their own food and dishes. For all meals and gatherings advance notice is needed to reserve a dining area. This also includes renting the Learning Center for bigger gatherings, which is available on a first call basis. A donation is also appreciated for the rent of the Learning Center. Any questions please or to make reservations contact Rachel at [bishopactivities@baruchsls.org](mailto:bishopactivities@baruchsls.org).

## Holidays are coming please let us know of your plans

If you are planning on taking your family member out for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve or Day please give Bishop Hills a call when you have made plans. Holidays can be a very busy day for our staff and it is very helpful if we know what time residents will be leaving the building and if they need a meal or not. Please also check with the medication passers before leaving to make sure residents have their medications before leaving the building.

## Save the date: Deck the Halls Party

Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> Families and friends are welcome to join us for this fun night to start the Christmas season. This will be an open house style event with lots of good things to eat. We encourage everyone to bring decorations for your family member's room and decorate anytime during the night. The food buffet is open from 5:30-7:00, but feel free to come early and stay later. Extra poinsettia plants will also be for sale on this night if you missed our fundraiser.