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**SHEPHERD'S
CENTER OF
COLUMBIA**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, BETSY SIEMERS

2020 has been quite a year, hasn't it? Sadly, Covid19 has really changed all of our lives and unfortunately, we had to cancel our spring session at Shepherd's Center.

Every two years at the end of May, we welcome a new board president. Please join me in thanking Bill Sargent for guiding us as president for the last two years. Bill, we appreciate your hard work! Unfortunately, because of extenuating circumstances, our new president was not able to accept the position. To keep the program going, I agreed to resume the presidency since Bill took over after me. I hope the staff, board, and I will be able to keep our Adventures in Learning in tact. We are working on it!

At our board meeting in July, we decided to send out a survey concerning your interests. For those of you who responded, thank you. We really need your feedback!

We know we will not be able to have classes this fall. We are hoping a winter session, starting in January, 2021, will come to fruition. Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews is having some classes taught via Zoom and we were told we are welcome to participate if they have room. Our board decided that we would not attempt Zoom classes ourselves, at least for the fall session. We are really hoping to open back up in 2021.

Now, how are you doing? Although I didn't contract it, I was exposed to Covid19 and self-quarantined at home. Funny how knowing I was not supposed to leave home made me want to go out that much more! I've been very fortunate but I've also been careful. I always wear a mask when outside, keep hand sanitizer available at all times, and shop early in the day when fewer people are out. I know that getting in and out in less than 15 minutes greatly lessens my chance of exposure. I notice others not "masking" but I don't confront them...I just go another direction.

We, of a certain age, are more likely to have limited social contact even in non-pandemic times. I live alone (if you don't count my little dachshund). I do miss human contact, eye contact, and I really miss hugs and handshakes. I try to smile with my eyes when out since my mouth is covered by a mask. I make **many** more phone calls, checking on friends and family here in town and around the country. I keep active with my hobbies, church (even though services are still on YouTube), and my homeowners board.

One friend is writing a little newsletter for neighbors who cannot get out. She's sewing masks for friends and relatives and making custom-crafted greeting cards for several friends in retirement homes. It keeps her active and she's helping others. Another friend started a "calling tree" to check on folks who are stuck at home. Still another runs errands for those more medically compromised.

We **all** have skills and abilities. What are you doing to keep sane? All of us need connections. When Shepherd's Center reopens, let's be open to sharing our experiences. We need to continue to learn and grow from/with each other.

I wish you health, safety, and happiness. Please be careful and keep in touch.

Betsy Siemers, President



Moving Ahead

Moving ahead, leaving troubles behind.
Thinking good thoughts and clearing my mind.

I look east and west before crossing the street and think on this day, life's gonna be sweet.

Expecting a miracle I look to the sky and I see a sign that the gods will comply.

So if you're afraid and you feel mortal dread, just let my words guide you.
Alright? Enuf said!

... by Pat Duker

Have you heard about **THE FRIENDSHIP** – an age-in-place non-profit here in Columbia? It is dedicated to helping older adults lead healthy, independent, and active lives, offering an affordable solution for people who want to age at home in their own community. The Friendship’s volunteers help members with transportation, errands, technology needs, and light home maintenance, as well as providing a variety of social/educational programs. New volunteers and members are welcome. Just call **803 602-6434** or visit **theFriendship.org** for more information. If you want to know how really great **the Friendship** is, just email Ann Humphries (one of our very special members) at humphriesann@gmail.com.

HOPE THESE MAKE YOU SMILE...

A man is arrested for stealing a can of peaches and is brought before the judge. The judge asks, “How many peaches were in the can?” The man replies, “Six, your Honor.” “In that case, you will go to jail for six days, one for each peach.” Hearing that, his wife stands and says, “Your Honor, he also stole a can of peas.”

I can’t believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off!

Louie was shipwrecked and lived alone on a desert island for years until he was finally rescued. Before leaving the island, he gave the rescue party a tour. “I built myself a house. That’s it there. Here’s the barn, and over here is the church I worshipped in,” he said. “What’s that building over there?” one of the rescuers asked. Louie sneered. “That’s the church I used to belong to.”

IN MEMORY OF DR. ANDREW (AJ) WHITAKER

With great sadness, we announce the loss of a very special member, Dr. Andrew Whitaker, on April 6, 2020. Andrew was a combat infantry veteran of World War II, entering France as a late replacement via Omaha Beach and also serving in the Battle of the Bulge. Andrew was a proud graduate of the Univ. of GA and the Medical College of GA. After suffering a devastating neck disorder, he was forced to give up his surgical career here in Columbia. He then became Acting Medical Director of Byrnes Medical Center, as well as President of the Breakfast Optimist Club. He and his wife, Dr. Lois Duke Whitaker (also one of our members), visited all seven continents, including both polar regions and many Pacific isles, but were **serious** rivals when it came to football. He **loved** his GA Bulldogs and she is an **avid** Gamecock fan! Andrew had many interests, but especially enjoyed camping, water skiing, tending to his roses, bird watching, and spending time with his beloved wife and four daughters. He will be greatly missed!