

Summer 2010

Happy 105th Birthday!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! How many years have you heard this expression? On March 28th, Hospice of the Upstate patient, Clara Strickland heard it for the 105th time. Mrs. Strickland's family enjoyed a walk down memory lane as they told stories about her long and fulfilling life. In recent years, Clara would tell her stories from childhood on up while her family took notes. They wanted her 16 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren to know the love she shared for family.

Mrs. Strickland's personality was evident from early on. In grammar school she took it upon herself to change her own name from Clara Beuna Stone to Clara Bell Stone simply because she liked it better. One of four children, she remembers sitting on the front porch while her mother was in labor. After a while, the doctor drove up on horse and buggy with the sounds of a baby crying following soon after. When the doctor passed her on his way out, she sternly stopped him and said "Doctor - Doctor you forgot your baby," when he told her that it was their new baby she responded, "No thanks, we don't want one."



Clara Strickland turning 103.

Clara's childhood was fortunate and full of love. She remembers her dad having the first car in town and taking rides through the country on weekends. It was such an uncommon sight that people would stand on the side of the road and wave, like a parade. Grandmother Strickland ran a mercantile store in Kansas and would make their clothes each time she visited. Clara's family lived in Hanna's Creek outside of Royston Georgia until losing everything in the Great Depression and moving to Bowman Georgia. There, the entire family worked on the farm – plowing the land and raising their own food.



Clara and Rex Strickland

The need for work and independence brought Mrs. Strickland to Anderson, SC. She lived in a boarding house and worked at Lad & Lassie. Here she met her husband of 64 years, Homer "Rex" Strickland. Clara spent her days raising her six children while Rex worked in the mill while doing electrical work on the side. Rex helped run the main power lines in the town of Hodges. Clara's cooking and the big ferris wheel Rex built for the kids in the back yard attracted all the neighbors.

Mr. Strickland died in his 80's with cancer. Though she felt the pain of losing her soul mate, she continued to reach new goals - learn to drive again and to travel more. Granddaughter Sandy Seymore describes the driving lessons as "very scary."

Mrs. Strickland moved to Hospice of the Upstate's Rainey House soon after her 105th birthday. Clara and her family have touched our hearts. Like so many other families we meet, she teaches us about LIVING. The Strickland home had a motto that remains evident: "Always Welcome...Always Plenty."

When telling Clara we wanted to write a story about her, she replied "What do you want to do that for?" The answer is obvious...she has more than a century of stories to share.

Mission Statement

Hospice of the Upstate provides compassionate, quality care to terminally ill patients and their families, while offering leadership and community education for end-of-life.

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Athena Award



Pam Melbourne was honored with the ATHENA Award® by the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce for her leadership and community service. The ATHENA Award® Program celebrates the potential of all women as valued members and leaders of the community and recognizes those who support them. The ATHENA Award® honors individuals who strive toward the highest levels of professional accomplishment ... women and men who excel in their chosen field, have devoted time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and who also open paths so that others may follow.

Hospice of the Upstate was founded through the vision and effort of five community-minded Anderson women (Lila Albergotti, Betty Blackerby, Betty Gable, Dot Haddock, and Jan Vestal) who began Hospice of the Upstate in 1988. Pam Melbourne has continued the legacy of these five incredible women.

Under her leadership, Hospice of the Upstate has grown, and thrived:

- We serve over 50% more patients each year
- Our facility has expanded with the addition of the Rose Dining Hall and the Sadler Bereavement and Education Center
- A Children's Outreach Program has been established to assist young family members with their grief and loss
- We have moved to an electronic charting system that saves costs, improves communication, creates a 'greener' organization, and facilitates 'high touch care' in a 'high tech' manner.

During the Chamber's Small Business Awards Luncheon, Pam was described as a leader who hears the voice of the patient and their family, and who also actively listens to staff and colleagues. She was honored as a wise and accomplished leader who gives much to her community, and who encourages those of us who work with and for her.

Pam Melbourne serves Hospice of the Upstate with the community in mind. She has a keen sense of the legacy of the five strong women who founded Hospice of the Upstate, and she mentors those who are within her circle of influence. She is well deserving of the honor of ATHENA Award, and we are proud of her accomplishments.

Standout Volunteers

Anderson Place Retirement Center hosted the first Senior STANDOUT awards for our community on April 27th. We are proud that Hospice of the Upstate volunteers stood out among the rest. Please join me in congratulating...

Donna Pettit Ellis
Helping Hands Standout Award

Stowe Hoyle
Hospice Standout Award

Mary Espieg
Senior Standout Award (not pictured)



Event Updates

Celebrity Waiter event benefiting Hospice of the Upstate

Local celebrities waited on 11 themed tables at Hospice of the Upstate's 3rd annual Celebrity Waiter event on April 29th at Tuckers Restaurant. Tables were dressed in themes such as Diamonds & Ice, Rio de Janeiro, Phantom of the Opera, Western Round-Up, and more.

Relay for Life

Ever walked among all the luminaries at Relay for Life? "Yes, I have...A cancer survivor here. It is one of the most moving experiences you will ever have," says Becky Williams through a comment on Hospice of the Upstate's facebook page. Anderson's Relay for Life Walk was an all-nighter at Westside High School on May 14th bringing the community together to Celebrate – Remember – and Fight Back against Cancer. Hospice of the Upstate's HOPE team sold BBQ plates at their tent during the walk, held a bake sale, sold T-shirts and created Jean Fridays in the month of April. A world with less cancer is a world with more birthdays.

Butterfly & Dove Release

Over 500 Butterflies and 100 Doves filled the sky at our second annual Butterfly & Dove Release on May 17th. Even with a short delay for rain, poem readings, inspirational songs, and shared memories honoring their loved ones created a beautiful event.

Summer Sizzle

Great food, live band and a beautiful location was the perfect combination for the first time Summer Sizzle event benefiting the Children's Grief & Loss Program at Hospice of the Upstate. Over 225 people enjoyed dancing, dinner and a silent auction at the Madren Center Pavilion in Clemson, SC on June 18th.



"Labyrinths are. . . symbols, spiritual tools, mathematical images, harmonic patterns, pathways of discovery, playgrounds of prayer."

Jill Kimberly Hartwell Geoffrion

Labyrinth - Coming Soon

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness. It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world.

Labyrinths and mazes have often been confused. When most people hear of a labyrinth they think of a maze. A labyrinth is not a maze. A maze is like a puzzle to be solved. It has twists, turns, and blind alleys. It is a left brain task that requires logical, sequential, analytical activity to find the correct path into the maze and out.

A labyrinth has only one path. It is unicursal. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again. A labyrinth is a right brain task. It involves intuition, creativity, and imagery.

Hospice of the Upstate has a history of offering a labyrinth for family, staff and community participation. This summer Hospice of the Upstate and Central Presbyterian Church have gone together to obtain a portable labyrinth—eleven circuits painted on a 24-foot canvas—which will be available for internal events and community group use. Discover with us how walking the labyrinth can be a spiritual practice to heal and transform. Call us to discover how walking the labyrinth can be a spiritual practice to heal and transform.

Recognizing Staff

Hospice of the Upstate's Service Awards dinner was March 25th honoring forty-nine employees celebrating their one, five, ten and fifteen year anniversaries. Five employees were recognized for their fifteen years of service - Ann Jones, Ann Moore, Shirley Cox, Linda Rasmussen, and Gail Apaloo. All have been essential in the continuous growth of Hospice of the Upstate and caring for over 1,000 patients each year.

Dr. Pam Whitmire received Phi Lambda Sigma's National Alumnus of the Year Award. Honorees are chosen for their leadership qualities in support of the pharmacy profession and service to others.



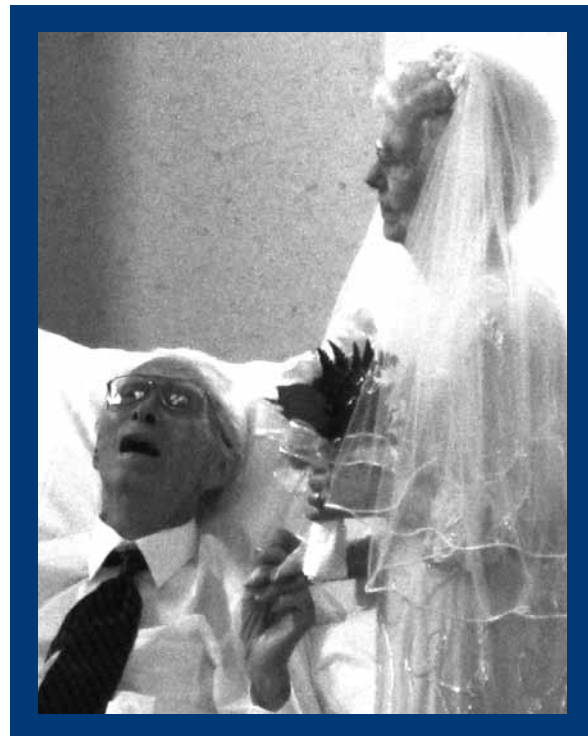
Above: Ann Jones, Ann Moore, Shirley Cox, Linda Rasmussen and Gail Apaloo. Right: Pam Whitmire



Renewing Vows with a Life-Long Love

A true love story is one of Vernon and Sue McAlister. The two renewed their vows at the Rainey Hospice House on Sunday, June 13th...just one day after their 72nd wedding anniversary. Vernon, nearly 93 and a Hospice of the Upstate patient, had a dream one night of marrying his beautiful bride again. He asked the nurses to keep him alive long enough to make this possible. Our staff worked with the McAlister family to plan a vow renewal for the couple. Many family and friends gathered to witness this celebration and to make it even more special, all five children were able to attend. One son walked Mrs. McAlister down the aisle in a pink dress and white veil to openly express their love for one another again. After 72 years, Vernon says, "I love her more and more each day." Tough times have come their way but Mrs. McAlister advises, "If you put God first you can endure and your marriage can endure."

The staff at Hospice of the Upstate sees everyday the hurt that comes with losing a loved one. This is why they do their jobs...to offer a *Different Kind of Hope*. In this case, it was a hope for special memories of making Mr. McAlister's dream come true.



Vernon and Sue McAlister renew their vows after 72 years of marriage.

This edition of Hospice Highlights can be viewed online at www.hospicehouse.net.
Comments and questions should be directed to Allison Moody, Marketing Coordinator at amoody@hospicehouse.net or call 864-328-1947

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A Different Kind of Hope

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