

UPWARD AND ONWARD!

“Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!”

So sang the procession as we walked up the hill from the old Bethlen Home to the new. Tuesday, June 28, 2005, became that historic day on which the new facility was opened, and our residents moved into their new home.

Activities began at 7:00 AM with breakfast in the old building's dining room. One last meal there for the residents, staff and guests. The dining room was at near capacity for the worship service, which began at 7:45. Led by visiting clergy, staff members and residents, all present reflected upon the more than 50 years of ministry in the old building, thanking God for His presence and for the many residents and staff who lived and served in the building during those five decades.

We also acknowledged how emotional a time this is. We are sad to leave our old home, and although we look forward to our new home, the change is not without its anxiety and concern. We were assured by the 90th Psalm: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.” So we knew that even as we cried, even as we laughed on that day, God was with us and that He would bless us in the present and future, as He has in the past.

And God did bless us! The move to the new home went smoothly. Before entering the new facility, we worshipped God at its entrance. Prayer and Scripture lead to the ribbon cutting, which was performed by Bethlen Home resident, Mrs. Olga Szabo, aided by her sister, retirement village resident, Mrs. Helen Rose. As a credit to the staff, families and volunteers, all 90+ residents were in their new home in less than three hours. By noon everyone was enjoying lunch, and at 2:00 PM, everyone in the new Bethlen Home shared in a champagne toast.

We thank the visiting clergy who participated in the day's events: Rev. Robert Cummings, Rev. Sandor Jalso, Rev. Ilona Komjathy, Rev. Leslie E. Martin, and Rev. Dr. Joseph Posta. Ms. Ann Donovan, Dir. Of Nursing, spoke movingly at the morning service, as did Mrs. Szabo. Mrs. Rose played the organ at the service.

One lesson which was reinforced to all the residents and staff of Bethlen Communities, is the lesson found in Ecclesiastes 3:1, “Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.” We've had delays, and we've known disappointments along the way, but when God decided it was time to build, and when He decided it was time to move, everything went quickly and smoothly.

So as always, I end my letter praising God and thanking you, the many friends and supporters of the Bethlen Communities. May our Father continue to bless you and be with you during this wonderful summer season. And please come visit Ligonier soon! You will be amazed at what you see and experience.

In faith and In Love,

Rev. Imre A. Bertalan, Executive Director