

# The Trumpet

Winter 2008

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Alderson Hospitality House

Volume 31, Issue 4

## Where in the World are Phil and Joan Taylor?

By Phil and Joan

Recently, a long-time friend searched for us on Google and somehow managed to find us. Some friends compare us to the children's book, "Where's Waldo?", because they don't know where we are or what we are doing. We try to keep everyone up to date at least once a year at the holidays, but sometimes that is not enough.

We have already been in Alderson three months and feel like old-timers. How did we get here?

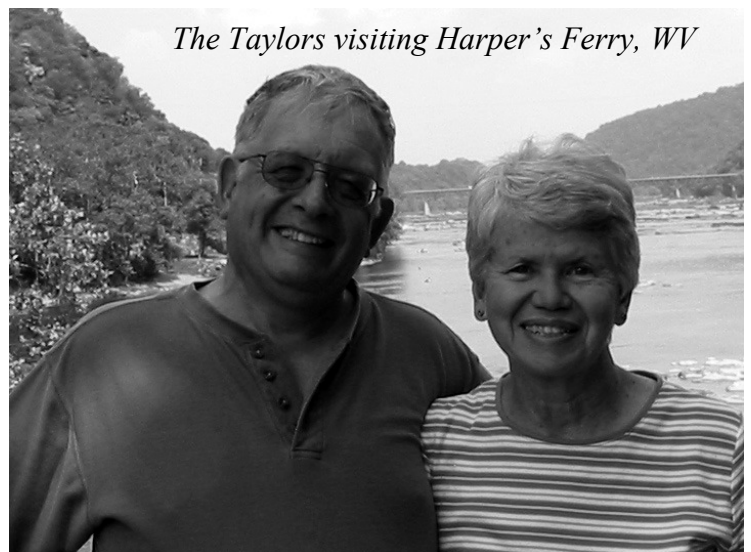
After living in the Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia areas for more than 30 years, we retired in 2000 and left our home in Arlington, Virginia. We have been full-time volunteers through the Church of the Brethren since 2002. Their "older adult" volunteer program recruited us and has provided us with wonderful experiences around the country:

- Working at a summer camp in Oregon—5 months
- Helping refugee families in Seattle—one year
- Helping at a midwives' birthing center in the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas—14 months
- Rebuilding homes damaged by hurricanes in Pensacola, Florida and New Orleans – one year at each location.
- Helping in administration of Brethren disaster response program office in Maryland – one year

We had considered coming to help at the Hospitality House three years ago, but the need seemed greater on the Gulf Coast after several destructive hurricanes, and we thought a winter in the mountains would be too cold. We have managed to stay away from snow for eight years. We are now ready to try winter again.

We have three sons scattered in Poland, Chicago, and San Francisco, but no grandchildren yet, to dampen our urge to wander.

Like all our other volunteer experiences, at the Hospitality House we have met many very nice people and have been able to live in a new area of the country. Welcoming strangers to our home here is a wonderful way to serve others.



*The Taylors visiting Harper's Ferry, WV*

### ***Alderson Hospitality House Mission Statement***

Alderson Hospitality House is a non-profit 501-C-3 organization, staffed and directed by volunteers. Our mission is to provide temporary lodging, meals, transportation assistance, and information to families and friends visiting their loved ones at the Federal Prison Camp for women in Alderson, West Virginia. We operate entirely on individual donations. Through this ministry, we in turn, are blessed to witness the power of unconditional love and forgiveness.

## The Beauty of Stewardship

by Tina

Simply put, stewardship is about being loving caretakers of both the Earth and one another. Oftentimes the opportunity to be a good steward emerges in the most unique circumstances. Each of us can exemplify what we believe stewardship to be in a variety of ways. At the Alderson Hospitality House, we try to manifest that ideal and in turn have seen some of the most beautiful expressions of stewardship.

Our guests have been stewards by blessing us with a plethora of apples, apple butter, beans, cabbage, corn, tomatoes, pears, potatoes, squash, and many other delicious treats from their kitchens and gardens. Wonderful breads, cakes, décor, napkins, and plates have accented our table of plenty. We have enjoyed experimenting with new recipes in order that we might use the diverse gifts of our friends.

Even as we close down the garden for the season, we're trying to be good stewards by planning for next year's crops. Our garlic is resting softly in the ground waiting for spring, and inside, we are closely watching our rosemary, thyme, sage and lavender that will be planted next year. My friend Eric assures me that growing an herb garden is fairly simple, so it is with the same positive support that I encourage you to discover what shade of green your thumbs might be! In the meantime, visiting your local farmer's markets is a community-building way to get helpful tips and appetizing produce. Thanks to all who have shared their advice and fruits of their labor with us!

Furthermore, stewardship summons us to care for God's creation in other ways, such as reducing, reusing and recycling whenever possible. At

the House, we've replaced nearly all of the incandescent light bulbs with ones that are florescent and energy efficient. In need of a new dishwasher, we've chosen an energy-star replacement. (Hooray for no more pre-washing!) We're always trying to find new ways to be grateful for our planet's resources, like reusing zip-lock bags or substituting a cloth napkin for standard paper ones, and we continue to make monthly trips to the local recycling center.

Ah, recycling! As a kid, recycling meant spending an afternoon jumping on sticky soda cans with my siblings. As an adult, while the immediate thrill and satisfaction of recycling doesn't leave me breathless like it used to, there is still a certain sense of peace in knowing small efforts can make a large impact. You can check out great websites like [www.greenwaste.com](http://www.greenwaste.com) and [www.ecolouge.com](http://www.ecolouge.com) for tips and tidbits on the 3 Rs!

In a culture that often values extreme independence, we show stewardship of each other by striving to be interdependent. The majority of our weekly shopping is done at locally owned stores, and we do our best to support area farmers. Once a month, members of the community come together to stuff grocery bags for the local food pantry. We have sent a van full of items previously resting in our stor-

age closet to the local women and children's shelter where they have been immediately put to use. Through acts of kindness and generosity, like our recent gift of a piano tuning, we find inspiration to continue our commitment to stewardship and find hope in the innate goodness of others. Thank you to all who have shown love to us through your kind thoughts put into action!

So as we enter the Holiday season, we pray you have in your local communities the same life giving and supportive family that we have here. May we continue to be stewards of the relationships and resources God has placed in our lives. Blessings and peace to you all!

Should you wish to stop receiving copies of The Trumpet, please just call, email or write us, and we'll remove you from the database. Thanks for helping us save postage!



## A Friend's Farewell

by Amanda

As I sit down to write my last article for *The Trumpet*, my sentiments are bittersweet. My year at Alderson Hospitality House was filled with so many special people and valuable experiences, and I feel so blessed that God allowed me to be a part of the ministry that the House provides. At the same time, I am so glad that I will be able to spend the holiday season at home, with friends and family in North Carolina. As I look back at my year in Alderson, I can't help but think about all the changes that occurred while I was there, both at the House and for me personally.

For those of you who have spent time at the House, you have probably noticed that it is constantly changing and evolving, which is one of my favorite things about it. Each new volunteer and staff member that comes earnestly seeks out ways to make the House more comfortable and efficient. From décor and maintenance issues to favorite recipes, we always have a chance to make improvements! Also, the population that the Hospitality House serves is always changing as inmates are dropped off at and released from FPC Alderson. While I was at the House, I met and got to welcome and know many families who came repeatedly, often only to say a sad but joyful goodbye a few months later, when their loved one was able to go home.

I must also look back at the changes that occurred for me personally while I was at AHH. When I got off the train in Alderson last October, I can honestly say that I was terrified. I knew very little about the House or the town. I was optimistic, but extremely nervous. It did not take long for me to feel at home and comfortable though, as through this experience, I have met some of the kindest people I have ever known.

Over the course of the year, I have grown spiritually and I have learned so much about myself and others. Thanks to AHH, I have learned countless lessons in patience, tolerance, compassion, open-mindedness, humility, cooperation, friendship, and love, just to name a few.

At this point I realize that the memories and lessons I learned during my year at AHH are far too extensive to fit in this small article. Since I have been home, many people have commended me for "giving up" a year of my life to serve others. It is hard for me to see my year at the Hospitality House in this light. For me, being at the House was a blessing and a pleasure, and one for which I am enormously thankful!

### **Alderson Hospitality House Wish List**

- Prayers - Postage Stamps - 1-ply Bathroom Tissue - IGA/Kroger Gift Cards -
- Fair Trade/Equal Exchange Coffee - Disinfectant Wipes -

**Alderson Hospitality House**  
**PO Box 579**  
**203 High Street**  
**Alderson, WV 24910**  
**304-445-2980**  
[www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org)

### **Board of Directors**

Brian DeRouen  
 Stephen Jackendorf  
 Judy Lewellan  
 Kathy Mundell  
 Richard Mundell  
 Neta Roush  
 Mark Stauffer

### **AHH Staff:**

Dave Harwood  
 Joan Taylor  
 Phil Taylor  
 Tina Marquart, *Manager*



### **DC Van Information:**

**For Reservations Call:**  
 First Trinity Lutheran Church  
 202-737-4857  
 Weekdays 9 AM-4 PM

**Round Trip Fee:**  
 Adult: \$25  
 Children under 15: \$20

**Send Money Order to:**  
 First Trinity Lutheran Church  
 305 East Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20001

Van runs third Friday and  
 Saturday of each month

### **Amtrak Information:**

[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV  
 Sundays, Wednesdays,  
 and Fridays **ONLY**

From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50  
 From New York, westbound: Train #51

Alderson Hospitality House  
PO Box 579  
Alderson, WV 24910

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 579  
Alderson, WV  
24910

Save a stamp! Donate online:  
[www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org/id2.html](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org/id2.html)

## 'Tis the Season

by Tina

How quickly the autumn shades of crimson and gold have faded to rust! As we find ourselves easing into what many folks refer to as the "Season of Giving", more than ever folks are asking what it is that the House is in need of. While there are certain supplies we go through rather quickly (coffee, stamps, and bathroom tissue) roughly 80% of our monthly budget is spent for utilities, transportation cost, repairs and other expenses. We have been busy taking all the necessary steps to ensure we will be able to provide our guests with a cozy place to rest during the upcoming winter months. In doing so, we've discovered a few unfortunate things about our heating system that we were not anticipating. The wood stove on the first floor needed a new stovepipe and chimney, and the oil furnace, our primary source of heat when we have guests, also needed a new stovepipe and chimney and is ready for retirement. For many years, it has been putting up a champion's effort to heat the House's 4,500 square feet despite the fact that it is significantly undersized for the job.

So on behalf of the guests, the staff and the board of directors, I am asking for your support in our efforts to raise the funds to cover the cost of repairs to our woodstove and, eventually replace our furnace. We are currently researching options for a new system, taking into account the needs of our guests, how the House is most often used, the cost of fuel, the impact on the environment, and many other factors. Thank you for what you are able to offer, as we strive to keep the House comfortable for those visiting the women at the local Federal Prison Camp during the chilly months to come and for many years to follow.

To give a donation, you can use the enclosed envelope or visit our "Giving and Support" page on our website. Click on the "Donate Now" button to donate online through JustGive.org. There you can either create an automatic monthly donation or a one-time contribution. JustGive.org will generate us one check per month with an itemization of the folks who have given to the House. We appreciate your support. Happy Holidays, friends!