

“A GOOD NEWS STORY FOR OUR NEWSLETTER by Mary Haywood”

It has been my privilege to lead a Prayer and Communion Service at Bridge Park for the last 5 years. Initially I was one of several people who enabled Bridge Park residents to receive Communion every Monday. However, with Covid 19 all that changed and with it my ministry to our friends at Bridge Park. Nowadays, every week I call the 12 residents who make up the group and spend time listening to them and praying with them. I help them feel connected with our Parish and the many activities that are available. As you can imagine, with Fr. Kevin's recent health issues, they have been very anxious for updates. I came to understand just how important this weekly call had become for them. My friends are frequently on lockdown due to Covid exposures and have to endure fear, loneliness, and isolation. Many do not have a computer or smart phone and they feel disconnected from our fellowship. Many times, I was asked “when can we resume our Prayer and Communion Service?” So on Dec 7 with help from Marion Kari and Matthew Bosisio (himself a resident) each resident was delivered a special package containing a Pyx containing the Eucharist, Crucifix, candle and prayer service. Then I made a schedule to call everybody individually that day. I was concerned as to how well this would work in practice. The absolute joy, excitement and gratitude was overwhelming. Each person was ready and eagerly waiting for my call. They had “prepared the way of the Lord”, setting up a table with the candle and Pyx – in readiness for our celebration. Then we recited the Word and Communion Service together following which my friends received Communion for the first time in nine months. It was a grace filled and very humbling experience for me. As I made my last call on Monday afternoon, I truly felt the gift of the Advent message “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path”. As Covid 19 drags on, I plan to continue to bring the Eucharist in this manner to my friends and our Parish family in Bridge Park. I feel so grateful and honored to have shared this unique experience during the Advent and Christmas season.

