

friend of Still Waters

The Byerly Family

Jim Byerly has had many roles during his working years. For 35 years, he was a United Methodist Pastor serving 10 churches while also helping Volunteer Fire Departments. Later, he became the trainer for the Indiana Early Response Team through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Jim trained teams throughout Indiana to go into a disaster zone after the emergency phase is over to help people get their lives and homes back into working order. He became known as “Mr. UMCOR” when he worked the Henryville area after the tornadoes hit. Jim truly loved this position, sometimes more than preaching.

Unfortunately, the next disaster struck close to home. Jim had a traumatic brain injury from his blood pressure being too high. Kathy, Jim’s wife of 40 years, feared she would lose him many times after the attack on his body. Life changed rapidly for both of them. They moved back to Indianapolis to be close to both sides of their family and found their first home; after always living in a parsonage this was a big deal!

Jim's daily routine was sitting in front of the TV and sleeping a lot. Depression was setting in and Kathy could see him withering away. She was familiar with adult day centers from her background, so a program at their own church was a Godsend!



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Things got better once Jim started at Still Waters; he was happier, more alert, his stamina increased and his memory even improved a bit. Jim stays active at Still Waters and has found many activities he loves over the past three years.



The socialization at Still Waters is perhaps his favorite aspect of the program. Jim's background as a pastor shines as he spends time talking to the other men in the program and helping them feel comfortable in their surroundings. He especially enjoys music therapy, Chapel services, and he loves it when the pre-school children come to visit. Jim thrives during art therapy with the different projects and he has taken up acrylic painting at home as well.



Recently Jim was diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's. Things are changing fast, but the Still Waters staff and the Caregiver group helps Kathy take one day at a time, and are with her every step of the way. Kathy says, "This disease impacts the entire family but through this program, I am given so much support as well. It gives me peace of mind and a few good days a week away from the stressors of being a

caregiver. I don't know what I would do without this special program. Jim loves it as well which makes it easier to leave him each day. Still Waters also relieves my mind in knowing he is in a Christian program being taken very good care of by the staff. Thank you Still Waters and Castleton United Methodist for hosting such a needed program."