

A Titanic Coincidence

People who visit in a nursing center always come away blessed by the experience. Such was the case a few days ago, June 30 and July 1, when Don Giardina, Cathy Murray, Paul Garner and I had the occasion to tour our centers in Wilbraham and Auburn, as well as welcome into the Life Care family Fairlawn Nursing Home in Leominster and The Highlands in Fitchburg, all in Massachusetts.

As we were walking through the dining area at Life Care Center of Auburn, I noticed one of the residents "holding court" at her table, where three other ladies were seated. It was easy to see that she was the life of that party.

I introduced myself and engaged her in conversation. Her name is Yvonne Frew. She has a keen wit and exercises it often. After conversing for a bit, I said to her, "Now, Mrs. Frew, it has always been my practice not to ask a lady how old she is, but I'll take a chance with you. Do you mind telling me your age?"

"Why, no," she replied. "I'm 92 years old. I came out the same month, April 1912, as did the Titanic, and now look what has happened. That ship has its nose sunk in the mud, and my nose is stuck in everybody's business."

All of us standing around had a hearty laugh. Mrs. Frew was delighted that she had brought a little humor to the faces of her visitors.

Jim Nugent, the executive director at Life Care Center of Auburn, and his staff say that the incident tells a lot about Mrs. Frew's personality and outlook on life. "She is always upbeat, always positive," Nugent said. "Even in the face of adversity -- including the loss of a daughter to cancer -- she is an inspiration to people."

Mrs. Frew says it is her faith in God that energizes her and drives her personal interaction with people -- staff, other residents and, yes, visitors. She is one of the special treasures at Life Care Center of Auburn.

--Beecher Hunter