



Embargoed Until 9 am 10/24/23

Sayre Christian Village Honors Community Faith Leaders and awards Wayne B. Smith 'Leading with Kindness' honorees

(October 24, 2023) Lexington, KY – Sayre Christian Village hosted a Ministry Appreciation Breakfast for all faith leaders in the region and awarded Wayne B. Smith Honorees on October 24th, 2022.

As the nonprofit is in its 40th year serving older adults in the Bluegrass, CEO Karen Venis said, “It’s important to thank our faith leaders; we simply would not be here today if not for the ministers that worked together to found Sayre. **We needed them then and we need them now.**”

“In addition to the complimentary breakfast for over 21 different ministries and 150 guests, **we are naming 3 honorees whose gifts of time, talent, or treasure throughout the previous year have benefited people throughout Kentucky,**” explained Elise Hinchman, VP of Marketing & Development. “We have heard of so many do-gooders in the Commonwealth this year and the nominations were fantastic, as always.”

Annual award winners exemplify Pastor Wayne B. Smith’s ‘lead with kindness’ first mentality. Pastor Wayne was the first senior minister at Southland Christian Church and was one of the founders of Sayre Christian Village. He is fondly remembered for his laughter and kindness and for never turning away a stranger in need. Wayne looked for the good in all people.

Last year’s 2022 Wayne B. Smith Award honorees were: Greg Horn, Lead Minister at Gardenside Christian Church and the “Hope is Here” podcast, Barbara Burton (volunteer who has baptized over 700 inmates in the Jessamine County Detention Center), and Brewster McLeod of McLeod’s Coffee House.

This year’s 2023 Wayne B. Smith Award honorees are CenterPointe Christian Church, (volunteer preaches at Sayre Christian Village two services on campus every 3 weeks), The Ol’Elkhorn Pickers Club, (played over 200 free concerts and counting for senior living communities across the Bluegrass), and Teresa Welch, (passionately serving senior adults for decades).

Jana Thore, one of Wayne B. Smith’s daughters, was on hand to pass out the awards. “My sister Judy and I are proud to honor this year’s award nominees. We are happy to know that they are carrying on Dad’s legacy of faithfully serving the people of the Bluegrass. They say showing kindness without expecting anything in return is the purest form of benevolence.”

All regional ministry staff were invited to enjoy a buffet breakfast as SCV expressed their gratitude to faith leaders and worship teams for all they do to serve and support others in the Bluegrass region.

###

Sayre Christian Village is the only faith-based nonprofit continuing care retirement community in Fayette County. SCV has the capacity to serve 420 adults and provides independent living, assisted living, transitional short-term rehabilitation, skilled nursing services, and dementia care for older adults from all over the Bluegrass. The organization operates on a beautiful 27-acre campus in Southeast Lexington and has provided hope, housing, and healthcare for 40 years. Tax-deductible donations to the 501(c)3 can be made online at www.SayreChristianVillage.org or by check to Sayre Christian Village, c/o Development Department, 3775 Belleau Wood Drive, Lexington, KY 40517.

