

Meet Your Neighbors ~ *The Maxwells*

By *Jacquie Pipkin*

Twenty-two years ago, Palm Sunday weekend to be exact, Jan and Ron Maxwell vacationed with family in Smyrna, NC. Having time on their hands, they decided to tour the area, including Pine Knoll Shores. Within 6 months, the Maxwells sold their home and business in Madison, Connecticut, retired, and relocated to 277 Oakleaf Drive where they remain today, albeit after much updating and renovating.

The Maxwells lived in Madison for 30 years and raised 2 sons and a daughter. Ron's passion is music and, after working as an insurance agent for a number of years, decided with Jan to open a music business that included renting musical instruments to local high school bands and offering private music lessons. Ron also played in a Top 40 band at clubs and special events on weekends. Jan, a former dispatcher for a transportation company, managed the business and kept the books. Ron credits Jan's business sense and organization for allowing him to live the life of a "Happy Musician."

Once retired in PKS, Ron and his guitar connected with other jazz musicians, including Dick Cumberland of PKS, and for several years played at the Sheraton on Friday and Saturday nights. While the combo has disbanded, Ron continues pursuing his passion by playing his guitar at Sunday

services at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church and also serving as its Choir Director. In addition, Ron teaches a music class at the community college and continues providing private lessons in his home.

After 2 years in retirement, enjoying



the area, fishing, and boating in a skiff that Ron built in his yard, Jan met Bob Herbst, the then Executive Director of Martha's Mission. Martha's Mission is a non-profit organization, managed and staffed completely by volunteers, that provides weekly groceries to families in need. Jan began volunteering at Martha's Mission in 1990; she soon became its treasurer and now serves as both its treasurer and general manager. What began as several hours a week of volunteer work is now a full time job. While the mission

is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Jan's responsibilities command much more of her time than the three days a week that the mission is open. It is interesting to note that 17 of the 59 volunteers presently working at Martha's Mission are residents of PKS. In addition to those who work inside the mission, there are several volunteers who provide vehicles to pick up and deliver to the mission the \$9000 worth of groceries purchased monthly from Wal-Mart.

The mission is located at 901 Bay St. in Morehead City in a building owned by the first Baptist Church who charges the mission \$1 per year for rent. The mission survives entirely on private contributions, grants, and 4 major food drives per year. The mission was originally conceived as a response to the Red Tide of 1988 that left many fishermen and their families destitute. Presently, the mission has 361 families that represent 866 people dependent on Martha's Mission for their monthly groceries.

Jan and Ron feel fortunate that their daughter, Heather, and son, Paul, live and work locally. The Maxwells have 4 grandchildren who span in age from 10 to 28 years old.

Emerald Anniversary Celebrated

By *Clare Winslow*

A gala gourmet picnic celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club was held on Wednesday, May 13 at the beautiful home of Vice President Lois Jean O'Keefe. The delicious repast was catered by Floyd's 1921 of Morehead City and included shrimp boats, broccoli salad, deviled eggs, mini ham salad sandwiches and turkey wrap. It received A+ ratings by all 34 diners, including 31 members and four honored guests. Guests were town Mayor Joan Lamson and three past presidents of the club - Becky Moore who presided from 1979-1981, Marty Hare who presided from 1981-1982, and Betty Stanton who presided from 1993-1995. These early presidents told fascinating stories about the founding years of Pine Knoll Shores. The canal had just been dug, and its water was crystal clear, supplying the town's few early residents with their shrimp and crabs. The marinas were just being built. Getting lost while strolling the streets was commonplace because there were so few landmarks in the dense woods,

and there were no street lights till the mid 80's to illuminate the streets at night. And, of course, they told of the construction of town hall and the landscaping help of both Becky and Marty.

Before the feasting, a brief meeting was held at which President Carol McVitty welcomed two new members, Arleen Graczewski and Ginny Stambaugh, to the club. Beautifying the sluiceway in front of Town Hall, the successful installation of the new garden at Oakleaf Drive by Carolina Home and Garden, and the upcoming installation luncheon to be held on June 10th at the Coral Bay Club were discussed at the meeting. At the June 10 luncheon, Carol McVitty will be installed as President, Martha Edwards as 1st Vice President, Helvi Larson as 2nd Vice President, Barbara Flynt as Corresponding Secretary, Kay Howe as Recording Secretary, and Jan Corsello as Treasurer.

Ecology and Conservation chairman Kay Howe distributed flyers obtained from the Environmental Concerns chairman of the

North Carolina Garden Club containing 11 hints to help keep our environment GREEN. Sheryl Woodbury cautioned about a noxious weed, Eastern poison oak, found from Florida to Kansas. Its active agent is urushiol which causes itching, blistering and eczema and can be harmful as well as being most unpleasant. It is a cousin of poison ivy, looks similar with its three leaves, but tends to grow in a shrubby clump.

Lois Jean O'Keefe was presented with a lovely white ceramic pitcher from the Biltmore Collection in appreciation for hosting the club's very special 35th anniversary picnic.

Following the luncheon, the much anticipated plant exchange took place. Members all brought two plants to the picnic, and the choosing of exchange plants was facilitated by a system of color coded dots on everyone's nametag. The four honored guests were presented with containers of zephyr lilies, taken from the Hereth Garden in front of town hall.

More Volunteers Needed

By *Jill Cross*



In May, 2008, George Dawkins (aged 21) who lives on Arborvitae Drive, joined the local Fire Department as a volunteer and now completes 15 hrs of service per week, even though only 12 hrs per month is required of new volunteers. He finds he is able to respond to every call because he lives in PKS.

George indicates that he joined the Fire Department to help the community. This is especially impressive since he attends college at East Carolina University full time, majoring in business management and criminal justice and owns his own business, Steamer Surfing Instruction, teaching people to surf at the Iron Steamer Beach. The department is proud to have Dawkins as a volunteer.

Faced with the impending retirement of several long-time volunteers, the PKS Fire Department needs more young volunteers like Dawkins. Fighting a house fire typically takes 14 fire fighters, and since there are only three paid fire fighters per shift (around the clock), the remaining numbers consist of volunteers. Residents can help keep the taxes low by volunteering, since paid fire fighters will have to be employed if there are not enough volunteers to fill the quota.

New volunteers need only obtain an EMS or fire certificate. In addition to the intrinsic benefit of serving the community, each volunteer receives a stipend for each call they are involved with and benefit from membership at a local gym. If you would like more information contact, Chief Bill Matthias at 247-2268. The PKS Fire Department needs your help.