

MARCH 8, 2020

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARY,

ELLEN BARNETT,

&

SOME PICTURES OF

STORY'S CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Ellen Barnett

Reporting from Santa María



ELLEN BARNETT/MEXICO

- ❖ Ellen has served in *Acapulco* since 1975 with MTW. Her ministry has included:
 - ❖ Bible studies;
 - ❖ work with children, youth, and singles;
- ❖ and leadership training in Acapulco and Guerrero State.

Ellen ´s present responsibilities include:

- ❖ administering and teaching in Maranatha Bible Institute
- ❖ and teacher-training seminars throughout Mexico.
 - ❖ She especially enjoys discipling young people through these ministries.

Ellen was a founding member of New Horizon Christian School in 2000 and has continued on the board ever since. She is involved in finding resources for development, strategic training for the staff and board, and fundraising.



Dear Praying friends,

I promised you a report and lots of pictures of our mission to serve the children at Maranatha Presbytery's Convention of Village Churches, so here they are. First, I want to thank you so much for your prayers. From all the pictures (which are worth a thousand words each) you can see that God did answer, and a lot of good things happened. The attendance was less than expected, with only 65 children and 25 teens, but that made a very nice teacher-student ratio for interaction, and for the ones who didn't have much experience working with children, it probably made life a lot easier.



***Everyone got to participate in this drama –
The victory is the Lord's.***



This was our campus. It was a field belonging to neighbors of the church, and was covered with something like scrub grass, which the men dug up with an instrument that looked like a cross between a hoe and a shovel, and burned. A lot of work. That made it very usable, but exceedingly dusty (even though they watered it down every day).





Fun and games, all related to the lessons. I especially liked Twister, using the memory verse.



Not to forget the teens!



As one who was involved in the earliest of these conferences, I was asked to give my testimony and cut the cake during a celebration of its 25th year. Somehow in all the talk of the moment, I found myself committed to leading the children's program until I die, or something close to that! So, I'll be back. Different place, but hopefully the same team.

Acapulco Update

August 2019



June and July are generally devoted to preparing for and then participating in our two weeks of music school. This year was no exception. For lots of different reasons, most of the "regulars" on the staff weren't able to come, so we ended up with a reduced number of teachers and a lot of new ones. However, the Lord answered our prayers and, all in all, we had two very good weeks.



In Ometepec, during our first week, we had 36 students in the youth/adult division. Twelve came from a Mixteco village, and it took a while for some of the teachers to discover that they didn't all understand Spanish - which made communication a bit difficult - but they were eager to learn and it was a joy to have them with us. Twenty-four children also attended.

Most of the staff had to multi-task, so it was an intense week, but we seemed to get everything done. One activity I enjoyed was "hands-on" or maybe we should say "feet-on" theory with my tiny tots.





In both Acapulco and Ometepepec we encouraged everyone to use whatever instrument (including voice) they were learning to accompany worship time - no spectators allowed! Hopefully they are better prepared to teach new songs to their different congregations. The groups were smaller in Acapulco, with 23 youth/adults and 21 children.

My new percussion/drum teachers were two brothers from Queretaro; Andrés (here in Acapulco) and Pedro (in Ometepepec). Their mother, Gaby, was one of the founders of the music school 27 years ago, and they are ready to continue with the tradition.



September 2019
Beginning of a new School year



They were excited to return to some interesting changes in the school –

- **real artificial grass for the preschool playground,**
- **new desks and chairs for some grades,**
- **a new lunch area (since we are building 2 new rooms where the old one was),**
- **and the promise of two new rooms! (I don't have any pictures of that yet, since the foundation and structure are all ready, but the walls are yet to arrive).**
- **We have two class that are so tightly packed in their rooms that they have to ask permission from their classmates to move, but no one is complaining, because the future looks very bright.**

The Lord was very good in supplying in unexpected ways what we needed in order to make necessary improvements this summer, with resources for some nice extras.

- **We also have several new teachers, as well as new students.**



Since our beginnings, in 2000, the preschool and primary children from Casa Hogar have been a part of New Horizon. This summer that age group grew exponentially, with 11 children coming in, who were duly enrolled in New Horizon, along with 20 other youngsters who were already part of the school. **However, we just found out that the person who promised to pay the tuition for the new students has backed out.**

Which has presented something of a dilemma.

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❖ They have just gone through a big upheaval in their lives, and are already benefiting from the stability of New Horizon, where they experience love, discipline, and, of course, good teaching, so they are here to stay. But since our operating expenses are all paid out of our tuition, we can't just absorb the cost (well, at the moment we are, but it has put a promised teacher's raise on hold). So we are looking for different ways to raise funds and also working with Casa Hogar to find sponsors for them, as well as others who need a little help .

❖ We give the CH children a discount, making the cost for one child for one year \$1400 dollars. If you could help sponsor a child, or give any portion of a child's support, we would be exceedingly grateful. You can send a check made out to Mission to the World, marked New Horizon Christian School, #93769 and mailed to MTW, P.O.Box 744165, Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

❖ By the way, if you counted 12 kids, one extra decided to get into the picture.

- **After a bit of down time in August, my schedule is suddenly full to overflowing. Happily, I'm doing things I love to do, but I would appreciate your prayers for me to be able to use my time wisely and be disciplined in getting done what needs to be done,**
- **I again have 3 classes in the Bible Institute,**
- **one with the teachers at New Horizon**
- **and a Sunday School class, so I have plenty of good studying to occupy my mind.**
- **I'm also coordinating the children's program for the presbytery's annual women's conference, the first weekend in November. Most of my team were involved in the same sort of thing in April, in the village of Santa María, so we have had some experience, which will make getting ready a lot easier. This time we will be in a church in Acapulco, so some of the logistics will also be easier, but the space is much smaller and the numbers will probably be larger. But it's a good team, ready for new challenges, and I love working with them!**
- **Thank you again for your interest and prayers for me and for the work here.**

**Together in His service,
*Ellen Barnett***



Of course, if you have two classrooms without walls, they make a nifty stage for school programs!

Thank you for taking the time to read through all of these petitions, and especially for praying. There is also reason for much praise. We have a lot to do because the Lord is working, and it is a privilege to have a part in it all.

Blessings, Ellen

**ELLEN'S MOST CURRENT NEWSLETTER
IS INCLUDED IN TODAY'S BULLETIN!**

**PLEASE READ AND EARNESTLY
PRAY FOR HER SPECIFIC NEEDS!**

**THE FOLLOWING SLIDES
ARE FROM SOME OF
STORY'S CHRISTMAS
ACTIVITIES**

**CIRCLE I HAD A CHRISTMAS
LUNCHEON AT THE SEALS'.**

CIRCLE I SENDS

MONTHLY SUPPORT TO SANDRA HART.

SANDRA JOINED THEM FOR LUNCH &

GAVE THEM AN UPDATE ON

HER MINISTRY IN THE PHILLIPINES



A GREAT TIME

WAS HAD BY

ALL

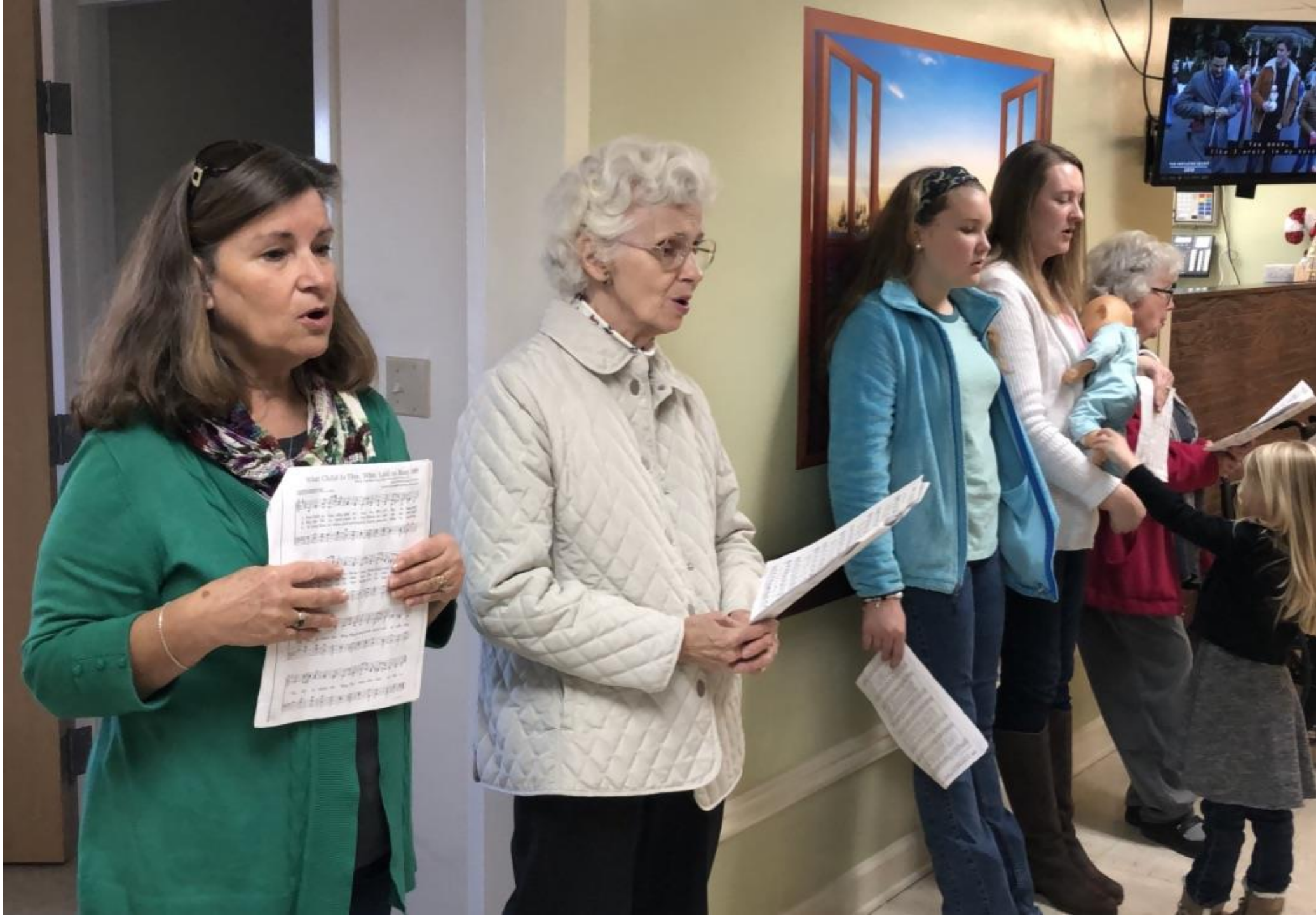


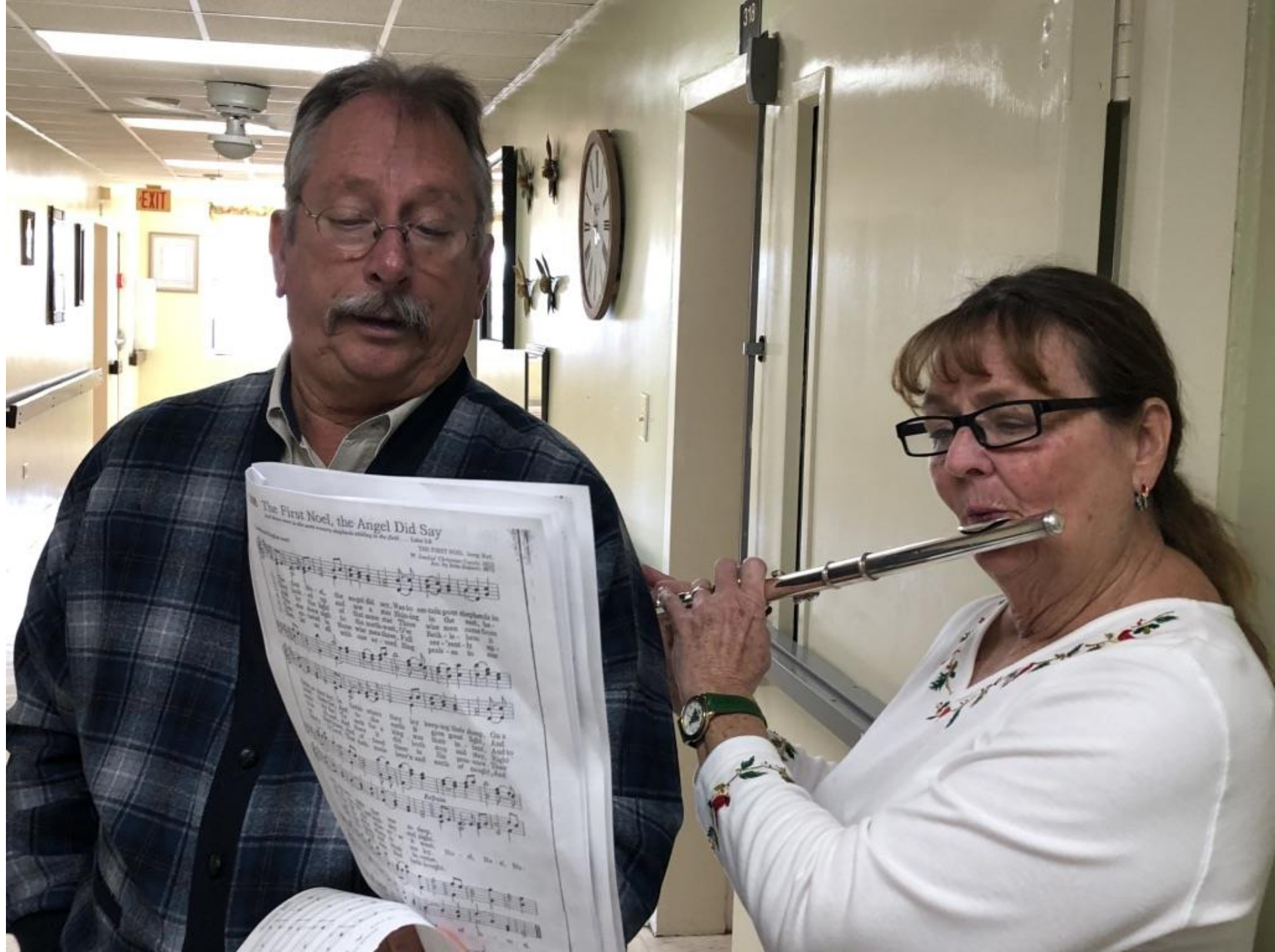


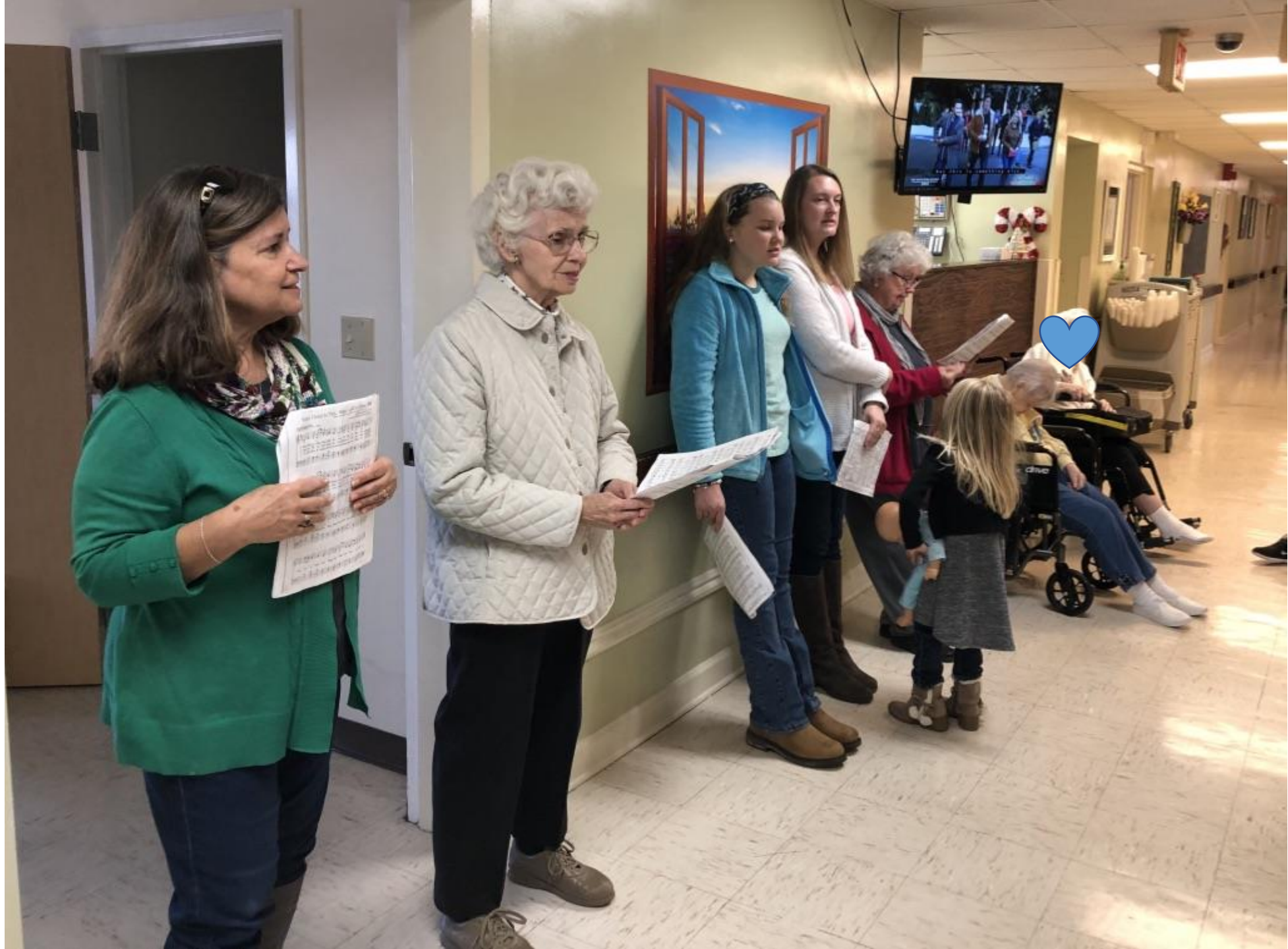


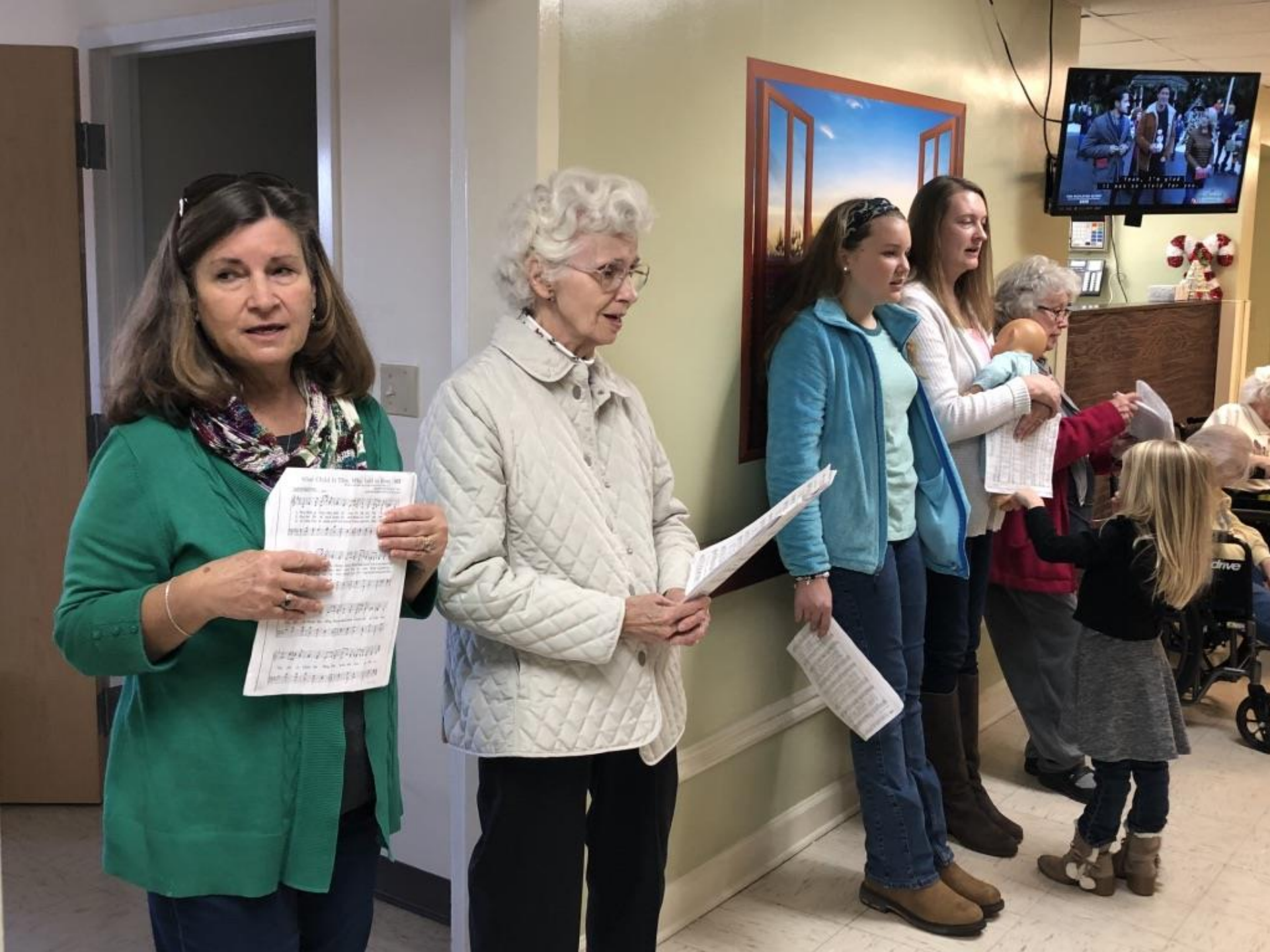
**STORY CHRISTMAS
CAROLING IS
A BLESSING
TO EVERYONE
INVOLVED**







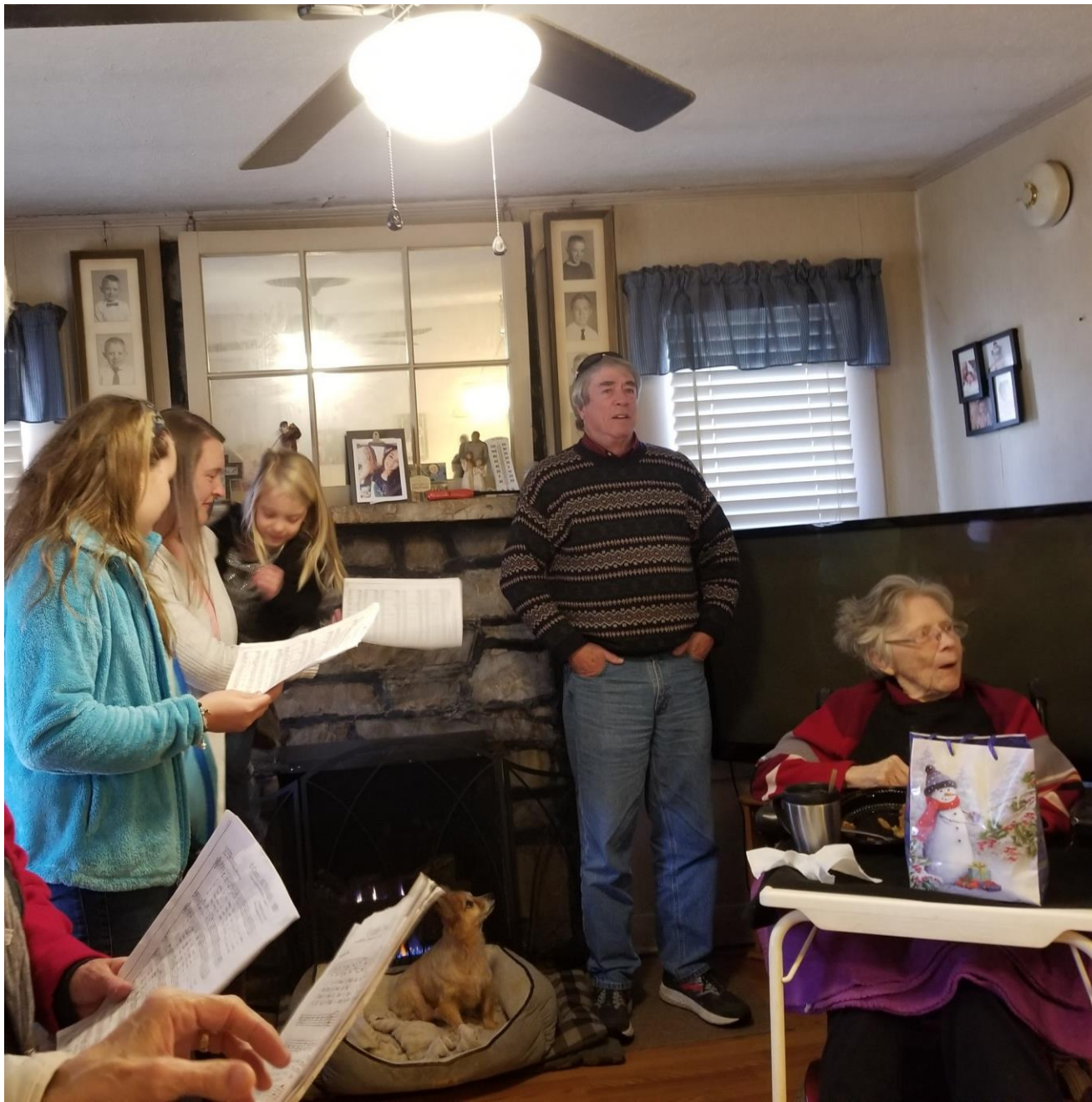






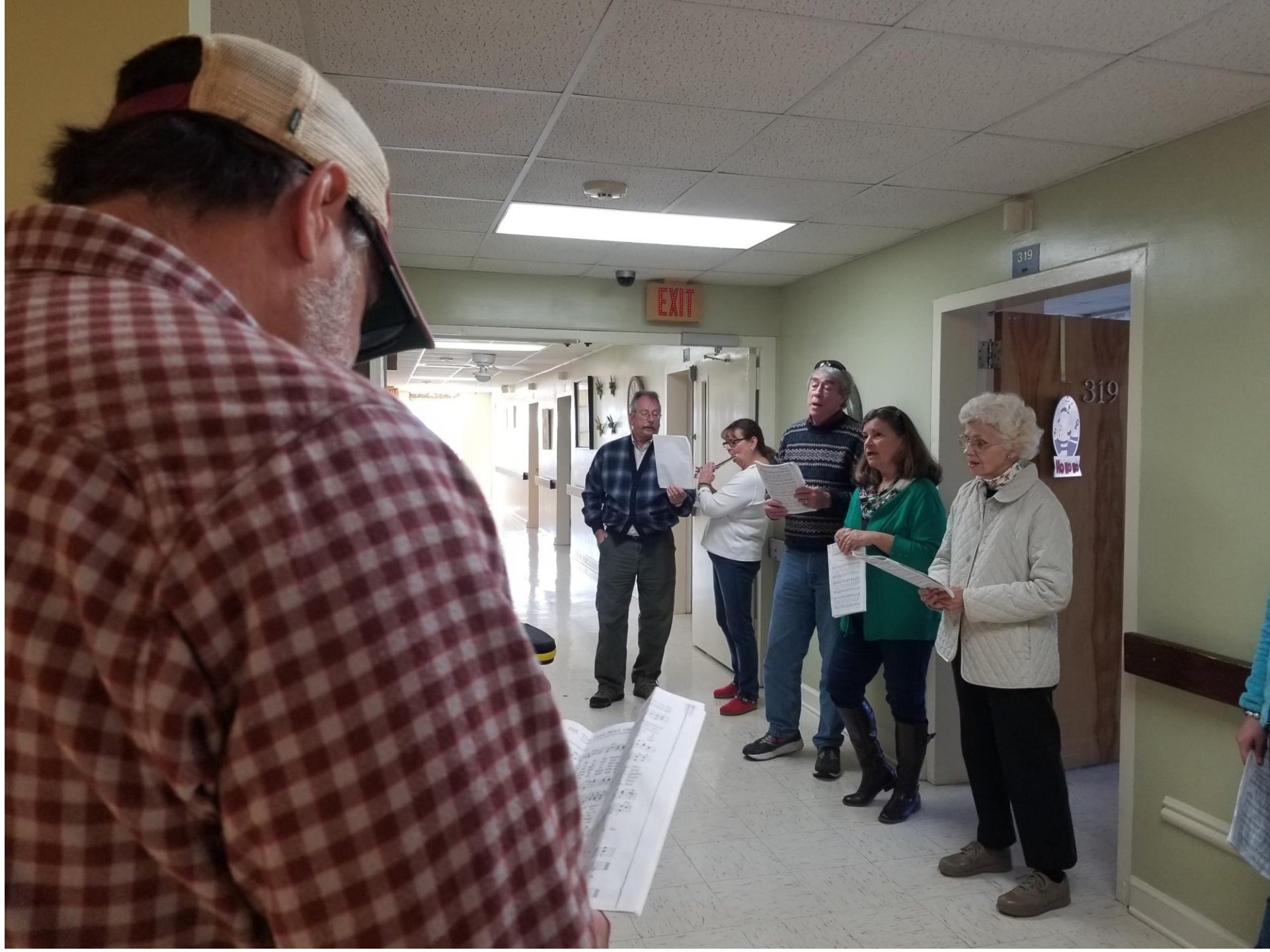




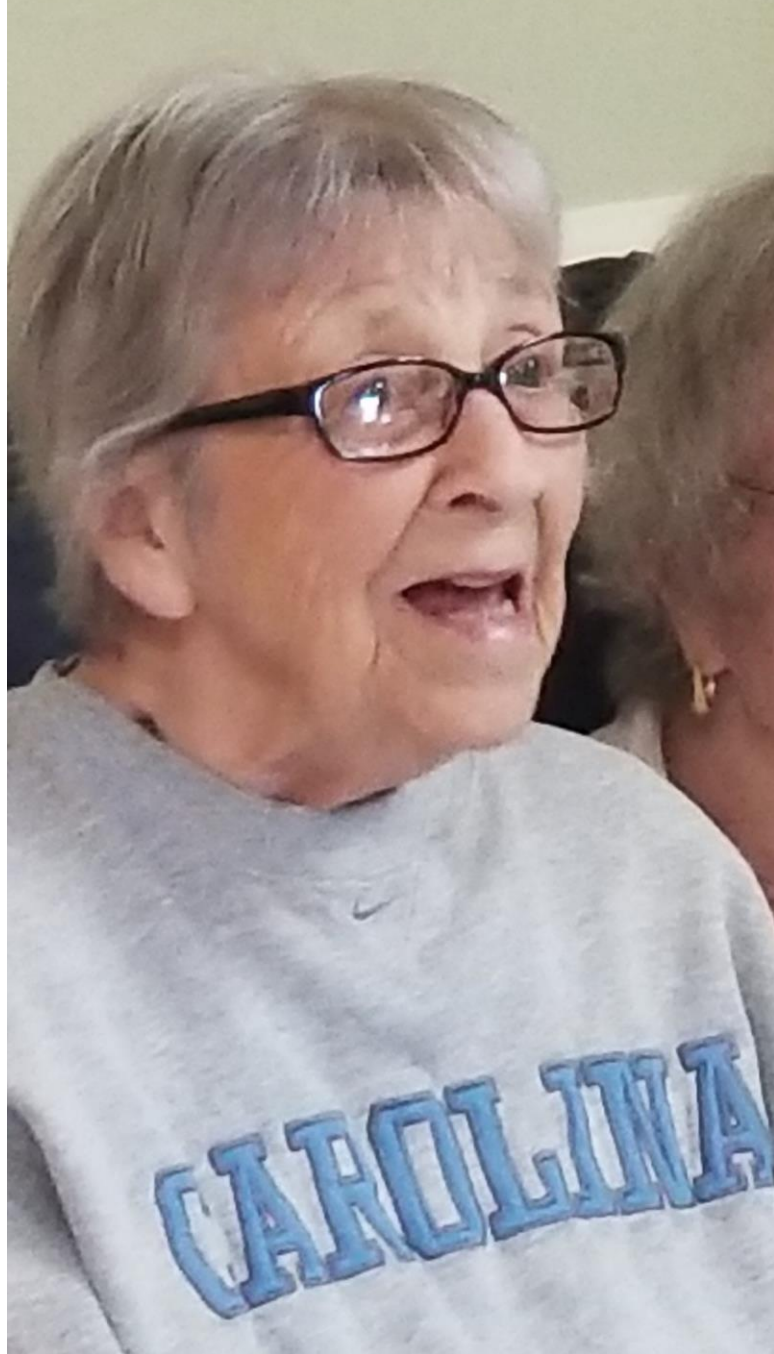




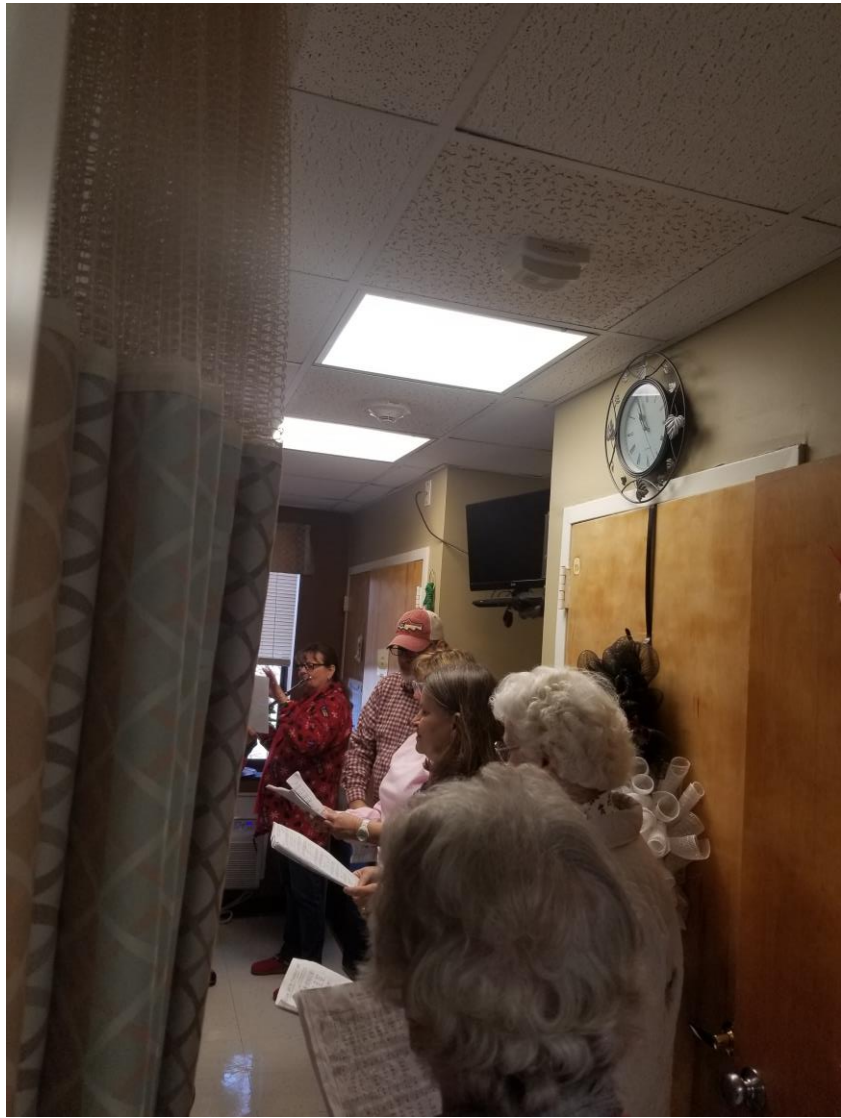


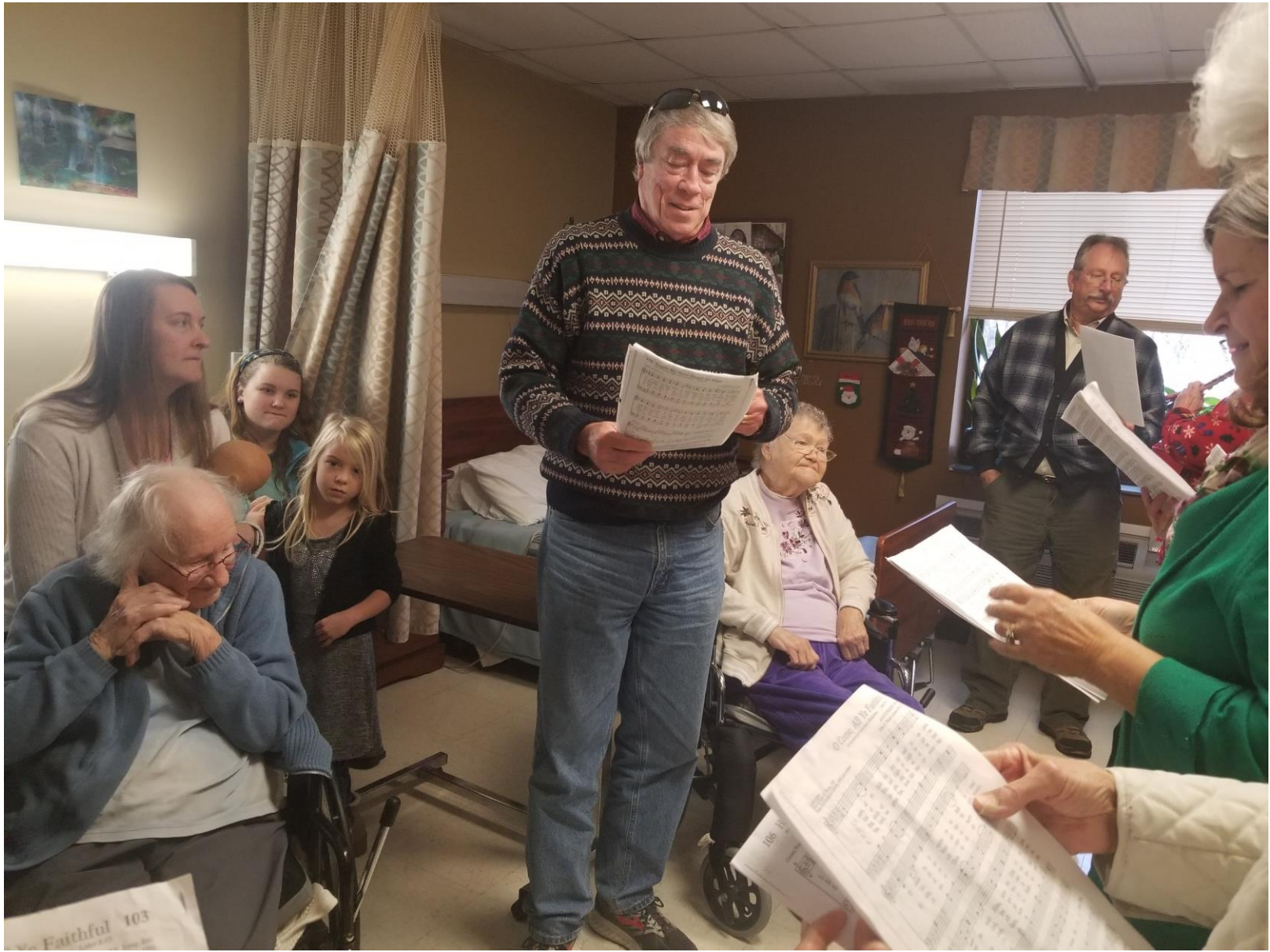








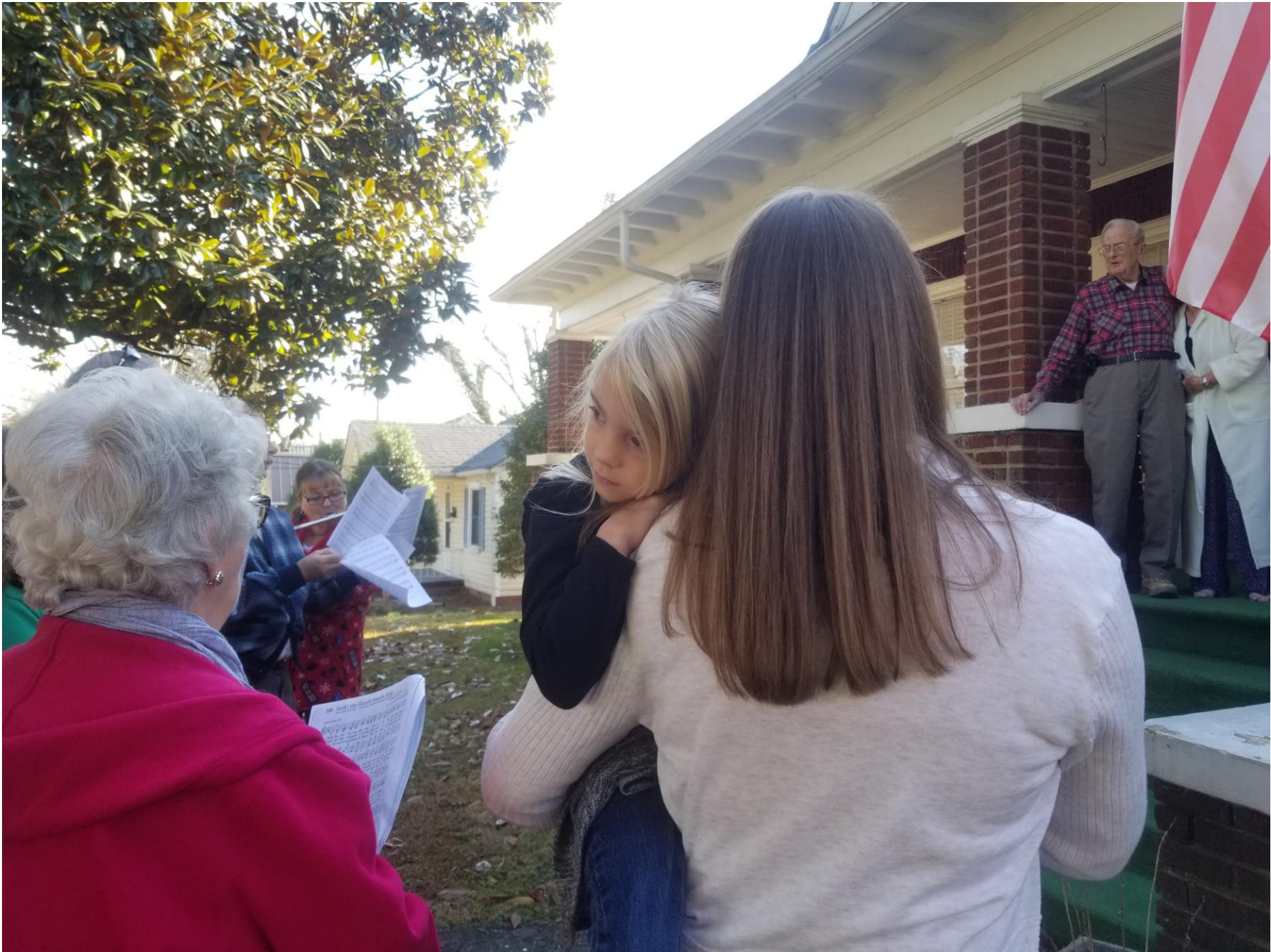


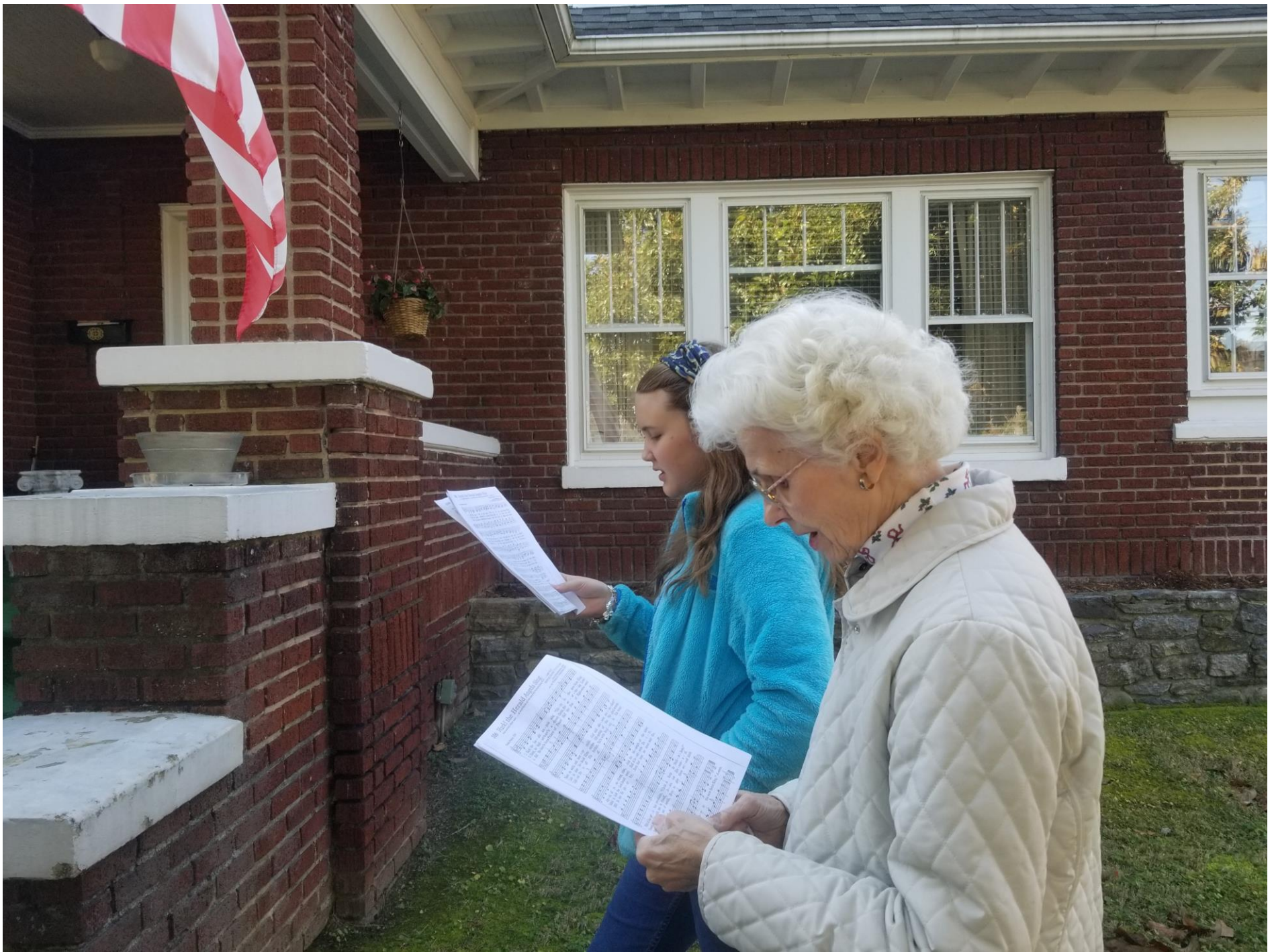






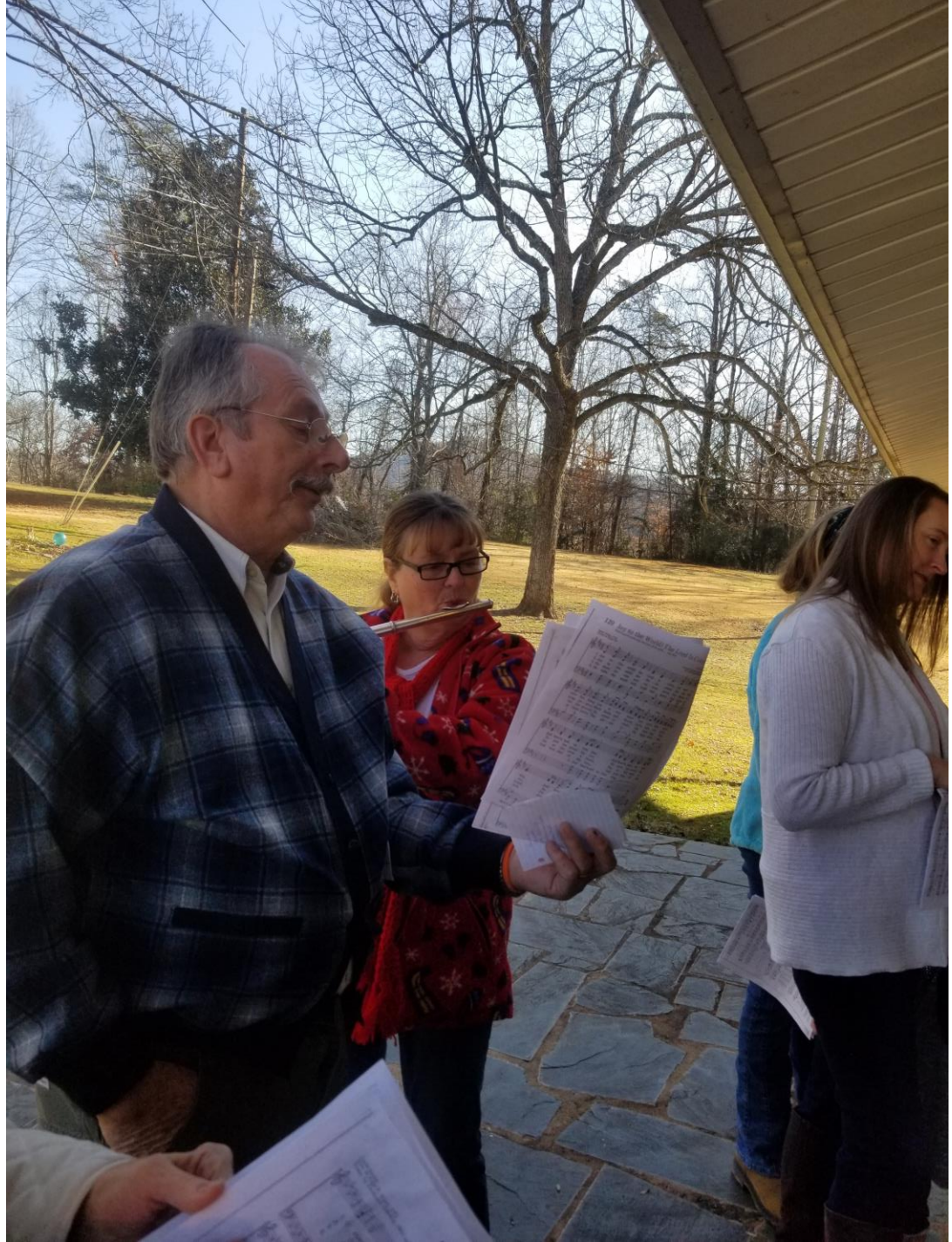












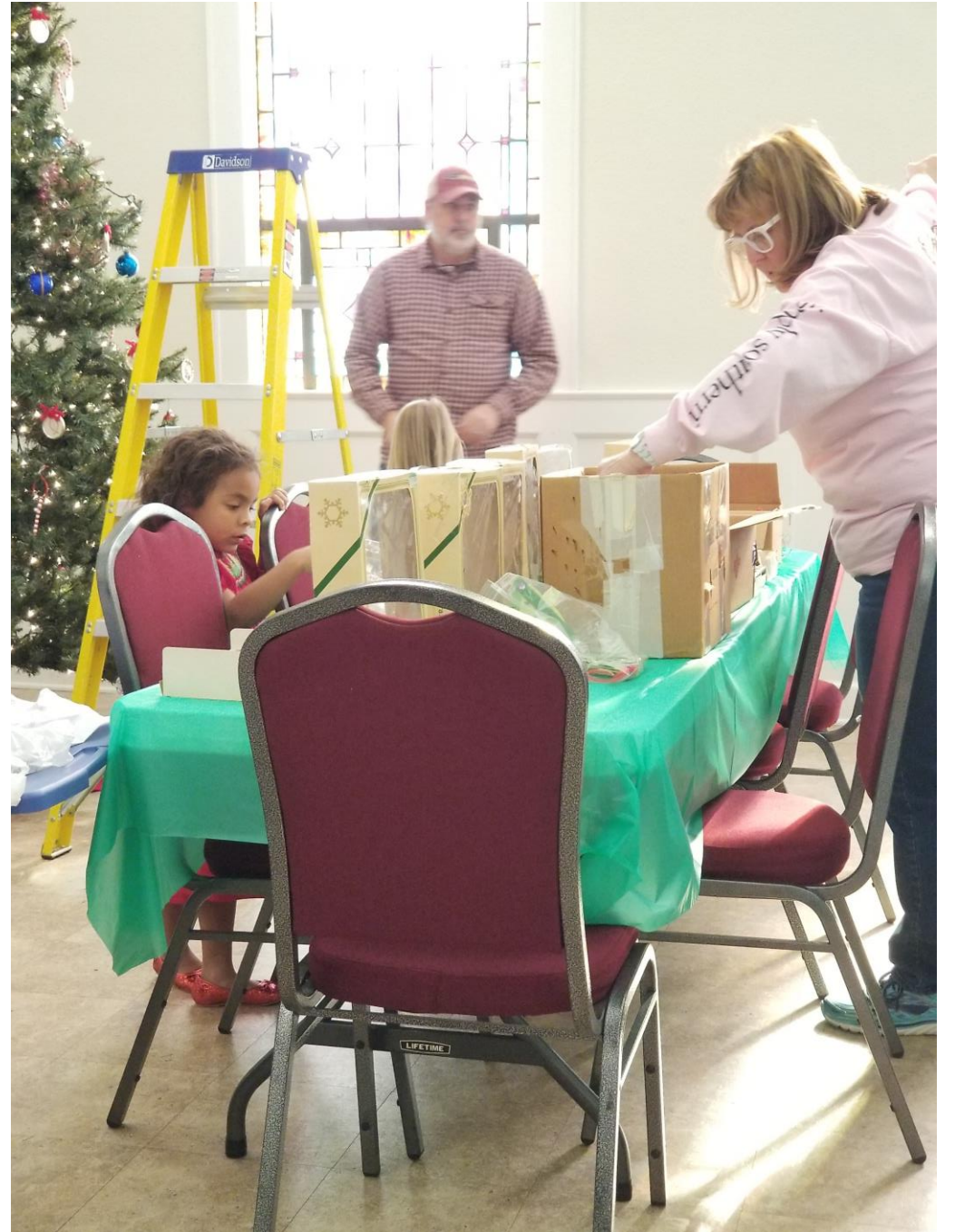




















**OUR
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
WAS
A SWEET BLESSING!**





























**TO GOD BE THE
GLORY**