**Buffington Trust**

The Buffington Trust was created by Fannie Buffington when she died in 1945. The Trust was established to provide independent living for senior citizens who had financial need. The first residents lived in Fannie Buffington’s home. In time the home was no longer suited for independent living. As a result the board began buying apartment complexes to meet the requirements of the Trust.

Today the Trust has two complexes. Each has four apartment units. They are in Altoona and are occupied by 8 residents. Each resident pays $100 per month for rent and utilities. The apartments are not furnished but do have a one car garage, washer and dryer, and kitchen appliances. There are two bedrooms, one bath, a kitchen, dining room and living room. All units are on one floor. The dining room, living room, hall, and bedrooms are carpeted. There are no steps. The two units are two blocks from each other. The Trust pays a maintenance company to manage the properties.

This year the Trust became financially strong enough to afford purchase of a third complex. We are hoping to accomplish this before the end of 2019. The complexes cost about $500,000 when the Trust factors the purchase price, closing costs, and renovation expense of the new units. The Board also encountered a new issue in 2018. We are adopting procedures for helping residents who physically can no longer remain in independent living. Normally families make these decisions, but sometimes residents don’t have any family. The Board has reached out for guidance to know how best we can transfer residents from our units into assisted living elsewhere.

The Buffington Trust is a wonderful ministry! We Board members find it most rewarding when we can provide nice living quarters to people in need. The Buffington Trust helps a small group of people, but those we help are most grateful.

Bishop Jay Lambert

President, Buffington Trust