**Harvey and Berina Roberts**

Harvey and Berina Roberts, two of the original motor meals coordinators, closed an important chapter of community service when they turned their clients over to the Community Action agency known as SCOPE., Supporting Council of Preventive Efforts. The Motor Mealsprogram was started in 1968 when the Yellow Spring Citizens Center recognized a need to provide meals for the homebound, and challenged area churches to come up with a service plan to address the issue. Harvey, from First Baptist Church was named temporary committee chairman of Yellow Springs Motor Meals. At a later date the committee hired Berina, his wife as program coordinator to organize the meals and the deliveries.

The Roberts’ initial five clients grew with support from local churches, the Lions Club, and in 1975 the federal government became the program’s primary funding source. In the late 1980s and ‘90s their route covered 150 miles a day, serving 90 to 100 people. Motor Meals did more than just provide meals for their clients they provided a caring daily support system to monitor their clients’ other health and comfort needs. The drivers checked on clients when delivering meals and informed the Roberts if the recipient was in need of more assistance. The program was in existence for 28 years, and in addition to their work with Motor Meals, the Roberts were very active in the First Baptist Church and wereknown in their Wright Street neighborhood as “Mom Bert” and “Papa Harvey.”

In 1977 Harvey was chosen as one of the Top Ten volunteers in the United States by United Way and also received many other awards such as the Ohio Black Achievement Award, Volunteer of the Year by the Greene County Service Center of the Red Cross, and Volunteer of the month by the Friends Care Center. Mrs. Roberts was also the recipient of many awards including the Miami Valley’s Top Ten Women’s Award, and the Outstanding Community Service John Eimoore Award.

Both the Roberts were also very active members in their church since 1955. Berina Roberts served as church clerk, Sunday School Secretary, and teacher of Young Adults. She organized and was the first Chairman of the Ladies Circle which later became the Pastor’s Aid and was the first chairperson of the Deaconess Board. “Mom Bert” passed away on January 7, 2017 at Friends Care Community of Yellow Springs at the age of 90 after failing health. Harvey served as chairperson in charge of fundraising for the new First Baptist Church facility at 600 Dayton Street. He served on the Deacon Board and was honored by the Church for his faithful service until his passing in June of 2001.

*Isabel Adams Newman*