A Little Bit of Faith is All You Need

by Jennifer Filka, Proverbs 31 Ministries

“What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?”

“Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied. 2 Kings 4:2

It was one of those seasons. A season in life where every breath I breathed and every morning I woke, life got worse. A season where I felt like Job. A season of now what? Just like the widow talking to Elisha, I felt powerless to change my circumstances. My husband’s employer went bankrupt, leaving my husband without a job. One of our parents had a life-changing health crisis and required a lot of assistance. And as a couple, we experienced some devastating news. During this season, we faced new challenges through finances, relationships and emotions.

The widow in 2 Kings understood a season like mine: “‘What can I do to help you?’ Elisha asked. ‘Tell me, what do you have in the house?’ ‘Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,’ she replied” (2 Kings 4:2). She faced a season of loss as she mourned the death of her husband. It was difficult to be a woman without a husband in those times. Waking up every day, she felt alone and abandoned in her circumstances. Hers was a season of emptiness. Without a partner to share in the day-to-day decisions of parenting, she was a single mother trying to raise her children without enough income to provide. The widow lived in a season of threat. A lender was on his way to collect, and if it weren’t money, it was going to be her children, with the intent to make them slaves. She felt powerless to keep her children from a life she didn’t want for them.

Like the widow, in our seasons of loss, emptiness or threat, we can focus on our misfortunes instead of counting our blessings. Her misfortune was lack of income. Her blessing, a little bit of oil. We, too, have blessings in our season of now what. They are simply harder to find when our activities and thoughts become centered around our misfortune. During this time, it is difficult to look past the problem and notice blessings. When I looked beyond my present circumstances, God helped me see my blessings. I had: A little bit of hope. A little bit of joy. And a little bit of energy.

We, like the widow, can look at our little bit and think it’s not enough. But God looks at our little bit and says, “It’s plenty. Watch what I will do with it.” With a little bit of faith, the widow
poured and poured and poured. Until, in 2 Kings 4:5-6, every jug and bowl were filled. God knew the exact amount of oil the widow needed to cancel her debts. He took her little bit of oil and used it to not only change the course of her life, but the lives of her children.

In our season of now what, God knows exactly what we need. He will take whatever small amount we have and multiply it to be exactly what we lack. The only thing we must do is offer ourselves as empty jugs, allowing God to pour into us what we need during this season. He will use our little bit of faith to produce more faith. He will take our little bit of hope to develop trust. Our little bit of joy will bring lots of laughter. And that little bit of energy will help us accomplish much.

Celebration of Life

Joseph Skelton: February 21, 1945 – October 3, 2019
Correspondence may be sent to his daughter, Christina Haltom, 2680 Main Street, Benton, KY 42025

Linda Faye Carder: December 29, 1939 – October 3, 2019
Correspondence may be sent to Bishop Kenneth Carder, 124 Castle Church Rd., Chapin, S.C. 29036

From the Mail Bag

Aaron Dowdy (Paducah, KY) – Arron is keeping very busy in retirement (and physically fit). He enjoys cycling (that’s with pedals not a motor) and rides 10 – 15 miles every day. Two to three days a week he works in construction. He also is a volunteer with Open Doors U.S.A. as an advocate for the persecuted church and volunteers at the Community Kitchen in Paducah. And of course – once a preacher, always a preacher; Arron also fills in for clergy on vacation, leave, or illness. His biggest joy in in being able to spend more time with his four grandsons.

George Hicks (Memphis, TN) – Life is good at 90 years of age, with the limitations that go with age. I live with my son, Glenn, and the two of us make the best of our situation. Since I do not drive any more, Glenn takes me to all my appointments on his days off. When there are scheduling conflicts, our daughter, Suzie, steps in. I enjoy planning and preparing our meals. I
am organized and make a shopping list for the entire month - one stop and it’s done. I enjoy reading great novels as I am often along all day. I have kept a close relationship with Poplar Grove U.M.C. where we served in the early 1970’s. It is good to see that the church continues to grow.

Carroll & Russell Gallimore (Jackson, TN) – Since the last report, Carroll developed double vision the last of June. It was diagnosed as eye nerve palsy, akin to Bell’s palsy but a degree worse, according to the neuro-ophthalmologist at Vanderbilt Eye Institute. Since her eye has shown some improvement, the prism in her glasses has been changed to a less strong version. It’s still a “wait and see” ordeal as to whether it will fully correct itself. Russell just competed in the annual District Senior Olympics in which athletes qualified for the State Senior Olympics next June. He entered nine events, winning eight Gold medals and one Silver. He preached at Bemis on September 1. Then on September 9, he had carpal tunnel surgery on his right (dominant) hand to correct numbness in his fingers and thumb. Their newest “preemie” granddaughter, Mia, turned one-year-old on September 12. A celebration party was held on September 14 at the home of her parents in Memphis. She is in the pull-up and scooting/crawling stage. We wish everyone a wonderful fall season.

Gene & Joyce Rollins (Milan, TN) – We had a good summer at Union United Methodist Church. We received a family of seven into our church. August was our Homecoming. We were delighted to have the Heavenly Highway Singers as part of our celebration. WE are also planning to take church members to Williamstown, KY to tour the ARK Encounter. Joyce and I had the opportunity to take this tour this summer. It was fascinating. The Ark was built on the same specifications that Noah’s Ark was. It has four level. You enter on the ground level. Deck 1 is a storage area and an introduction to the small animals. On Deck 2 you find Noah’s study and library and a display of larger animals. Deck 3 contains the family living quarters and many educational exhibits. If you have not been to the Ark Encounter, we would highly recommend the trip.

William & Patty Franklin (Covington, TN) – I have been retired since 2005 and live on our 25-acre farm with my wife Patty and our 39-year-old special needs son, Sam. We are active at the First UMC in Covington where I teach the older adult Sunday School Class. I spend a lot of time puttering around my shop and taking care of almost three acres of lawn. Patty takes care of Sam (and does a good job keeping me in line!). I have finished writing and publishing our family history dating back to England in 1425 and continuing until the present.

Jim Stahler (Murray, KY) – Jim keeps amazingly busy – not sure how he fits everything into his days. He has almost completed his Course of Study (only three more classes to go!!!). He
conducts Bible Study, worship services, and serves Communion at four area assisted living facilities: Brookdale, Wesley at Murray, Spring Creek, and Hickory Wood. He also finds time to take Communion to homebound members of Murray First Church and visits hospitalized church members. He enjoys filling in for other pastors as needed.

**Sandra Cook (Cordova, TN)** – 2019 has been a busy year for Sandra. She traveled to Florida to visit her daughter and her family. While in Florida she toured the Ringling Circus Museum. Her daughter also tries to come to Memphis several times a year. Sandra like to “play tourist” when her daughter visits, visiting the many points of interest here. Sandra’s son, Jeff and his wife live in Memphis and Sandra enjoys dining out with them frequently. She says she is blessed with both friends and family who often visit and walk with her. She has a new I-pad, a Mother’s Day gift. It is a much-used tool allowing her easy access to thousands of books. Sandra particularly liked being contacted by mail by her reporter. She said she often does not answer her phone when she does not recognize the number. (Ed’s note: our reporters try calling, emailing, and writing to keep in touch with our seniors.)

**Drew Brewer (Jackson, TN)** This retirement is a new thing to me, having worked all my life since the age of 16. I am enjoying spending more time with my family in Jackson, especially with my 3-year-old grandson, Abram. I am currently living in the home build by my grandfather. It is the home that I spent much of my childhood in. I have been making repairs and renovations and am enjoying being the steward of the family homeplace. I have been attending Aldersgate and Forest Heights United Methodist churches and filling in the pulpit as needed. With all that I am doing in retirement, I wonder where I ever found time to work full time!

**Walter & Linda Mischke (Memphis, TN)** enjoy living at the Trezevant Episcopal Retirement Home. They attend St. John’s U.M.C. where they are active in the choir. Linda still sees clients in her Spiritual Director’s practice. Walter has served over 3 years leading worship services at the Allen Morgan Nursing Home. Walter and Linda both enjoy doing volunteer projects at Trezevant.

**Wesley and Becky Fears (Oakland, TN)**: Wesley and I spent a week last March at one of our favorite destinations, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. On the way home we stopped at Ninety Six Historic Site, South Carolina. This site was a prosperous village of about 100 settlers at the time of the Revolutionary War. It has been wonderfully preserved and rebuilt. Wesley’s ancestors settled in this area in the 1700’s. His 6th great-grandfather’s log house is in the historic park. Wesley was blessed with the opportunity to officiate at our youngest grand-daughter’s wedding earlier in October. We had a wonderful time celebrating this special occasion with family and friends.
Craig and Kay Jordan (Nesbit, MS): In 2019 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Our children, Michael and Rebekah, son-in-law Andy, and grandchildren, Holden Courtney, Hunter, and Daniel held a reception for us at Trinity U.M.C. Two weeks prior to that event we completed a Danube River Cruise beginning in Budapest and visiting Bratislava, Vienna, Durnstein, Passau, Regensburg, Nuremberg, and Prague. We made the trip with our usual traveling companions, Kay’s three siblings and their spouses. At home our activities are much the same. Kay is heavily involved at Trinity as Lay Leader, volunteers as a reading assistant at Libertas Montessori School where Daniel is a student, and volunteers at the Tallahatchie, MS Federal Detention Center assisting in Spanish translation for immigrant detainees regarding their rights in seeking asylum. Craig continues to teach one course at Rhodes College each semester, care for his horse and goat, volunteers with a University of Tennessee Institutional Review Board Panel, and serves on the Methodist LeBonheur Hospital Ethics Committee. Thankfully, our overall health remains good though neither one of us walks as fast or as far as we once did.

William Clayton and Charlotte Davis (Shalimar, FL) are attending Trinity U.M.C. in Fort Walton. They participate in the Prayer Warriors on Mondays and work in the soup kitchen on Fridays. On Tuesdays they lead a grief support group at Crosspoint U.M.C. in Niceville, Fl. After the meeting the group usually goes to lunch. Clayton’s son, Charles, lives in Fort Walton and work for Marriot. His daughter does home care for elderly clients in the Fort Walton area while a granddaughter takes computer classes. Clayton has a brother in Huntingdon, TN and Charlotte has a brother in Giles Co, TN. They were able to drive to Tennessee for a visit this August, keeping their ties to Tennessee strong. Charlotte also has a sister in Clearwater, Florida and they hope to visit her this fall.

Whitney Caldwell (Milan, TN) reports that she enjoys reading the News ‘N Views and looks forward to its arrival each quarter.

Benny and Gail Hopper (Jackson, TN): At the end of May, Benny and his two sons, Keith and John, took a trip to England, Scotland, and Ireland – something that has been on Benny’s bucket list for a long time. Being an avid golfer, Benny wanted to go to St. Andrew’s golf course and have his picture made at the famous ridge. While in Ireland, the men stayed in a castle where John Wayne filmed “The Quiet Man “in 1952.
I talked with Mary Wright and her son Keith (Jackson, TN). She is doing much better. She was able to visit family in Memphis and stayed overnight. She enjoys reading. Keith and his son are going to the Cumberland Mountain State Park in Crossville to do some fly fishing and will be gone for 2 or 3 days. They will be around the area that has about 3 waterfalls. (I am not acquainted with the area, but ANY place in the mountains with waterfalls is beautiful!)

Mary Jane King and Richard (Paris, TN) went to their annual Lake Junaluska this summer. They celebrated their anniversary by going to see the “Lion King” and enjoying a nice meal. Rick had congestive heart failure recently but is doing much better now. He has had physical therapy and is taking an antibiotic along with breathing treatment because he ended up with pneumonia. The lab work on his kidneys came back well. He hopes to go out later this week for an “outing” before he goes to Eiffel Gardens while he gets his strength back.

Covie Byars (Paris, TN) is doing about the same. Her son, Randy, says she has good days and bad. She has fallen a few times so the nursing home would prefer her not to walk unassisted. (After 80+ years it’s hard to break a habit)

H.B. and Rosie Fields (Paris, TN) are managing to keep busy with LOTS of things. His church is doing well, averaging about 40 per Sunday. Between visitors coming and regular church members, it is an active church. H.B. said he’s been busy repairing houses, cars, taking people to doctor appointments, and visiting church members. He said they have no major things to complain about or need praying about, so they are doing well, just having a couple of teenagers around that keep them on their toes (and young).

Harold and Jacque Stricker had planned to attend the BIG Stricker family reunion July 4th in Indiana, but Jacque’s father fell and needed special care for 6 weeks. Harold chose to skip the family reunion and stay with me. Latter we went to Albuquerque, NM for a “Celebration of Life” on July 27th for our middle son who died October 31, 2018. The date was set for a time when most of the family and friends could attend. Dale’s daughter and children from Utah, our other two sons and their families along with other family and friends attended. Absent was our daughter Julie who took care of our 96-year-old Dad, and daughter Jennifer who was in South Africa to complete her seminary graduation requirements. Dale’s ashes were scattered on the Sandia Mountain side where he spent much time photographing Mountains, animals sun rises and sun sets. Dale’s coworkers purchased and placed a permanent park bench with his name on an attached plaque. We were able to visit with friends and neighbors who told us how much they thought of our son. We had our little family reunion over Labor
Day weekend at our home with 29 attending. I guess I thought we were having an army because we had a lot of food left over. This year we didn’t have a much of a garden. We planted sweet corn which did well as did our blueberries. We harvested over 170 gallons of blueberries. The Mennonites picked on shares, so we didn’t have to pick ALL 170 gallons. You add mowing grass with the corn and blueberries we stayed busy. At least, we were tired at the end of the day. We were privileged to attend the annual Retirees Retreat. We recommend it for all retirees!

**Reporter Tom Perkins**

**Calvin and Judy Clark (Shelbyville, KY)** will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in October. Calvin and Judy had some health problems in the spring, he with pneumonia and Judy with a light heart attack in April. Both have recovered well. They have spent some time visiting their daughter in Nashville, seeing family and enjoying the experience. They have included a picture of their two grandsons Calvin and Tommy Vantrease.

**Jerry and Dot Carr (Brentwood, TN)** report they are doing good and enjoying life around the Nashville area.

**Tommie and Charlotte Martin (Sharon, TN)** are healthy and filling the pulpit wherever and whenever invited. They send their best regards.,

**Tom and Mary Perkins** (Dyersburg, TN) are still involved in their many projects, having fun with craft shows. Their garden is down to just three pepper plants that refuse to die in this hot dry period. He has a new toy he bought at King Cotton Motors in Covington. He rides up the hill to his mailbox, and down to the garden. Tom continues to have a little problem with his right hip. He had a left hip replacement in 2001 and is not looking forward to any revisions.

**Tommie and Charlotte Martin (Sharon, TN)**: We have enjoyed the summer with church, friends, trips, reading and household chores occupying our time. We still attend Gardner UMC in Martin on Sundays and Sharon UMC in Sharon on Wednesday evenings. I have been blessed to fill the pulpit occasionally this year and teach bible studies and Sunday school lessons when needed. Our big trip this summer was an Alaskan cruise which we joined with a visit to my sister in Seattle. The island cities are not like the Caribbean tropical islands but we found them to be prettier, historically exciting, and cooler (thank goodness!). I could easily move to Sitka or Ketchikan, Alaska. Apart from that, we make trips to Memphis, Jackson, and Paducah to visit friends, shop and look in on family. Charlotte has been very busy looking after her aunts in the Martin area. She is a regular Nightingale who still has time to take care of
both the house and me. I putter around in our garden which has supplied us already with a year’s supply of butternut squash which I bake into bread and pies. We had another trip planned for November but alas, I have been summoned to Jury Duty. We will have to postpone our Fall trip to the Spring. It has been a wonderful summer, and as it has been often said, “We don’t know how we ever had time to work full time.”

Pat Baker-Batsel (Longmont, CO): As many of you know John passes away last November. He was diagnosed with cancer and had treatment for six weeks. With the help of friends, family, Home Health and latter Hospice, I was able to care for him at home. The past 11 months have been a blur of legal, financial and emotional issues and adjustments. John and I enjoyed many good years of retirement. We enjoyed traveling, being active in our church and other organizations. Life I different now – but still Life Is Good. I enjoy receiving the News ‘N’ Views. I usually do not answer my phone when I do not recognize the caller so I missed the call from my reporter. I am so glad you follow up that call with a letter. Thank you for all the hard work you do on the News.

Reporter Pat Calhoun

I had difficulty reaching many of the people on my calling list. I called several times on different days but still did not reach them. Some of the telephone numbers were no longer in service. Please, when you change your phone number, don’t forget to notify the Memphis Conference Office or your District Office.

Duane and Patty King (Sulfolk, VA): Pattie writes that they moved to Virginia several years ago because of medical reasons. It has been a difficult and painful time. She has had two cervical spine surgeries and is waiting on a third surgery. Hopefully this brings the relief that she needs. She sends her greetings to all her friends in the Memphis Conference. She says “God has my back, Jesus has my front, and the Holy Spirit has my soul!”

Reporter Joe Moseley

Jerry and Martha Wagley (Memphis, TN): Jerry and I had a good summer, hosting the 4th of July celebration at our cabin in Hardeman, Co. This was our 32nd year for the gathering of Friends from the Sunday School (Class 10) at Highland Heights UMC. Our younger son, Garrett and his family were able to attend. Jerry and I are still driving the Sea Doo and pulling folks on the “Big Bertha” tube. No, that is not an activity for me! We are so happy to report the new sanctuary at First Church, Memphis is being used to glorify God in Christ’s mission to
Downtown Memphis. The new sanctuary has windows on both sides and we see the lovely Courtyard on the north side and 201 Poplar (The Jail) on the south. This keeps us focused on our call to mission. Please come and join us for worship. Jerry has given great leadership to the rebuilding and the maintaining of the property. We are grateful to News and Views for keeping us in touch with friends.

**Joe and Carol Moseley (Atoka, TN):** Can you believe we’re into October (at the time of this writing) and it’s still in the 90’s. We got back from our trip to Oregon and my garden was fried. Our daughter Kristi came over to water it once a week but that didn’t help. No rain for most of the 2 ½ weeks. The Oregon coast was beautiful! Here is a photo of some of the giant redwood trees. If you look really close you can see Carol and I at the base. Here is better photo of Carol at Fisherman’s Wharf. I’ve managed to get a few preaching requests in since our last newsletter and thoroughly enjoy teaching on a rotation basis in our Sunday school. We study the books of the Bible chapter-by-chapter. We just finished The Pastorals and now we have started 1 & 2 Kings. In October we will be leaving for a family reunion in Navarre Beach, FL then Carol & I will cover the Florida panhandle then down to the Keys with a few stops along the way. Really looking forward to that.

**Reporter Phillip Jackson**

**Dr. Brady Whitehead (Springhill, TN)** reports that he is enjoying life. He lives about 30 miles from his daughter and her family and enjoys watching his grandchildren playing soccer.

**Walter German (Jackson, TN)** and I had a good visit reflecting on the times years ago when he was my pastor at Gates UMC. He had a hip replacement back in April and is still on the mend from that. His hip pain is much less and his mobility is greatly improved. He enjoys golf and visiting with friends in Jackson. He states that he keeps busy!

**Phillip Jackson (Ripley, TN):** We are busy bees. Jean and I keep our toddler grandson while his mother teaches school here in Ripley. We also try to keep up with his freshman sister at UTM. In addition, I’m out of retirement and serving as interim (so they say) at Faith and Mount Pleasant Churches here in Lauderdale County. So much for retirement!
It is never easy to say good bye to one of our reporters – so we will just say thank you Philip for being one of our reporters. It sounds like you are going to be busy and get plenty of exercise chasing after a toddler!

**Reporter Deborah Morris**

**Kendrick and Ruby Lewis (Benton, KY):** The day that I talked with Brother Kendrick, he, his wife, and several of their Marshall County Senior Citizen friends, had been to eat fish and the trimmings at a restaurant in Hardin, Kentucky. (I think if I had called an hour later, he would have been napping after all that good food.) The Lewis's are both enjoying good health at this time. He is still doing some preaching. They both stay active all the time. The Marshall County Senior Citizens, of which Kendrick and Ruby are active, have had some problems this year through no fault on their part - politics can be strange, as we all know. However, they are trying to get their building in good shape, and hope to be serving fellow Seniors in earnest by the beginning of 2020. By the time we receive our upcoming newsletter, Kendrick and Ruby will have attended a reunion of Fairview School students from the past, as well as his 66th year reunion from North Side High School! Both events will be held at Old Country Store in Jackson. Needless to say, he was looking forward to both of these gatherings.

**Betty Jo Masters (Memphis, TN):** As always, Betty Jo was in good spirits and full of life when I talked with her. It had been one of the many HOT days when we talked, and she had been to the grocery store that day. Betty Jo's health is still good, and she hopes to keep it that way! She was telling me of one of her grandson's engagement and wedding to be next year. Her daughter-in-law, Kathy Masters, is planning to retire from the Board of Global Ministries next year. She lives in the Atlanta area, and Betty Jo is hoping that she will move back to the Memphis area.

**David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN):** We are looking forward to some cooler, not cold, days ahead. David continues to enjoy writing from his lift chair. We are proud that David has not fallen this year - a "big" deal for us.

**Reporter Jenna Garland**

**Carol Craig (Hazel, KY):** This summer began sadly for me. I lost my eldest sister in a tragic accident. We were very close and I was privileged to be her caregiver for 18 months. A few days after my sister’s death I lost my niece. Both losses have been difficult on the family. I enjoyed spending several days caring for my granddaughter, “little Gracie”, while her mother
traveled on book tour. Her mother, Erin, has written a book, “House of Salt and Sorrows” and has been on the top ten list of new authors. Jenna Garland and I enjoyed sharing a room at the recent Retiree’s Reunion at Lakeshore. We always look forward to that event. This fall I will be celebrating my 60th high school reunion. I will also be attending the South Eastern Jurisdictional Choral Festival at Lake Junaluska. For several years I have sung in the choir that numbers between 250-350 participants. My son, Dan, who is one of the directors of this huge choir, gives me this trip each year as a birthday gift. That is a very special gift!

I talked with Fay Garrett (Murray, KY) and she said they are all doing good. She did not have any special news. I am glad she is doing better.

Dan & Aileen Leslie (Kirksey, KY) wrote: Aileen and I are doing fine. We just returned from a short vacation to central Kentucky visiting the Shaker Village and Berea and other sites. The Shaker Village was the third largest Shaker community in the United States in the 1800’s. The site has 13 historic buildings that are beautifully preserved. We keep our four-year-old great-grandson after pre-school and that keeps us hopping.

I haven't heard from the Sywells or McKinneys but I know they are up and going because I saw all of them at the 5th Sunday Rally at Russell’s Chapel UMC. We had a great night of singing and were blessed by a blind girl who plays the piano and keyboard with her husband on the guitar.

Carol Craig and I had a great time at Lakeshore at the Retirees Retreat. I made some new friends and greeted old ones. It is always a great to be at Lakeshore. It is a very special place. We visited and made smores in the big old fireplace at the lodge. There were some Nomads there doing repairs on the lodge and we got acquainted with them and had a great time of fellowship. I am still reading a lot and am thankful that I can still do all of my own work around the house and cook when I have too. I sure don't go hungry. God bless you all till next time. Jenna Garland

**Reporter Glenn Hill**

Steve and Christie Callicoat (Jackson, TN) Steve wrote that he has had some quality family time. In August he and a sister visited their oldest sister in Tooele, Utah. What made it so special was that Steve had not seen her in over forty years. He said it was a wonderful visit. (I would add that it must have been a great reunion.) On the first weekend in October, Steve’s son and grandson joined him and went to Lincoln, Nebraska to see the Huskers football game. He said, as always, it was a fun trip.
Glenn and Georgia Ann Hill (Murray, KY): When I looked at the calendar to be reminded of what Georgia and I did in the quarter, I was reminded of the extreme heat and lack of rain. In July, our preacher goes off for a sabbatical (I mean schooling in Atlanta for three weeks). Dan Leslie and I were called on to fill in for Brother Escue. August started off well despite the drought. I told some friends that it was so hot and dry in Western Kentucky that the fish in my pond were having to sweat to keep the water level up! Georgia had been working hard as usual, hot sun, no rain, or whatever. On August 10 we were moving some donated food to the Soup for the Soul Kitchen in Murray. In talking with her during that moving, I could tell something was wrong. She shrugged her shoulders and gave me short answers. I suggested going to the Emergency Room but she said no. She was liturgist in our church that Sunday and did well with the Responsive Reading leader’s part. Her speech was alternating good and bad and later, the good speech left her. Two days later, she decided it was time to see a doctor. We went to the ER at Murray Hospital and they quickly put her in an ambulance and transferred her to Baptist Health in Paducah with the diagnosis of a CVA or stroke. She was hospitalized for almost a week and then transferred to inpatient rehab. We are now going to outpatient Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy at the Wellness Center in Murray two days a week. Her stroke affected her right side, arm, hand, and leg, took away her speech ability and slowed her down a bit. She is now making progress physically. Today we saw a heart doctor in Paducah, who wants to do a nuclear injection stress test latter in October and a possibly wear a heart monitor for two weeks prior to that. Georgia appreciates the prayers cards, food items, sitters and all that has been done for her (us) in these trying times. We missed attending our High School Reunions this summer – her 57th from Calloway County High School and my 60th from Murray High School. OH, WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED. The corn crop was abundant on our place and we have had 4.5 inches of rain this week. Blessings on all our colleagues, families and friends.

Paul and Carolyn Clayton (Jackson, TN): I could feel their excitement as I read Paul’s note about celebrating the birth of their first great-grand child, William Wesley Clayton, born to Alyssa and Matthew Clayton of Leesburg, Virginia. Paul and Carolyn are looking forward to joining the family as they gather in Leesburg for William Wesley’s baptism in early November. (Congratulations to the Clayton families.)

Nancy Wheatley (Jackson, TN): The month of August was an emotional up-and-down. I got to go hold my latest great-grandbaby, Ezra, for the first time! He was born July 26th. I must share him with John and Ann Archer (which I'm glad to do!) One of my favorite cousins, Jean, died from pancreatic cancer in late August. My niece from North Carolina came for a visit and brought her dad, Baxter, Dossie's older brother, to see my new apartment here in Jackson! It was a fun visit for all of us! September came in on Labor Day week-end with a family
reunion! My three children and their spouses, many of their children and families, and I, stayed together all week-end and had a great time! On Sunday, my father’s extended family gathered at Puryear UMC in their Christian Life Center for a meal and fellowship. The first week in October, I went with my son, Kevin and daughter-in-law, Susan to Tybee Island and Savannah, GA. for three nights, and on to St. John's, FL to visit my grandson, Thomas and his wife, Haleigh, in their new home! We had a wonderful visit and great weather but, this lady was tired when she got home! For those who don't know, I've moved to Jackson to a cozy apartment at Creekside on Murray Guard Drive. I'm now a member of Aldersgate UMC, and teaching Sunday School one Sunday a month. (They really needed someone to fill a spot after someone moved - it's not for my wealth of wisdom!) I'm really happier than I thought I might be. I had lived in Huntingdon for 19 years after Dossie's retirement and loved it there. But, as most of us have experienced, there are times we need to move on. Life is good!

Reporter Deborah Matthewson

Shirley Small (North Point, FL): I was glad I was able to attend Annual Conference for the Memorial Service and to see friends. My sister, our niece and nephew and his children were able to be there, too, which was special to me. My sister took me to Michigan with her to spend some time and then we traveled to Illinois, where I am from, to visit three special aunts who are in their 90's. We had a great time! I am still living in Florida and enjoy my church family, friends and neighbors. I am active on the Missions Committee as we work to help our sister Church in Cuba and with other missions. I am also active with outreach and music. I like to ride my bike and go to exercise about two times a week with a friend. I frequently go to the Sunset Gospel Singing at the Venice Beach. It is beautiful! I thank God for all His bountiful provisions!

Charles and Ruth Leist (Memphis, TN): They will move November 1 from their current apartment at Highland Terrace in Memphis. They will move into another apartment complex in Memphis, and Ruth and son, Carlton, are now researching which apartment complex is the best fit for the Leists. Charles is doing the best he can with Parkinson's Disease, and Ruth is doing her best also to care for Charles and do the house work. Neither Ruth nor Charles are driving. They recently lost their oldest son, Charles, Jr., in Texas to a heart attack.

Evelyn Brady -- Evelyn is 95 years old and is in living in the Wesley Meadows retirement complex in Hernando, MS. She is near her son, Mike, who lives in Southaven, MS, and to her daughter, Carla, who lives in Olive Branch, MS. Evelyn says she is doing well for her age.

Steve Adkins -- Steve and his son, Andrew, share a home together in Bartlett, TN, and they both worship at Ellendale UMC, only 1.5 miles from their home. They are very happy at Ellendale and describe it as a small, active, and friendly church. Steve teaches a Bible study to
45 regular attendees each Sunday night, and he really enjoys leading it. Ellendale also offers many other Sunday night opportunities for all ages.

**Gene and Joyce Rollins (Milan, TN)** They thoroughly enjoyed a trip in July to the Noah’s Ark in Kentucky, and they are going again with their church group from Union UMC in October.

**Deborah and Harry Mathewson (Munford, TN):** We vacationed from Sept. 12-25, at various Florida beaches: Panama City Beach, Clearwater Beach, and Daytona Beach, and took in all the historical sites in St. Augustine, and did some shopping there in their unique, specialty shops. We ate some of the best seafood ever, including some types we had never heard of, Hogfish from Jamaica, and Whahoo which are both white fish. We also visited long-time friends in Jackson, MS; Clearwater, FL; Ormand Beach, Florida; and Atlanta. The lady we visited in Jackson, Roma Morrow, is 103 years old. I first met her many years ago when we were both members of Grace UMC in Memphis. Another friend we visited in Ormand Beach was Helen Rose, formerly of Germantown UMC. We both share common UMC district and conference ties. In Atlanta we spent time with Lindy Wine and her husband. I first met Lindy on the beach in Panama City Beach, Florida, when we were both only 19 years old. The catch-up visits, relaxing on the beaches and the sight-seeing all contributed to making this a fun and memorable vacation experience.

**Reporter Bobbie Clarke**

I enjoy calling and talking with our retired clergy and spouses. It gives me something to look forward to. This quarter I had a lot of difficulty reaching the people on my calling list. So many of the telephone numbers were not up to date. Just a reminder: If you have any change in your address, phone or email please contact your district office.

**Aaron & Melvonna Dowdy (Paducah, KY):** I really enjoyed talking with Aaron. The last church he served before retirement was in Decaturville which is near my hometown of Parsons. We enjoyed talking about places and people. I appreciated the stories he shared with me about my husband, John.

**Kenneth and Gail Wilkerson (Johnson City, TN) have enjoyed the long summer. Kenneth especially enjoys working in the yard. Gail has had some health difficulties and is walking with a walker.**

**Bobbie Clarke (Jackson, TN):** My son, Tim, is now living with me. I enjoy his company when he is home. I especially enjoy his cooking. Tim works out of town frequently. Currently we are going through the long process of cleaning out my husband’s home office. It has only been a year since John passed and we find so many memories. Next, Tim wants to tackle the attic filled with several generations of “stuff”. I say “What’s out of sight is out of mind!”
Editor’s Note: It is no secret that I struggle with punctuation – figuring out where the comma and quotation marks should go. This sign really caught my eye!

The Rocking Chair Challenge

You all have heard of the Ice Bucket Challenge where people dumped buckets of ice water on their heads to raise awareness of A.L.S. Well this challenge is a lot more user friendly, warmer, and not nearly as messy. I am calling it The Rocking Chair Challenge. Many of you remember pleasant evenings sitting in front of the conference center at Lakeshore rocking in the wonderful chairs. Well – the chairs are not so wonderful anymore. Time and weather have taken its toll. The wood is rough and splintering and the joints are loose. I am challenging you to take the time right now and write a check to Lakeshore and donate to help purchase new chairs. Donations of any amount - $5, $10, $25 will be greatly appreciated. Please write “Rocking Chair Challenge” in the memo line. Gary Lawson said a new rocker costs $150 (They purchase the heavy-duty chairs so they will last longer). Mail your check to Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly, 1458 Pilot Knob Rd, Eva, TN 38333

2019 Retirees Reunion at Lakeshore

Once again, we had a great time resting and fellowshipping at Lakeshore. Although our group was small the bonds remain as strong as ever. Many look forward to this annual event. Here are a few pictures for you to enjoy.
**Staying in touch** – As you read through The News ‘N’ Views, please lift up our retirees in your prayers. It is so important that we stay connected and encourage each other. Although I do not publish telephone numbers and addresses without expressed permission, you can call your district office or the Conference office and request address. Send cards, letters, make phone calls – let people know that they are important.

Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church
24 Corporate Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38307

*Return Service Requested*