If you missed the summer edition of The News ‘N’ Views, you were not alone. I received several calls inquiring about their “missing” copies. Since the Spring edition was delayed at the post office until the first of June, we decided not to publish a newsletter in July. I missed talking to my group of retirees that I call, and to my reporters who are always so helpful. While this has truly been a season of loss, (canceled plans, travel, graduations, worshiping together), it has also been a time of Sabbath, a time to slow down, to reflect, to read, to pray and of course there is that ever present “honey do” list. I pray that this has been a time of healing and rest for you. My planned cruise through the Panama Cannel became a new Maytag washer and much needed riding lawn mower. I can now accept those “gifts” with grace, but I remember a time after we were first married, that Robert gave me a new iron and ironing board for Christmas – that wasn’t exactly a grace-filled moment! Time has a way of changing perspectives. I also had plans to see the 2020 Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. That production is offered only one summer every decade, so I decided I had better grab it while I still had the energy and mobility. Due to the pandemic, the play has been postponed until 2022 – giving me another 24 months to learn how to pronounce: Oberammergau! I am fortunate to have a son who immigrated to Germany. Although I have not been to the passion play, I have enjoyed many trips. I am looking forward to a trip in 2021 to meet my newest granddaughter, Johanna Jetton and perhaps again in 2022 to see the play.

Several people have asked, “What is going to happen with our newsletter after the merger?” I can tell you this with certainty: “I don’t know.” At this time the newsletter and activities of the Retirees Association is financed through The Board of Pensions. We appreciate all the support we have received over the years. I am assured that our retirees remain an important part of our conference – and the new conference that will come.
A Celebration of Life

James Riley Mulroy, July 12, 1925 - May 22, 2020
Correspondence may be sent to his son, Bill Mulroy at 811 Glaze Cove
Collierville, TN 38017

Richard (Rick) King, May 28, 1949 – July 4, 2020
Correspondence may be sent to his wife, Mary Jane at: PO Box 697 Paris, TN 38242

Shirley Gupton Lynn, July 31, 1935 – July 2, 2020

Edward Wesley Walton, Jr., December 2, 1939 – June 6, 2020
Correspondence may be sent to his wife Marilyn at 8120 Hunter’s Creek Dr., Olive Branch, MS 38654

Mary Louise Wright, Sept 1, 1920 – July 26, 2020

Sarah Lee Dickerson, July 2, 1941 – August 6, 2020

Rachel Marie Duck, March 13, 1952 – August 12, 2020
Correspondence may be sent to her husband, Rev. Daymond Duck, 68 State Rt.185, Dyer, TN 38330.

Katherine Elizabeth Chandler, 1966 – August 12, 2020
Correspondence may be sent to her husband, Rev Ray Chandler, 200 Maxfield Dr., Paducah, KY 42001.

Mary Louise Wilder, August 17, 2020

Eugene Burkeen, November 3, 1945 - September 11, 2020
Correspondence may be sent to his wife, Mickie Burkeen, 4983 Hwy. 140 E., Puryear, TN 38251.

From the Mail Bag

Mike and Cindy Morris (Cordova, TN): At the beginning of my "retired" life in June of 2019, I managed to shift from my old routines of pastoral ministry to new routines that would keep me busy and supposedly out of "trouble." Sundays shifted from leading preaching and worship to sitting back and enjoying worship. After visiting several churches of various denominations, I finally settled on a Sunday morning routine of worshipping at Heartsong UMC for its contemporary early service and then joining Cindy and my daughter Kristen and granddaughters at 11 AM at Ellendale UMC for more traditional worship. I find myself really enjoying the juxtaposition of the different style of worship service. Cindy attends SS and Study groups at EUMC. When I get away to my Pickwick cottage, I would visit Pickwick and Corinth First UMCs, as well a contemporary service at the Church at the Crossroads in Corinth. Monday through Fridays found me often in the driver’s seat as I chauffeured my granddaughters, Hope, Kendall, and Emma Grace, to and from school, soccer, basketball, band, drama,
etc... So much for sleeping in. Tuesday mornings I met with some clergy friends, Wednesday mornings I continued delivering Meal on Wheels for MIFA on the same route in North Memphis that I have been delivering meals for 23 years. Thursdays found me with another group of clergy friends for lunch. Almost every day I spent an hour and half at the YMCA. Life was back to some sense of routine..... Then came the pandemic. No more chauffeuring, going to live and vibrant worship, going out to eat, meeting with friends, taking trips etc... compounding the problem, no Cardinal or Redbird Baseball, no Grizzly Basketball, not even live Golf on TV. No YMCA. I'm still delivering Meals on Wheels. Even Cindy was running out of honey-dos. I was begging her to let me go grocery shopping for her. Serious boredom was breaking out. Finally, to give me something to build a routine around, we got a 2-month-old sheprador (German Shepard-Labrador mix). Now I have a reason to get up every morning at 6 AM to let the dog out, feed her and take her for two daily one hours walks. Que sera sera. Cindy is still working a reduced schedule as administrative assistant at St. Stephen UMC. Looking for the day when we can all meet together again.

James and Vivien Loftin, Shanghai, China: We live in Shanghai, but we came to the states in January for what we thought would be a two-week trip. We are still here due to the pandemic. We are blessed to be staying in an apartment owned by generous friends in Alabama. Vivien continues to teach students at her school in Shanghai as they are using distance learning. I continue to write and to coach leaders via Zoom. We have no idea when we will return. We must wait for the Chinese borders to open and US-based airlines to begin serving Asia. By God’s grace, we are healthy and at peace, serving the Lord and dealing with life one day at a time.

Mary Lou Wilson, (Collierville, TN): Mary continues to serve as the organist-pianist for Piperton UMC as she has for the last 20 years. At 90 years old, that’s quite a record! She is eager to return to in-person worship. She says she has been blessed with a wonderful family. Daughter, Susan, lives in Stillwater, OK and son, Danny, in Benton, AR. She has five great-grandchildren. What a blessing!

Lonnie and Eliza Royal (Collierville, TN) During the COVID 19 pandemic, my wife and I have completed the book we have been working on for several years. Eliza is an avid reader of books. When she tires of reading, she knits and listens to audio books. She loves “The Father Tim” stories. I sometimes listen in just to spend time with her. For me, life in the slow lane consists of reading, writing, going for long walks, traveling, and spending quality time with family and friends. We recently worshiped with relatives and friends in Chattanooga. Seven of us went out to dinner (practicing social distancing of curse). It was exciting to have my book, “Affirmations from a Hospice Patient Named Job” published. Family and friends purchased all of the first printing. I should receive a second shipment soon. If you are interested, you can purchase a copy directly from me for $7 (you can contact me at lonnieroy@aol.com) or from Amazon.com for $12.
Daly Thompson, Jr. (Franklin, TN): Daly has been retired since June 2016 after 70 years in the ministry. He is currently recovering from two strokes which occurred in April, 2020. The strokes have left him partially paralyzed on his left side along with some other vision and cognitive issues. He is currently going to Outpatient Rehab about 4 days/week for physical therapy and occupational therapy along with some cognitive therapy. Since he retired, he had been writing monthly devotions which were sent to approximately 75 individuals each month and he has completed writing a book which will include stories from his long ministry along with the 30 devotionals. We are in the process of seeking to have the book published.

Carol Craig, Hazel, KY: Despite the Corona Virus, my granddaughter, Jennifer Ann Craig and Scott Joseph Davis had a simply elegant wedding at the Old North UMC in Evansville, IN. The attendance had to be limited to only 45 guests in addition to the wedding party. All wore masks and observed the 6 ft social distancing guidelines. Her father, my son Daniel, sang “Because You Are God’s Chosen Ones”. The song was written by a dear friend, Gary Smith. I was unable to make my trip to Michigan to see my son, Paul and his family. I miss seeing “little” Grace who is now four years old and four feet tall. She is a joy to speak to on the phone. Her speech and enunciation are very mature for her age.

Reporter Marcia Tate

Billy and Barbara Harris, Bartlett, TN: We have had several things to happen since we last shared in the "New ‘N’ Views." Last year, 2019, we lost two sons in death, within two months. They were 50 and 55 years in age. This year my brother-in-law died after contacting Corona-virus. He was 84 years old. All three were saved by the shed Blood of Christ. Through it all, Barbara and I are doing well. We are beginning our 13th year with Hampton Memorial. During the loss of in-person worship, we began streaming worship services on our Facebook pages. On Wednesday and Friday of each week, we have a three-minute devotional on the church's phone tree. We have been blessed by those who viewed the streamed worship services and the devotionals. We are blessed as a church that no one has been diagnosed with the Corona-virus. Our hope and prayer is that both an effective treatment and vaccine will soon be available. This year is certainly different for most; the wearing of masks, social-distancing and discovering creative ways of staying safe while going about daily living and ministry. I pray that we can soon return to a more traditional life-style. May God bless America with godly leaders, stable homes, happy children and safe communities in which to live and work.

Jimmie Phillips (Jackson, TN): I enjoy receiving the News ‘N’ Views and hope to continue receiving it. Paul passed away in March. I miss him so much. We shared eight wonderful years together. I have heard from many of Paul’s clergy friends – your words of comfort mean so much.
Harry and Deborah Mathewson – Memphis, TN: Harry recently retired after 28 years of active ministry in the UMC. His final appointment was at Atoka UMC where he served for over 10 years. Because of COVID-19 there could be no party or reception, but we were both presented with a generous gift card to Ruth’s Chris restaurant on Poplar Avenue in Memphis. We were joined there one evening in early August by another couple from Atoka UMC, Tom and Angela Hardy. We are living in our home in the Graceland area of Whitehaven, about one mile from Elvis Presley’s Graceland. This is the home that we inherited from my parents. It is a lovely neighborhood, and we are both well connected with our neighbors. Since retirement, we have added a lovely Florida/sun room to the back of our house for all my house plants and inherited furniture that we received upon the recent passing of Harry’s mom. We lost Harry’s lovely mother, Frances Mathewson, on May 24, to COVID-19. This was very sad and unexpected. Mom was 93 years of age and living happily in independent living at the Parkview Center at the time of her passing. She was in very good health for someone her age, but the virus was too much for her system. We miss her very much! We bought a small RV to pull with our Ford Expedition, and will be traveling north/east to Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland. We will deliver two of our rescued foster dogs to families who have adopted them in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We also plan to see fall color and visit old friends along our way.

Craig and Marilyn Ramsey – Milan, TN: We don’t have much to report as we are staying close to home due to the virus. We are caretakers for Craig’s aunt who lives at Wesley Fountain Place here in Milan so we are being careful about being exposed to too many people. She is 91 and not doing well, so we take extra precautions in not exposing her to the virus. I am making masks for our church members, free of charge, as we are doing in person worship. Craig has finished interpreting and self-publishing a journal his great, great grandmother wrote in 1880-1882. It was in long hand and hard to read thus a need to translate. She tells of her faith using hymns and scripture. Craig had fun looking up many unfamiliar hymns as he translated her journal. It was a labor of love as well as a historical document. Two of her five sons and a son-in-law were Methodist preachers in the Iowa Conference. He emailed their library for more information on them. We all come from somewhere on the way to somewhere else! Genealogy is fascinating and can become addictive. Hope all is well with everyone else.
Denis and Judy Renshaw – Jackson, TN: have been staying relatively close to home with the virus but are doing exceptionally well. We have been doing some camping with our 5th wheel camper; Dennis is playing golf three to four times a week; Judy is doing lots of volunteer work related to the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Centers and the Jackson Arts Council, and still works closely with state wide Chamber of Commerce leadership programs. Retirement didn’t slow her down at all!! Our children are spread out from New York to Los Angeles to Tampa and one here in Jackson. Two of the girls and family have been directly affected by the virus but have now recovered. Otherwise they are doing well, also. Dennis has accepted an interim appointment to the Cypress UMC in Crockett county and enjoying that very much. To date he has only committed until the end of the year. Plans for the future include a trip in the Spring to Yellowstone National Park and, perhaps, a few weeks traveling up through Canada to Alaska pulling our camper. If we get as far as Alaska this would be our third trip up there. Each time we’ve gone we have had some serious mechanical damage from the roads and extreme conditions. We really have enjoyed the trips but also know our truck and camper really take a beating, so we are still contemplating how far we will go this time.

David and Nancy Comerry, Jackson, TN: Nancy and I are weathering the pandemic reasonably well, although we have been distressed by the death of some friends and the long recovery period of others. We are blessed to be near our daughter Betsy and her husband Brad Little and–best of all–our grandchildren, Rowan, a sixth grader, and Ben, a second grader. Now that school and some sports have resumed, we get to enjoy some of their activities again. We also get to see our Nashville daughter, Cindy, occasionally. David continues to work part time for the United Methodist Foundation for the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences (obviously that name will have to change before too long). That gives him opportunities to visit with pastors and occasionally preach at churches around the Conference. David enjoys the weekly gathering (socially distanced) with some of the other Jackson area retired clergy. We are grateful to be able to worship in person again at Jackson First UMC and are blessed by the leadership of Sky McCracken and Eddie Bromley. We are also grateful to live close to Marge Vaughn and Wayne and Jane Fesmire. Despite some typical issues being in the 70s brings on, we feel blessed!

Charles and Ruth Leist, Memphis, TN: Ruth said Charles has been at the Maplewood Nursing Home in Jackson, TN since early March. There are over 300 people on waiting lists for nursing facilities in Memphis. When Charles needed additional care, his needs were immediate and could not wait for a room locally. Charles has advanced Parkinson's disease and cannot hear, see, or walk. He is in a wheelchair. He caught Covid and has been very sick and was in isolation for 4 weeks. No visitors are allowed to visit, not even his wife Ruth. Being ill is difficult, but adding isolation and separation is almost unbearable. Please keep Ruth and Charles in your prayers. Ruth enjoys receiving calls – please consider giving her a call (901/486-1455).

Gene and Joyce Rollins, Milan, TN: I had a sad phone conversation with Joyce Rollins who shared they lost their 19-year-old granddaughter, Reagan Rollins, in June in a car accident. Both Reagan and the driver were killed instantly. Joyce and Gene wish to thank all the clergy, spouses, and staff of the Mississippi River District for their prayers, flowers, cards, and calls during this very difficult time.
I finally reached **Steve and Mary Stone** by cell phone. I tried his email several times and kept getting a gentleman in California. It is strange how one missed letter can change things! The Stones are being safe by wearing masks and social distancing. They are planning a trip to Gatlinburg for a few days in October. I hope the colors will be beautiful during their trip. Steve and Mary share a home with their son, and all three are staying healthy. They enjoy worshiping at Ellendale UMC and they are so glad they are back to in person worship.

**John and Peggy Lloyd**, Drummonds, TN: John and Peggy, along with their daughter, Debbie, attended the wedding of their grandson in Houston. One of the groomsmen tested positive for Covid and all the attendees were quarantined for two weeks. Thankfully, no one else got the virus! Since Debbie has special needs she is at greater risks. Currently Debbie is hospitalized with pneumonia and a pulmonary embolism (blood clot). John and Peggy are taking turns staying with Debbie in the hospital.

**Joe and Mary Ann Piercey**, Cordova, TN: Joe said he and Mary Ann have been retired for over 20 years. Even though they enjoyed their pastoral years, both agree that the retirement years are the best times of their lives. They are doing well, mostly staying home except for essential business for the past six months. They only see their family outside on their patio at six feet distance. They have not physically gone to their church, Colonial Park UMC, in six months, but they have worshiped virtually by cell phone and their pastor has been good at keeping in touch with them.

**Sheron Cunningham**, Sheron is a retired teacher and the recent widow of local pastor, Ronnie Cunningham. Sheron is a member of Symsonia UMC in Symsonia, Kentucky. Ronnie and Sharron recently purchased the family farm. Although the farm was owned by the Cunningham family, Sharon’s grandmother had lived there at one time. Sheron and Ronnie were married 37 years. She is close to her daughter and two granddaughters.

**Reporter Deborah Morris**

**Kendrick and Ruby Lewis**, Benton, KY: Brother Kendrick is still preaching. He said that they took into consideration the recommendations of Kentucky’s Governor, and did not have services for a while. As they begin having in-person worship service, they are finding that some of their members are still not comfortable returning. Still, they are having good attendance. Ruby and Kendrick are usually active at the senior center, but are staying at home and trying to obey the rules. They have ventured out to eat once or twice but are very careful around other people.

**Betty Jo Masters**, Memphis, TN: Betty Jo is always a delight to talk to. She loves to talk, and always seems to be knowledgeable about her topics. She has done well during these last six months. Like many of us, she has cancelled some doctors/dentist visits. However, in the last few weeks, she has ventured to these appointments, and evidently got good reports. Betty Jo did say that "in all of my life, I have never missed church as much as I have now." She attends St. Luke’s where she is following the trend of
online worshipping. She does her post office, drug store, grocery visits early in the day, and feels very fortunate not to have had any problems. Her family checks on her all the time, both in person, and online.

**Brady Whitehead**, Springhill, TN: While talking to Brady we reminisced about our Lambuth days of "way back yonder." He, like most everyone, has stayed at home the last six months. He says he is enjoying life and staying healthy. Brady lives close to his daughter and family, so I'm sure that helps him as well.

**William and Janet Miller**, West Paducah, KY: I talked to Janet for a long time. They are serving McKendree UMC in West Paducah going into their 16th year. They live in the Heath community. Their church does a virtual service, as so many are doing these days. They, too, have people who just aren't ready to come to church in person. Bill is dealing with some back problems now, so they are getting to doctor's offices. As we are all trying to do, they are trying to do what needs to be done while trying to stay healthy during these uncertain times.

**David and Deborah Morris** - I'm just glad to write that we are "safe and healthy." We certainly stay at home. David has way too many underlying health conditions to be out in the world. We take advantage of online worshipping as so many are doing in this "new norm." His computer is David’s best thing ever. He would be lost without it. I would be lost without my books.

**Jo Elliott** – Henderson, TN: Jo and her family had planned trips to Florida and up the East Coast for this summer. As one can imagine, that certainly didn't happen! Instead, they have stayed close to home, with some excursions to Chickasaw Park. They have a camper which made it convenient. She and the family did do their summer garden and have enjoyed the results of that venture. As there are no close neighbors, everyone in the family has been able to get out and walk a lot and not run into anyone. Her granddaughter is a student at UT Knoxville working in a freshman dorm. Her classes are online. The granddaughter has religiously told the students in the dorm to wear their masks - a good idea for all of us.

**Edward and Ruth Endsley** – Benton, IL: The Endsleys have stayed busy this summer rebuilding a deck. Ed did the carpentry, while Ruth did the painting. They have acquired some new outdoor furniture. They said they got a good tan during this project. I know they will enjoy this for a long time. Other things he has done include going to the Post Office every day, and of course the Wal-Mart visits early in the day. Like the rest of us they are aiming to be safe and healthy.

**Reporter Glenn Hill**

**Paul and Carolyn Clayton**, Jackson, TN: Carolyn and Paul Clayton reported that they are well and safe. The spend much of their time on Sundays viewing various United Methodist Churches on-line services and get Sunday School Class sessions on ZOOM. They wanted to add some great news of the family in saying they have welcomed two new grandsons and are anticipating the birth of a third great-grandson in early 2021.

![A cartoon image of a camper for visual appeal.]
Nancy Wheatley, Jackson, TN: Nancy called to say she was doing well and staying in so she had no news for us this quarter. We hope next quarter will be better for us all.

Richard Denton, Brownsville, TN: I received a letter from Richard saying it was good to get my letter and as he doesn’t hear much from the brethren of the church. (I think a lot of us retirees feel that way). He is able to sit in the wheelchair and recently gained enough strength to stand and walk with a walker. He is still grieving and missing Viola (three years now) and misses speaking from the pulpit. His daughter, Pam Diebold, lives close and looks in on him often. He is one of the younger members of the retirement home he lives in. I know he would appreciate a card: Richard C. Denton, 1169 South Dupree Avenue, Apt. 202, Brownsville, TN 38012. He asks us to remember Dick and Loretta Haley, both of whom have health issues.

Mark and Dawn Earheart, Dresden, TN: Glenn, you are persistent with your calls – Thanks for reaching out to us. Dawn and I are doing fine. We are staying in as much as we can. When we do go out, we are masking-up, because scientists tell us it is our best defense to keep from spreading Covid-19. Our times of worship includes a drive-in service at Griffins Chapel and Salem UMC.

Glenn and Georgia Hill, Murray, KY: In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, I closed my Eagle Building office lot on March 24th and was open by appointment only. I was able to re-open on May 12th and was glad to be back. On May 27th, I made an extra-long appointment at the beauty shop, not for beautifying (I WOULDN’T ASK HER TO TRY THAT) but for getting six inches cut off the top of my pandemic hair growth. When I got up, I asked her if she had a bushel basket to put the hair in. She took care of it. Georgia went back for a Carotid Ultrasound which was not perfect but did not require any further treatment for which we were thankful. She restarted Speech Therapy on August 31st after the Wellness Center reopened. Like many Kentucky residents, we are staying close to the house, except for grocery shopping and my six-hour workdays at the office. Surprisingly, sales have been fairly good, and I only have five unsold buildings on the lot. We missed seeing our friends at Annual Conference this year which was our first time to miss in fifty years. The weather has been great the last few days and looks as if we will have another 80-degree day before FALL really kicks in. We can handle that! We miss seeing friends. Our church has not met since mid-March. We have recently returned to in-person worship. Because of Georgia’s stroke condition and my seventy-nine years we have not been to in-person church but watch on Facebook Live, or hear it on teleconference phone line from Martin’s Chapel. We’re hoping and praying all stay safe and well and that our last quarter of 2020 will be a blessing for all. Love and let’s reach out to make a difference.

Editor’s Note: Our reporters try different methods to contact each of you – some call, others email, and some send notes by mail. Each of you are different and we want to contact you in the manor that is best for you. Please don’t hesitate to let us know your preference. It is also important to keep the Conference Office up to date with your contact information. We frequently find phone numbers out of service and emails returned. Our goal is to contact each of you at least once a year. If you have not been
Joe and Carol Moseley, Atoka, TN: I didn’t receive any reports from my calling list this time and assume there’s just not a lot to share as we and others are hopefully practicing social distancing. Since my last writing we haven’t travelled at all. Maybe next year! In fact, since March, trips have been limited to the grocery, a few visits to Walmart and Lowes and of course the doctors (never thought I’d look forward to those). Thankfully, most have been routine visits. We’ve been to church twice since March; Mike Pilcher’s last Sunday and Will Clark’s first. Thank the Lord for Zoom!!! We have had a couple of visits from our daughters and grandsons. That’s Donna and Carol on our deck modeling “the new normal” attire. I hope everyone is staying safe and enjoying good healthy. One last thing. I really thought Annual Conference went very well this year. Hat’s off to all who made it happen!!! Stay safe and keep the faith, but not to yourself... Bro Joe & Carol

Jerry and Dot Carr, Brentwood, TN, report they are doing well, living at the Heritage in the Nashville area. They declare the staff at the Heritage is meeting their ever need. “We order our meals by phone or email, and delicious food is delivered to our door.” We are practicing safe distance, etc., wearing masks when leaving our residence. Dot is walking on campus regularly, and I’m riding a trike. We worship live stream from Brentwood UMC, and life is good. I'm serving on a We Care Committee, keeping touch with fellow residents with special needs.

Tom and Mary Perkins, Dyersburg, TN, are still going strong in these changing times. Bro Tom has been a supply minister for a local church for the past several months. The congregation is small, and most wear masks. There have been no Coronavirus issues within the ranks. Their pastor has had some serious foot infection involving skin grafts. He is improving, but still may be sidelined for another month or two. He will appreciate your prayers. We wear the masks and are following all other guidelines to remain safe in this difficult time. We have lost some older friends to the virus, but they had other issues, and the virus was that extra they could not tolerate. The message is: Be careful and limit exposure as much as possible. Better days are coming.

EDITOR’S NOTE: I want to thank Tom for being a wonderful addition to our reporting staff. He has been contacting our retirees for over 3 years and always adds a unique blend of warmth and humor to his writing. Tom has decided to take some time off from reporting. Tom – know that we will always welcome you back!
**Reporter Jacque Stricker**

**Covie Byars** is doing alright in the nursing facility. Unfortunately, she is unable to have visitors at this time, so if you can brighten her day a little by sending a card I know she will enjoy it.

Covie Byars, 800 Volunteer Dr. Rm 411, Paris, TN 38242

**Mary Jane King**, Paris, TN, is doing good but missing Rick. She had a trip scheduled to Lake Junaluska and was able to attend for about a week and really enjoyed it. Some people chose not to come, but they also had a few new people. God blesses us in many ways, and I am sure those who were there were blessed.

**H.B. and Rosie Fields** are doing good. H.B said his granddaughter has her driving permit. He was letting her drive when she had a little fender bender. (H.B’s car had the fender bender. The other car received the worst of the accident.) It scared her, which is a good lesson for them. Hopefully this makes them more cautious. H.B. said he just finished up the last piece of Charge Conference information and felt like going out to celebrate (but where can you go now?). He said they were meeting back in the sanctuary. Some people have chosen not to attend right now. My favorite saying is “God is in control and He knows the outcome”. He knew about the virus before we did - everything in His time.

**Kenneth Wright and Mary Wright** are doing well in Jackson, TN. Mary said she went to see her sister, Ruth Smith, who lives just outside of Martin. They try to go to church, but most of the time they just stay in being careful to not be exposed to anything.

I met **Gail and Kenneth Wilkerson** for the first time today. I didn’t talk with Ken, but Gail was such a blessing. She told me all about their home, how wonderful Ken is to help her (she said he’s learning to cook), how they renovated the one-story house they live in to fit her needs. They put in a lot of picture windows, so she can watch the birds and wildlife. They have a daughter in Johnson City and another daughter and son in Colorado and Florida. Gail told me to tell all their Jackson friends hello and they miss them. Her health isn’t good, but she is “coping”. In case you would like to write to her and Ken their address is 2305 Nave Dr., Johnson City, TN 37601.

**Harold and Jacque Stricker** (cottage Grove, TN) are doing well, living the life of leisure. Like everyone else, we haven’t really gone anywhere since everything closed because of Covid. Our Stricker Reunion which is held in July in Indiana - cancelled. Our family reunion held at our place- cancelled- well, we are hoping for Oct. 10th. Harold’s October sibling reunion held in Michigan- cancelled. Doctor’s appointments changed. Some were teleconferencing and when they had a plan in place it was patients only. We were able to schedule 2 surgeries for Harold -one in May and another in July. After the July surgery Harold had some problems and was flown by helicopter back to Memphis. There again, I was not able to stay with him, but God is good, and I was able to pick him up the next day. It’s a long story
of answered prayers and perhaps sometimes I will share, but not this go around. Our youngest daughter moved back to Tennessee just before the pandemic. We have been blessed having her just 2 miles away and able to see most of her children. We were able to have a garden together, but apparently EVERYONE had the same idea. We never imagined we wouldn’t be able to buy canning lids, or jars or freezers bags. We were blessed with a bountiful garden. My dad still comes out every day and since his church opened, he is back at his church being the financial secretary. He loves it and it gives him a reason at 97 to get up. All our children are doing well and staying healthy. We pray each of you and your families are doing well.

**Reporter Gail Gaddie**

Gail has been under the weather (non-covid) so we divided her list between several reporters to make sure everyone had a chance to share their news. Guess what…. we heard the same thing over and over – “Not doing much except staying in” I count that as good news. We are staying healthy and keeping others healthy. Way to go, folks!

My first call was to Benny and Gail Hopper (Jackson, TN). Doctors’ appointments and runs to the grocery store are their new adventures. They attend Grace UMC. Until recently, their worship time was via computer and TV. Grace UMC hired a video photographer to help them stay connected. Gail said there has been a learning curve as they use new technology. They are becoming more confident clicking on links and opening programs. Grace UMC has recently returned to in-person worship but many of the congregation are still being cautious and staying home. Gail and Benny enjoy having their family near. They are spread out in Jackson, Medina, Nashville and Knoxville. They have a granddaughter living in Provo, Utah who has already had their first snow of the season.

I enjoyed getting to know Albert Clay Kelly. He and his wife, Sandra are living in Brewton, Alabama. Years ago, he had accepted a special appointment working in the mental health field in Alabama. He continued working in that field until his retirement. Both Clay and Sandra are doing well, staying in most of the time. Clay says that Sandra is the one who gets out, runs errands, and keeps things well oiled. As we were talking, we found common ground that we both had served in the Purchase area. The Kellys, in LaCenter, Ky and Robert and I in Arlington and Milburn. Clay recalls enjoying sitting on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi and watching the barge traffic on the river. I think I may have sat on that very same bluff. Both Sandra and Clay are looking forward to a trip to Gatlinburg this fall. They have a time share there and particularly enjoy going in the fall. Wishing them safe travels and beautiful colors!
Craig and Kay Jordan (Nesbit, MS) are still active teaching. Craig at Rhodes College where he teaches a class on Pain, Suffering and Death. I responded that it would be a challenge teaching that subject to young adults – and keeping them fully engaged. Craig said he focus on their feelings, reactions and perspectives. Students are required to volunteer at local agencies in the Memphis area. This, for some, is their first experience with death and dying. Kay, who is a retired Montessori teacher, is assisting with homeschooling their 3rd grade grandson. Given the options available to them, the parents felt that homeschool was a better fit for their child than a virtual situation. Kay and Craig worship at Trinity UMC where they had their first in-person worship service the first Sunday in October. They worshiped outside and had wonderful weather. Trinity is an older congregation. Last year they sold their sanctuary building but was able to keep the Educational wing; which meets their needs.

Reporter Pat Calhoun

Bill and Lanna Marler, (Memphis, TN): My wife and I stay busy running a non-profit ministry called Jacob's Ladder Community Development Corporation, an organization rooted in Methodist Social Principles. Our mission goal is the revitalization of a small struggling inner-city neighborhood known as the Belt Line. The attached pictures show some of the Jacob's Ladder ministries. Our "backbone" is the many volunteers (most retired) who pitch in with housing renovations, meal preparation, children's education, etc. Retired Methodist preachers Ken Burnette (board chair), Peter Law and Don Park also put their shoulders to the wheel. Bill balances his life with golf, canoeing and reading. Lana is a singer/songwriter, worship leader and author of a book---"Follow Me, A Seasonal Journey". Together we enjoy taking LONG road trips in an RV we crafted from a commercial van. Lily, our Bichon Frise pooch, rides shotgun on all trips.

Tommy and Beverly Jowers, Dyersburg, TN: The Jowers are doing well and enjoying their family. They have two sons, one in Union City and the other in Virginia. Tommy and Beverly have a
summer house in Virginia and were able to visit their son several times last year. Their Tennessee son works with Outer Limits Powersports in Dyersburg.

It was good to hear from Cecil and Theron Kirk (Cane Ridge, TN): They enjoyed a trip to North Carolina to visit their kids. While in North Carolina they were able to take the pontoon boat out several times. In Tennessee, they attend Brentwood UMC where Rev. Chappell is the minister. The church offers a Wednesday afternoon worship service which they enjoy. It is a short service followed by small group discussions. The time of fellowship is warm and filling. Cecil continues to enjoy playing golf. This fall weather is perfect – not too hot, not too cold. Soon it will be time to put the long johns on!

Sharon Lewis-Karamoko (Jackson, TN): I played phone tag with Sharon for a while until finally we were able to connect. She enjoys pastoring the Wesley Chapel UMC. She says she is learning new ways to serve the people at Wesley. Earlier this year, Sharon took a 9-day Caribbean cruise – just before the Corona Virus hit and closed the industry down. Thankfully she had a wonderful trip.

Jim Stubbs (Collierville, TN): Jim has been keeping company with arthritis for a while. At times, his knees are quite painful. Jim has two sons and several grown grandchildren. One granddaughter is in grad school. Naturally, he is very proud of his family. Jim’s son has built a small cottage on the lot behind his house. Jim plans to move into the cottage soon.

Greg & Nancy Waldrop (Cadiz, KY): Greg and Nancy are enjoying living in Cadiz. His 98-year-old father lives nearby. The Waldrops have two daughters – both are physicians. One is a neurologist working in New York and the other is an OB/GYN in San Francisco – talk about worlds apart! Last year the entire family enjoyed a trip to Hawaii – making memories for a life time!

Michael Blake (Martin, TN): I have known Michael for a long time and it was good to spend time talking. He did a wonderful job as the director of Reelfoot Rural Ministries. Michael keeps busy in retirement. He has made several mission trips to Africa where he works with a group of orphans from Uganda. Last year he made a trip down the Nile River and visited the Pyramids. In January (we date things pre and post Covid!) Michael and his brother visited the World War II museum in New Orleans. Michael’s attends the Freeman’s Chapel UMC where is 98-year-old mother still plays the piano for worship (now that has to be some kind of record!).
Jim and Pat Calhoun (Union City): Like everyone else, Jim and I have been staying close to home, venturing out only for brief shopping trips and doctors’ appointments. In 2019, Jim had three stints placed in his heart. In August of this year he had three more – we are hoping this is not a trend! I am recovering from a fractured leg and now use a walker for balance. It just makes me feel safer when I am up. We are learning to rest when we are tired. Jim and I are listening to the worship services from First UMC, Union City on the radio. We hope to return to church soon. I miss the fellowship and singing. This summer, First Church had a surprise – our organist arrived early on Sunday to prepare for worship and found that our sanctuary ceiling had fallen. We are not sure what caused the structural damage but it certainly was a mess.

My calling list was much longer this this but I had a great deal of difficulty reaching people. Often the phone numbers on file were disconnected. If you didn’t hear from me, I apologize. I did attempt to reach you.

EDITOR’S NOTE: We make every attempt to contact our retirees individually at least once a year. If you have not heard from your reporter, please don’t hesitate to call me and share your contact information and news. We always love hearing from our retirees – you are the reason we have this newsletter – and that makes you important. You can find my phone and address on the address page of this newsletter.

Reporter Shirley Small

EDITOR’S NOTE: I want to extend a warm welcome to Shirley Small who is joining our reporting staff. Shirley and Tom served in our Memphis Conference for many years and retired to Florida where they continue to be active in their church life. Tom passed away in 2018. I visit my mother who lives near Ocala, Florida and gave Shirley a call to see if she wanted to join me for lunch. We met near Tampa, the halfway point between North Point and Ocala. After a wonderful lunch and visit, she agreed to serve as one of our reporters. The moral of this story – if the Editor calls and asks you out for lunch – run!

I contacted my calling group and asked each one to send in their news to Beverlyann. I was able to talk to Pat Alford in Mt Juliet, TN, and enjoyed a nice conservation. Pat has been busy making face masks for her friends and family. She has enjoyed a recent visit from her granddaughter.

My nephew, John, and his family came to visit me in June. We went to the Mote Marine Aquarium in Sarasota. My other nephew, Matt, also come for a visit in June. I also enjoy a visit from Beverlyann and her mother and sister. Ya`all come on down to Florida, where the weather is warm and sunny. I would love for you to visit.
Ann Hampton, South Lake, TX: My husband worked in youth and student ministries for many years. He started the Wesley Foundation in Memphis. He then moved on to serve as the Dean of Student Life at M.S.U. While in Memphis we attended St Luke UMC. I have many fond memories of Memphis and west Tennessee. After my husband’s death, I moved to Texas to be near my family. I am 92 years old and live in very nice retirement center. I have three children, eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. I have a wonderful family and we are very close. They take good care of me. I am blessed. I praise God that I am in good health. Thank you for including me in the Newsletter.