October, not only is it a break from summer’s heat and a time to rest before heading into the hectic holiday season, it is the time we have our Memphis Conference Retirees Retreat. And what an event that was! We gathered again at the beautiful Lakeshore campgrounds. This is not your typical church campgrounds. Even the Wilderness camp is getting an update – no more outhouses – new composting toilets are being installed by a group of Nomads. While they still have dorm style rooms for the young campers they offer beautifully decorated hotel style rooms for adults attending conferences. If you have not seem Lakeshore recently, you owe it to yourself to come and look around. Reserve the newly renovated Oxley cabin for a quiet family get-away. The Oxley cabin is intended as a restful place for clergy to come for a short sabbatical. It can be reserved by calling the Lakeshore office (731-584-6102).

Our Retirees Retreat started off with fun and laughter led by Pat Calhoun and concluded after reflective time led by Lori Nolen, directory of the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntington and a time of Holy Communion. In between there was lots of time to visit, catch up on each other’s news, spin a few tales, and relax around the campfire. Of course, being Methodist we had music (led by Mark Matheny and Vida McClure) and lots of food (thank you Lakeshore). Did you miss this year’s retreat? Not to worry – we will gather again at Lakeshore next year. Mark your calendars for October 1st and 2nd, 2018.
Keeping in touch: The Memphis Conference has many ways you can keep in touch electronically: Their main website is: www.memphis-umc.org. Other sources of information include:

1. Mobile App: m.memphis-umc.org
2. eNews – a free weekly news brief. Sign up on the conference website.
5. Facebook: facebook.com/memphisumc
6. Instagram: Instagram.com/umc_memphisconf
7. Twitter: twitter.com/um_memphisconf
8. News ‘N’ Views – past issues archived on website
9. The Clarion: Memphis Conference UMW – past issues archived on website

Don’t have a computer (or prefer not to read your news on a screen)? Ask your local church to print the news and send it to you. Start with the weekly eNews and the Bishop’s blog. This is a great way your church can minister to you.

Memorial

Hank Russell, July 22, 2017
Survived by his wife, Grace
Correspondence may be sent to: Grace Russell, 2131 Anderson Dr. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603

Ruth Tidwell Mulroy, July 27, 2017
Survived by husband James
Correspondence may be sent to Dr. James R Mulroy, 811 Glaze Cove, Collierville. TN 38017

Paul Douglass, Aug 15, 2017
Survived by his wife, Mary
Correspondence may be sent to: Mary Douglass 103 Arcaro Pl, Apt 347 Brentwood, TN 37027

Rachel Gregory Harting, October 3, 2017
Correspondence may be sent to her son Don Harting, 124 Bentley Park Dr., Cleveland, TN 37311
Oh, love me—and right now!—hold me tight! just the way you promised.

Psalms 119:76 (The Message)

From the Mail Bag

Have News? You can always share your news and pictures by sending them to: The Editor, B. Jetton, 511 N. Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305

Gene & Joyce Rollins (Milan, TN) - We are so honored and thankful that Gene was selected for the 2017 Denman Award at Annual Conference. It is indeed an honor. For the last two years we have vacationed in Texas. In 2016 Gene and I made a trip to Ft Worth and Dallas. I had entered Gene’s name in the Ticket Drawing for the Antique Roadshow in Ft. Worth – and he won two tickets! I took two of my oldest dolls, a needlepoint and a 1920 purse to be appraised. The appraiser said that Gene was the oldest item that I had (only kidding)! We were able to tour the Southfork Ranch in Dallas on the way home and had a great time. This summer we went back to Texas, stopping in Austin to tour the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch and Home. We then traveled to San Antonio to tour the Alamo and walk the Riverwalk. On the way home we went to Houston to tour the Space Center. We also enjoyed the beaches near Galveston.

John and Karin Lee sold their home in Tulsa and moved to GO YE Retirement Village in Tahlequah, OK in May. This village was built about forty years ago for retired missionaries and pastors. A group of business and professional men from the Tulsa area bought 88 acres of land from Dr. Billy Graham’s grandparents in order to build GO YE Village. When Dr. Graham visited his grandparents as a boy, he walked over these acres. There are about 300 residents living here in independent, assisted living and nursing care housing. Many various activities and amenities are available. If you would like to know more about the possibilities of retirement here, please look us up on the web. Tahlequah is the capital for the Cherokee Nation and has lots of American Indian history. It is located in the beautiful foothills of the Ozark Mountains. The Illinois River, Ten Killer Lake, and Grand Lake provide many opportunities for recreation. One of our greatest blessings in this move was to find a great church. Cornerstone Fellowship
began 30 years ago as a home church and now average about 1,200 people on Sunday morning. Two reasons for this amazing growth is the excellent Bible teaching / preaching and the emphasis on small group discipleship training. Karin and I are now privileged to help facilitate one of the church’s small groups. I have also become a chaplain here at the hospital. As time, finances and health permit we are looking forward to taking a mission trip to the Philippians. We will greatly appreciate all of your prayers for our present and future ministry.

**Bill & Patty Franklin (Covington, TN)** enjoys teaching the older adult Sunday School at Covington 1st UMC. Like most of us, their children are spread out in different states. Their youngest son lives at home with them. He is 37 years old and has Downs Syndrome. Bill and Patty have five grandchildren and four (so to be five) great grands.

**William Bailey (Orlinda, TN),** writes that he is enjoying the quiet country life north of Nashville near his children and grandchildren. He has accepted a supply pastor position at a little Presbyterian church.

**William Gentry Sr. (formally of Collierville, TN):** Rev Gentry’s daughter writes that her father is not doing well and has moved to Virginia to be with another daughter. Please keep this family in your prayers.

**Whitney Caldwell (Milan, TN)** is enjoying taking care of all nine of her grandchildren at “Nana’s Nursery” and is currently taking care of her two year old great grandchild. She enjoys receiving the News ‘N’ Views and keeping up with everyone’s news.

**Paul & Jimmie Phillips (Jackson, TN):** Welcomed a great granddaughter to their family in August! They are expecting another great in December. Paul has enjoyed teaching Sunday School while Jimmie tends the nursery and serves on the bereavement committee. In October they plan a trip to Perdido Key, Florida (between Gulf Shores and Pensacola).

**Don & Elizabeth Barnett (Humboldt, TN):** Don continues to serve Center UMC in Crockett Co. They have two adult children, a daughter. Beth, who lives with them and a son who lives in Alabama. They are also the grandparents to two lovely granddaughters.

**Ed & Ruth Endsley (Benton, IL):** Ruth and I enjoyed the Retirees’ Retreat and plan to return next year. We are keeping busy but thankfully not as busy as we were. I enjoy being active in the Jefferson County Historical Society in Mt, Vernon, IL. I am also an active member of Benton, IL Lions Club. Ruth and I attend the Benton Church of the Nazarene. Before being affiliated with the Memphis Conference I was a Nazarene pastor for 12 years. Beginning the end of October I will be leading a group of children in an organization similar to scouting but with a Biblical perspective.
How do we cope with the reality and fears of growing old? What is God’s purpose for us during this season of our life? How do we face the future with hope? In this short and insightful read, Dr. Billy Graham helps us to see through the lens of faith and scripture that God never pictures our latter years as “useless and ineffective” or a “time of endless boredom or meaningless activity.” Instead, our very existence suggests that God still has a purpose and plan for our lives.

Graham opens this book with the words “I never thought I would live to be this old” (almost 95 when he wrote this). He points out that while growing old is natural, “growing old with grace is a choice.” A review of scripture helps us to see that being elderly was never a disqualifying factor for God. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Paul, and John all attest to this truth. Transitioning into retirement doesn’t mean retiring from life. Our ability to work brings glory to God, however work should not be the center piece of our sense of self-worth. God is fully aware of our gifts and abilities, needs and limitations and opportunities to serve others. Seeking God’s will at this stage of life should be a priority.

Graham does not shy away from being realistic and practical. Planning for all the stages of this season is important and shows Christian stewardship. Fading strength is real and the culprits of fear of the future, anger over the loss of independence, depression, loneliness, and self-absorption over aches and pains are ever so near. Bitter or better is our choices. Sadly, bitter often wins. Money does not fix everything!

Graham calls us to embrace this season of life through the gifts of God’s word, the Holy Spirit, prayer, fellowship, and the gift of service. Now is the time to embrace the gift of retirement and the reality of a heavenly home for those who love Christ. This book is a good track to run on in showing us that while aging may bring limitations, God’s love for us is never limited. It is a serious call to “enjoy” this season of life and to reaffirm our faith and hope in Christ alone our Cornerstone. I think I’ll take him up on it!

Editor’s Note: Thank you Robert for taking the time to share with us. Have you read an interesting book this year? Please considering sharing your insights. Your book review could be on a work of fiction, non-fiction, comedy, romance, history – whatever interest you. In January 2018 we are looking forward to hearing from Joan Eickhoff. She is an avid reader, horse lover and has the most adorable dog that stays close by her side.
Old News is Good News?? Have you ever wished you had a back issue of the Circuit Writer? Perhaps an article that featured your church or ministry? TODAY IS YOUR LUCKY DAY! Elyse Bell at the Conference Office has several years of Circuit Writer publications free for your use – but act fast, this offer only last through 2017. Call Elyse at (731)664-8480 to see if she has your issue.

How is being a Christian like being a Pumpkin?

God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off. He cuts off the top and scoops all the yucky stuff out. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed and carves a new smiling face. He puts his light in you for all the world to see.

Reporter Gail Gaddie (Memphis, TN)
I have just returned from the Retired Clergy Retreat at Lakeshore. It was a very good event, well-planned, interesting, and lots of fun. Pat Calhoun started the retreat off with games and lots of laughs. Some of us took a boat ride and learned more about the Tennessee River and one of the Civil War battles fought there. Others choose to do crafts. Mark Matheny and Vida McClure served as our music team. As usual, the food was delicious (Thank you Lakeshore). The entire event was very well done. I encourage all retired ministers to put this retreat on your list of “to do’s” for next year. On a personal note, I have returned to Christ UMC working part time in the Congregational Care department. I visit the home bound and those in nursing homes and teach on occasions. I also attend the Grief Share class there led by the Rev. Pat Roseberry from the Mississippi Conference. It is a 13 week course that has been, and is most helpful. As most of you know my husband, Bill, died in September, 2016. I and the rest of his family grieve our loss while giving thanks for his life, his love and the care he gave to each of us. Thank you for your prayers and concern.

Betty Young (Newbern, TN): Betty Young is the only one on my list that I was able to reach. For the others I left messages and/or emails but have not received any responses. When I reached Betty Young she had just returned from a family trip to Branson, Missouri. She said she really enjoyed reading “News and Views.” She meets every fourth Thursday with retired clergy and their spouses in the Mississippi River District at Reelfoot Lake or in Dyersburg. They alternate locations. All retirees and spouses are welcome and encouraged to come. They have a good time together. Betty’s husband, Rev. Robert Young died 40 years ago, at the age of 41 when their children were 5 and 8. He was a graduate of Lambuth College and Emory University.

Reporter Tom Perkins (Dyersburg, TN)
My approach to growing older is to have an increasing supply of little pills. I slammed my shoulder in an unintentional encounter with the ground while on a bicycle ride. A little brown pill helped the
shoulder get all better. Little white pills lower blood pressure cholesterol and a growing tendency toward higher sugar levels. Mary, who doesn’t seem to age, uses no medication. Mary and I are still active as pastoral fill-ins when the DS calls. I write books that are in the same general spirit and tone as my News and Views reports – light with a hint of humor because you have just gotta laugh sometimes. Calvin and Judy Clark (Shelbyville, KY): report that some things are good and some not so good. He is having some difficulty with spine and neck issues. He said he was doing alright for a 77 year old who just celebrated 58 wonderful years with his wife Judy. They have moved to Kentucky to be near their daughter and two grandsons. Being active in the church life is still very important to them.

Jerry and Dot Carr (Oakland, TN): moved to Franklin, TN, after retirement, but returned to Oakland when their daughter Cynthia became ill. Jerry reports: Following Cynthia's last surgery in March, she came to live with us. In partnership with Methodist Alliance Healthcare, we managed to meet her needs at home for a while, but it became more than we could do. So, under the direction of the oncologist, she was admitted to NHC Somerville in August. In September, Caris Hospice Healthcare took charge of her care. They are keeping her "free" of pain and as comfortable as possible. She sleeps a lot, is eating less, and has lost some weight. I run errands, pay bills, check on her pets and property, and manage a short visit with her daily. Dot goes early and stays late and is there to assist her with meals and other needs. Best wishes to everyone, and thank you for your prayers and thoughts.

I will confess it is hard to write this report without tears. Their faith, and their daughter’s faith, has sustained them and will see them through. Let’s join a prayer circle for them and others experiencing heart breaking times.

(Late Note: Cynthia completed her journey Oct 17th. A Celebration Of Life Service was held for her on Saturday, October 28. at the Braden United Methodist Church. Please keep Jerry & Dot in your prayers.)

Zolan and Faye Clayton (Selmer, TN): report no new surprises in their life. In 2015 Zolan suffered a stroke, but has recovered most of his strength and function. He doesn’t pastor now, but enjoys being active in their church. They have two children and four grandchildren. Two of their grandchildren are in college right now following the Clayton tradition. Zolan was one of my high school teachers in Lowes, Ky. He was a role model, loaning me books from his personal library, and sharing his love of ministry with me. I had formed a discussion group in high school that discussed everything from politics to religion. Bro Clayton set in on them when he could. He referred to the group as a Wesley Holy Club. I had no idea what he meant at the time. The good we do lives on in others.

Agnes Butler (Paducah, KY): Agnes writes that she keeps busy – very busy. She has raised several grandchildren and still has a teenager (Lexi) at home. Lexi is in 10th grade and is an honor student. Like most teens she is in to everything: dance, 4-H, sewing, voice. She is trying to raise funds to cover a choir trip to Kansas City and a World History trip to Peru. In between driving Lexi, Agnes keeps busy with Parish Nursing and teaching in the youth program at Massac UMC. She enjoys doing yard work and gardening – and it shows. Agnes’ house was selected as the Distinguished Home Award of the Month by the McCracken County Civic Beautification Board. Way to go, Agnes!!!
**Reporter Judd Mowrey (Troy, TN):** Gale is still working at the Tiptonville Post Office part time. She enjoys doing decorating projects around the house. I am preaching at two small congregations in the Parish, Obion Chapel and Hornbeak United Methodist, and I filling in for the New Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. I have been getting in some fishing at the Reelfoot Lake where I get to see eagles fly by. I get to hunt when I am able. Troy UMC has me picking up children after school on Wednesday for their Kids of the Word program. It has been a busy quarter.

**Ken and Virginia Burnett (Cordova, TN):** Ken is still serving churches. Ken is working with Jacobs Ladder. Jacob’s Ladder is a non profit Community Development Corporation founded in 2003. Its main focus is neighborhood revitalization in downtown Memphis. It is an ecumenical faith-based organization. Check out their website at: www.jacobsladdercdc.org. Virginia is doing well and keep the home fires burning.

**Bill and Nancy Hart (Memphis, TN):** When we spoke, Bill was on his way to Nashville to the American Association of Christian Counselors training. Bill works at the Christ United Methodist Church with No Whispers program. This program offers encouragement, resources, and support for persons struggling with mental, emotional, or physical challenges. The name of the program comes from the belief that no one should have to whisper about their struggles. Learn more about this ministry at: www.christchurchmemphis.org/nowhispers.

Bill fail recently at church and hurt his knee. He is slowly making a recovery. Nancy is planning a trip soon to visit grandchildren in Orlando. Bill and Nancy have a new grandson, Hudson Samuel Hart, born this May.

**George Thomas Hicks (Memphis, TN):** When I contacted George he said he was “doing well” and sends his greetings.

**Rick and Jane Kirchoff (Germantown, TN):** Rick continues to work with the Coaching Clergy Network. He is mentoring and providing resources for pastors and congregations. Currently he has 55,000 followers on Facebook. Coaching Clergy’s goal is to help gap the distance between where a minister is and where God has called him/her to be. Their website says: “The Clergy Coaching Network is embedded in the heart of the Center of Excellence in Faith and Health of the Methodist Healthcare system in Memphis, Tennessee. At the Center of Excellence, we believe in a health strategy that relies on the emergent power of congregations, which depends on clergy who know who they are, who are vibrant in their leadership and who seek to build healthy communities of faith”. (www.clergycoachingnetwork.com). On the home front, Jane and Rick went on a cruise to Quebec Canada and on to New York. They spent several days in the Big Apple. Rick is facing his second knee replacement. After physical therapy he is looking forward to riding his bike again.
Reporter Deborah Matthewson (Munford, TN):
This has been an active fall for my husband, Harry, and I. We have recently returned home from a trip to the Dakotas, Wyoming, and Minnesota. These states are so different in terrain and climate from our Mid-South locality. All the people we met along the way were so friendly, and we felt very safe during our travels. My favorite parts were Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse monument which is a huge work in progress. My mind and spirit were broadened as I learned much about our Native American history, especially the Sioux people. Crazy Horse will probably not be completed in my lifetime, but it is very inspirational, as it is being done by one family consisting of husband, wife, and 10 children, and their descendants. There is no governmental funds involved. Work on this monument is done by donations only. Mount Rushmore's sculpting was begun in 1927 and completed in 1941. Each of the four presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt each added so much to our present-day country! We also visited the Mall of America in Minnesota. It is one of the few malls that is thriving with 155 stores and 55 restaurants. There is an indoor amusement park and two miniature golf courses to add interest, and there is a huge aquarium. I am also auditing a class this fall at Memphis Theological Seminary, Pastoral Care to Addicts, because it seems that I am hearing of more and more people who have become addicted to some substances or activities or both. Finally, in keeping with my love for animals, I will be doing a Blessing of the Animals at the Hollywood Feed Store in Atoka on Saturday, October 14.

John and Peggy Lloyd (Drummonds, TN): The Lloyds and their very special daughter, Debbie, are now attending Atoka UMC. John is now retired and living with his family in Tipton County. He retired as a full time minister at the age of 72, but he did not retire from the desire of preaching the Word of God, anywhere at any time! Peggy and Debbie love doing what they can to help out. The one thing they all love and have a passion for, is serving the Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Have Bible will travel!) The Lloyds are a great addition to the congregation of Atoka UMC where they have been active for the past 4 years. John teaches the adult Sunday school class regularly, and he fills in for the pastor when the pastor and family are out of town. Peggy is active in the UMW and is very creative in arts and crafts for festivals and evangelistic flyers for church evangelistic efforts. The Lloyds enjoy living on a rural estate in Drummonds, TN. John built the house they live in, and he has developed an extensive garden. They share the produce from their garden with many church members. John inherited this acreage from his family, and they love living on it and sharing Christian hospitality with others in their home.

Charles & Ruth Leist (Memphis, TN): Charles and Ruth moved into their new home, Highland Terrace, in Memphis almost one year ago. Charles said they have met some new friends at Highland Terrace and continue to be as active as their health permit at Christ UMC where their son, Carlton, and his wife, Jana, are members. Their grandson is now a college freshman in Clinton, Mississippi, and his goal is to become a medical doctor. Their grandson is very gifted in music and especially piano. Charles says,
"Ruth and I are fighting the aging process, like everyone else, but are doing fairly well. Maybe next time we will have more news."

**Tom & Shirley Small (North Point, FL):** Shirley reports that she and Tom are thankful that they got through Hurricane Irma and are back in their very well built home in North Port, Florida, after having to stay with friends for five days because they had no power during that time. They are located 90 miles from Tampa and closer to Sarasota, and they have lived in this home since their retirement from the Memphis Conference in 1999, 18 years ago. Tom has experienced some health issues, but is happy to report that he is better at this time. Both Tom and Shirley are active in their church, Trinity UMC, near their home. They enjoy working with the music as well as with children and Sunday School. Due to Tom’s health concerns, Shirley asks for our prayers.

**Fred Morton (Bartlett, TN):** Fred writes: Deb, Thanks for doing this vital chore that keeps us all connected and somewhat informed as to what is going on. Meanwhile in retirement I am spending most of my spare time in the old neighborhood around Highland Heights UMC, working with various programs in the community and seeking God's guidance and strength to serve these good people and the various churches in the area. One of my most meaningful involvements over the last year has been participating in the Lynching Sites Project. This potent interfaith and interracial group is seeking to honor and memorialize the many victims of racial violence of the last century and give impetus to much needed conversation across racial lines. It has been a rewarding experience that promises much grace and healing for the future. I will be headed to Jackson, MS next weekend to see my precocious granddaughter in school play. My son Greg continues on path to health.

**Reporter Jenna Garland (Hazel, KY):**
I had a great time at the Lakeshore Retirees’ Retreat. We had a pontoon ride on the Tennessee River and learned how pearls are grown and watched as they raise the railroad bridge to let a big barge through. The bridge watchman will soon be a thing of the past as plans are being made for a fully automated bridge system. We enjoyed Bro. Allan Trull telling us about the battle of Johnsonville during the Civil War. We also enjoyed the devotionals led by Tom Smith and Beverlyann Jetton. Our music team was led by Mark Matheny and pianist Vida McClure. Lori Neal Nolen, the Director of the Dixie Performing Arts Center, shared her testimony as she demonstrated pot making on the potter’s wheel. She helped us make a small vessel made from slabs of clay. The vessel was to represent our ministry. The wet clay reminded us that God was not finished with us yet. The communion service was awesome as we presented our vessels to the Lord as we took the elements. I really enjoyed the time of sharing around the campfire and s’mores, seeing old friends and making new ones. Thanks to the Executive Committee for planning this time. I thought everything went well. Wish everyone could have been there.
**Fay Garrett (Murray, KY):** Fay is living with her daughter-in-law and grandson. They are taking excellent care of her.

**Dan Leslie (Kirksey, KY):** wrote that he and Aileen are doing well. They help take care of their great-grandson three afternoons a week. Recently they took a trip to Chattanooga to see Garrison Keillor (of NPR fame) and then on to Georgia to spend a few days with their daughter Emily and Taylor. Aileen is singing with the David Johnson Chorus again this season. The chorus is a community based chorus that performs musical programs nationwide. The chorus was a recipient of three Silver Diplomas at the World Choir Games in 2012! Dan will be preaching the Homecoming Service at Fountain Ave the end of October.

**Bob & Doris Saywell (Murray, KY):** I talked with Doris Saywell and she said Bob had a heart cath early this month. Good news is that his condition can be managed by medication; no surgery required!

**Carol Craig (Hazel, KY):** Summer is a busy time for Carol – its grass mowing time at the farm in Hazel! *A few goats would make the job a lot easier!* She has had the opportunity to attend the 150th anniversary at St Luke’s UMC where they ministered in the early 1970’s. She was also able to drop in and visit with Frank and Ann Gardner and attend the Mississippi River district’s retiree fellowship. Of course you know she has made it to Memphis to visit with her youngest granddaughter, Gracie who just celebrated her 1st birthday. Carol was also able to attend the annual Memphis Conference Retirees’ Retreat at Lakeshore. Her next stop is the Choir Festival at Lake Junaluska with her son, Daniel. Daniel is one of the directors at the festival. Winter should be a quiet time for Carol. She has promised herself that she will spend time catching up on the mending.

**Robert & Sue McKinney (Dexter, KY):** Time really flies by, seemingly faster each day. Not much news happening this time around. Trying to keep up with two churches now, keeping great grandchildren and going to doctors seem to take up most of our time. We are so blessed to be able to keep on keeping on. God has truly blessed us both throughout our journey serving Him. Will take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas as we close out 2017.

**Reporter Pat Calhoun (Dyersburg, TN)**

Once again this year Jim and I enjoyed our annual family reunion in Rugby, TN. We had the opportunity to visit with all the nieces and nephews and their children. Oh my, how everyone is growing up! While in East TN we drove to Oakridge to see my sister and attend Oak Ridge UMC. We also made a side trip to Gatlinburg. The city is making a remarkable recovery from the fires of 2016. You had to get off on the side roads to see the damage. Some of the old landmarks are no longer there. It was sad to see. Jim is pastoring two small country churches, part of a six church parish ministry. Several times a year all six churches get together for various events. As many have already said, we had a wonderful Retirees’ Retreat at Lakeshore. We look forward to that every fall.

**Paul Peck (Paducah, KY):** This has been a difficult year for Paul and his family with the passing of Ora Bell in February. He said he is doing well for a man 86 years young. Paul recently officiated at the wedding of a step-
granddaughter in Henderson, TN and has another wedding coming up in Lovelaceville, KY. Paul is mentoring the new pastor at Lovelaceville, Keith Osborne. Paul’s son, Ronnie, is a pastor in Millington.

Jean Penney (Jackson, TN): Jean has had Parkinson’s disease for the last two years and the symptoms are progressing. I was sorry to hear this. Jean says her family is doing well. Her grandson, Travis, has been called into the ministry and is preaching in Malesus. Jean’s youngest daughter, Teresa, lives in Medina so the family is not far away.

Richard & Viola Denton (Brownsville, TN): Please keep the Dentons on your prayer list. Richard has been hospitalized this summer for an infection in his foot. After returning home he tripped and fell in the bathroom cutting his hand. He required over 30 stitches and sported two black eyes for several weeks. Viola is dealing with an upper respiratory infection and has shared it with Richard. They are both taking it easy. Hopefully fall will be a little better than the summer was.

Frank and Ann Gardner (Martin, TN): After a busy summer the Gardners took a trip to Alabama to see their grandson, Matthew. After visiting with him, they drove to Georgia, making several sightseeing stops. On the way back through Tennessee they stopped in Murfreesboro to visit with another grandson, Jordan, who is a senior at MTSU. Frank and Ann keep busy ministering at Stanley’s Chapel and Gardner’s UMC. The two churches has seen 19 new members during August and September. Ann was also able to attend her 60th high school reunion. She notes that the class is getting smaller and smaller each year.

Reporter Glen Hill (Murray, KY)

Nancy Wheatley (Huntingdon, TN): With Mark Matheny’s help, we hosted a gold tournament in memory of Dossie, Bill Vaughn and Ora Bell Peck to benefit the Lakeshore Scholarship fund. We were able to raise over $1,000. October brings lots of activities: the birth of my 4th great grandchild, a family trip to Gatlinburg, and of course the Retirees’ Retreat. I still enjoy to golf, teach Sunday School, and curl up to read on a rainy day. Ahh, Life is good!

Reporter Bobbie Clarke (Jackson, TN)

In October John and I, along with our son Tim and granddaughter Olivia, attended the Note Retirement Ceremony at Pleasant Valley UMC in Union City. We served Pleasant Valley from 1972 until 1977. Our son Tim was only 5 years old then. He is now grown with grown children of his own. My how time flies!

Kenneth & Gail Wilkerson (Johnson City, TN): What a joy it was to talk with Kenneth and Gail. We first met the Wilkersons at Vanderbilt Divinity School when Ken was working on his PhD and John was trying to make his way through his B.D./MDiv program. A few years latter Ken and Gail moved to Jackson and he began teaching at Lambuth. They are now active at Muncey Memorial UMC near Johnson City. Like many people, their family has scattered. They have a daughter in Johnson City, another daughter in Florida and a son in Colorado.

Mary Wright (Cordova, TN): One of the first things Mary told me was how much she enjoys the News ‘N’ Views (Thank you Beverlyann). She also told me that she enjoys talking to and visiting with her friends. (I believe the “talking to” part because I got busy signals each time I tried to call. To be sure, our conversation was a happy experience for me.
Larry & Jennifer Daniels (Jackson, TN): Larry and Jennifer are at Jackson First United Methodist. I imagine that the church keep Larry busy doing “minister things,” while Jennifer teaches chemistry at the University School of Jackson.

Martha Barron Traylor (Paducah, KY): Martha enjoys attending a weekly Bible study in Isaiah and a book study “Seamless” by Angie Smith. Seamless is a 7 session study that covers the people, places and promises of the Bible helping you understand the Bible as one complete story. On Sundays she enjoys having the family over for dinner. She is also active in an exercise class and attends Learning for Fun at the college. This fall she will be flying to Virginia with her daughter, Gail and her husband, to visit her grandchildren.

Reporter Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN)

Kendrick Lewis (Benton, KY): Since Brother Kendrick has lived in the neighborhood/area in which we live, it is good to talk to him. I think we were both in a "chatty" mood when I called. We did spend some time talking about people we mutually know from our "connected" lives - people from Grace UMC in Humboldt. It is amazing sometimes, if the conversation keeps going, as to what is common in each other's lives. Brother Kendrick really didn't have any news, just enjoying the nice fall afternoon we were experiencing as we talked. He did say that he was healthy, certainly a good thing for all to be able to say. He does say "hello" to all who know him.

Betty Jo Masters (Memphis, TN): Upon answering the telephone, I was pleased to hear - "I'm alive and well," from Ms. Betty Jo. She was excited about many things - one being her activities in St. Luke's UMC in Memphis. It seems that Ms. Betty is still teaching Sunday School and proud to say so. St. Luke's is celebrating 150 years of being in the same community around University of Memphis. Evidently, they have and are marking this milestone well! They seem to have people coming back into the area, and finding their church again. Her other reason for excitement stems around her grandchildren. One point of interest is that her first grandchild to marry has done so in Iowa - a grand event for all. Her "grands" range in age from five to thirty-five - widespread, wouldn't you say? We also talked about the many recent tragic events in our nation. We both agreed that the good people don't get highlighted enough for their actions. I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation, and believe Ms. Betty did as well.

Kathleen Phillips Mathis (Mayfield, KY): I talked with her husband. It seems that Ms. Kathleen is having health problems. She has been in a hospital in Nashville, and is now staying with her son. She is getting around with a walker, and is better than she was.

David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN): We are doing well - ready for fall to stay with us. We are healthy right now.

Reporter Joe Moseley (Atoka, TN): Joe went fishing and came back empty handed – translated that means he call his entire calling list and did not get an answer. Remember, if you missed getting a call from your reporter or you just have news to share you can submit it to the editor at any time. The address is on the back page. It is our goal that all retirees and surviving spouses will be contacted by a reporter at least once a year. Don’t forget to share your pictures – a picture is worth a thousand words (and saves me a great deal of typing!)
The “road runners” (alias the Moseley’s) are back on the road again. Since last writing we’ve been to Gatlinburg and Navarre Beach, Florida for a family reunion (see picture). It’s been over two years since we’ve travelled but our health is much better and we are looking forward to many more trips. However, they will be via plane or SUV as we sold our RV last month. One trip in 2015 before sitting up for two years. One never knows how life can change in an instant. We are looking forward to cruising with our long-time friends from Houston in December. Not a day goes by that Carol and I don’t give thanks to our Lord and Savior for the many blessings we have had over the past two years. Little things like being comfortable leaving the house, walking into a store or restaurant without assistance, even stepping off a curb are just a few of the many things I no longer take for granted. Life is good! May each of you have the same joy I have with the tremendous trivialities of life.

**Reporter Bill and Marcia Tate:**
Bill has had an eventful year; back surgery to decompress a bulging disc and a total hip replacement. He is recovering very rapidly after both surgeries. He was home on the 2nd post op day after his total hip, and getting in the car to go to physical therapy on the 3rd post op day (no, Marcia did not let him drive!) Both Bill and Marcia are active in the West Tennessee Emmaus Community and both serve on the Executive Community of your Retirees’ Association. (Thank you Bill & Marcia)

**John & Nadine Jones (Brighton, TN):** John writes: I was simply thrilled to hear from you. Deeply appreciated the excellent work you are doing (reporter Marcia Tate)! We had a living estate sale and scaled down. We bought the Clopton UMC parsonage where we attend. The Administrative Council has voted to label me as Pastor Emeritus. Nadine had kyphoplasty (surgery used to treat a spinal compression fracture) in June and has recovered nicely with God's help. Our oldest grandchild will marry on Long Island, CA this month. He works in Los Angles. We have plans to attend.

**Reporter Jacque Stricker**
What? It’s October already? We’re still mowing! Yes, It’s October because we had our Retiree’s Retreat (This year it was Monday October 2nd and Tuesday October 3rd). Did I see you there? We have such a good time! Harold and I went with several others on a Pontoon boat, some of us did a little pottery, and it’s a time to fellowship with other retiree’s and catch up on families and friends. Harold and I (Jacque Stricker) are finally finished with our blueberries, blackberries, apples and corn. I have put up jellies, made blueberry syrup and put fruit and corn in the freezer. Now we are looking forward to winter where we can sit in a nice warm house and enjoy our bounty. Speaking of winter, we – um, let me correct that statement, Harold is searching out trees. The power company took down four trees that might fall on the power lines if we have strong winds, so he – we - are now able to pull those trees out and he can cut them up for us to split later. If trees are involved (and many other things) it involves the tractor and I am the one he volunteers for the tractor. I have been on the tractor enough that I am beginning to get the gear shift in the right position without thinking about it and that’s scary because now I am beginning to think like a man! UGH!! We went to the “big” Stricker family reunion in Coldwater, MI on July 4th then our immediate family reunion over the Labor
Day weekend having 27 here. Our oldest son and wife came from Oklahoma City and from Albuquerque, our middle son who lost his wife in June, was also here. This is the first time we have had all our children here for the family reunion at one time. Our youngest son was here recently from Ringgold, GA with his three children, Joey, 13, Maggie Grace 7, and the youngest Jessie Daniel (J.D) 20 months. J.D is mainly called “Jessie Daniel” quit frequently as he is ALWAYS moving and into things. Harold was wondering how he could put his step counter on the little guy, to get more steps, but decided not to as it really wouldn’t help Harold. We are leaving soon for Harold’s sibling reunion the middle of October at Harold’s older brother’s house in Coldwater, MI. There are seven siblings left (one brother died about 10 years ago) and we are blessed being able to be together for the last several years.

**Zada Russ (Madison, TN):** is a little under the weather with a sinus infection, which unfortunately includes a cough. She said she hasn’t felt like doing much and apologized for not really having anything to report. She frequently visiting family so the “slow down” I am sure is hard on her. She is taking a break from making homeless mats until she gets her strength back. She will have winter to crochet the mats when she is unable to be out and about. She sends her love to everyone.

We had planned on visiting with **Joe and Bernice Walker (Springville, TN):** but Joe Jr., called saying his dad had a doctor’s appointment that day so we will try to visit with them later. Harold checked back after the doctor’s appointment and Bernice said they were doing better. They are so thankful for all that Joe, Jr. does to help them. He does most of the cooking and Bernice said he does pretty well.

**HB and Rosie Fields (Paris, TN):** are doing well. They were enjoying their Columbus Day thinking they would visit the Antique shops they like to visit, but found out the shops were closed for Columbus Day. They have nearly completed all their projects and are settling nicely. They still have a back porch to add and H.B. said maybe they should put a ramp on it, just in case... You never know when you might need it. They are active enough I don’t see them using it for anything more than a ramp for the grandchildren’s skate boards or bicycles. H.B bragged a little about them having a new great grandbaby which now gives them four. He said the Church (Eva UMC) is holding their own and blessed them with a Pastor Appreciation Day. We all like to be appreciated every now and then.

We talked with **Covie Byars’** son who updated us on how Covie is doing. She is content in the nursing home in Paris, TN. She takes in some of the activities there. One day they had an Elvis impersonator come and she said Elvis kept winking at her. She has a new great grandchild (Randy’s first grandbaby) so she has 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and 5 great, great grandchildren. Occasionally Randy will take his dog to the nursing home for a visit with Covie so when he doesn’t bring the dog she asks how her “baby” is doing. Now that Randy has a grandbaby he’s not sure which “baby” she’s referring to.

Once again, I was unable to reach **Richard and Mary Jane King (Paris, TN).** I know Richard thinks they don’t do very much, but since I keep missing them I think they must be busy. I just hope they are. When I can reach them, Richard tells me they are enjoying themselves whatever they are doing or not doing.
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