It’s Time for our 2017 Retirees Retreat!

For many years we have been blessed with a wonderful time of recreation and fellowship at Lakeshore during our annual Retirees’ Retreat. If you have never been, this is the year to go! You are welcomed to do as much or as little as you want – you are guaranteed to have a good time! Last year we enjoyed a tour of the TN Fresh Water Pearl Museum and pontoon ride on the TN River. It was such a fascinating time that we are going to repeat it – but with a twist. Bob Keast, owner of the Birdsong Marina, and our own Allan Trull are Civil War historians. They will narrate our pontoon boat tour as we explore our unique Tennessee history. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you want to take this tour please indicate this on your registration. I need to have a head count prior to the retreat.

**Day One Free Time Activities:**

Low intensity nature walk

TN River Folk life Museum at Pilot Knob

Fellowship time (yes, you can even take a nap!)

Civil War History Tour, TN River (2 ½ hr pontoon boat tour with guide Mr. Bob Keast, Birdsong Marina and Rev. Allen Trull). **PLEASE NOTE ON REGISTRATION FORM IF YOU PLAN TO TAKE THIS TOUR.** I need to have a head count prior to the retreat.

**Day two of our retreat will also feature something new.** We welcome Lori Neal Nolan, director of the Dixie Performing Arts Center in Huntingdon, TN. Lori is an accomplished pottery artist. She will bring her potter’s wheel and share her testimony on how God has been molding her life. We will also have an opportunity to get our hands dirty as we sit at the potter’s wheel.

**Our music team will be Bill Kelly and Mark Mathney**
Reservations

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Phone: (_____)_________________________ E-mail: ________________________________

Special Dietary Needs? ____________________ Golf cart assistance needed? ____________

☐ Calhoun & Hopper Lodges - $72.50/ person
Dorm room style with single beds, bring your own linens

☐ Calhoun & Hopper Lodges – 1 person $87.50, 2 persons $151
Semi-private rooms, linen provided

☐ Kaigler Lakeside Lodge – 2 people $143
Room with two queen or full beds & private bath, shared living room. Linens provided

☐ Shanklin Cottage – 1 person $109, 2 people $143
Cottage with two bedrooms, each with two queen beds and private bath and a shared living room. Linens Provided

☐ Commuter - $30/person  (includes 3 meals)

☐ Tent/ Trailer - $10/per site & $36.50/per person (covers 4 meals)

☐ TN River Civil War History Tour  (no charge)  ________ number of people

Make Checks payable to: Lakeshore UMA

Mail to: Lakeshore UMA, 1458 Pilot Knob Rd, Eva, TN 38333

Registration Deadline: Monday, September 18, 2017
Memorials

Fred Thomas  November 27, 1922 – April 26, 2017
Survived by spouse Lorene Thomas
Correspondence can be sent to Lorene, at  2155 E. Reelfoot Ave, Union City, TN 38261

Jerry Wilson  December 18, 1941 – June 4, 2017
Correspondence can be sent to his daughter Leigh Wilson Kleber, 1459 E. Main St., Brownsville, TN 38012.

Helen L. Williams (surviving spouse of Rev. Roy D. Williams, Jr.), June 11, 2017

Let’s Dance
“When you will lose someone you can’t live without, your heart will be badly broken. The bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn’t seal back up. And you come through. It’s like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly—that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.”  - Anne Lamott

Welcome

Once again it is my delight to welcome two new reporters (especially since I am not saying “Goodby, job well done” to anyone). Welcome back Tom Perkins who served as a reporter several years ago and welcome to a new reporter Deborah Mathewson. Glad to have you aboard! We still have almost 60 retirees who do not have a reporter assigned to them. If you enjoy visiting and meeting new friends and are willing to call just 6 people every 3 months, you may be our next new reporter!

We also extend a HUGE WELCOME to the new retirees of 2017! We lift you up in prayer as you discern how God is leading you in this season of your life. We extend a special invitation for you join us at the Retirees Retreat at Lakeshore. Welcome to: Allan B. Bell, David P. Comperry, Phillip Allen Cook, Aaron Dowdy, Phillip Jackson, Patricia Ann King, Jerome Scales, Sr., James E. Smith, Richard P. Smith, Steve Stone, Dan Weathersbee, T.J. Wesley, Keith Wright.

Serving You in 2017-2018: Retirees’ Assoc Executive Board

President:  Bill Tate (June 2018)
Vice President: Tom Smith (June2018 then moves to President)
Secretary: Beverlyann Jetton (June 2018)
News ‘N Views Editor:  Beverlyann Jetton

Thank you to Harrell Phillips and Kendrick Lewis who are rotating off.
From the Mail Bag

Bill & Gloria Bouknight (Columbia, SC): We are enjoying retirement in South Carolina – but I am not really retired. I preach once or twice a month at two United Methodist churches in addition to teaching Sunday School and Confirmation classes as needed. I play golf several times a week – wish I could report that my handicap keep going down but it doesn’t! Gloria does some interior design work but strictly as a volunteer. We will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this December. The best thing about living in South Carolina is that our son lives only five minutes away. We get invitations to return to Memphis for preaching engagements at Christ Church each year and a few of our Christ Church friends find their way to South Carolina for a visit. With the exception of arthritis (Gloria) we have been blessed with good health God is good…all the time!

Sarah Moore (Trenton, TN): Sarah sold her house last year and decided to move into the Harlan Morris Retirement Community in Trenton. She says that was one of the best decisions she has made. She is involved in lots of activities and stays very busy. The residents are friendly and have become like an extended family. Students from Peabody High School come each month and plan activities. This is great for both the retirees and the students. This year the students help planed a “Senior Prom” for the residents. This spring Sarah was elected Prom Queen 2017. She was escorted to the prom by her son, Mark. Part of her prom queen duties included riding the float in both the Teapot Festival and the Strawberry Festival. Sarah enjoys creative coloring, reading and working on the computer. She is active at the Oak Grove UMC where is will be the main speaker at the U.M.W. Ladies Banquet.

Tommie & Charlotte Martin (Sharon, TN) Tommie is a man of few words. Says he enjoys gardening, remodeling houses, reading, and preaching. Enough said. (Tommie – thanks for taking the time to write me – editor)

Walter & Linda Mischke (Memphis, TN): The Mischke are living in the Trezevant Episcopal Retirement Manor in Memphis. They are active at St. James U.M.C. where they sing in the choir and teach Sunday School. They are involved in several volunteer projects at the manor. Walter conducts the Chapel services once a month for the nursing home in the complex. Linda remains active as a Spiritual Director and retreat leader.

Robert & Jackie Gardner (Paris, TN): Robert reports that all is well and he is thoroughly enjoying this new season of his life. Jackie is still employed as a counselor at the TN College of Applied Technology. They enjoy visiting their two grandchildren (ages 7 & 1) and other members of their family in the Nashville area. Their youngest daughter has just
completed her 3rd year at MTSU and their youngest son is going into his senior year of high school. Robert keeps busy with daily prayer and devotional times, working out in the gym, working in community events, supporting his son at ball games, teaching Sunday School once a month at Murray First U.M.C., preaching occasionally in addition to cooking, working in the yard, and running errands for the wife (Whew! I wonder if he hires out?!) He closes his note with “Morning by morning new mercies I see, Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto to me.” Amen.

Ralph and Lee Randolph (Kingwood, TX) - My wife, Lee, and I enjoy “The News ‘N’ Views” and I should have written long before this. We have been blessed in so many ways, especially with good health. We also have been busy in the 16 years since I retired. We moved to Kingwood, Texas, and have really enjoyed being near our daughter, Carolyn, and her family. Lee and I have continued to be involved in the Walk to Emmaus, she much more than I. She is also a church organist. I occasionally preach and have taught several Bible study classes. However, my main ministry is serving on Kairos Prison Ministry teams. I have also taught part-time at a nearby community college most of the time we have been in Kingwood.

Cecil & Tharon Kirk (Antioch, TN): The Kirks are headed to Lake Junaluska for a reunion of Southeast Asia missionaries. We will enjoy being at the conference center and reminiscing with friends. We both volunteer in the Sunny Day Program here at Brentwood U.M.C. This is a program for persons with mild dementia. Each week we serve as a buddy to someone with dementia, giving their caregivers a little time to run errands or rest. In August we are looking forward to a trip to the Canadian Rockies with our son Andrew. We will be visiting the Banff and Jasper areas. We stay busy with church, gardening, golf, and reading.

Reporter Beverlyann Jetton:

This summer has been one for travel. June saw a quick trip to visit my mother in Florida and a trip to Virginia to see my two eldest grandchildren (ages 16 & 17). I really enjoyed a leisurely drive through the Smoky Mountains. Mountains have long been my sacred place where I can be still and experience God’s presence. I’m not putting my suitcases away. I actually only returned to clean my house, mow the lawn and repack. As soon as I get the News ‘N’ Views in the mail I am off to ALASKA! WATCH OUT WORLD – HERE I COME!

Joan Eichkoff (Jackson, TN) - I had the opportunity to visit briefly with Joan at the Regency Retirement Center in Jackson. Entering her room you can quickly guess her two loves: reading and horses. One entire wall is filled with book cases and beautiful pictures of horses adorn the other walls. Joan had visitors so I was unable to stay long. I look forward to visiting with her again. You might even see her as a guest book reviewer.
Russell and Carol Gallimore (Jackson, TN): The Gallimores are celebrating several birthdays this summer. They’re looking forward to a very special birthday in the fall when their seventh grandchild arrives! A recent “Reveal Party” indicated a baby girl...and Carroll couldn’t be happier! The proud parents are their oldest son Stanley and wife Karla, who reside in Memphis. Their youngest, granddaughter Macy (14) and grandson Vann (9), continue to perform lead singing and acting roles at The Lander’s Center in Southaven, MS. Vann, who has a personal agent, has been summoned to New York three times to audition for Broadway musicals and has made three video auditions for TV Sitcoms. Carroll has happily recovered from her last knee replacement. Russell continues to serve on The Tennessee River District Committee on Ministry and audits the district books with John Archer’s help. He recently preached at Potts Chapel-Harris Grove and at Bemis (where they were married 53 years ago this past May). He has just returned from his 18th Tennessee Senior Olympic competitions. He entered three events and won three Silver medals. They’re looking forward to the Retiree’s Retreat, October 2-3 at Lakeshore.

Joyce McSwain (Columbus OH): Thank you so much for contacting me for News"N"Views. It has been so long since my husband, Harold, and I left the Conference that even his former students at Lambuth are retired! However, I do recognize some names and look eagerly for news of them and other retirees, some of whom we kept in contact over the years., After leaving Tennessee, Harold taught at United Theology School in Dayton, Ohio and Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio. When Harold died five years ago I moved to a retirement village in Columbus, Ohio. Our three children are scattered from Connecticut all the way to Florida. One lives here in Ohio and that's why I have stayed. I still drive to and from our house in North Carolina and to Connecticut, but choose to fly to Florida when I visit there. I keep busy with church activities and volunteer in our library here at the Village. The hand bell choir at Linworth United Methodist Church is a special joy to me. Perhaps this will be of interest to those who remember us. I'd love to hear from anyone.

Bev & Joyce Farnsworth (Memphis, TN) continue to be a fantastic support for their son Stephen who is receiving chemotherapy. The Farnsworths are cautiously excited about the scan results. They show the tumors are either shrinking or in some cases completely gone. There is a new area in the lung which they hope will respond positively to the new round of chemo. Stephen continues to do well and is able to work every day. Bev and Joyce want to thank the entire conference family for all their prayers, cards, calls and messages of support.
**Reporter Gail Gaddie**

**Benny and Gail Hopper (Jackson, TN)** – Gail and Benny just returned from a wonderful trip to Ohio where they reconnected with friends from churches they served while attending seminary there. What a great trip down memory lane. Their **BIG NEWS** is that they are planning a cruise along the coast of New England and Canada with their four children and their spouses next month. *(Ed note: Gail – we expect several good pictures for our Oct issue)*

**Roger Joseph (Olive Branch, MS)** – Roger has recently moved to Olive Branch where he has built a new house in between his two children. The family just celebrated the first birthday of his youngest grandchild. He is still serving the church at Rossville.

**Craig and Kay Jordan (Nesbit, MS)** - Over the past year we have made several trips, dealt with chronic health issues, and enjoyed day to day life. In July, 2016 we once again joined with Kay’s siblings and their spouses traveling to the Canadian Rockies. The eight of us met in Calgary and spent several days in Banff enjoying hiking, photography of the gorgeous mountains and lakes, meeting other travelers from across the globe and learning from the very gracious Canadian people. We also greatly enjoyed being together as a family sharing memories and grandchildren stories. From Banff we took a 2 day train trip on the Rocky Mountaineer to Vancouver enjoying an older way of travel and the wonderful food the staff provided. We were able to see wildlife close to the train and had magnificent views of river valleys as we crossed the Western Continental Divide. Vancouver had much more to offer than we could see in our 2 days there. Kay and I especially enjoyed the Native American art exhibited in a city park. In December we travelled with Rebekah, Andy, Holden, and Daniel to Round Rock, TX to share Christmas with Michael, Becky, Courtney, and Hunter. This was the first time in over a decade that we were all able to be together for Christmas. During the year Craig continues to teach a course at Rhodes College, and care for their farmette, his horse, and goat. Kay continues tutoring at the Desoto Literacy Council, babysitting Daniel from time to time, and singing in the choir at Trinity. In November she once again led the Alternative Market at Trinity providing gifting opportunities with crafts from artisans in developing countries seeking to have a living wage. Later this July we will meet Kay’s family members on the Outer Banks of N.C. for a family reunion. We are expecting 25 members of the Ritchie family.
*(Note: The black & white photos do not do the scenery justice – it was breathtaking!)*
Albert Clay and Sandra Kelly (Brewton, AL) - Sandra and her husband have lived for years in
Alabama, where he worked as a counselor. Now he is actively preaching in small churches near
where they live and Sandra plays the piano. He has served his present churches five years.

Reporter Joe Moseley

Joe and Carol Moseley (Atoka, TN): I’m happy to report that Carol is cancer free!!! “Praise God
from whom all blessings flow.” All things considered, things are going well for the Moseleys.
Although we have had a small glitch in the road-literally. Once again we had planned an extended
road trip to the Northwest, a small medical issue created a second road-block for that journey. We
are now saying the trip is postponed. We’re not sure if we’ll make it this year or next. If something
keeps us from our next attempt I’ll consider it a sign from God that we aren’t to go. We do have a
trip to Gatlinburg in September and a cruise in December. We will be meeting friends from Houston
on both trips. It was really good to attend Conference after our absence for two years. Carol and I
always enjoy it. Having worked in the Asbury and Brownsville districts Carol says it’s always good to
see all “her pastors” and for me I like seeing friends that distance keeps us from seeing; it’s like a
high school reunion. I am teaching Sunday School at Munford United Methodist Church on a
rotational basis and have had several opportunities to fill in for other pastors. For the last year I’ve
attended Campground UMC on the first Sunday of the month to consecrate the Communion
elements. That ended at Conference when David Horne received his Local Pastor’s license. My hope
& prayer is that you too feel the power of God’s love every day.

Larry and Martha Finger (Boonesville MS): I spoke to Larry on
the phone I asked him if he was healthy, wealthy, and wise. He
replied, “More healthy than wealthy or wise.” He and Martha
are planning to go to Hawaii soon. He enjoys his time teaching
Sunday School and filling a pulpit every now and then. Have a
great trip Martha and Larry!

John and Nadine Jones (Brighton, TN): John and Nadine Jones have moved back to the Clopton
Community and are happy to be back. Nadine has experienced some health issues, a minor surgery,
and is now in recovery. John is being the attentive nurse along with support from their former
church, Clopton United Methodist Church. (Thank you Ken Uselton for sharing this report with us)

Ken and Martha Uselton (Millington, TN): Ken continues to enjoy retirement, as it has allowed him
to refocus himself into areas of ministry that are less consuming of time and schedule. He continues
to teach at the college level, is doing some life coaching, and community involvement through
Leadership Millington. In addition, he and Martha are enjoying being a part of the ministries at
Clopton United Methodist Church. Martha is planning for her retirement at the end of the year
after a career in government service and they are celebrating the joy of new grandchildren recently.
Indeed Martha’s retirement will provide more time for "spoiling the grandchildren."
Reporter Deborah Morris

David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN): May was a difficult month for us. My father died two weeks shy of his 99th birthday. A World War II veteran, he had been living in assisted living almost six years. He was sick only a month. Six days after his death, David lost another brother, the second one this year. We are still dealing with these events, but it is getting easier. On a more positive note, we are healthy, maybe not as good as we need to be, but able to be out and about.

Ed and Ruth Endsley (Benton, IL): Brother Ed has just finished a five year appointment in Ina, Illinois - an appointment he describes as a pleasant experience. He is now available for supply/fill-in situations. He shared this chuckling story with me. A now 2 1/2 year old child, who he had baptized as an infant, believes that Brother Ed is God. It seems no one can tell him any differently. As he says eventually he will figure it out, but for now it is a good remembrance. Travelling is in the future for the Endsleys. They are planning a trip to extreme northern Illinois to see family, as well as a trip to Winter Haven Florida to see his wife's son and family. Ed is leading a Bible study at the Church of the Nazarene in Ina (his wife's church) on Wednesday night. They were able to conference in Collierville for one day and they enjoyed catching up with fellow ministers.

Jo Elliott (Henderson, TN): I caught Jo after she had been working in the garden. It had gotten just a little warm for her. Jo seems to be doing fine, and is planning on two trips this summer. In July she will be going to a Women's Conference in Evansville, Indiana - one of the Beth Moore studies. Her August trip will be a two week Gaither's Homecoming Alaskan Tour. I could hear the excitement in her voice as she was telling of both of these soon-to-be experiences.

Reporter Jenna Garland

Nell Dotson (Kirksey, KY): I spoke with Nell and she is doing ok. Although she doesn’t get out much she still enjoys being able to go to church.

Fay Garrett (Murray, KY): is going to rehab at the Wellness Center in Murray and she still has her grandson and daughter-in-law to help her. Her son Edwin is now a licensed Lay Preacher and is filling in at Fuquay Methodist Church in Varina, NC. She is very proud of him. The rest of her family are doing well.

Dan and Aileen Leslie (Kirksey, KY): Dan wrote that Aileen is continuing to heal and is doing well from her back surgery. Dan said he will be serving a two month interim at Liberty and Post Oak churches.

I didn’t hear from Robert and sue McKinney (Dexter, KY), but I am sure they are busy serving two churches now, Brooks Chapel and Bethel. They are still living in their own home and both churches are not too far from where they live. I believe Brooks Chapel is Roberts’s home church.
Bob and Doris Saywell (Murray, KY): had a great time in Branson, Mo where they saw the Story of Moses at the Sights & Sounds and they plan to go back in November to see another show there.

Yours truly (Jenna Garland, Hazel, KY), has really enjoyed this spring. I have three lovely tomato plants with big green tomatoes on them and one pepper plant. That is the extent of my gardening. The farmers around me have got the wheat out and now I am surrounded with soy beans. They got the beans planted just before the big rain - and boy did it rain - but not a damaging storm for which I was very thankful. My great-niece, Dr. Amanda Ferguson Wood, has completed her internship at the Baylor Hospital in Waco Texas and will be moving to Memphis a for one year fellowship. She will be doing OB/Gyn. After her fellowship she will be moving to the foothills of the Ozarks in Arkansas where she has already signed a contract for family practice. She and her husband have two adopted children, one from Columbia, South America and one from South Korea. Of course we are all very proud of her. She could not possibly have accomplished all she has without her dependence on the Lord. At my age every day is a gift for which I am very thankful. I missed Conference this year for the first time in many years but just did not feel up to going. Hope to see you all in October at the Retirees Retreat. God Bless!

Reporters Tom Perkins

Tom & Mary Perkins (Dyersburg, TN): Mary and I are going strong. I write for about a half day every day which means I write every day for a half day. That's all it means. I have books and gift plaques in several hospital gift shops and flower shops. I would love to have my gift plaques in the Vanderbilt Gift Shop system. Anyone that has pull with them, I need your help getting before the right person. I am talking with Dyersburg State Community College about teaching something in the creative writing field. I have finished five months as interim pastor at Nebo. I am on Facebook and invite you all to visit me there.

Thomas Bullock (Jackson, TN): reports he is going strong serving Moore's Chapel and also being chaplain for St Matthews Manor in Humboldt. Look for him at the Mississippi River District picnic. Tom lost his wife Betty about 4 years ago. He found a good Christian lady and was planning to marry soon when she had a stroke. Now, he visits her regularly. We pray for her recovery.

John & Patricia Baker-Batsel, who now live near Bolder, CO., are well and staying active. He recently won second place in photography at a recent Art show. His last appointment in the Memphis Conference was
with Mason-Braden. When he left there over 20 years ago he moved into theological library work. He sends his regards to all his "old" Memphis friends.

**Reporter Judd Mowery**

**Judd & Gail Mowery (Troy, TN):** Gale and I went to Gulf Shores in May and had a great time. We ate at Lamberts and we had those wonderful homemade rolls. I walked the beach, prayed and marveled at God's creation and then I prayed some more; and when I got back from my long walk on the beach I thanked God that I made it back to the motel. Gale and I played miniature golf and Gale won the first game and I won the second game and we quit. I am still preaching at three different congregations. I am enjoying the new preacher at Troy by the name of Joe Thorn and I miss Dr. Cook.

**Brady Whitehead (Springhill, TN):** Brady is spending time with his grandchildren. One of his grandsons is playing soccer and he has been watching him play. Brady is planning on going with the whole family on some trips this summer.

**Gary Drum (Jackson, TN):** Gary said he is trying to stay healthy. He is on dialysis three times a week. Never the less his mind is working well. He is getting back into teaching, and he hopes to do some traveling. He has taught a class on line and has been teaching at Dyersburg State. He has plans to teach a class on ethics on campus at Jackson State.

**Doris Edwards (Counce, TN):** enjoys her home near the Pickwick dam and goes out in her boat as much as she can. Doris broke her leg a year ago and has a little trouble getting around like she would like too. Her granddaughter is a senior at White Station High School in Memphis.

**Michael Blake (Martin, TN):** Michael went on a trip to Rochester, Minnesota to visit a Navy friend who he had not seen since 1972. They have kept in touch for all of these years. He plans to go to Uganda in October with a team for their fourth visit and work with orphans. The children are in a refugee camp in Rino, Uganda. For those who attended the Retirees Retreat last fall you heard Michael's passion for "his children" and his prayers as they were fleeing South Sudan. Although facing hardships the children are as safe as possible at this time. In addition to his mission work, Michael has been working hard with a new computer program as the treasurer of the Ministers Relief Association, in which there are 243 members. Michael and his mother were pleased when Michael's uncle came to Tennessee for a visit shortly after Annual Conference.
I contacted all the people on my list by sending each a letter. At this point I have not heard back from many. Sorry I was not able to call you on the phone – time just did not permit. I want to report that Bill’s back surgery is over and went well. Bill is so happy that the pain is gone. I am having to "keep him down".....he is very anxious to up and about. The back and hip pain is gone, but the knee is still giving him some trouble due to all the abuse it took during the" period of pain". We are so thankful for all the well wishes, cards, visits, phone calls and most important prayers. Thank you to everyone. I am having to pull double duty these days and some things are just having to wait. Happy summer to all.

Billy & Barbara Harris (Bartlett, TN): I continue to serve at Hampton Memorial UMC in Millington. The church family is made up of retired military of which I am also. Traveling is not in our plans at the present time, due to my wife’s health issues. Barbara was stricken four years ago with Transverse Myelitis. The illness left her paralyzed from her waist down on her left side. We began a new journey without warning or preparation. She continues to gain strength, balance and mobility through exercise, but continues to deal with chronic pain. She has increased mobility by using a power chair, power scooter and walker as her means of staying active and involved in church, garden club and lady’s organizations. A huge improvement from being totally paralyzed on her left side and unable to take a single step. God is good. We have a caregiver 5 days a week, but I am privileged to be her major caregiver. Our home was remodeled to accommodate her special needs. We covet your prayers that Barbara can become more independent by regaining her strength and mobility. God has been very present and helped Barbara to cope with the pain and all that goes with TM. He has blessed us in so many ways through family, friends and the many new friends we’ve made along this journey. The journey has been challenging, but with a loving, caring and supportive church family, we have experienced God’s grace in ways that we could never imagine. We look forward to the new conference year and returning to Hampton Memorial for the 10th year. I pray that God will bless the United Methodist Church with unity of purpose, ministry, mission and proclamation that Jesus is Lord! May God bless all who are dealing with health and spiritual issues.

H. Wayne & Lisa Holmes (Lexington, TN): All in all we are doing well. We still keep the doctors busy – and they are happy with that! I preach three times each Sunday on the Bath Springs circuit. Lisa is the Region One Procurement Officer at the Wildlife Resource Agency. She has 43 years of service to the state of Tennessee. Our youngest daughter and 12 year old grandchild live with us. We enjoyed a short vacation to the mountains this month.
Deborah Mathewson (Memphis, TN) – Since retiring in 2013 I have been keeping very busy. I continue to assist my husband, Harry, in his ministry at Atoka UMC. I founded Good Samaritans for Animals, a local domestic animal rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption ministry (Like them on Facebook). Harry and I also help care for his mother. We recently hosted a surprise 90 birthday party for her with 35 of her closest friends and family attending. In April Harry and I celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary with a trip to the Huntsville Space Center and the Ave Maria Grotto in Cullman, AL.

Harrell and Alice Phillips (Jackson, TN): Alice says that they are not doing any traveling, but are kept busy as Harrell is filling in at Aldersgate U.M.C. They enjoy Aldersgate very much and feel God is using them there. In addition to assisting with the preaching, Harrell enjoys teaching Sunday School. He meets every Tuesday for coffee with other retired ministers in the Jackson area. Harrell serves as volunteer chaplain at Tennova Regional Hospital in Jackson, where Alice also volunteers as what used to be a "pink lady," but now the color of the uniforms has changed to grey. Both Harrell and Alice are blessed to enjoy good health.

Dennis and Judy Renshaw (Jackson, TN): Judy says they both enjoyed having most of their family with them over July 4th for a family reunion. Now Dennis and his daughter are preparing to hike the Appalachian Trail which is a total of 2,100 miles. Dennis works at staying very physically fit. This is not the first time that he has hiked this trail. Once he hiked the trail for 4 months. Both Dennis and Judy feel blessed to have their adult daughter living next door to them. They are excited to add a set of twin grandbabies to their family recently.

Craig and Marilyn Ramsey (Milan, TN): Marilyn reports that she and Craig will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a big trip to Glacier National Park, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons throughout the month of August. On their way back to home in Milan, they will spend time in Denver caring for their grandchildren while their parents travel to Ireland. Craig is the hand bell choir director at Milan First United Methodist Church which is very satisfying for him and the congregation.

Margaret Simons (Jackson, TN): Margaret says that she will turn 95 in 2018. She gets together once a month for lunch with all five of her first cousins. It is a blessing that they still have each other as family. Margaret and her daughter drive to the commissary in Millington about once per month from her home in Jackson. They pass through Atoka each month where her husband used to pastor.
many years ago, so she says that Atoka is a special place for her. Margaret is busy caring for her sister who is 101 years old. Her sister is still mentally sharp and reminds other family members of important birthday dates and events of the past that others have forgotten but want to always remember. So, Margaret and her sister are a constant blessing to each other.

Joe and Mary Ann Piercey (Cordova, TN): Joe said that he and Mary Ann made the decision that come July 1, they would "really" retire from practicing ministry and be good, active members of their congregation of Colonial Park UMC in Memphis. Joe turned 80 the end of June, and he and Mary Ann decided that while they are both in good health, they wanted to concentrate on enjoying their family and congregation. All of their family lives close in the Memphis area except for one adult child who lives in Nashville, still not that far away. Joe has been officiating at funerals and still preaching some and doing pastoral care work at Colonial Park, and it is now time for a change. Joe has been practicing ministry for the past 60 years! Joe happily reports that he and Mary Ann are the proud great grandparents of new baby great granddaughter, Caly.

Reporter Pat Calhoun

Jim & Pat Calhoun (Union City, TN): We had a restful and uneventful spring and summer thus far. Jim now has two churches – Cobbs Chapel and My Manuel U.M.C. Both are doing well. The two churches we have along with four additional churches form a parish. Our parish has been led by Philip Cook of the Troy U.M.C. He has given us great leadership. We had a meaningful and enjoyable Lenten season with a special parish-wide service in each of the six churches. We will miss Rev. Cook as he retires this year. We enjoy attending part of Annual Conference and got to see many friends and former church members. In July we plan a trip to east Tennessee to a small English town of Rugby, TN to attend a family reunion. Latter we may drive to Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge.

Sam & Judy Pace (Millington, TN): Sam is scheduled to have cornea surgery soon. After he recovers, Judy will have shoulder surgery. Keep them both in your prayers. After recovery, the Paces plan to visit their daughter in Jacksonville, FL and a trip to Boston in the fall.

Tommy & Beverly Jowers (Dyersburg, TN): Recently the Jowers took a couple from Calvert City, KY to Tulsa, OK to attend a friend’s wedding. The grandmother of the bride was the pianist at the Calvert City U.M.C. for many years. After returning from Oklahoma they started working on a new patio at their home.

Only trust someone who can see these things in you: the sorrow behind your smile, the love behind your anger, and the reason behind your silence

Daily Inspiration Quotes
Frank and Ann Gardner (Martin, TN): are excited about another great grandchild. They have 19 great grands! The newest one is named Connor Lane. 24 teens from the Sanders Chapel and Union City First U.M.C. went to Ft. Walton Beach for a week long mission trip. After Conference Frank and Ann have been busy in their yard and garden.

Reporter Bobbie Clark

(Ed note: I LOVE getting Bobbie’s reports. Not only is she a good reporter but as a retired elementary teacher I get to see her creative side. This month her report was neatly written on elementary style paper – you know the kind – wide lines with a dotted line in the middle to show you just how tall the lower case letters should be. What great memories. I could almost smell the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches!)

John & Bobbie Clarke (Jackson, TN): One of the greatest blessings about being retired in Jackson is being near our son, Tim, and grandchildren, Adam and Olivia. Grandson, Andrew is only a hop, skip and a jump away at the University of Memphis, Memphis Campus. We are much blessed to share the life and ministry at Forest Heights U.M.C. I often assist in the nursery during the morning worship service. John says the choir is extremely talented and forgiving in that they “let” him sing with them. He is also involved in ministry to our homebound members.

I enjoyed a long phone conservation with Johnnie and Barbara Arnold (Holladay, TN). They send greeting to all their friends and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

Robert & Joyce Cole (Lakeland, FL): both had the flu this year – the kind that hangs on forever. They were able to attend Annual Conference and visit with their friends. Joyce particularly enjoyed the Clergy Spouse Luncheon. The Coles are very proud of their granddaughter Catherine who not only sings in the choir but also sings opera and has received numerous honors.

The purpose in life is not to be happy.
It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate –
to have it makes the difference that you have lived and lived well

Ralph Waldo Emmerson
Harrell & Janice Nation (Jackson, TN): Recently Janice and I along with our son and daughter-in-law made a trip to England. Along with sightseeing we made the trip to visit our granddaughter, Kathryn, who was part of a study abroad program at Queens University in Belfast. While in London we visited John Wesley’s house and church, Christ Church, Oxford, and Stonehenge. Stonehenge is a fascinating place not simply because of the size of the stones, but the placement of the stones which remains a mystery. The circle is a reminder of eternity. The writer of Ecclesiastes says that God has placed eternity in the human heart. I felt we were visiting an ancient place of worship. We also made a visit to Windsor Castle. The Queen was in residence that day, but she was not receiving American tourists for tea and biscuits. We traveled by train to Edinburgh, Scotland. This beautiful city was the home to Sir Walter Scott and Thomas Torrance. The people of Edinburgh were friendly and blessed with a delightful sense of humor. The last leg of our U.K. adventure was a bus and ferry ride to Belfast, Northern Ireland. A tour along the coast of the Irish Sea made us see why this coastline was voted the most beautiful in the world. The “Emerald Isle” did live up to its billing on our visit. A private tour of the C. S. Lewis reading room at Queens University made the day very special indeed. We worshiped at Westminster Abbey for evening prayers in London. We attended Sunday worship at Fisherwick Presbyterian Church in Belfast. Both times were of a spiritual nature. I must also add that Janice and I are delighted to be reappointed to serve Forest Heights UMC for another year. This congregation has been a blessing to us and we appreciate their love and support.

Reporter Jacque Stricker

Harold and Jacque Stricker (Cottage Grove, TN): We cannot believe we are already halfway through the year. I have kiddingly made the remark that I am having two birthdays a year. Well, in truth I am. In preparation for my upcoming “older” age, I prepare mentally by going to the next year. I do such a good job that when my birthday does come and I go up another year- I end up going up two! It is always a relief when I recalculate my age! Well, it made sense in MY mind. (The games we sometimes play.) We have had a busy year so far. In January, we traveled to northern Michigan for our brother in law funeral who passed away suddenly. In April, we went to Harold’s high school reunion in Huntington, IN. Harold had some eye surgery in Memphis this spring. Our daughter in law in Albuquerque, N.M. passed away. We missed Annual Conference for the first time in our career so we could be with our son in Albuquerque. Throw in eye appointments, doctor appointments, family reunions and it has been rather busy. We are now into blueberries, blueberries, and blueberries. After my complaining about the rain
skirting around us, we are now getting enough rain - a little more than 6 inches in 5 days. My sister reminded me of Mother’s warning of “beware what you wish for”. With all our “travels” we are playing “catch up” with grass, blueberries, blackberries and corn. One of these days we will have it all done and will be out cutting down trees and splitting wood -woohoo. Tractor time!!

Zada Russ (Madison, TN): has been on the move again. In early May she went with her daughter, Sarah, to Truman, Arkansas. A childhood friend was visiting in that area as well and they enjoyed a long visit. Memorial weekend Zada went camping with her daughter and son, then went to her son’s home in Sheperdssville, Kentucky and spent a couple of days with him. While visiting her son their dog chewed up her hearing aids. Needless to say the remainder of her vacation was rather quiet! She is now back in business with her hearing aids. Zada said her granddaughter Lauren’s mother in law was killed in Dixon, Tennessee when her car was struck by another vehicle. She went to the Memorial Service with her daughter, Mary, and son in law, David. Zada is doing well. Still battling gout but it isn’t keeping her from doing what she wants. She is working on her 7th homeless mat.

Harold had a nice visit with Joe and Bernice Walker (Springville, TN). They seemed to appreciate the visit and Harold thinks they don’t have enough visitors (that includes us). They also very much appreciate everything Joe, Jr. does for them.

HB and Rosie Fields (Paris, TN): are finally in their “new” trailer, which after all the rewiring, changing floor plans, etc., certainly is a new trailer. Now they are trying to get the “old” trailer they were living in, moved out so they will have a clear view of the pasture and the new calves. H.B. said they were doing “good”. Grandkids are out of school and he and Rosie were running them here and there. When I called HB I pulled him away from his one day Vacation Bible School. He said they had 13 kids (which is just about all of Eva) and 9 workers. Sunday, they will take the 13 VBS kids to Lakeshore to swim.

Harold talked with Covie Byars’ son, Randy. He said they just celebrated Covie’s 85th Birthday in March and in June had a small family reunion at Tom’s Pizza. Randy visits with her regularly and will occasionally take her out to eat.

I was unable to reach Richard and Mary Jane King (Paris, TN). When I can reach them, Richard tells me they don’t do anything. So, I am hoping they are enjoying not doing anything.

Reporter Glenn Hill

Al Doyle (Franklin, TN): I had a nice conversation with this former Statistician buddy who said he was doing as well as he could. He is mostly confined to bed so my call was welcomed. He shared his joy at having his eldest granddaughter graduate from Milsaps Theological Seminary in New York.
He proudly said that she is doing church related work. He is proud of all his grandchildren – two children belonging to his daughter Sally, and two children belonging to his son Lloyd.

**Mary Wright (Jackson, TN):** is doing well and is happy that her son lives with her. She also has two daughters living in Jackson. Mary was disappointed to miss Annual Conference this year. She has difficulty walking long distances and wears a brace on one leg.

**Helen Williams (formally of Collierville):** I was sorry to hear of Helen’s passing on June 11, 2017. We want to share with the family in their sorrow and lend our prayers to undergird them in this difficult time. God be with you. Helen was the widow of Rev. Roy D. Williams, Jr.

**Mark and Dawn Earheart (Dresden, TN):** When I talked to Mark he was busy working on their newly-acquired older home. He said that he is serving a charge in retirement and is enjoying staying in contact with people. The Earhearts are in good health but says they make frequent trips to the doctor (maybe that is the key).

**Glenn & Georgia Hill (Murray, KY):** The Hills are still getting up, going to work, church, grocery, service stations, birthday parties, and so on. I am scheduled to preach three Sundays at Martin Chapel while Bro. Tim Escue, our pastor, attends the July term of Pastor’s school in Atlanta. After a Sunday off, I will fill in for Bro. Robert Baker at the South Pleasant Grove church. It is always nice to go back to South Pleasant Grove. My father served there while I was in high school. I told the congregation once that was the only church I had ever been to that I knew most of the building committee members. I go waaaayyy back! Georgia and I got to attend our youngest son’s High School graduation in Marietta, Georgia in May. Georgia and I participated in the Relay for Life event in Murray in April. I am thankful to be in my 11th year after two cancer surgeries. God is good, all the time. We pray that everyone has a joy filled and safe summer. May God bless and direct our paths.

**Our Mail bag overflows!**

Thank you for all who sent your news in by mail. I enjoy hearing from each of you. Remember that you can submit your news simply by mailing or e-mailing the editor (contact info on address page) **Share your news – and say it with pictures!**

**Paul and Mary Douglass (Brentwood, TN):** Paul and I moved to Brentwood two years ago to be closer to our family. We miss the family, friends and church life we left in Jackson. It is great to be able to see our children, grandchildren, and our great grands more often. They have been wonderful to visit us and to offer help when needed.
Martha Corlew (Germantown, TN): Marth Ann writes: I am doing well and enjoying life at the Villages at Germantown. Being a member of Germantown UMC is a blessing to me and a meaningful part of my life. I enjoy the responsibilities and activities of each. I am doing some traveling. Last summer I took a train trip across Canada with my sister and brother-in-law. This summer I am going to Chicago where I will see “Hamilton” performed on stage. The Fourth of July was spent in Nashville with my son and both of my sisters and their families.

Carol Craig (Evansville, IN): I really enjoyed attending Conference and seeing everyone at the Retirees Luncheon and the Spouses Luncheon. Thank you to all who helped plan these events – you did a wonderful job! My friend Debra, from California, visited for a week. We did a whirlwind tour of west Tennessee joining Frank and Ann Gardner at the Mississippi River District gathering, on to Memphis to visit my son Paul and his wife and daughter Gracie, and then back to Hazel, KY to mow the grass and attend a fish fry. I left Debra recovering in her home town of Vincennes, ID. All total we covered 825 miles. July fourth features a block party then Jenna Garland and I hit the road again to attend the Purchase District picnic. I am getting help with my mowing so that frees up some time for more visits with my granddaughter, Gracie. I can hardly believe that she is 1 year old. We call her our 30-30 baby – 30 lbs and 30 inches tall. I send my greetings to all and wish everyone a safe summer. Maybe I will see some of you in my travels.

An amazing 2 letter English word. (Submitted by Harold Montgomery)

A reminder that one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition. **UP**  Read until the end ... You’ll laugh. This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is ‘UP.’ It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It’s easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don’t give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it was is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I’ll wrap it UP, for now . . . My time is UP! Oh . . . One more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?  **U P**
Thank you Collierville UMC and the Metro District for hosting a great Annual Conference! The facilities were beautiful, the hospitality warm, and most of all the worship was uplifting! Thank you Board of Pensions for hosting the Retirees Luncheon. We look forward to seeing all of our colleagues each year.

2018 PADUCAH, HEAR WE COME!

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

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