With winter weather fading and a beautiful spring popping up all around us, we celebrate all the new activities we have to remain connected. Space does not allow be to mention all the activities but I would like to highlight several that our retirees may be interested in.

**The United Methodist Men Annual Fish Fry** will be Tuesday, April 24 at the Archer’s Chapel United Methodist Church. The guest speaker will be Mr. Joe Kelly, UMM National Prayer Advocate. If you like great catfish, hot hush puppies, and warm fellowship – this is an event is not to be missed!

**Memphis Conference Retirees Luncheon** hosted by the Board of Pensions and the Health Benefits Chairman will be held Monday, June 4th at the Walker Events Center, 229 Madison St., Paducah, KY. Please RSVP by May 11th by calling Clare Wilson at (731)-664-5540

The Clergy Spouse Luncheon at Annual Conference will be Tuesday, June 5th at the Fountain Ave U.M.C., 300 Fountain Ave, Paducah, KY. Tickets are $15. Please send reservations to the Mississippi River District, P.O. Box 264, Alamo, TN 38001 or call Kathy Conrad at (731) - 414-4717 by May 23

**Memphis Conference Retirees’ Retreat at Lakeshore:** Your Retirees’ Assoc. Executive Committee is busy planning this year’s retreat. **SAVE THE DATE:** Oct 1 & 2. More information will be available at the Retirees’ Luncheon, and in the July issue of News ‘N’ Views in addition to a brochure that will be mailed to you. This is a wonderful time of fellowship that you will not want to miss.
Mrs. Rebecca Jane Yoder  
November 13, 1947 – February 12, 2018  
Correspondence may be sent to her husband, Rev. Tom Yoder, 224 Harding Blvd, Cotter, AR 72626

Rev. Dr. J. Thomas Cook,  
November 6, 1930 - February 15, 2018  
Condolences may be sent to his wife, Sandra Cook at 476 Bruins Trace, Cordova, TN 38018

Rev. Dr. John Bernard Clarke,  
Condolences may be sent to his wife Bobbie Clarke at 161 Farmington Dr., Jackson, TN 38305

Mrs. Deborah Jean Smith,  
August 22, 1953 – February 18, 2018  
Condolences may be sent to her husband, Rev. James Smith, 295 Johns Church Rd., McKenzie, TN 38201

Rev. Jimmy Ray DeBardeleben,  
March 21, 1935 – March 6, 2018  
Condolences may be sent to his wife, Pat, at 55 Forest Village Place, Cordova, TN 38018

Rev. Frank Howard Bulle,  
August 6, 1932 – March 16, 2018  
Condolences may be sent to Frank’s daughter, Carolyn Sisk, 9408 Gentlewind, Brentwood, TN 37027

Each of our retirees are important. It is our goal to contact each of you at least once a year but we encourage each of you to send in your news as it happens. Adding pictures would be a bonus and earn you the gratitude of the Editor! If you would like the contact information for a fellow retiree please call the Conference Office (731-664-8480) or your district office. Let’s stay connected!

From Our Mail Bag

Tom & Shirley Small (North Point, FL) write that they enjoy receiving the News ‘N’ Views and appreciate being asked for their news. They are leading the worship services at their assisted living facility once a month. Tom leads the communion and Shirley plays the piano. Tom & Shirley sing in a quarter-quintet group at the Nazarene church. They worship at Trinity United Methodist Church where Tom leads the worship services as needed. Shirley enjoys working as a substitute elementary teacher for the Sarasota School District. Tom & Shirley retired from the Memphis Conference in 1999.
Terry & Phyllis Presson (Union City, TN): The last three years have been difficult and very busy due to losing three of our parents. Phyllis’ father died in March 2015, the year before we retired. Terry’s father died in August 2016. Phyllis’ mother died just about one year ago. We still have Terry’s mother who is doing well at age 85. We cherish every minute we have with her. We visit our children as often as we can. They live in Arizona and Oregon. We both enjoy camping, kayaking, hiking, and riding our bikes. Our trips west are always filled with activity.

John & Ann Archer (Jackson, TN) send their greetings and say that “all is well.” They enjoy reading news from their friends in the News ‘N’ Views.

Alan & Cecile Bell (Germantown, TN): Cecile retired in Aug of 2017 and I followed one month later, retiring from the VAMC, Memphis. Prior to retirement we, planned two trips – one to see friends on the east coast and one to see friends in the western USA. We will be heading west soon and conclude our travels in Santa Rosa, CA where we will visit our daughter, Kim, and her family. We were blessed with our seventh grandchild this January. We have stayed busy helping our daughter Catherine with little John William Louis Sharpe (the name is almost bigger than he is) and his sister and brothers. We enjoy being grandparents! Retirement is an adjustment; after 45 years of rising at 5 a.m. and a non-stop schedule all day, my body clock is struggling to adjust. The relief of not having to navigate ice and snow covered streets this winter brought much compensation. We remain active in the choir and in other ministries at Emmanuel UMC. I am exploring some ideas for future ministries.

George & Nell Reed (Lexington, TN): George will be celebrating his 90th birthday in April and is still preaching, filling in for other pastors as needed. We hope everyone is doing well and send our greetings and wishes for a Happy Easter and spring.

William & Patty Franklin (Covington, TN): Patty and I along with our son, Sam, are doing well. Like all of us, we find we are spending more time at the doctor’s office than we would like. We are active at Covington 1st U.M.C. where I teach an older adult Sunday School class. Patty stays busy with the U.M.W. Our other four children all live out-of-state. We look forward to June and July when they all come to visit. All total we have five children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Bev & Joyce Farnsworth (Memphis, TN): We are doing OK but Bev has been dealing with an upper respiratory problem for the last two months – nothing serious but the annoyance of coughing and nasal congestion. I would say he is in good company this spring. We continue to care for our son, Stephen, who is at our home under hospice care. His immune system is too weak to continue on chemo therapy. The brain tumors are causing confusion and increased anxiety, but thankfully he is not having any pain. Stephen has a friend that comes on the
weekends to help us. This gives us some much needed relief. We want to thank you for your continual support and notes of encouragement.

Ed’s Note: Steven completed his journey on April 8th. Our prayers are with the Farnsworth family during this time of loss.

Stan & Marilyn Waldon (Kevil, KY): After retiring in 2016, Stan and Marilyn crossed off some bucket list items the first year: living the HGTV dream by taking the family farmhouse in Ballard County, KY back to the studs and a month of travel in Europe. They have now settled into retirement life...golf, chickens, and volunteer activities. (Ed Note: Now if this is an HGTV Dream Home we want to see pictures – before and after!)

Jack & Vauneida Henton (Germantown, TN) have been living at The Villages at Germantown for the last five years. They are enjoying their stay and appreciate the support they receive. Vauneida had a stroke last year and remains in therapy at the Long Term Care Center at The Village while Jack is able to remain in their apartment. It is their hope that she will be able to return to the apartment but progress is slow. They appreciate the prayers and words of encouragement from all their friends in the Memphis Conference. The Hentons celebrated the birth of their first great-grandchild in August. Jack was privileged to assist in her baptism in Florence, Alabama.

Nancy Blankenship (Memphis, TN) is active in the Memphis Master Gardeners and is looking forward to a busy but beautiful spring. She is also active in Quota, a service organization dedicated to serving the deaf and hearing impaired community as well as women and children living in disadvantaged situations. She attends Mullins U.M.C. and serves with the U.M.W, and Church Women United.

Joe & Becky Thornton (Brownsville, TN) write: “Becky and I are well and enjoying life on the family farm. We are still going strong at Lester's Chapel, a marvelous group of people to be sure. Someone said that the reason we have hung out there so long is because we have found folks even older than we are! Apart from travel from time to time, we stay very active with our grandchildren in Memphis. Maddie is a junior at St. Mary's Episcopal School gearing up for college placement next year. Grandson, Will, is going into the ninth grade at Memphis University School and participates heavily in the sports program. As grandparents, we enjoy reliving our own independent school experiences. Joe is still active with the Brownsville Human Resource Council which is mapping out even more significant steps as to how we might bring our community closer together. It has been an amazing education for me, and much is left to be done. The topic of "race" in the world must surely represent more than we can possibly understand, yet that's our task as disciples of Christ; to press on! Sending our regards to our fellow retirees and the various fronts being addressed.”
Good morning all: yours truly had a wonderful Easter celebration both at church and later at my sister’s home. There were not as many of us to attend but we had a quiet celebration and wonderful meal as usual. The three children who stayed to hide their eggs had to do so in the house because of the weather. We actually had snow the following Monday. I enjoyed hosting the Retirees Executive Committee at my home on the 13th of April and we had a profitable meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you at Lakeshore in October at the Retirees’ Retreat. (Ed’s Note: Jenna was an excellent hostess and prepared a wonderful lunch. We began the process of planning an exciting retreat.)

I spoke with Faye Garrett (Murray, KY) and she is doing better but still has many health problems. Faye’s granddaughter, Anna, is getting married in May but she will not be able to attend because of her health. Faye’s son, Edwin, is doing Lay Speaking wherever he is needed.

I had an enjoyable conservation with Dan Leslie (Kirksey, KY). He said he and Eileen are doing well. They went to see their daughter, Emily, and her husband, Taylor, recently. They also celebrated their great-grandson’s 3rd birthday.

I have not yet heard from the McKinney’s (Dexter, KY) but I know Robert recently had surgery in Paducah and then developed an infection. He was subsequently hospitalized at Murray. I believe he is back in the pulpit at this time. They celebrated their great-grand daughter’s first birthday (she is also my great-great-niece so I attended the birthday party as well). In the Murray area, it seems like we are all connected in one way or another.

Bob & Doris Saywell (Murray, KY) are doing great. Bob had his heart shocked back into rhythm and is doing well. Their daughter, Mary Ruth, had the flu but Doris and Bob escaped catching it.

Carol Craig (Evansville, IN & Hazel, KY): This has been a difficult winter for many and my family was no exception. My daughter-in-law’s father passed away in early January. This has been a very painful time for that family. My sister became gravely ill with Bronchial Pneumonia and was in ICU for many days. When she was finally able to be discharged, we found her water pipes had frozen. She joined me at my home in Hazel for the month of January. We stayed in, kept warm and watched as over 11 inches of snow fell that month! We had fun and she was a great patient. As things began to thaw, I was able to spend time with my son, Paul, his wife, Erin, and my youngest granddaughter, Grace, in Memphis, TN. Grace is 18 months old and learning new words almost daily. I am looking forward to a trip to California to visit a friend. We have plans
to “ferry out” to Catalina Island and also attend two tapings of the Dr. Phil show. I hope to return home rested and ready for a summer of yard work.

There are many problems in the world today but Micah 6:8 says “What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” If we can all do that, then we will be doing well.

**Reporter Marcia Tate**

**Phillip & Vida McClure (Clinton, KY):** It has been so long since we have reported anything to News & Views. We are still around doing what many of you are doing – visiting doctors on a regular basis but thankful that most of the time we can get around. Vida is still involved with Southeastern Jurisdiction of Older Adults (SEJAOA) but regretfully has given up the local leadership of JOY – the older adult ministry at Clinton First Methodist. She is involved with the Face to Face Ministry which is a program designed as part of the Emmaus Community for folks like us – that is 60 years of age or older or disabled. However, Vida is having to “go slower” due to a couple of issues – first, back issues make standing and lifting difficult and second, caring for her younger brother who is living with us and is a Hospice patient with cancer. Phillip is still very active with his own interest plus helping Vida care for her brother – doing chores that he usually would not be doing. He is a Board Member of the Hickman County Senior Center, active with Habitat for Humanity, the Clinton Rotary and the church. Our future plans include attending **Wisdom & Grace Conference at Lake Junaluska August 13-16. This is a yearly event sponsored by SEJAOA. Theme is “The Wise Shall Shine”; Rev. Heidi Neumark, author and pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan will be the conference preacher and Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith from the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas will be our keynote speaker.** He serves as executive pastor of generosity and author of At the Crossroads: Leadership Lessons for the Second Half of Life. It would be great if we – The Memphis Conference Retirees - had a bus-load to join together for this event enjoying the event, the lake, and the mountains. Hope you will go on line at [www.lakejunluaska.com](http://www.lakejunluaska.com) and search Festival of Wisdom & Grace to find out more.

As for news from the Tates (Bill & Marcia Tate, Jackson, TN)...We went to Hot Springs, AR over spring break with our daughter. It was a great trip. There is a lot of history in that town and with our daughter being a History teacher, she was very interested. We had a very good time. We enjoyed taking our grandsons to an Easter egg hunt with a petting zoo, pony rides, blow-ups and, of course, hunting eggs! They had a big time. We continue to keep busy with Gadsden UMC. We are hoping to go to the beach in the near future.
Reporter Jacque Stricker

Harold and Jacque Stricker have been enjoying the beauty of spring, trying to get the blueberries, blackberries and apples trees ready for the fruit we hope to get. We have them pruned and fertilized, hoping a freeze doesn’t hit the blooms and we lose the fruit.

We managed to surprise my dad on his 95th birthday with almost all of our family being at his church and then inviting his congregation to BBQ and a birthday cake. Even with the granddaughter and her family of four sick and not able to be there, we were able to surprise him with 22. His church really helped keep it quiet and helped serve. We celebrated for about a week (had the “family’ birthday party with cake the Saturday before the big celebration and then the granddaughter that couldn’t be there that Sunday came in the following Friday and we celebrated again). Needless to say he enjoyed every bit of it.

I had a pleasant visit with Paul and Grace Lynn (Statonville, TN). They retired about two years ago and for about the first year they traveled but then missed serving in the ministry so they came home and went back to “work.” They are serving Crump and Shiloh United Methodist Churches. Shiloh UMC is in the national park where they occasionally have campers join them for services. The Shiloh congregation ranges normally between 35-40 regulars and Crump UMC has approximately 17 members. Unfortunately, his wife was unable to join him for the Easter Sunrise celebration because she was in N. Carolina helping their daughter. Their son-in-law had an accident and heart attack and has been in the hospital since Feb. 19th. They are trying to get things situated in case he comes home in a wheelchair. They feel very blessed to be back in the ministry again.

I spoke with Mary Wright (Jackson, TN) today. She seems like a very sweet person and I look forward to many conversations with her. I found out she attends Aldersgate UMC (the rest of you may know all this information, but I didn’t know so as I learn I will be sharing.) She is 90 years old/young and attends Aldersgate as often as she can. She has some books to read but hasn’t gotten into any of them yet. She spent Easter with family but isn’t doing much right now.

HB and Rosie Fields (Paris, TN) are doing well and so is their family. The Eva church held a big Easter Sunrise service and had good attendance despite the rain. HB said not much was going on there - just trying to keep the car between the ditches (now if there is a reason for that comment, I don’t have a clue so we will just leave the car there.) Many of you may remember that HB fell off a step ladder while changing a light bulb. I asked about his teeth and he said he’s getting use to them. He told his granddaughter he can’t whistle anymore and she informed him that he whistles when he talks. Oh, the words from our children and grandchildren keep us humble.
Zada Russ (Madison, TN) isn’t feeling up-to-par right now, but she sends her “hellos” and hope everyone has a blessed summer.

Covie Byars (Paris, TN) is doing about the same. She will be celebrating her 86th birthday in May and her children are planning a celebration. Her address is Paris Healthcare, 800 Volunteer Dr., Rm 411, Paris, TN 38242 in case anyone would like to send her a birthday card.

Joe and Bernice Walker (Springville, TN) are doing fairly well. Joe is back home now. They are limited in what they are able to do and so thankful for all the help Joe, Jr. gives. If you are interested in sending a card, their address is 7910 Hwy 69 S., Springville, TN 38305.

Reporter Tom Perkins

I’m pretty certain I’m not good at reporting. Folk either are not home or do not answer their calls. I leave a message and invite them to email me their news, and noooo. At least I know that most on my calling list are alive. I got their answering service that said so. Their answering service also promised they would get back to me as soon as possible.

This is what I know: Jerome & Glenese Scales (Memphis, TN) have got it going on! They are volunteering their time to the Methodist Hospital System. They also work with school kids in about every way that kids need help. They do this volunteer work with such dedication they have to make a schedule for their weekly activities each Monday morning. Now, that’s what I call intentional living it to the max.

Louise Wilder Scott, (Cordova, TN) reports she is doing just fine, maybe even much better than just fine, for a lady with 94 years under her Tennessee belt. She travels regularly to the drug store and out to get something to eat. No, she doesn’t drive. She leaves the driving to another lady who is taking good care of her. Her optimism comes through when she said "So far, so good."

I can personally report that Tom & Mary Perkins (Dyersburg, TN) cannot wrap their heads around the concept of retirement. I just learned that some of my material will be used in an upcoming Emmaus Walk. Boy, if that doesn’t make you humble, nothing will. I have a lot of inspirational messages and memorable quotes. Some are printed on magnetic business cards and make great gifts. Contact me if you are interested: 731-287-9099 or Top38@yahoo.com

Reporter Glenn Hill

Glen & Georgia Hill (Murray, KY): We survived the cold, ice and snowfall of the winter and have been looking forward to the warmer days of spring. Lately, we have had a taste of all types of
weather; as I write this, it is 77 degrees and looking for severe weather this evening. The rain will bring a cold front with frost warnings. Guess we will deal with whatever comes our way. We were able to spend three days with our daughter and her family in Marietta, GA. We celebrated her 54th birthday. WOW! My baby is 54. Blessed! We are still active, for old folks, as Georgia and I make up half of our bowling team. We are not very good at bowling but we certainly enjoy the activity and fellowship. There are 46 people in our league. I am still busy selling portable buildings and Georgia keeps busy most of the time — but then that is nothing new for her! We attended the Easter dinner and program presented by the Harmony Mennonite Church in Graves County recently. That church numbers only 30 but served dinner to about 400 people. What a beautiful witness for the Lord! We are looking forward to attending Conference in Paducah and seeing lots of friends.

**Steve & Christie Callicoatt (Jackson, TN):** I talked briefly with Steve who said there is not much going on in their lives. Their son recently married and they are doing great.

**Al Doyle (Franklin, TN):** I enjoy talking to Brother Al for he always seems ready for a call — even if it is from a News ‘N’ Views reporter. Things are going pretty well for him. He has recently begun occupational therapy on his left hand and is seeing positive results although progress is slow. I have never seen anyone who recovers from an illness as fast as they want to. He agrees that is probably the case. Al says his family is doing well. We wish him good days ahead.

I had a good conservation with Richard Denton (Brownsville, TN). Two weeks ago, he had to have his leg amputated. He is currently in rehab at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. He misses his beloved wife, Viola, who passed away in January. His daughter, Pam, recently went to a teachers’ meeting in Chattanooga. His son-in-law, Barry, is the Chief of Police in Brownsville. Richard asked for our prayers. His goal is to be able to walk again.

**Reporter Judd Mowery**

**Doug & Blair Meeks (Brentwood, TN):** Doug had open heart surgery in order to replace a valve. He had this surgery six weeks ago and is recovering fine. When I called, he was gone for physical therapy. Blair sounded very well. They are hoping to take a trip to California and visit with family.

**Julia King (Murfreesboro, TN):** She enjoys going on walks each day. She attends a two hour Bible study each week. In December, she celebrated her 80th birthday.
William & Charlotte Clayton (Shalimar, FL): Both William and Charlotte are doing well and keep busy as prayer warriors and facilitators in a grief recovery group. On Fridays, they work in a soup kitchen which serves over 100 people a week. After the soup kitchen, it is on to assisting in the clothing closet. They worship at the Trinity United Methodist church which has about five hundred members attending weekly. They are still serving the Lord in a mighty way.

Wesley & Becky Fears (Oakland, TN) are doing great and looking forward to spring. They send their greetings to all their friends in and out of the Memphis Conference.

Russell & Carroll Gallimore (Jackson, TN): Russell recently preached at the Malesus United Methodist Church and twice at Lexington First and had a great time. Both he and Carroll attend the Aldersgate U.M.C. That church has a long history of reaching out to their community by serving Holy Communion in the church parking lot on Easter Sunday morning. Russell and Carroll went to Memphis and visited their sons and their families this spring. Russell has registered for the Senior Olympic Games in horseshoes, both mixed and mens’ doubles table tennis and single and doubles shuffleboard. Russell & Carroll are getting ready to work in the upcoming elections where he is a judge and Carroll is a precinct officer. Their assigned precinct is at the Northside High School. They have a ten year old grandson who is very talented in the theater arts and has performed in local productions in the Memphis area as well as in the movie, “Arcadia.” He has also auditioned for Broadway in New York.

Judd & Gale Mowery (Troy, TN): Gale continues delivering mail twice a week in Tiptonville. She enjoys getting out and about and meeting people but she really enjoys watching HGTV and getting ideas in home decorating. (Ed’s note: sounds like Judd is a lucky man!) I am still preaching at Obion Chapel and Hornbeak United Methodist Churches, and attending Troy United Methodist Church on my off-week and having the pleasure of hearing Rev. Joe Thorn preach. My health has been giving me a lot of trouble since January and I ask that you keep me in your prayers.

Reporter Joe Moseley

Fred & Anna Lou French (Paducah, KY) write: “We're still up and going, just a little slower. It's been a year since my knee replacement and I'm back visiting two hospitals daily, looking for United Methodists. One month, I kept track of how many visits I had made, and I was surprised to see that I had visited 253 Methodist patients (some more than once, of course.) I often say, "I've come looking for old folks, and I know what they look like because I looked in the mirror this morning.” Usually they say, “Well you found another one.” I visited one 99 years old and I
said "I'm glad I finally found someone older than I am" and she had a good laugh. I visited a patient in his room after his heart had stopped for 12 minutes after surgery. I asked if he remembered anything while he was out. His wife asked if he had seen a bright light. He responded "No, and I didn't smell any smoke either." Lou and I are just now down-sizing to one car, and will be saving over $100 a month in car insurance. Lou no longer feels like attending church since she can't hear despite some very expensive hearing aids. I get to preach occasionally (after serving three LTFT appointments since retiring). I will get to preach at Broadway (Paducah) for the third time - what an honor for an old country preacher!"

Carol and I (Joe Moseley) have been doing well and thank God daily for our health. In fact, since last writing we have returned to the waters of the Caribbean once and as of this writing we are in the midst of vacationing in Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg; discovering history up close and personal. As a side note, our vacation began on April 4th with unseasonably cold weather including snow in West Virginia. Today, April 12th, the high was 75... Yeah!!! I’ve been busy preaching and teaching including twice during Holy Week. When I wasn’t preaching, I also enjoyed attending services in Millington First (my home church) and Munford First (the church Carol and I attend). On Wednesday of Holy Week, it was good to see Barry Henson and hear the message he brought to Munford First. One last thing, before leaving on vacation I planted a small garden. I hope and pray the unexpected cold didn’t hurt it. I’m told the temps dropped below freezing in April. And who says we aren’t experiencing climate change... brrr!

Reporter Deborah Morris

Marsha Carpenter Dorgan (Murray, KY) - Marsha was in Kentucky when we talked. She continues to travel frequently to see her daughter in Colorado, and will be going again in May. Her daughter is completing a doctorate through Murray State in Leadership and Development. Her father would be so proud of her! As we know, he is looking down and approving all the time. Marsha also has four grandchildren in Paris. She spends a good deal of time with them while keeping up with their activities. Marsha serves as an agricultural consultant. Last summer she planted (what seems like a small orchard to me): pear, apple, plum, and peach trees. She says they are looking well right now, and is anxious to see fruit, maybe this year, as the trees are looking better than they did last year. Looking way ahead, Marsha is planning a trip to Zimbabwe in 2019.

Jennie Doss (Jackson, TN) - Jennie said she made it through winter OK. She is definitely ready for spring to come calling and stay with us. She had a time where she thought all she was doing
was going to doctors and the pharmacy. Recently, she had a colonoscopy and is waiting for official results.

**Larry and Vicki Kendrick (Brownsville, TN)** - I caught up with the Kendrick family vacationing in Orange Beach, Alabama! Brother Larry says they are all doing fine, healthy and enjoying themselves while away from home.

**David and Deborah Morris** - We are well, and survived the harsh winter season. David will be having a colonoscopy during the third week of April. *(Ed note: sounds like a lot of people listen to the warnings during March’s National Colon Cancer Awareness month – way to go (no pun intended!))*

**Reporter Pat Calhoun**

**Frank & Ann Gardner (Martin, TN)** are so grateful that they escaped the flu this season as it was a particularly hard season. Their churches, Stanley’s Chapel and Gardner U.M.C., worshiped together for Easter with 132 attending. This has become not only an annual tradition but one that is eagerly anticipated. Both of their grandsons were home for Easter. Their eldest grandson, Matt, just learned that he is diabetic. Keep him in prayer as he makes the adjustments needed. Matt is a welder and works in Hickman, KY. Their grandson, Jordan, just graduated from M.T.S.U. and plans to continue on to law school.

**Estelle Morgan (Atoka, TN)** traveled to England to visit her son and daughter-in-law. They were greeted by the cold rainy English weather. While in England, Estelle received word that her mother had passed away. The family was able to delay the funeral service until Estelle was able to return. Loving to travel, she is looking forward to a trip to Mexico this year *(and we are looking forward to seeing some of your pictures)*.

I enjoyed talking to **Mary Mitchell Morgan (Trenton, TN)**. At 97, she sounded like a much younger woman! For many years she has attended Walnut Grove U.M.C. She enjoys their extensive outreach program. Recently, she has been attending a nearby Baptist church. She missed her friends at Walnut Grove but since she is no longer driving she needs to stay closer to home.

When I called **Jane Edwards (Newbern, TN)**, she was excitedly awaiting family. They were planning a trip to Reelfoot Lake for lunch *(now a catfish platter is something to get excited about!)*. Last Thanksgiving, all the family came to Newbern. Christmas, it was her turn to travel and she went to Georgia to be with her daughter, Mary Ann Stewart.
Linda Morphis (Medina, TN) was also planning to eat out when I called. She was joining her brother for lunch in Jackson. Linda had her hands full as she was also babysitting her four month-old great-granddaughter. This Easter, Linda drove with family to Savannah, Georgia. They continued down the east coast of Florida and up the west coast. Their goal was to visit all the lighthouses. They saw seven lighthouses. She got her exercise as they climbed about 2 lighthouses a day.

Sarah Moore (Trenton, TN) enjoys living at Harlan Morris assistant living in Trenton. She enjoys the activities and entertainment they provide. Each spring, they host a Senior Prom. Last year Sara was named queen. Sara attends Oak Grove U.M.C. and is active in the U.M.W. In May, Sarah’s granddaughter is graduating from Peabody High School in Trenton. Chloe wants to go to veterinarian school.

Jim & Pat Calhoun (Dyersburg, TN): Jim continues to serve Cobbs Chapel and Mt. Manuel U.M.C. They really enjoy this close knit group of worshipers. On Sunday, March 4th they attended the 125th anniversary of the Calvert City U.M.C. Bishop Bill McAlilly was the guest preacher for the event. Jim says it is always great to visit churches they have pastored. It gives them an opportunity to catch-up on news and see how the children have grown.

Reporter Deborah Mathewson

Deborah & Harry Mathewson (Memphis, TN): In April, Harry and I will celebrate 38 years of marriage with a mini trip of three days to the Mammoth Cave National Park. We will first enjoy a seafood dinner at a quaint little restaurant in Bowling Green, KY. Harry and I recently hosted a birthday party for my mother-in-law, Frances Mathewson, who turned 91 on St. Patrick's Day. Of course, the decorative theme was St. Patrick’s Day. Not everyone lives to be 91 and is still able to get around. Mom Frances enjoyed all of her gifts, which were mainly candy and cookies! Harry and I enjoyed having his brother and sister-in-law visit from Dallas, TX. We do not get an opportunity to be with one another very often so this was a special time. Larry especially appreciated being able to spend some time with his mother.

John and Peggy Lloyd (Drummonds, TN): Last week, I visited in the Lloyd’s home for a delightful lunch cooked and served by Peggy. The main entree was spinach lasagna. John, a retired local pastor, still loves to fill in preaching when and where he can. Peggy loves to make Christian cards and talk about Jesus. Their special needs adult daughter, Debbie, still loves going to church, getting hugs and singing "Joy, Joy, Joy" at church. This family is now attending Munford
United Methodist Church. The Lloyds are excited to have four of their grandchildren graduate from college this year. John and Peggy love spending time with their children, grandchildren, and friends. They request prayers for all of their family.

William and Gloria Bouknight (Columbia, SC): Gloria and Bill report that retirement is quiet and enjoyable. Bill is serving as the interim pastor of the church where he served for 12 years before coming to Memphis. Bill also is preaching once a month in another local church - that leaves just enough time for golfing and spending time with Gloria. Gloria is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Bill and Gloria send their love and best wishes to their friends in the Memphis area.

Steve and Theresa Cavitt (Farmington, KY): Steve reports that he and Theresa are both doing well. In preparation for retirement, they built a house on a farm which has been in their family since 1906. Farmington is about halfway between Murray and Mayfield. Their grandchildren make the sixth generation to have access to it. Seven months after Steve retired in 2016, he was assigned to the Trinity Church in Graves County, Kentucky. This church averages about 20 people each Sunday. The Cavitts say that they have enjoyed being in a "superannuated" relationship with the conference. This leaves time for riding tractors, growing vegetable gardens, harvesting what the deer and raccoons leave for them, and spending time with their children and grandchildren in Jackson and Memphis.

Evelyn Brady (Hernando, MS): Evelyn seems to be doing well and is always nicely dressed and accessorized! She uses a walker, but only as a precaution. Evelyn attends the devotional services at Wesley Meadows in Hernando, Mississippi, where she resides. She sings clearly and beautifully during the singing portion of the services. She is excited about the births of her twin great-grandchildren. Evelyn appreciates phone call and visits. She can be reached on her cell phone at 901/683-5571. Her address is: Wesley Meadows Retirement Community, 1325 McIngvale Road, Hernando, MS 38632.

Jimmy and Ann Wallace (Eaton, TN): Jimmy and Ann have lived in their home in Eaton for 45 years. They are doing well and send their greeting to all their friends.

Editor’s Note: You called me with your news and I could not take your call. I said I would call you back but forgot who called. Gosh – those senior moments are so upsetting. Please don’t be offended and call me back.
United Methodist Number Quiz

1. How many United Methodist churches are there around the world?
   A) 42,779   B) 27,479   C) To infinity and beyond

2. In how many countries does The United Methodist Church have a mission presence?
   A) 120+    B) 75 – 120    C) Every country and six other planets

3. What is the ratio of women to men in The United Methodist Church (in 2016)?
   A) 42% female, 58% male   B) 58% female, 42% male   C) Overall it works out even

4. At 18,402, what United Methodist church lists the largest **membership**?
   A) Church of the Resurrection – Leawood, KS   B) Windsor Village United Methodist Church – Houston, TX   C) Christy Church – Fairview Heights, IL

5. At 9,071, what United Methodist Church reports the largest **attendance**?
   A) Church of the Resurrection – Leawood, KS   B) Windsor Village United Methodist Church – Houston, TX   C) Christy Church – Fairview Heights, IL

6. How many **U.S. United Methodist churches** reported more than 3,000 members in 2016?
   A) 613   B) 361   C) 136

7. In 2016, how much did U.S. United Methodist churches give to missions?
   A) $937,675,776   B) $39,675,776   C) 297,675,776   D) A ginormous amount

8. How many members did **U.S. churches** report in 2016?
   A) 15,691,278   B) 6,951,278   C) 3,691,278

9. How many members did United Methodist churches **outside the U.S.A.** report in 2016?
   A) 5,652,388   B) 3,526,388   C) 2,655,388

10. How many hospitals in the United States are affiliated with The United Methodist Church?
    A) 84   B) 52   C) 25   D) Not sure but the cafeteria food is strangely warmed

Answers on page 16
A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

This is for Russell 😊

Answers for today’s quiz:
1 A, 2 A, 3 B, 4 B, 5 A, 6 C, 7 A, 8 B, 9 A, 10 B