



The News 'N' Views

April 2019



Published quarterly by and for the retirees of the Memphis Annual Conference

In Memory

Lolette Bratt

April 25, 1932 – February 15, 2019

Correspondence may be sent to her son,
Eric Bratt, 14 Mallard Cove, Covington, TN
38019

John T. Kilzer

January 7, 1957 – March 12, 2019

Correspondence may be sent to John's
daughter: Joy Klukken, 604 Russell St # 201,
Nashville, TN 37206

Zada Ludlow Russ

August 17, 1030 – March 14, 2019

Correspondence may be sent to her
daughter, Susan Dozier, 5270 Dozier Rd,
Obion, TN 38240

Mary Helen Barnes

May 28, 1928

April 10, 2019



*Our hearts have been made for you, O
God, and they shall never rest until they
rest in you. Augustine of Hippo*

Once again it is spring. Today we are enjoying a respite from the rains. I might even pull the pontoons off the lawn mower! Spring means that annual conference is just around the corner. Conference time is not only business and worship (two very important activities) but also a time of fellowship, rekindling friendship and making connections. I hope you join us at the Board of Pension luncheon. Take a few minutes to thank the members of the Board of Pension for making this time a possibility. Although still months away, another opportunity for fellowship is the annual Retirees Retreat at Lakeshore. We will gather "on the hill" on Monday and Tuesday, October 7th and 8th. Watch for more information in the July issue of The News 'N' Views.

Staying connected is important. The staff of The News 'N' Views attempts to call each of our retirees at least once a year. We encourage you to send in your news as it occurs. You will receive additional brownie points if you send a photo! Send your news to: Beverlyann Jetton, 511 N Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305 or email: rbjetton@yahoo.com. Need an address or phone number for a colleague in ministry? Call the conference office at 731-664-8480.



From the Mailbag

Lula Bigham (Shreveport, LA): (from Betsy Bingham Eaves) Mom celebrated her 92nd birthday February 25th and says she is shooting for 100. She is doing quite well, loving playing Bingo and Bean Bag Baseball at The Glen. She is quite the competitor! Her grandchildren live in Houston, Baltimore, Denver and Silverthorne, CO and Lula loves seeing them when she can. She has two great-grandchildren in Baltimore, one in Silverthorne, with a fourth one on the way. She is excited that the Silverthorne grands are moving soon to Austin. She is glad to be a little closer to son Robert and his wife Bobbie who live in Missouri City, TX, south of Houston. She also loves having David and Cyndy now living in Shreveport. Lula and Cyndy are jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts and have a puzzle going all the time. David is having wonderful success serving as the Lay Pastor for Recovery Ministry at St. Luke's U.M.C. in Shreveport. I, (daughter Betsy) have served St. Luke UMC for 4 1/2 years, but will be taking a new appointment as the lead pastor of Grace Community U.M.C. in Shreveport starting July 1, 2019. Lula stays busy with activities at three United Methodist churches. She doesn't do email, **but would LOVE to receive a phone call or snail mail.** The best time to reach her is in the evening at 318-798-6669 or send mail to 403 East Flournoy Lucas Rd, Apt. 213, Shreveport, LA 71115.

James & Ida Holmes (Memphis, TN) are living in a retirement home and attending Germantown U.M.C. where they pastored from 1980-89.

Ted and Cathey Leach (Columbia, AL) write: Upon retiring in 2010, we took a three-week vacation to Michigan and Wisconsin, riding bikes on several "rails to trails" bike paths. From 2010-2014, I worked with the North Alabama Conference United Methodist Foundation, primarily helping younger clergy with church stewardship. From 2014-2018, I worked with the N.A.C. Board of Superannuate Homes, a housing ministry for retired clergy and spouses. I served for 6 months as an interim pastor for a small church. I now work as a part-time Associate Pastor at the Helena U.M.C. I served as the spiritual director for Alabama Women's Emmaus Walk 484 this March. After caring for her parents for much of 2010-2013, Cathey told me she wanted to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail. She said it would take about 6 months. In a moment of much needed inspiration, I replied "What can I do to help?" She said that I could "slack pack" her through the rock Pennsylvania terrain. Slack pack means traveling light, without sleeping gear or extra food. At each afternoon rendezvous place, I set up a cooler and an extra lawn chair, offering bottle water, drinks, and snacks for my wife and other hikers. Many of the thru-hikers knew Cathey by her trail name of "Mama Bear". She left Springer Mountain, GA on April 10, 2014 and finished at Mt. Katahdin, Main on October 13, 2014. I spent time with her in Gatlinburg, Asheville, NC, and Buena Vista, VA. She walked over 2,000 miles and wore out two pairs of hiking boots. Since 2016, Cathey has raised puppies for Canine Companions for Independence. From age eight weeks to two years, a volunteer teaches the dog over 30

commands and socializes the dog by visiting restaurants, churches and schools. The dog then receives several months of training at the CCI facility. Dogs that complete the program are placed with a disabled veteran, a person with mobility or hearing impairment, or with a special needs child. Cathey's first dog, Friar, was released from the program after a month of training in Orlando due to allergies and stress. Friar is back with us and is helping to raise Reba, our second dog in the program. Friar is a lab/golden retriever mix and Reba is a full-blooded lab.

Billy & Barbara Harris (Bartlett, TN): We have been busy with all the things of the 'class of retirees.' I have been privileged to serve the Hampton Memorial U.M.C. since my formal retirement. Barbara and I are in our 11th year at Hampton and enjoy staying active in ministry. Some may know from my last report that Barbara was stricken with Transverse Myelitis in 2013. This illness paralyzed her left side from waist to her foot. She has received extensive physical therapy including hydro-therapy. Having a caregiver four days each week gives me time to serve the church, but often times she accompanies me. She has a scooter, power chair and walker to assist her getting around. Although she is limited in some things, she stays active with the ladies at church, Garden Club and other activities. In fact, she is volunteering in assisted living facilities [in Memphis] for those who use walkers. She helps decorate the walkers with ribbon, bows, and floral picks that represent each season of the year. It is called "Bedazzle Your Walker". Barbara enjoys bringing a little sunshine and happiness to the ladies. Instead of being handicapped and staying home, she is out daily for some activity, even if only for a meal. She is a blessing to so many and I'm so blessed to be her husband. Well, I think by now you know what I'm doing. The same as all ministers serving the Lord and His people as best I can. My health is good and I am blessed to be able to serve the Lord, His church and my beautiful wife. We hope all is well with our retirees.



A Secret To A Long Marriage

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. A local reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long happy marriage. "Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," explained the husband. "We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said 'That's once.' We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled. Once more my wife quietly said 'That's twice.' We hadn't gone a half a mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly pulled out a revolver and shot the mule dead. I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said 'That's once.'"

Reporter Gail Gaddie



As I reviewed the last issue of News and Views, I realized that my information is much the same. I am still keeping my great-grand son Peter, who is now seven months old. Both of us are doing well! Peter's father is Ben Moore who coaches girls' basketball at Houston High School in Memphis. Ben's team played in the state tournament in Murfreesboro, TN, and Ben's parents and I took Peter to the games. We were joined by Peter's mother (my granddaughter-in-law), and aunt, (my granddaughter) later in the week as they finished their work week. Ben's team made it to the final game and lost by one point in the last seconds of the game. It was the only shot by the member of the opposing team who made it! Needless to say, we were extremely disappointed but also grateful for Houston's team to have come so far! It was great fun for the whole family! During this season of Lent, I enjoy attending the Lenten Worship Services and lunch at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis. During Spring break my 16-year-old granddaughter, Shelby Udovich, and I attended the services. It was a joy to go with her. Shelby and her parents, Karen and Bob Udovich, are active at St. Paul's U.M.C. I hope for each of you that Lent is a season of reflection and prayer as we anticipate Easter.

I enjoyed talking with **Allean Simmons** who lives in Jackson, TN. She reminded me that her husband Rev. Dimp Simmons died twenty-four years ago. She has lived in the same house for many years and is active in church and Bible study. She has five living children, twelve grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren, and **eight great-great-grandchildren** (one set of twins), most of whom live in Jackson. She keeps one ten-year old great-grandchild. Three years ago, she had knee surgery and has done very well. She is grateful that her family lives in Jackson or close by. She says, "The Good Lord has blessed me."

I spoke with **Larry Humbert** (Stanton, TN). He said that he and Jane were doing okay and send their greetings.

Reporter Deborah Mathewson

Charles and Ruth Leist: I visited with them during the Christmas holidays at their apartment at Highland Terrace on Highland Street in Memphis. Ruth was ill and in bed at that time. Charles and I visited for about an hour and caught up on each other's news. Charles explained to me that his Parkinson's Disease is now limiting him, and that neither he nor Ruth drive any longer. Their daughter in Jackson, TN, visits Charles and Ruth once per week, and they are grateful for the care of their son, Carlton, and his wife, Jana, who live in Germantown.

Julia Allen (Memphis, TN): Julia says that she continues to enjoy life at Trezevant Manor where she has made many friends. There is always something interesting to do and lots of opportunities for entertainment. Julia missed the "dormitory life" in her college days, but now she has it at this stage in life. Julia started teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Most of their class is from the African Congo. She finds teaching very rewarding. Julia says she has a "love/hate relationship" with her walker. She uses the walker because she needs to, but sometimes she wishes it was not necessary.

Evelyn Brady (Hernando, MS): Evelyn is doing well in assisted living at the Wesley Terrace. She uses a walker to get around the complex. Evelyn celebrated her 95th birthday in November. Evelyn enjoys going to the Piccadilly Cafeteria in the Whitehaven Shopping Plaza with good friends, Guy and Nancy Stephenson who are members of Hernando First U.M.C. The Stephensons are close friends of Evelyn and visit her often and take her out sometimes. They met many years ago when the Stephensons were active members of Whitehaven U.M.C. and Evelyn's husband was the associate pastor. Evelyn also enjoys seeing her twin great grandsons. She enjoys visiting the library with her new friends at the Wesley Meadows home. She is happy and content living there and with life, in general.

James Mulroy (Collierville, TN): James is in a nursing home and is visited regularly by his son and daughter-in-law. Mary, his daughter-in-law, reports that James is in no pain, and his long-term memory is excellent. He is mobile via a wheelchair. He still grieves the passing of his wife, Ruth, who passed 18 months ago.

John and Peggy Lloyd (Drummonds, TN) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 28. Their family, including their son, Dale, and his family from Houston, Texas, and daughter, Dawn and her family, in Germantown celebrated this milestone occasion when they were all together in January of this year. Both Debbie, (John and Peggy's daughter), and Peggy have been "under the weather" recently, but both are "on the mend" now. They are looking forward to the special Lenten preaching series and luncheons at their church, Munford U.M.C. They will be hosting an Easter dinner in their home for Debby and Harry Mathewson and Frances Mathewson, Harry's 92-year-old mother.



Deborah Mathewson -- Deborah just hosted a surprise 92nd birthday party in March for her mother-in-law, Frances Mathewson, at Frances' church, Colonial Cumberland Presbyterian Church, in Memphis. The day was one of glorious sunshine amidst so many rainy days this winter and spring. The celebration included 33 people, all good friends of the Mathewsons. Frances was completely surprised and very happy and thankful to be here for 92 years and be in good health physically and mentally. Deborah will be attending her Hillcrest High School reunion the last weekend of April with a dinner at the classic Pete 'N' Sam's on Park Avenue in Memphis and a dinner/dance at the

Holiday Inn Conference Center on Central Avenue, across from the U of M. She and Harry will celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary on April 19 with a small dinner at Buckley's on Poplar.

Reporter Pat Calhoun

Frank and Ann Gardner (Martin, TN): Frank just passed the 80th milestone in February. The churches he serves held a birthday celebration. They also had a family celebration as well. Frank and Ann keep busy chauffeuring grandchildren to the doctors and dentist. Several grandchildren are wearing braces and need regular adjustments. One granddaughter has diabetes and requires careful observation. They enjoy watching one of their granddaughters try out for the cheerleading squad.



Sarah Moore (Trenton, TN): Sarah has been living at the Harlem Morris Apartments for almost 4 years. She really likes it there and enjoys the variety of entertainment and activities they offer. Sarah also celebrated her 80th birthday in March. Her family surprised her with a party and they had a wonderful time. Sarah indicated that she was having chronic renal failure and may require dialysis. Please keep her in your prayers.

Mary Mitchell Morgan (Trenton, TN): I enjoyed a nice conversation with Mary. She recently had a type of cancer on her ankle. Since having it removed, she has had to use a cane or walker for stability. Mary recently attended camp Bluebell, a retreat for cancer patients sponsored by the West Tennessee Healthcare. Camp Bluebell is held at Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly. Mary enjoys the activities there. She has two daughters who volunteer at the camp. One of Mary's daughter had cancer when she was 25 years old. She completed her treatment and is cancer free. She went on to become a nurse and works at Jackson Madison County General hospital.

Jim and Pat Calhoun (Union City, TN): Life is beginning to slow down in recent months. Jim was hospitalized for 13 days with chest pain. It turned out to be pancreatitis and not cardiac but it was a difficult time none-the-less. Jim is now back to driving the Veterans Van to the Marion, Ill and Memphis VA hospitals. I have been having some hip pain and now use a cane or walker for balance. Since July 2018, our church, Union City First, had enjoyed having Rev Douglas Norfleet as our pastor. Both Rev Norfleet and his wife Ashley are a joy to be around. Rev Norfleet is a "people person" and enjoys visiting the congregation. WE have a newer parsonage that is closer to the church. The parsonage committee worked hard to upgrade the kitchen.

Reporter Jenna Garland

I talked to **Faye Garrett** (Murray, KY). She didn't have anything to report except she has good days and bad days but her family is taking good care of her.

Robert and Sue McKinney (Dexter, KY) said their two-year-old great-grand daughter had her tonsils out and is recuperating nicely.

Jenna Garland (Hazel, KY): My great-niece, Dr. Amanda Wood, went to Greece recently on a medical mission to the Syrian refugees that are there. They had several people make professions of faith. When their families found out they turned against them. It is so sad and they need our prayers. The team ministered to both body and soul and it was a very successful mission. I am thankful that she was able to participate in that. I am looking forward to Easter and being with my family. My cousins are getting together the Wednesday after Easter Sunday at my sister's house. We always have such a good time of fellowship. My flowers have been beautiful this spring. I always enjoy them a lot. Hope everyone is well and have a very blessed Easter and summer.

Carol Craig (Hazel, KY & Evansville, IL): Between all the rain and storms the yard work has begun resulting in sore muscles. The beautiful sight of a yard filled with Daffodils was spectacular. I spent four days in Memphis caring for my little granddaughter, Grace. At 2 ½ years she is 42 inches tall. Her mom, Erin, was on a promo tour for her new book. In the coming months she will also make stops in Santa Monica, California, Nashville and Memphis. In August she will have a book signing at the Novel Book store here in Memphis. I missed my annual trip to California because of eye treatments and caring for Grace. I hope to make the trip to see my friend in late June. I helped with Hank and Grace Russell's estate sale in February. I have several copies of Grace's last book. Please contact me if you are interested in buying one. I am looking forward to Palm Sunday and Easter services at my church where my son is the music director. Wishing everyone a blessed Lenten season. Looking forward to seeing you at Conference in June.



Reporter Joe Moseley

As I write this letter Carol and I find ourselves in functionally good health. Carol has been cancer free since her surgery in 2016 and though I still have some mobility issues I can do most things I want to do with little difficulty. As I step off curbs and walk short distances without assistance I find myself giving thanks to The Great Physician frequently throughout the day. We did a cruise to the Caribbean in January. We sailed out of New Orleans, which afforded us the opportunity to visit a friend I was stationed with in Dover & Viet Nam. A few more trips are scheduled

throughout 2019 including a trip to Oregon, which is one of the two states I haven't been to. In the meantime, I am busy planting and tending my garden, which is considerably smaller than previous years. I recently agreed to serve on the Memphis Conference Relief Association. If you're not part of it I hope you'll take time to check it out at Annual Conference. I also enjoy being part of a six-person Sunday school team, serving & preaching on the Bread of Life Food Pantry team and occasionally at a near-by church. We are both looking forward to seeing our friends and colleagues at Annual Conference this year.

Fred French - I have found that there is life after retirement. I've served two LTFT appointments since officially retirement. One for three years and one for ten years. Both fulfilling. Since that time, I have designed my own activity: hospital visitation in the two in Paducah. I visit both each day, usually seven days a week. In my visits, I Insist that I'm not a chaplain, but a United Methodist minister, and present my business card detailing that I'm retired. On an average month I visit at least 400 United Methodists (of course some more than once). Some I follow into the nursing home for more visits. It is also an excellent way to notify local congregations that one of their own is a patient. I encourage other retirees to start their own post-retirement ministry.

Reporter **Jacque Stricker**

My heart is saddened today as I learned that dear, sweet **Zada Russ** passed away March 14, 2019. She fought the good fight, she finished the race, she kept the faith. There is stored for her the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will award her on that day. (2 Timothy 4:7-8 paraphrased by Jacque) Zada enjoyed visiting her siblings and was so proud of her family. She was an encourager, optimistic and had a sweet calming spirit about her. She

will be missed by many.



blueberries

Harold and Jacque Stricker (Cottage Grove, TN): are keeping busy. We really don't have a whole lot to show for our effort, but it fills our days and keeps us out of trouble. We celebrated my Dad's 96th birthday the middle of March. Our children were here, and my nephew and his family came in from Florida. What do you get someone who is 96, has everything he wants, and should he want something, goes out and buys it? So, if anyone has any ideas, I would welcome suggestions. We were blessed to have grandchildren here

for spring break, using their help for lawn, kitchen, and anything we thought they might be able to do. Harold and I plan to start pruning the blueberries and black berries next week, weather permitting. As you can tell, we are living an exciting and very blessed life. We are waiting for our son's lawyer to let us know when we will be finished with his estate. We plan to have a memorial service for him up in the Sandia mountains that he loved and spent as much time as he could. We pray for blessings for you all.

Richard and Mary Jane King are doing better now. Rick has a neuro procedure for a fall he took earlier, but Mary Jane says he is doing much better. He is at Plumley Rehab for now to improve on some of the motor skills, but Mary Jane is very positive about his improvement, so they will be able to go to Lake Junaluska this summer as usual.

HB and Rosie Fields are doing well. HB said he was busy doing what he should have done when it was cooler, so he is working hard trying to get things done before it gets much warmer. The church is doing well, and they are getting ready for Easter Sunrise Service. Other than what he said, not much is going on. (My saying is “I don’t know what I’ve done, but it’s taken me all day to do it and I am tired at the end of the day.”)

Grace Lynn sold her home and plans to move back to Michigan next week to be close to her son, grandchildren, sister and Paul’s siblings. The churches have been wonderful, and she feels the blessings they are. She also has a daughter that lives in North Carolina.



Mary Wright & Keith Wright (Jackson, TN) are doing well. Mary is 93 and hasn’t been sick very much for which she is very thankful. She and her son, Keith, who is also a retired United Methodist minister, live close to her daughter, Janice. While we were visiting on the phone, she said Keith was busy putting new boards down on the back porch so they wouldn’t “fall through” the deck. When you own a home there is

always something to do!

Covie Byars is doing better now. A few weeks ago, she suffered a light stroke and spent some time in the hospital. She is now back at Paris Healthcare and glad to be in familiar surroundings. I believe she would enjoy a card or two. You can write to her at: 800 Volunteer Dr. RM 411, Paris, TN 38242

Reporter Philip Jackson

Bill and Betty Evans (Lexington, TN) report that they have two new great grandchildren with another expected in July. Bill is currently still going strong with two churches in Chester County serving for 15 years at the age of 90. You go Bill and Betty!



Bob and Cynthia Moore (Franklin, TN) report that life is routine and quiet just as they like it. They have plans to travel to Michigan this summer for a break from that routine.

We enjoyed a recent Spring Break trip to Orange Beach with our daughter, 18 year old graduating senior granddaughter and 15 month old grandson. Our days are taken up with keeping up with our grandson while his mom teaches school. He's keeping us young and on our toes.

Reporter Deborah Morris

Marsha Carpenter Dorgan (Murray, KY): When talking to Marsha I discovered that she has had her right hip replaced recently - something she says should have been done many years ago. By the time we all receive the spring quarter of News 'N' Views, she will be driving herself again. Marsha reports that she has had good friends to take her needed places after surgery, including a doctor's visits on the day we talked. Rehab will continue for the next couple of months. Before she realizes it, travelling back and forth to Colorado to see her daughter will once again be happening. Marsha sees her daughter who lives in Paris, TN about once a week.

Jennie Doss (Jackson, TN): Jennie seems to be doing well and staying healthy. Like so many of us these days, she gets out at certain times of the day and knows where she is going before she drives away. She has been bothered with some back pain during the week we talked, but seemed to be feeling better. Her son, who lives with her, is a big asset to her, as he helps a lot around the house. The job of lawn, (or weed mowing as she calls it), seems to be a constant.

Larry and Vicki Kendrick - "Happy and healthy in Brownsville," says Bro. Larry's. He should also further that territory to cover Alamo as he is currently serving Alamo First United Methodist as their minister. Things are going well there in their church work. The Kendricks are planning on enjoying their spring trip to Orange Beach later this month.

Jim and Jane Kayler (Jackson, TN): The Kaylers are new to our West Tennessee landscape coming from Texas to our area. Brother Jim is from the Tennessee Conference. He and his wife Jane moved here about six months ago to be closer to their daughter and family in Brownsville. Like all newcomers they are finding their way around and discovering new things each day.

David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN): We are doing good after having gotten through a winter with no MAJOR health battles. David did have a bout with bronchitis in January. Spring allergies are upon us and everyone else it seems. He spends a great deal of time writing. Without his computer, he would be lost.

OPTIMISM

Miss Dale, a long-time client at my beauty salon, was about to celebrate her one-hundredth birthday. I had promised her complimentary hair services when she reached the century mark. I was delighted when she came in to collect her gift. As I was preparing for her permanent wave, we discussed the fact that she was exactly twice my age. Miss Dale was silent for a moment and then said, "There is only one thing that concerns me. What will I do when you get too old to do my hair?"



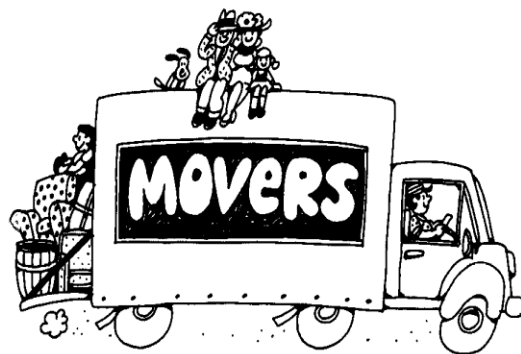
Reporter Glenn Hill

Steve and Christie Callicoat (Jackson, TN): I talked with Steve who said there was not much news from his end of things. He is still serving East Trinity and the Wesley Communities as their Chaplain.



Nancy Wheatley (Now in Jackson, TN): Well, I survived the winter rains and cold. So glad to see spring entering in! I began looking for an apartment in mid-January in the north end of Jackson. Much to my surprise, my daughter and I found the perfect one much sooner than we thought! A ground-floor, 2 bedroom came available by March 15, so, I moved sooner than I had planned! I finally have the boxes unpacked (at least the ones that are visible), and it's beginning to seem like home! I'm attending Aldersgate church where there are others that Dossie and I served with in ministry, so that makes it even better! My granddaughter, Lisa, moved to Pittsburg in January; her brother, Thomas, who married in November, moved to

Jacksonville, FL.; and their parents, Kevin and Susan, will be moving to south Jackson when their home is completed--probably in the summer! My granddaughter, Sara, celebrated one year of being drug-free on March 31! We had a surprise brunch for her in Jackson. So proud of her! I'm going to be a great-grandmother again in July! Grandson, Kent Archer and wife, Jenny, are having a boy! That will be 2 boys and three girls! I must be getting old! On a sad note, Chuck Comes passed away. Chuck is the son of George and Charlotte Comes and the father of my grandson, Sam. One of the advantages of moving to Jackson is that I'm only minutes from my brother, Danny. We both love to golf and are beginning the spring season golfing together! So good to be near him. An added bonus is that I'm just about 6 minutes from Jerry and Ann Jeffords! We've been close friends since the 70's when we all lived in Mayfield, KY. My daughter, Marianne, and husband, John Archer, live about 2 minutes away! They've been such a great help in getting me settled. I will be celebrating the Easter season in Aldersgate church. I am looking forward to being with family and friends here. In early May, the Wheatley brothers and their families will gather at Pigeon Forge, TN for a few days of laughter, love, and fellowship. We travel from Union City, Huntingdon, Jackson, Hendersonville, Nashville, Florida, and North Carolina, to name a few places. Looking forward to this gathering, but it will be a little sad because of the death of Baxter's wife, Carlyne, and we always miss Dossie. The little ones will keep us on our toes and help us smile!



Al Doyle, Jr. (Franklin, TN): I had a good conversation with Al who is always ready to take a call. He said he was doing pretty well, as are his family members. He talks at length about them – of whom he is so proud - especially of their accomplishments.

Richard Denton: Richard is now in Sugar Creek Senior Living, 1149 South Dupree Apt 202, Brownsville, TN 38012 near where his daughter Pam, and son-in Law, Barry Diebold reside. They are all “getting along”. When we talk about family, he gets excitedly happy for he, too, is proud of his family.

Glenn and Georgia Hill (Murray, KY): Georgia and I are still bowling (Monday nights in a league and Wednesday afternoons) and trying to improve our game. We are on a four-person team and I jokingly told our group that we were the most important team in the league, not because we are good but everything needs a good foundation – and we are on the bottom of the league. We are called PLATINUM and I kiddingly suggested we ought to rename ourselves “OLD RUSTY TIN.” I am still busy in our little church as Secretary-Treasurer but managed to give up one task with the new year and that was making the church bulletin - which makes my Saturday night less stressful. We’ve been pretty anxious about the new four lane construction (Hwy 641) from Hazel to Murray. One plan we believe to be highly likely would take about 10 of our 19 acres, including house, garage, pole barn and milk house. No – we don’t use all those buildings, except for storage of junk, lawnmowers, etc. In February I was privileged to preach at Aldersgate U.M.C. in Jackson, for their Homecoming Celebration marking 165 years of ministry. It was good to visit with old friends (long-time acquaintances, that is) and with new friends that day. After that weekend, we were able to squeeze in three days in Marietta, GA with daughter, Melissa, and her family. Well, enough of this. We look forward to seeing our clergy family and lay delegate friends in Collierville in a couple of months. Happy Spring for you all and may the good Lord bless you and yours.

Wait for the Chief A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main street. “But Officer,” the man began, “I can explain...” Just be quiet snapped the officer. “I am going to let you cool your heels in jail until the Chief gets back.” “But officer, I just want to say...” “I said keep quiet! You are going to jail.” A few hours latter the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, “Lucky for you that the chief is at his daughter’s wedding. He will be in a good mood when he comes in.” “Don’t count on it.” answered the fellow in the cell. “I am the groom.”



Words of Wisdom Give a man a fish, and he will eat for the day.

Teach a man to fish and he will go out and buy expensive fishing equipment, stupid looking cloths, a sports utility vehicle, and travel hundreds of mile to the best fishing hole and stand waist deep in cold water just to outsmart a fish. (Average cost per fish \$395.68)



Reporter Tom Perkins

Reporters for the NEWS & VIEWS are facing a major problem. Because of the plague of Robo calls most folk won't answer a number they do not recognize. Who can blame us? I'm in that number too. It does make our job more difficult reaching our calling list. As far as I know all on my calling list are still living since their phone is still a working number.

Debbie Riley (McKenzie, TN) answered my call saying she recognized my number from an earlier call. What a pleasure she was to talk to. Most folk do not like blowing their own horn, and sure enough, she said, "Not much is happening with me," then she began to describe a life on the cutting edge. She works at McKenzie F.U.M.C., where she had worked with her pastor husband, J. Larry Riley. Larry died in May, 2016. Her immediate project is helping to organize her church's involvement in Relay for Life. It is easy to overlook the tiny time-consuming details that make great events like this happen. Her daughter is in college at Murray State. Her grass is beginning to respond to the promise of spring. Optimism abounds with Debbie Riley

Thomas & Carol Smith (Fulton, KY): answered my call after his voice mail came on revealing my call was not a dreaded Robo call. Thomas accepted the invitation in February to fill in at Mt Olive and Pryorsburg at least until June. He and Carol are looking forward to being back 'in it' again. Thomas has a ministry with autos. He will buy a car, fix it up and make it available to someone who could not afford one otherwise. He is always on the lookout for ways to help the less fortunate. May his tribe increase.

Tom and Mary Perkins (Dyersburg, TN): Mary and I are always doing whatever we do. (I have a habit of saying things that don't make much sense until you think about it.) Right now we are doing Craft Shows featuring my books and plaques. Mary does jewelry, mostly of a religious nature. She has supplies you can put together with your own creativity. We call it, "Make Your Own Gifts." We enjoy helping churches and other groups with fund raising projects. We will set up, paying a fee, or giving a percentage of the proceeds back to the church or organization. Call 731-676-3876. If I don't answer (Robo weary) I will return your call.

Efficiency Expert

"I watched my wife's routine in the kitchen for years," the expert explained. "She made lots of trips between the refrigerator, stove, table and cabinets, often carrying a single item at a time. One day I told her, Hon, why don't you try carrying several things at once?" "Did it save time?" a man from the audience ask. "Actually, yes," replied the expert. "It used to take her 20 minutes to make breakfast. Now I do it in seven."



Reporter Bobbie Clarke

Hello from **Bobbie Clarke** (Jackson, TN). My first day of calling yielded only 1 answered call. Oh dear, I will have to do better than this. I enjoy calling our retired clergy families. If I leave a message please call be back – I seldom bite. I am enjoying the spring. The yards in my neighborhood are beautiful. My second grandson, Andrew Clarke, is graduating from the University of Memphis with honors this spring. I am so proud of him.

Dorothy “Dot” Pool (Memphis, TN): I was delighted to see Dot’s name on my calling list. Dot and I began our ministry as clergy spouses in Decatur county. As a young pastor’s wife she “taught me the ropes”. We taught school together and became friends. I remember how Dot and I would cook mounds of spaghetti for the youth group. Dot even helped me sew a dress for a special occasion. Years may have passed since that time but as soon as we talked on the phone time seem to stand still. I don’t have any new “news” to report but I certainly enjoyed our conversation.

Donald and Becky VanVoorhis (Bartlett, TN) send their greetings. I enjoyed getting to know them. Donald keeps busy doing odd jobs (a honey do list?) and teaching Sunday School at the Bartlett United Methodist Church.

Jack & Vauneida Henton (Germantown, TN) are excited about the up coming wedding of their granddaughter in Wallis, Texas. Jack will be performing the ceremony.

I spoke with **Marge Vaughn’s** (Jackson, TN) daughter. Marge is doing well and sends her greetings.

Every once and a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There are many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind. These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken. These lambs are called “bummer lambs.” Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the shepherd does? He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it and keep it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the bummer can hear his heartbeat. Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock. But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him. When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first? That is right, the bummer sheep. He knows his voice intimately. It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it. It's not that it is loved more, it just believes it because it has experienced that love one on one. So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heart beat. We may be broken but rest assure, we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.



Author unknown

The Easter Miracle Changed Everything.

It was Sunday morning after the Friday execution. The sky was dark. The disciples had scattered. And the Roman executioner was wondering about breakfast, or work, or his next day off. But he was not wondering about the fellow he had nailed to a cross and pierced with a spear. Jesus was dead and buried. Yesterday's news, right?



Wrong. God shook things up.

“There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.’” (Matthew 28:2–6)

Had such words never been spoken, had the body of Jesus decayed into dust within the borrowed tomb, you would not be reading this essay and we would not be discussing this promise. But the words were spoken and the promise was made more than once.

Jesus appeared to the women near the tomb and to the followers in the Upper Room. He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and his friends on the shore of Galilee. He spoke with them. He ate with them. They touched his body, they heard his words. They were convinced that Jesus was risen from the dead.

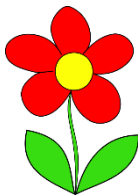
And they drew this conclusion. His resurrection is the proof and promise of ours. What God did for him, he will do with us. When he rose from the dead, Jesus was the “first fruits” (I Corinthians 15:20,23). “First fruits” is the first taste of the harvest. The farmer can anticipate the nature of the crop by sampling the first crop. We can anticipate our own resurrection by trusting the empty tomb of Christ.

“We shall be like him.” Let the amputees and infected, bed-ridden, and anemic put themselves to sleep with the promise, “We shall be like him.” Let the wheel-chair bound and atrophied take this promise to heart. “We shall be like him.” We shall graduate from this version to his likeness. We shall enjoy a body, like his made for heaven and earth.

Let this hope for tomorrow bring strength to today. Some of you indwell such road-weary bodies: knees ache, eyes dim, skin sags. Others of you exited the womb on an uphill ride. While I have no easy answers for your struggle, I invite... no, I implore you to stand with me on the promise of Paul.

“So we’re not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There’s far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

©Max Lucado, March 22, 2016



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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Jackson, TN 38305
Permit 401

Return Service Requested

News 'N' Views published for the Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.
Editor: Beverlyann Jetton, 511 N Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305 (731) 431-0165
email: rjetton@yahoo.com To unsubscribe please contact the editor