Remembering Who We Are

Annual Conference 2019 was a wonderful time of worship, prayer, fellowship and business. We want to extend a heartfelt Thank You to the staff and members of the Collierville UMC and The Memphis Conference Planning Committee for a job well done. Every detail was considered from the sound and lighting, to parking lot transportation. Wonderful host and hostesses greeted us as we entered and provided directions when we got lost. The retirees would like to extend a special thank you to The Board of Pensions for hosting a luncheon. We look forward to this event each year. Not only was the food delicious but we enjoyed the time around the table with our friends and colleagues. Here are a few photos to recap this event: (courtesy of Lane Camp, Memphis Conference Communications and Beverlyann Jetton, News ‘N’ Views)
Memphis Conference Retirees’ Reunion at Lakeshore

Mark your calendar – This is a date you don’t want to forget! Our annual Retirees Reunion will be held on Monday & Tuesday, October 7th & 8th. This is always a special time of fun and fellowship. There will be lots of time to rest, visit with your friends and enjoy beautiful Lakeshore. Golf carts are available for those who need mobility assistance or you can park your car right at your cabin door.

Reservations

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone: (___) _____________ E-mail: ____________________________________

Special Dietary Needs? ________________ Golf cart assistance needed? ________________

☐ Cabin 1 $72.50 This is the most mobility assessable cabin, Twin beds, bring your own linen

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

☐ Calhoun & Hopper Semi-Private – 1 person $87.50, 2 persons $151 Private bath, linen provided

☐ Kaigler Lodge – 2 people $143 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, private bath & a shared living room. Linens provided

☐ Commuter - $30/person (includes 3 meals) ☐ Tent/ Trailer - $10/per site & $36.50/per person (4 meals)

Make Checks payable to: Lakeshore UMA. Mail to: Lakeshore UMA, 1458 Pilot Knob Rd, Eva, TN 38333 Registration Deadline: Monday, September 16, 2019
Nothing can alter the trajectory of retirement faster than a health crisis. So many issues factor into this crisis – doctor’s appointments, transportation, independent or assisted living ... the list goes on. Financial crisis need not be one of the pressing issues. The Memphis conference has partnered with the Shepherd’s Fund to provide financial assistance to retired clergy, their spouse or widow.

The Shepherd’s Fund was founded to help retired or disabled pastors, their spouses, or widows with a limited income, and who have health issues for which they can’t afford treatment or the financial impact it may have on their ability to provide for themselves. The majority of pastors serve small churches and do not have substantial salaries. They are often not able to set aside enough for retirement. When a medical crisis occurs, this puts them into a financial crisis as well.

A retired pastor (or spouse) can qualify for a one-time grand of up to $10,000 each or $20,000 total. They may reapply in subsequent years, especially if they have a chronic ongoing medical condition. Grants may also be given to clergy families with disabled adult children or grandchildren that they are legal guardians for.

If medical bills are impacting your retirement, please apply for assistance. You can find more information and print an application at: www.theshedpherdfund.org or contact Clare Wilson at the Conference Office (731) 664-8480

From the Mail Bag

Thank you to everyone who mailed their news. That is a great way to be included while helping our reporters.

Rosalina Salyers (Jackson, TN): Last year was an interesting one for me. I call it the year of the twins (or double trouble). In March, both my niece and my nephew welcomed twin girls into their families – a total of four beautiful girls. Latter, a dear friend, a former pre-school student of mine, also gave birth to twin boys. One of the boys appears to be left-handed while the other appears to be more ambidextrous. Later in the year another friend from the Philippines, had twin grandchildren – a boy and a girl. What blessings! Besides welcoming babies into my world, I have been busy knitting and tatting. Although my dialysis schedule prohibits me from attending the meetings, I am active in the Prayer Shawl ministry at Forest Heights U.M.C. The knitting instructor will come by my house to encourage me on a difficult project.
**Richard & Pat Smith (Frankfort, KY):** The latter part of 2018 and the early part of 2019 have been filled with great joy and some health challenges after moving to Frankfort, Ky. We love being near our grandchildren, ages 10 and 6, and their family. We are active members of the First United Methodist Church here in Frankfort. Richard is the chair of the Outreach Committee and is getting involved with community needs such as racial reconciliation and with groups working with the homeless. Pat is getting involved in other offerings at F.U.M.C. We are making plans for a trip to Alaska in June and then to the Grand Canyon in the fall. We will also make some trips with the grandchildren during the summer.

**Tim and Anita Pafford (Nashville, TN):** In retirement, I am continuing my work as a professional artist. I am also teaching art at Plaza Art in Nashville, Austin Peay University in Clarksville, and Camden, TN. I use art as a ministry to encourage self-worth, value, faith, and encouragement. I frequently have students who have medical and emotional issues, and I use art to help them know there is a love that is wonderous and healing. I want my students to see, feel and love art and to see it within the awesome creation God has made. Art is a gift from God. I frequently place Christian symbols in my art and have recently begin placing scripture in my landscapes.

I was pleased to finally reach **Jim and Brenda Roper (Dyersburg, TN).** She shared with me that they retired in Sept., 2015 and Jim suffered a stroke in December, 2015. He had multiple sessions of physical therapy with partial improvement. A 2nd stroke came in 2018. Although he has difficulty with both motor skills and memory, he still reads his Bible and enjoys having devotional time. He taught Latin, German, Greek and Hebrew and has a working knowledge of several other languages. While in the hospital he would often answer the nurses in another language – just to keep them on their toes! Brenda says they are fortunate to have a two-story house. She and Jim live on the ground floor and their daughter, Sarah and her family live in the upstairs apartment. Please keep the Ropers in your prayers. Write them a note of encouragement (631 Phillips St, Dyersburg, TN 38024).

**Julia King (Murfreesboro, TN) writes that she is doing well and wanted to send her greetings to all her friends in the Memphis Conference. She lost her brother, Frank Myers of Huntingdon, in January. Her son recently retired after teaching for 40 years. She has two grandchildren – one in Murfreesboro and one in Tuscaloosa.

**Leanne Bailey (Memphis, TN):** My spouse, Bill, retired in 1997. We continued to live in Huntingdon until Bill’s death in 2017. I moved to Germantown; both of my sisters and their families live there. This past year I taught 10th grade honors English at Collierville High School for a teacher on leave. I very much enjoy my church, Germantown U.M.C. I feel very fortunate to have such a good life in retirement.

**Harold and Linda Montgomery (Jackson, TN) –** Since I worship with Harold and Lind at Forest Heights U.M.C. it was easy to corner them and get their news. They write: “the Montgomeries are proving that old age (er mature years), are not for sissies! I am reminded of a younger reporter who was interviewing a senior man who was 80+ years. “I feel just like I did when I was 16 – and had the flu”! I am totally honest – you are never than man you need to be. I am just glad to be ambulatory! I enjoy attending Forest Heights U.M.C. Rev. Harrell Nation is a blessing to our congregation. My eldest son, Mike, is enjoying the benefits of a liver transplant. We are so thankful. My other five children and Linda’s one surviving son are all doing well. We are so blessed. I am ashamed when I find myself grieving. What would it be like if I had only what I deserved?”
Joe and Becky Thornton (Brownsville, TN): We restored and live in the 1842 home of our ancestors which was recently on the Haywood Heritage Tour of Homes. We welcomed ninety people to see the remarkable craftsmanship of 177 years ago. We are blessed to be able to walk in the footsteps of family members who came before us and from whom we have a great heritage. Beginning when she was 17, Becky’s great-grandmother kept a diary throughout the Civil War and afterwards, describing the happenings in the home, which is named Prospect. A quotation from her diary is on a state marker in the courthouse square in Brownsville. After 37 years at Lester’s Chapel U.M.C., which has been quite an honor and a fulfilling ministry, Becky and I have decided to take full retirement and pursue other interests. The church is fortunate to have as one of its faithful members Mr. James Ellington who is also a certified Lay Servant Minister with all the credentials associated with this role in the United Methodist Church. James has served as my associate for the past four years and is deserving to have an appointment like Lester’s Chapel. The Cabinet agreed with such a suggestion, and thus James is now the appointed pastor to this church. Becky and I will continue to worship at Lester’s Chapel on a less frequent basis since we want also to travel more. The church membership is like family to us so staying in touch is vital.

Bill and Nancy Hart (Memphis, TN): We just returned from taking our daughter and son and their families (14 people in all!) on a Disney Cruise to the Caribbean. It was a special time of good food, wholesome entertainment, and much family togetherness. In January of this year, I had surgery for a malignant lung mass. In April, I experienced another hospital stay – this time in I.C.U. for dehydration and low blood pressure. Both experiences have slowed me down. God in his faithfulness is restoring my strength.

Marge Vaughn (Jackson, TN): I am still able to live in my home. My children are in and out often and I really enjoy that. I attend Northside U.M.C. and really enjoy my time of worship there. I am not playing golf anymore, which I really miss. I would like to say hello to all my Memphis Conference friends. You have been a joy to my life.

Russell & Carroll Gallimore (Jackson, TN) enjoyed Russell’s 20th year as a participant in the Tennessee Senior Olympics. Playing in the 80-84 age bracket, he won five Gold medals, one in each of his five events: Cornhole singles & doubles, Shuffleboard singles and doubles, and Horseshoes. He played down two age-groups to partner with Steve Shapard in Cornhole doubles. It was Russell 15th year to open the event with prayer for the athletes. He and Carroll just completed their third election this year with Carroll serving as the Officer of the Northside Precinct. They have served as election officials in Madison County since their retirement in 1998. Two of their three sons came for Father’s Day. They’ve also enjoyed watching their latest grandchild grow from a 2 lb. 14 oz. preemie into a 17 lb. nine-month-old lively baby girl. She answers to “Mia.” Russell preached the Mother’s Day service at Aldersgate and teaches on fifth Sundays.

Steve and Julie Shapard (Jackson, TN) attended the Tennessee Senior Olympics for the first time recently. Steve had a great beginning with six medals: four Gold medals (Cornhole singles and doubles, Horseshoes, and Basketball Hot Shot), a Silver in the 3-point Basketball contest), and a Bronze in Basketball Free Throw shooting. Russell Gallimore played down two age-groups to be Steve’s partner in Cornhole. They won the Gold in the 70-74 age group on their first attempt. Locally, Steve enjoys his weekly table tennis games. In a different vein, the Shapards enjoy
singing in the choir at Aldersgate-Jackson. In addition, Steve has already filled the pulpit at Aldersgate. Steve enjoys spending time with the other retired ministers, meeting for coffee once a week.

Mary Riley (Republic, MO): I received word from Mary’s daughter, Ann Quigley, that Mary is in a nursing home and is in the latter stages of dementia. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time. Ann writes, “We are still grateful for her laughs and smiles and rare moments of clarity. Thanks for your prayers. They are greatly appreciated!”

Roger and Sue Henson (Advance, MO): We retired in 1995 but did not move to Advance until 2014. The last four years have been difficult with multiple hospitalizations. I am doing better now and hope to be able to get out a little more.

T.J. Wesley (United Kingdom): I have had the unique experience of ministering and retiring in the United Kingdom. The Methodist Church’s polity is Very, very different here than the in the United Methodist Church. There are no Bishops or District Superintendents. All ministers are paid the same salary. The local churches pay the national church and the national church pays the minister – minus the 20% national tax and the medical insurance surcharge. There is only 1 conference for all of the UK - England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland. There is no mandatory retirement age – so one can keep on preaching as long as one is able to. One can be retired from the U.M.C. and still preach in the [British] Methodist Church. Policy is primarily set on the Circuit level where multiple ministers [severing multiple churches] and lay members meet regularly. The system is more collegial. When a minister retires, they can apply to reside in a former parsonage. Churches are not large – the largest Methodist church in the UK is the roughly 500 member Ghanaian Methodist church in London. Most urban churches are multicultural where Caucasians are the minority. For myself it has admittedly been culturally challenging but extremely enjoyable. In addition to the regular church calendar, we celebrate Remembrance Sunday (the Sunday closest to Nov. 11th) where citizens gather for an ecumenical service remembering the end of WWI. Everyone wears a poppy. On Good Friday we have the ecumenical Walk of Witness – church members walk throughout the town/village/suburb/ carrying a large cross – passing though the central business district – even when it is populated primarily by Muslims and Hindus. Inter-faith groups work together to stem confusion and racism. We also take annual trips to Berlin in a sister-city, sister-church arrangement (my fluency in German helped here). My most exciting adventure was being at the 500th anniversary of the beginning of Protestantism at Wittenberg – where Martin Luther posted his protest – along with roughly 300,000 other Protestants from around the world. I shipped my Honda minivan to England and have had it stored it in Romney Marsh near St. Mary’s in the Marsh Church – where the infamous Anglican vicar “The Scarecrow” preached (anyone else remember Walt Disney’s 3 part “The Scarecrow of Romney Marsh starring Patrick McGoohan? – I loved it as a kid.) The kids attend a British school and have a shorter summer vacation but more frequent week long breaks throughout the school year. We enjoy picking up my car, taking the Eurotunnel [where you drive your car on to a double-decker train] over to France [in 30 minutes]. On the continent, I can drive on the right side of the road. We have taken in most of the adventure parks as well as seeing the battle sites and crosses from WWI and II as well as Waterloo. The French cuisine is so wonderful and the greatest supermarket is France’s Carrefour – the fresh fish, fruit and the pastries are to die for – we load up every time coming back to the UK without any tariffs – but with Brexit looming all will be subject to import duties and taxes (ugh!)

Photo of myself and some parishioners at the opening ceremonies of the Berlin Kirchentag [Protestant Church Assembly] in front of the Brandenburg gate [formerly the border of E. Berlin] - photo compliments of Speigel [the German news magazine who interviewed us].
Michael Blake (Martin, TN): Time continues to slip away. It seems faster each month even though I know it is not. It just takes me longer to do things - but that is okay with age. Mom turns 97 in August and lives here at home. Amazingly, she does well and her memory is still good. Overseeing her care has become routine and fairly easy. I went to The Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Georgia with my covenant group. The location was different than our usual at the Abby of Gethsemani, but still a blessing. New changes are always good. Reflection together on the book “Holy Envy” by Barbara Taylor was interesting. Outside of this reading, we didn’t plan an agenda for the four-day retreat. I did not even take my professional camera, but did take pictures with the iPhone. For us, it was a relaxing, spiritual event. In the mission group I am involved with, we are planning a trip to Uganda and Egypt in October. A visit with the orphans we are supporting in Uganda will be a highlight of our trip. This will be my fifth visit. After our time with the orphans at Grace Home, we will travel to Egypt. This venture includes a trip down the Nile from Cairo to the Aswan Dam. A hot air balloon ride over the Valley of the Kings area is part of the tour. I am still thinking about the height. Heights are not my comfortable repertoire. Concluding a three-year commitment as treasure for the Memphis Conference Relief Association, I turned over the responsibility to Rev. Larry Chitwood. As the new treasure, Larry will provide exceptional assistance in this vital ministry. Following Conference, my mother, two friends and I went to Branson, MO for five days. The couple helped take care of mom especially at public bathrooms. We had a great time. Three of us rode the Branson Ferris Wheel, 150 feet tall, 40 gondolas that will hold 240 riders, and 16,000 LED lights at night. Formerly it was at the Navy Pier in Chicago until 2015. We were told the transfer and setup took six months. Mom wanted to ride and getting her on was a challenge. Today, she still talks about the ferris wheel ride.  

Ted and Cathey Leach (Columbia, AL) In the last edition of “The News”, Ted and Cathey shared about their passion for bike riding and Cathey’s recent 2,000 mile trek on the Application trail (you can access past editions of The News ‘N’ Views on the Conference website: www.memphis-umc.net). Space did not permit me to include the pictures they sent. The photos were too good to leave out. Please enjoy them in this edition.
Greetings from Annual Conference

During the Retirees luncheon attendees had the opportunity to write their news for The News ‘N’ Views. This was a great help to our reporters and I appreciate your contributions.

Joyce Cole (Lakeland, TN): I am rejoicing that I was able to attend Annual Conference. This year had been difficult after having been hospitalized with pneumonia. I can witness to the power of prayer in my life – surviving malignant melanoma, a fractured hip, and now pneumonia. When I fractured my hip, I was alone in my yard dying from dehydration when a utility company meter reader found me. He had changed his route just that morning or he would not have been at my house. GOD IS GOOD! I can’t believe I will soon be 85 years old. My son, Chip, is now living with me and helps provide excellent care. He recently retired from the Memphis School System after having a heart attack. I am still able to drive, but limit my driving to my local area. My two daughters live nearby. Catherine is a speech pathologist with the Memphis schools and Cynthia works at the White Station Elementary School, but is currently on medical leave. My granddaughter, Anna Catherine, is an opera and theater major at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington where she received a full scholarship. Needless to say, I am so proud of my family.

Drew Brewer (Jackson, TN): I retired this conference year after spending many years in Hohenwald, TN in the Tennessee Conference. I returned to Jackson and am remodeling the house that my grandfather built in 1922. I am looking forward to spending time with my three-year-old grandson, Abram. I hope to take him to ball games and go fishing.

Ben & Ann Boone (Paducah, KY): We are eagerly looking forward to a family trip to Disney World in April 2020. There will be 13 people in our family group! Lots of adventure!

Bev & Joyce Farnsworth (Memphis, TN): We are doing well and are thankful for good health. We hope to take a trip this summer.

Jim and Margaret Griffith (Savannah, TN): Jim and Margaret celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Our children will be hosting a party for us on June 23th.

Tom & Carol Smith (Fulton, KY): Tom writes that he and Carol loves to fish and save their catch for two local charities who have fish fries. Each organization serves about 100 people (They must REALLY like to fish!). The also host a children’s fishing rodeo for their church. (Ed’s Note: Tom is doing an excellent job as president of the Retirees’ Assoc. Thank you for all your hard work and guidance.)

Larry, Vicky & Caryn Kendrick (Brownsville, TN): The Kendricks write that they are enjoying retirement and living in Brownsville. He is serving part time at Alamo First. Caryn writes that she enjoys going to Lakeshore!

Jim Stahler (Murray, KY): Always remember that God is Great and God is Good. Sometimes the Golden Years seem kinda rusty at times – but I would not want to be a teenager today. They have problems and difficulties that we hadn’t even thought of as we were growing up.

Susan Sharp (Memphis, TN) writes that she enjoyed attending the Retirees Luncheon at Annual Conference. It was a relaxing time to visit with friends.

Ron Johnson (Loudon, TN): Karen and I are looking forward to moving to Tellico Village, a planned Senior Adult Community in Loudon County, Tn. It is situated on the beautiful Tellico Reservoir. I will continue to keep my counseling license active as I continue to supervise counseling students. After helping others retire I am looking forward to retirement myself.
Mark & Emily Matheny (Memphis, TN): SURPRISE ANGELS is the title of small book sharing profiles of fifteen unique individuals who have blessed my life. I think you might really enjoy having a copy. To order, please send $10 per copy the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, 3000 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis, TN 38111. All proceeds go toward our ministries to people in need.

Robert & Jackie Gardner (Paris, TN): I am excited to announce that our youngest daughter, Alexandria graduated from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro with her Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Education. She will be working at American Doll as an event planner. Our son, Ryan, has just started a new business venture – a barber shop with five stations. We are proud of both of them.

Welcome to our new retirees: Drew Brewer, Marti Bunch, Rick Dye, Joe Geary, James Graham, Sharon Karamoko, James Loftin, Dale Mathis, Michael Morris, Chuck Pittman, Dan Tilly and Greg Waldrop. We are excited to have you as part of the Memphis Conference Retirees Association. We hope to see you on the pages of The News ‘N’ Views and at our Reunion at Lakeshore.

Reporter Marcia Tate

Bill and Marcia Tate (Jackson, TN) write that Bill will be retiring (again) the end of June. We are looking forward to visiting different churches and friends. Traveling will be part of our plans – we are still working out the destinations. We recently took our grandchildren to Lakeshore for several days had had an awesome family time.

John and Karen Lee (Tahlequah, OK): John received a 50th year Golden Graduate medallion from Asbury Theological Seminary’s President- Dr. Timothy Tennent on May 17th. He is thankful to be among over 11,000 ATS graduates serving around the world‼! The Lees were able to do some traveling this year, taking in a tour at The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in northern, Kentucky, the General Jackson Showboat in Nashville, the Mike Huckabee show in Henderson, TN as well as visit friends and church members that John has served in Cincinnati and in Jackson, TN. On the way home they were able to visit his four children and several grands and great-grandchildren in Jonesboro, AR. Although the Lees had not been to annual conference in 4 years, they are grateful they had the opportunity to see and visit with some of their friends this year. If and when any of you ever get to Oklahoma, we invite you to visit with us at GO YE VILLAGE Christian Retirement Center located at the Cherokee capital of the nation in Tahlequah, OK.

Reporter Joe Moseley

Larry & Martha Finger (Boonesville, MS): Larry writes that he is planning to take a three-week Hawaiian cruise this summer – might even take Martha along! I hope they have a wonderful time.
Joe & Carol Moseley (Atoka, TN): The Moseley’s are healthy, wealthy, and wise. Well two out of three a’int bad! We are back “on the road again – this time heading to Oregon and Northern California. We are traveling with a college friend of Carol’s. This trip marks #49 of the 50 states that we have been privileged to visit. After visiting Wisconsin next year, one of my Bucket List goals will be checked off. We enjoyed Annual Conference and visiting with our friends. It saddens me to think the United Methodist Church might be heading for a split. I pray for healing and God’s leadership. I’ve preached a few times since my last entry and still teaching Sunday school at Munford. Blessings to all! Keep the faith; but not to yourself.

Reporter Glenn Hill

FROM THE HILLS OF KY (Glenn & Georgia Hill): The month of April is always a good reminder to be thankful in my household. With April comes the Relay for Life Event of Calloway County and this year marked me as a twelve-year survivor of Prostate Cancer and 12 yrs. 3 months survivor of Kidney Cancer. I am thankful to be alive and still celebrating the life God blesses me with. May was a busy month: our family gathered to celebrate our mothers. We seem to celebrate best when we eat together at Sirloin Stockade. May was also, Martin’s Chapel’s 183rd Homecoming Anniversary. What a special celebration that was! My bowling league finished up its season on May 6th. We were ready for that as it begins our “rest up” time. The end of May my great-grandson had heart surgery. Praise the Lord, he is doing well. Georgia and I attended the Memphis Conference in Collierville, TN. It is always good to see old friends (that is, friends of long standing). We joined other retirees in the Retirees’ Luncheon and thank those responsible for hosting this event. We encourage all to be in prayer for our new conference and The United Methodist Church. Georgia and I shared a quick trip to the Smoky Mountains on June 13-14 with her brother, Frank, and wife, Karen. We returned to Murray just in time for a Shrimp Boil (hamburger for me) hosted by grandson, Christopher and wife, Alison, at the lake cabin, celebrating Father’s Day. We are thankful for all the dads and for the memories of those gone before us. In June, Martin’s Chapel, where we worship, assisted with provisions for Day Shore to benefit Lakeshore Assembly. About 35 youth joined in. The Cluster is working toward supporting that event again in 2020. Could you call this a foresight opportunity for 2020? I recently underwent a Basal Cell Carcinoma surgery to remove a nickel sized growth from the top of my shoulder. It is healing well. Oh yeah, Georgia keeps busy. She recently helped our grandson put a metal roof on our son’s rental house. Most recently, she had completely installed four interior bedroom doors. Anyone, needing any work done you had best call early, to get your name on her schedule. LOL.

Richard Denton (Brownsville, TN) writes: “Things are moving right along for me. I’m blessed to have a nice place to live and a roof over my head. Oh, and good food, too. I still miss Viola though. She was a perfect wife. I don’t see many Methodist preachers these days. Outside of calls from Glenn Hill and Dick Haley, I never get any news from the Conference other than The News ‘N’ Views. I have had only one visit from my D. S. in three years. I am deeply concerned about our church. I only pray that the Annual Conference has prayed things through. If they haven’t, and what we are doing is against God’s will, we will hear about it. I’m going to have to stop now. My hand is shaking more that the pen. Please excuse my horrible hand writing. I pray God’s blessings to be on you and your family.”
I enjoyed a phone conversation with Al Doyle (Franklin, TN). He said he was doing well. His grandson, Allen, is on a university study project in China. They are doing research on water quality on China’s main rivers. Hopefully he will have an opportunity for some sightseeing.

**Reporter Deborah Morris**

**Sandra Jo Elliott (Henderson, TN):** Ms. Jo has had a couple of health concerns this year. She has had radiation on her nose for skin cancer, and has had cataract surgery on her eyes. She seems to be doing well from both occurrences. In her own words, "I can’t complain." Last year her daughter and son-in-law retired and have bought a motor home. The three of them have taken some trips around and about enjoying their retirement years. Usually, the family plants a garden. However, this year they didn’t, allowing them to travel more. They, like many of us, are enjoying the many finds at the Farmer’s Market in Jackson and Henderson.

**Ed and Ruth Endsley (Benton, IL):** When talking to Brother Ed, I found them arriving for a one-week camp meeting in Indiana, about an hour outside of Indianapolis. Like most of us, when travelling, they were glad to be at their destination. Almost every year the Endsleys attend Annual Conference. However, they were not able to this year. I’m sure they missed seeing longtime friends. They will be venturing out the end of July on a two-week Alaskan cruise - something they are really looking forward to doing. Health wise, Brother Ed discovered in November of last year that he is a diabetic. He is still learning many things about diabetes, but is managing well with it.

**Mary Mitchell Morgan (Trenton, TN):** I found Ms. Mary sitting back with her feet propped up while I was talking with her. She had been to her cardiologist for a six-month check-up for herself and her pacemaker. As many doctor's seem to say, "Exercise some more," was the outcome of her visit. She will be going to have her foot examined, hopefully, the last time the middle of July.

**David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN):** As many of us are doing this hot July week, we are staying indoors in the cool. We still try to get out to walk when possible. David seems to run into preacher friends a lot. He does enjoy talking with them. Health is doing ok right now.

**Reporter Jenna Garland**

**Jenna Garland (Hazel, KY):** I have spent a quiet summer with my flowers and 3 tomato plants. I still read at least four books every two weeks, mostly inspirational fiction. I have a 10-year-old boy who takes piano lessons once a week. I enjoy watching his progress. I celebrated the Fourth of July with all my cousins – 71 in all. This is our annual family reunion. It rained and we had to move the food into the car port but they had some tents set up and no one got too wet. We had wonderful food and fellowship. The rain cooled everything and it was quite pleasant.

**Carol Craig (Hazel, KY) and I drove to the Purchase District picnic in July. It was good to see so many friends there. Carol recently lost her sister in a motor vehicle accident. Please keep her in your prayers.

I talked with Faye Garrett (Murray, KY) and she said they all went to her daughter, Wanda’s, and had a barbecue for the 4th. It was great being all together and they had a good time. I am so glad that she was able to go.
Doris and Robert Saywell (Murray, KY) and their daughter Mary Ruth, were at the Purchase District picnic. She said they went to the fireworks at Murray on the 4th and had a good time.

Dan and Aileen Leslie (Kirksey, KY) write: “Our summer has been good so far. Our little garden and lots of grass to mow has kept us busy. Dan has been filling in for various preachers who have had to be out of the pulpit. I continue to sing with the David Johnson Chorus. This will be my 13th year with the group. On July 12, we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Wow! when did we get so old”.

Sue and Robert McKinney (Dexter, KY) were at the Purchase District picnic. She took the children “creek stomping” over the 4th of July. They had to hike a way to get to the creek so the water was a welcome relief.

Reporter Deborah Mathewson

John and Peggy Lloyd (Drummonds, TN): I enjoyed a delightful afternoon with the Lloyds. Peggy had prepared a lovely chicken salad luncheon, and we all played Dominoes after lunch. I had to re-learn how to play since I had not played that game since I was a teenager. Their daughter, Debbie (pictured on the left), is doing much better because she on a new anti-seizure medication. Their grandson, Austin Lloyd recently graduated from college with double degrees, his Bachelor and Masters degrees are in logistics. He is now engaged to Brynn Biehl with the wedding date in April, 2020. Their other grandson, Dalton Young, also graduated from Ole Miss (University of Mississippi) with a degree in finance. Their granddaughter, Shelby Lloyd, graduated from dental assistant school and is now enrolled in dental hygiene school. Laney Young, another granddaughter, graduated from high school and is now enrolled at Southwest Community College. So, it has been a busy time for the Lloyd family. -- Peggy is known for texting daily devotionals to her family and special friends. This is a major blessing to those of us who receive them and can pass them on to others. This is called Fish Net Ministry.

Evelyn Brady: Evelyn continues to do well and to enjoy living at Wesley Meadows Retirement Community in Hernando, MS. She is doing amazingly well for being 95 years of age. She enjoys the library there. She welcomes all visitors! Her cell number is 901/683-5571, She would love to receive some calls.

Joe and Mary Ann Piercey (Cordova, TN): Joe and Mary Ann celebrated July 4th with many of their family members at their home. They had a cook-out and played games, too. The Pierceys will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on August 22! CONGRATULATIONS!! Both are enjoying good health and having their family nearby.

Craig and Marilyn Ramsey (Milan, TN): Crag is scheduled for diverticulitis surgery in August. Because of the pain, their summer has not been active, but the surgery is expected to correct this. Please be in prayer for a successful surgery. The Ramseys said they really enjoy receiving and reading the NEWS 'N' VIEWS and commended us for working on it.
Dennis and Judy Renshaw (Jackson, TN): It has been an exciting summer for the Renshaws. After annual conference, we left for Canada and Alaska, pulling our 5th wheel camper. We entered Alberta, Canada and visited the beautiful Lake Louise in Banff National Park. We traveled through the Canadian Rockies to Jasper National Park where we saw beautiful lakes reflecting the mountains and trees. We drove through British Columbia and then into the Yukon province. Don & Terri Thrasher flew into Whitehorse, Canada to meet us. They traveled with us for ten days from the Yukon into Alaska. We saw lots of animals, rode on one of the last operating Sternwheel Riverboats and saw float planes. We were able to talked with the husband of the late Susan Butcher who was the only woman who won the Iditerod dog sled race multiple times. They still have a very successful kennel to train sled dogs. We also visited a replica of an Athabascan Indian Village and saw how they lived many years ago. After Fairbanks it was on to Denali National Park. It was a beautiful park and we saw lots of animals but we were only able to see the base of Mt. Denali as the clouds obscured the peak. Our other adventures included visiting Homer on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula, taking a day to ride on a charter boat in the Kenai Fjords National Park into the Gulf of Alaska. We saw all types of sea life but the most impressive were two humpback whales. Our adventures also took us to visit Whittier on the Prince William Sound, but to get there we had to go through the only tunnel that is still used by trains and automobiles. It is a one-way tunnel over two miles long, but trains get priority. Once we return to Jackson Dennis will be fine tuning his new book, "Footprints on the Mountains - Hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine". It will be released in mid-September and available from Dennis through Amazon. It is a book about hiking the 2,189-mile trail and how he encountered God during that time. He is available to come share his presentation to any church, organizations, clubs, etc. You can email Dennis and Judy Renshaw at: dennisrenshaw2@gmail.com for details.

Harry and Deborah Mathewson (Memphis, TN): Harry and I celebrated July 4th with long-time friends from Emmanuel UMC, Mike and Debbie Walker, at the Cracker Barrel and watched the Germantown fireworks. This is our annual outing with the Walkers. I have been cleaning out the house of a good friend who recently passed away. This has been a major three-month project, including re-homing two cats. Harry and I look forward to our annual vacation. We will enjoy several beaches in Florida.

GIANT words of faith
**Reporter Jacque Stricker**

**Richard & Mary Jane King (Paris, TN):** Richard is doing so much better according to Mary Jane. They celebrated his 70th birthday and are excited to be heading to Lake Junaluska.

**Harold & Jacque Stricker (Cottage Grove, TN):** Harold and I are plugging along. It’s “that time of year” again when blueberries need picking, grass needs mowing, what few vegetable plants I planted are starting to come in, and then you put just every day activities in the mix (doctor appointments, etc.). It’s a good time of the year and if we would just stop and thank God for the bounty He has blessed us with and the health to be able to do what we feel needs to be done, then it’s a good time of the year. We went to Harold’s annual school reunion in Huntington, Indiana the first of May. The middle of May we went to Dayton, Ohio for our eldest daughter’s graduation from seminary. We pray that you all are well and you are enjoying the warm weather.

I talked with **Mary Wright and Keith Wright (Jackson, TN),** she is doing alright. Mary was hospitalized in Jackson with bacterial pneumonia in May for one week and then went to rehab for another three weeks. She is off the oxygen and is improving. She sees her daughter nearly every day and lives with her son, Keith. Both Keith and Mary went to their family reunion this summer in Germantown. Mary says Keith does everything around the house; cooking, cleaning and organizing. It is wonderful having children who step up and help.

**H.B. and Rosie Fields (Paris, TN) are doing well.** He jokes that they are still able to sit up and take nourishment. The grandchildren now have bigger toys (like motorized vehicles) that need repair, so they take it to grandpa to fix. The churches are holding steady but many of the congregation are waiting to find out which direction the United Methodist Church is going before committing to the church.

**Covie Byars’ son, Randy, said she was doing alright.** She has Parkinson’s disease so she needs to be careful and not fall. Covie is at the **Paris Healthcare Center.**

**Reporter Tom Perkins**

**Thomas Bullock (Jackson, TN):** was on my calling list. I spoke with him at this year’s retiree’s luncheon during Annual Conference. He seemed a little frail but, was as full of enthusiasm for his ministry as ever. He was still serving Moore’s Chapel. He passed from this life on July 7th, at his home. He was a good friend and pastor. His legacy will live on through those he led to Christ and taught through his many years of service.

**Dale and Charlene Mills (White Bluff, TN) have definitely joined the “go-go generation.”** Their time these days is spent going to the doctor, going to the grocery, going to visit children, and going out to eat – just going. But, What a life! Charlene had eye surgery earlier this year, but has recovered wonderfully. In fact, according to Dale, her eyesight is too much improved. She now sees far too many “honey do” jobs that she missed before the surgery. Dale is still preaching at Craggie Hope UMC. Both he and Charlene enjoy this small “country church.” Dale stays busy with both yard work and in his wood
working shop. Their son, Bobby, moved to Hohenwald last year and has a small fishing lake. Dale has taken on the “job” of inventorying the fish in the lake. What a life! Their granddaughter, Elizabeth, will graduate from Oxford University, Oxford, England, this month with her Masters Degree. Her family will be happy to have her back in the states. Grandsons Matthew and Zachary are too busy with Soccer and Violin practice and camps to make the traditional summer trip to visit grandparents. Dale and Charlene give thanks every day for such a happy and healthy family, and for enough energy to try and stay involved, as much as possible, in their lives!

**Tom and Mary Perkins (Dyersburg, TN)** are like the Mills, they are hanging in and hanging out. They are always looking for something else to get into. There is never a dull moment in their lives. Tom says he could use a few dull moments. He did sit down once to put his feet up. He says you can only look at your feet so long before you realize you aren’t going anywhere. He does a Facebook Post he calls, ‘Church on the Internet’. The readership is large and growing.

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**Reporter Bobbie Clarke**

**Martha Traylor (Paducah, KY)** celebrated her 90th birthday! She enjoys getting plenty of exercise (which probably accounts for the 90 years!), and reading. She is active at Trinity U.M.C. She enjoys being with her step-children, grandchildren and great-grands. She loves life and I loved talking to her.

Although I was not able to reach many on my calling list, (please know that I tried), I did reach **Joy Trevathan (Beech Bluff, TN)**. She is active at Jackson’s First Church. This summer she has slowed down a little and is recovering from a broken toe.

**Bobbie Clarke (Jackson, TN)**: I really enjoy calling the retirees on my list. I don’t get out as much as I used to and this gives me someone to talk to. I am not driving – not sure if this will be temporary or permanent. It is a hard decision to make. My son, Tim, is living with me when he is in Jackson, He works out of town. I enjoy it when he is home. We both like to cook and meals are better when shared.

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**Reporter Pat Calhoun**

**Tommy & Beverly Jowers (Dyersburg, TN)** have recently purchased a 2nd home in Virginia near their son and his family. They enjoy visiting with their son but especially with their 20-month-old granddaughter.

**Cecil and Theron Kirk (Cane Ridge, TN)** have a full summer planned. They are going to North Carolina to see their son who recently got married. Their big trip will be to Alaska. (Hope they take lots of pictures and share them with The News). The Kirks attend Brentwood U.M.C. near Nashville. They are active in the choir.
Many people have asked how they can purchase copies of Grace Russell’s books “An Old-Fashion Christmas and the children’s book “Why People Die”. These are no longer available in stores. Carol Craig has received the last remaining copies from Grace’s family. You may contact Carol at (270) 492-6178 to secure your books.

**Staying in touch** – As you read through The News ‘N’ Views, please lift up our retirees in your prayers. It is so important that we stay connected and encourage each other. Although I do not publish telephone numbers and addresses without expressed permission, you can call your district office or the Conference office and request address. Send cards, letters, make phone calls – let people know that they are important.

Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church  
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(Return Service Requested)