



The News 'N' Views

January 2020



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

"He has filled me with bitterness, he has sated me with wormwood. He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is." Lamentations 3:15-17

What an odd verse to begin 2020 with. We are used to words of anticipation and of joy; looking forward to what the new year will bring; but there are times in our life when joy seems to be in short supply. Times in which we struggle, physically, emotionally, or spiritually. The prophet, Jeremiah, was very aware of these times. Meredith Houston Carr writes in her devotional "Moving from Bitterness to Better":

"Jeremiah's words in Lamentations, though ancient, spoke volumes to my modern soul and captured the ache in my heart. The word "wormwood" caught my eye. A little online digging revealed that it is a shrubby plant noted for its bitterness. The Greek used the word "absinthion", which means "undrinkable." In that season of my life, I felt much like Jeremiah – chowing down on a daily diet of wormwood. Have you ever felt that way? Maybe you're in a season where you, too, find yourself on a steady diet of wormwood. Everywhere you look, you are taking in bitterness while it seems those around you are feasting on filet mignon."

"Oh, how our enemy loves to use our soured, seared taste buds to seduce us into doubting God's goodness! With every bitter bite, he tempts us into thinking our Father has forgotten us, as if we have slipped into a place beyond the reaches of His goodness. Nothing could be further from the truth! Listen to the words of Jeremiah, written just a few verses after lamenting his wormwood diet: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'"* Lamentations 3:22-24 ESV. Like Jeremiah, we too can choose to remember and cling to the truth in our circumstances: God Himself is our portion, even when scrubby wormwood shrubs line our path. It may feel as if we're on a wormwood diet, but God's faithfulness never ends. He will see us through to better seasons. And if the weeping prophet could cling to this truth after all he'd been through, then surely you and I could do the same. Dear one, no matter what bitterness permeates your life right now, the steadfast love of the Lord stands ready to satisfy you. **There is no darkness beyond the reaches of His light; no pain too tender for His touch, and no lonely void His love can't fill.** May we feast on that love today."

Celebration of Life

Sarah Ruth Castleman Moore: March 20, 1939 – November 7, 2019

Correspondence may be directed to Mr. Mark Moore, P.O. Box 13, Bogota, TN 38007

Mary Riley: December 3, 2019

Condolences may be sent to Ann Quigley, 616 S. Fountain Ave., Republic, MO 65738.

Lloyd Al Doyle: October 3, 1935 – December 12, 2019

Condolences may be sent to his son: Rev Lloyd Doyle III, 3403 Hwy 31W, White House, TN, 37188.

Max Gene Rogers: September 20, 1935 – December 29, 2019

Paul Jean Peck: November 28, 1931 – December 31, 2019

Condolences may be sent to Rev. Ronnie Peck, 1008 Drummonds Rd Munford, TN 38058

Kathleen Bradley Mathis: February 28, 1931 – January 12, 2020

Condolences may be sent to Phil Bradley, 224 Four Seasons Dr., Murfreesboro, TN 37129



From the Mail Bag

Greg and Nancy Waldrop (Cadiz, KY): Six months of retirement have gone well as Nan and I have gotten used to all our time together and to possibilities afforded by our current circumstances. Sunset occur off our back porch daily issuing you an invitation to visit and salute the sun each evening with us! We had a lovely retirement trip to HAWAII complete

with both our daughters--we flew to Honolulu and then cruised the various islands stopping at 4 of them with great experiences at each stop. I have placed my charge conference membership with Briensburg UMC where I served 35 years ago as it is the only Reconciling U.M.C. in the west Kentucky portion of our Conference. I have visited several of the 6 charges I served and will worship with all of them soon after the first of the year. We have splashed a lot of water out of this portion of Lake Barkley near Barkley Lodge. Nan is teaching me the ways of bird watching and all the other delights of Trigg County where we have moved. It is a new place with fresh folks and different emphases even though it is very close to where we made our homes for the last 41 years. We have had great visits from friends and colleagues to fill our time full and trips to our daughters--one in NYC and the other in San Francisco--we are bi-coastal parents! A college friend and his wife have moved close by so we eat together each Tuesday--come eat with us one of these Tuesdays as it is a great relaxing refreshment to

remember unhurriedly years and events and people who formed us and fill our memories. I loved what God called me to do for the last 50 years counting my service and my preparations. However, I also love not doing it with all the associated stress that attention to the details of a congregation's life brings. God has more for me to do and say and that will unfold as the New Year opens itself to us. I have taken the title of Free-Range Preacher as my rural translation of Wesley's great phrase "the world is my parish". Here is a picture taken off our pack deck – breath taking, isn't it! Equally breath taking is my attempt at surfing (and no that's not Kentucky Lake). Far Right is the entire Waldrop family.

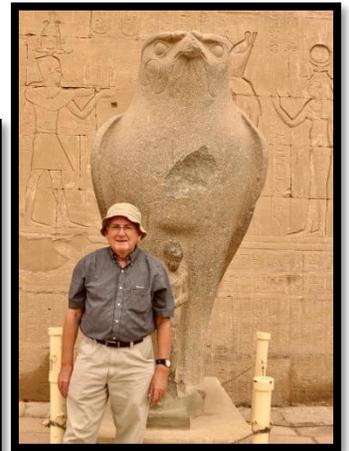


Agnes Butler (Paducah, KY): My granddaughter, Lexi, and I were blessed with a wonderful 2019. After surviving multiple cancer diagnosis, I have learned to celebrate every year. I am now cancer free for over 21 years! I continue to be able to care for my 2-acre yard. I plan to try and eliminate enough “stuff” in 2020 to begin the process of downsizing. If you need stuff, I probably have at least one of it! Lexi was able to take a school trip to Europe last summer. She had a wonderful experience and will treasure the memories. She is looking forward to high school graduation this May with plans of pursuing a degree in nursing. She plans to get her associate degree at WKTC here in Paducah and work at a hospital that will pay for her to continue on for her bachelor's degree. Lexi spent her Christmas break on a mission trip to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to help build houses. The rest of my family is doing well. They all live in the western Kentucky area except my son, Bruce, who lives in Kearney, Missouri.

Martha Corlew (Germantown, TN) just returned from a wonderful three week visit with her daughter in the Pacific Northwest area. She says it was great celebrating Christmas and New Years with the family. She was even able to join the family on a ski trip in the Cascade Mountains (*you go, girl!!*)

Michael Blake (Martin, TN): For the Blake home, life has been fairly routine with a few exceptions. At 97, mom still is doing fine for her age. At least several times a week, I try taking her out of the house for a visit, shopping, doctor appointments, or just to eat out - each

week varies. We had Thanksgiving at my brother and his wife's home. For Christmas Eve we did the traditional potluck meal at our house again this year with 31 attending. In 2019 I was able to take a mission trip. With seven other brave souls, we returned to Uganda to visit the "Grace Home" orphanage which we have supported over the years. That was our primary goal. We have seen the kids from about 7 or 8 years old grow up. Now some of them are approaching 18. Their education and spiritual growth have been vital with a caring staff and missionary leadership from the Holston Conference U.M.C. As a team, we arrived and spend time with the kids on Uganda's Independence Day. As every trip, they sang to us as a welcome. The next day's plan visit did not happen due to a tropical rain storm that made the roads hazardous. Later, the team took a tour of Egypt before returning home. Sites experienced were Temples, the Pyramids, the culture, traveling down the Nile River on a ship for several days, having a balloon ride over the Nile Valley, walking among the Valley of the Kings, the Egyptian Museum, seeing Coptic religious sites, and always shopping among the Egyptians. This time the trip lasted from October 4 - 21st and one of the longest completed. For me, recovery lasted a week or so, but worth every moment. It will be some time before considering another adventure.



Joyce DeShazo McSwain (Westerville, OH): My late husband, Harold McSwain left the Memphis Conference so long ago that I fear there are few who still remember us. It was good to be contacted and asked to participate in the newsletter. I enjoy receiving and reading the News 'N' Views. Harold died nine years ago. I moved to a retirement facility for five years. In 2018 I moved to a new facility – as if I have not moved enough in my life! I am very happy in my independent apartment and remain active in many of the amenities. My son, Ken, and his wife, live about 25 minutes away. My son, Hal, is a U.C.C. minister in Ocala, Florida. My daughter, Mara, my grandchildren and two great grands live in Connecticut. As you can see, my family is spread out.

Shirley Small (North Point, FL): Thanks for sending the News 'N' Views. I enjoy reading it and look forward to each edition. I especially like the message on the October edition about Elisha and the widow. It reminds us that faith is so important. Thanks for reminding us of the importance of staying connected. I have received several cards from other retirees and have send some of my own.

Reporter Marcia Tate

Lonnie and Eliza Royal (Collierville, TN): We have kept busy in retirement. Eliza has taught at a Catholic School (grades K-2), and at a public school, until she suffered disabling health issues, a year ago. I have completed five years with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare as HealthSouth/Encompass North Rehabilitation Hospital Chaplain. After sickness and operations, Encompass helps people become independent and return to normal their lives after illness or surgery. Eliza and I have had a rough few years, battling sciatica, back problems, heart trouble, pre-diabetes and a near death experience (Eliza) but the Lord has seen us through. *(Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all.” Psalm 34:19).* We have traveled to see relatives and friends in Chattanooga, Tenn., Dalton and Atlanta, Ga., Margate, Fla., and Jacksonville, North Carolina (our 8 years old granddaughter lives in Jacksonville). I have written a couple of articles for the “The Collierville Herald Newspaper” and Eliza and I are currently writing a book together. We attend worship services at Christ United Methodist Church. I am looking forward to continued employment, possibly as a hospice chaplain.

1. Lonnie, Eliza and friend Michael,
2. Eliza and our granddaughter, Liora.



Reporter

Deborah Mathewson

Evelyn Brady (Hernando, MS) is doing well and in good spirits, as always. She is so pleasant and enjoyable. Praise God she is still in good health – body and mind. She enjoys staying in her warm room at the Wesley Meadows and reading a good book. She enjoys reading Carole Jefferson books, The Upper Room, her daily devotion books, and her Bible. She had a good Christmas at her son’s home in Southaven. Evelyn keeps busy with all the activities at The Meadows and enjoys visiting. She appreciates in-person visits so if you are in the area, please don't hesitate to visit Evelyn. At 96 years young she especially enjoys reminiscing about the churches she and her husband, Charles, served, especially Whitehaven UMC (now closed). Her

88-year-old sister, Johnnie, visits with her on occasion also. Evelyn's husband, Charles Brady, started the original NEWS 'N' VIEWS.

Ben and Ann Boone (Paducah, KY): We are doing fine in Paducah. Ann continues to substitute almost every day at McCracken County High School. I am a mentor at Tillman High School a couple of times a month. We are involved at Trinity U.M.C. here in Paducah where our daughter and her family worships. We enjoy attending soccer and basketball games to watch our grandchildren play. We are blessed. Life is good! We did take an Alaskan cruise last fall. It was a great time! Looking forward to our next adventure.



John and Ann Archer (Jackson, TN): Ann shared with me the sad news of the death of their daughter, Cheryl, in October of 2019. Cheryl leaves a husband and son in Nashville. The bright spots in their lives and in the life of their close friend, Nancy Wheatley, are their shared great grandchildren, Hazel and Ezra. John, their father, is the Archer's son, and Marianne, their mother, is Nancy Wheatley's daughter. John and Ann are active in the life of Aldersgate U.M.C. in Jackson.

Julia Allen enjoys life at **Trezevant Manor in Memphis** where she tutors E.S.L. (English as a Second Language) and has started a worship service circle. The head chaplain of Trezevant, Julia Holmes McKenna, leads this service and brings much inspiration to the residents. Julia is a member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church on Union Avenue and enjoys church life there. She is able to ride their church bus to and from services. Julia's adult children are all doing very well: One daughter is a chaplain at a retirement complex (similar to Trezevant Manor) in St. Louis; her son is a cardiologist in Memphis; and her other daughter is an attorney at Penn State. Julia's six grandchildren are also doing very well.

James Mulroy (Collierville, TN): James' daughter-in-law, Mary Mulroy, said that James seems sturdy and is now 95 years of age. His long-term memory is good.

John and Peggy Lloyd Peggy are enjoying their retirement at their rural estate in **Drummonds, TN**. Both are attending the traditional 11:00 AM worship services at Christ U.M.C. in Memphis. John has recuperated completely from the abdominal hernia surgery that he had in the fall of 2019. Peggy recently celebrated her 80th birthday on January 10 with a family dinner. Her son and his family were able to visit from Houston, Texas. Both John and Peggy are blessed with overall good health.

Fred Morton (Bartlett, TN): Fred is doing well and enjoying life. He is very active with M.I.C.A.H., the Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope. The M.I.C.A.H. is a voice for faith and justice. Their motto is: "Do justice, love mercy, and walk by faith." Fred's adult

children, Dana and Greg, hosted an 80th birthday party for Fred on Saturday, January 11, at the Bartlett U.M.C. A great celebration of love, honoring Fred, was enjoyed by many friends, including Harry and I.

Charles and Ruth Leist (Memphis, TN): The Leists moved in early November to a regular (not retirement) apartment complex, the Village Grove Apartments, in southeast Memphis. Both Charles and Ruth are much more content in this new location. Ruth says there are many very nice working people who also live in the complex. Charles continues to fight Parkinson's disease and does as well as he can. Ruth keeps busy helping Charles and caring for their new apartment.

Reporter Glenn Hill

Paul and Caroline Clayton (Jackson, TN), report wonderful Advent and Christmas worship experiences and gatherings with family. They had the joy of hosting as many as eighteen family members for some events over the holidays.

Steve and Christie Callicoatt (Jackson, TN): I talked with Brother Steve, who reported that his family was doing well. Everyone seems to be on the go. They had a quiet holiday season and are still serving the Wesley community and the church.



Glenn and Georgia Ann Hill (Murray, KY): In my reporting in October, I told of the many doctor visits and therapy sessions that Georgia and I have attended since her stroke in August. As I write this article today, the doctor visits and therapy sessions continue. The Carotid Artery surgery went well as has the healing. On November 4, Georgia and I celebrated our 58th Anniversary. Georgia did not feel up to making the trip to our usual celebration place in the Ozark Mountains near Van Buren, MO. Since we did not get to be together with our children on the anniversary, our daughter, son-in-law and two of the Marietta, GA grandchildren spent a few days with us. Melissa helped out cooking and left her Dad some already cooked meals to feed us a few days. We were

able to make it to South Pleasant Grove UMC on the Saturday after Thanksgiving for our Hill Family Thanksgiving-Christmas get together. We had a good time and enjoyed seeing everyone. In December we were able to attend the Harmony Mennonite Youth Group Dinner and Christmas Program. They do an excellent job of singing songs and hymns of the season. In December we also celebrated Georgia's 75th birthday. She loves flowers and received several arrangements. Our son, Roy Glenn Hill, had an accident in his tri-axle dump truck and broke his arm (in a cast), and multiple fractures in his spine. No surgery was needed, but he is wearing an uncomfortable-looking neck and back braces. He is better, though, as he is complaining

about them wearing him thin (patience speaking). He is doing well and is lucky to be alive. He spent a few days in Skyline Hospital, Nashville and transferred to Murray Hospital for rehab. Prayers for our son and Gloria are always appreciated. 2019 was challenging and we are looking for 2020 to be much better. We and pray that it is for you as well. God bless all.

Reporter Tom Perkins

Joyce Cole (Lakeland, TN) reports she is 85 and has beaten cancer three times, the last was in 1991. She related in detail her wonderful journey of faith and treatments which proved to be nothing short of a miracle. She will be happy to share this information with anyone who needs encouragement. (You can call the Conference Office for her number). She has so many wonderful stories to share of her life as a minister's wife. She said Bob was so dedicated to his pastoral work they had to wait for a 5th Sunday (when he was off) so they could get married at her home church in Huntingdon, TN. They were married in 1958 when he served his first church, Hickory Flat. She reports her granddaughter, Anne Catherine Sharp, has been awarded a \$25,000 scholarship to attend the Pacific Lutheran University, where she will study music. She is now a member of The Choir of the West, which tours the world. (*WOW...my comment.*) Her 28-year-old grandson has survived a 2 ½ month battle with a flesh-eating bacterium and is much better. Joyce and her family attend St John's U.M.C. in the inner city of Memphis. She overflows with the great news of how God is blessing the people through the ministry of that church. She doesn't get to go all the time, but all the time her heart is there. When you call her, get ready for a blessing.



Lois Pugh (McKenzie, TN), reports she is doing just fine, and sleeps as late as she wishes, (*Ah, the benefits of retirement!*). She didn't have anything new to say but sends best wishes to all.

Jennifer Smith (Gates, TN), shared that her stepson Wally Smith and his wife Carrie are soon to be parents with their first child. She is happy to announce she has joined a U.M.C. ministry team serving Palestine, Fowlkes and Sorrell's Chapel of Dyer Co. She is in a very good portion of her life.

Tom & Mary Perkins (Dyersburg, TN), are always busy doing whatever they do. To be sure they are always doing something from supply preaching to writing books. He was asked if people read his books, He replies, "Heck yes." When asked if many buy his books, he replies, "Not enough." When asked how much money is involved when he supplies, He always answers, "I'll give whatever I can spare." Tom is growing a goatee to be in style. His daughter Tiffany says, "Dad, that makes you look hot." Mary says, "That's not the word I have in mind."

Reporter Deborah Morris

Thomas Yoder (Cotter, AR): When talking with Brother Yoder, our conversation naturally turned to health issues. He is a disabled veteran and has to have help twenty-four/ seven, seven days a week. With this support he is doing better; less back pain and the ulcer on his foot has healed. We also talked about the many advantages of planning ahead, so that when our life ends it will be easier for our families. His best friend had just died a few days before I called, so I suppose that is how we got on that topic. Brother Yoder still goes to church when able.

David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN) had a good 2019. David only fell once here in the house, and only made one rather LONG trip to the emergency room - a totally unrelated matter to the fall. We thought that was doing great! Last summer, we were able to attend the Homecoming services at three of the churches he served. It is always good to see parishioners of our past.

Reporter Gail Gaddie



Barry and Selena Henson (Collierville, TN): We have been busy, but having fun! Here are some highlights in the previous months: Selena and I continue to serve part-time at Poplar Grove UMC in Drummonds, TN. Being part time, we were able to make several trips. We went to the Animal Adventure Park in Harpursville, NY. Selena enjoys watching the giraffes and other animals. We were able to meet up with several friends from New York, New Jersey and Virginia. Being with friends makes any trip better. Several of our trips involved visiting our grandchildren (Nashville and Knoxville). We also went to White Bluff, AR to meet our first great-grandson! Our eldest granddaughter graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Memphis. We are so proud of her. Thanksgiving we took a couple's trip to Hot Springs but Christmas was spent at home with the entire family gathered around.

Reporter Joe Moseley

Robert and Betty Fejes (Paducah, KY): In April we were happy to welcome a new granddaughter to our family. This past year we made a trip to South Korea to visit our son who teaches elementary school music at an International School in Inchon. We also traveled to New Hampshire several times to visit our granddaughter and her family. We are all well and happy.

Joe and Carol Moseley (Atoka, TN): I bring you belated wishes for a happy and blessed new year and with a concerned heart, pray that this new decade is one that turns America around. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas were times spent with our girls and their families. Carol and I are amazed at how they are growing up. 2020 will have our eldest grandchild graduating from high school and all five are becoming fine young men. This past quarter has been a good and healthy one for Carol and I and I continue to be thankful for that daily. Last October our travels took us from the Florida panhandle and all the way down to the Keys. You can't go to Florida without stopping at Disney World. We met some of our friends and enjoyed time at The Magic Kingdom. As I write this letter, we are one day away from leaving for another cruise to the Caribbean. This year we are planning a trip to Wisconsin which will complete one of my bucket lists; visiting all 50 states. I continue to preach occasionally at churches and at Bread of Life, a Tipton Country food program. I also enjoy teaching on a rotation basis with 7 others in our Sunday school.

Reporter Bobbie Clarke

Jim Stubbs (Collierville, TN): I enjoyed talking with Jim and found we share the same friend: Arthur-itis. Some days it is too painful for him to get out of the house. I know this cold weather is not helping much. Jim, I am wishing you less pain and more movement in 2020.

I also got a chance to call **Elizabeth Como (Millington, TN)**. I have never talked to either Jim Stubbs or Elizabeth but enjoyed our conversations and was able to find common ground with both. Elizabeth loves to eat out and I am always looking for someone to eat with. Too bad Millington is so far from Jackson and I no longer drive! Elizabeth also enjoys her W.M.U activities.

Bobbie Clarke (Jackson, TN) – well you have heard my news already – I love to eat out – when my arthritis allows me. I enjoy attending Forest Heights U.M.C. I recently started a volunteer job at RIFA, a local thrift store. The store manager has a nice wing back chair reserved for me in the middle of the store. My job is to sort the recycled shopping bags – and visit with the customers (and maybe nap a little). I wanted to begin reading to children at our church's pre- school but their reading time was 9 AM – a little too early for this grandmother! My three grandchildren are growing. The youngest, Olivia, is finishing her senior year in high school on line. Andrew graduated college in May and is working in Memphis. Adam is working here in Jackson.



Reporter Pat Calhoun

I was only able to contact four of the six people on my calling list. Often the phone number listed on my list has been disconnected. In many cases people are switching from a land line to their cell phones So, Jim and Joanne Osborne and Lynn Humstom – I tried to call but was not able to reach you.

I was able to reach **Joan Gilliland (Dyersburg, TN)**. She is expecting her second great-grandchild. I did not ask if it was a boy or girl – so she get a pink and a blue bootie. Joan – we want a birth announcement and picture when the baby arrives!



Ralph Gunter (Dyersburg, TN) says he “is making it good”. His wife, Dene, passed away in April so he has decided to downsize. He is in the process of selling his house and moving in with his daughter. He will be closer to his three grandchildren and two great-grands. Recently Ralph was asked to fill in at Finley U.M.C. and Fowlks U.M.C. as their pastor had to step down due to illness. Ralph was delighted to accept. He has pastored those churches in the past and knows many of the people and their needs.

Faye Howard (Hornbeak, TN) had a great Christmas. She was happy to be with family and friends. Faye is a diabetic and had to be careful around all the holiday goodies. Faye’s son, David, is living with her. That arrangement is working well for both of them. Kimberly, Faye’s great-granddaughter is married and has a baby – that makes Faye a great-great-grandmother! Congratulations to both mom and grandma! Faye is close to her 80-year-old sister who has been in a nursing home in Humboldt. Her sister recently has been able to return to her home.

William and Janice Mullins (Murfreesboro, TN) are doing well and enjoyed all their children at Christmas. They did not have much news to report – but sometimes no news is good news!

And last (but not least) there are the **Calhouns of Union City**. Pat said that Jim made a helicopter trip to Memphis – but unfortunately it was a medivac not a sightseeing trip. He had three stints placed in the heart and is doing well. Pat is recovering from a fractured bone near her ankle. She walked in a boot for several months and then a brace. She now uses a walker – which, she says, is slowing her down a little. Jim and Pat were able to make a trip to Oak Ridge, TN for their family Christmas. The big news is that Jim has decided to retire – again. He has



been serving Cobbs Chapel and Mt. Manuel U.M.C. for over three years. She says it has been a blessing and a joy serving them. I know they will be deeply missed.



Last quarter we challenged you to help purchase new rocking chairs for Lakeshore. Well, I am here to tell you ... YOU ROCK! Gary Lawson reports that they recently purchased new rockers for the conference center front porch. Thank you for your support of this project. Additional chairs are always needed. You can still contribute to this project by sending a check to Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly, 1458 Pilot Knob Rd, Eva, TN 38333. Be sure to write "Rockers" in the memo line.



Memphis Conference of the
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