In Memoriam

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. Psalms 27:4-5

Rev. Roy D. Williams, Jr.
(spouse: Helen Lamkin Williams)
Nov. 13, 1925 – April 14, 2015

Rev. Owen Everett Rosberry
Nov 28, 1930 – May 18, 2015

Mrs. Lena Haley Stewart
(spouse: Rev. David Stewart)
May 7, 1970 – May 23, 2015

Rev Monta Ann Bledsoe
Oct. 5, 1946 – June 1, 2015

Deaconess Ernestine Ramey
July 29, 1922 – June 16, 2015

Editor’s Note

I appreciate Russell and Carol willingness to share with me their wealth of knowledge – no only on writing the newsletter but of people and places in the Memphis Conference. They are walking encyclopedias! I knew early on that their shoes would be difficult to fill so I decided just to wear my own. We both agree that the editor’s job is important but it is the reporters and contributors that really make the News ‘N’ Views – and for this I say thank you. We currently have about 10 reporters – and a readership over 350. Needless to say that the majority of retirees do not have a reporter. If you are interested in serving as a reporter, please call me. It involves calling a small group of people 4 times a year and communicating that news back to me. You can do that by phone, in writing, by e-mail, and even smoke signals (if you are able)! I have enjoyed talking to my small group of retirees – many I knew only by name before becoming a reporter. For those retirees who do not have a reporter assigned to them, I ask that you call, write, or e-mail me your news directly. My contact information is on the header.

We have three reporters that will be transitioning from reporting to being a contributor. Shirley Lynn and Wesley and Becky Fears we appreciate all that you brought to The News ‘N’ Views. I know the members of your calling group will miss your calls and conservation. We look forward to continuing to hear your news and wish you the best as you direct your energy and time to other endeavors. So to each of you I say Thank you … Merci….Gracias…Danke

We may be saying goodbye – but we are also saying welcome. Welcome to our newest members, the retiring class of 2015: Hugh Barksdale, Donald Barnett, Larry Daniel, Gary Drum, H.B. Fields, Robert Gardner, Barry Henson, Roger Joseph, Kim Allen Kulow, David Lewis, William Miller, Freddie Moore, Harrell Nation, Eugene Nichols, Barry Don Roberts, Lonnie Royal and Howard Russon. Welcome to the News ‘N’ Views. We look forward to hearing from each of you.
RETIREE HONORED

Congratulations to Judy Renshaw of Jackson. Not only did she retire in the spring after forty years of service with the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, she was also honored at a luncheon hosted by the Mid-West Chapter of the American Red Cross. She was named as one of four local heroes for exceptional community service. “She challenged the audience to serve, but to serve for the right reasons.”

THE GALLIMORES SAY THANK YOU!

Carroll and I are truly humbled by your generous and thoughtful gifts to the Lakeshore Scholarship Fund in our honor for serving as your editors of NEWS ‘N’ VIEWS. It was such a wonderful and appropriate surprise as we both have precious ties to Lakeshore. Carroll spent three years keeping the books for Lakeshore. I have served dozens of times as a counselor and then seven years as a director of Fifth and Sixth Grade Camps (the late Dossie Wheatley was my beloved assistant). Our ties to Lakeshore continue as we both attend the Retirees’ Retreat there each year. Lakeshore reports that gifts continue to be received, which they describe as “awesome!” So, we THANK YOU for your love and support while we were editors of the retirees’ newsletter and now for your continued expressions of love through Lakeshore. We cherish your prayers for us and for new Editor Beverlyann Jetton.

Enjoy a Time of Fellowship

Memphis Conference Retiree’s Retreat
Lakeshore UMA
October 6th & 7th

The Retiree Executive Committee, lead by Cecil Kirk, is planning another wonderful time of relaxation and fellowship at the beautiful Lakeshore retreat. This year we will feature the story telling talents of Dr. Jennifer Johnson and music presented by Roberto Mancusi.

Call Lakeshore UMA for more information
(731) 584-6102

Our little green frog featured in the April edition of News ‘N’ Views must have struck an accord with many of our readers. Several have written in recalling fond memories. Ann Bell (retired administrative assistant Jackson district) still has one. Thanks for the stroll down memory lane.

Get On Up To The Lake

Retirees, don’t just sit at home!
Get in the spirit of this little pome:
Sign up for Lakeshore, our event,
Relationally, time well spent!
Those cabins nestled in the pines
Deserve your presence; these brief lines
Are penned in hopes you’ll take a dare
Get it in gear and show up there!
By Robert Mark Matheny (our Poet Laureate)
Bev and Joyce Farnsworth—We spent Mother’s Day and Father’s Day in Baton Rouge with our son Stephen. He completed his chemo treatment on May 22nd and is feeling much better now. We are thrilled to announce that he has a new job in Memphis. He will be staying with us until he can get his house sold in Baton Rouge and buy one in Memphis.

Bill and Nancy Hart are having a busy time at their house. On July 1st they hosted a missionary friend, his wife and their one year old child for 2 weeks. Later, their son, Michael, and his family will arrive from Orlando, Florida for a much anticipated visit.

Tom Hicks is doing well. He says “Not much is going on right now. I wish everyone a happy July 4th”.

Joe and Mary Ann Piercey—Things are also going well for the Pierceys. They are enjoying their family and recently took a relaxing trip to the mountains. Mary Ann has had problems with an Achilles tendon for the last nine months but is doing much better now. They said that they feel so blessed and praise God daily.

Everett Porter reports “On August 8, 2015, I will be marrying Mrs. Lucy Inkster. She is a fine Christian lady.” *(Now that’s quite an announcement!)* Lucy and her daughter would eat with Everett and Nancy when she came to visit her husband at Kirby Pines. Lucy has 3 children and a host of grandchildren. Everett and Lucy will be married in the chapel at Kirby Pines Retirement Community.

Elton Watlington—On June 27th we had our family reunion in Jackson, TN. We celebrated my 90th birthday at the family reunion (although my actual birthday is not until September). I was blessed to have my children and their families together that day.

**Reporters**

**Bev & Joyce Fransworth**

**Reporter**

**Vida McClure**

Fred & Lou French is on a continuing journey (like many of us) to doctors’ office. Fred reports they are keeping the medical community busy. During Annual Conference we met Fred just as he was leaving. He had received a call from Lou calling him home. He missed a lot of the activities of conference but was still able to follow all the action. He was a bit surprised at the date and location for next year’s conference. Fred has retired as pastoral visitor for Reidland U.M.C. and is transferring activities to Broadway. As Fred’s custom, here’s the laugh for the day: A couple in the hospital had an interesting conversation. After back surgery, the husband experienced his heart stopping. He remembers going to surgery and the next thing he remembered was being in his regular hospital room – nothing in-between. His wife asked him if he had smelled any smoke or felt any heat while he was out. He said, “No, and I didn’t see any bright lights at the end of the tunnel either – they all laughed and then prayed. *(Okay Fred – what did they pray for – to feel no heat and to see bright lights?)*

Kendrick Lewis is hoping that third time is a charm – that is for retirement. Recently he and Ruby have been on the road. The first week was spent in eastern Tennessee with family and friends at Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and the Smokies; then came a day trip to Nashville. They had dinner on the General Jackson and cruised down the river. They capped the day off by visiting the Grand Ole Opry. Plans are on the board in July to celebrate Kendrick’s 80th birthday then it’s ‘back on the road again’ as they attend a grandson’s wedding in Paducah and on to Chattanooga for another wedding. After that comes rest for ‘an old man of 80!’ *(Now who says 80 is old!!!)*

No news is good news according to Ronnie and Sherron Cunningham! Ronnie does enjoy filling pulpits as often as possible. Sherron keeps his suit
pressed and ready! They spend the rest of their time raising cattle and aggravating the granddaughters.

As surely as warm weather arrives, Agnes Butler is suddenly ‘up to her neck’ in yard work. She says she gets slower and the equipment gets older and is often broken. But God is good and she is still on her feet. (Agnes always sees the bright side of life! Vm). Her grandson, Todd, his wife and their one-year old daughter, Lily, moved out of residency with Agnes. Todd is a diesel mechanic at Pilgrim’s Pride in Mayfield and they recently purchased their own home. Granddaughter Lexi participated in the Youth conference prior to Annual Conference; had a closing dance recital; and took her sewing projects in to be judged at McCracken County Fair. Come July 28th, Lexie will be an official TEEN-AGER! Agnes reported a visit recently from her Kansas City granddaughter, Danielle, who was recently married. She brought her new husband to Kentucky to meet all the Kentucky kinfolks. On July 11th, Massac U.M.C. had their Vacation Bible School program—“G-Force”. Agnes led the youth in Max Lacado’s book, Before Amen.

Calvin and Judy Clark enjoyed a quick trip home recently – that is to Clinton, KY - visiting family, friends and the Clinton First U.M.C. They indicated joy in seeing their friends and worshipping together; however, I can attest to the fact that the folks at Clinton F.U.M. enjoyed seeing them as much as they enjoyed being there. Father’s Day was spent with their daughter, Misty and her family, who joined them at church and then had lunch together. Seeing the grandchildren always make the event special. Health-wise the Clarks report they are about the same as they echo the statement of son-in-law Richard: “We are hanging in there!”

I received a long call from Merle and Norma Jean Thomas with exciting news of the arrival of their 9th great granddaughter. Even though age and health has slowed Merle and Norma Jean down a bit, they are still very busy. If you have been following their news, you will recall that Merle has maintained a close relationship with three other clergymen whom he attended school with in Illinois and attends yearly class reunions. This year they added an additional special get together – just the four of them along with their wives. They will also be visiting two of Norma Jean’s brothers in Camdenton, Missouri. Norma Jean has four brothers – ranging in age 63 to 93 years of age – all living. She feels very blessed even though one of the brothers has serious health issues. Recently Merle and Norma Jean’s granddaughter, who lives in Virginia, spent a few days with them. In July they are preparing for another daughter, her husband, their four daughters, their son, his wife, and two babies - a total of 10 people - to spend about four days with them. It never ceases to amaze me how Norma Jean manages all that she does!! She did share one sad note. Their 35 year old grandson’s wife, who is also 35, suffered a stroke and is paralyzed on the left side. They have a three year old and are expecting another baby in October. The expected baby is okay and we pray will continue in safety throughout the term. Please remember to pray for this young couple. Merle and Norma Jean have plans to attend their annual camp meeting in Illinois the later part of July. Continue your prayers for Merle as he struggles with health issues and Norma Jean meeting new demands daily.

At the present time Margaret Mayhew is wearing a ‘boot’ on her left leg because of two small fractures in her foot. She said it does not cause her pain nor does it disrupt her sleeping. Oddly enough the break was the result of simply standing still and an “ever so slight” turn of the foot. Her son-in-law, being a teacher, is at home during the summer and is tending to her needs to the point of spoiling her. Of course, her daughter has helped the son-in-law do the spoiling. Wearing the boot has made it a little difficult for Margaret to walk considering she already had a balancing issue but she refuses to complain. She closed her note: “Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a hot Fourth of July!” So with that she reminds us to be thankful and never forget to pray for our county.

Martha Traylor, along with the rest of our group, expresses heartfelt thanks to the Gallimores for the fantastic job they have done over the past many years. They have committed their time, their talent, and compassion to all the retiree clergy families in our conference. Martha’s step-son, Gary Traylor, retired
May 31st and had a retirement party on June 6th, which of course, Martha attended along with many friends and family. It was a blessed day filled with fun and fellowship. She also attended Annual Conference and as always it is soooooo much fun seeing friends while also being blessed by the worship services and terrific music.

Donnie & Nancy Harden just called. They are currently in Atlanta, GA and scheduled to be home latter in July. Their route takes them to North Carolina, Ohio, Arizona and finally home. Donnie’s 88 year old mother, who is active at East Dyersburg U.M.C., had surgery and was with Donnie and Nancy recovering for about a week during the first week of May. She is recovering very well. They are expecting their 8th grandchild in December – another stocking on the tree!

Ora Bell and Paul Peck, takes a day at a time. Paul is doing well and continues to do the yard work – but slower than those younger days (like all of us!). Ora Bell says she does a little, takes a break/nap, does a little more, and back to a break. Her last visit to the doctors in Nashville revealed another tumor in the lungs. Remember – friends – pray for each other.

The Boones (Ben & Ann) enjoyed a trip to the Louisville Zoo and a visit with Thomas the Train in June and will hit Shiloh and Memphis Zoo with grandchildren this July. Ben continues to serve part-time at Arcadia U.M.C. Retirement is good!!!

Kathleen Phillips Mathis was recently hospitalized. She is home and doing well. She continues to be active at Spence Chapel U.M.C.. She enjoys going to church, shopping, and treating herself to a visit at the hairdresser.

Joe Skelton reports he is taking life as easy as he can. He enjoys reading and TV. He is often seen at Clinton U.M.C. and has filled the pulpit a couple of times in the absence of the pastor.

Bob & Patsy Fejes’s report is short and simple: “Life is good. God is good!” AMEN
Reporter
Joe Moseley

Editor’s note: Joe was unable to call his list this quarter due to illness. I was able to step in and make his calls. Joe, I must say that you certainly DO NOT have a talkative group (or you are much better than I at getting the news!)

Joe and Carol Moseley: Carol reports that Joe was diagnosed with Guillain Barre’ Syndrome 6 weeks ago. He is out of intensive care and making slow progress at the Methodist Extended Care Hospital. Please keep both Joe and Carol in your prayers.

Cecile and Janis Bellew send their greetings as does Kenneth Uselton.

I enjoyed taking to Bill and Lillie Merle Springer. We share a common connection – both she and my husband, Robert, grew up in Crockett Co. We joked about the greater metropolitan area of Alamo! The Springers are not doing much traveling – across town to see their daughter and to Alabama to see their son. Bill and Lillie transferred into the Memphis Conference from the North Georgia Conference. While in Georgia they enjoyed frequent trips to St Simons Island – a trip they would love to make again. They are active in Covenant U.M.C. and enjoy cooking in their home some of the young couples in the church. (Wonder how one snags an invitation?)

The Wagleys: Jerry and I welcomed into our family a new Daughter-in-Law, Jama Kate Creswell. She and our younger son, Garrett married in June at the High Hampton Inn which is located near Cashiers, N.C. We were so happy that Rev. Jim Copper performed the wedding. He and Arlene retired to Lake Junaluska and were willing to travel the 60 miles from there to Cashiers. What a joy and it was a lovely wedding. With the addition of Jama, comes two new granddaughters, Elie and Georgie. Garrett’s daughters, Ruby Kate and Annie are happy to have sisters, all 4 between ages 11-13.

On Independence Day, we hosted our 28th year of celebration at our cabin in Grand Valley Lakes, near Bolivar, TN. Most of the friends who gather each year, 24 this year, met in Sunday School at Highland Heights U.M.C. Now we have grandchildren who love to Sea Doo, Knee board and swim. Rev. Gail Gaddie with her daughters attended again this year. What a good time we had in spite of the rain. Friends are like family and we are blessed to continue to choose gathering each year. Jerry and I are getting more settled in our Condo in Harbor Town. Yes, it is still on the Mississippi River in Downtown Memphis and we see beautiful sunsets, but not too many Sunrises. Thanks to Beverlyann for her taking on the editorship job.

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Remember ....

HARD TIMES WILL CONSISTENTLY BE THERE.
SO WILL CHRIST.
Ann Archer recently attended her 60th reunion of the Halls High School graduating class (When my Giles County High School class of 1948 celebrated its reunion some of my classmates had changed so much that they did not recognize me!) John will be preaching at the Archer’s Chapel Homecoming soon. He will also be officiating at the wedding of his great nephew.

Bill and Sara McClarin had no news to report. They are grateful for the measure of health that they enjoy. They are enjoying their retirement.

Paul and Mary Douglas are in an assisted living facility in Brentwood near their children. Mary reports that she is making good progress toward a full recovery from a recent fall. Paul is doing about the same as in her last report. Would you agree that Mary is a remarkable woman?

Paul Phillips said that he and Jimmie enjoyed their attendance at Annual Conference, especially the Retirees Luncheon and the Spouses Luncheon. They enjoyed being with their grandchildren for July 4th.

Ruby Crockett is at Maplewood Healthcare Center in Jackson (room 120). Her husband, Martin, is in the Special Needs Unit at the Tennessee State Veterans Home in Humboldt.

The Montgomery Family’s big news is that Harold’s eldest son has received a liver transplant and is doing well. He has suffered complications from Hepatitis C. We do not know the circumstances of the donor but we hope to find out in the future and humbly thank the family. We are pleased by the appointment of Harrell Nation to Forest Heights UMC. We pray that Russell Morrow will have great success in his new assignment.

Reporter Jenna Garland

Nell Dotson has had a difficult summer but is improving. She fell and cut her leg and spent four days in the hospital and got MERSA. She is at home recuperating and said the infection is gone and her leg is healing real well for which we are thankful. She said it is a good summer now and that her family just couldn’t do enough for her.

Fay Garrett continues to recover from foot surgery she had in April. Because it was in the arch she cannot put her foot down until it is totally healed. She had some tumors taken out that were infected and it is taking a long time to heal. Her great-grandchildren are on vacation in Maine.

Carol Craig was at home in Indiana when I talked with her. She is expecting company from California, her friend Debbie Vermillion and Debbie’s mother from Vincennes, Indiana. They want to come down here to see the farm.

Dan Leslie has is now pastoring at Poplar Grove. His grandson, Jonathon, graduated from Murray State University. He said he and Aileen are doing well.

Robert & Sue McKinney are doing well, just very busy with church activities and keeping great-grandchildren two days a week. Sue said they had already put up some corn. I’m sure they have a big garden.

I have not heard from the Hills, Saywells or Steven & Deborah Webb.

I, Jenna Garland, don’t have much news except I lost a very dear uncle two weeks ago. His name was Harry Eugene Hinze, a retired minister of music and a World War II veteran. He was 90 years old. Please keep his family in your prayers. We had our 4th of July family reunion at my cousin’s house. It is the old home place for all the John Underwood family. Of the ten original children I have two aunts remaining. All total we had 72 family members at the celebration. Hospitality was one gift my grandmother practiced, she always had a houseful of people. I really enjoyed being at Conference and seeing so many old friends. The ladies that did all that cooking were to be commended. The food was delicious, and of course I was proud of my Pastor, April Arnold, who sang at the Spouses Luncheon. My great-nephew, Caleb Ferguson, led the litany and prayer at the eight o’clock service on Wednesday morning the last day of Conference. Aunt Jenna sure was proud of him. I hope to see many of you at the Retiree’s Retreat in October.
FROM THE HILLS OF KENTUCKY --
Glenn and Georgia Ann Hill: Since we have last written my (Glen’s) sister, Mary Lee Hill, passed away. A Memorial service was conducted by her friend and a former Associate Pastor of St. Luke’s in Memphis, Dr. Rob Martin. Mary was called “Memaw” by their daughters as she kept them a lot while they were little ones. Carol Craig blessed us as the organist. Mary was a long time member of Aldersgate U.M.C. in Jackson. We saw many of our colleagues at Annual Conference in June. It is always a special time to visit longtime friends and their families. From February through June I served as Interim Pastor at South Pleasant Grove U.M.C. in Calloway County. This was very handy for me as it is only about 6 miles from our home. SPG is made up of some very fine folks. With the interim opportunity ended, I retired for the fourth time. The next day I started another job as a salesman with Eagle Buildings (selling and renting portable buildings and carports). I again have a job where I get to meet new folks which is one of the things I missed and new retirees will miss when “your time” comes around. What got me into the new job was the purchase of a portable Cabin, bought from the owner who eventually became my boss. Georgia is converting into space for sewing, storing, and whatever. It is now air-conditioned, insulated and sheet rocked. Grouting and painting and water and sewer hook-ups remain to be done this week. Georgia has been quite busy digging trenches for water and electrical lines and has worked already on the sewer trenching. Rev. Tim Escue and I led several weeks of “Methodist Studies” with emphasis on the Social Principles. It was held at Murray First U.M.C. and at Martin’s Chapel. I also had the opportunity to speak at the O.W.L.S. group (Older, Wiser, and Loving Seniors) at the Reidland U.M.C. in Paducah. Our new district (Purchase District) gathered for the first time for the annual picnic to welcome new clergy and families. There was a great crowd and we renewed acquaintances with some and made new friends in our new district. Please be in prayer for our local pastors who will be making the trek to Atlanta for their schooling this summer. Our Pastor, Bro. Tim Escue, will leave in July for that three week course work. Be in prayer for him and for all who will go for this continuing education event. Thanks to our friends Russell and Carroll Gallimore for their years of work on the newsletter and best wishes and our thanks to Beverlyann Jetton, our new Editor. Blessings on you all.

MARRIAGE SEMINAR
While attending a marriage seminar for seniors dealing with poor communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor, "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other." He addressed Tom, "Can you describe your wife’s favorite flower?" Tom leaned over, touched his wife’s arm gently and whispered, "It’s Pillsbury, isn't it?" The rest of the story gets rather ugly, so we'll stop right here.

Reporter
Beverlyann Jetton:

I enjoyed meeting and talking with many of you at conference this year. If you remember, at the Retirees’ Luncheon I told you I was heading to Virginia after conference to go zip lining and repelling. Here is picture proof that I DID IT!

The course was arranged in levels of terror. First came the uphill nature walk, followed by the practice zip only two feet off the ground. The next zip was 25 feet up and slow. With each zip line we gained in height and momentum ending up at 60 feet above the ground and 45 mph. The last challenge was repelling. I would like to say I mastered that with grace and dignity but in reality it was a pity party complete with tears and snot. I was terrified to step off the platform! In zipping I could rest in the harness and feel its support. In repelling I knew my harness would support me but I had to have the faith to step off the platform! In zipping I could rest in the harness and feel its support. When I was ready all I had to do was to lift my feet and off I went. In repelling I knew my harness would support me but I had to have the faith to step off the platform before I could feel its support (I know there is a sermon in there somewhere). My guides kept telling me that a group of 80 year olds came through the week before. By the time I finished the course all I could think about is getting my hands on those 80 year olds!
Mary Wright – is getting settled in her new house – hopefully her last move. She is glad to get that over before the summer weather came. In early June she was able to attend her family reunion held each year in Memphis. She enjoyed seeing family that she only sees once a year. Good food and good fellowship made it a wonderful day. Mary enjoys reading. She is not working on a novel at this time but is looking forward to her next trip to the Library. I am an avid garage sale shopper. I told her I would pass on some of my books that I have finished reading. If you have a love of books and live in the Jackson area, give Mary a call and see if you can share books with her (300-3880).

Rosalina Salyers (& sister Ida Tumbaga): After a recent hospitalization I had a surprise visit from longtime friends. Their visit was certainly sweet medicine. I hope I was to them also. They were in Jackson to receive chemo at the Kirkland Cancer Center. After visiting we decided to come together on their next trip and have our favorite Filipino foods. It was a celebration despite the fact that the food did not turn out as planned. The noodles were too soupy and the eggrolls were not crunchy but the fellowship was wonderful. My niece from California also come for a visit. She was in Tennessee to compete in the St Jude Marathon held in Nashville. She has also competed in the Boston Marathon.

Tom and Mary Perkins: Mary and I attended both the Memphis and the Tennessee Annual Conferences this year, supplying "The Gospel According to Pap," books to the Cokesbury bookstore. Thankfully, they sold much better than I expected. My books will be in the 2015 Cokesbury catalogue. The following stores will be carrying my books: Hastings (Dyersburg), Cupples Christian Books (West Memphis), Reddeo Christian Books (Memphis), and Something To Read (Jackson). It may sound like all you have to do is write something and someone will buy it. Nothing is further from the truth. Writing is the hardest work I’ve ever done. Unless you are famous, you have to promote your own books; which is even harder than writing. I encourage everyone to write. If anyone has questions about the book business, I’ll be glad to share what I know. My advice is free and worth at least what it costs. (Editor’s note: Tom also has two other books on the planning table, “Truth – Stranger than Fiction” and “You May be a Bible Nerd If…”)

We have enjoyed several trips to Nashville. It doesn’t take much encouragement for us to go to Nashville where Mary shops and I ride the bike trails along the Cumberland River. It is a good time for both of us. A friend and I are planning to do the RAGBRAI on our trikes the end of July. RAGBRAI is the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, which is a non-competitive bicycle ride across the state of Iowa (approx. 467 miles). We are also riding in the Tour De Corn, which is a one day ride in East Prairie, Mo the last of June. Reelfoot Rural Ministries has a fundraising bike ride Saturday, September 12. I plan to be there on my new trike. Hope many of my friends will be there too. The recumbent trike is as fast as a regular bicycle, but a lot more comfortable.

Joe and Becky Thornton went to West Virginia to see our son and his wife and to Virginia where Joe preached for a Heritage service in one of the three Methodist churches founded by our Taylor ancestors in the late 1700s and early 1800s. We also attended the National Meriwether Reunion in Charlottesville, VA and visited the place where our cousin, Captain Meriwether Lewis, was born and where he lived before becoming Thomas Jefferson's private secretary at the White House and before he and William Clark left on the Corps of Discovery. Then it was on to Florida with our daughter and her family before getting ready for Taylors of Tabernacle Kinfolks' Camp Meeting. We may need August to rest!"

Durwood and Maria Worley:
After successful cataract surgery Maria and I headed west on a bus tour to the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam. The trip also included many sites in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada. We visited the Oklahoma City Memorial at the site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Our next stop was at the Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, NM. While at the museum, we received a call from a deputy sheriff in
Weakley County that a neighbor’s truck had accidentally rolled out of his driveway and into our house causing extensive damage. Thanks to God, no one was injured and our western trip continued. We traveled from hot dry New Mexico to snow in Flagstaff, Arizona, then on to the Colorado River, Hoover Dam and Las Vegas – all in one day. Seeing the Grand Canyon was the highlight of my trip. Unfortunately a stomach virus spread through our tour group and many were not able to make that tour. After returning home I decided to have a late vegetable garden. I have been busy planting and replanting and fighting the grass. I have been called on many times to preach and have thoroughly enjoyed that. I missed Annual Conference this year for the first time since I first attended in 1983. I really missed seeing old friends.

Nancy Wheatley: In May, I drove to Sikeston, Mo and met my friend, Lynn Malone, who served as Director of Christian Education on staff with Dossie at Dyersburg. We ate lunch at Lambert's and had a good visit. I enjoyed attending Conference in Jackson and seeing many friends. I especially enjoyed The Retirees Luncheon and The Spouses Luncheon. I gained a new sister-in-law, Martha Griffin, who married my brother, Danny Underwood on June 12! Martha and I have known each other since our Huntingdon days in the '80's, but, never dreamed we would one day be "sisters". I am so happy for both of them! I also attended The Wheatley family reunion that included Dossie's two brothers and most of their families, and my three children and most of their families. On Sunday morning, my son, Kevin, got a text saying that his granddaughter was on the way. My grandson lives in Nashville so there was a lot of "scurrying around" as Kevin loaded their things and took off. Lilah (my newest grand-grandchild) finally got here at 3:55am, Monday, June 15th. She weighed 7lbs 3oz and was 20" long. Then on Tuesday night, June 16th, Dossie’s great-niece in Waterloo, IL, made me a great-great aunt! My Sunday School class traveled to Alamo, TN to visit the Safari Park. We stopped in Humboldt at Kappis for a wonderful meal on the way. The park was a really fun time, but we were glad we were enclosed in an air-conditioned van, because the temperature was quite warm! We saw several exotic animals and shared many laughs. Kevin is completing a year's Fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Care in Memphis the end of June. This final month is spent in Jackson. He will begin working at the new Kirkland Cancer Center in Jackson July 13th. He feels this to be a calling of God, and many share my opinion that he will serve well in this capacity. I know Dossie would be very proud! In July I plan to attend a high school reunion held every five years at Puryear, TN. All classes who graduated from Puryear High School, which was consolidated into Henry County High School, will be participating. Another chance to renew old friendships and catch up on what these folks are doing now. I'm still golfing every chance I get with the Senior League at Carroll Lake Golf Club at McKenzie. Those of you who like to golf should watch for publicity from Mark Matheny about a golf tournament in memory of Dossie to be held at Carroll Lake on Oct.1 with proceeds to be directed to Lakeshore. It will be a fun day!

George & Nell Reed: I finally made contact with George! He and Nell have been happily married for almost 1 year. This year has been filled to the brim as they sold two houses and purchased another. They have chosen to remain in Lexington where both have deep roots. George is experiencing something else new – being called Grandpa for the first time. Nell brings grandchildren and great grands into the relationship and George is eating it up. With the houses sold and the unpacking complete they have time to travel. They are thinking about a short trip to Pigeon Forge in July or August. September will bring a trip to Branson, MO. Our October edition of News ‘N’ Views ought to be filled with great pictures!

Jerry Wilson is recovering after a difficult few months. He is still keeping it slow and getting plenty of rest. He is able to attend church now and has returned to writing his column for the Brownsville States Graphic.

Dick & Loretta Haley: We don't have much news. Enjoyed seeing everyone at the Retirees luncheon. We don't have any travel plans for the summer. We will be staying home and enjoying our little patio garden. All of our family was here for Dick's last sermon at Pisgah and most of them will be here for the 4th. God Bless each of you and we hope you all have a great summer.
Richard & Viola Denton have sold their house in Newbern, TN and are moving to Brownsville to be near their daughter Pam. I will give you an updated address in the next edition of News ‘N’ Views.

Ralph and Dene Gunter are doing well. Their grand-daughter, Elizabeth, has graduated from high school and will be going to Dyersburg State and working on her nursing degree. (Congratulations!) Ralph and Elizabeth enjoy playing a round of golf every once in a while. The Gunters have enjoyed their garden this year, especially the tomatoes.

Tommy & Beverly Jowers’ say there is nothing new in their household. They recently drove to Virginia to see their son, Jeff.

Frank and Ann Gardiner have been busy with weddings this summer – two so far and two more to go. Between weddings they have squeezed a very successful VBS program. They planted a late garden due to the rain and are expecting vegetables into the fall.

Faye Howard is doing well. She is able to stay by herself. In April she had a stint placement. The doctors want her to walk every day. With this heat most of her walking has been indoors.

Betty Young enjoyed her son and his family visiting for several days. Her son lives in Florida. Betty says he was a big help around the house when he visited.

Jane Edward is in Georgia visiting with her son. I was not able to talk to her. I hope she has a great visit.

Joan Gilliland is recovering from her second total knee replacement. Her first one was in 2008 so she is familiar with the routine. She had two weeks of inpatient rehab and continues outpatient rehab at home. She will soon be dancing!

Fred and Lorraine Thomas are sometimes hard to catch. Lorraine is at the Union City Manor and Fred drives up to see her every day. We wish Bro Fred continued good health and sent our best wishes to Lorraine.

Michael Blake has been busy organizing a yard sale at Freeman’s Chapel U.M.C. All proceeds will go to an orphanage in South Sudan where Michael has ministered several times. Michael will be serving as the Assistant Spiritual Director for the Emmaus Walk #114. I know all who attend that walk will be blessed. Michael’s mother will be celebrating her 93rd birthday this August. Her brother recently came from Chicago for a visit. He has an unusual name – GENERAL PRINCE.

Jim & Pat Calhoun have both been in the hospital this summer – Pat with a fall and UTI (Urinary Tract Infection) and Jim with an irregular heartbeat. He had a catheter ablation at Germantown Methodist Hospital to correct the irregularity. Pat says he went in that morning and was home by 10 PM that same day (It’s amazing what they can do these days!) In July they plan to go to Rugby, TN (eastern Tennessee) for a family reunion. A cousin has a Bed and Breakfast called Grey Gables. There is plenty of room in and around the home for all the guests.

For our Bible Scholars: When was Adam created? (Answer on the last page)

Reporters Harold and Jacque Stricker

Ozella Sykes - I talked with Ozella and she is doing well. She enjoys when friends and family brings “church” to her. Apparently not very many ministers go to her nursing home which is sad.
A grandson plans to take Ozella to the Hopkins reunion again this year. Her family checks on her frequently and makes sure she is doing alright. They brought a television for her, but since she can’t see (and there really isn’t anything decent to watch) she told them to take it out. Despite diminishing vision and hearing she keeps a positive attitude and takes it all in stride. She always sounds upbeat and thankful for any call she receives.

**Harold and Jacque** - “I can’t believe we are in the middle of summer! Where has all the time gone?” When people ask what I have been doing this summer, my favorite response is “I don’t know but whatever I have been doing it takes me all day and I am tired at the end of the day.” Harold has completed his interim ministry with St. Paul, Sedalia, and Burnett’s Chapel. I really hated to leave. They are such loving people (anyone who will put up with me is special. I live with me 24/7 and since they tolerated me, they are special). We had family from Michigan visit for several days and have been to our family reunion and high school reunion in Indiana. Our youngest daughter and family went on vacation to Florida. Wouldn’t you know, her first grandchild decided to come 5 weeks early! We ran (well, drove) to Madisonville, KY to fill in for our daughter since our granddaughter was having some problems. Lots of prayers went up and our great granddaughter entered the world weighing 4 pounds 8 ounces and 18 inches long. Except for a few hiccups they were able to go home within a week of her birth. So little but she is absolutely beautiful! (And I am not least bit prejudice!) We were hit with a freeze during the blooming of some of our blueberries which decreased our yield - then the Japanese beetles and other creepy crawly things arrived. Even though we didn’t have a lot of blueberries this year, we have still put in hours of work (the fun things like pulling grass). I am hoping what we do now will help next year. It certainly can’t hurt anything. We haven’t been in the woods lately which is a good thing since I have a small garden. Since we have been away so much lately, Harold has been on the lawnmower just about every day. Glad we have the grass to mow. We have been blessed this spring and summer with beautiful weather.

**Zada Russ** - has been on the go since the end of May when she and her daughter Mary, flew to Alaska to visit Buddy’s last living sister who is active and sharp at the age of 93. On July 4th Zada came to west Tennessee to visit her grandson and his family and see his new home. She then traveled to Arkansas for a visit with her daughter and family. Zada says she has been mostly sitting and reading and enjoying the beautiful weather. All of her children are doing well and feels blessed to have such wonderful children. In fact, she just feels truly blessed.

**Joe and Bernice Walker** - are doing fine. Joe just “piddles” all day while Bernice spends her time making fruit and cream tarts and cakes. She is a busy lady!

**Covie Byars** - I called her son but was unable to get an update on how Covie is doing.

**Richard and Mary Jane King** - I was unable to reach them at this time, so maybe I will have some news to report next quarter.

**Reporter**

**Walter German**

I hope everyone is having a joyful summer. The heat index becomes serious when July comes around. I sought to contact all my folks. The following is a look at what is happening during these days.

**Benny and Gail Hopper** have much going on in their lives. Benny has been in and out of Vanderbilt Hospital. The doctors have been evaluating his treatments and medications. Gail has been trying to keep Benny straight and to attend to the needs of her mother who celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday recently. Mrs. Wright had a bad fall and has gone through re-hab. She was recently moved into an assisted living facility in Brownsville. Benny is improving and Gail is back volunteering at Regional Hospital. A granddaughter is getting married in a resort destination in the Dominican Republic. Benny
Benny says, “most any time now.”

**John and Bobbie Clarke** are going through the process of helping move items out of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Westover area of Jackson. The church officially closed at Annual Conference in June. They are looking for a home church in the Jackson area.

**Harrell and Alice Phillips** have been enjoying visiting with former members at the Camden First United Methodist Church, while Harrell fills the pulpit during a couple Sundays in July.

There is not much news from **Hiram and Michelle Harrison**. Things seem to be going well. Hiram is still serving as a retired supply pastor.

**Cecil and Theron** are busy with reunions and family. They recently traveled to Lake Junaluska to meet with former missionaries to Southeast Asia. Cecil and Theron both served in Southeast Asia at one time. At the present writing of this news, they are spending vacation time with family members near Crossville, Tennessee on a golfing and fun time.

It is always a blessing to visit with **Joan Eickhoff** by phone. She has such pleasant and positive spirit. She is quick to point out how blessed she is with family and friends. Our conversations are uplifting.

Your reporter (Walter) and wife, **Donna**, are doing fine. We had the opportunity to be a part of the 50th wedding anniversary of my brother, Tom and sister-in-law, Betty. Four brother and my only sister were able to spend time together. Our youngest brother, Jerry and his family from Atlanta, were unable to attend. Donna and I will celebrate fifty-two years of marriage on August 25th. Our youngest daughter, Nicole, will be training to become a substitute teacher in the public school system of Jackson-Madison County. She is still looking for full-time employment. Our older daughter, Dianna, is doing well after reconstructive surgery. Our grandson graduated from high school in May and has been accepted at Ball State University. Our youngest grandson is practicing with the high school band this summer.

My news is brief this reporting period. Perhaps it is a sign that everyone is going to have a good rest of the summer.

**Reporter Gail Gaddie**

**Editor’s Note:** A BIG welcome to Gail Gaddie who was willing to pick up a portion of retiring reporter Shirley Lynn’s calling list. I know they will miss hearing from Shirley but they will come to love Gail.

**Billie Jean and Elton Baker** said to tell everyone “Hello” and that they are doing OK.

**Jerry and Martha Ann Corlew** are enjoying living at the Village in Germantown, along with their good friends,** Venita and Jack Henton and Frank Bulle**. The Corlews see them often. Jerry and Martha Ann are eagerly anticipating a trip to Bainbridge Island, Washington, in August to visit their daughter Anne and her family. While there, they will spend some time in Seattle, a delightful “walking” city. On the day we talked, it was extremely hot and muggy in Memphis, Jerry said it was 29 degrees cooler in Seattle! No wonder they plan to go in August! Then in September Jerry and Martha Ann have plans to take a cruise from New York to Quebec City.

I was glad to talk with **Richard Hackleman**. He and I met at Memphis Theological Seminary and it was fun remembering those days. Richard lives in the house he grew up in near Trinity U.M.C. and is active there as his health permits.

**The Gaddie’s:** Bill and I are doing great. I am employed part time at Christ UMC and enjoy being there. We occasionally go to Sardis, MS, to a farm my brother and I share right next to Mallard Golf Course and a couple of miles from the dam and Upper Lake. Our grandparents bought the farm in 1955 and our parents retired there. Our mother lived there as long as she was able. The children and grandchildren enjoy boating and swimming on the Upper Lake and for the most part, we enjoy watching them! I left messages with others I called, but July is a good month to do a little traveling, I suspect.
Bob and Cynthia Moore went to Little Rock, Arkansas to attend their grandson’s graduation from the University of Arkansas Medical School, receiving his medical degree and an award for patient/doctor relationship. They took several trips in June and July.

Daly Thompson is doing well following his heart bypass surgery in December. He is in the process of finishing the cardiac rehab therapy that follows the surgery. This year marks his 30th year as pastor of Johnson’s Chapel UMC in Brentwood. He is looking forward to a trip to the great northwest in September, which includes a train trip through the Canadian Rockies and visits to Vancouver and Seattle (Ed Note: Now THAT is what I call a trip! We expect some great pictures next edition)

Paul and Mary Douglass are presently living at Brighton Gardens in Brentwood and doing fine.

Julia King is doing well and has fully recovered from her fall, earlier in the year, that injured her elbow and required surgery. She is glad to be able to take care of her house and yard again.

Patsy Hilliard was doing well and enjoying her grandchildren and has not taken any trips lately. She did not make it to Annual Conference this year and missed seeing everyone.

I could not reach Ann Page Freeman or Doug and Blair Meeks.

From The Mail Bag

Editor’s Note: We welcome (NO, ENCOURAGE) all retirees who do not have a reporter calling them to send their news directly to the editor at rbjetton@yahoo.com or call Beverlyann Jetton at (731) 431-0165. Your news is what makes the News ‘N’ Views so special.

Bill and Janet Miller: Janet and I just retired this conference year. We are staying at our present appointment (which we’ve served for 10 years) we don’t intend to do much differently than we have in the past. I feel too young to stop pastoring. I love to race dirt track motorcycles. I presently have two bikes. I get to open the race program with prayer at most of the tracks where I race. I am just staying busy at pastoring and thinking that I’m still a kid. LOL

Larry and Jennifer Daniel: Since retirement my wife, Jennifer, has gotten a new job--teaching chemistry at USJ beginning in August. I am under contract with Louisiana State University Press to write another book on the Civil War. The title is "Conquered: The Army of Tennessee, 1861-1865" (that’s kinda a spoiler – now we know how the book ends!) We are attending Jackson First Church. The people there are wonderfully gracious and welcoming. After I figure this retirement thing out, I plan on getting connected with a study and or mission group.

Joel & Cheryl Jackson: Since my retirement things have been quite busy in the Jackson household. I was called by the Kentucky Conference and asked to serve two churches in Livingston County; Ledbetter and Smithland U.M.C.. I will be starting my second year with these churches this month. I also serve as Associate Chaplain at Baptist Healthcare in Paducah. This position is a 40+ hour job each week, but God has blessed me with great energy and I love this ministry. At home things have not gone as well. Cheryl’s health has declined and she has spent most of the past nine months either in the hospital or in rehab at a nursing facility. She has had three surgeries and is facing possible others. We ask that you keep us in your prayers.

Jerry and Dot Carr are grateful for all the prayers and support from conference friends as they support their daughter, Cynthia Carr Flannery, whose breast cancer has metastasized to her brain. They moved
from Franklin to Oakland to be near Cynthia and provide care. The latest MRI shows no new lesions since the previous test. Gratefully! Jerry & Dot are mostly settled in their "new" home, and they send best wishes to everyone!

Jim and Ruth Mulroy write that they will certainly miss Shirley Lynn’s calls each quarter. They enjoyed talking to her and wish her well. Jim and Shirley worked together at Christ Church. In July the Mulroys are having a family reunion in Franklin, TN and celebrating Jim’s 90th birthday! Several years ago they moved to Tullahoma to be near their sons. One son is a minister in the TN Conference and other is a mental health counselor. They find Tullahoma a very active little town. It is the home to the Air Force’s largest flight simulation test facility. They enjoy condo living. All the maintenance and landscaping is done for them. Pushing a lawn mower at 90 was the last thing on their list! As I was talking to Ruth I discovered that we have one thing in common – Jim was one of the past pastors of Forest Heights U.M.C. where I worship. We share several mutual friends.

Jim and Ida Holmes enjoy living at the Hermitage Apartments where they visit with old friends and meet new ones. This summer their daughter from Winston Salem, NC is visiting and in late July their son and grandson from Decatur, Georgia will visit. Since their son has a big interest in music, especially Gibson guitars, a visit to Beal Street will be a must.

Henton, Jack & Vauneida will be traveling to Destin, Florida with their children. They are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Jacks recently retired from his part-time position at Germantown U.M.C. and is watching for where God will lead them in service.

Harrell and Janice Nation: Janice and I knew, well before seeking retired status, that we didn’t want to come to a complete stop on being in ministry. After serving on the cabinet we wanted to get back into the rhythm of church life and the church year on a less than full time basis. Thankfully we received an appointment to Forest Heights U.M.C. in Jackson. The reception we have received has been tremendous; the willingness to adjust to new leadership has been amazing. We feel right at home and anticipate several years of service in this great congregation. The less than full time status will allows us to spend more time on the Tennessee River enjoying life. That “honey-do” list is beginning to get serious attention. I may need to find a way to get around some of that! We are very much looking forward to this chapter in our lives.

Amtrak travel has been on the “to do list” of Gene and Joyce Rollins. They traveled to New Orleans via Amtrak for their 55th wedding anniversary. They enjoyed a full schedule of sightseeing: Mardi Gras World, where the huge floats are constructed, an airboat ride through the swamps and then to Oak Valley Plantation for Cajun cooking. Their final night was spent on the Natchez River boat for a Jazz & dinner cruise. Sounds like a vacation / anniversary that they will never forget!

The Jordans (Craig and Kay) had two very full weeks in France with Kay's siblings and spouses in late May. We won't bore you with a long recap. Suffice it to say we had great weather, wonderful food, met many interesting persons, and saw many inspiring cathedrals, art museums, beautiful Mt Blanc and the ancient walled city of Carcassonne. Returning home we quickly moved furniture from Craig's dad's house in preparation for an estate sale and the closing on the house itself. In addition we have been renovating dad's living area at our house in Nesbit to create a guest suite for overnight guests. Kay is back to her smocking group (a new great niece was born in early July providing her next smocking opportunity), volunteer tutoring, and caring for grandson, Daniel, on a regular basis. Craig is catching up on maintenance on the "farmette", taking an occasional trail ride with the Mid-south Mule and Horse Association, and keeping Mr. B and Little B fat and happy. We are looking forward to visiting our son, Michael, and his family in Round Rock, TX near the end of July before Craig returns to the classroom at Rhodes.
Living as a Spiritual Older Adult is theme for Sept. 15 seminar in Jackson by Older Adult Council

By Luci Cromer, Memphis Conference Older Adult Council

If you are interested in exploring spirituality, whether you are laity, a pastor, a church program director, or someone working with older adults, you won’t want to miss “Living as a Spiritual Older Adult.” This seminar will be Tuesday, Sept. 15, at Jackson First United Methodist Church, 200 S. Church Street in Jackson, Tenn., from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The cost is $15 per person, and the registration deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 8. No walk-ins, please. Call 731-664-8480 to register.