Greetings for 2016 – and at this writing a very cold 2016! This year the News ‘N Views will take on a slightly different appearance. With the growing number of retirees we have been only able to contact about one third of our total group. Each of you are special and have a story to tell, we did not want to leave anyone out. Several of our reporters have graciously consented to rearrange their calling list – calling a different group each quarter. If you were used to being called each quarter, many of you will be contacted only once a year. If you have never been contacted by a reporter, please look forward to hearing from one in 2016. We encourage EVERYONE to write in and share their news ANYTIME they wish – a new grandbaby, a move, travel, hobbies – If it interests you – it interests us. We also encourage you to share your pictures with us. Call, write, or e-mail your news to the Editor (address below)

As we add to the retirees we are calling, we are finding that the Conference Office no longer has many of our retirees current phone number or e-mail address. If you have a change in your address, phone number, or e-mail; please be sure to contact the Memphis Conference Office, 24 Corporate Blvd, Jackson, TN 38305, 731-664-8480.

As 2016 begins we note the loss of one of our reporters, Dr. William (Bill) Vaughn. Bill reported for the News & Views for three years and always enjoyed talking to “his people”. In October he called me from the hospital distressed that he was unable to complete his assignment. Bill served many churches in the Memphis Conference as well as serving as the district superintendent of the Paris and Lexington districts. He retired at least three times, but as much as he loved to play golf, it was ministry that was so dear to his heart. More than anything else Bill wanted people to know “It’s all about Jesus.” Bill will be greatly missed. We celebrate his life and the Lord that he served.

Thank You

Please join me in thanking the Memphis Conference Board of Pensions for their continued support of the News ‘N’ Views. They provide a generous grant each year that covers our printing and postage needs. The Board of Pensions is currently led by the Rev Dr. Scot Alford. If you would like to express your appreciation to the Board of Pensions you can contact Scott at Colonial Park UMC (901.683.5286) or by e-mail: Salford@colonialpark.org.
Bishop Morris, strong leader and preacher, dies at 78

By Sam Hodges
Jan. 14, 2015 | UMNS

Retired United Methodist Bishop William Wesley “Bill” Morris died Thursday morning, January 14, having suffered a massive heart attack at home, the Tennessee Conference reported. Morris, who was 78, led the Alabama – West Florida Episcopal Area from 1992 – 2000. Morris also oversaw the Nashville Episcopal Area, comprising the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences. He retired from the episcopacy in 2004. News of Morris’ death saddened many across the United Methodist Church, especially in Tennessee, where he had continued to live. “Bishop Morris was a great gift to the church” said Nashville Area Bishop William McAlilly. “He was especially helpful and a great mentor to me as I entered the episcopacy of the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences.” Bishop Morris loved to sing and would often break out in a song during his sermons. Far into retirement, Morris taught Sunday School at Clark Memorial United Methodist Church in Nashville. The Rev. Ryan Bennett, pastor of Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Franklin, Tennessee, spoke of Morris as a mentor who cared deeply about people and never really retired.

Listening sessions scheduled in lead-up to 'big changes' in Memphis Conference health insurance

1/12/2016 By Larry Davis, Memphis Conference Treasurer

Big changes have been proposed for the Memphis Conference health insurance plan. The Clergy Wellness Commission (CWC) proposes moving all 65+ retirees to OneExchange (a Medicare supplement program offering choices from several plans and administered through the United Methodist General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) and reducing the defined contribution to $250 per month per person, which should have a significant impact on the Post Retirement Unfunded Liability. For active clergy, CWC is proposing to remain self-funded (which is anticipated to increase 36% next year without retirees) or move the actives to Healthflex, a plan offered by the General Board. To ensure that we provide information about the plan to those impacted by this proposal and to hear concerns, we will hold one-hour listening sessions in all of the Memphis Conference districts. The listening session especially for retired clergy will be: Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016 from 10 a.m. to noon at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Jackson, TN.
New information about Virgin Pulse HealthMiles coming for full-time active clergy & spouses AND retired clergy & spouses

1/12/2016  By Larry Davis, Memphis Conference Treasurer, ldamis@memphis-umc.org

Set your sights on wellness. It's simple: Full-time active clergy and spouses and retired clergy and spouses in the Memphis Conference who "get out there and get moving" will be rewarded -- up to $50 each quarter! Plus, they'll have more energy for their children and grandchildren, hobbies, families and whatever motivates them. And let's not forget a better quality of life! We want to encourage clergy to get physically active and do what they enjoy -- tennis, a ride on a bike or even just walking the dog. This is a free benefit offered by the Center for Health and the Memphis Conference. Participants will receive a free step tracker and have an opportunity to compete with others in our age group. Our Memphis Conference sign up begins February 1. There will be an enrollment site specifically for Memphis Conference participants. Look for more details about Virgin Pulse HealthMiles in coming weeks.

Clergy Spouse Retreat
(Memphis & TN Conferences)

Who  All clergy spouses, retired and active
(Nashville Area – Memphis and Tennessee Conferences)
What  Clergy Spouse Retreat
Theme  Reshape 2016 - based on Romans 12
Where  Lakeshore Camp & Retreat Center, Eva, TN
Retreat Leaders  Sue Engle, pastor of Trinity UMC in Paducah, KY
Rev. Sky McCracken, superintendent of the Purchase District in the Memphis Conference
Worship Leaders  Rev. Joe and Liz Hansen of Mayfield First UMC in Mayfield, KY
Cost and Registration

• $115 per person for 2 nights, 4 meals. Linens are provided.
• Make check payable to TN UMC and mail by March 2, 2016 to Jennifer Hendricks, 5103 Nashville Highway, Chapel Hill, TN 37034.
• Include the following information: Name, Address, Phone, Email, Current church/district/conference, Roommate
preference, Food allergies/special needs.

**Reporter Harold Montgomery**

Linda and I (Harold Montgomery) (Jackson, TN) enjoyed all six of my children under one roof on Christmas Day. In listening to their conversations I learned about a lot of things they did which I didn’t even suspect. Then we spent a pleasant afternoon in Memphis with Linda’s daughter and son-in-law. I was introduced to Gus’s Fried Chicken.

As usual a cheerful phone visit with Lula Bingham (Shreveport, LA). She spent Christmas with her two sons in Memphis, and had a delightful time. She could not squeeze in a trip to Jackson. We agreed that getting OLDer really is not for sissies. She is dealing with a painful hip but is reluctant to have a replacement. Having had one myself I support her hesitation. She is concerned about a sister-in-law in Minnesota who is in late stage of cancer. Happily Lula is content with her new home in Shreveport. As would be expected she has made lots of friends there and she is near her daughter.

**Barry and Selena Henson** (Memphis, TN) are adjusting to the status of Retired. They have enjoyed a week in Florida. They are involved in their hobby of ancestor research having visited sixteen cemeteries to date.

**Jerry and Beverly Hassell** have moved to Memphis due to health considerations. Do keep them in your prayers.

**Ann and John Archer** (Jackson, TN) enjoyed Christmas with their children. Their daughter who now lives in Goodletsville awoke on morning and sensed that something was “not as it should be” in her chest. Her cardiologist told her to get to him as quickly as possible.

With two stents and one balloon procedure she was good to go. God IS GOOD.

I was not able to reach Ronnie and Sheron Cunningham and Roger and Sue Henson.

**Reporter Jacque Stricker**

Harold and Jacque Stricker (Cottage Grove, TN) Oh, how I love getting older. We still work in/with trees just work slower. We “rest” for about six hours, work about two hours and come in and rest six hours and then, well it’s now dark. Harold cuts down trees while I stack the smaller branches in the burn pile. I am 5 feet 1 inch so it gets difficult to stack the branches in the pile. I suggested we start a fire to burn the branches. (Harold says my “suggestions” have a special implication.) So, in theory it was a good idea, except it kept Harold out there tending to the fire after dark while I went in. At least I had an idea of where he was and what he was doing. Maybe it was a good idea. Our youngest daughter, Julie, came for a couple of days while we did our “Christmas cookie baking”. She is the one that has seven children, a son-in-law and granddaughter. (The daughter and son-in-law have their own place, but spend most of the time at Julie’s). That being said, I sent home most of the cookies with her and then had the bright idea of fixing cookie plates for the “seniors” at my church so I baked a BUNCH more cookies. We still have cookies here and there in the freezer. Harold and my dad are quite happy. Harold did the Christmas Eve Candlelight service at Manley’s Chapel, which we have been blessed to be asked to do since Harold held their first Christmas Eve Service in 2010. Our youngest son Joseph and his wife had another baby December 16th. Now we are blessed with 14 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren, but since the baby boy was born so close to Christmas they were uneasy coming four hours away from home. So this year it was only our oldest daughter,
Jennifer and her son, (her husband and son-in-law had to work the day after Christmas) and our youngest daughter, Julie and her “crew” of 11 and my dad. Our oldest son, Sam, called from Oklahoma City and could hear the “background” noises and made the comment I was in heaven with the “chaos”. Hadn’t thought about it but I do believe he is right, except I do need everyone to leave for a couple days so I can clean and then bring them back!!

**Rick and Mary Jane King** (Paris, TN) are doing great. Rick is recovering from the fall he took several months ago and is taking therapy in order to get off the walker. He also received a “thumbs-up” from his other doctors. They had an enjoyable Christmas and time at Lake Junaluska. They enjoy hearing from their god-children and watching them grow into Christian young people.

**Zada Russ** (Nashville, TN) is doing alright. Right now she is anxious over her twin daughter Susan Dozier. Susan has low blood count and has had a couple of transfusions. As much as she tries not to worry Zada is concerned and not sure what the next step is for Susan. Zada enjoyed Thanksgiving with her brothers and sisters in Biloxi. She also had an enjoyable Christmas awaiting the birth of her great grandson born Jan 3rd. (For those of you who know Buddy and Zada’s children this is Mary’s daughter Erin). She is enjoying the pretty weather and wishes everyone a Wonderful New Year.

**Ozella Sykes** (Puryear, TN) said she was being “lazy ” the day I called. She said the 20th of this month she will be 94 years, is in good health. It is always good to talk with her.

**Joe and Bernice Walker** (Springville, TN) are doing fairly well and just stay at home. Joe Jr. and family came during the holidays and other than that, they don’t do “anything”.

**H.B. and Rosie Fields** (Paris, TN) are enjoying the Eva Church. They started with 20 members and now the average attendance is around 40. H.B. said we were welcome anytime and so is anyone else who is up around Lakeshore. They are doing well and enjoy keeping the grandchildren and caring for Rosie’s parents. They had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas with the whole family coming to their house. Rosie is getting ready for a birthday and I won’t mention the age *(I want to keep Rosie as a friend)*. H.B. said it really doesn’t feel like they are retired but the best thing about being retired is living in your own home.

**Reporter Deborah Morris**

David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN)

On December 27, 2015, David “re-retired” from Salem-Walnut Grove UMC (Mississippi River District). Sunday, January 17 found us in Memphis celebrating our 29th wedding anniversary. We thought you might like to see us on our special day. Our officiating ministers were Dr. Don Moorehead and Reverend Clarence E. “Lefty” Hare.

**Thomas & Betty Yoder** (Cotter, AR)— I talked with Mrs. Yoder for quite a while one morning. She told me that she and Reverend Yoder had grown up in Cotter, Arkansas, and had gone back there after their retirement in 2008. They have family in that area now. She keeps in contact with friends from the conference through Facebook. On that particular day her daughter was going to take her to Union City (about a five hour drive) to see a friend. I enjoyed our pleasant conversation.
Loletta Bratt (Covington, TN) – Loletta lives with her son in Covington. Her other son lives close by. She broke her shoulder “a while back.” Therefore, she does not get out very much. Like so many of us, she stays close to home. Her son helps her by taking her to needed places and running errands. As of our friendly conversation, Mrs. Bratt seemed to be “pretty healthy this winter.”

Larry and Martha Finger (Boonesville, MS) – I talked with Reverend Finger for a short time. They seem to be doing well at the moment.

Willie Mae Campbell - Willie Mae reports that they were experiencing their 3rd snowfall with four inches on the ground. She says that she is definitely "looking forward to spring." Having been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease about four years ago, Willie Mae lives with her daughter Kathy and husband. It seems that she and Kathy spend a lot of time quilting - everyday in fact. The week before Christmas the two of them, with the help of their trusty machine, made 4 quilts. It is Willie Mae’s goal to make a quilt for each of her great grandchildren. What a meaningful experience!

I was not able to contact Patricia Clendenen, Authurene Bell, or Willie Mae Campbell.

Reporters Bob Moore

BOB AND CYNTHIA MOORE (Franklin, TN) Cynthia and I enjoyed a wonderful trip in October exploring the Pacific Northwest and the Canadian Rockies. We spent Thanksgiving with our daughter, Cissy, son in law, Ed, and grandson, Christian at their beach house on Fripp Island, S.C. and celebrated Christmas with our son, Wendell and family in Brentwood. We are looking forward to trips to Florida and Branson this spring.

ANN PAGE (Franklin, TN) Ann had eye surgery this past year. She is learning to manage and cope with situation and is now able to read and drive locally. A highlight for her is her involvement in the prison ministry of her church, Christ United Methodist in Franklin, TN. She has found this to be a rewarding and inspiring ministry.

TOM AND SANDRA COOK (Cordova, TN) Things are pretty routine for the Cooks right now, but looking forward to attending their grandchild’s high school graduation in Florida this spring. They spent Thanksgiving at home and Christmas with their son in Memphis.

I was unable to contact Patsy Hillard, James & Arlene Cooper or Frances Darby. Hope they are all doing well.

Reporter Jenna Garland

Yours truly (Jenna Garland) (Hazel, KY) had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. On Thanksgiving it was so warm that we all piled into a wagon pulled by my brother-in-law’s tractor and he took us all around the country roads. I was pretty stiff the next day but it sure was fun. I had the Mason’s Chapel UMW at my house in December for a pot luck dinner and short program and then we sang Christmas carols. That is always one of the highlights of my Christmas. Our little group does quite a bit of mission work. We went caroling to several of our home bound members. That was such a blessing. Our regular Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion was a wonderful reminder of why we celebrate Christ’s birthday. On Christmas day we all gathered at my sisters for pot luck. She lives on the home place and we all want to go back home on
Christmas. I am thankful that we can, even though our parents are no longer with us. We are a very close nit family. There are about forty three of us when we are all together. I am going to be a great-great aunt again. My great nephew and his wife are expecting and my great niece and her husband are adopting a little boy named Judah from South Korea. We are going to be an international family as they already have a little four year old girl from Columbia, South America. Children are such a blessing. Jesus thought so too. Hope everyone has a very good New Year. In spite of everything that’s going on in the world Jesus gives us His peace if we keep centered on Him. God bless!

Nell Dotson (Kirksey, KY) is doing well. She had all her family at Christmas and they had a great time. She loves to cooks and enjoys having company over.

Fay Garrett (Murray, KY) had a wonderful Christmas at Wanda’s with all the family present. Edwin and family got back home safely for which she was thankful.

Dan & Eileen Leslie (Kirksey, KY) wrote that their family gathered for Christmas and for the first time in a while they had babies present. Their great-great niece named Emily and their great-grandson Oliver celebrated their first Christmas and he said they all became fools over them. He continues to serve Poplar Grove UMC as intern pastor till June. Aileen sings with the David Johnson Chorus. They have begun preparing for a choral competition in Utah this coming March. God is Good and so is life. Grace to all.

Carol Craig (Evansville, IN/Hazel, KY) writes: I attended the Choir Festival at Lake Junaluska with my son Dan. Dan was one of the directors of the festival. It was a joy to watch him direct a 260 voice choir! I was able to spend some time with Jim and Arlene Cooper who retired in that area. On our way to Lake Junaluska we stopped in Pigeon Falls and climbed up to Mingo Falls. I thought I was in fairly good shape but the 164 steps up to the falls proved different. At Soco Falls the steps were of rock and tree roots making the hike even more difficult. I had the family over at Christmas and received a wonderful surprise. My son Paul and his wife Erin are making me a grandmother again (early summer). It has been 26 years since I have rocked a grandbaby. Hope I have the energy to romp and enjoy this little one. After Christmas I spent a few days with Frank and Ann Gardner. My drive back to Evansville started with rain and quickly changed to ice followed by 6 inches of snow but I arrived safely.

Robert & Sue McKinney (Dexter, KY) wrote that she finished her shoulder therapy the week before Christmas and began back therapy the first of January. If the back therapy works as well as the shoulder she should be on the way to a great spring. She writes “We had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas with all the family get together. We found out we are going to be great-grand parents in July. This will make five so I guess that means we are getting a little on the older side. It is great spending time with the little ones. Our children and youth at Palestine had a wonderful Christmas program. We feel so blessed to be a part of a church with children and youth. We just thank God for all the blessings He has sent our way! Happy New Year to all!!”

I did not hear from Robert & Doris Saywell or the Glen & Georgia Hill. Hope all is well with them.
Donna and I (Walter German) (Jackson, TN) are doing well and enjoyed the Christmas season. I finished my service to Pisgah, Lebanon and Union Grove United Methodist Churches (McNairy Co.) at the end of December. It was a blessing to serve the folks of those churches. As of January they have a new pastor who will take over the leadership. Donna, Nicole (our daughter) and I visited our daughter, her husband, Jeffrey and our grandsons in Indiana following my last Sunday of preaching. We had a belated Christmas celebration together. Donna and I wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year.

I talked to Lois Pugh (McKenzie, TN) and had a nice conversation with her. She informed me that she was “still alive!” David, her son, is in the health care facility in McKenzie and loves it there. She attends First United Methodist Church in McKenzie. He daughter, Grace is in New Jersey and married to a United Methodist Minister. She is involved with the music program at the church. Her daughter, Sandra’ is teaching school in the Memphis school system. Lois is doing well, her health is good.

Craig & Marilyn Ramsey (Milan, TN) are doing well. They are active, busy and love retirement. She said, “We do things we want to do when they want.” Craig still works with the hand bell choir in the church. Marilyn is active in the United Methodist Women. She serves an officer of the conference United Methodist Women.

Ralph and Lee Randolph (Kingwood, TX) told me they are blessed and enjoying good health. He is teaching a couple of classes in the local community college. He is active in the Emmaus Community and a prison ministry. He also teachers Bible Study Classes at church and preaches from time to time. They moved to Texas (Houston area) in 2001 to be near their daughter.

Hiram and Michelle Harrison (Jackson, TN) are doing well. Michelle is working part-time and serves the Big Springs United Methodist Church in Hardeman County. During the Christmas holidays, their son visited with his fiancé from Boston. They are planning a September wedding. All the family got together at his sister’s home in Lakeland, Tennessee during Christmas.

Joan Eickhoff (Jackson, TN) informed me she and her children are doing fine. She says, her family is very loving and supportive. Her daughter and family visited from Kentucky during Christmas.

I was unable to reach Dot Poole or Norene Rainey.

Reporter Marcia Tate

Bill and I we had a great Christmas. We have been very busy with church activities and working with Chrysalis and Emmaus. We plan to take a little vacation soon, thinking about heading to San Antonio. Enjoying our grandchildren when we have the opportunity to see them.

Editor’s note: For a first time reporter I gave Marcia a hard list to call – She called, e-mailed and even sent a personal note to everyone on her list. Hopefully next quarter her group will be more talkative. Thanks for all your hard work Marcia.

Reporters

Bev & Joyce Farnsworth

Bev and Joyce Farnsworth (Memphis, TN) We are both doing well. We enjoyed Thanksgiving with our granddaughter and her family. At Christmas we had a quiet day with our son Stephen. The day after Christmas we were delighted to have our granddaughter and her family with us as well as
Stephen. We wish for each of you a wonderful year filled with blessings from Our Lord.

**Bill and Nancy Hart** (Memphis, TN) – We caught up with Bill and Nancy watching the Alabama/Clemson game. They were pulling for Alabama. They worship regularly at Christ UMC. During Christmas they had 27 family members over (now that’s a full house!). After Christmas they visited Nancy’s family at Darden Lake near Blue Mountain, MS., which is Nancy’s home.

**Bill and Leanne Bailey** (Huntingdon, TN) We have built a home which we really enjoy. We participate in local churches. Bill has lost his vision but he says his memory is still good.

**Kent Bailey** (Memphis, TN) Kent is working at People’s Funeral Home in Summerville and enjoys his work. (We were unable to reach Kent but obtained this Information from Bill Bailey)

**Julia Allen** (Memphis, TN) I heard from Julia Allen this morning. She was so thrilled to hear from someone. She is at the assisted living at Trezvant Manor. She told me that **Walter and Linda Mischke** also lives there.

I was unable to reach **Bill & Patty Franklin or John & Patricia Baker-Batsel**

**Reporters Bobbie Clarke**

**John & Bobbie Clark** (Jackson, TN) are enjoying worshiping at Forest Heights UMC are becoming involved in some of the ministries there. They enjoyed Christmas with their son and his family.

**Larry & Gwen Tubb** (Cordova, TN) were excited about being contacted. They have a house full with four dogs, a new puppy, chicken, and fish. The grandchildren were thrilled to hear that eggs came from chickens and not Kroger! *(boy, wait until they learn about hot dogs!)*

**Mary Ann Sturdivant** (Cordova, TN) had a very busy holiday. She hosted the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for her brother Bill and his wife Pam. She enjoyed all the activity, friends and family.

**Reporter Joe Moseley**

Carol and I are doing well. My recovery from Guillain-Barre is going very well. I still am unable to walk without the assistance of a walker but that doesn’t slow me down much. I am able to walk unsteadily without assistance which is an encouraging sign. Doctors tell me recovery could take a year or more (7 ½ months down). We get out some; most of the time it’s to doctors or physical therapy as doctors have told me to avoid crowds in this flu season. Sometimes we sneak into a restaurant or go to Walmart. Last week I drove for the first time since June. I ventured out to see the new Star Wars movie without difficulty. At home I’m doing a lot of cooking which has always been something I enjoy (Carol enjoys me enjoying it, too). I’ve also gotten more involved with posting on Facebook as well as staying connected to friends. I want to thank all those who kept me in their prayers. It’s those prayers and the power and love of The Great Physician that have gotten me further along than the doctors expected. Please keep them up.

**Jayne and Wayne Fesmire** report they are doing well. Their most exciting news relates to their grandchildren. Their oldest granddaughter received her MD Degree from the University of Tennessee and was accepted into the six years Surgery Residency at the University of Missouri. Their oldest grandson received his BS from Colorado State University and is now employed in Nebraska in the field of Precision Agriculture.
granddaughter wed in August and received her Master’s Degree in December.

**Cecil & Janis Bellew:** We had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Thanksgiving was a special time as the family prepared a wonderful "birthday banquet" for Janis (her birthday was actually the day after Thanksgiving). All the children and grandchildren were here for the day. Christmas was another special gathering, again with all the family. Now we are trying to stay warm and survive the cold weather, looking forward to warmer days and lots of sunshine.

![Image](image.png)

**Reporter Gail Gaddie**

**Bill and I (Gail Gaddie)** had a good Christmas. On Dec. 19 we had 20 or so of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We especially enjoyed Ella Kate being here. She is our youngest great – grand child who was born last December and was air lifted to Vanderbilt with heart problems. She was there three months. However, once she got home, she has thrived and is doing well. Her presence was more than enough for all of us this year.

I was pleased to “catch up” with **David Lewis.** David continues to be an advisor with Horizon but is no longer traveling with that work. He also works with a new foundation, Wise Heart, which gives away 90% of the money they receive. He is executive director of Cross Links which provides medical equipment to medical missions throughout the world. He is very busy.

**Ruth and Charles Leist** are doing well. Charles has retired from his “retired appointment” at Christ UMC; he and Ruth are still active there.

**Roger & Sue Henson** (Advance, MO) Roger and Sue moved back to his home town and are living within 10 miles of where he was born. They are enjoying their new home. Roger was hospitalized several times this year but is doing much better and is optimistic. He says “Give us a call some time – would love to hear from you” his number is 731-439-6371.

It is with sadness that we report the death of the **Rev. Jerry Corlew** this fall. Jerry began to have health problems shortly after their return from a cruise in New England from New York to Quebec City. Jerry served in the active ministry for 42 years and then as a retired minister at Germantown UMC. Our deep love and sympathy to his wife, **Martha Ann Corlew**. Martha Ann lives in the Village in Germantown, along with their good friends, **Venita and Jack Henton and Frank Bulle.**
Reporter Pat Calhoun

**Joan Gilliland**
(Dyersburg, TN) was delighted that I called. She is doing well and sends her greetings to all.

**Ralph and Dene Gunter**
(Halls, TN) said that they are enjoying retirement. They are proud great-grandparents of a 21 month old girl. They enjoyed their whole family at Christmas. Ralph is pastoring the Eureka UMC which is part of the Gates Circuit. Dene’s knees are giving her problems and she is using a walker. They hope to drive to Gatlinburg this summer or fall and are looking forward to the trip.

**Faye Howard**
(Hornbeak, TN) has had a very difficult fall. Thanksgiving brought the flu with a relapse at Christmas. She ended up developing pneumonia. She is slowly feeling better now and regaining some of her strength. She was delighted to have her children home at Christmas.

**Richard & Viola Denton**
(Brownsville, TN) have completed their unpacking in their new home. They are attending Union Grove UMC just east of Brownsville. Richard had some difficulty with his foot but is doing better. The orthopedic boot is so much more comfortable than the cast was. Viola continues to have back pain and I am sure all this cold weather is not helping.

I enjoyed talking to **Fred Morton**
(Bartlett, TN). He is excited about his 10 day trip to Israel in February. He will be traveling with a group from Massachusetts. They will be doing some mission work during part of their trip. I was able to share with him that Jim and I have visited Israel several times had had a wonderful experience.

Bill and Janice Mullins enjoy living in Murfreesboro. They have three children and eight grandchildren. (He talked like a proud grandpa!) The entire family was home for Christmas. Bill teaches at St. Mark UMC. He recently lost 45 lbs and is working to stay more active. He is no longer on diabetic medication. Janice is also working to stay fit with aqua aerobics. They both enjoy going for long walks.

**Jim and Ruth Mulroy**
enjoy condo living in Tullahoma, TN. They live across the street from their son which makes for easy visiting. Jim and Ruth are in their early 90’s and say they are slowing down a little. Ruth and I have something in common – we were both school teachers. I enjoyed our conservation together.

**From the Mail Box**

**Diane Snead (Jackson, TN)**
I am a transplant from Alabama Conference to Jackson, Tennessee and I am enjoying my retirement here. I have one son & daughter-in-law and two beautiful granddaughters in Jackson. Last year I broke my right femur and spent seven weeks getting patched up and learning to walk again. What a trip!! You do not want to go there believe me. I am now a budding member of Aldersgate UMC in Jackson along with three other retired Pastors. I feel totally accepted here. I have preached one time, I sing in the choir and belong to the Wisdom Seekers Sunday School. I have fun with my grandkids and my two dogs, Ana (a Maltese) and Gretta (a Pomeranian) who share a house with me. I love to read and am currently working on *Christmas in Harmony* by Phillip Gulley which keeps me laughing. He writes much like Garrison Keiler from Prairie Home Companion.

**Gene & Joyce Rollins**
(Milan, TN) – Joyce was able to take the dream trip of a lifetime – a 10 day trip to Amsterdam, Belgium, Paris and London.
Unfortunately Gene was not able to accompany her as he had prior commitments. In Holland Joyce visited historic houses, a cheese farm and working windmills. Belgium offered beautiful lace shops and of course Belgium waffles. Three days in Paris gave the group plenty of time to take in the Eiffel tower, Notre-Dame and the Arc De Triomphe. No trip to Paris would be complete without visiting the Louve. They traveled to London via the 31 mile underwater tunnel considered one of the “Seven Wonders of the Modern World.” In London they visited Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar square and Buckingham Palace, just to mention a few.

**Tom Perkins (Dyersburg, TN) shared this photo with us. I wanted to crop it but I really liked the biscuit in the background (shows where my priorities are!)**

Christmas Eve on the Recumbent Trike. Perfect warm day to ride from Newbern MacDonald’s to Dyersburg, a distance of over 10 miles. Too warm for a coat. Lots of fun and great exercise.