The News ‘N’ Views
January 2017

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THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the cards have been stilled, When the star-topped tree is taken down, 
When the family and friends are gone home, When we are back to our schedules, THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS, To welcome the refugee, To heal a broken planet, To feed the hungry, To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear, To share our gifts, To seek Justice and peace for all people, To bring Christ’s light to the world. Thoughts of Michael Dougherty

Editor’s Note One of the greatest gifts I received this Christmas wasn’t even a gift for me. My daughter, Diana, created prayer journals for her 3 nieces (my grandchildren) and asked me if I wanted to share a few thought in their journal. What a precious gift – both for them to have a journal, and for me to be able to share something from my spiritual journey. I shared my favorite Bible verse, Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God”. For over 62 years God has called me to “be still and know him”; either I am a slow learner or He has so much more to teach me. In our next newsletter I am inviting you to share with us what God is teaching you in your stillness. It does not have to be a great theological treatise, but it does have to be personal. In your stillness, HOW IS GOD TEACHING YOU? Please write (511 N Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305) or e-mail (rbjetton@yahoo.com) and share your thoughts.

Winter Wonderland 2017
By Larry Davis, Memphis Conference Treasurer, ldavis@memphis-umc.org  In 2016 the Memphis Conference introduced a free and easy program to encourage fitness. Because of the positive response, this program will be offered again in 2017.

Clergy and clergy spouses may sign up for the Virgin Pulse HealthMiles program at join.virginpulse.com/wespath.

Once on the landing site, click JOIN NOW and enter your information. It’s that easy and there is no cost. Once you fill in your contact information, Virgin Pulse HealthMiles will send you a step tracker. Get to know the site and connect with others.

Participants may earn up to $50 each quarter or $200 per year for getting active by walking, jogging, biking and more. 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 walking the dog. Virgin Pulse Flexible Solutions is designed to meet you where you are on your journey to well-being. ANY LEVEL of fitness can participate. The goal is to do one step or one activity more than the day before. YOU SET YOUR OWN GOALS. The key to building better habits is taking small steps every day. Virgin Pulse makes that fun and easy to do.

Confined to a wheel chair? Use a walker for assistance? YOU CAN STILL PARTICIPATE. The goal: One step or one push more than the day before. Not mobile? Wear the step tracker on your wrist and count the number of time you raise your arm in a day.

The Virgin Pulse offers many options to help you set healthy goals. You can choose to challenge yourself by drinking more water, getting 8 hours of sleep, taking three deep breaths to help you relax during stressful situations, maintaining a personal quiet time – so many options.

You don't even need a computer (although that would be nice) – You just need someone willing to input your data every week. How simple is that!

Here is how to sign up:

1. Go to the webpage: join.virginpulse.com/wespath.
2. Click JOIN NOW and enter your information

Do computers get you all bumfuzzled? Don’t worry. Give Larry Davis or Clare Wilson at the conference office a call. They will walk you through the process.
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Clergy Discount Program

December 22016 – Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare announced its continued support for Clergy and Clergy families in providing excellent and affordable healthcare. With the changes in clergy insurance the discount program has also undergone some changes.

Discount Program:  After all insurance payments are received by Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Patient Financial Services a discount of up to 60% of the original bill will be applied.

Eligible Clergy and family members: Active and retired United Methodist Clergy and their legal dependents, immediate family of deceased United Methodist Clergy, United Methodist Diaconal Ministers and their legal dependents; and Certified Candidates who are enrolled in a United Methodist approved seminary and their legal dependents are eligible for a clergy discount. Eligible persons included are: Elders and Deacons in Full Connection, Commissioned Provisional Members, Licensed Full Time Local Pastors, Licensed Part Time Local Pastors, Diaconal Ministers and Certified Candidates enrolled in a United Methodist Seminary.

Process to apply for UMC Clergy Discount: During the admission/registration process request a United Methodist Clergy VIP Discount (VIP code “MM”).

After discharge: If the Clergy of family member receives a statement indicating “There are no insurance benefits pending. The balance is your responsibility” please contact Chaplain Jonathan Lewis. He will assist you in determining is the proper Clergy Discount has been applied.

Participating Facilities: The Clergy Discount will be applied at all Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare facilities including the Extended Care Hospital, Diagnostic Centers, Methodist Surgery Centers, Home Health, Hospice, Methodist Alliance Medical Equipment, Methodist LeBonheur Minor Medical Center, LeBonheur Children’s Hospital, and the Hamilton Eye Institute. THE CLERGY DISCOUNT PROGRAM DOES NOT APPLY TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES. Clergy will need to inquire at the individual physician’s offices to see if they offer any discounts for clergy.

Chaplain Jonathan Lewis is new contact person for clergy discounts offered by Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare

Contact Lewis at:
Chaplain Jonathan Lewis
Faith & Health Division,
Methodist Healthcare
1211 Union Ave., Suite 700
Memphis, TN 38104
jonathan.lewis@mlh.org
(901) 516-0990.
Memorials

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. Corinthians 1:3

Grace Elizer Phelps  July 9, 1959 - October 1, 2016
Spouse: Keith Phelps

Spouse: Billie Jean Baker

Andrew “Drew” Henry, Died November 4, 2016

Francis Darby, December 2, 1925 - December 31, 2016

William P. Bailey Jr., February 17, 1931 – January 12, 2017
Spouse: Leanne Leathers Bailey

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Have news to share? We want to hear about it!
Please contact the editor (731-431-0165)

Bev & Joyce Farnsworth (Memphis, TN) – In the fall our son, Steve, fell and broke his hip. The fractured hip was difficult enough but the doctors found two Melanoma tumors at the fracture site. Three weeks later a PET scan revealed tumors throughout his body. He has multiple tumors in his brain for which he has received 10 radiation treatments. He has 2 in his trachea that they are going to laser. As soon as that is done they will begin with chemotherapy. As you can imagine, this is quite overwhelming. He has no family except us to help him and we feel privileged to be there for him. Please keep us in prayer as we travel through these uncharted waters.

Tom Perkins (Dyersburg, TN) - My new book, 'The Long Artic Night', will be in print soon. It's about a young man coming of age in a changing world. It is in the spirit of an adventure story, with twist, turns, and unexpected accomplishments. You will be surprised and delighted at what happens to him. It will be in print soon. It will be available first by order, $15.50 plus shipping. Later, it will be in a limited number of bookstores at a higher price.

Carol Craig (Evansville, IN) – It is always good to hear from our friend in the “yonder” regions! Carol reports that she enjoyed a trip to Lake Junaluska to participate in the Annual Choral Festival. Her son, Dan, was one of the directors of the festival. Carol found it challenging to recall all the musical terms she learned from piano lessons 65 years ago. Rehearsals lasted three days and often six to eight hours each day. She enjoyed not only the festival but enjoyed being in the beautiful Smoky Mountains. They especially liked the Dry Falls - a waterfall that you can walk behind. In November Ann Gardner traveled with Carol to Lawrenceburg, TN to help maintain
the family cemetery. She has also been active in the Evansville Honor Flight that helps WWII veterans travel to Washington D.C. to see the monument created in their honor. Thanksgiving was spent with family in Farmington. Carol hosted Christmas at her home and then traveled to Memphis to be with son Paul and his wife as their celebrated granddaughter Grace’s first Christmas. She is looking forward to some down time this winter, getting her house in order and reading some books she received at Christmas.  (Editor’s Note: Carol is our second most northern resident. The grand prize goes to Shirley Featherston who lives in Petersburg, IN, 50 miles north of Evansville).

Thank you

The Editor and reporters of The News ‘N’ Views would like to take this time to thank Bev and Joyce Farnsworth for all their hard work as a reporter. We understand your need to spend time with your family and we are lifting you up in our prayers.

Reporters Beverlyann Jetton –

Dennis & Judy Renshaw (Jackson, TN) - We are doing very well and have been busy this year. Dennis retired (again) in June which had given us more time to do some of the things we have wanted to do such as traveling, visiting grandchildren, playing golf, and working around in our yard at home. It’s good to worship on Sundays while sitting together again, and we are very grateful to Northside UMC in Jackson for their hospitality and allowing Dennis to be himself and not be “Preacher Dennis.” I think most of you “retirees” can understand and appreciate that. However, one of the highlights of his week is teaching the “Pacers” Sunday school class. Judy is also enjoying singing in the choir. We spent six or seven weeks this year on a number of outings in our 40 foot long 5th-wheeler camper that is more like a home than anything resembling camping. Included are week-long trips to Panama City, Florida; Joe Wheeler State Park in Alabama; and several shorter trips of two to four days each. Our longest trip in the camper was for three weeks following the Appalachian Trail starting near Gatlinburg, TN up through North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut. That’s nine of the fourteen states that the AT goes through in its 2,200 miles of wandering. We camped near the Trail and then took daily trips in our truck searching out places the Trail crosses roads and or goes through towns that Dennis had hiked through and/or stopped in while hiking the Trail two years ago. While Dennis refreshed his memory of places and events that he had previously experienced on his journey from Georgia to Maine, Judy took nearly 1,400 pictures recording some of the beautiful scenery and wildlife. This time, however, we primarily drove rather than hiked which Dennis has decided is his “preferred” way! Other travels included a week’s cruise in the Western Caribbean; a two week trip to Bosnia and Croatia (Europe) with our daughter, Heather, her husband Petar, and their twin boys, Marko and Luka; and a week in New York helping our son, Denny, and his wife, Leigh, and their daughter, Vivi, move into a new home they had just bought. We are fortunate to have another daughter, Kristi, her husband, Yancey, and their four children, Calvin, Ruth, Mary and Jack living just two doors down from us so we don’t have to travel far to visit them. Our fourth child, Camille, lives...
in Tampa, Florida and must feel “abandoned” as somehow we seem to gravitate to our other children who have our grandchildren. Her job in commercial real-estate takes her all over the country and, somehow, we seem to have more luck catching up with her while in New York visiting Denny than anywhere else. Christmas was a house full of family with three of our four children and their families with us between Christmas and New Year’s. With eight adults and seven grandchildren (all 13 years of age or younger—-that’s not the “adults” now!), we had a good time if not a bit crowded. We are looking forward to another good year of seeing grandchildren and doing a bit more camping. Dennis is ready for spring and good golfing weather.

Howard & Kathryn Russom (Finger, TN) - We hope that everyone had a bless Christmas. Kathryn and myself was bless that all of our family was here from the oldest myself to our 1 year old grate grandson. Kathryn is having problems with her knees. We have seen the doctors which said that she needed a knee replacement but due to the med’s she was on they would not recommend. I am still recovering from a total ankle replacement in November. I will start my rehab on Jan 3 so we ask that you keep us In your prayers. May God bless each of you.

Tom & Mary Perkins (Dyersburg, TN) Mary and I have had a great Christmas with all kinds of activities especially centered on our new Sunday School Class friends at Dyersburg 1st Methodist. We go to Nashville for several days nearly every month, where Mary shops and I ride my Bike/Trike along the Cumberland River. I try to write an hour or two each day. What’s the difference between a writer and a great writer? Heck, if I know. I put my stuff on Facebook and LinkedIn and get sever to eight hundred readers a week. What does that mean? Heck, if I know. Hastings, our local book store chain carried my books, but went out of business. No, I didn't put them out, nor did I keep in business. My latest book is fresh off the press, titled "The Long Artic Night." John Wesley would really like it. You will have to take my word for that.

Beverlyann Jetton (Jackson, TN) – Christmas was a little different this year – I had surgery on Dec 23rd (believe it or not that was planned). I wanted to take advantage of the Methodist Hospital discount and knowing that my deductible had been met, December proved to be the best time – and the 23rd the only available date. I am doing great post op – being still and resting has proven to be a challenge but I have been a good patient. Rosalina Salyers and her sister, Ida Tumbaga, check in on me almost daily. I enjoy their encouraging texts. I frequently do the shopping for Rosalina – her job is to sift through all the sales papers and alert me to what is on sale. Now that is a real friend! For several months last year I had the opportunity to foster two young adults whose mother was in the hospital for long periods. It was surprisingly refreshing to have them as guests in my house. Their energy was contagious. 2017 is my year for travel. March will see me on a Caribbean cruise with my sister and mother. Harold and Janice Nation are there now. I told them they are my advance team and should tell me all the good spots to go. My biggest trip will be the ALASKAN CRUISE on JULY 21. I will be serving as a travel hostess with Educational Opportunity Travel. There is still time to book your cruise if you are interested in traveling with me. I am looking for a female roommate for one of my guests. Give me a call if traveling alone has stopped you from making the trip of a life time (731-431-0165)

Joe and Becky Thornton (Brownsville, TN) - Perhaps the 2017 Epiphany will be unlike any other we have experienced. We pray that Grace will abound. We are both well, thank goodness, and spend most of our time with children and grandchildren, as must be the case with those of us who are either writing or reading this publication. Our daughter and her family live in Memphis and love Rosemary Beach in Florida, equal distance between Panama City and Destin. We go with them at least once each year. We strongly recommend this to you for a vacation site. Our son and his wife live in West Virginia, and they have recently purchased a mountain cabin at Teter Creek Lake Wildlife area, north of Charleston. We will head that way this spring when travel is
more advisable. Retirement is a saintly as well as sanely time in life, and we appreciate all that has blessed our lives. We enjoy our ministry at Lester's Chapel, small and vital. Recently the Mayor of Brownsville, where we live, asked me to be on a committee designed to examine race relations in our city and county. This has been rewarding and very challenging. Surely racism is one of our largest areas of concern in the U.S. as well as around the world. We have contracted with an organization to help facilitate constructive conversation. The committee is made up of an equal number of whites and blacks. Soon the entire group will be on a retreat for seclusion and deeper inspection. It will be my pleasure to keep you posted on various developments.

**Bill and Nancy Hart (Memphis, TN)** Celebrated Christmas with a house full of family. Nancy’s sister came all the way from Washington for the gathering. One of their best gifts was not even wrapped. It was the announcement that they were going to be grandparents again! Their son and his wife will be adding to their family in May. Bill and Nancy will be traveling to Orlando in February to spend time with their other grandchildren and again in May for the birth of their newest grandchild.

**Julia Allen (Memphis, TN)** – I had a wonderful conversation with Julia (one of the privileges of being a reporter). Julia is a fun loving, active senior. I found we had many things in common. She and her late husband, Ray, loved to travel to Germany. My son and his family lives in Germany and I enjoy visiting them as often as I can. Julia and Ray lived in Jackson in the 60’s. He taught Bible at Lambuth College before moving on to Rhodes College. They lived a few blocks from where Robert and I lived. She remembers a Jackson much smaller than we have today. Julia enjoyed having all her children (3 sons) and grandchildren with her this Christmas. After Christmas dinner they walked the pedestrian path across the Mississippi Bridge (almost a 2 mile walk!) She says at 91 it is harder and harder to keep pace with her children. Julia enjoys playing Bridge and leads a speaker forum at Trezevant Manor. This month they are hosting former Memphis Mayor A.C. Wharton. Julia is also active in a study club. Next month she is presenting a paper on Wendell Willkie (1940 Presidential candidate). Now I would say that is an active life!!!

**Rosalina Salyers (Jackson, TN)** is celebrating the 30th anniversary of her arrival in the USA from the Philippines. Her first stop was San Francisco and then on to Atlanta where she encountered her first snow (history must be repeating itself – as I type this Atlanta is bracing for its first big snow storm of the year). Her final destination was Nashville where she finished her doctoral studies in Early Childhood Education at Vanderbilt. A lot has happened in the last 30 years and God has been present throughout. 2016 has been a difficult year but also one filled with family and friends. Rosalina says that she is feeling stronger after starting dialysis. She has enjoyed a wonderful visit from her sister who lives in Washington state. Through the internet, Rosalina has reconnected with several of her students from the Philippines – students she taught over 50 years ago. It is humbling to hear that she had a significant role in their life and that God was using her as His instrument to touch the lives of children. Rosalina and her sister, Ida, have touched the lives of many through their correspondence ministry. There are few people at Forest Heights UMC that have not received a note of encouragement or celebration from one of the sisters.

**Lula Bingham (Shreveport, LA)** - has settled into The Glen, a retirement community in Shreveport. Her daughter Betsy lives in Shreveport and Lula enjoys being near family. Lula also has a son, Robert, in Houston, TX and a son, David in Memphis. Lula enjoyed Christmas in Memphis spending time with her family. While in Memphis she tried to contact as many friends as she could. She was able to return home before our cold weather hit. Lula says she keeps busy playing Bridge, a game she has loved for years. She is also a member of a reading group. The Glen organizes day trips which are always enjoyable. She worships at the Noel Memorial U.M.C. and sometimes at St. Luke’s U.M.C. where daughter Betsy is pastor.
Joan Eickoff (Jackson, TN) – enjoys living at The Regency Retirement community. She says she can do as much or as little as she wants and usually finds a happy blend somewhere in the middle. She spent Christmas with her daughter-in-law, Amy, and grandchildren. She enjoys reading The News ‘N’ Views and wants to send greetings to all her friends.

Lois Pugh (McKenzie, TN) – As I write this column (early January) Lois is getting ready to celebrate Christmas with her family. The plans were for family from Memphis and Tupelo to spend the day with her in McKenzie on January 7th. The snow in west Tennessee is making those plans uncertain. Lois said that as the children grew and married she and John realized that Christmas could be hectic trying to spend time with in-laws, out-laws, and grandparents. They decided to hold off until January for a nice relaxed visit. That custom has worked well over the years. Her daughter who lives in New Jersey has continued that custom with her family. Lois’s son, David, has lived at the McKenzie Healthcare for the last 5 years. He call that home and has made many friends there.

Ronnie & Sharon Cunningham (Symsonia, KY) - Ronnie continues to "substitute" preach as often as he can and still loves to share the Word of God with anyone who will let him. He and Sharon have made friends in several Western Kentucky congregations. The granddaughters still keep them busy. Too busy for "old folks"! :-) Tori, a junior at Murray State University, is studying in England as this note is being written. Sharon’s sister, Donna Smith passed, away on Dec. 27. While Donna had previously had a couple of strokes and had some permanent damage to her right arm, her sudden death came as a surprise. Basically, she just went to sleep and passed from gentle snoring to silence. Donna had always teased Ronnie that he could not do her funeral because that would give him too much joy, but he did do her funeral which was more a celebration of her life than a mourning of her passing. The Cunninghams and their "family" send a message to all of you: Arf! Arf! Woof! Woof! Meoww! Moo! Moo! Moooo! Neigh! Neigh! Translated, that means "Happy New Year! Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!" We live on a farm, have a cow-calf operation. Yes, we do eat our own meat. I would love to have some chickens but we need to come up with a secure area or the coyotes would get them. We have 2 horses, board 2 horses for a friend, 4 beagles, and 1 cat "has us." (You know how cats are - they own YOU, you do not own them.) We had some white skunks last year that kept getting into our calf feed. Glad they are finally gone!! I also let barn swallows raise babies on my front porch. They are such sweet birds and really better parents than many humans. That's another story. Remind me later and I'll tell you that one. (Yes, they are messy but I've got that all figured out too.)

John & Ann Archer (Jackson, TN) - OUR EXCITING NEWS: On January 3, John and I became Great Grandparents. Our grandson, Kent and wife Jenny had a big baby girl, Hazel Brooklyn. She weighed 9 lbs and was 21 inches long. Nancy Wheatley also shares this big event. Kent, Jenny and baby Hazel live in the Nashville area.

I was able to contact many on my list but there are still many more that I was not able to make contact with. I am still struggling with outdated contact info (even after checking with each district office). Unable to contact: William Kent Bailey, John & Patricia Baker-Batsel, Jerry & Beverly Hassell, Barry & Selena Henson, James & Ida Holmes, Hiram & Michelle Harrison, Dot Poole, Norene Rainey, Craig & Marilyn Ramsey and Ralph & Lee Randolph. ohohoh – That’s a batting average of only 50%!
In a class on abnormal psychology, the instructor was about to introduce the subject of manic depression. She posed this question to her students: "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits down weeping uncontrollably the next?" A young man in the rear raised his hand and suggested earnestly, "A football coach?"

(submitted by Tom Perkins)

Reporter Jud Mowery

Ann Freeman (Franklin, TN) - She sends Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all her friends. Her son, John, gave her the Christmas gift of renting a limousine and getting all the family together to drive around Franklin TN and see the beautiful Christmas lights. (Ed note: Franklin, TN was listed as a "Must See This Christmas" by one internet blogger). Ann also was able to tour several different Civil War monuments there in Franklin. All her grandchildren are doing great and it was a joy to see them.

Patsy Hilliard (Franklin, TN) - Patsy had a wonderful Christmas and has plans to go to Florida and visit her sister through the cold months. Judging by the 2" of brilliant white snow on my front lawn I would say her timing is just about right! What a great start for her new year.

Elizabeth Como (Millington, TN) - sends her greetings but says she has nothing to report (bashful, I bet)

Thomas & Sandra Cook (Cordova, TN) - Their granddaughter went on a World Relief trip on missions and had a wonderful learning experience. Several months ago Sandra had open heart surgery. She said she is doing real well and did not have to have any major pain medication except for Tylenol.

James & Arlene Copper (Waynesville, NC) - James and Arlene are enjoying being able to travel and see different sights and they love living in the mountains at Lake Junaluska. They both enjoyed going to New Orleans for Christmas, where their son and family live. They enjoyed being with their eight year old granddaughter. Right now they are preparing for a ten day trip to the Holy land.

Judd and Gil Mowery (Troy, TN) – Gail and I had a wonderful Christmas. Christmas Eve we went to Hartsong U.M.C. with my youngest daughter and granddaughter. We had a candle light service that was very moving. After the service we headed to our daughter’s house for a great meal and to open present. We allow the youngest to open their presents first and work up to the oldest – sometimes that takes a while. That evening we went to Gale’s son and visited. Christmas Day was celebrated at Collierville U.M.C. with a service that warmed our soul. After visiting Gale’s family we headed home to Troy. New Year’s eve I drove the bus for a Progressive Dinner for the youth at Troy U.M.C.. After bringing in the New Year with the youth I returned home and gave Gale a big hug!

About that New Year Resolution..... My goal for last year was to lose 10 lbs – I only have 15 lbs more to go – But I am off to a good start. I had salad for dinner …. Uh, mostly croutons and tomatoes ...... really just one big round crouton covered in tomato sauce ...... and cheese ....FINE, it was a pizza. There I said it – I ATE A PIZZA! Now I don’t mean to brag – but I just finished my 14 day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes!
Fay Howard (Hornbeak, TN) – I had an opportunity to talk to David, Fay’s son. He told me that Fay was hospitalized on December 23rd after suffering a stroke that affected her speech and her right side. She was able to return home on January 7th and is making an amazing recovery. Christmas was postponed and celebrated after Fay returned home. Please keep Fay in your thoughts and prayers. You can send her greetings at: Fay Howard PO Box 186, Hornbeak, TN 38232. I know she would be thrilled to hear from her friends.

Bill and Janice Mullins, (Murfreesboro, TN) – Bill and Janice enjoyed a nice quiet Christmas at home reflecting on the blessings of 2016. Bill recently had surgery on a finger but is recovering well.

Fred Morton, (Bartlett, TN) – Started 2017 by preaching at St. Stephens U.M.C.. He will soon be traveling to St Simon’s Island Retreat Center for a gathering of United Methodist ministers, District Superintendents and Bishops. He is really looking forward this this opportunity.

Joan Gilliland (Dyersburg, TN) – Joan is very proud of her new great granddaughter. Joan was able to see the baby one while visiting her daughter in Memphis. The child and her parents live in Atlanta. The new one has been named Mary Mason Tait. CONGRATULATION!

Tommy and Beverly Jowers, (Dyersburg, TN) – Tommy and Beverly also shared a quiet but wonderful Christmas at home. Their son, Aaron and grandson Peyton, joined them for Christmas. Their other son, Jeff, lives in Virginia and did not try to make the trip to Tennessee. The Jowers are planning on visiting him in the coming weeks if weather permits. They are enjoying their Sunday School class at the Dyersburg First UMC. They had a progressive meal at Christmas, going to three different homes for food and fellowship, one of them being the Jower’s home.

Jim and Pat Calhoun, (Union City, TN) – The Calhouns have had a quiet fall. Pat was busy making 225+ Christmas crafts for the Union City FUMC Bazaar. This fall Pat hung her foot on a chair rail and fell. The foot was swollen and black for a long time. After two months she is moving around better. They were able to drive to Oak Ridge, TN for Christmas with Pat’s family. It was a good time of visiting, exchanging gifts, and having dinner together. Since returning home, Jim has had a wedding and a funeral (not the same couple!). He also preaches two Sundays a month at two churches he co-pastors. Pat recently lost a dear friend she taught with. They were able to drive to Paducah for the funeral. Since winter weather has arrived in Union City the Calhouns are keeping close to home.

I was unable to contact Jim & Ruth Mulroy (phone number no longer in service) or, William Mount (wrong number).
Reporter Jaque Stricker

Harold and Jacque Stricker (Cottage Grove, TN) - enjoyed time with Harold’s brothers and sisters the end October. We have been spending our fall “fixing” the water damage we incurred in September. I don’t think Harold planned on us doing as much as we did but you never know with a woman… Harold says “repair turned into remodel”. Our Thanksgiving only had our youngest daughter and her family, and our oldest daughter, her son and my dad, a total of 16. Christmas Eve we spent at Manley’s Chapel with Harold doing his annual Christmas Eve service which he has been doing for at least 6 years and really enjoys. Christmas day we had 24 of our family attending church with us. 16 were unable to be here and we really missed them, but the house was full. God is so good. We are out in the woods again with God and I am discussing His placement of trees, the tractor operation and how cold it is! It is cold at times, but since our youngest daughter has been diagnosed with stage 4 Lyme disease, I think “ticks, cold, ticks, cold”, I’ll go with cold. “No ticks, please.”

H.B. and Rosie Fields (Paris, TN) - are still working on their home. H.B. says he keeps adjusting their finish date from fall to Christmas time and now he’s hoping spring, but they are not really on any timetable. He said his cows still wanted food and water in this cold weather so he has to be out as well. They enjoyed the holidays and the law wasn’t called out so all was good! The Church is still doing well.

Zada Russ (Madison, TN) - has moved to: Maybelle Carter Residential Living Center, 208 W. Due West Ave. Apt. 536, Madison, TN 37115. She loves receiving cards and letters and really enjoys living there. She is a little under the weather, but expects to start doing better. She went to her daughter’s home in Donelson, TN for Thanksgiving and was able to see her granddaughters and great grandchildren. She went to Truman Ark. December 10th - December 20th and was able to see one of her great granddaughters in a play and 3 other great grandchildren in a Christmas Musical program. Zada is still making mats for the homeless using plastic bags. She working on her 5th mat. She wishes all the readers a happy and blessed New Year!

Ozella Sykes (Puryear, TN) - says that at 100 she not as active as she used to be. She said she has her favorite recliner and sits in it quite a bit. Vida is good about coming and cutting her hair. Her family checks on her frequently. She says she is quite content. She goes to the lunch room and eats with the other residents and eats quite well.

Joe and Bernice Walker (Springville, TN) - are doing well. Joe has been having some discomfort so in November his heart doctor put a stint in and he is doing much better with Bernice’s tender loving care. (I did that for you Joe) Joe and Bernice stayed in Thanksgiving and Christmas hosting Joe, Jr. and family. They are trying to stay warm. When the weather gets better they look forward to doing some walking.

I was unable to reach Rick and Mary Jane King for several quarters. Rick and Mary Jane, when you receive your copy of the News ‘N’ Views, please give me a call. I would love to catch up on your news.

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it!
Bill and Marcia Tate (Jackson, TN) - We had a good fall season with activities surrounding our church’s Pumpkin Patch. We raised and sold pumpkins to help fund out Family Life Center. It was hard work but lots of fun. We both attended our 50th High School reunions in October. We celebrated Thanksgiving with family. In December we went to Louisville to celebrate Marcia’s brother’s 60th birthday. (He developed PICS disease several years ago causing him to have to leave his job) We try to celebrate the time we have with him. Christmas was good, celebrating with family and the grandchildren. Bill has been still having a lot of pain with his back and is thinking he will have a block in January. Bill served as the Spiritual Director for the Boys Chrysalis Flight. What first looked like not enough boys to make a flight turned into a weekend filled with boys and blessings. Amazing how God works!

I do believe that my calling group runs the other way when I call (I am getting a complex!) Only George and Nell Reed answered my call (Thank you George!). They shared their beautiful Christmas picture with us. I was not able to make contact with Jerry and Ann Jeffords, Jerry Wilson, Dick and Loretta Haley, Charles Stewart, or Stan Waldon. Please know that you are in my thoughts. You are always welcomed to call the editor directly with your news (731-431-0165)

David and Deborah Morris (Humboldt, TN) - We are doing well. David is so glad it is a little warmer today. He definitely does not like the cold. He is working on a book right now, which he hopes to finish during the month of January - we will see. We continue to muddle along like most other people we know.

Thomas and Betty Yoder (Cotter, AR) - Betty has the perfect phrase, which is so applicable to all of us - "We can't do as much as we use to." I enjoyed talking to her as she seems to have such a bubbly personality. The year 2016 was a difficult year. She was diagnosed with breast cancer. However, the good news is that she is now CANCER FREE, and seems to be doing fine. The Yoder’s have done more remodeling work on their home, which happens to be her childhood home - a work of love I’m sure. The afternoon I talked with her, it was 70 degrees outside - a far cry from last week-end.

Loletta Bratt (Covington, TN) - The morning I talked with Miss Loletta, we were debating on the weather to come. She is not fond of the snow and cold. (We know how that turned out.) Mostly, Miss Loletta stays at home. Her son lives with her, and as she says, "I couldn't make it without him." As she doesn't drive any more, she is dependent on her son to take her to the grocery, or wherever she needs to go. She was glad to report that she had not been in the hospital or seriously ill this past year. (Aren't we always glad to hear that?)
Willie Mae Campbell (Troy, MO) - Miss Willie Mae, who has Parkinson's disease, says that she has her good days and bad days. She is now doing some therapy at home hoping to be able to get in and out of bed easier. Living with her daughter helps a lot. The two of them do a lot of quilting for grandchildren and great grandchildren - something they both enjoy. Miss Willie Mae did get to Memphis during Christmas, and enjoyed herself. She says Memphis has certainly changed!

Attempts were made to contact Patricia Clendenen and Robert and Glenda Clark,

Reporter Bobbie Clarke

John & Bobbie Clark (Jackson, TN) – As for the Clarke’s we were especially blessed on Christmas Day with our family and friends at Forest Heights. After worship services we gathered at our son’s home for brunch with the grandchildren: Adam, Andrew, and Olivia. Later in the day we moved to my home where I fixed the traditional Christmas dinner m-m-m- good! John is wearing a new boot (singular). He has a couple of broken bones in his foot and is now sporting a beautiful orthopedic boot. After a few days to regain balance he is walking well. We have a little 18 mth old boy in church that loves to walk with John. They make the cutest picture – John walking with his boot and cane and little Chip walking next to him holding on to John’s cane!

Larry & Gwen Tubbs (Cordova, TN) – The Tubbs are currently hosting a student from Italy and are enjoying hearing stories about her home. Christmas time was filled with laughter as all their children and grandchildren arrived. Larry and Gwen are trying their hand at running a farm. They now have a total of six chickens. (Reporter’s note: if you are thinking about opening your own chicken farm you might want to give the Tubb’s a call. They can tell you a story or two!)

Mary Ann Sturdivant (Cordova, TN) - This Christmas Mary Ann was blessed with visitors from 3 different states – Texas, Florida, and Tennessee. They enjoyed a time of fellowship together. Mary Ann sings in the choir at Christ Church. The choir still goes out caroling which was a high point of her holidays. Mary Ann’s husband, John Sturdivant, was a M.Y.F. buddy with my husband, John Clark, when they were in high school.

I was unable to reach Jim Stubbs and Merle & Gene Thomas. I send my greetings to each of you. Please feel free to contact our Editor directly with your news (731-431-0165).

Reporter Jenna Garland

Yours truly (Jenna Garland) had a good Christmas with all the family. After Christmas I got to see my new great-great nephew from South Korea. He is two and such a sweet little fellow. We have had three new additions since last year and another on the way in February. I will have a total of four great-great – two boys and two girls. I guess you can tell that family means the world to me since I wasn’t fortunate to have children of my own. I am giving piano lessons to two of my cousin’s grandchildren. I just love children and they know it. I get lots of hugs. I had the UMW women here at my house for pot luck supper on the 15th. I believe there were 16 present. Christmas Eve services and our annual UMF gathering at my house are my two favorite times at Christmas. I am so thankful to be able to keep going and doing. I play the piano for a Bible study at the Wesley Village in Murray and my sister, cousin and I sing at Spring Creek Nursing Home. I just give God the Praise for giving me the strength to do what I do. For all the sick, you are in my prayers.
Nell Dotson (Kirksey, KY) spent seven days in the hospital but is doing good now. She is not able to attend church as regularly as before but when she does, it is special. She enjoyed Christmas, having the family with her and sharing each other’s experiences.

Fay Garrett (Myrray, KY) has had a filter put in to keep blood clots from her lungs and her legs (Isn’t it wonderful what modern medicine can do now!!!). She had a big Christmas with all the family.

I was unable to reach Sue and Robert McKinney. I know they were sick during Christmas and had to postpone their family get-together and called off church on Christmas day. I believe they are better now. I also did not hear back from Dan & Aileen Leslie and Bob & Doris Saywell. Hope they are all well. There has been a lot of sickness this winter.

**Reporter Glenn Hill**

Glenn and Georgia Hill (Murray, KY) - Like some of my charges for whom I solicit information for the News ‘N Views, I have little to report except for a few holiday gatherings, food and fellowship. In November, our Hill gathering was held at Martin’s Chapel where most of the Hill clan was able to visit, share, and eat during a great time together. We missed several who usually were able to attend. Our family increased with the birth of our third great-grandchild, a daughter born to Stephen and Sara Hill on October 26. Our fourth great-grandchild (a boy) is due around the first week of April. In ministry this quarter, I continue to serve as Church Treasurer and a few more things and I like what one author said; “no one should have more than one office in the church.” I officiated one funeral in December for a friend who belonged to South Pleasant Grove. On Christmas Eve, Georgia and I went to Marietta, GA and spent a couple of days with our daughter, Melissa Cearfoss and family. On New Year’s Day, I was privileged to be able to preach again at South Pleasant Grove, as their Pastor Robert Baker was away for the weekend officiating the wedding of his daughter. I am still working and am thankful for health that allows us to do most everything we want to do. At home, we are having some needed work done on the house and Georgia is very involved with that and I go to the office to sell buildings and carports. It is a new year and every day is an opportunity we have to help make ours and others’ days more complete. May God be with all of you?

Paul and Carolyn Clayton (Jackson, TN) - I talked with Carolyn and she asked Paul to send me a note. He said they had nothing of special interest to report to the retiree community. However, he did say that they were able to celebrate Thanksgiving with their daughter, Amy Goodson and her husband Brad and family in Sapphire, NC.

Steve and Christie Callicoatt (Jackson, TN) - Steve and I had a short conversation and I was able to understand that he and Christie were in good health and were still enjoying serving his appointment.

Mary Jane Johnson (Martin, TN) - I attempted a call to Mary Jane and the automated operator told me the number was disconnected and/or not in service.

Glen and Mary Scott (Tiptonville, TN) - I visited by phone with Glen who told me they were doing fine and that things were going well with them at East Dyersburg. He also told me they were looking forward to a nice dinner on Fifth Sunday at their church. He agreed with me that when United Methodists eat at church, it is always a nice meal.
Richard and Viola Denten (Brownsville, TN) - Richard told me that he and Viola have both had “the crud” and have been “kinda sick.” There is a lot of that going around these parts. We pray they and others will get over these virus bouts real soon.

Reporter Deb Webb

Hello from the Webbs! 2016 went out in a whirlwind of activity for our clan. October saw us flying to Ogden, Utah to marry off our oldest grandchild Corey. This was my first time flying and I am now convinced it is the “supreme” mode of travel. In November we welcomed our 14th grandchild--Leah Hope. Thanksgiving saw us gathered at home in Murray with 11 out of the 14 grands! Christmas was a flurry of activity...worshipping and celebrating with our church families and enjoying watching the excitement and fascination as little ones ripped open carefully wrapped packages. The count down to welcoming 2017 brought much reflection about the ups and downs, tears and smiles that 2016 held for the Webb clan. The only possible conclusion...GOD is so very good and I am dancing into 2017 knowing that in whatever circumstance I find myself...GOD is dancing with me.

Reporter Joe Moseley

Carol and I send blessed greetings as we enter into 2017. I’m overjoyed to report that Carol is cancer free and recovering remarkably well. She has regained most of the lost weight and her overall demeanor is back to her same joyful self. We both have said 2015 & 16 we’re rough for us but things appear to be looking great for the new year. Thanks from both of us for all your prayers and other acts of kindness. Thanksgiving and Christmas were great times for us. Both our daughters and their families (9 in all) joined us for holiday dinners; my brother from North Carolina, his wife and one of his two daughters also joined us for Thanksgiving (14 that day). It’s been a while since we all got together under one roof. It was really a day of Thanksgiving and Christmas has never been merrier. Lifelong friends of Carol from Houston and The Villages in Florida (pictured) took time to visit Carol (and me) recently; another blessing just when we needed it. I’ve said many times, “Friendship divides our grief and doubles our joy.” In the New Year Carol and I are looking forward to reporting about our travels in future New ‘n Views reports. In the meantime, may you and yours be healthy, wealthy, and wise this year, or at the very least 2 out of 3. In Christian love, Joe

Wayne and Wayne Fesmire (Jackson, TN) - report a good Christmas Season with all their family coming home from seven states. The center of attention was the first great granddaughter’s presence. (Ed note: Has anyone been counting the great greatbabies that have been announced?... I do believe the girls have it)

Bill and Patty Franklin (Covington, TN) - All five of our children live in five different states and we try to get together once a year. We now have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and all are doing great. Sam, our downs syndrome son is 36 now and of course he lives at home with Patty and me. We attend church at Covington First UMC where I teach an older Sunday school class. I enjoy my time with this group. Patty and I are both doing well. Like most older folks, we spend a lot of time going back and forth to Memphis to the doctor. Things could be a lot worse, so we have been very blessed. I spend a lot of time trying to take care of our little 25 acre farm and keeping the grass at the Developmental Center where Sam attends cut. Between the Center and my home, I cut five acres each week during mowing season.
Memphis and Tennessee Conferences
March 31-April 2, 2017
Beersheba Springs Assembly
Beersheba Springs, TN

For more info contact: Pat Marston at tnministermates@yahoo.com

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