

The Old Apple Tree



*East Ohio Conference Retirees Association
Fall 2023*

2023 Retiree Gathering and Annual Meeting



The 2023 Retiree Gathering Luncheon and Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5, at Ashland University. This is a time to recognize the 2023 Class of Retirees, honor those who have gone on to their heavenly retirement, and to fellowship with one another. Entertainment will be provided by “Old Enough to Know Better.” Plan to join us at this annual gathering. You should have received by mail a reservation form for this Annual Gathering. If you did not receive a reservation form please contact Paul White (paulw2800@gmail.com or 330-478-1319) for more information and how to make your reservation. Reservations are due by September 15. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The meal will consist of Stuffed Pork Chop, Parmesan Crusted Green Beans, California Vegetable Medley, House Salad, assorted Dinner Rolls, assorted Pie, Coffee; Hot & Iced Tea; Water. Alternative Menus: Diabetic, Vegetarian, & Gluten-Free. We hope you will plan to join us on this day. Doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m. with the program and business meeting to follow. The Gathering will be held in the John C. Myers Convocation Center on the Ashland University campus located at 638 Jefferson Street (using Parking Lot E). Directions and parking instructions will be sent upon receipt of your reservation.

Changes Coming

At the 2023 East Ohio Annual Conference it was approved to move to four district regions beginning January 1, 2024. This will necessitate changes in the make-up of our Retiree Association Board of Directors since we have had representatives from all ten present districts. The present Board of Directors is having a discussion on the possible restructuring of our Board and will make a report at our Annual Meeting on October 5. If you have thoughts or suggestions you would like to submit you may send them to Paul White (paulw2800@gmail.com). Our next Board meeting is September will be September 7.

Connections

We tell each other our hobbies, new ventures, and many ways of serving Christ within and beyond “appointment” ministries. We may be retired, but we are still alive in Christ and active in the church and in the world. We also ask for prayer in the challenges of elder years.

Firelands Cluster

By Clark & Pat Hogue
Cphogue69@aol.com

Marta & DeLoe Mathatas claim this season whirled by. DeLoe has made a solid recovery from his esophagectomy in early March. It has been a hard slog, but he is back to racking up the miles on

his bike and enjoying being down 35 lbs. Marta thought she had a cold until the crippling headache hit and she thought to test for COVID. She finished the protocol and is back to her favorite hobbies - reading, grandkids, Hospice volunteering and time with friends and clergy sisters.

Three Rivers Cluster

By Martha Stuller
m1stuller@gmail.com

Ruth Ann Wilson sent a message that her husband,

Dick, passed away in April after an extended illness.

Alice Hoover has had several calls this summer for her portrayals of historic and Biblical women. Earlier in May she teamed up with Pastor Peter Wolfgang for a celebration of Aldersgate Night at the Conesville UMC. Peter shared thoughts and meanings Martin Luther’s preface to the book of Romans which had inspired John Wesley’s “heart-warming” experience. Alice portrayed Susanna Wesley.

Rev. Gary Campbell took a fall in early August in his home which caused a fractured skull and some bleeding. After a stay in Riverside Hospital, he is recovering at home.

The Three Rivers group has not met during the summer, but plans are being made for a lunch fellowship in September.

Mahoning Valley Cluster

By Ken Kubichek
kubikasa@live.com

On May 24 **Dick Smith, Ken Kubichek, David Hill, George and Trudy Lee** had a lively conversation about United Methodist congregations they knew that were going to disaffiliate and two churches on the district that have been recently discontinued. It was noted that a webinar about the proposal to go from ten to four districts is available on the conference website. A list of clergy who plan to retire was passed around; the list had close to 40 names on it. Substantial changes will happen as a result of the upcoming Annual Conference.

Six clergy and spouses gathered for breakfast on July 26. A list of the East Ohio churches that have disaffiliated from the conference and a list of pastors who have disaffiliated were

passed around. **George Lee** recalled how things were when he came to the conference and how very different they are now. **Dick Smith** started pastoring New Hope U.M.C. in Niles on July 1. **Curtis Miller** will start being an interim pastor at Cortland Christian Church on August 1; this independent church is one he served before. **Trudie Lee, Carol Miller and Ken Kubichek** also participated in the fun-filled conversations.



"Shock therapy went out long ago. Now we just show patients the bill."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Mid-Ohio Cluster
By David Mansperger
demansperger@yahoo.com

Steve & Elsa Court are enjoying grandchildren and

family gatherings. With Bishop Malone's consent, Steve is serving temporarily at the First United Church of Christ in Galion. Sadly, his brother died unexpectedly. Elsa and Steve have especially enjoyed connecting with clergy friends and family this summer.

Andy & Gail Angel are living full-time at Candlewood Lake where they bought a home after Andy's dad had a stroke in 1997 and they needed to manage his farm between Delaware and Sunbury. So, for the first time in 25 years, they have one home to care for now.

David Mansperger's leadership role with Troop 61 from Asbury UMC, Delaware at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in northern Carroll County ended abruptly on the fourth day, June 14. He lost his balance on the dam rocks while fishing at the reservation's recreational lake. In addition to getting wet and not catching the fish, he broke the humerus (i.e., not humorous, pun intended) in his right arm (his dominant side). The physician at Cleveland Clinic's Urgent Care in Carrollton sent him home that evening to see an orthopedic surgeon as soon as possible. Fortunately for David, the bone remained properly aligned for the next two weeks so surgery was not required.

Six weeks later he shed the sling and began physical therapy. The road to full recovery looks clear. Perhaps, however, at his age he should reconsider trying to keep up with 11- to 14-year-old youth at summer camp. The broken arm is not keeping him from other activities scheduled for the summer: several preaching assignments, parsonage inspections, and presiding at a family reunion in Cooper's Rock State Forest, West Virginia, and a visit to his nephew, Scott Howell, in Sardis to return an acrylic painting by Scott's mother, Ruth, in the early 1970's. The picture was a Christmas gift to Ruth's sister Mary and brother-in-law Art in 1972(?). David remembers having coffee and conversation with Ruth and Ray in their kitchen while Ruth was painting the vase of flowers. Art passed in 1975. Mary and David married in 1983 and the picture was passed to him upon Mary's death in 2004. He in turn passed it back to Ruth's family while down-sizing after Beth's death in January. A summer like this seems to prove the old Timex jingle, "it/[he] can take a lickin' and still keep tickin'."

Beverly Rose has enjoyed several trips this spring with relatives. She, her brother from Deersville, and a sister from Indiana were able to visit their sister and brother-in-law in North Carolina, thanks to

the planning of their niece from Michigan who made the trip possible. She has also got to attend indoor and outdoor track meets and a spring play in which her grandchildren from Grandville participate. In June, she spent an annual week of reunion at Lakeside. This was her 67th year of doing so. Lots of wonderful memories.

The Mid-Ohio District retiree fellowship is very happy to welcome several retired pastors from the Ohio West Conference who now reside within this district.

Tuscarawas Cluster
By Mel Lindberg
lindbergmw1@sbcglobal.net

Judy Baily writes that her husband of 57 years, **Earl H. Bailey**, after long dementia, passed peacefully in Hospice Compassionate Care. We had him in home hospice until Friday May 26. He passed Saturday, May 27, with family nearby. We are praising God for his homecoming and the many friends and family whom he influenced for the Lord Jesus Christ through the years. A private graveside service was held Thursday, June 1, and Celebration of Life service at Mt Zion Community Church, Canton South, June 4. So many tributes from so many people. But the one most precious to me is from our

middle son who wrote on his Facebook page in part “He was the same on Friday night helping coach the high school football team as he was on Sunday morning from the pulpit...” What a legacy to leave our children

Mel Lindberg writes I turned 91 on March 8 and **Louise** is younger than me and we're doing fairly well, in spite of my A-Fib, etc. I have not left UMC. There are still some excellent benefits to staying (health care). I have 38 years of service as a pastor. Pension goes with us, health care does not. Our church, Grace UMC in North Canton is also remaining with the denomination even though their pastor is leaving for another profession as a lawyer. Lorrin Radzik was appointed as our pastor, July 1.

Other News
paulw2800@gmail.com

Glenn Hamilton reports his father, 92, passed away on April 9, Easter Sunday, of dementia and failure to thrive. He was in hospice care for about six weeks. He went into the hospital on December 26 with Covid. From there he went to rehab for about 10 days and then went home on February 1. That required me to stay with my parents almost 24/7. At first, he received physical therapy at home. It

was discontinued as he was not making progress. A celebration of life for him was held on Saturday, April 29 at his church in Turlock, California. We will be burying his cremains on April 19. Since his passing, I have been able to return home and resume my usual activities, such as playing drums for worship at Anchored Bible Church in Modesto. I'm very happy in my rented home.



Our Association and the conference office have lost contact information for the following clergy and surviving spouses. If you have contact information for any of these people or know that they have passed to their eternal reward and the conference was not notified please send such information to Paul White (paulw2800@gmail.com).

- Robert Arnold
- Marcia Ball
- Sam Black
- William Carter
- Richard Ferrell
- Richard Harper
- Dennis Hartman
- J. Dennis Henkle
- Duane Hetzer

Aubrey Huffman
 Donald Jewell
 Shirley Lewis
 Glenn Lockard
 Wilbur Meiser
 Howard Mumma
 Joseph Neale
 William O'Dell
 David Porter
 Charles Whetstone
 James Wilson
 Beatrice Cote
 Hazel Eberly
 Elizabeth Felix
 Dorothy Frame
 Eva Grover
 Cheryl Hildebrand
 Janet Kalas
 Mary McKenzie
 Martha Mullett
 Jean Poole
 Bea Thompson
 Sue Wade
 Joyce Walton
 Rosa Wynn

**God's Kids Say & Do
 the Funniest Things**

Risa Samra of Saginaw, MI, a retired teacher herself, passed along some questions and students' answers that drive teachers bonkers and into early retirement:

Question: "What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?"

Answer: "Unusual names."

Question: "What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?"

Answer: "He was a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles."

Question: "What is a nitrate?"

Answer: "Much cheaper than a day rate."

Question: "Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld."

Answer: "Mrs. Orpheus."

Question: "What is the meaning of the word 'varicose'?"

Answer: "Close by."

Question: "What is a fibula?"

Answer: "A little lie."

Question: "Explain the phrase 'free press'."

Answer: "When your mom irons trousers for you."

Question: "Where was Hadrian's Wall built?"

Answer: "Around Adrian's garden."

Question: "The race of people known as Malays come from which country?"

Answer: "Malaria."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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The deadline for submitting materials to be included in the 2024 Winter Issue of TOAT is December 15, 2023. Submit materials to your cluster correspondent or to paulw2800@gmail.com

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 from the East Ohio
 Conference Retirees
 Association**

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Please keep in prayer the families of the following retirees who have entered the church triumphant since our last reporting May 1, 2023:

Virginia Schreckengost, *surviving spouse of the Rev. George Schreckengost*, died May 12.

Carlton Young, *retired Elder*, died May 21.

Mike Corwin, *Local Pastor*, died May 24.

Earl H. Bailey, Jr., *retired Elder*, died May 27.

Dorrine R. Burkhead, *surviving spouse of the Rev. Merriel Burkhead*, died June 12.

Bige L. Combs, *retired Associate Member*, died June 25.

Ezzie Milliner, *spouse of Rev. Dr. Rosa Clements-Milliner*, died July 4.

Alfred J. Hubler, *retired Elder*, died July 31.

Ruth Partridge, *surviving spouse of the Rev. Stanley Partridge*, died August 7.

Rosa Clements-Milliner, *retired Elder*, died August 18.

(Please note that a family member should contact the bishop's office at time of a death. Send notices to Melissa McGee at mmcgee@eocumc.com.)