

The Old Apple Tree



*East Ohio Conference Retirees Association
Spring 2022*



*Dear Retired Clergy of the East Ohio Conference,
I would like to express my deep appreciation for your prayers, support and leadership of clergy and churches especially in these times of challenge and uncertainty. I am also thankful for retired clergy who are currently providing leadership in local churches, serving as mentors to pastors, and serving in leadership throughout the Conference. Your ministry continues to make a difference! I ask for your continued prayers as we prepare for the 53rd session of Annual Conference, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Together with you, we remain focused on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and we strive to live into our vision of being disciples, making disciples and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ; being Gods' agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world; and being bold and courageous leaders in reaching new people, younger people, and a more diverse people.*

*Your Partner in Ministry,
Bishop Tracy S. Malone*

RETIREES SUPPORT TEACH-REACH-BLESS CAMPAIGN



The Teach-Reach-Bless Campaign goal of \$1.5M was reached on December 31. Groundbreaking for the new female residence hall at Africa University took place on April 12. I want to extend another word of thanks to all my retired colleagues and spouses who made a gift to the Campaign. Your support enabled us to meet the goal. THANK YOU!

Bill McFadden



The 2022 Retiree Gathering Luncheon and Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6, at Ashland University. Please save this date and look forward to further information that will be mailed in August.

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.

Mahoning Valley Cluster

By Ken Kubichek
kubikasa@live.com

As the number of cases of COVID came down, the Mahoning Valley retirees met for breakfast on February 23 in Austintown. **Dick Smith**, who retired in 2021, was able to be with us for the first time. He shared how the Brookfield UMC started a food give-away during 2020, offering food three times a week. Now the give-away is twice a month, but still over 100 families come each time. He told how the sewer at the church backed up a day on which a spaghetti dinner fund raiser was to be prepared, but they were able to hold the event at the fire station instead. It was refreshing to hear how one church was doing a good job of responding to the pandemic. Dick has pastored Brookfield UMC now for eight years. He surprised us all by paying for breakfast for the whole group.

George Lee was recovering from COVID.

Among those mentioned who had passed away were Allen Rose and Frank Brainard.

Sign outside St. John's Episcopal Church, Ingsville, MD:
"Where do bad rainbows go?
Prism. It's a long sentence."
— via Lorene Irving Lutherville
Timonium, MD

Firelands Cluster

By Clark & Pat Hogue
Cphogue69@aol.com

Clarke & Pat Hogue report April 24 is exactly 150 years since Henrietta UMC was founded, so we will be participating in the big historic event that retiring District Superintendent Doug Lewis will be attending. Clarke & Pat will both sing with the choir and as the Firelands representative to Conference Archives & History Commission, Pat will present an

official certificate to Pastor Joyce Hoile on behalf of United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio.

Mid-Ohio Cluster

By David Mansperger
demansperger@yahoo.com

Sue & Roger Antolik, are taking retirement on the road: In 2021 we purchased a 30' Rockwood camper. This is our new home away from home. It has been fun traveling to Florida and Georgia to visit family and Sue's college roommate. This February we headed south again to visit Louisiana. Both of us look forward to seeing New Orleans but only after Mardi Gras. Memphis and Nashville are on the stops as is dinner with two of Roger's coaching clients. October's travel is set for a trip to Arizona and surrounding states. Our goal is to enjoy our son, daughter in law, and most of all grandson Colton during his school fall vacation. Summertime might find us heading up north to

enjoy cooler weather. When not traveling, Sue continues to fill the pulpit where needed. Her new found joy is to be a monthly host for her church's Facebook online service. In 2022 she has 3 weddings on her agenda. She has also taken up the hobby of quilting and managing the amount of material purchased. It seems each trip we go on we find a quilt shop that needs investigating.

Don & Linda Heilen report Brrrr, it's cold outside. We have been staying in. Keeping busy with housework and putting 1,000-piece puzzles together. We are attending Wesley's Class meeting weekly at the church.

David & Beth Mansperger Made a couple of trips to east coast and then south this past year. In June we were guests for the Ordination of Beth's brother-in-law Jeff Johnson as a Deacon in the Roman Church. The service was held in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the Campus of American Catholic University in Washington DC. Jeff has been assigned Deacon at St. Mary Church, Bryantown MD by the Bishop of the Washington Diocese. Then in December we drove to Mt Pleasant, SC for a nephew's wedding. We used this occasion to do a little sight-seeing in the area and then

down into Florida. While in Florida we visited with former parishioners from Center UMC and Marion Salem UMC before returning home for Christmas with family in Westerville.

Humor for the Hard Times

A pastor was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation for more money to repair the roof of the church building. Because the regular organist was sick, a substitute had been brought in at the last minute for the Sunday service. The substitute organist wanted to know what to play. "After I make the announcement about the church finances, you'll have to think of something to play," the pastor replied. During the service, the pastor announced: "We are in great difficulty. The roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star-Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute organist became the regular organist.

via Mrs. Donna Benson Albuquerque, NM
From The Joyful Noiseletter

North Coast Cluster

By Linda McCowen

lsmccowen@gmail.com

Bob & Carolyn Remington share that they built a carriage home in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. This is just ten minutes from our youngest daughter's family in Hampton Township and has already provided the family feel we wanted to experience. This is the third time we have built and the hardest. Part of that was the shortage of building items like hardwood flooring. Otherwise, it was just plain old age. When we built before we were younger and more pliable. So, we work in the house on rainy days and do family things when the sun shines. As you may know we worked in the church for 28 years and then raised money for another thirty. Carolyn and I hold you all in high respect for the years spent in the vineyard wherever that was and wish you blessings in your retirement years. Our new address is 941 Copper Creek Trail, Gibsonia, PA 15044.

Gary & Peggy Streiff went to Ireland in October with Bishop John Hopkins as our speaker and his wife, Elaine, all part of a group of 18. Educational Opportunities has fine-tuned this "Wesley in Ireland" tour and it was a wonderful experience of the highlights of

Ireland and Northern Ireland. Jim Skinner was also on board and made connections for us with Rev. Harold Good who was part of the negotiations in the 90's during "The Troubles". We recommend the movie, "Belfast", not a feel-good movie, but a look at those times. We also visited the church home of Barbara Heck and Philip Embury who brought Methodism from Ireland to America.

On the home front, our son, Peter and Kelly had a baby, Amos Grier, on October 7th. They recently sold their home in Atlanta and moved near his in-laws in Rome, GA. Our daughter, Beth Wilterdink, lead pastor of Mayfield United Methodist Church, and her husband, Jon, had a baby, Cora Elizabeth, who was born on November 9th. We are blessed to have Cora 3 days a week!

Spring break, the Streiffs of Chardon and Wilterdinks joined us at a resort in South Lee, MA where we were also joined by daughter, Gretchen, and Dan and Ben LaBonte.

We wish each of you a meaningful Resurrection Sunday! We look forward to Annual Conference and seeing those of you who are able to be present!

Linda McCowen reports she is retiring as the North Coast

Correspondent for TOAT. If you are interested in taking these responsibilities please contact Paul White at paulw2800@gmail.com.

Three Rivers Cluster

By Martha Stuller
mlstuller@gmail.com

Bob & Gail Alexander write That Bob is no longer an associate at Gay St. UMC and is serving South Vernon UMC. Gail recently had heart surgery for a second stent.

We are saddened by the news that **John & Helen Capper** are not doing well. They are missed from our fellowship as well as **Jim & Bonnie Magaw** who are no longer able to attend.

Dale & Becky Sutton are enjoying their retirement. They are living at Apple Valley. Dale recently filled in at the South Vernon church for a month.

We are always glad to see **Bill McCartney** at our Three Rivers gathering as well as **David & Beth Mansperger**, also, residents of the Delaware retirement community who attend when they can. At the end of June Bill will step down as President of the Residents Association having been president for more than 4 years of the 16 years this community has existed. At our last

retirees lunch Bill sang to **Alice Hoover** a special Happy Birthday song that is a tradition from **Judy's** family:

"A birthday greeting to you dear.

May you be happy all the year.

If you are good and brave and true,

The Father's love will smile on you.

And he will be so glad to see you

Growing up his child to be.

A Birthday greeting to you dear,

May you be happy all the year!

Tom & Donna Orr were able to join us in March, coming from Ashtabula. It was so good to see them again! They said it was well worth the trip. They are looking forward to their youngest grandson, Andrew, graduating from high school in May, and their granddaughter, Maggie, graduating in May from Western New Mexico University. Health issues will preclude Tom and Donna venturing to Arizona to join the celebrations.

Dick & Alice Hoover are looking forward to spring and doing gardening. Alice's latest portrayal of historic women is Lucy Webb Hayes, a Methodist woman, First Lady from Ohio, and an advocate for African Americans both before and

after the Civil War, who invited the first African American musician to ever appear in the White House.

Gary & Joy Campbell made a road trip earlier this winter to St. Augustine, FL, spending two weeks in that oldest American city. A highlight was wearing 3D glasses at an after-dark viewing of millions of holiday lights. During breakfast at their stay at the Southern Oaks Inn, they discovered that their young black man server was an artist who had dropped out of college to support his family. Gary and Joy purchased art materials for him which he used that evening. They pray that they might have helped a budding artist to return to his first love ! On their way back home they visited family, including grandson, a US Army sharpshooter, in Phoenix City, AL.

Dairel & Cindy Kaiser have been and still are at Conesville /New Moscow UMC, sharing duties with Carl Schafer until the churches receive their new appointment.

Bob & Ardyth Stull are serving half time at Amity UMC. Ardyth teaches at Mansfield Christian School. They recently shared in a wonderful school trip to see “David” at Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA, as well as visiting Washington DC .

Paul & Dolores Gerycz who planted a “dead” little seedling instead of discarding it a few years ago, wondering if by chance it might survive, report that it now has grown to the top of their bedroom window. Now they don’t have to check their blinds from the traffic outside, as the bush shields the window from view. An example of a resurrection during this Easter season.

Monday Morning after the Hallelujahs

On Friday we watched
helplessly
and wept with mother Mary;
Saturday was silent, dark,
without hope.

Easter came with its
Hallelujahs;
Angels and those in choir
robes
sang Handel’s magnificent
music,
And life came back to us.

On this day after the
Hallelujahs,
as it always is, there are
things to do and people to see,
but our eyes see differently—
if only a little.
We live now in the
echoes of Hallelujahs
that live in us.

James E. Magaw, Sr.
4.18.2022, (permission to share granted)

Tuscarawas Cluster

By Mel Lindberg

lindbergmwl@sbcglobal.net

Mel Lindberg just passed a milestone – 90 years on March 8 and still going strong (well, almost). Where did all those years go? He had lower eyelid and tear duct surgery in March, checking now on possible sleep apnea. He and Louise are active in North Canton Grace UMC, and like attending Zion Lutheran for mid-week services.

Robert Morrison, organist for decades at the former Canton Church of the Savior, now retired, is the new organist at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Canton.

John & Peggy Mather celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in March.

Diane Tucker says she is still trying to cope since Ray passed away, a couple of years ago. She works 3 – 4 afternoons a week at St. Luke’s Living Center in North Canton. She attends Simpson UMC where she has for many years. Call Diane at 330-309-6698.

Maynard French fell on Christmas. He was not seriously hurt, but badly bruised. He is not able to walk without a walker now. That is his only health problem at

94! He is also sad about losing his friends. His wife died in 2017 and his son, Jonathan, has been living with him. Cards of encouragement are welcome and can be sent to: Rev. Maynard French, 1620 44th NW, Canton OH 44709 or email mayfren@aol.com.

Richard & Evelyn Ferrell are living at the Regency in Canton. Richard recently declined in health and had foot sores. He is in a nursing home in Massillon and not doing well. Louise and Mel Lindberg visited with Evelyn at the Regency.



"Your poll numbers are very high, Senator. You're fooling 45% of the people 55% of the time."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
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Reprinted with permission

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
SMILE!**

Copeland Oaks
By Beth McGuire
revbeth.mcguire@gmail.com

Rev. Carol Topping, following a of couple falls resulting in fractures, surgeries and a long recovery at Crandall Medical Center, made the decision to move to Assisted Living (AL) here on campus. With the help of her family, she participated in the "downsize shuffle." She rangled some extra space for her art supplies by agreeing to teach some art classes to AL residents. She also hopes to teach a study of daily prayer with AL residents. Carol loves her new apartment and has discovered a new ministry. Carol verbalized her appreciation of all the cards, calls, good wishes and prayers she has received.

Rev. Mary Lu Warstler: Following the death of her husband, Rev. Rodney Warstler, she requested Rev. Beth McGuire officiate his funeral, which was followed by cremation. However, before we had time for the inurnment, Mary Lu was hospitalized with several underlying conditions. She was recently discharged to Crandall Medical Center where she is receiving physical therapy to gain her strength to return to her villa here on Copeland Oaks

campus. She covets all of your prayers.

Rev L. Mark George reports after I reached the age 91, my three adult children believed it was important for me to seriously consider moving near one of them. I will be moving on Monday, May 2nd to Brier Creek Senior Living Community located about 5 miles from the residence of my son, Bryan and his wife, Amy. This has been a rather difficult decision since I have enjoyed immensely my 9 years being a resident of Copeland Oaks where I have so many wonderful memories and friends as well as excellence staff at Copeland. My new address will be, 4020 Creek Parkway, apartment 203, Uniontown, Ohio 44685.

Shirley Sackett Shirley Sackett enjoyed celebrating her 90th birthday, April 2, with her family at Hartville Kitchen Restaurant. The joy continued all week, with several others coming to see her, take her out to lunch, etc. She is thankful for the many years she and her husband, Gene, served in the East Ohio Conference and the many dear friends they made along the way. She thanks our Lord for 90 years on Planet Earth, and for the wonderful people who share the journey with her.

Rev. Beth A. McGuire

Since last edition we enjoyed visits from my sons, Jeremy and Steven, over the holidays. We look forward to a visit from Dave's daughter and her husband, KayDee and Scotch, this June. The Omicron surge restricted activities again for three months until the beginning of March. During that time Dave experienced another bout with ITP that landed him in the hospital. He quickly recovered this time. Exercise classes have started up again on campus and a limited amount of small group activities. We continue to participate in weekly Senior Learning Network opportunities. This is a national program providing life-long learning events for older adults. Although we don't travel much these days, we participate in distance learning via video conferencing and interact live with presenters. Some of the recent programs included the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park, Andrew Johnson National Historic Site, Agate Fossil National Monument (Nebraska), Ford's Theater after the Assassination, Backyard Stargazing at the Treworgy Museum at Mystic Seaport and birding at Dunes National Park. We look forward to attending these programs. At home we continue to participate in Cornell Lab of

Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch (Nov.-Apr.) and the Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb.) where we count birds at our feeders. In addition, we participate in various birding organizations via zoom. Presenters detail birding trips to the Antarctic, the spring songs of amphibians, overview of various apps to use while out on the trails and why field guides keep changing. We are gearing up for the spring migration and watching the bluebird activities in our bluebird box.



After a father scolded his 8-year-old son for being so unruly, the boy packed some of his clothes and his piggy bank and announced: "I'm running away from home!" The father calmly asked, "And what will you do when you get hungry?" "Then I'll come home and eat," the child replied. "And what if you find yourself out of money?" the father asked. "I will come home and get some," the boy answered. "And what if your clothes get dirty?" the father asked. "Then I'll come home and let Mommy wash them," the boy replied. The father turned to the mother and exclaimed, "This

kid is not running away from home; he's going to college."
- via George Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

Canal Cluster
By Martha Baillis
kmbaillis@outlook.com

Stan & Carol Wallace have been concentrating on building physical strength. Stan has had 3 months of physical therapy and Carol has been walking and now has physical therapy for her knee. Stan is off his cane, so now he has graduated to having a Personal Trainer. Both have had their second vaccine boosters. They celebrated Stan's 82nd birthday at Red Lobster and their 50th wedding anniversary at Wasabi Restaurant. Carol is headed to New York City to visit their daughter and granddaughter in June.

Dennis & Debbie Rinehart are enjoying their 14th year since retirement in 2008 in Wooster. Their home, yard, 14 beds of raised garden and flowers provide great enjoyment and "getting outside" - especially through Covid [2020-2021]. Daily walks with their dog is really Jesus taking care of them working through "Milo" - who will not settle until he has his walk. Needless to say, he is taking them for their walks. In

December, they travelled to Kentucky just after Christmas (2021) to see Debbie's sister and family. It was the first "after Christmas visit" since December 2019. In January 2022, they began preparation for their home renovation project (beginning January 17). Just prior to the renovation, it was like "moving" out of the kitchen, dining room, and hallway. Dennis says, "downsizing is hard work and as AARP counsels: 'Baby-boomer, your kids don't want your STUFF!!' Good-Will, Mission-Thrift, and some garage sales, here we come ...loaded!" In December, Dennis was invited to attend the "Golden Graduation Ceremony" at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. The scheduled date is the same day as their 50th wedding anniversary. Dennis put the invitation aside momentarily until Debbie said that is a wonderful offer to celebrate 50 years since seminary graduation. They are both grateful for what God gave to them in a firm, biblical foundation of theology and doctrine which has proved true beyond measure across their years of ministry. Dennis' seminary experience brought them together on their first "blind date". Dennis has often remarked across the years: "Debbie was blind and I was fortunate!" God gifted them as soul mates. Therefore, they sent in their reservation, and

they are looking forward to being part of the annual Seminary Graduation Ceremony. Lastly, another new adventure awaits them. They will be joining their daughter's family: (Jen, Chad, Jackson, and Zoe) for a "first time ever" cruise in the Caribbean during the summer. Miracles still do happen! Debbie has agreed to get on a large boat (ship). Only grandkids can bring about such power to overcome previous challenges! He says every day is a gift from God and they give thanks to Jesus for His continued faithfulness, their families, friends, and His call into ministry.

Paul and Linda Beal report that they are well and grateful for technology during the pandemic by keeping up with family, friends, and the world. They are starting to get out more, but they remain careful and cautious. Paul attended worship April 3 at First UMC Cuyahoga Falls for the first time since the pandemic began. They look forward to spring and summer and, hopefully, seeing family and friends and getting back to a more normal life. They send best wishes and blessing to all.

Martha Baillis and her dog Missy went to Hilton Head Island in July of 2021 with her daughter, Ellen and her family. They picked her up in Ohio and brought her home again, so it was a very nice trip for

her, and they had a lovely rental house. They had beautiful walks on the beach and even went deep sea fishing one morning. Martha caught her first ever fish, but 5 inches was too small to keep. In the Fall she drove out to Ellen's in Illinois to see her grandson in a marching band show, but it got rained out. Jacob joined the cross-country team in the fall so she did get to get outside and watch him run in his second meet. Her kids were all at her home the week before Christmas for a family celebration but went home for Christmas. There are trips to Ellen's for Mother's day, a wedding shower in June since one of the twins is getting married and then for the wedding itself in July. Andrew, her son, started a new job in January as head of the 911 call center for our three-county area. He has been extremely busy getting up to speed, but it is something that he is enjoying. Her church jobs keep her busy. She works in the food pantry each month and is on three committees one of which she chairs. Missy has taught her something new in the last year or so that she has lived with her. After lunch, it's time for a walk, then you sit in a comfortable chair, put your feet up and take a nap. Martha never did that until she had the dog. Often Missy is right beside her on the chair or recliner. On cold winter after-

noons they kept each other warm.

Other News

paulw2800@gmail.com

Al & Phyl Herzog are the proud grandparents of fraternal twins, Thomasima and Anton, born August 25 and are now six months old and growing!!!

Happy Mother's Day!

'I see children as kites'

I see children as kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're both breathless... they crash... you add a longer tail... they hit the rooftop... you pluck them out of the spout. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly.

Finally, they are airborne, but they need more string and you keep letting it out. With each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with the joy because the kite becomes more distant, and somehow you know that it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that bound you together and soar

as it was meant to soar...free and alone.

Only then do you know that you did your job.

--- Erma Bombeck

From The Joyful Noiseletter



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Retiree Association has several needs for news correspondents and members of the Association Board.

We need a news correspondent for the Ohio Valley, North Coast, and Southern Hills areas of our conference. As a correspondent you would make contact with retirees and surviving spouses in your area for information for our newsletter that is printed three times a year. Most correspondents do this by email.

The Association Board consists of a member from each district of the conference. At present we need a representative from the Canal, Firelands, North Coast, Ohio Valley and Three Rivers Districts. The Board does not meet frequently and when it does meet it has been mostly by use of a conference telephone call.

Please give prayerful thought and consideration of how you might assist our Association in

any of these roles and email paulw2800@gmail.com if you are led to volunteer.

The deadline for submitting materials to be included in the 2022 Fall Issue of TOAT is August 15, 2022. Submit materials to your cluster correspondent or to paulw2800@gmail.com

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**Compiled by reporters
from the East Ohio
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Association**

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Return Service Requested

Please keep in prayer the families of the following retirees who have entered the church triumphant since our last reporting January 1, 2022:

Nellie Irene Clouston, *surviving spouse of the Rev. John A. Clouston*, died December 10, 2021.

Lyle Warren, *Local Pastor*, died December 21, 2021.

David E. Naus, *Local Pastor*, died December 24, 2021.

Delaine K. McGhee, *retired Elder*, died December 29, 2021.

Geoffrey B. Oswald, *retired Elder*, died January 7.

Steven L. Sullivan, *Elder*, died January 30.

Allen E. Rose, *retired Associate Member*, died February 3.

Mark H. Collier, *retired Elder*, died February 7.

H. Walter Willis, Jr., *retired Elder*, died February 9.

Myrl Gephart, Jr., *retired Elder*, died February 24.

Alice Richardson, *surviving spouse of Rev. Robert Richardson*, died March 1.

Mitchell Ladich, *retired Elder*, died March 3.

Rodney J. Warstler, *retired Elder*, died March 7.

Loretta Hardman, *surviving spouse of Rev. Rondal Hardman*, died March 9.

Ronald L. Huff, *retired Elder*, died March 9.

Helen L. Lewis, *retired Elder*, died April 7.

Charles Ready, *retired Elder*, died April 7.

Linda K. Alvey, *surviving spouse of the Rev. William Alvey*, died April 12.

(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.)