



# MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

· A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 ·

PO Box 307  
Monteagle, TN  
931-924-2286

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## Visionaries of the Past and Future

Long ago, the founders of the Assembly had a vision, a vision of what could be in this place. Those plans started simply, with tents, but that changed and grew over time. Needs and wants evolved. Plans eventually included hotels, amphitheaters, gardens and more. Change, with an eye always on the mission of the Assembly, was embraced. Today, we benefit from those original plans *and* the insights of all who came after. MSSA is still steeped in history, but the current version is the product of evolution...dreams and visions of all those who came before us.

Overton Thompson asked me to lead a Master Planning Task Force to study and lead the membership through a process that will result in a plan for facilities and grounds to serve the Assembly through the next 20, 30 to 50 years. Task Force members include: Kent Ballow, Amanda Moody, Albert Ambrose, Anne Waring, Will Reynolds and Steven Green.

We have started working during this off season to gather information from members, families and friends that will serve as the basis for more detailed discussion during the next season. We will seek and welcome input



from all who hold this place dear through multiple opportunities over the next year. We ask one thing of each of you: be a dreamer. Be a visionary. Open your mind to what we can do with our facilities and grounds to enhance the Assembly's programming and mission for future generations. All ideas, however big, are welcome. If you have a chance, stop by the Archives and take a look at past plans of the Assembly grounds and old season programs. Think big, as big as our founders.

All of the ideas that make it into a Master Plan will be the result of much discussion, with vetting by the Board for feasibility and cost, and presented to the membership. So please don't hold back as we start this process. We look forward to hearing from many of you as we host focus groups, town halls and surveys.

Have a happy new year and we hope to see you on the mountain soon.

*Paula Walker*  
[paula.walkertn@gmail.com](mailto:paula.walkertn@gmail.com)

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MSSA



## Seeking Youth Staff

Over the years, the Youth Program has become a central part of the Assembly’s summer season. At the heart of the program is an

enthusiastic, dedicated, and well trained staff leading our youth. The expectations for a Youth Staff member are simple: 1) provide the best possible experience for the MSSA youth, 2) enjoy your work, and 3) take away a new skill that will help you in life.

We are accepting applications for the 2021 season, which will happen! Applications are online at <https://monteaglesundayschoolassembly.org/our-staff/> or by [clicking here](#). If you have questions or want to discuss specific job responsibilities, contact Scott Parrish at [scott.parrish@mssa1882.org](mailto:scott.parrish@mssa1882.org) or (931) 924-2286.

## QUICK BITES

Lawn trimmings are collected on Wednesdays.

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees.

**Safety first!** Call (931) 607-8615 when the main office is closed for any security questions or concerns.

## Welcome

### New Members!

Old friends and new:

Helen Donelson & Wayne  
Brafford  
Memphis, TN  
Cottage 131 Rendezvous

Kay V. Quinn  
Nashville TN  
Cottage: #157 Brookhill

Joanna Ellis Douglass  
Little Rock, Ark  
Cottage: #19 Park Place

Mary Louise and John F.  
Clark  
Mandeville, LA  
Cottage: #82 Veranda

Christie Crais Richards  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
Cottage: #168 Serendipity

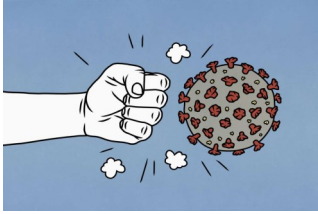
Mary Jo Van Zandt  
Monteagle, TN  
Cottage: #15.  
Bridge Point

James Pratt  
Signal Mountain, TN  
Cottage: #15.  
Bridge Point



The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: “... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination.”

The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.



# Pandemic Proof Platform

Thank you to the many responses we received to the Platform's January request for help and materials needed for the 139th Platform. Will Peebles of Cumberland Architectural Millworks has agreed to assemble the looms for our young weavers and the two larger looms for the Assembly community weaving project. Thanks to those who are sending in (or storing up) fabric, yarn, ribbons, old linens and clothing, etc. to be cut into strips so our young weavers can learn and participate in the community/family projects. We are also deeply appreciative of the replies, suggestions, and understanding of the need of housing for the platform staff. We continue to work on interviews and identify summer staff,

so please be in touch with either platform committee chair Lisa Hammett ([lisarham@hotmail.com](mailto:lisarham@hotmail.com)) or platform superintendent Ruth Cobb, [ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org](mailto:ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org) if you have an empty cottage or a suggestion.

A "pandemic-proof platform" is complete! There are some details to be checked or finalized, but lectures, workshops and performances are in place. There remains much to be accomplished between the draft schedule and opening day on June 13, particularly in terms of how we will carry out the schedule with the necessary protocols for COVID-19. We agreed with each platform guest to have a final confirmation in

March prior to going to press with the program book. Many factors are involved in a person's decision to postpone their participation to 2022 or proceed with caution in scheduling their time this summer. I am grateful for the platform committee, staff, colleagues, and all those who are on the schedule. They have been patient and helpful in sorting through the unique challenges this summer presents but it is so worth the effort!

A closing tip of the hat to each and all of you. Platform staff and the musicians who played for services last summer have spread the news of the awesomeness of working in a Chautauqua Institution. A job with everything from a fantastic swimming pool to beautiful music, including intelligent, thoughtful lectures and working among people who appreciate these things.

## In Our Prayers



Livingfield More, 94, left this world having lived a full, blessed and productive life persevering through and enduring a lengthy illness. He was disciplined, well-educated, well-read and never pretentious or ostentatious. Born to native Nashville parents, E. Livingfield More (1868-1934) and Ellen Stokes (1895-2001) in July of 1926, Livingfield More was a gentleman and a scholar. He graduated from Vanderbilt Law School in 1952 and passed the Bar Exam shortly thereafter. He was proud to be presented to the Supreme Court of Tennessee in 1953 and even prouder to find that his law degree was converted to a JD several decades later. He joined

the Army to fight in WWII. He met the love of his life, Agnes Stokes Fort of Nashville, in 1952 and they married in 1957. They had a daughter and two grandchildren. They devoted their lives to each other and their families, River Grange farm and the Arcade in downtown Nashville until she was tragically taken from him in 2011. He was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, the Phi Delta Theta fraternity at Vanderbilt University, the Belle Meade Country Club and the Williamson County Co-Op. He took part in the founding of Harpeth Academy in Franklin, TN which eventually became part

of BGA. He also was a founding member and continued to be a staunch supporter of St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, now Holy Cross Anglican Church. He is survived by his daughter, Ellen Livingfield More, and two grandchildren, Stokes Dunavan and Nicholson Dunavan. If so moved, please make donations in his memory to Holy Cross Church (4119 Murfreesboro Road Franklin TN 37067), the Red Cross (2201 Charlotte Ave Nashville, TN 37203, Attn Leigh Elliot), the Covington County Historical Society (P.O. Box 1582 Andalusia, Alabama 36420) or the charity of your choice.

## HOUSING QUESTIONS?

### ASK RHONDA!

Should you have concerns that your cottage has not rented to your satisfaction during the season or off-season, contact the housing office to discuss your options. If you are willing to consider offering your cottage for 3-day rentals, negotiate or pro-rate rentals, or if you have questions about your rentals, call Rhonda.

The housing office can also help if you want to rent a golf cart during the season. The housing number is (931) 924-9000.

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly  
P.O. Box 307

Monteagle, TN 37356

www.mssa1882.org

Office 931-924-2286

Fax 931-924-2306

Housing (direct) 931-924-9000

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**President** – Overton Thompson  
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**Director of Housing & Guest Services** –  
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**Office Manager** – Becky Hammond  
becky.hammond@mssa1882.org

**Bookkeeper** – Crystal Hill  
crystal@mssa1882.org

**Facility Superintendent** – Rick Duncan  
rick.duncan@mssa1882.org

## LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE



#23 Edgeworth Inn  
\$1,300,000

To arrange a tour or for more information contact:

W. Scott Parrish,  
General Manager  
scott.parrish@mssa1882.org  
(931) 924-2286

## ARC PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trust for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the General Manager. Projects submitted by the following dates will be reviewed and presented at the board meeting following the submission.

February 28    June 10    July 31

September 30    January 15

The ARC is available throughout the year to advise members on their project planning prior to submission of a request. Not sure if you need ARC approval? Check with the General Manager first.

## SAFETY FIRST

The MSSA security team is at your service. If you have any emergency --medical or otherwise-- call 911, but our seasoned team is here to help for non-emergency situations. If you have a safety issue or see suspicious activity anywhere on the grounds or at the Point, don't hesitate to call (931) 607-8615 after 5 pm or call the office during business hours. There are no silly concerns--it's better to call and quell your fears than to let something go because you are afraid of a false alarm.

Consider putting the security number by your home phone and/or plugging it into your cell phones.

Kids got cell phones? Plug the security number in those too.

Together we'll keep MSSA the safe haven it is!



## New Member Spotlight: Helen Donelson and Wayne Brafford

Wedding bells rang for Helen and Wayne in November, 2019. They had dreams of traveling and spending time with their families, but that came to an abrupt halt with the pandemic. They were disappointed but decided to look at it as an extended honeymoon. In the fall of 2020, they heard about a cottage for sale in the Assembly around the corner from her sisters, Milly Huffman and Virginia Curry, and weeks later, they were the new owners of Rendezvous.



Helen Donelson and Wayne Brafford

Helen grew up in Memphis and has never missed a summer in Monteagle, staying with her grandparents, Virginia and Percy Parker, at Summer Oaks. After living in Atlanta, Memphis and Austin, Helen returned to Memphis to be with her daughters, son-in-law, and five grandchildren. She and Wayne were married and she later retired her Dyslexia Therapy private practice.

Wayne grew up in Raleigh and Charlotte, NC. He graduated with a degree in Engineering in Pulp and Paper and enjoyed a long and successful career in the paper industry. After his job moved him all over the country, he and his family settled in Memphis, and 11 years ago, he retired from International Paper as a Senior Executive. Wayne has three sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.

Helen shared some memories that will sound familiar to anyone who grew up coming to Monteagle: "I remember waking up early to find my Papa (Percy Parker) on the porch, drinking instant coffee and working a puzzle. We would come home from games for 'dinner' which included homemade bread and wild blueberry pie prepared by Louise, a dear mountain cook. My mother,

Ginger Donelson, always made us observe quiet hour after dinner, but when the bell rang, my sisters and I were off to the pool or crafts. After supper, my sisters and I would head to the movies, our gate ticket dangling from a lanyard made in crafts. I was always a little nervous about the bats flying around the theater but mesmerized by them, too. I had my first kiss in Monteagle, sitting on the Pool Bridge and 'supervised' by one of my friends. My father, Frank Donelson, taught me how to swim and dive in Monteagle and spent hours with me on the tennis courts."

She continued, "As I moved from city to city as an adult, I always returned to Monteagle, sharing with my daughters the joys of the Mountain. And now, Wayne and I look forward to doing the same with our grandchildren."

