



MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

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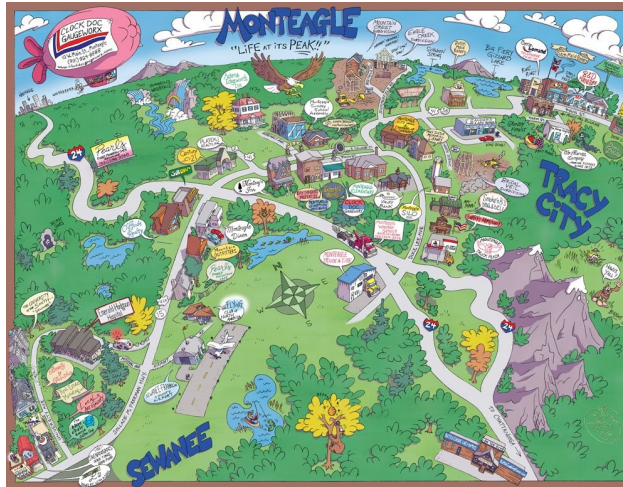
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Monteagle, TN
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From the President A New Task Force on Community Relations

Like any church, the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly has a responsibility both to its members and to its surrounding community. With this responsibility in mind, the board has appointed a task force to study how the Assembly can more effectively reach out and engage with others who live outside the Assembly grounds and who enjoy alongside us the beautiful Cumberland Plateau. Greg Maloof has agreed to chair the Task Force, and the members are Ann Ewing, Ed Provost, Will Reynolds and Mark Riley.

The task force will be looking at the many different ways we currently engage with the community through our Education and Outreach Committees and at new ways we might increase our engagement and strengthen our ties with the city of Monteagle and others on the Plateau. The task force will also be responsible for making recommendations to the board as to how the Assembly should respond to particular issues that might arise outside the gates



that could affect the Assembly.

The community issue currently at the forefront of most peoples' minds is likely the proposed TA/Petro truck stop in Monteagle. As you probably know, there are very strong feelings on both sides of this issue. Many who live in Monteagle are concerned with attracting good paying jobs to the Plateau. Others in the community are equally concerned about the effect the truck stop could have on the environment, the tranquility, and the livability of beautiful Monteagle. Because reasonable people on both sides of this issue hold different views, and because it is important for the Assembly to maintain a good relationship with all our neighbors, both the board and the task force concluded that the Assembly should not take a position. This is not to say however, that we are asking individual members of the Assembly not to weigh in and make their views

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MSSA

From the President

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known to the decision-makers in Monteagle. That is, of course, how a good democracy works, and we do have year-round residents who feel especially connected to the community and what happens to the town.

I encourage you to reach out to Greg or the other members of the task force with any ideas you may have as to how the Assembly might become an even better neighbor to our larger community on the Plateau.

*Overton Thompson,
President*

Official MSSA COVID Statement for the 139th Season (June 13-August 8, 2021)

The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly (MSSA) is committed to providing broad programming during the 2021 season in a safe and responsible manner based on CDC and state guidelines in effect during the season and the weeks leading up to the season.

Look for specific guidelines in future Mountain Voices.

Highlights of the 139th Platform

There is so much to be grateful for as we look forward to the 139th Platform, which begins on Sunday, June 13, 2021. All of the 2020 participants were invited to return either this year or in 2022, and there were already some guests scheduled for this year. Thanks to recommendations made by members, we have a rich program of lectures and activities to form a complete program.

Highlights of the Thursday night lectures include:

Katharine Wilkinson who will speak on her most recent book, *Saving All That We Can*.

English journalist and author Alex Kershaw will present book talks on two of his works, *The Liberator* and *The First Wave*, both telling stories of the men and women of the Allied forces in World War II.

Dr. Spencer Crew, interim director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and founder of the Underground Railroad Museum, will speak on the Underground Railroad.

Due to COVID-19 and the need to observe distancing, even with masks, some workshop leaders elected to postpone to next year
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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.



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.

Platform Highlights (continued from page 2)

while others made adjustments and requested reduced class sizes.

Thanks to Jen Reynolds for agreeing to offer her workshop, *Cookie Decorating with Cookie Mama*, three times during July to give everyone a chance to sign up for the class. A Tuesday afternoon series of thematic walks and Friday afternoon *Readings from the Writer's Grove* are weekly events that have significant member leadership. Thank you!

For those who plan their trip to the Assembly to be in attendance for a particular activity, here is a schedule of the weekly highlights:

Week 1: John Gaddis Watercolor Workshop with Judson Newbern

Week 2: Wayne & Virginia Jervis Bible Week, lectures presented by Dr. Jeremy Hultin, Union Theological Seminary, New York.



Week 3 & 4: Note that July 4th occurs on a Sunday, so traditional

morning activities will take place on Saturday, July 3, with lunch and afternoon activities on July 4 following the morning church service.

Week 5: Weaving Workshop for the community and Eagles (three sessions each)

Week 6: Oil Painting Workshop, Monday through Friday afternoons with Bob Askew. Woman's Association Cottage Tour and Bazaar, Also, Thomas Malone Trabue, III, Youth Week.

Week 8: Intermediate/Advanced Bridge Week with Marilyn Shelton.

If you have any questions about the schedule, please email ruth.cobb@mssa1882.org.

Platform Announcements

The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Chorus will not be able to sing together in large numbers this summer, due to COVID-19. Director Clinton Bailey is forming small groups to rehearse and sing for services. If you wish to sing, please contact him by email baileyclinton07@gmail.com. Please include the voice part you sing and the dates you will be available. Clinton will arrange the groups and get in touch to schedule rehearsals prior to singing.

Week 5 is Weaving Week, featuring a three-day workshop for Eagles and three open sessions for the community. Stop by and add your family's piece (or pieces) to the large loom project, and please save your fabric, linens, clothing, scarves, yarn, ribbon, etc. for use in the projects; we need bags and bags full of weavables! And, once we have these, we'll be looking for people with scissors to prepare long strips.

The Platform Committee and Superintendent offer sincere thanks to these individuals for their generous assistance this season. Thanks to **Will Peebles** who is constructing small wood looms for the Eagles to create their own weaving project this summer; and they will get to take the loom home with them. **Ellen More** has generously offered her spare rooms to a platform employee who needed housing. **Claudia Haltom** has researched and prepared an opening program for the season based on the gameshow, *Jeopardy!*. All of the questions are based on MSSA history, Monteagle and Sewanee. Don't miss this tribute to Alex Trebek and Monteagle Mountain with contestants from the Assembly membership.

In the midst of this historic pandemic year, it is not surprising that some things just haven't worked in the ways to which we are accustomed. For the platform superintendent, a broken laptop keyboard set off a chain reaction of calamities.

After a few local attempts to fix the keyboard, a replacement was ordered and lost in the mail, and another was delivered that isn't the correct match. While these attempts were being made, the work was started on a University computer and brought home on a thumb drive only to find it corrupted and its contents gone. Completely. While the superintendent wept bitterly, husband came to the rescue and recovered part of the text. Scott found a substitute keyboard and managed to connect it to the laptop (the one with the broken keyboard). As of February 26, work on the book began again. There remains the possibility that the 139th Platform Program Book will be written with a quill pen and copied on a mimeograph machine, and workshop registrations will be sent via carrier pigeons.

Please know that we can't wait to share a wonderful schedule with you - as soon as possible. (Prayers are also accepted.)

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.

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LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE



#23 Edgeworth Inn
\$1,300,000

To arrange a tour or for more information contact:

W. Scott Parrish,
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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.

June 10 July 31 September 30

January 15 February 28

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!

