



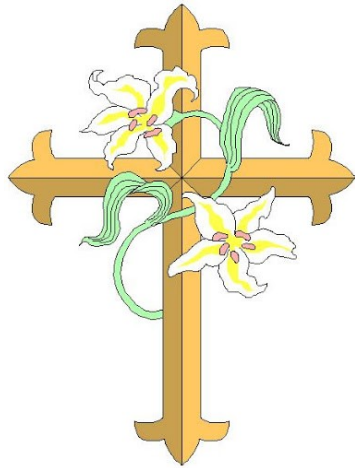
MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

• A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 •

PO Box 307
Monteagle, TN
931-924-2286

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From the General Manager

Easter, Pandemic & 139th Season

Every year, Easter brings us spiritual renewal and hope through Christ's

resurrection. This year, more than ever, the message of Easter calls us to reflect on our lives, our relationships, our future, and how we treat ourselves, our family, our friends, and our community. It seems at every turn tensions are high and decisions are emotional.

During this Easter season, plans for 139th Assembly season will be published and our attention will turn toward safe and responsible

programming for all. As it has since 1882, the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly will provide sanctuary for our members, families, and guests.

Linda and I are grateful to have been vaccinated against COVID-19. These safe and effective vaccines are our way out of this pandemic and our path toward a safe 2021 season in Monteagle. Vaccine availability is expanding rapidly, so when it's your turn, roll up your sleeve and do your part.

We look forward to seeing everyone this summer!

*All the best,
Scott*

IN THIS ISSUE

From the GM	1
Exhibition	1,4
Enlighten Enrich Endure	2
In Our Prayers	2
MSSA Mission	2
Tennis	3
New Member Spotlight	3
Leaseholds Available	4
Housing Questions	4
ARC Deadlines	4
Platform Team Introduced	5
Platform Announcements	6
Harton Hall Needs Help	6
Around the Grounds	6

Pulliam Center Exhibition 2021

The Art of Giving: The Power of the MSSA Endowment

The 2021 Pulliam Center Exhibition will celebrate the historic and contemporary vision of the MSSA Endowment by highlighting the programs, facilities and infrastructure it has provided. Enjoy a visual mélange of images and text that highlight key people, innovative programming, and the inspired architecture and grounds of historic and current MSSA. The exhibition will be on display throughout the season, Monday- Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.. and by appointment. All are welcome to an open house, Sunday, June 27, 4-6 p.m.

(continued on page 4)





Enlighten, Enrich and Endure

Join us for E, a festive, social and educational wine and cheese gathering on Friday, July 2, 2021, from 5-7 p.m. in the MSSA Auditorium. Our hope is to educate, entertain and inspire all attendees to consider a gift, large or small, to our perpetual Endowment Fund, thereby ensuring our long-term vitality and sustainability. Past and present members of the MAEFC board of Trustees will be our hosts for the evening as we bring new life to this important MSSA legacy.

The event will culminate with an entertaining and informative presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Bill Dedman, author of *Empty Mansions*. Dedman will tell the story of the building of a family fortune and the reclusive heiress who inadequately planned how the fortune would allow her to live comfortably and create good deeds.

This platform program will further instill the many values and positive impacts of lifetime giving.

The gathering and presentation are open to all members and guests of MSSA and is free of charge.

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.

In Our Prayers

Marvin Alf Reed, "Mac" Sr, 68, passed away peacefully on February 6, 2021, surrounded by his family. Mac was born to parents Henry "Minge" Reed, Sr. and Ruth Coleman Reed on August 20, 1952, in Springhill, LA. Growing up in Mobile, AL, he attended Murphy High School and attended Marion Military Institute where he was an accomplished marksman and captain of the rifle team. He attended the University of Alabama where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity and where he met the love of his life Catharine Drennon. He then earned a B.S. in Forestry at Auburn. Upon graduation, he began a

20+ year career with International Paper Company, working in the Woodlands Division in Bastrop, LA, and then Wilson. Later, he shifted his career to the North Carolina Forestry Association where he retired in 2016. As a result of spending most of his adult life outdoors, Mac was an incredible woodsman and his love for the outdoors included hunting and fishing, and golf, with family and friends. Mac was a devoted father, grandfather, husband, brother, and friend. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 46 years, Catharine Drennon Reed; sons, Marvin Alf Reed, Jr of Richmond, VA, and Andrew Cleveland Reed and wife, Sara Bowers Reed of Columbia, S.C.; and many grandchildren.



On March 27th the MSSA Board unanimously passed the following resolution-

The Board of Trustees encourages all who plan to visit the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly during the 2021 Season to take the COVID-19 vaccination, if they are eligible to do so.

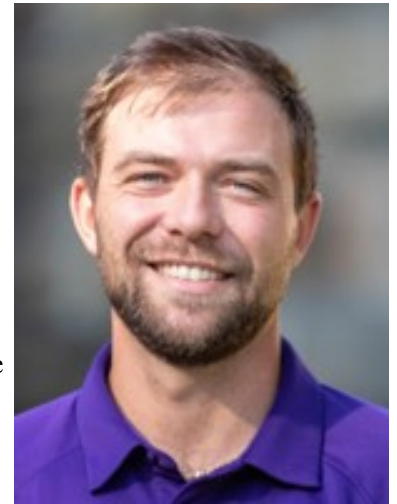
The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: "... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without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



Getting Ready for Spring Tennis

We're only a couple months away from tennis on the mountain, so I wanted to offer some suggestions as you dust off that racquet. Call your local tennis shop and ask for that new overgrip and some fresh synthetic gut so you're equipped for action! It's also time to get your body prepared. Go for a walk or slow jog to make sure your legs can handle the intensity of a tennis match. To help prevent injury, I recommend a light yet active warm-up before you play, including lunges, twists, and shoulder rotations. Stretching afterward is a great way to make sure you're not sore the next morning. So, after you hit that ace on match point, try some cooldown stretches that will help keep you healthy and active. We are all excited for warm weather and the summer inching closer. If you'll be on the mountain between now and the season, be sure to give me a call to sharpen your skills or get you back in shape! (571) 278-5132.



Felix Mann, tennis coach

New Member Spotlight:

John and Mary Louise Clark

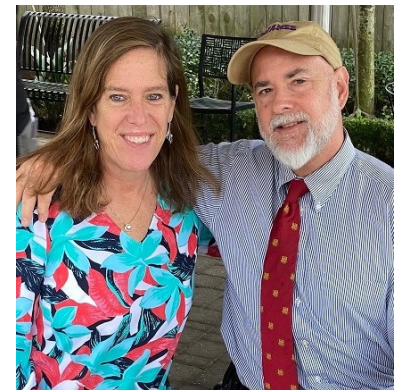
Buying Veranda was a dream come true for John and Mary Louise Clark. A native of New Orleans, "John F." (as he is known to his friends) found his way to the mountain in 1981 as a freshman at Sewanee. John's first visit to the Assembly was to Andrew Lytle's house and, over the next four years, he became an Assembly regular. In 1984, he met a young coed at Sewanee summer school named Susan Richards (better known to us as Susan Acker) and spent many afternoons on the porch of Serendipity, having conversations with her grandfather, Irwin Crais, about Assembly life. Those chats about our sense of community, how we all volunteer to keep the Assembly going, and how we take care of each other caused John to fall in love with Monteagle.

John graduated from LSU law school in 1988 but decided against private practice. He moved to Washington and ended up working for the Drug Enforcement Administration. He has been doing legal work for the DEA ever since – through three cities, a marriage, and five daughters who range in age from 15-25 years. Two of them

matriculated to Sewanee: Caroline (Class of 2018) and Martha, who is finishing up her sophomore year.

Both John and Mary Louise (who grew up in Mobile) are fascinated with history. It was Mary Louise's major at University of Virginia, and she mentioned that her father Edward Sledge had fought in World War II. John clarified that his father-in-law had landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, as a lieutenant in charge of a platoon of five Sherman tanks. All the tanks were destroyed except for his. When they got to the beach, there were wounded men everywhere; Sledge actually climbed out of his tank and rescued many of them, earning the Silver Star, an award of valor, for his service. History buffs may have heard of her uncle Eugene Sledge, whose exploits as a Marine in the Pacific Theater were told in his memoir With the Old Breed and were dramatized in Tom Hank's HBO series, *The Pacific*.

Since August of 2002, the couple has lived in Mandeville, LA, across Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans. (For N.O. history buffs: Mandeville was



founded in 1834 by John's ancestor, Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville, going back four or five generations.) Growing up in that area, John developed a passion for old architecture, and Mary Louise shares that interest. She used to give tours of her grandmother's home in Mobile, built in 1840 and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mary Louise pointed out that what she loves most about the Assembly are the intergenerational friendships that exist. Where else do young and old interact to such an extent, except within one's own extended family? One of John's passions is being outdoors, hiking, and enjoying natural areas. He loves the Monteagle cemetery and always spends quiet time there when he is on the mountain. As a new

(continued on page 4)

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
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New Member Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

member ready to jump in, the Trails, Architectural Review, and Cemetery committees all interest him. As a former preschool teacher and school administrator, Mary Louise loves children and hopes to get involved with our youth. She also wants to learn pickleball and perhaps get back into tennis after a hiatus.

Another note for history buffs: there has been a “John F.” Clark in New Orleans since 1857. We are so fortunate that one of them has joined our Assembly community!

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.

Exhibition

(continued from page 1)

Invitation to participate

Christi and Ellen are working on putting together a fun display highlighting the ongoing work of the Monteagle Assembly Endowment Fund Corporation and the many individuals who support it. Appropriately housed in the Pulliam Center, Please mark your calendars.

Also, we are looking for items that will embody the historical and current offshoots of the endowment. Think people, projects, and plans that are a part of our grounds and vibrant summer program.

If you have a photo or a piece of art that you can take a photo of, please email to ellenmore@mac.com for possible inclusion in the show. We will reproduce the photos and incorporate them in a visual feast.



Introducing the Platform Team for the 139th Platform

Students are the best part of a university. My husband and I recently retired from positions at Sewanee and this is a sentiment we share. It is a great delight to continue to work with bright, engaged, and energetic young people in my work at the Assembly. This summer, we welcome a graduating senior of the college, a seminarian, and a graduate production intern from the Tennessee Williams Theatre who is from the class of 2018. I've asked each to briefly introduce themselves.

Happy Spring to all! My name is **Alena Kochinski**, and I am delighted to be joining the Assembly this summer as Platform Coordinator. I studied Theatre Arts and Biology in undergrad, and I am in the process of preparing for post-graduate studies, attempting to combine my love for research, writing and performing arts. I am currently engrossed in Peter Ackroyd's *Shakespeare: The Biography* while I wait out the temperamental chill of early spring. However, my indoors activities will be few and far between as the summer starts, and you can find me hiking and swimming with any, and every, free moment. The Cumberland Plateau keeps me and my dog, Selkie, hungry for new adventures. When I see you on the grounds, I would love to learn about your favorite watering hole!

Hello, my name is **Ethan White** (Platform Assistant) and I am excited to spend the summer in the midst of the delightful MSSA community! The strong sense of place and pride in community at MSSA is palpable even to a newcomer. As a member of the

Class of 2021 at The University of the South, Sewanee, I will graduate this May (fingers crossed!) as a Music major with a History minor. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Sewanee students have had the privilege of staying on campus in our cherished community setting and the highlight of this experience has been the valuable time spent in fellowship (socially distanced, of course) out on porches, patios, and around bonfires. Growing up in Savannah, Ga., as the son of two Episcopal ministers, church and music are my two largest anchors. In this light, being a part of the University Choir during the pandemic has been a great joy. Although masked and distanced, we have still been able to provide music for weekly chapel services and evensongs on campus. If nothing else, this past year has taught us all the value of being patient with one another and ourselves. I look forward to getting to know each of you and hearing your stories this summer!

In response to the Caucus request for a greater variety of music and renewed sense of energy in Twilight Prayer services, a third position has been created to assist in the oversight and preparations for these services. The position also includes the responsibility to actively making connections between families in residence each week and the chapel services. As a seminarian, **Richard Ahlquist** brings training in church growth and pastoral relationships and will also gain insights and experience valuable to his future ministry. Look for more details of the plans for a family-friendly evening worship in a future newsletter. Richard will serve as the first

Platform Director of Family Ministries.

Hello, my name is **Richard Ahlquist**. My wife, Helen, and our 2 children, Miles (4) and Elizabeth (2), moved to Sewanee in August of 2020 for me to begin Seminary. We came from Christ Episcopal Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Helen was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, and I had lived there for 13 years after graduating from Auburn. Prior to answering the call to ministry, I worked as a forester, and Helen continues to feed and clothe our children with her work in marketing. Together, we love to travel and go to concerts. For the last year, I have been forced to focus on my socially-distanced hobbies: playing guitar, fly fishing, hunting, and mountain biking. We are both "cradle" Episcopalians. The Mountain has been a magical place in our hearts and minds, and we are thrilled to receive the gift of three years that we can call this place home. I look forward to meeting you all and for the opportunity to see the Assembly running wide-open with summer programming.

Although I've been two and a half years with the MSSA, the pandemic has interrupted opportunities to meet and speak with many of you. This year, Platform staff members will be present on both Monday and Tuesday mornings at the Mall to share information about the events for the week. We look forward to meeting and greeting to know each of you soon.

*Ruth Cobb,
Platform Superintendent*

Assembly Members Contribute to Platform Offerings

Last fall, when planning began for a 'pandemic-proof platform', we turned to the outdoors for safety in the fresh air. For example, a Tuesday afternoon series of walks was created, each focusing on a topic, activity or point of interest. Enjoy time outdoors, learning, and exercising. No fee or sign up for any of the walks. We suggest you bring a water bottle.

Week 1, Jennifer Smith will lead a walk providing information and observation of the Emerald Ash Borer Disease on Assembly grounds.

Weeks 2 and 3 are guided by artist Bob Askew, who will share his enthusiasm for sketching. Bring your own paper or sketch pad, pencils, a blanket or folding camp chair, and a water bottle. Guidance and an opportunity to share work will be offered.

(No walk in Week 4).

Yolande Gottfried from the Sewanee Herbarium will lead a walk in Week 5 to collect plant specimens appropriate for drying. A session on drying, preserving, and framing using Herbarium techniques will follow at Shady Dell.

Week 6 takes place in Abbo's Alley, the well known garden trail following a spring-fed creek on the campus of the University of the South. Professor Abbott Martin is the visionary who brought German POW's from a nearby camp and forged the beginning of what is now one of the most scenic escapes from campus activity.

WEEK 7 MSSA members Dr. Stephanie C. Smith and Richard

Boeth will lead a visit to the Smith-Boeth Monarch Waystation and share information on the importance of supporting butterfly habitats. (Please, no bug spray, but bring a hat, water and a camera.)

In Week 8, Mary Priestley will conclude with a Walk and Nature Journaling session, an appropriate conclusion to a season that begins with her workshop on the practice of nature journaling and setting up your own personal journal.

Readings from the Writers' Grove

(Warren Chapel in case of rain)

Hosts will bring readings to share. Friday, June 18, 2:30 p.m., Dr. Katherine Wilkinson, *All We Can Save: Leading on Climate with Truth, Courage, and Solutions*.

Monday, June 21, 2:30 p.m., Dr. W. Anderson Spickard, Jr. will read from his book, *The Craving Brain*.

Friday, June 25, 2:30 p.m., Kent Ballow reads from Margaret Renkl's *Late Migrations*.

Friday, July 2, 2:30 p.m., Lyn Knopf reads from Bill Dedman's *Empty Mansions*. Mr. Dedman will present a lecture later the same afternoon.

Friday, July 9, 2:30 p.m., Cullen Hornaday and Bill Pratt read *Carcassone*, William Faulkner and *The Jilting of Granny Weatherall*, Katherine Anne Porter.

Friday, July 16, 2:30 p.m. Bill Haltom reads from his book, *Why Can't Mother Vote: Joseph Hanover and the Unfinished Business of Democracy*, and other selections marking the 100th anniversary (postponed) of the passage of the 19th amendment.

Monday, Aug. 2, 2:30 p.m., Gilbert Gordon reads from his book, *Ramblings on Rock Springs Road*

Around the Grounds

April 10, 2 pm, Memorial Service for Marvin Alf Reed
Warren Chapel

April 17 & 18, Anderson.Hamilton
Wedding
Warren Chapel
Harton Hall
Several cottages rented

May 17-24, University of the South
2021 Graduation
52 Cottages currently rented or loaned

May 21 & 22, Quinlen.Davis Wedding
Warren's Point with Warren Chapel as backup
Auditorium
Harton Hall

May 25-31 (Memorial Day weekend)
12 Cottages currently rented or loaned

May 29, Stovall.Pearce Wedding
Warren Chapel

Help wanted at Harton Hall!

If you enjoy helping people, keeping busy, and working with food, Emily Frith would love to hear from you. You must be a minimum of 15 years old and be available for the 8 week season (including some of the big holidays and events during the season). Pay depends on experience. Interested? Text Emily at 615-604-9487.