



# MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

· A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 ·

PO Box 307  
Monteagle, TN  
931-924-2286

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## From the Executive Director

As my tenure at the Assembly winds down, I have been reflecting on the many memories of the past fourteen years. There are just so many wonderful people and memorable events, I can't begin to put my feelings on paper. I came across my first Mountain Voices article published in February 2010. I can tell you that my first impressions of MSSA and my hopes for the future all came true. So, what better place to end my time at the Assembly than where I began with my first article?

*I drove through the Assembly gate yesterday to begin a new chapter in my career. As Linda and I left the congestion of Nashville, the NASCAR pace of I-24, and the commercial stretch of Highway 41, layer after layer of stress peeled away. We finally entered the gate where so many before us have passed to find*

*the special peace afforded families for generations. Those souls*



*who established a Chautauqua on Monteagle Mountain as refuge for nineteenth century families seeking fellowship and spiritual and intellectual growth could never have imagined their dream would continue to be so important to the twenty-first century generation seeking the same peace within the sanctuary of the Assembly.*

*As your new General Manager, I am humbled by the opportunity to be a steward of this treasured (continued on page 2)*

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## Celebrate Scott & Linda

We can't believe that the time is nearing for Scott's retirement. He has shaped our mountain, our program, and our facilities, and has created countless memories along the way. He and Linda will be sorely missed. Please join us in saying a fond farewell (and "you're welcome to visit anytime")!

A Retirement Party to Honor Scott Parrish  
Saturday, March 30, 5:30 p.m.  
North Gate Inn, MSSA

Please RSVP no later than March 20th  
Kent Ballow at [Keballow@yahoo](mailto:Keballow@yahoo) or 615-405-2569



## Executive Director

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*Jewel. As we begin preparation for this summer's session, I am inspired by the passionate dedication of the Search Committee and the Trustees with whom I have met and worked. The sense of community I experienced at the Thanksgiving "left over lunch," where so many took time to welcome my family to Monteagle, speaks volumes of the character of this special place and its people.*

*This newsletter, Mountain Voices, is appropriately named. The voices of the Assembly's past can be heard in the news and events reported today. Churchill said, "the longer we look into the past, the farther we see into our future." The past traditions of this extraordinary Chautauqua are the foundation for our future. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning what the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly means to you. I await our visit as you make your way back to the mountain this year. Please know that it is a privilege to serve this family ministry.*

*All my best,  
Scott Parrish*

## Seasons of Love

I was reminded recently of the iconic song from the Broadway musical, RENT. You know the one that starts, "Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes. Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear. Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes. How do you measure, measure a year?"

14 years ago, a 51-year-old, Scott Parrish bravely embarked on a new career with us at the assembly as our new then termed "general manager". While Scott was certainly familiar with the assembly how could anybody adequately explain to him and his wife, Linda, what the assembly was really like from the inside and dispel the crazy theories from the outside?

"A beloved summer retreat? A church? A summer camp for kids and their families? A cult? "an undefinable place?" A slice of heaven? And the ever-present question, "What DO they do there all summer?"

Scott came to us prepared for his new role, and immediately set out to learn everything he could about our history, our present and hopes for our future. I would venture to guess  
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## QUICK BITES

**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.**

**ALL golf carts** must be registered or re-registered every year. Only licensed drivers are legally allowed to drive carts.

**Lawn trimmings** are collected on Wednesdays.

**Dogs** must be registered, including proof of rabies vaccination. Pick up after your pets.

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



## ARC PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Planning a renovation project? The Architectural Review Committee will accept projects for review and recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval four times per year. Questions about possible projects, the process, and necessary requirements should be referred to the Executive Director. 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 Executive Director first.

## Seasons of Love

(continued from page 2)

that Scott is one of the most well versed in assembly facts, tales and lore.

During his tenure, Scott quickly realized that as executive director he would wear a variety of hats! He has been a manager, a leader, an expert accountant, mediator, disciplinarian, advisor, counselor, and friend.

Throughout his 14 years Scott has worked with 9 presidents, numerous committee chairs, and too many strong personalities to count with professionalism, determination, patience, and quiet confidence.

Scott said that he had hoped for one last successful fundraiser before he retired. The acquisition and fundraising efforts of Sunset Rock was really a “mic drop” moment for Scott and the entire assembly and his dedication and true love for the assembly showed.

As Scott and Linda and the Assembly family move onto their next chapters of life we can rest assured that Scott leaves the assembly better than he found it and in excellent shape for what the future holds!

Fortunately for all of us, Scott and Linda will just be “down the road”

and we hope to see them often as they settle into “civilian” life.

WITH LOVE AND SINCERE THANKS from your assembly family for your leadership, stamina, love for the assembly and friendship!

Amanda Moody  
President

\* 14 years = seven million three hundred fifty-eight thousand four hundred minutes!

## Welcome to Our New (But Not New to Us)

### Executive Director

A search committee, comprised of Anne Monfore (co-chair), Bill Davis (co-chair), Dr. Walter Merrill, Hays Haney, Andy Wildman, Steve Rixham and Amanda Moody (ex officio) worked diligently over the past several months to find and recommend a new executive director to the MSSA Board of Trustees for consideration.



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## Have you Ordered Something to be Delivered to the Assembly on the Weekend?

We realize that many deliveries need to be made on the weekends when owners can be present. MSSA does not staff for weekend gate openings.

If you must have a delivery over the weekend, please contact the office by 3 p.m. Friday so we can make arrangements to have a gate open.



**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.

## Housing Questions? Ask Rhonda!

Interested in possibly being in the rental program? Has your cottage rented to your satisfaction? Do you want to offer your cottage for 3-night rentals or discuss rates?

Contact Rhonda to discuss options or concerns, 931-924-9000

## Can You Tickle the Ivories?

Our wonderful pianist, Brenda Matthews, has retired. We are looking for a pianist for the season as well as for our Easter service. If you know anyone who is interested, please contact Scott Parrish at 931-924-2286  
at [scott.parrish@mssa1882.org](mailto:scott.parrish@mssa1882.org).



## 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!



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## LEASEHOLDS AVAILABLE

#23 Edgeworth Inn  
\$1,675,000

To arrange a tour or for more information contact:  
W. Scott Parrish,  
Executive Director  
[scott.parrish@mssa1882.org](mailto:scott.parrish@mssa1882.org)  
(931) 924-2286

## Welcome to Our New Executive Director

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At the February 10, 2024, board meeting, the search committee made its recommendation to the board, and the recommendation was enthusiastically approved. It is therefore with great pleasure that we announce that **Steve Williams**, a long-time member of the Assembly family, has been named the new Executive Director of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly. Please join us in welcoming Steve to the helm of our beloved Assembly!

*Sincerely,*

*Anne Monfore and Bill Davis*



## Easter Service

A service will be held at 10:00 a.m. in Warren Chapel Easter Day March 31.

## Calling All Kids!

The MSSA Easter Egg hunt will be Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Gather on the Mall at 2:30 and the hunt will begin at 3:00.

Contact Will Reynolds if you would like to help or contribute to the cause (404) 984-3858.



## Platform Preview

### Writer's Grove 2024

Week 1 Mary Liza Hartong, author of Love and Hot chicken

Week 2 Rick Glaze, author of Ralph and Murray

Week 3 Shaonian Bates, author of Memoir of A Small Chinese Woman

Week 4 Susan Binkley, author of From My Front Row Seat

Week 5 Rabbi Bruce Aft, will read and discuss Healing the Heart of Conflict by Dr. Marc Grobin

Week 6 Richard Courtney, author of Come Together: The Business of the Beatles

Week 7 Janet Riley author of My Chautauqua Summer

Week 8 Kirk Battle, author of These Hallowed Halls

Dr. Rachel Stephens, author of Hidden in Plain Sight

**All of our author's books will be on display at Winfield in the library.**

## Workshops and Tournaments

On April 1, the 2024 MSSA Program will be posted online along with sign-ups for workshops. This year, you will have the opportunity to sign up (ahead of time) for both the adult tennis and pickleball tournaments. Traditional sign-up sheets will also be at the respective courts. This gives everyone the opportunity to sign up before they get to the mountain. Tournament chairs will touch base with you before the tournaments via email.