



# MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

· A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 ·

PO Box 307  
Monteagle, TN  
931-924-2286

Volume 27, Issue 2  
April 2026

## Summer Program Highlights

The 144th MSSA Program and workshops are now available on the website. Since last August, we've been assembling a diverse group of speakers, writers, artists, musicians, fitness instructors, historians, family events, professors, and chefs to make your summer experience both inspiring and enriching. In all, 94 commitments were written for the 144th season. I have been invited to share some highlights with everyone.

### Music

- Final Crossings Gospel Band
- Art for Sale is scheduled to perform at the highly anticipated Jazz Picnic on the Mall.
- A Night Under the Stars with Bradley Cole Smith and Nelson Nolan
- Get Down Karaoke Band
- Cruel Shoes Acoustic Performance at the Stone House
- An Evening with Daniel Tashian
- Bach at Sunset with cellist Hamilton Berry at the Stone House.
- Sewanee Summer Music Festival will give three performances.
- FourTwilight Prayers Taizé performance featuring Geoffrey Ward and the members of the Sewanee choir.

### Americas 250th

#### Lectures

- Adam Arby- The Executive Director of Mt. Vernon will give a talk about George Washington and Mt. Vernon.
- Marc Leepson- Talk about the Marquis de Lafayette and the American Revolution.
- Eli Merrit- The Enduring Principles of the Declaration of Independence
- John McCardle- The Origins of the American Revolution

#### Programs

- Trivia Night on American History
- On July 3, at sunset, a formal reading of the Declaration of Independence will take place at Sunset Rock. David Hudgins will serve as the reader, concluding with the names of the signers. The event will feature a violinist performing period pieces, and 250 battery-powered lights will be illuminated during the reading.

This summer's program features numerous highlights, making it challenging to select just one to showcase. We encourage you to review the online schedule and explore all available workshops. Registration for workshops is now open, and many sessions are reaching capacity quickly. Printed programs will be ready for distribution soon.

Susan Acker  
Platform Superintendent



Dear Members and families,  
As Sewanee's Graduation nears, we want to mention a few housekeeping items:

- ◇ Dates are May 4-11
- ◇ No contractor work on the grounds, inside or outside cottages Thursday, May 7-Sunday, May 10.
- ◇ If you are loaning your cottage and will not be present, there is a \$125 security fee. It is up to you to pay or have your guests pay. Please let the office know who will be using your cottage.
- ◇ Car passes are required. Members can use their season sticker or ask for a car pass. Car passes can be made in advance if requested.

We look forward to a special week for all!



[www.mssa1882.org](http://www.mssa1882.org)

## Culinary Guild News

Gear up for the best summer ever for the Culinary Guild! We have so many fun classes and events on the books already. Expect a cooking demonstration or class almost every Wednesday afternoon, and most are free with no advance registration. Special dinners just for us are being planned at Judith and Mountain Top, and we'll have an adult progressive dinner in July. The Fourth of July pie contest will back as well, and the stakes will higher than ever! Beyond the Culinary Guild, Susan Acker has lined up a number of other events to excite the foodie in everyone.



But first, the herb garden needs planting, and we plan on gathering on Saturday, April 25, to get it rolling. Since I am not running Harton Hall this summer, I'll hopefully have more time to give it the attention it deserves and will be soliciting help from anyone with a little extra time to weed and water throughout the season.

Deanna Caldwell will be fully in charge of all operations at Harton Hall. She has served us faithfully for almost a decade, and it is her time! I plan on being there for lunch as much as possible and also look forward to the special dinners, and there are some other fun great traditions and surprises coming.

Can't wait to see you all very soon!

Emily Frith

## 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.*

## Family Discounts & 2026 Gate Tickets



The office is updating the member family lists for the upcoming season's ticket purchases. Please take a minute and complete the [2026 Family Discount Form](#). (The form is also available on the MSSA website.) The discounted ticket prices are for Assembly members, their spouses, their children and grandchildren, members' parents and grandparents. The discounted rate does not apply to guests, cousins, or siblings of members. Would you like to have tickets ready and waiting for family members and guests staying with you this summer? Why not go ahead and send in your ticket requests? Avoid the line when the season starts and have your tickets waiting in the office you when you arrive. [2026 MSSA Gate Ticket Request](#)

## 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.

The next submission deadline is May 31 for the committee meeting to be scheduled in June.

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.

## 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

## 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 out Sunset Rock Road, please call the security phone, (931) 607-8615, between 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. or call the office during business hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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.



## About the New Pet Rules

*Why did we revise the rules?*

The Assembly pet rules were updated to conform with new Tennessee statutes as well as the Town of Monteagle's ordinance that prohibits owners from allowing dogs to roam unaccompanied or at large.

*May I walk my dog off leash?*

You may but there are two conditions:

1. Adhere to the hours set by the board. 5 am – 9 pm. The remaining overnight hours, dogs must be on a leash.
2. All dogs must be accompanied and kept reasonably under control.

And please be considerate of others and pick up after your dog.



Lady Slipper orchid spied by Kent Ballow on a recent walk through Waldrop's Woods.

## Calling all Green Thumbs !

Tuesday, April 21st, is the Landscape Comm. planting day. Volunteers are asked to meet at the auditorium at 9 am to fill planters around the grounds. Bring a trowel if you have one. Lunch provided after.

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.



## Around the Grounds

May 2  
Gilmore.Rochelle Wedding  
Warren's Point

University of the South Graduation  
May 4-11

May 22-23  
Pereira.Stroud Wedding  
Harton Hall & Warren Chapel



Monteagle Sunday School Assembly  
P.O. Box 307  
Monteagle, TN 37356  
www.mssa1882.org  
Office 931-924-2286  
Fax 931-924-2306

Executive Director – Steve Williams  
steve.williams@mssa1882.org  
President – Hays Haney  
hth\_72@yahoo.com  
Platform Superintendent – Susan Acker,  
susan.acker@mssa1882.org  
Director of Housing & Guest Services –  
Rhonda Atkins, rhonda.atkins@mssa1882.org  
Office Manager – Jen Reynolds  
jen.reynolds@mssa1882.org  
Facility Superintendent – Rick Duncan  
rick.duncan@mssa1882.org



**Your Annual Fund Donations are greatly appreciated!**

The Kindergarten refurbishing is nearly complete, and the space is looking forward to welcoming our 2026 hummingbirds.

## 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.

Once the season starts, deliveries requiring a large truck are strongly discouraged. If you must receive such a delivery, please check with the office ahead of time.



A lot of mail for members has accumulated over the winter. Next time you're at the office, please check the box in the breezeway to see if there's something there for you,

## LEASEHOLD AVAILABLE

#23 Edgeworth Inn \$1,923,000

To arrange a tour or for more information contact  
Steve Williams, Executive Director  
Steve.williams@mssa1882.org, (931) 924-2286



## Prayers



Byrd Douglas Earthman, age 76, died on February 19, 2026.

He was a municipal bond and real estate attorney who practiced law in Memphis, TN for more than 50 years. Born in Kingsport, TN on November 26, 1949.

He moved with his family to Nashville in the late 1950s when his father, an attorney, took a job in Governor Frank Clement's administration.

Doug graduated from Hillsboro High School, Nashville, TN (1967); and from Vanderbilt University (1971) with a B.E. degree, cum laude, in Mechanical Engineering and was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity; received a law degree from Memphis State University in 1973 where he was a member of the law review.

Doug joined the Waring Cox law firm in Memphis in 1974 where he practiced law for 20 years; 1995-1999 was employed at ServiceMaster Diversified Health Services where he served as Senior Vice President, Senior Living Services; returned to private law practice and practiced with Armstrong Allen, PLLC for several years.

He was an attorney with Glankler Brown, PLLC, where he has practiced since 2006.

He was the owner of Beauregard and Beauregard, Jr., purebred bloodhounds who starred in the Hee Haw television series for approximately 10 years in the 1970's. He claimed his dogs put him through law school.

He was listed for many years in Chambers USA-America's Leading Lawyers for Business as recommended in real estate; Best Lawyers in America (Real Estate); and Mid-South Superlawyers (Bonds/Government Finance) and was inducted in 2015 as a fellow in the American College of Bond Counsel.

Doug was a lung transplant recipient in 2013 because of pulmonary fibrosis and a kidney transplant recipient in 2018 with a kidney donated by his sister, Suzanne E. Lambeth.

He is survived by: Two Daughters, Ellen Earthman Tullock (Nic), Smyrna, GA, and Margaret Earthman Walch (Trevor), Elko, NV; a son, Byrd Douglas Earthman, Jr. (Brittany), Memphis, TN; a sister, Suzanne E. Lambeth (Jennings), Bell Buckle, TN; and four grandchildren, Annabelle Douglas Tullock, Garret Gentry Tullock, Andrew Walker Earthman, and Georgia Kate Earthman. He is also survived by two nieces, Jennifer Lambeth Hinds (Dr. William), Nashville, TN, and Dr. Melissa Lambeth Kemp (Dr. Charlie), Atlanta, GA. And their children.

*Request memorials to Monteagle Sunday School Assembly to the Earthman-Lambeth Family Fund created under his Will or to another charity of Donor's choice*

Anne Cullen Rich Pratt passed away peacefully on April 11, 2026 at the Knolls of Oxford, surrounded by her family. She was 96 years old.

Anne Rich Pratt was born on January 13, 1930, in Nashville, TN, the daughter of Dr. Stanley Loveman

Rich and Anna Brett Rich. She attended Parmer Elementary and Ward-Belmont schools in Nashville and was also educated at the Green School for Girls in London England during the 1940's. She graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, with a BA in French in 1952 and was awarded the Founder's Medal, the highest honor in the college. In 1954 she earned a Master Degree in French.

It was at Vanderbilt in 1951 that she met her beloved husband, William Pratt. They were married in 1954 and were devoted to each other for nearly 70 years, raising three children, collaborating on academic projects, traveling the world, entertaining in their home and always engaged in spirited discussions about literature, world affairs, art, music, religion and philosophy. They shared a love of education, travel and dedication to life-long learning.

Anne loved her home in Oxford, OH and delighted in welcoming guests and treating them to the best of Southern hospitality. She was a gourmet cook and hostess who loved to prepare a beautiful table and gather friends and family for unforgettable meals and conversation. Homemaking was her greatest joy and her family members were the fortunate beneficiaries of her domestic gifts.

A quick wit and sense of humor were hallmarks of her personality. She was a keen observer of human foibles in herself and others. Teasing was her gentle method of parental discipline, but she enjoyed being teased in return.

Anne was also a gifted teacher and taught in the French departments of Vanderbilt University, .

Talawanda High School and Miami University. Her love of France and the French language and culture began early in life and brought her much joy. She also had a special fondness for Ireland, inherited from her mother's family. Her Irish roots may have been the source of her talent for acting which began at the Cape Cod Theatre School when she was in high school and continued through many lead roles at Vanderbilt U. and on into her association with the International Society for Contemporary Literature and Theatre which she and her husband attended nearly every summer for 40 years in various locations all over Europe. Anne was active in the Oxford community as a member and officer of Chapter CB of PEO and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. In the university community she acted as a docent at the McGuffey House and Museum, an advisor to the Tri Delta chapter, Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa.

She was a member of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly in TN where she delighted in hosting family and friends for extended visits. She adored her grandchildren and treasured the times the family could be together in her Tennessee home.

Anne was raised in the tradition of the Anglican Episcopal Church and she and Bill were congregants at Christ Church Monteagle when in residence there. Anne's deep faith was central to her life and the way she inhabited the world. As accomplished as she was in so many areas, she always put others before herself and strove for excellence, not out of ambition but as a way of honoring her God-given gifts. She treated others with kindness and respect, regardless of background and rejoiced in the happiness and success of those she loved far more than any of her own achievements.

Anne is survived by her sister-in-law, Marjorie Pratt Monnet, three children,

Catherine Cullen Pratt Hornaday (Charles), William Stuart Pratt (Kimberly), and Randall Johnston Pratt (Jane), seven grandchildren, Marjorie Hornaday (Michael Mouzakitis), William Dickson Hornaday, Jordan Elizabeth Pratt Mayer (Dave), William Samuel Pratt, Catherine Grace Pratt, Connor MacNeil Pratt (Claire), Charlotte Pratt Benway (Lucian). and five great-grandchildren, Finley Mayer, Adeline Mayer, Margot Ruth Mayer, Charles Mouzakitis and Eleni Mouzakitis. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother and sister, and a grandchild, Caroline Jane Pratt.

Memorial contributions may be made to endowed scholarships in the names of William and Anne Pratt at Miami University, or Vanderbilt University, or to Ohio Living.

Joyce Crawley Brown, mother of Assembly member Gretchen Johnson, passed away peacefully at Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health on March 16, 2026.

Joyce was born in Paducah, KY to Joseph Thomas and Milodean May Riley Crawley.

She was first of all a loving mother who kept track of her family and let them know she loved them dearly. Joyce was baptized at the age of 16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah. She was presently a member of Pleasant Grove Church in Marshall County.

Joyce was a graduate of Paducah Tilghman High School where she was a cheerleader, a member of the National Honor Society and on the football Homecoming Queen Court. She earned a Bachelor of Science at Murray State University as well as a Master's Degree and also Rank I. She was a dedicated school teacher for 27 years in Mayfield, Christian County and

Marshall County, teaching subjects from math to biology, as well as her first love English. Joyce was known for her lively presence in the classroom. She kept her students in line, often with a bit of flair, and made sure lessons were learned both academically and in life. After her retirement she enjoyed teaching home bound students in Marshall County for seven years.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, the father of her children, Barney Thweatt, her husband, Wesley Coffman, brother, William Doyle Crawley, and grandson, Nicholas Ray Thweatt.

She is survived by her husband Alan "Barc" Brown, her son Mark Thweatt of Hopkinsville, KY, daughter Gretchen Johnson (Stephen) of Murfreesboro, TN and Shannon Copeland (Drew) of Gilbertsville, KY. Joyce cherished her grandchildren Crystal Lynn Thweatt, Hillary Morgan Copeland, Carly Rae Copeland Prince (Danny), and her great grands Kamdynn Rayne Thweatt and Stevie Rae Prince. She is also survived by Connie Allison, extended family members of the Brown and Coffman families, and was loved by her three special friends Paula Beshears, Jeanne Van Coppenolle and Kay Campbell.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Thweatt Cemetery c/o Shannon Copeland 58 Seven Oaks Lane Gilbertsville, KY 42044 and Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center at Mercy Health, 1530 Lone Oak Rd, Paducah, KY 42003.