

Marking Time

The Fall 2018 Wesley Heirs gathering must be the most unusual in our history thanks to Michael, the hurricane. Several were hesitant to come to Blue Lake with Michael headed north in the gulf, but some 20 gathered Monday night for fellowship and games. The TV was on the Weather Channel the entire time. After a great breakfast Tuesday morning there were more arrivals bringing our group to over 30. For the first time, there was another group, "Spiritual Directors," at the Blue Lake with us.



Left to Right: Suzanne Krejcar, Sharon Tucker, BeLinda Carnegie, and Monette Walker

After our business meeting and a great dinner, we met with Conference Treasurer, Suzanne Krejcar and Archivist, Sharon Tucker who updated us about benefits and what is needed by the conference upon our death. Suzanne's presentation was "Before and After - Life"; What to do when the time comes", stating that the best time to plan is NOW, not later, and what we should do

to be prepared. Sharon talked about preparing a "Memoir Draft", our personal papers and the grave markers. She encourages us to prepare a recorded oral or DVD history about our ministry or submit it in writing. Afterward there was more fellowship, games and snacks and an Executive Board meeting.

After supper we gathered back in the chapel for a wonderful program, "Rainbows and Dreams" of music by Julia Fitzpatrick and a presentation by her husband, Dr Daniel Fitzpatrick, DO, MPH, "Medical Support of Astronaut Training". He was a medical doctor with NASA working with the astronauts. His talk was accompanied with slides and was very informative and interesting. Faye



Dr. Daniel Fitzpatrick presenting to the group.

Tisdale came from Opp FUMC to accompany Julia. Appreciation was expressed to



Left to Right: Faye Tisdale, Julia Fitzpatrick, and Dr. Daniel Fitzpatrick

Judy Hust who has been our accompanist for several years and wasn't able to attend this gathering. Glenda Bryant agreed to become our accompanist. Mark named Julia an honorary Wesley Heir, and she agreed to become our music director. Of course, afterward we had more snacks, games and fellowship while still watching Weather TV.

Wednesday morning we opened with Holy Communion in the Chapel with Rev. Ed Britton officiating. At the conclusion of the service there was a motion that we end our gathering after breakfast and head for home, so there was a mass exit leaving only the Newton's and Stewart's behind with the other group. Wednesday became a day of rest and renewal for us as we watched it rain, some wind blow and TV. Blue Lake lost some limbs, but that was it. The Newton's found little damage when returning home, and we went to Dothan and saw lots of damage especially to the trees along with the loss of electric power, cable and internet. After a visit with Jerry Dooling at Wesley Place we headed north toward home, finding power in Ozark and a late dinner.

But we do have very exciting news for the Spring gathering! Monette Walker has gotten Sean Dietrich, "Sean of the South", a writer, blogger, speaker, and storyteller to join us at Blue Lake on Tuesday night, March 12th. The Executive Board has discussed opening this to anyone who would like to come hear him. Blue Lake will open the gym for that night as well as provide supper for those who want a night out, or supper, overnight and breakfast for those making reservations. Prices have not been firmed up yet, but you will surely want to be present for Spring 2019 gathering March (11) 12-13. We will combine the Fall and Spring Memorial Celebrations! **Mark your calendars now so you won't miss it!**

Mark Stewart, President