



Alabama-West Florida Conference

**Wesley Heirs**

Spring 2020 Newsletter

### **Marking Time**

Greetings Fellow Wesley Heirs!

2020 is moving so fast that it's getting really hard to keep up with time. Sometimes I think I would enjoy going back to when birthdays seemed to take forever to come around. In less than two months the Wesley Heirs will be gathering at Blue Lake for our Spring Gathering. It looks like an exciting and informative 27 hours with plenty of great fellowship.

Terri Turner will be coming Tuesday afternoon to update us about the AL-WF UM Foundation and Wesley Heirs' participation in it. Rev. Larry Bryars will join us after breakfast Wednesday to share about this year's General and Jurisdictional Conferences that we all are so interested in. After supper Tuesday, we will be entertained by a trio called "The Church Ladies", followed by a fun sing-along. Holy Communion before breakfast Wednesday will have Rev. Larry Bryars leading us. Our "Memorial Celebration Service" is at 10:30 Wednesday with Rev. David Thompson as the preacher. Families of deceased clergy and spouses are invited to join us for the celebration and dinner following.

I have been writing to a number of our retired clergy and spouses this month and I am surprised of how many of you live in the same communities. I encourage you to join together for the ride to Blue Lake. And if 27 hours isn't enough for you, then come join me and about 20 others who come Monday afternoon, just let the registrars, Dianne and Curtis Smith know when you register. My son Scott now comes with me to help with the driving. As we get older, things don't all work like they used to. That is why Wesley Heirs welcomes both family and friends to come along with you and also become a part of this wonderful fellowship. So, if you are coming for the first time, the 19<sup>th</sup> time or more, you will be received with a loving welcome and amazing Christian fellowship!

AND --- Wesley Heirs now has a Facebook page! Please click on the link below and ask to join!

Mark Stewart, President

**See you at Blue Lake!!!!**

### **Quick links**

**Spring 2020 Retreat Registration Form**

**Wesley Heirs Executive Board**

**Wesley Heirs Facebook Page**



### ***The Church Ladies***

The Church Ladies are well known in Wing, AL for their impeccable harmony and ability to lighten the mood wherever they go. They have been singing together (in some form or fashion) for over 15 years. The ladies have their unique perspective on life, but above all, want people to know that God is full of love and joy...and He loves to laugh. The Wesley Heirs is excited to have "The Church Ladies" join us on Tuesday evening to share their perspective!

## Spring Retreat Schedule

### Monday, March 9

- 5:00 Supper (The Gator Café in Baker, AL)
- 7:00 Fellowship & Games

### Tuesday, March 10

- 8:30 Breakfast
- 10:00 Registration
- 11:15 Cokesbury Hymn Sing
- 11:30 Gathering & Announcements
- 12:00 Lunch/Dinner
- 12:45 Terri Turner, Executive Director of the AL-WF UM Foundation

- 1:00 Executive Committee Meeting
- 5:00 Choir Practice (all are welcome)
- 5:30 Supper
- 6:00 Program – “The Church Ladies”
- 6:45 Sing-along

### Wednesday, March 11

- 8:00 Holy Communion
- 8:30 Breakfast (Steve speaks about Blue Lake)
- 9:15 Dr. Larry Bryars, General & Jurisdictional Conferences
- 10:15 Choir Warm-up
- 10:30 Memorial Celebration Service
- 11:30 Lunch/Dinner

## Retreat Reminders

1. Bring snacks for our gatherings.
2. Bring games to play together.
3. Bring addressed cards to be signed by the group.
4. Bring tip money for the Blue Lake employees for their Christmas bonuses.

## SAVE THESE DATES

Annual Conference  
Wesley Heirs Luncheon  
– Rev. Jim Dannelly

**FALL 2020 RETREAT**  
**OCTOBER 13-14**

**SPRING 2021 RETREAT**  
**MARCH 9-10**

## REGISTRATION FORM

(Deadline is February 25, 2020)

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### RATES:

Double Occupancy=\$45/person; \$90/couple

Single Occupancy=\$60/person

Campers=\$31 for meals/person. In addition, campsite charges are paid directly to WESLEY HEIRS. (Meals not eaten are deducted.)

Monday Night=\$31 plus \$2 ground fee/person.

Registrar to assign same gender roommates if available with double occupancy rate.

Assign same gender roommate

Single Occupancy requested

Double Occupancy requested

Camper registration

Check if downstairs room required

Check if upstairs rooms with queen bed preferred

Check if wheelchair required

Special Diet

DIABETIC YES ( ) NO ( )

Please make retreat checks payable to WESLEY HEIRS. Show breakdown here & on check. Send registration with payment to:

WESLEY HEIRS  
DIANNE & CURTIS SMITH  
POST OFFICE BOX 400  
CREOLA, AL 36525  
(251) 675-7835

[curtisanddianne@gmail.com](mailto:curtisanddianne@gmail.com)

Registering Scholarship Recipient (provide name & contact information above)

Spouses of Memorial Celebration are guests of the Wesley Heirs, but please register.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Bank Balance at ending of Fall meeting	\$1,121.01
Deposits from Registration & Offering	<u>2,387.75</u>
TOTAL	\$3,508.76

### Disbursements:

Blue Lake assembly for fall registration	\$250.00
Brent Holmes Honorarium (program)	300.00
Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly	<u>1,519.50</u>
TOTAL	\$2,069.50

Bank Balance 12/31/2019	\$1,469.26
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## **Wesley Heirs Executive Board**

President: Mark Stewart  
(615) 319-4962; austew@aol.com

Co-President: Monette Walker  
(850) 865-8101; monette\_charles@yahoo.com

Secretary: Betty Blackwell  
(334) 410-0619; Blackwell0619@gmail.com

Treasurers: Ed & Betty Britton  
(334) 858-6986; bettyedbritton@yahoo.com

Registrars: Curtis & Dianne Smith  
(251) 675-7835; curtisanddianne@gmail.com

Sunshine Camp: Betty Blackwell  
(334) 410-0619; Blackwell0619@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Julia Fitzpatrick  
(281) 635-6548; jazzyj.fitz@gmail.com

Music Director: Julia Fitzpatrick  
(281) 635-6548; jazzyj.fitz@gmail.com

Accompanist: Glenda Bryan  
(334) 702-4275; (334) 701-7265 (cell)

Harpist: Janean McCawley  
(251) 454-3203; janean.mccawley@gmail.com

Past Presidents: Jim & Bobbie Dannelly  
(334) 584-7514; jpdcdj@yahoo.com

## **Note Address Change**

Monette Walker  
500 Spanish Fort Blvd., Apt. 148  
Spanish Fort, AL 36527  
(850) 865-8101

## **Rev. Dr. David Thompson**



Dr. David Thompson is originally from Kansas City, Missouri, the son of an Italian immigrant (Josie) and a Methodist Pastor (O. L. Thompson). He attended the University of Alabama where he received a BA in Theater Arts and a MA and PhD in Education Administration. He served 7 years as a high school speech and drama teacher as well as the debate team coach. His debate teams earned over \$250,000 in college scholarships and won the State Championship twice. He later went on to coach the University of Alabama Debate team, winning the National Championship once with over 800 two-man teams competing. He found his most rewarding work as an elementary school principal, and many of the stories found in his book come from kids and college students. He retired and went through the Course of Study at Emory University, serving as a United Methodist Minister for 18 years, 7 of those years preaching on the beach in Destin, Florida. He is involved in the *Kairos Prison Ministry* and teaches *Celebrate Recovery* in one of the prisons in Florida. Dr. Thompson recently wrote a book entitled "You Did Something Good": Stories of Unconscious Love By The Least of These" available on Amazon.com. He currently lives in Destin with his wife of 44 years, Karen Field Thompson. They have a son David Jr., who is a United Methodist Pastor in Birmingham, AL and a daughter, Kristin Scroggin, who owns a consulting firm titled *genWHY Communications*.

## **We Remember**

**Rev. William C. Kundo, RE** November 20, 2019  
**Diane L. Carlson (Dennis)** December 4, 2019  
**Naomi C. Sigler (Richard)** December 22, 2019  
**Rena K. Allen (Jimmy)** December 23, 2019  
**Rev. Frank L. Scott, RE** December 23, 2019  
**Rev. Dr. T. Leo Brannon, RE** December 20, 2019  
**Nelda C. Williams (Doug)** January 3, 2020  
**Rev. Douglas Golden** January 30, 2020

These Wesley Heirs will be remembered during the Memorial Celebration Service on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 10:30 AM. Family and friends are invited to attend the Service as guests of the Wesley Heirs, but must register using the Registration Form.

## ***Wesley Heirs Organized in AWF***

The following is an article posted in the "United Methodist Christian Advocate" on December 18, 1983.

The name, "Wesley Heirs," was approved for the retired ministers and wives of the Alabama West Florida Conference when they met October 24-25 at Blue Lake.

At the groups' breakfast meeting on May 24, at Huntingdon College, the suggestion was made that a meeting be held between Annual Conference Sessions to provide more time to be together and to share in a vital fellowship. The Conference Historical Society, sponsor of the Breakfast, proceeded to plan accordingly.

The Rev. Robert Hall, Chairperson of the Historical Society, was present for opening session for the October meeting and led in the election of officers. Those elected were: President, Ray and Katherine Whatley; Vice President, Charles and Marjorie Hildreth; Secretary-Treasurer, Welton and Sarah Gregory; Newsletter Editor, Doris Marietta. The Executive Committee was instructed to select a name for the organization and make plans for the year ahead, subject to the approval of the body.

The name, "Wesley Heirs," was approved and all in attendance were named charter members. The chosen motto – "Love, Learn and Live" succinctly expresses what has been and still is the dominant spirit of the members.

The two days were filled with a variety of activities – business sessions, visiting, walking in the woods, and table games. Morning devotions were led by Arthur Carlton and J. Wilson Smack.

The next meeting of the Wesley Heirs is scheduled for March 27-28, 1984 at Oakwood Lodge.

Charter Members included: Margie Armstrong, W.B. & Grace Atkinson, Mary Britt, J.H. & Arlene Bullington, Arthur & Mabel Carlton, Elva Gilmer, Welton & Sarah Gregory, Lucy Hathaway, Melanoe Hartzog, Charles & Marjorie Hildreth, Fletcher & Jean Howington, Doris Marietta, Paul & Bobbie Mathison, A.Q. & Lillie Mixon, Pattie Moseley, J.B. & Eleanor Nichols, J. Wilson & Dorothy Smack, Ray & Katherine Whatley. Visitors included: Rev. Robert Hall (Chairperson of Historical Society) & his mother, Pauline Hall.

**"I cannot think that when God sent us into the world, he had irreversibly decreed that we should be perpetually miserable in it. If our taking up the Cross imply our bidding adieu to all joy and satisfaction, how is it reconcilable with what Solomon expressly affirms of religion, that 'her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace?'"**

***– John Wesley***