

MOUNTAIN VOICES



Volume 17, Issue 15

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

November 2016

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.

2016 MSSA Calendar

MSSA Board Meeting
November 19
MAEFC Meeting
November 19
After Thanksgiving Lunch
November 25

Mountain Voices
Ann Ewing, editor
Martha Ann Pilcher, design/
layout

Deadline to submit items for the next issue is Nov. 25. Send articles to Ann Ewing at aewing62@gmail.com.

From the President Monteagle Thanksgiving

Nothing can unite or divide family and friends quite like a discussion of what they serve at Thanksgiving. Turkey and dressing --or " stuffing" above the Mason-Dixon line--are a given, but it's the side dishes that bring on debate.

My late mother in law, Sue Berry, lamented every Thanksgiving, "My family always had ambrosia at Thanksgiving," having lost her favorite to the traditional Berry family menu that included, of all things, lima beans.

Perhaps no one loved the discussion of thanksgiving food quite like my brother, Wesley. Our grandmother, who we called " Mom" was an outstanding cook and every year, as if on cue, Wesley would say, "Remember how Mom had at least three extra meats in addition to turkey, ten delicious homemade sides



and at least four or five

desserts?" Food, especially at Thanksgiving, certainly highlights tradition and culture and is great fodder for conversation.

The day after Thanksgiving, the Assembly comes alive as families emerge from their cottages wrapped in their winter coats carrying covered dishes to the Dining Hall to share. Come join us on Friday, November 25, at noon. What better time to showcase your family's Thanksgiving favorites and join
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Jobs!

There are currently openings for the 2017 MSSA Youth Staff. If you are interested in applying or know anyone who is interested, applications are available online at MSSA1882.org/about/employment-opportunities. Deadline for applications is January 6, 2017.

From the President

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in the greatest debate of all time!

And, just in case you're wondering, my favorite from Mom was her sweet, rich, delicious chess pie. Anybody



who wants to try and compete with her legacy is welcome to bring one to the dining hall!

*Happy Thanksgiving
Barry Moody*

Who are these people?

I found last season that upon sharing my thoughts on the work of the development committee, the same perplexed look often flickered across the faces of my audience. Who and what is this abstruse committee?

The development committee has a thorough job description but basically our charge is to filter fund raising requests from the membership and committees. Annual fund raising events should, in general, be for projects not included or entirely included in normal budgetary or capital funding. The committee can approve no more than one event during a single season, but may approve the fundraising event requests up to three years in advance. The development committee then submits its recommendations in the form of a motion to the board of trustees for a vote.

Requests may be submitted at any time but are typically reviewed during the summer. Current projects that have been voted on by the committee and ratified by the board of trustees are as follows: Summer fundraising event 2017 and 2016-2017 Annual Fund: Gateway to the Assembly Capital Campaign. 2017-2018 Annual Fund: Hardscape Project.

2016-2107 Development Committee Members

Susan Acker
Kent Ballow
Ellie Billington
Anne Archer Dennington
Ann Ewing
Lanier Frank
Lisa Hammett
Dianne Lloyd
Louise Manzella
Please send requests or questions to diannelloyd2@gmail.com.

*Dianne Lloyd,
Development Chair*

News from the Platform:

The Fall is an exciting time as the Platform Superintendent; creative planning and keen organizing are top priority!

Tops on the list right now is lining up housing for platform guests. One of the best ways for our endowment monies to stretch the farthest and smartest is to rethink lodging options for our platform guests. Many times, as I walk my pups through the grounds

during the season, I see empty cottages. Please consider offering your cottage for one night up to a week (generally a guest is on the grounds two nights). We will cover cleaning fees!

The DeLaney, Fitzgerald and Hornaday families have all participated in this offering with great success! By offering up your available dates, I could utilize your generous gift for the benefit of the Assembly's mission. As you start planning your summer. Send me available

dates for the 2017 season!
Virginia.curry@mssa1882.org

Croquet Set Needed!

Please email Virginia Curry if you have a Croquet set to *loan* to the Platform for ONE afternoon during the 2017 Season.

Thanks so much!

Virginia.curry@mssa1882.org



Housing the Rangers in Tennessee's Largest State Park

"The Assembly received a hearty "thank you" for our timely gift of \$6,500 for ranger house repair and renovation. These funds will be applied almost immediately to improve the Stone Door ranger house, where a renovation is already underway with support from Friends."

Katie Trahan, Outreach Chair

By the time you read this, it may already have happened, but sometime this year, South Cumberland will become the largest state park in Tennessee, not just the "largest state wilderness park," as we've tried to say. The *largest state park*.

A few years ago, the Friends were the driving force behind acquisition of land to protect park views and watersheds. More recently the Department of Environment and Conservation and some other conservation organizations have become allies. In the coming weeks, we will provide

details of the new land acquisitions and what they mean.

But for now I would like to turn your attention to one of several other very different Friends projects-not land acquisitions-and the partners who are helping us accomplish our objective.

The Friends have a particular interest in keeping rangers and their families in all four of the park's ranger houses. One of the houses is located at the Visitor Center, for the park manager. The others are located at trailheads: Stone Door, Savage Gulf, and Grundy Forest.

The issue is park security. When rangers are present, vandalism and thefts are greatly reduced. But the funding issue is complicated by state budgets and priorities. The Friends have shared much of the cost of these houses.

In 1998, a group at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly gathered enough

money from among its members to build the ranger house at Grundy Forest. That project was also aided by Greeter Building Supply. In the last two years, the focus has shifted to the 35-year-old ranger house at Stone Door Natural Area, where Ranger Aaron Reid has been doing most of the work on that renovation.

This year, as a special committee pondered how much funding the Friends could afford, the Monteagle Assembly once again stepped in, this time with a gift of \$6,500. The funds will be applied immediately to the Stone Door project.

The Friends could not do anything without its community of members and volunteers. We do even more with the help of our donors, and we do great things with the help of our special partners.

*Latham Davis,
Friends President*

Thanksgiving Includes Giving at MSSA

We are excited to once again to support Christmas on the Mountain this holiday season! Christmas on the Mountain is a program of the joint ministry task force of Morton Memorial and Mid-Cumberland Ministries. The event serves 40-45 local families annually, the bulk of whom live in Grundy County. Children from ages 1-17 are served and families are given a Christmas food basket including cured hams and fresh fruit. Dubose Conference Center graciously hosts the event and provides volunteer support for the event. While children are entertained, parents pay a small fee and "shop" for their children in the store stocked with gifts purchased by the task force.

The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Outreach Committee is serving as a conduit for donations from Assembly Members and Friends who would like to support this event. We will accept gift cards (Visa/Amex/MasterCard) or checks made payable to MSSA with Christmas on the Mountain in the subject line. The gift cards and money will be used by the organizers of Christmas on the Mountain to purchase the children's gifts that will stock the store at the event. We will be collecting the donations at the potluck in the Dining Hall the day after Thanksgiving or accepting them in the office from now through the end of November. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Catherine@CatherineTrahan.com.

