

MOUNTAIN VOICES



Volume 17, Issue 13

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly

September 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.

From the President Learning to love Monteagle...

"You can spend a week on a Sunday afternoon in Monteagle." While this quote has been attributed to my wife's grandfather, Hamilton Douglas, who was the late husband of Marion McTyeire Archer Douglas, I think there are many men on the mountain who can relate to this statement.

25 years ago, when our

daughter Bradley was just three weeks old, Amanda began spending most of the summer with her sister, Mary Susan Kennedy, at the Kennedy's cottage. Patrick

was born three years later, and our family's summer tradition was firmly set. I dutifully came every weekend from work and like many bewildered fathers wondered, "Why (continued on pg2)



2016 MSSA Calendar

Sewanee Family Week
October 4-10
MSSA Board Meeting
October 15
Sewanee Homecoming
November 2-6
MSSA Board Meeting
November 19
MAEFC Meeting
November 19

Mountain Voices

Ann Ewing, editor
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layout

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

From the General Manager MSSA Board Announces Plan to Purchase Partin Property

The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Board is nearing the completion of an agreement to purchase property to the south of the MSSA front gate extending to College Street and Main Street.

While there was discussion of this opportunity at a town hall meeting, committee meetings, and meetings with potential donors throughout the season, we wanted to share a comprehensive outline and update on this exciting project.

In December 2015, Richard Partin, the Assembly's neighbor to the south, confidentially approached General Manager Scott Parrish regarding acquisition of the Partin property. The property consists of approximately seven acres, two houses, a commercial office building, and a large stone garage.

The land is zoned commercial which allows the current or new owners to pursue commercial (continued on page 3)

From the President

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must they stay all summer?" "What do they do all day?" and "Why do my children eat breakfast at the snack shop every day?"

I certainly knew all about the Assembly and had even visited more than once, but I had never been fully immersed until our children came along. Once Bradley became a hummingbird, I began to slowly understand. The pure delight on our children's faces as they told me of their busy week filled with sack suppers, moonlight swims, excursions, movies and the freedom, ah yes, the freedom, helped me understand what the Assembly is all about.

Before I knew what was happening, I was on a committee or two, then three and had bought a cottage of our own in the cabbage patch four doors down from the Kennedy's. I was completely converted!

I am not sure what Amanda's grandfather would think about my being president of the Assembly or that I love Sunday afternoons here, but I look forward to more Sundays here in the coming year, and I am honored to be serving the Assembly as president.

Barry Moody



Gratitude Abounds

As we enter the fall and look back at our summer in Monteagle, we remember many things: the beautiful setting, summer friends and community, and growth experienced through our many programs. We all enjoy the Assembly and its surrounding areas in our own way, and it allows us to return home rejuvenated, inspired, and ready to face the year ahead.

Our neighbors in Monteagle and beyond are not always so fortunate, and Assembly members and the outreach committee have worked hard over the past many years to foster a strong relationship with our local community. We remain committed to giving back to that community financially and through participation in projects and event support.

I am pleased to report that Outreach Sunday was a big success, with collections totaling \$2,054.00 for the South Cumberland Community Fund.

Twelve volunteers from MSSA also gave their time and energy to make Tools4School a success. Reporting to Monteagle Elementary School for two days to organize supplies for students during registration.

Our outreach projects are always greatly appreciated by the community, and these are just two great examples of how we make a difference. We will continue to report on other developments throughout the year, and we hope you will keep your heart open to our neighbors and friends.

*With gratitude,
Katie Trahan, Outreach chair*

New Crowd Control System During Sewanee Family Week

In an effort to control the student crowds for Sewanee Family week, MSSA, with the support of the University, will be instituting a new policy regarding admission to the grounds. All guests will be admitted by invitation only from a host in residence. The renting guests have been notified of this policy change. If you are using your cottage or lending it to family or friends, please note that *everyone* staying at the cottage will be

issued a gate ticket at no charge.

Additionally, if you or the person to whom you loan your cottage wish to have a gathering, a guest list will need to be turned into the office so that wrist bands may be issued to your guests.

Our goal is to maintain the integrity of the Assembly's values, protect our property, and provide a safe and enjoyable experience for our families and guests. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

*Scott Parrish,
General Manager*

From the General Manager

(continued from page 1)

development at the entrance and southern border of the Assembly. It is important to note that the town of Monteagle has created a redevelopment plan that encourages significant

commercial development in the area of Assembly Avenue and College Street and at the intersection of Highway 41 and Main Street. There is not a time table for implementing its redevelopment plan, but if the Assembly wishes to acquire the Partin property, it will be to its financial advantage to do so before developers set their sights on the property.

The Partin selling price is \$775,000 with \$100,000 up front and the balance to be paid at the rate of \$5,000 per month until the total is paid off (11 years and 3 three months). The Partins will be given a life estate, not to exceed 17 years. During the life estate, the Partins will maintain the property, pay the property taxes and insurance, and retain the annual rental income (~\$34,000).

At the February 20, 2016, Executive Committee meeting, General Manager Parrish informed the committee of the developments. Honoring the request for confidentiality, the committee authorized the General Manager to conduct a quiet feasibility study to

include the following elements: financial support from members,



a legal opinion of the structure of the deal, and an accounting opinion of MSSA ownership.

At the May 21, 2016, board meeting, the General Manager reported that there seemed to be adequate moral and financial (\$200,000 pledged) support for moving forward with the Partin proposal. Should the MSSA board approve the acquisition, a capital campaign would be necessary to fully fund the purchase. There would be work to be done regarding the legal structure of the agreement before the Assembly could proceed as well as discussion regarding how the rental property should be purchased, paid for, and owned.

The MSSA Executive Committee moved and the board approved that the MSSA Board of Trustees empower the president to appoint Scott Parrish to structure a proposal to acquire the Partin property and to provide the MSSA board with details of the plan by the July 16, 2016, meeting. During the ensuing weeks, the Finance and Development Committees met to discuss the acquisition and Legal Counsel, and Overton Thompson began

discussions regarding the details of the acquisition agreement. The deliberations of these committees were not complete by the July 16 meeting, so action was postponed until the July 29 meeting at which the finance committee supported the acquisition of the Partin Property provided the Assembly embark on a capital campaign to fund the acquisition.

The Development Committee unanimously moved and the board approved a capital campaign to benefit the Eleanor Lanier Waldrop Land Acquisition Fund. These funds will be raised and earmarked for the purchase of the Partin property. The campaign will be known as the "Gateway to the Assembly Campaign." Dianne Lloyd, Lanier Frank and Scott Parrish will lead the effort to meet the goal of \$775,000. To date, leadership gifts in the amount of \$400,000 have already been pledged.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the board of trustees that we cannot afford to pass up this paramount opportunity to protect and complement the gateway to our grounds. The board of trustees is hopeful that you are willing to embark on this effort with us as a champion of the Assembly.

For more details on the property or information regarding gift opportunities, please contact Scott Parrish at (931) 924-2286 or scott.parrish@mssa1882.org.

Scott Parrish, General Manager

