

Newsletter of the
Association of Retired
Ministers and Spouses



To ARMS!

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Are You Looking for Something?

By the Rev. Alvin J. Horton

I feel like I've spent half of my life trying to find things that I have misplaced. And as I have gotten older, my habit of losing things seems to have only increased. I must admit, however, the joy of finding that which was lost is often well worth the search.

Isn't that the message of Jesus' parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son? **The joy of finding is always worth the tedious work of searching.**

Retirement can be like that. After years of doing what we have loved so much, we can sometimes feel like we've lost something when retirement rolls around. Some of our colleagues have found wonderful opportunities in retirement. Others are still searching.

**A Retreat for Retired
Ministers & Spouses**
Oct. 11-12, 2023
Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center
Lynchburg, Virginia

Maybe you'd like to join us for our **Annual ARMS Retreat, Oct. 11-12, at Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center in Lynchburg.** Our theme this year is "Lost & Found." It will be a great opportunity to share what some have found and what others are still feeling the pain of losing in retirement. Put it on your calendar. I hope to find you there!

The 2023 retirees served 1,210.25 combined years

Check it out. This year's retirement class has a combined service record of 1,210.25 years! Look and see if you can find the one retiree with the most years of service...

Russel K. Alden 9.0	Larry G. Jent* 39.75	Michael S. Morris 7.0	Joellen M. Simmons* 11.0
Margaret L. Alley-Grant 26.0	Michael A. Johnson 11.0	Mark A. Mrini 20.0	Marshall Wayne Snead 41.0
J. Robert Berghuis* 24.25	John J. Kelchner Jr. 31.0	John E. Patterson 40.5	Tom M. Stevens* 6.5
Jesse C. Blythe 8.0	Patricia C. Kelley 4.0	Timothy M. Porter 11.0	Michael W. Teixeira 28.0
William T. Burleigh 19.0	Chul Ki Kim 18.0	Steven L. Propst 33.0	Jack S. Turner 18.0
Deborah L. Carey 20.0	Stephen P. King 41.5	Daniel K. Purdom Jr. 10.0	Nancy M. Vaughn 13.0
Reason A. Chandler* 22.5	Deborah A. Koontz 24.0	Brenda L. Pusso* 12.0	Robert E. Vaughn Jr. 47.0
Gina De Jesus 6.75	Cynthia A. Lee 18.25	Norman L. Ramsey III 33.0	John D. White 21.75
James R. Driscoll* 39.5	Thomas F. Lester* 18.0	Patricia A. Riggs 27.0	William M. White 35.0
John E. Flood 15.0	John G. Livermon 22.0	Charles M. Roberson* 28.0	Herbert C. Williams Jr. 30.0
John B. Franklin 17.0	Debra R. Lucas 26.0	Nancy E. Robinson 19.50	James N. Wishmyer 39.0
Tammy P. Franklin 21.0	Jerry B. Malone 7.0	Joseph E. Rose 1.00	Cynthia I. Zirlott* 19.0
Richard Grendahl 20.0	Ellen H. Martin 14.0	Phillip C. Showers 18.5	Luz M. Zuleta 12.0
Kerry L. Halbert 16.0	William E. Moberly 10.0	Brian J. Simmons 18.0	
James S. Hargraves 39.0	Dennis C. Morgan 2.0		

*Ad-Interim

A church home, woodworking, and clergy fellowship

A Retired Pastor Finds Joy in Retirement

By the Rev. Keith Mottley

When I retired after 42 years of pastoral ministry in the Virginia Conference, for the first time in our lives, my wife Linda and I found that we were without a church home. We had long been told where to go, sent by others to churches that would eventually become our church family. Now, we were faced with a decision to make for ourselves. **We needed to find a church fellowship that we felt met our own spiritual needs.**

After much prayer and discussion, we had a good idea as to what we were looking for, and we set out on that search. We quickly found where we felt the Lord was leading us and soon found the joy we were looking for at Chester United Methodist Church, as well as in one of their Bible based Sunday School classes.

During my ministry, it didn't take me long to learn that in order to keep my sanity I needed to lose myself in something other than church work; I needed to find a hobby. So, having worked with wood growing up, I soon took up woodworking. However, due to various parsonage sizes and space for setting up a shop, I found I was limited to the type and number of tools I could utilize. I settled

on scrolling which requires only one small scroll saw, and I began making fretwork with Christian themed crafts.



Sitting at the saw gave me the opportunity to hum or sing praises as I cut. Each art piece could usually be completed in one sitting which allowed me to see the "fruits of my labor" right away, something we don't always see immediately in ministry. I began to give pieces away or sell them at local craft shows.

As a pastor, I led several week-long United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) teams which I continue to do in retirement, enjoying both a Spring and Fall trip. **I also volunteer two days a week working with Project: Homes in their handicap ramps division.** We work Tues. and Thurs. mornings building components for ramps or actually installing them at homes in the Greater Richmond Area.

How rewarding it is to finish a ramp and see the expressions on the faces of homeowners when they discover they are no longer housebound by steps to the outside. A few recipients have told us that their loved ones had not been outside for months because of their inability to use their steps.

Finding that I could use the gifts the Lord has so generously given me to help and bring joy to others has been vastly rewarding. Knowing we,



as a team at *Project: Homes*, have made it possible for those less fortunate to be able to do something as simple as walk or roll a wheelchair out into fresh air brings joy to our hearts. Praise God!

But I cannot fail to mention another joy that I have found in retirement, and that is the fellowship of other colleagues in ministry. Before retirement, I attended ecumenical fellowships as well as district clergy fellowships. Now I am part of a weekly Wednesday morning breakfast group with other retired pastors in the Richmond area. During Covid shutdown we met on Zoom which allowed others who could not be with us in person to participate. For this reason, we have continued the Zoom meetings on Monday mornings, and still meet in person at a local restaurant on Wednesday mornings.

As you can imagine, our conversations range from "mundane to world changing" (and often not even church related). What a blessing this fellowship has been...and continues to be! I highly recommend that you find or start a fellowship group of your own. **I think you will find that there is much joy to be found, even in retirement.**



— Retreat Leaders —

David Hoover

David Hoover is a nationally known retreat leader with expertise in creating safe spaces to talk about important topics.



He is a licensed clinical social worker and therapist in private practice and has provided spiritual direction to others for more than 15 years. He is the son of the late Rev. Bob & Margaret Hoover and resides in Richmond with his husband, the Rev. Bill Roberts, and their King Charles Spaniel, Joey.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

“Bishop Sue” will join us via video for a morning devotion on Thursday. A Florida native, she is a graduate of the Univ. of Florida (B.S.), Univ. of Florida College of Law (J.D.), & Candler School of Theology (M.Div.). She served the N. Ga. Conf. (2016-22), and was assigned to the Va. Conf. in Jan. of this year. She is married to the Rev. Allen Johnson and they have a daughter, Samantha.



John W. Fuller

John Fuller is exec. director of Virginia U.M. Pensions, Inc. (VUMPI) and a regular at our ARMS retreats. He will report on our health-care and pensions programs, especially as they may be affected by changes in the denomination.



Ken Horne & the NiteKAP Folk Band

Ken Horne is a retired pastor and co-founder of the Society of St. Andrew. In retirement, he helped form NiteKAP, a trio of Bedford musicians who perform an eclectic mix of American folk music. The trio - **Ken, Allison Johnson, & Paul Brockman** - will provide an evening of music during the retreat that will be entertaining, inspiring, and always a lot of fun.



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The Rev. Dr. Jack Martin & Marianne

Jack Martin, a retired pastor with special interest in mission and music, along with his wife **Marianne**, will weave the magic of music throughout the retreat as we explore the many things that we have lost and found in our personal lives, the church, and the world. Great songs of our faith — as well as the singing of secular songs that speak to, and uplift, the heart — will be part of the retreat. A volunteer choir will also rehearse for a special choral presentation during our closing service of Holy Communion.



A Retreat for Retired Clergy & Spouses
October 11-12, 2023

REGISTRATION

Minister's Name: _____
 Name tag should read: _____
 Spouse: _____
 Spouse name tag should read: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Preferred Phone: (____) _____
 Email: _____
 Special physical needs: _____



Make checks payable to:
Virginia Conference UMC
 (ARMS Retreat 2023)

Fee: \$75 per person (double occupancy)
\$95 per person (single occupancy)

First Time Retreaters:

Discount of \$25 per person off regular price

Scholarships available.
Contact Registrar.

Deadline for Registration: Oct. 1, 2023
(NO REFUNDS AFTER OCT. 1)

Mail check & completed form to:
 Gale & Harry Kennon, Registrars
 2696 Southern Hills Ct.
 North Garden, VA 22959
 galegram@aol.com (434) 296-2954



Return Address:
 1200 Pulliam Street
 North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Board of Pensions & Health Benefits

Virginia Annual Conference

P.O. Box 5606

Glen Allen, Virginia 23058

Phone: 800-768-1100

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Want to support ARMS?

Send suggested donation of \$10 per person to:

**Rev. Susan Brack, Treasurer
 128 Glenwood Cir.
 South Hill, VA 23970**

Make check payable to "Virginia Conference UMC" with "ARMS donation" in memo line.



In Memoriam

Remembering those we have lost since our last report in December 2022

Retired Clergy

Patricia A. Murphy (3/12/44) RE	Dec. 6, 2022
Janet Martin (9/17/41) RL	Dec. 15, 2022
William F. Atwell Sr. (1/14/40) RE	Dec. 16, 2022
Larry Adams (9/21/44) RE	Dec. 21, 2022
David Ray Burrough (9/23/49) RE	Jan. 26, 2023
William M. Clark Jr (7/10/31) RA	Jan. 29, 2023
Lewis H. Morgan (9/30/29) RE	Feb. 5, 2023
James L. Gravely (3/28/35) RE	Feb. 9, 2023
Joseph H. Beasley (11/13/29) RE	Feb. 11, 2023
Kenneth E. Whetzel (11/16/35) RE	Feb. 14, 2023
William C. Logan (6/3/39) RE	Feb. 15, 2023
David L. Wade (10/18/41) RE	Feb. 28, 2023
Otis H. Worley (7/17/34) RA	April 3, 2023
Richard R. Burnette (1/7/28)	April 18, 2023
Clarence E. Acklin (12/4/42) RE	May 3, 2023
James A. Edwards (10/13/48) RL	May 18, 2023
Jeanetta B. Benedict (2/21/37) RD	June 7, 2023
William H. Nuckols Jr. (10/5/35) RE	June 22, 2023
Isaac W. Bare (1/28/45) RE	July 2, 2023
Connie Ray Lee (10/14/33) RL	July 6, 2023

Spouses of Retired Clergy

Nancy Thornton (Rev. Harold Thornton)*	Oct. 21, 2022
Charles J. Piluso (Rev. Phyllis Piluso)	Feb. 13, 2023
James Utz (Rev. Vivian Utz)	April 18, 2023

Widows/Widowers of Deceased Clergy

Stella Couch (Rev. Robert E. Couch)*	May 10, 2022
Kate Angle (Rev. James Angle)*	May 13, 2022
Elizabeth J. Wright (Rev. William A. Wright)*	May 25, 2022
Stephen T. Claris (Rev. Karen Claris)*	June 11, 2022
Doris D. Ferguson (Rev. William S. Ferguson)*	June 27, 2022
Patricia Huffman (Rev. Garland Huffman)*	July 15, 2022
Katie Jester (Rev. William A. Jester)*	July 22, 2022
W. Lieu Lewis (Rev. David Lewis)*	July 26, 2022
Virginia C. Shelton (Rev. Garry Shelton)*	Aug. 22, 2022
Jeanette Combs (Rev. William Combs)	Dec. 19, 2022
Norma F. White (Rev. Troy White)	Dec. 21, 2022
Bonnie Fisher (Rev. Frederick Gardner)	Dec. 25, 2022
Marian Kessler (Rev. William Kessler)	Jan. 10, 2023
Betty T. Davis (Rev. Melvin Ott Davis)	Jan. 24, 2023
Ethel L. Tangeman (Rev. Karl Tangeman)	March 7, 2023
Nancy East (Rev. Clifford East)	March 20, 2023
Betty Lou Loftis Sheffield Bailey	April 3, 2023
Nancy Smart (Rev. Morgan Smart)	May 15, 2023
Anna L. Campbell (Rev. Deroy Campbell)	May 16, 2023
Amelia Parker Bond (Rev Luther Grant)	May 20, 2023
Peggy Wright (Rev. Edward Wright)	May 24, 2023
Agnes F. Satterwhite (Rev. Edwin Satterwhite)	June 3, 2023
Nyoka C. Worley (Rev. Otis Worley)	June 29, 2023
Norma T. Mitchell (Rev. Frank Mitchell)	July 7, 2023

**Not reported in last "To ARMS" newsletter (Dec. 2022)*