



Heart Beat

January 2021



Margaret Thornton

Margaret Thornton is one of those unusual people who has the gift of anticipating a need. If she hears someone is going for medical tests, she contacts the person to make sure he/she is not going alone. One friend said, "When I was considering knee surgery and recuperating in a nursing home, Margaret volunteered to stay with me at home. She told me I would do much better at home, and she would take good care of me."

Margaret can sense if someone is discouraged particularly because of the Covid isolation. She will call and say, "Let's go out and get a hamburger. I'll be by in a few minutes." or "This is such a pretty day. Let's take drive."

If there is a death or illness in a family, Margaret is one of the first to come by with one of her signature dishes. She also is mindful to contact the church office and friends about anyone who may need a phone call or a visit. At any church gathering, she makes sure to include others in the group.

Margaret relates to and understands young people. If a young person needs help to enroll in college, Margaret volunteers her services. She also has helped several young people obtain their drivers' licenses by taking them to an empty parking lot and letting them practice. One youth said, "Margaret encouraged me to attend church with her and went out of her way to make me feel comfortable. Now I have many church friends and have become involved in the youth program."

Margaret has worked unceasingly with a refugee family. She encouraged three family members to apply for citizenship, which is a long and detailed progress. She worked with them to obtain the necessary documents, helped them study for the required civic and history test, and then went with them to Charlotte to meet requirements. She always is available to accompany them to doctors' appointments and help with translation to assure they understand the doctor's instructions.

Her greatest passion for church activities is United Methodist Women, where she is involved at the local, district, and conference levels. She had the vision if the UMW is to grow, start with young girls and so she organized a multigenerational circle. The youth can learn about UMW at an early age, and older women can serve as their mentors.

Each year, Margaret hosts a Thanksgiving dinner at her house for a circle. She also invites Newport UMW to her house for a yearly luncheon.

Being the second oldest of five girls, Margaret grew up on a farm in Bowman Town community of Washington County. Her father, Tom Lewis was a

(Continued on page 2)



(Page 1 continued)

farmer, and since there were no boys, the girls had to help with the farm chores. In addition, they learned from their mother, Louisa, how to cook and to become gracious hostesses.

Growing up, Margaret attended Pleasant Grove UMC, a small Washington County church, where she was very active in the local and district youth programs.

Margaret enrolled at Hiwassee to study to be a youth director and received her degree from Tennessee Wesleyan College. Her first position following graduation was youth director at Newport First United Methodist Church, where she met her future husband, Jones Thornton. After serving several years as youth director, she returned to school and earned her Master’s Degree in Education from ETSU. She retired from Parrottsville Elementary School after thirty plus years of teaching.

Sadness came in 2004 when her husband died at an early age, and Margaret decided to move to Morristown. Margaret’s mother, who already had moved to Morristown, died two months before Jones, and Margaret decided to buy her mother’s house. After her move, she became active at Morristown First as well as maintaining ties with Newport First.

Margaret is a Master Gardener and can be seen in downtown Morristown as well as the Senior Center tending flowers. She has traveled extensively through Europe as well as to Alaska and Hawaii.

Two of her sisters, Julie Compton and Virginia Street, live in Morristown and, like Margaret, are active FUMC members.

She is a humble person going about serving her Lord in a quiet manner doing what she can to help people along the way. FUMC is blessed to have such a dedicated member.

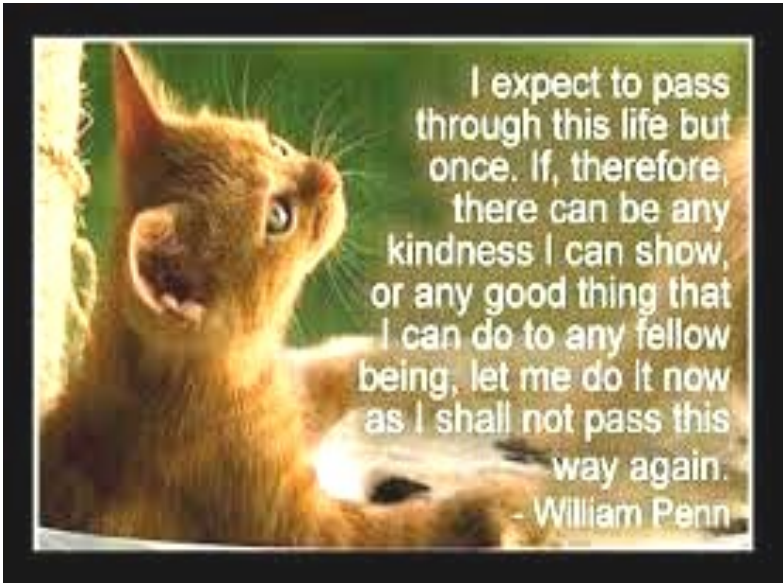


Evelyn Goodson	02
Nancy Cox	03
Judy Marshall	03
Jean Spakes	10
Jim Johnston	26
Betty Barrett West	30

Tricky Riddle
That'll

Stretch Your Brain

How could you rearrange the letters in the words “new door” to make one word?



If you have any prayer concerns, Contact Care Person, Millie Prince.

In Remembrance

Joyful Hearts extends our sincere sympathy to family and friends of Dorothy Miller, who died November 19th. Dorothy was one of our FUMC nonagenarians, and she was always known for her lovely hats.



Jim Snowden was a faithful FUMC member and dedicated Sunday School teacher, who died December 21st.



Joyful Hearts extends sincere sympathy to his wife, Shirley, and daughters, Melody and Trish, and to all his dear friends.

An East Tennessee, Walters State history professor, and long-time Joyful Hearts' friend died December 30, while awaiting heart surgery. Marc McClure, whose documentaries included one on a Newport native Kiffin Rockwell, who volunteered as an American to fly and fight for the French during World War

Dr. McClure also worked on a documentary about Dr. Dennis Branch, a black physician who broke color barriers while practicing in a primarily white Cocke County.

Joyful Hearts had the honor and privilege to attend his presentations of each of these documentaries, once on our Walters State visit and the other during our monthly meeting.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.



Mission Moment

Joyful Hearts was formed with the Mission purpose: **To nurture the lives of adults as they join together in fellowship and as they reach out to serve the needs of others in the church and in the community large.**

An important element of the organization is a prayer focus and a mission each month. The mission will be local, such as Daily Bread; Regional, such as Jubilee Project in Sneedville; International, such as UMCOR.





First United Methodist Church
Joyful Hearts
101 East First North Street
Morristown, TN 37814



NEW YEAR'S EVE WORD SCRAMBLE

utwdcnono	_____
ebeltreca	_____
idgitmhn	_____
ecfotitn	_____
hserec	_____
sinoerustol	_____
rpyta	_____
apelssrkr	_____
kinsamereo	_____
nlaboslo	_____
sogla	_____
rkwesifro	_____
aajrnyu	_____
uemtrieasqs	_____
eirmome	_____

© 2018 Happiness is Homemade (www.happinessishomemade.com) FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY!



JOYFUL HEART BEAT UPDATE

During this on-going pandemic, which is causing FUMC’s doors to temporarily close, the Planning Committee has not met for quite a few months. For that reason, Joyful Hearts has been unable to plan 2021, regarding programs, trips, or meals.

Until further notice, Heart Beat will be delivered on a quarterly basis, beginning in April. When this current situation becomes a thing of the past and Joyful Hearts can meet at last, the Joyful Heart Beat press will be rolling again!