

McMillion leaves a legacy

By **Hannah Davis**
Tribune Correspondent

Lewisburg's Claude McMillion passed away on January 4 at the age of 84. Though he was an active member in the Marshall County community in several capacities, he was most well-known and recognized as the reverend of Lewisburg's First Presbyterian Church, where he served as a pastor for 34 years.

He first came to the church in 1967, where he met longtime friend and member, Bob Phillips.

"He was a beloved man far beyond the members of our congregation," said Phillips.

Before McMillion began his long run as one of First Presbyterian's most cherished pastors, he had already started to give back to the community. The graduate of then Southwestern College, now Rhodes College, in Memphis and an avid baseball player and fan, he coached baseball for 30 years in Marshall County, and could often be found preaching his love of Babe Ruth alongside Bible verses. Alongside his service to the church, McMillion served as chairman on the Marshall County School Board for 10 years and was a member for another 12.

"Claude was respected by so many people in so many areas," according to Phillips.

McMillion had a gift for appealing and connecting to people across communities though, and kept his connections in the education world even once he began his service to First Presbyterian Church. He earned a name for himself as a "joyful negotiator" and began to apply this more to his job in the church. During his time as pastor, he served as the moderator for the local Presbytery. McMillion had a knack for getting those in the surrounding counties to come together regarding issues in the religious community. He also earned the nickname "the minister of second chances" as he commonly married those for their second marriages.

McMillion's commitment to the human spirit extended beyond religious boundaries. According to Phillips, this was what truly marked him as an invaluable member of the community and an irreplaceable part of the church.

"He genuinely cared for both the members of the church and those outside its doors. Somehow, he made everyone happy," said Phillips.

In his service to the church, he was a regular advocate for the local Cornersville Religious Camp and Retreat Center, NaCoMe. With nearly 80 years of memories made at Camp NaCoMe, McMillion saw the value in supporting the center. In many meetings, both at the Lewisburg Church and through the Presbytery, he stood for the camp and asked for support from the community when the camp was failing.

Since he left First Presbyterian Church in 2001, his quality has been difficult to replace.

"It's a tough job being a minister to a small town, and Claude did it flawlessly," said Phillips.

McMillion coached many of his replacements over the years, but many of them were "not as beloved" according to Phillips, with the exception of the current pastor, Robert Montgomery, for whom McMillion served as a father-figure.

In his personal life, Claude McMillion married a fellow Southwestern graduate, Margaret, who was equally as warm and welcoming as her other half. According to Phillips, during the early years of her marriage to Claude, the family was suffering financially and she returned to school to earn a nursing degree. Since then, she has been a widely respected nurse and a heartwarming connection to her now-late husband. The couple have four children.



Photo submitted

Verona's Dave Hunter (right), along with son Jack, has been named the 2022 Marshall County Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Hunter named Conservation Farmer of the Year

Dave Hunter has been named the 2022 Marshall County Conservation Farmer of the Year. This award is part of a state program sponsored by the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD) in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, and the Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation District. The program seeks to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation of the natural resources on their farm.

Dave Hunter began working with the district and NRCS at a very young age. His conservation work began with crop rotations, cover crops, and hay plantings when the Hunter Brothers were an operational dairy that milked over 100 head of dairy cattle in the Verona community of Marshall County. This land has been farmed by six generations of his

family, and now Dave and son Jack carry on the farming tradition.

Today, Dave operates a beef cow/calf farm where he has continued his conservation efforts by installing multiple frost-free livestock waterers, heavy use areas, livestock pipelines, pollinator habitat planting, and exclusion fencing along Big Rock Creek that surrounds the farm. Dave has also completed cross fencing to develop a rotational grazing system that allows his cattle to move from one pasture to another before the former pasture becomes overgrazed. He can manage a rotational grazing system that focuses on improving vegetation with the intent to maintain the quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity. Rotational grazing ensures their land will continue being productive not only during his lifetime but for future generations. He has also

recently taken one step further in his grazing system and begun the practice of stockpiling grasses to further maximize pasture grazing.

We would like to thank Dave for his participation in the TDA's Agriculture Resources Conservation Fund Program and Farm Bill Programs like Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Dave has also worked with many partner agencies such as The Nature Conservancy and UT Extension to continue to learn how to be a good steward of the land. By incorporating innovative conservation practices and ideas, Dave is preparing his farm for the next generation.

For more information about the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Marshall County Soil & Water Conservation District call the local office at 931-359-6268 ext. 3.

Cornersville approves annexations

By **Scott Pearson**
Associate Editor

Cornersville aldermen approved annexation requests first introduced in November last Thursday, with one sizable exception.

The board voted unanimously to approve the annexation of several parcels along McConnell Road, whose owners had requested inclusion into the town.

A 110-acre parcel initially included in the annexation request by then owner Brenda Hasting has since sold, with the new owner withdrawing the parcel.

A separate 40-acre parcel owned by Hasting remained in the annexation resolution.

Town Administrator Taylor Brandon said that he had already received five zoning compliance

requests from properties along McConnell for construction.

He said that, to his understanding, a Cameron Coble owned parcel included in the annexation would probably begin development within a year.

A 30-minute public hearing preceded the start of the meeting with concerns expressed about development and infrastructure impacts, especially on the need to widen Coleman Road, which will see increased traffic.

Those concerns did not ultimately outweigh the town's concerns with developments outside of the town limits contributing to demands on town services while not contributing property tax revenue to fund those services.

"We have to have our hand in it (development)," said Mayor John Luna.

The board selected Janice Kerber to fill the vacancy on the board of aldermen from three residents who had expressed interest.

Kerber will finish the unexpired term of Beth Vick, who was herself appointed to fill a vacancy.

Vick stepped down from the seat prior to accepting part time employment with the town.

Aldermen also appointed Greg Venable to an empty seat on the town's planning commission.

Aldermen also approved keeping an alley, paralleling Main Street and running behind the Church of Christ, open.

The church had requested closure of the alley, but aldermen were concerned about lots that would be left without road access if the alley was closed and by some impacted property owners not being part of the discussion.

Chapel Hill moves quickly

By **Scott Pearson**
Associate Editor

Chapel Hill Police Chief Andrew Kon wasn't far off when he said that Monday's meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen lasted about as long as TCU's hope of winning in the championship game later that evening.

The board finished their business in an unprecedented 11 minutes, aided by the addition of a work session the week prior moving forward for discussion of agenda items.

The three items on the agenda all passed unanimously.

Aldermen approved a rezoning request from Grove Hill Church on a parcel, formed from three lots zoned residential, moved to a B-2 designation.

The board approved edits to the town charter to be submitted to the General Assembly for ultimate approval, and also a \$30,813 expenditure on new extrication equipment for the Chapel Hill Fire Department.



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