



From our National President

Dearest sisters,

I've been thinking of what I wanted to share with you in this letter. As I let my mind wander, "Sing and Be Happy" started bubbling within me and I actually started singing! It's a song of encouragement and trust in the face of adversity. When you sing it, you are reminded that we have a God who loves us and is with us at all times. Let us rejoice and be happy!

As FHU Associates, we know the importance of a Christian education. We work so others can learn how to be lights in the darkness. We have a goal of providing scholarships for students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to attend FHU. Let us work and pray together so that with the Lord's help many will be blessed with that chance.

Let's do it with a song in our hearts!!! Sing with me; you know you want to!!! ❤️

*"If the skies above you are gray, You are feeling so blue,
If your cares and burdens seem great all the whole day through,
There's a silver lining that shines in the heavenly land,
Look by faith and see it my friend, Trust in His promises grand.*

*Sing and you'll be happy today, Press along to the goal,
Trust in Him who leadeth the way, He is keeping your soul,
Let the world know where you belong, Look to Jesus and pray,
Lift your voice and praise Him in song, Sing and Be Happy Today!"*
(Emory S. Peck)
In Him, Shirley Eaton

Fall National Meeting

Saturday, August 28, 2021

10:30 a.m. at the Hardeman House

Brunch will be provided, meeting will follow.

Please RSVP by FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, to associates@fhu.edu or 731-435-1091 with the number that will attend from your chapter.

THANK YOU to our 2020-2021 National Officers; we are pleased they will continue another term.

President	Shirley Eaton
Vice-President	Diane Smith
Secretary	Shila England
Treasurer	Chris Gann

2020-2021 Year-End Report

The 2020-2021 academic year was unlike any other in our 57-year history. I read a social media post mid-2020 that resonated with me. It said, "I am getting tired of being part of a major historical event." While viruses and cancelled fundraising events and social distancing have defined this school year, those things only highlighted the resiliency and faithfulness of the FHU Associates. Our members demonstrated love and support for Christian education at FHU by reaching and surpassing a major milestone—\$4,000,000 in lifetime giving!

Many of you were able to be with us on April 16, 2021, when we were honored by the Board of Trustees for our contributions over the years and for this milestone that we surpassed. What a wonderful day! We love and appreciate our Board members for their continued support.

I am excited to imagine a full school year with Welcome Home, Homecoming, tea parties, Benefit Dinner & Merry Market, bike-a-thons, rummage sales, fall markets, bake sales, Bible Lectureship, and many opportunities to gather and fellowship (and raise funds for scholarships)!

Thank you for your good work. Thank you for your love for our university students. We cannot wait to see you in August!

—Debbie McLaughlin, FHU Associates' Executive Coordinator

2020-2021 Financial Highlights

TOTAL TO ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS:	\$ 92,214.84
TOTAL TO ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS:	\$ <u>37,645.50</u>

TOTAL ASSOCIATES' GIVING 2020-2021: \$129,860.34

TOTAL LIFETIME GIVING AS OF 5-31-21: \$4,032,316.74

The detailed year-end financial statement will be provided at our fall national meeting on August 28. These outstanding numbers were made possible by the \$60,000 bequest from Wanda Sue Sweeney from the Booneville chapter.

Stay in touch.

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2020-2021 FHU Advancement Awards

By David Newberry, Assistant Vice President for Development Services

The FHU Office of University Advancement (which serves as the bridge between FHU and the Associates) recognizes the valuable contribution of the FHU Associates over the years. Because of the hard work and selfless attitudes, the Associates are directly responsible for more than \$4 million given to the university over the past 50+ years.

The Office of University Advancement honors two special members of the Associates each year who have distinguished themselves in areas of service. The LaVonne B. Scott "Heart of a Servant" Award and the "Leap of Faith" Award were conceived as a way to honor exemplary service and to say "Thank you" for the great work that the Associates as a whole (and these two members, in particular) are doing. The "Heart of a Servant" Award is named in honor of LaVonne Scott who continued to work tirelessly for the mission of the FHU Associates until she was in her 90's. This award is given to an Associate who exemplifies the heart of a servant – who is happy to work at projects (even in the thankless jobs), who is excited about our mission, and who does not ask for recognition, but who deserves to be honored.

The "Leap of Faith" Award is given to the Associate who is an innovator, an encourager – an Associate who, perhaps, is responsible for getting a new project off the ground or who came up with a "big new idea" and had the courage to follow it through. This award honors the Associate who says "We can do that!"

Below are this year's award winners along with the nomination letters we received, explaining why these two ladies are so deserving of these awards.

LaVonne Scott "Heart of a Servant" Award – **Joan Rhea**

Many Associates work tirelessly to complete projects raising scholarship funds for FHU students. One sweet lady that works in such a way and is not the type to seek recognition for her service is **Mrs. Joan Rhea**. "Whatever 'Mrs. Joan' does, she works heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23) and especially not for personal recognition. This is why we wish to nominate Mrs. Joan Rhea for the 2021 LaVonne B. Scott "Heart of a Servant" Award.

If you live in Henderson and carry a Bible bag it was very likely handmade by Joan Rhea. Many homeless have received an "Ugly Quilt" handmade by Joan Rhea. They may have also received a care package of food and toiletry items made by Mrs. Joan too. She's made decorative pillowcases for Le Bonheur Hospital patients and she collects calendars for the local nursing home residents. Several FHU students have received help when in need because of her generosity. These are a few of her projects that flow from her beautiful servant's heart.

This same heart is dedicated to the mission of the FHU Associates. Because of this dedication Mrs. Joan keeps her hands busy on a wide variety of projects. Mrs. Joan's special cookies show up at most every Associate Event. It would be safe to say she's made 100's of dozens of her special cookies. She has helped with the Rummage Sale in various ways. Together with her daughters she rescues items others toss out and cleans these items so they can be used by others and sold at the Rummage Sale. She helps revive tired rummage sale workers who often can't leave for meals, by providing more cookies. Mrs. Joan also serves as a caller for the Calling Committee which helps ensure all events are equipped and staffed for success.

During this year of quarantining while many Associate projects have been canceled, Mrs. Joan has kept her hands busy providing for the increase in Sunshine Boxes. Creating handmade masks (100+), colorful pillowcases, and encouraging bookmarks. These helped fill the boxes with one of a kind personal items. Profits increased for this project because of her donation of all these items.



2021 Advancement Award winners
Dwina Willis and Joan Rhea.

Mrs. Joan Rhea is a humble servant that willingly donates her time, talents and resources to ensure the success of the Associates mission. She is very deserving of the "Heart of a Servant" Award and we hope you will give her your utmost consideration.

Sincerely, the officers of the Chester County Associates—Brenda Knight, Dawn Hollamon, Shirley Eaton, and Diane Smith

"Leap of Faith" Award – **Dwina Willis**

From the very beginning of the Chester County chapter's Sunshine Box project, **Dwina Willis** has jumped in with both feet. She has seen possibilities for growth and expansion. She has researched. She has shopped. She has hand-crafted. She has hand-packed HUNDREDS of encouraging Sunshine Boxes and has ensured the success of this project. With her leadership, she has said, "Yes, we can!" and has made it possible to fulfill over \$12,000 in Sunshine Box orders since the project's inception. Thank you, Dwina, for your hard work and for your Leap of Faith with the Sunshine Box project!

-Debbie McLaughlin

Each spring, Associate members from all chapters are invited to submit nominations for Advancement Awards to David Newberry at dnewberry@fhu.edu. The Office of University Advancement chooses recipients from the available nominations, and the awards are given at the spring national meeting.

Freed-Hardeman University Associates Winter National Meeting

February 27, 2021, Hope Barber Shull ARC

By Shila England, National Secretary

The Freed-Hardeman University Associates who met for the Winter National Meeting on February 27, 2021 were welcomed by National President Shirley Eaton and National Vice President, Diane Smith, introduced the devotional speaker, Nadine McNeal.

Following the devotional, Shirley Eaton called the meeting to order. Members were asked to take a few cards and write a note to this year's scholarship recipients.

Jeanita Estes of the Booneville chapter shared a special report with those present at this meeting. Ms. Estes spoke about long time FHU Associates' member Wanda Sweeney. Ms. Sweeney was a member of the Booneville chapter who served in any capacity she was able for many years. Even as her health declined, she was present with a smile and ready to be put to work wherever possible. Ms. Sweeney passed to her eternal reward in November of 2020 and graciously left a portion of her estate to the FHU Associates in the sum of \$60,000. A check was presented to the Associates a few weeks prior to the meeting. We are so thankful for the generosity and Christian spirit of Ms. Sweeney, and know that this donation will be put to good use as many students will be blessed because of it.

The minutes from the previous national meeting were presented to the group and stand approved. Chris Gann presented the treasurer's report and gave a report on the standings of all accounts. At the time of this meeting there was a total of \$79,886.98 in all accounts.

Debbie McLaughlin reported on this year's scholarship recipients. There are 43 scholarship recipients for the 2020-2021 school year including 2 endowed scholarship recipients. A total of \$8,000 was able to be given to the endowed students this year. Debbie McLaughlin reported that \$4,000+ was raised on the FHU Day of Giving for the Associates and that the goal is to donate at least \$65,000 to students every year. The goal for the 2020-2021 school year has been surpassed at this time due to the donation from Ms. Wanda Sweeney.

Lynne Golson reported for the Membership Committee. Ms. Jean Marilyn Hogan was presented with a Gold Membership prior to this national meeting. Debbie McLaughlin reported that there are efforts for two possible new Associates chapters. One in the southern region of Nashville, TN and a second in Huntsville, AL. Later this year FHU Associates will work with the Presidential Trek to see if there is interest.

Connie Pritchard presented on the National Projects Committee. She stated that the Merry Market in collaboration with the FHU Benefit Dinner was successful. FHBrew sales have moved online and so far this year have raised over \$3000 and sales are continuing. Dining Services served FHBrew coffee at the Benefit Dinner and will serve and sell it at the Golden Year Reunion as well. Book sales have been slow this year due to the pandemic, but 5 sales have occurred since January 2021. Connie Pritchard is the new contact for Rada Knife sales as Jean Marilyn Hogan is in the process of moving.

Laurel Sewell reported on the Hardeman House. There have been thirteen overnight stays in the current school year. FHU has hosted eleven events and there have been eleven non-FHU rentals. Two weddings have been hosted at the Hardeman House this school year as well.

Martha Ails presented for the Nominating Committee. All executives from the current year have been nominated to remain for another year (President Shirley Eaton, Vice President Diane Smith, Treasurer Chris Gann, and Secretary Shila England). This was motioned by Connie Pritchard and seconded by Debbie McLaughlin and the motion was accepted.

In chapter reports, Martha Ails reported that they were able to donate the dessert risers that are needed for lectureship every year. Booneville reported that Covid-19 has made their usual efforts cancelled for the year, but that they have continued with knife sales. Chester County reported that they have had a successful year despite the pandemic struggles. The fall rummage sale brought in \$17,500. Sunshine Boxes have expanded beyond campus and have brought in \$11,000 (591 boxes) since April of 2019. The Chester County Associates have also assisted with catering at the Hardeman House and serving meals in Wallace-Gano to students. The dining staff have returned the favor by donating funds for the Sunshine boxes.

A special update on giving goals was presented by Debbie McLaughlin and Shirley Eaton. The Associates are on track to finish this year with a total of \$4,000,000 given to the University since 1963. The Associates are in the top ten all-time of donors to the University. At the time of the winter meeting there was a need of \$17,656.62 to reach the goal.

The Spring National Meeting is tentatively set for May 7, 2021. This meeting will include year end awards and the office installation for the next year. Diane Smith led a closing prayer to conclude the meeting.



Booneville chapter president Jeanita Estes presents a \$60,000 check to National President Shirley Eaton. Debbie McLaughlin holds a picture of Wanda Sweeney.

An abbreviated spring business meeting was held on April 16, 2021, after the appreciation lunch provided by the Board of Trustees. At this brief meeting, returning officers for 2021-2022 were confirmed. Advancement Awards were given during the lunch. Minutes and financial statements normally presented will be given at the Fall, 2021, national meeting.



FHU Associates present during chapel on April 16, 2021, where the Associates were honored by the Board of Trustees for reaching \$4 million in lifetime giving. National President Shirley Eaton is holding a Proclamation from the Board that is displayed in the Hardeman House.



FHU Associates' scholarship recipients Madeline Rudder and Kayla Hunter share their love and gratefulness to the FHU Associates during chapel, April 16, 2021.



National Projects Chair Connie Pritchard, Executive Coordinator Debbie McLaughlin, and National Secretary Shila England work the Associates' booth at the Merry Market at the 2020 Benefit



National President Shirley Eaton presents a \$35,000 check to FHU President David Shannon. This check brought the FHU Associates to over \$4 million in lifetime giving to FHU.



Past national presidents present at the appreciation lunch on April 16, 2021:
(l-r) Jeanita Estes, Sylvia Harris, Diane Smith, Martha Alls, Debbie McLaughlin, Lana Pirtle, Shirley Eaton



Merchandise booth at the Golden Year Reunion, June, 2021.