

Bill and Mary Adcock

*Union University friends and trustee
Newbern, Tenn.*

Bill and Mary Adcock's garden is a lush and verdant place. Deep green foliage, stately trees and splashes of colorful blossoms evidence the constant tending and careful planning the Adcocks give it. In spite of its natural appearance, the garden has structure and it's obvious that thought went into the placement of every feature. Mary shows a book she keeps with notes and diagrams of all the garden's details.

"I've planned plant placement carefully so that I'll have color each season," she said.

Like their garden, the Adcocks have also given attentively of themselves to Union University. Bill's participation on the board of trustees has spanned three presidents and cumulatively he has served more than 20 years. Mary is a member of Union University Auxiliary. "I feel it is a good ministry for those who live there," she said.

They take their association with the university seriously and prayerfully. Referring to his involvement on the trustee board, Bill said, "Each time when asked to serve another term, I felt the Lord was saying you need to go back if you're asked. I'd pray and always feel the Lord was leading."

The Adcocks see Christian education as a great value. They fully endorse Union's mission of integrating faith and learning and recognize the important role Union holds in developing and preparing young men and women for today's world.

"Christian education is extremely important in this day and age. The Christian environment cannot be emphasized enough. Training leaders, building lives, strengthening our communities

and futures, that is what Christian education provides. It's a wonderful work," said Adcock.

Adcock easily names Union's core values of excellence-driven, Christ-centered, people-focused and future-directed. He notes that the science building and growth in Germantown give evidence of Union going in the right direction.

"I think of Proverbs 3:6: 'In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.'

"It's amazing to see God's hand," he said, "Things like this wouldn't happen if God was not involved."

He also notes the work of "many godly men and women in Union's entire system." These people give of their time and attention to the students.

"It creates wonderful students who are getting good jobs. That's the reason Union is written up in *U.S. News and World Report* and other leading magazines. There are top notch professors there who give personal attention," said Adcock.

As their garden flourishes, so the Adcocks' desire that Union flourish. And, like gardens, they realize that for Christian education to prosper and develop it takes wise planning, faithful tending and generous giving of time and resources. The cultivating of young minds takes the work of many within Union's walls and without. The increase is for God to grant.

"The future is bright for Union University. Dr. Dockery is providing good leadership,"

Adcock said, "Union has seen good progress and I think the Lord is going to keep blessing." 