

The Smoky Mountain District



Messenger

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In 2011 while serving at Cokesbury, I had the honor and pleasure to meet Coach Nick Saban. Being a native of Alabama and a lifelong fan of the Tide, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. However, the circumstance behind meeting him was far from pleasurable. Coach Saban had personally flown from Tuscaloosa to Knoxville to attend the celebration of life service for Aaron Douglas. Aaron had recently joined the Crimson Tide and was competing for the starting position as an offensive lineman but never saw a chance to play after suffering from a drug overdose while on vacation. Aaron was the son of legendary Tennessee athletes, David and Karla Douglas, and Karla, at the time, was working as the director of the preschool program at Cokesbury.

At the service, I was sitting with the director for Recovery at Cokesbury, Mark Beebe, and heard him say a word I had never heard before: opioids. His actual comment was, "Opioids are a big issue we're going to have to face." Since then, opioids have gone from an issue to an all out crisis.

Over the years I have met countless individuals who lost loved ones due to an opioid addiction. The saddest truth behind many of the stories is that the addiction starts harmlessly. The opioid is used for what it's made for, recovery after surgery, but soon after a chain of chemical reactions in the brain leads the individual into an addiction that the body cannot let go of resulting in a cycle of attempted recovery that begins an ebb and flow between sobriety and abuse. Many cases of lethal overdoses occur after the individual completes another period of sobriety.

The opioid crisis is not letting up or going away. Thus the reason this year's theme for Annual Conference is *Healing Hands*. Amidst the required business sessions and our quadrennial election of General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates, there will be time intentionally spent on learning about addiction and what the church can do during this health crisis.

I ask you to be in prayer for our Annual Conference, our churches and clergy, and the efforts we make in offering the churches of Holston to be a place of healing and grace for those seeking wholeness in life.

As always, I give thanks for all you do to bring glory to God's name!

Grace & Peace,

Jason

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News:
<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=75af9cd7197f87b92367743ffeb92d9a>

Sexual Ethics Training

The Holston Annual Conference will be hosting a series of Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Seminars taught by United Methodist Pastor Dr. Karen McClintock. Dr. McClintock comes to us after conducting similar seminars in other annual conferences.

Please note the dates and locations below. You will receive 0.5 CEU's for attendance.

ATTENDANCE AT ONE OF THESE TRAININGS IS MANDATORY.

Saturday, May 4 - Colonial Heights UMC (Kingsport)
10:30am-5:00pm

Monday, May 6 - State Street UMC (Bristol)
9:30am-4:00pm

Wednesday, May 8 - St. Paul UMC (Wytheville)
9:30am-4:00pm

Online registration is available at:
<https://holston.org/events/2019/apr/30/sexual-ethics-and-boundaries-seminar/>

Logan's Chapel Hosts The Ozarks Chambers Singers

The University of the Ozarks Chambers Singers will be on tour throughout Arkansas and Tennessee from May 19-24. University of the Ozarks is a small private liberal arts university affiliated with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. in Clarksville, Arkansas. Chamber Singers, the premiere auditioned touring ensemble from U of O, is under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Ledger, Assistant Professor of Music, and accompanied by Ms. Bethany Qualls, Adjunct Instructor of Piano. The theme of this year's tour program is "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of Many, One") and will celebrate the diverse cultures and musical genres that have always been a hallmark of our nation. The choir will perform at Logan's Chapel UMC on May 22 at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Up-Coming Events

May

6-8 Jubilation in Pigeon Forge, TN

12  Mother's Day

14 Pastors' Spring Luncheon - Event Center at the District office

27 Memorial Day-District office closed

June

5 Hands-on-Missions Food Buckets deliver to Fairview UMC between 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

9-12 Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC

13 District office closed

16  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

19 Moving Day for Transitioning Pastors

24-28 Junior and Senior High Assembly at Emory & Henry College

July

4 District Office Closed-

 Happy July 4th

23 Pastors' Summer Picnic at Maryville, First, starting at 6 p.m. and eat at 6:30 p.m.

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2019 District Ministries

(Thru April 25, 2019—33.33%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2019 District Ministries paid)

* Axley's Chapel	* Bethel (K)	* Bethel (L)
Binfield	Broadway	* Burnett Memorial
Carpenters	* Cedar Bluff	Cokesbury
Ebenezer	* Eden	* Fox
* Friendsville	Hillcrest	Immanuel
Kodak	* Logan's Chapel	Loretta
* Martel	Maryville, First	* Meadow
* Middle Creek	* Middlesettlements	* Mountain View
* Murphy's Chapel	* New Hope	* New Salem
Peck's Memorial	* Philadelphia	Pigeon Forge, First
* Pleasant Hill (B)	Pleasant Hill (K)	* Pleasant Hill (R)
* Pleasant Hill (S)	* Roberts	* Sand Branch
Sevierville, First	Seymour	* Shults Grove
St. John	St. Mark's (B)	St. Mark (K)
St. Paul	* Trentville	Trinity
* Union Grove (B)	* Vonore	Walland
* Wears Valley	* Webb's Creek	* Williamson Chapel

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

I can't tell you how many times I have recited the Purpose of United Methodist Women, but it recently came to have a new meaning for me. In case you don't know the Purpose, it is: *The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.* It was the *creative, supportive fellowship* part that came to new meaning for me at a recent Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women Leadership Team meeting. As we were winding down with our business, I asked if we could go around the room and share any prayer requests or praises we might have. It was in those few moments that I really understood that we were in the midst of *a creative, supportive fellowship*. As we listened to each other's concerns and praises, we were truly one body in Christ. The comment was made how comforting it is to know after asking for prayers that in a matter of moments, United Methodist Women throughout the Holston Conference will begin praying for our concerns. I can't begin to tell you how many miracles we have witnessed over the years and how comforting it is to know that we are surrounded by such a cloud of prayers, but I can tell you that is one way United Methodist Women fulfill our purpose of being a [*creative, supportive fellowship*](#).

The Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women celebrated 150 years in mission with a birthday party for our Day Apart at Cokesbury United Methodist Church, North Campus on March 23, 2019. Our very special guest speaker was Rev. Charles Maynard. There were 81 who attended representing 19 Local Units across the Smoky Mountain District. What an amazing day it was!.

The Holston Conference United Methodist Women RISE event will be held at MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge on May 17 – 19, 2019. Rev. Mike Sluder and Rev. Tom Hancock will be speaking as well as our Bishop, Mary Virginia Taylor. The Smoky Mountain District United Methodist Women are invited to bring disinfectant dish soap, 16-28 oz. bottles (liquid, no powders, please) to add to UMCOR flood/cleaning buckets. These buckets will be on hand when disaster strikes. The goal is to fill 100 buckets, so that is 100 bottles of disinfectant dish soap that we need to supply. We have a drop off location at Broadway United Methodist Church and our Leadership Team contact person is Glenda Eastridge. You may contact Glenda to make arrangements to get your dish soap if you are not able to attend the event.

After being in mission for 150 years, United Methodist Women are continuing to change lives for women, children and youth whether it is through *creative, supportive fellowship* or supplying flood buckets for UMCOR. Thank you for making a difference!

2019 Hands-On Mission Project- Zimbabwe Holston Annual Conference

Unlike school supplies, food items have expiration dates. Be sure and check the dates and make sure they do not expire until 2020 in order to cover transport time and having a useful life for the people in Zimbabwe.

The Smoky Mountain District has been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets for the 2019 Holston Annual Conference Hand-On Mission Project. *Note: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. Each church is ask to bring ONE check for the total donation amount. Make checks out to Smoky Mountain District and put 2019 Hands-On in the memo line.* * Do not put money in the bucket!

Canned Ham (2-lb total)	1 bag dried beans (2lb)
1 box Splenda/Sucralose (50 ct. or less)	1 Bag Rice (2 lb)
1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)	1 box, butter flavor grits
1 box quick/instant oats (18 oz. or less)	1 Corn meal (4-5 lb)
1 box powdered milk (10oz. or less)	

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC, 2508 Old Niles Ferry Road, Maryville, TN 37803: **Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**
(do not deliver early)



Jubilation 2019 Update:

I am pleased to provide to you information for Jubilation 2019, May 6-8, at the Mainstay Suites in Pigeon Forge, TN. Our theme for 2019 is More Than Our Memories with a scripture focus of Psalm 139: 1-2, "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."

We will be blessed by the leadership of Bishop Kenneth L. Carder, son of Holston Conference and currently serving as caregiver for his wife, Linda, who is diagnosed with Frontotemporal Dementia and volunteer chaplain at Bethany Memory Care Center at the Heritage at Lowman. He will provide us a theological understanding of those living with dementia and ways we, as congregations, care for those persons and their families.

More information can be found at <http://holston.org/events/2019/may/06/jubilation-2019/> or by contacting the office of Connectional Ministries of the Holston Conference 865-690-4080.

Smoky Mtn. Ministers

Just a note of thanks to all that are current with minister's dues!

Barbara Clark	Betty Furches	Susan Groseclose
Ginger Isom	Charles Ledger	David Lord
Charles Maynard	Curtis McKee	Mickey Rainwater
Laura Rasor	Rex Rogers	Al Shaver
Magan Stubblefield	Ken Tucker	Charles Wender
Kristie Banes	Amy Cook	Timothy Hankins
Jeff Lambert	Anna Lee	Catherine Nance
Ann Robins	Danny Treadway	Robert Haskins
Stuart Albee	Fred Heard	Ken Lambert
Alta Raper	Melissa Smith	Nancy Twigg
Steve Yeaney	Brian Inman	

You may send dues to: Ken Tucker, 3357 Line Springs Rd., Sevierville, Tennessee 37862

Blessings

Ken

What's Happening in "The Woods"!



Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

One-week sessions are running for all ages June 2nd – July 19th. To register visit our website at www.campwesleywoods.com/summer-camp. If you would like someone to speak to your church concerning Camp Wesley Woods please call (865) 448-2246.

