

## Digest?

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# The Call

## Digest

## Back page

Buffalo Mountain Camp in Jonesborough, Tenn., begins recovery from Aug. 5 flash flood.

August 18, 2012

[www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org)

## Taylor returns as Holston's 1st female bishop

### Swanson assigned Mississippi's 1st black bishop, effective Sept. 1

**H**olston Conference received its first female bishop July 19 when Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor was assigned to her home conference during the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Taylor, 62, left Holston after her 2004 election to serve as resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference. She is a former Cleveland District superintendent, former chair of Holston's Board of Ordained Ministry, and Holston delegate to six General Conferences.

Bishop James Swanson, who served Holston as resident bishop for eight years after his own 2004 election, was assigned to the Mississippi Conference. He is the conference's first black United Methodist bishop.

The Rev. David Graves, endorsed by Holston Conference as a nominee for bishop, withdrew from the election earlier in the day on July 19 after failing to take the lead in 23 ballots.

Although traditionally unusual for bishops to be assigned to their home conferences, Taylor's appointment was one of three such new assignments in this year's SEJ Conference. Bishop-

elect Young Jin Cho was assigned to his home conference of Virginia. Bishop Hope Morgan Ward returns to North Carolina after eight years in Mississippi.

The episcopal assignments are effective Sept. 1.

Also during the July 18-20 meeting of 15 annual conferences at Lake Junaluska, N.C.: Anne Travis was elected secretary of the SEJ Conference, following outgoing secretary Brad Brady. Travis is Holston's director of connectional ministries ■

RIGHT: Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor relocates from Columbia, S.C., to Maryville, Tenn., this month.



## Service for Bishop Taylor: Sept. 9

**A** service celebrating Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's leadership in Holston Conference will be held at Concord United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., on Sunday, Sept. 9, at 3 p.m.

Bishop Taylor will preach. Music will be presented by the Concord Chancel Choir under the direction of Mike Stallings. A reception will follow.

Live streaming will be available at [Holston.org](http://Holston.org)

Concord UMC is located at 11020 Roane Drive, Knoxville TN 37932. For more information, call (865) 966-6728. ■

### Other calendar dates:

#### Calling All Men

Saturday, Aug. 25  
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Concord UMC, Knoxville, Tenn.  
(865) 690-4080

#### Native American Gathering

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 15-16  
Coker Creek Village  
Tellico Plains, Tenn.  
(865) 548-2920

## BRIEFS

**John Tate**, conference treasurer since December 2006, resigned on June 18 to begin a new business. His resignation is effective Dec. 31. The Personnel Resources Team is searching for candidates to fill the position. Applications are due by Sept. 15. See [Holston.org](http://Holston.org) or call Lori Sluder at (865) 690-4080 for more information.

**In memoriam: Rev. Carl Edward Steele**, age 77, of Richlands, Va., died Aug. 3. Funeral services were held Aug. 6 at Hurst-Scott Funeral Home with the Rev. Carter Wells and the Rev. Dennis McLemore officiating. Interment followed at Bostic Cemetery in Swords Creek, Va.

**In memoriam: Kathy Sue Parker**, age 63, of Piney Flats, Tenn., died Aug. 8. She was a long-time pensions and health benefits administrator for Holston Conference and a member of Piney Flats United Methodist Church. Funeral services were Aug. 10 at Piney Flats UMC with the Rev. Scott Brady officiating. A committal service was held Aug. 11 at Shell Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Piney Flats UMC Piano Fund, 225 Methodist Church Street, Piney Flats, TN 37686. ■

# Flash flood ravages Buffalo Mountain Camp

By Randy Pasqua

**O**n Sunday evening, Aug. 5, Buffalo Mountain Camp in Jonesborough, Tenn. experienced a significant flash flood event. We are extremely grateful that the summer season ended earlier in the week and all our summer campers, staff, and guests had returned to their homes. Camp Director Jason Onks and his family remained safe at camp in the hillside residence.

The waters of Ramsey Creek not only left their banks, they cut new channels. This completely destroyed the main camp road. Gratefully the new channels cut their way around the cabins and Retreat Center. Initial inspections indicate that these buildings sustained no structural damage and will be ready for use after they are cleaned up.

Allison Lodge that houses the main camp dining hall, kitchen, and meeting space, the bathhouse that serves the cabins, and our lake did not fare as well. Mud and trees have impacted the bathhouse. The upper trail became a mountain stream that flowed in one end of Allison Lodge and out the other. The main channel of Ramsey Creek cut its way into the

lake and over the earthen dam. Assessment of these buildings and our lake are currently underway.

The camp website, [www.buffalomountaincamp.org](http://www.buffalomountaincamp.org), will serve as a point of communication about the status of camp. News updates as well as ways to get involved will be placed on our home page. Cherokee United Methodist Church is hosting an online giving opportunity for friends of Buffalo Mountain Camp to contribute to our relief effort at <https://cherokee.cloverdonations.com/buffalo/>. Donors may also write checks to their local churches with “Conference Advance Buffalo Mountain Disaster Relief #472” on the memo line.

We are thankful for the love of Jesus Christ that we are receiving from so many friends. We look forward to be working side-by-side in the near future to help bring Buffalo Mountain Camp back to life. The goal remains to have a Buffalo Mountain Camp Summer Ministry in 2013. ■

The Rev. Randy Pasqua is executive director of Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries

## Holston welcomes new conference lay leader, Del Holley



**Del Holley**

**I** began my journey in church leadership over 20 years ago. Growing up in the United Methodist Church, I have been around a lot of other church leaders. I sensed that the work they were doing was important and seemed to be interesting.

While I was in graduate school, I participated in lay speaker training and the ministries that followed. Then, in 1992, I was fortunate to have a pastor who identified me as an “emerging leader for the 21st century” and nominated me as one of

our congregation’s representatives to Transformation (a Vision 2000 event). Thus began my own odyssey as a young (at the time) leader in the church.

As I stand at the threshold of this new opportunity for ministry and leadership, I thank God for the ways that I now see he has been preparing me for this time. Laypeople: I challenge

you to accept your baptismal call to ministry to carry out the Great Commission, serve in missional ways, and witness for Christ in your daily activities. Clergy: I challenge you to see the laypersons in your congregations as partners in ministry and encourage their efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Lay and clergy, together: Rejoice always, pray continually for one another, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

I covet your prayers for the effective ministry of laity and clergy in Holston Conference and commit myself to be a lay leader who prays fervently, serves faithfully, and seeks to follow the will and purposes of God for this part of the Church. Grace and peace to you, sisters and brothers! ■

Del Holley, Holston Conference lay leader, follows Mary Ruth Richards who completed her four-year term at Annual Conference. He is a member of Colonial Heights UMC in Knoxville, Tenn.