

The Smoky Mountain District



Messenger

Mary Virginia Taylor - Resident Bishop

Reverend Jason N. Gattis, Sr. - District Superintendent

Superintendent's E-mail: jasongattis@holston.org - Web Site: www.maryvilledistrict.holston.org

Cheryl Thompson - Administrative Assistant

E-mail: cherylthompson@holston.org

Office-Phone: (865) 982-1427 * Fax: (865) 981-7470

The effectiveness of a local church lies heavily in understanding the context in which the church is found. This realization is vital for both lay and clergy. Lay have to be aware and accepting of the ever changing dynamic of the community and clergy have to adapt their unique ministry skillsets to the context of the churches they serve. I came across some points that all ministry settings should consider and reevaluate from time to time in an effort to stay in tune to the context of the community.

1. Begin with or look again at what is in front of you.

Ministry begins with what is right in front of us, perhaps right under our feet or just out of the way, and it unfolds in ways that fit into the context. Look around, pray, think, share this journey with others, wait on the Spirit, try to see afresh what is right in front of you, and take the time that is needed. When the work that is done fits the context, it will come from within, not from without.

2. Relationships come first.

The heart of ministry is not solving a large societal problem or launching a new church, however significant those are, but being attentive to and valuing relationships. The theologian and educator Ruth Padilla DeBorst emphasizes relationships formed in listening, learning, and giving testimony to the impact of people and their presence in community. Relationships place a priority and a premium on time, people, building community, and patience. They are the foundation and the key to longevity and sustainability. This is true in work of all professions, community development in the neighborhood, and pastoral leadership at all levels.

3. Community matters.

Ministry is not just what we do as individuals but what we accomplish as part of communities. Our local pockets of community support us and remind us of what is important. Our community can be our family, a small group, our worshipping congregation. For pastors and church workers, community can be a support system of peers that helps sustain us in healthy and thriving ministry. Community is the context for forgiveness, for vulnerability, and for unpacking our experiences. Community is integral to establishing resilience in ministry.

4. Try new things, take risks.

Ministry is about trying new things, taking risks, making mistakes, finding new ways of doing things through continual learning. For if the practice of ministry begins with waiting on God, it is also about being ready when the Spirit moves, and the time is right for acting. The work of innovation, creativity, and risk-taking most commonly starts with small steps that grow into bigger and unexpected ones. We may be looking one way, but God is looking backward, forward, and to the present into our lives and experiences.

Of course, while trying something new and risky can be exciting, we are always going to make mistakes and are ever faced with the possibility of what seems like failure. But experience and experts show us that reflecting on and learning from failure are the processes by which new knowledge and practice are developed. And in the reign of God, we can't always see how God is connecting the pieces of our stories. Our lives, churches, and ministries belong to God.

5. Who you are is significant.

The final lesson is that it's not just the plans or designs for ministry that we come up with that matter: who you are as leaders is what matters most. Self-awareness, the interior life of the believer, recognition that we can't do anything without God, gratitude, humility, patience, commitment, the willingness to forgive, transparency, and other areas of personal character are critical to living fully into one's vocation and calling. Who we are in Christ and how we are attending to our journey matter profoundly to ministry.¹

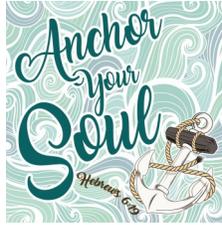
Information adapted from "5 Key Practices for Connecting with Your Context." www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/5-key-practices-connecting-context/?id=li20180411

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News <https://www.robly.com/archive?id=5ab09eb35bd8971030d28a2df57e9fe1>

Jubilation 2018

This is the link <http://holston.org/events/2018/apr/30/jubilation-2018/> that will give you the information concerning registration for Jubilation 2018, April 30-May 2, in Pigeon Forge.



Annual Conference 2018

Annual Conference 2018 mailing is going to be delayed for a couple of weeks with the change in District information having to be entered into our database a little different this year. Lake Junaluska is also in the process of updating their reservation system. This will delay the notification of those who will be offered Lake Junaluska managed property housing. With all these changes we decided to delay the opening of the reservation lottery until February 1 – 28th. Lake Junaluska is on target to notify all those chosen for housing on or before March 14, 2018. We will have a AC.Holston.org again this year, but at this time that is not up and running, but should be up before the 15th of January the projected date of the mailing of AC 2018 information.

The Jean Eastes Memorial

Missions Lunch is Saturday, May 19 at 11 a.m. in the Union Grove UMC (Blount) Fellowship Hall. This gathering celebrates Jean's life and honors her service in missions and outreach, especially that supporting children. Lunch and special music will be provided. Donations made will go to some of Jean's favorite missions, including the New Horizon Methodist School in Lambare' Paraguay. The church is at 1151 Lane Drive at South Union Grove Road off 321 South -Lamar Alexander Parkway, Friendsville. The fellowship building is to the right of the entry. All welcome. Please RSVP to Cassie: 865-856-9408 by May 17.

Up-Coming Events

April

- 7 Lay Servant Training at St. John UMC, 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- 24 Pastors' Spring Luncheon - Event Center at the District office at noon

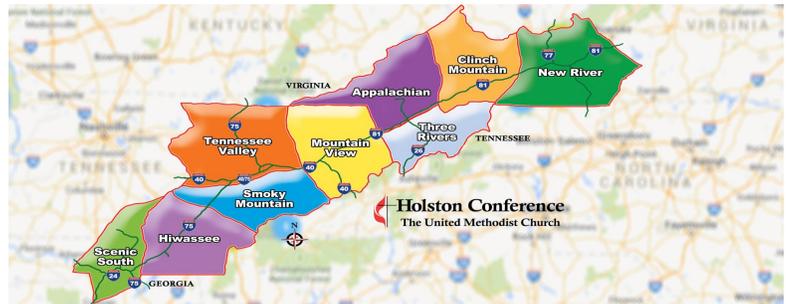
30-May 2 Jubilation in Pigeon Forge, TN

May

- 20 Pre-Conference Briefing at Maryville, First UMC at 3:00 p.m.
- 28 Memorial Day-District office closed

June

- 6 Hands-on Mission food buckets delivered to Fairview UMC, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 10-13 Holston Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC



Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2018 District Ministries

(Thru March 27, 2018—25%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2018 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Alcoa, First | * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (L) |
| * Bethel (Seymour) | Binfield | Broadway |
| * Burnett Memorial | Carpenters | * Cedar Bluff |
| * Eden | Fairview | * Fenders |
| * Forkners Chapel | * Fox | Friendsville |
| * Logan's Chapel | Loudon | Madisonville, First |
| Maryville, First | * Meadow | * Middle Creek |
| * Middlesettlements | * Mountain View | * Murphy's Chapel |
| * New Hope | * New Salem | Peck's Memorial |
| * Pigeon Forge, First | * Pleasant Hill (R) | * Pleasant Hill (S) |
| * Roberts | Seymour | * Shults Grove |
| St. John | St. Mark's | Sweetwater, First |
| * Tellico Plains, First | Tuckaleechee | * Union Grove (B) |
| * Union Grove (S) | * Vonore | * Webb's Creek |
| * Wesley Chapel | * Williamson Chapel | |

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

I have noticed that the older I get the more like my mother I become. My mother was just as happy with the simple things of life as she was the extraordinary. She always had an afternoon coffee break and I think this was probably her favorite time of the day. She simply stopped whatever task she was doing and sat down and enjoyed a cup of coffee. The location didn't matter, it could be enjoying the warmth of an early Spring day on her patio or at her kitchen table. Being more of a "tea" person, I have found myself stopping my daily activities to enjoy a cup of hot tea. I am not nearly as disciplined as my mother yet as my tea breaks are sporadic but I do enjoy the simple treasure of simply enjoying my cup of tea.

During one of my recent tea breaks I thought of a scripture that speaks of treasures. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:19-20, *Do not store up for yourselves (material) treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.* I believe this scripture is well exemplified through the lives of United Methodist Women. Through our Legacy Fund Endowment, we have created a promising tomorrow for future generations of United Methodist Women. Through our Mission Giving we enable women all over the world to be able to have a better life for themselves and their children.

The Maryville District Leadership Team provided food for breakfasts for the Wesley House children and workers during Spring Break, March 12 – 16, 2018.

The Holston Conference UMW Spiritual Enrichment Experience will be held at Lake Junaluska. There will be two sessions this year, April 13 – 14, 2018 and April 14 -15, 2018. Rev. Kim Goddard will be our speaker and Willie Kitchens will be our Music Leader. We will have an opportunity for personal time in the quiet spaces of the Lake Junaluska gardens.

The Maryville District UMW Day Apart will be on April 21, 2018, at St. Mark's UMC. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program will be at 10 a.m. with lunch to follow. Fred and Libby Dearing and Jane Robinson will speak to us about the current conditions of the South Sudanese women and children now living in Uganda. We will have an opportunity to help support those who have been relocated from South Sudan to Uganda due to the ongoing civil war.

I encourage you take a few minutes out of your busy day to think about all the ways the Maryville District United Methodist Women are storing up treasures in heaven. I thank God for each of you and consider you to be treasures in my life and [Rejoice in the Lord Always](#) for each of you!

2018 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 2019 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 2018 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 2018 Hands-On in the memo line. * Do not put money in the bucket!*

Canned Ham (2-lb total)	1 box powdered milk (10oz. or less)
1 - 4-5lb. Bag self-rising flour	1 box old-fashioned oats (18 oz. or less)
1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)	1 box Splenda/Sucralose (50 ct.
or less)	
1 - 2lb. Bag rice	1 - 2lb. Bag dried beans
1 - 4-5lb. Bag Sugar	

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC:
Wednesday, June 6 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (do not deliver early)



Moving Expenses Pastors-Legal Department GCFA

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “Act”) made numerous changes to the taxation of both individuals and organizations. Several of the changes relate to deductions available to individuals. One such change that has possibly received less attention involves moving expenses.

As outlined extensively in the IRS’s [Publication 521](#), the “deduction of certain moving expenses to a new home because [the taxpayer] started or changed job locations” has been an available deduction, and it is created by Section 217 of the Tax Code. In addition to the available deduction, another section of the Code – Section 132 (g) – provides that the reimbursement of qualified moving expenses by an employer will not be treated as a taxable fringe benefit. In other words, if the employee would be able to take the moving expense as a deduction, the employer could pay for those expenses on a tax-free basis.

Unfortunately for those who will incur moving expenses that would meet the deductibility standards outlined in Publication 521, the Act has suspended the application of Sections 217 and 132(g) from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2025. The end result of this suspension is that (1) moving expenses incurred during that time period will not be a deductible expense (except for certain members of the Armed Forces) and (2) any reimbursement by, or payment of, these expenses by an employer during the same time period will need to be reported as taxable income to the employee (again, except for certain members of the Armed Forces).

Thus, for example, if a local church covers some or all of the moving expenses of an employee, such as its pastor, the church will need to report that amount on [Form W-2](#) as taxable income to the employee. And, as another example, if the payment of moving expenses is made by an annual conference on behalf of a pastor serving a local church, the conference will likely need to issue that pastor a Form 1099-MISC reflecting the amount paid (the [instructions](#) to Form 1099-MISC state Box 7 should include “taxable fringe benefits for nonemployees,” which will presumably include moving expenses for the years during which Sections 217 and 132(g) are suspended).

Historian George B. Henry to present Friendsville history on Heritage Sunday

Recognized local historian, George B. Henry, will present on the history of Friendsville, Sunday, May 20 at 3 p.m. in the historic Union Grove United Methodist Church sanctuary at [1151 Lane Drive](#) at South Union Grove Road, off 321 South - Lamar Alexander Parkway, Friendsville. Mr. Henry will include excerpts from the pictorial history “Friendsville” co-authored with Linda Braden Albert, and touch on research of the Civil War and the Underground Railroad.

The event is held on Heritage Sunday, historically observed on the third Sunday of May, and calls the United Methodist Church to honor its heritage by committing itself to the continuing call of God known and spread by Charles and John Wesley, along with others the early Methodist movement reached and with whose denominations we are all joined as The United Methodist Church.

All are welcome. The event is free. Call/Text Pastor Matthew Coldiron: 865-361-4486 or call Cassie at 865-856-9408 for info.

Job Opportunity-Sevierville, First UMC & Ebenezer UMC

Sevierville First United Methodist Church seeks a full time Director of Children/Education/Program Ministries to coordinate a dynamic and comprehensive children’s ministry program. Potential candidates should be enthusiastic, creative, and resourceful, with the ability to relate well with children and to partner with parents and volunteers to reach out and engage children from infancy through fifth grade. Candidate should be organized, able to provide leadership for the education and program ministries of the church. For more information please send your resume to pastor@1stmethodist.com

Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee, is looking for a bookkeeper to maintain our day-to-day accounting requirements, including accounts payable and payroll. The ideal candidate will have prior bookkeeping experience, be detail oriented, accurate, and organized, and be able to perform tasks independently. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and QuickBooks is required. Knowledge of ACS is strongly preferred. This is a part-time position of approximately 20 hours per week. Salary range to be determined based on qualifications. Please send your resume to Arobins@EumcKnox.org.

Part-time Children's Ministry Position

Ebenezer UMC in West Knoxville is seeking people who love God and love children to work part-time in its Children's Ministry department (infants through 5th graders).

Job Title: Children's Ministry Teacher

Hourly Wage: \$ 10.00

Hours:

- * Sundays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (2+ Sundays a month)
- * Wednesdays 5:45-7:45pm during the school year
- * Quarterly Parents' Night Out 4:30-8:00p.m. (Sunday)
- * Special events and holidays as needed.
- ** This position would be ideal for someone who attends Saturday night worship services at his/her own congregation and is thus available to work on Sunday mornings.

The role of the Children's Ministry Teacher is to provide safe, secure, and nurturing care and spiritual leadership for our children. The safety and security of our children is of utmost importance. ***Therefore, drug testing, background check and reference check are required.***

General qualifications required:

All Children's Ministry Teachers should be of good character and be of the Christian faith. Additionally, application should:

- * Be physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy.
- * Have a basic understanding of children and their needs.
- * Be adaptive to a variety of situations and able to work with children at various age levels.
- * Be willing to grow in their knowledge of children and our congregation's childcare policies through periodic education and training events.
- * Have completed the equivalent of a high school diploma.
- ** Experience working with children with special needs is a definite plus!

Performance expectations of Children's Ministry staff members:

- * Be punctual when reporting for work.
- * Be reliable in attendance; give ample notification if unable to fulfill shift.
- * Attend periodic training and education events provided by the church.
- * Be polite, friendly, and courteous to others--both children and adults.
- * Cooperate with other teachers and with parents.

Applicants should send resume to ntwigg@eumcknox.org. Reference check, background check and drug test required for all applicants considered for this position.