



Tazewell District Newsletter

May/June 2017

Mary Virginia Taylor — Resident Bishop

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Seven years ago Bishop Swanson asked me to become a member of the Cabinet. He said I was being sent to the Tazewell District. I had never been to Tazewell and was not sure that I even knew where it was. So I broke out the map and found where Tazewell, Virginia was. Three days later I was attending my first cabinet meeting. For the next six months I watched the members of the cabinet work and realized I would never be able to do all they were doing. To say I was overwhelmed would have been an understatement. Don Nation invited my family to come to Tazewell and meet the District Superintendent-ency Committee. When we came there was several inches of snow on the ground. We had a great visit and five months later we moved into the district parsonage.

We have lived here seven years. I am still in awe at the work of the superintendent. It is a phenomenal calling and I will always be grateful for Bishop Swanson trusting in me to be part of the cabinet. Five years ago Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor became our resident Bishop and she has continued to have faith in my calling and ability to be a superintendent. I wish to thank her for trusting me with the work of a superintendent including assigning me to very important committees in our conference. She has trusted my decision making and has supported me in decisions I have made and in the advice I have given her.

One of the first persons I met when I came to Tazewell was Jamie Boone. Jamie is the administrative assistant of the Tazewell District. She is in her twenty third year in this position. She has been great to work with and continues to be a strength to and for our district. Jamie taught me about this district and without her I could have never done all the work I have done in Tazewell.

Over the years there have been many pastoral changes in our district. Most of them have went very well. Some of our pastors are still in the same appointment they were in when I moved here. Each pastor has brought a unique skill set to their calling and I have appreciated every person who has answered their calling during my seven years as your district superintendent. We have also added some different positions to our district. One of those has been our Church and Community Worker. Brooke Atchley has brought great energy to our district with innovative ideas. We were told we could never have a CCW that would cover our entire district, with Brooke's energy and your help, we have proven that you can accomplish any goal if God is in it.

When we moved here our daughter was five months old, now she is seven. Gracie Ann considers Virginia her home. It is the only home she has ever known. So many of you have fallen in love with her as she has fallen in love with you. I praise you for taking care of her and loving her. She may live in many places but she will always be a Virginian.

I have been thinking of many of you these past few weeks. You the people of the Tazewell District are part of God's church. You are a vital and vibrant part of the church. When Mary Lynn, Gracie Ann and I came here we moved because we were sent by our Bishop. As we leave we are being sent by our Bishop. As we leave part of us will always be with you. We love you the people of the Tazewell District. We will always do all we can to help you. I am projected to be one of the pastor's at Christ United Methodist Church in Knoxville. I go there with the joy of being a pastor in a local church. I leave here with thanksgiving because I have been with you for the last seven years. I pray God's blessing on all of you.

Grace and Peace
David

Please join us in celebrating the ministry of

Rev. Dr. J. David Tabor

at a drop-in reception

Ebenezer UMC

Gov. G.C. Peery Highway, Bluefield, VA

Sunday, May 21 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

We celebrate the years of ministry David has had here in the Tazewell District and pray God's blessings on him and his family as he is projected to return to the local church.

Please bring cards and notes of appreciation for his years of service to the Tazewell District. We will have a basket for the cards.

We are asking each church/charge to take up a special offering to honor David. Please mail to the District Office prior to the reception and we will present a check to him on that day.

Called District Conference

Saturday, June 17, 10 AM

Bluefield First UMC

200 South College Avenue, Bluefield, VA 24605

The purpose of this Called District Conference is to vote on the future of Camp Laurel. The proposal from the District Trustees, the District Board of Church Location and Building and the District Leadership Team is to close and sale Camp Laurel.

Pre Conference Briefing will be held on Tuesday, May 23 beginning at 6:30 PM

Bluefield First UMC, 200 South College Avenue, Bluefield, VA

All pastors, lay members to Annual Conference

and At-Large Members to Annual Conference are expected to attend.

We will have a worship service followed by the pre conference briefing.

Just Older Youth

(For Our Over 50 Age Group)

Tuesday, May 16 at Ebenezer UMC, Bluefield, Virginia

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| 9:30 AM | Registration, Fellowship and Refreshments |
| 10:00 AM | Welcome, Announcements, Introductions, Prayer |
| 10:15 AM | Memorial Service for Larry Marion |
| 10:30 AM | Program by Reverend John Ousley, ETSU Director |
| 12:00 Noon | Lunch in the Fellowship Hall prepared by Ebenezer UMC |
| 1:00 PM | Closing Devotion led by Reverend John Ousley |

Cost for Lunch—\$7.00 Please mail registration (for name tag) and money for lunch to:

Tazewell District UMC, PO Box 674, Tazewell, VA 24651

Name _____

Name of Church _____

Amount Enclosed _____

2017 Holston Annual Conference Hands-On Mission Project

School Kits—Tazewell District Goal —400 Kits

Kits may be delivered to the District Office (Monday through Thursday)between May 8 and May 25

Shipping per kit—\$5.00 (Please do not put money in bag.)

The local church should write one check for total kits to the District Office

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| 1 ruler, 12-inch | 1 pk. erasers |
| 1 small calculator | 1 pk. pens, blue or black (10-12 ct.) |
| 1 coloring book | 1 pk. pencils (10-12 ct.) |
| 1 pk. notebook paper, wide-ruled (100-150 ct.) | 1 box crayons (24 ct.) |
| 3 spiral notebooks (70 ct.) | 1 pr. flip-flops (adult M-L size) |
| 1 poncho (adult) | |

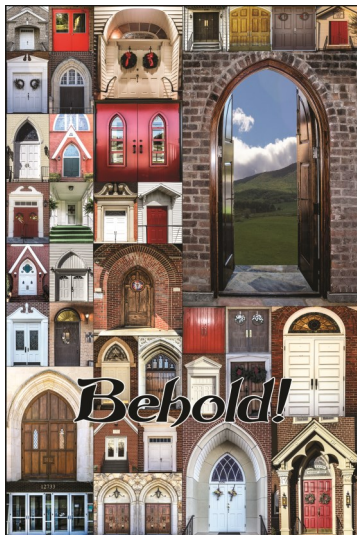
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO INCLUDE DICTIONARIES.

IF YOU HAVE THEM WE WILL SHIP SEPARATELY—NOT AS PART OF THE KIT.

Please note that counts must be exact to pass customs.

If you have any questions please call the District Office at 276-988-4891.

NO KITS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE.



Welcome to Annual Conference 2017!

June 11-14, 2017, at Lake Junaluska, NC.

- Sign-up for **Childcare** by **May 15, 2017**
- **Register** for Holston Annual Conference by **May 19, 2017**
- Sign-up for the **Missions Dinner** and/or
the **5K Run/Walk** by **May 19, 2017**

Continue to visit the ac.holston.org site for additional resources in preparation for annual conference. Need assistance? Call your

district office or contact the Holston Conference Center at (865) 690-4080

and ask for Charlotte or dial direct (865) 690-4141.

See you at the Lake!