

## Digest?

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# The Call

## Digest

## Back page

100-year-old Rev. Wallace Newman remembers a lifetime of ministry.

July 1, 2014

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## 'Holston loses electricity, but not power'

**LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.** -- The theme was "Always," and members of the Holston Annual Conference will always remember 2014 as the year a storm knocked out electricity in the midst of an evening Missions Celebration.

The unplugged, spontaneous worship that emerged in the dark convinced Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor that "God showed up" for the celebration. Meanwhile, mission victories revealed throughout the week led Facebook users to quip, "Holston loses electricity, but doesn't lose power."

The complete theme -- "Always: Yesterday, Today, Forever" -- was based on Hebrews 13. About 2,000 members representing 887 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia came to Lake Junaluska, N.C., June 8-11, to join in worship and fellowship, remember the past and plan the future.

The June 10 Missions Celebration had been planned for months and was to include multiple speakers, musicians, and multimedia. Instead, speakers shouted their messages into a dim Stuart Auditorium while worshipers lifted their cell phones as candles. Praise music was a cappella or accompanied with piano or acoustic guitar.

"It's important to recognize when God shows up," said Taylor, presiding bishop, "and I have seen many ways in which God has shown up this night."

The Missions Celebration concluded with an offering for education in South Sudan totaling \$134,394. Also during the week, members gave an offering to Change for Children for \$64,340, which will be divided for children's ministry in Africa and Holston Conference.

Members took an afternoon to package 10,152 meals and give \$3,725 to feed the hungry through Stop Hunger Now.

Holston members also broke their own records for the annual Hands-on Mission Project, blessing four trucks stuffed with food, school, health and other supplies for Africa. Valued at \$194,188, the goods were collected by Holston churches during May and will be shipped to missions led by Maria Humbane of Zimbabwe's Ishe Anesu and to Helen Roberts-Evans for United Methodist schools in Liberia.

**UNITY STATEMENT:** Members paused to hear a statement on unity when Bishop Taylor granted a request for "point of personal privilege" to the Rev. Daniel Ogle, associate pastor at Fountain City United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

"... As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are united in our opposi-

tion to schism in the United Methodist Church," Ogle said. "We do not yet believe that dividing the church into like-minded denominations is the best solution to solve the issues facing us."

Many in the audience stood and applauded to show support for Ogle's statement, circulated on June 5 through social media and signed by 400 clergy and lay members. The call for unity was a response to a May 22 call for an amicable split of the denomination, supported by 80 United Methodist pastors and theologians stating that differences over homosexuality and other issues are irreconcilable.

After Ogle's statement, Taylor said that "deep, heartfelt convictions" had led some United Methodists to recommend division. However, the Council of Bishops had also begun to talk about their collective and individual commitment to unity, she said.

Taylor called for prayer and reminded members that "God is in the midst and walking with us to help us resolve our issues and problems."

Holston Conference membership stands at 164,481, down 1,077 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 66,447, down 2,148 from the previous year. Church school attendance stands at 31,523, down 1,148. Professions of faith stand at 2,019, down 160. Baptisms stand at 1,616, down 228. ■

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor leads the Missions Celebration in the dark.



# 100-year-old pastor recalls 'hard knocks'

*From our June 8 Annual Conference edition*

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** -- The Rev. Wallace Newman, age 100, is wearing a suit on Memorial Day. It's 8:30 a.m. and the sun is already baking the parking lot at Asbury United Methodist Church.

The Reverend has been up since 5 a.m., the time he rises every day, says Peggy Trout, his longtime friend and Asbury congregant. She's never seen him in church without a suit and tie, although Newman officially retired as a Holston pastor in 1979, after serving at Asbury for eight years.

"I don't remember any of his sermons. He is the sermon," Trout said. "It's the way he lives his life."

Newman is believed to be the oldest living elder in Holston, and he plans to attend the Holston Annual Conference again this year. One of his two daughters will drive him from Knoxville to Lake Junaluska, N.C., on June 8.

A lifelong Methodist and native of Adams County, Neb., Newman came to east Tennessee in the late 1930s.

"A young friend who knew my desire was to become a minister told me of a school in Tennessee where I could work my way through," Newman said. "I sent in my application to Johnson Bible College, and it was accepted."

Newman had worked hard in Nebraska as the son of a sharecropper, and he worked hard as a farmer, student and pastor in Tennessee, too. He graduated from Johnson, married a teacher (Anna Belle), and attended Maryville College. He served at the Marble Hill, West View, and Hendron's Beulah churches in the Knoxville area. His annual salary was \$600.

In 1945 he was sent to a three-point charge in the Wisconsin Conference with instructions to attend Garrett Theological Seminary in Chicago.



Rev. Wallace Newman: "I knew as a young kid I wanted to be a preacher."

After two years in Wisconsin and no money to attend a college that was 100 miles away, Newman asked Bishop Paul Kern for an appointment back in Tennessee.

"I am a firm believer that hard knocks make a good teacher," Newman said.

He was sent to appointments in the Tennessee Conference -- in Crossville and Tracy City -- that required his construction skills to build churches and a parsonage. After three years of building and

moving five times to different rental homes, the Newmans finally settled into a new parsonage in January 1950. Nine months later, they were moved to a new appointment.

In 1955, the Newmans returned to Holston Conference, serving Pikeville (1955-1966), Lonsdale (1966-1971), and Asbury (1971-1979).

Anna Belle died in 1980. Newman now lives six miles from his alma mater, Johnson University, and attends Asbury, where he is loved by both members and pastors.

"He is an incredible man, a committed pastor, and one of the finest persons I know," said the Rev. Larry Dial, Asbury pastor from 2004 to 2010.

Church member Don Barksdale said he once asked "Preacher Newman" if he regretted his career path. The pastor shook his head "no."

"To be a preacher, you have to be very sure that God is calling you," Newman said. "You have to be willing to go wherever you are sent and be prepared to take what comes."

"I found out in my own ministry that things that look like blows to you were good in the long run." ■

**The Call** is the news source for Holston Conference. ● The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church includes 887 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia. ● Our resident bishop is Mary Virginia Taylor. ● Our executive assistant is the Rev. Carol Wilson. ● Our office address is P.O. Box 850, 217 South Rankin Road, Alcoa, TN 37701. ● (865) 690-4080 ● [www.Holston.org](http://www.Holston.org) ● [thecall@holston.org](mailto:thecall@holston.org) or [info@holston.org](mailto:info@holston.org) ● [Facebook.Holston.org](https://www.facebook.com/Holston.org) ● [@TheCall\\_Holston](https://twitter.com/TheCall_Holston) ● Free e-news: [thecalltwo.holston.org](http://thecalltwo.holston.org)