

## Digest?

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# The Call

## Digest

## Back page

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responds to Philippines typhoon.

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

## Churches invite neighbors out for candy, fun

**H**old on to your hubcap for this attendance record. Like many Holston churches, members at Tyner United Methodist multipurposed their automobiles for Halloween. They decorated their car trunks and offered candy to kids willing to circulate the church parking lot in costume.

Over the past 10 years, the most Tyner had ever entertained for “Trunk or Treat” night was a none-too-shabby 500, says the Rev. Charlie Harrison, senior pastor for the Chattanooga church.

But on Wednesday, Oct. 30, Tyner more than doubled its own record attendance with 1,200 people.

How did they do it?

“We are more involved in the community over the last three years,” Harrison said. “We work with Tyner Academy High School and Bess T. Shepherd Elementary School. So we are being known about our care for children and youth.”

It also helped that Tyner was the only church in the area to offer a free hot-dog meal, Harrison said.

“Couldn’t stir them with a stick,” said Lou Harrison of the packed parking lot, “but it was loads of fun.”

Other Holston churches reported their ghoulish counts and fun factors, too.

Auburn UMC in Riner, Va., welcomed 122 at their trunk or treat event on Oct. 27. The Rev. Scott Wilks reports the congregation “broadened their scope” by inviting participation from scout troops.

“We had to sell the idea to some of our members who see [Halloween] as a secular holiday rooted in a dark past,” Wilks said. “I simply explained that we are showing children that the church is a safe place with lots of welcoming people. As fishers of kids, candy makes a pretty good bait.”



A miniature sheriff joins the fun at First United Methodist Church of Bluefield, Va.

About 325 sweet-eaters attended the Oct. 31 trunk or treat hosted by First UMC of Bluefield, Va., according to the Rev. Brad Scott.

“It’s successful partly because the church taps into many community resources,” Scott said. “We hold it at the farmer’s market in the downtown area, and in addition to the trunks, we have a meal at the church.”

About three weeks before Halloween, the town of Bluefield has a parade, Scott added. “The kids throw out candy with invitations to this event.”

Like other churches, Salem UMC of Blountville, Tenn., also offered free food -- in this case, pizza -- to entice participants.

“We did reach several parents and first-time guests,” said the Rev. Will Shewey. With the added bonus of cotton candy, face painting, pumpkin decorations,

a cake walk and pudding-eating contest, Salem welcomed 107 at their Oct. 23 event.

Other churches also reported their attendances in response to *The Call's* Facebook request (Facebook. [Holston.org](http://Holston.org)).

About 550 came out to Shady Grove UMC in Dandridge, Tenn., reported Ellen McCormick. “The kids especially liked the bounce houses.”

Sherry Smith wrote that 62 attended the trunk or treat hosted by Pleasant Hill UMC in Sevierville, Tenn.

First UMC of Rich Creek, Va., entertained 150, the Rev. Doug Hyndrich said.

First United Methodist Church of Maryville, Tenn., logged in “well over a thousand” for a fall festival which included a parking lot full of trunk-or-treaters, reported Clayton Hensley. ■

# United Methodist Committee on Relief responds to typhoon in Philippines

**(UMCOR 11/9/13)** --Typhoon Haiyan, possibly the strongest storm ever to make landfall, battered parts of the Philippines on Friday, Nov. 8.

With sustained winds of 195 mph, the category 5 storm cut a swath of devastation across the northern tip of Cebu and tore through the three large island provinces of Samar, Leyte and Bohol. UMCOR, the relief agency of The United Methodist Church, is working with partners in the Philippines to provide assistance immediately following the typhoon.

United Methodists across the globe are in solidarity with the people in the Philippines and all those affected, offering prayers, support and aid.

**(UMNS) 11/17/13** -- Three days after Super Typhoon Haiyan flattened part of the Philippines, relief was beginning to trickle in to survivors.

United Methodists are among those starting to provide emergency supplies while assessing damages from the powerful Nov. 8 storm, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, that made direct hits on several islands. Much of the early media attention has centered on Tacloban, a Leyte Island city of 200,000 that was nearly destroyed.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief announced a \$97,000 grant Nov. 11 to provide emergency food, water and water purification tablets to 7,500 individuals (or 1,500 families) in Tacloban City. The funding also will help local UMCOR staff and volunteers build capacity to meet emergency needs.

The Rev. Jack Amick, UMCOR's executive for international disaster response, has been consulting with Ciony Eduarte, UMCOR Philippines Head of Mission, and will travel Nov. 12 to the UMCOR Philippines office to work with field staff, partners and needs assessment.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines, a United Methodist partner, has called for international ecumenical support as it coordinates relief efforts with the ACT



PHILIPPINES

Philippines Forum, local churches and community organizations.

Church World Service has announced it will support early response and recovery efforts of UMCOR and other fellow members of the ACT Alliance with significant operations in the Philippines, including Lutheran World Relief, Christian Aid and the

National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

## Support UMCOR's relief and recovery work in the Philippines by:

- Writing a check to your local church with "International Disaster Response, Advance #982450" on the memo line.
- Giving online at [www.UMCOR.org](http://www.UMCOR.org).
- Texting UMCOR to 80888 to give an immediate \$10 donation. ■

**The Call** is the news source for Holston Conference. • The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church includes 897 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) • [Twitter @TheCall\\_Holston](https://twitter.com/TheCall_Holston) • Free e-news: [thecalltwo.holston.org](http://thecalltwo.holston.org)