

## Digest?

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# The Call

## Digest

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Report on Junior High and Senior High Assembly 2014

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

## New preacher: How was the first week?

It was a busy first week for Holston pastors appointed to new churches this year. Yet many found joy amidst the transitions and hard work.

The Rev. Catherine Nance, senior pastor at First United Methodist of Church in Maryville, Tenn., said she was “exhausted, but a good exhausted” after preaching her first Sunday on July 6.

“I was glad that they got to see all three of us,” Nance said, describing how she and her co-pastors, the Rev. Sarah Slack and the Rev. Parker Benson, rushed between three worship services, two of which are simultaneous.

“It was breathless ... running down the hall ... handing off mics ... coming up and down stairs ... getting in and out of robes,” Nance said.

Later in the day, Nance said she was “touched” to see how many people returned to the church after morning worship to attend an afternoon ice cream social. She’s also enchanted by the many flowers planted by members on the parsonage lawn.

The Rev. Anthony Burns arrived at his first-ever appointment at McDonald United Methodist Church in Cleveland, Tenn., to find a congregation enthusiastic about his young age (28) and experience.

“They felt like I brought a freshness to the church,” said Burns, who was praised for his first sermon, “The Lord will Provide,” based on Genesis 22:1-14.

Burns said he was grateful for his experience as a ministry director at two Knoxville churches (Bearden and First UMC). “I get to bring perspective to a smaller church that wants to do something new and exciting.”

The Rev. Will Shewey is beginning an appointment he has dreamed about and felt a strong calling to for years. After five years at Salem United Methodist Church, Shewey is beginning a new church in Kingsport District.

His daily routine is different from what he’s used to. “I don’t have hospital calls because I don’t have a congregation.” Instead, Shewey is selecting and meeting with leaders of small groups, which will ultimately help him develop leadership for the new church.

“This will be a congregation to reach all people, to reach those who are left behind by other churches, to reach the people that others don’t see,” Shewey said.

Although the church doesn’t have a permanent home yet, Mafair United Methodist Church has offered a temporary dwelling. The first worship service will begin Sunday, Aug.



Rev. Anthony Burnes is a first-time pastor in Cleveland, Tenn.

3, at 4 p.m. in Mafair’s fellowship hall.

The church that Shewey left behind is now led by the Rev. Lew Kizer. His first Sunday at Salem UMC was a doozy, with three worship services and Vacation Bible School kick-off all on the same day.

However, Kizer said his congregation appreciated his use of “welcome liturgy” in his first Sunday services, a new experience for them.

Kizer also enjoyed getting reacquainted with a pastor friend. Kizer was in the same ministerial probation class with the Rev. Tom Hancock, who recently relocated from Harrison United Methodist Church near Chattanooga to Cassidy United Methodist Church in Kingsport, Tenn. Now that they’re in the same area, Kizer and Hancock joined for a 16-mile bike ride on July 4.

“One great thing about being a United Methodist pastor is that you can go to any town and have an instant connection with someone you know,” Kizer said.

The Rev. Aaron Atchley had a difficult move from Hales Chapel/ Kathleen Memorial United Methodist Churches in Narrows, Va., to his new home at Elk Garden/ First United Methodist Church in Honaker, Va.

“The physical demands of moving are hard enough, but it’s emotionally difficult to say goodbye,” Atchley said.

Yet the Atchley family was grateful for the moving help extended by church members on both sides of the journey. “The churches also shared with us a potluck dinner after the truck was unloaded. It was affirming and uplifting to be welcomed so warmly.” ■

# Youth: 'Find yourself' at Assembly

**EMORY, Va.** -- Youth Assembly – better known as “Junior High Assembly” or “Senior High Assembly” – was held June 30-July 4 at Emory & Henry College.

Laura Lambert, associate director of connectional ministries, reported that 161 attended, including youth, band, staff and volunteers.

In recent years, Assembly was held at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens. This year, students returned to Emory & Henry College and delighted in staying in new residence halls, Lambert said.

Highlights included a Stop Hunger Now activity on Monday, when youth slipped on hairnets and packaged more than 10,000 meals for hungry nations. ([www.stophungernow.org](http://www.stophungernow.org))

Other highlights included the “Festival of Gifts and Talents” on Thursday.

“Students who participated in worship arts groups for dance, songwriting, drama, visual arts and photography shared in the festival as well as other students. It is always

a fun night to see the way students support one another and share the gifts God has given them,” Lambert said.

Aaron Miller, age 17, said that he also enjoyed the talent show, singing a rap song he wrote with two friends from his home church at Central United Methodist Church in Radford, Va. Miller is the son of Pastor Mark Miller of Fairview/Sidney United Methodist Church in Riner, Va.



**Aaron Miller**

Attending Assembly for the fifth year, Miller said that “family groups” are consistently one of the best parts of the annual experience. “People just feel comfortable sharing because we bond over the week,” Miller said. “Smaller groups just have less pressure with less people.”

Lambert also said she is impressed by the impact of family groups. “At the close of worship that night, family groups take communion together and it never ceases to amaze me how these groups truly do become a family throughout the week.”

Miller said that he wished more youth could experience Assembly.

“A lot of people go to Resurrection,” he said, referring to Holston’s winter spiritual event. “We have thousands at Resurrection and what, a hundred and something at Assembly? Resurrection is good because a lot of people find Christ there. But Assembly is a week-long event where you find yourself, and you don’t get that at Resurrection. I think more people like me should invite other people to Assembly.” ■

For more information, visit [HolstonYouth.com](http://HolstonYouth.com).

LEFT: Family groups are consistently one of the best parts of Assembly, participants say.



**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)