

## Digest?

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# The Call

## Digest

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United Methodist Men open the doors to Boy Scout groups rejected by Southern Baptist Church.

June 24, 2013

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

## Holston saves 113,525 lives from malaria

**C**hurch leaders representing 899 congregations roared in celebration June 11 on receiving the news that a \$1 million goal for Imagine No Malaria had not only been met, but exceeded.

Holston Conference raised more than \$1.13 million to save an estimated 113,525 lives from malaria after a year-long campaign inspiring members to run and bicycle hundreds of miles; shave their heads and skydive; sell pizza and lemonade; and jump into an icy lake. A few weeks before Annual Conference, the fundraising team submitted a resolution to extend the campaign six months to allow more time to reach the goal. The resolution was approved by the Annual Conference earlier on June 11.

However, in an evening worship service celebrating Imagine No Malaria and the denomination's quest to eradicate the disease, Holston members rejoiced when the total collected was announced by the Rev. Andy Ferguson, campaign chair.

The worship service also included testimony from the Rev. Fred Dearing and Libby Dearing, now serving in Yei, South Sudan, and preaching by the Rev. Charles Maynard, the Maryville District superintendent who walked 100 miles among his 64 churches to raise awareness.

The 2013 session of clergy and lay members from east Tennessee, southwest Virginia and north Georgia was the first for Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor as Holston's resident bishop. Under the theme "Imagine," Taylor preached on Ephesians 3:20 during opening worship: "God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!" (*The Message*)

- About 225 participants joined in an early-morning Buzz-Kill 5K Run/ 1-Mile Walk to raise money for Imagine No Malaria. Winners of the 5K: Rev. Wil Cantrell (male) and Rev. Nancy Twigg (female).

- Supplies valued at \$286,410 were blessed and dispatched to Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe and United Methodist schools in Liberia. Local churches began collecting food, health, school, and sewing supplies for the annual Hands-on Mission Project weeks before Annual Conference.

- An offering of \$61,922 was collected for Change for Children, half designated for children's ministry grants within Holston Conference. The other half is earmarked for children in Africa, specifically Imagine No Malaria.



Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor presides over her first Holston Annual Conference as resident bishop. This year's theme was "Imagine."

- The Missions Ministry Team reported that Holston will be receiving its fourth Church and Community Worker, Brooke Athley, to serve throughout Tazewell District.
- The Missions Ministry Team and Libby Dearing reported that the Grace Home for Children is under construction and will open this fall for 24 residents in Yei, South Sudan. The orphanage was realized with a \$300,000 Christmas 2012 offering from Christ United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.
- The Congregational Development Team reported that three new churches were funded in South Sudan and a partnership has been formed with Cokesbury United Methodist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., to begin recovery ministries throughout the conference.
- Holston Conference Foundation reported that Cokesbury United Methodist Church had established the G. Steven Sallee Evangelism Endowment in memory of their senior pastor, who died May 2.
- The Annual Conference adopted a 2014 budget of \$10.2 million, an increase of \$265,000 over the 2013 budget.
- Membership stands at 165,976, up 394 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 68,595, down 222 from the previous year. ■

## Door open to Southern Baptist scout groups

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)** -- The United Methodist Men have a message for Scouts: If they no longer have a home at a Southern Baptist church, United Methodist congregations would be happy to welcome them.

The Commission on United Methodist Men oversees Scouting ministries and civic youth-serving agencies across the denomination.

“Our office has already received notices of invitation from local churches and United Methodist annual conferences,” Gil Hanke, the commission’s top executive, said in a statement. “They are welcoming Scouts, leaders and their families to join existing or new Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops hosted and staffed in United Methodist churches, if their current scouting program needs to find a new home.”

The United Methodist agency was responding to a resolution approved June 12 by Southern Baptist Convention delegates meeting in Houston.

The resolution stopped short of urging Southern Baptist churches to disassociate from the Boy Scouts after the group’s National Council voted in May to allow gay members.

However, according to the Baptist Press, the resolution

expressed “opposition to and disappointment in the decision of the Boy Scouts of America to change its membership policy.” The Southern Baptist Convention agreed to support churches and families who drop ties with the Boy Scouts.

More than 70 percent of Scout units are chartered to religiously affiliated groups, reports Boy Scouts of America. Those charters comprise 62 percent of the group’s 2.7 million youth members.

The United Methodist Church is second only to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the number of congregations hosting Boy Scouts groups. The United Methodist Church hosts more Cub Scout packs than any other religious group.

“The United Methodist Church is the second largest sponsor of the Boy Scouts with 363,876 Scouts in 10,868 units chartered by 6,700 churches,” said Larry Coppock, national director of Scouting ministries for United Methodist Men, Coppock said. “I would love to see those numbers increase. Scouting remains one of the finest youth-serving agencies in America and it will continue to serve as a positive influence on boys and young men.” ■

For complete story, visit [UMNS.UMC.org](http://UMNS.UMC.org).

## HOLSTON EVENTS

**Youth Assembly/ June 24-28:** Junior high and senior high students are meeting this week for Holston’s annual summer spiritual retreat at Tennessee Wesleyan College. For more information, visit [HolstonYouth.com](http://HolstonYouth.com), call the Connectional Ministries office at (865) 690-4080, or visit [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Holston.org). [Holston.org](http://Holston.org) for news and photos.

**Lake Junaluska Centennial Week/ June 30-July 7:** Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in western North Carolina will celebrate “100 years of transforming lives” with homecoming events and activities. Find out more at [LakeJunaluska.com](http://LakeJunaluska.com) or call (828) 452-2881.

**Mission U/ July 18-20:** Holston’s United Methodist Women will hold their annual mission education event at State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, Va., studying “Living Sacramentally” and the “Roma of Europe.” Visit <http://holstonchurches.org/holstonconferenceumw/index.php> or call Jettie Hess at (276) 220-1553.

**Resurrection T-shirt Design Contest/ July 24:** Each year, a different church youth group wins the chance to design and sell the theme

shirt for Holston’s massive January youth retreat in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Contest entries are due July 24. For more information, visit [HolstonYouth.com](http://HolstonYouth.com) or call the Youth Ministry office at (865) 690-4080.

**Abolishing Poverty Conference/ July 27:** Bishop Ken Carder will speak at the Outreach/Advocacy Ministry Team’s event at Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. Visit [AbolishingPoverty.org](http://AbolishingPoverty.org). [Holston.org](http://Holston.org) or call the Connectional Ministries office at (865) 690-4080.

**Calling All Men/ Aug. 3, Aug. 10:** Holston’s United Methodist Men invite males throughout the community to a day of worship, workshops, and fellowship. Choose the event nearest to you: Saturday, Aug. 3 at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, or Saturday, Aug. 10, at King University in Bristol, Tenn. Visit [CallingAllMen.net](http://CallingAllMen.net) or Eric Knoefel at (865) 388-9459.

**The Gathering/ Sept. 13-15:** Holston’s Native American Ministry Team offers its 15 gathering for exploring Native American culture and spirituality at Coker Creek Village, Tellico Plains, Tenn. Contact Vicki Collins at [wahoohoospirit@yahoo.com](mailto:wahoohoospirit@yahoo.com) or (865) 548-2920. ■

**The Call** is the news source for Holston Conference. ● The Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church includes 899 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)