

Digest?

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The Call

Digest

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Claire Donahue, 2012 Olympic gold medalist, visits her home church in Lenoir City, Tenn.

September 1, 2012

www.holston.org

United Methodists respond to Hurricane Isaac

Help collect cleaning buckets; text RESPONSE to give donations

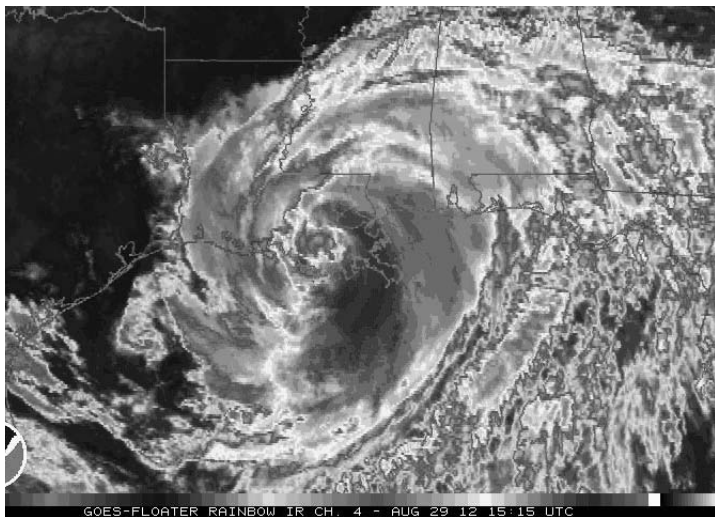
As Hurricane Isaac lumbered through Mississippi and Louisiana during the last week of August, United Methodists were anxious to help survivors.

Holston Conference will begin its Isaac response by sending its own stockpile of 500 "cleaning buckets" -- filled with detergent, scrub brushes, sponges, scouring pads, and other aids -- to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Soon, Holston congregations will be requested to help replenish the conference stockpile of cleaning buckets. Watch Holston.org, call your district office, or call (866) 690-4080 for details. Cleaning bucket instructions are available at UMCOR.org.

Church members can also help by making donations to help UMCOR provide emergency grants to those affected. Write a check to your local church with "UMCOR Advance #901670" on the memo line, then place it in the offering place.

Text "RESPONSE" to 80888 to give a \$10 donation to provide immediate relief to those affected by Hurricane Isaac. ■



Isaac lashes the Louisiana and Mississippi coastal areas. UMNS photo courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Service for Bishop Taylor: Sept. 9 BRIEFS

A service celebrating Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's leadership in Holston Conference will be held at Concord United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., on Sunday, Sept. 9, at 3 p.m. Taylor is Holston's resident bishop effective Sept. 1.

Music will be presented by the Concord Chancel Choir, and Taylor will preach. A reception will follow.

Live streaming will be available at Holston.org

Concord UMC is located at 11020 Roane Drive, Knoxville TN 37932. For more information, call (865) 966-6728. ■



Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor

A stewardship workshop, "Generosity and Your Church: Developing a Strategic Plan," will be held at Concord United Methodist Church on Sunday, Oct. 7, 3-6 p.m., in Knoxville, Tenn. The workshop will be presented by Michael Reeves. Cost is \$20 per person (includes snack) if registering by Sept. 20. Register online at <http://stewgen.holston.org> or call Bill Killday for more information at (866) 690-4080.

Rosalind Reichard, Emory & Henry College president since 2006, announced Aug. 28 that she will retire at the end of the 2012-13 academic year. Reichard is the college's 20th president and first female chief executive in the college's 176-year history. Emory & Henry is located in Emory, Va. See www.EHC.edu.

Tennessee Wesleyan College announced a record enrollment this fall with 1,116 students on campus and online. Primary growth was seen in evening students, new online nursing students, and the college's first graduate program, a Master of Science in Curriculum Leadership. The 155-year-old private liberal arts college is located in Athens. See TWCnet.edu. ■

Olympic gold medalist visits Lenoir City church

Olympic gold medalist Claire Donahue returned to her home church Aug. 26 to participate in her pastor's sermon and give church members a look at her trophy.

Donahue earned a gold medal in the London Olympics in August for swimming in the preliminary heats of the 4×100-meter medley relay. She also finished seventh in the 100-meter butterfly event.

The 23-year-old athlete is the daughter of Chris and Connie Donahue, members at Central United Methodist Church in Lenoir City, Tenn.



Gold medalist Claire Donahue poses for photos with church members.

The Rev. Micah Nicolaus, senior pastor, interviewed Donahue during his sermon about David and Goliath, part of a series on biblical "Marvels." Nicolaus asked the swimmer about her years of training, then related it to the story of David -- how God had trained and prepared David to win over Goliath through the daily, mundane work of a shepherd.

"I suggest to you that Claire won a medal long before the Olympics. She won that medal when day after day

after day she jumped into the pool ... Will we do the hard work that God is calling us to do?" ■

Flood at Buffalo Mountain: Camp leaders provide update

Q: Which Buffalo Mountain Camp buildings were affected by the Aug. 5 flood?

A: Many camp buildings remain in good shape, including the Retreat Center, Cabin 7&8, the new Collins Pavilion, the new Pool and Bathhouse, the parsonage, the King Climbing Tower, Farm Barn, and the maintenance building. However, several buildings were seriously impacted, including Allison Lodge, the Worship Circle, Cabins 3, 5, and 6 and the bathhouse. With 5.86 inches of rain falling in such a short time, the office suffered leaks, the small summer staff house was completely destroyed along with the camp water system, and rocks and debris covered most of the camp property. Methodist Camp Road was destroyed but the Washington County Road Department is working to return it to full service.

Q: Can Buffalo Mountain Camp still offer its Retreat Ministry this fall and winter?

A: Yes. Now that water has been restored to the Retreat

Center, Buffalo Mountain Camp is awaiting approval from the Department of Environment and Conservation for using the camp's water. Once received, we will be back open, hopefully in October, for retreats at the Retreat Center where groups can use the meeting space, rooms and full food service, as well as the King Climbing Tower and Worship Circle.

We are still working on the trails and upper camp area damaged by eight different mud slides, so this area will be closed until more work is completed to assure safety of camp guests.

Q: What about Summer Camp?

A: Buffalo Mountain Camp will offer a vital summer camp ministry in 2013. We thank everyone for your prayers and support as we work to get Buffalo Mountain Camp ready for summer 2013.

Please visit www.buffalomountaincamp.org to follow the recovery progress, register for our e-newsletter and contribute to the recovery efforts. ■

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 ● thecall@holston.org or 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