

calendar:

► April 4-5: UMW Young Women's Retreat

Women ages 45 and younger are encouraged to attend an annual retreat, held at MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. This year's theme is "The Earth is the Lord's." Retreat leader is Brenda Haymore, with Kay Hamrick as music leader. The Hands-on Mission Project with serve the Big Stone Gap Church and Community Renewal Project. Registration deadline is March 6. For more information, call Pat Marshall at (276) 591-5341 or visit <http://holston.org/events/2009/apr/04/holston-umw-young-womens-retreat/>

► April 17-18: GREAT Small Churches

Leaders of small churches are invited to a conference-sponsored seminar at Gray UMC in Johnson City District. Speakers include Bishop James King of the South Georgia Conference, Bishop James Swanson of the Holston Conference, and the Rev. Royal Speidel, General Board of Discipleship evangelist in residence. Keynote speaker is Julia Kuhn Wallace, former director of the Small Church Ministries, General Board of Discipleship. Thirteen workshops will be offered, including "Maintaining Evangelism Energy" and "Building Team Leadership in Rural Churches." Regular program fee is \$35. Register online at smallchurches.holston.org or call the Connectional Ministries office toll-free at (866) 690-4080. 1.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) offered for full participation.

► April 25: Holston Conference Dialogue Training

Church members will learn how to discuss issues with Holy Conferencing principles in this training to be led by Bishop James Swanson and Herb Walters of the Rural Southern Voice for Peace. The event hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the location will be in Morristown District. Watch for more details soon. ■

letter from the leadership:

Faithful response to the current economic crisis

The current economic situation is raising concerns across our society. We join the Conference Council on Finance and Administration in asking all United Methodists to look within their churches and communities to discover ways they may help those who are deeply challenged by our current economic crisis. We remain hopeful and fully expect we will not only overcome this temporary business cycle, but will ultimately be stronger for it. The 2009 conference-approved budget is what Holston needs to achieve the vision God has given us for mission and ministry in 2009. We assure you that the Extended Cabinet, Council on Finance and Administration, and conference staff are proactive in our effort to sustain a faithful response to our mission at home and around the world.

First, we want you to know that your conference executive staff and cabinet freely chose to forego their conference-approved and projected salary increases for 2009. Second, the conference staff is united in seeking ways to reduce expenses and delay purchases where possible. Third, the Council on Finance and Administration has been in contact with all conference agencies, reviewing the current situation, and is united with the Conference Personnel Resources Committee to help us make potential adjustments if they become necessary.

It is our prayer, hope, and expectation that the people of Holston will continue to demonstrate their tradition of faithfulness in giving so that all the line items in our budget may be paid at the highest possible rate. ■

Yours in Christ,

James E. Swanson, Sr.
Resident Bishop
Holston Annual Conference

Rev. Gary W. Grogg
Chairperson
CCF&A



exchange: Job opportunities within the United Methodist connection

KINGSPORT, Tenn. – First Broad Street UMC seeks a minister/director of music and worship for a 2,500-member church. For a job description and application, contact: Mike McIntire, Business Administrator, at mmcintire@fbsumc.org or (423) 224-1511.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Concord UMC seeks preschool co-director. An early childhood or education degree is preferred. Two years of teaching experience in a preschool or early elementary classroom are required. Pay scale is \$18,000-\$20,000 annually, 32 to 35 hours per week. Send resumes to: kim@concordumc.com, or Kim Mink, 11020 Roane Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – Cherokee UMC seeks a full-time financial assistant. A bachelor's degree is preferred but high school diploma with relevant experience will be considered. Send resume and three references to: Dwight Taylor, chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Cherokee UMC, 2615 South Roan Street, Johnson City, TN 37601, e-mail Dwight.taylor@cherokeechurch.com.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – Cherokee UMC seeks a part-time administrative assistant. A high school diploma is required. Some advanced education or post high school training is preferred, along with experience in a church setting. Send resume and three references to: Dwight Taylor, chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Cherokee UMC, 2615 South Roan Street, Johnson City, TN 37601, e-mail Dwight.taylor@cherokeechurch.com.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – Cherokee UMC seeks full-time program director. The incumbent will provide leadership and oversight for the overall educational program of the church, with emphasis in children's ministry. Candidates with bachelor's degrees are preferred, but a high school diploma with relevant

experience will be considered. Send resume and three references to: Dwight Taylor, chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Cherokee UMC, 2625 South Roan Street, Johnson City, TN 37601, e-mail Dwight.taylor@cherokeechurch.com.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Church Street UMC seeks a full-time director of music ministries. Projected employment date is Aug. 1. Qualifications include minimum of master's degree in church music or conducting and three to five years prior experience in leadership and supervision of church music ministry. Submit via an e-mail attachment (Microsoft Word document or PDF file) a letter of application and resume with a minimum of three references to kwoods@churchstreetumc.org, or mail to: Search Committee, Director of Music Ministries, Church Street United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1303, Knoxville, TN 37901. For more information, visit www.churchstreetumc.org

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Church Street UMC has an immediate opening for a custodian. The position is full-time, second shift, with some weekend hours. Send resume to: CSUMC, P.O. Box 1303, Knoxville, TN 37901-1303, or e-mail clafevor@churchstreetumc.org.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The General Commission on United Methodist Men seeks a full-time director of development who will work as an independent contractor (must pay own individual taxes; no retirement or health benefits). Candidates must have a minimum of three to seven years of successful fundraising experience. Compensation will be commensurate with experience (\$55,000-\$70,000). Submit resume to: Larry W. Coppock, lcoppock@gcumm.org or fax to (615) 340-1770. Applications will be accepted until April 3. ■

For more details, visit <http://joblistings.holston.org>.