

bishop's speaking schedule:

- **June 7:** Pleasant Hill/ Staffordsville Circuit 130th anniversary at 11 a.m.; First Pearisburg UMC 200th anniversary at 3 p.m. (both in Tazewell District)
- **June 14-17:** Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C. ■

exchange:

ABINGDON, Va. – Pleasant View UMC seeks director of children's ministries, a 30-hour position with night and weekend responsibilities. Candidates should have a minimum of two years experience in working with children. Salary and benefits will be based on experience. The target start date is July 1. Send resume and letter of reference by June 5 to: Kathy Trask, PVUMC, 18416 Lee Hwy, Abingdon VA 24210. No calls.

MARYVILLE, Tenn. – Middlesettlements UMC seeks part-time music director, who will be responsible for planning and directing music for both a traditional and praise and worship service. Send resume to: preacherjoe@aol.com.

MARYVILLE, Tenn. – Middlesettlements UMC seeks part-time youth director. Send resume to: preacherjoe@aol.com.

HARRIMAN, Tenn. – Harriman UMC seeks an organist for Wednesday night rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services. Send resumes to: Harriman UMC, 601 Queen Street; P.O. Box 407; Harriman, Tennessee 37748, or by e-mail to smason@roaneschools.com.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – First Johnson City UMC seeks director of youth ministries. Experience and education in Youth Ministry/Secondary Education are preferred. Call church office at (423) 928-9222 for an application or e-mail kathy.fumc@charter.net. Application deadline is June 15.

KINGSPORT, Tenn. – Mountain View UMC seeks a part-time youth director (25 hours per week). Applicants must be at least 21 years old and must pass a background check. Send resume to vgibson@chartertn.net or mail to: Mountain View UMC, 4405 Orebank Road, Kingsport, TN 37664.

KINGSPORT, Tenn. – Mountain View UMC seeks a director of children's ministries (20 hours per week). Applicants must be at least 18 years old and must pass a background check. Send resume to vgibson@chartertn.net or mail to: Mountain View UMC, 4405 Orebank Road, Kingsport, TN 37664. ■

For immediate info, visit <http://joblistings.holston.org>

letter from hiwassee college

'We are moving forward'

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and -- most importantly -- the current and future Hiwassee College students, we offer a heartfelt word of thanks to Holston United Methodists!

Congregations and individuals have responded generously to the special offering for Hiwassee. To date, 257 churches have contributed \$108,561 to assist the college during this transition year.

All contributions to this special campaign are used to underwrite unfunded scholarship aid provided to students during the recently concluded academic year.

The excellent story in *The Call* [December 2008] was published in other annual conference newspapers and in United Methodist News Service. This resulted in additional gifts from individuals and congregations across the United Methodist connection, as well as from congregations outside the United Methodist family.

Despite the challenges of this year, Hiwassee College continues to provide quality education to individuals of the region and the world. A recent accrediting review team commended Hiwassee College for programs "that

enhance the educational, social, spiritual, moral and physical development of the student."

Members of the Board of Trustees, sixty percent of whom are United Methodist, continue to reaffirm their determination to continue the college's 160-year tradition of changing lives through education in the United Methodist tradition.

We are moving forward. Hiwassee has applicant status with two accrediting groups, and we anticipate affirmation by these associations no later than November. New programs also are in place, and enrollment is looking strong for the fall.

We are thankful for the gifts received and the prayers offered for Hiwassee. Prayers always are welcome. If your congregation has not yet taken the special offering, gifts for the special appeal can be made through June 30.

With gratitude,

Jim Henry
Chair, Board of Trustees

Jim Noseworthy
President

feedback: For some pastors, small church is 'exile'

That was an interesting front-page story in the May issue about a very worthwhile conference on small churches. The title and blurb describe almost exactly half of a statistical relationship that I studied, years ago, for the entire United Methodist Church. The other half: If a large percentage of churches (77 percent) are small, it is also true that a large percent of members are in large churches.

I'll skip the math -- which is elegant and convincing -- and give some analogies. Most puddles, ponds, and lakes are small, but most impounded water is in a few large lakes. Most banks are small, but most of the money is in a few large banks. Most prescription prices are small, but most of our drug expense is for a few high-priced ones.

A corollary: If ministers are somewhat uniformly drawn from church-going families, then most of them come from large churches. If they are deployed somewhat uniformly to pastorates, then after seminary they go mostly to small churches. Some

ministers (and spouses) may experience this as a demotion, or exile. Some will exult in the chance to know an entire community intimately, organically, with all its pleasures and pains, visiting in homes, hospitals, and workplaces. (But not all ministers or spouses agree.) And the mitigation offered by the "career ladder" is necessarily somewhat illusory.

Lyle Schaller of Missouri suggested a generation ago that a main advantage of the circuit system is to afford ministers a workload appropriate to their calling and preparation. Nothing is more demoralizing than having too little of significance to do. For the minister, persons represent opportunities. For my part, I found it easy to get up and get going in a four-point circuit for six years. Wish it had gone on longer.

FRANK WIER
Retired clergy
Maryville District

C-mail: Same-sex marriage, centennial celebration

May issue, "Council Rejects Resolutions on Same Sex Marriage": Praise God our Judicial Council has the insight of the Bible and the guts to stand by its teaching. God is truly smiling at The United Methodist Church and the devil is hanging his head.

RICHARD WRIGHT
Clapp's Chapel UMC
Knoxville District

Centenary United Methodist Church held its Centennial Celebration on Sunday, April 19, 2009. It was a joyous and blessed event for everyone present. Bishop James Swanson, Johnson City District Superintendent Randy Frye, and

former Centenary ministers and members came to be with the congregation to recognize 100 years of rich history and service to the community. Those attending the worship service sat on the edge of their seats as Bishop Swanson delivered a powerful and inspiring message. Following the service, everyone was invited to a hearty lunch and a wonderful time of fellowship, as old photos and written memories were passed around the tables. Centenary Church's centennial year is young, with more activities and fellowship gatherings being planned by Pastor Robert Layell and the congregation in the upcoming months.

CENTENARY UMC
Johnson City District

Send letters to editor to: thecall@holston.org.