

mydistrict JOHNSON CITY



Harold K. Johnson, age 82, is a lifelong member of Marvin's Chapel United Methodist Church. He served as bursar at East Tennessee State University for 32 years and district treasurer for 15 years. He currently volunteers at Johnson City Medical Center, and he's church organist, too! This is his district.



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|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 Abingdon | 7 Knoxville |
| 2 Big Stone Gap | 8 Maryville |
| 3 Chattanooga | 9 Morristown |
| 4 Cleveland | 10 Oak Ridge |
| 5 Johnson City | 11 Tazewell |
| 6 Kingsport | 12 Wytheville |

Cheddar's | West Market | Cokesbury Bookstore | Kariuki | Edward Cox | Unicoi County | National Storytelling Festival | Satellite Office | Otterbein | Asbury Place | Roan Street

Johnson City District is one of 12 districts in Holston Conference. It includes 50 charges and 66 churches. Located in Tennessee, the district includes Washington, Carter, and Unicoi counties, and portions of Sullivan and Greene counties.

- **Largest membership church:** Munsey Memorial, with 1,642
- **Largest average worship attendance:** Munsey Memorial, with 800
- **Smallest membership church:** West Market Street, with 7
- **Smallest average worship attendance:** West Market Street, with 12
- **Oldest church:** Ebenezer (founded as Harrison's Meetinghouse), and Bethesda, both founded in or before 1792
- **Youngest church:** Wesley Memorial, founded in 1957

Who's the boss? The Rev. Randy Frye has served as district superintendent since 2005. Betty Barton, a member of Wesley Memorial UMC, has been the administrative assistant since 1998. The district office is located in Cherokee United Methodist Church's 70,000-square-foot building, a former warehouse which also houses Cokesbury Bookstore, a thrift store, pre-school, rental space, and The Edge, an indoor practice facility for baseball teams. District office address: 2516 South Roan Street, Suite 106.

Holston headquarters. (Not!) It's taken almost a decade for people to get used to it – and some still don't seem to know – but the Holston Conference main office is not in Johnson City. A "satellite office" on Maple Street is all that remains of the once central location for conference staff. Most staff are now based in Alcoa, Tenn., although the camp and youth ministries offices are still on Maple Street. Betty Barton also notes: "At the district office, we often get calls for the satellite office. While the district office once shared space at Asbury Place with

the conference finance office, we have never been located in the Maple Street building."



Sulphur Springs Camp Meeting

The district is known for ... Sulphur Springs Camp Meetings, which have been held each summer since 1820 – although they may have started even earlier. In his journal dated Sept. 17, 1802, Bishop Francis Asbury wrote: "Near Jonesborough ... I attended a camp meeting which continued to be held for four days; there may have been 1,500 souls present." Worshipers at the early camp meetings gathered in open fields or under a brush arbor. The campshed that stands on the property today at Sulphur Springs UMC is 108 years old. The next camp meeting will be held Aug. 3-6, 2008. (Visit www.campshed.com.)

Czech mates: JC leaders can't say enough about their "In Mission Together" partnership with the United Methodist Churches of the Czech Republic. The three-year commitment began in 2006. So far, 12 Volunteer in Mission teams, including 59 members from 20 churches, have tripped overseas to teach, lead Vacation Bible School, and do construction projects.

Best-kept ministry secret: The district lays claim to five cross-cultural appointments, including:

- Rev. Robert Kariuki Nyaga (Kenyan) serving Stone Dam-Afton (white)
- Rev. Dowahking Bestman (Liberian) serving Albright-McCarty (white)
- Rev. Tae Hun Yoon (Korean) serving Otterbein (white)
- Rev. Steve Butler (white) serving West Market Street (African American)
- Rev. Jared Wood (white) serving St. Paul, Elizabethton (African American)

Come and see: Jonesborough is Tennessee's oldest town (224 years), where the National Storytelling Festival is held in October (www.storytellingcenter.com). The Gray Fossil Site opened a year ago, and Marvin's Chapel Secretary Lynice Broyles, who lives nearby, says that visitor traffic is steady (www.etsu.edu/grayfossilsite). The district is home to two United Methodist landmarks: the Edward Cox House near Bluff City, and Acuff's Chapel near Blountville (www.gcah.org).

Best place to eat after church: Harold Johnson and Lynice Broyles, too, like Cheddar's Casual Cafe. Johnson orders ribs. Broyles likes the salmon.

Remember our connections: The district is home to the Wesley Foundation at East Tennessee State University, Asbury Place at Johnson City (retirement center), and Buffalo Mountain Camp. ■

What's cool in mydistrict



Cross-cultural appointments



Historic Jonesborough



Czech Republic VBS