

bless

Holston Conference Ministry with Children in Poverty October 2016

“Bless is a verb.”



An 8-week Introduction to Music Class is popular with students.

Holston Conference continues to make a difference in the lives of children in poverty! By sharing generously of your gifts to the ongoing mission offering, over \$319,000 has been donated which has been used so far to provide 61 grants totaling over \$203,000 to Holston congregations and ministries. The next grant application deadline is November 15. Your continued support of the offering allows our congregations to expand their outreach to children in our communities. Find out more about the grant application process at waytogiveholston.org.

At the 2016 Annual Conference congregations were encouraged to engage in outreach to children in poverty through school partnerships. Bags of books were provided for local churches to use as a gift to their community school to begin the process of building a supportive and transformative relationship. Slagle's United Methodist Church of the Carter County Parish heard the invitation and reached out to Keenbun Elementary School to establish a partnership. Here is their story as shared by Jim and Teresa Oler, lay members to Annual Conference:

Encouraged at Annual Conference 2016 to establish a partnership with a local school by taking books to the school library was just the start of many good things between Slagle's United Methodist Church (Carter County Parish) and Keenbun Elementary School. The Church established a partnership with Keenbun Elementary School. Not only are books now in the school

Continued on back

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Continued on back

library, but tutoring is offered at the Church by a certified school teacher to students of Keenburg needing a little extra help. Summer tutoring was offered and at the completion of the summer classes, students were acknowledged for their accomplishment.

On September 7, 2016, the Church started an Introduction to Music Class to all students at the School. Over 20 students attended the first class, and it grows each week. The eight week class offers students the opportunity to play the piano and guitar. It also offers the opportunity for the group to play together on the hand bells. Instruction is also given on instruments such as the mountain dulcimer, lap harp, and psaltry. Members of the Youth Group assist with instruction on the instruments. The Church has supplied all instruments for the use of the students.

After the class the students and parents are invited to stay for supper and Bible Study/Youth Group, which has been an added blessing to all. The ladies of the Church have doubled the number of people they serve on Wednesday nights.

Watching these children grow and appreciate music is such a blessing to the members of the congregation. At the end of the eight weeks of classes a recital is planned in which each child will have a solo on the instrument of their choice. We are all very excited and looking forward to this recital!

This “spark” started at Annual Conference with a bag of books for a school library has ignited a fire at God’s Church in Carter County. Prayerful support and encouragement from the congregation and Pastors Estel Williams and Mike Berry have made this a success. Praise God from whom all blessings flow and thank you, Holston Conference!

If your church took a bag of books, we would love to hear how you blessed your community school and children. Please contact Mike Sluder to share your story (mikesluder@holston.org).

As God’s people, truly we are called and enabled to bless the children in Jesus’ name with more than enough to share. (2 Corinthians 9:8)



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Thank you, Holston.

You’ll never know how many lives you’ve changed.

Way to go! Way to give!



WaytoGiveHolston.org



Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
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