In recent weeks, our local congregations and pastors have been meeting to reflect on how ministry is going in each local setting. I’ve been meeting with each appointed pastor and at their request, some local Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees. Bishop Swanson and the Superintendents have been meeting to review any anticipated changes in appointments for the coming conference year. With all of that said, I hope you are regularly praying for your congregation and your pastor, for your District Superintendent and for Bishop Swanson. The work of discernment which we are partnered in is too important to treat in any manner other than with much prayer.

In February we asked you to pray for us using the guide shown below. If you’ve been praying for the appointive process, “Thank you!” If you haven’t been praying for this endeavor, would you please begin to do so? Just over two years ago, I asked the congregation I was then serving to embrace this guide to prayer (not anticipating that the congregation I served would be affected by a change in appointment). When it was announced to my congregation that I would be coming to the Morristown District, the response by the Prayer Team Leader was: “Mickey, we have never prayed for the appointive process before with such fervor. We must accept that this is God’s will for our life, and the life of the Conference.” Wow! I’ve never forgotten that. Please keep praying!

Thank you for your prayers,
Mickey

Week 1: February 8-14
Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16
Reflection: What are the ministries in our church? What all does a “preacher” have to do?
Prayer: For those in authority in the church, that they may have discernment for God’s purposes and the opportunities to further God’s will, and for each congregation, that they may be faithful to God’s calling.

Week 2: February 15-21
Scripture: Romans 10:14-15
Reflection: Who has brought the Word of God to me and to those near me?
Prayer: For the Lord to raise up pastors to preach Christ and to care for his Church.

Week 3: February 22-28
Scripture: II Corinthians 3:4-12
Reflection: What are the gifts and graces needed to draw people to Christ and to guide people in discipleship?
Prayer: For the gifts and graces of all of our pastors in Holston Annual Conference to be used boldly for God’s purposes.

Week 4: March 1-7
Scripture: II Timothy 1: 8-14
Reflection: What strengths are needed to be faithful in the call to ministry in every change or circumstance?
Prayer: For the purposes of God to be met in all of the changes that take place and for transitions to be good.

Week 5: March 8-14
Scripture: John 14:18-27
Reflection: What changes do we fear? Do we trust God to be with us?
Prayer: For those pastors, families and congregations who are experiencing the grief of leaving while at the same time anticipating new leadership and new places of service.

Week 6: March 15-20
“Appointment Week”
Scripture: II Corinthians 12:9
Reflection: What does it mean to “trust” in the midst of unexpected changes?
Prayer: For those pastors, families, and congregations experiencing an unexpected change in pastoral
If your church is planning a mission trip this summer, there is an incredible opportunity just for you! Holston Conference is hosting a Volunteers In Missions (VIM) training for all mission trip leaders.

This event will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at Cokesbury Center in Knoxville, TN from 10am-2pm.

There is no cost for this training and lunch can be provided for $7.00.

The training will be led by Dalton Rushing who is a member of the UMVIM SEJ staff in Atlanta.

Dalton will give some very detailed specifics on how to choose a mission trip, providing proper leadership on the mission trip, and how to effectively work with the mission team.

As a bonus, every person who attends the training will be registered for one of two $100 scholarships for your mission team.

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to expand and strengthen our mission outreach.

Please register for this training by Wednesday, March 4 by emailing Melissa Smith, Holston UMVIM Coordinator at msmith@fountaincityumc.org

Melissa Smith
Pastor, Fountain City UMC, Knoxville, TN
Holston Conference UMVIM Coordinator

Day Apart Services for UMW will be held on March 28th. (See article on page 3)

District Discipleship Team Meeting, March 10th at 7 pm at the District Office.

Ministers’ Wives Retreat, mark your calendar for the Holston Ministers’ Wives Retreat - March 12-14, 2009 – at the Oak Tree Lodge in Sevierville, TN. This year’s retreat is dedicated to the memory of beloved friend, Mary Jane Smith, who passed away in September. If you have not attended the Wives Retreat, give it a try. The theme is “Creating and Maintaining a Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit.” If you have not received a registration form, please contact the District Office.
**UMM Day with the Bishop**

**LOCATION:** SHADY GROVE UMC  
1675 HAROLD PATTERSON ROAD  
DANDRIDGE, TN  37725

**DATE:** SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2009

**AGENDA:**  
9:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee  
9:30 a.m. Music & Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Welcome & Devotion  
10:30 a.m. Business Meeting  
12 noon Lunch (cost included in registration)  
1:00 p.m. Worship Service & Holy Communion

**CONTACTS:**  
David Whisman  865/397-3135 or Janie 865/397-7453 or e-mail admin@sgumc.com

All Boy Scouts are encouraged to attend. Scouts are asked to bring a canned good as their registration fee. This food will be donated to “Hope for Healing” in Strawberry Plains, TN. Conference Scouting Coordinator (Kevin Smith) will have a program for all scouts.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** $20.00 per person  
Deadline for registration is Saturday, March 14, 2009  
Please include the Boy Scouts in your count. Their canned goods are their only registration fee.

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**UMW Young Women’s Retreat and Day Apart Services**

**Annual retreat** for women ages 45 and younger.  
**This year's theme:** "The Earth is the Lord's."  
**Location:** MainStay Suites, 410 Pine Mountain Road, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863.

**Retreat leader:** Brenda Haymore.  
**Music leader:** Kay Hamrick.  
**Hands-on Mission Project** will serve the Big Stone Gap Church and Community Renewal Project.

**Registration deadline:** March 6.  
**For more information:** contact Pat Marshall at (276) 591-5341 or e-mail patents1@aol.com

**Day Apart** will be held on March 28, 2009 in the 4 clusters in the Morristown District. Registration will be 9:30 am, Service at 10:00 am and lunch will follow service.

Greeneville Cluster will be at Midway United Methodist Church with Rev. Ginger Isom as speaker

Jefferson City Cluster will be at Shiloh United Methodist Church with Rev. Marta Cogburn as speaker

Morristown Cluster will be at St Clair United Methodist Church with Rev. Leann Crandall as speaker

Newport Cluster will be at Parrottsville United Methodist Church with Rev. Pat Clendenan as speaker

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**School Supply Kits * Liberia * Mary & Herbert Zigbuo**

**Morristown District * Goal 300**  
3 Spiral Notebooks (70 ct.)  1 12” Ruler  1 Box of Crayons or Magic Markers  
1 10 Pack of Pens (blue or black)  1 Pack of Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper  1 Pack of Erasers  
1 10 Pack of Pencils  1 Small Dictionary  1 Back Pack

Pack all items in the Back Pack.

**Note:** A $5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each kit.  
**Do not put money in bag!**

Kits will be picked up at designated district location on June 12, 2009. This is not an UMCOR kit.

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**Upcoming Monthly Pastors’ Meetings for 2009.** (note change in date for March meeting)

9:30 a.m. Gathering;  
10:00 a.m. Meeting begins;  
12:00 noon Adjourn/Lunch  
7:00 p.m. Evening meeting  
(District Office)

**March 3 – Rutledge UMC**

**March 15 & 16, Ellsworth Kallas at 1st UMC (See Article)**

**April 7, Parrottsville UMC**

**May 5, Shady Grove UMC**

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**Graduating Seniors**

The Brooks Scholarship Applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are now being accepted by the Trinity United Methodist Church Brooks Committee of Greeneville, TN. Deadline for the applications is April 30, 2009. You may obtain a 2009-2010 application and guidelines for the Brooks Scholarship by either contacting the Trinity United Methodist Church office in person or call 638-7521, email trinity8888@embarqmail.com or go online at www.trinity-um-church.org. Please be sure that you complete the entire 2009-2010 application and follow the specific guidelines for the application. Applications received after April 30, 2009, or incomplete applications, or applications that fail to follow all guidelines will not be accepted. Be sure that you are completing the 2009-2010 application; the application has been revised for the 2009-2010 academic year.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 1  IST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 3  DISTRICT MINISTER’S MEETING/RUTLEDGE UMC
MARCH 8  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
MARCH 10  DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP TEAM MEETING  7 PM
MARCH 12-14  MINISTER’S WIVES RETREAT
MARCH 15 AND 16  ELLSWORTH KALAS AT 1ST UMC MORRISTOWN
MARCH 17  EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DISTRICT MINISTER’S) 10 AM
MARCH 21  UMM DAY WITH BISHOP
MARCH 22  ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING
MARCH 28  UMW DAY APART SERVICES
MARCH 29  5TH SUNDAY OFFERING FOR HOLSTON HOME
APRIL 2  RETIRES LUNCH AND MEETING
APRIL 5  PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 7  MINISTER’S MEETING/PARROTTVILLE UMC
APRIL 12  EASTER SUNDAY

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please help us be better stewards of the District Office Funds and notify us when you have a change of address. If your newsletter is returned the charge is 42¢ per copy.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail, just send your request to modist@holston.org

It is sent in Publisher and PDF Formats