

Sing! Wilsons share AC job and history, too

At last year's Annual Conference, song leader Terry Wilson suggested his nephew for an "Amazing Grace" bagpipe solo during the Service of Remembrance.

This year, Tracy Wilson will again join his uncle at Annual Conference, but not as soloist. The Wilsons will serve as co-song leaders, with Terry taking the Stuart stage on Sunday and Monday. Tracy will step up on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Terry, age 55, and Tracy, 49, share interests and experiences as well as family members. Both are southern Baptists with undergraduate degrees from Carson Newman College and graduate degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Both are long-time church music directors who made the switch from Baptist to United Methodist. Terry has served as music director at First Maryville United Methodist Church for 28 years. Tracy is music director at Bookwalter UMC in Knoxville, as well as music teacher at Dandridge Elementary School.

Both say they were influenced by Terry's older brother and Tracy's father, Kyle Wilson.

"Dad had no music training at all, and yet he really accomplished a lot," said Tracy. Kyle was a manager at Holston Gases in Knoxville for 30 years, while also leading Baptist church choirs as a bivocational director. Today, Kyle is choir director at Pleasant Hill UMC in Knoxville.

Terry — who will direct the 62-member First Maryville choir during Monday's ordination service — said that leading the Holston Annual Conference in song is "the fulfillment of a childhood dream."

"I grew up watching Billy Graham, and I always wanted to be Cliff Barrows



Terry Wilson (above, left) serves as song leader at Annual Conference 2008, while his nephew, Tracy Wilson, plays the bagpipes. This year, the Wilsons will share song leader duties.

or George Beverly Shea," he said. "When you lead music at Annual Conference, it's that same kind of revival feeling."

Terry is in his second year as Annual Conference song leader, although he has directed several of his own choirs on the Stuart Auditorium stage.

Tracy's former choir director positions



include First Baptist in Dandridge, First Baptist in Sweetwater, and First Baptist in Rogersville. More than once, he's served as song leader for the Tennessee Baptist Convention's 2,500 members — so he's more than OK with standing in front of 2,000 melodic Methodists.

"It's going to be fun," he said. ■

Special EVENTS

Sunday, June 14

3:30 p.m. — First-time Appointed Pastors Annual Conference Orientation: Terrace Auditorium

9 p.m. — Ordination rehearsal: Stuart Auditorium

Monday, June 15

7 a.m. — Cabinet Breakfast: Terrace Room 316

7 a.m. — Society for Biblical Studies Breakfast: Terrace 319

Noon — Ministers' Spouses Luncheon: First Waynesville UMC

12:30 p.m. — Deacon and Diaconal Ministers Luncheon: Sunset Inn

12:30 p.m. — Holston Methodist Federal Credit Union Luncheon: Terrace Room 316

12:30 p.m. — Outreach/Advocacy/Peace with Justice Local-Foods Luncheon: Jones Cafeteria, Back Room

5:30 p.m. — Candler Alumni Dinner: Foundation for Evangelism

Tuesday, June 16

6:45 a.m. — Holston UMC Renewal Breakfast: Terrace Auditorium

7 a.m. — Emory & Henry Alumni Breakfast: Foundation for Evangelism

7 a.m. — Extension Ministries Breakfast: Terrace Room 316

7 a.m. — Local Pastors Breakfast: Lambuth International Room

7 a.m. — Tennessee Wesleyan Alumni Breakfast: Terrace Room 319

Noon — Holston Retirees Luncheon: Terrace Dining Room*

12:30 p.m. — Board of Higher Education Luncheon: Horton's Home

12:30 p.m. — Women in Ministry Luncheon: Jones Cafeteria, Back Room

3 p.m. — Ice Cream Social: Between Stuart and Harrell

5 p.m. — Duke Divinity Alumni Dinner: Foundation for Evangelism

5:30 p.m. — Mission Ministry Dinner: Lambuth Dining Room**

Following evening program — Youth Night: Shackford Hall

Wednesday, June 17

7 a.m. — Asbury Seminary Alumni Breakfast: Sunset Inn

7 a.m. — Hiwassee College Breakfast: Terrace 316

7 a.m. — United Methodist Men Breakfast: Terrace 319

12:30 p.m. — CEF Luncheon: Good Word Resource Center

12:30 p.m. — Wesley Seminary Alumni Luncheon: Kern Building

* During the "Holston Retirees Luncheon," Terrace guests not participating in this meal will dine at Lambuth Inn or Jones Cafeteria.

** During the Mission Ministry Dinner, Lambuth guests not participating in this meal will dine at Terrace or Jones Cafeteria.

Team will monitor for participation levels, inclusive language

Representatives from two Holston groups will monitor Annual Conference sessions in a first-time effort to measure participation of women, racial-ethnic persons, and young adults.

The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and the Religion and Race Committee (RRC) of Holston Conference will follow the lead of denominational groups at General Conference 2008, which daily published statistics showing participation levels of female, male, racial/ethnic, lay, clergy, and youth/young adults. The monitoring groups also noted use of inclusive language and respect given

to diverse categories of speakers by officiators and other participants at General Conference.

Led by the Rev. Mary Parson of COSROW and the Rev. Susan Anderson of RRC, a monitoring team will record and compile similar data from Holston Annual Conference sessions. The information will be published the following day in *The Call*.

The purpose of the monitoring, organizers said, is to examine how church life measures up to The United Methodist Church's stated desires, with the goal of including people of diverse experiences, cultures, languages, ages, and understandings. ■

Sunday night music



The Munsey Memorial Youth Choir will sing in memory of deceased clergy (a record number in the past year) at tonight's worship service.