



The Maryville District

Messenger

Mary Virginia Taylor - Resident Bishop

Reverend Jason N. Gattis, Sr. - District Superintendent

Superintendent's E-mail: jasongattis@holston.org - Web Site: www.maryvilledistrict.holston.org

Cheryl Thompson - Administrative Assistant * E-mail: madist@holston.org

Office-Phone: (865) 982-1427 * Fax: (865) 981-7470

Things are beginning to take shape (literally and figuratively!) as we move forward with implementing the strategic plan approved at annual conference. As has been said from the beginning, this process will be one that will require flexibility, patience, and time.

With the cabinet fixing the district lines the first step is naming the nine areas. I thank you for the names you have submitted over the past few weeks. A transition team, which was approved at district conference, will look over the submissions and decide on a top three. Those three names will be announced on November 14th for you to vote on by November 30th. Our new district name will be announced on December 14th!

The next step coming up in the near future has to do with church relations and pastoral supervision. Since appointments at next year's annual conference will be based on nine districts, consultations and SPR/PPR communications will take place under the new structure. Detailed instructions are forthcoming.

The important piece you need to hear is:

Completion of your consultation forms will be same as before (online through the Maryville District) but you will be contacted by your new DS to schedule your consultation if your location will change to a different district.

2018 SPR/PPR chairs will receive and return response forms same as before but will be contacted by your new DS if a meeting is requested.

Again, more detail will be found in your consultation packet but if you have any questions please give Cheryl or me a call.

These are exciting times for our district and conference and it brings me great honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve alongside you! And while conference and district items this year seem to call our focus and attention, we do not need to lose sight of the season we will soon be entering. Know that my prayers and blessings are upon you as you prepare and celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus!

Grace & Peace,

JASON

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News

<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=10dc6affaa1a5333c5657768067c47dd>

Last Cluster Charge Conference 2017

Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m.
Maryville, First UMC

Don't Forget to Set Your
Clocks Back Sunday,
November 5 for the end of
Daylight Saving Time!



Latvia District Partnership

The Maryville District continues in partnership with the United Methodist Churches in Latvia. The goal this year is to raise funds for pastoral support, Wesley Camp Scholarships, and Hope House. Speakers are available to talk to local churches or small groups in those churches. A video and brochure are available to introduce or reacquaint our local churches with the work in Latvia.

Richard Rudisell, Chair Latvia Team



Up-Coming Events

November

- 4 UMW Annual Meeting & Officer Training at Mountain View at 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends 
- 8 Meet & Greet Matt Hall, Appalachian Trail Chaplain, at Broadway UMC, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- 9 Pastors' meeting at Friendsville UMC, 204 E. College Street, Friendsville at 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Cluster Charge Conference at Maryville, First UMC at 3:00 p.m.
- 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday-Office closed 

December

- 15 Pastors' Christmas Dinner at Alcoa, First UMC, start gathering at 6:00 p.m., eat at 6:30 p.m.
- 21-Jan 1 District office closed for Christmas holiday. 

January 2018

- 5 District Books close for year 2017
- 12 Conference Books close for year 2017
- 15 Holiday-Martin Luther King-Office closed
- 17-18 Year-End Reports due to the District office
- 19-21 Resurrection
- 26-28 Divine Rhythm

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2017 District Ministries

(Thru October 30, 2017—83.33%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2017 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| * Alcoa, First | * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (L) |
| * Binfield | Broadway | * Browder Memorial |
| * Burnett Memorial | * Camp Ground | Carpenters |
| * Cedar Bluff | * Chestua | * Eden |
| * Eleazar | * Fairview | * Fenders |
| * Forkners | * Fox | * Friendsville |
| * Gatlinburg | * Immanuel | Logan's Chapel |
| Loudon | Luretta | * Madisonville, First |
| Maryville, First | * Meadow | Middle Creek |
| * Mountain View | * Murphy's Chapel | * New Hope |
| * New Salem | * Oakland | * Peck's Memorial |
| * Philadelphia | Pigeon Forge, First | * Pleasant Hill (B) |
| * Pleasant Hill (R) | * Pleasant Hill (S) | * Roberts |
| Sevierville, First | Seymour | * Shults Grove |
| * St John | St Marks | Sweetwater, First |
| * Tellico Plains, First | Tuckaleechee | * Union Grove (B) |
| * Union Grove (S) | * Vonore | * Walden's Creek |
| * Walland | * Wears Valley | * Webbs Creek |
| * Wesley Chapel | * Williamson Chapel | |

Maryville District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

One of my greatest blessings as president of the Maryville District UMW this year has been connecting with the members. A beautiful Sunday in October was planned for UMW Sunday at Immanuel UMC in Louisville, TN, and I was asked to speak. Well, for those of you who know me best, you know that public speaking is not my talent. But, I have found if God calls you to do something, you just as well go on and do it. What a joyous day it was reconnecting with friends and catching up with families (my how fast those children have grown) and meeting new friends! There was a lot of reminiscing; how precious are those memories. I suppose if we took time to look back on all the things we have done and been involved as United Methodist Women, we would be astonished. Nearly 150 years ago, On March 23, 1869, eight women in Boston, Massachusetts, decided that women in India needed their help. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was born and has evolved into United Methodist Women. Those eight women raised money and sent a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation. I am sure that those ladies had no idea that nearly 150 years later we would still be supporting missions around the world. It makes me wonder what seeds we are planting that we may never see develop but very well may make the world a better place in the future.

To help celebrate our 150th anniversary, a limited edition Special Mission Recognition Pin and necklace are available from the Mission Resource Center. The gold pin has a white background behind the cross. The pendant is round with the 150th anniversary logo in the middle; above the logo is the year we began 1869 and below the logo, 2019, the year of our anniversary. All proceeds go to the Legacy Fund. A gift to the Legacy Fund is a wonderful way to honor someone in your unit who has been a long-standing member of UMW.

Our annual meeting was held at Mountain View UMC on November 4, 2017. We have three new persons on our Leadership Team and several who have stayed with us and are now in different positions. I am very proud of our team; they are all devoted Christian women who have a passion for improving the lives of women, children and youth. I am excited to see where God will lead us next year and what we will be able to accomplish for Him and for that I [Rejoice in the Lord Always.](#)

2018 Hands-On Mission Project- Zimbabwe Holston Annual Conference

Unlike school supplies, food items have expiration dates. Be sure and check the dates and make sure they do not expire until 2019 in order to cover transport time and having a useful life for the people in Zimbabwe.

The Maryville District has been asked to put together 400 Food Buckets for the 2018 Holston Annual Conference Hand-On Mission Project. *Note:* A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. **Each church is ask to bring ONE check for the total donation amount. Make checks out to Maryville District and put 2018 Hands-On in the memo line.**

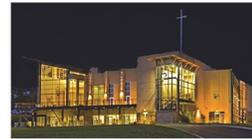
*** Do not put money in the bucket!***

Canned Ham (2-lb total)
1 - 4-5lb. Bag self-rising flour
1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)
1 - 2lb. Bag rice
1 - 4-5lb. Bag Sugar

1 box powdered milk (10oz. or less)
1 box old-fashioned oats (18 oz. or less)
1 box Splenda/Sucralose (50 ct. or less)
1 - 2lb. Bag dried beans

Your buckets need to be delivered to Fairview UMC on
Wednesday, June 6 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (do not deliver early)





Open House

Please join us for fellowship and coffee on
Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 1 to 4 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

*The Connexion is a Christian ministry center of
The Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church.*

*We are committed to sharing the
Good News of Jesus to those who visit and to those who live here.*



My father-in-law used to recite [*October's Bright Blue Weather*](#) at family gatherings every fall. In the verses by Helen Hunt Jackson it reminds us just how fortunate we are to enjoy God's glorious creation, especially in an area as beautiful as the Holston Conference. Yes, we have seen the ravages of Harvey and Irma impact our neighbors to the south and are heartbroken to hear about the senseless violence in Las Vegas. While none of us are exempt from pain or fear, it is October and those bright blue skies and the turning leaves are a blessing and give comfort to our souls.

YTD we have been blessed in the financial markets as well. Each one of our investment fund options is beating its expected benchmark return. Through the end of September, **The Balanced Growth Fund** is up over **10%**; **Intermediate Income Fund** up over **3%**; **Short-Term Income Fund** up over **1%**; and the **Equity Growth Fund** is up over **14%**. The accounts the Foundation is entrusted to manage now total over \$121 million...a new record high! Over the last couple of months, Fountain City UMC, First Oak Ridge UMC, New Life UMC, Main Street UMC, Heiskell UMC, Norris UMC, Romeo UMC, and First Sevierville UMC have established new investment accounts in the Foundation and many others added funds to existing accounts. We are pleased to receive invitations to meet with churches and other ministries to explore options. The FDIC reports (Oct. 2) that the average national rate for 12-month CD's is .30%; Savings rate is .06%; and the average money market yield is .09%. We have better options to consider!



We recently hosted Rev. Dr. Clayton Smith, Executive Pastor of Generosity with the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City to lead *Good Stewardship Greater Generosity* Workshops in Knoxville and Abingdon. He blessed us with concepts, tools and experience to assist churches and pastors attract and receive gifts to fund ministry. I still have copies of his book, PRO-PEL, if interested. At this event, we introduced a new brochure called *A Guide to Planned Giving to Benefit My Church* available for free to all Conference churches to help increase awareness of the opportunities and ways people can make special gifts beyond the offering plate to enhance each and every church. If you would like to have extra copies to share in your church, Sunday School Class or other group, click [here](#) to send an email. If you would like to confidentially explore creating an endowment for your church or considering a special year-end stock gift or transferring a gift from an IRA, etc., please call our office at 865-690-8124 and we will be glad to assist.