



2019 Holston Annual Conference highlights

Holston Annual Conference met on June 9th – 12th at Lake Junaluska. Here are some highlights of the conference:

- ★ The annual conference mission offering for opioid addiction and recovery totaled \$129,733.
- ★ There were 9,042 “Hands-on Mission Kits” collected across the nine districts of Holston. The total value amount of all the kits was \$220,131.00.
The Scenic South district had a goal of 400 home buckets. We collected 1,375!
- ★ The body approved a 2019 budget of \$9.1 million.
- ★ Elections were held for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.
Holston’s representatives to next year’s General Conference are:

Laity:

*Emily Ballard
Del Holley
Anne Travis
John Eldridge
Donna Mosby
Becky Hall*

Clergy:

*Kim Goddard
Wil Cantrell
Paul Seay
Mary Thompson
Randy Frye
Sharon Bowers*

continued

Holston's representatives to next year's Jurisdictional Conference are:

Laity:

Amanda Onks

Charles McEntyre

Reagan Kelly

Jim Gass

Nate Roark

Leamon Burl Lawson

Clergy:

Lauri Jo Cranford

Josh Kilburne

David Graybeal

Kristen Burkhart

Sarah Varnell

Mark Flynn

Jurisdictional Conference usually meets in August and is the body responsible for appointing bishops within the Southeast Jurisdiction. Holston will be receiving a new bishop next year, as Bishop Taylor will be in her eighth year of episcopal leadership, and bishops cannot serve longer than two consecutive four-year terms.

- ★ The Annual Conference adopted a resolution by a vote of 573 to 301. Titled "Holston Conference Commitment in Being in Ministry Together," the resolution was adopted after a 40-minute discussion involving about 15 speakers, including speeches for and against. Other votes were taken in midst of the discussion to approve an amendment and to approve a paper ballot. The amendment, proposed by Carolyn Allen of the Mountain View District, changed a word in the last sentence from "apologize" to "grieve."

Holston Conference Commitment in Being in Ministry Together

WHEREAS, the Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, convened in February 2019 adopted the Traditional Plan as I its way forward,

WHEREAS, United Methodists of Holston Annual Conference remain divided in our response to the General Conference decision, and thus the Body of Christ as a whole has suffered;

WHEREAS, LGBTQAI+ persons have often been excluded from full inclusion and welcome in our churches and our ministries;

THEREFORE, we the members of Holston Conference commit ourselves to the world-wide United Methodist Church, all its peoples and all its ministries.

THEREFORE, we commit ourselves to welcome and affirm LGBTQAI+ persons in the churches of Holston, knowing them as persons of God's sacred worth.

THEREFORE, Be it Resolved that as the Holston Annual Conference we commit ourselves to join hands as one, united through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness as we work together toward God's hope for the people of Holston and grieve for the harm caused to the body of Christ and its witness in the world.

continued

★ In her “State of the Church” report, Bishop Dindy Taylor read Paul’s letter in 1st Corinthians 12 about unity and diversity in the church: “The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church. The more I have studied, prayed, and been in meetings about the divisive situation we are in, I have been drawn to Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth,” she said. Taylor referred to a front-page article in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* appearing on June 9. The headline was: “The Methodist Church is fracturing: A conference this weekend will help decide its future.” She said she had attended meetings in which both progressives and traditionalists felt “deeply hurt” because they believed “The United Methodist Church no longer wanted them to be part of it.” Taylor told of preaching recently at the 75th anniversary celebration for Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Chattanooga. There, she met a woman who shared how the church had cared for her during childhood when her addicted parents could not. Today, the Rev. Anita Holland Pringle is a pastor in the Mississippi Annual Conference. Despite disagreements between members, the church can still work together to love people as they did for Pringle, Taylor said. “That’s Christ’s body. That’s who we are. We must never forget that, because God is counting on us.”

★ In the Lay Leader’s Report, Del Holley said Holston Conference has two paths. One is a path “filled with worry, hand-wringing, and asking, ‘What is the future of the church?’” Holley said. “We must avoid that path at all costs for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of self-control.” Instead, Holley challenged members to “choose the path of devotion. Recommit yourself to sharing the good news of God’s love, claim the power of the Holy Spirit, that the Kingdom of God may come upon the earth.”

★ The body adopted the resolution “Every Barrier Down: Toward Full Embrace of All Women in Church and Society.” They also adopted the resolution “Black Methodist for Church Renewal.”

★ The Annual Conference ordained five new pastors, and commissioned eight provisional elders and one associate member. There were a total of 32 retirees this year (with a combined total of 756 years of service!). The Memorial Service, held on Monday afternoon, recognized 53 clergy and spouses who died within the past year.

Copies of each day’s Call are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to see them.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019



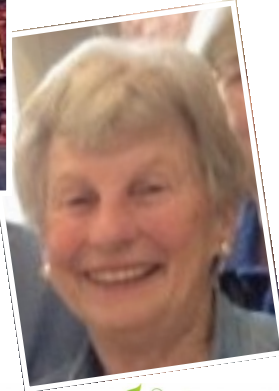
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

July Birthdays

- 1 Hazel Grace Gardener
- Rod Musgrave
- 7 Kyle Anderson
- 8 Vicki Hardesty
- 10 Patsy Irwin
- 11 Mike Anderson
- Trudy Harper
- 15 Arnie Stulce
- 16 Carolyn Dobson
- 18 Andy Nelson
- 21 Tripp Mullins
- 24 Buck Johnson
- Virginia Gill
- Thomas Wood
- Ron Jordan



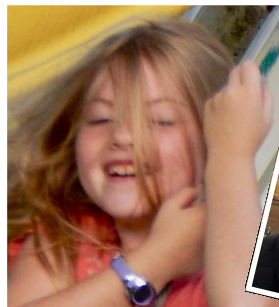
July Anniversaries

- 3 Jim & Daisy Mulkey
- 17 Joseph & Marti Hendrix
- 19 Jim & Virginia Gram
- 29 Sid & Vivian Parrott



August Birthdays

- 5 Nell Smith
- 11 Gene Elliott
- 12 Ann Reahard
- 13 Paul Ed Parrott
- Brynlie Dotson
- 16 Brody Dotson
- Linda Reagan
- 17 Michelle Musgrave
- 18 Eleana Mullins
- 20 Kristen Woodall
- 21 JoAnne Posey
- Caleb Nelson
- 26 Bob Wright
- Allison Ellis



August Anniversaries

- 1 Carlos & Barbara Wilson
- 2 Paul Ed and Suzanne Parrott
- 14 Skip and Martha Sheeks
- 25 Kay & Vicki Hardesty



SUMMER SCHEDULE

- Wednesday evening meals will resume in September.
- First Sunday breakfasts WILL CONTINUE through the summer.
- Martha's & Mary's Bible study will not meet during the summer but will resume in September.



Due to your generosity we were able to give Pastor Anthony a total of \$1,955.00 to take back to Ghana, to be used to help the African Outreach Orphanage. *Thank you to everyone who donated to make this possible!*

~Pastor Todd



Pastor Todd will be in Virginia visiting his parents from July 22nd—28th. Kathy Jones will also be out of town.

If you have any special needs during that time please contact Cindy Cunnyingham.



I am delighted to be reappointed to Soddy UMC for another year! I look forward to all that we will accomplish together. Thank you for making these past five years the best I have ever had in ministry. Enjoy your summer, and thank you once again!

~Pastor Todd





Thursday, July 4th

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sunday, July 7th

SERMON SERIES:

MISSIONARY GOD, UNWILLING PROPHET

"Everything Looks Different From Inside A Fish"

Sunday, July 14th

SERMON SERIES:

MISSIONARY GOD, UNWILLING PROPHET

"The Mercy And Grace Of A Missionary God"

Thursday, July 18th

United Methodist Women

Sunday, July 21st

SERMON SERIES:

MISSIONARY GOD, UNWILLING PROPHET

"Don't You Just Hate It When God Does That?"

JULY 22nd - 28th

**PASTOR TODD WILL BE VISITING FAMILY
IN VIRGINIA**

Sunday, July 28th

**Cindy Cunnyingham will be speaking and
leading worship**





Sunday, August 4th

"Bad Manners And Good Theology"
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, August 11th

"Put Yourself In My Shoes"

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting

Thursday, August 15th

United Methodist Women

Sunday, August 18th

"Especially When It Hurts"

Sunday, August 25th

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS!
I N V I T A T I O N S
"Come And See"



STRAY SHEEP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

– HEBREWS 10:25 NIV