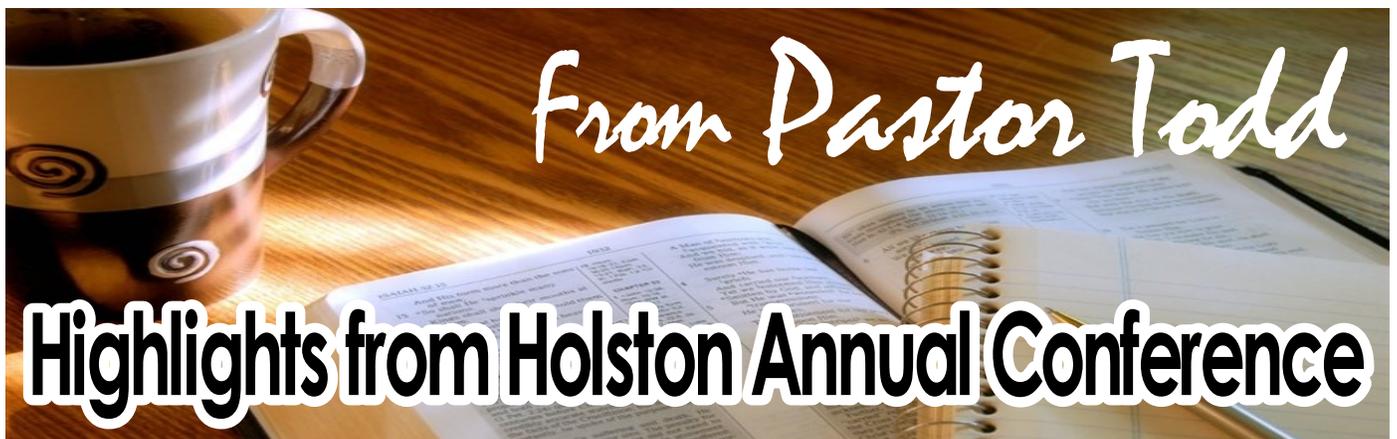


The
VINE
The newsletter of Soddy United Methodist Church
July-August 2017



Holston Annual Conference met on June 11th - 14th at Lake Junaluska with 1,946 members representing Holston's 880 congregations. Here are some highlights of the conference:

- ★ During its session, the body adopted a "Comprehensive Strategic Plan" that will resize Holston Conference from 12 to nine districts. The plan also mandates clergy support groups, establishes missional hubs, deploys conference staff, evaluates teams and committees, and updates communications.
- ★ An offering of \$105,588 was received for Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe, honoring the retirement of Maria and Bill Humbane, the mission's founders. An offering of \$57,558 was received for Change for Children, a fund that is split and distributed annually to aid children's ministries in Africa and Holston communities.
- ★ The annual "Hands-on Mission Project" concluded as Bishop Taylor blessed three truckloads of supplies, valued at \$211,112. Food, health, home and school supplies were collected by local churches to support children at Ishe Anesu in Zimbabwe and United Methodist schools in Liberia. The Cleveland district collected a total of 556 school kits for a total value of \$18,976.28.
- ★ The body approved a 2018 budget of \$9.07 million, reflecting a reduction from the approved 2017 budget of \$9.7 million.

continued

From Pastor Todd, continued

- ★ Four resolutions were approved:
 - The first grants a minimum of four weeks of vacation for all clergy annually, with at least two weeks including a Sunday
 - The second commits Holston Conference to work to eliminate racism and violence directed toward “newly arriving migrants from all parts of the world.”
 - The third places a moratorium on online communion.
 - The fourth addresses the bullying and harassment of clergy by lay members (a response to an action from Annual Conference 2015)
- ★ The body approved a motion requesting a written apology from Lake Junaluska leaders for “segregation and racist policies of the past to all who have suffered racial discrimination while attending events at Lake Junaluska.
- ★ The body approved resolutions for closing Boyd’s Chapel UMC, Bandy, VA.; and Fairview UMC, Thorn Hill, TN; as well as a resolution for abandonment of Bungalow UMC, Maryville, TN. Three congregational mergers were approved: *(1) between Slaughter’s Chapel UMC and Randolph Avenue UMC, Wytheville District, to become Randolph Avenue UMC; (2) between Faith UMC and Inskip UMC, Knoxville District, to become Cedar Lane UMC; (3) between Keen Mountain UMC and Garden UMC, Tazewell District, to become Garden UMC.*
- ★ There were five constitutional amendments, approved by General Conference 2016, that were voted on. Every annual conference must approve the amendments before they take effect. The results of Holston’s vote will not be known until all the conferences in the United Methodist Church have voted.
- ★ The conference commissioned eight provisional elders and one provisional deacon; recognized four associate members; and licensed 19 local pastors. There were 19 clergy retirees this year and a total of 80 deceased clergy and clergy spouses were memorialized. There were no ordinations this year due the Board of Ordained Ministry’s 2015 change in the provisional period from two to three years).
- ★ Church membership across the conference is 162,288 (down 1,063 from last year).
- ★ Worship attendance across the conference is 61,839 (down 2,412 from last year).
- ★ Sunday school attendance across the conference is 27,125 (down 1,369 from the last year)
- ★ Professions or formal reaffirmations of faith across the conference is 1,714 (down 351 from last year)
- ★ Recognized the new ministries of the Rev. Joseph Dowling Soka and the Rev. Christina Dowling Soka, who will follow Deaconess Fran Lynch after her retirement from the Willow Anvik Grayling Church and Community Ministry.





July Birthdays

- 1 Hazel Grace Gardener
- 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

- 1 Noel & Patsy Irwin
- 3 Chuck & Shelia Nelson
Jim & Daisy Mulkey
- 17 Joseph & Marti Hendrix
- 19 Jim & Virginia Gram
- 29 Sid & Vivian Parrott



August Birthdays

- 5 Nell Smith
- 6 Larry Garner
- 7 Noel Irwin
- 11 Gene Elliott
- 13 Paul Ed Parrott
Brynlie Dotson
- 16 Brody Dotson
Linda Reagan
- 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



"We are not the same persons this year as last; nor are those we love. It is a happy chance if we, changing, continue to love a changed person."

~W. Somerset Maugham

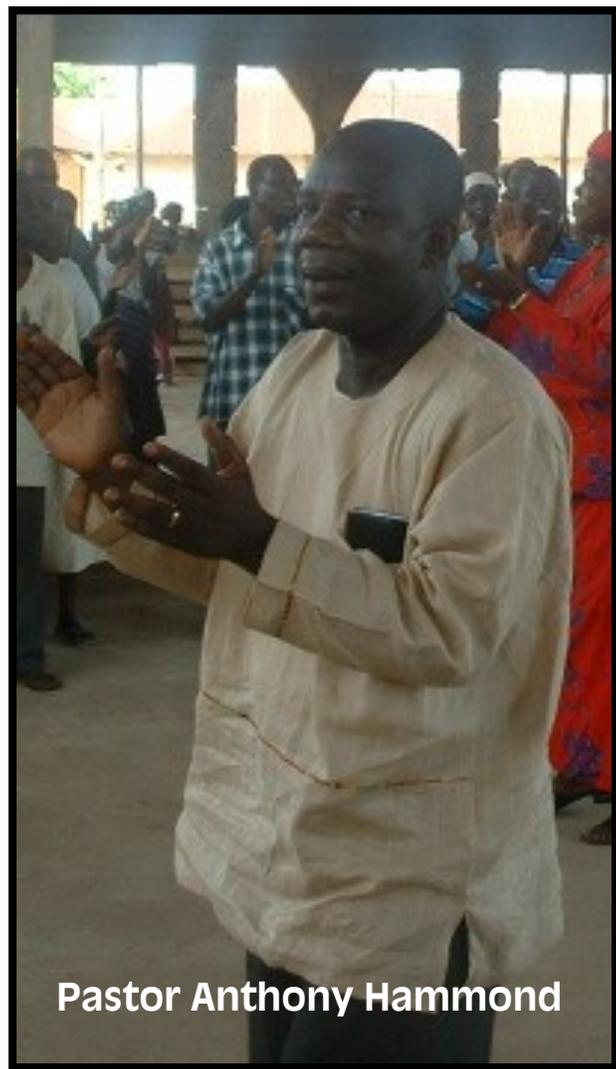
SODDY UMC HOSTS PASTOR ANTHONY HAMMOND OF GHANA, WEST AFRICA

On Sunday, June 25th, Soddy UMC welcomed Pastor Anthony Hammond to our worship service. Pastor Anthony is from Ghana in West Africa where he has three churches he oversees. Two have other pastors while he has taken on the leadership of a brand new church start (at the new orphanage). His churches sponsor the orphanage in Accra, Ghana, that we have supported in the past with love offerings.

The construction on a new orphanage is completed (*the picture below is from a few years ago and shows the new orphanage project underway*). They are waiting for some furnishings and a few other minor interior things before it is fully complete.

In addition to the new orphanage and new church plant, Pastor Anthony told us their next project is to dig a well at the orphanage to provide clean water for the children, the church and the community.

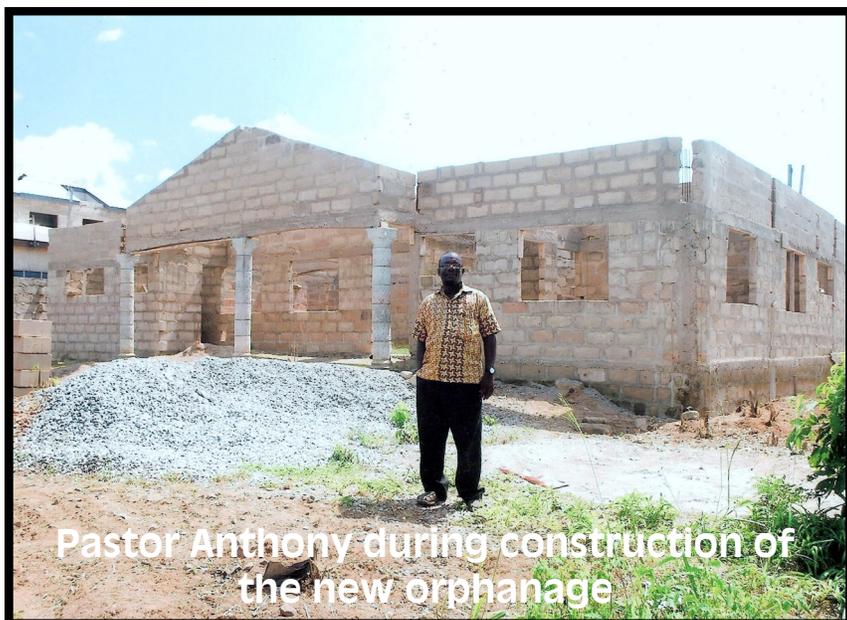
During worship, Pastor Anthony spoke from Psalm 91:1-2 about the dangerous world we live in and our need to find our security in God alone. He reminded us that that this world is not our true home—we are simply in transit on our way to Heaven.



Pastor Anthony Hammond

Pastor Anthony is married and has five children and one granddaughter.

He is in the U.S. to attend a conference in Cleveland and will be returning to Ghana the second week of July. Please pray for his safe travels, the success of his new church, and the clean water project at the orphanage.



Ghana flag



Our United Methodist Women were excited to hear of the work of UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana, at our last meeting. We have been invited to join with the Burks UMC's Mission Team when they return in December 2018.

Please be in prayer about this opportunity.

If you are interested, the dates and cost will be available. There is also a UMCOR Relief Warehouse in Decatur, Alabama, where our disaster relief supplies (such as cleaning buckets, health kits and school kits) are assembled. This is a closer opportunity if anyone is interested. The mission field is wide and there is something for everyone to do.

I'd like to share a poem written by Corliss Booth, taken from the Cleveland District newsletter:

"Sowing Seeds"

As you travel this road of life be careful of the seeds you sow.

After you have planted them, how quickly they will grow.

The reaping is always harder than the sowing along the way.

Don't fill your garden with seeds of doubt or seeds of selfish greed.

Fill it instead with lots of love, to harvest the things you'll need.

Never start sowing aimlessly, plant with this in your mind.

When you're sowing in the wind, tares is all you'll find.

If you plant with a loving heart, there'll never be any waste.

Sow your seeds with kindness and never in anger or hate.

Plant your seeds of understanding and lots of patience, too.

When it's time to reap the harvest, good things will return to you.

All ladies of the church are invited to join us for our UMW meetings on the third Thursday of every month.

-Barbara Wilson

A Hope & A FUTURE weekend

Registration begins Friday, August 18!

Friday, September 15th

Congregational dinner.....5:30 PM

Evening events.....6:30 - 9:00 PM

Saturday, September 16th

9:00 AM - Noon

featuring special guest

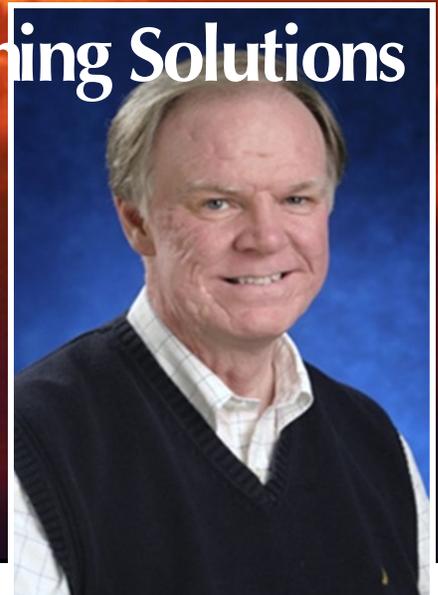
Eddie Hammett of Transforming Solutions

Author of

★ *Reaching People Under 30 While Keeping
People Over 60*

★ *Recovering Hope for Your Church:
Moving Beyond Maintenance and Missional
to Incarnational Engagement*

★ *The Gathered and Scattered Church:
Equipping Believers for the 21st Century*



**This is a FREE event. There is no charge to participate.
(Pre-registration is so we can have an accurate count of attendees).**

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED



Sunday, July 2nd

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS!

Dinner With Jesus

"An Appetizer of Compassion"

Tuesday, July 4th

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sunday, July 9th

SERMON SERIES: *Dinner With Jesus*

"An Main Course Of Humility"

Monday, July 10th

Prayer shawl ministry

Sunday, July 16th

SERMON SERIES: *Dinner With Jesus*

"A Dessert Of Generosity"

Monday, July 17th

FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting

Tuesday, July 18th

AARP meeting

Thursday, July 20th

United Methodist Women

Sunday, July 23rd

"What Might Be"

Monday, July 24th

Prayer shawl ministry

Sunday, July 30th

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

My early childhood memories center around this typical American country store and life in a small American town, including 4th of July celebrations marked by fireworks and patriotic music played from a pavilion bandstand.

~ Frederick Reines



Tuesday, August 1st

**“A Hope And A Future” Planning
Team meeting**

Sunday, August 6th

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES: PART 1
“A Bug’s Life”

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Sunday, August 13th

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES: PART 2
“On The Shoulders Of God”

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting

Monday, August 14th

Prayer shawl ministry

Tuesday, August 15th

AARP meeting

Thursday, August 17th

United Methodist Women

Friday, August 18th

**REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR
“A HOPE AND A FUTURE” WEEKEND**

Sunday, August 20th

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES: PART 3
*“If You Want To See God Work In New Ways,
You Have To Be Willing To Do New Things”*



Church picnic

Sunday, August 27th

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES: PART 4
“Letting God Out Of The Box”

Monday, August 28th

Prayer shawl ministry

Wednesday, August 30th

**“A Hope And A Future” Planning
Team meeting**