



The Smoky Mountain District

Messenger

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I write this article sitting in the Von Braun Center concert hall in Huntsville, AL listening to the symphony orchestra rehearse for the evening's New Years Eve pops concert. My brother and his wife work for the orchestra as behind the scenes organizers, promoters, and financial managers. It's the final evening of our Christmas 2017 visit to Huntsville.

While enjoying the music I think back to a near completed 2017. A year that has personally brought surprises, celebrations, and unions, but one that has mostly brought trauma, tragedy, sadness, and grief. It would be an understatement to say I look forward to the end of 2017. I know I am not alone for many, too, have faced a difficult year.

It brings a certain hope-filled anticipation for 2018. It allows us to put the past behind us and look ahead to what good the year can bring. Not to say there won't be any sadness. We live in a broken world where there will always be some sort of sadness. But, hope-filled anticipation brings us the joy and happiness we look to experience.

As I listen to the glorious music echoing through this hall it reminds me how much goodness there is to enjoy when we open our hearts to receive it. I give thanks for the generous gift you gave me, the continued thoughts and prayers, and the many other ways you have helped me to move into 2018 with hope filled anticipation.

God's blessings on a happy new year!

Jason

Pastors-CEU Update

Pastors, below is the link for the latest Continuing Education Update News
<https://app.robly.com/archive?id=10dc6affaa1a5333c5657768067c47dd>

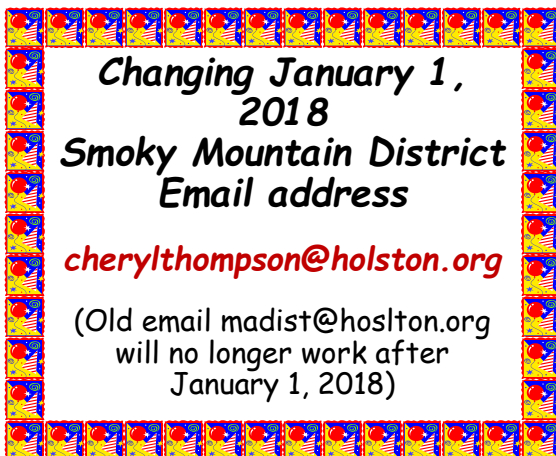


Jubilation 2018

This is the link <http://holston.org/events/2018/apr/30/jubilation-2018/> that will give you the information concerning registration for Jubilation 2018. Brochures and further information coming soon!

Annual Conference 2018

Annual Conference 2018 mailing is going to be delayed for a couple of weeks with the change in District information having to be entered into our database a little different this year. Lake Junaluska is also in the process of updating their reservation system. This will delay the notification of those who will be offered Lake Junaluska managed property housing. With all these changes we decided to delay the opening of the reservation lottery until February 1 – 28th. Lake Junaluska is on target to notify all those chosen for housing on or before March 14, 2018. We will have a AC.Holston.org again this year, but at this time that is not up and running, but should be up before the 15th of January the projected date of the mailing of AC 2018 information.



Up-Coming Events

January 2018

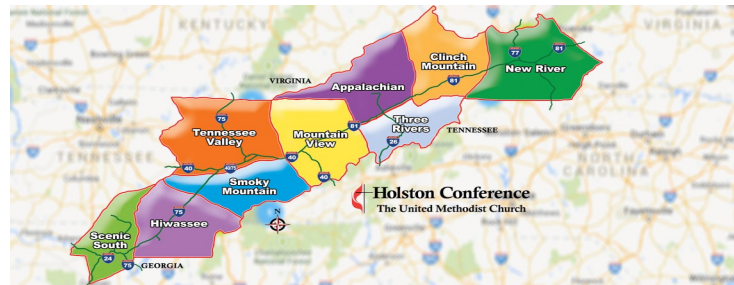
- 5 District Books close for year 2017
- 12 Conference Books close for year 2017
- 15 Holiday-Martin Luther King-Office closed
- 17-18 Year-End Reports due to the District office
- 19-21 Resurrection at Leconte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN
- 26-28 Divine Rhythm at Mills Auditorium, Gatlinburg, TN

February

- 10-11 RezKids at the ConneXion, Sevierville, TN
- 19-21 Ministers' Convocation, Pigeon Forge, TN

March

- 12-16 Appointment Cabinet (Appointment Making Week)
- 25-31 Holy Week
- 29-30 District office closed



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

(Thru December 28, 2017—100%)

(* Denotes 100% of 2017 District Ministries paid)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| * Alcoa, First | * Axley's Chapel | * Bethel (L) |
| * Bethel (Seymour) | * 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 | * Middlesettlements | * 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 | | |

Smoky Mountain District UMW - Susan Daffron-President

Happy New Year! Have you made your New Year's resolutions? It doesn't take me long to break those resolutions and sink back into old habits. This year I challenge you to make resolutions that not only change us, but also change our world. We may not be able to bring peace and love to the entire world, but we can make the world we live in a more peaceful, loving place. United Methodist Women make new resolutions every year in the form of Pledge to Mission Giving. This is our way of saying this year we WILL make the lives of women, children and youth better; we WILL make a difference. This is a resolution that we have been making successfully for almost 149 years!

In early November 2017, the Maryville District United Methodist Women lost a faithful member, Jean Eastes. Jean was a member of Union Grove UMW. I would like to share with you a part of her funeral service quoted from Philip Yancy, *Our Daily Bread*, entitled *An Audience of One*. "When I worked as a young journalist for *Campus Life* magazine, my assistant kept a plaque on her desk with this two-line poem: Only one life, 'twill soon be past / Only what's done for Christ will last.' Reading that plaque brought me up short every time. Although I believed its truth, how could I put it into practice? How should my faith in the invisible world affect my day-to-day life in the visible world? According to Jesus, it's what God thinks of us that matters, not what others think. Jesus instructed us to pray in a closed room, where no one could see us, rather than in a public place where we might get credit for being spiritual, Matthew 6:6. In other words, live for God and not others. Do we clamor for attention and achievement? Jesus invites us to let go of that competitive struggle, to trust that God's opinion of us is the only one that ultimately counts. How would our lives differ if we truly played to an audience of One? Certainly, our sense of ego and rivalry would fade, because we would no longer need to worry about proving ourselves to others. We could concentrate instead on pleasing God by living in a way that would attract people to Jesus."

As I read over Mr. Yancy's reflection and thought about our recently departed sister, Jean, I realized that this is exactly what defines us as United Methodist Women. We put aside any personal gain or recognition in order to provide better lives for those who are the last in our world. We serve as officers of our Unit, our District, our Conference as though we are serving our Lord. I encourage you this year to let others see Jesus in you, be the difference in someone's life.

January 27, 2018, will be our New Vision Event held at Wears Valley UMC. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m., lunch at Noon and program to follow. Our new vision will be Susannah's House with Rebekah Fetzer, Executive Director, speaking.

I [*Rejoice in the Lord Always*](#) for United Methodist Women who make a huge difference in our world, who work tirelessly for those who society forgets. I look forward to seeing where God will lead us in 2018 and wish you a very Happy New Year as we strive to play to an audience of One!

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 Smoky Mountain 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 Smoky Mountain 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:
Wednesday, June 6 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (do not deliver early)

Votes are in!

You picked

Smoky Mountain District



Circuit Rider Dispatch

Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.

SUPPORT SOUTH SUDANESE IN EXILE

For over a decade, the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church has invested in the people of South Sudan. Individuals, churches, districts and the conference have sacrificially supported whole communities, pastors and the least among us—the children of GRACE Home for Children. We have embraced them as a part of the Holston Conference family. One cannot begin to measure the spiritual and life-changing impact that our work has had on the South Sudanese people.



In the Book of Esther God's people were forced into exile in another country. They cried out to God for restoration and help as their very lives were threatened. In response God heard their cries and sent someone to help them in their time of great need.

"For such a time as this" the South Sudanese need us more than ever.

Our investment in the people of South Sudan is at a crossroads. Forced into exile in Uganda due to civil war and tribal conflict, South Sudanese needs have increased exponentially. Life in and around the refugee camps in Uganda is almost unbearable for our brothers and sisters. There has been no more critical time for our love, support and prayers for the pastors, children, and staff.

Contributions will be used for the following:

- G.R.A.C.E. Home for Children—education, clothing, salaries, etc.
- Educational costs for pastors in Uganda
- Operational support for staff in Uganda

Please consider making a gift online by clicking [here](#) or you can mail a check to the Foundation (please designate South Sudan).

Holston Conference Foundation
PO Box 900
Alcoa, TN 37701