

Ken's Comments

Another SUCCESS story from our ministry in Sudan: "Grace Helps Her Family."

Grace arrived in NESEI's school when it opened in May 2008. Before this, she had attended an Arabic primary school and spoke no English. Her parents, who also speak no English, wanted their daughter to learn about health care and gain English skills so she would have a better chance of getting a job. By January 2009, after two terms at NESEI's school, Grace is almost fluent in English and has learned valuable agriculture and health skills. Here is an interview a NESEI staff member had with Grace and her mother at their home in Juba, Sudan. Grace helped interpret for her mother during the interview, although her mother could understand a few sentences from the English Grace had already taught her.

Staff member: "What changes have you noticed in your daughter since she enrolled in NESEI's School?" **Grace's mother:** "English! Thank you so much NESEI School. My daughter speaks English now and has also taught me and her little sisters. Grace is more responsible now and is more focused in her daily life and house chores."

Staff member: "What other things do you notice that are different in your daughter since she went to the NESEI School?" **Grace's mother:** "Grace's health has improved because she is attending a health science school. Even at home she now cleans our compound and always tries to keep everyone clean, especially the young children." **Grace:** "I have learned over the past year in my health science courses that a person is prone to many diseases if they don't keep their environment or themselves clean. So I try to keep our house clean."

Staff Member: "What are some of the other lessons you have learned during the past year at NESEI's School that you have brought home?" **Grace:** "English: I teach it to my mother and little sisters. First aid: I have taught my mother about first aid. Now she knows what to do if an accident happened at home and there is no doctor readily available. Agriculture: From my classes I now show my grandmother and neighbors how to plant things like tomatoes and vegetables and how to take care of them to produce better yields. Some people even come to me asking for advice!"

Staff member: "What are your plans after you graduate from NESEI's School?" **Grace:** "I intend to go on to college to become a doctor or health professional. There is a great need for health professionals in South Sudan and there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the health sector."

NESEI is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization building secondary schools in Sudan. A gift of \$500.00 will provide educational supplies, food, housing, tuition, health care and school uniforms for one student for a full year. Interested individuals, churches and Sunday school classes may send their contributions to the Oak Ridge District Office, 706 S. Illinois Ave., Suite D102, Oak Ridge, TN 37830-7969. Please mark check "NESEI Scholarship." As checks accumulate, we will forward them to the NESEI Office. This is a mission project of the Oak Ridge District and we encourage your participation to help us reach our goal of 50 scholarships.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 2009

1-Christian Faught (B)	10-John & Gayle Crabtree (A)
2-Becca Fisher (B)	11-Margaret Markwood (B)
5-Keith & Kelly Hampson (A)	13-James & Ida Guthrie (A)
5-Steve & Jana Martin (A)	17-Steve & Tammy Johnson (A)
7-Patsy Mutter (B)	24-Gary & Barbara Fox (A)
7-Richard & Pat Timberlake (A)	28-John & Jolinda Mays (A)
8-Laurel Hokaj (B)	

Joys and Concerns

✦ Have you been participating
in "A Season of Prayer For
Our Clergy & Congregations"

Oak Ridge District

Clergy Meeting Schedule

2009

District Wide Clergy Meeting
First UMC, Oak Ridge
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

April 2

May 14

June (No Meeting)

Moore's Gap UMC, Clinton will hold a dedication of their new fellowship hall on Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 pm. Moore's Gap Church. They are very pleased and proud to be able to dedicate this effort to our Lord Christ.

Jacksboro UMC, Jacksboro will host an Italian Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, April 3, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will be used for the Alaska Mission Team to purchase construction materials in Willow Alaska. Adults \$6.00 Children 12 and under \$4.00. For more information call 562-7348 .

MANDATORY PRE-CONFERENCE BRIEFING

DATE: Sunday, May 31 **TIME:** 3:00pm **PLACE:** Cokesbury Center, Knoxville

Bishop Swanson has indicated that this briefing is mandatory for all pastors, lay members and district at-large members to the 2009 Holston Annual Conference.

Three important items will be on the agenda for discussion: (1) the more than 30 resolutions from the 2008 General Conference. There will not be time at Annual Conference to discuss/debate these resolutions in detail. You must come to the conference ready to vote on these resolutions. (2) a proposal to bill each local church directly for the full cost of pensions and health insurance for pastors, and (3) a look at the projected budget for 2010. All of these items will have a direct impact on every local church, so put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Oak Ridge Pastors To Meet in May

Even though we voted not to meet in May at our last meeting, it is going to be necessary for us to meet on Thursday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. at First UMC, Oak Ridge. The 2008 General Conference proposed a special pension project to raise funds to support United Methodist pastors in the Central Conferences. Currently there are 7 Central Conferences in three regions: Asia, Africa, and Europe, comprised of 6,900 churches with 9,300 pastors and 3,500,000 lay members. **THERE IS NO PENSION PROGRAM IN PLACE TO SUPPORT RETIRED PASTORS IN THESE CONFERENCES.** On May 14 we will view a video prepared by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits dealing with this great need of our church. As a denomination we are being challenged to raise \$20,000,000 to provide a substitutive pension for our colleagues in the Central Conferences. Tom Markwood, Laurence Hesser and Ken Henderlight attended a recent conference meeting dealing with this matter conducted by the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The three of us have been charged with the responsibility to share this information with the pastors of the Oak Ridge District and provide an opportunity to make a pledge in any amount to help the General Conference meet its goal. Special materials will also be available to share with your congregations to give churches an opportunity to share in this denominational-wide emphasis.

-- Ken Henderlight

Faithful Response to the Current Economic Crisis

The current economic situation has raised concerns across our society. I and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration ask every United Methodist to look within their church and community and discover ways they can help those who are deeply challenged by our current economic crisis. We remain hopeful and fully expect we will not only overcome this temporary business cycle, but will ultimately be stronger for it. The 2009 conference approved budget is what Holston needs to achieve the vision God has given us for mission and ministry for 2009. We assure that the Extended Cabinet, Conference Staff, and the Council on Finance and Administration are being proactive in our effort to sustain a faithful response to our mission at home and around the world.

First, we want you to know that your conference executive staff and cabinet freely chose to forego their conference approved and projected salary increases for 2009. Second, the conference staff is united in seeking ways to reduce expenses and delay purchases where possible. Thirdly, the Council on Finance and Administration has been in contact with all conference agencies, reviewing the current situation, and is united with the Conference Personnel Resources Committee to help us make potential adjustments should they be necessary.

It is our prayer, hope, and expectation that the people of Holston will continue to demonstrate their tradition of faithfulness in giving so that all the line items in our budget may be paid at the highest possible rate.

Yours in Christ,

James E. Swanson, Sr.
Resident Bishop, Holston Annual Conference

Rev. Gary W. Grogg
Chairperson CCF&A

Hands-On 2009 School Supply Kits - Liberia Goal 300

Pack all items in the Back Pack.

NOTE: A \$5.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each kit. **Do not put money in bag!**
This is NOT an UMCOR kit.

Kits are to be dropped off at the Oak Ridge District Office on: June 10 (Wed), 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and June 11 (Thurs), 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. The District Office will be closed on June 12 (Fri) to assist the Conference Missions Team in processing Hands-On projects.

3 Spiral Notebooks (70 ct)	1 Pack of Wide-Ruled Notebook Paper	1 Small Dictionary
1 12" Ruler	1 10 Pack of Pens (blue or black)	1 Pack of Erasers
1 10 Pack of Pencils	1 Box of Crayons or Magic Markers	1 Back Pack

Reception For The Henderlights

Mark your calendar now! A district-wide reception will be held for Ken and Anita Henderlight on Sunday, June 7, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge. Ken will be leaving the Oak Ridge district as superintendent having served in that capacity for the past six years. Anita will be continuing her work with NESEI in Sudan, Africa while Ken will be exploring other avenues of service in the Holston Conference. July 1, 2009 will mark 50 years of service for Ken as a minister in the United Methodist Church. 21 of those years have been spent serving Kern United Methodist Church (1978-1984) and First United Methodist Church (1991-2000) in Oak Ridge, as well as six years as district superintendent (2003-2009). Plan now to share in this celebration of Ken's ministry/retirement.

Brent Hall
Chairman, Oak Ridge District Superintendency Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2009

MAY 2009

Thurs 2	District Wide Clergy Meeting (10:00 a.m., First UMC, OR) Program: "Domestic Violence" Gayle Crabtree
Fri 10	Good Friday (Conference/District offices Closed)
Sun 12	EASTER SUNDAY
Tues 14 - Wed 15	CABINET
Tuesday 21	Celebration of Men's Ministries in the Oak Ridge District (7:00 p.m., First UMC, OR) Pastoral Transition Workshops
Mon 27	Large Churches (9:00 a.m., Alcoa Conference Center)
Tues 28	Med & Small Churches (9:00 a.m., First Farragut, Knoxville)
Wed 29	Med & Small Churches (9:00 a.m., Pleasant View, Abingdon)

Sun 10	MOTHER'S DAY
Mon 11 - Tues 12	CABINET MEETING
Thus 14	District Wide Clergy Meeting (10:00 a.m., First UMC, OR) Program: "Central Conference Pension Initiative"
Mon 25	MEMORIAL DAY (Conference/District offices Closed)
Fri 29 - Sat 30	CABINET MEETING
Sun 31	PRE-CONFERENCE BRIEFING (3:00 p.m., Cokesbury Center, Knoxville)

A Celebration of Men's Ministries in the Oak Ridge District

On Tuesday evening, April 21, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, there will be a celebration of the various men's ministries in the Oak Ridge District. Whether or not your men's group is chartered as a United Methodist Men's group makes no difference at all. We simply want to obtain information on the ministries your group is doing, give you an opportunity to learn what other groups are doing, explore possibilities for us to be in ministry together, and enjoy a time of fellowship. Light refreshments will be served. To help us with our planning, please call the church office (482-3209) by April 15 to let us know how many men are coming from your church. Your participation in this gathering will be appreciated.

Oak Ridge District Office * 706 S. Illinois Ave., Ste D102 * Oak Ridge, TN 37830-7969 * (865) 482-3209
 FAX: (865) 483-4515 * E-Mail: ordist@holiston.org WEB PAGE: <http://www.oakridgedistrict.holiston.org>



April 2009

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The Oak Ridge District News



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