

## Ken's Comments

At the January meeting of the Oak Ridge District Clergy the group voted to partner with the New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI), a non-profit organization building schools in South Sudan, Africa. It was noted that many of the districts in Holston Conference have partnered with local churches and other organizations around the world to be in mission and ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and to carry out the mandate to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel." At present, Oak Ridge has no such partnership, so the decision was made to begin this partnership immediately.

Sudan is one of the largest countries in Africa. It has a population of over 32 million people. The country has a rich and diverse culture with over 500 spoken languages. The country is divided into two main divisions: the predominately Moslem north inhabited by Arab tribes, and the predominately Christian south inhabited by indigenous African tribes.

Twenty years of civil war have left southern Sudan devastated with over one million people dead, left millions homeless, with over two million refugees in neighboring countries. Most infrastructure has been shattered. Schools, hospitals, roads and towns are in ruins making it very difficult for people to access education, health and other basic facilities.

NESEI is committed to building 20 new schools between 2008 - 2015. The first schools was opened in 2008. A second NESEI school in Yei is projected to open within weeks. The first schools are dedicated to the education of young women, who have been largely neglected in the educational system of Sudan in the past.

The clergy of the Oak Ridge District have committed to challenging their congregations to raise scholarships for the young women in the school(s). The amount of \$500.00 will provide educational supplies, food, housing, health care and uniforms for one student for a full year. All contributions are tax deductible since NESEI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Two full scholarships have already been sent from the clergy. We are now looking for support from the churches of the district. A contribution in any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Interested individuals, churches, and Sunday school classes may send their contribution(s) to the Oak Ridge District Office, 706 S Illinois Ave., Suite D-102, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Please mark check "NESEI Scholarship." As checks accumulate, we will forward them to the NESEI Office.

For more information or to have a program in your church, please contact Anita Henderlight, Director of Advocacy and Mobilization for NESEI, at [anita.nesei@gmail.com](mailto:anita.nesei@gmail.com) or 865-288-4059.

My hope and prayer is that all of the churches in the Oak Ridge District will respond to this opportunity to equip a new generation of young women to lead Africa into the future!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

**February 2009**

1-John & Eula Tiller (A)	11-Kevin Cole (B)
3-Robert & Betty Dreyer (A)	14-Bert Bastian (B)
6-Herbert & Paulene Daugherty (A)	14-Gregg Bostick (B)
9-James Ball (B)	15-Betty Johnston (B)
9-Jolinda Mays (B)	18-Laurence Hesser (B)
10-Anita Henderlight (B)	19-Betty Lenoir (B)

## Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are offered for:

- ♣ Rev. Malcolm Wansley, who fell and injured his leg.
- ♣ Rev. Leonard Arnold, who has been hospitalized and is undergoing physical therapy and chemotherapy treatments.
- ♣ Lorris Wimberly, father of Rev. Knox Wimberly, who had a stroke and now is in rehab.

Our sympathy and prayers are offered for:

- ♣ The family of Rev. Eugene C. Vestal, Jr., who passed away on January 17, 2009.

### TAX SEMINAR - MARCH 19

The Rocky Top Chapter of NACBA (National Association of Church Business Administrators) is sponsoring a one-day tax seminar on March 19 at Cokesbury Center in Knoxville. The seminar will provide simple and straight-forward answers to all your tax questions relating to your church or your minister's taxes. Certified Public Accountant Gene Hill specializes in full-time church tax consulting and is a contributing editor for the *Church Treasurer Alert!* newsletter. Prior to 1994, Gene served as a senior appeals officer with the Internal Revenue Service. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about taxable and nontaxable income, deductible expenses, qualified housing expenses, and the most recent tax legislation.

The one-day seminar includes lunch and cost only \$50. Discounts are available for Rocky Top members and you may register for the morning or afternoon session only.

For a brochure or more information, please contact Vicki Eleazer at 865-966-5751 or Noah Allen at 865-983-2080. CEU credits can be received for attendance.

### Jubilation 2009

... is the ninth annual event for senior adults in the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. Financial support from the Margaret Grizzell Loving Trust of the Holston Conference Foundation has made Jubilation's beginning possible. The vision of Jubilation is *"To provide a ministry for senior adults, age 55 and older, that nurtures spiritual growth, provides educational opportunities and ways to cope with life issues, promotes involvement in missions, and enhances Christian fellowship."* The dates are **March 29-31**. The location is Meadow View Resort and Conference Center in Kingsport.

## Oak Ridge District

## Clergy Meeting Schedule

**2009**

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

**February**  
*(No Meeting)*

**March 9**

**April 16**

**May 14**

**June**  
*(No Meeting)*

### Ministers Wives Retreat. . .

**Ministers' Wives**, mark your calendar for the Holston Ministers' Wives Retreat - March 12-14, 2009 - at the Oak Tree Lodge in Sevierville, TN. This year's retreat is dedicated to the memory of beloved friend, Mary Jane Smith, who passed away in September. If you have not attended the Wives Retreat, give it a try. The theme is *"Creating and Maintaining a Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit."* Brochures have been mailed to spouses in each district.

## Taking it the next level. . .

Holston Conference has been working hard in recent years, and continues, to help with the progress in post-conflict Yei, Sudan. Several strong personal connections have been made to help connect the people of Holston and the UMC community in Sudan. Thank you to the pastors and members of Oak Ridge District who are taking our relationship in Sudan to the next level by supporting the New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI).

NESEI is providing secondary education (high school) for young girls in the Yei region. It is critical that when the youth of Sudan complete primary school, they have opportunities to advance. Holston is providing a solid foundation through support of a primary school at the Yei UMC compound. NESEI offers those students a place to go when they have completed their elementary classes. In 2008, NESEI was home to four UMC primary school graduates. With the opening of a second NESEI school in coming weeks, the opportunity for higher education will be available for more students.

Each month I will be providing NESEI updates from Sudan. In addition to the achievements through Holston, the Oak Ridge District is broadening the support for young people in Sudan. Thank you for your vision and commitment to our global family. Follow our progress at ([www.nesei.org](http://www.nesei.org)).

*Submitted by Anita Ayers Henderlight*

## UMM Day with the Bishop



**LOCATION:** Shady Grove UMC  
1675 Harold Patterson Road  
Dandridge, TN 37725

**DATE:** Saturday, March 21, 2009

**AGENDA:**

9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee  
9:30 a.m. Music and Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Welcome and Devotion  
10:30 a.m. Business Meeting  
12:00 noon Lunch (cost included in registration)  
1:00 p.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion

**CONTACTS:** David Whisman 865/397-3135  
Janie 865/397-7453 or e-mail: [admin@sgumc.com](mailto:admin@sgumc.com)

*All Boys Scouts are encouraged to attend. Scouts are asked to bring a canned good as their registration fee. This food will be donated to "Hope for Healing" in Strawberry Plains, TN. Conference Scouting Coordinator (Keith Smith) will have a program for all scouts.*

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$20.00 per person  
Deadline for registration is Saturday, March 14, 2009  
*Please include the Boy Scouts in your count. Their canned goods are their only registration fee.*

The Upper Room Prayer Line will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

More information about Holston Conference  
United Methodist Men may be found at: [www.umm.holston.org](http://www.umm.holston.org)

UNITED METHODIST  
**MEN**

## Free Money From GBHEM !

The Scholarships Office is now accepting online applications! Students may go to our Website (<http://www.gbhem.org/>) and complete an application from their home computer. They will then receive an email detailing the additional steps to complete the process. The Loans Office went "live" last May; the Scholarships Office went "live" January 5. In 2009 the Scholarships Office awarded more than \$4.5 million to 3,200 plus students. We are expecting a record number of applicants this year and strongly urge students to complete the application process early, rather than waiting until the deadline date.

## Student Loans Available For Fall Term

We are proud to report that more than \$1.9 million was loaned to 430 students in 2009. The online loan application process for the fall and spring term has been a huge success. The loan office was "just a little" worried about the potential for problems with the new application, however, there have been few glitches. The downside is that the site needed to be closed early when all available loan funds were quickly exhausted. The loan applications will be available for fall 2009 term beginning May 1. Students are urged not to delay their loan application.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY 2009

## MARCH 2009

Sun 1 - Mon 2    **CABINET**  
 Mon 2 - Thurs 5    **Minister's Convocation**  
 (Lake Junaluska, NC)

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** - It's time to start planning for Annual Conference, June 14th - 17th. The Oak Ridge District has been asked to provide around 10 ushers. If you are a Lay Member to Annual Conference, either from the Local Church or a District Member, and would like to help please contact Barbara Hall, 865-482-3209 or email ([ordist@holston.org](mailto:ordist@holston.org)).

Mon 9                    **District Wide Clergy Meeting**  
 (9:30 a.m., First UMC, OR)  
**Program: "The State of The United Methodist Church" Bishop Judith Craig**

Thurs 12 - Sat 14    **Ministers' Wives Retreat**  
 (Pigeon Forge, TN)

Sun 15 - Fri 20        **Appointment Week**  
*(District Superintendent will be out of the office until 3/23/09)*

Thurs 26 - Fri 27    **CABINET**

Sun 29 - Tues 31    **Jubilation**  
 (Kingsport, TN)

**Mobile Pantry**  
 Valley View UMC invites you to come receive a large box of food, the contents of which may include perishable, nonperishable, personal hygiene or household care items. There is absolutely **no charge for the food**, and there are **no strings attached**. All of the food is distributed within the space of a few hours. The food is paid for by private donations within the Clinton and Claxton Communities. DATE: 2/14/09, 9:00 a.m. **First Come, First Served!** Valley View UMC is located less than a mile east of the Bull Run Steam Plant off Edgemoore Rd. 865-945-5133

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@holston.org](mailto:ordist@holston.org) WEB PAGE: <http://www.oakridgedistrict.holston.org>



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