

Ken's Comments

HELP SAVE HIWASSEE COLLEGE on Sunday, February 15, 2009! We are inviting each church in the Conference to take a special offering on that Sunday in an attempt to help save one of our most important institutions.

Hiwassee College is on the verge of a brighter, stronger future. Undeterred by challenges of enrollment, finance, and accreditation struggles, the College has pressed forward. In recent years the College has exceeded enrollment goals, increased giving, reduced debt, and improved facilities. Thanks to special gifts, donations were at an all-time high this past year.

Here's what happened. A temporary loss of accreditation resulted in current Hiwassee students being ineligible to receive financial aid. To remain faithful to the mission of the College, the College assumed responsibility for providing financial aid equal to what a student would have received if federal funds were available. Providing more than a million dollars in unfunded financial aid has created a financial strain on the College and students. **THE COLLEGE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT TO ADDRESS THIS DEMAND AND SUSTAIN THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL.**

The College is in the accreditation process with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). TRACS is a national accrediting body approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The College anticipates receiving candidacy accreditation in the spring of 2009, but at the present, the College needs your financial support to continue operations.

Please plan to take a special offering for Hiwassee on Sunday, February 15, 2009. Hiwassee is on the threshold of a dynamic future. Your support now will help to secure that future.

Local Church Disaster Response Coordinator

ATTENTION PASTORS! Each Local Church has been asked to elect a Disaster Response Coordinator in order that we might have a coordinator in each local church who has been trained before the onset of the hurricane season which begins June 1, 2009. You are asked to send the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of your coordinator to the Connectional Ministries Office, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850 by January 15, 2009.

UMCOR Basic Disaster Training will be conducted for all local church and district coordinators March 5-7 in Knoxville, place to be determined. No Disaster Response Teams will be able to respond to any kind of natural disaster in 2009 and beyond without this training, which will be provided by the National UMCOR Disaster Consultant Team. No longer will response teams be allowed in disaster areas without this training. Local churches should be made aware of this new policy which will be in place beginning January 1, 2009.

End of Year Report Forms

The 2008 End of Year Reports and turn-in schedules have been mailed to pastors. Please remember to return the Application for Church of Excellence in Evangelism, even if your church does not qualify for one of the medals. All forms must be turned in on January 13. Please keep the appointment which has been assigned to you. The schedule is also posted on the District web site.

We must also have **a copy of Tables I, II, and III!**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 2009

1-Keith Hampson (B)	16-James & Betty Ball (A)
1-Eula Tiller (B)	18-Dorothy Griffey (B)
3-James Titcombe (B)	22-Sue Lynn Johnson (B)
4-Catherine Nance (B)	22-Brenda Poole (B)
5-Suzanne Titcombe (B)	23-Dennis & Sharon Ford (A)
9-Bettie Duff (B)	24-Betty Furches (B)
13-Ron Burgess (B)	28-James Mullens (B)
14-Gordon Ridenour (B)	28-Jack & Maria Sills (A)
14-Lewis & Marcia Weaver (A)	31-Ron Fisher (B)

Save the Date!

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.

Divine Rhythm

Divine Rhythm, our young adult retreat for persons ages 18-35, is scheduled for January 23-25, 2009 at Country Tonight Theatre in Pigeon Forge, TN. Registration is \$35 per person through December 31 and \$50 per person after that.

Resurrection

Resurrection, our youth retreat, is scheduled for January 16-18 & 23-25, 2009 in Gatlinburg, TN. Registration may be done at the door and a fee of \$45.00 may be paid also.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Anita Henderlight, Director of Advocacy and Mobilization for the New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI), will present the program at the January 8th meeting of the Oak Ridge District Clergy. NESEI is working to build schools in Sudan to educate girls as part of the Empowerment of Women Program in Africa. Education is the key to the future for the young women of Sudan. \$500.00 helps provide educational supplies, food, housing, uniforms and health care for a student for one year.

Many of our districts have an on-going missional relationship with an overseas project. Would the Oak Ridge District Churches be interested in joining hand-in-hand with NESEI to provide scholarships for the young women of Sudan? We will explore this opportunity at the January 8th meeting.

Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are offered for:

- ✦ Rev. Jim Bailes, who has been hospitalized.
- ✦ Rev. Mahan Archer, who had surgery..

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	
January 9	February <i>(No Meeting)</i>
March 9	April 16
May 14	June <i>(No Meeting)</i>

DISTRICT TRAINING to Offer a Variety of Workshops

Sunday, January 11, 2009 ** 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. ** First UMC, Oak Ridge

Our Annual Discipleship Training will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2009, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge.

Here is a listing of the classes to be offered:

- (1) **Living The United Methodist Way: Holy Conferencing;** *Led by Rev. Catherine Nance, and Susan Montgomery*
- (2) **Living The United Methodist Way: Three Simple Rules;** *Led by Rev. Jay Ferguson*
- (3) **Living The Kingdom Life: The Beatitudes of Jesus;** *Led by Rev. Brenda Carroll*
- (4) **Living The Kingdom Life: What Jesus Said About Money;** *Led by Rev. Bill Kilday*
- (5) **Developing Small Group Ministries;** *Led by Rebekah Fetzer*
- (6) **How To Read And Understand The Bible;** *Led by Dr. Kenny Faught*
- (7) **How To Be A Christian In An I-Pod World;** *Led by Rev. Bradley Hyde*
- (8) **Partners In Ministry: The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee;** *Led by Rev. Ken Henderlight*

Registration
2009 Oak Ridge District
Discipleship Training

Registration Deadline: January 6, 2009

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please complete the following: (Choose only **ONE** course per person)

If you desire child care, list the children and the date of birth for each:

Name of Child	Date of Birth

Mail or Fax or E-Mail Registration to:

Oak Ridge District Office
7025 Illinois Ave., Suite 2102
Oak Ridge, TN 37810-7025
Phone: 615-433-4545

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2009

FEBRUARY 2009

**(Conference and District Office's Closed:
Wed (Dec 24) - Mon (Jan 5)**

Sun 4 - Mon 5 CABINET

Thurs 8 District Wide Clergy Meeting
(10:00 a.m., First UMC, OR)
Program: "NESEI, Anita Henderlight"

Fri 9 2009 Books Close
District and Conference

Sun 11 Discipleship Training
(Brochure enclosed)

Tues 13 End Of Year Report Turn-In

(schedules have been mailed and are on the District web page)

Fri 16 - Sun 18 Resurrection Weekend #1

Mon 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(District Office Closed)

Fri 23 - Sun 25 Resurrection Weekend #2
Divine Rhythm

Sun 1 - Mon 2 CABINET

Mon 2 - Thurs 5 Minister's Convocation
(Lake Junaluska, NC)

Great Turn Out at Festival of Gifts and Talents

In the December 2008 newsletter, we failed to mention that Harriman UMC's youth also participated in the District Festival of Gifts and Talents this year.

Brad Stapleton (Oak Ridge District Co-Youth Ministries Coordinator)

Conference and District Books Close January 9, 2009

This is the LAST day to submit
2008 apportionments and District Ask-
ings. Must be received by noon on 1/9/09

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>



January 2009

Return Service Requested

706 S. Illinois Ave., Suite D102
Oak Ridge, TN 37830-7969

The Oak Ridge District News



U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #105
OAK RIDGE, TN
NON-PROFIT ORG.