

Ken's Comments

By the time you receive this edition of the district newsletter we will be into the season of Lent. Lent is a time for introspection and self-examination as we check-up on the vital signs of our Christian discipleship. Many people make the decision to "give up something" during Lent. While this may be commendable, I've always felt that it was a rather negative way to approach this holy season. Instead of "giving up something" for Lent, why not decide to "take on something" during Lent -- something that can make a difference in your life and the life of another person.

Need a suggestion? Let me remind you that the Oak Ridge District Clergy voted in January to partner with the New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI), a non-profit organization building schools in South Sudan. NESEI is committed to building 20 new schools in Sudan between 2008-2015. The first school was opened in 2008. A second school is projected to open within weeks. These first schools are dedicated to the education of young women, women who have been largely neglected in the educational system of Sudan in the past. On March 4, 2009, Anita Henderlight will journey to Yei to oversee the opening of the second school. The clergy of the Oak Ridge District have committed to challenging their congregations to raise scholarships for the young women in the schools. A \$500.00 scholarship will provide educational supplies, room and board, 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. Wouldn't it be great if each church in the Oak Ride District would take as a goal to raise money for just one scholarship or even one partial scholarship during Lent?

Interested individuals, churches, Sunday school classes and other organizations may send their contributions to the Oak Ridge District Office, 706 S. Illinois Ave., Suite D-102, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Please mark your check "NESEI Scholarship." As checks accumulate, we will forward them to the NESEI office. Each person, class, church or group will receive a note of appreciation and recognition for your missional gift.

For more information or to schedule a program on this ministry in your church, please contact Anita Henderlight, Director of Advocacy and Mobilization for NESEI, at anita.nesei@gmail.com or 865-288-4059.

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

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March 2009

1-William Rimmer (B)	16-Pete Bradby (B)
3-Betty Davis (B)	16-Lewis Weaver (B)
7-Maria Sills (B)	20-Patsy Taylor (B)
10-Sammuel Roberts (B)	22-John & Glenna Manning (A)
13-Kevin Blue (B)	23-Scott Ketron (B)
14-Glorial Bradby (B)	26-Jim Osborne (B)

May 16, 2009 FREE CHRISTIAN CONCERT

Valley View UMC
 Phone: 865-945-3623 or 865-945-5133
 2 pm and 7 pm Concerts with Billy Wayne Arrington.
 Games, storytelling, rummage and plant sales, lunch \$5 at noon and dinner \$5 at 5 pm. Benefits go toward the VAN Fund, Camp Fund, Resurrection Youth Fund and Mobile Food Pantry Churches. Call now to reserve your FREE Tickets.

This is a Christian Concert for all ages and for the Knoxville, Clinton, Claxton, Powell, Heiskell and Oak Ridge areas. Please come to this outdoor concert. Thank you.

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.

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.

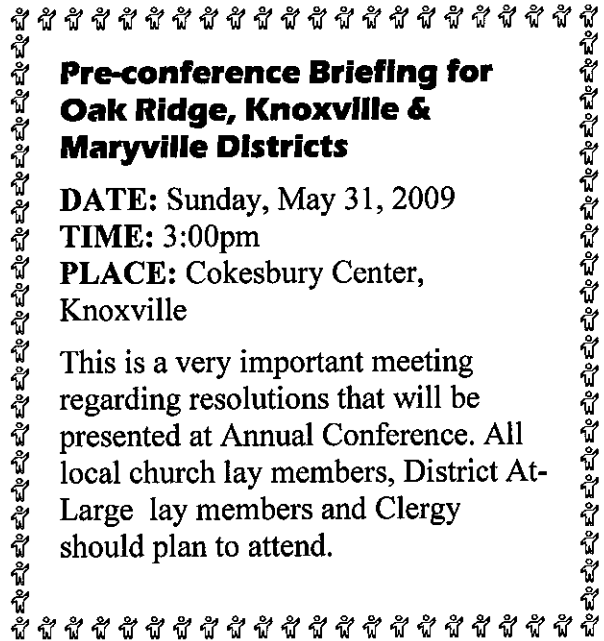
Joys and Concerns

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

Pre-conference Briefing for Oak Ridge, Knoxville & Maryville Districts

DATE: Sunday, May 31, 2009
TIME: 3:00pm
PLACE: Cokesbury Center, Knoxville

This is a very important meeting regarding resolutions that will be presented at Annual Conference. All local church lay members, District At-Large lay members and Clergy should plan to attend.



Oak Ridge District

Clergy Meeting Schedule

2009	
District Wide Clergy Meeting First UMC, Oak Ridge 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	
March 9	April 2
May 14	June <i>(No Meeting)</i>

Meet Our New District Superintendent!

Bishop James Swanson has announced the projected appointment of the Reverend Adam McKee to replace the Reverend Ken Henderlight as District Superintendent of the Oak Ridge District effective June 17 with the reading of the 2009-2019 appointments. Adam has served as the pastor of the Lennon-Seney United Methodist Church in the Knoxville District for the past six years.

McKee transferred to the United Methodist Church as an elder in full connection in 2006. His previous appointments in the Baptist Church include: First Baptist, Chattanooga (1996-2002); Shiloh Baptist Church, Blackstone, Virginia (1994-1996); Chaplain Services of Virginia, Richmond (1993-1996); minister of youth at Great Hope Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia (1992-1994); seminary intern at First Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia (1990-1992); and associate pastor at Bethel Community Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, Florida (1988-1990).

Adam is a graduate of Bethune Cookman University (B.A., 1974); Virginia Union University (M.Div., 1993) and Drew University (D.Min. 2002). Charlotte and Adam have one daughter. A reception will be planned for the McKees in July. Watch the district newsletter for more information.

Hands-On 2009 School Supply Kits - Liberia Goal 300

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

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.

UMM DAY WITH THE BISHOP

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Who Should Attend: Men & Boy Scouts

Price: \$20 per person*

Location: Shady Grove UMC

Phone: (865) 397-3135

Email: admin@sgumc.com

Registration deadline: March 14. Call David Whisman at (865) 397-3135 or Janie at (865) 397-7453 or admin@sgumc.com.

* **All Boy Scouts** are encouraged to attend. Scouts are asked to bring a canned good as a registration fee. Food will be donated to "Hope for Healing" in Strawberry Plains, Tenn. Scouts will have their own program, led by Conference Scouting Coordinator Keith Smith.

Great Small Churches

Utilizing the theme GREAT SMALL CHURCHES, Holston Conference is sponsoring a gathering of pastors and lay persons serving small membership churches at Gray United Methodist Church, Johnson City, Tennessee, April 17-18. 17 different workshops addressing all aspects of ministry in a small membership congregation will be offered. Outstanding leadership from inside and outside the conference has been secured for this important event. Brochures giving all of the details should be available at our next clergy gathering, March 9, or you may contact the district office. The deadline for registration is April 2, 2009. Let's have great participation from the Oak Ridge District. After all, most of our churches are small membership churches!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2009

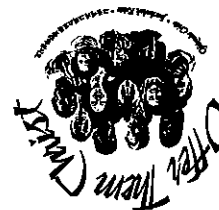
APRIL 2009

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

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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - It's time to start planning for Annual Conference, June 14th - 17th. The Oak Ridge District has been asked to provide 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).

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 WEB PAGE: <http://www.oakridgedistrict.holston.org>



March 2009

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The Oak Ridge District News

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