

Ken's Comments

I read about an interesting lawsuit recently. A twenty-four-year-old man in Boulder, Colorado filed a \$500,000 suit against his parents. He accused them of "psychological malparenting." Translated into simpler language, he charged them with "messing up his life." He said, in effect that all that was wrong in his life - his failure to make a go of things - was just not his fault. He assumed no fault in his failure. He claimed he was the innocent, passive victim of the mistakes of others.

Of course the young man lost the suit. But his biggest failure, it seems to me, was blaming his parents for his failure instead of taking some responsibility for his own life and trying to make the most of it.

Indeed, there may be some instances of "psychological malparenting" in our culture; but there seems to be a widespread tendency today to evade responsibility for our actions. We are often depicted as the innocent victims of genes, reflexes, complexes, and glands. We often act as if we were mere puppets being manipulated by massive forces over which we have little or no control. This whole philosophy of evasion and scapegoating was neatly summed up in a recent cartoon in which a little boy complained to his father, "Mother is always blaming me for everything I do!"

Now this is not to deny the vital influence our biological inheritance, our childhood experiences and environmental conditioning. These forces are real and exert a powerful influence in our lives. But the human will is powerful, too; for we are not only shaped by our environment, we help shape it.

The plain fact of the matter is that God has made us free moral agents. Of course, we do not have unlimited freedom, but we do have some real measure of freedom. Our choices are real choices! They do count for something. And no person succeeds in any enterprise until he takes responsibility for his choices, both the good and the not so good, until he knows with some certainty that he has choices to make, and that upon the outcome or consequences of these choices his future will depend. A hard lesson to learn, but learn it we must!

United Methodist Student Day

Your congregation will have an opportunity on **November 30, 2008** to invest in the future of the young people in your church, district, and annual conference. Last year the Holston Annual Conference invested **\$ 5,551.75** dollars in the students. Our students received **\$ 86,150** in scholarships last year! It is clear that we have received much for our investment. I urge you to give to increase the hope for a brighter future for youth and young people. This is a critical time and you hold the key to the future for our young people and for our United Methodist Related Colleges and Universities.

If you need more information to help the people of your church to give please go to this website:
www.umgiving.org/umstudentday.

Blessings,

James E. Swanson, Sr.

James E. Swanson, Sr.
Resident Bishop
Holston Area United Methodist Church

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 2008

1-Bill & Kathy Rimmer (A)	19-Laurence & Sandra Hesser (A)
1-Joanne Vestal (B)	21-Steve Martin (B)
6-Charlotte Baker (B)	23-Jana Martin (B)
7-Gincy Brewster (B)	24-Wayne Hedrick (B)
7-Herbert Daughtery (B)	26-John Crabtree (B)
7-Ron & Rebecca Fisher (A)	26-Faith Lovelady (B)
9-Rebecca Stapleton (B)	27-John Justice (B)
10-Glenna Manning (B)	27-Nancy Ridenour (B)
11-Steven Johnson (B)	27-Terri Tye (B)
16-Arlita Hammer (B)	29-Donald Morris (B)
16-Jerry Johnson (B)	30-Karla Kurtz (B)
18-John & Helen Rhoads (A)	30-Pat Timberlake (B)

Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are offered for:

- ◆ Rev. Laurence Hesser, who was hospitalized.
- ◆ Rev. Jim Bailes who was hospitalized.

You're Invited . . .

Valley View UMC: Coming Home Celebration and Revival, Nov. 9-12 (7:00 p.m. each night). Includes: Family Night with Teen Challenge, Heritage Night; Veteran's or Patriotic Night; Neighbor to Neighbor Night. Evangelists: Rev. Bratton Tucker and Rev. Fay Tucker.

Moore's Gap UMC: Pancake Breakfast, Nov. 8.

DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

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

(Brochure will be in the mail shortly)

Oak Ridge District

Clergy Meeting Schedule

2008	
District Wide Clergy Meeting First UMC, Oak Ridge 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	
November 6 (Thurs)	
December 11	
2009	
January 9	February <i>(No Meeting)</i>
March 12	April 16
May 14	June <i>(No Meeting)</i>

Holston begins Thanksgiving drive for 500 flood buckets

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Missions Office requests that churches assemble "flood buckets" to help replenish those used for UMCOR's response to recent hurricanes. The conference goal is 500 buckets.

"UMCOR contacted us and said their supplies are essentially depleted," said Bill Daugherty, Holston missions coordinator. "Since we're coming into the Thanksgiving season, this is a way to help others in great need and our opportunity to share with others."

Directions for assembling flood buckets (supplies and tools used for disaster clean-up) are posted on the UMCOR site (<http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket>). Mission leaders are arranging for a truck to pick up supplies throughout the conference before Thanksgiving, for delivery at Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana.

Contact the district office, Bill Daugherty (billdaugherty@holston.org), or call the conference missions office toll-free at (866) 690-4080 for more information.

Following is the collection place and times for the Oak Ridge District:

Oak Ridge District Office
 (see address on back page of newsletter)

Monday – Thursday
(10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Deadline for Oak Ridge District:
November 24, 2008.

TRAINING FOR SOUTHERN HOLSTON CONFERENCE EARLY RESPONSE TEAM

Another Early Response Team training will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2008 from 10 – 4, at Cokesbury Center, 9915 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN. This training is mandatory for all persons who wish to become a member of an Early Response Team. For more information or to register for the training, contact Jim Hayes, Southern ERT Coordinator at 865-494-7502 or by email at jrhayes46@bellsouth.net.

-- *Jim Hayes*
Southern Holston Conference Early Response Coordinator

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The Louisiana Annual Conference is now ready to receive UMVIM teams in the Baton Rouge area.

Teams will be asked to help with the clean-up efforts from recent hurricane flooding. Specific training on safe removal of debris and flood procedures will be scheduled for all teams that register. Churches that are interested in sending a team should schedule through Melissa Smith, the Holston UMVIM coordinator. Melissa can be reached through email at msmith@fountaincityumc.org or at 865-660-0271. It is important that teams traveling to Louisiana work through Melissa Smith for training prior to departure (even if they have responded previously, the requirements have changed since Hurricane Katrina). Teams not receiving proper training may not be allowed into the affected areas.

District Lay Members At-Large 2009 Session Holston Annual Conference

District Youth Members:	Carrie Hopper (Beaver Ridge) Megan Lange (Central, LC)	District Lay Leader:	Jeff Kile (First, OR)		
District UMM President:	Bill Smith (Asbury Chapel)	District UMW President:	Jonnie Faye Ball (Sinking Springs)		
Elected Lay Member-At-Large:					
Theresa Atwater (Haven Chapel)	Pauline Baird (Solway)	Jay Deakin (Bradbury)	Michael Heydasch (Valley View)		
Charlene Asbury (Beaver Ridge)	Donald Stumbo (Concord)	Melanie Hall (Luminary)	Leann Adkins (Jacksboro)		
Diane James (Midtown Valley)	James Watts (Asbury Chapel)	Cara Weigel (First, OR)	Beverly Bastian (Moore's Gap)		
Jim Abbott (Oliver Springs)	Sarah Brooksbank (Kingston)	Brenda Tate (Rugby Road)			
Alternates:	Tom Becker	Nancy Kile	Laurie Birt	Kate Mecham	Angela Carico
Steve Peyrot	C.R. Aiken	Alicia Bryant	Jack Bailey	Pat Bailey	Charles Millican

Young Adult Ministry Grant Available

Young adults are the future leaders of The United Methodist Church. But young adults would also want you to know that they are today's leaders too! The Holston Conference Young Adult Ministry Team wants to help your church begin, grow, foster and develop ministries for and with young adults by offering grants to develop these ministries. *The purpose of these grants is to fund new dynamic creative ministries with young adults or enhance existing programs* Guidelines and an application are available in the district office or you can find it at www.holston.org/media/ministry/resource/YA_Program_Grant_and_Guidelines.pdf For any additional information contact: Gaye King, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries, Holston Conference, PO Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2008 DECEMBER 2008

Thurs 6 **District Wide Clergy Meeting**
 (10:00 a.m., First UMC, OR)
Program: "Beating Burnout"
 Rev. Jim Titcombe

Tues 11 **Veteran's Day**

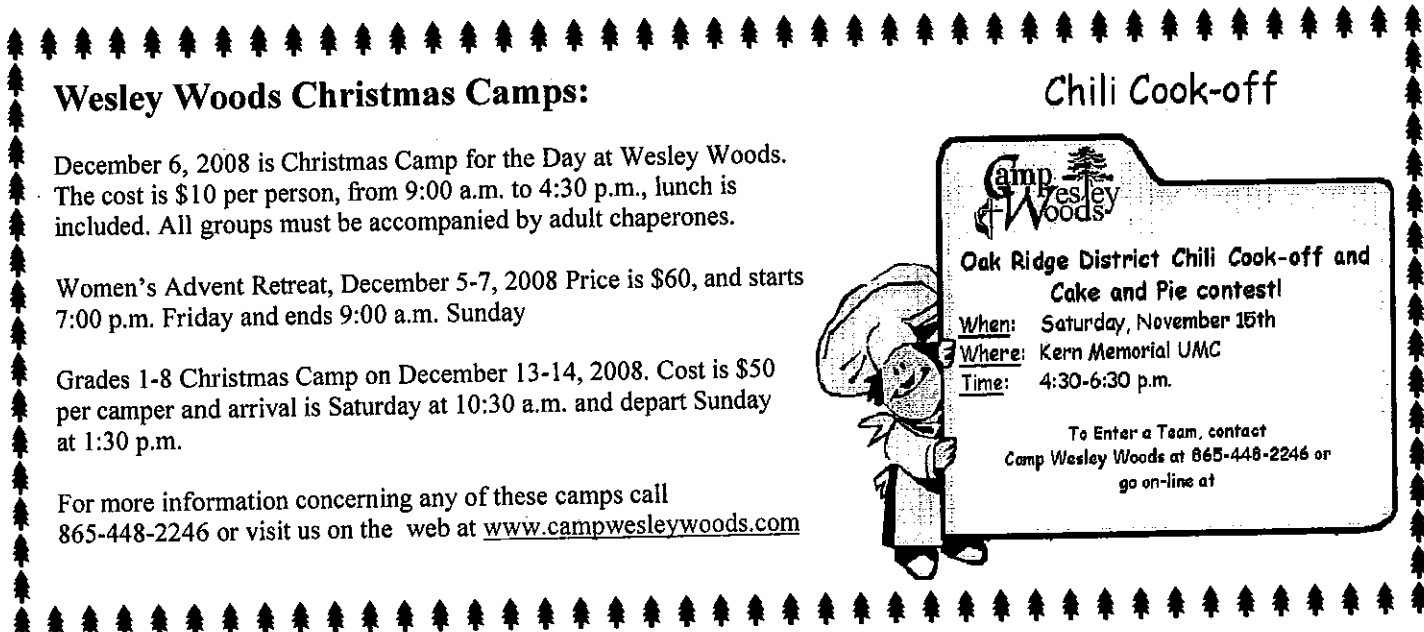
Wed 12 - **CABINET**
 Thurs 13

Thurs 27 **THANKSGIVING DAY**
 (Conference and District Office's Closed:
 Thurs (Nov 27) & Fri (Nov 28))

Fri 5 - Sat 6 **CABINET**

Thurs 11 **District Wide Clergy Meeting**
 (10:00 a.m., First UMC, OR)

Thurs 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
 (Conference and District Office's Closed:
 Wed (Dec 23) - Mon (Jan 5))



Wesley Woods Christmas Camps:

December 6, 2008 is Christmas Camp for the Day at Wesley Woods. The cost is \$10 per person, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., lunch is included. All groups must be accompanied by adult chaperones.

Women's Advent Retreat, December 5-7, 2008 Price is \$60, and starts 7:00 p.m. Friday and ends 9:00 a.m. Sunday

Grades 1-8 Christmas Camp on December 13-14, 2008. Cost is \$50 per camper and arrival is Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and depart Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

For more information concerning any of these camps call 865-448-2246 or visit us on the web at www.campwesleywoods.com

Chili Cook-off



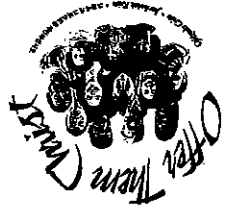
Camp Wesley Woods

**Oak Ridge District Chili Cook-off and
 Cake and Pie contest!**

When: Saturday, November 15th
Where: Kern Memorial UMC
Time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

To Enter a Team, contact
 Camp Wesley Woods at 865-448-2246 or
 go on-line at

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>



November 2008

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