

Ken's Comments

A SUPERINTENDENT IN SUDAN

As you have probably heard by now, Bishop Swanson is going to appoint The Reverend Boo Hankins as a district superintendent to serve in Sudan for the next two years. He will be working to train the more than twenty pastors and congregations in that region. Boo and his wife, Phyllis, have experience as missionaries, having served in that capacity for many years. This appointment is part of our on-going commitment to support the United Methodist ministries in Sudan.

Holston is going to need to provide the financial support that will be needed by the Hankins for the next two years beginning July 1, 2009. Bishop Swanson is inviting interested congregations in the Oak Ridge District to consider forming a covenant relationship to provide this mission support. Large churches can enter into a covenant relationship for \$1,000 a year. Small churches can enter into a covenant relationship for \$3.00 per member per year.

Interested churches may send their check made out to the Holston Conference with the notation "Hankins Support" to the office in Alcoa. The address is Holston Conference, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850.

I'm asking each pastor to share this information with his/her congregation during the month of May. Work through your mission committee to promote this support. Let's have a good response from the Oak Ridge District. Of course, the other eleven districts of the conference will also be invited to provide the support needed, but let's lead the way!

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.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 2009

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1-Ron & Mary Burgess (A) | 20-Joe & Betty Davis (A) |
| 1-Stella Roberts (B) | 20-Beth Duncan (B) |
| 2-Jerry & Sue Lynn Johnson (A) | 20-Ronnie Mutter (B) |
| 5-Rachel Dawn (B) | 21-Erma Hill (B) |
| 6-John Tiller (B) | 24-Herman Cate (B) |
| 6-Gery & Terri Tye (A) | 25-Keith & Nancy Knight (A) |
| 7-Genie Kilday (B) | 26-John & Tana Slater (A) |
| 8-Nancy Knight (B) | 27-Missy Bostick (B) |
| 9-Leah Burns (B) | 27-Jason & Leann Crandall (B) |
| 9-John Dunn (B) | 27-Dennis Ford (B) |
| 9-Marcia Weaver (B) | 27-Sylvia Mooney (B) |
| 12-Samuel & Stella Roberts (A) | 29-Viola Mason (B) |
| 13-Larry Poole (B) | 29-Margaret Wright (B) |
| 18-Thomas Markwood (B) | 30-Lee & Frances Cate (A) |

Joys and Concerns

Our prayers are offered for:

✦ Rev. Herbert H. Daugherty, retired, who has been diagnosed with a handicapping condition.

Our prayers and sympathy are offered for:

✦ The family of Rev. Franklin Brooks, who passed away April 18, 2009.

Oak Ridge District

Clergy Meeting Schedule

2009

District Wide Clergy Meeting

First UMC, Oak Ridge

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

May 14

June

(No Meeting)

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

It Truly Takes A Village To Do The Work In SUDAN . . .

Partners and In-kind Project Donors in Sudan

Compiled by NESEI personnel - Diane Birungi and Anita Henderlight
April 2009

NESEI greatly values significant services being provided by other NGO's (non-government organizations), humanitarian agencies, and businesses in South Sudan. Listed here are brief descriptions of our collaborative work benefiting NESEI students.

Health Net / TPO (European Commission Humanitarian Organization) provides psycho social and mental health care. They are teaching our students about personal growth, healthy relationships, and managing problems in constructive ways.

PSI (Population Services Inc.) supplies medicines and mosquito nets for the school population.

JRS (Jesuit Refugee Services) donates sanitary supplies for our young female students. They also offer teacher training opportunities.

Loka Women's Association assembles sanitary comfort kits for distribution on campus and gives sewing lessons to the girls during holiday school.

ARC (American Relief Committee) conducts workshops on HIV/AIDS and gender based violence.

Winrock International contributes scholarships and personal supplies for NESEI's national students.

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) coordinates security briefings and disseminates information to help keep our students and faculty safe and secure in a post-conflict state.

SPIRIT / FM Radio sponsors on-air student debates. NESEI coordinates the participating schools and SPIRIT hosts the program – with sponsoring community support.

Honey Cakes and Breads Café provides space and advertising support for the NESEI community movie theater. **Green Mango Restaurant** loans the sound system for movie nights.

Yei Civil Hospital and Yei River County Health Department offers students volunteer opportunities in health services. With supervision from local health professionals, students may assist with a mobile clinic or at the hospital.

Yei Resource Center provides reading space and materials for our day students along with computer lessons and drama activities.

The NESEI Sudan-based personnel also appreciate logistical assistance from **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief), **Samaritan's Purse**, **UNDP** (United Nations Development Programme), **CTC** (Crop Training Center), and **Eagle Air** in Sudan and Uganda.

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.

NESEI Offices

Yei, Sudan - Africa
Colchester, Vermont – United States
Knoxville, Tennessee – United States

www.nesei.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2009JUNE 2009

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|------------------|---|
| 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) |

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|---|---|
| Sun 7 | Reception for Rev. Ken Henderlight (First UMC, OR, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) |
| Wed 10 | Hands-On-Mission Drop Off Day 1 (District Office, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) |
| Thurs 11 | Hands-On-Mission Drop Off Day 2 (District Office, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.) |
| Fri 12 | Hands-On-Mission Day (District Office Closed) |
| Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska June 14 - 17 | |
| Sun 21 | FATHER'S DAY |
| Wed 24 | Moving Day For Transitioning Pastors |

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

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May 2009

Return Service Requested

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The Oak Ridge District News

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