

FOUNDATION

FORUM

Volume 7, Issue 2

SUMMER / FALL 2007

NEW LOCATION...SAME OLD SERVICE

The year 2007 has been an exciting year of great change and growth in the Holston Conference Foundation. We packed and moved into our new home in mid-March, then welcomed Brenda Mills, our Accounts Manager, as she moved from Johnson City to join us in the new Conference offices in Alcoa. While we are still sorting files and boxes, we are delighted with our new space and the opportunity to be tenants in the Conference's new headquarters.



(Pictured left to right)
Roger Redding, Rita Broderick, Cliff Amos,
Brenda Mills, and Bill Kilday

This year has also been a year of success with **42 new accounts** being established. Despite the turmoil in the financial market, assets under management roared past **\$64 million** in late summer. We have been so busy that we skipped our spring and summer newsletters, but look forward to a normal fall and winter schedule working with churches and individuals on stewardship, investment, and endowment building opportunities.

This year has also been a year of personal trials and tribulations in the lives of our Foundation staff. Roger's 91-year-old mother was hospitalized for several months, and is hanging on in a nursing facility in Maryville. Cliff Amos unexpectedly lost his father in June. And Brenda Mills lost her dad in September. Rita Broderick's son turned "the big 16" and she and her family moved into a new home in Maryville. As icing on the cake, Bill Kilday broke his wrist in a fall and

is still recovering. Can you say **STRESS**? Despite the challenges, we stand ready to serve you and invite your call.

Please note that the Foundation has its own telephone number and address, although calls and mail sent to the Conference will eventually reach us. **Please use this new contact information, located on the back cover, whenever possible.**

In Loving Memory...



Bill Deskins, Tazewell, Virginia, passed away suddenly on February 25, 2007 and will be greatly missed by his family, community, and friends at Tazewell United Methodist Church and across the Holston Conference. Bill was an original founding member of the Foundation board back in 1979 and faithfully served in that capacity for 14 years. Bill was a faithful and generous servant.

ENDOWMENTS: MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

From time to time you have no doubt read some of the stories in our newsletter about ordinary people making extraordinary gifts of all sizes to support various ministries and needs ranging from local churches to digging wells in foreign lands. Each individual fund created in the foundation is cared for, invested, and used to support the need designated by the donor.

You might recall reading about **Margaret Loving's Trust** that annually supports programming for senior citizens and scholarships for students at our Conference Colleges. Through the last few years, this fund has made a great impact in the lives of many people, both young and old. The Foundation's Grant Committee recently distributed \$20,000 each in scholarship funds to Emory & Henry and Tennessee Wesleyan and another \$15,000 for scholarships for students at Hiwassee College. Recently the Grant Committee also made the following grants for senior adult ministries:

• Camp & Retreat Ministries	\$2,500	Senior adult days at Camp Lookout
• Camp & Retreat Ministries	\$1,500	Camp for mentally challenged adults at Buffalo Mtn.
• Concord UMC	\$10,000	CADES Program
• Dunlap UMC	\$3,100	Health & Wellness "Education Station"
• Holston Conference	\$5,500	Older adult ministry initiatives in the districts
• Holston Conference Foundation	\$3,000	<i>Personal Information Record</i> booklets
• Loudon UMC	\$5,000	Parish nurse health ministry
• Luminary UMC	\$3,000	Health Fair
• McFarland UMC	\$2,000	Meal delivery and outreach to older adults
• New Salem UMC	\$1,500	Outreach for senior adults including widows/widowers
• Pactolus UMC	\$3,000	<i>Feed a Friend Program</i> for shut-ins
• St. Andrews Center	\$3,500	Ecumenical outreach for Chattanooga District
• Seymour UMC	\$3,000	Fitness for seniors and ministries for homebound
• South Bristol UMC	\$750	Provide smoke/carbon monoxide detectors for elderly
• South Bristol UMC	\$325	Provide large type Bibles to the elderly
• Tazewell District	\$500	Two events for fellowship, program, meal, and worship
• Telford UMC Men's Club	\$2,500	<i>Handymen for Christ</i> - build ramps, repair roofs, etc. for elderly

This year we made the inaugural distributions from new endowments created through **Nancy Necessary Pridemore's** estate and **Evelyn Henson's Charitable Remainder Trust**. Distributions are summarized as follows:

HENSON YOUTH MINISTRY GRANTS

• Camping Retreat & Ministries	\$3,000	Camping Scholarships
• Camping Retreat & Ministries	\$1,000	\$250 for each Camp for Golf sponsorships
• Holston Home for Children	\$1,500	General Support for Dinner
• Wesley House	\$1,500	General Support
• Youth Ministries	\$6,000	Scholarships for F.U.E.L.

PRIDEMORE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

• Ryan James Ankabrant	\$600	First Broad Street UMC / Kingsport, Tennessee
• John Mark Bouchillon	\$1,000	First Broad Street UMC / Kingsport, Tennessee
• James Kedrick Hass	\$1,000	Rye Cove UMC / Clinchport, Virginia
• Brittney Nichole Wallen	\$2,000	Rye Cove UMC / Clinchport, Virginia

We are proud of each and every recipient and pleased to steward each individual fund and help carry out the mission and ministry support as envisioned by these thoughtful donors. Margaret Loving, Evelyn Henson and Nancy Pridemore each found a way to leave a lasting legacy. We can help you explore your options as well!

CARL EDWARD SWANSON

A FATHER'S LASTING LEGACY

CARL EDWARD SWANSON, father of Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., died on February 1, 2006 in Oakland, California at the age of 91. While the loss of any loved one is hard, Bishop Swanson and his family were moved by the outpouring of sympathy and the memorial funds that began to show up at the Conference. Bishop Swanson asked the Foundation to hold these funds until an appropriate use could be determined. As the funds mounted, Bishop Swanson wrestled with several ideas and ways to make a lasting memorial. He finally determined that the most appropriate use would be to create THE CARL EDWARD SWANSON ENDOWMENT as a perpetual memorial fund, which would use annual earnings to support small church parsonage families, particularly those serving a multiple church charge. Bishop Swanson has a heart for those pastors who



Carl Edward Swanson

may not be able to send their children to a Conference Camp or Resurrection or have their spouse attend a retreat, Jubilation, or other special programs due to insufficient resources. By using the fund to assist these pastors and their families, Bishop Swanson felt he could best remember his own father.

Elder Carl Swanson accepted Christ at an early age. He was born February 29, 1924 in Palestine, Texas to Carl and Alamo Swanson. He was the oldest of the twenty-five children.

Besides Bishop Swanson, Carl Swanson is survived by three sons, five daughters, seventeen sisters, five brothers, twenty-one grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren and a host of extended family, friends, and church family. He will be missed, but not forgotten.

In the program at the memorial service, the following was read:

"We will not hide these truths from our children but will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD. We will tell of his power and the mighty miracles he did. For he issued his decree to Jacob; he gave his law to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them – even the children not yet born – that they in turn might teach their children. So each generation can set its hope anew on God, remembering his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." PSALMS 78:4-7

"And he did not hide the truth of who God was in his life and who God wanted to be in ours."

Thank you Daddy!

THE CARL SWANSON FAMILY

THE CARL EDWARD SWANSON ENDOWMENT will remain open to those interested in supporting this continuing area of need. Additional gifts should be made out to: **THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION** and earmarked for **THE SWANSON FUND**.

\$TEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Bill Kilday has been actively promoting the cause of Stewardship and the Holston Conference Foundation this year. He has provided consultation for the following churches:

- First UMC - Oak Ridge
- Friendsville UMC - Maryville District
- Ebenezer UMC - Knoxville
- Central UMC - Knoxville
- St. Paul - Fountain City
- First UMC - Jefferson City
- Trinity UMC - Athens
- Cherokee UMC - Johnson City

He has provided programs for the Knoxville District Ministers, the Oak Ridge District Ministers, Johnson City District Day of Discipleship, the Maryville District Day of Discipleship and spoken to all Holston ministers at the two Minister's Day Apart programs earlier in the year.

Work continues in preparation for the Holston Minister's Convocation next February with the theme of *"Living Stewardship"*. Also, a new initiative may be started concerning a stewardship emphasis of the West North Carolina Conference featuring Bishop Ken Carder, entitled *"Living for Giving"*. We hope to introduce this to our Conference churches early next year.

WHAT IS AN EBENEZER?

Over the past several months we have counseled and assisted several people in planning and creating special funds and endowments for local churches, Holston Home for Children, Seminary Scholarships, Missions, and other ministry needs. While most folks we assist are fairly certain of what they want their gifts to do (or what they do NOT want them to do!), some folks are not quite so sure. We had the pleasure of visiting with a couple from Seymour who were being called to do something special for their church. They felt their lives had been blessed and they wanted to make an “above and beyond” offering for their church. They wanted strings, but they also wanted the church to have some freedom. They wanted the fund they created to make a lasting difference, but also be open to gifts from others. After a couple of conversations and a few e-mail exchanges, they decided they wanted to create a “cash flow buffer fund” that the church could tap if needed to help alleviate any extreme financial difficulty. If the fund were not used and it grew over a certain size, then the extra would be used for maintenance and repairs. If the fund dwindled below a certain size, the fund could be dissolved and used to support maintenance needs at the church, Camp Wesley Woods, and Holston Home for Children.

What do you call such a fund? Dr. Gregory S. Neal in an article, “*What is an Ebenezer*” explains that the word “Ebenezer” comes from Hebrew and is actually two words pronounced together: *Even Haazer*. According to Dr. Neal, Ebenezer (1 SAMUEL 7:12-14) literally means a “**Stone of Help**” or a reminder of God’s Real, Holy Presence and Divine assistance. Thinking of their fund as a firm source of help for their church helped give birth to THE EBENEZER FUND, which now benefits Seymour United Methodist Church. If we can help you explore options to do something special for your church or an area of ministry which tugs at your heart strings, give us a call. We can assist you in being an EBENEZER!

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE



The financial markets have certainly been on a roller coaster this year. THE BALANCED GROWTH FUND (BGF) rose and then dropped as financial stocks particularly fell with set backs in the mortgage and housing markets. At the end of September the BGF was up 5.49% YTD. Its 12-month trailing return is 10.8%. Our new EQUITY GROWTH FUND has certainly felt the rise and fall of the market, too. No official performance numbers will be published until we have 12 months of data. The INTERMEDIATE INCOME FUND’s total return through September 30 was 4.68%, while its yield to maturity is 4.6%.

For those particularly seeking income over a short term horizon instead of total return, the current net yield of our MONEY MARKET FUND is 4.84%, while the SHORT-TERM INCOME FUND is 4.55%. Both of these funds are excellent options for any non-endowment designated account where safety and yield are of primary importance.

*While the Foundation specializes in endowments, we also provide short-term, safe investment options with very competitive returns. We would be pleased to open one or more accounts to assist your church or ministry. By investing funds with the Foundation you become a vital partner in our ministry. Accounts may be opened for as little as \$1,000. There are no costs to buy or sell in the accounts and no penalties or early withdrawal fees. You are never more than a month away from taking a distribution of all or part of your funds. The Money Market’s current net yield is **4.84%**.*

FOUNDATION FLASHES

YTD 2007

- ♦ On January 10, Roger did a program on *"Getting Your Affairs in Order"* at **Abingdon UMC**. Thanks to **John Lamie** and **Rev. Walter Weikel** for the invitation.
- ♦ On January 14, Cliff preached the morning service at **Sand Branch UMC** for **Rev. Becky Stephens** and later that evening worked with the trustees at his home church, **St. Paul UMC**, Fountain City to create a new Endowment Committee.
- ♦ On January 31, Roger and Cliff visited with the Endowment Committee at **First Centenary UMC**, Chattanooga. We have since helped the church adopt a new policy on distributing funds from their endowments using a percentage of market value instead of interest and dividends. This is a new "best practice" that is being adopted by churches in Holston and nationally.
- ♦ On February 4, Roger attended the celebration luncheon for the new CAPSTONE ENDOWMENT at **Church Street UMC**. **Bishop Dick Looney**, **Rev. Bill Fowler**, **Herb Moncier**, and **Larry Martin** (chairperson) all spoke and inspired those in attendance to consider supporting this new opportunity through special gifts and their estate plans. Workshops and other educational programs have been held since to increase awareness.
- ♦ On March 11 & 18, Cliff spoke and preached the Consecration Service at **Main Street UMC** in Tazewell, Virginia, at the invitation of **Rev. Kathie Wilson Parker**.
- ♦ On March 19, Roger presented two workshops on *"Planning for Tomorrow"* at Jubilation held in the Meadowview Center in Kingsport. Over 375 people attended Jubilation (dates for next year are April 6-8, 2008) Later in the day, Roger visited with **Ray Adams** and **Whitney Ball** about investing options for **Christ UMC** in Greeneville (they have since opened accounts in the Foundation). Later that evening, Roger presented a program on investing funds at **Asbury UMC**, Greeneville. Thanks to **Bill Adams**, **Robert Bradley**, and **Rev. Julian Walton**. Asbury has since opened several special accounts in the Foundation as well.
- ♦ On March 20, Cliff did a program on Foundation services to assist in investing and attracting planned/estate gifts for the trustees at **First Sweetwater UMC**. Thanks to **Rev. Carl Oaks** and **Larry Ruebush**.
- ♦ On March 22 and April 11, Roger met with leaders and trustees at **First Maryville UMC** about assisting with documentation, as well as investing/spending policies for church endowments. First Maryville has been blessed with several special purpose accounts. Thanks to **Mark Blodgett**, Business Manager, and **Reverends Brenda & Larry Carroll** for the opportunity to assist the church's stewardship efforts.
- ♦ On March 27, Roger provided an estate planning educational program at **First Alcoa UMC**. Thanks to **Dr. Jerry Sundahl** and **Rev. Joe Green** for the invitation. It was great to see Susan & Larry McNamee.
- ♦ On April 12, Cliff was the guest speaker at the Tazewell District Minister's meeting. Thanks to **Rev. Don Nation**, District Superintendent, for a chance to share info on services we make available to local churches.
- ♦ On April 15, Roger provided a special Sunday school lesson on *"Planning for Tomorrow"* for the Pathfinders Class at **Concord UMC**, Knoxville (home of former board member **Barbara Pelot**). On July 8, he returned to provide another program for the Special Studies Class (Sunday school home of **Dick & Pat Timberlake** and **Howard Heinz**, members of our Foundation Board).
- ♦ On April 15, Cliff preached at **Beth Carr UMC** and **Watkins Chapel UMC** at the invitation of **Rev. Darrell Chambers**.
- ♦ On April 25, Roger visited with **Al Redwine**, **Randy Allen**, and other leaders at **Broadway UMC**, Maryville to explore educational programming and ways the Foundation can help the church build its endowment and other resources for ministry.
- ♦ On April 29, Roger delivered the Sunday message at **First Rogersville UMC** at the invitation of **Rev. Malcolm Wansley**.

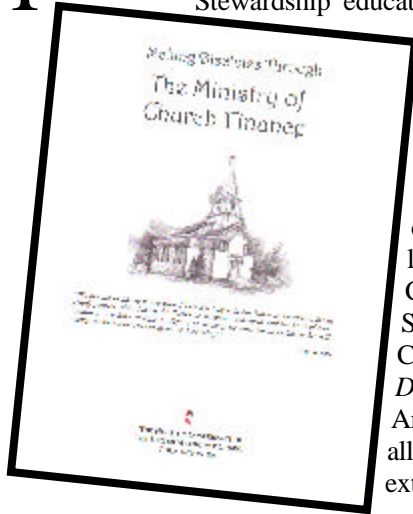
FOUNDATION FLASHES

CONTINUED

- ♦ On May 9, Roger visited with the trustees at **Washington Pike UMC** to explore how the Foundation might assist their overall stewardship results. Thanks to **Rev. Bob Cantrell, Jr.** and **Richard Hill**.
- ♦ On May 13, Cliff preached at **Clapp's Chapel UMC** for **Rev. David L. Smith**.
- ♦ On May 20, Roger preached a special service at **Three Bells UMC** in Duffield, Virginia for **Rev. Jim Marshall**. Last year the Foundation received funds from the estate of **Nancy Necessary Pridemore** who loved and served in this church. Nancy left a Building and Maintenance Endowment to support the church and two scholarship funds to support United Methodist youth graduating from Dobbins-Bennett High School and Rye Cove High School. Special music was performed by "The Pridemore Sisters". What a great visit!
- ♦ On May 20, Cliff preached at **Hardin Chapel/Mosheim Central** for **Rev. Charles DeHart**.
- ♦ On May 27, Cliff preached for **Rev. Laurence Hesser** at **Memorial UMC** in Clinton.
- ♦ On June 3, Cliff preached for **Rev. Larry Lusk** at **Washington Chapel UMC**, Abingdon, Virginia.
- ♦ On June 10, Cliff did a special Sunday school class program for the Friendship Class at **Concord UMC**, Knoxville. Special thanks to **Charlie Kuykendall** for making arrangements for this and other chances to raise awareness of the opportunities to include the church in our estate plans. Cliff also taught the Foundation Class on July 15.
- ♦ On June 10, Roger provided a program to the Adult Sunday School Class at **First Oak Ridge UMC** on estate planning opportunities. Thanks to **Rev. Stella Roberts**, **Dick Davis**, and the Enduring Gifts Committee.
- ♦ On July 1, Cliff preached at **Pleasant Hill UMC**, Knoxville, for **Rev. Ken Faught**.
- ♦ On July 17, Roger visited with the trustees at **Liberty Hill UMC** to share ideas on investment and distribution options for a church cemetery fund. Thanks to **Rev. Terry Schnell** for allowing us to share news of a "different way". "Interest only" accounts are all subject to that sneaky thief known as inflation.
- ♦ On July 24, Roger visited again with the Endowment Committee at **Grove UMC** in Radford at the invitation of chairperson, **Jeff Irby** and **Rev. James Bennington**. Church committees and policies concerning endowments, investing, etc. take time and patience. We are glad to help them explore their options and share experiences of other churches across the Conference.
- ♦ On July 29, Cliff delivered the Sunday message at **Bearden UMC**. One member of the church has since approached the Foundation about assistance in creating an endowment for several ministries through her estate plan. Thanks to **Rev. Mike Sluder** for opening this door.
- ♦ On August 6, Roger provided a special program to the Board of **UT Knoxville Wesley Foundation** about ways to hopefully attract additional funds for this vital ministry through special gifts and endowment opportunities. Thanks to **Mel Stripling**, chairperson and **David Jackson**, Director, for the chance to plant some ideas.
- ♦ On August 7, Roger traveled to **First Hillsville UMC** to do a special program for a very active senior group and later that evening to meet with the church council about investing special scholarship funds. Thanks to **Tom Lineberry** and **Rev. Ronnie Collins** for a great reception and special thanks to **Tony & Ruthie Oliveria** for their wonderful hospitality!
- ♦ On August 9, Roger served as the guest preacher for **Rev. Mike Ogle** at **Elizabeth Chapel UMC** to plant some seeds for the future. Thanks to **Mike & Judy Ogle** for their friendship and hospitality.
- ♦ On August 11, Roger met with **Ann Marie Tugwell** and **Michael Ivens** at **Church Street UMC** to examine ways to invest, spend, and attract gifts to support two special scholarship funds in the church. Sample scholarship applications and promotion materials from other churches were shared.
- ♦ On August 28, Roger met with **Rev. Charles Harrison** and several leaders from **First Sevierville UMC** to explore ways the Foundation might help the church attract, invest, and use special funds and endowments for ministry.

THE MINISTRY OF CHURCH FINANCE

In June 2006, the Foundation partnered with the Conference by hiring Rev. Bill Kilday to resource our Stewardship education and outreach efforts. One of our first commitments was to evaluate financial stewardship needs across the Conference. We then committed to develop appropriate materials and resources to assist pastors, lay leaders, and churches explore and perhaps improve their stewardship results. Bill and Roger wrote and compiled a new booklet unique to the Holston Conference called *The Ministry of Church Finance*...a soup-to-nuts compilation of ideas and resources to be used by pastors, finance committees, trustees, endowment committees, and others involved in handling, gathering, investing, and using local church funds. We were fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Claude Reeder Fund in the East Tennessee Foundation through the help of Susie & Paul Siler to help us print and distribute over 4,000 copies already. Copies have been distributed to all Conference clergy attending the two *Clergy Days Apart* gatherings called by Bishop Swanson. All delegates attending Annual Conference last June received copies and recently copies were mailed to all local church Finance Committee chairpersons, many of whom are ordering extra copies for finance committee members and other church leaders.



Jesus talked about possessions and money more than about any other topic in the Bible. Being good financial stewards and experiencing the true joy of giving are vital parts of our living a Christ-centered life. Call on us if we can help you and your church explore good stewardship and giving opportunities.



JUST ADD WATER... YEI, SUDAN

As you may recall, many individuals and churches stepped forward last year to help the Foundation assist the Conference in efforts in Yei, Sudan to provide clean drinking water where only a "muddy hole" existed as the sole source of drinking water. What a thrill and joy was felt when we received the following e-mail message from Sashi Chanda:

Happy Easter to you. Jesus who died for the Kingdom is Risen. I have been reliably told that the borehole was drilled last week and the church together with the school are already drawing water from it. What a wonderful Easter gift for UMC in Yei!

Today is a joyful day for us as we celebrate our own resurrection, too.

- Sashi

This is your well, Holston Conference! Another well is yet to be completed and there is still much to do related to sanitation, the school, facilities, etc. We hope you will continue your prayers and generous support to give hope and life in Yei, Sudan. Please know that your efforts are already quenching thirsty Jesus-seeking children. Hope can, and is, being delivered...one dipper at a time.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*"And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly
I tell you, none of these will lose their reward"*

— MATTHEW 10:42

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