

FOUNDATION

FORUM

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2004 REPORT



Bradley J. Bower
Foundation Board President

"Well done you good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!" Most of us are familiar with Jesus' Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30 and in many ways that joyfully tells the experience and growth of The Holston Conference Foundation over the last 25 years.

The Foundation was started by The Holston Annual Conference in 1979 to assist churches, agencies, and programs associated with our Conference to invest designated funds and to provide education and assistance to individuals and congregations interested in supporting ministry through estate and other planned gifts. We started with nothing...only a vision of what could be and the hard work and determination of Bishop H. Ellis Finger, Jr., Benjamin St. Clair, Erma Greenwood and others who gave of their time, energy and funds. As we ended 2004, we are pleased to report that the Foundation has a record high of assets under management...**\$45,567,839.78!**

To mark the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, the Foundation board celebrated by creating and funding five new endowments at \$25,000 each:

- The Camp and Retreat Ministries Excellence Endowment
- The Minister's Aid Endowment Fund
- The Wesley Institute Educational Excellence Endowment
- The Mission Scholarship Endowment
- The H. Ellis Finger, Jr. Bishop's Fund

While these endowments are relatively small, it is hoped that generous donors interested in these areas of ministry will add to these funds in the years ahead. It is part of our effort to give something back and demonstrate our support of these critical areas of ministry.

The year 2004 was quite a successful year by any measure. The financial markets continued to advance. Our Balanced Growth Fund rose 9.13% and our Intermediate Income Fund rose 2.77%. We also launched a new Short-Term Income Fund, which is providing much superior returns to the Money Market Fund it replaced. During the year, 50 new accounts were opened and a total of \$5,793,726 in new monies received. More importantly, over \$2,404,000 was distributed out of the Foundation for ministry. Funds to dig wells in Africa, scholarships to send youth to Conference colleges, as well as grants to fund ministries such as Conference camping, new church development, Jubilation, Holston Home for Children, Partners in Crisis, and for retired ministers pensions both here and in Estonia. All these things and more were possible because of generous people who provided funds for ministry and a wise board and staff dedicated to proper care and stewardship of these gifts.

During 2004, our Executive Director made 149 presentations to churches, finance and trustee committee meetings, minister's meetings and in visits in people's homes sharing ideas and providing education about endowments, estate planning and other ways to make a difference in our connectional ministry. Many seeds were planted!

As we honor our past, we rejoice in the opportunities that we have had to be of service to the congregations, people, and agencies that have entrusted us to assist with the stewardship of the Master's money. There are even greater opportunities in the days and years ahead. Call on us...the talents of our board and staff are at your service!

The Parable of the Talents

MATTHEW 25:14-30



How does
your
church
handle
designated
funds?

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has, will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "



From the Director's Chair

It is a new year and I want to start off with a word of gratitude for three members who are rotating off the board. **Jim Presgraves** leaves after 9+ years of service...faithfully making the drive from Rural Retreat, Virginia, and seldom if ever missing a meeting. **Dot Egli** (Gatlinburg) always has a kind word and has had me to her church on several occasions.

Dot remains interested in our work and our paths will cross again! Finally, **Bob Hudson**...he has seen and done it all! As director of development, executive director, treasurer for the Conference, board member, officer...fundraiser...advisor...counselor...and friend...you will be missed, but never forgotten!

We also welcome **Dan Taylor** (Big Stone Gap DS), **Josephine Clark** (Oak Ridge attorney), **Michael Layman** (Wytheville businessman), and **James McCarten** (Knoxville attorney). Four EXCELLENT additions!

We also want to express our deep appreciation to **Edwin Hoskins** for his past two terms as president and welcome **Brad Bower** into this important role. Ed will stay on our executive committee as chairperson of our personnel committee. Brad, in turn, is handing over the reins of the investment committee to **David Goodson**. **Ron Hammond** is our new chair of the conference relations committee. **Dick Timberlake** and **Nancy Stanley** will serve as vice-president and secretary, respectively. **Ron Matthews**, **Sandra Smith** and **Will Pugh** will serve as other committee chairpersons on the executive committee. We have excellent and dedicated leadership!

If your church is interested in stewardship options for special assets or you are interested in finding out more about how to make a special gift or establish an endowment fund, please call and let us help. This year would be a great time to explore your stewardship opportunities! Visit us on our website at www.holston.org/foundation.

— Roger Redding

FOUNDATION FLASHES

- ♦ On October 6, Roger met with **Alan Duesterhaus**, Dean of Advancement at Tennessee Wesleyan to talk about ways the Foundation may be of service with our Crescendo Planned Giving Software and expertise in assisting with charitable trusts, gift annuities and endowments. Our services are available to all United Methodist churches and organizations in the Conference.
- ♦ On October 10, Roger provided the message at two Consecration services at First Pulaski United Methodist Church! Thanks to **Rev. Randy Frye** for this opportunity and to **Alan & Betsy Groseclose** for their special hospitality!
- ♦ Also, on October 10, Roger gave an evening presentation at Rural Retreat United Methodist Church. Thanks to **Rev. Brian Burch** and **Jim Presgraves** for this opportunity.
- ♦ On October 16, the Foundation board, former board members, donors, Conference officials, institution presidents, friends and special guests gathered for a celebration dinner in Knoxville honoring the people responsible for so much of the success of our Foundation. Special presentations were made honoring **Bishop H. Ellis Finger, Jr.** and the memory of **Ben St. Clair**. **Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.** also shared a special message and was welcomed into our Holston family along with his wife, **Delphine**.
- ♦ On November 4, Roger met with the *Partners in Crisis* board and shared that the Foundation had been successful in raising matching funds to establish **THE PARTNERS IN CRISIS ENDOWMENT**. Efforts are underway to assist them in attracting support for their ongoing mission needs.
- ♦ On November 14, Roger delivered the Laity Sunday message on “*Planning for Tomorrow*” at Washington Pike United Methodist Church. Thanks to **Rev. Jim Bailes** and stewardship chairperson **Neal Green** for this opportunity and for the wonderful food and hospitality. Also thanks to **Richard Hill** for his words of encouragement.
- ♦ On November 21, Roger provided the message “*God Loves a Cheerful Giver*” at Ottway United Methodist Church. Thanks to board member **Sandra Smith** for helping open the door for this invitation and to **Rev. Donna Waddle** for her strong endorsement. There are opportunities here to build on for the future.
- ♦ On December 1, Roger did a presentation for the Holston Conference Colleges, Inc. board on the HCC Endowment held in the Foundation and used to provide loans for New Church Development. Thanks to **Bill Rodgers** and **Hal McHorris** for this opportunity.
- ♦ On December 2, Roger visited Vermont United Methodist Church in Kingsport to discuss the options to properly invest and distribute funds from endowments and to look at ways people might include the church in their estate plans. Thanks to **Rev. Stephen Burkhardt** and **Lowell Thompson** for their enthusiasm.
- ♦ On December 6, Roger visited with a committee at Webb’s Creek United Methodist Church and helped establish a new fund to receive special gifts through wills, estates, and other means to benefit the future of their church. Thanks to **Rev. Alta Raper**, **G. Webb** and others for their interest. Special thanks to **Laura & John Trundle** for their special hospitality.
- ♦ On December 9, Roger met with the board of **Samaritan Hands** to update them on investment performance. They recently established an endowment and moved several special accounts to the Foundation. We are also eager to assist them with donors who are interested in supporting their ministries through planned gifts. Special thanks to **Rev. Jerald Russell**, **Dr. Mark Waltz**, **Ben Green** and others!



Holston Conference Center
United Methodist Foundation
9915 Kingston Pike, Suite C
Knoxville, TN 37922

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

PROVERBS 16:3

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HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

Roger Redding
Executive Director
9915 Kingston Pike, Suite C
Knoxville, TN 37922
Phone: (865) 690-4080
Fax: (865) 690-3162
RogerRedding@holston.org

Rita Broderick
Secretary
9915 Kingston Pike, Suite C
Knoxville, TN 37922
Phone: (865) 690-4080
Fax: (865) 690-3162
RitaBroderick@holston.org

Brenda Mills
Accounts Manager
P.O. Box 2506
Johnson City, TN 37605-2506
Phone: (423) 928-2156 ext. 234
Fax: (423) 928-8807
BrendaMills@holston.org