

FOUNDATION

FORUM

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BOB HUDSON HONORED BY HOLSTON CONFERENCE

On October 14, 2008, Bob Hudson was the special guest of Walt Seaman at the Holston Conference Foundation's fall board meeting in Alcoa. It came as quite a surprise to Bob when, at the end of the meeting, he was presented a framed resolution honoring his many years of service to the Foundation and the Conference. An announcement followed that in addition to the resolution, the Board had created THE ROBERT B. AND CAROLYN E. HUDSON SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT with an initial grant of \$25,000. This fund will annually provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a seminary student from the Holston Conference who intends to return to Holston to serve as a pastor. "There is a tremendous need for this scholarship and additional resources to support seminary students in the years to come," said Richard Timberlake, Foundation board president. The cost to attend seminary has risen rapidly over the past few years and many of our young seminary graduates are struggling under a suffocating debt load. This scholarship honoring Bob and Carolyn is a great example of what we hope will be a growing source of support in the years to come.



Left to Right: Roger Redding, Foundation Executive Director with Bob Hudson

Bob spent 30 years serving as a Holston pastor before coming to the Foundation in 1987. He served the Foundation with distinction in many capacities including Director of Development, Director of Planned Giving, Executive Director, Board Member, and Conference Relations Committee Chairperson. Bob also served as the Conference Treasurer. Bob and Carolyn's example of living the Christian faith through their gifts of time, talent, treasure, presence, and faithful service have contributed significantly to the Foundation's growth and success through the years.

Bob helped to build a firm foundation under the Foundation and greatly enhanced the previous work of Ben St. Clair and Gordon Sterchi.

The Foundation Board and its Executive Director are forever indebted to Bob and Carolyn for their years of dedicated service and faithfulness to the church. The seeds that Bob cultivated with donors and churches during his service as executive director of the Foundation are still bearing fruit. Well done you good and faithful servant!

If you would like to explore the creation of a scholarship or endowment fund to support a particular need, program, institution, church, or areas of emphasis, please contact the Foundation. We would be pleased to listen and help you consider options and ideas.

\$TEWARDSHIP CORNER



BILL KILDAY
Director of Stewardship

TEN STEPS FOR LOCAL CHURCHES TO TAKE IN AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

An economic downturn changes the ministry landscape. There is a need for certain kinds of programming and a greater openness to it. The local church needs to take steps to assist both its congregation and its community deal with the impact of the changing economy. Have no doubt a decline in the economy will impact the vast majority of churches. This is the time to invest in certain ministries and exercise good stewardship. The following ten steps came courtesy of Dr. Don Nation, President of DNA Coaching, to consider taking when the economy takes a turn for the worse:

- 1.** Offer courses in basic budgeting and household finance. A considerable number of people live paycheck-to-paycheck. Many carry thousands of dollars in credit card debt. It is common for people to live beyond their means. And most families do not have and stick to a budget. A program such as “Good Sense” or “Financial Peace University” could be especially appealing to people who are anxious about the economy and their personal financial situation.
- 2.** Host and promote a workshop on financing college and trade school. Education is one of the keys to improving one’s financial situation. A difficult economy can make financing higher education a huge challenge. At the very time that people need access to the education (first time in college, upgrading skills, transitioning to a new vocation, etc.), their finances may make it more difficult to attain. There are, however, many ways to finance continuing education – many of which most people are unaware. Work with your local high school, community college, vocational/technical institute, university, etc. to create the event.
- 3.** Sponsor a workshop on writing a good resume. It is very common in the business world for candidates to be eliminated from consideration simply due to a poorly written resume or an incomplete application. A few hours with a knowledgeable person may be the difference between employment and unemployment. Work with your local chamber of commerce, business department of a community college or university, SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), etc. to develop the event.
- 4.** Increase the number of no-cost and low-cost outreach events. There are many ways to reach people in the community without spending a lot of money. Servant Evangelism, distributing flyers door-to-door, calling and asking for prayer requests, prayer walks and inviting people to church can be accomplished with little or no financial investment. The church is called to reach new people and needs to reach new people. It is possible to do this even if finances appear limited due to a difficult economy.
- 5.** Look for savings from energy conservation. It may be possible to save a significant amount of money by taking some simple steps to conserve energy. Consider the following: insulate water heaters and all exposed pipes, turn off unneeded lights, change the thermostat by a degree or two, install ceiling fans and use them, check the seals on doors and windows, keep fireplaces and furnaces clean, replace incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs or LEDs, shift to a four day work week (which allows for reduced heating and cooling of the building), properly inflate the tires on church vehicles.

6. Improve the effectiveness of annual events. For example, many churches invest a lot of time, energy, people and money to host a Vacation Bible School. For all of that investment, however, it is rare that a new family joins the church and becomes regularly involved in worship. This is the time to tweak VBS to more effectively connect with the families of the children involved in the program – spend intentional time with them, provide great hospitality, follow-up with the families on a monthly basis, etc.
7. Have a representative participate in the Chamber of Commerce. This allows the church to participate in creating a more positive business climate in the community. It also allows the church to remain in the information loop, connect with companies that may be hiring and connect with people in the business community. The representative may or may not be the pastor.
8. Review the investments of the church. Are your long-term accounts in long-term investments? Talk to your Holston Conference Foundation (865-690-8124) for resources that could be of assistance.
9. Improve those things about the church which do not cost money. While this may not be a great time to conduct a capital fund campaign, this may be the perfect time to focus on improving many of the systems of the church – hospitality, welcoming, follow-up phone calls to guests, an improved design for the newsletter, the cleanliness of the facility, trimming trees and hedges, etc.
10. Sponsor community-wide job fairs, employment services, relevant workshops, interview skills classes, etc. Publicize these throughout the community. For information visit www.dnacoaching.com.



PERFORMANCE UPDATE

With the turmoil in the financial markets, 2008 has been a year many of us would rather forget.

Through the end of November, the trailing 12-month return of the S&P 500 is -35.4% and the NASDAQ is down 39.7%. The Foundation's BALANCED GROWTH FUND (a mixture of stocks and bonds) is down 21.8%. The (all equity) EQUITY GROWTH FUND is down 39.6%. On the fixed income side, the INTERMEDIATE INCOME FUND is up 5.5%, with a yield to maturity of 41%.

Many new longer-term accounts to the Foundation are being added to the MONEY MARKET FUND and gradually invested over time into the BALANCED GROWTH FUND. The current yield of the Money Market Fund is 1.66%. Short-term rates have dropped substantially, but the safety and security of money markets have certainly been attractive of late. Another short-term option is our SHORT-TERM INCOME FUND, which is up 3.1% YTD.

When considering the future, one key question remains... have your long-term goals changed? If not, then achieving them without the long-term help of the stock market is like driving a car on a flat tire or piloting a 747 on one engine. The biggest risk may be panicking at the wrong time or liquidating assets at the bottom. The market will recover...it is just a matter of patience.

*- David Goodson
Investment Committee Chair*

Programs, options, or performance updates for Trustees, Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, and other leaders are available. If you have questions or are just curious about what we do or the options we offer...just ask. Check out our website www.holston.org/foundation or call us at (865) 690-8124.

MATTYE K. BOWMAN

Endowment Will Fund Pension for Others

MATTYE KIRBY BOWMAN was born the third of twelve children to Sam and Stella Nation, Kentucky tenant farmers. She was baptized as a young girl, but her “true conversion,” when she really became a Christian, happened at age 25 and she wanted to tell everybody about it. Two weeks later, she began a four-year stint teaching Sunday school at a rescue mission and the desire to tell everybody about it deepened into a call to evangelistic ministry. Her first revival lasted 17 days, with 69 converts.



Mattye K. Bowman

She came to Knoxville in 1942, “at the Lord’s leading,” to continue her revival preaching. Her first church was Bright Hope Church, which averaged 20 people in Sunday school. Bishop Paul Kern granted her the privilege to preach without a license and for 14 years she was the only woman preaching in Holston Conference. When she left the church six years later, Sunday school attendance had grown to more than 100.

She and G. C. Kirby, her husband of 55 years, had no children. At age 75, while doing a skit entitled “Me and Pa,” she met Harry Bowman, a retired United Methodist minister who would become her second husband. She also did Minnie Pearl imitations and impromptu comedy routines, wrote poetry, and made quilts.

In her ninety-fifth year, “Miss Mattye” said in an interview, “I’m glad I was a pioneer of the

clergywomen’s part of the United Methodist Church. I’m happy I’ve spent my life in the Lord’s service. I’m real well satisfied with what I turned out to be.”

At her death in August 2007, at the age of 99, she was the oldest member of Fairview UMC in Maryville, where she volunteered in Glasses for the Masses, a mission program that distributes eyeglasses to the poor in countries from Paraguay to Russia.

Mattye was deeply devoted to her fellow ministers in the Holston Conference and changed her will during the Legacy of Commitment Campaign to give her house to the Conference, which was to be sold to support ministerial pensions.

Now her name will live on even beyond these memories through THE MATTYE K. BOWMAN PENSION SUPPORT FUND, recently named in her honor. The endowment came from the gift of her estate to the Foundation for the Legacy of Commitment Campaign to fund pensions for retired pastors. The Rev. Cliff Amos, Foundation Director of Gift Planning, remembers visiting with Bowman and hearing of her interest in helping other retired pastors. “I cannot give anything while I am living, but when I die, I am going to give my house,” Amos remembered. Mattye set an example to us all through her lifetime and then did it again through her death. Her Legacy will be remembered!

THE LEGACY OF COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

The Conference’s Legacy of Commitment Campaign, which has raised about \$8 million for the unfunded pre-1982 clergy pensions is coming to a close. “The people of the Conference responded in a wonderful way,” said the Rev. Ron Hammond, who served as the staff fund raiser. “We had over 700 retired clergy and widows and widowers who didn’t have fully funded pensions.”

According to the Conference Treasurer, John Tate, 96% of the committed funds have now been received. With the active process of collecting pledges coming to a close, the Conference is sending out a letter signed by Bishop James Swanson and Campaign Chairperson Leonard Fant, thanking those who pledged and reminding those with a balance to please pay as soon as possible.



Hammond and Roger Redding, Holston Conference Foundation Director, said Sandy Ruebush Seay also deserves credit for record keeping and organization. “She was our secret weapon,” said Redding.

“The 96% collection rate is by far the largest percentage collected from any previous Holston Conference campaign for which we can find record,” Redding said. “We certainly will continue to accept payment or new gifts to support clergy pension,” added Redding, “but we want to help John Tate close the books on many outstanding pledges.”

FOUNDATION FLASHES

- On May 1, Roger provided the Sunday message at three services at **First UMC - Marion** and returned the following Wednesday evening for a special “Getting Your Financial Affairs and Estates in Order” workshop. Special thanks to **Rev. Jeff Lambert** for the invitation.
- On May 4, Cliff preached at **Wears Valley UMC** about Stewardship. Our gratitude to **Rev. Bill Beard** for the invitation. The meeting after church was very well attended and a very enthusiastic crowd.
- On May 12, Roger met with Trustees at **First UMC - Maryville** to review investments and share ideas on educating the membership on estate planning opportunities to support the ministry of the church. Special thanks to **Rev. Brenda & Larry Carroll**.
- On May 12-14, Bill Kilday presented workshops on “Local Church Financial Management for Pastors in Transition” held at **First Farragut UMC** in Lenoir City and **Pleasant View UMC** in Abingdon.
- On May 14, Cliff attended the **Big Stone Gap District Minister’s** meeting. Thanks to **Rev. Dan Taylor** for the invitation and the 16 ministers who attended. A special thanks to **Rev. Ken Pierce, Rev. Will Shewey, Rev. Steve Brown, and Rev. Tom Reed** for an enjoyable time of fellowship over some good food.
- On May 25, Cliff preached at **Macedonia UMC** in Knoxville. Many thanks to **Rev. Ray Petty** for a second invitation to speak about planned giving through the Foundation on Sunday morning. Christian giving booklets were handed out.
- On June 1, Cliff preached at **New Salem UMC** in Knoxville. Thanks to **Rev. Helen Shaw** for the opportunity to share with her congregation on the benefits of long-range planning through giving.
- On June 8, Cliff preached both services at **Loudon UMC**. Special thanks to **Rev. Tony Collins** for the opportunity to talk about giving to the local church. It was good to see **Harry & Major Pease**.
- On June 9, Bill presented the Foundation’s Annual Report to the Annual Conference, including the report for the Conference Stewardship Committee.
- On June 15, Bill taught a special session at Annual Conference on “Financial Management” to pastors receiving their first appointment.
- On June 15, Cliff preached at **Ottway UMC** in Greeneville. Special appreciation to **Rev. Donna Waddle** for the invitation on a very important Father’s Day service.
- On June 22, Cliff preached at **Gate City UMC**. Thanks to **Rev. Steve Brown**; current board member, **Tom Bowen**; and former board member, **James Addington**, for the opportunity to share the ministry of the Foundation.
- On June 29, Cliff preached at **Vermont UMC** in Kingsport. Thanks to **Rev. Bill Cahill** for participation in the preaching service and to share more about making a gift to the church through estate planning.
- On June 29, Bill presented a program for the Special Studies class at **Concord UMC** in Knoxville.
- On July 6, Cliff preached at **Anderson Street UMC** in Bristol. Thanks to **Rev. Barbara Clark** for the chance to speak at the church about Stewardship and its role in estate planning. Special appreciation to the **Sunday school class, the Valentine’s and Ms. Patsy K. Cole**.
- On July 8, Roger and Cliff met with **Jim Galbraith** and **Rev. Charles Harrison** at **First UMC - Sevierville** to explore funds and opportunities to educate the membership. The trustees have since acted and we look forward to working with them closely in 2009.
- On July 13, Cliff preached at **Cedar Grove UMC** and **New Market UMC**. Thanks to **Rev. Diana Cornett** for the opportunity to preach on all the wonderful ways churches can benefit through proper estate planning.
- On July 20, Bill preached at **Concord UMC**.

FOUNDATION FLASHES

CONTINUED

- On July 21, Roger and Cliff visited with **Rev. Hugh Bryan** and **Tom Pride** representing the **Goodfield Circuit** in Decatur, Tennessee, to explore options available to invest Parsonage proceeds. A subsequent meeting was held with representatives from **Goodfield UMC**, **Mt. Olivet UMC**, and **Mt. Carmel UMC** and a Parsonage fund was established in the Foundation.
- On July 27, Cliff preached at **Trinity UMC** in Lenoir City. Special thanks to **Rev. Gary Baker** for the opportunity to share the ministry of the Foundation.
- On August 3, Cliff preached at **First UMC - Sevierville**. A sincere thanks to **Rev. Charlie Harrison** for inviting the Foundation. Special thanks to **Jim Galbraith, Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Eledge, Mr. And Mrs. Runyan, Pete Hailey** and to **Lou Harrison** for a good Sunday school lesson!
- On August 13, Roger met with leaders and interested members at **Trinity UMC in Greeneville** to consider options and opportunities to invest and use a significant bequest from a deceased member to support current and future ministries in the church. Special thanks to **Rev. Boo Hankins, Sandra Smith** and **Tom Lynch** for this special opportunity.
- On August 19, Roger provided a special program to leadership at **Cherokee UMC** in Johnson City, Tennessee, on the church's financial status and stewardship options and opportunities. Seeds were sown! Special thanks and prayers to **Rev. Michelle Buckles** and this group of leaders as they give direction to the church.
- On August 24, Cliff preached at **Norwood UMC** in Knoxville. Special thanks to **Rev. David Green** for the opportunity to share the great news about building God's kingdom through financial stewardship.
- On August 26, Roger and Cliff visited with **Rev. Greg Smart, Charlotte Freeman**, and other leaders at **St. Luke UMC** in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This church has been blessed with a significant bequest from a member and is in the midst of establishing an endowment program to steward this gift and hopefully attract the gifts of others.
- September - October 19, Bill led the Consecration Sunday services at **First UMC** in Dandridge, Tennessee.
- On September 6, Roger led a Saturday morning Estate Planning workshop at **Emerald Avenue UMC** in Knoxville. Thanks to **Rev. Bob Bean** and **Ryan Shoup** for the breakfast and opportunity to share important information.
- On September 14, Cliff preached at **First UMC - Bluefield**. Special thanks to **Ken Folk** and **Rev. Ray Amos** for the opportunity to preach about Stewardship.
- On September 15, Bill met with the Finance Team at **Central UMC** in Lenoir City to explore Stewardship opportunities.
- On September 21, Cliff preached at **Mt. Carmel UMC** in Kingsport. Blessings to **Rev. Dennis Milligan** for the opportunity to talk about the benefits of building the Kingdom of God through estate planning in the church.
- On September 24, Roger provided a special Wednesday evening workshop on "Getting Your Affairs in Order" at **Concord UMC** in Knoxville. Special thanks to board member, **Charlie Kuykendall**, for this invitation.
- On September 28, Roger was the Stewardship speaker at **Mafair UMC** in Kingsport. Special thanks to **Rev. Ralph Kidd** for the opportunity and thanks to the church for their faithfulness and generosity, especially for their unending support for Sudan missions.
- On September 28, Cliff preached at **Wauhatchie UMC** in Chattanooga. Thanks to **Dr. Steve Galyon** for the 4:00 p.m. workshop on "Planned Giving in the Local Church" and the preaching program at 7:00 p.m.
- On October 2, Roger met with Trustees and Endowment Committee leadership at **First UMC - Gatlinburg** to review investment performance and make suggestions concerning distribution formulas and options for special church endowments. Thanks to **Rev. Jane Taylor** for setting this up.
- On October 5, Roger spoke at a special Trustee/Leadership breakfast, a gathering of adult Sunday school classes, and delivered the Sunday service message at **Sulphur Springs UMC** in the Chattanooga District. Special thanks to

FOUNDATION FLASHES

CONTINUED

Rev. Cecil Baxter and to **John Shelley** for the invitation to talk about the importance of personal planning and how that can assist the future vision of the church. We look forward to working with them in 2009.

- On October 5, Cliff preached at **First UMC - Pennington Gap**. Sincere appreciation to **Rev. Tom Reed** for the Sunday evening service invitation...a very enthusiastic crowd!
- On October 12, Cliff preached at **Macedonia UMC** in Knoxville. Thanks to **Rev. Edd Templeton** for the invitation.
- On October 19, Roger delivered the Stewardship sermon at **Trinity UMC** in Greeneville, Tennessee. Special thanks to **Rev. Boo & Phyllis Hankins**, who were headed out the next morning to spend a month in Sudan. Also, thanks to **Sandra Smith** and **Tom Lynch** for their special parts on that Sunday.
- On October 19, Cliff preached the morning service at **Well Springs UMC** in LaFollette, Tennessee. Thanks to **Rev. Ronnie Mutter** for the special hospitality.
- On October 26, Cliff preached the morning service at **State Street UMC**. Thanks to **Rev. Mike Jackson**, who is leading in a dramatic way and thanks to **Dave Fletcher**, chairman of the Trustees.
- On October 28, Roger met with leaders at **Hills Union UMC** in Dandridge, Tennessee, to review and explore investment and spending policies that might assist their church in handling an existing building and maintenance endowment given through a bequest years ago and other ideas to perhaps encourage other gifts to support special ministries in the church. Thanks and prayers to **Rev. Michael Ladd**.
- On November 2, Cliff preached at the Stewardship Banquet at **Colonial Heights UMC** in Kingsport. Special thanks to **Rev. Tom Seay** for the invitation.
- On November 2, Bill preached at **Bearden UMC** in Knoxville.
- On November 9, Cliff preached the Convocation Sunday service at **First UMC - Gatlinburg**. Thanks to **Rev. Jane Taylor** for the invitation. It was good to see former board member, **Dot Egli**.
- On November 9, Roger delivered a Consecration Sunday message at **St. Marks UMC** in Louisville, Tennessee. Special thanks to **Jerry Page** for his leadership of this effort.
- On November 16, Cliff preached Pledge Sunday at **Norwood UMC**. Thanks to **Rev. David Green** for the very special time in the life and ministry of the church.
- On November 23, Cliff preached at **Asbury Chapel UMC** in Rockwood, Tennessee. Special thanks to **Rev. Paul Johnston** and all the preparation for a very special Thanksgiving on "Giving". The dinner on the grounds was the best ever! The first bite of turkey for the upcoming Turkey Day celebration melted in my mouth along with the Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, and an awesome dessert.

NEWS FLASH

NEW GIVING OPPORTUNITY: GIFTS FROM IRA'S

On October 3, 2008, Congress passed legislation to retroactively extend the popular Pension Protection Act provision, which allows taxpayers over 70½ to make tax-free distributions from their traditional and Roth IRA's directly to public charities in 2008 and 2009. Donors may choose to make charitable distributions from their IRA's in any amount up to \$100,000. A couple with separate IRA's could each gift that amount. Because IRA assets are subject to income tax when withdrawn during one's lifetime or by survivors, this opportunity for charitable IRA rollovers may be an excellent option for some individual planning a gift to their church or other ministry. This also represents a great opportunity to start an endowment. Give us a call if you want to explore the options.



Holston Conference of The United
Methodist Church Foundation, Inc.
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am; send me!"

– ISAIAH 6:8

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THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 900
Alcoa, TN 37701-0900

Phone: (865) 690-8124
Fax: (865) 690-3162
Toll-Free: (866) 690-4080

www.holston.org/foundation



Roger Redding
Executive Director
rogerredding@holston.org

Cliff Amos
Director of Gift Planning
cliffamos@holston.org

Bill Kilday
Director of Stewardship
billkilday@holston.org

Brenda Mills
Accounts Manager
brendamills@holston.org

Rita Broderick
Administrative Assistant
ritabroderick@holston.org