

District drop-off points:

Flood buckets should be delivered to your district's collection point. Call or e-mail your district office to get the latest information about where you should drop off supplies.

ABINGDON

(276) 628-4421

abdists@holston.org

BIG STONE GAP

(276) 523-3025

bsgdists@holston.org

CHATTANOOGA

(423) 629-0333

chatdists@holston.org

CLEVELAND

(423) 476-8221

cldists@holston.org

JOHNSON CITY

(423) 926-7533

jcdists@holston.org

KINGSPORT

(423) 224-1533

kptdists@holston.org

KNOXVILLE

(865) 470-7005

maryhawkins@holston.org

MARYVILLE

(865) 982-1427

madists@holston.org

MORRISTOWN

(423) 586-2942

modists@holston.org

OAK RIDGE

(865) 482-3209

ordists@holston.org

TAZEWELL

(276) 988-4891

tdumc@verizon.net

WYTHEVILLE

(276) 228-4922

wydists@holston.org

Holston's RESPONSE to Hurricanes

Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church • September 2005



Letter from Bishop Swanson:

"We must continue to respond"

To the people of the Holston Conference:

I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The outpouring of support for those whose lives have been damaged and forever changed by Hurricane Katrina and now, Hurricane Rita, is so inspiring. Our response is a witness to ourselves, to those affected by these hurricanes, and to others of the love of Jesus Christ that permeates and gives direction to our lives. We are indeed holding up the banner of Christ and lifting Him for the entire world to see.

I want to thank you for focusing your attention, your resources, your energy, your prayers, and your gifts in this time of crisis. I especially want to thank you for the \$672,518 you have donated to UMCOR's hurricane effort (as of Sept. 27). I realize that the concerns of your local church's ministry in your respective communities can sometimes be overwhelming all by themselves, but you continue to prove to me that we are capable of performing multiple tasks with efficiency and effectiveness.

Let me also say this: Although the news coverage for Hurricane Rita has not shown devastation that correlates with Katrina, the devastation is just as real. As many of you know, I have children and grandchildren in Houston. I thank God that my family was spared, but I grieve for those families who lost so much. We must continue to respond.

The magnitude of this devastation means that we will need your ongoing support and help for some years to come. If your church has not given to this effort, I encourage you to do so. We must remember that when FEMA and others have left, we The United Methodist Church will still need to be there.

Our office pledges to continue to keep you informed of opportunities to serve as we receive the information. We would also like to hear from you if opportunities come your way to serve about which we may not be aware.

Again, thank you for your support and keep up the godly work.

Yours in Christ,

James E. Swanson, Sr.

Resident Bishop Holston Annual Conference
September 27, 2005



Rudy Weigel (left), member at First Oak Ridge United Methodist Church, hands a flood bucket to Marty Krumnacher, member at First Knoxville United Methodist Church.

How you can help the victims of the Hurricanes

Holston Conference, which includes your church as well as 914 other United Methodist congregations, is currently focusing on collecting “flood buckets,” which contain items necessary for cleaning up after a hurricane or flood. Church members are also asked to give money to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is our denomination’s chief disaster-relief agency.



A youth member from Bearden United Methodist Church, in Knoxville District, packs a flood bucket.

How can I donate money?

One hundred percent of the money that you give to UMCOR is used for relief efforts. You can donate to UMCOR through your church – simply by placing your check in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Make your check to your local church (i.e., “First United Methodist Church”) or make it to “Holston Conference.” Write “Hurricane Katrina” or “Hurricane Rita” on the memo line, designating the relief effort you wish to help. Your church treasurer will send the money to Holston Conference, and then the conference office will immediately send your money to UMCOR. You can also make credit-card donations by calling (800) 554-8583 or online at <http://methodistrelief.org>.

Why flood buckets – and not clothing or other items?

UMCOR does not work to provide disaster relief on its own but in cooperation with a larger group called Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Members of VOAD include, among others, the American Red Cross, America’s Second Harvest, Catholic Charities USA, and the Salvation Army. To ensure that a variety of needs are met following a disaster, each organization has its own relief “assignment.” After consulting with UMCOR for current needs – and in response to the most recent devastation caused by Hurricane Rita – Holston Conference has a new assignment as of Sept. 26. In this third “wave” of donations, churches are asked to collect flood buckets only.

In the first and second “waves” of donation appeals, Holston was asked to collect health kits, blankets, bottled water, single-bed air mattresses, new undergarments, paper products, diapers, and women’s hygiene products. These items will still be accepted.

What goes into a flood bucket?

The following items should be packed into a 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid:

- Bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle)
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable wipes)
- 1 household cleaner (12-16 oz. bottle)
- Disinfectant dish soap (16-28 oz. bottle)
- Clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.)
- 1 pair work gloves
- 2 pair latex gloves
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle)
- 24-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon; remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 insect repellent spray (6-14 oz. can; if aerosol, cans must have protective caps)
- 1 air freshener (8 or 9 oz. can; if aerosol, cans must have protective caps)
- 5 scouring pads
- 7 sponges
- 1 scrub brush
- 50 clothespins
- 5 dust masks

Put all items in the plastic bucket and seal lid. If the requested sized item is not available, go down to the next available size. If nothing is available in the requested or smaller size, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, “This bucket contains no _____.” Please ensure that all cleansing agents are liquids (not powder) and in plastic bottles. Value: \$45 per bucket. In a separate envelope, send a check written to UMCOR Sager Brown for at least \$1.50 for each flood bucket to help with the costs of processing and shipping.

How will these items be delivered?

All of these items should be delivered to your district’s designated collection point. Consult the “District Drop-Off” list and either call or e-mail your district office to get the latest information about where you should drop off supplies.

How can I find out more?

Holston will also be sending other supplies and work teams to the affected areas in the weeks and months ahead. If you are interested in participating on a work team, it’s important to volunteer through the conference office. Some church groups and individuals that arrived in Mississippi and Louisiana without first coordinating through the conference office and UMCOR were sent back home, because the needs are specific and volunteers require training.

To volunteer for a work team, ask questions about Holston’s response, or to report your church’s own hurricane-relief activities, e-mail reliefneeds@holston.org. You may also call the conference office in Knoxville, TN, toll-free at (866) 690-4080 or locally at (865) 690-4080. For updates on Holston’s ongoing response and for resources, go to <http://hurricanerelief.holston.org>.



Holston Conference

The United Methodist Church

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Serving 915 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia