

## District drop-off points:

Single-bed air mattresses, new undergarments, paper products, diapers, and women's hygiene products 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  
abdlist@holston.org

### BIG STONE GAP

(276) 523-3025  
bsgdist@holston.org

### CHATTANOOGA

(423) 629-0333  
chatdist@holston.org

### CLEVELAND

(423) 476-8221  
cldist@holston.org

### JOHNSON CITY

(423) 926-7533  
jcdist@holston.org

### KINGSPORT

(423) 224-1533  
kptdist@holston.org

### KNOXVILLE

(865) 470-7005  
maryhawkins@holston.org

### MARYVILLE

(865) 982-1427  
madist@holston.org

### MORRISTOWN

(423) 586-2942  
modist@holston.org

### OAK RIDGE

(865) 482-3209  
ordist@holston.org

### TAZEWELL

(276) 988-4891  
tdumc@verizon.net

### WYTHEVILLE

(276) 228-4922  
wydist@holston.org

# Holston's RESPONSE to Katrina

Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church • September 2005

## Letter from Bishop Swanson:

### *"Holding up the banner of Christ"*



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 is so inspiring. Our response is a witness to ourselves, to those affected by Katrina, 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 realize that the concerns of your local church's ministry in your respective communities can sometimes be overwhelming all by itself, but you continue to prove to me that we are capable of performing multiple tasks with efficiency and effectiveness.

I know that 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.*

*James E. Swanson, Sr.*

*Resident Bishop Holston Annual Conference  
September 12, 2005*



*Worshippers at First Bluefield United Methodist Church place their donations for hurricane victims on the altar. First Bluefield UMC is located in Tazewell District.*

# How you can help the victims of *Katrina*

Holston Conference, which includes your church as well as 914 other United Methodist congregations, is currently focusing on collecting single-bed air mattresses, new undergarments, paper products, diapers, and women's hygiene products. 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 volunteer worker at Pleasant View United Methodist Church helps pack supplies for hurricane victims. Pleasant View is located in Abingdon, VA.*

## Why these particular 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). Other 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." UMCOR serves a specific niche in the massive Hurricane Katrina relief effort, and each United Methodist conference is asked to help UMCOR meet those needs.

After consulting with UMCOR for the most current needs, Holston Conference has a new assignment as of Sept. 12. In this second wave of hurricane-relief donations, Holston churches are asked to collect the following:

- Single-bed air mattresses
- New undergarments for all ages, genders, and sizes
- Paper products (cups, napkins, plates, paper towels)
- Diapers for both children and adults
- Women's hygiene products

In the first wave of Holston's hurricane-relief donations, churches were asked to collect bottled water, blankets, and health kits. These items will still be accepted.

## 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 (on the back page) and either call or e-mail your district office to get the latest information about where you should drop off supplies. Holston Conference is arranging for several trucks to deliver the goods continuously throughout the coming weeks – as long as churches will collect them, and as long as there is a need.

## 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 "Hurricanes 2005" on the memo line. 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>.

## How can I find out more?

Holston will also be sending other supplies and work teams to the affected area in the weeks and months ahead. If you are interested in participating on a work team, you will need to receive training first. Within a week or two, the conference will announce work-team training opportunities.

To stay informed of training, work teams, donation needs, and other efforts in the conference's ongoing hurricane response, go to <http://hurricanerelief.holston.org>. You may also call the conference office in Knoxville, TN, toll-free at (866) 690-4080 or locally at (865) 690-4080.

If you have specific questions about the disaster response or if you want to report your church's own activities, please e-mail [reliefneeds@holston.org](mailto:reliefneeds@holston.org). Please use this e-mail address to tell us about any work teams that your church is assembling, too.



## Holston Conference

*The United Methodist Church*

P.O. Box 32939 • Knoxville, TN 37930-2939 • [www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org)  
865/690-4080 • Toll Free 866/690-4080 • Fax 865/690-3162  
*Serving 915 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia*