

Need web resources for youth or children's ministries? Want to join a Volunteers in Missions team? This issue of *Be!* includes lots of handy info.

Remember the "Skillet Award" at Resurrection? Where does the money go?

A Wytheville District church adopts a cuddly new ministry.



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# The Call

June 1, 2007

HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volume 24, Number 12

## Brazil is not so far away:

First Broad Street nurse shares story

**W**hy should we give money to help spread the Gospel in Brazil? For Joy Eastridge, that's a personal question.

"This country needs Jesus Christ," she says. "It's beset by corruption at all levels, and there is a lot of poverty – in contrast with extreme wealth, with little in between."

Today, Eastridge is parish nurse for First Broad Street United Methodist Church in Kingsport District. But for 14 years of her childhood, she was the daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries in Brazil. She lived among the people who will be served by the conference-wide offering collected this spring by Holston churches.

The goal is to raise \$100,000 for the United Methodist Church of Brazil. Holston leaders will bring their offerings to Annual Conference on Tuesday evening, June 12. Brazilian Bishop Paulo Lockmann will preach on that night.

Six years ago, Eastridge returned to Brazil with a First Broad Street mission team. She served with Evangemed, a mobile van equipped with medical and dental equipment. Evangemed is one of two ministries that will be supported by the Holston offering.

Eastridge was struck by the spiritual needs of the country she once called home.

"Brazil is a land in crisis. The drug  
See **Brazil is not**, page 7

### Swanson speaks

More about the Brazil offering on page 2.



Bishop Hayes



Bishop Lee



Bishop Lockmann



Rev. Tatem

## YES, ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS HERE

**B**ring peanut butter. Read your "Book of Reports." And get ready to vote for the people who will represent Holston at General Conference 2008.

Yes, Annual Conference time is here, and with it, the huge agenda of setting ministry in place for the coming years and acknowledging ministry of years past. This year's theme is based on the vision statement adopted at last year's Annual Conference: "Boldly, Passionately, Joyfully Making Disciples of Jesus Christ!" Bishop James Swanson will preside at the June 10-13 gathering of leaders representing 912 churches and 12 districts in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia. This year, 1,114 clergy and 921 lay members are expected to make the annual trek to Lake Junaluska Assembly in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Dominating the four-day schedule will be ballots for the election of 14 delegates (7 clergy, 7 lay) to attend General Conference. The elections happen only every four years and are highly anticipated as church leaders seek to choose delegates who will represent Holston well at the denomination's mega-conference, also held every four years. General Conference will be held April 23-May 2, 2008, in Fort Worth, Texas.

An additional seven lay and seven clergy will be elected to represent Holston at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, to be held July 13-18, 2008, in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Vital information about the election is provided in the "Book of Reports" and will also be presented at the Clergy and Laity Sessions held at Annual Conference. The first ballot (for clergy only) will be taken on Sunday evening, June 10. Clergy are urged to be present.

Please note: On Monday, June 11, the Laity Session will be held at 8:30 a.m. at Stuart Auditorium. The Clergy Session will be held at 9 a.m. at Shackford Hall. This location change is *not* reflected in the "Book of Reports."

### Who's preaching?

The Rev. Dorothy Watson Tatem will preach at Sunday night's "Service of Remembrance and Communion." Tatem is director of the Office of Urban and Global Ministries, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The Latvian United Methodist Youth Choir will sing during the service.

On Monday night, Bishop Robert Hayes will preach at the "Service of Ordination." Hayes is resident bishop of the Oklahoma Annual Conference. Singing during the service will be the First Morristown UMC Choir.

