

bishop's speaking schedule



June 3: Lighthouse UMC
Consecration Service
(Chattanooga District) at 10 a.m. ■



The Call

www.holston.org

Serving 912 churches in east Tennessee,
southwest Virginia, and north Georgia

USPS 020-295

Published Biweekly by
Holston Conference
of the United Methodist Church
217 South Rankin Road, Alcoa, TN 37701
Local telephone (865) 690-4080 Fax (865) 690-3162
Toll-free telephone (866) 690-4080

Periodical Postage Paid At
Alcoa, Tenn.,
and additional offices
Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Call, P.O. Box 850
Alcoa, TN 37701-0850

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Editorial policy

The Call is the Holston Annual Conference's official newspaper, published 26 times each year, on every other Friday.

All publication decisions are made by the Editor, under the supervision of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

The Call does not accept paid advertising.

Letters to the editor ("C-Mail") will be considered for publication. Letters should be no longer than 150 words and must do no harm to others.

United Methodist job openings and other church-related needs will be considered for publication in the "Exchange" section at no charge. *The Call* gives priority to Holston Conference churches and related groups.

To submit letters, news, or photos, contact: Editor, *The Call*, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850, phone (865) 293-4130, fax (865) 690-3162, or e-mail thecall@holston.org.

A 12-month subscription is \$15. Checks should be made to "Holston Conference" and mailed to: P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850. To order online, visit www.holston.org/thecall.

wings

By Bishop James Edward Swanson Sr.



We're partners in the healing ministry of Jesus

This Annual Conference promises to be the beginning of a partnership across continents, languages, cultures, and a great physical expanse as we welcome Bishop Paulo Lockmann of the Rio Conference of the Methodist Church of Brazil. We encourage our 912 congregations in north Georgia, east Tennessee, and southwest Virginia to collect a generous offering and bring it to Stuart Auditorium at Lake Junaluska, N.C., on Tuesday night, June 12. On that night, we will partner with the Rio Conference to assist them in their continued growth. The Rio Conference has set a goal of making one million disciples of Jesus Christ in the next eight years.

We have committed to two ministries in Brazil. The first is Evangemed: a mobile health clinic ministry that offers medical services to areas with little or no medical care. After ministering to the physical body during the day, Evangemed provides powerful and moving worship opportunities in the evenings. Evangemed provides the combination of personal piety and social holiness that John Wesley envisioned for the people called Methodist. It is the offering of Christ's healing power to people that is holistic.

The second ministry we have tar-

geted is the Rio Conference School of Mission. This ministry trains laity and clergy to minister to their communities through mission, worship, and prayer. The School of Missions combines the teaching of the introduction to Christ with the equally compelling call of Christ. We will choose people from Holston to go to Brazil to experience this School of Mission – with the hope of inspiring, training, and empowering them to learn how to make disciples back home.

If we are serious about becoming a conference that "reflects the saving grace and redeeming justice of our Lord Jesus Christ," we must dig deep to support this year's Annual Conference missions offering. Our goal is \$100,000, but I believe we can do far more than that. I am looking for our greatest- yet outpouring of support for this ministry, which will give back to us women and men equipped to help fulfill our mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ."

Your offering will bring healing to those who are suffering from physical sickness, while offering the love of Jesus to those suffering from broken relationships, wounded spirits, depressed minds, and a lost of hope.

I'll see you and your wonder-working offering at the Lake. ■

C-mail:

Your coverage of the Virginia Tech massacre was outstanding. Please pass my appreciation to everyone involved, especially the Bishop. I am a Hokie, my stepdaughter is a Hokie, and I have a daughter who graduated from Tech on May 12. Thank God, she was interviewing and away from campus on April 16. My youngest child was in the area and tried to meet a friend who lives in West Ambler Johnston that morning, but it didn't work out.

One of my dearest friends lost his wife. My daughter lost a co-worker. One of my co-workers lost her husband.

But the Bishop really nailed it in his column! We can blame environment and circumstances for what happened, but it really comes down to character, morals, and faith. We all have issues that we can blame for our behavior, but we are called as Christians to overcome.

I am so proud of our church!

Rosa Slavik
Mountain View UMC
Abingdon District

Send letters to the editor to: C-Mail, The Call, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701, thecall@holston.org, fax (865) 690-3162. Printed letters are limited to 150 words.



reading list:

We asked these participants in the "Mental Health Matters" seminar on May 19, "What book is lying on your nightstand?"



Ron Case
Shady Grove UMC
Morristown District
What's So Amazing About Grace?
by Philip Yancey



Debbie Elsea
Piney Flats UMC
Johnson City District
Sisters,
by Danielle Steele



Rev. Katye Fox
Meadowview UMC
Abingdon District
Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and

the Search for What Saves Us, by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker ■

calendar:

June 3: Peace With Justice

The United Methodist Church will observe Peace With Justice Sunday with an offering June 3. The Annual Conference keeps 50 percent of the receipts for Peace with Justice ministries in the conference. The remaining 50 percent is used for ministries related to the General Board of Church and Society. For downloadable worship resources and other information, visit http://www.umcgiving.org/content/sundays/PWJS_nav/peace.asp.

July 17-21: Youth Assembly

Junior High and Senior Assembly will be held July 17-21 at Hiwassee College in Madisonville, Tenn. A registration fee of \$165 per person (includes program, lodging, and meals) must be postmarked by June 12. Late registration is \$190 per person. For more information, visit holstonyouth.com or call the Youth Ministries Office at (423) 928-2156. ■

