

Brazil is not, *continued from page 1*

culture is out of control, and people are hungry for good news.”

Eastridge spoke of the hopelessness experienced by the poor in Brazil, a country where five percent of the population owns 90 percent of the land.

“Here, if you’re poor, there’s hope. But if you’re born poor in Brazil, that’s it – that’s a life sentence. There’s such a hopelessness that the Christian faith can address.”

Through Evangemed, people in the Rio Conference of Brazil can experience the Gospel, Eastridge said.

“Ministry to the physical body is a wonderful way to bring the Gospel to people. When you’re in pain or suffering, it’s hard to hear the words without the physical touch. The medical services of Evangemed are free and given in the name of Christ.”

Eastridge is married to Wesley Eastridge, a Gate City, Va., family physician who also served with Evangemed. His father is the Rev. Vance Eastridge, a retired Holston clergy member.

The Evangemed trailer spends 30-day stints at Methodist churches, providing free health and dental services. Worship services are held each evening.

When Eastridge served as an Evangemed nurse, she asked patients if they “wanted to hear more about Jesus, or if they wanted us to pray for anything in their lives.”

The Holston Conference offering will also support the School of Missions, a two-year program

that allows pastors to study one weekend each month with instruction in missions, evangelism, worship, prayer ministries, and leadership. Courses are offered each January and July for laypersons to spend 10 days in study and 10 days working in missions.

“We need for the educators to understand the Gospel, but also to present it in action,” said Eastridge. “These things bring hope to the people.”

“I am grateful to Holston Conference for doing this outreach. It’s one more way to bring Jesus Christ to the people.” ■



Joy Eastridge

Annual Conference, *continued from page 1*

On Tuesday afternoon, the “Retirement and Commissioning Celebration” will be led by Bishop Clay Lee, former resident bishop for Holston Conference. The First Oak Ridge UMC Youth Choir will sing.

On Tuesday evening, Bishop Paulo Lockmann will preach at the “Celebration of Worship Service.” Lockmann is resident bishop of the Rio Conference of the United Methodist Church of Brazil. During this service, members will give their church offerings for Brazil. The conference goal is \$100,000. A variety of musicians will participate in the service, including the Bluegrass Disciples of Loudon United Methodist Church (Maryville District) and the Rev. Jimmy Sherrod of French Broad Circuit (Knoxville District).

On Wednesday afternoon, Bishop Swanson will preach at the Sending Forth Service, with music presented by the combined choirs of First Chilhowie UMC (Abingdon District) and the First Baptist Church of Chilhowie.

What decisions?

In addition to the election, Annual Conference members will make several decisions about the future of the church. The Council on Finance and Administration will present a \$15.7 million budget for 2008, reflecting a 1.96 percent increase over the 2007 budget. The Board of Pensions will present a report that will convert retirees to a Medicare supplement program, effective January 2008.

Ten resolutions will be presented for the Annual

Conference vote. Three of the ten were submitted by the Young Adult Ministry Team, requesting inclusion of young adults in church leadership, limiting the times a person can serve as a General Conference delegate, and increasing the young-adult age range.

Five resolutions are related to homosexuality issues, as submitted by the Wytheville District United Methodist Men and the Varnell-Day Sunday School Class of Broad Street UMC in Cleveland District.

Other resolutions concern domestic violence ministry in Holston and the social costs of the Tennessee State Lottery.

Why peanut butter?

The Young Adult Ministry Team will collect peanut butter for distribution to local food pantries in western North Carolina. Holston members can bring peanut butter to registration on Sunday afternoon, or leave it at the designated table in Harrell Center through Tuesday, June 12.

In addition to the Brazil offering, members should bring their churches’ Change for Children offerings to Annual Conference. Change for Children offerings will be accepted on Tuesday at the tent between Stuart Auditorium and Harrell Center. Members are also invited to “Walk for Change”— stroll around the lake – any time between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Change for Children donations support children’s ministries in Holston and in Africa. ■

HOLSTON EVENTS & DATES

JUNE

- 2:** Children’s Day – Camp Dickenson, Camp Lookout, Camp Laurel
- 3:** Peace With Justice Sunday
- 9:** Camp Dickenson Golf Tournament, Draper Valley Course, Draper, Va.
- 10-13:** Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
- 16-26:** Youth in Mission: Czech Republic
- 20:** Moving day for transitioning pastors

JULY

- 17-21:** Jr. High and Sr. High Assembly, Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.
- 23:** Resurrection T-shirt design contest entries due
- 26-28:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women’s School of Christian Mission, Kodak UMC
- 29:** Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering

AUGUST

- 26:** Offering for Katrina Church Recovery

SEPTEMBER

Open House Month

- 9-14:** Open House Week at Alcoa Conference Center
- 15:** Camp Lookout Golf Tournament, Bear Trace, Harrison, Tenn.
- 21-23:** Holston Conference Secretaries Association Conference, Sevierville, Tenn.
- 21-23:** F.U.E.L. Youth Worker Sabbath Retreat
- 22-23:** The Gathering, Native American Ministries, Tellico Plains, Tenn.
- 30:** Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering

OCTOBER

- 5-7:** Youth Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail
- 7:** World Communion Sunday
- 14:** Laity Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 25:** United Methodist Student Day

JANUARY

- 15-25:** “Exodus Experience: In the Footsteps of Moses,” a Wesley Leadership Institute journey led by Bishop James Swanson

To make a correction or post a new date, contact Annette Spence at (865) 293-4130 or thecall@holston.org. For more information on these events, visit <http://upcoming.holston.org>.