



## reading list:

We asked these Holston Conference siblings, "What book is lying on your nightstand?"

### Danny Howe

Director of missions

#### First Broad Street UMC

Kingsport District  
*Preparation material for conference mission trip to Sudan*



### Fred Howe

Building staff

#### First Broad Street UMC

Kingsport District  
*Popular Mechanics magazine*



### Rev. Harry Howe

Church & Community Worker

#### Project Crossroads

Abingdon District  
*Journal of Emergency Medical Services*



### Rev. Ginger Isom

Pastor

#### George Street/Grant's Chapel UMC

Morristown District  
*Coaching 101*, by Robert E. Logan and Sherilyn Carlton



## exchange:

**DANDRIDGE, Tenn.** – Shady Grove UMC seeks a full time director of children's and youth ministry. Qualified applicants will have a bachelor's degree in a related field or 3-5 years relevant experience. Send resumes to: Shady Grove UMC, C/O SPR Team, 1675 Harold Patterson Road, Dandridge, TN 37725, or e-mail [admin@sgumc.com](mailto:admin@sgumc.com). Visit our Web site at [www.sgumc.com](http://www.sgumc.com).

**KNOXVILLE, Tenn.** – Fountain City UMC is currently recruiting for the newly created position of contemporary worship music leader. Responsibilities would include leading music for the contemporary worship service, rehearsing related music teams, and assisting with worship planning. Position requires team organization and past experience with contemporary forms of music and worship. The job requires about 10-12 hours per week. Send resumes to: Stan Frazier, FCUMC, 212 Hotel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37918. ■

## at lunch:

By Annette Spence



# Will Shewey: A winner in evangelism

**T**he Rev. Will Shewey has a message for people who define Sunday morning worship as an hour-long experience.

"If you're going to walk into a church with the preconceived notion that whatever we're doing, we have to be done by noon – you might as well not even come to church."

At Hiltons Memorial United Methodist Church in Big Stone Gap District, the 11 a.m. service typically lasts until 12:45 p.m. Shewey's sermon alone is about 30 minutes long. The experience also includes at least 20 minutes of prayer and thanksgiving, followed by "lots of personal testimonies."

"We don't get in a hurry," says Shewey during a weekday lunch at a German restaurant in Weber City, Va. "You have to give God time for the Holy Spirit to work among his people."

In Shewey's eight years as pastor at Hiltons Memorial, 130 new members have been added to the roll. Worship attendance in the 11 a.m. service has grown from 112 to 225. An 8:30 a.m. service and 7 p.m. service – both started within the last six years – now include 50-70 participants each.

"Clearly the Hiltons church has shown an exceptional growth pattern in a place where there has not been much population growth," Big Stone Gap District Superintendent Dan Taylor stated in a letter nominating Shewey for the Denman Evangelism Award.

Shewey, age 54, was rewarded for his leadership with the Denman Award at Annual Conference in June 2006. The award – designated for evangelists who serve in ways that keep with United Methodist history and tradition – was received by a pastor who has more years in the Pentecostal Holiness Church than in the UMC.

"My dad always said that if he ever became a Christian, he would be United Methodist," says Shewey, who did not attend church until he was invited at age 17 to a Pentecostal church in Rural Retreat, Va.

His father, a farmer of German-Jewish descent, was finally baptized six months before he died. After he heard his son preach his first sermon, the elder Shewey said, "I think you should find something else to do, because I don't think your preaching is going to amount to much."

Shewey doesn't know why his dad felt a connection to the United Methodist Church. But he does find it ironic that he personally felt called to the UMC in 1994 after years of ministry in the Pentecostal Holiness Church, the Church of God, and in non-denominational churches.

Ordained as a Pentecostal preacher in 1976, Shewey moved to Marion, Fla., in 1979 and started a church in an abandoned bowling alley. Two years later, the church received an award for being the fastest growing church in the Pentecostal denomination.

In 1987, he started a nondenominational church in Miami, Fla., before returning to Virginia in 1989 when his father died. He was called to preach at Main Street Pentecostal Holiness Church in Hillsville, Va., where he lived in a



At Gasthaus Edelweiss in Weber City, the Rev. Will Shewey shares stories of his past over buttered rye bread and iced tea – before the sausages and potato salad arrive.

Sunday school room and led the church from 13 in average worship attendance to 120 within four years.

Over the years, Shewey supported his ministry by working as a florist. (In Miami, he was hired to create floral arrangements for Elton John, Helen Reddy, and Jimmy Carter.) In 1994, Shewey reached what he calls "a plateau" and began praying for direction on what to do next. That's when the Rev. Fred Austin called and asked him to consider serving in the UMC.

"It was a direct answer from God about where I should be," he says.

Shewey was appointed as a local pastor to the New River Circuit in Wytheville District, where he served four churches for five years. He was appointed to Hiltons Memorial in 1999.

What advice does he have for others seeking his zeal for making disciples?

"Never underestimate your own ability," he says. "When God calls each of us, he equips us for the task. It's not up to us to give the results. If we trust the Holy Spirit and let it lead us, God will give the increase."

And finally, "Don't be afraid of change. Take the clocks out of the sanctuary." ■

## Nominate the next winners

The Denman Evangelism Awards recognize pastors and lay persons who are doing the vital work of responsible evangelism in ways that are in keeping with United Methodist history and tradition. Nominations for 2007 awards (for clergy, laity, or youth) must be postmarked no later than April 15 and mailed to: Anne Travis, Holston Conference, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850. To download nomination forms, visit <http://evangelism.holston.org>. ■