

in memoriam:**Emmitt Insko**

WILMORE, Ky.— Emmitt Harrison Insko, 79, died Feb. 15, 2002. A retired United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Insko's ministry spanned six decades in Kentucky and Virginia. He was predeceased three weeks earlier by his wife of 58 years, Opal Vice Insko. They are survived by three children, Rethia Ellen Sims, Marilyn Ruth Brown (spouse of Holston elder Rev. Harvey Brown), and Samuel Emmitt Insko; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Feb. 18, 2002, at Wilmore UMC. Interment was Feb. 19 at Hillsboro Cemetery. Memorial gifts may be made to Wilmore UMC.

Gary Lankford

FALL BRANCH, Tenn. — Gary Paul Lankford, 42, died Feb. 18, 2002, at Holston Valley Medical Center. He was pastor at Fall Branch UMC and Logans Chapel UMC in the Kingsport District. The Rev. Lankford is survived by wife, Susan Lankford, Fall Branch; parents, Paul and Edna Lankford, Maryville; brother, John Lankford, Maryville; two sisters, Marlene Ezell, Knoxville, and Elaine Lankford, Maryville; six nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Feb. 20 at Smith Mortuary Chapel in Maryville with the Rev. Tommy Ray Hays officiating. Interment was Feb. 21 at Caylor's Chapel Cemetery in Townsend. ■

■ What's Your Size?

The Call uses the following symbols to identify articles about small, medium or large churches:

S = Churches with average 85 or fewer in principle weekly worship service(s)

M = Average 86 to 225 in worship service(s)

L = Average 226 or more in worship service(s)



(USPS P000-014)

Published biweekly by
THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE
of the United Methodist Church
9915 Kingston Pike, Suite C
Knoxville, TN 37922

Telephone (865) 690-4080 Fax (865) 690-3162
www.holston.org

Application to mail at
Periodicals Postage Rates is pending at
Knoxville, Tennessee

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Call,
P.O. Box 32939, Knoxville, TN 37930-2939.

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bishop's perspective:

By **Ray W. Chamberlain Jr.**

Resident Bishop

**Bishop Chamberlain Shares**

*His Letter To The Rev. Frank M. "Bob" Bostick,
Superintendent Of The Maryville District:*

Dear Bob,

You told me a while ago that you were still trying to figure me out — what makes me tick. Well, I have often wondered about that, too! But now I have a fresh insight into who I am.

My father had a good deal of Irish blood in him. He relished life as much as anyone I have ever known. He was constantly awed by creation. He took thousands of pictures of flowers, mountains, valleys and streams. He traveled the world and captured on film the faces of countless boys and girls whom he dearly loved. I heard him say hundreds of times, "She/he is the most beautiful child I have ever seen!" He meant it. His laughter was contagious. His energy, boundless. He imaged Jesus who set his face like a flint toward Jerusalem.

I have a lot of my dad in me.

And then there is my mother. Her favorite animal is a turtle. She seldom, if ever, becomes excitable. She is reflective. She ponders and mulls. Once during a childhood birthday party in her honor, someone finally missed her. She had gone to her room to read a book. At age 94 she still loves her books and quiet. She is stimulated by conversation about life issues, soul issues, and social issues. She is not petty. She has a reverence for creation. She loves God with all her heart.

I have a lot of my mother in me.

Bob, the new insight into myself is that I am half my dad, half my mother. I am intense and driven as well as reflective and instinctive. During Lent I am especially conscious of this tension within me. Part of me yearns to retreat to quiet. To read. To pray. To ponder. To just be. The other part of me wants to engage the church and the world in confronting the claims of Christ. I love to pour energy into the challenge at hand. I am task oriented and soul oriented! I am motivated and stimulated by the outer and the inner.

So here I am in the middle of Lent obsessed with preaching, worship, witnessing, planning, and appointment making. Yet I am hungry to nourish my soul through the disciplines of devotion and retreat.

What gives me courage is Jesus, who struggled to find balance between his need for time alone with God and for doing the work of his father who sent him.

My struggle is to keep these competing forces in my life in a healthy tension rather than a destructive tension. I never get it quite right. But Lent helps me to be aware of the tension and to prayerfully seek the balance God intends for me.

Well, this is who I am and who I am becoming.

May these be good days for you as you prepare for retirement at Annual Conference. I hold you with respect and appreciation. Your ministry is a blessing to many and an inspiration to me. ■

Grace and peace,

Ray

membership:**Latter-day Saints break into top five largest U.S. churches**

(RNS) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the first time has been listed among the top five largest churches in the United States, according to figures in February.

The Salt Lake City-based church, popularly known as the Mormons, ranked fifth among the 25 largest U.S. churches, according to the 2002 Yearbook of Canadian and American Churches compiled by the National Council of Churches.

The Roman Catholic Church maintained its No. 1 spot, with 63.6 million reported members. The largest Protestant church, in the No. 2 spot, remains the Southern Baptist Convention, with 15.9 million reported members. The United Methodist Church placed third, with 8.3 million members in the United States.

The Latter-day Saints bumped the nation's largest Lutheran body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to sixth place, with 5.1 million members. That move leaves the Methodists as the only mainline Protestant church among the top five — in 1970, three of the top five churches were mainline churches. ■

The top 10 U.S. churches, with membership figures are:

1. **Roman Catholic Church, 63.6 million**
2. **Southern Baptist Convention, 15.9 million**
3. **United Methodist Church, 8.3 million**
4. **Church of God in Christ, 5.4 million**
5. **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5.2 million**
6. **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 5.1 million**
7. **National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., 3.5 million**
8. **Presbyterian Church (USA), 3.4 million**
9. **Assemblies of God, 2.5 million**
10. **Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 2.5 million**

who said that?

"Think of the impact. It's lawyers, it's professional people, it's the cream of the crop of our artistic world. We're not spending near as much money on HIV as we are on terrorism. But which is the greater threat?"

Evangelist Franklin Graham, speaking in Washington on Feb. 18 at a Christian conference on AIDS that was organized by his Samaritan's Purse relief organization.