

Bishop Names New District Superintendents



Stella Roberts



Charles Starks



Brian Taylor

Three new superintendents will be appointed to the Knoxville, Maryville and Wytheville districts at Annual Conference 2002, Bishop Ray Chamberlain recently announced.

Tapped for cabinet positions are the Rev. Stella Roberts, Knoxville District; the Rev. Brian Taylor, Maryville District; and the Rev. Charles Starks, Wytheville District. The superintendents will officially begin serving their districts after Annual Conference in June.

Taylor and Starks will assume offices previously led by the Rev. Bob Bostick (Maryville) and the Rev. J.N. Howard (Wytheville), who both recently announced plans to retire. Roberts will follow the Rev. Jim Whedbee, Knoxville District superintendent since 1998. Whedbee will be taking an appointment in a local church.

"I am so grateful for the three persons who will join the cabinet as district superintendents," Chamberlain said recently. "Each of them bring a spirituality as well as the graces and gifts required for their new office. I look forward to being in ministry with them."

► **Roberts**, 51, has served Keith Memorial UMC in Athens, Tenn., since 1987, previously as associate pastor and currently as senior pastor. She has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry since 1994, chairing the board since 1999. A native of Greenwich, Conn., Roberts attended West Virginia Wesleyan College and Yale Divinity School. She was a member of the West Virginia Annual Conference before transferring to the Holston Conference in 1994. Her spouse, the Rev. Sam Roberts, is professor of religion and philosophy at Tennessee Wesleyan College.

"I always saw myself as a pastor in ministry at a local church, so [serving as district superintendent] is a different kind of ministry for me," Roberts recently told *The Call*. "One thing that excites me is the variety of ministries happening in the Knoxville District. I'm looking forward to learning about

them, meeting the people, and then moving from there to future ministries."

► **Starks**, 47, has served as senior pastor at Asbury UMC in Greeneville, Tenn., since 1997. He also has served at First Newport (Morristown District) and at Pleasantville, Meadowview and the Broadford Circuit, all of the Abingdon District. A native of Bland County, Va., Starks attended Candler School of Theology. He is married to Angela Starks; they have one daughter, Olivia Grace, age 2.

Starks said of his new appointment, "It's a pretty major task because of all the responsibilities that go with it. But it's energizing to think that I'll have the opportunity to be part of a significant region of this conference." Citing Hispanic ministries as an example, Starks said he was impressed with the Wytheville District's "willingness to get on the cutting edge of emerging ministries. I'm waiting to meet with and talk to the folks and get a sense of other visions for ministry."

► **Taylor**, 40, has served at Mountain View UMC in Kingsport, Tenn., since 1998. He previously served at First Pennington Gap and First Morristown. Taylor's home church is Concord UMC in Knoxville, where he met his spouse-to-be, Tricia. They attended Emory & Henry College together; Taylor later attended seminary at Candler School of Theology. The couple has three children: Brittany, 14, Zachary, 12, and Carrie, 6.

"It is quite an honor to be asked to be district superintendent, especially at my age. I'm honored that the cabinet and Bishop have confidence in me," Taylor said recently. He described the Maryville District as "diverse, with a growing, transient population and many opportunities for ministry. There are also several wonderful institutions in the Maryville District," he added, citing Asbury Acres, Camp Wesley Woods, and Hiwassee College. "I'm looking forward to serving there." ■

in memoriam:

Ogleva Street

CLEVELAND, Tenn. — L. Ogleva Street, 89, died March 10, 2002. He was a retired Holston minister who had served several churches, including Glen Alpine, LaFollette-Mount Zion, Anderson Street, Vermont, and Depew's Chapel. The Rev. Street is survived by his wife, Marie Henry Street; one daughter, Jean Henderson, Cleveland; three sisters, Rowena Scott and Olena Hall of Johnson City, and Penny Balingier of Russellville, Ala.; two grandsons; five great-grandsons; and a niece. Funeral services were held March 13 at Morris Baker Funeral Home in Johnson City with the Rev. Robert Haskins and the Rev. Jack Stevens officiating. Interment followed on March 14 at Monte-Vista. Memorial contributions may be made to Wesley Memorial UMC Building Fund in Cleveland, Tenn.; Edgefield UMC Building Fund in Piney Flats, Tenn.; or the Holston Conference Legacy of Commitment pensions campaign.

conference briefs:

'One Great Hour' totals reported

As of March 19, the conference treasurer's office had received \$5,158 in offerings from "One Great Hour of Sharing" on March 10. "One Great Hour" is a denomination-wide offering designated for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which provided aid to Holston districts for flood relief as well as to victims of the Sept. 11 tragedy in New York and Pennsylvania. In 2001, Holston's 935 congregations gave a total of \$39,543 to UMCOR through the "One Great Hour" offering, according to the treasurer's office.

Churches warned about improper fundraising

The United Methodist Church is warning church leaders about a group that claims to be Methodist in order to gain funding for prison ministries. Lorene Wilbur, deputy general secretary for the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), recently sent letters to council directors of each U.S. Annual Conference, alerting them of the ruse.

"...There are persons who are improperly using the name of the GBGM to gain entry into annual conferences, and even some local churches, in a quest for funding, purportedly for the purpose of involvement in prison ministries," Wilbur stated. Churches — especially those located near prison facilities or with prison ministries — should beware of groups or individuals identifying themselves with the Blessed Redeemer Church in Pennsylvania, or as Keith Smith or Lara Zinde, Wilbur warned.

Credit union teams up with pensions campaign

The Holston Methodist Federal Credit Union is offering a personal loan arrangement that will benefit the conference's Legacy of Commitment pensions campaign. Credit-union members are eligible to apply for personal loans at 4.0 percent APR for a period of 12 months, with 50 percent of the interest donated to the campaign. The credit union's board of directors recently made \$200,000 available for the loans, with a potential of \$2,164 gained for the pensions effort. Any clergy or lay member in the Holston Conference is available for a credit-union membership. For more information, visit www.hmfcu.org or call (865) 558-3117. ■

corrections:

It's Chattanooga, not Cleveland

► The location of the Wesley Institute ministers' diversity training in the Chattanooga/Cleveland districts was listed incorrectly in a recent brochure. The April 13 training session will take place at Wesley Memorial UMC in Chattanooga.

► In the March 15 edition of *The Call*, the hours of operation for the Reid Wilson Alzheimer's Respite Care Center at Forrest Avenue UMC should have been reported as 1:00-3:30 p.m. As the center's director, the Rev. Bill Poister's email address is twopoisters@mindspring.com. Poister also reports that Pleasant Grove UMC should not have been listed among participating churches in the Alzheimer's ministry.

We regret the errors. ■