

22 acres, *continued from page 2*

'Huge decision'

The site is located at 11012 Hardin Valley Road, with an office complex and shopping mall anticipated as neighbors. The property is also four miles from Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church, six miles from Cokesbury UMC, and seven miles from Concord UMC. It was briefly discussed that the property could serve a dual purpose – as the site for the Holston Conference Center as well as a new church, Kilday said. The Holston Conference Center would later move 17 miles from its West Knoxville location to Alcoa, Tenn. (See page 5.)

A large nondenominational church, Faith Promise, is 2 ½ miles from Holston's acreage, but is expected to relocate due to the future construction of a parkway popularly known as the "Orange Route." Less than a mile away, Parkway Church of Christ meets in the elementary school and two non-denominational congregations meet at Pellissippi State.

John Templeton, project architect at Foxhollow Goodson in Knoxville, Tenn., was asked to assess the property as soon as the conference considered buying it.

"It lays well for current and future growth," said Templeton, a member at St. Mark UMC, Knoxville District. "There are lots of residential areas nearby, which is a positive in that it's a basis to draw from immediately."

When the church building is complete, it will likely sit on a rise overlooking Hardin Valley Road, Templeton said. "You will see the church well from the road, and there are some vistas that evoke a worship setting."

"It was a blessing that we found this," said Edwards, noting that the property was among the last available in Hardin Valley. "This was a huge decision for the conference."

The purchase reflects the "risk-taking love" phrase in Holston's vision statement, Edwards added. "I think this fits in with that, as we build new disciples and strengthen people in their faith journeys."

Currently, Richards is "prayerfully considering leadership" of the future church with a goal to move the project forward soon. Leaders from the Committee on Congregational Development have frequently cited the success of Sycamore Tree UMC, a church start that was "parented" by Fairview UMC of Maryville District. Edwards acknowledged that the model followed by Sycamore Tree and Fairview could be similar to the model used to begin the new Hardin Valley church.

"We are very intentionally looking at a new model," Edwards said. "We're aware that [Holston Conference] has had mixed results in starting new churches over the last 15 years. We strongly believe God is calling us to start a new church in the Hardin Valley area, and we strongly sense that God is calling us to do that in a new way."

Kilday cited other Holston churches that years ago had the opportunity to buy prime, highly visible land but balked at the asking price. Today, some of those churches are buried in residential areas or landlocked with little opportunity for growth.

"I know in my heart that in spite of the price we paid, in 15 years we'll be saying, 'I'm glad we bought that property,' and not, 'Oh my goodness, why did we ever buy that land?'" ■

We made it,

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clients have also included Church Street UMC, Cherokee UMC, Munsey Memorial UMC, and the Southeastern Jurisdiction (Shackford Hall, Bethea Welcome Center).

"I think it turned out better than I thought," Templeton said of the new conference center. "The shape of the building is odd, but we were able to get everything to fit. I appreciated the flexibility of conference leaders in understanding needs that could be met, and needs that could not."

Conference leaders have stated that the relocation was a practice in good stewardship, providing Holston with equity and eliminating \$100,000 annually to lease office space at Cokesbury.

An open house will probably be planned for fall, conference leaders said. The new address is P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, Tenn., 37701-0850. For directions to the new site, visit www.newlocation.holston.org.

All staff members now have direct phone numbers. For a list, see the next edition of *The Call*. ■

exchange:

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JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – The Holston Conference Youth Ministries Office seeks a summer youth intern. College and seminary students are eligible to apply. Internship runs from May 30 to Aug. 8 (negotiable). Position is located at the Johnson City office; traveling to other locations for summer events is expected. Stipend is a \$2,000 scholarship, plus work-related expenses. Housing arrangement is not included. For more info or to get an application, visit holstonyouth.com or call (423) 928-2156 x243.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – First Farragut UMC seeks a full-time director of youth and young adult ministries. United Methodist background/experience is preferred. Send resume with references by April 30 to: Youth Search, First Farragut UMC, 12733 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37934.

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. ■

HOLSTON EVENTS & DATES

APRIL

- 6:** Good Friday – conference and district offices closed
- 8:** Easter Sunday
- 13:** Cross-Bearers for Youth, Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, Tenn.
- 15:** Change for Children grant application deadline
- 16:** Camp Wesley Woods Benefit Golf Tournament, Beaver Brook Golf Course, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 16:** Denman Evangelism Award nominations due
- 17:** Clergy Day with the Bishop, State Street UMC, Bristol, Va.
- 21:** F.U.E.L.: Let Justice Roll, youth and children's ministry training, Shady Grove UMC, Dandridge, Tenn.
- 22:** Native American Ministries Sunday
- 23:** Holston Conference Clergy Golf Tournament, Morristown, Tenn.
- 28:** Buffalo Mountain Camp Golf Benefit, Tri-Cities Golf Course, Blountville, Tenn.
- 29:** Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering

MAY

- 12:** Children's Day – Camp Wesley Woods
- 19:** Mental Health Matters: A Day of Conversation, Shady Grove UMC, Dandridge, Tenn.
- 19-20:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women's Spiritual Enrichment Experience, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
- 26:** Children's Day – Buffalo Mountain Camp
- 28:** Memorial Day – Conference and district offices closed

JUNE

- 2:** Children's Day – Camp Dickenson, Camp Lookout
- 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

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>.



... to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples ...