

● R.W. Aytes

CROSSVILLE, Tenn. – Roland Willis Aytes, 93, died March 25 in Cumberland County Medical Center. He was a retired Holston clergy member who had served Pittman Center, Tazewell Circuit, and Dandridge, among other churches. The Rev. Aytes is survived by four children, Elise Hook of Baton Rouge, La.; Willis Aytes of Knoxville; Anna Aytes of Denver; and Costen Aytes of Denver; two sisters, Ruth Lee and Roberta Wampler; nine grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 29 in the chapel of Schubert Funeral Home. Interment followed in Frankfort Church Cemetery.

● Cecil Harville

BEAN STATION, Tenn. – Cecil Harville, 70, died March 26 at his home. He was a retired Holston clergy member who had served Mary's Chapel and Mooresburg UMC. The Rev. Harville is survived by his wife, Janet Harville; mother, Mary Harville; four sons, William Harville, James Harville, Robert Harville, and Joe Hendgen; and 11 grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 28 at First Jefferson City UMC with the Rev. Richard Patterson, the Rev. Stephen Burkhart, and the Rev. Janice Robertson officiating. Memorial gifts may be made to any local United Methodist church in Harville's memory.

● Clancy Loudy

PEARISBURG, Va. – Clancy Homer Loudy, 88, died March 17 in Carilion Giles Memorial Nursing Home. He was a retired Holston clergy member who had served Pine Grove Park, Rich Valley-Carvosso, and Falls Mills-Midway, among other churches. The Rev. Loudy is survived by one son, Ralph Loudy of Jonesborough, Tenn.; one daughter, Phyllis Bowen of Pearisburg, Va.; one sister, Thelma Cobb Jones of Kingsport, Tenn.; six grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 20 at First Pearisburg UMC with the Rev. Tony Collins and the Rev. Fred Austin officiating. A graveside service was held March 22 at East Lawn Cemetery in Kingsport. ■

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Photo by Annette Bender, The Call

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Representing Holston Conference, a group of United Methodist Women visit Cokesbury Center on their way to a Southeastern Jurisdictional UMW meeting in Louisville, Ky. Pictured from left to right: Conference UMW President Ellen Moore, from Dublin UMC (Wytheville District); Ardell Reynolds, from Asbury UMC (Morristown District); Deborah Tallent, from Mt. Olivet Galax UMC (Wytheville District); and Betty Scott, from First Broad Street UMC (Kingsport District).

College News

Emory & Henry receives largest-ever gift

By Dirk Moore

EMORY Va. - Charles Emory Bryant, who attended Emory & Henry College from 1879 to 1880, was devoted to his eight daughters and to the notion – not common in his day – that young women should be well educated.

Recently, his youngest daughter, Anna Bryant Thompson, honored her father, his ideals and Emory & Henry with a \$10 million bequest, the largest gift to the college in its 167-year history.

Thompson, who died Nov. 21 at the age of 98, has designated the entire amount of her gift toward a scholarship fund in her father's memory.

"Emory & Henry is extremely touched by this generous gift," said E&H President Thomas R. Morris.

"Anna Thompson's life was an example of commitment to the value of higher education, and her generosity expressed through this gift is a great honor for our college community."

A businesswoman who studied fashion design in New York City and Europe, Thompson was the owner of a dress shop in Richmond, Va., for many years. According to her niece, Mildred Tompkins, Thompson was an astute investor during the time she ran her business and later in retirement as she managed her resources.

After graduating from Marion College, a two-year college for women in Marion, Va., which closed in the 1970s, Thompson studied at the Parsons School of Design in New York City before heading to Paris to continue

Denman nominations: April 15

Nomination forms for the Denman Awards are available from the conference office (865-690-4080), from district offices, or from the Foundation for Evangelism Web site (www.evangelize.org/main.html). Nominations are due by April 15 to the Rev. Sandra Johnson, 829 Dallas Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405-2735.

Children's Day: May 22

All elementary-age children are invited to attend the nearest Holston camp for Children's Day 2004 on Saturday, May 22. This new conference event has been scheduled in place of the traditional Children's Day at Annual Conference to allow for convenience and wider participation. Games, campfire songs, a picnic lunch, and devotions are planned at Fort Blackmore, Buffalo Mountain, Dickenson, Laurel, Lookout, and Wesley Woods. For more information, contact Anita Henderlight at (865) 690-4080 or anitahenderlight@holston.org, or visit www.holston.kids.com.

Clergy golf tourney: June 17

The second Holston Pastors' Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held June 17 immediately following the last session of Annual Conference. The tournament begins at 3:45 p.m. at Waynesville Country Club in Waynesville, N.C. Cost is \$45 per person. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for student pastors. For entries and questions, contact Tom Seay at (865) 588-6562 or (865) 693-8219. ■

her education in the fashion business. Before starting her own shop, she worked as a buyer for the Thalhimier Brothers department store in Richmond.

She was married to Charles Thompson, the owner of a Richmond flour mill, who preceded her in death. Tompkins described her aunt as an early "women's libber" who loved her husband, her home, decorating and her work."

Her large gift to Emory & Henry is a natural extension of her interest in the future of young people, Tompkins said. "She believed she could make a big difference in helping young people by supporting Emory & Henry. She always has liked helping young people who wanted to make the best of their lives through a good education." ■