

bishop's speaking schedule



- ☛ **May 22:** Soddy UMC (Cleveland District), 11 a.m.
- ☛ **May 23:** Summer Camp Training, Camp Wesley Woods (Maryville District), 5:30 p.m.
- ☛ **May 24:** New Ordinands, Full Connection Elders, and Deacons, Knoxville Conference Center, 11 a.m.
- ☛ **May 25:** New Probationers, Knoxville Conf. Center, 11 a.m.
- ☛ **May 29:** First Johnson City UMC, 11 a.m.; Sulphur Springs UMC (Johnson City District), 3 p.m. ■



The Call

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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)

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wings

By Bishop James Edward Swanson Sr.



Giving thanks for your prayers and support

I am sure that many of you still have old friends from your school days. I have a friend from seminary – Joseph Roberson – who remains a friend today. After seminary, Joe and I served together in the South Georgia Annual Conference.

I remember inviting Joe to preach for me, and he did an excellent job in his sermon presentation. He closed his sermon by saying that when we look back at our lives and see how good God has been, we are often moved to say, "Thank you, Jesus." He said, "If I were a person who spoke Spanish, I would say, 'Gracias, señor.' If I were a person who spoke German, I would say, 'Danke schon.' If I were French, I would say, 'Merci.' If I were Portuguese, I would say, 'Obrigado.' But since I am from Georgia, I would simply say, 'Thank you, Lord!'"

Well, I want all of you in the Holston Annual Conference to know that from the bottom of my heart and the hearts of the women and men of the Appointment Cabinet, we say, "Thank y'all."

We say this for the countless times you have prayed for us as we sought God's will in this time of appointment making. We realize with all humility that our system is not perfect, but it has served the United Methodist Church and our predecessor churches well for

more than 200 years. Make no mistake about this: The Appointment Cabinet and I have felt your prayers – have been strengthened and encouraged by them. It is in this spirit that we say again, "Thank you."

I am aware that the difficult work is still ahead of us – the work of growing together as pastors and congregations. So, praying time is not over. We must continue to pray that God's will be done where we live, worship and serve God.

Keep on praying and believing God for the best. Keep on praying that the women and men we send to be your pastors will serve as servant leaders, and that a true partnership in ministry might be established. In addition, I ask pastors to continue to pray that God so fix their hearts that they may be receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Most of all, I pray that when God calls us from labor to reward, he will not only say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," but that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will also say to us, "Thank you for a life well lived in commitment to the Kingdom, for being faithful in a few things, for telling them of my love for them."

Holston, thank you for your prayerful support in the past ... today ... and in the days, weeks, months and years to come. ■



exchange:

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – First Knoxville UMC seeks to fill a maintenance position, with full charge of facilities, grounds care, custodial, cleaning and security. Heavy lifting involved. Prior experience and references required. Contact First UMC, 3316 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919, (865) 525-0435.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – Marvin's Chapel UMC is seeking a part-time organist for Sunday morning services, choir, and special event programs. Submit resume to Pastor C. Dennis Ford, 1882 Old Boones Creek, Johnson City, TN 37615, e-mail dennisford@earthlink.net, or call (423) 753-8821.

BRISTOL, Tenn. – Addilynn UMC seeks a part-time youth leader and a part-time music director. Positions need to be filled immediately. E-mail Teddy Stevens at TEDORAG@aol.com.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. – Munsey Memorial UMC seeks full-time director of youth ministries. Qualifications: College degree in youth ministry, Christian education, seminary graduate or equivalent; ability to work in a team relationship with staff, counselors and youth; organization and communication skills (verbal and written). Send resume to: Munsey Memorial UMC, P.O. Box 1336, Johnson City, TN 37605. Attn: Senior Pastor. E-mail: info@munsey.org. Application deadline: May 31.

APISON, Tenn. – Apison UMC (Cleveland District) seeks a full-time director of children and youth. The 10-week program will start in June and continue to early August. Contact:



reading list:

We asked these participants at a recent Big Stone Gap District clergy meeting, "What book is lying on your nightstand?"

▼ Bill Porter

Nottingham/Mendota UMC
The Purpose-Driven Church,
by Rick Warren



▼ Tom Reed

First Pennington Gap UMC
*Rethinking the Church:
A Challenge to Creative Redesign
in an Age of Transition*,
by James Emery White



▼ Ken Sprinkle

East Stone Gap/
Legion Memorial UMC
The Purpose-Driven Church,
by Rick Warren ■



Peace with Justice: May 22

"Peace with Justice Sunday" is one of six Special Sundays in the United Methodist Church and is scheduled for May 22. When churches take special offerings on this day, half of the offering supports Peace with Justice ministries globally through the General Board of Church and Society. The other half assists annual conference-related work. To learn more or to order free resources, visit <http://www.umcsgiving.org/content/sundays/peace.asp> or call toll-free (888) 346-3862. To learn more about Holston Conference Peace with Justice activities, contact Carol Green at cergreen@charter.net. ■