



Photo by Annette Spence, The Call

The Rev. Arturo Reyna (right) visits with the Rev. Kenneth Sawyer as members arrive at Lake Junaluska for the 2006 Holston Annual Conference.

It will also eliminate some confusion. "We have housing registration and event registration in different locations, but this will put everything under one roof," says Ray. "Plus the Haywood County Chamber Visitor's Center will be housed in the building, so we hope to have even more folks exposed to Lake Junaluska."

Plans are on the drawing board to build a new clubhouse for the public golf course across the road, which is also part of the jurisdictional facilities.

Plus, plans have been discussed for some time about expanding Stuart Auditorium, the centerpiece of the assembly grounds, and adding heating and air conditioning to the facility so that it could comfortably be used year-round.

"We could host youth events during the winter," Ray says. "That would give us a real boost."

Plans are in place to make the entire grounds "technology friendly." "Our goal is for you to be able to take your laptop down on the beautiful Rose Walk and use it," Carr says.

Carr hopes future programs will be responsive to the church's needs. "We want to be a little more focused on what we offer and provide more things that are cutting edge. We're constantly searching for new things that can be done to accomplish our mission.

"I hope people won't let themselves get caught up in all the continuing hype, and experience Lake Junaluska as pro-Jesus Christ and pro-ministry of Christ." ■

"This facility will be an important statement for Lake Junaluska hospitality," Carr says. "It will be the first building people come in contact with and will be filled with servant leaders ready to take care of people's needs."

Carr says the importance of the name goes beyond an important bishop who has strong ties to the Carolinas.

"That the center is named for an African-American couple will hopefully be a statement of reconciliation of the early racist history of this facility," he says. "Since the mid-1950s, the leadership here has worked diligently as a place that is seen and experienced as a place that serves all of God's children."

The first Lake Junaluska building named for an African American will be a symbol of the United Methodist Church's diversity, as it will be decorated with art from African-American, Native American, Latino and Asian cultures. "It will mirror the commitment to serve all those ministries that exist within the Southeastern Jurisdiction," Carr says.

## A brief history of Lake Junaluska

By Neill Caldwell

**LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (UMNS)** – The name "Junaluska" honors Chief Junaluska of the Cherokee Indians, who were native to western North Carolina.

Junaluska was chief when the Cherokee were removed to Oklahoma in 1838, and he was among those who made the long "Trail of Tears" walk to the west. He slipped away to return to those tribe members who remained hidden in the Great Smoky Mountains and remained chief until his death.

The tallest mountain visible from the cross at Lake Junaluska Assembly is named for him, as is the lake, which was created by damming Richland Creek.

According to a history written by Bill Lowry, Lake Junaluska Assembly celebrates its birth as June 25, 1913, when the Second General Missionary Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was convened in the new auditorium by the lake (which was not yet filled with water). The 4,000 attendees stayed in nearby Waynesville, as the first hotel was not completed until 1914.

In 1913 there were just 13 homes at Lake Junaluska. Today there are more than 700. A larger hotel, the Junaluska Inn, was built in 1917 but burned the following year. The Methodist Episcopal Church,

South, built a new hotel on the same site and named the Lambuth Inn for Bishop Walter Russell Lambuth.

In 1923, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, built a large classroom building, Shackford Hall, at the opposite end of the lake. Both of these buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The assembly went into bankruptcy during the Great Depression, but in 1936 the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, organized a "Save Junaluska" campaign, which raised \$100,000 and brought the organization out of debt. The assembly became property of the newly formed Methodist Church in 1940, and in 1948, the church transferred ownership to the Southeastern Jurisdiction. In addition to being a conference center, Lake Junaluska remains home to offices and agencies of the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

The post-war years also witnessed a building boom. Stuart Auditorium was enclosed and a number of facilities were created. The World Methodist Council moved its offices from New York to Lake Junaluska in 1955. ■

Caldwell is a freelance writer based in High Point, N.C.

## HOLSTON EVENTS & DATES

### JULY

**4:** Conference and district offices closed  
**10-14:** Junior High Assembly and Senior High Assembly, Emory & Henry College, Emory, Va.

**27-29:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission

**30:** Holston Home Fifth Sunday offering

### AUGUST

**5-12:** Young Adult Mission Trip, Charleston, S.C.

**6:** Holston Conference Night at the Ballpark, Kodak, Tenn.

**18-19:** United Methodist Men's Annual Meeting, Comfort Inn, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

**26:** Camp Lookout Golf Tournament, Bear Trace Golf Course near Chattanooga, Tenn.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Open House Month

**4:** Conference and district offices closed for Labor Day

**14:** Ministers' Day Apart, Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.

**16-17:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

**21-22:** Holston Conference Secretaries' Association Retreat, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

**22-24:** F.U.E.L. Youth Worker Sabbath Retreat, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

**23-24:** The Gathering, Native American Ministries, Tellico Plains, Tenn.

**29-1:** S.O.A.R., a Young Adult Retreat, Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, Tenn.

### OCTOBER

**1:** World Communion Sunday

**6-8:** Youth Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail

**7:** Wesley House Adult & Youth Golf Tournament, Knoxville, Tenn.

**8:** Natural Church Development Orientation, Cokesbury Center, Knoxville, Tenn.

**12:** Ministers' Day Apart, Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.

**15:** Laity Sunday

**17:** Wesley & Worship seminar, Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tenn.

**17-18:** African-American Clergy Retreat, Buffalo Mountain Camp, Jonesborough, Tenn.

**29:** Holston Home Fifth Sunday offering

### NOVEMBER

**5:** Clergywomen's Retreat, Buffalo Mountain Camp, Jonesborough, Tenn.

**9:** Ministers' Day Apart, Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.

**12:** Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday

**26:** United Methodist Student Day

### JANUARY

**12-14:** Resurrection spiritual weekend for youth, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

**19-21:** Resurrection spiritual weekend for youth, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

**19-21:** Divine Rhythm spiritual weekend for young adults, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

For more information on these events, visit <http://upcoming.holston.org>. For corrections or additions, e-mail [thecall@holston.org](mailto:thecall@holston.org) or call Annette Spence toll-free at (866) 690-4080.