

We asked these new officeholders, who were installed at Annual Conference, "What book is lying on your nightstand?"

● **Rev. Andy Ferguson**

President, Council on Finance & Administration
Cleveland, Tenn.

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith, by Marcus J. Borg

● **Larry Martin**

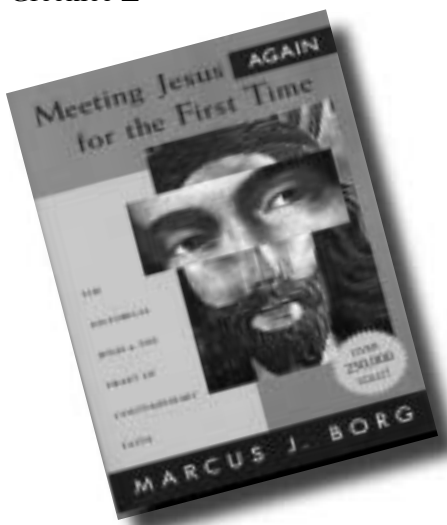
Chair, Discipleship Team
Maryville, Tenn.

The Purpose-Driven Life: What on Earth am I Here for? by Rick Warren

● **Rev. Mat Merker**

Conference secretary of global ministries
Benton, Tenn.

And If I Perish: Frontline U.S. Army Nurses in World War II, by Evelyn M. Monahan and Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee ■



Felton & Swanson will lead clergy conferences

The Conference Orders/Fellowship Steering Committee recently announced two regional clergy conferences, set for Tuesday, Oct. 19, at State Street United Methodist Church in Bristol, Va., and Thursday, Oct. 21, at Cokesbury UMC in Knoxville, Tenn.



Rev. Gayle Felton

The Rev. Gayle Felton will be the keynote speaker at both conferences on the theme, "Water Washed, Bread Fed, Spirit Led: The Sacraments as a Basis of Our Unity." Felton is a clergy member of the North Carolina Annual Conference where she was ordained elder in 1983. She has served as a consultant, speaker, and writer for the General Board of Discipleship. Felton was the writer of the final version of "By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism," adopted by the 1996 General Conference as the church's official interpretive statement. She also wrote "This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion," adopted by the 2004 General Conference as the church's official interpretive statement.

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. will be the liturgist and preacher at the two gatherings. Swanson was elected to the episcopacy in July and assigned as Holston's resident bishop, effective Sept. 1. At the time of his election, he was superintendent of the Savannah District of the South Georgia Annual Conference. Swanson's most recent pastoral appointment was St. Mary's Road UMC, Columbus, Ga., where the congregation grew from 16 active members to a membership of 950 with an average attendance of over 525. He has served as chair of the Board of Commissioners, Housing Authority of Columbus, Ga.

All clergy are urged to attend one of these regional conferences. The cost will be \$10 (including lunch). A brochure with registration information will be mailed by Sept. 1. For more information, call the Rev. Carol Wilson, chair of Orders/Fellowship Steering Committee at (423) 282-6722, or the Rev. Doug Smith, steward of clergy concerns, at (865) 690-4080. ■

● **Sept. 21: International prayer day**

(UMNS) His Eminence, Sunday Mbang, Prelate of the Methodist Church of Nigeria and chairperson of the World Methodist Council, is calling on all Methodists to join the International Day of Prayer for Peace on Sept. 21. The observance is the World Council of Churches' effort to coordinate with the International Day for Peace, established in 1981 by the United Nations. United Methodist Women also is calling upon its membership to participate in group and individual prayer vigils and services on Sept. 21. More information is available at www.overcomingviolence.org.

● **Sept. 30: Redwine applications**

The Redwine Committee awards grants to church groups starting new ministries or needing additional funding for newer ministries. Grants for program ministries (not "brick and mortar") are expected to be awarded in April 2005 in amounts of \$2,500. Applications are due Sept. 30. Forms are available in district offices or through Committee Chair John Grimm at (540) 639-5369 or grimm2@intergate.com.

● **Oct. 1-3: Youth pilgrimage**

Youth are invited to participate in "The Road to Damascus: Exploring Faith on the Appalachian Trail" Oct. 1-3. Brett Mitchell, director of the School of the Pilgrim in Chapel Hill, N.C., will lead a pilgrimage for 30 students beginning in Troutdale, Va., and concluding in Damascus, Va. Registration fees are \$80 (postmarked by Sept. 3) or \$90 (postmarked after Sept. 3). For more information, visit www.holstonyouth.com or call the youth ministries office at (423) 928-2156.

● **Oct. 4-8: Parish nurse training**

The parish nurse is a registered professional nurse who serves through the church. A preparation course will be provided Oct. 4-8 at Tennessee Wesleyan College's Fort Sanders Nursing Department in Knoxville, Tenn. For more information, call Coordinator Alice Grady at (865) 777-5100.

● **Oct. 22-24: Youth worker retreat**

F.U.E.L. stands for "Fueling, Uplifting and Educating Leaders." The next FUEL event, "Sabbath," happens Oct. 22-24, when youth workers are invited to a weekend with spiritual direction in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Held at Wa-Floy Retreat Center, Steiner-Bell Lodge, the retreat will be led by the Rev. Judith Anna, with Ceila Whitler as music leader. Fees start at \$115 for early-bird registrants sharing a room with three others. For more information, visit www.holstonyouth.com or call the youth office at (423) 928-2156.

● **Oct. 27-29: Stewardship seminar**

ATHENS, Tenn. – Clergy and laity are invited to attend a "Wesley & Stewardship" seminar at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens Oct. 27-29. Sponsored by the Wesley Institute, the seminar features, among other speakers, the Rev. Daniel Bell, professor of theological ethics at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Registration fee is \$40, not including meals or accommodations. For more information, call the Wesley Institute at (423) 928-2156 or visit <http://holstonconference.com/upcoming.html> for a brochure. ■

In Memoriam

● **Neville Hammer**

LENOIR CITY, Tenn. – Neville A. Hammer Jr., 74, died Aug. 2 at his home. The Rev. Hammer was a retired Holston clergy member who had served Central (Lenoir City), St. Mark (Clinton), St. Mark (Knoxville), among other churches. He most recently attended Trinity (Lenoir City) UMC. Hammer is survived by his wife of 50 years, Arlita Forchand Hammer; two sons, Gene Hammer of Georgia and Al Hammer III of Maryland; two daughters, Lisa Vasilatos of Knoxville, Tenn., and Amy Reedy of Kingsport, Tenn.; one sister, Aileen Homer; three brothers, Cecil Hammer of Knoxville, Gene Hammer of North Carolina, and John Hammer of Georgia; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Aug. 4 at Click Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Burnett, the Rev. Gary Baker, and the Rev. Walter Smalley officiating. Interment services were held Aug. 5 at Lakeview Cemetery. Memorial contributions, marked for "camping scholarships," may be made to Camp Wesley Woods, 329 Wesley Woods Road, Townsend, TN 37882.

● **George Buchanan**

ANDERSONVILLE, Tenn. – George L. Buchanan, 82, died Aug. 13 at his residence. The Rev. Buchanan was a retired Holston clergy member and the pastor emeritus of Andersonville UMC. He is survived by his wife, Emily Bim Russell Buchanan of Andersonville; two daughters, Jane Hunley of Powell, and Wylene Campbell of Andersonville; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Aug. 15 at Andersonville UMC with the Rev. Tom Ballard and the Rev. Don Jones officiating. Interment services were held Aug. 16 at Fairview Cemetery in New Tazewell, Tenn. Memorial contributions may be made to the Andersonville UMC Parsonage Fund, 3944 Andersonville Hwy, Andersonville, TN 37705. ■

