



KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Bearden UMC seeks full-time church and family ministries director. Contact Rev. Tom Seay, Bearden UMC, 4407 Sutherland Avenue, Knoxville, TN, (865) 588-6562 or (865) 599-8419. **L**



The Call

www.holston.org

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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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Oct. 27-29:

Stewardship seminar

ATHENS, Tenn. – Clergy and laity are invited to a "Wesley & Stewardship" seminar at Tennessee Wesleyan College Oct. 27-29. Sponsored by the Wesley Institute, the seminar features the Rev. Daniel Bell, professor of theological ethics at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Registration is \$40, not including meals or accommodations. Registration deadline is Oct. 22. Contact the Wesley Institute at (423) 928-2156 or e-mail carylgriffin@holston.org.

Oct. 28:

Humor as therapy workshop

MARYVILLE, Tenn. – Asbury Place of Maryville invites Holston members to an Oct. 28 workshop, "Laughing All the Way Home: Using Humor as a Therapeutic Approach in Ministry." The workshop features as speaker the Rev. Michael Williams, Nashville-area preacher and storyteller. Cost is \$25, including lunch. For more information, call Bob Hayes at (865) 984-1660, ext. 2002.

Nov. 3:

Youth grant deadline

Each year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries gives Youth Service Fund (YSF) grants to missions inside and outside the conference. For more information or to receive a 2005 grant application, visit www.holstonyouth.com or call (423) 928-2156. The application deadline is Nov. 3.

Nov. 12-14:

History preservation

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. – The Holston Conference Commission on Archives and History is interested in helping congregations find, protect and share the histories of their churches. Historians are encouraged to attend the 2004 Southeastern Jurisdictional Preservation Workshop, held Nov. 12-14 at the SEJ Heritage Center in Lake Junaluska, N.C. Cost is \$45, not including lodging and meals. E-mail heritage@sejunc.org or call (828) 452-2881, ext. 781.

Nov. 20:

Conference racism dialogue

GRAY, Tenn. – Holston members are invited to a conference-wide dialogue, "Racism: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. Really?" The dialogue will be held at Gray United Methodist Church, Saturday, Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bishop James Swanson will be keynote speaker. The conference is sponsored by Holston's Religion and Race Committee, Outreach/Advocacy Team, and Peace With Justice Team. Additional information will be provided in the next issue. **■**

Wings

By Bishop James Edward Swanson Sr.

When our success depends on others

William B. Lawrence wrote in the March 15, 1995, issue of "Leadership Letters": *Complaints about leaders are commonplace. Laity who volunteer to lead frequently face criticism. Anyone, ordained or lay, who holds a program or administrative staff position is a potential target.*

Unfortunately, the church often mirrors society. In today's world, most of us have become very good at playing the blame game. It is always someone else's fault. We find ourselves in various camps blaming and fighting each other. Somehow, we must wake up and realize that the church is a fellowship. We are all fellows in the same ship. My future is inextricably tied to yours, and yours is tied in an inseparable knot to mine.

Research tells us that churches with long pastoral tenures experience more growth than churches with short-term pastoral tenures. I have my theory as to why this happens. Churches function like marriages. They thrive as the quality of the relationship improves. And you can't develop quality relationships in one to four years.

The United Methodist Church faces

a unique challenge in developing quality relationships because it's easier to divorce rather than to work together for common ground. After all, the pastor is only appointed for a year at a time. If we don't agree, it's easy for laypersons to go home and wait the pastor out. It's easy for pastors to approach their district superintendents and bishop to request a move. With short-term pastors, the demand for quick success increases and the congregation's impatience with pastors also increases. Roy Trueblood in his training manual, "Partners in Ministry: Clergy and Laity," writes: *For the past 25 years business leaders have been faced with increased competition, demands for quality service, and reduced prices from customers ... They have been asking the work force to produce more, increase quality, cut production costs, and satisfy the customer.*

Trueblood insists – and I agree – that laity and clergy must become partners in ministry rather than adversaries.

My success depends on you, and your success depends on me. Let's covenant to quit fighting and work toward developing partnerships. **■**



Bishop Joseph Kurtz (above right) presents the crozier to Bishop James Swanson during a recent service welcoming Swanson to Holston Conference. Kurtz is bishop of the Roman Catholic Church's Diocese of Knoxville.

Wednesday Web
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