

survey:

## Terror victims donations will not sap other charities

(RNS) Most Americans who made charitable donations in response to the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Centers say they intend to give as much or more than they usually give to other charities, according to a report released Oct. 23 by a nonprofit coalition of charitable groups. About 70 percent of the 1,009 respondents to the Independent Sector poll said they contributed to disaster-related charities in some form after the attacks, including 58 percent who donated money to such charities. Of those who donated money, more than half -- 73 percent -- said they would maintain or increase their usual giving to charitable causes. About 26 percent said they would reduce their usual giving or not give any more money at all. About half of all respondents said a weakening economy would not affect their charitable giving. About 28 percent said a weakening economy would cause them to reduce giving "somewhat," while 11 percent said such a situation would cause them to greatly reduce giving. Nine percent said they would stop giving completely if the economy weakened. The economy's performance "presents a cause for concern," said Sara E. Melendez, president and CEO of Independent Sector. "The convergence of three factors -- the terrorist attacks, a shaky economy, and rising needs -- has made this a precarious time for charities as they work to serve their communities," Melendez said. "However, the results of this poll indicate that most Americans are thinking of their giving to Sept. 11 charities as over and above their normal giving."

- What's Your Size?
- The Call* uses the following symbols to identify articles about small, medium or large churches:
- ☺ Churches with average 85 or fewer in principle weekly worship service(s)
  - ☹ Average 86 to 225 in worship service(s)
  - ⓪ Average 226 or more in worship service(s)

*The Call*

(USPS P000-014)  
Published biweekly by  
THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE  
of the United Methodist Church  
9915 Kingston Pike, Suite C  
Knoxville, TN 37922  
Telephone (865) 690-4080 Fax (865) 690-3162  
www.holston.org

Application to mail at  
Periodicals Postage Rates is pending at  
Knoxville, Tennessee

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Call,  
P.O. Box 32939, Knoxville, TN 37930-2939.

Ray W. Chamberlain, Jr.....Bishop  
Kevin Slimp .....Director of Communications  
Annette Bender .....Editor  
Rita Broderick.....Circulation Manager  
Dion Dykes .....Layout Artist

in memoriam:

## Nancy Scott Seay

■ **Chattanooga, Tenn.**  
Nancy Scott Seay, 48, of Chattanooga died Oct. 24, 2001, after a long fight with cancer. She was the wife of the Rev. Tom Seay, Holston minister and pastor at Tyner UMC. She was a member of Tyner. Seay is survived by her husband; sons, Paul and Ryan Seay, both of Chattanooga; her father, Russell Scott of Oakdale, Tenn.; a brother, Gary Scott; a niece, nephew, and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Graveside services were held Oct. 27 at Hamilton Memorial Gardens. A worship celebration was also held on Oct. 27 with the Rev. Al Bowles, the Rev. Brian Burch and the Rev. J.N. Howard officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Tyner UMC Handicapped Ministry Fund or the Building Fund, 6805 Standifer Gap Road, Chattanooga TN 37421. ■

exchange:

☹ **Church Hill, Tenn.**  
Church Hill First UMC seeks a part-time nursery worker and part-time youth director. For job descriptions, call (423) 357-5564 or send resume to: P.O. Box 307, Church Hill, TN 37642.

☹ **Surgoinsville, Tenn.**  
First UMC of Surgoinsville is seeking a part-time youth director for youth in grades 7 through 12. Deadline for applications is Dec. 10, 2001. Call (423) 345-2279 for information on how to apply.

■ **Evanston, Ill.**  
The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in the United Methodist Church seeks candidates for its General Secretariat position. For fullest consideration, applications must be received by Dec. 17, 2001. Visit [www.umc.org/gcsr](http://www.umc.org/gcsr) or contact Bishop Bruce R. Ough at (614) 844-6200 ext. 215 for more information. ■

bulletin:

## November 11, 2001 is Organ Donor Sunday

The United Methodist Church designates the second week of November as Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday -- this year, on Nov. 11. The event is close to Thanksgiving because it's "viewed as time to come together around the issues of life and Thanksgiving," according to the United Methodist Church website at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).

■ **Congregations are encouraged to support OTDS by including the topic in their worship services. For more information, contact:**

- **Tri-Cities** area or southwest Virginia: Mountain Region Donor Services, (888) 562-3774 or [kkennedy@dcids.org](mailto:kkennedy@dcids.org)
- **Knoxville** and surrounding areas: Tennessee Donor Services, (865) 588-1031
- **Chattanooga** and surrounding areas: Tennessee Donor Services (423) 756-5736. ■

commentary:

By Karen A. Greenwaldt  
General Secretary  
General Board of Discipleship

## How is it with your soul?

A long time ago, a friend asked me, "How is it with your soul?" He wasn't asking that as one might ask a person on the sidewalk, "How are you?" while walking on without waiting for an answer. I tried to pass off an answer with "It's fine." My friend did not accept my initial answer. Instead my friend waited for an answer through the sighing, hesitating, and obvious uncomfortable feelings that emerged as I pondered the question in the silence that settled before I gave a more serious response. My life has not been the same since. When have you (or people from your church) asked that question and waited for an answer? When have you really wanted to know the state of one's relationship with God? When have you taken the time to hear about another's wrestling with the gospel message of Jesus' love, justice, and mercy? When have you bothered to share the power of God's work in your life? When have you invited others to offer their lives in response to God's call to obedience and faithfulness?



I don't ask these questions idly. Our task is to take these kinds of questions seriously. All of us are expected to offer Christ to others -- not to hoard the gospel story or the message of God's saving love in our lives. Historically, the church has embraced the evangelistic task of ministry. It has stated repeatedly that the story of the gospel is to be shared. It has declared again and again that the church's task is to go into the entire world to proclaim the gospel and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Over time that call of ministry has been relegated to a function of the church's ministry described as evangelism. That function has produced programs and products to help the church in its effort to tell the gospel story to those who have not yet heard it. While some of these efforts have helped the church to be in ministry, some of what we have done has had the effect of isolating the work of evangelism from the heart of the church's ministry. When the work of evangelism is given to a few who have the most affinity for inviting others to faith in Jesus Christ, on the face of it, the remainder of the church is released from its evangelistic responsibility. While that is obviously not true, the perception is present, and the perception must be challenged. To challenge the perception is not to judge programs and resources that deal with evangelism or to take issue with evangelists. It is, rather, to ask a question about the state of our hearts and souls. Do we so passionately believe in the gospel that our whole beings overflow with the need, the desire, and the requirement to tell the faith stories and to invite others to a journey of faith in Jesus Christ? Or is our relationship with God so stagnated that we feel neither the desire to grow in faith nor the call to tell anyone else about it? While I believe that some programs and resources that support the church's evangelistic task of ministry are useful and essential, I do not believe that they ultimately will bring church people around to sharing the gospel story with others. I believe that the primary source of strength and power to do that work comes from the state of our souls. Thus, the question from my friend is critically important. How is the state of your soul? Is it brimming over with love of God so that you are compelled by love to offer Christ to others? Or, is your soul so parched, dry, and longing for a word from God that you hoard any offering that comes your way so as to replenish your own being? Maybe so, but one who is filled with the living water of Christ's love can hardly cease from sharing the Source of that love with another. ■

*How is it with your soul?*  
Reprinted with permission, *Offering Christ Today*, Special Issue 2001.