



in memoriam:

Howard McComas

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Howard Ernest McComas, age 83, died Dec. 8 at his home. The Rev. McComas was a retired Holston clergy member who had served Clapp's Chapel, Andersonville-Mt. Pleasant, and Hunter-Slagles United Methodist Churches, among others. He is survived by his wife Eunice McComas; sons Steven McComas and Tim McComas; daughters Julie Barnett, Rosa Johnson, Edith McComas, Virginia McComas, Naomi Waters, and Eva Herrell; sister Margaret Knapp; 11 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and 40 foster children. A graveside service was held Dec. 13 at East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery with the Rev. Larry Anderson officiating. A celebration of life service was held Dec. 13 at Fountain City UMC with the Rev. James Whedbee, the Rev. Don Hanshaw, the Rev. Melissa Smith, the Rev. Steven McComas, and the Rev. Larry Anderson officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Piney Grove UMC.

Wilson Newman

GALAX, Va. – Wilson Heath Newman, age 76, died Dec. 9 in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Rev. Newman was a Holston clergy member who had served Bethel-Mt. Hermon UMC, the West Marion Circuit, and Rich Valley-Carvosso UMC, among others. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Lizzie Jane Newman of Galax; two sons, Matthew Paul Newman of Bristol, Tenn., and Samuel Mark Newman of Wise, Va.; one granddaughter and one step-grandson; five sisters, Winfred Jefferson of Chesapeake, Mozelle Dowling of Fries, Ruby Dell

Leiper of Fries, Agean Carter of Randleman, N.C., and Goldie Southern of Greensboro, N.C.; a half-sister, Virginia Spence; and a number of nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held Dec. 11 at Vaughan-Guynn Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Bolling, the Rev. Tom Ballard, and the Rev. Charles Starks officiating. Interment followed in Emory, Va. Memorial contributions may be made to First Galax UMC or Fries UMC or to the church or charity of the donor's choice in memory of Wilson Heath Newman. ■



exchange:

BRISTOL, Va. – Reynolds Memorial UMC seeks a part-time nursery worker, children's worker, and youth worker. Salary will be \$9-10 per hour with a flexible schedule. Contact: The Rev. H. Malcolm Wansley, Reynolds Memorial UMC, 327 West Mary Street, Bristol, VA 24201, rmumcpastor@bvunet.net.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The General Board of Discipleship seeks a director of congregational development to design, develop, and support a comprehensive plan for making disciples through congregational development for leaders and staff in Annual Conferences. Persons wishing to make inquiries or nominations should contact: Maria C. James, Employment Coordinator, at recruit@gbod.org or at (615) 340-7100. Application deadline: Dec. 30. ■

opportunities:

Heating costs

Bishop James Swanson has received a direct appeal from Gov. Phil Bredesen for churches in Tennessee to assist with home heating bills this winter. "The state will receive \$21 million from the federal government for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – not nearly enough to keep our most vulnerable citizens warm," said Anne Travis, director of connectional ministries. Bredesen has asked the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration to provide an additional \$5 million to help offset the high costs of heating.

Tennessee churches of all denominations are each asked to contribute \$100 to assist the state in helping low-income persons with heating costs – currently estimated to be 50 to 125 percent higher this year than in previous years. Donations may be made at www.WarmHomesTN.com or by mailing to: Operation Warm Homes TN/ (CFMT)/ P.O. Box 440225/ Nashville, TN 37244.

Disaster aid

The United Methodist Committee on Relief's Sager Brown Depot needs relief supplies to help meet the high and ongoing demand for disaster aid in the United States and around the world. According to Interim Director Ted Warnock, school kits, layettes, flood buckets, sewing kits, health kits, and hand towels are currently in greatest demand. Visit <http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/kits.cfm> to find out more about relief supplies, health kits, assembly, and shipping.

Have a ball

"Have a Ball" is a ministry effort by Holston youth, children, and young adults to provide 200,000 balls, hackey sacks, and Frisbees to Sudanese refugee children and youth. Each person attending the Resurrection youth retreat in Gatlinburg, Tenn., is asked bring 18 deflated balls (soccer and volleyballs), hackey sacks, or frisbees to the Friday night sessions on Jan. 13 or Jan. 20. These items will be collected as participants enter the Gatlinburg Convention Center. Also bring \$5 per person to help with shipping costs. The conference goal of 200,000 balls, hackey sacks, or Frisbees is based on the projected number of refugees that will arrive at UMCOR's Resettlement Camp in southern Sudan. For more information, call the conference youth office at (423) 928-2156 or visit resurrection.holston.org.



Hurricane-relief training

Church members who wish to lead or participate on work teams for hurricane relief in Mississippi are encouraged to attend a training session at the Conference Center in Knoxville on Jan. 9 or Jan. 12, both from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, call the connectional ministries office toll-free at (866) 690-4080 or locally at (865) 690-4080 or e-mail connectionalministries@holston.org. ■

HOLSTON EVENTS & DATES

JANUARY

- 2:** Conference and district offices closed for New Year's
- 6:** Deadline for submitting 2005 apportionments to conference treasurer
- 15:** Human Relations Day
- 13-15:** Resurrection, Gatlinburg, Tenn.
- 16:** Conference and district offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20-22:** Resurrection, Gatlinburg, Tenn.
- 20-22:** Divine Rhythm, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
- 23-1:** Holy Land Tour, sponsored by Wesley Leadership Institute
- 29:** Holston Home Fifth Sunday Offering

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

- 20-23:** Ministers' Convocation, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

MARCH

Women's History Month

- 3-4:** March Forth for Children training for children's ministry workers, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 5:** First Sunday in Lent
- 6:** Clergywomen's Gathering, White Pine, Tenn.
- 11:** United Methodist Men's "Day with the Bishop," Brainerd UMC, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 23-25:** Ministers' Wives Retreat, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
- 24-26:** 'Discovery' weekend for young people considering ministry, Townsend, Tenn.
- 25-26:** United Methodist Women's Young Women's Event, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
- 26-28:** Jubilation retreat for older adults, Gatlinburg, Tenn.
- 26:** One Great Hour of Sharing

APRIL

- 9:** Palm Sunday
- 15:** Change for Children grant applications due
- 16:** Easter
- 25:** Senior Adult Day, Camp Lookout
- 30:** Native American Ministries Day

JUNE

- 4:** Pentecost Sunday
- 11:** Peace With Justice Sunday
- 11-14:** Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
- 17-25:** Youth in Mission
- 21:** Moving Day for transitioning pastors

JULY

- 10-14:** Junior High Assembly and Senior High Assembly, Emory & Henry College
- 27-29:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- 15-17:** Youth Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail

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