



The Call

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

Volume 18 Number 21

012000

SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

THIS ISSUE

God & Country



A special issue dedicated to the Sept. 11 tragedy in American history

- **Holston's response:** Story and photos, pages C1-C4
- **Bishop's perspective:** 'Letter to my grandson,' page C2
- **Facing the crisis** as a managing editor and first-time local pastor, page C1, C3
- **Hands-on information** for coping, helping others, page C4
- **Bishop's Statement**, released within four hours after the attacks, C4

Children's Sabbath

United Methodist congregations will join other faith groups in observing the 10th annual Children's Sabbath Oct. 19-21.

Page C2

Divine Rhythm

The conference's second retreat for young adults happens Jan. 18-20, 2002, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Groove with music by LaRue and Wayne Kerr, coffee and karaoke at Café Rhythm, more. Visit www.divinerhythm.com and register now.

Low-Cost Tech

Along with Microsoft products, United Methodist Communications is now offering Apple and Dell computer products to Methodist entities at a discount. Details are available by emailing techshop@umcom.org or by calling toll-free (866) 521-1179.



Teddy Bear Love

First Bulls Gap UMC collects 63 teddy bears for kids in crisis.

Page C4

Americans turn to prayer after terrorist attacks



MARYVILLE, Tenn. — Citizens stop to pray and grieve during a midday worship service at First Maryville UMC.

Photos by A.S. Bender/ The Call

After the attacks

A Week in the Life of a Managing Editor & Minister

By Frank "Buzz" Trexler

As I headed for a shower the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11, the phone rang. Caller ID read "Sea Ray," which I knew would be my wife, Donna.

When I answered, she was quick and to the point: "I was listening to Kathy Riley's radio and two planes have hit the World Trade Center! Have you got the news on?"

I had been watching it nearly all morning, but something had happened in the brief time I wasn't watching — something that would turn out to be unbelievable except in the realm of Tom Clancy novels.

'Something had happened — something that would turn out to be unbelievable except in the realm of Tom Clancy novels.'

the next day's edition.

In the shower, I sobbed, prayed and washed as CNN churned out the news in the background.

I made it into *The Daily Times* newsroom around 9:45. After more than 20 years in the business, certain instincts take over.

As a journalist, I know how to respond when stories break locally, as well as what to do when they break far from home. But this

See Managing on page C3.

Holston churches should 'be ready,' pastors say

By Annette Spence Bender, Editor

Hours after terrorist attacks in Washington, D.C., and New York City stunned the nation on Sept. 11, Holston Conference churches rushed to accommodate thousands who needed to pray, give blood or share their grief.

Cokesbury UMC in Knoxville recorded a worship attendance of 2,794 on Sunday, Sept. 16, up from 1,400 during the summer months. Christ UMC in Chattanooga welcomed about 2,200 in worship, up from 1,300 the previous Sunday.

The day after the attacks, Washington Pike UMC in Knoxville opened its gym at 3 p.m. for a blood drive that had been scheduled weeks before. By midnight, 250 people had donated; another 100 left or were turned away after waiting in long lines.

Ministers quickly prepared services on the weeknights following the tragedy and at noon on Friday, Sept. 14, a day designated for prayer and remembrance by President Bush. At First UMC in Maryville, participants in a midday service sobbed as the Rev. Darris Doyal and the Rev. Richard Richter read handwritten prayers left at the

altar over the past week.

"God, heal our land," read one visitor's prayer. "Comfort the people who are so in pain this day. Help us learn to forgive."

In one of many interfaith services throughout the conference, leaders of

See Americans on page C3.



KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Church signs all over the conference urge motorists to pray for the country, its leaders and victims.



OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — The Rev. Annette Flynn of Kern Memorial UMC leads a prayer during an interfaith service at Oak Ridge Civic Center.