



Photo by A. S. Bender/ The Call

**FULL HOUSE** — The day after the Sept. 11 attacks, citizens waited for hours to participate in an afternoon blood drive at Washington Pike UMC. By midnight, the Knoxville District church had hosted more than 250 donors. ①

### Bishop's Statement

## 'Now, the world needs peace'

RELEASED SEPT. 11, 2001, AT 12:30 P.M.:

Dear Holston Family,

This is a tragic day, not just for America, but for humanity. As Americans, historically, we have been so fortunate to have been spared from major acts of terrorism.

An event like this calls us to prayer. Unfortunately our first thoughts are often of retaliation. It's time to break this cycle of violence. Unless we take our faith seriously, this cycle will continue.

Throughout history people of faith have affirmed the power of life over death. Pray for the victims and the families of all the people who have been hurt or killed and pray for all who are working on our behalf for world peace.

Now, as much as ever, the world needs the peace that we have to share. Pray with me for all involved in this tragic time.

Prayerfully,  
Ray Chamberlain  
Bishop, Holston Conference

## Chaplain offers advice for congregations

By Kathy Gilbert

United Methodist News Service

The Rev. Bruce Cook, a United Methodist chaplain working with the Crime Victims Advocacy Council in Atlanta, has advice for people who are feeling stress, fear and anger over the recent terrorist attacks:

- **Be aware** that you have experienced a heinous crime and are secondarily victimized by it. It did not directly happen to you, but indirectly and vicariously you feel the horror of it.

- **Be aware** that it is common for you to feel shocked, numbed, confused, mesmerized by television coverage of the event, angry, depressed, unable to work (dysfunctional and unfocused at work), and later, to experience deep grief and pain.

- **Be aware** that you may experience "stress reactions" and be unable to sleep; want to sleep too much; be unable to eat; feel inclined to overeat to fill a nervous stomach; be hypervigilant; be hyper-aroused and in an agitated state.

- **Be aware** that you may feel fearful of being attacked in your town and may feel unusually vulnerable now that personal safety has been breached by terrorists on a scale that was unimaginable until now.

- **Be aware** of the need to talk to friends, family, neighbors and clergy to try to make sense out of a senseless act of ter-

ror. You may be obsessed with finding out details to explain the event and the unexplainable.

- **Be aware** that this event may shake or strengthen your personal faith in God. The "why" and "how" question will be asked of God, and the answer will depend on your theology. Remember "the basics:" God wills for us love, good, shalom and obedience to God. Humanity disobeys God's will by choosing to be hateful and unloving and evil, which often causes pain and destruction.

- **Be aware** of your faith community and the sacred space and caring spiritual leaders it offers. These resources can help you pray and work toward your healing during this national crisis.

- **Be aware** of your need to take action to help and be reasonable in your response. Donating money, giving blood and volunteering to help can be good and bad. Check to see if your help is needed and wanted before providing it, or you may be more in the way than helpful.

The Crime Victims Advocacy Council in Atlanta has been counseling crime victims since 1989. It is an endorsed ministry of the North Georgia Annual (regional) Conference and is supported by local church and conference funds. More information is available at [www.gbgn-umc.org/cvac](http://www.gbgn-umc.org/cvac) online.

## Feel helpless? Hands-on info

Resources to help citizens cope with the nation's tragedy

### ■ Where to give money

One hundred percent of gifts sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief goes to the designated response. Send checks (*made out to UMCOR, designated for Advance Special #901125-3*) to: UMCOR, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 330, New York, NY 10115. Call 1 (800) 554-8583 to make a credit-card donation.

### ■ How to volunteer

UMCOR is gathering names and phone numbers of licensed grief counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and clergy to send to New York and Washington, D.C. Call 1 (800) 918-3100.

### ■ Where to give blood

Blood centers have been overwhelmed with donors recently, but drives throughout the region are ongoing and supplies constantly need replenishing. To find an upcoming drive near you, call a local hospital or look under "blood centers" in the yellow pages.

### ■ 24-hour prayer line

Call in or post a prayer online at the

Upper Room Living Prayer Center, 1 (800) 251-2468 or [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org).

### ■ Resources for parents and teachers

Free, downloadable materials to help you discuss the attacks with children and Sunday school classes of all ages are available at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) or [www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org).

### ■ List of prayers, readings, hymns

The Board of Discipleship has posted "Prayer Resources in the Wake of the Attack on America" at [www.gbod.org/worship](http://www.gbod.org/worship) online.

### ■ Reassure the world

United Methodist Communications is offering to all U.S. radio stations a series of spots specifically tailored to reassure and comfort listeners as they struggle to come to terms with the enormity of the situation. The spots are downloadable in MP3 format at [www.umc.org/usattack/radiotv.htm](http://www.umc.org/usattack/radiotv.htm). Call your local stations to tell them about this helpful resource.

## In Brief

### Taking prayer to the streets

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. — First Johnson City UMC has worked hard to reach out to its community, but ice cream socials and picnics alone didn't seem to be encouraging neighbors to "become part of the church structure," says Associate Pastor Rev. Betty Furches. After praying with pastors from nearby Locust Street Church of Christ for 30 days, Furches and Senior Pastor Rev. Bill Wells helped come up with a plan to improve both churches' visibility.

For six days in August, 300 parishioners walked through the neighborhood, quietly praying for individuals, homes and businesses. They also left flyers on doorsteps, inviting residents and employees to a "neighborhood gathering" at First UMC on the seventh day, Sept. 1. The Saturday gathering turned out to be a hit, with free food, entertainment, and preaching by the Rev. Hagan McClellan of East Pine Grove Park UMC. "We fed and visited with folks that are unchurched," says Furches. "Were they blessed? We hope so. Were we blessed? Absolutely." The two congregations plan a similar, Christmas-carol prayer walk in December. ①

### Love is a teddy bear

BULLS GAP, Tenn. — Teddy bears can't make troubles go away. But when a child is involved in a crisis, having a cuddly friend could help.

After collecting 63 bears at vacation bible school this summer, children and youth at First Bulls Gap UMC recently presented the stuffed animals to six local law-

enforcement agencies with that goal in mind: "The hope is that these teddy bears will be a comfort to the children at an otherwise difficult time," said church member Kathy Davis. Bears will be distributed through law officers at Bulls Gap police department, Hawkins County sheriff's department, Morristown police department, Greene County sheriff's department, Child Advocacy Center for the 3rd judicial district, and Hamblen County sheriff's department. ⑤

### Love is a toaster

RADFORD, Va. — Three Wytheville District congregations recently helped to furnish a new transitional housing building in Radford with cleaning supplies, linen, cookware, trashcans, toasters and other household items. Central Radford, Grove and Randolph Avenue United Methodist were among eight area churches that "adopted" apartments and dressed them up with necessities and niceties. Known as Cornerstone, the apartment building is designed to help abused women prepare to live on their own, according to a spokesperson. Each church did their own thing, but at Grove UMC, members donated goods and funds through Sunday school classes, Grove member Pat Monroe said. "We went to the open house and we were real impressed with the quality and how nice the apartments were," she said. ⑤ ⑥



**BADGES & BEARS** — Martha Snelson, mission leader at First Bulls Gap UMC, stands with teddy-toting representatives of area law-enforcement agencies.

Submitted photo