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SECTION 1 – DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ❖ Sunday – Wednesday, 06/12 – 6/15/11 – **Annual Conference** at Lake Junaluska. For those who aren't attending, you can catch live streaming of the conference by visiting: AC.Holston.org, daily newspapers at: Holston.org, or Facebook coverage at: Facebook.Holston.org.
- ❖ Thursday – Saturday, 7/7 – 7/09/11 – **Overnight Camp** at Fort Blackmore. Click [here](#) for the registration form & [here](#) for the health form.
- ❖ Monday – Friday, 7/11 – 7/15/11 – **VBS Day Camp** at Fort Blackmore. Click [here](#) for the registration form & [here](#) for the health form.
- ❖ Monday, 07/11/11 – **Ministers' Welcome Picnic**, beginning at 6:30 pm, at Bullitt Park in Big Stone Gap, VA.
- ❖ Thursday, 07/14/11 – **Lee County Cluster: Call to Action** – at Jonesville First, 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Thursday, 07/14/11 – **Lee County Cluster: Call to Action** – at Jonesville First, 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Monday, 07/18/11 – **Wise County Cluster: Call to Action** – at Trinity UMC – Big Stone Gap, 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Thursday, 07/21/11 – **UVa-Wise Wesley Foundation**, Board of Directors meeting at 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Thursday, 07/14/11 – **Lee County Cluster: Call to Action** – at Jonesville First, 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Friday-Sunday, 07/12 – 07/24/11 – **Wise R.A.M.** event. Click [here](#) for poster.
- ❖ Tuesday, 07/26/11 – **Scott County Cluster: Call to Action** – at Gate City UMC, 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Sunday, 08/21/11 – **Big Stone Gap District Conference**, 3:00 pm, Dryden UMC.

SECTION 2 – READY FOR MORE ACTION - BY ARCHER COPPEDGE

When I was much younger, I helped bale hay during summer. It was hot in Oklahoma -- 100° to 104°. The hay was in 75 pound square bales. We would throw the bales onto the trailer, and then throw them into the loft of the barn for stacking. We started early in the morning, while it was cool, and we worked until it got so dark we could not see. I remember one person I worked for asking throughout the day, "Are you ready for more action"? I quickly learned what he was really asking was: can you do any better to get the hay in the barn.

The Big Stone Gap District has stepped forward this past Conference year to proclaim loudly that "we are ready for more action". We have a new willingness to reach out and work together in order to more effectively share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We have more churches assisting persons in coming to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior than in recent history. We have more churches paying 100% of the District Apportionment than in recent history. We have more churches faithfully sending their tithe to support ministries throughout the conference and around the world. We have more churches offering VBS to their communities and congregations. We have more churches who respond to needs in emergencies. We had more churches filling food buckets that anyone would have ever guessed could ever do.

All in all, the Big Stone Gap District is ready for more action in its witness to the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for what each church is doing to be more effective in witnessing its discipleship.

SECTION 3 – REPORTS: CALL TO ACTION & IN YOUR OWN WORDS

The Call to Action Report: A Special Report about Vital Congregations, can be found [here](#). In Your Own Words: Cabinet Report of the District Superintendents, can be found [here](#).

SECTION 4 – DISTRICT JOYS, CONCERNS, & SYMPATHY

Joys: Congratulations to Rev. George Odle on his marriage to Sarah Hammonds on 05/14/2011.

Concerns: Pastor Carl Mehaffy (Derby UMC) as he continues to battle cancer. Rev. David Gilbert (Tacoma UMC) is experiencing health issues. Judy Knight (wife of retiree, David Knight, Sr.) is having some health issues. The mother-in-law of Norman Clark (Ewing Circuit) who is recovering from back surgery.

Sympathy: For Pastor Ray Dockery (Rye Cove UMC) and family in the death of infant granddaughter, Destiny Lynn Vincent, on 5/14/11, due to complications at birth. Sympathy for Roy Corbin (Retiree) & family in the death of Roy's mother, Loraine England Corbin, on 5/30/11.

SECTION 5 – HANDS-ON MISSION BUCKETS EXCEED GOAL



At far left, the District Office is overrun with food buckets, destined for Liberia & Zimbabwe. Near left, the staff (Koni, Beverley, & Archer) finds a small space to pose with the project buckets.

The churches of the Big Stone Gap District more than doubled the goal for the 2011 Hands-On Mission project. A total of 401 food buckets were taken to Kingsport in a 14' U-Haul truck. The participating churches & quantities are:

Alley's Chapel - 10	Appalachia Prayer Fellowship - 2	Bethel UMC - 11	Blairs Chapel - 2
Crab Orchard - 10	Dryden UMC - 9	Dungannon UMC - 6	East Stone Gap - 35
Exeter UMC - 7	First Pennington Gap - 59	Flatwoods UMC - 5	Ft. Blackmore - 2
Ft. Gibson - 8	Gate City - 15	Hiltons Memorial - 8	Holston View - 18
Ionesville First - 20	Legion Memorial - 9	McClure's (Lee Co.) - 3	Mendota UMC - 7
Midway Memorial - 9	Morgan Memorial - 5	Mt. Vernon - 8	Norton UMC - 10
Nottingham UMC - 4	Pleasant Hill - 5	Pound UMC - 7	Prospect UMC - 17
Robbins Chapel - 4	Rye Cove - 10	Seminary UMC - 11	Slant UMC - 5
St. Charles - 7	St. Paul - 5	Tacoma UMC - 13	Three Bells - 21
Trinity, Big Stone Gap - 10	Trinity, Wise - 2	Big Stone Gap District - 2	God is Good!!

SECTION 6 – 2012 HOLSTON CONFERENCE MISSION EMPHASIS

Attention all UMC's: Please collect names and contact information of any Vietnam era veterans, lay or clergy, within your congregations. The 2012 Conference Mission Emphasis will be Vietnam. Bishop James Swanson will be contacting those veterans whose names are submitted.

SECTION 7 – CHILDREN & YOUTH: NEWS & EVENTS

- **Resurrection 2012 Early Bird Registration** ends 7/1/11. Click [here](#) for the registration.
- **Fort Blackmore VBS Day Camp** is scheduled for 7/11 - 7/15. **Overnight Camp** will be 7/7 - 7/9. Click [here](#) for the registration and [here](#) for the health forms.
- **Resurrection 2012 T-shirt Contest:** entry deadline is 7/25/11. 2012's theme: Amazed by Faith, Mark 2:12. The winning youth group will receive all proceeds from the t-shirts sales, after a 10% tithe to the Youth Service Fund.
- **Holston Conference Youth Ministries Catalog**, visit: www.holstonyouth.com and **Holston Kids' Link Newsletter**, click [here](#).

SECTION 8 – THANK YOU!

29 churches have paid 100% of their District Apportionment. Two churches, Station Creek, and Rye Cove, have paid 111% and 104%, respectively. Thanks to the faithfulness of the Churches in the district we have received 56.2% of our District Apportionment.

Additionally, the Big Stone Gap District churches are very faithful in sending their Tithes to the Annual Conference. More churches are paying the tithe than had previously paid the Conference Apportionment.

SECTION 9 – MISCELLANEOUS NEWS, EVENTS, & OPPORTUNITIES

- Calling All Men, 8/20/11. Click here for the [registration/poster](#).
- The Wesley Foundation at UVa-Wise will hold their annual Buffalo Bash on Tuesday, 8/23/11, at 6 p.m.
- Volunteer Marshals and Pages needed for 2012 General Conference, which will take place from 4/24 – 5/4/2010 in Tampa Florida. Volunteers may now apply online at www.umcevents.org/gc2012marshalpage, before 8/31/11. Applicants will be notified of their status by 11/30/11. Approximately 150 volunteers are needed. Marshals and pages are responsible for their own travel & expenses. Duties: Marshals serve the visitor and reserved seating galleries, assist visitors and special guests and check credentials for proper authorization. Pages assist delegates, secretarial staff, Bishops, members of the Judicial Council and official visitors. They distribute approved materials and deliver printed information. [Follow United Methodist General Conference 2012 on Facebook](#).
- “Fishing on the Right Side of the Boat”, Lake Junaluska, 7/7-7/9/11, by Rev. Marc Brown (Director of Connectional Ministries for the Virginia Conference), Ms. Kathy Ashby Merry (former senior operations executive) and Rev. John Briggs (retired business executive and pastor). Spiritual disciplines of Christian transformational leadership that are both biblically based and organizationally effective will be the focus of this workshop that is appropriate for annual conference, district, and local church leaders who seek to move their congregations from maintenance to mission. For a brochure, click [here](#).
- Soulfeast: “The Invitations of Jesus”, 7/10-7/14/11, Lake Junaluska, NC. This is The Upper Room’s Annual Spiritual Formation Event. For more info or to register, click [here](#). You can also call 877/899-2780 ext. 7113.
- Spiritual Leaders Conference 2011, Becoming a Community of Discernment: 7/18 -7/21/11, Miami, FL. Join us in prayer and discernment in preparation for General Conference 2012. For info & to register, go to: www.gbhem.org/spiritualleaders.
- [School of Congregational Development](#), a training for bishops, district superintendents, conference staff, pastors and church teams from existing congregations who desire to learn how to create and develop disciple-growing congregations, will be offered from 7/27 – 7/31/11 in Dallas, TX.
- Bland United Methodist Church is seeking to hire a children's director, preferably someone with training or experience in working with children. This is a new position with a competitive salary. Please send resume to Bland UMC, 32 Industrial Drive, Bland, VA, 24315.

SECTION 10 – POP-UP CAMPER FOR SALE

The District has a pop-up camper for sale. It was used by the District Disaster Team while in Louisiana during the Hurricane Katrina clean-up and repairs. The camper is a 2001 Rockwood, Freedom, 20'+2" long, has AC, Furnace, Refrigerator, Stove, Stabilizer Jacks, Self-Storing Awning, Spare Tire, Propane System, and Storage; it's in great shape. All proceeds from the sell will be donated to Camp Fort Blackmore. If interested, call or come by the District Office. The camper's retail value is over \$6,000, but all offers will be considered.

SECTION 11 – HOLSTON OFFERTORY MOMENTS (REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION)



Is there anyone here who WOULD NOT want to be known as a GENEROUS person? We don't see many folks who want to be In his book, HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH, Arthur Simon says. “The problem is not that we’ve tried faith and found it wanting, but that we have tried mammon (or materialism) and found it addictive, and as a result find following Christ inconvenient. We are human beings, not human “havings”. God loves us for who we are, not what we have.”

God, in love, has given us every good gift. We have the opportunity to give back to God what is already God's. May we experience freedom from our addictions to material things by giving generously to God through the church. Let us now give God's tithe and our offerings. ~ **OFFERTORY MOMENTS** can also be found at: www.stewardship.holston.org.