

It's Annual Conference time, and all over the denomination, preachers' kids are gearing up for relocations required by their parents' ministries. Over the years, the Rev. Tom Ballard and his family have collected a series of one-liners that capture, with humor, the plight of clergy offspring. With apologies to comedian Jeff Foxworthy ("You might be a redneck if ..."), here is our

Salute to the Holston preacher's kid

If your family's idea of a night out is a covered-dish supper in the fellowship hall ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your only prayer is that no one in the church dies on the day you're going on vacation ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your family takes two cars on vacation because your parent might be called home for a funeral ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If you are present in Sunday school more than your teacher ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If the preacher's sermon illustrations sound strangely familiar, with only the names changed ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your family's idea of an extended vacation is to spend one more night at Lake Junaluska following Annual Conference ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your friends think you're lucky because your parent only works one day a week ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your mom is caught loading boxes at the back of the liquor store in June ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your family drives to the movie theater in the next town to avoid bumping into parishioners ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If all of your pets have been baptized and some eulogized ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If you inadvertently begin reciting *The Apostles' Creed* when your classmate is leading *The Pledge of Allegiance* ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your dad has married as many women as the patriarchs in the Old Testament and your mom approves of it ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If you've learned that the four major food groups are fried chicken, deviled eggs, any casserole, and more fried chicken ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If you want to re-paint your bedroom and the Parsonage Committee approves any shade of beige ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If you are elected president of your youth fellowship group at your first meeting ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your mom is UMW president, VBS director, and plays the piano in worship ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

If your parent searches up and down the east coast for addresses of non-resident parishioners upon whom he can make a front-porch visit while on vacation so that the mileage is tax-deductible ... **you might be a preacher's kid.**

With gratitude to the Rev. Tom Ballard, Jonna Williams Ballard, Emily Ballard, William Ballard, Betty Williams, Teresa Williams, and Susan Williams McCammon.

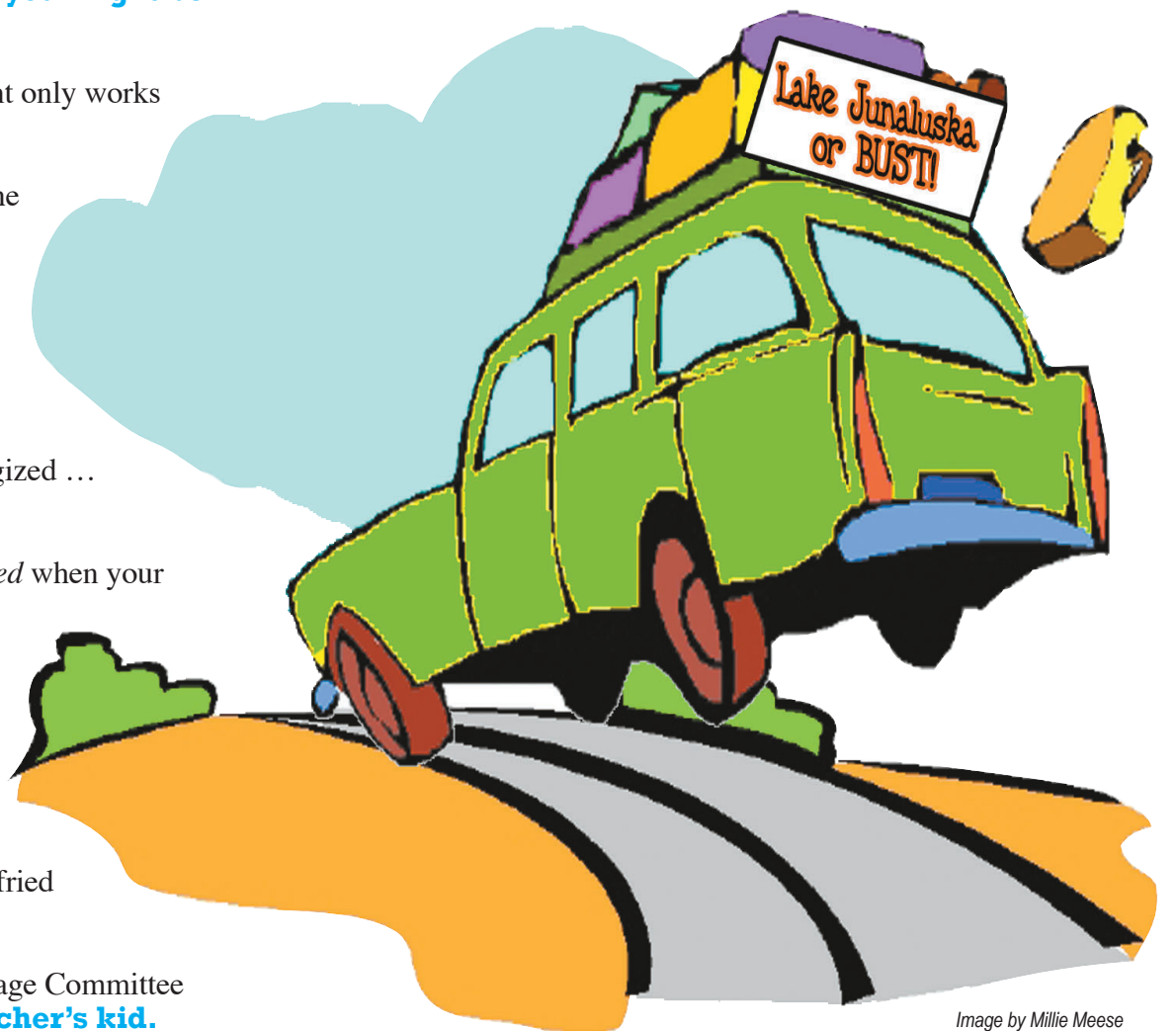


Image by Millie Meese