



The Call



RIGHT: The Rev. Doug Brown marks
a Meigs County parishioner with ashes.



May 2010

HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.holston.org

It's almost here! Annual Conference

The big meeting of clergy and lay members representing 904 churches and a multitude of teams, committees, institutions, agencies, fellowships, and other groups happens June 13-16 at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

But the preparation for a productive and Spirit-filled Holston Annual Conference has already begun.

► On May 16 or any Sunday before June 13, churches will take the **MISSIONS OFFERING FOR SUDAN**. For the third year, the annual missions offering will support Holston's ongoing partner-

ship with the East Africa Conference. Previous offerings have provided schools, health care, pastoral training, leadership development, clean water, and the presence and ministry of the Revs. Boo and Phyllis Hankins, who have served in Yei, Sudan, since June 2009.

An explanatory brochure and Sunday bulletin insert for the Sudan missions offering are available at Holston.org (look under "News Briefs & Announcements"). Or contact the Holston office at connectionalministries@holston.org or toll-free (866) 690-4080.

Church treasurers will receive offering envelopes by postal mail. Total offerings from each church should be placed in the envelope and brought by pastor or lay member to Annual Conference on June 13.

► All 12 districts have received their assigned lists of supplies to gather for the **HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT**. Churches are again called to collect food, health, sewing, or school supplies for missions in Zimbabwe or Liberia. Supplies ("kits") should be delivered to designated drop-off

Please see "Annual Conference" on page 5.



Photo by Annette Spence, The Call

The Rev. Jerry Russell is trying to save the college during "stressful and very trying times."

Russell named interim president for Hiwassee

The Hiwassee College Board of Trustees named the Rev. Jerry Russell as interim president effective immediately during an April 12 public announcement on the Madisonville, Tenn., campus.

Russell, 61, is senior pastor at Fairview United Methodist Church in Maryville District. He succeeds the Rev. James Noseworthy, who led the United Methodist-affiliated college for seven years before resigning in mid-February.

"He is a proven leader who loves Jesus Christ, who loves whatever he's engaged in, and we know for a fact he loves Hiwassee College," said the Rev.

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TWC picks interim president, page 5

Holston responds to southeastern floods

United Methodist churches across the Southeast opened their hearts and doors to people stranded by the April 30 to May 2 storm. The disasters killed 24 people in Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Arkansas.

On May 4, Bishop James Swanson issued a letter, asking his church members to "again step up to the plate and show our neighbors that people in Holston have huge hearts." Swanson promised that Holston work teams would respond as soon as official needs

assessments were complete. More immediately, Swanson asked that churches give money to UMCOR and start assembling "cleaning buckets." "In the next few days, we will organize pick-up times in each district for the cleaning buckets," he said.

For cleaning bucket instructions, Swanson's letter, and a bulletin insert, go to Holston.org. To give to UMCOR, write a check to your local church with "#901670 Tennessee floods" on the memo line, or give online at UMCOR.org. ■



UMNS photo by Kathleen Barry

Floodwaters create a reflecting pool in front of Belle Meade United Methodist Church in Nashville.