

T bishop's speaking schedule:

- **May 12:** Kern Memorial UMC "Kingdom Expansion Forum" (Oak Ridge District) at 6:30 p.m.
- **May 18:** Fairview UMC confirmation class, Alcoa Conf. Center, at 4:15 p.m.
- **May 19:** First Morristown UMC children's program at 6 p.m.
- **May 22:** Wytheville District Spring Ministers Banquet, First Hillsville UMC, at 6:30 p.m.
- **May 23:** Savannah UMC at 9:30 a.m.; Mt. Vale UMC at 11 a.m.; Pentecost Celebration, Camp Dickenson, at 3 p.m.; Max Meadows Circuit revival, Ft. Chiswell UMC, at 7 p.m. (all Wytheville District)
- **May 24:** Max Meadows Circuit revival, Max Meadows UMC, at 7 p.m.
- **May 25:** Keynote speaker, Nonprofit Training and Enrichment Seminar, Clayton Center for the Arts, Maryville College, at noon
- **May 26:** Holston summer camp staff commissioning, Camp Wesley Woods, at 10 a.m. ■



The Call

www.holston.org

Serving 904 churches in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia

Published Monthly by
Holston Conference
of the United Methodist Church
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THE CALL is the official newspaper of the Holston Annual Conference, published monthly or 12 times each year. All publication decisions are made by the Editor, under the supervision of the Executive Assistant to the Bishop. Contact the Editor at thecall@holston.org. A 12-month subscription to the newspaper is \$15. Checks should be made to "Holston Conference" and mailed to: The Call, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850. To order online, visit www.holston.org/thecall. Subscriptions to Holston's weekly e-mail publication, The Call 2, are free of charge. Sign up at www.thecalltwo.holston.org. ■

wings:

By Bishop James Swanson



Where is your passion?

I have a CD in my music collection, "Souled Out," by gospel artist Hezekiah Walker. My generation would have spelled it, "Sold Out," but Pastor Walker and his choir are communicating that they are so inspired by their relationship with Jesus, they have completely surrendered to him without any reservations.

They sing this song with such passion that you can't listen without being moved. The song reminds me of something my homiletics professor, Dr. Isaac Rufus Clarke, used to say:

"There are three types of problems that people face on Sunday morning, and your sermons must address all three," he said. "One problem is that some people are simply not converted, so you need to preach a sermon that leads to conversion.

"The second problem is, sometimes people just don't know what to do. So in this case, you have to give them information to solve the problem."

The third problem, Dr. Clarke said, is that sometimes people are converted and they know what to do, "but they simply lack motivation."

I believe that many of our churches are filled with unmotivated people. We give them information, but we don't light any fires to inspire them. Then we wonder why exciting things don't happen.

Our people are so challenged by life's adversities, troubled family life, job losses, dead marriages, indebtedness, and drains on their time, energy and resources, they show up

at church on Sunday just begging for inspiration. Those who are responsible for worship need to take a second and maybe a third look to see how much energy, excitement, and – yes, passion – is generated by our worship. There should be a sense of awe, wonderment and holy trembling that happens in our choir lofts, pulpits, pews, and even in the narthex. This holy awe should so permeate the people that they don't leave the building the same way they came.

In his book, "Nextchurch.Now: Creating New Faith Communities," author Craig Kennet Miller says worship should be a memorable experience. He believes we should aim for people to experience transformation as the result of entering our sanctuaries and worship centers. I recommend Miller's book, especially the chapter, "Experienced-Based Worship." I believe worship experience is more important today than at any other time in church history. We must give detailed attention to worship; no longer can we afford to let it become a routine event. Ask yourself: "If we were starting our church today in response to Jesus' commandment to go and make disciples, would our worship be the same as it is now?"

Also ask yourself: "Would anyone be excited about coming to our worship?"

Worship today must elicit passion, if we expect people to return Sunday after Sunday. Holston United Methodist Christians, where is our passion?

(By the way I just love the ninth track on Hezekiah's CD, "You're All I Need"! ■



exchange: job openings in Holston

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – Burks UMC seeks a full-time church business administrator. Position will begin July 1. Send resumes by May 24 to: Rev. Rhonda Hobbs, c/o Burks UMC, 6433 Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN 37343, or e-mail rhonda@burks.org. No calls, please.

GREENEVILLE, Tenn. – Trinity UMC seeks a part-time music director. Send resume to: Trinity UMC, SPR Committee, 524 Tusculum Boulevard, Greeneville, TN 37745, or e-mail trinity8888@embarqmail.com.

ALCOA, Tenn. – First Alcoa UMC seeks a part-time church treasurer. Send a resume and cover letter to: Staff Parish Relations Committee, 617 Gilbert Street, Alcoa TN 37701. Interviews begin June 3.

KINGSPORT, Tenn. – Mountain View UMC seeks a part-time organist/accompanist. Send resume to: Mountain View UMC, 4405 Orebank Road, Kingsport, TN 37664, or email vgibson@chartertn.net.

LENOIR CITY, Tenn. – Central UMC seeks a full-time director of youth ministries. E-mail ron_fisher@centralmethodist.com or call (865) 986-7329.

ROGERSVILLE, Tenn. – First Rogersville UMC seeks a part-time keyboardist for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Send inquiries and résumés to: First UMC, 110 Colonial Road, Rogersville, TN 37857, or call (423) 272-7311.

LENOIR CITY, Tenn. – Central UMC seeks a full-time director of youth ministries. E-mail ron_fisher@centralmethodist.com or call (865) 986-7329.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Central UMC seeks a 3-hour per week nursery worker. Send resumes to: Central UMC, SPRC, 201 3rd Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917, or e-mail churchcentral@bellsouth.net.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Central UMC seeks a 4-hour per week nursery coordinator. Send resumes to: Central UMC, SPRC, 201 3rd Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917, or e-mail churchcentral@bellsouth.net.

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. – Middle Creek UMC seeks an organist and/or pianist for worship services beginning in July. Contact: Ursula Ricker, PPR chairperson, at (865) 428-6332, or Rev. Steve Pross at (865) 609-1072.

OAK HILL, W.Va. – Oak Hill UMC seeks a full-time director of youth/children's ministry. Contact: Rev. Charles Miller at (304) 573-2550 or cdmiller57@suddenlink.net, or Ryan Newell at (304) 222-5010 or docnewell@gmail.com. ■

Send job opportunities to thecall@holston.org. Please inform us when the above positions are filled. For instant job updates, become a Facebook fan of "The Call/ Holston Conference UMC."