

## You called?

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activities. I left a message Wednesday evening and received a timely response Thursday morning. A helpful woman left a message, providing worship service information. She also told me about the blossoming cross, located outside the church. "You may bring a flower to place on the cross," she said. She also left her name and a number for more information. "There's a lot going on," she added. "There always is at this church. It's wonderful! I appreciate the phone call." The only problem I encountered in contacting Cherokee was that the number provided on the Internet white pages was a fax number. I called directory assistance to obtain the church phone number.

### Kingsport District Wheeler UMC

On my first two attempts, I was unsuccessful in reaching someone at Wheeler. There didn't seem to be an answering machine, and there was no way to leave a message. However, when I called again Wednesday evening I talked with a helpful individual, who answered my questions. "We would love to have you," the person said. "Hope you will come and join us."

### Knoxville District Cokesbury UMC

The individual I spoke with at Cokesbury provided the information I requested. However, I was disappointed in the tone of the conversation. The individual was polite, but did not extend an invitation to Cokesbury or provide a friendly greeting the way several others did. I may have caught the individual off guard while they were working on another project, but it was something I noticed.

### Maryville District Peck's Memorial UMC

The Peck's Memorial number was not available in the online white pages but was available through directory assistance. I called Peck's Memorial Wednesday evening at 6:35 p.m. and received a return call a few hours later. The caller was friendly and provided the requested information.

### Morristown District First Morristown UMC

I contacted First Morristown Wednesday evening and left a message at approximately 6:40 p.m. I did not receive a return call. I called again Saturday morning about 9:10 a.m., leaving a second message. A man returned my call around noon and provided information concerning Easter services.

### Oak Ridge District Luminary UMC

Luminary's voice mail provided office hours and worship times. The message ended with, "Thank you for calling." I received a punctual return call. The caller

provided times for Easter services and thanked me again for calling. "Hope you enjoy your Easter," she added.

### Tazewell District Grundy UMC

I called Grundy five times and was unsuccessful in gathering information about Easter services, since the church does not seem to have an answering machine or voice mail. I called Wednesday evening, Friday morning, twice Friday afternoon, as well as Saturday morning. To make sure I was calling the correct number, I also completed an online search through a program called Citysearch, which provided me with the same number I had been calling.

### Wytheville District First Pulaski UMC

I reached a friendly voice Wednesday evening. The individual provided information concerning Easter Sunday services as well as the time and location for the sunrise service. "We would love to see you," she concluded. ■

*Suzanne C. Hickerson is a freelance writer living in Salem, Va.*

## Hello?

### Telephone welcoming tips

- Whenever possible, update your church number in telephone books and/or online directories.
- An answering machine or voice mail is essential.
- Provide church office hours and worship and Sunday school times on the answering machine or voice mail. Make it easy for the caller to leave a message.
- Return phone calls promptly and cheerfully.
- Ask the caller, "Can I help you with anything else?" This query is a great way to open the door for providing additional info about church activities.
- Invite, invite, invite. ■



## announcement:

### Wanted: Eco-friendly churches

The Outreach-Advocacy Ministry Team seeks churches involved in environment-related ministries. Please send a brief description of your ministries, along with a contact name, phone number, and e-mail address, to: Claire Lovelace, 113 Heritage Place Drive, Jonesborough, TN 37659, [clairelovelace@earthlink.net](mailto:clairelovelace@earthlink.net). ■

## HOLSTON EVENTS & DATES

### APRIL

**21:** F.U.E.L.: Let Justice Roll, youth and children's ministry training, Shady Grove UMC, Dandridge, Tenn.  
**22:** Native American Ministries Sunday  
**23:** Holston Conference Clergy Golf Tournament, Morristown, Tenn.  
**28:** Buffalo Mountain Camp Golf Benefit, Tri-Cities Golf Course, Blountville, Tenn.  
**29:** Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering

### MAY

#### Christian Home Month

**12:** Children's Day – Camp Wesley Woods  
**19:** Mental Health Matters: A Day of Conversation, Shady Grove UMC, Dandridge, Tenn.  
**19-20:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women's Spiritual Enrichment Experience, Lake Junaluska, N.C.  
**26:** Children's Day – Buffalo Mountain Camp  
**28:** Memorial Day – Conference and district offices closed  
**30:** Application deadline, Margaret Loving Grants for older adult ministries (Holston Conference Foundation)

### JUNE

**2:** Children's Day – Camp Dickenson, Camp Lookout  
**3:** Peace With Justice Sunday  
**9:** Camp Dickenson Golf Tournament, Draper Valley Course, Draper, Va.  
**10-13:** Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.  
**16-26:** Youth in Mission: Czech Republic  
**20:** Moving day for transitioning pastors

### JULY

**17-21:** Jr. High and Sr. High Assembly, Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn.  
**23:** Resurrection T-shirt design contest entries due  
**26-28:** Holston Conference United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission, Kodak UMC  
**29:** Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering

### SEPTEMBER

#### Open House Month

**15:** Camp Lookout Golf Tournament, Bear Trace, Harrison, Tenn.  
**21-23:** F.U.E.L. Youth Worker Sabbath Retreat  
**22-23:** The Gathering, Native American Ministries, Tellico Plains, Tenn.  
**30:** Holston Home for Children Fifth Sunday Offering

### OCTOBER

**5-7:** Youth Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail  
**7:** World Communion Sunday

*To make a correction or post a new date, contact Annette Spence at (865) 293-4130 or [thecall@holston.org](mailto:thecall@holston.org). For more information on these events, visit <http://upcoming.holston.org>.*