



# The Pathfinder

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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

(From Pastor Karen and Angie Huffine, with help from the Annual Conference wrap up report.)

The Holston Annual Conference gathered June 11-14 with Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor presiding at Lake Junaluska, N.C. Under the theme “Behold,” 1,946 members represented Holston’s 880 congregations in east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia.

During its session, the body adopted a “Comprehensive Strategic Plan” that will resize Holston Conference from 12 to 9 districts. The plan also mandates clergy support groups, establishes missional hubs, deploys conference staff, evaluates teams and committees, and updates communications.

We approved a budget for 2018 of \$9.07 million, reflecting a reduction from the approved 2017 budget of \$9.7 million.

We celebrated new ministries of the Rev. Joseph DowlingSoka and the Rev. Christina DowlingSoka, (do you remember them from Buffalo Mountain Camp?) who will follow Deaconess Fran Lynch in the Alaska Conference after her retirement from the Willow Anvik Grayling Church and Community Ministry.

We worshiped together, sang together and celebrated together. On Tuesday morning we all participated in the Change for Children walk (picture below), helping to raise money for the children here and in Africa. And we had some time for fun too – sharing a couple of rounds of miniature golf together after supper.



### JULY, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

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JAMA Item

<p><b>Save the Date</b></p> <p>July 1 Jonesborough Days Parade</p> <p>July 23 Church Council Meeting</p> <p>July 30 Church-wide picnic at David Crockett State Park</p>	<p><b>Church Family News</b></p> <p>Congratulations to Addisyn Rowe for winning first place in the TSSAA State Track and Field Championship class AAA for high jump! She was also named the Johnson City Press Female Athlete of the Year for the 2016-17 school year. We are very proud of you!</p> <p>We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Willard Metcalfe, who passed away, and especially to his wife Betty, his daughters Carla and Becky, his son Dwight, and his sister, Carolyn Brown.</p> <p>A Celebration of Life service will be held for Lee Hallberg on Saturday, August 5. Further details will be forthcoming.</p>
	<p><i>Scripture from Hebrews 12:1-2 CEB</i></p> <p><i>So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of Him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.</i></p>
	<p><b>JOTS FROM JANE</b></p> <p><b>Alzheimer's . . . The diagnosis we all fear for our loved ones or ourselves.</b></p> <p>I recently attended a program that included a Virtual Dementia Tour. It was one of the most eye-opening experiences I've ever had. We were asked to wear gloves with unpopped popcorn down in the fingertips. Our fingers were taped to mimic poor motor control, and popcorn in our shoes was like having neuropathy.</p> <p>Before going into a very dimly lit room, we donned goggles that were foggy and had white areas painted in the middle to simulate macular degeneration. Headphones with two different tracks playing two different conversations were placed over our ears. Each of us were told to find a tie and put it on, find six pairs of socks and mate them, clear the table, and draw a picture of our family and put their names on it. We had a 10-minute time limit to complete these tasks.</p> <p>I never found the tie, and I wasn't able to mate the socks I could find because my fingers wouldn't work. The drawing of my family was merely stick figures I managed to draw and the names were illegible scribbles. Every nurse who came out of that room had the same look on her face. "Wow! I had no idea," was what most of us said.</p> <p>Our Jonesborough Senior Center is hosting a cookout on July 6 for Alzheimer's Tennessee. There will be food, an ice cream bar, musical entertainment by the Jonesborough Novelty Band, and door prizes! Meal cost is simply a donation to benefit Alzheimer's Tennessee. Call 753-4781 to reserve your space.</p> <p>Whether we are the patient, the caregiver, a loved one or friend, we all need support. This is a great way to get information and find out some of the services available.</p> <p><i>Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.</i></p>

## Looking Ahead

Aug 6-9 Sulphur Springs  
Camp Meeting

Aug 19 Rise Against  
Hunger Event

Aug 27 JAMA Potluck  
5 pm at First Baptist  
Church; Praise and  
Worship at 6 pm

Aug 27-Sep 3 Family  
Promise

## Count Your Blessings News

We have been enjoying a great summer of good food, fellowship and theater experiences. Here are some of our upcoming activities:

July 20– Spending the day in Abingdon, VA will be a treat. We'll leave the church at 10 am, to enjoy lunch at the Peppermill restaurant followed by a fun afternoon at the Barter to experience "Footloose." Seventeen reservations have been made and our tickets have been sold, so if you are interested in going, please call the Barter directly for tickets.

August 31– Plans are being made to enjoy lunch at Shatley Springs and visit churches which feature beautiful frescoes in Ashe County, NC

We would love to have anyone 50 years of age or older join our active group. Contact Ellen Snodgrass 741-2038 or Carolyn Tomko 773-7886 by August 27 if you plan to attend our August outing.

Here's the group that went to see "South Pacific" at JRT. A great production, and a good time was enjoyed by all!



## Liberia Backpacks Report

Our church wound up donating 46 of the backpacks we purchased to the Conference Hands-on Project. The number collected in the Johnson City District, of which we are a part, was 812 school kits with a value of \$27,713. 56. Overall, 8,344 kits for Liberia and Zimbabwe were collected, with a total worth of \$211,112.31. In addition, the Conference donations for the Ishe Anesu Project in Zimbabwe totaled \$105,588.



It is a wonderful thing to provide food for desperate families and to make school possible for so many children, where it otherwise would be beyond their reach. Those of you who bought or filled the backpacks got to experience the special feeling that comes with doing something *personally* for someone far away but close to our hearts. We say with John Wesley, "The world is my parish."

## Sarah Mayes Circle

The Sarah Mayes Circle will gather for a lunch outing at 1 pm on Tuesday, July 11, at Bob Evans Restaurant.



## CUSTODIAN NEEDED

After many years of wonderful service, our custodian, Floyd, retired at the end of June. We are seeking a Custodian to work Mondays and Thursdays to clean the main church building. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the SPRC Chair, Terry Counterline.

## United Methodist Women's Sisters of Faith

Our July meeting will be a ladies' social at 7 Hermanos Restaurant, beside WalMart on West Market Street. We hope to see you there on Thursday, July 13, at 5:30 pm. PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 10.

Our meetings are usually the second Thursday of the month, around 5:30 or 6. For more information or to be added to our email list, contact Melissa at [hiremcc@gmail.com](mailto:hiremcc@gmail.com) or 423-833-6942.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Thursday, August 10—UMW friends and family pool picnic at Ridgeview Pool in Jonesborough.

## It's Picnic Time!

Mark your calendar for our Family Night Supper on Sunday, July 30, at the David Crockett State Birthplace! We are in Shelter #2, which is the first one on the left when you enter the park. We will eat at 6 pm, but come early for fellowship and to see all the changes that have been made to the park! Bring a lawn chair, and if you have outdoor games you would like to bring, that would be great, too!



## Library News

Thanks to Raymond and Janet Bridwell for the donation of his mother's beautiful books on Exploring America by Reader's Digest.

The following books have been placed in the library:

A Cup of Comfort for Christians, edited by James and Margaret Bell, contains stories of more than fifty Christians from all walks of life.

The Unmistakable Touch of Grace, by Cheryl Richardson, tells how Grace transformed her life.

Key Methodist Beliefs, by William J. Abraham

Recapturing the Wesley's Vision

Reader's Digest Hints and Tips to Make Life Easier



## Youth Mission Trip

Recently our youth were blessed to go to Edisto Island and serve at rebuilding a house. This was one of the hardest jobs we've had due to the extent of the damage on the home.

God called each youth and adult to be a part of this team and they answered with a sweet spirit. We were blessed to have new and old, adult and youth, all working together to complete the task God called us to do. Everyone answered the call with willing hands and hearts and God blessed all that was done. Glory to God!



**BEFORE**



**IN PROGRESS**



**AFTER**

## A Brief History of Diane's Closet

Diane's Closet began as a thank you from Diane Patuszynski for all the loving support the church and community gave her during a particularly difficult time in her life. Diane and her two children, Jenna and Scott, were long-time members of JUMC. When she was diagnosed with stomach cancer, she courageously struggled to remain "normal." Even while going through treatments, she continued working to remain financially independent and being there for her teenage children.

Diane was at the end of her treatment options when an experimental surgery was offered to her, however, her insurance wouldn't pay for it. Due to church-wide yard sales, donations, and much prayer, the surgery was made possible.

When she regained her health and strength, Diane wanted to find some way to give back. At that time there were no clothing give-away ministries; it was an unheard of idea, but Diane started putting out the word, and began collecting and sorting clothes. She asked for helping hands from the Good News class, her Sunday school class.

In the fall of 2009, the first clothing give-away was held in the Good News Fellowship Hall. For several years Diane spearheaded the biannual event. Sadly, she lost her battle with cancer, but she left a legacy of love and putting one's faith into action through what is now called Diane's Closet.

Our recent spring give-away served 40 families. Thanks to all who helped with this worthwhile project! Here are some pictures from our May event.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017 WOW!!!!!! WHAT A WEEK!!

Kids had a rocking, rolling, foot-stomping kind of week. Maker Fun Factory was our VBS program. Kids found out about being created by God and being built for a purpose. They went to Imagination Station, Bible Discovery time, Kid Vid Cinema/Snacks, Sound Wave Sing & Play and Game Makers.

Sound Wave Sing & Play was full of action-packed songs – kids loved them; Pastor Karen was awesome in leading this part of program!! Game Maker time was on the playground and inside a couple of times because of rain. They played corn hole, had relay races and loved trying to sweep balloons into clothes baskets.

The meals were a big hit and very delicious. Snacks were yummy, too! They included: marshmallow forts, “S’more of God’s love” and maker mix.

Bible points were: God made you, God is for you, God is always with you, God will always love you and God made you for a reason. Bible stories were Creation, Rahab, God is with Gideon, and Jesus dies and comes back to life. New memory verses were introduced each night.

The kids assembled clothing on people cut-outs, then used markers and yarn to finish them – quite unique!! As you can see, we had quite a group of kids. Two works-in-progress will feature Popsicle sticks; watch the bulletin, website and Facebook for information on completion of these projects. Wooden crosses (assembled by Mike Dickson!) with nuts/bolts were also made by the kids. They will have a permanent place in our children’s rooms. They also made slime, ooblock, happy cards and lots more – a very busy week indeed!

We averaged over 65-70 children each night!! The nursery had 9 babies! As you can see from a couple of pictures, Pastor Karen did not know her name by Thursday night! Check out all the pictures on our Church website and Facebook. You will see lots of happy faces! We had a very successful food drive for the JAMA Food Pantry – the big red box was overflowing on Thursday night.

Thursday night ended with our traditional piñata. Yes, the kids got a little loud, but that’s what it is all about – fun!!

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends – thanks for getting your children to church. VBS is such an important part of their young lives.

**MANY THANKS** to all who helped with VBS – staff and volunteers were **one awesome team!** Please thank everybody you know that helped and consider helping us next year – we have lots of fun, as you can tell by the pictures on the next page!

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—2017



## July Mission: School Supplies

Our July mission is to raise money to buy school supplies in bulk for the teachers at Jonesborough Elementary School to use with their students. If you would prefer to donate supplies instead of money, a list of teacher needs will be available in the Narthex in July.

In the past, our church has been very helpful in providing the teachers and students at Jonesborough Elementary School with necessary materials. Please pray for this to be a another meaningful and successful mission.

## JAMA Item for JULY Peanut Butter & Jelly



Please give generously  
to  
Jonesborough Area  
Ministerial Association.

Jonesborough United Methodist Church  
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