



Be Thou Our Vision

Wednesday SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m.
Morning Glory: Memorial Chapel

8 a.m.
Fellowship Time: Outside Stuart Auditorium

8:30 a.m.

- Listening to God through the Scripture
- New Church Development
- Council on Finance & Administration: Final hearing on budget
- Personnel Resources Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- Lay ministry
- Board of Laity*
- United Methodist Women*
- United Methodist Men*
- Task Force reports
- Marriage and Family*
- Role of District Superintendent*
- Parsonage Policies*
- Cabinet transitions
- Unfinished business
- Minute questions

Noon

- Lunch

2 p.m.
Sending Forth Service
Bishop James Swanson
Mis-Fits Choir, St. Elmo UMC

- Fixing the appointments
- Licensing of local pastors
- Adjournment

Announcements to take home

If you like this Annual Conference edition of *The Call*, you will also enjoy the regular bi-weekly edition. Order a 26-issue subscription for \$15. Call Millie Meese toll-free at (865) 690-4080 or order online at www.holston.org/thecall.

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The Call seeks news and photos for its "District Roundup" section. Contact Annette Bender at (865) 690-4080 or e-mail thecall@holston.org.

"Holston Conference News Briefs" reaches 1,500 clergy and laity via e-mail each Wednesday with news and information from the conference and general church. To subscribe, go to <http://e-news.holston.org/> or call Donna Hankins at (865) 690-4080. ■

The Call

June 15, 2005

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE EDITION

www.holston.org

Bishop Swanson's sending message:

Turn the world upside down

Dear People of Holston,

I greet you in the blessed name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we prepare to leave the cozy and beautiful surroundings of Lake Junaluska, I am reminded of the words of Jesus, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." The clergy fulfill this commandment as they receive appointments to an area of service and commit themselves to "...equip the saints for the work of ministry."

I realize that in the strictest sense I don't truly assign the laity, but I do believe that your assignment was set for you during your baptism. I wonder if you remember this question: "According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?" Your answer was, "I will." So we are sent out – clergy and laity – as partners in ministry to represent Christ to the world.

As you go from here, take up the mantle of telling others about this Christ that has sent you out. Do your best to help others back home – in your church, community and everywhere you have influence – to see a glimpse of God's preferred future for them. This is a vision of a life lived in communion with God through Jesus Christ and in community with others.

I realize that this will not be easy. Jesus did not believe it was easy. He said, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." It may not be hazardous today, but the mission can appear to be impossible. Yet, if we go back to Matthew 28:20, the rest of the verse is this: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." It is not a mission we undertake alone, for we are "...more than conquerors through Christ Jesus that loves us." I love that word, "more."

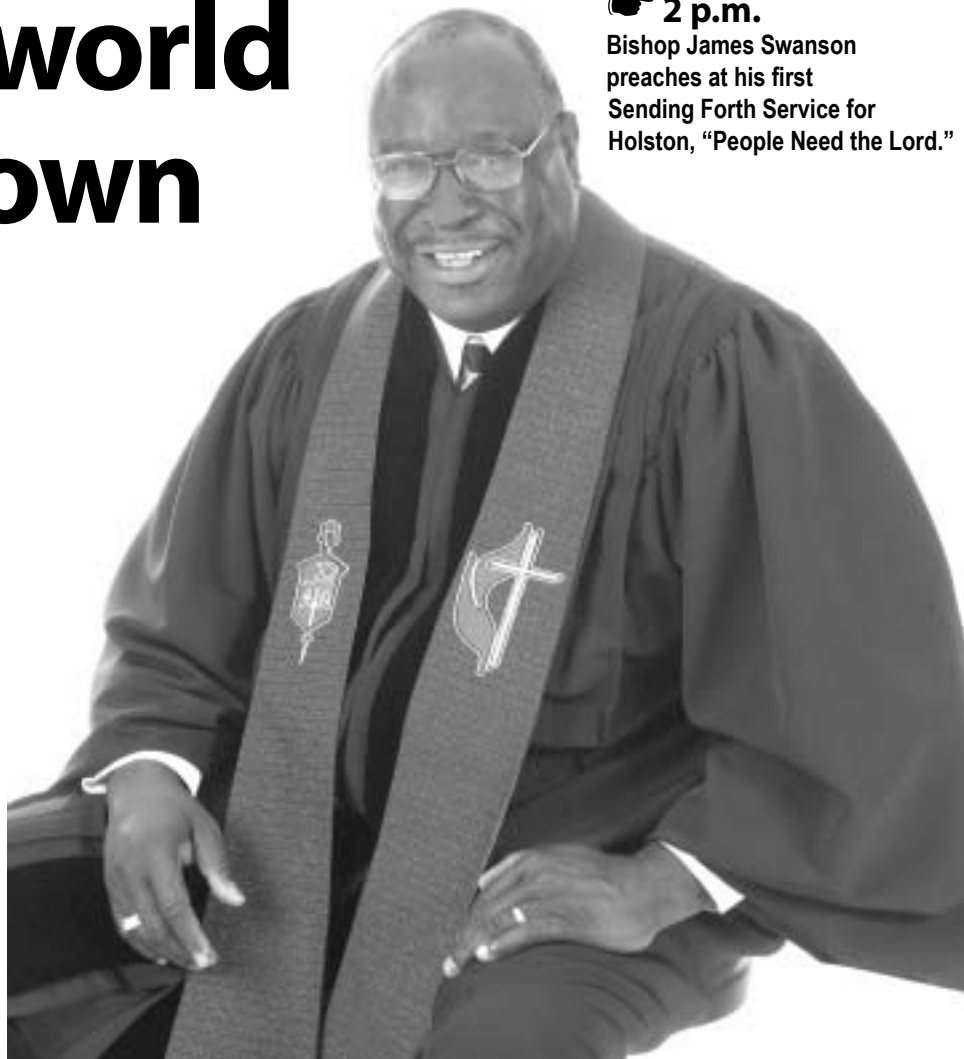
Let's leave here determined that we, like those early disciples, will turn this world upside down.

MORE,

James E. Swanson, Sr.

James E. Swanson Sr.

2 p.m.
Bishop James Swanson preaches at his first Sending Forth Service for Holston, "People Need the Lord."



Holston members depart after four-day meeting

Traditionally, this final day of Annual Conference is devoted to approval of next year's budget and the Sending Forth Service. It is this year, too. But you can also expect a few deviations from tradition.

A.M. session

The conference will zip through final business, with appearances from Becky Hall of New Church Development, the Rev. Andy Ferguson of the Council on Finance & Administration, and Mary Frances Tucker of the Personnel Resources Committee. Tucker will recognize long-time conference employee Bonnie Cox, who retired earlier this year.

Three task force reports will be presented: Marriage and Family by the Rev. Pete Rowlett, the District Superintendent's Role by the Rev. Mark Flynn, and

Parsonage Policies and Guidelines by the Rev. Steve Yeaney.

P.M. session

Following lunch, conference will resume with the Sending Forth Service. Clergy will not be assigned to district seating, but will be permitted to sit where they wish in Stuart Auditorium.

The title of Bishop James Swanson's sermon is "People Need the Lord." The Mis-Fits Choir of St. Elmo UMC (Chatanooga District) will sing an updated acappella version of "When God Dips His Love in My Heart." The Rev. Daniel Taylor, Big Stone Gap District superintendent, will solo on "Move Me."

Bishop Swanson will "fix the appointments." During the service, 26 new local pastors will be recognized with licenses. Conference will adjourn. ■



8:30 a.m.
Becky Hall
New Church Development



8:30 a.m.
Rev. Andy Ferguson
Council on Finance



8:30 a.m.
Mary Frances Tucker
Personnel Resources

During the Sending Forth Service, clergy will not be required to sit in districts.