



The Call

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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THIS ISSUE



Still Grieving

"God must grieve that we, sons and daughters, commit such violence against one another," writes Bishop Ray Cham-

berlain. "God must weep because we children can't get along."

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Happy Campers

Attendance at Holston Conference summer camps continues to rise. But it takes "significant dollars" to provide ministries that will attract children — and adults — for years to come.

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Nice Shirt



Are these cool or what? The winning Resurrection 2002 T-shirt design — and how to get one of your own.

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Pensions Update

A regular feature in future issues of *The Call*: Monthly progress reports from The Legacy of Commitment campaign office.

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Input Invited

The Discipleship Team recently appointed a Task Force on Clergy Enhancement to consider needed support ministries for clergy and their families. The task force invites input, which may be provided by writing: Chairperson Jack P. Weikel, P.O. Box 1346, Kingsport, TN 37662. Some may wish to share in person with the task force at one of their meetings. If so, please make it clear in your communication how you may be contacted. So far meetings have been held in Knoxville.

Holston pours out offerings for terrorist victims

More than 60 Holston churches have contributed to a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) fund benefiting victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the conference's financial office recently reported.

Donations to the "Love in the Midst of Tragedy" fund began pouring into the Johnson City office as soon as three days after the attacks and haven't stopped yet, conference staff member Darlene King said.

Contributions totaled \$52,881 on Oct. 2. Donations from Holston churches sent directly to UMCOR headquarters in New York City are not included in that total.

UMCOR plans to use the funds to provide certified counselors in the New York area and offer trauma-related training on a national level to people working with chil-

dren, the United Methodist News Service reported. Funds also will be used for events promoting understanding between Muslims and others.

Among large-membership churches, Church Street in Knoxville collected a total of \$7,500 for UMCOR, followed by Wesley Memorial (Cleveland District) with \$4,532 and Ooltewah (Cleveland District) with \$3,950.

Among medium-size churches, Trinity Athens (Cleveland District) offered up \$1,711 for terrorist victims. Clinton Memorial and LaFollette (both Oak Ridge District) contributed \$1,380 and \$1,297, respectively.

Small-membership churches donating to the fund included Webb's Creek (Maryville District) with \$1,000; Fairview (Johnson

City District) with \$987; and Sneedville (Morristown District) with \$971.

The first Holston offering for the tragedy, arriving in the Johnson City office on Sept. 14, came from Middle settlements UMC (Maryville District) in the amount of \$850.

Churches wishing to receive conference credit for UMCOR offerings should send them to the Johnson City Conference Center, P.O. Box 2506, Johnson City, TN 37605. Checks should be labeled "Love in the Midst of Tragedy" or with "UMCOR Advance #901125-3" on the memo line. For more information, call the Holston Conference financial office at (423) 928-2156.

Credentialed people interested in volunteering for counseling teams should call UMCOR's volunteer line at (800) 918-3100.

Open House Month

HOW DID IT GO?

Conference newspaper sends 'undercover' reporter to find out

By Clint Cooper

When we United Methodists say we have "open hearts, open minds and open doors," do we mean it? As a lifelong United Methodist and the religion editor of the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, I decided to find out recently by attending a Chattanooga-area church that I wasn't familiar with during "Open House Month."

The first evidence I hoped to see of the church was a road sign, telling me the church was just ahead, but there was none. The church wasn't hard to find, though. It was on a main road, and the sign in front gave the church's name and also had the word "welcome."

The parking lot was easily accessible, and there was a parking place close to the worship center's door. I thought the parking space might be marked "reserved for visitors," but it wasn't. I hustled in a few minutes ahead of the service time.

No one spoke to me in the vestibule, but the usher shook my hand and gave me a bulletin. I found my way to a seat near the front of the sanctuary, on the edge of an aisle. There were people in front of me, behind me and beside me.

Still, no one spoke to me, although this seemed to be a medium-sized

See *Undercover* on C3.



Igniting Ministry isn't over yet, communications director says

By Kevin Slimp

Holston Director of Communications

The Holston Conference has come so far, so quickly, it's hard to imagine it's been nine months since we began the work of Igniting Ministry. I've personally been working on the campaign since my second day on the job in January 2001. Since then, we've applied for and received a \$47,500 grant to run TV spots throughout the conference. We've held four major training sessions, attended by approximately 1,500 Holston members. Billboards have gone up, ads have been run in newspapers, and local newscasts have carried reports concerning the Methodist efforts to reach the unchurched.

Now that Open House Month is over,

[Click HERE to continue.](#)

Igniting ideas

- Postcards from the edge
- Munsey's message from above

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Bishop's Perspective

God, thank you for blessing the world

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

My mother's favorite son is Bruce, my older brother.

If I begin with this very wrong assumption, it distorts everything I believe about both my mother and my brother. The truth is, my mother deeply loves each of her six children. We all share a common DNA heritage.

My mother is not content that we children all love her. She longs for, prays for, yearns for us to respect and love and care for each other.

I often think of the heartbreak of Adam and Eve. Cain murdered his brother, Abel. It must have grieved the parents to the core of their being to lose a son by the hand of another son.

God must grieve that we, sons and daughters, commit such violence against one another. God must weep because we

children, all of a common DNA, can't get along.

There have been so many misrepresentations of God. But God keeps trying to teach us how to live. In Jesus, God was magnificently incarnated and magnanimously grace-filled. Jesus clearly demonstrated how God embraces and loves and claims *all* of us, regardless of nationality, as precious children. Jesus showed us how to include all God's children.

My prayer is not, "God bless America," but "God, thank you for blessing the world. May we bless you by blessing — seeking to understand, love, forgive, respect, and embrace — all our brothers and sisters, even those most lost and farthest from you."

This understanding is just one beginning point for us to seek reconciliation for God's global family. God is not content

until all of his children are at peace with each other. God has no favorites, not even Americans. God is not provincial. So let us love one another, for as John tells us, "love is of God."

You are all in my prayers during these days of anguish and stress. The words of the hymn writer belong to us right now:

We share each other's woes, each other's burden bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Grace and peace,

Ray W. Chamberlain Jr.
Resident Bishop

Commentary: Nothing is beyond the local church, pastor says

By Alvin J. Horton

Pastor, Virginia Conference

Not long ago, assignment of United Methodist clergy as hospital chaplains, campus ministers or missionaries was considered an appointment "beyond the local church."

Today, we call such assignments "extension ministries," which denotes our understanding that ministry of the local church goes into the larger community and world.

But the old definition is hard to discard. People still refer to these workers in the field as those whose hearts and talents have moved them away from the needs of the local church.

As I contemplate this denominational struggle for the right terminology to describe ministry settings, I find myself asking, "Just what is *beyond* the local church?" Is it beyond the ministry of the local church to care for people who are sick or in need of spiritual support during life's most traumatic moments? I don't think so.

When a student graduates from a congregation's youth group and goes away to college, have that student's spiritual needs moved *beyond* the concern of the local church? Absolutely not.

And is it beyond the will of the local church to reach out to persons in poverty

down the street, across the continent or around the world? I certainly pray it is not.

Every time a local church shares resources through what we have learned to call "appointments," the local church extends its ministry into areas of service within its scope of responsibility, not beyond.

The chaplain who prays with a dying patient or crime victim or prison inmate is as much a part of that local church's ministry as the pastor who visits the home of a member of that congregation.

Conference staff members who train Sunday school teachers, mission volunteers and church newsletter editors are just as essential to the ministry of the local church as those they train.

There is no "beyond the local church" once we realize the world is our parish.

When your church participates in such apportionments as the World Service Fund and conference benevolences, you extended your reach through others. Students hungry for spiritual direction, families hungry for their next meal and church leaders hungry for new ways to engage in ministry — none of these are beyond your reach when your ministry is extended in this way.

What kind of ministry is beyond the local church? Certainly none I can see when I look with the eyes of faith.

The Rev. Alvin J. Horton is pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church in Midlothian, Va., and former editor of the Virginia United Methodist Advocate. Reprinted with permission from Interpreter, www.interpretermagazine.com.

In Memoriam

E.A. Pierce

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.—Elbert A. Pierce, 93, died Sept. 24, 2001, at Asbury Center in Johnson City. He was a retired Holston minister who served several churches in Greene County and Knoxville, Tenn.

The Rev. Pierce is survived by a son, Jerry Pierce, Concord, N.C.; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 26 at Trinity UMC, Greeneville, with interment in Oak Grove Cemetery. The Rev. Tom Lynch and the Rev. Robert Smith officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rev. E.A. Pierce Memorial Fund, Trinity UMC, 524 Tusculum Blvd., Greeneville, Tenn.

Wanda Bohannon Luttrell

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Wanda Bohannon

Luttrell, 83, died Sept. 17, 2001, at Ft. Sanders Parkwest Hospital in Knoxville. She was the widow of the Rev. Samuel Maynard Luttrell and an active member of Fountain City UMC.

She is survived by daughter, LeAnn Luttrell Trotter, Knoxville; son, Samuel Maynard Jr., Knoxville; sister, Geneva Broyles, Morristown; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Sept. 19 at Fountain City UMC with the Rev. P.L. Rowlett, the Rev. E.A. Eldridge, and John Needy officiating. Graveside services were held Sept. 20 at GreenLawn Cemetery, Greeneville, Tenn.

Memorials may be made to Fountain City UMC, 212 Hotel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37918.

Ray W. Chamberlain, Jr.
Bishop

Kevin K. Slimp
Director of Communications

Annette Spence Bender
Editor

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Calendar

'Day of Understanding' on Oct. 19

Responding to the nation's Sept. 11 tragedy, the Wesley Institute announces a special clergy continuing education event on Friday, Oct. 19. "A Day for Prayer and Understanding" will be held at Trinity UMC, Morristown, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wesley Institute Director Rev. Kim Goddard said the event will allow clergy to explore theological and political implications of the attacks, followed by worship and prayer.

"As clergy we confront our own grief, anger and fear, even as we minister to the answers," she said. "It is an especially challenging time to be ministry, yet with great opportunity to share the timeless good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

The agenda includes a "Conversation with the Muslim World" by Samir Saliba, professor of political science at Emory & Henry College. A panel discussion will include Saliba as well as Douglas Meeks, professor of theology and Wesleyan studies at Vanderbilt University; and the Rev. Ron Matthews, U.S. Army chaplain and Desert Storm veteran. Worship and prayer will be led by Bishop Ray Chamberlain.

Continuing education credit (1/2 CEU) will be awarded for participation. The event is not a regional clergy gathering and does not take the place of regional clergy gatherings, Goddard said.

Registration is \$10 and includes lunch. Pre-register by Oct. 17 by contacting Goddard at (423) 928-2156 or kimgoddard@Holston.org.

Laity Sunday on Oct. 21

The third Sunday in October has been designated as Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church. In many congregations, the worship service will be planned and led by laity. For more information and worship resources, visit the General Board of Discipleship site at www.gbod.org. Click on "Discipleship Ministries" and then "Ministry of the Laity."

UPDATE
Legacy of
Commitment

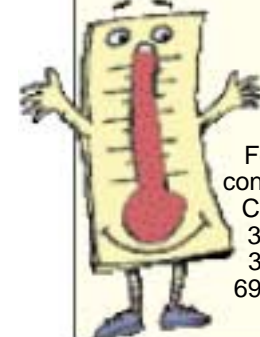
Goal: \$7.8 million

Pledges received: \$5,306,819

Percentage of goal: 68%

Source: The Legacy of Commitment campaign office, Oct. 2, 2001, figures.

For more information, contact: Pensions Campaign, P.O. Box 32939, Knoxville, TN 37930, phone (865) 690-4080.



What's Your Size?

The Call uses the following symbols to identify articles about small, medium or large churches:

- Churches with average 85 or fewer in principle weekly worship service(s)
- Average 86 to 225 in worship service(s)
- Average 226 or more in worship service(s)

Undercover

Continued from front page.

church where everybody knew everybody. The people seemed comfortable in jeans and T-shirts or suits. I was dressed somewhere in the middle of that range.

Before the worship began, an attendance register was passed to me to fill out. The bulletin also urged visitors to fill out a form and place it in the offering plate.

When the service started, the congregation was welcomed and the words to the songs appeared on a screen in front of the church. Not too far into the service, I noticed significant changes in the order of worship. I soon realized the order of worship was for an earlier service, while an outline provided the music and the message for this particular service.

The music was both spiritual and well done, and the people felt at ease to raise their hands in praise during the songs or applaud afterwards. The words to the day's Scripture reading also were



displayed on the screen, and the morning message was delivered with a quiet confidence.

Following the sermon, the pastor gave an invitation and then explained in detail the events surrounding the baptisms that morning. The congregation also was directed where to turn in their hymnals for the order of worship. Since the minister had so clearly explained the circumstances, I felt included in the lives of those being baptized.

At the end of the service, no one around me spoke to me, so I made my way to the exit. At the rear of the worship center, one man told me, "Thanks for being with us." As I walked through the vestibule, another man drinking coffee called out, "Come back."

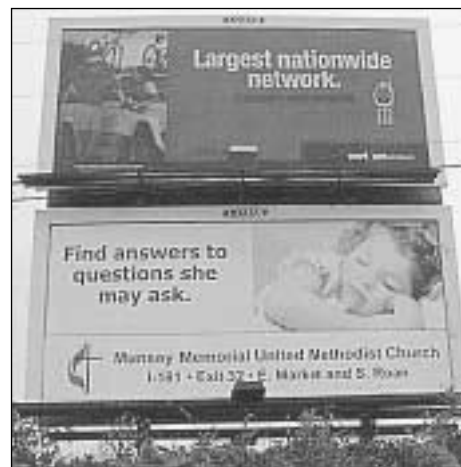
Had I been looking for a church, would I have come back? Maybe or maybe not. The music was good and there was a sweet spirit present, but I felt no welcoming arms. There was no personal touch from anyone to make me think I had come to just the right place at the right time.

However, I did receive a follow-up letter from the minister, including the promise of a call from the church visitation team.

When I joined my own church, what drew me in were not only calls and personal comments by the ministers but also the smiles and friendliness of the members who greeted me after each service. I felt wanted and needed.

If we truly have "open hearts, open minds and open doors," we must preach and teach the concept, but we on the pews also must make our neighbor feel at home.

Clint Cooper is a member at First-Centenary UMC, Chattanooga.



JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.—Munsey Memorial UMC recently invested \$1,600 on four Igniting Ministry billboards in the Johnson City area. Director of Membership Development Beth Anderson says it's the first time the church has done outdoor advertising. So far feedback is positive. ☉

Cutting-edge POSTCARDS

Holston Webmaster Donna Hankins recently developed a creative Igniting Ministry idea that's gaining interest on the national level. Holston members can now invite people to their churches by sending electronic postcards from the conference website.

According to Hankins, the idea occurred to her because electronic postcards are an inexpensive and convenient way to connect with people age 25-54, Igniting Ministry's target range. United Methodist Communications leaders are so enthused, the plan is to link Holston's website to the denominational website. Check it out at www.holstonconference.com.

Igniting

Continued from front page

our regional television ads have ended for the time being. But that doesn't mean Igniting Ministry is over. Far from it! Now is the peak time when most visitors will enter our doors in response to what they've heard and seen in the media. We've seen evidence of that as worship attendance swells across the conference.

Of course, with the tragic recent events taking place in our nation, it's difficult to gauge how much of the increase is related to people responding to these tragedies, and how many are responding to Igniting Ministry.



Kevin Slimp

But almost everyone agrees on one point: The Igniting Ministry campaign was launched at a time when many citizens began searching for deeper spiritual meaning in their lives. The fact that our media spots were already drawing the attention of unchurched viewers probably helped influence them to visit our churches for prayer and worship.

Even if your church isn't already engaged in Igniting Ministry, it's not too late to get started. Remember, this is a four-year campaign. Call Cokesbury Bookstore (1-888-279-3715) and order at least one Igniting Ministry planning kit for your congregation. The cost is \$89.95; shipping is free. When the kit arrives, get some folks together and begin looking through it for ideas. These kits are loaded with materials to help your members become more inviting and welcoming. If your congregation hasn't held training sessions to help members become more hospitable, now is the time to plan some.

Morristown youth win design contest for Resurrection shirts

A T shirt created by youth from Trinity Morristown UMC has been chosen as the winning design for Resurrection 2002 in January, the Holston Conference youth office recently announced.

The design wittily plays off a popular credit card commercial, showing "Master's Card" on front (*Expiration date: Eternity*) and a price list on back (*Jesus! Don't leave earth without him*).

When the conference youth office announced its third annual T shirt design contest earlier this year, Trinity Youth Coordinator Ed Goan recognized it as a

good project and potential fundraiser for his group.

After one youth member came up with the initial concept, the rest of the group "fed off each other" and developed the details, Goan said. Jason Stansell, a youth counselor who happens to be a graphic design student at East Tennessee State University, did the artwork.

Trinity was one of about 20 youth groups submitting T shirt designs, according to Angee Woody, conference youth coordinator. The conference Youth Council selected the winner.

Now, it's up to Trinity to produce and sell the shirts in pre-orders and onsite during Resurrection. The winning youth group keeps the profits, Woody said. "The only thing we ask is that they tithe 10 percent for the Youth Service Fund."

Two years ago, Concord UMC youth raised more than \$20,000 for an Alaskan mission trip with its winning T shirt design. Goan said his group hopes to raise just as much, applying the funds toward a mission trip and for Trinity's new multipurpose building. Trinity, which has an average worship attendance of 190, has about 35 regular participants in its youth program.

The T shirts are available in white and gold at \$10 for short sleeves, \$12 for long sleeves. For orders of 12 more,

shirts may be personalized with a youth group or church name for an extra \$1.25

per shirt.

For an order

form, visit

www.holston.org,

or contact Goan at

(423) 585-4771,

cgoan@charter.net or

goance@lenzingusa.com.

Scheduled Jan. 11-13

and 18-20 in

Gatlinburg,

Tenn., Resur-

rection is the

conference's

annual youth

retreat, attended

by about 10,000

youth and coun-

selors over two

weekends. For

more informa-

tion, visit Hol-

ston's website

or call the youth

office at (423)

928-2156.



Resurrection Pass \$30

Hotel Room \$60

10 Large Pizzas \$75

Salvation PRICELESS

Jesus! Don't leave earth without Him.



HAPPY CAMPERS – Camp Dickenson, located in Fries, Va., is one of seven Holston Conference summer camps experiencing rising attendance.

Camp ministry report

Thankful for rising attendance, 'working hard' to fix problems

Attendance at Holston Conference summer camps continues to rise. This past season, attendance increased by eight percent over 2000 figures, from 2,851 to 3,103.

Nonetheless, Holston Conference Camping and Leisure Ministries faces a financial crisis that has conference leaders "working very hard" to remedy, says Camping Coordinator Rev. Randy Pasqua. The leadership is also examining its mission, "preparing for a vital future." In a nutshell: "We're on the threshold of change," he said.



Randy Pasqua

About 100 conference leaders, including the camping board and Discipleship Team, are reviewing preliminary results of a study commissioned by the conference in 1999. The study will address a cumulative camping ministry deficit of more than \$250,000, as reported in the "Conference Journal 2000." The 2001 budget for Holston Conference Camping & Leisure Ministries is \$1.8 million.

Rising attendances at summer camps shows the program "has quality," Pasqua said. "We're delighted that we're meeting our campers' needs."

But aging facilities, rising expectations from kids and parents, and a decline in adult retreat attendance put the squeeze on camp budgets, forcing directors to spend more money on campers each year while upgrading buildings and infrastructure.

Built more than 30 years ago, the majority of Holston's seven camps "do not meet contemporary needs for comfort and convenience," the study found, negatively impacting adult retreat participants.

"Our facilities were built to be summer camps. They've lagged behind in keeping up with standards for adult retreats," Pasqua said.

As child-care industry standards rise, summer camp ministries also must meet higher requirements for training, supervision, space and facilities.

According to the study, suggested changes include offering camp ministries through fewer sites and revamping financial and leadership structures. No dramatic changes are expected before the 2002 summer season.

Pasqua said the preliminary results of the study are being treated as a "working document. We're working it into a plan that everybody can get behind. Whenever you propose change, that scares a lot of people. But we need to be poised for future ministry. It costs significant dollars to have a quality program."

Camp Stats

Total 2001 summer attendance:	3,103
Total 2000 summer attendance:	2,851
Percentage of campers from United Methodist churches:	71
Number of churches represented:	308
Dollars spent by Holston groups on scholarships:	\$190,557
Camp with largest attendance increase:	Camp Dickenson, from 508 last year to 601 this year
2001 theme:	With Open Arms
Next summer's theme:	In the Majesty of the Earth

Not your typical hospital food

Chattanooga ministry serves ICU family members

By Clint Cooper
Chattanooga Times Free Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—Many of the individuals who walked out of the intensive care waiting rooms and headed for the table of food at Memorial Hospital last month had haggard looks from worry and lack of sleep.

Some probably hadn't eaten in 24 hours. Others needed to stay close to await word from a doctor. Still more couldn't risk leaving lest there be a change in the condition of a loved one.

The food on the table was purchased, prepared and brought in by a group at Jones Memorial UMC, but it might have been St. Gerard Catholic Church, Spring Creek Road Baptist Church or any of more than 30 churches, groups or individuals who are part of Memorial's Lunch Program for Intensive Care Families.

Lunch is brought in every weekday around 11:30 a.m. by one of the groups, and dinner is served on Thursday and Friday nights. There is no charge for any of the meals.

"I am inspired at the dedication of those who do serve lunch," said Sister Marie Ann Ballard, a patient advocate at Memorial and the coordinator of the program. "It's a faith experience and a beautiful thing — like Christ is present doing it for them."

Faye Carney, a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, began the program 11 years ago. She had seen a similar program in another hospital when her brother was a patient there and sought to start it at Memorial.

"We do it in the name of the church," she said. "When you get something started, you like to see it grow. It's tickled me to death (the way it has grown). I was proud to get it started. It's one of the best ministries we could do."

Today, the program has expanded so much that groups are asked to bring lunch or dinner only once a month.

Sister Ballard said groups are asked to bring in simple food for 50 to 60 people. Some groups bring so much she is able to

distribute it to other waiting areas, she said.

Lanier Davenport is among those who took advantage of the program. Davenport's late father was in the medical intensive care unit of the hospital for nearly 60 days, and his mother stayed as close to her husband as she could. Davenport himself was there as often as possible.

"It's been a real godsend," he said of the lunches. "The people that prepare them have a real feeling of compassion."

On the day Jones Memorial UMC was responsible for lunch, church members Doris Weir, Edna Earl Henson and Norma Ezzell served it. They put out assorted sandwiches, fruit, chips, Little Debbie's, soft drinks and the accompanying plates, cups and napkins.

"The entire church is involved," said Weir. She said the church rotates the monthly chore of making sandwiches among "six or seven ladies" out of "20 to 25" volunteers.

"It's the easiest thing (we've) ever done, and it's not (money) out of the church treasury," Weir said. "It's such a blessing. We've even had some people who wanted to pay (for lunch), but we feel like it's a ministry."

While churches make up the majority of the groups that serve lunch, they are not allowed to use the occasion to recruit new church members.

"This is not a place to evangelize," said Sister Ballard.

She said individuals who have partaken of the lunches have gone back to their own churches and have become a part of the ministry. Indeed, she said every weekday but one for the rest of the year had been taken. And since she still has inquiries, she said, she is thinking of allowing churches to bring in a continental breakfast for the ICU waiting rooms.

"This is a reflection of Memorial and our mission (to) further the healing ministry of Christ," said Jean Payne, a hospital spokeswoman.

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Photo by Alex McMahan/ *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

INTENSIVE CARE—Jones Memorial UMC members set out a homemade lunch for weary family members in a Chattanooga hospital waiting room. ☛