



Messenger

October
2024

Debbie Wallace-Padgett - Resident Bishop - Reverend Ann Robins. - District Superintendent
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Hope Does Not Disappoint

I just got back from a mission trip to Zimbabwe and Liberia. In Zimbabwe, our team visited my village and took part in the dedication of a new church building at my home church, Dzobo United Methodist Church. Zimbabwe is facing a severe drought, and my village has been heavily affected. The village elders and my family informed me that no one harvested anything, not even a single grain, as the river and streams that flow through the village had all dried up.

During our visit to Liberia, we visited economically depressed communities where we refrained from taking pictures. At one school, we provided 15 food buckets and a few backpacks, but the overwhelming need in the community made us feel like we weren't making much of a difference. It reminded me of Corbett & Fikkert's book *When Helping Hurts*, but I realized that our presence and gifts were not causing harm. Our purpose in Liberia and Zimbabwe was to establish meaningful relationships.

In Liberia and Zimbabwe, we were welcomed with great joy. The food buckets and backpacks brought joy not because they solved the economic challenges or eradicated the effects of drought in those communities but because they represented hope. One evening, after an exhausting day, I was reading Romans 5, and Verse 5 caught my attention. *And hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us* (Rom. 5:5).

I was reminded that hope, rooted in God's love, does not disappoint or shame us. God's love is not theoretical or abstract but is tangibly poured into our hearts. This love is not just a feeling; it's a force that inspires hope. And hope, in turn, empowers us to face life's challenges with resilience and confidence. Our hope is grounded in God's unwavering love rather than human emotions or circumstances. That evening, I prayed for and thanked the people of the Holston Conference for allowing God to pour God's love into their hearts and bless the people in Liberia and Zimbabwe. God's love is the source of our hope to do more in the coming year.
Thank you.

Sam Dzobo

2025 Hands-On Mission Project- Zimbabwe Holston Annual Conference Smoky Mountain and Tennessee Valley Districts

Unlike school supplies, food items have expiration dates. Be sure and check the dates and make sure they do not expire until 2026 in order to cover transport time and having a useful life for the people in Zimbabwe.

The Smoky Mountain District has been asked to put together 500 Food Buckets for the 2025 Holston Annual Conference Hands-On Mission Project. *Note: (Price per bucket has increased) A \$8.00 donation for packing and shipping is to accompany each bucket. **Each church is ask to bring ONE check for the total donation amount. Make checks out to Smoky Mountain District or Tennessee Valley and put 2025Hands-On in the memo line.***

*** Do not put money in the bucket!**

1-Bag Self Rising Flour (4-5 lb.)

1 bag dried beans (2 lb.)

1 bottle cooking oil (48 oz. or less)

1 bag Sugar (4-5lb) (TN Valley Only)

Canned Meat (Ham, Tuna or Spam-2 lb. total)

1-powdered / dried milk (64 oz. or less)

1-bag rice (2 lb.)

Pack in a NEW 5-gallon bucket with lid

Your buckets need to be delivered to Cokesbury UMC, North Campus, 9919 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922:

Please deliver your buckets to Cokesbury UMC, Date TBA

(Do not deliver early)

Hope you are enjoying
The Fall Season



Up-Coming Events

October

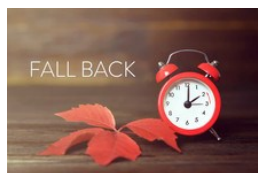
6, 13 & 20 Charge Conferences starting

7 SLI Training with Sam Dzobo leading

15 Day with the Bishop
(See next page for more information)

November

3



14 Pastors' Meeting at Cokesbury UMC-North Campus starting at 10:00 a.m.

27-29 Thanksgiving Holiday-District offices will be closed.

Special Thanks to the following Congregations who are current in their giving to the 2024 District Ministries-Smoky Mountain (Thru September 28, 2024—75%)
(* Denotes 100% of 2024 District Ministries Paid)

* Asbury
* Binfield
Cokesbury
* Friendsville
* Immanuel
Maryville First
* Middlesettlements
* New Hope
* Philadelphia
Sevierville, First
* Trinity, LC
* Vestal
* Williamson Chapel

* Axley's Chapel
Broadway
Ebenezer
* Gatlinburg, First
* Logan's Chapel
* Meadow
* Mountain View
* Oakland
* Pleasant Hill
Seymour
Tuckaleechee
* Vonore

* Bethel (Seymour)
* CampGround-
* Fenders
* Green Meadow
Luretta
* Middle Creek
* Murphy's Chapel
Peck's Memorial
* Roberts
St. Mark
* Union Grove
* Wears Valley

Day With the Bishop



Tuesday, October 15, 2024

11:30 a.m. – UT Wesley Foundation-Knoxville

UTK Students, Mary K. Briggs, Mary Thompson, Laura McLean, Whitney Winston and Haley Davis, Director Wesley Woods

Light Lunch - provided

3:00 p.m. – Zoom - Superintendency Committee, Tennessee Valley District

3:30 p.m. – Zoom - Superintendency Committee, Smoky Mountain District

4:30 p.m. – Both Districts, Leadership Teams meet with Bishop at Maryville, First

5:30 p.m. – Leadership Teams eating together

*5:30-6:30 p.m. – Small Membership Churches (Average 50 or under in attendance)
(Pastor + 1 laity)*

*5:30-6:00 p.m. Casual Gathering with Finger Food –at Maryville, First
(reservations needed)-SM contact Cheryl/ TV contact Mary*

6:00-6:30 p.m. Small Membership Churches- Conversation with the Bishop

7:00 p.m. Worship at Maryville, First UMC

Vision: A conference of passionate spiritual leaders making disciples of Jesus Christ

Mission: Developing passionate spiritual leaders who reflect Jesus



**October 2024 Tennessee Valley District Lay Servant/
Lay Speaker Training
Saturday, October 12, 2024 (9:00 AM to 1:00 PM)
This training will be by
Zoom Meeting**

**Please return this form with your check prior to the deadline.
Registration Deadline: October 8, 2024**

Registration Fee: \$ 10.00*

**Advanced Course: A Study of Personal Prayer
Instructor: Rev. Eric Bronkala
Book: “Lord, Teach us to Pray” by Margie Burger**

PLEASE READ THE BOOK PRIOR TO THE CLASS

YOU MUST PURCHASE YOUR OWN BOOK at Amazon.com or store@upperroom.org

You will be sent the ZOOM Meeting log in information on Thursday October 10, 2024.

The Basic Class and Advanced Courses to be a Certified Lay Servant or Certified Lay Speaker will be offered by ZOOM Meetings and In-Person from September 7th (Basic Class) through November 2, 2024 by the Districts of the Holston Conference.

**ALL COURSES OFFERED BY THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS ARE OPEN TO ALL
HOLSTON CONFERENCE LAITY**

***The registration fee is for instructor expenses.**

**Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
Church/Charge: _____**

**Please return this form with your check for
\$10.00 to the Tennessee Valley District
Please mail to:
Bobby Stair
2511 Ancient Oak Lane
Knoxville, Tn. 37931**

**Questions: Contact Bobby Stair, District Lay Servant Director at thestairhouse865@gmail.com or
cell: 865-776-0580**