

# 2009 Holston Conference United Methodist Women School of Christian Mission ~ July 23-25, 2009

First United Methodist Church ~ 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike ~ Oak Ridge, TN 37830



**New this year ~  
for all involved in  
Children's Education!**

We are inviting all adults who wish to "audit" or sit in on the Children's Sudan Study with our children's leader, Virginia Howe, to sign up for the children's class! It will be a learning experience to take back to your church!

**First Timer's Orientation!!**

Get the scoop on the School of Christian Mission! Ask those nagging questions ~ find out more about how the school is run! July 23 from 1:30 to 1:45 P.M.

**Dean:** Marsheine McClurg  
3125 Alcoa Highway  
Alcoa, TN 37701  
(865) 977-6019

**Assistant Dean:** Martha Ketron  
232 New Beason Well Road  
Kingsport, TN 37660  
(423) 288-3873

**School Schedule**

**Thursday, July 23, 2009**

Lunch on your own  
1:00-1:45 P.M. Registration  
1:00-1:40 P.M. Prayer Room/Program Resources/SERRV  
1:30-1:45 P.M. *First Timers Orientation*  
1:45-2:00 P.M. Song Fest  
2:00-3:15 P.M. Plenary I  
3:15-3:30 P.M. BREAK  
3:30-5:30 P.M. First Class Session  
5:30-6:15 P.M. Dinner  
6:15-7:15 P.M. Mission Stations  
7:30-8:00 P.M. Program

**Friday, July 24, 2009**

9:00-9:15 A.M. Song Fest  
9:30-11:30 A.M. Second Class Session  
11:45-12:45 P.M. Lunch  
12:45-1:00 P.M. Song Fest  
1:00-2:00 P.M. Plenary 2  
2:00-3:00 P.M. Audio Visual Viewing Room  
Prayer Room  
Program Resources Open  
SERRV Open  
3:00-5:00 P.M. Third Class Session  
5:15-6:30 P.M. Dinner  
6:30-8:00 P.M. Program

**Saturday, July 25, 2009**

8:30-10:30 A.M. Fourth Class Session  
10:30-10:45 A.M. BREAK  
10:45-11:00 A.M. Song Fest  
11:00-12:15 P.M. Plenary 3



## I-40 Closures in Knoxville

As you make plans to travel to the 2009 School of Christian Mission in Oak Ridge, be aware that a portion of Interstate 40 is closed in Knoxville. **The Tennessee Department of Transportation is posting signs advising alternate routes.** Listed below are some routes that may be of help to you in your trip to Oak Ridge.

**From Knoxville or points south of Knoxville**—take the Pellissippi Parkway into Oak Ridge. At the third traffic light, turn right onto Tulane Avenue. Go to the first light and cross the Oak Ridge Turnpike. The church is on the right. To reach the Comfort Inn, you will go northeast on Oak Ridge Turnpike toward Main Street, turning right on South Rutgers Avenue. The address is 433 South Rutgers Avenue.

**From Virginia and Northeast Tennessee**— Travel Interstate 81 South to I-40 South toward Knoxville. Continue to I-640 and follow this route to the Clinton Highway Exit. Continue until you arrive at Tennessee Highway 95 which is the Oak Ridge Turnpike. Continue until you end at 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Directions to the Comfort Inn are listed above.

**Your Registrar** will include directions with your registration confirmation.



### Pianist

**Rhonda Mayfield** has been a pianist literally, all her life! When asked about her beginnings, she replied, “I don’t remember a time when I couldn’t play.” Most of her life she has played for churches as both an accompanist and soloist. She served as the choral accompanist at Maryville High School from 1997-2004, and has performed as far away as China and Thailand.

Rhonda was featured at the popular *Keyboards at Christmas*—Tennessee Theatre Knoxville Tennessee. She has premiered works by various composers including; Myra Brooks Turner, Dwight Dockery, Rennie Salata and Terry Wilson.

Rhonda graduated from Heritage High School and received her piano performance degree from Maryville College. She continues to study with Dr. Robert Bonham and Sheila Paige. She is married to Tony Mayfield—they have a daughter, Kaylyn. Rhonda boasts a significant repertoire of classical and modern music, and maintains a private teaching studio.

## Children’s Sudan Virginia Howe—Leader



**Virginia Howe** is originally from Charleston, South Carolina, now residing in Kingsport, Tennessee. She is twenty-two and will graduate in May 2009 from East Tennessee State University with a degree in Marketing. She has two siblings, both younger. Virginia plays the bassoon for the ETSU Wind Ensemble and likes to shop. She attends First Broad Street UMC in Kingsport and is a member of the Holston Conference. In March 2007, she had the chance of a lifetime to travel with the mission team from Holston to Yei, Sudan. Virginia says, I will always cherish her memories from Sudan and its beautiful people. God is doing GREAT things for Africa. I look forward to this week and can’t wait to share it with you!”



### Music Leader Bob Ergenbright



**Bob Ergenbright** has directed the music program at Broadway United Methodist Church, including the chancel choir and the children’s choir, for twenty-five years. In addition, he directs the hand bell ensembles for adults and children. Over the years, children’s choirs directed by Mr. Ergenbright, have presented many musical dramas including “Paul and Company” which was the featured production for a United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska. He is an active member of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. He has served in many capacities in Holston Conference as Chairman of the Conference Education Committee, music leader for Jubilation and the Cooperative School of Christian Missions. He, also, has served in various capacities in the Maryville District.

He holds the Bachelor of Arts degree in music and German from Emory and Henry College and the Master of Music degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from The Catholic University of America. He has taught at Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman University), the State University of New York at Cortland, and Maryville College. In addition to his duties at Broadway UMC, he teaches voice and counsels Boy Scouts as they complete the requirements for their music and bugle merit badges.

## Sudan ~ The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible

The purpose of this study is to help participants better understand the country of Sudan. For most of the past twenty years Sudan has been plagued with severe drought, leading to shortages of food and water which has sometimes reached famine proportions. Climate change in Sudan is not just a looming crisis—it is the reality on the ground. And then there are the wars of Sudan: unremitting, for nearly all its history.

Yet, at Sudan's core is beauty. It was described very well by Polish journalist Ryszard Kapuscinski—*"More than anything one is struck by the light."* Aside from the landscape's beauty, there is an interior beauty: The spirit of courage. A richness of tradition, antiquity, cultures and natural resources. The Mission Study for 2009-2010, **The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible**, written by Linda Beher, offers an extended portrait of Sudan. This study will explore an overview of history that began in Bible times, the country's main ethnicities, religions, and languages, the way Sudanese women are contributing to the peace process and culture as a whole. Using our loving eye in this study, we can see that Sudan and its people embody and inspire many of the issues of the 21st Century continent of Africa. Their beauty and courage promise the hope that eventually they will realize the dream of peace.

### Sudan

#### Leader ~ Ann Travis



**Anne Travis** currently serves as Director of Connectional Ministries for Holston Conference, a position she has held since November 2000. She has responsibility for

Age-Level Ministries (overseeing Children, Youth, Young Adults, and Older Adults), Camp and Retreat Ministries, and Missions, as well as relating to the program ministry teams of the Conference.

An active United Methodist layperson, she is a member of Concord United Methodist Church in West Knoxville. She grew up in a parsonage family, and her father and brother are Holston Conference clergy. She and her husband Hal, who is an engineer, have two daughters – Clair, who is also a pastor in Holston, and Lindsay, who lives with her husband Jim Bedford in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she teaches a Primary autism class.

### Sudan

#### Leader ~ Fred Dearing



**The Reverend Fred Dearing** has served in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church for twenty-nine years. He has served circuits, mid-sized and large churches. He has provided leadership in missions in the conference, district and local church. He has served as Dean and teacher in previous Schools of Christian Mission. He was part of the first conference team to visit the church in Yei, Sudan, in 2006 and will return with a team in 2009. He is currently serving as the District Superintendent of the Kingsport District.

He is married to Libby, who recently retired from a career in medical case management. She has been on three medical teams to Yei and is passionate about the work of our conference in Sudan.

### Sudan

#### Leader ~ Danny Howe



**Danny Howe** was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, where his family was very active in the United Methodist Church and camping ministries of the North Alabama Annual Conference. Danny was very active in band during his high school and enjoyed fishing and wood working. He attended Jefferson State Junior College and Athens State College. Danny worked as a contractor in Birmingham and continued this craft when moving to Kingsport to be supportive of family with medical issues.

He began working in missions at First Broad Street UMC in 1985 when he and his wife Debbie were sent to Johns Island, South Carolina as missionaries. He has worked with teams coming to the Sea Islands to rehab housing while Debbie worked with the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. After two years, Danny and Debbie returned home and started a local mission ministry called Carpenters Helpers Ministry. This ministry was designed to address the housing rehab needs in the Kingsport area while engaging the congregation of First Broad Street and the community in transformational experiences of service. In 1989, he returned to Johns Island after Hurricane Hugo devastated the South Carolina coast and spent two years helping coordinate work teams in rebuilding efforts of the Sea Islands.

Danny and his family returned to First Broad Street United Methodist Church in 1992 where he has remained on staff and currently serves as Director of Missions. His wife, Debbie, is employed at the Child Center as assistant director and teacher of four year olds. They have been blessed with three children. Virginia and Matt, both of whom are students at East Tennessee State University, and Madeline a fourth grade student at Lincoln Elementary. Danny also currently serves as chair of the Holston Conference Mission Ministry Team. He enjoys leading teams on national and international mission experiences. Danny's teaching is a theology based on missions as a lifestyle, not an event. Danny has traveled in mission to Yei, Sudan twice, having led the last team in February of 2009, along with his brother Harry.

## Food and Faith

This study is about how our faith is nurtured, strengthened, and enhanced, by food and all the ways food touches our lives. It is no accident that our most profound sacrament, Holy Communion, is food. In this study, we explore how the bread and fruit of the vine illustrates the magnitude of God's love for us on multiple levels, and how God's presence is invoked and the divine and the ordinary connect in a mystery created by Christ and ordained by God.

The presence of God in our lives is shared in community when the faithful gather for sustenance in the form of fellowship and food. It is an extension of the Communion Table when the church family gathers around coffee and cookies, a benefit dinner, a meal of celebration, a meal for healing the grief of the bereaved or in many other ways. Our relationships with food are complex and individual. The study explores how food can be a companion, a comforter, a quiet, friendly presence that can fill empty moments in our lives, and yet food can become an enemy, also, in a fast-paced life. It is a cruel addiction that must be managed, controlled and overcome. Finally, the rituals of feasting and fasting remind us of our need for God. This study gives information on reasons to fast and healthy ways to fast, and grow from the ritual of fasting. We have John Wesley's words to remind us that we can be both empty and full for God. "Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing." We are reminded that when we can take the time to explore the spiritual benefits of being full or empty, the food given to us by God for our well-being will satisfy more completely.



### Leader

**Sue C. Johnson**, Executive Secretary for Mission Team Training, Women's Division will be our School of Christian Mission Study Leader for Food and Faith.

Sue has been a member of Women's Division executive staff for twenty years. Her primary task is working with conference mission teams. During her time with Women's Division, Sue has been a study leader in both Conference and Regional Schools of Christian Mission. She has led retreats and spoken at United Methodist Women annual meetings, legislative events, and young women events. She has a major role in working with the other staff to plan and organize Assembly. She also has an appointment to The Appalachian Ministry Network. Sue served as a volunteer prior to being employed with Women's Division.

Prior to Women's Division she spent most of her time in public education. She taught ninth through twelfth grades in social sciences. During that period she chaired the department. In the summers, she taught college literature – the Old Testament through the Renaissance. While a high school instructor, she sponsored history clubs, student council, cheerleaders, pep clubs, and food concession stands and she directed both plays and musicals.

She earned her Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and has done lobbying in two state legislatures.

Her passions outside of work include the visual arts, theatre, reading, needle work and caring for a two year old Tonkinese kitten and loving and talking and being with her nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great – great niece; and her God children and their children.



### Leader

**Reverend Dr. William H. Wilson (Bill)** is Director of Connectional Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop of the West Virginia Annual Conference. Dr. Wilson's 35 years of ministry has included serving as a District Superintendent, a Hospital Chaplain and pastor of churches in West Virginia and Texas. Bill is a graduate of West

Virginia Wesleyan College with a degree in Sociology and Theater; a graduate of Perkins School of Theology, SMU with a Master of Theology degree. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Drew University. His special training, experience, and certifications include Sex Education & Counseling, a UMC Minister of Christian Education and Spirituality/Spiritual Direction. Bill is a Benedictine Oblate of St. Meinrad Archabbey, Indiana. He has taught for over 25 years as a Study Leader for Regional and Conference Schools of Christian Mission and is an Adjunct Instructor of spiritual formation for United Theological Seminary. Dr. Wilson has been a Delegate to General & Northeastern Jurisdictional Conferences; a former member of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women & liaison to the General Board of Global Ministries. He is currently a member of the General Commission on Archives & History as well as the Church & Community Workers National Advisory Committee. Bill and his wife, Jane, a nurse, reside in Huntington West Virginia; they have two grown married daughters and three grandchildren

# Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival

The purpose of this study is to learn about the inter-relatedness between indigenous peoples and their land; to identify selected key issues affecting the Native Americans in the United States and to examine the root causes of these issues; to understand and appreciate the “Give Away” culture of the Native Americans in the areas of spirituality, ecology, language, story telling, and food; and to lead the participants to act as responsible United States Citizens and Christians in accompaniment and solidarity with Native Americans.

## Native American Survival Leader ~ Joyce C. Deere



**Joyce C. Deere** – Choctaw/Muscogee (Creek) – is a member of Fife Memorial United Methodist Church in Muskogee, OK. She is presently serving on the South Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team as a member on the Committee of Nominations. She has served the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference United Methodist Women as President, Conference Secretary, Conference Social Action Coordinator, and one year on the Committee of Nominations. She served three years on the West Gulf Regional School Planning Team; two years as Audio-visual Coordinator and one year as Dean. Music is her favorite activity and she enjoys teaching Native American hymns to the youth in her church. She has a 35-year career with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs. She is married to Lyle, a full-blood Muscogee (Creek) citizen, and they are blessed with two daughters, two sons, three grandsons, and two granddaughters.

## Things You Need to Know

**Meals:** Thursday dinner, Friday lunch and Friday dinner will be served at the church to all participants. Complimentary breakfast is offered to those lodging at the Comfort Inn; otherwise, breakfast is on your own.

**Childcare** is provided during class sessions for children attending with a registered adult only if you indicate on your advance registration the names and ages of children you are bringing with you. Children may be dropped off 15 minutes before the class period and must be picked up by 15 minutes after each class period.

**Directions** to Comfort Inn and First United Methodist Church will be mailed with confirmation of your School of Christian Mission registration.

**Emergency Number: First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge**  
1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
(865) 483-4357

**Registration: Thursday, July 23**  
1:00—2:00 P.M.  
1:30 1st Timer’s Orientation  
1:45 Songfest to begin!

**School starts** with opening plenary at 2:00 P.M. **Thursday, July 23.**

**School ends Saturday, July 25,** at 12:30 P.M. following the closing plenary.

**Bring with you:** Bible, notepad, a light jacket or sweater, comfortable clothing and shoes—you may also need a cushion for comfort in sitting on metal chairs.

**Study Books** may be ordered in advance from Mission Resource Center online [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org) or by calling their toll-free number 1-800-305-9857. **Study books** will also be available in Catherine’s Resource Room at the school.

**Scholarships:** One scholarship per district is available for a first-time participant. Contact your District United Methodist Women President for information.

**Holston Conference School of Christian Mission – July 23-25, 2009**  
**LODGING ACCOMODATIONS – RESERVATION REQUEST FORM**

Participants may make room reservations with Holston Conference United Methodist Women, at group rates with no sales tax, at the following facility:

**Comfort Inn Oak Ridge—433 South Rutgers Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.** Room rate is \$83 per night for 2 doubles or 1 King nonsmoking room. Free Breakfast is included.

Your payment must accompany this request, in the form of a check – **sorry, no credit cards**. Roommates may pay separately; please mail forms/payments together if possible. Reservations will be accepted until **July 6** or until rooms run out, whichever occurs first. You may contact Kay Phillips, conference treasurer, at 865-453-6436 or email [donaldphillips07@comcast.net](mailto:donaldphillips07@comcast.net) if you have questions about room reservations. Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Are you a district UMW officer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, which district and office? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will make my own arrangements or will commute.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reserve my room at the:

\_\_\_\_\_ Comfort Inn \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday night \_\_\_\_\_ Friday night

\_\_\_\_\_ Please assign a roommate (at double rate).

\_\_\_\_\_ My roommate (s) will be: \_\_\_\_\_

She/he/they will \_\_\_\_\_ will not \_\_\_\_\_ register as a SOCM participant.

**Payment enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ Comfort Inn \$83 per night = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Holston Conference United Methodist Women.**

Mail this completed form and motel payment to **Kay Phillips,  
Conference Treasurer  
P O Box 4301  
Sevierville, TN 37862**

Holston Conference School of Christian Mission- - - July 23-25, 2009

First United Methodist Church- - - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Sponsored by Holston Conference United Methodist Women

Open to all Men and Women, Laity and Clergy

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ First Time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Clergy \_\_\_\_\_ Lay \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive CEU credit. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(1.5 CEU's if all classes are attended)

Special Needs (dietary, wheelchair, difficulty walking, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Names/ages of children, ages two to five years, attending with you for whom you need childcare \_\_\_\_\_

Names/ages of children attending the Children's Study \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT!**

**Register early to get the course of study you desire.....Courses are assigned in the order they are received.**

**Please select your course**

**By indicating (1) for first choice, (2) for second choice, and (3) for third choice.**

- Food and Faith \_\_\_\_\_
- Giving Our Hearts Away—Native \_\_\_\_\_
- American Survival \_\_\_\_\_
- Sudan \_\_\_\_\_
- Children's Study "Sudan" \_\_\_\_\_
- \*\*Adult "Auditing/Children's Study" \_\_\_\_\_ NEW!!! See Front Cover
- Observing \_\_\_\_\_

Names of persons who must be assigned to the same class \_\_\_\_\_  
(Registrations must be mailed in the same envelope)

If your registration is postmarked on or before July 10th, the registration fee is \$40.00 for each adult and \$25.00 for each child, ages five to nine, attending the children's study or for whom you need childcare. *If you wait to register at the school or your registration is postmarked after July 10th, the registration fee is \$45.00 for each adult. If the registration fee for a child is postmarked after July 10th, the registration fee will be \$30.00. Childcare is provided only if your child is registered in advance. Make checks payable to Holston Conference UMW . Mail completed form with payment to:*

**Pat Marshall, Registrar  
P. O. Box 1083  
Bristol, Virginia 24203**

United Methodist Women  
Holston Conference  
Lynice Broyles  
126 Mesa Drive  
Gray, Tennessee 37615  
Return Service Requested

Visit us online at  
[www.holstonconferenceumw.com](http://www.holstonconferenceumw.com)

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Jefferson City, TN  
Permit No. 87



## *Have Fun Learning, Exploring, Growing!*

### *Special Night*

*Join us on Friday evening as we observe a special night and explore Sudan!*

### *Mission Stations*

*Thursday evening we will be visiting various mission stations*