Holston Happenings
newsletter
Summer, 2020



Providing Hope
and Healing for a Brighter Future...

A publication of
Holston United Methodist
Home for Children

From the President



HOLSTON HOME'S MISSION:
Holston United Methodist Home for Children provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life's challenges.

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I have heard it said that when something or someone gets squeezed, what is in the inside comes out. During this unprecedented time in history we have seen this phenomenon play out in many wonderful ways. We have been inspired and encouraged so much by many of you in your prayers and gifts, by our staff members in their commitment and selflessness, and by our kids in their resilience and flexibility. Despite their anxieties and concern for their loved ones, they are hanging in there like champs. We have also been blessed to have had no cases of COVID-19 among our children, staff, foster families or volunteers.

One little boy, Adam, came to live at Holston Home right before America was in the throes of this crisis. He woke up one morning with a fever and all of the symptoms of the coronavirus. We immediately quarantined him and sought medical attention. He tested negative for strep and the flu. This coupled with not knowing what his exposure was prior to arriving at Holston Home, the physician had him tested for COVID-19. Adam was assigned his own staff, Kyler, while we awaited test results. Kyler cared for Adam like he was his own son. The next day Adam told one of our management staff that he had been sick a lot but no one had ever taken care of him like this. He said that he really loved it here and especially liked Kyler and another staff, Renee, who took such good care of him.



His test came back negative and he was sick with a virus of some sort but NOT COVID-19! Adam came to Holston Home because his mother had been neglectful as she was plagued by drug addiction. I believe that the Lord gave us the privilege of caring for this little boy at probably one of the scariest points of his young life.

When Adam was squeezed, love and gratitude came out. When Kyler and Renee were squeezed, compassion and unselfish courage came out. Kyler's mother, who doesn't work for Holston Home, heard about Adam and began sewing masks for us to use. She was limited to how many she could produce so our Director of Residential Services, Freda, joined her in sewing masks when she would finish her long shifts at night and over the weekend. When they both were squeezed, helpfulness and dedication came out.

These and so many other examples remind me of Jesus. When He was squeezed on a cross at Calvary, understanding and hope came out for a thief who had just been mocking Him; forgiveness and grace came out for centurions and religious leaders who were part of His murderers, and; concern and provision came out as He asked John to care for His mother.

We have all been squeezed during this difficult time. God, may we all look towards our Savior, our friends, and little guys like Adam for the attributes that you created us for and make us a light and a help to others. Amen.

Thank you for your faithful support through the years and in this present crisis. I hope you will close this newsletter knowing that God is using your prayers and donations to sow seeds of care and hope while giving young people examples of strong, dependable, and faithful adults around them as they weather this storm and the others that are specific to their experiences. I pray you and your family stay healthy and safe, and I look forward to having you on our campus or seeing you in churches very soon.

In Christ,



Become A Member 1895 Club

Why is it called the 1895 Club?
Our ministry began in 1895 when children were first brought into the shelter of the home. 1895 is a reminder of Holston Home's blessed history and how God is growing this ministry for His glory.

How do I acquire Annual Membership?
Membership into the 1895 Club is acquired by giving at least a total of $1,000 in a calendar year. You may give to any of our mailings or Friends of Children events. Friends of Children sponsors will be recognized as 1895 Club members. We want you to continue giving to the programs and services for which you are the most passionate and interested. For example, you can give one $1,000 gift or you might give five $200 gifts, whatever fits your giving objectives the best. If you are currently giving more than $1,000 annually, THANK YOU and please continue giving at the level of support that meets your philanthropic goals. To recognize donors who go above and beyond $1,000 annually there are additional gift categories to highlight your charity.

How will Club members be recognized for their support?
Donors to Holston Home expect their gifts to be stretched to extend the best possible care to hurting children. So we want to recognize you while being good stewards of the gifts given.

What are the Gift Categories?

Bronze member	$1,000 – $1,894
Silver member	$1,895 – $4,999
Gold member	$5,000 – $9,999
Platinum member	$10,000 and above

1895 Club members will receive:
- Certificate of Membership to first-time members and Membership Year Stickers for repeat members
- Invitation to an 1895 Club Appreciation Event



Uplifting Announcements

Along with a new look, Beacon School is getting a new name – "River Academy." As a private Christian school in Greeneville, Tennessee, we wanted a name that was relevant to our faith, our geography and our campus feel. Rivers and water are referenced throughout scripture and often represent the living and dynamic Holy Spirit that moves and is alive with what God is doing. With several rivers flowing in and around Greene County and the surrounding schools we serve it fits nicely with our location. Lastly, we believe this name goes along with the look and feel of our campus.

We hope you can come and visit us soon and experience what God is doing in the lives of young people.









Summer plans are still unfolding, and we know they will look different than in previous years due to all that is happening in the world around us. But we stand committed to providing the special moments and memories that our youth will cherish and carry with them for a lifetime. No virus can keep us from a summer filled with water, fireflies, and fun!







Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

There is no better way for us to express our love to Christ and His calling than helping hurting and destitute children. Your role as Ambassador for Holston Home helps give the members of your church the opportunity to become involved with a ministry associated with United Methodist Churches in the Holston Conference for the last 125 years.

We hope you will be especially diligent in preparing for this Fifth Sunday offering. The COVID-19 epidemic that has affected our world has had a devastating effect on church attendance and thus on church and mission support. According to some estimates, giving is down as much as 70%. The needs of children continue to be critical. They still need food, clothing, medical care,



education, and caring adults to give them love and support.

What better investment can we make as people of the Christian faith than to help boys and girls develop the potential God has given them? Nothing is more satisfying than to watch children grow and flourish and become what God has intended them to be!

As an Ambassador, you are making a world of difference as you interpret the ministry of Holston Home to your church and encourage giving to this vital ministry. We believe that the more people know and understand how the lives of boys and girls are being changed, the more they will understand how important their gifts are. Each person can make a small difference and together we can make some very big differences.

Thank you for the work you are doing as an Ambassador for Holston Home. Thank you for your faithfulness in putting up posters, assisting with inserting envelopes into bulletins and reminding your pastor to use the bulletin messages. Keep up the good work, and let me know how we can be helpful to you.

Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Director of Church Relations
and Estate Planning

James 1:27

Essential Staff

Our Early Childhood staff are "Essential" as they are making it possible for parents to continue to work and provide for their families during this difficult time. Many people have commented about how thankful folks are that we are still caring for children during this period. Way to keep spirits high, ladies!

God's protection and favor continues as we have no cases of COVID-19. We are thankful that our staff are continuing to receive pay and that our ministry is withstanding this storm. Kids are being cared for very well and they are seeing what love, strength and faith look like in the adults around them. We are indeed blessed and God is indeed very good!



Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
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To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

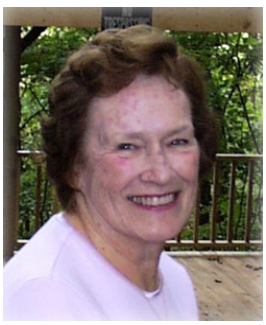
Next 5th Sunday is August 30, 2020

A Glimpse of History

The next Fifth Sunday is August 30th. On that Sunday we remember the children of Holston Home with our gifts. These offerings have been vital throughout the history and life of Holston Home and for the children who look to us for their care.

In the early years after Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley established Holston Orphanage, she traveled the length and breadth of the Conference in an effort to raise the money necessary to feed and clothe the children.

Many of the Methodist churches sent gifts to support the Orphanage. These offerings were usually received during Sunday School. In 1905, Mr. J.W. Crumley, a member of Munsey Memorial Methodist Church, visited the Orphanage and was impressed with what he saw. The Sunday following his visit he shared with his Sunday School class what he had learned and asked the class to take an offering for the Orphanage. His hearers became so enthusiastic and made a very liberal contribution to the ministry.



Mr. Crumley, a member of the Sunday School Board of the Holston Conference, recommended that all Sunday Schools in the Conference take a special offering each Fifth Sunday for the ongoing support of the orphanage. He was successful in having the Conference adopt the Fifth Sunday plan.

For more history & updates
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A publication known as *Fifth Sunday Bulletin* regularly reported these contributions, listing each church and the amount of their gift, keeping local churches informed about life at the orphanage. Mrs. W.B. Speer of Chattanooga was a member of the Orphanage Board of Directors from 1903-1954, and during all but the first two years served as volunteer editor of the *Fifth Sunday Bulletin*.

These offerings served a dual purpose. Not only did they provide the needed funds to take care of the children, but they helped the Methodists of Holston Conference participate in an outreach ministry to children and drew the children into their hearts.

– Eva Grey Hutchins