HOLSTON HAPPENINGS
newsletter

SPRING, 2015

ARE YOU
ready for the
next Fifth Sunday?
It's May 31st, 2015



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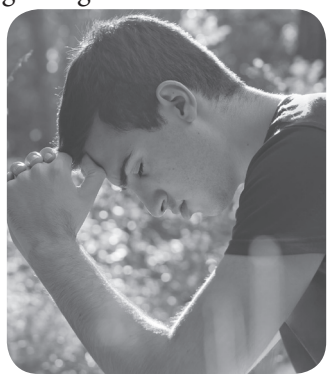
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A publication of
Holston United Methodist
Home for Children

A Word from the President



Wes came to Holston Home masking his shame of the life he had been living. His tattoos and past involvement in a culture of alcohol and drugs helped sell his angry and hardened image. After initially refusing the gift of a Bible, he began spending time with Abel Carrico, our Director of Christian Life. He shared that he knew about Jesus, but said that he couldn't believe that "Jesus would want anything to do" with him after the things he had done. Abel shared the good news of the gospel and quoted Psalm 27:10: "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me (NIV)." This verse pierced his heart, and they prayed that God would reveal His unending love to Wes. He then asked if he could still have that Bible. Wes read it daily and would ask Abel questions and share how God was speaking to him, until one day when he made the decision to surrender his life to the loving Savior who was patiently waiting for Wes to receive the gift of grace.



Recently, I was reading John's account of the Easter story. I was struck by his pointing out how he outran Peter to the empty tomb. I couldn't believe that God would inspire John to record such a shameless plug to highlight his own athleticism. After reading several commentaries, I found one that made perfect sense to me. Peter's last recorded encounter with Jesus is their shared look after the rooster crows to announce his third denial of knowing his Friend. Having felt the guilt and shame of letting Jesus down, it is easy to imagine why Peter may have been jogging instead of sprinting. What is great, though, is a meeting that happened between the Risen Jesus and Peter that we know nothing about except for nondescript references by Luke's gospel and Paul in I Corinthians. I don't know what was said, but I know from experience how freeing those conversations with Jesus can be – and now Wes does too.

Wes left Abel's office with old tattoos but was a new creation in Christ. Whether its Peter, Wes, you, me, or the unknown number of children and youth who will call Holston Home their home, Jesus' interpretation of Isiah's prophecy is indeed true – "He came to release the captives and free those who are oppressed (from Luke 4:18 NASB)."

Thank you for your prayers and gifts that enable us to share God's love in so many ways. His hope of freedom from the shame, hurts, and embarrassments of the past is woven through all that we do at Holston Home, and we are so dependent on the support of God's people to care for His children. Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

In Christ,



Bradley S. Williams

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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Holston United Methodist Home for Children is a Christian institution in the Wesleyan tradition serving children without regard to race, religion or gender. Founded in 1895, Holston Home is a ministry affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.

To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

Holston Home is Headed to...
Guatemala



"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? "And I said, "Here am I. Send me!""

-Isaiah 6:8

Children at Holston Home have been given many opportunities to serve the community. Over the last several months they have participated in a variety of community service projects including packing meals for families in Guatemala.

These projects have allowed Holston students to understand what it means to be "sent out," and the joy it brings to help others. In just a few short weeks, a team of seven children and staff are answering the call to serve in Guatemala. The team will be joining Fairview UMC May 23rd through the 31st to assist a children's home, conduct Vacation Bible Schools, help with construction projects, and administer medical services.





The students have been working hard to raise funds through concession sales, writing grants, and giving from their allowances. If you would like to assist in the $10,000 ($1,430 per person) needed for the trip please visit www.holstonhome.org and click "Donate Now" to make an on-line donation. Your donation of any amount will benefit this journey for our children. When you submit your gift, please indicate "Mission Trip" in the "Add special instructions to the seller" so we can apply your gift to this wonderful opportunity. (For more information on how to give to this cause, call Chris Cates at (423) 787-8725.

Thank You. We appreciate your prayers and support.

A Great Season for the Beacon Believers





Your support of Holston Home through Fifth Sunday is most important. Your contributions to the well-being of children helped by Holston Home have done wonders in the past and will do wonders again.

A Holston Hero

The story of former resident, and honored soldier, Jack Branch

"Hero." This word, like "love," has been tossed about and overused in our everyday language. Some would say they have lost their value. However, for those who have tasted the rich blessing of true love, or have crossed paths with a genuine hero, these words stand unaffected.

Sixty two years ago one of these rightful heroes came to Holston United Methodist Home for Children. At 6 years old, Jack Branch had no idea what was in store for his life. In fact, he didn't even know where his next meal would come from. His father was gone, and his mother was too ill to take care of him. In 1953, Jack and his brother, Carl, were taken to Holston Home where they joined their other 5 siblings who already resided there. "Holston Home was a real refuge for me and my six brothers and sisters. Without Holston Home family I don't know how we would have survived some very difficult times as children," says Jack about his stay at HUMHC.

Jack remained at the Children's Home until 1961 when he went to live with his sister and her husband, Louise and Tom Terry, on the Keesler Air Force base in Mississippi. His time there was cut short when the authorities took him to a prison camp in north Mississippi after an altercation where he was simply trying to protect a few of his friends. This was just the first glimpse of Jack's heroism that would continue to appear over the next few years.



Jack Branch, 101st Airborne photo taken at age 20.

In September of 1964, Jack joined the Army reserve and was assigned to Ft. Polk, LA to complete basic training. Before joining the regular army in December of 1966, Jack worked in the "revolving wheel" of the steel mills in Granite City, IL where he quickly grew weary of the constant employment cycle in which, Jack recalls, "companies would fire and re-hire to avoid paying benefits,"

Upon joining the Army, Jack was assigned to Ft. Leonard Wood where he passed the test for the Airborne and moved on to Fort Benning, GA for Airborne and recon training.

Jack arrived in Vietnam in May of 1967. He served with the 101st Airborne as a forward observer. It was his job to warn troops if he saw any signs of the enemy. Upon completing his service in Vietnam, Jack volunteered for another tour of duty as a machine gunner on a helicopter but was sent instead as part of a special combat assignment. During his two tours in Vietnam, Jack lost many friends in his brigade while making heroic rescues and fighting for the freedoms we enjoy today.

During his time in the armed forces, Jack earned 4 bronze stars, 2 for unit citations and 2 for personal valor along with a purple heart.

Finally, Jack was headed home to Granite City, IL where he attended the service men's school, earned his GED, and immediately enrolled in Southern Illinois University's Technology College where he earned an Associate's degree in commercial refrigeration, heating, and electronics. He worked in this field until retirement. Jack and his wife Claudia still live in Granite City, IL. and have been married for 43 years now. They have 4 children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

"I think what makes Jack so heroic is that he never had a mom or dad to point him in the right direction, yet he understood that he needed to work hard and he made a good life for himself," says brother-in-law, Tom Terry (also an HHC alumni). Jack is a genuine hero to this country, and he is also a hero to the many children who still come to Holston Home with little hope of ever becoming something great. Though he would never claim this title for himself, his life truly brings value to the word once again, and Holston Home is proud to know such a man.

~Allison Drinkwine, Editor

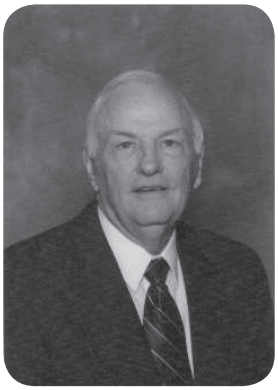
"In honor of" and "memorial" gifts may be made online at holstonhome.org or by mail sent to: Development Department, P.O. Box 188, Greeneville, TN 37744. Online donations are secured by PayPal.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

I often recall the story about George Whitfield, renowned English preacher and contemporary of John Wesley. Together, Whitfield and Wesley established Bethesda Orphanage in Savannah, Georgia. Whitfield became a true ambassador for the boys and girls who lived at Bethesda. Wherever he preached, up and down the trails of Colonial America or in the open fields outside of London, he seldom failed to mention the needs of the orphans and to take up a collection to support the work of the orphanage.

Benjamin Franklin, hearing Whitfield's pleas for the orphanage, thought it would be better to move the orphans to Philadelphia because it was more populated than Georgia, which he said was "destitute of materials and workmen." Franklin, therefore, refused to contribute. As Whitfield preached, Franklin began to soften and finally emptied his



pockets into the collector's dish. A man standing near Franklin, who had emptied his pockets before he left home, pleaded with a friend to lend him some money for the offering.

Whitfield proposed using part of the orphanage land to establish a college. When Wesley heard about it, he chastised Whitfield in a letter, stating that while he considered education important, to save the life of an orphan was worth all the colleges that man could put together.

Because of the commitment of John Wesley and George Whitfield, the lives of many orphaned children were changed, and Bethesda Children's Home continues to care for children to this day.

Your commitment to the children cared for by Holston Home is making a difference. As an Ambassador, YOU are making a difference. The work you do is helping to transform the lives of children, youth and families.

Thank you for a job well done, and may God bless you in a very special way in your ministry of love.
Blessings,



Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Vice President for Development and Church Relations
(423) 787-8723

Boy Scouts Troop 95



"A scout is always prepared!" Boy Scout Troop 95 was more than prepared to attend Merit Badge University on the campus of ETSU earlier this year. The event gives Scouts the opportunity to learn about and explore topics such as: sports, crafts, sciences, trades, business, and future career paths. Scouts are then awarded merit badges in recognition of completing the course.

Over 75 other troops attended the event and Troop 95 was excited to be a part of it. "We weren't kids from Holston Home today, we were just Boy Scouts," said one of the students. Looking their very best, the boys had fun, learned new things, and made connections with other scouts.

The 8 Scouts earned a total of 14 merit badges in: Crime prevention, Energy/Geo Coaching, Engineering/Fire Safety, Public Health/Medicine, Nuclear Science, Coin Collecting and Cinematography. Congratulations to Troop 95!

Do you need help planning your estate? Holston Home has experts on staff who can help you develop a well-designed plan. Please contact the Rev. Charles Hutchins for more information at (423) 787-8723.

Church Giving Report 2014

12 LARGEST TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

First Broad, Kingsport	$24,298.00
Concord, Oak Ridge	12,094.18
Church Street, Knoxville	11,416.47
Broad Street, Cleveland	10,662.00
First, Maryville, Maryville	8,700.00
Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville	8,059.30
Pleasant View, Abingdon	7,745.00
Lebanon Memorial, Abingdon	6,707.50
Central, Knoxville	6,277.00
Ironsburg, Maryville	6,394.60
Lebanon, Knoxville	6,000.00
Zion, Knoxville	6,000.00

12 LARGEST PER MEMBER GIFTS

Union, Morristown	$428.57
Browder Memorial, Maryville	300.00
Munsey Chapel, Abingdon	282.45
Lebanon, Kingsport	222.22
Cedar Grove, Morristown	174.02
Swan Pond, Oak Ridge	169.00
Mooresburg, Morristown	141.20
Cameron, Kingsport	127.22
Pleasant Hill, Maryville	100.00
Mary's Chapel, Abingdon	84.47
Alley'sChapel, Abingdon	67.74
Mt.Zion, Cleveland	66.69

THREE HIGHEST PER MEMBER GIFT BY DISTRICT

Abingdon	Munsey Chapel	$282.45
	Mary's Chapel	84.47
	Ridgedale	72.06
Big Stone Gap	Alley's Chapel	67.74
	Gilbert's Memorial	50.00
	Prospect	40.92
Chattanooga	Sardis	49.84
	Slygo Valley	40.91
	Stephen's Chapel	25.48
Cleveland	Mt. Zion	66.69
	Croft's Chapel	46.67
	Evensville	46.15
Johnson City	Bethesda	25.00
	Pleasant Hill	20.00
	Fairview	15.69
Kingsport	Lebanon	222.22
	Cameron	127.22
	Ebbing & Flowing Springs	58.50
Knoxville	Zion	55.05
	Hopewell	44.72
	Bethel, French Broad	34.33
Maryville	Browder Memorial	300.00
	Pleasant Hill	100.00
	Ironsburg	59.21
Morristown	Union	428.57
	Cedar Grove	174.00
	Mooresburg	141.20
Oak Ridge	Swan Pond	169.00
	Jellico	73.13
	Jonesville	67.69
Tazewell	Green Valley	74.23
	Davis	54.55
	Wesley Chapel	38.28
Wytheville	Bethany	66.36
	Marvin	41.79
	Ft. Chiswell	35.35

THREE HIGHEST TOTAL GIFTS BY DISTRICT

Abingdon	Pleasant View	$7,745.00
	Lebanon Memorial	6,707.50
	Munsey Chapel	3,107.00
Big Stone Gap	First, Jonesville	5,354.60
	Gate City	4,540.00
	Coeburn	3,422.00
Chattanooga	Chapel Hill	3,250.00
	Sardis	2,791.00
	First Centenary	2,607.00
Cleveland	Broad Street	10,662.00
	First, Cleveland	4,946.00
	Wesley Memorial	4,262.15
Johnson City	Munsey Memorial	5,692.10
	Fairview	3,373.00
	First, Elizabethton	2,865.00
Kingsport	First-Broad Street	24,298.00
	Lebanon	6,000.00
	Blountville	3,660.66
Knoxville	Church Street	11,416.37
	Middlebrook Pike	8,059.30
	Central	6,277.00
Maryville	First, Maryville	8,700.00
	Ironsburg	6,394.60
	Loudon	4,235.00
Morristown	Mooresburg	5,769.00
	Grant's Chapel	5,399.35
	Shady Grove	5,224.00
Oak Ridge	Concord	12,094.18
	Jellico	5,265.22
	Kern Memorial	3,143.62
Tazewell	Green Valley	3,340.49
	First, Bluefield	2,647.00
	First, Narrows	1,946.76
Wytheville	Dublin	4,165.00
	Summerfield	4,176.00
	Mt. Zion	3,974.00

Many Thanks to all of the churches that gave to the ministry of Holston Home this year.

A Special Thanks to...



Jr. Achievement: Lisa Lohan delivered Easter boxes donated by Jr. Achievement of Kingsport for HHC youth.



Nomads: (Nomads On a Mission, Active in Divine Services). The group spent two weeks at HHC helping with several projects on campus.

Can You Help The Students at Beacon School?

Wish List

- Manual Pencil Sharpeners (attach to wall)
- Dry-Erase Board Supplies (markers, erasers, etc.)
- Large Craft Paper Racks
- Head Phones
- Copy Paper
- TI 30X Calculators

To coordinate gifts and delivery, please call Nicole Rader in the Development Office at (423) 787-8753.

Visit www.holstonhome.org to see the entire list of items needed at Holston Home.

Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/HolstonHome.FCA

Wills and Bequests

Dear friends of Holston Home:

- ☐ Please send me information about "Wills and Bequests"
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit. The best time to call me is _____ a.m. or _____ p.m.
- ☐ I have provided for the Children's Home in my will or other estate-planning document.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary phone _____ Cell Home Business

Alternative phone _____ Cell Home Business

Email _____

Mail to: The Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Vice President for Development/Church Relations
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

For more information and help with your Estate Planning please call :
Chris Cates, Planned Giving Officer
(423)-787-8725

Churches and work groups often plan day trips to Holston Home to see our beautiful campus, facilities and children. Your group is encouraged to visit. To arrange, please call Nicole Rader at (423) 787-8753.

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

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We want to be good stewards!
Help us update our records for the most efficient mailings. Please make any corrections to the above label and send it back to us.

- ☐ Name change
- ☐ I receive duplicate copies
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ I want to receive the newsletter by email
- ☐ Please remove me from the mailing list

A Glimpse Of History

Undoubtedly, the most popular image of Holston Home Orphanage is the three-story dormitory, built in 1921, to accommodate two hundred or more children. The building was named Wiley Hall in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley, founder and first "Superintendent" of the Orphanage. The first floor housed the administrative offices, a visitation area, the dining hall and the kitchen. Bedrooms for the girls were on the second floor and the boys' bedrooms were on the third floor. The first gift of $500 to erect the building was given by A.J. Patterson from the estate of Martha Johnson Patterson, daughter of President Andrew Johnson. One of the rooms in the new building was named for her. The Board requested support from Holston Annual Conference, and April 9, 1922 was designated Holston Orphanage Day. An offering was taken in the churches throughout the Conference and a total of $115,000 was received. Built at a cost of $80,000, it was furnished with modern equipment. Wiley Hall was occupied until 1954, when the children and staff were relocated to the new campus on Holston Drive.



~Eva Grey Hutchins

Eva Grey Hutchins, author of this column, published a history of Holston Home in 2000. Funds raised by sales of "Haven in the Hills" go toward renovation of the Superintendent's Residence on Irish Street in Greeneville. For a complete history of Holston Home, please send a gift of $12 and request a paperback copy of "Haven in the Hills," P.O. Box 188, Greeneville, TN 37744.

Holston Home for Children was founded in 1895 by Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley. She believed that every child should be provided with a safe home, a good education, and be given the opportunity to establish a relationship with Jesus Christ. We still believe in those principles.