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District Roundup

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT



Oak Ridge
Moore's Gap UMC, "a small country church that has boldly stepped out," breaks ground on a new fellowship hall.

Abingdon: First Bristol UMC and State Street UMC joined to create a hospitality project for Bristol churches during September as Open House Month. They created yard signs and a billboard that said, "Let me tell you about my church," with the Web address, www.bristol.holston.org. The Web page lists 22 United Methodist churches with contact information and directions. Bristol church members put up 230 signs on their lawns and delighted in learning that their neighbors were also United Methodist, according to Pastor Joe-d Dowling Soka of First Bristol. Look for a story in a future edition.

Big Stone Gap: In July, Hiltons Memorial UMC sponsored Fort Blackmore's overnight camp for grades 6-10. Last year, 25 were in attendance, including workers. This year, 70 attended and an extra night was provided. The camp is free to all campers, reports the Rev. Will Shewey. Fort Blackmore recently welcomed a new director, Vickie Butler.

Chattanooga: Who is "Happy Jack"? He's a clown created by the Rev. Jack Jenkins during his training at Kello's Clown College in Florida in 2000. Since then, Jenkins has used his clown ministry to lead children to Jesus and also helped his wife Danielle create a personality, "Twinkles." The clown couple appeared at First Whitwell UMC (where Jenkins is pastor) for Vacation Bible School. Eleven children made professions of faith during the week-long event.

Cleveland: For three consecutive years, First Copperhill UMC has sent a work team to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky, most recently in May. "Each year the team returns home with the feeling they were blessed to have the privilege of participation in the project," reports the Rev. Robert O'Kelley Wallace.

Johnson City: On Sept. 17, the bluegrass praise band from Bluff City UMC

joined headliner groups at Bristol's Rhythm and Roots Reunion. The church band was asked to play at Sunday morning worship, while the Rev. Todd Adams was asked to preach. Now in its seventh year, the three-day festival is attended by tens of thousands, this year featuring Rhonda Vincent, Shawn Camp, Gene Watson, Acoustic Syndicate, and of course, Bluff City UMC.

Kingsport: First Broad Street UMC used a \$2,500 grant from the Witness Ministry Team to provide something big for the community: a free night of family entertainment at the civic auditorium. Beside meeting the new senior pastor, the Rev. Clark Jenkins, participants heard Christian storyteller Steven James and the praise band Exit 33. Attendance was 500, according to the Rev. Janet Manning.

Knoxville: The Wesley Foundation of University of Tennessee at Knoxville is reaching beyond campus to attract young adults to a new worship service. According to the Rev. David Jackson, "Traveling Light" will be held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Concord UMC, the second Thursday at the Wesley Foundation, and the fourth Thursday at Church Street UMC, all from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Visit www.concord.umc.

Maryville: Thirty years ago, three churches began gathering on fifth Sundays for joint worship services: First Madisonville UMC, Buckner Memorial UMC, and Madisonville Presbyterian. In recent years, other churches have joined in, including Vonore UMC, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic, Brown Hill Presbyterian, Church of Life, and Madisonville Lutheran. The offerings collected during these gatherings are designated for Good



Chattanooga
"Happy Jack" and "Twinkles" (aka Rev. Jack and Danielle Jenkins) delight children attending Vacation Bible School at First Whitwell UMC.



Shepherd Center, reports Sue Hamilton (\$1,939 so far in 2007). The next service is Sept. 30 at Buckner Memorial on the Hiwassee College campus, with a covered dish at 5:45 and worship at 7 p.m.

Morristown: Four Dandridge churches joined to place a billboard on Highway 92 (between Jefferson City and Dandridge) during September as Open House Month. Sean Glenn of Shady Grove UMC connected with Lamar Advertising and designed and placed the billboard for a discounted \$420.

Oak Ridge: In June, Moore's Gap UMC broke ground for construction on a new fellowship hall. "This is a small country church that has boldly stepped out to do this," said Pastor Bert Bastian, "in expectation that it will better serve the surrounding community with a much larger space for gathering other than worship." Moore's Gap is located in Lenoir City, Tenn.

Tazewell: Send news and photos to: Editor, *The Call*, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850, fax (865) 690-3162, thecall@holston.org.

Wytheville: In spring 2006, several women of Mount View UMC started a prayer shawl ministry. "We found the commitment to be a comfort to ourselves as well," reports Nancy Sparks. So far, the group has made and distributed more than 70 shawls for weddings, births, and also for those suffering from illness or loss. "Each shawl is blessed at the altar and sent on its way with a special prayer card," says Sparks.