

district roundup



KNOXVILLE: Superintendents, past and present, take a taste.

MORRISTOWN: Trinity seniors discover the keys to communication. **J.C.:** Unicoi's dancing barrel

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

Abingdon: In October, First Marion UMC celebrated Transformation 2009, its annual worship series for spiritual renewal, held on Sunday and Wednesday evenings over two weeks. This year, the church invited four "children" from the church and community to serve as guest preachers: Rev. Don Thomas of Trinity UMC in Knoxville District, Rev. Michelle Buckles of Cherokee UMC in Johnson City District, Rev. David Graybeal of St. Mark UMC in Knoxville District, and Rev. John Graham of Laurel Springs/Mountain View/Zion Hill UMC in Abingdon District.

Big Stone Gap: Holston View UMC was recognized by United Methodist Communications as a "Welcoming Congregation of 2009." To receive the honor, churches must meet certain requirements that are appealing to newcomers. For more information, visit welcoming.rethinkchurch.org.

Chattanooga: Harrison UMC raised \$3,500 to sponsor 10 families for its annual Angel Tree Project, providing gifts, furniture, gift cards, and stockings. Mountain Lodge provided food baskets.

Cleveland: Daisy UMC celebrated World Communion Sunday on Oct. 4 by asking two members to pray in their native languages: German and Taiwanese. Pastor Lonnie Eldridge spoke of visiting the Garden of the Lord's Prayer in Israel, seeing it written on the walls in

many languages, and hearing it prayed by people from other lands.

Johnson City: Unicoi UMC completed another "missions day trip" on a Saturday in October, visiting Develop Africa in Johnson City. Twelve volunteers took school supplies donated by their congregation, then spent the day filling 55-gallon shipping containers with supplies and books. They also prepared the ministry's newsletter for mailing, stained an office door, and scanned documents into the office computer. Entertainment was provided by Pastor Todd Kingrea, aka "The Dancing Barrel." Develop Africa is a ministry that empowers people in Sierra Leone, Camaroon, and Gambia.

Maryville: For the second year, Middlesettlements UMC shared the Christmas spirit with Blount County families through the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship Ministry. Prison chaplains collect gift requests from inmates for their children. The wish lists are then distributed to groups like Middlesettlements, who buy gifts for the children on behalf of their absent parents. Middlesettlements also provides a Christmas breakfast and boxes of groceries for the families to take home, according to the Rev. Joe Black. This year, 25 families were served, for a total of 45 children with at least one parent in prison.

Morristown: Trinity UMC in Greeneville is offering a "Seniors Online" class with the help of a Margaret Loving grant from the Holston Conference Foundation. The \$1,500 grant (matched by the church) bought four computers which the students use on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. "Our prayer is that this form of communication will enable them to live richer, full lives," says Madge Walker, one of three computer teachers.

Oak Ridge: The United Methodist Women of Oliver Springs UMC joined with the United Methodist Women of Christ UMC (Knoxville District) for the 3rd Annual Breakfast with Santa. Twenty-three children from "working poor" families were invited to the breakfast. After choosing gifts for their relatives at a gift shop, the children received their own gifts from Santa.

Kingsport: Each week since Sept. 20, worshippers at First Broad Street UMC have been reading about the "Reaching Up and Out Basket" in their Sunday bulletins. Church members are invited to donate supplies – based on a wish list from a specific non-profit agency – in a loved one's honor or memory. The basket-of-the-week is displayed at the church on Sunday morning and the loved one's name is printed in the bulletin. "Most importantly, the church family is asked to pray for the ministry and for the people benefitting from the ministry," says organizer Kay Ann Smith. On a recent Sunday, a prepared basket for John R. Hay House included sheets, towels, washcloths, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, socks, and undershirts for a total cost of \$75.

Knoxville: This fall, Camp Wesley Woods organized two chili cook-off fundraisers.

One was in Maryville District. The other was held in Knoxville District at Fountain City UMC. More than 180 people attended with eight teams competing. The winning dish: Camper's Veggie Chili, submitted by Christ UMC. About \$1,700 was raised at the Knoxville event; the total raised by both competitions was \$4,900. The funds will be used for camp scholarships, according to Kelly Milligan.

Tazewell: When people in the Tazewell District heard Justin Lookadoo was speaking in area schools about substance abuse, they decided to take advantage of the situation. Several churches and individuals raised money and rented Nuckols Hall, then invited teens to come hear the popular Resurrection speaker. About 500 youth heard Lookadoo on Nov. 4, according to Rodney Lawson of the East Tazewell Circuit.

Wytheville: High winds caused a large white pine to crash into the Camp Dickenson parsonage on Dec. 11, destroying one-quarter of the roof along with a bedroom. Repairs are in progress, estimated at \$14,500, according to Director Michael Snow. "A huge blessing is that no one was hurt. I was in the room that was hit just two minutes before the crash." ■

HOLSTON DISTRICTS

- 1 Abingdon
- 2 Big Stone Gap
- 3 Chattanooga
- 4 Cleveland
- 5 Johnson City
- 6 Kingsport
- 7 Knoxville
- 8 Maryville
- 9 Morristown
- 10 Oak Ridge
- 11 Tazewell
- 12 Wytheville

