

Continued from page 8

End Malaria" effort, according to Youth Ministries Director Ashley Garren. The congregation took an offering of \$235 for malaria nets on Sunday morning.

► First Bulls Gap UMC of Morristown District planned a "Random Acts of Kindness" project for Saturday. Church members handed out flowers and bags of candy and opened the doors for shoppers. On Sunday, the church took a special offering for Nothing But Nets.

► Burks UMC of Chattanooga District sent nine people to work at St. Andrews Center. "Outside, we trimmed shrubs and trees, did weed-eating, spread mulch and built three benches for the community garden," said the Rev. Nathan Malone. "Inside, we painted a wall in the hallway, tidied up in the library, cleaned, and pulled up carpet on the stairways. I am proposing to our missions team that we let this be the beginning of doing similar projects at least once every month."

► Christ UMC in Chattanooga District worked with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters to encourage more congregation members prayerfully to consider becoming a "big." "We had bulletin inserts and announcements that directed people to BBBS representatives who were sitting in our atrium between services," says the Rev. Mark Flynn. "At the end of the morning, seven people expressed interest in becoming mentors."

► First Surgoinsville UMC of Kingsport District hosted 20 people at a movie night to raise money for nets. "I am proud to say we received enough to purchase 13 nets so far," said the Rev. Cynthia Thompson.

► Church Street UMC of Knoxville District partnered with the Knoxville Leadership Foundation to replace roofs on homes.

► The Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville participated in the C.R.O.P. Walk and raised money for Nothing But Nets.

—Annette Spence

May 3

## The Greeneville Sun: New Baileyton church consecrated after fire

**B**aileyton United Methodist Church's new building was consecrated Sunday afternoon in a service presided over by Holston Annual Conference Bishop James Swanson.

The sanctuary was filled with the congregation and well-wishers.

Baileyton UMC's building replaces a 102-year-old structure that burned to the ground Nov. 24, 2007.

Since then, church members have been meeting in the auditorium at Baileyton Elementary School, a short distance away.

Noting the beautiful new building, Swanson acknowledged the work that so many had performed to bring it about.



Photo by Dennis Loy for The Call

**The new Baileyton UMC building replaces the 102-year old structure that burned on Thanksgiving weekend 2007.**

balcony, a 3,375-square-foot fellowship hall, and nine classrooms.

The Rev. Bill Rimmer, pastor, welcomed Baileyton Alderman J.D. Sensabaugh and Robert "Rob" Bailey, chairman of the Baileyton Planning Commission, who represented the Town of Baileyton. Both men are also church members and members of the Building Committee.

Bailey, chairman of the church board and Greene County General Sessions and Juvenile Court judge, told *The Greeneville Sun* that the building is complete, except for some outside paving that will connect the building to the parking lot.

On Sunday, a pathway of fine gravel connected the parking lot to the front entrance.

Chad Pierce, chairman of the building committee, officially presented the keys to the building to the pastor. Pierce said, "By no means did I do anything by myself." He named the committee, including his father, the late Carroll Pierce, who died April 10, and whose funeral was held April 13 in the new building.

—Tom Yancey, *The Greeneville Sun* (reprinted with permission)

May 3

## Concord UMC 'plows new ground' for \$6.5 million building addition

**C**oncord United Methodist Church celebrated a building addition on April 11, using a reminder of the church's heritage to mark the beginning of construction in west Knoxville.

But he also said, "The building is only a symbol of something greater," and the worship and fellowship that the congregation now enjoys in it "is only a pre-taste of the glory that is to come."

Swanson said the beautiful building "reflects the relationship you're trying to build as you walk with Christ."

The building includes several stained glass windows rescued from the old building and restored.

The building includes a 2,300-square foot sanctuary with

As numerous church members participated in the "service for the breaking of ground" for the 28,000-square-foot addition, more than two dozen church members turned the earth by pulling a 90-year-old plow.

Jack Thompson, 92 years old and a Concord member for 83 years, lent his plow for the third Concord groundbreaking in 30 years. Thompson is a great-grandson of Joe Morton, who helped organize the church 145 years ago.

The Rev. Brent Hall, senior pastor, said the \$6.5 million addition will include a contemporary worship center, classrooms for youth and adults, kitchen facilities, and additional parking. Construction is expected to be completed in 2011.

Current space also will become available for alternative uses, Hall said, including expansion of the CADES (Concord Adult Day Enrichment Services) ministry for older adults.

Oak Ridge District Superintendent Adam McKee joined Hall, Farragut Mayor Ralph McGill, and Associate Pastor Larry Trotter in speaking at the outdoor service. The adult and children's choirs provided music.

"We hold two traditional and two contemporary services each Sunday," Trotter said. "Thanks to our members' involvement in so many ministries, our building is in use seven days a week — often with overlapping demands — so the new space will be put to good use as soon as it's available."



Photo by David Lauver

**Concord members use a 90-year-old plow to break ground on a building addition in Oak Ridge District.**

Since the most recent expansion in 1997, Concord's average worship attendance has grown from 611 to 804. The growth coincided with the launch of "Sunday Morning Light" contemporary worship and expanded youth and community outreach ministries.

"With more than 500 seats for contemporary worship, there's the potential for average worship attendance to grow to 1,200," Hall said.

The church was founded in 1865, the year the Civil War ended. Members met in homes for decades, later leasing space for worship. The first building was established in 1920. Having outgrown the original building, the congregation moved in 1961 to the current site in Farragut.

As membership increased during the past decade, Concord decided against relocating, instead buying a dozen nearby homes. Rather than destroy the houses, the church moved them to provide affordable housing for others

—David Lauver