

district roundup



ABINGDON: Scouts in the pulpit at Meadowview



MORRISTOWN: Bilingual revival at Noe's Chapel



WYTHEVILLE: Wythe Cluster concert for youth

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

Abingdon: Meadowview UMC has an average worship attendance of 68. On Feb. 3, Meadowview had 118 worshippers in attendance for a combination Souper Bowl of Caring/ Scouting Ministry Sunday. "Scouts led the worship and also joined with the congregation to contribute \$125 and 35 cans of food for Stone Soup Food Pantry in Abingdon," reports Pastor Katy Fox. The congregation hosted a fellowship meal in honor of the scouts, leaders, and their families following morning worship.

Big Stone Gap: Hiltons Memorial UMC frequently celebrates new highs, such a new record for Sunday school attendance on the first Sunday of the year, with 116. On Feb. 17, the church added 13 new members to the roll. And on Easter Sunday, March 23, Hiltons set an all-time new attendance record with 454 in worship. Hiltons is led by the Rev. Will Shewey.

Chattanooga: The Rev. Roy Howard sends this report from Wauhatchie UMC, where he is pianist: "Using an interpreter, Rev. Steve Galyon led a young Chinese man who speaks little English to make his profession of faith in Christ. The man came to Wauhatchie to be baptized and continues to attend. The man who operates the projector for Wauhatchie found an Internet site that translates English into Chinese. Now, on the screen in the sanctuary, the words of the hymns and Apostles' Creed appear in both English and Chinese."

Cleveland: Englewood UMC started a grief support group after noticing that several in the congregation had experienced loss in death, divorce, jobs, homes, or health. "We wanted to carve out a space and time for folks to bring their grief stories, to find health and comfort in the presence of others," explains Pastor David Graybeal. So far, the group includes five people – including some from outside the church – who meet on the last Monday of each month.

Johnson City: The district organized a senior adult council at the request of the conference senior adult council. On March 13, the district council pre-

sented its first-ever "Johnson City Jubilee" at Cherokee UMC, with worship led by the Rev. Clark Jenkins and Retta Overturf of First Broad Street UMC. Fifty seniors attended. A similar event is planned for September 2008.

Kingsport: St. Luke UMC trustees voted to allow Interfaith Hospitality Network to use the vacant parsonage to house a family in need. "This move prevented a family with three children from being split up and sent to foster care," reports Pastor Steph Burkhardt. St. Luke is one of 13 Kingsport churches that routinely provides housing and meals to homeless families on a rotating weekly basis. Holston churches in Chattanooga, Johnson City, and Knoxville are also supporters of IHN.

Knoxville: On June 14 the district will sponsor a "Jesus in the Park" day at World's Fair Park. The event begins at 11 a.m. with activities and a celebration of ministries, continuing in the amphitheater at 4 p.m. with music led by Willie Kitchens. Bishop James Swanson will preach at 5 p.m.

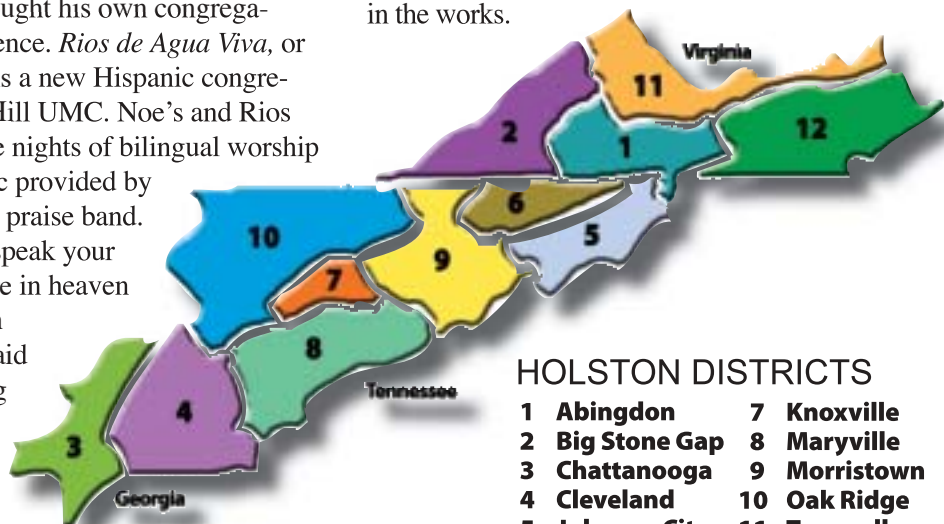
Maryville: Send news and photos to: Editor, *The Call*, P.O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850, fax (865) 690-3162, or thecall@holston.org.

Morristown: When Noe's Chapel UMC invited the Rev. Arturo Reyna to preach at a Holy Week revival, Reyna brought his own congregation along for the experience. *Rios de Agua Viva*, or Rivers of Living Water, is a new Hispanic congregation based at Liberty Hill UMC. Noe's and Rios members joined for three nights of bilingual worship led by Reyna, with music provided by the Noe's choir and Rios praise band. "I feel sad that I cannot speak your language, but when we're in heaven we'll all understand each other," a Rios member said to Noe's members during a praise moment (as interpreted by Reyna). Noe's Chapel is led by the Rev. Dennis Loy.

Oak Ridge: The district will offer lay speaker training at First Oak Ridge UMC on Friday, April 11, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trainers include Rev. Scott Ketron, Rev. Bill Akers, Rev. Jay Ferguson, and Rev. Brenda Poole. A fall course will be offered Oct. 10-11 at Beaver Ridge UMC.

Tazewell: The Rev. Terry Goodman's son plays in a basketball league. The pastor makes DVDs of each ballgame, along with a Max Lucado "plan of salvation and a welcome greeting from Goodman's church, Virginia Avenue UMC. The opposing team receives reservation forms for the DVDs, requesting contact information and church home (if any). So far, Goodman says he's distributed 300 DVDs. He plans to use the collected contact information to invite the players and their families to Vacation Bible School.

Wytheville: "Too many times, our youth do not have any special religious events planned after coming back excited from Resurrection," says the Rev. Kevin Fiorini. "The Wythe Cluster churches decided to change that." On Saturday night, March 1, the cluster sponsored a concert with Souled Out, from First Hillsville UMC, and COR 13, a band named after Corinthians 13. About 110 youth and counselors attended the concert at St. Paul UMC. "Youth came up to the stage and rocked just like at Resurrection," Fiorini says. A summer outdoor concert is in the works.



HOLSTON DISTRICTS

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