

Oak Ridge District: Where there are fascinating Sunday school discussions, paintball with prayer, and chicken and dumplings to die for.

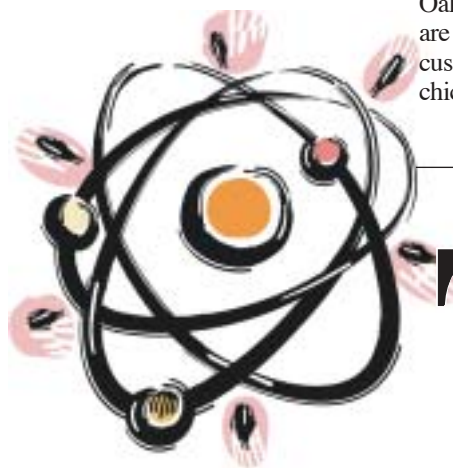
Page 12

Who said that retirement is about resting? We even had a tough time getting Herb Creech to sit down for lunch.

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“So many of these people don’t even know what it feels like to be loved.”

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The Call

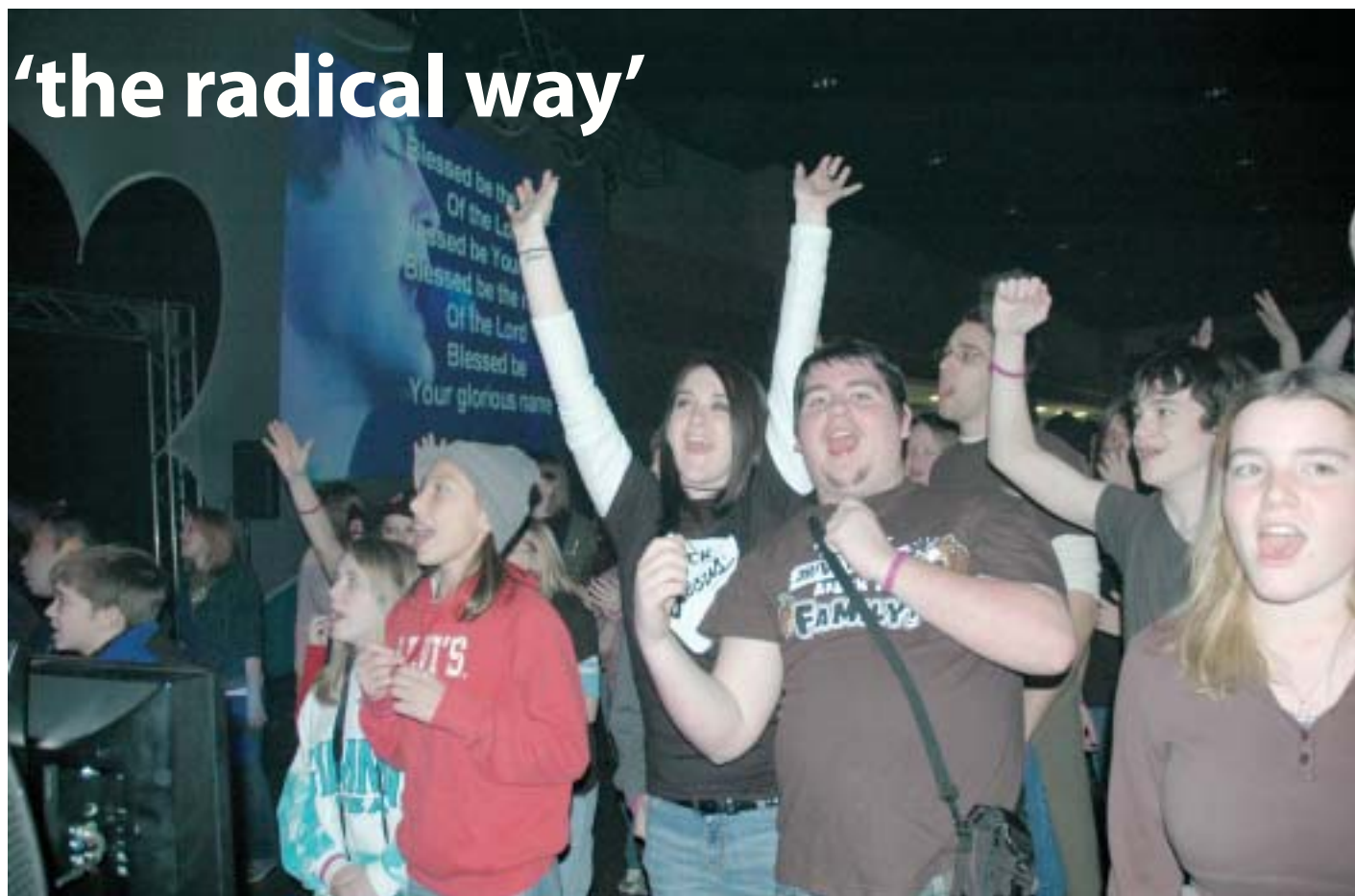


February 2008

HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.holston.org

‘the radical way’



Teens sing and dance to “Blessed be the Name of the Lord,” as the Starfield band plays for a record-breaking Gatlinburg crowd in January.

*The Call*² breaks new ground with weekly e-mail

One regular reader called it the “one-two punch.” When *The Call 2* weekly e-mail debuted on Wednesday, Jan. 9, readers could quickly see that it was more timely, interactive, and quicker to read than the newspaper. Now that *The Call* is published as an expanded monthly tabloid, some are also realizing that both the e-mail and newspaper are necessary to receive complete news and information from Holston Conference.

For instance, the popular “Reading List” column will now be included in the e-mail only, while “MyDistrict” will remain a newspaper feature. “District Roundup” will appear both in print and online, while some exclusive stories will not be repeated in both formats.

Reader response to *The Call 2* was swift, with many e-mailing their approval (see “C-Mail,” page 4).

Disapproval was also swift, with readers e-mailing about their misbehaving computers and slights against ministries or cities.

Currently, *The Call 2*’s subscription base includes about 5,000 e-mail addresses. *The Call* newspaper is printed and mailed by postal service to about 5,500 readers. A conference communications goal is to reach more of the 167,000 members in Holston’s 910 churches through the weekly e-mail, which can be produced with less financial and environmental cost.

Pastors and church members are encouraged to invite their congregations to sign up for a free e-mail subscription. Board members of Holston-related institutions are also invited. Visit www.thecalltwo.holston.org. ■

Resurrection still raises up youth for Christ, 23 years into its prime

By Annette Spence

Some of the teens who experienced Resurrection in the early years are 40 now. Some of the adults who boast of attending Resurrection for 20 or more years should be attending Jubilation instead.

Yet, while some aging church rituals seem to choke the life out of the young, Holston Conference’s annual spiritual retreat for teenagers seems to keep get-

ting it right, over and over again.

Held Jan. 18-20 and 25-27 in Gatlinburg Convention Center, the mega-event broke attendance records with 12,236 youth and counselors from Holston and beyond.

Reporting on their experiences for *The Call 2*, Holston’s weekly e-mail publication, teens who have no recollection of the James Ward Band from the 1990s can’t say enough good about the current band. This year, it was

Starfield, described by 16-year-old Kirby as “three Canadians and one mullet-wearing Texan.”

“At the mention of their name, thousands of screaming fans rushed the stage to form a huge crowd around them,” wrote the youth member from Asbury UMC, Cleveland District. “Their lyrics are beautiful and truly inspiring.”

Remy, of Eden UMC, Johnson City District, wrote that the band “did a fan-

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