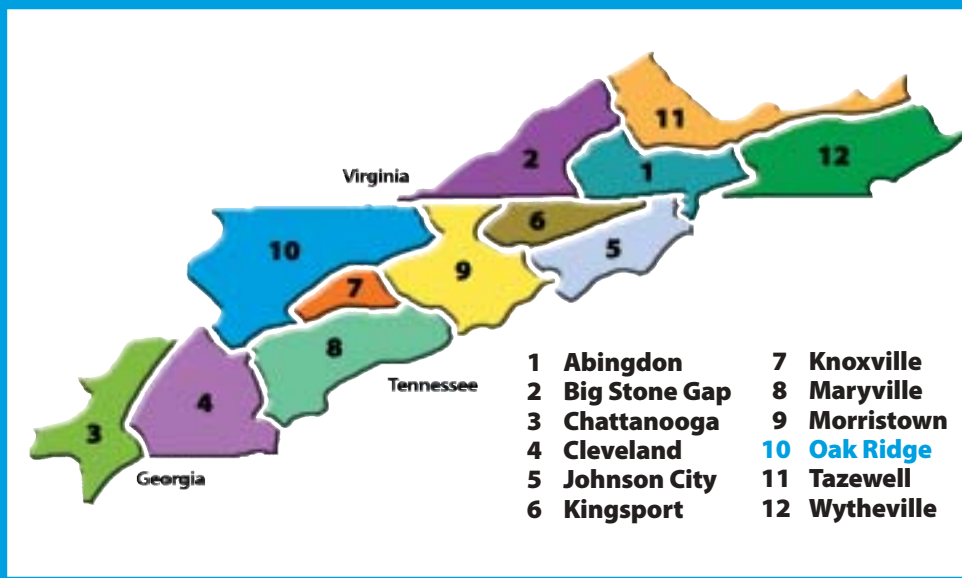


# mydistrict OAK RIDGE



Tom Bradshaw, age 40, served as mayor of Oak Ridge from 2001 to 2007. He's a member of Kern Memorial United Methodist Church and chair of Holston's Camp and Retreat Ministries Board. (He met his future wife, Paula, as a counselor at Camp Wesley Woods.) This is his district.



Paintball | Big South Fork | First Farragut | Nuclear Energy | "No Shush Policy" | Chevront | Caryville | Kentucky Bluegrass | Ridenour | Hardin Valley | Historic Rugby | Arby's

**Oak Ridge District** is one of 12 districts in Holston Conference. It includes 47 charges and 67 churches. Located in Tennessee, the district includes parts of Anderson, Knox, Loudon, Roane, Morgan, Scott, Claiborne, Union, and Campbell County.

- **Largest membership church:** Concord, with 2,253
- **Largest average worship attendance:** Concord, with 873
- **Smallest membership church:** Jonesville, with 11
- **Smallest average worship attendance:** Chevront, with 8
- **Oldest church:** Mt. Zion, founded in 1880
- **Youngest church:** First Farragut, chartered in 1983
- **Congregation with largest growth:** Midtown Valley, with 32 percent

**Who's the boss?** The Rev. Ken Henderlight has served as district superintendent for the past five years, after pastoring two Oak Ridge churches: Kern Memorial in 1979-1984 and First Oak Ridge in 1991-2000. His boyhood church is the former Burlington UMC in east Knoxville. Barbara Hall, district administrative assistant for 11 years, is a member of Kingston UMC. The district office is located at 706 South Illinois Avenue, sharing an office complex with several Oak Ridge plant subcontractors.

**Knoxville. (Not!)** New members in west Knoxville are sometimes confused to learn that their churches are not located in the Knoxville District, but in the Oak Ridge District. The Oak Ridge District includes such Knoxville-based congregations as Concord, First Farragut, Beaver Ridge, Bethel (Knox), Martel, Grigsby's Chapel, and Mt. Hermon.

**Technically speaking:** With Knoxville behind, Oak Ridge is the only Holston district to gallop up to the Kentucky state line, along I-75 North. In fact,

Jellico UMC is 150 feet from the Bluegrass state. Oak Ridge is also unique for its concentration of highly educated scientists employed at Oak Ridge National

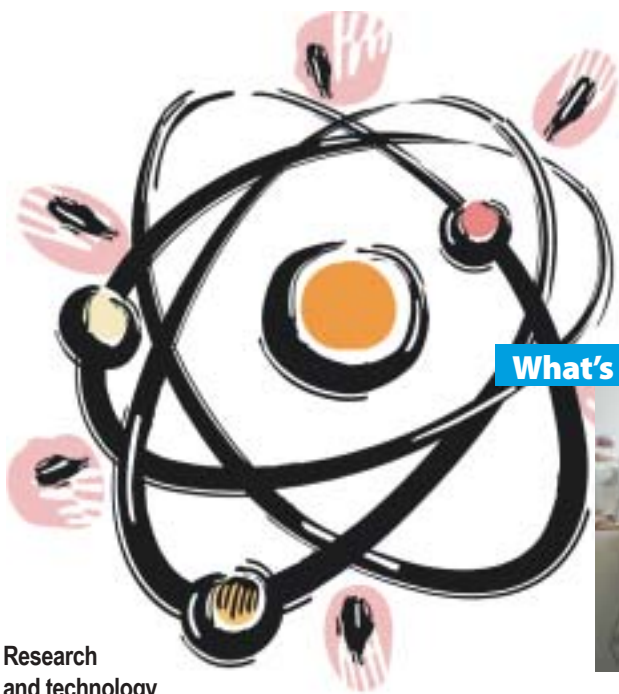
Laboratory and Y-12 National Security Complex – many of whom attend United Methodist churches and prompt the most fascinating Sunday school discussions.

**Visitor-worthy:** The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area includes 120,000 acres of the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee and Kentucky. Rugby is a restored Victorian village, founded in 1880, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972. David Bradshaw's daughters, Elizabeth and Caroline, love the walk-in dollhouse at Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. And go figure, the American Museum of Science and Energy is also located in Oak Ridge.

**Best-kept ministry secrets:** Colorful witnessing is happening in seemingly quiet places. Harrogate UMC is developing a paintball ministry (yes, *paintball*), and Midtown Valley UMC is packing the pews with "goth" teens who are high on the Gospel. Jellico UMC is inviting people in by serving free hot dogs on the streets and promoting its architectural beauty as a tourist attraction. Kingston UMC is sharing joint services with its neighbor, Bethel Presbyterian, while the latter is undergoing a one-year building project. At Central (Lenoir City), a "Rejoicing Spirits" worship service is offered for the handicapped and disabled, who especially appreciate the "no shush policy."

**The district is known for ...** the Morgan-Scott Project, which provides thrift stores and a variety of services for low-income communities near Oneida and Deer Lodge, where the project has facilities. Soon, the district will also be the home of Holston's newest worship community in Hardin Valley, where a high school opens with 1,000 students in August. In early 2007, the district partnered with the conference to buy 22 acres less than one mile from Pellissippi State Technical Community College. The property is the future site for a new church. In the meantime, the first worship service will kick off in the new high school's auditorium this September, Henderlight says.

**Best place to eat after church:** In Jellico, Gregory's Family Tree is owned by a Baptist cousin of the Rev. Mahan Archer, who likes the stuffed peppers and chicken and dumplings. Sometimes, the Bradshaw family eats at Magnolia Tree Restaurant in Oak Ridge; other times, at Sagebrush or Taco Bell. Former Superintendent Gordon Ridenour (1997-'03) fondly remembers the coconut pie at Louie's on the Lake in Caryville, before the restaurant closed. Current Superintendent Henderlight is thankful there's an Arby's near just about every church he visits. ■

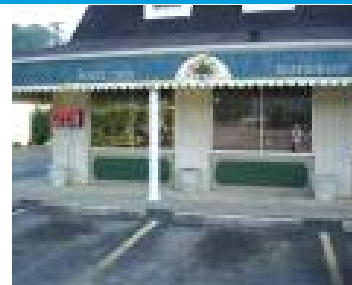


Research and technology

## What's cool in mydistrict



Morgan-Scott Project



Gregory's in Jellico



Midtown Valley youth