

# district roundup



**OAK RIDGE:** Well Spring fixes up and digs in



**BIG STONE GAP:** Hiltons welcomes the Brits



**WYTHEVILLE:** Mrs. Goodykootz

## NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

**Abingdon:** On Mother's Day, May 10, First Bristol UMC will dedicate 35 needlepoint kneeling cushions for the altar. "This is the culmination of a five-year project that involved many people stitching and stitching," reports Richard Rollins. Among the stitchers is 90-year-old Loetta Cornett, who worked on 14 of the cushions. "They are beautiful beyond description," Rollins says, "and each one took about three to six months to complete."

**Big Stone Gap:** Last year, Peggy Hensley met a British couple at the Carter Fold country music show and invited them to her church. Arthur and Norma Thomas visited Hiltons Memorial UMC on Mother's Day 2008 and instantly struck up a friendship with the congregation. They stayed in touch through phone calls and e-mail. On Mother's Day 2009, the couple from Biddulph Moor, England, will return to Hiltons Memorial to celebrate their 35th anniversary and renew their wedding vows. "They felt very welcomed by the congregation and our pastor, Will Shewey, and wanted to share this special time with us," says Hensley.

**Chattanooga:** The Rev. Nathan Malone challenged his parishioners to each give \$10 a month for the next five years to support the Central Conference Pension Initiative. The money provides pensions for pastors in Europe, Africa, and Asia who otherwise have no support. Malone,

senior pastor at Burks UMC, has personally pledged \$100 monthly for the next five years, according to the church newsletter.

**Cleveland:** On May 9, members of Tasso UMC will report to the local post office to help unload supplies collected during the Annual Letter Carrier Food Drive. According to Pastor Mike Cutshaw, Tasso found its ministry niche by pitching in at the post office, but also, by maintaining an emergency food pantry. Tasso donates larger amounts of food to The Caring Place, which serves hundreds. But when community members need groceries quickly or after hours, Tasso steps up to help. "Our goal is not to reinvent the wheel or to compete with other ministries, but to see where God is working and come alongside," Cutshaw said.

**Johnson City:** Otterbein UMC hosted an Easter egg hunt for foster kids served by Holston Home for Children, according to the *Johnson City Press*. "I wanted to think of something positive and upbeat," explained organizer Chandra Easterly. "How can you not be uplifted by watching small children? That's a blessing to me."

**Kingsport:** For six years, Colonial Heights UMC has operated the Little White Cottage Clothing Ministry in an appropriately named facility near the church. About 18 volunteers staff the ministry, offering clothing for sale or free to fire victims and needy schoolkids. Ministry profits are reinvested into church missions such as Interfaith Hospitality Network, Hope House, and prison ministries.

**Knoxville:** Macedonia UMC celebrates its 200th anniversary all this year, with special dates that include "Camp Meeting Month" in July and an appearance by Bishop James Swanson on Oct. 11.

**Maryville:** Harry "Cotton" Berrier, member of First Pigeon Forge UMC, will be inducted into the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame on May 5.

Berrier was head PGA professional at Gatlinburg Country Club for 44 years before retiring in 1999. The induction ceremony will be held in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

**Morristown:** On April 26, Baileyton UMC broke ground for a new church on the same site where the previous 102-year-old building burned to the ground in November 2007. Bishop James Swanson led the outdoor worship service with Superintendent Mickey Rainwater and Baileyton pastor Cathy Fowler. The new facility will include a 2,300-square foot sanctuary with seating for about 220. The congregation will continue to worship at Baileyton Elementary until the new building is complete early next year.

**Oak Ridge:** Well Spring UMC was united and healed through an April 4 Clean-up and Fix-up Day. According to the Rev. Ronnie Mutter, 19 members built a handicap ramp and put up a new church sign.

**Tazewell:** On Sept. 23, 2008, Shirley and Clinton Richardson were first on the scene of a terrible motorcycle accident. The Richardsons stayed with the severely injured couple from Michigan until emergency personnel arrived. Then they called their church to place the couple on the prayer chain. In the weeks following, members of First Rich Creek UMC not only prayed for Wayne and Annette Reeves, they also visited them at Roanoke Memorial Hospital which was 90 minutes away. The Michigan couple eventually healed from their injuries, returning to Rich Creek UMC on April 19 to thank the congregation. "Their testimonies reaffirmed the power of God to supply our needs in all situations," said the Rev. Doug Hyndrich.

**Wytheville:** On April 19, Grove UMC celebrated 27 individuals with memberships of 50 years or more. "We honored them in worship with certificates and pins, finishing off the morning with a covered dish lunch," reports the Rev. Karen Lane. However, there was an "extra bit of rejoicing" and a standing ovation for Mrs. Irene Goodykootz. She has a Grove membership spanning 87 years and an upcoming May birthday that will render her 98 years old. ■

## 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

