

district roundup



JOHNSON CITY: Eden goes hungry but doesn't stop serving.



WYTHEVILLE: Providence plants its money into Camp Dickenson.



MORRISTOWN: Love ya'

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

Abingdon: The *Bristol Herald Courier* recently featured five graduating high school athletes who excel academically and in community service. "I think it is important to note that three of the five are United Methodist," reports the Rev. Don Smith, pastor at Shady-Grove UMC/Camp Ahistadi. The students are: Maggie Graham of First Marion UMC, Jessie Morgan of Emory UMC (both of Abingdon District), and Brette Harding of Appalachian UMC (in Big Stone Gap District.)

Big Stone Gap: In May, the district had its Sixth Annual Camp Fort Blackmore Golf Tournament, drawing 92 golfers and raising \$10,314. This summer, the camp hosted 170 campers over three weeks. The high-school overnight camp is funded by Hiltons Memorial UMC. The golf tournament pays for younger day campers. Any child is accepted free of charge, by filling out an application made available at banks, gas stations, and churches. "We want to teach these kids that God is good all the time," says Director Vikki Butler.

Chattanooga: Burks UMC wanted to show appreciation to Bishop James Swanson for preaching at their revival. Members had learned, when the Hope for Africa Children's Choir toured Holston in late June, that \$1,600 would support an African child with food, clothing, and education for a year. Church leaders showed the photo of the vulture and starving child that began Holston's mission emphasis in south Sudan and invited people to "give as they were led," says the Rev. Nathan Malone. Result: Burks gave enough to sponsor six African children.

The \$9,600 was donated in honor of James and Delphine Swanson's six children.

Cleveland: The Decatur United Methodist Women joyfully celebrated their reorganization into the Meigs County Parish UMW. The group renamed themselves to fully include women from all nine churches in the parish. The Rev. Hugh Bryan, parish director, explains that small churches are more effective when they "pool their resources." The parish includes: Decatur, Concord, Ten Mile, Oak Grove, Pleasant Hill, Burkett's Chapel, Mount Olivette, Goodfield, and Mount Carmel.

Johnson City: Youth at Eden UMC participated in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine (www.30hourfamine.org). The goal is to "get a taste of what the world's poorest children and families face everyday," reports Carolyn Kerr. Eighteen youth and 10 adults fasted while cleaning and serving lunch at the Salvation Army. They baked cookies for home-bound seniors and delivered toilet paper to random houses and businesses. (The toilet paper had labels that said, "You've been TPed - totally prayed for by Eden UMYF.") They broke their fast with Holy Communion, then led Sunday worship and raised \$1,186 for world hunger.

Kingsport: In 1996, Dave Lively started the Friendship Diner at First Broad Street UMC. The diner offers free breakfast to the community on weekend mornings, averaging 150 in attendance. Friendship Diner was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from Northwestern Mutual. "About 1,300 grant applications were submitted for 11 grants, and Dave's ministry was one that received recognition," reports Danny Howe, First Broad Street missions director.

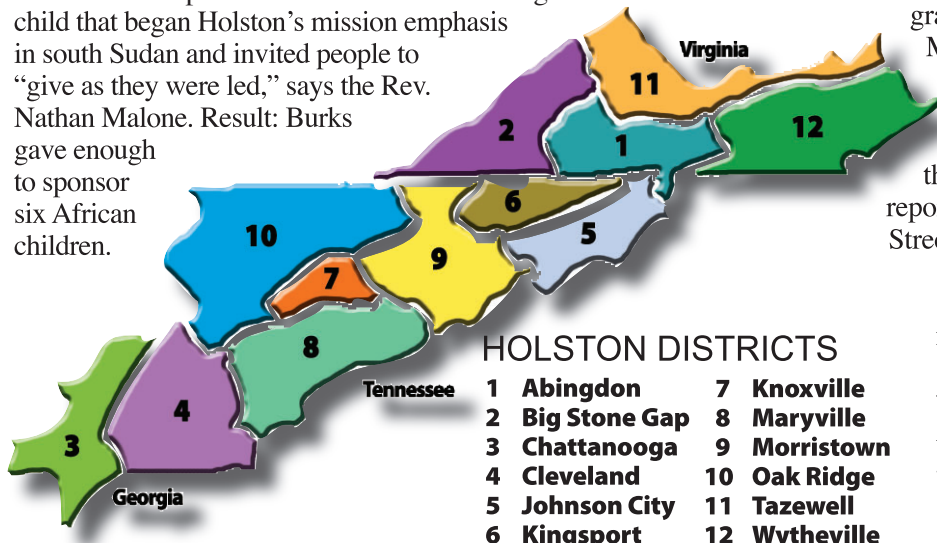
Maryville: At a Wednesday night Bible study, the Rev. Randall Wright reminded his Madisonville Circuit members to participate in the conference Hands-on Mission Project. A member of the Tellico Church of God, who attends the Bible study, told her congregation how Holston Conference collects supplies for Africa each spring. When health supplies were shipped from Holston to Zimbabwe in June, 17 of the kits were donated by the Tellico Church of God.

Morristown: First Morristown UMC decided to blitz its town with outreach projects, all on the same weekend. The "Love Morristown" project involved a long list of Sunday school classes and ministry groups. The Swift Class gave water bottles to people in the park. The Fellowship and Regency classes took children from the Boys and Girls Club out to dinner. The youth carried groceries to cars, cleaned a gas station restroom, washed windshields, and left flowers on doorsteps. When people asked why, church members were instructed to say, "To show you and others that God loves you."

Oak Ridge: The churches of East Anderson County invite all of Holston to its first annual camp meeting, Sept. 21-23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Underwood Pavillion of the Anderson County Fairgrounds in Clinton, Tenn. On Sunday, the Rev. Jason Roe will preach. On Monday and Tuesday, Bishop James Swanson will preach. Information: Call (865) 457-1520.

Tazewell: In March, "District Roundup" reported how First Richlands UMC responded when physically challenged worshippers requested a more accessible front entrance. With a \$500 grant from Holston Conference and donations from church members, a new entrance with wheelchair ramp was completed this summer, reports the Rev. David Brannock.

Wytheville: Earlier this year, Superintendent Chuck Starks gave Providence UMC \$15 in "seed money" to plant into ministry. The congregation was inspired when they saw a list of needs for Camp Dickenson that included a 15-passenger van. The church purchased the van for the camp, along with a \$200 card for gas money. Providence's average worship attendance: 27.



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