

# 'Cantaloupe Kid'



Photo by Annette Bender, *The Call*

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Anita Henderlight (far left), Holston children's ministry coordinator, awards a trophy to Zachary Robert Tate, age 5, at Cokesbury Center. Tate, who attends Fairview United Methodist Church in Maryville District, was honored for selling his prize cantaloupe to raise money for children in Zimbabwe. The presentation was made at an opening luncheon at March Forth for Children, a conference-sponsored training event for children's ministry workers held March 5-6. More than 200 workers from four states participated, including representatives of all 12 districts. Pictured with Tate is his family.

## Stanley steps up,

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the house's namesake. The Rev. W.S. Hight was a pastor in the East Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. "We even thought about tearing the house down." Then Stanley's pastor at the time, the Rev. James Jackson, suggested helping Bryson help the Silverdale inmates.

The idea took off, a board was created, and church leaders started filling out grant applications. For seven years, the congregation with 85 in average worship attendance shopped for money to establish the new ministry.

Finally, in 2003, the W.S. Hight Agency received a \$25,000 "faith-based grant" through the Institute of Youth Development in Washington, D.C. Combined with donations from other groups and individuals – including two separate \$10,000 grants from Chattanooga District – Stanley was ready to launch its ministry. Individuals from First-Centenary UMC donated renovation labor valued at \$18,000, according to the Rev. Donald Swift, Stanley pastor. Others donated furniture, and church members William Hight and Henry Cothorn "worked on the house everyday for two years," Bryson said.

Today, Bryson acts as a volunteer director, but the hope is that additional funds will be secured to hire employees. Bryson works for W.S. Hight about 2 1/2 days a week in addition to his job as a support coordinator for the state's Department of Mental Retardation. Most of W.S. Hight's clients are referred through Signal Center's Families First program, Bryson said, but some come to the agency through word of mouth.

"It's been interesting, to see the changes in people," said Thurmond. "They feel like somebody cares. They don't have to feel inferior or looked down on ... This is above our expectations. We didn't realize the impact it would have."

To give to the W.S. Hight Agency, make a check to your local church and write "Advance Special #362" on the memo line. ■

## Calendar

### Annual Conference petitions: March 29

Deadline for submission of 2004 Annual Conference petitions is March 29. Mail petitions to: James R. Green, Holston Conference Office, P.O. Box 32939, Knoxville, TN 37930-2939. Petitions should be typed, double-spaced, if possible. All petitions should include not only the name of the originating body, organization, church, and/or individual, but also the name, address, and phone number of a person who could clarify any issue which may arise as the petition is examined by the Petitions Committee.

### Annual Conference reports: March 31

Deadline is March 31 for all documents that are to be printed in the 2004 Annual Conference "Book of Reports." Reports are to be mailed or e-mailed by March 31 to: Secretary of Annual Conference, P.O. Box 32939, Knoxville, TN 37930-2939, or [denniehumphreys@holston.org](mailto:denniehumphreys@holston.org). Reports not received by the deadline will not be printed in the "Book of Reports" and will require Annual Conference approval to present or distribute in as much as they did not meet the requirements as set forth in the Standing Rules.

### Song of Solomon conference: April 4

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – Chattanooga District youth ministers are hosting a conference, "Song of Solomon for Students," on Sunday, April 4, 4 to 8:15 p.m. at Burks UMC in Chattanooga. The conference addresses love and sex for middle- and high-school students. Youth groups, parents, and youth leaders are invited to attend. Early registration fee is \$15 per person before March 28; \$20 per person after March 28. For more information, visit [www.sosforstudents.com](http://www.sosforstudents.com) or contact Troy Hamilton at (423) 842-4219.

### Children's issue forum: April 15

WYTHEVILLE, Va. – St. Paul UMC in Wytheville, Va., is hosting a children's issue forum on Sunday, April 25, 2 to 5 p.m. The moderator will be Chief Meteorologist Robin Reed of WDBJ-TV. The forum panel includes Principal Larry Price of McHarg Elementary School and family practitioner Chris Pile. Child care will be provided for children ages five and up. The event is sponsored by the Wytheville District Council on Ministries and Holston Conference Children's Ministry Team. For more information, call Terri Gregory at (276) 236-

4424 or Anita Henderlight at (865) 690-4080.

### Buffalo Mountain golf tourney: April 24

JONESBOROUGH, Tenn. – Buffalo Mountain Camp is sponsoring its 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Scramble for the Kids" golf tournament on Saturday, April 24, at Tri-Cities Golf Club in Blountville, Tenn. The \$65 entry fee for golfers (\$55 for students) includes breakfast, lunch, cart and green fees with all amenities. Both golfers and sponsors are needed. For information, contact Camp Director Christina DowlingSoka at [buffalomountain@hotmail.com](mailto:buffalomountain@hotmail.com) or (423) 753-6678.

### Wesley Woods golf tournament: April 26

TOWNSEND, Tenn. – Camp Wesley Woods will hold its first annual golf tournament Monday, April 26, at Gettysvue Polo, Golf & Country Club in Knoxville, Tenn. The \$100-per-player entry fee includes dinner, prizes, a round of golf with a cart, and range balls. Proceeds will benefit the camp's capital improvement fund. Entry deadline is April 9. For more information, e-mail [Wwcampdevelop@aol.com](mailto:Wwcampdevelop@aol.com) or call (865) 448-2246. ■