

## district roundup:

# News from the Holston Conference's 12 Districts

**Abingdon:**

An **Emory & Henry** college senior has been named to the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team. Adam Beeken, a music and theater double major from Wesley Memorial UMC in Cleveland, Tenn., was among 100 students chosen from more than 700 nominees nationwide. Beeken's name was listed in the Feb. 27 edition of *USA Today*.

**Big Stone Gap:**

**Midway Memorial's** food program for the needy in Scott County is serving as many 181 households each month, up from 16 households when it debuted in November 2000. "We never advertised, but through word of mouth, people started coming," the Rev. Don Large reports. With the help of Second Harvest, members get food in bulk and box up supplies, handing them out one day each month. Sometimes people begin waiting in line two hours before the church opens. "On cold days, we open up the fellowship hall and have people available to talk," Large said. The congregation rejoices in its opportunity to serve. "We get more out of this than we give." **M**

**Cleveland:**

Last fall, Ooltewah UMC launched its website at [www.ooltewahumc.org](http://www.ooltewahumc.org). Between Jan. 24 and Feb. 23, the site recorded 2,462 page accesses. People visited the site every hour of the day, even during midnight hours, the church newsletter reports. "It's exciting to see that people can turn to us 24 hours a day." **L**

**Chattanooga:**

**Forty-three pink** flamingos have helped the youth at Red Bank UMC raise \$400 for a summer mission trip in just three weeks. For \$5, church members can buy Pink Cross/Pink Shield insurance, protecting their lawns from being "flocked" with the plastic birds. If they don't buy insurance, they pay \$10 to have them removed. If members remove the birds themselves, the fee is \$5. Both the congregation and youth are having fun with the fundraiser, says Director David Brackett. "It's sort of like rolling yards." **L**

**Johnson City:**

**Cherokee UMC** will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Exhibition on April 5-6. Sponsored by Cherokee's United Methodist Women, the event features a quilt contest, 17 craft workshops, demonstrations, devotionals and a Southern-style luncheon. Proceeds will be used for missions. "We encourage readers to display their quilts in the show, either for judging or display only," says member Donna Lyon. Call (423) 926-0978 or (423) 283-4927. Exhibition hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. **M**

**Kingsport:**

**What would you** think if a family moved into your Sunday school classroom? Through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, churches of all denominations actually provide shelter to needy families for a week at a time. Kingsport congregations also provide food, day care and job counseling. Methodist host



**CHATTANOOGA:** Pink flamingos invade Red Bank.



churches include Colonial Heights, Mountain View, Glen Alpine, and St. Luke's; several others provide support. Number of families hosted since the network started in January 2001: 34. Average stay: 29 days.

**Knoxville:**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual** Blessing of the Bikes happens at Kodak UMC on April 21, beginning with an upbeat worship service at 11 a.m. After lunch and live music, the Rev. Ty Harrison will bless motorcycles and riders at 2 p.m. with an old Scottish blessing, "Godspeed." Everyone is invited. "We would love to see the church full of black leather," says member Chris Porter. Kodak is located off I-40, Exit 407, south on Highway 66, at the corner of Highway 139 and 66. **L**

**Maryville:**

**Throughout March**, youth at First Alcoa UMC collected diapers for the Hope Resource Center, a Christian organization aiding women with unplanned pregnancies. The goal was to fill the Senior High classroom to the ceiling with Huggies and Pampers. Youth were aided by radio D.J./pastor's wife Beth Green, who promoted the diaper drive during her 3-8 p.m. time slot on KZ 93.5. **L**

**Morristown:**

**Love's Memorial UMC** of Green County is nearing completion of a new \$200,000 activity center, which includes several classrooms, kitchen/fellowship hall and large meeting room. During six months of project construction, generous donations have made it possible for this project to be completed mortgage-free, the district office reports. Dedication is scheduled for April 7. **S**

**Oak Ridge:**

**On Feb. 25**, Luminary UMC held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church building about a mile from its current site in Kingston. Attending the ceremony were Bishop Ray Chamberlain, District Superintendent Gordon Rid-enour, and Luminary's Rev. Bill Duncan. "Our new church will be positioned on a hill with a beautiful view," says member Donna Walmsley. **M**

**Tazewell:**

**Almost six years** ago, the Rev. Mike Ward met Violetta Shkoda on a mission trip in Minsk, Belarus. Every year, Ward returned to the former Soviet Union to sing and share the Gospel, while his relationship with Violetta grew. Last fall, she joined Ward in Virginia; they were married on Nov. 10. The congregations at First Honaker and Blackford United Methodist churches love Violetta almost as much as he does, says Ward. "God put us together, we didn't." **S**

**Wytheville:**

**St. Paul UMC** is presenting the musical "Godspell" during Holy Week on March 28, 29, and 30. Based on the chapter of Matthew, the musical is under the direction of St. Paul choir director Brian Underwood. In addition to St. Paul's choir, participants from the community will also participate in the production, the district office reports. **M**



**JOHNSON CITY:**

*Cherokee is covered up with quilts.*



**OAK RIDGE:**  
*Luminary members dig their new church site.*



**TAZEWELL:**

*A mission trip leads to marriage.*