



## What did the others say?

Since "The Passion of the Christ" opened Feb. 25, many Holston members have sent e-mails or written newsletter columns regarding the film. A sample of comments:

"Without an understanding of the crucifixion, the resurrection is a cheap thrill. Without belief in the resurrection, the crucifixion is a cruel miscarriage of justice. Together, the crucifixion and the resurrection display the greatness of God's grace and power."

— **Rev. Kathie Wilson-Parker**  
*First Bristol UMC, Abingdon District*

"The realism in which the crucifixion is portrayed is profoundly disturbing. I guarantee you will never hear the phrase 'By his stripes we are healed' in the same way again."

— **Rev. Steve Doyal**  
*Wellspring UMC, Maryville District*

"I had never imagined that he went through so much, and now I ask, 'How could any human endure the suffering that he did?' I sat there thinking about the times that I've been mad or hurt by someone and thought that was the worst thing. Now I see that I was just being selfish, because nothing can compare to what Jesus went through for me."

— **Colleen Ward**  
*Elm Springs UMC, Kingsport District*

"After the crucified Jesus was lifted in dramatic pose, a chirpy little cell phone sounded from across the theater. As the somber mood of the musical score was invaded by the cheap jingle, I was distracted from the powerful scene of compassion. After the embarrassed owner fumbled for the 'off' button, I heard an annoyed parent whisper in a choppy voice, 'You-give-me-that-thing-right-now!'"

— **Rev. Allen Shupe**  
*Marvin's Chapel UMC, Johnson City District*

"One short comment on the charge of the anti-Semitism leveled at the movie. With the exception of Pilate's wife, all the 'good guys' in the movie are Jews and all the Gentiles are the 'bad guys.'"

— **Rev. Walter Simmerman**  
*Elizabeth Chapel UMC, Johnson City District*

"Mel Gibson did for Jesus what Disney did for Pocahontas."

— **Rev. Dennis Loy**  
*Unicoi UMC, Johnson City District*

# CHOCOLATE

## Easter eggs make sweet fund-raisers

By Annette Bender



LAFOLLETTE, Tenn. — The smell of chocolate melting on the stove is intoxicating. Yet no one is sampling the candy Easter eggs that members of Fincastle United Methodist Church create and package right here in the church kitchen.

How do they resist?

Shaping handfuls of peanut butter or coconut filling into egg after egg, the women smile knowingly. "We did eat some, at first," Juanita Claiborne says. "And then ..." She makes a "yuck" face, and the crew laughs.

For about 15 years, United Methodist Women at Fincastle have made thousands of the chocolate eggs each Easter, selling the candy to stores and other businesses in the LaFollette, Caryville and Jacksboro area. Over the years, the demand for eggs has increased, requiring a group of about 13 to take morning and evening shifts in the kitchen for six weeks preceding Easter. In 2003, the women cleared \$6,400 in profits, helping the Oak Ridge District church pay for a new family life building and support local and international missions.

"They are a hardworking crew,"

Fincastle pastor Kevin Cole says proudly. The egg-makers say they enjoy the fellowship and helping their church, even if they're sick of the smell of chocolate by April 11. And then, they can start planning for the next big traditional fund-raising project: making thousands of fried pies for the community this fall. ■

Norma Hill decorates eggs that will be sold to small businesses.



Photos by Annette Bender, The Call



In the spacious kitchen of the new family life building, Judy Broyles (left) and Nancy Cole dip eggs into melted chocolate.



Yellow flowers mark the peanut-butter eggs, while the coconut eggs have pink flowers. Large eggs sell for \$3 each; smaller eggs are four for \$3.