

Old-time spirituality in Jonesville, Virginia

Nearly every summer since 1810, Methodists have gathered in Jonesville, Va., for a camp meeting. This year, Bishop James Swanson joined the Rev. Eddie Fox, the Rev. George Morris, and the Rev. Winston Worrell for four nights of preaching, singing and evangelism in the old camp shed. Sponsored by the Big Stone Gap District, the Aug. 7-10 gathering had a total attendance of 1,143, according to organizer Rev. Roy Corbin. The largest crowd – 450 – came on opening night to hear Swanson preach. Several professions of faith were witnessed, and a morning faith-sharing seminar at First Pennington Gap UMC had 70 participants.

“Several people said that we set a high standard for next year, and how will we top that?” Corbin said. “I’ll leave it up to the Lord to do that.” ■



RIGHT: The Rev. George Morris, co-author of “Faith Sharing: Dynamics of Christian Witnessing,” leads a faith-sharing seminar at First Pennington Gap UMC. Photo courtesy of Roy Corbin



ABOVE: Wearing one of the old-time bonnets that she wears every day, Nell Roberts of Morgan United Methodist Church sits with her daughter, Becky German.



ABOVE: Mike Neff, member of Robbins Chapel UMC, plays the violin while Corbett Deaton accompanies on guitar.



ABOVE: District Superintendent Dan Taylor (far left) and the Rev. Eddie Fox (standing, right) pray with people who responded to the altar call.



ABOVE: The Rev. Winston Worrell, director of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute in Atlanta, preaches at the hot and humid Tuesday night service.



ABOVE: The Ingles Chapel UMC choir stands up to the heat with choir robes and foot-tapping gospel songs.

“Camp Meeting has been held at this place since and including 1810, except two years, 1863 and 1864. At which time the war between the States being on, and Federal Troops in possession of Cumberland Gap, it was not considered prudent to hold Camp Meeting at the Campground.”

– *Short History of Jonesville Campground*, by James W. Orr