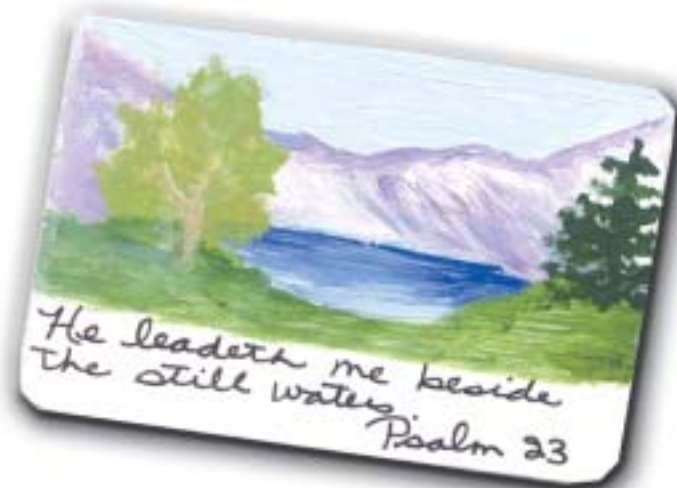




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Hilton Memorial's Peggy Hensley paints one-of-a-kind magnetic art for Big Stone Gap clergy attending a district meeting.

District Roundup

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT

Abingdon: In May, Jennifer Sexton, a member at Willis Chapel UMC, hired a humvee limousine for her son and his friends to take to the prom. In chatting with the limo's owner, whose name is Jim Pollock, Sexton learned that the limo driver would be Pollock's own father, a retired preacher. Sexton thought about it and realized that Rev. Jim Pollock Sr. was the same preacher who had baptized her prom-going son in 1986, when Pollock was appointed to Lebanon Memorial UMC. "When he arrived to pick up Bryan and his friends, Rev. Pollock did remember us," says Sexton. "Bryan was two months old then and has since grown to a very tall 6'6"." **S, M**



Limo driver and retired preacher Jim Pollock is reunited with prom-goer Bryan Sexton, whom he baptized as an infant.

Big Stone Gap: At Hiltons Memorial UMC, Peggy Hensley is known as the artist-in-residence who creates special favors for members. Parishioners who bring their neighbors to church on Neighbor Sunday, for instance, have received beautifully painted rocks. Hensley's most recent creation is a tiny piece of wood, painted with a Bible verse on front and a magnet attached to the back. The unique favors were distributed to Big Stone Gap clergy members attending a district meeting at Hiltons Memorial. **M**

Chattanooga: For the fourth year, Camp Lookout hosted "Junior High Service Week" in June. Ninety-two campers from seven churches and the Bethlehem Center planted flowers, mulched trails, and built a storage shed. Campers also worked off-site, serving food to the homeless at Forrest Avenue UMC and painting a mural in the St. Elmo/Alton Park area. In addition to churches from the North Georgia and Tennessee Conferences, these Holston Conference churches were represented: Brainerd, Brooks Memorial, Christ, and Tyner.



Campers build a storage shed during Junior High Service Week at Camp Lookout.

Cleveland: Last Christmas, members from Oak Grove UMC sent a shoebox of gifts overseas through Samaritan Purse's "Operation Christmas Child." In June, Gladys Cunningham received a letter from a nine-year-old West African child that brought tears to her eyes. The girl, Dene Noufou of Burkina Faso, wrote that her parents were poor and "part of the time they had no food," reports Cunningham. Dene thanked her gift-givers and said she was using her shoebox of school supplies, clothing, and other treasures well. **S**

Johnson City: When Nora Gilmer, age 8, saw the youth at Piney Flats UMC raising money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, she wanted to do her part. "After all, her mother Angie was being treated for breast cancer, and Nora understood the race would help her mom," reports Rev. Laura Rasor. Nora set up a "Cookies for Cancer" stand and quickly became a local celebrity in the newspaper and on radio. Piney Flats ultimately raised \$4,000 for cancer research. **M**

Kingsport: Instead of the usual fall evangelism event with an outside speaker, the district is planning an "outwardly focused" day for congregations to show Christ's love in a practical way. On Sept. 10, Kingsport churches will "Unite!" by serving the community with free car washes, restroom cleaning, gasoline buy-downs, frozen pop giveaways, and other activities. "Instead of expecting the unchurched to come to us, we'll go to them," says Rev. Scott Layer of First Surgoinsville UMC. If just 5 percent of Kingsport church attendees participate, more than 500 workers will serve the community on one day, Layer points out. Stay tuned.

Knoxville: This summer, senior-high youth at Holy Covenant UMC in Carrollton, Texas, were all set for a mission trip to Pensacola when Hurricane Dennis forced the trip's cancellation. Youth Director

Josh Mauldin called his dad, Holston Pastoral Counselor Gary Mauldin, who called the youth director at Fountain City UMC. Within hours, Melissa Smith had arranged for the Texas youth to stay the week at Fountain City while doing mission work at Wesley House and other local ministries. **L**

Maryville: Friendsville UMC celebrated Heritage Sunday on Aug. 14, with guest band Sonrize from Fairview UMC. Parishioners dressed in overalls and bonnets, sang old hymns, and shared dinner. **M**

Morristown: After 74-year-old Kenneth Burchfield died in November 2004, Shady Grove UMC learned that he had left his estate to the church. He had only joined Shady Grove two years previously but had "quickly endeared himself to everyone," reports Sean Glenn. Burchfield's property was located near Douglas Lake and Highway 139, which the congregation realized was valuable. But they were exuberant when the estate sale totaled \$850,000. "With the church looking at a major building program, the timing was truly providential," says Glenn. **M**

Oak Ridge: In May, Jacksboro UMC continued its servant evangelism campaign by handing out 2,200 bottles of water at Campbell County High School's graduation. In a previous project in April, the church offered free car washes at a drug store parking lot. When folks ask, "Why are you doing this?" Jacksboro members say, "Because Jesus loves you." **S**

Tazewell: Wessendonck UMC – named for a German family that came to Bland County in the 1850s – is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Aug. 28. Special guests will include Robert Morris, a former pastor; Wayne Monroe, who grew up at Wessendonck and now pastors First Narrows UMC; and Matthew French, also a Wessendonck native who is now attending seminary. **S**

Wytheville: In July, 28 youth and counselors representing eight churches worked at Red Bird Missionary Conference's Henderson Settlement as part of the district's youth mission trip. Coordinator Lindy Mann says the youth worked on roofs and ceilings and did painting, carpentry, and cleaning in an area where unemployment exceeds 50 percent. "We were very excited about what we were able to do and how happy we made the families who lived in the homes," said Mann.