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District Roundup

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT



Singer-songwriter Kendall Idema of Crossville-based Music of the Son sings during the Greenway Musical Festival, hosted by Green Meadow UMC.

Abingdon: When Matt Dillow proposed erecting a new flagpole with landscaping as part of his Eagle Scout project, members at South Bristol UMC were thrilled. "They had been discussing a new flagpole," says the Rev. Charles Ledger. Matt, age 14, completed his project and now his brother, Aaron, 12, is planning to update the church pavillion/playground for his own scout project. The Dillows are new members at South Bristol, having joined at Easter 2004. **S**

Big Stone Gap: Holston View UMC recently joined with another church for a baptismal service at Holston River. Four were baptized from Holston View; four from Community Fellowship Baptist Church. Pastor Ken Pierce says the two congregations followed the service with a barbecue for about 200 people. **M**

Chattanooga: This summer, a group from Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Shelby County, Ala., was visiting Chattanooga. They saw an advertisement for "Takin' It to the Street," an outdoor festival hosted by Jones Memorial UMC to celebrate the end of vacation bible school. The Alabama group "called to see if it was all right to bring 40 people," says Shirley Baugh, and "they were welcomed with open arms." The guests even sang at the festival, which attracted 200 people in all. **L**

Cleveland: Broad Street UMC recently hosted a prayerful send-off for a Cleveland Marine unit bound for Iraq. Attended by about 300 people, the service included leaders of 15 churches. The Rev. Andy Ferguson of Broad Street offered the invocation; the Rev. Debbie Stokes, also of Broad Street, did the responsive reading; and the Rev. Robert Haskins, of Wesley Memorial UMC, offered a prayer for the families. "This is the first time the war has come home to us in Cleveland," says Ferguson. "It was pretty moving." **L**

Johnson City: Cherokee UMC has accepted an offer from nearby



Dillow dad and sons show off South Bristol UMC's new flag pole.

including a billboard that cost \$350 for two weeks of visibility on Highway 93. Vermont was also featured on a local radio station's "VBS of the Week" program. "We saw kids that we've never seen here before," said Koesters. **M**

Knoxville: The Rev. Gary Mauldin, Holston's pastoral counselor, is also a vocalist. In the past year he soloed at Middlebrook Pike, Fountain City, Hendron's Chapel, Beulah, and on Aug. 22, was scheduled to sing an arrangement of "It is Well With My Soul" at Inskip UMC. Mauldin says he studied voice in college and did community theater in Texas before relocating to Holston in 2003. His last role had him dancing with a champagne bottle on his head in "Fiddler on the Roof." "It's not a well-known fact that I'm a bottle dancer," he says.



Photo by Donald Davis, Cleveland Daily Banner
Marines gather at Broad Street UMC for prayer.

Capernaum Church to buy Cherokee's current building. According to the church newsletter, Capernaum offered \$500,000 for the Jamestown Road building, as Cherokee prepares to move to their new 77,000-square-foot space on South Roan Street. Stay tuned for news of Cherokee's move, as well as the upcoming opening of a Cokesbury Bookstore at the new facility. **M**

Kingsport: Last year, about 80 children and adult workers participated in Vermont UMC's vacation bible school. This summer, 155 people – including 90 children – participated in the summer event. Of the 90 kids, about half were from the church; the other half came from the community. Children's coordinator Kim Koesters attributes the success partly to communications efforts,

Maryville: Green Meadow UMC hosted a benefit barbecue and music festival last month, raising about \$1,200 to replace energy-efficient windows at the church. The Greenway Music Festival – held on the church's six acres of green space in the midst of Alcoa's subdivisions – featured bands such as

Sevendaybeliever, All4Him, Music of the Son, Eden's Way Band, Jam513, and the Josh Miller Band. **S**

Morristown: First White Pine UMC averaged 54 kids in attendance at vacation bible school this summer, compared to 34 last year. Church members distributed flyers at local food and hardware stores to improve attendance, according to Pastor Eddie Noe. **M**

Oak Ridge: In 1998, leaders of Heiskill UMC had a vision to make the old elementary school they had acquired into a community center. After six years of Saturdays spent renovating, church members opened the doors of the Heiskill Gathering Place in July. "We already have an exercise class on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and a bluegrass jam on Monday night," reports Pastor Pat Bishop. St. Mary's Medical Center donated \$1,000 to help build a walking track and Knox County Parks & Recreation awarded \$1,500 to build a track and playground. "We hope one day the community center will be an open door to the community," Bishop told *Powell News*. Heiskill has 25 in average worship attendance. **S**

Tazewell: The district is planning its 2004 Biker Retreat at Camp Laurel Oct. 1-3. For brochures, contact your district office or the Rev. Larry Murphy at (276) 322-4438 or murfino@sunlitsurf.com.

Wytheville: Twenty-eight youth and leaders representing nine Wytheville churches traveled to Sager Brown UMCOR facility in Baldwin, La., this summer. Besides preparing rescue kits to be shipped all over the world, workers completed a painting project on a Baldwin home. The youth raised money for the trip through yard sales, hot dog sales, candy sales, individual gifts, and assistance from the district, according to District Youth Coordinator Lindy Mann.