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District Roundup

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT



Morristown
Hundreds of church and community volunteers pack up Thanksgiving feasts for the needy in Greene County.

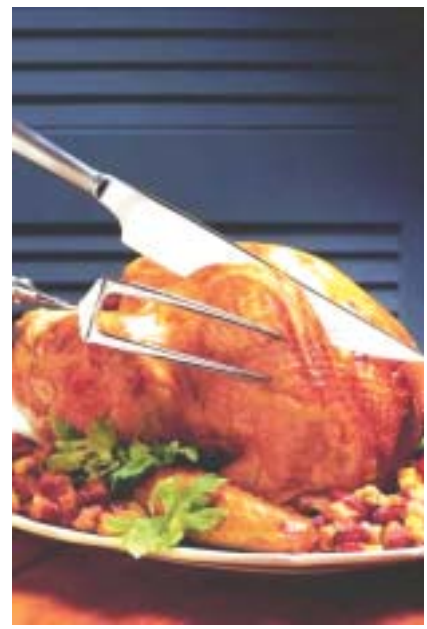
Abingdon: Meadowview and Yellow Springs UMC served a community Thanksgiving meal for the first time in 2003. The event was such a hit, they're doing it again. According to the Rev. Katy Fox, the congregations are planning to serve 225 this year, compared with 175 last year. Besides serving a free sit-down meal in Meadowview's newly floored fellowship hall, they will deliver meals to shut-ins and others who can't attend. About 75 church members are volunteering and donating food for the event, with 10-15 additional helpers from the community joining in. **S**

Big Stone Gap: Hiltons Memorial UMC will host a Thanksgiving healing service on Sunday, Nov. 21, during the 11 a.m. service. Featured speaker will be Tom Renfro, a physician who has appeared on CBN and reportedly has been healed from terminal cancer through medicine and prayer. **M**

Chattanooga: Harrison, Lighthouse, St. John and Washington Hills UMC are joining for an annual community Thanksgiving service at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. This year, the host church is Washington Hills. St. John's Rev. Ron Goodman will preach. **S, M, L**

Cleveland: Keith Memorial UMC is also hosting its annual community meal on Thanksgiving day. Church members are joining in to make pineapple sweet potatoes, cranberry salads and desserts to accompany the main attraction. **L**

Johnson City: First Johnson City UMC is receiving a \$2 million renovation "intended to preserve its historical integrity," according to a recent story in the *Johnson City Press*. Erected in 1928, the Gothic Revival structure in Johnson City's "Tree Streets" area is undergoing both modernization and restoration, "with careful attention to its period brick, masonry, carved woodwork and original Italian stained glass." **L**



All over Holston, congregations will be serving Thanksgiving dinner to their communities.

Kingsport: The Rev. Peggy Meade is chaplain at Charles B. Bass Correctional Complex in west Nashville, but her charge conference church is Pactoulas UMC. She's asking Holston members to help provide hygiene items and writing materials for her male prisoners by Dec. 10, in time for Christmas. Contact Meade at (423) 914-0016 or revpeg061599@aol.com. **S**

Knoxville: In September, the preacher of a large Baptist church sent a letter to more than 1,000 Knoxville pastors, noting "the choice is clear" on whom to vote for president and citing the issues of abortion and gay marriage. When a local TV station crew later interviewed the Baptist preacher, they also interviewed the Rev. Steve Sallee of Cokesbury UMC. Sallee followed up the other pastor's comments by saying, "I happen to think God is neither a Democrat nor Republican. As a pastor, I don't think it's my role [to tell you that] to be a good Christian, you have to vote for either one of these candidates." **L**

Maryville: In November 2001, Middlesettlements UMC was challenged to donate \$50,000 to help missionaries Mark and Jo Waltz build a school for needy children in Paraguay. Within a year, the church had surpassed that goal by giving \$54,700, more than one-quarter of the school's cost. Middlesettlements celebrated many other missions accomplishments during its Nov. 3 charge conference. Superintendent Ron Matthews said the church's efforts were "above and beyond the typical congregation." **M**

Morristown: Several United Methodist churches are joining with other congregations to prepare, serve and deliver 1,500 Thanksgiving meals throughout Greene County. According to Doug Cogburn, the massive effort involves hundreds of volunteers. Participating Holston churches include Hardin's Chapel, Greenwood, Mt. Hebron, Bradburn Hill, and Mt. Vernon.

Oak Ridge: Kern Memorial UMC is partnering with Angel Food Ministries to provide "grocery relief" for the community. At the beginning of each month, families pay \$25 for a box of groceries retailing for \$50. The menu varies and is the

same quality one would purchase in a grocery store. The deal is available to all families, regardless of income, says Pastor Mark Flynn, "because too many ministries focus on 'us' helping 'them,' when we should be working together." Within one month after kick-off, orders increased from 80 to 225. A majority of the customers are on food stamps, Flynn says. It helps that customers must pay at the beginning of the month. The grocery orders arrive at Kern at the end of the month - when food supplies are typically low for needy families. **L**

Tazewell: Rocky Gap UMC pre-school students participated in a holiday parade on Nov. 6, the district office reports. The pre-school chose as their float theme, "Nations Hand in Hand in Prayer Can Bring Peace on Earth." Each student was dressed to represent a different nation. **M**

Wytheville: Jordan's Chapel UMC of Pulaski, Va., has had a special relationship with Jordan's Chapel UMC of Burgaw, N.C., for years. This summer, Children's Coordinator Holly King led her kids in practicing the drama, "We Are United." The decision was later made to take the show on the road to their sister church in North Carolina. Meanwhile, Jordan's of Burgaw was struggling with division and dissent in the church. So when Jordan's of Pulaski arrived with a play based on unity, church leaders began to feel that the coincidence wasn't accidental. After the children's play was performed, "there was not a dry eye in the church," King says. "Every person in the sanctuary left his or her seat to pray at the altar ... We will never forget how God was able to use us." **S**



Maryville
Middlesettlements gives \$54,700 to help build Nuevo Horizonte, a school in Paraguay (above).