



Flood cleanup at Greeneville school



Submitted photo

GREENEVILLE, Tenn. — When Holston Home for Children began signing up volunteers for flood cleanup at Camp Creek Elementary last month, nearly half of the children in residence at the home's Greeneville campus were ready to go. So on Aug. 20, thirty youth from Holston helped get the school ready for opening day by washing windows, picking up trash and moving equipment. "This is a wonderful time for the boys to be able to give back to the community," said the Rev. Katherine White, Holston Home director of spiritual life. "It's a good lesson to learn that we are all part of one family."



Submitted photos

BEFORE & AFTER: Valued at \$1.5 million, Unicoi UMC's new multipurpose building was built at a cost of about \$500,000

Better than new, it's debt free

Unicoi UMC plans dedication ceremony on Sept. 23

UNICOI, Tenn.—It's a happy day when a church dedicates a new multipurpose building for its ministry. It's an even happier day when the building is debt free.

But that's not all Unicoi UMC will thank God for during its Sept. 23 celebration. The 15,800-square-foot building, valued at \$1.5 million, was built at a cost of about \$500,000. For a facility with a commercial kitchen, music room, meeting room, drama room, 12 classrooms, four restrooms, showers, and a new sound, video and light system, "this is truly a miracle," said Unicoi Pastor Jim Goddard.

It helps that three lay members served as general contractors. Material costs have also been low, Goddard admits.

But he also attributes the triumph to Christ-focused planning and vision, lack of completion date, and determination to avoid debt. The Johnson City District congregation spent a year talking to community and church members about needs and purpose for the building. Then they developed a three-phase plan allowing them to stop construction if necessary.

"We determined to build as funds

became available and not incur any large indebtedness," Goddard said.

With \$180,000 to start in the building fund, the church broke ground in October 2000 — and the building never stopped. Money became available as needed. Now that the facility is nearing completion, parishioners realize that God is calling them to multiple ministries, Goddard said. In addition to existing ministries with Hispanics, Generation X worship, after-school programs and community clubs, Unicoi UMC is planning a computer lab, emergency shelter, Meals on Wheels ministry and music and arts enrichment classes.

Johnson City District Superintendent Mahan Archer agreed that the new facility presents "wonderful opportunities" for the church. "They're in a prime location for their Hispanic ministry and after-school program. It really is an outstanding building."

Bishop Ray Chamberlain is scheduled to appear at Unicoi's Sept. 23 dedication ceremony, as well as members from nearby Centenary, Grace, and Limestone UMC. ☛

Announcement

George Odle appointed stewardship consultant

The Office of Finance and Stewardship Resources has endorsed the Rev. George Odle as a consultant for congregations considering capital campaigns, Holston Director of Finance Ron Matthews recently announced. The appointment was effective Sept. 1, 2001.

A field representative for the General Board of Global Ministries' Office of Finance and Field Service, Odle



George Odle

said he is available to assist churches with fundraising and stewardship development. Odle is a Holston Conference clergy member who lives in Johnson City, Tenn.

The Rev. Matthews said he recommended Odle as a "trusted and worthy ally for the local church. His skills are a welcome addition to the Holston Stewardship Ministry Team."

Odle has a Doctor of Ministry degree in practical theology from Vanderbilt University Divinity School. A licensed auctioneer and certified personal property appraiser, he also was owner and director of Capital Campaign Associates from 1994 to 1999. He served as pastor for Holston congregations from 1969 to 1999.

When contemplating major projects, Odle said, congregations typically ask, "How much will it cost?"

"I have come to believe that churches must dare to ask, 'What will this do for the Kingdom of God?'" he said. "Then the usual question becomes far less ominous."

Contact him at (423) 282-3735, (917) 602-9523, Geossumc@cs.com or godle@gbgm-umc.org.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Holston groups welcome college students with lots of style

Church might be the last thing on many college students' minds, but there sure are a lot of church groups thinking about college students.

At the University of Virginia College at Wise, for instance, the Wesley Foundation recently sponsored a "Steppin' Up and Steppin' Out" event for freshmen. The Aug. 20 agenda included makeovers, safety training, and a fashion show presented by Belks.

"We want girls to feel confident when they come to school, because it can be intimidating," said the Rev. Ginger Howe, Wesley Foun-

dation director. "We also want them to know we're here for them."

On "moving-in day" at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Church Street UMC volunteers were on hand to offer cookies and information to students. Church Street spokesperson Teresa Williams reported that numerous students stopped by, and the college-age Sunday

School class recorded 23 in attendance the following day, Aug. 19. The downtown church is so interested in reaching UT students, they recently enlisted a college intern, Chris Brown.

"This is the first college intern we've ever had," said Williams. "We just wanted a better way to connect with the college students who come to Church Street."



A freshman gets brushed up at University of Virginia College.



Reaching the lost

Over a five-year period, 100% of new members in these churches were received by confession of faith:

Robbins Chapel, Big Stone Gap District
New members: 29 Av. worship att.: 33

Falls Mills, Tazewell District
New members: 27 Av. worship att.: 148

Franklin Street, Wytheville District
New members: 16 Av. worship att.: 63

Dunbar, Big Stone Gap District
New members: 15 Av. worship att.: 45

Union Temple, Johnson City District
New members: 14 Av. worship att.: 40

Source: General Council on Ministries Office of Research & Planning, February 2001
Research by Rita Broderick

WELCOME —
Church Street's Dawn
Von Weisenstein chats
with a University of
Tennessee student on
"moving-in day."

Photo by A.S. Bender/ The Call