

## Biweekly

that chronicles the need and celebrates the response of caring, generous United Methodists. Additional resources include message points, ideas for promoting the appeal, a "Giving Calendar," worship resources and a children's sermon.

## SINGLEMINISTRY TO BUILD A HOUSE IN DYERSBURG

**MEMSAM.** Memphis Conference Single Adult Ministries, will gather in Dyersburg, Tenn. to build a house for a single mother of three. Her home was destroyed by the April tornadoes. Approximately \$2000 was raised at the 2006 Annual Conference to help Habitat for Humanity with this project. For more information, call **Patti Messick** at 901-353-2128.

## MCSAM ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, SETS DATES OF RETREATS AND MEETINGS

**Wendy Hopper** is the new MCSAM coordinator. Joining her on the board of officers are: **Dusty Dyer**, Fellowship; **Patti Messick**, Missions; **Jeff Carr** and **Michelle**, Retreats; **Rev. Aurtara Hampton**, PMT staff. Upcoming MCSAM dates to remember:

- July 21-23** Habitat Home
- August 19** Cookout/Diamond Jaxx game, Jackson, Tenn.
- August 26** MCSAM Design Team Meeting
- September 9** Memphis Zoo
- September 16** Help at RRM Thrift Store, Ridgely, Tenn.
- September 22-24** Singles Fall Retreat, Lakeshore
- October 7** MeSAM Design Team Meeting
- October 13-15** Camping and Canoeing at Mouseetail Landing State Park.

## HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY PLANS FALL EVENTS

Golf tournaments, fish fries and more will be offered in West Tennessee and Western Kentucky this summer and fall as Hunters for the Hungry raises money to underwrite the processing of deer. Watch for your opportunity to help this task force defeat hunger in your community. \*

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## Galloway's Community Garden continued

from the church at the corner of Cooper and Walker.

Every Sunday morning the gardeners arrive very early to water and tend the garden. They always bring a thermos of coffee, cups, sugar and all the "fixings." Soon the gardeners find themselves having coffee with some of the homeless and less fortunate in the neighborhood.

On Father's Day, Mitch Hall, March's husband, was patiently reading the Sunday paper while March puttered and pulled weeds. Buckets of rain began falling. The Girl Scout families who had come to help garden all piled together and went down the street for cold drinks to the restaurant where our dishwasher friend works.

March says that working in this garden is the nicest experience she has had in her 32 years of leading Troop 3. She's amazed at all the people who drive by waving. Young men wearing baggy pants walk by, and instead of looking down at their shoes, now look her in the eye and smile.

A regular jogger looks forward to receiving a cooling spray from the water hose. Dog walkers pause and pull a few weeds. Often people will stop and talk for a half hour or more—people we never knew and who never gave Galloway a second thought before the garden was put in.

Six weeks ago, Assistant leader Barbara Heam Keebler was watching the tractor till the 30 X 90 foot piece of land that fronts on Cooper. She turned and asked, almost like hearing the Psalmist David cry out, "Oh my Lord, what have we gotten into? Will we ever be able to manage a plot this size?"

For the last 21 years, the Scout Troop has always had some flowers and a tomato plant or two, but nothing this ambitious. They've tended the church's shade plant meditation garden for the past nine years, but this community garden was something that was going to need regular attention.

Somewhat, each tiny seedling that was put in rooted. Even the bedraggled-looking volunteer flowering vines that were transplanted all rooted and "took."

Fay Sanford, an avid gardener and one of the generous people who donated plants to the community garden, tried to transplant a few of the volunteer vines into her home garden only to watch all of them wither away.

Visiting the Galloway garden later, she looked at March and



March Hall (left) says the Community Garden is the nicest experience she's had in her 32 years of leading Scout Troop 3.

said, "It is just a miracle that all of these plants are flourishing."

Yes, the Galloway garden is a miracle of hospitality and good will. It is God touching our neighborhood and making it kinder and gentler.

The girls from Troop 3 have always worked hard and are known as one of the best Girl Scout troops in the city. They're involved in service to the community in many ways. When they sell their cookies, one-third of the profit goes to The Memphis Literacy Council to buy books. The council is located just down the block from the church and the girls regularly read to the Day Care children at Red Robin Day Care across the street.

One-third of their money goes to Trunkate Shelter for abandoned children in Haiti. The girls' funds buy food and school supplies for some of the poorest children on the island. They always prepare a tape for the orphans to see and exchange letters with the shelter priest in French. They use the last one-third of their money on camping trips.

Another recent service project has been to knit. The girls wanted to knit an afghan to donate to the West Cancer Clinic here in Memphis in honor of one of their leaders, Regina Williams. Ann Buxton of St. John's UMC

money, plants and time. The donor list names close to 30 community people, former scout leaders, the Day Care centers, members and friends of Galloway. The church has not spent any program dollars on the garden, but does pay the water bill.

A former scout who is now in college stopped by one day. After "coiling" and "axing" over the garden, she said, "Marge, you were the best leader. I just loved the garden." Marge looked at her and replied, "No, you didn't, you hated it." At least, it seemed so at the time. But the young woman's memories prove otherwise. Her time spent with a caring adult helped form her into the successful young woman that she is becoming today.

Vegetables from the garden will be used by the Scouts, Day Care centers and by Galloway UMC when the weekly free community meals are prepared.

In biblical times, there was the concept of "gleaning" whereby food was left in the fields after the harvest so that the poor could "glean" the fields and have food. We are often asked if the garden is vandalized or if the vegetables are "stolen." We respond by saying that this is a community garden, here for all to enjoy. It belongs to everyone in the community whether they tend it or not. It is not fenced. It is proudly labeled, "Community Garden at Galloway." If a passerby picks a tomato or two, then we figure that, like a gleaner, they must have been hungry.

The garden received a donation of rolled cobbled stones from Cristie Curt Stone, the neighborhood stone yard. When the man dropped off the heavy pallet, he commented about how heavy the stones were and how it seemed like this could be way too much work for the girls. March wondered why he would think that. These girls often break a sweat in the pursuit of doing a good job and helping others.

It almost looked like a chain gang as the girls began lifting, passing and carrying the stones to form the outline of the herb garden. The stone man couldn't believe how fast they emptied the entire pallet. The girls saw his comment as a challenge. Not one girl said the stones were too heavy. After the last stone was put into place, the girls moved over to the shaded area to enjoy hamburgers cooked over their Smokey Joe.

In addition to the stones, the garden has received many donations. Ralph Fagan, a landscape architect, provided the design and layout. There have been gifts of



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Galloway's Community Garden  
A bright spot in the neighborhood

By TROYANN PORTLANDS  
pastor, Galloway UMC

It's 4:30 a.m. on an early Memphis Saturday morning and the first participant for a community yard sale has just arrived to pick out the best location in the parking lot across the street from Galloway United Methodist Church's new Community Garden.

After claiming his spot, the African-American pastor of a nearby Baptist Church wanders over to talk to March Hall, the leader of Girl Scout Troop 3. Hall is the coordinating force behind the garden. "You know this garden sure is a bright spot in the neighborhood," he said as he steps carefully through the plants and then sits on the bench newly installed under a big shade tree.

Comments like this have become commonplace over the six weeks since the garden was planted by the Scouts and the children of three nearby Day Care centers.

Having a community garden is very different from having a garden in a private yard, though private gardens can be quite beautiful. This garden has become a true connection to the community and the community is embracing the efforts of Troop 3 and the nearby Day Care centers (Cooper Cottage, Red Robin and Southern Avenue) that help tend the plants.

March Hall says, "It's almost selfish of me to spend time in this garden. It has just been lovely. This garden is a beautiful backdrop for all of these beautiful Scouts and precious children."

On days when the Scouts and Day Care children don't tend the garden, several families come and volunteer their time. On Thursdays, Edna Lumpkin comes with her three girls.

A dishwasher from a nearby restaurant walks two blocks each



Pictured above grouped around their new garden bench are eight of the 16 girls in Scout Troop 3. The troop, led by March Hall for 32 years, has seen many of its graduates go to college and become professionals. Back row (L-R) Shenequa, Sable, Maya and Chelsea. Front row (L-R) Katlin, Anitra, Vashaun, Cecelia.

Let's: One of the Scouts helps a Cooper Cottage Day Care child plant and tend the vegetables that will one day furnish a fine meal.

day to the bus stop in front of the church. At first, he walked by silently and stood at the bus stop, keeping his thoughts to himself.

Then one day he walked over to March and said, "I see you have a new plant today." The two have frequently carried on conversations

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