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Briefly

SHELTON CLOTHIERS TO ASSIST FIRSTWORKS, INC. CLOTHES CLOSET

Smoke and water from the Oct. 6 fire that destroyed First Church ruined the gently worn men's clothes at the FirstWorks, Inc. Clothes Closet that were available for downtowners needing emergency assistance. Executive Director **Rev. Birgitte T. French** announced recently that Shelton Clothiers will be helping FirstWorks get their men's clothes closet filled again. **Tom Shelton**, owner, has offered to have a "trade-in sale." Men can bring their used clothes to the shop and get a discount on a new purchase. Shelton would then deliver the used clothing to FirstWorks, Inc. Shelton Clothiers, 147 S. Main Street, on the Trolley line at Peabody Place and Main, will also be a delivery spot for used men's clothing to make it convenient for downtowners wanting to donate to FirstWorks. To find out more, please call Shelton Clothiers at 901.522.9995.

FIRSTWORKS, INC. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM AIDED BY THREE LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCHES

The FirstWorks, Inc. Children's Program received a helping hand from three area Roman Catholic churches recently. The outreach mission program for at-risk children from downtown neighborhoods was forced to move from First Church as a result of the October 6 fire. Since then, the Children's Program has been invited to use the facilities at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Wednesday nights for dinner and tutoring by Memphis City School Teachers. While at St. Mary's Catholic Church, members of St. Peter's and St. Louis Catholic Churches visited the program and served a deli-

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Wild game dinner in Martin raises money for Hunters for the Hungry

By CATHY FARMER

Hungry people living in the Martin, Tenn. area can look forward to healthy protein in their diet this winter and next spring thanks to the wild game dinner organized by the men of Martin's First United Methodist Church. Profits from the dinner were earmarked for Hunters for the Hungry, a program that underwrites the cost of processing local deer harvested by local hunters.

Dr. Jim Byford, dean of UT-Martin's School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, headed up the committee that made advance preparations for the fund-raising event. He calls the twelve men on his committee the "dirty dozen."

"The 'dirty dozen' are men who meet on a weekly basis at Martin First," Byford said. "All of them are enthusiastic about Hunters for the Hungry and they all chipped in to make the wild game dinner a success."

This year's dinner included an auction that tripled the income of the event. Herman Smith, though not an original member of the dirty dozen, was instrumental in setting up the auction.

"Hunters for the Hungry is a wonderful program," Smith said, "because it's a good way to help people who need meat."

Smith, an avid hunter himself, became involved in Hunters for the Hungry when he called Byford to donate to the wild game dinner 50 ducks and geese he bagged during a recent trip to Canada.

"I suggested we add an auction to the event to help raise more money," Smith said. "I've been involved with the National Guard in raising money for needy children at Christmas time, so I know how to do it."

Smith visited mostly sporting goods stores asking for donations.

He, Bob Wright and Mike Johnson ended up with 37 items to auction. Included in the 37 were two four-wheelers from Vincent Implements, a riding lawn mower from MTD Corporation, bird houses, a turkey smoker, gun cleaning kits, paintball pump gun, hunting shells, caps, decoy bags, folding camp chair, marinade, Ducks Unlimited print and stamp, and tickets for free deer processing from four local processors.

Altogether, the dinner and the auction brought in about \$3700.

"That's enough money to process 93 deer," Byford said. "That translates into 14,880 meals for hungry people." On average, one deer provides 40 pounds of venison. Most recipes assume that four meals can be made from every pound.

"We really appreciate the support of the people who turned out for the event and the many businesses that contributed auction items," Byford said. The money will be used by two local processors, M & G Processors in Martin and Birdwell's in Greenfield, Tenn. The deer meat will be distributed through We Care, a Martin ministry.

Betty Baker, director of We Care, one of the largest ministries of its kind in West Tennessee, said last year the agency provided 1526 families with food assistance.

"We distributed \$105,057 worth of food," she said. Much of that food was donated to We Care by Gordon Foods. But Gordon Foods has now relocated to Kentucky, closing their West Tennessee location.

"You can see how God provides," Ms. Baker said. "When Gordon Foods left, we didn't know how we were going to meet the needs of our families. Then Dean Byford and Bob Wright stepped forward.

"There's a world of people who



Above: UT Martin undergraduates belonging to the Student Chapter of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY took part in the Oct. 30 wild game supper that raised \$3700 to provide free venison for the hungry people in the Martin area. Left: Vincent Implements donated two four-wheelers for the auction.

see a need but don't get involved personally," she said. "Well, the Methodist men have chosen to get involved personally."

Baker said the deer meat will be the main meat source for We Care this coming spring.

"We held a cooking class on how to prepare venison last year and we're going to have one this year too. We even have our own venison cook book," she said.

"I so appreciate the Methodist men!" she continued. "So many talk about a need, but don't get involved."

About 120-130 people attended the dinner and auction. The food was prepared by a number of teams including the team from

Tyson Chicken and a team from the UT-Martin Chapter of THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY. The Martin chapter was recently recognized as chapter of the year for the entire United States at the group's national meeting in Alaska.

"Everyone felt good about helping people in the community," Byford said. "We were tired when it was over, but we felt really good about being part of something that everyone sees a need for."

The dirty dozen working on the project were: Byford, Mike Johnson, Bob Wright, Harry Henderson, Tom Copeland, Don Evans, Don McCracken, Jay Bowers, David Reed, Neil Rawls, Larry Kendrick and Tom Noble. •

Briefly

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cious dinner to the FirstWorks kids.

Kathy Armstrong and her children from St. Peter's Catholic Church, and **Kathy Blose** and her children from St. Louis Catholic Church were happy to help FirstWorks. "We were thrilled to have the opportunity to witness first-hand how this wonderful organization is making a difference in the lives of these children. It is so heart-warming to see the big smiles on their faces. It was an experience we hope to have again," said Armstrong.

FirstWorks, Inc. Executive Director **Rev. Birgitte T. French** said, "Thank you so much to all of these wonderful church neighbors who have kept our Children's Program going with the use of their fellowship hall, their kitchen, their donation of food, their energy and their prayers."

The Children's Program will soon be meeting Wed. nights at Bridges, 477 N. 5th Street. The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry will soon reopen at their temporary headquarters at 82 S. Second Street, near Calvary Episcopal Church. To find out more, please call 901.526.8228.

FIRST CHURCH SETS NEW GOAL FOR CAPITAL FUNDS DRIVE

Rev. Martha Wagley set a new capital funds campaign goal of \$3.1 million for First Church. The money will be used for reconstruction of the church and to address the immediate needs of resurgent downtown Memphis. The funds will be used to renovate the damaged Pepper Building, continue urban ministry and growth, and to build a new church sanctuary at 2nd and Poplar.

NATIONAL GATHERING OF UMM AT BELMONT UNIVERSITY IN 2009

Belmont University has been chosen as the site for the 10th national gathering of United Methodist Men in 2009. The commission voted for the change in response to requests for a more family-friendly locale, better access to an airport, and smaller overall area. Nearly 5,000 men are expected for the July 9-12, 2009, conference. •

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Pension Protection Act allows retirees to leave legacy

A limited time offer for holders of IRAs who want to give to the Church

By **DR. VINCENT (VIN) WALKUP**
President, Nashville Area
UM Foundation

A substantial number of today's retirees have funds in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), and many are learning that they have more money than they will need.

Many Americans have expressed a desire to donate some of these funds to charity, but income tax had to be paid on all withdrawals, reducing the amount and, more importantly, the joy of the gift.

In August, a federal law was signed by President George W.



Vin Walkup

Bush that allows IRA owners to share funds by giving directly to a church or charity of choice – without first counting it as income.

In general, if a person does not use her/his IRA assets during her/his lifetime, it is estimated that the heirs will receive only cents on

the dollar. A provision in this new law (Pension Protection Act of 2006) creates this new option: transferring IRA assets directly to the church or to a charity.

In 2006 and 2007, holders of IRAs who are at least 70 ½ years old may make direct contributions to their church (or to charities) up to \$100,000 per year. This is really a limited time offer, but the window of opportunity is open now.

IN SUMMARY:

- Individuals may give up to \$100,000 in 2006 and/or in 2007 from their IRA to the church, a ministry of the church, or a charity.

- Donors must be at least 70 ½ years old.

- The transfer is made directly from the trustee of the IRA to the church, a ministry of the church, or a charity.

- The transfer must be made before December 31, 2007, but transfers can be made in each year, 2006 and 2007.

- The transfer may not be used to fund a Charitable Remainder Trust or a Gift Annuity.

- The gift may be in addition to any other charitable gifts during the years and this transfer is not considered taxable income to the donor.

Your Nashville Area United Methodist Foundation can assist you in understanding this. Dr. Vin Walkup, President of the Foundation, recommends that you talk with your pastor about your desires and then with a Financial Advisor regarding how to accomplish them. If he can be of assistance, contact him at (615)259-2008 or vwalkup@nashaumf.org. Leaving a legacy enables you to make a gift that keeps on giving for years to come. •

Lambuth University adds 11 to Board of Trustees

Lambuth University welcomes eleven new members to the Board of Trustees. Leaders in their respective fields, these new members will bring continued sound advice and guidance to the University. The university thanks each new member for his or her commitment to making Lambuth the premier church-related liberal-arts school in the south. The new members are:

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