



Briefly

DUAL CRYPT MAUSOLEUM
AVAILABLE IN MEMPHIS

Dual Crypt Mausoleum available at Memphis Memorial Park Cemetery-Tranquility Gardens, Tier E, #12 & 13. Price includes interment and inscription fees. Market value: \$13,374. Sale Price- \$5,000. Call United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis, Inc., 901-323-4993- **Becky Foote**.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Dorothea Ann Dudley, 64, died Saturday, November 25, 2006 after being diagnosed with brain cancer in June of this year. She was the current pastor of Gratitude United Methodist Church, former associate pastor at Christ United Methodist Church, and chaplain for Methodist and LeBonheur Hospitals. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law **Melanie** and **Stephen Newhouse**; granddaughters, **Delaney** and **Leila**; grandson, **Kenyon**; her brother, **John Marshall Dudley**; sister-in-law, **Donna Dudley**; nephew, **Sean Dudley**; and her niece, **Christina Fitzwilliam**.

At the request of the family, no services are scheduled. Correspondence can be sent to her daughter, Mrs. Melanie Newhouse, 17707 Caddy Drive, Derwood, Maryland 20855; phone, 301-404-6655.

DO YOU FEEL THE PAIN OF
OUR SENIOR CITIZENS?

Take out a mirror and look at yourself, then imagine that you are 75 to 100 years old. Say to yourself, I'm all alone and have very little money. My clothes are old and don't fit. There's no one to take me to my doctor's appointment. I fear the cost of my medicine. No one remembers my birthday. No one calls me on the phone or stops by to make

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'Dream Dairy' brings fresh hope to African orphans and AU community

Pisgah UMC sees value of Dairy Herd ministry that feeds orphans and allows people to help themselves

By CATHY FARMER

One year ago, Alyssa Chrisos was sitting quietly beside her mother at Pisgah United Methodist Church listening to Marsha Dorgan talk about the "Dream Dairy" at Africa University.

Ms. Dorgan's talk about the dairy cattle and the milk they produce that helps sustain the 80 orphans who live near the campus made a big impression on the little three-year-old. So big, in fact, that when Linda Winstead, the church's mission chairperson, asked Alyssa to take up donations for Africa University and the herd, she eagerly agreed.

Since then, for a year of Sundays, a solemn and faithful Alyssa has followed the ushers down the center aisle of the 32-member church carrying her little brown wicker mission basket.

"She goes up to every person," said Mrs. Winstead. "If you don't put something in the basket for Africa University and the Dream Dairy, you get a pouty look. Makes you feel real guilty."

Her mother, Renee Chrisos, said Alyssa stops at every person. "She's real serious," Renee said. "She'll give them the baddest look if they don't put in that day." She chuckled slightly. "They all put something in."

The Rev. H B Fields, pastor of the church, said, "Alyssa loves animals and she wants to be sure the orphans have milk and something to eat. But our people aren't giving just because a little girl is asking them to. They're giving because they have a wonderful spirit and a heart for missions."

The people of Pisgah UMC are average Americans, Fields said. "They're working people," he explained, "country folks used to taking care of one another. And they know the value of having animals like cows and chickens to subsidize income." Pisgah is an open country church located on Tenn. Hwy. 118, six miles from Dresden.

"I think they were really impressed by being able to help folks help themselves," he said of the offering for the dairy herd.

Dorgan told the congregation that the herd, begun in 1998 by a Memphis Conference agriculturalist who



The faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Africa University oversees the Dream Dairy. Started in 1998 by an agriculturalist from the Memphis Conference, the herd now boasts 57 dairy cows. Above are the farm workers and Larry Keys, missionary.

Left: the dairy cows are healthy and productive.

visited Zimbabwe with a Volunteers in Mission Team, started with a dream and one bull. "Willy" was purchased by a member of the team in honor of her dog.

Continuing donations to the herd through Heifer Project International enabled the purchase of the first dozen cows. Today's herd of 57 is housed in a newly built dairy barn and cared for by Larry Keys, a United Methodist Agricultural Missionary, and six farm workers employed by Africa University.

"The herd and farm have made a difference in the community," Dorgan said. "The people are thankful to be able to purchase clean, processed, fresh milk at a reasonable price through the university." She said the dairy is now self-supporting,

receives no money from Africa University, and is on its way for more growth. "Thanks be to God!"

And because of the herd, the children at the Fairfield Orphanage nearby now receive a daily allotment of milk.

Though Willy died after a few years from a disease called black leg (there was no money available for the necessary four vaccinations a year to prevent it), the herd is thriving by using artificial insemination. Two baby bulls will soon be sold to community farmers. Breeding them should improve the local herds.

A year after her first visit to Pisgah UMC to talk about the Dream Dairy, Marsha

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Firstworks, Inc. opens at new location, welcomes clients again

BY SANDRA MATHIAS

It has been a little more than a month since FirstWorks, Inc., was suddenly displaced by the horrific fire that destroyed Memphis, Tenn.'s First United Methodist Church. FirstWorks, once called FinalNet, has been assisting the disadvantaged in downtown Memphis for almost 20 years.

As a result of the fire, the Clothes Closet, the Career Closet, the Food Pantry and the Children's Program's school supplies were destroyed by smoke and water causing a disruption in outreach services. However, after an outpouring of donations from churches, individuals and businesses in Memphis and Shelby County, and countless hours of hard work from many volunteers, clients were welcomed back to FirstWorks two weeks ago. The mission is now open at its temporary location at 82 South Second Street, next door to Calvary Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Birgitte T. French,



FirstWorks, Inc. reopens at 82 South Second Street in Memphis.

executive director, is thrilled to have the doors opened once again to help those in downtown who need to be uplifted during a crisis.

"I cannot begin to name every-

one who has helped us get back on our feet," she said. "Many churches such as Calvary Episcopal, St. Mary's Catholic, St. Peter's Catholic, St. Louis Catho-

lic, and St. George Catholic offered space for meetings and meals for the Children's Program; the Germantown UMC volunteers painted the inside of the building,

PIP Printing donated printing services for stationary and mail-outs, Shelter Clothiers offered discounts to their customers who donated used clothing, the Downtown Kiwanis Club gave generously to our Children's Program, and the Shelby County employees started a clothes drive bringing sacks and sacks of warm clothing for our clients. This list of donations goes on and on. We are eternally thankful for everyone's help."

FirstWorks, Inc. is now open to clients referred by MIFA for emergency supplies. Hours are: 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday - Friday. To donate goods, please call 901.526.8338 ahead of time to coordinate the donation.

At this time, the Food Pantry's needs are the most urgent. Rev. French said they need bottled water and non-perishable food items such as Vienna sausages, soups, fruit cups, crackers and nuts.

To help, contact the Rev. Martha Wagley, senior pastor, the Rev. Birgitte T. French, executive director of First Works, Inc., or Sandra Mathias. •

'Dream Dairy' brings fresh hope to Africa U.

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Dorgan came back. Alyssa was ready for her with a check for \$1,000. She also had a picture of herself, pulled from her father's wallet, for Marsha to take to Africa to show the orphans. "So they'll know who I am."

Mrs. Winstead said the church really likes the project. "We like the idea of helping people help themselves instead of just giving them money. This is something the people there can build on."

"I'm proud of our church," Rev. Fields said. "Our people love everybody and are concerned about everybody. One little lady told me when I first came that they've loved every pastor they've ever had. They don't talk bad about anyone. And if there's a need, they'll find a way to help."

The church has an average of 27 in attendance. Five new members, the Chrisos family from Dukedom, Tenn., and Nancy Hitchcock, joined in 2006, boosting the membership all the way up to 32. The church's loving spirit is what drew both Ms. Hitchcock and the Chrisos.



The dairy cattle at Africa University started with a bull named Willy and a dozen cows purchased through Heifer Project International.

"I went to the church with my aunt, Catherine Ligons, when I was little," said Renee. "When my husband and I were ready to join a church, we came back. My mother, Joyce Campbell, was a member of the Baptist Church in Latham, but she transferred her membership to Pisgah to be with us."

Ms. Hitchcock has a similar story, according to Mrs. Winstead. She visited the church during summers home from Florida to be with her parents. When she moved back to care for an aunt, she joined because Pisgah felt like home.

When Marsha Dorgan headed back to Africa University this November, she carried with her a check for \$1,000, a picture of a solemn little girl named Alyssa, and the memory of a little church that cares. •

'Dream Farm' getting off the ground in Zimbabwe

By MARSHA DORGAN
AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANT
AFRICA UNIVERSITY

In Zimbabwe, you hear the song of its people singing in perfect harmony. We, as God's people, must strive to work together in harmony as well. At Africa University, the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources will work with several sources to start the "Dream Farm," a project through which the University will strive to share its knowledge and resources with the smallholder farmer of Africa.

The training and demonstration farm will be built on a small five-hectare parcel of land. Surrounded by Moringa trees, this farm will be a model of sustainable agriculture—regardless of the season.

The students and the small farmers will be able to take ideas from the farm and implement the skills they've learned in their own situations.

As a totally self-sufficient farm, all parts of the operation will work to complement the other. Everything grown will supply the needs of farm families, what they need to eat and what they'll be able to sell to produce income.

The animals on the farm—dairy cows,

goats, pigs, sheep, chickens, rabbits, geese, bees and earthworms—will all work together. Their manure will be used as a natural fertilizer.

A pond of tilapia fish will be edged with rabbit hutches, with vermiculture taking place with the earthworms growing under them. There will be bee hives to help with pollination by being near the orchard, flowers, and gardens, and they in turn will produce honey for farm use and for sale. Herb beds can be used for cooking and for medical needs.

The agro-forestry products of the farm will enhance a micro climate. The farm will include small Shona-style buildings of brick and thatch. The buildings will reflect the heat of the sun back into the orchard surrounding the house and barns. A pavilion will be used for training purposes and to hold classes. Classes at the farm will teach smallholder farmers to implement these practices on their own property.

Following the old saying, "We must give in order to receive," Africa University will be giving back knowledge and ideas to the people who share the great lands of Africa. If you want to help, send donations to: Dream Farm, 1150 Anderson Dr., Paris, TN 38242.

Briefly

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sure I'm okay. I really feel all alone.

Help celebrate "A Wesley Family Christmas" by supporting the residents in our Wesley communities. The cost is only \$10 per person. Your financial support will mean that each resident can receive a small gift and a special community Christmas meal with their Wesley family. You can sponsor one individual, ten people or an entire community if you wish.

Selena Henson, President of the Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation, hopes you will make a gift that will make a difference in the lives of the residents. For many, the gift will be the only one received during the entire year. Please make your checks payable to Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation and mail to: Selena Henson, 3100 Walnut Grove Road, Suite 511, Memphis, TN 38111. Your donation is tax deductible.

HOT CHOCOLATE ANYONE?

SERVANT EVANGELISM AT THE JACKSON CHRISTMAS PARADE

On Dec. 4, during Jackson, Tenn.'s Christmas Parade, the "Hot Chocolate Elves" of Jackson First UMC passed out cups of the wonderful drink to people attending the parade. They called it Servant Evangelism. "We're doing the Christmas Parade hospitality in partnership with St. Luke's Episcopal Church," wrote the **Rev. Ted Leach** in the church newsletter. "Our downtown location provides great opportunities," Leach wrote.

LILLY ENDOWMENT CONTINUES POPULAR NATIONAL CLERGY RENEWAL PROGRAM

According to the Lilly Endowment, both pastors and congregations benefit from a period of renewal for the pastor. The renewal of the pastor's heart and spirituality is essential to the spiritual quality of a congregation's life. As many as 120 congregations will be chosen for the 2007 program. Each grant proposal may request up to \$45,000; up to \$15,000 of that may be used for congregational activities during the pastor's absence. The brochure/application is available on the Endowment's web site, www.lillyendowment.org. Interested persons can call 317 916 7350, write Lilly Endowment, 2801 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46208 or email clergyrenewal@yahoo.com. Check out the website for helpful hints. The deadline for proposals is May 15, 2007. Don't wait. •

Thanksgiving a special occasion at Good Shepherd

Thanksgiving came early at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church and, as is often the case, it came in the form of giving. Through giving to others, the members of the church were richly blessed.

On November 16, Good Shepherd, located on Summer Avenue in East Memphis, hosted the West Tennessee Family Solutions Agency for Thanksgiving Dinner.

Members of the church served turkey and dressing and all the trimmings to the 100 residents and staff of the WTFS program.

"Miss Dottie," the church

clown otherwise known as Nita Threadgill, provided entertainment. The residents participated in the handbells group led by Debbie Keller and Karen Gunterman.

West Tennessee Family Solutions is an agency that provides housing and residential care to mentally and physically challenged adults. It was begun by their parents as changes occurred at Arlington Development Center. The agency has been in operation five years, and for the last three years Paul Landers has been executive director.

WTFS meets at Good Shepherd twice weekly in the Good Life Center for exercise and classes. Good Shepherd offers a secure, hospitable setting for those whom



Miss Dottie entertains the residents and staff of the West Tennessee Family Solutions Agency during the Thanksgiving feast hosted by Good Shepherd UMC.

society often neglects and mistreats. They find a safe and welcoming community at the church.

It's the wonderful blending of the church and the world that enriches both. •

Interfaith & 'Empty Bowls' fight hunger

By **REV. DEAN EMERSON**
Director, Interfaith Student Center

The Interfaith Student Center, an ecumenical campus ministry at UT Martin, recently hosted well over 100 students, faculty and members of the community at an "Empty Bowl Soup Supper."

It all started when the local ministerial alliance decided not to have a community Thanksgiving service. This left David McBeth, pottery professor at UTM, without a place to sell the 300 "Empty Bowls" he was making.

"Empty Bowls" was launched in 1990 by some high school students in Michigan to raise money in the fight against hunger. A simple meal of soup and bread was served in a hand-made pottery bowl with all the donations going to hunger ministries. Since then, the idea has spread across the globe.

McBeth's bowls support Martin's We Care ministry

For the past few years, Professor McBeth, who absorbs all the cost of producing the bowls, has raised several thousand dollars for *We Care Ministries* by selling them. *We Care* is Martin, Tenn.'s local mission agency. Supported by area churches, the agency provides food, clothing, eye and dental care and a variety of other programs to those in need in Weakley County.

One year the bowls made by Professor McBeth raised enough money to purchase a walk-in freezer for *We Care*, which al-



EMPTY BOWL SOUP SUPPER RAISES CLOSE TO \$2,000 TO FIGHT HUNGER: David McBeth, pottery professor at UT Martin, and his wife Donna pose with some of the bowls he produced that recently were sold at the Empty Bowl Soup Supper sponsored by the Interfaith Student Center at UT Martin.

lowed the mission agency to participate fully in the Hunters for the Hungry program. The freezer provided storage space for venison donated by area hunters.

The decision by the ministerial alliance to cancel the community dinner suddenly left McBeth no

place to sell his bowls.

The Rev. Lee Clements, the Presbyterian campus minister, suggested that Interfaith host an Empty Bowl Soup Supper at which Professor McBeth's bowls could be sold. The call went out to the local congregations that di-

rectly support Interfaith.

The Cumberland Presbyterians provided French Onion soup. The Episcopalians brought 15-bean soup with Polish sausage. The Presbyterians served up chili and Father Joe from the local Roman Catholic parish cooked up a pot of chicken and rice. United Methodists provided white chili and "revival soup."

Throw in some potato soup, pasta fagioli and vegetable beef and suddenly most of the students and guests were faced with two difficult decisions: which delicious soup to eat and which of the many beautiful pottery bowls to buy.

Many resolved their dilemma by sampling several different soups and purchasing several bowls. The end result was an evening of delightful food and fellowship and nearly \$2,000 raised in the fight against hunger.

Interfaith has a rich heritage of being an ecumenical ministry to the campus and of reaching out in service to the wider community. The Empty Bowl Soup Supper may very well become a new tradition in that legacy. •

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