

Flocking for a cure

Youth group doing unique fund raiser to benefit Kings Mountain Relay for Life

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The youth at El-Bethel-Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church have vowed to help the community raise money for cancer research. They have become one of the youngest teams participating in this year's Relay for Life in Kings Mountain.

The kids first became interested in trying to find a cure for cancer after watching the mother of two of the kids in the youth group die of cancer, said Robin Faris, youth director at El Bethel. The kids range in age from 6-13, with one 16-year-old and one 18-year-old participant.

"I have not see so much enthusiasm," said Faris. "They're just so excited."

The youth have set a goal of raising \$1,800 for the American Cancer Society, she said. They have held a pancake breakfast, bake sale, craft sale, drawing for a DVD player, two luncheons, and, of course, numerous "flockings."

Each evening, a group of the youth gets together and "flocks" a church member's yard, meaning they bring numerous plastic flamingoes and place them all over the yard. One of the flamingoes wears a message around its neck, saying that the flamingoes will be removed from the yard for a small donation to the Relay for Life fund.

The youth have even set up a "Flamingo Hotline" that people can call to report the birds and have them removed. Betty Cash, a cancer survivor and church member, answers the phone for the hotline each day. Cash said she always answers the phone, "Flamingo Hotline, Big Bird speaking." For a donation of \$20, church members can also purchase insurance to keep the flamingoes out of their yards. The flocking will continue throughout March and April.

Rev. Bruce Hobson, pastor of the church, was one of the first to have his yard flocked by the youth. He wrote a poem about the flocking, which was included in the church bulletin on March 9. Donations for the flocking have ranged from approximately \$10-50 so far, said Faris.

The kids are also holding a smaller fundraiser, which involves collecting penny votes amongst themselves. The girl and boy with the most votes on the night of



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
The youth of El-Bethel-Hoey Memorial United Methodist Church and their leaders gather in their pastor's recently "flocked" yard to show their support for Relay for Life. The youth are planning to raise \$1,800 for the American Cancer Society.

the relay will have to dress up in costumes for the event. The girl will dress up like a pink flamingo, and the boy will dress up like a Hawaiian girl.

Church members have become very active in helping the youth raise money, said Faris. In fact, some of the adults have even formed a team of their own to participate in the events.

"This has really brought the church together," said Faris.

The kids call their team, "Hawaiian Hope," and have nicknamed their fundraising efforts, "Flocking for a Cure." They plan to decorate their campsite with a Hawaiian theme on the night of the relay, said Faris.

The kids have done all of the planning for the event themselves. As of March 2, they had raised \$554 for the American Cancer Society, although the first week of flocking, which started on March 3, brought in approximately \$150.

Both the Kids Club, which is for kids ages 6 through 5th grade, and the youth group, which is for kids in grades 6-12, are participating in the event. Kayla Day and Ashley Ray, two 11-year-olds, are the co-captains of the 18-member team.

Team members include Katie Ellis, Mary Beth Ellis, Tripp Ellis, Kaitland Day, Tyler Ray, Rachel Edwards, Taylor Faris, Jay Walker, Kendra Edwards, Sarah Mauney, Adam Wall, Alec Jenkins, Corey Hawkins, Kris Hawkins, Kelsey Forbes, Kandi Forbes, Kayla Day, and Ashley Ray.



Rachel Edwards, Sarah Mauney, and Kandi Forbes help "flock" their pastor's yard on Friday afternoon.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Fund raisers Friday at Mary's Grove

A chicken pie dinner will be held at Mary's Grove United Methodist Church Friday, March 14 from 4:30-7 p.m. Dine-in and carry-out orders are available.

Meals are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 9-under.

Proceeds will go to United Methodist Women mission projects.

For more information or for take-out orders call 435-5544.

A country show will begin at 7 p.m., featuring local country, bluegrass and gospel groups. There will also be a puppet show and womanless beauty pageant.

The UMW will also have its cookbook "Treasures of Mary's Grove UMC" on sale for \$15 each.

Mary's Grove is located at 1223 Mary's Grove Church Road, which intersects Highway 274 near Cherryville and Stony Point Road near Moss lake. For more information call Renee Bingham at 739-7024.

Breakfast slated at Grace Methodist

Grace United Methodist Church, 829 Cleveland Avenue, Kings Mountain, will have its first Saturday morning breakfast March 15 from 7-9 p.m.

The charge is \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 11-under. Breakfast is buffet style, all you can eat.

Lenten services at St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain, will host special Lenten services at 5 p.m. each Sunday.

Special guests for the March 16 service will be the group "Witness of Grace." They will present a musical drama of the crucifixion and resurrection.

The program will be followed by a soup and sandwich meal in the fellowship hall.

The public is invited.

Gospel singing at Cherokee Street

"Second Chance" will be in concert Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m. at Cherokee Street Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. The public is invited.

Kilpatrick to speak at Worship Center

Rev. John Kilpatrick of Bronsville Revival will speak March 17-18 at 7 p.m. at Family worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, Kings Mountain.

The public is invited. For more information call 739-7206.

Promised to sing at Mulls Memorial

The Southern Gospel singing group "Promised" will be in concert March 16 at 7 p.m. at Mulls Memorial Baptist Church, 3299 Fallston Road, Shelby.

Rev. Ervin Price, pastor, invites the public. For more information call 487-4377.

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