

POWERful MESSAGE

Farragut ladies pool resources for a most unusual cause

By MARK MARONEY
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Ladies of a church Sunday school class aren't normally known as fundraisers for such things as electric generators. But that was the purpose of a fundraiser by the women of Farragut United Methodist Church's Sunday school class. They began the drive after their hearts were touched by stories from a local ministry detailing the aftermath and devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

"A generator ... is not something church ladies would typically think about raising money for," said Susan Berta, one of the eight women in the class who was designated to speak for the group. But after listening to the testimony of Tom Garber, who worked for 32 years with PPL and left the company in 1999 to do fulltime mission work with I-TEC, the women in the group were speechless and wanted to help the min-

istry in any way possible, she said.

Garber attended a recent fellowship dinner and was asked to give a presentation concerning the work of I-TEC, which is located near the church and sends its workers to areas ravaged by natural disasters to provide electrical service and equipment to churches and communities in need.

After hearing Garber describe I-TEC's efforts, the women started to collect money, contributing a few dollars each week, Berta said. When the fund reached \$1,000, the women turned over the donation to I-TEC until the final installment on April 19, a week after Easter.

It came down to an \$11 shortage in order to reach their goal. A number of people wanted them to reach and exceed their goal and they contributed as well.

"I am amazed over a 3 1/2-year period they continued to contribute to this project," Garber said of the Sunday

School class.

Garber said Galatians 6:9 calls on Christians not to become weary in doing good. It goes on to say, in the proper time, those who do good will reap a harvest if they do not give up, he said.

"It's not typically thought of as a warm and fuzzy donation. They saw the need and as we have opportunity we want to make it available to others as well. It is a win-win for us and for them. "We're not doing it for the glory," she said. "We're doing it for the Lord and those most need after these disasters."

The money went for the purchase of a 12,000-watt propane Kohler generator. The generator has been used to assist in disaster relief following Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas, in September and October and floods in Missouri last year.

The women have received the blessings of Pastor David

"We're not doing it for the glory, we're doing it for the Lord and those who most need it after these disasters."

Susan Berta, spokeswoman for the Farragut United Methodist Church ladies Sunday school class



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Top photo, Farragut United Methodist Church Pastor David Trostle and I-TEC spokesman Tom Garber stand next to a generator paid for through church donations. Inset: Farragut United Methodist Church Ladies Sunday school class and I-TEC officials hold final check installment.

Trostle and the entire congregation, Berta said.

"Even though the womens' class spearheaded the project, there were other members of the church that helped with that," Trostle said.

The church has on its first Tuesday every month a dinner at 5:30 p.m., which is open to members of the community and sister church Fairfield United Methodist

Church.

Folks may give a donation for the dinner. The money is used for specific missions and projects, the pastor said.

"Please come and enjoy a meal and the fellowship," Trostle said.

"We're so pleased with what the money is used for," she said. "It serves as a light shining in the darkness in more ways than one."

Area Church Briefs

McElhattan church to serve lasagna

McELHATTAN — United Methodist Church, 502 McElhattan Drive, will hold a lasagna dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. today. The menu also will include a salad bar, applesauce, garlic bread, coffee, tea or punch and cake.

The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 to 12. Those under 5 eat free. The bake room also will be open.

'Brick' church plans yard and bake sale

MONTGOMERY — St. John Lutheran "Brick" Church 196 Brick Church Road, will hold its yard and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. today.

Tables are \$5 each and can be reserved by calling 547-6423.

Disciples church sets roast beef supper

First Church of Christ (Disciples), 1250 Almond

St., will hold a family style roast beef supper from 4 to 6:30 p.m. today. The dinner will feature homemade desserts.

The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 to 12. Takeouts will be available.

Ham dinner set today at Mainesburg church

MAINESBURG — A ham dinner will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. today at Mainesburg United Methodist Church,

Route 6. A bake sale will be included.

The cost will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 5 to 12. Takeouts will be available.

Watsontown church plans benefit spaghetti dinner

WATSONTOWN — A benefit spaghetti dinner for the William Phillips Family will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 30 at Watsontown United Methodist Church, 11 E. Third St. The cost is by do-

nation.

Proceeds will help offset medical expenses, as Bill Phillips awaits a bone marrow transplant.

For more information, call the church office at 538-1017.

Gospel songfest set at Huntersville

A gospel songfest will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday at Huntersville United Methodist Church. Featured are Re-

deemed, Bobbi Grieco, Dr. Tom and the Spectacles, Rebecca Smith, Lenny & Karla, Bill & Rose Gibson, Carl & Opal Schlappi, and the Pennsdale Trinity UM Church Choir.

Admission is free and refreshments will follow.

Elimspport church planning 'dip meal'

ELIMSPORT — An "Old fashioned dip meal" in honor of Jayce Heck-

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