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## WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

### Youth Group Prepares For Indoor Yard Sale



Hempfield United Methodist Church SHOUT youth group members (clockwise, from left) Adam Nesbitt, Taylor Lutz, Claire Davis, David Smith, and Rachael Herman display a few examples of items that have recently been delivered for their upcoming indoor yard sale. Proceeds from the fundraiser, which is slated for Saturday, Feb. 27, will support the youth group's mission activities.

By Rick Hiduk

SHOUT, the youth group of Hempfield United Methodist Church, will hold an indoor yard sale at the church, 3050 Marietta Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 8 a.m. to noon. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support youth mission work.

Featured items will include a wide assortment of clothing, toys, baby gear, books, furniture, household goods, and jewelry. According to event co-chairs Darriel Davis and youth missions committee member Dawn Smith, there will also be a number of unused toys and school supplies donated by a local retailer. Food, baked goods, and beverages will also be available for purchase.

In addition to items offered by SHOUT, several HUMC partnership organizations will also sell items while providing information about their respective causes. Hempfield UMC's outreach director Julie Welles notes that the featured outreach organizations work out of or are sponsored by the church, and the yard sale affords their members an opportunity to increase awareness.

"Because of the large number of people who come through our doors for this sale, we know that these community groups will be able to share their purpose with many in our community," Welles stated in a press release.

Smith agreed that high attendance is expected.

"It's not unusual to have people waiting for the doors to open," she remarked. Davis added that the annual yard sale elicits a positive response from church members, who are anxious to donate items.

"We will have an overwhelming selection of bargains," she stated. "Since we are one of the first sales of the season, people are ready to search for treasures after being inside all winter."

Mission activities are an important focus for SHOUT, which sponsors two significant trips per year for members at the high school and junior high level. Past trips have included Hurricane Katrina relief work in Louisiana, home repair projects in the Appalachian region of Virginia, and work with the homeless in Philadelphia and New York City. Monthly mission projects in which SHOUT members have participated include the United Way Day of Caring, raking leaves for church and community members, and baking Christmas cookies for local shelters.

In the past 11 years, the youth have raised more than \$208,000 for World Vision via a nationwide 30-Hour Famine, ranking them in second place among national contributors.

"There are so many opportunities to help those in need," Smith remarked. "We have enthusiastic kids who are ready to pitch in and serve." Jonathan Hobbs has worked with the teens for the past two years as the church's youth director.

Hempfield UMC is located at the intersection of Stony Battery Road and Route 23. For more information about the Feb. 28 yard sale, interested readers may contact Welles at 285-5156 or [jwelles@humclife.com](mailto:jwelles@humclife.com).

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