

Operation Round Up Delivers

It is 6:30 a.m. and the men of Open Door Ministries are waking up to another day free.

Free of addiction.

Open Door Ministries is a faith-based program in Sampson County that helps men overcome dependence on drugs and alcohol.

In December, the program received a \$5,000 Operation Round Up grant to build an addition on to what used to be an old sewing building in Billy and Daisy Chestnut's yard.

It is a labor of love to their son, Reverend David Chestnut.

"I had a drug and alcohol problem for 20 years or so," said Chestnut, husband and father of three. "But I was a good kid growing up; I was athletic and went to a Christian academy."

At 19 he was caught with drugs and sent to a treatment center. The cost was \$20,000 for 28 days. He would be in treatment three times afterward.

His last would be Bethel Colony of Mercy.

"You just need Jesus," Chestnut said, imitating what his mother would say. "I realized my time in



detox was almost done and that I wasn't ready to go back out there yet. I called around and couldn't find anywhere I could afford."

He found Bethel Colony, which cost \$35 for 65 days. If a patient didn't have the money, that was ok too. His mother was right.

After getting clean at Bethel Colony, he was drawn to ministry and thought maybe one day he would have his own

church.

Instead, he asked his parents for land to start a Christian renewal center, they offered the sewing building behind their home. In 2005, Open Door Ministries came to fruition. Chestnut, who attended Carolina Bible College and Liberty University, was ordained in 2007. For two years he shared his story with others, and he still does today. Open Door became affiliated with Bethel Colony and now receives men when Bethel is full.

Bill Roberson was once in the program and is now the program director. He was a successful man by most people's standards.

"I had a great life," Roberson said. "It was empty

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Nominations Made For Upcoming Elections

The South River EMC nominating committee met on January 5 to make nominations for the election of directors to be held during the 2009 Annual Meeting of Members on April 16 at the Crown Arena and Theatre in Fayetteville.

Prior to the meeting, each committee member was given a copy of the bylaws and the cooperative's Policy No. 632, Qualifications for Directors. These materials help the committee make the best possible decision.

South River EMC Attorney Robert H. Jones is the committee's chairperson and Iris Lucas is secretary.

The following members have been nominated:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| District 3: | Francis Clifton |
| District 5: | William "Brent" Jackson |
| District 7: | William E. Tew Jr. |

Terms of office for directors are staggered so only three expire each year. The ways which directors may be elected:

1. By petition. Any 15 members of the cooperative, acting together, may make nominations in writing, listing the nominees separately with respect to the particular term and the particular directorate

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We Are All Tightening Our Belts

by CEO and Executive Vice President Buddy G. Creed

Now that 2009 is well underway it has become evident that we will not soon ascend from this economic slump.

Like other businesses, your Cooperative is taking measures to cut costs while at the same time maintaining the integrity of our business. We realize that many of you are feeling the pinch of the tightening economy and understand that paying your bills has become more difficult. As a cooperative, we are dedicated to working with you to get your bills paid without compromising the stability of our business.

Arrangements

Of course, we encourage members to pay their bills by the due date, but we understand that for some this has

become difficult. If it appears that you will not be able to pay by the due date, please call our office and request a payment arrangement. By doing this, you let our customer service personnel know that you intend to make a payment on a different date. Although we will work with you on arrangements, it is important that each member upholds their end of the bargain.

Payment arrangements are made to help you during a difficult time, but in order to be fair to the entire membership and maintain the financial stability of the Cooperative, no member will be given more than two arrangements in a 12-month period. Arrangements are not guaranteed and are based on a member's credit history with the cooperative, justification, deposit and need.

It is also important to understand that payment of your bill by the agreed upon date is imperative because failure to do so could result in disconnection of service. It is our practice not to let a member's bill exceed two months in arrears because this could create a situation where the outstanding balance becomes too difficult for the member to pay and they end up getting disconnected - we want to avoid this situation.

Cost Savings

We want to assure you that we are taking measures to run our businesses as efficiently as possible. Over the past year, we have seen the retirement of four employees



“As you will see, we will work together to endure this economic crisis, but we are doing our part to cut costs to help hold down costs.”

and we have streamlined our operations to fill those positions with qualified current employees. We continue the installation of our automated meter reading, or AMR, system, which will provide

a variety of cost savings:

- Reduces meter reading and transportation costs
- Provides on-request reads, saves re-read costs
- Increases tamper detection and reduces energy theft
- Improves call resolution - the AMR system will give employees the ability to provide members with more detailed information such as power consumption patterns, outage and blink count history and voltage information, reducing high bill inquiries.
- Reduces employee injuries, especially in areas with fenced yards, dogs and landscaping.

We are also realigning our Operations Department to allow us to complete more work with fewer employees and to realize cost savings through the leasing of some vehicles, rather than purchase.

As you will see, we will work together to endure this economic crisis and we are doing our part to help hold down costs. We ask that you do your part by using energy wisely and paying on time.



Entertainment

6:15-7:25 p.m.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by Billy Scott and the Party Prophets. They have been a main staple on the southeastern music circuit for years. They once opened for The Temptations in Charlotte to a sold out crowd of 17,000. This award winning 7-piece dance and show group plays a wide variety of music including beach, blues, Motown, retro, funk and oldies, and are in constant demand.

Bazaar

6-7:30 p.m.

Welcome back the Cooperative Bazaar for another great year! Comprised of business representatives from the area to speak with you about their various products and services, we have had over 50 vendors in the past. This year we are on pace to have even more businesses represented at the bazaar. So, come early with questions! Booth spaces are still available! Call Julie Wahl at (910) 892-8071 or send an email to jwahl@sremc.com to reserve your spot today!

Kids' Korner

6 p.m. - end of the business meeting

We aim to make the children's entertainment better each year! The Kids' Korner offers a safe, secure, fun place for you to leave your children (ages 4- to 12-years-old) while you enjoy the meeting. We will have inflatable rides for the children. Each child will receive a t-shirt at the end of the night. We will also have snacks for the kids.

South River EMC
invites you to the
**Annual Meeting of
Members**
Thursday, April 16, 2009
Crown Arena & Theatre,
Fayetteville
Entertainment and Registration
begin at 6 p.m.
Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Lifespan of Your Light

Consumers are encouraged to purchase compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) more than ever before.

That's because CFLs are a great alternative to their incandescent brother. They last longer, sometimes five to ten times; they give off less heat than a standard bulb; and lastly, they use less energy, up to 75 percent if they are Energy Star qualified.

Swapping regular incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescents can save you at least \$30 per bulb over a CFL's lifetime.

However, an issue brought up by consumers is that their CFLs seem to last only as long as a standard incandescent bulb.

The main reason is the standard with which bulbs are rated.

With the rapid growth in demand for CFLs,

the lamps are turning up everywhere! From big box stores, to drugstores, to wholesale stores.

Just because these bulbs are being sold, doesn't mean they're what you're looking for in a CFL.

They may not meet federal Energy Star standards, and this could contribute to early failure in the lightbulb.

Energy Star is the mark for energy efficient appliances, from lightbulbs to heating and cooling systems and many things in between.

The next time you need a replacement for that incandescent bulb in your lamp that keeps burning out, try a CFL—an Energy Star-approved CFL.



Basketball Scholarships Still Available

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are partnering with NCSU and UNC Chapel Hill to offer educational and athletic opportunities for rising sixth through eighth graders this summer.

Middle school students statewide are encouraged to apply for 50 all-expenses-paid scholarships to attend basketball camp: boys can apply for the Roy Williams camp and girls can apply for the N.C. State Women's camp. Because of the recent passing of Coach Kay Yow, the NC State Athletic Department is trying to determine whether to move forward with this year's camp.

We encourage all girls to still apply. The program allow North Carolina middle school students to spend time on a college campus, and also gives them the opportunity to receive individual and

group instruction to enhance their basketball skills.

Applications will be accepted through March 27. Winners will be announced in May. South River EMC will fund one scholarship to each camp.

Recipients of the Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp scholarship will attend the overnight camp from June 21- 25. Campers must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend camp and must provide their own transportation.

Eligible students interested can download an application from our Web site www.sremc.com/basketball.aspx or contact Julie Wahl at (910) 892- 8071. Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and an essay that must accompany the application.

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though, and I had enough money that I tried to fill it in all the wrong ways.”

This amounted in spending more on drugs than most people make in a year and once, taking enough drugs to kill himself two times over.

After recovering at Open Door, Roberson received an offer to stay on from Chestnutt. He sent in a letter of termination to his previous employer and never heard from them again.

With the grant money Open Door Ministries received, they will be able to help more men and families. The money is being put toward an addition to the kitchen, which is only able to hold about two men at a time. It also adds on to the current dining room and makes it large enough to use as a classroom. The previous classroom will be turned into bedrooms to house more men.



The addition will expand the kitchen and dining room.

As for the program itself, there is a daily routine the men follow. Each day starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 10:30 p.m. It includes Bible study, personal time, structured work on and off the premises and of course, meals.

This is not just a program for the recovering addict though.

Counseling is available for wives from Chestnutt's wife, Sylvia, and for mothers from Chestnutt's mother.

“If we're able to help 10 men at a time, that's 100 men a year,” Roberson said. “Each of those men has at least 10 family members that their addiction is hurting, that is 1,000 people we're helping.”

“Somewhere there is a mother, a wife or a man in need who will see this,” said Chestnutt. Visit www.odmin.org for more information.



The current kitchen holds two men at a time.



NOMINATIONS Continued from Page A

district from which they are nominated, not less than 25 business days prior to the meeting.

2. From nominations by a committee on nominations.

District 1 - Van Buie, 1680 Buie Rd., Broadway, NC; represents South River EMC service area west of Highway 401 in Harnett County.

District 2 - Rebecca O'Dell, 276 Austin Ln., Newton Grove; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 421 and north of Highway 13 in Sampson and Johnston counties.

District 3 - Iris Lucas, 887 Junious Lucas Rd., Faison; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 242 and south of Highway 13 in Sampson County.

District 4 - Elwood Williams, 2197 Fayetteville Hwy., Dunn; represents South River EMC service area in Sampson County southwest of Highway 421 and west of Highway 242, east of Dunn Road and Carroll Store Road to Maxwell Rd., east of South River School Rd. and Bluman Rd. to the Harnett-Sampson-Cumberland county lines and north to Highway 421.

District 5 - Ronald D. Hedgepeth, 615 Vander Rd., Salemburg; represents South River EMC service area south of Maxwell Rd., west of Carroll Store Rd. and Dunn Rd., west of Highway 242 and Highway 411 to Highway 701, northeast of Old Fayetteville Rd. and Turnbull Rd. to the Sampson-Cumberland county line and north to Maxwell Rd.



Left to right: Joseph Marsh, Alexander Eastman, Rebecca O'Dell, Elwood Williams, Iris Lucas, Wayne Collier Jr., Carol Hudson, Van Buie and Ronald Hedgepeth.

District 6 - Carol Hudson, 3661 Murphy Road, Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, east of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line and west of the Cumberland- Sampson county line.

District 7 - Wayne Collier Jr., 5489 Indian Ridge Rd., Linden; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, west of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line, and all of Harnett County east of Highway 401.

District 8 - Mr. Joseph Wilson Marsh, 3608 Blossom Road, Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland and Bladen counties, south of Highway 53.

At Large - Alexander Eastman, 995 Butler Road, Salemburg; may nominate from any South River EMC district.

Have you started the dialogue?
Visit www.ourenergy.coop
and ask your legislators
to consider members
when they make decisions
on the future of energy.

Cooperative Protects Members' Information

South River Electric Membership Corporation has been offering members the ease of paying bills using a credit card for several years. The Cooperative has contracted with one of the nation's largest credit card processing services, Heartland Payment Services (or HPS). HPS serves more than 250,000 business locations nationwide.

Last week, HPS announced that their security system has been breached. HPS has been working with law enforcement to investigate and resolve this issue. The data accessed appears to have been limited to credit card numbers and some names, it does not include Social Security numbers, unencrypted personal identification numbers (PIN), addresses or phone numbers.

"It is important to note that this is an intrusion of information from Heartland Payment System, not South River EMC," said South River EMC CEO and Executive Vice President Buddy G. Creed. "Our two main objectives are the security of members' information and first-rate customer service. Our security measures remain intact and we work daily to protect the vital information and identity of members paying their bills through

credit card transactions.

We use state-of-the-art security software, so members don't have to worry about protection of their vital information and, as an added measure; the system is tested monthly to provide the utmost security for our members."

Since HPS processes more than 100 million transactions monthly, there is no way of knowing whose data was compromised. Based on the information provided, it is highly unlikely that the information could be used to commit identity theft.

As a precautionary measure, South River EMC is notifying all members who used a credit card to make payments between June and October 2008. Members are being advised to contact the issuer of their credit card for further advice.

For complete information on the HPS issue, anyone can visit a special Web site www.2008breach.com or call HPS at (866)399-6228. Residents of North Carolina are entitled to download a free copy of their credit report from all three reporting agencies annually by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com.

Cut Cost in Poultry Houses Safely

Farming is a tough business, even more so in these tough economic times. However, here are some energy saving tips for your poultry house from Mississippi State University.

Insulation- Provide minimal thermal resistance of R- 12 in the ceiling and R-8 in exposed walls. Replace or repair insulation damaged or destroyed by birds, rodents and insects.

Vapor Barriers- The R-value of most insulation materials decreases drastically when moistened. Install a vapor barrier on the insulation's warm side to protect against moisture saturation. Seal tears and damage to exposed barriers.

Air Leaks- Eliminate drafts by sealing cracks and leaks. Uncaulked sill plates are the most common source of uncontrolled air entry. Seal cracks with expanding polyurethane foam.

Curtains- Repair curtain holes and eliminate cracks between curtains and house. Seal bottoms of curtains with a trackstrip. Install pocket flaps over the tops and ends of curtains to reduce uncontrolled air entry.

Weather strip- Weather strip door openings against air entry when doors are closed.

Control Devices- Clean and check timers and thermostats for accuracy. If they cannot be adjusted or

repaired, replace them.

Water Wastage- Repair leaks in waterers and water lines, they require additional heat to evaporate spills. Check the pressure regulator and filters for cleanliness and proper adjustment.

Ventilation- Adjust ventilation so it meets the needs of the birds and house conditions. Don't over ventilate, but watch for any signs of stress that need attention. Excess litter moisture in houses require valuable energy for evaporation and removal. Increasing the ventilation rate is often necessary to control house and litter moisture. Do so only during the warmest part of the day.

Temperature - Use mixing fans to circulate air and maintain a uniform temperature at all levels. This improves energy use by moving warm air to the birds' level. After establishing the appropriate starting temperature, make gradual reductions (2 to 3 degrees every few days). Gradual reductions provide comfortable conditions without overbrooding and wasting energy.



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Operation Change Out Goes Military



Operation Change Out-Military Challenge kicked off on April 22, 2008 at Camp Lejeune, after all, when better to start off an energy saving program than on Earth Day? Also, if the easiest way to start saving energy is to change a lightbulb than why not do so?

In the average U.S. home, lighting accounts for 20% of an electric bill.

For several years Energy Star has been working with homeowners to change this. With the "Change a Light, Change the World" program, each homeowner that takes the oath commits to replacing at least one inefficient incandescent bulb in their home with an Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent lamp (CFL).

To date, over two million people have taken the pledge, and military institutions are following suit.

Operation Change Out- Military Challenge is a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). It is the first national military- focused, energy efficiency campaign to encourage every service person to save energy, money and the environment.

By taking the pledge, these servicemen and women agree to replace at least one incandescent bulb to an energy efficient CFL in their residential unit at the participating military installation.

So far, 84 bases are promoting the program, including North Carolina's bases (seen below). You can view an installation's progress at www.energystar.gov/OCO and by choosing the box labeled Participating Base Progress.

How is progress measured?

| Bases | Goal | Bulbs changed |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Seymour Johnson | 1,516 | 6,963 |
| Fort Bragg | 5,623 | 5 |
| Cherry Point | 1,633 | 8,141 |
| National Guard Joint Forces NC | 1,200 | 75 |
| Camp Lejeune | 3,500 | 19,020 |

Changing just one incandescent bulb to an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL in every on-base housing unit in the U.S. would:

- Save about 62 million kilowatt hours over the lifetime of the bulbs, enough energy to light about 32,000 homes for a year!
- Save nearly \$7 million in energy costs over the lifetime of the bulbs. That's enough money to purchase more than a dozen mine-resistant, ambush-protected armored vehicles.
- Prevent the emissions of more than 95 million pounds of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of taking nearly 1,500 cars off the road.

Individuals pledging to change out light bulbs on behalf of a base are tracked in real time through the online pledge driver. The total number of on post housing units and/or on post facilities that have incandescent bulbs to change out, will serve as the post's target pledge goal.

However institutions must keep up with their changeouts, because some installations may replace more than one CFL per housing unit or facility.

The program as a whole so far has changed out 359,268 bulbs, saving \$10,070,810 in energy costs.

Why is this so important?

Because the energy used in an average US home contributes more than twice the greenhouse gas emissions of the average car per year. This is due to about 70 percent of the United States' electricity coming from burning fossil fuels.

Using energy efficient lighting helps reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, mercury, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur dioxide. An Energy Star qualified lightbulb can prevent more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas.

Although some argue that mercury found in CFLs is harmful to users, the amount found in a light bulb is equivalent to the amount found on the tip of a ball-point pen.

They should be disposed of properly, ideally, recycled. If you have a CFL you would like to recycle, a bin can be found when entering either South River EMC office.

So if you haven't taken the oath, do so! Visit www.energystar.gov for more information. Don't forget to encourage others to participate and support our troops by encouraging them as well.

After all, what better way to change the world, then one light at a time?

Information from the Department of Energy

Solar Power in Action

South River EMC offers a \$1,000 rebate to any member that installs a solar water heater system with an electric water heater backup.

Frank Stump of Lillington was one of the first members to take part in the offer, installing not only a solar water heater system, but a photovoltaic, or PV, system as well!

"It's something I've been interested in for years," Stump said. "Since the first space shuttle went up, I was intrigued by solar energy."

After 1996's Hurricane Fran, Stump made his first foray into solar energy, building a trailer!

"I constructed a 620 watt solar trailer," he said. "I use it for back-up power now and to power my workshop and for when I do work in the forest."

In fact, Stump and his wife moved from downtown Lillington, to a home they planned to furnish with solar energy.

Honey Electric Solar Inc. installed an active solar water heater system in three days and a 3.36 kilowatt (equivalent to 3,360 watts) PV system in two days, right before the big snow in January.



"The federal incentive for a solar water heater is a 30 percent tax credit," said Stump. "The states' tax credit was 30 to 35 percent, with no cap until you reached \$10,000 for a system."

The Stumps were lucky, the incentives were set to expire December 31, 2008. But the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 had provisions placed in it, so incentives are good for another eight years.

The Stumps are in contract with NC Green Power to sell their Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). They also were the first members to interconnect with South River EMC's electric system.

Stump expects his solar water heater system to pay for itself in about four years.

It's also about the environment for the Stumps.

"We need to look at alternatives to coal and fossil fuels," he says. "Sooner or later they'll be gone, or too expensive."

Although solar water heaters have a higher initial cost than a conventional water heater, these systems dramatically reduce fuel consumption and can have a direct payback in 5 to 10 years, while providing positive cash flow and adding value to your home.

As for his bills, Stump knows they will decrease, although he isn't sure of exactly how much.

If you are interested in solar energy remember to do your research before installation. Make sure your house is appropriate for solar panels, and that you have a licensed contractor to do the work. To learn more about South River EMC's rebate visit www.sremc.com/solarwater.aspx.

POULTRY Continued from Page F

Equipment- Clean fans and shutters frequently, afterward lubricating the motor and pivot joints. Replace shutters that allow unwanted air entry. Cover and seal all unused fan openings with plastic sheeting or curtain material.

Fans- Select the most efficient fans suited for your needs. Consider maintenance and service items, such as totally enclosed motors, direct drive fans, noise factors, motor overload protection, etc. Have replacement fan motors available.

Heater pilot lights- Adjust to manufacturers' specifications. Shut off one-half of the brooder pilot lights when they are not needed. In cold weather, lit brooders provide heat until unlit brooders can be re-ignited.

Gas leaks- Check each brooder for gas leaks before and during each brood of chicks. Prevent gas leaks by using special gas hoses recommended for brooders.



Apply a solution of soap and water to all connections using a paint brush. Air bubbles indicate gas leakage. Do not test for gas leaks with an open flame.

Regulator check- Do not make adjustments to the regulator on the gas tanks. Ask your gas company to check the regulator.

Lights- In most poultry houses, more lights are used than are needed. Broilers perform well when only enough light is available for them to find feed and water. Use lower wattage bulbs, using switches and dimmers to reduce light intensity. Change to a more efficient light source. Clean bulbs frequently and replace dim bulbs with more energy-efficient bulbs. Light reflectors can double the amount of light that reaches the birds and can reduce lighting costs by one-half.

