

# Moundville receives rural church award

The Moundville United Methodist Church is one of two rural congregations in the state of Missouri recently selected to receive a 2007 Rural Church Award from the Missouri School of Religion Center for Rural Ministry. Sharing this year's award with the Moundville UMC is the St. Thomas a'Becket Episcopal Church in Cassville. These churches represent rural congregations from eight Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church located throughout Missouri.

The Missouri School of Religion Center for Rural Ministry honored this year's award recipients during a November 16th Annual Award Dinner in Columbia, Missouri. The purpose of the award is to thank and praise God for the work of the Holy Spirit through all rural churches. While only a few congregations are picked each year, many more deserve honor for creative, faithful and outstanding ministries.

The selection team evaluated nominated congregations on four areas of responsibility and opportunity for ministry: efforts to nurture members of the congregation and build the Body of Christ through evangelistic outreach; ministries of social concern, justice and compassion within and beyond the congregational com-

munity; support of ministries and efforts of the denomination with which the congregation is affiliated; and involvement in ecumenical or interfaith partnerships in education, worship or mission endeavors. Moundville's ministries for children and youth along with its five years of certification as a United Methodist Welcoming Congregation were among the efforts cited by the selection team for its decision.

The Missouri School of Religion and Center for Rural Ministry has provided opportunities for clergy and laity in central Missouri for over 111 years. It is fully ecumenical in its board composition, program ministry and mission. More information about the organization and its programming is available at [www.msr-crm.org](http://www.msr-crm.org).

The Moundville United Methodist Church will soon start its 125th year of ministry. Guests are always welcome at any Moundville UMC service, project or event. The 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service includes a separate Children's Church for those



**The Moundville UMC youth display their work during a Nov. 14 service project for Operation Christmas Child. This global Samaritan's Purse project is sending 14 gift boxes across the globe.**

through the second grade, and many people remain after worship for coffee and juice or the 10:00 a.m. Sunday School classes available for all age groups. Each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. during the school year, the congregation also sponsors Pioneer Clubs for ages K through the 5th Grade and a Youth Group for those in Junior and Senior High.

More information about regularly scheduled opportunities for Christian worship, education, missions and social life at Moundville UMC appears each week in the Nevada Daily Mail Church Directory and on the Moundville UMC website at [www.gbgm-umc.org/moundvillemouc](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/moundvillemouc). Any Moundville UMC member or the Reverend John Swatosh at (417) 884-5277 can share additional details about the congregation and its ministries.