

**in this issue:**



**Best of 2002**

A special collection of photo highlights from the past year!

*Pages 4, 5 & 8*

**Politics as Usual**

Who is the right kind of person to elect for General Conference 2004?

*Page 2*

**Paul's Footsteps**

Charles Ensminger reports on his recent trip to Greece.

*Page 3*

**Web Update**

What's new at [holston.org](http://holston.org).

*Page 3*

**Say That in Spanish**

Hispanic and Latino populations have risen 100 percent in the Southeast, necessitating more ministry work, a church official says.

*Page 6*

**new year's perspective:**

# A Reason to Hope



**By Ray W. Chamberlain Jr.**

*Resident Bishop*

Each year, Martha and I write a few words expressing our feelings about the year past and the year to come. We place these words on a card that we send out as our Christmas message. Over the past few weeks we've pondered a good bit about the sentiments that seemed to pervade society as 2002 came to a close. These are the words we placed on the front of our card:

"Forget the candles this year. There is too much violence. There is too much fear.

There is too much despair. There is nothing to celebrate.

"This was the conventional wisdom when Jesus was born. This was the prevailing sentiment in John Wesley's day. But they begged to differ – and lit candles that continue to blaze."

As 2003 dawns, we seize a new opportunity to turn against the prevailing sentiments of society and attempt to renew the spark within our own souls and for the world. Forget the candles this year? Absolutely not! We're lighting more candles this year than ever before. The darkness be damned! ■

**Two events: one message**

## Zeiders will address clergy & laity

**By Annette Bender**

Holston leaders are hoping to put clergy and laity on the same spiritual page this year by sharing a key speaker at Ministers Convocation in February and Transformation in April.

The Rev. Edwin Zeiders, president and chief executive officer of United Theological Seminary, will address spiritual leadership in Lake Junaluska, N.C., where clergy will gather Feb. 17-20 and laypersons will gather April 5-6.

Zeiders, who preached at Holston Annual Conference 2001, is a member of the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference. United Theological Seminary is located in Dayton, Ohio.

"The idea is that clergy will go to Convocation, get fired up and go back to their laity. Then laity can go to Transformation and get fired up," said the Rev. Kim Goddard, director of the Wesley Institute, referring to Zeiders' appearance at two key Holston events. "We've been working on getting the same basic message out to church leaders."

This year's Ministers Convocation theme is "Where in the World is My Parish? Navigating From Our Spiritual Center." In addition to Zeiders, leadership includes the Rev. Stephen Gunter, associate professor of evangelism at Candler School of Theology. Zeider will lecture on "21<sup>st</sup> Century Spiritual Leadership for the Church" on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Gunter will preach on Sunday and Monday evening.



**Edwin Zeiders**

About 300 Holston ministers are expected at this year's convocation, according to Goddard. In 2002, the convocation registered 50 more participants than the previous year, totaling about 300. Last year's key speaker was the Rev. William McClain, chair in preaching and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Convocation brochures were mailed to Holston clergy shortly before Christmas. Participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible, since housing is offered on

a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit [www.holstonconference.com/wesleyinst](http://www.holstonconference.com/wesleyinst) or call the Wesley Institute office at (423) 928-2156.

At Transformation 2002, about 600 attended Holston's annual spiritual-growth weekend for laity. Separate programs for youth, children and adults will be offered. Brochures will be available in district offices by mid-January. For more information, contact Holston Lay Leader Bob Lockaby at (423) 756-5171 or [rlockabyjr@comcast.net](mailto:rlockabyjr@comcast.net), or Knoxville District Lay Leader Del Holley at (865) 609-9892 or [delholley@mindspring.com](mailto:delholley@mindspring.com). ■