



The Call

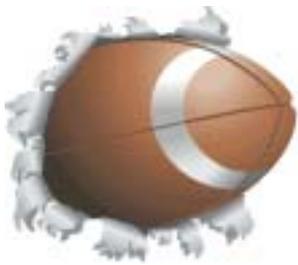
HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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in this issue:



■ Go Vols

Shouldn't we let God determine our activities instead of the SEC? A commentary.

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■ Secret Lives

Maybe you only see your minister on Sunday mornings, but for these four pastors, there's a lot more going on behind the scenes.

Pages 4 & 5

■ Bishop's Perspective

"None of us follow the Bible very literally. Thank God we don't! If we did, we would look and act much more like the Taliban than like followers of Jesus."

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■ Nation & World

Methodist news from outside the conference.

Pages 6 & 7

The Legacy of Commitment campaign's purpose is to raise \$7.8 million to fund Holston's liability for pre-1982 pensions. Progress as of January 8, 2002:



Convocation promises to equip ministers 'In Crisis, Culture & Community'



McClain

Worship, study, rest and retreat: Holston pastors will have opportunities to relish all of these at the Ministers' Convocation held Feb. 18-21 in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

The convocation is the Wesley Institute's principal continuing education event of the year. The 2002 theme is "Proclaim-

ing the Present God: in Crisis, in Culture, in Community."

Featured speaker is the Rev. William B. McClain, chair in preaching and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., where he has taught for 21 years. Featured lecturer is Roger K.

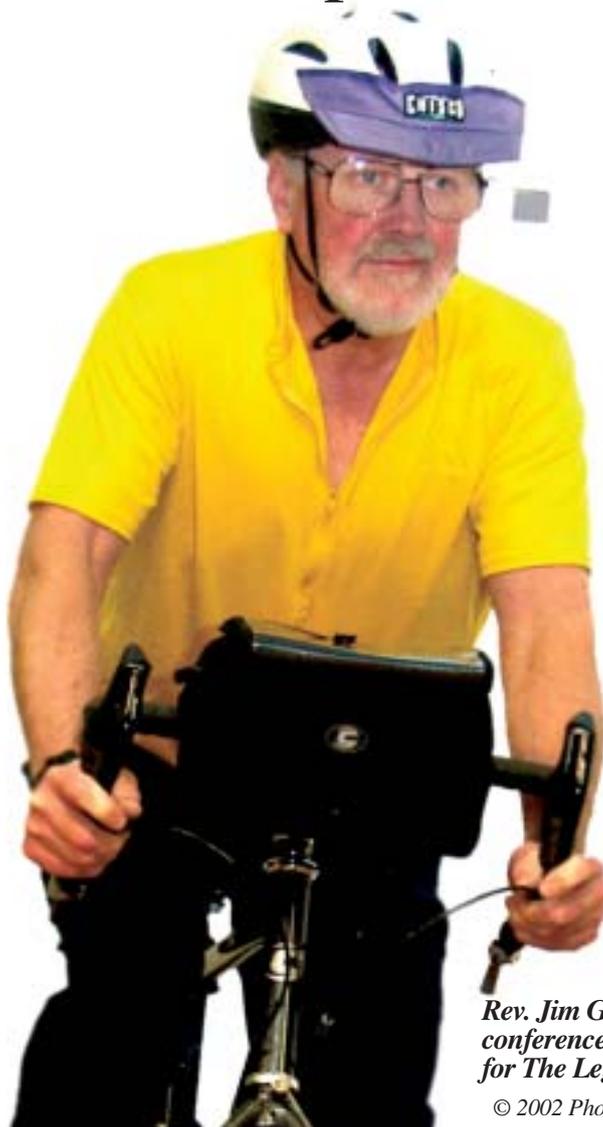
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Goddard

Riding **for** pensions

Retired pastor undertakes nine-day bike tour



A retired Holston pastor is taking his bike out for a 480-mile spin to help the conference reach its \$7.8 million pensions goal.

The Rev. Jim Green, a long-distance biker and the conference's steward of clergy concerns, will pedal the length of the Holston Conference – from Radford, Va., to Rising Fawn, Ga. – to raise funds for The Legacy of Commitment Campaign. "The Ride," as conference leaders have dubbed it, will kick off April 3 for a nine-day tour.

Churches, Sunday school classes, United Methodist Men and Women, and especially youth groups are encouraged to sponsor Green's ride with \$480 (\$1 per mile) given in honor of former pastors or beloved church leaders. A

list of honorees and sponsors will be published in *The Call*.

Every Holston church is urged to make at least one contribution to the bike fundraising effort, conference leaders said. Pastors will receive explanatory brochures in early February.

The bike fundraiser is one of two appeals to local churches to help the conference meet its goal to underwrite pre-1982 pensions for Holston clergy. On April 28, 2002, congregations will be asked to give on behalf of retired ministers during a conference-wide "Retired Ministers Sunday."

Currently, 15 to 20 percent of each Holston congregation's "Fair Share," or apportionment, covers the cost of unfunded pensions. As of Jan. 8, the campaign had raised \$5.76 million for 73.8 percent of the \$7.8 million goal. The target date for completion of the campaign is Annual Conference 2002.

For more information, contact The Legacy of Commitment office at (865) 690-4080. ■

Rev. Jim Green plans to pedal from one end of the conference to the other during an April fundraiser for The Legacy of Commitment campaign.

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■ Roll On:

Cuban pastors spread the Gospel on 400 new bicycles
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