



The Call

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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in this issue:



■ **One Great Mission**
Martha Chamberlain's passionate plea for an important offering on March 10. Don't miss "One Great Hour of Sharing."

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■ District Roundup

A new section, loaded with news from each of the conference's 12 districts.

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■ Enron Debacle

The collapse of utility giant Enron has affected some United Methodist Church investment portfolios, but denomination executives say the impact has been minimal.

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■ Bishop's Perspective

"I would be too ashamed and embarrassed to applaud our defense budget. I believe it would have been much more in the spirit of Jesus for Congress to have gotten on their knees and wept for what has become of the earth."

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■ The Ride

It's coming on April 3! For more information, visit www.holston.org and click on "Pedaling for Holston's Future."



Children in Poverty

Four Holston Churches Receive National Grants For Ministries

Four local churches from Holston have been awarded \$20,000 in grants from the denomination's task force on children and poverty.

Broad Street United Methodist Church (Cleveland District), Jellico (Oak Ridge), Saint Luke (Chattanooga), and Mosheim Central (Morristown) each received \$5,000 for creative ministries for children. The four congregations were among 30 in the entire denomination recently selected by the Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty Task Force.

All of the ministries receiving grants were inspired by Bible studies initiated by the Council of Bishops in 1996. In Holston, congregations participated in a "Seeing Through Kingdom Eyes" Bible study program in 1999.

Last fall, congregations across the denomination were encouraged to apply for funds for their new children's ministries.

Of 14 applications received from Holston churches, conference leaders were only allowed to submit five to the national task force. Four of Holston's five applicants were selected to receive grants.

"All of the programs from Holston were really worthwhile," said Anne Travis, Holston director of connectional ministries, "so having to choose five was tough."

Broad Street UMC received grant money for a new program that will teach English to the immigrant parents of children in its existing after-school program. Jellico received funding to provide school supplies for underprivileged children in its community.

Mosheim Central's grant will help supply clothing to needy people who previously had no community outreach available. St. Luke's grant will be used for an after-school arts program.

In a 2001 report based on surveys of Holston churches participating in the

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High Times: *The Unity Center, created by Broad Street United Methodist Church, serves 44 needy students in an after-school program in Cleveland, Tenn. Broad Street is one of four Holston churches receiving a grant for children's ministries.*

Treasurer's Report:

Giving To Apportionments Remains Stable In 2001

Wytheville leads the way with 96.5 percent

In spite of the economic downturn, apportionment giving remained stable in Holston with a total of \$14.83 million, or 90.2 percent of the budget, received in 2001, according to the conference financial office.

Meanwhile, giving to Advance Special funds was up 3.6 percent over the previous year, and the Wytheville District led the conference with 117 local churches paying an average 96.5 percent of their apportionments.

The Rev. Ron Matthews, Holston Conference treasurer, said he was pleased with support provided by local churches in 2001.

"I commend the people of the Holston Conference," he said on Feb. 14. "Given the economy, fear, and economic doubts after Sept. 11, I think Holston did good."

Although last year's 90.2 giving level did not surpass the previous year's 91.1

Giving To Apportionments Remains Stable, continued on page 7

Coming Soon In The Call:

- Kingsport leads all districts in Five-Star recognition; Morristown, Big Stone Gap tie for 2nd place.
- Holston Hispanic ministries receive \$50,000 grant; Four districts to benefit from national funds.