

conference briefs:



Rev. William McClain speaks at convocation.

Ministers' Convocation attracts more ministers

The Ministers' Convocation in Lake Junaluska registered 50 more participants this year than in 2001, and the director of the Wesley Institute thinks it's because there was more free time. Pastors indicated they wanted more time to "just relax and be with each other," said the Rev. Kim Goddard, and that's what they got. In addition to free afternoons during the Feb. 18-21 event, participants seemed to appreciate messages delivered by the Rev. William McClain, chair in preaching and worship at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Total attendance: 300.

Pensions campaign enters home stretch

"The Ride" is less than a month away, and Holston groups are encouraged to participate by honoring a beloved pastor with a \$480 donation. On April 3, a group of pastors will embark on a 480-mile tour through the conference to raise money for The Legacy of Commitment pensions campaign. The goal is to get Sunday school classes, men's, women's and youth groups to each give \$480 in honor or memory of a minister. Later this year, a special supplement to *The Call* will list honorees as well as givers.

"The Ride" is part of a concentrated effort toward meeting the conference's \$7.8 million goal for pastors' pensions by Annual Conference this June. With \$5.8 million in commitments,

campaign officials hope to raise the final \$2 million with the bike fundraiser and a conference-wide offering for "Retired Ministers Sunday" on April 28, 2002. For information, call (865) 690-4080 or visit www.holston.org and click on "Pedaling for Holston's Future."



'The Ride' begins on April 3.

church development:

By John Ripley



Funding New Churches

I HEARD A PASTOR say recently that "prayer is the breath of the church; money is the nourishment." Perhaps a few decades ago it would have been phrased "prayer is the breath; money is putting feet to your prayers." In any case, meeting human needs involves both spirit and deed. In the context of starting new churches it means we encourage a balance of "word, spirit and deed." (Gordon Moyes)

As we address deeds – starting new churches in this case – we move forward in ministry as God's people make funds available.

The Annual Conference budgeted \$465,000 for 2001 and the same amount was budgeted for 2002. The requests for funds in June and October exceeded \$800,000. At the February meeting of the Witness Team, more than \$700,000 was requested by Holston churches.

The bad news is that the requests for funds far exceed available funds. The good news is that new churches are being planted and existing churches are growing.



While it is true that membership in Holston Conference continues to decline, worship attendance has steadily increased, a discovery that was made in preparation for the Bishop's Conference on Starting New Congregations in January.

Two conclusions follow: To provide more funds for starting new churches and to assist growing churches, each of us can help by encouraging your church to give its full Fair Share and to become a member of the

Builders Club. (Call 865-690-4080 for information.)

Your church's contributions help to "by all means win some" for Christ. It is evangelism through starting new churches. Typically 60 to 70 percent of the members of new churches are new Christians.

Here are the names of the new churches and the names of the two pastors whose churches have yet to be named: Wellsprings, Lighthouse, Appalachian Prayer Fellowship, Virginia Avenue, Bethlehem Community, Eastdale Village, Korean American (Chattanooga), The Rock (Johnson City), Soulworx, Korean congregation (Knoxville), Door of Heaven (Hispanic, Wytheville), and pastors Chris Ford and Jeff Wadley.

Your prayer support provides the breath of the Spirit for these churches.

The Rev. Ripley is the conference's director of new church development. ■

missionaries:

Diantha and Steve: They're still with us



Diantha and Steve Hodges

The Jubilee Project wants Holston members to know that due to a clerical error, missionaries Steve and Diantha Hodges were omitted from the "2002 Mission Prayer Calendar." The Hodges are still in active service as missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries at Jubilee in Sneedville, Tenn. ■

opportunities:

Grants for senior adult ministries

The Center on Aging and Older Ministries of the General Board of Discipleship is providing funds for programs and/or projects focusing on developing intentional, innovative, and creative ministries with older adults. Deadline for submitting grant proposals is June 30. For applications, contact Anne Travis, Holston director of connectional ministries, at annetravis@holston.org or (865) 690-4080.

Duke funds for rural churches

The Duke Endowment is offering funds to rural United Methodist churches for providing services for the disabled. If your congregation wishes to provide listening devices for the hearing impaired, access to the sanctuary for the mobility impaired, or other special services, contact: Rev. Joe Mann, Duke Endowment, Rural Church Division, (704) 376-0291 or jmann@tde.org. For more information, visit www.dukeendowment.org. Grant applications are accepted year-round.

International conference for young adults

The Holston Conference Mission Ministry Team is inviting high school seniors and college students to attend the 7th International Youth Conference on Evangelism, July 16-23 in Northern Ireland. Sponsored by World Methodist Evangelism and The Methodist Church in Ireland, the conference will take place at Jordantown Campus, University of Ulster, in Newtownabbey. Cost is \$450 including lodging, meals, registration, and program. For more information, contact Missions Coordinator Bill Daugherty at (865) 690-4080 or billdaugherty@holston.org. ■