

in memoriam:

■ Reid Wilson

GRAY, Tenn. – Reid S. Wilson, 74, died March 24, 2002, at NHC. He was a retired Holston minister who served churches from Chattanooga to Pulaski for 41 years. The Rev. Wilson is survived by his wife, Marjorie Wilson; four daughters, Kathie Wilson-Parker, Independence, Va., Betsy McKeely, Lake Mary, Fla., Donna Moores, St. Paul, Minn., and Carol Wilson, Piney Flats, Tenn.; two brothers, Craig Wilson, Johnson City, and Clement Wilson, Knoxville; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held March 26 at Munsey Memorial UMC with the Rev. Ken Henderlight, the Rev. David Lovelace, the Rev. Jerry Everley, and the Rev. Ray Robinson officiating. Interment followed in Monte Vista Burial Park. Memorial gifts may be made to Munsey Memorial UMC, Johnson City; First Independence UMC; Piney Flats UMC Church Building Fund; or the Holston Conference Legacy of Commitment Pensions Fund.

exchange:

CLEVELAND, Tenn. – First Cleveland UMC seeks a **Director of Christian Ministries**. The applicant will be a professing Christian who affirms the doctrines of the UMC and holds a bachelor's degree in a related area. Musical ability desirable. Send resumes to: Staff/Parish Relations Committee, First UMC, P.O. Box 4228, Cleveland, TN 37320.

■ Holston Conference seeks **director for its pastoral counseling center**. Applicant should be qualified pastoral counselor with advanced degree in counseling beyond a basic theological degree. Send letter of inquiry and resume to: Jonathan Jonas, 1432 Gray-Sulphur Springs Road, Jonesborough, TN 37659. Application materials must be received by May 15.

■ What's Your Size?

The Call uses the following symbols to identify articles about small, medium or large churches:

- S** = Churches with average 85 or fewer in principle weekly worship service(s)
M = Average 86 to 225 in worship service(s)
L = Average 226 or more in worship service(s)



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bishop's perspective:

By Ray W. Chamberlain Jr.

Resident Bishop

'Give us the courage to make the right choices'



2002 Photo by Anita Ayers Henderlight

▲ Bishop Chamberlain greets a church member at a Johnson City consecration service.

When Ron Mills, chair of Hiwassee's board of trustees, was unable to devote adequate time to the issues pressing in on the college, Don Youell, vice chair, stepped up to the plate. He left his business and made himself available to Hiwassee for an entire week. Al Bowles, who already has a full schedule, is now assuming the chair for the board.

Our conference leadership is investing time and resourcing the Hiwassee College staff. As I write, Ron Matthews, conference treasurer; Kevin Slimp, director of communications; Roger Redding, director of the Holston Conference Foundation; and staff from Emory & Henry College's development office are on campus, offering support and expertise. Kevin Slimp has provided invaluable assistance in interpreting to the faculty, trustees and press the concerns surrounding the broken promises.

A group of trustees and persons from Hiwassee are meeting to examine all aspects of the college and ask honest questions about its mission and future. Another group will meet with persons from Tennessee Wesleyan College to ask what cooperative efforts should and can be explored.

I regret that James Dawson has resigned the presidency of Tennessee Wesleyan College. He has served the college exceptionally well and will be missed. We all wish him our best and he goes to Coker College with our prayers.

With the resignation of Hiwassee College's president along with losing Tennessee Wesleyan's president, the conference is challenged to be at its best in support through prayer and money.

What has been a nightmare of false expectations at Hiwassee College is over. Now, in the light of truth and reality, we have the obligation to be as faithful as we can to the rich legacy provided and preserved for some 153 years.

My earnest prayer is that God will guide us and give us the courage and creativity to make the right choices. After all, Hiwassee College does not really belong to the conference or to its trustees. We are the stewards for a college birthed to serve God and the young people entrusted to us. ■

Grace and Peace,
 Ray W. Chamberlain Jr.

c-mail:

Racism is multi-colored

This makes the second article *The Call* has placed in print, calling for combating racism ["Nine Denominations Move Forward to Combat Racism," United Methodist News Service, Feb. 15]. And I totally agree with everyone joining to wipe racism off the face of the earth. But, as in the last article, your only intent and aim is to see it through black and white eyes. Folks, unless you have been hibernating perpetually in a cave somewhere racism is not only black and white. If that is the case, the Holston Conference and all the other denominations are just paying lip service to the new Hispanic, American Indian, Asian, etc., congregations that are being started. I frankly am growing tired of the callous disregard for the other minorities that suffer as much if not more. These representatives [who want to stop racism] were in Memphis; then why not in Cherokee, N.C., or a Sioux reservation, or perhaps some area of a city that has a large population of Asians or Hispanics? By the way, let me qualify myself as being an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. I have studied the issue at length, and if you would do the same, it would appear very clear to you also.

— Gene Branson
 St. Marks UMC
 Friendsville, TN

Complimenting The Call

As a former member of the Communications Ministry Team for 10 years, I wanted to tell you how absolutely wonderful *The Call* is these days. The content is always interesting and well-written and often thought-provoking and inspirational. The designer is doing a super job as well. Having *The Call* available online is great (that's how I get it), and the idea of *The Sunday Call* for churches to print and distribute helps ensure accessibility. It's a real class act!

— Susan Williams
 Knoxville, TN

Where are the letters?

I have not seen any letters to *The Call* since the Dec. 7, 2001, edition. I miss the denomination-wide issues and letters to the newspaper expressing views of United Methodists in Holston Conference. Without this give and take, we are missing the mindset of our brothers and sisters.

— Betsy Kersey
 Broad Street UMC
 Cleveland, TN

■ **EDITOR'S NOTE:** We welcome letters and e-mails from our readers on all topics, but we receive few for publication. So consider this an invitation: Readers, we want to hear from you! Write: C-Mail, *The Call*, Holston Conference, P.O. Box 32939, Knoxville, TN 37930-2939, thecall@holston.org, or fax (865) 690-3162.