



The Call

HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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in this issue:

Special Pre-Annual Conference Edition

■ Let It Shine

Bishop Ray Chamberlain explains this year's AC theme, "Reflecting the Light."

Page 2

■ Mission Kits

When and where to drop off your congregation's Hands-On Missions Kits.

Page 8

■ Saying Goodbye

A pastor's message to his congregation following the news that he will be moving in June.

Page 3

■ Looking Ahead

Direct billing: It's on the agenda for Annual Conference 2003.

Page 8

■ Banner Man

Who's behind the defining backdrops at Annual Conference?

Page 5



■ Eddie Fox



■ Wilke

■ Del Pino

Don't miss this

Veterans of the Annual

Conference experience will notice the following changes

in this year's schedule:

■ The Memorial Service

honoring deceased clergy and lay members is scheduled for Monday morning at 8:30 a.m.

In years past, the service occurred on Sunday night.

■ The Service of Ordination

will be held on Monday night at 7 p.m. instead of Tuesday night.

■ The Missions Festival begins

on Tuesday at 11 a.m. instead of on Tuesday afternoon.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002:

Church Leaders Will Experience Full & Varied Program



2001 Photo by Kevin Slimp, The Call

▲ The Rev. Larry Trotter (shown here at last year's conference) will preach on the first night of Annual Conference. Concord UMC's praise band will provide music.

This year's theme may be "Reflecting the Light," but don't expect a light schedule at Holston's annual gathering of clergy and lay leaders next month in North Carolina.

The sessions begin with devotions at 7:45 a.m. and conclude as late as 9:30 or 10 p.m. with ice cream socials or worship. About 1,600 church leaders are expected to attend the 2002 session of the Holston Annual Conference. Representing 931 congregations in southwest Virginia, east Tennessee and north Georgia, members will gather June 9-12 at scenic Lake Junaluska Assembly near Waynesville, N.C.

Bishop Ray Chamberlain will preside over an agenda of business and worship including church groups from all over the conference as well as guest speakers and musicians.

Highlights of the four-day meeting include a Service of Ordination with the Rev. Jerome King Del Pino, top staff executive of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, serving as preacher on June 10. Bishop Richard Byrd Wilke, a retired United Methodist bishop from Kansas, will lead morning Bible studies on June 11 and 12. Holston's own Rev. H. Eddie Fox, world director of evangelism for the World Methodist Council, will lead a faith sharing workshop and camp meeting worship on June 11.

'Church leaders will experience' continued on page 8

Tazewell District hit by more flooding Work teams requested

Following May 2 flooding in a Tazewell District town, Bishop Ray Chamberlain has requested \$20,000 from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for flood relief assistance.

Tazewell and Buchanan were among several counties hit by heavy rains and high waters in Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia early this month, prompting President George W. Bush to declare them federal disaster areas on May 5. The town of Hurley, in northern Buchanan County, was particularly hard hit, with two reportedly dead and hundreds displaced.

Although the nearest United Methodist church to Hurley is First Grundy UMC, 10 miles away, Tazewell district leaders quickly mobilized to provide relief.

"Please help us get the word out," Tazewell



2002 Photo by Cathy St. Clair, Virginia Mountaineer

▲ HURLEY, Va.—This mobile home was washed off its foundation, floating down the road before hitting a tree and breaking in two. Its owner escaped the home minutes before it washed away.

Superintendent Gene Lovell emailed Holston churches on May 8. "The town of Hurley, Va., was absolutely devastated ... Roads and bridges were

'Tazewell District hit,' continued [CLICK HERE](#)