



# The Call

## HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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### THIS ISSUE

#### New Church Development

A special issue dedicated to new and relocating churches in Holston:



- **Breaking the mold:** What's it going to take to reach Holston's changing population? Front page
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- **Bishop's perspective:** 'If we open more churches, we serve more people,' says Ray Chamberlain. Page C4
- **Outside the box:** First Farragut gets creative, makes plans to relocate. Page C4
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- **Anticipation in Harrison:** An update on Lighthouse UMC, Holston's 1999 church plant. Page C4
- **Money talks:** Financing opportunities for Methodist churches considering construction. Page C2

#### In Memoriam

Holston leaders mourn the loss of a respected lay member, Sammie Lynn Puett. **Page C2**



#### Flood Update

News from the Tazewell District and Radford University.

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#### Input Invited

The Discipleship Team recently appointed a Task Force on Clergy Enhancement to consider needed support ministries for clergy and their families. The task force invites input, which may be provided by writing: Chairperson Jack P. Weikel, P.O. Box 1346, Kingsport, TN 37662. Some may wish to share in person with the task force at one of their meetings. If so, please make it clear in your communication how you may be contacted. So far meetings have been held in Knoxville.

## Breaking the mold: Churches for a new world

- In July 2001, a new church known as **The Rock** opened its doors for the first time on a Sunday morning. Located in a Johnson City warehouse building, the church offers a worship hour to low-income families already being served by an after-school program in the same building
- On Nov. 9, leaders of a new church named **Soulworx** will launch a Friday night worship service for 20-some-things in a former curio shop. Located next to pubs and biker bars in downtown Knoxville, the service will use a video wall, live band, and "hard-driving music" to spread the gospel.
- Soon a rapidly growing Oak Ridge District church will **break ground** on a site two miles west of its current location. In the meantime, they're sharing the building with the future owner: a funeral home.

In one of the conference's most active years for church development, new and relocating churches are finding unique ways to serve a growing population in east Tennessee and southwest Virginia.

This year, the Holston Conference is launching three new churches, investing more than \$576,000 through 2004 to get them up and running. Meanwhile, seven Holston congregations are making plans to relocate, some receiving conference funding to position themselves for growth.

According to the Rev. John Ripley, it's all part of the conference's four-year priority to "by all means win some."

"New and relocated churches continue to be the most effective means for reaching new people with the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Ripley, Holston's director of new church development. "Sixty to 70 percent of members in new congregations are new Christians."

According to church-development **See Breaking on page C3.**



Photo by Eddie LeSueur/ The Call

**'The Rock' in east Johnson City, Tenn.**



**GOT SOUL —** Volunteers use scaffolds and roller brushes to prepare for the launch of "Soulworx," an innovative new church in Knoxville.

**GO WEST —** First Farragut pairs up with a funeral home while relocating to a more spacious site.

Photos by  
A.S. Bender/  
The Call



## 'The Call' expands local coverage, provides new Sunday bulletin insert

After months of planning, Holston's communications staff is introducing new tools and dramatic improvements in the way they get information to members.

**Beginning Tuesday, Oct. 24,** congregations will have access to bulletin inserts that "should be very popular among participating churches," said Kevin Slimp, director of communications. *The Sunday Call*, a mini-version of this newspaper, will be posted weekly at [www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org) for churches to download, print and insert in their weekly bulletins. Since fewer than five percent of Holston members receive the biweekly print version of *The Call*, the conference Communications Team has been studying methods to distribute news to a larger population.

*The Sunday Call* will be an attractive 4.25 x 5.5 inch (half letter-size page) document containing news of general interest to local churches. The size fits neatly into most church bulletins.

Downloadable in two formats, the first version will contain text and photos in a PDF file. The PDF can be opened using an Acrobat Reader (installed on most newer computers, or download a free copy at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). The second version, a Microsoft Word file, will be provided for readers without access to Acrobat Reader. It will have fewer graphic elements but contain the same text as the PDF version.

*The Sunday Call* will be designed "two **See Services on page C2.**