



# The Call

## HOLSTON CONFERENCE

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### THIS ISSUE



#### Makeup Ministry

Freshmen at University of Virginia College at Wise receive the royal treatment during a Wesley Foundation outreach effort.

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#### New Consultant

The conference has endorsed the Rev. George Odle as a consultant for congregations considering capital campaigns, effective Sept. 1, 2001.

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#### They Do Windows

After floodwaters muddied up a Greeneville elementary school, youth from Holston Home for Children came to the rescue, readying the building just in time for opening day.



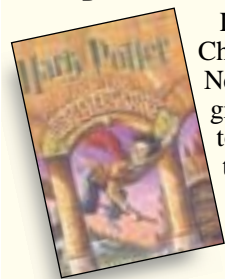
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#### Debt Free

What could be better than dedicating a 15,800-square-foot ministry building with 12 classrooms, 4 restrooms, showers, a commercial kitchen, music room, drama room, and a new sound, video and light system? Guess.

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#### Harry Revisited



Like Holston's own Church Street UMC, a New York Catholic congregation is attempting to reach children through Bible studies based on "Harry Potter" bestsellers.

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JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. — Lay speaker George Hendricks, a newcomer to George Street UMC, emphasizes faith and prayer during a recent worship service.

### Small congregations, big prayers

*Morristown-area churches use gifts to build outreach ministries*

By Annette Spence Bender, Editor

For both George Street and Grant's Chapel United Methodist churches, revitalization started with a group of people getting down on their knees and praying, "What do I have that you can use, Lord?"

That was the "easy part," says the Rev. Stephen Burkhart, grinning. "The hard part is, when God reveals it, will you do it?"

At the two Morristown District churches where Burkhart is pastor, the hard part seems to be coming along. Recent growth has helped George Street and Grant's Chapel be named this year's Mustard Seed Award winners for churches with fewer than 100 in average worship attendance.

Announced at Annual Conference in June, this is the first time two churches received the award at once, said the Rev. Pat Polis, chair of the conference's Small Membership Church Committee. "The committee voted to acknowledge the work

of a circuit whose churches obviously work in tandem with one another in their outreach ministries," he said.

George Street, located in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Grant's Chapel, in Dandridge, do have some similarities. Both have vital Wednesday programs, each reflecting their individual strengths. George Street, which averages about 75 in worship attendance, serves 40 to 50 children in a Wednesday after-school program. At Grant's Chapel, now averaging 95 in worship, Wednesday nights thrive with music and Bible study for all ages.

In fact, the church is known in the community for having an unusual amount of musical talent. Members recently bought a baby grand for the sanctuary.

"There are six to 12 piano players in that church," Burkhart said. "Three are members of traveling gospel groups. That

*See Small on page C3.*



**HONORED —**  
The Rev. Stephen Burkhart accepts the Mustard Seed Award for George Street and Grant's Chapel United Methodist churches at Annual Conference in June.

Photos by A.S. Bender/  
*The Call*

### Defeating the lottery

### Training scheduled in Nashville Sept. 28

Tennessee-based clergy and lay leaders in the Holston Conference will receive letters this week informing them about an anti-gambling training event in Nashville Sept. 28-30, Director of Connectional Ministries Anne Travis said.

The letters ask ministers to attend the National Coalition Against Legalizing Gambling seminar in an effort to defeat a lottery proposal in the state's November 2002 election. The Memphis United Methodist Conference and Nashville-based Tennessee Conference are also recruiting representatives to attend the interdenominational training, Travis said.

The Holston Annual Conference approved an anti-gambling resolution on June 13, 2001, urging members and the general public to vote against the lottery resolution next year.

For more information, contact Travis at (865) 690-4080 or AnneTravis@holston.org. Or visit the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling website at [www.ncalg.org](http://www.ncalg.org).



**United Methodist TV commercials featuring a sleeping child are showing nationally this month.**

### TV ads invite viewers to non-member website

By United Methodist News Service

Anticipating an unprecedented Igniting Ministry media campaign this month, United Methodists across the nation are inviting and welcoming visitors with "open hearts, open minds, open doors."

For the first time, the denomination is using television to extend an invitation to unchurched people looking for meaning in their lives. Television spots will be shown on 15 national cable networks and CBS.

Each TV ad tagline will invite people to visit [www.unitedmethodist.org](http://www.unitedmethodist.org), the first site produced by the church specifically

*See 'TV ads' on page C2.*