

inside: sleepless in **texas**

Delegates attending General Conference made lots of decisions (and drank lots of coffee) in Fort Worth. Special coverage of the denomination's momentous meeting

Pages 6-9

mission **kits**

Here's where to drop off the supplies collected by your congregation for Africa.

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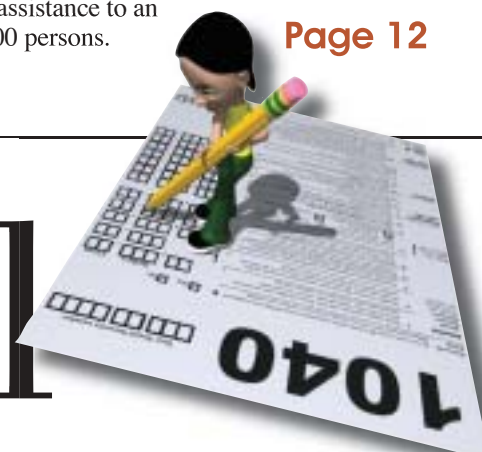
tax aid at **tyner**

Volunteers at this Chattanooga District church provided free income-tax assistance to an estimated 600 persons.

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The Call



May 2008

HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.holston.org

Special Called Session
on June 1: Memories of
Annual Conferences past at

GRAND CENTRAL

By John Shearer

The Holston Annual Conference will try a new schedule this year when a clergy session and ordination service will take place at Central United Methodist Church of Knoxville on June 1 – a week before the other activities begin at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

The regularly scheduled session of Annual Conference 2008 will be held June 8-11 and will include the commissioning service.

However, in many ways the Central session is a throwback to the old days, when Annual Conference was staged there or at other churches or facilities within conference boundaries.

The Rev. Grady Winegar, conference secretary, recalled that when Annual Conference was held at the different churches, the gathering was longer and more free time existed for fellowship.

“There was a different atmosphere when clergy had the chance to gather under trees and exchange greetings,” he said. “Now Annual Conference is so full, you do not really have time to do that.”

Winegar also remembered that the host churches would stay busy before and during the conference working out the various details, such as preparing meals.

The Rev. John Ripley, now retired but formerly the district superintendent in Chattanooga and Knoxville, also participated in many conferences that were convened in different churches. He has memories that contrast with Winegar's.

“The biggest thing I remember was that you were never

See **Grand Central**, page 5



Photo by Dennis Loy for The Call

Built in 1927, Central United Methodist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., has a large balcony in its nave that allows seating for 1,700.

On page 5

- Bishop James Swanson explains why
- Schedule and parking information