



Southeast District

of the Texas Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

MAY 2014

REMINDERS:

- Hurricane Season is around the corner. Find out how your church can help UMCOR stock up on flood buckets at www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies
- Check out our website: www.southeastdistrict.org. It is now being updated weekly with current information!
- Got news? Send it to ebunch@txcumc.org.

CALENDAR

- May 25-27**—Annual Conference
- June 1**—Deadline to apply for Candidacy Summit
- June 1**—Camp Counselor Training, 2:30-4:00 pm
- June 3**—Camp Counselor Training, 7:00-8:30 pm
- June 16-20**—District Camp at Lakeview

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Notes from the District Superintendent

On the day of Pentecost the disciples were gathered in a large upper room when the Holy Spirit descends upon them. Luke writes, "Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak." (Acts 2:2-4 CEB)

I can only imagine that the disciples were surprised by the Holy Spirit's arrival. Though Jesus instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the promise of the Father (Luke 24:49), they don't have a clue what to expect; neither do we.

The disciples' experience of the Holy Spirit is quite different from our own. They experienced the Holy Spirit as a surprising, wild, untamable, unpredictable presence. They were overwhelmed by the Spirit which thrust them into situations well beyond their comfort

zones. There is nothing meek or mild about the Spirit. Instead, they experienced the Spirit as the surprising, unpredictable, all-powerful life of Jesus in them.

Consider the following. Does the modern North American church's experience remotely resemble the New Testament church's experience of the Spirit? When we gather for worship, do we come expecting to experience the power of the Holy Spirit or do we assume we'll have the same predictable, comfortable, if not boring service like the week before? What would we do if God showed up on Sunday? Would we be transformed by the experience, would we go back to life as usual, or would we dismiss it as "something we don't do."

The disciples were instructed by Jesus to wait patiently and prayerfully for the revealing of the Holy Spirit. What if we were to do the same? Come Holy Spirit Come!

Grace and Peace,

Dick

Summer Church Camp, June 16-20

Camp will be here soon! Regular registration is complete. Late registration will only be accepted if space is available based on age and gender. No refunds will be issued after May 30.

For more information, contact Rev. Mark Bunch mbunch@stpaulfamily.com or (409) 781-0357.

Counselor Information

Camp Counselors need to have a background check completed by the local church within the last year and completed online Safe

Sanctuary or Safe Camps training within the last two years.

Camp Counselor training is **REQUIRED** for all adults. You can attend one of the two training events:

Training Session 1

Sunday, June 1, 2014 * 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Wesley UMC, Beaumont
3810 N Major Dr; (409) 892-7733

Training Session 2

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 * 7:00 to 8:30 pm
United Methodist Temple, Port Arthur
4101 Hwy 73; (409) 962-5762



Annual Conference May 25-28, 2014

Celebrating Vital Congregations (from TAC website)

From missions to music, inspirational additions await you at the 2014 Annual Conference:

- last year, buckets of gift cards for the human trafficking victims - this year, birthday bags for the children at local food banks;
- last year, corporate worship - this year, a medley of powerful choirs engaging in a variety of worship styles.

Those attending 2014 Texas Annual Conference will experience vibrant additions and nuances befitting the focus on vibrant congregations. Dr. Craig Gilbert, Director of the event's Worship and Planning Committee and Director of Music and Worship Arts at FUMC Sugarland, predicts the conference will be "a beautiful celebration of ministry as presented by congregations representing the diverse majesty of God's kingdom. Our committee has been working on developing the experience for the past year, and we expect attendees will be deeply blessed."



GROWING
VIBRANT
CHURCHES

If your church's original registered delegate will be unable to attend, the alternate delegate must bring a signed letter from the pastor in order to vote.

Attention Clergy Spouses!

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 13, at 6:30 pm. The SE District Clergy

Spouses will be gathering for a time of fellowship at Café del Rio. For more information, contact Erin Bunch, 409.550.1246 or ebunch@gt.rr.com.

Links for More Conference Information

TAC Website:
www.txcumc.org/tac2014

Collide for Youth:
www.youthcollide.com

Information on
www.southeastdistrict.org:

Small Membership Breakfast
Monday, May 26, 7:00 am
Clergy Spouses Luncheon
Monday, May 26, 11:45 am
Laity Luncheon
Tuesday, May 27, 12:00 pm

Preconference Journal Action Items for Vote

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Conference Apportionments—Where is the SED?

As of the first four months (33%) of the year, the SED is a little behind our target pace having only paid 30% of its Conference Apportionments.

At this time about half of district, 28 churches, are below the 33% target point. Likewise, the other half, 27 churches, are at or above the 33% target. If your church is behind, challenge yourself to catch up to a pace that will help you payout on time.

A huge round of applause to **Boliver UMC** and **Magnolia Springs UMC** who have **paid 100% of their apportionments** for 2014!

Joys & Concerns

- Jill Krone (clergy spouse, Anahuac FUMC, Middleton Memorial)
- Rev. Bill Servis (Retired)
- Rev. Byron Jarratt (Retired, UM Temple)



District Conference Summary

A called District Conference was held Wednesday, April 30, at Woodcrest UMC in Lumberton. Morris Albright, Chair of the District Trustees, reported on the sale of the Impact Parsonage, the Jefferson Street Property, and Texas Methodist Foundation Loan on the Jefferson Street Property. Afterwards the conference authorized district Trustees to take all necessary actions to sell the district-owned church campus (Impact New Church Start) for a maximum negotiated price.