



# Southeast District

of the Texas Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2014

## REMINDERS:

- Approved Annual Charge Conference reports and actions are due to the district office by October 30, 4:00 pm.
- Check out our website: southeastdistrict.org. It is now being updated weekly with current information!
- Got news? Send it to ebunch@txcumc.org.

## CALENDAR:

- Oct 10**—Bishop’s Visit  
Clergy-3:00 pm,  
Laity-7:00 pm
- Oct 30**—Charge Conference reports due to District Office
- Nov 16**—Connectional Charge Conference and Leadership Training-3:00 pm

## CONTACTS:

PO Box 4004  
701 Calder  
Beaumont, Texas 77704  
409.833.9510  
Fax: 409.833.9511  
www.southeastdistrict.org

**Dr. Richard L. “Dick” White**  
District Superintendent  
rwhite@txcumc.org

**Donna Moody**  
Administrative Assistant  
dmoody@txcumc.org

**Erin Bunch**  
Office Assistant  
ebunch@txcumc.org

**Conference Office:**  
713.521.9383  
www.txcumc.org

## Connectional Charge Conference

The clergy and laity are encouraged to attend an afternoon of fellowship, worship, celebration, and learning. The Southeast District Connectional Charge/Church Conference (CCC) and Lay Leadership Training will be held **November 16, 3:00–6:00 p.m.** at Beaumont, Wesley UMC, in the Family Life Center (Gym).

The Annual Charge Conference business will be affirmed by consent and received by the District Superintendent. The required reports and actions for the Annual Charge Conference must be approved by your Church Council and submitted *prior to* the Connectional Charge Conference meeting.

Eric Hoffer, in his book Reflections on the Human Condition, wrote, “In a time of drastic change it is the *learners* who inherit the future. The *learned* usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.” Responding to the fast pace

of change in culture gives the church exciting new possibilities for innovative mission and ministry.

The Reverend John Thornburg, Senior Area Consultant for the Texas Methodist Foundation, is our keynote speaker and facilitator for the lay leadership training. He will teach on “Adaptive Change and the Missional Church.” All church leaders and interested laity are invited to attend. Pastoral leadership and vision will make this event a “must attend” event for the laity. Please make sure 5 to 10 persons attend the CCC from your church.



*The district welcomes Rev. John Thornburg of Dallas on November 16. Read more about Rev. Thornburg on Page 2.*



## Bishop’s Annual Visit

Bishop Janice R. Huie will visit the SE District on **Friday, October 10**. Clergy will meet at 3:00 p.m. and Laity will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Beaumont, Wesley UMC, in the Dinning Hall.

This year’s theme will be “Leadership Values that will Transform Your Church.” She will be talking about four qualities of leadership: courageous leading, faith talking, compassion sharing, and bridge building.

Bishop Huie established the annual district visits shortly after arriving in the Texas Annual Conference. “Previous bishops made itinerations for special causes, such as missions,” explains B.T. Williamson, Assistant to the Bishop, “but she is the first one that made it a point to visit every year and interact with clergy and laity in every district of the conference. The attendance and feedback has been very positive.” Each district visit typically includes a devotional, presentation, and interactive group participation.

## Conference Apportionments—Where is the SED?

As of the first eight months (67%) of the year, the SED is a little behind our target pace having only paid 56% of its Conference Apportionments. This is below last year's pace of 60%. At this time, just over half of district, 30 churches, are below the 67% target point. Likewise, 7 churches are at the 67% target, and 18 churches are above the 67%. 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 **Batson UMC, High Island St. Matthew UMC, Anahuac St. Paul UMC, Beaumont Forest Park UMC, Port Arthur Barnes Memorial UMC, Boliver UMC, and Magnolia Springs UMC** who have **paid 100% of their apportionments** for 2014!

Learn from  
**Rev. Thornburg**  
at the **Connec-**  
**tional Charge**  
**Conference,**  
**November 16.**

### Attention Clergy Spouses!

Register now for the Fall Spouses Retreat, titled "Games People Play!" The retreat is October 17-18 at Lakeview. Registration deadline is October 3. For more information, contact Erin Bunch, 409.550.1246 or [ebunch@txcumc.org](mailto:ebunch@txcumc.org).

You can help  
your **YOUTH** be  
**INVOLVED** and  
continue the camp  
experience!

## CCC Speaker—Worship Leader in Changing World

John Thornburg is a fourth generation United Methodist pastor, song enlivener, poet and professional encourager. After 22 years in parish ministry in North Texas, John started an itinerant ministry of song leading and worship consultation called A Ministry of Congregational Singing. He has led singing in local churches from Boston to Berkeley, at youth gatherings and retirement centers, and at both regional and national conventions. He also worked alongside a group of United Methodists from Cameroon, West Africa, in the creation of Methodism's first hymnal and worship book for that nation.

In March of 2013, he became Senior Area Consultant for the Texas Methodist Foundation, and is now the full time encourager he's always felt called to be. He travels the North Texas area consulting with churches about finding their distinctive calling.

John's hymn texts appear in 20 different hymnals and collections of Christian worship songs. He is co-founder of a community of creativity in Dallas called HOLY CITY, devoted to writing worship songs and planning worship events for those who are distrustful of the institutional church.

He and his wife, Beth, a law professor at Southern Methodist University, live in Dallas.

## Important District Events—Make Plans Now

*Make plans now to attend these important district events this fall.*

**October 10—Bishop's Visit**, Beaumont Wesley UMC, Dining Hall  
**Clergy**-3:00 pm  
**Laity**-7:00 pm  
*All are invited to attend!*

**November 16—Connectional Charge Conference and Leadership Training**, 3:00 pm, Beaumont Wesley UMC, Family Life Center  
**November 18—Report Day Training**, 10:00-11:30 am, Beaumont Wesley UMC, Youth Center

## District Youth—Coming Event

- ◆ **KD4C {Kneel Down 4 Christ}**--Thursday, October 23--This is a National Prayer Event, <http://warriorarise.com>  
**Follow district youth on Facebook:**  
Southeast District Youth of the Texas Annual Conference

### 2015 Camp Dates

**July 13-17,  
2015**

Reserve it on your  
personal and  
church calendar  
now.