



Southeast District

of the Texas Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

FEBRUARY 2015

REMINDERS:

- Deeds for all church properties need to be submitted to the district office by June 1st.
- Visit our website: southeastdistrict.org. It is now being updated weekly with current information!
- Got news? Send it to ebunch@txcumc.org.

CALENDAR:

- Feb. 19**—District College Night, 7pm
Feb. 24—Spouses Dinner at Cheddars, Beaumont
Feb. 28-Mar 1—Lay Servant Training, Bridge City, St. Paul UMC
Apr 13-15—Elder's Retreat, Lakeview

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The Power of "No"

Someone once said that the word "no" is the most powerful word in the English language. It is the favorite word of every two-year-old. It is a declaration of personal strength, a boundary that shall not be crossed, or a command to be heeded. It takes only one person's "no" to change where we are going to eat, what movie we are going to see, or how to we are going to spend our money. There is power in the word "no" except when it comes to saying "no" to ourselves.

Jesus said, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their

cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23). This is a hard saying to accept. Who can do this? Who can really say no to themselves? Is such a thing possible or even desirable? I don't like to say no to myself.

Yet in saying "no" to self we are free to say "yes" to God. We are free to accept Jesus' invitation into the way of love. In a kingdom where "All who want to save their lives will lose them; but, all who lose their lives because of Jesus will save them," saying no before we can say yes makes sense. Of course it is only possible by God's grace. This is good news!

Dick

Lay Servant Training Event 2015

Lay Servant Ministry is about developing leaders and improving leadership skills for use in the local church.

Saturday, February 28 • 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 1 • 2:00—5:00 p.m.

You must attend BOTH days to receive credit for the course.

St. Paul UMC • 1155 W. Roundbunch Rd. • Bridge City, TX

COST \$30 (includes books and lunch)

All Laity are Encouraged to Attend!

Local Lay Servant Basic Course—Rev. Brant Graham, Facilitator

Life Together in the UM Connection—Rev. Mark Bunch, Facilitator

You Can Preach!—Rev. Kevin King, Facilitator

More Information and Registration Form at
www.southeastdistrict.org/Lay-Servant



2015 Apportionment News

One month into the new year, we want to congratulate **Port Boliver, Boliver UMC** for having paid 100% of their district AND conference apportionments. Great job! We also appreciate **Beaumont Forest Park UMC, Buna First UMC, Daisetta Devers UMC, and Port Neches First UMC** for paying 100% of their district apportionments.

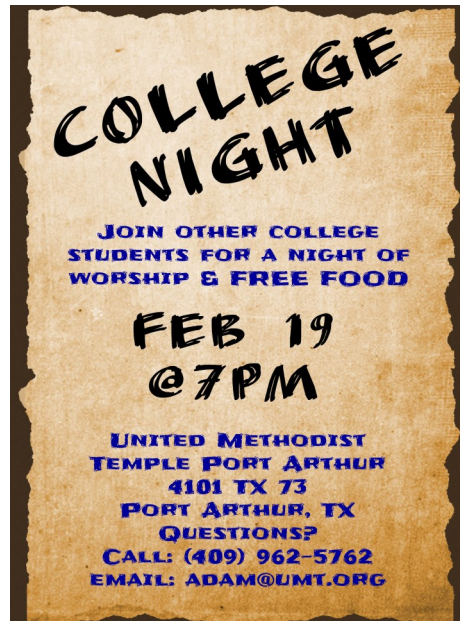
As of the end of January, 19 churches are ahead of pace in paying conference apportionments. 10 of these churches had not paid any conference apportionments in January 2014. That is a great way to make a change in the new year! However, 34 of our 55 churches have paid \$0 towards conference apportionments this year. Now is the time to make and act on a commitment to make regular payments.

So far our district is at 5% paid for 2015. While that is below our target, it is 3% above last year at this time. Keep it up, SED!

Remember to submit all your church deeds by June 1st.

Attention Clergy Spouses!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 24, at 6:30 pm. The SE District Clergy Spouses will be gathering for a time of fellowship at Beaumont Cheddars. For more information, contact Erin Bunch, 409.550.1246 or ebunch@gt.rr.com.



District College Night!

College Students around the District will gather for a night of worship and free food. Join us Friday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m., at the UM Temple in Port Arthur. We would also like to extend an invitation to high school seniors who will be going to college in the fall. If you do send high school seniors from your church, please have an adult accompany them from your congregation for Safe Sanctuary purposes. The UM Temple is located at 4101 Hwy 73 in Port Arthur. For questions, contact adam@umt.org or 409.962.5762.

Annual Conference

May 24-27, 2015
Hilton Americas-Houston
713-739-8000

Registration for the Hotel is now open.

The conference will be held again at the Hilton Americas-Houston. Make sure you tell them you are with the *Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church* to get the conference rate of \$125.

The Group Code is 1UM.

Prayers for Healing

- Jill Krone (wife of Rev. Kelly Krone, Anahuac First Circuit)
- Susan Liedy (wife of Rev. Michael Liedy Sr., Beaumont St. Luke)
- Lola Fosburgh (wife of Bob Fosburgh, South Liberty UMC)
- Bill Servis (retired)
- W.C. Hall (retired)
- Jeff Hastings (Port Arthur, UM Temple)
- Rev. Byron Jarrett (retired)



Camp Dates

July 13-17, 2015

Reserve it on your personal and church calendar now.