



Southeast District

of the Texas Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2015

REMINDERS:

- Our DS, Alicia, wants to join you! Please let the district office know of scheduled church events, such as children or youth events, church anniversaries, or active small group events,
- Got news? Send it to ebunch@txcumc.org.
- Visit our website: southeastdistrict.org.

CALENDAR:

- Sept 15-16**—Clergy Gathering
Sept 21— Bishop's Visit District Conference
Sept 24—Charge Conference Training for Clergy & Church Staff, 10:00 am
Sept 27—DS Installation Service, 3 pm

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Sharing the GOOD NEWS

My name is Alicia Coltzer, and I am addicted to news. I watch it every morning and evening. This is a habit passed down to me by my parents. Bless my mother's heart; when she would go to doctor to talk about some anxiety issues, the doctor told her "Margaret, stop watching the news!" Recently, I woke up to pictures of Syrian refugees. We can easily get overwhelmed; our hearts hurt for this broken, messed up world. Then I am reminded by my Christian faith. I have a news story that brings hope to the hurting; reaches across all racial, social, and economic lines; and brings healing to world. We are the barriers of the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ. God came in flesh so that we might experience unconditional love of God available to EVERYONE! There is no political dispute, economic downturn, or cultural divide that can stop the love of God from going out to people.

Luke 19 tells us the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday. A whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God shouting "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19: 38, NIV). Some of the Pharisees didn't agree so they asked Jesus to quiet His people. Jesus reminded us the GOOD NEWS will not be quieted, for "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out" (v. 40).

The news we share is GOOD, and the world needs to hear it. Too often we keep it in the church building. Who will share it outside our doors? Will God have to use rocks to reach the Syrians? Friends, there are all kinds of hurting people who need to hear that there is a God who loves them and wants to heal their broken hearts. Consider who needs to hear a "May God bless you," when you walk out of the grocery store? Is there a neighbor near your home who needs you to take five more minutes at the mailbox so she can share her struggle? Friends, God showed his love for us in the word made flesh that worked with kind hands, spoke with kind words, and lived a life devoted to the healing ministry of God.

I know what you're thinking: "Yes, Alicia, but what about the Syrian refugees?" *Did you know the church is already at work?* Last Christmas, I went to visit pastor friends in Germany who shared with me the plight of the refugees. (The crisis is not new news in Europe. It has been going on for a few years). Did you know that the United Methodist

Bishop's Visit & District Conference

Monday, September 21st, will be an eventful day in our district. The Bishop will meet with the clergy and laity of the district in separate sessions. Between the sessions, the clergy and laity will join for our annual District Conference. The event will take place at Beaumont, Wesley UMC, in the Praise & Worship Center. This year's theme will be "Bound for Greater Things."



Gift for the Bishop

Bishop Janice R. Huie has served the Texas Annual Conference for eight years. Truly her leadership has made a significant difference in the Kingdom of God and in our district.

We invite individuals and churches to contribute to a gift in honor of our Bishop for her service in the conference. During the Bishop's Visit on September 21st, we will present Bishop Huie with our combined contribution to the Emerging Leaders Initiative. Please send your contributions to the District office by September 15th.

The schedule for the day will be:

- 3:30 p.m.—Clergy meet with the Bishop
- 5:30 p.m.—Dinner for clergy and spouses
- 6:30 p.m.—District Conference to approve leadership & budget and Presentation to the Bishop
- 7:00 p.m.—Laity meet with the Bishop

Each year the Bishop visits each district to offer leadership to the clergy and laity. Bishop Huie will be retiring in September 2016. Since this will be her last visit to our district, we will present a district gift in honor of Bishop Janice R. Huie for her service to our conference.

Bishop Huie established the annual district visits shortly after arriving in the Texas Annual Conference. "At the end of the day," explains B.T. Williamson, Assistant to the Bishop, "these visits are held to empower the local congregation, so we always encourage attendees to share their experiences with their individual churches. We also encourage the local congregations to extend a special invitation to young leaders and members to attend this interactive forum."

Sexual Ethics

The Texas Annual Conference is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment in keeping with

God's sacred trust. *Clergy are required to attend Sexual Ethics training every four years.* Register for one of these dates: Lakeview—October 28 OR Houston—October 29

Time: 10 am-3 pm Cost: \$20 for lunch & materials
To register, visit

www.txcumc.org/eventdetail/1909031

Texas UM Women

The TAC UM Women's Fall Festival will be at Lakeview, September 18-19. This year's theme is "Grateful to God." For more information, visit www.txconfumw.org.

Texas UM Men

The TAC UM Men will be hosting their Fall Gathering on September 19, at Humble, Atascocita UMC. The event theme will be "Successful Men's Ministry." For more information, visit www.txcumc.org/newsdetail/1888991.

Clergy Spouses

You are invited to come have dinner with your clergy and Bishop Huie during her visit to our district. Please join us Monday, September 21 at 5:30 p.m., at Beaumont, Wesley (following the clergy session with the Bishop).

Spirit Journey 2015

Dates: Thursday, October 22, 4:00 p.m.—Saturday, October 24, 4:00 p.m.

Place: Lakeview Methodist Conference Center



October 1 is the early bird deadline to register for “Spirit Journey 2015”—a spiritual formation-renewal program of THE UPPER ROOM® which is being sponsored by the Center for Congregational Excellence of the Texas Annual Conference through the “Committee for Faith-Forming Relationships.” This three-day (48-hour) event is an adaptation of the UPPER ROOM’s “Academy of Spiritual Formation” model. Jerry Weber of Chapelwood UMC in Houston will be the retreat leader reflecting how the Parables provide handles for spiritual formation, direction and guidance. Organizer Dr. James Reiter, FUMC Jefferson, says, “The timing of October 22-24, the daily schedule and rhythm, the Lakeview setting, the speaker, and focus all converge to make this retreat a great mid-Fall *booster shot* for laity and clergy!”

For more information you are encouraged to contact any of the following Spirit Journey Team Leaders:

Kathy & Mort Kothmann - skwk41@gmail.com 979-229-1085

Jim & Kathy Reiter - jim.reiter@live.com kathy.reiter@live.com — Phone: 903-665-2679

Debbie Puetz, Registrar—dapuetz48@gmail.com Phone—979-485-9109



The Southeast District of the Texas Annual Conference

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

Installation Service for the District Superintendent Reverend Alicia S. Coltzer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015, 3:00 P.M.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BEAUMONT
A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN ROTHWELL HALL

WE WOULD BE HONORED WITH YOUR PRESENCE AS WE BEGIN
THIS NEW CHAPTER OF MINISTRY IN THE SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

GOOD NEWS, Continued

Church in Germany is starting new congregation to minister to refugees? Did you know that the Holy Spirit is at work bringing refugees to faith? Did you know that people are landing on the shore of Italy, requesting baptism because of the visions they experienced? *What can you do?* Friends, pray for God to send more resources to this powerful mission field. Pray for the humanitarian effort to help all those seeking a peaceful haven. God will translate our prayers into tangible expressions of the GOOD NEWS.

Pray for the GOOD NEWS to reach the world. Share the GOOD NEWS with the people you meet in your community and remember, if we choose to keep it to ourselves, God will use stones in our place. I think the people of the SE District are better messengers than any stone.

Alicia

Reminder

To all clergy, be sure to input the **VITAL SIGNS** regularly:

- Worship Attendance
- Professions of Faith
- Hands On Mission

Important District Events—Make Plans Now

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

September 15-16—Clergy Gathering, Lakeview
Methodist Conference Center

September 21—Bishop's Visit & District Conference,
Beaumont, Wesley UMC

Clergy-3:30 pm
5:30 pm dinner for clergy/spouses

District Conf. (Clergy/Laity)-6:30 p.m.

Laity-7:00 pm

All are invited to attend!

September 24—Charge Conference Training for
Clergy & Church Staff, 10:00-11:30 am, Beaumont,
Wesley UMC

**September 27—District Superintendent Installation
Service**, 3:00 p.m., Beaumont, First UMC

October-November—Charge Conferences

November 18—Report Day Training, 10:00-11:30 am,
Beaumont, Wesley UMC, Youth Center

Charge Conference

Training for Charge Conference preparation for clergy and office staff will be held September 24th, 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Beaumont, Wesley UMC. Charge Conferences will be scheduled for mid-October through mid-December.

Report Day

Training for Report Day preparation for clergy and office staff will be held November 18th, 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Beaumont, Wesley. Report Day for our district will be January 7, 2016.

New Ministries for a New Generation:

Discussing the Elephant in the Sanctuary

Lay and Clergy Event--Cost is \$10.00

Saturday, January 16, 2016

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at The Woodlands UMC

The Texas Annual Conference is hosting a conversation for church leaders (lay and clergy) ready to strategize new ways to *do church*. There is little question these are challenging days for the church. Programs that *always* seemed to work decades ago no longer enjoy the same vitality or participation. The Saturday morning event promises to point us toward the hidden opportunities embedded in the looming challenges facing our churches.

Discover Hidden Opportunities with Ministry Incubators

- New ways of thinking about financing ministry beyond tithes, offerings, and fundraisers
- A process for prototyping an innovative idea for missional entrepreneurship
- Provocative strategies for engaging young adults as missional partners and *future* leaders of the church, rather than consumers of ministry programs

Experts Kenda Dean and Mark DeVries from *Ministry Incubators* (www.ministryincubators.com) will lead this interactive conversation. Long time friends and ministry collaborators, they created *Ministry Incubators* to help churches, groups of churches, and missional entrepreneurs imagine, invent, and innovate new expressions of the church.

To Register and Pay:

www.txcumc.org/newsdetail/1840810

Prayers

- Rev. John Warren (Orange, First)
- Rev. Erin Muckleroy's father (Fannett, Faith)
- Rev. Bob and Lola Fosburgh (South Liberty UMC)

