



Southeast District

of the Texas Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church

OCTOBER 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:

Oct 19—Charge Conferences begin

Oct 28/29—Sexual Ethics Training,
10:00 am-3 pm, Lakeview/Houston

Nov 18—Report Day Training, 10:00-11:30 am, Beaumont, Wesley UMC, for Clergy & Church Staff

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Our First Love

In a church basement turned Adult Day Care Center, as a seminary student trying to fulfill a class requirement, I often found myself as a companion to a delightful woman named Rita. Everyday Rita dressed in her finest clothes, as if going to an elegant affair. As a young woman she worked in fancy department stores in New York City. We discussed the fashions of the day and the retail business of a time long gone as if happening at that moment. Outwardly she was a vision, while inwardly her mind remained lost in time due to Alzheimer's Disease. Our days together followed a routine that ended with music. Some of the clients liked to dance while others sang along. Rita loved kicking up her heels and Patrick, the church janitor, was more than happy to oblige. One such afternoon Patrick asked, "Rita do you love Jesus?" She responded with more clarity than we knew was present, "Oh Yes! Jesus is my first love" and then just as quickly Rita returned to a bygone era of her youth.

Friends, it is a busy season with Stewardship Campaigns and Charge Conference, with Advent preparation and the unexpected funerals. It won't slow down until December 26th. By then, you may wake and wonder if somehow your first love got lost in all the work. It happens so easily, even with the best intentions. Please remember to stay in love with your first love, Jesus. Tasks are important. No doubt the mission is urgent, but if you don't stay in love with Jesus, you will not be able to help others know the love of Christ. Sermons, bible study prep and praying for the church are no substitute for our own personal time to stay in love with the Lord. In Mark 1 we find Jesus modeling for us what it looks like to stay connected to God. The gospel tells us that when the crowds pressed in, Jesus created the time and space to connect with His first love. Are we no less in need of time to reconnect with our first love? Being busy with church work is not a substitute for faithfulness. Take this advice from a woman who easily falls into this trap. Focus your attention on your first love and everything else will fall into place.

"Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should walk, for to You I lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in You. Teach me to do Your will, for you are my God; may your gracious Spirit lead me on level ground. For Your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life; in Your righteousness, bring me out of trouble." Psalm 143:8-11

Alicia

Spirit Journey 2015

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

Place: Lakeview Methodist Conference Center

“Spirit Journey 2015” is 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



Reminder

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

- Worship Attendance
- Professions of Faith
- Hands On Mission

Aim for 100%!



Year-To-Date Apportionment News As of 09-2015

100% PAID District AND Conference Apportionments

Anahuac, St. James UMC
Anahuac, St. Paul UMC
China UMC
Devers UMC
Magnolia Springs UMC
Port Bolivar UMC
Port Arthur Barnes Memorial
Sabine Pass UMC
Wallisville Middleton Memorial

Conference Apportionments

- 20 of our churches are on pace to pay out 100% by the end of the year or sooner.
- 26 of our churches are behind in paying conference apportionments this year.
- So far our district is at 63% paid for 2015.

100% Paid District Only

Batson UMC
Beaumont Forest Park UMC
Beaumont St. Luke’s UMC
Beaumont St. Paul UMC
Buna FUMC
Daisetta UMC
Deweyville UMC
High Island St. Matthews
Kirbyville, FUMC
Kountze FUMC
Liberty FUMC
Liberty, South Liberty UMC
Lumberton Woodcrest UMC
Mauriceville UMC
Nederland Wesley UMC
Orange Wesley UMC
Port Arthur, St. John UMC
Port Neches FUMC
Warren UMC

GREAT NEWS

As of October 15, 2015, the Port Arthur, Impact property is **SOLD!!!**

We thank each and every one of you for your prayers and diligence in helping to maintain this property until a serious buyer made an offer.

We only have \$75,000 to payoff the note.

With your continued faithfulness and support, we are aiming to have this debt paid off by Annual Conference 2016.



District Leadership Training Event

With Guest Speaker Jesse Brannen

Sunday, January 31, 2016

The SE District we will kick off the year with a District Leadership Training Event. Our Director of Congregational Excellence, Rev. Jesse Brannen and members of his team will present workshops on such topics as "Getting to Know Your Neighbors," "A New Leadership Board Model to Mobilize Ministry," and other interesting topics that will surely help us as we seek to make disciples for the transformation of the world. Additionally we encourage all of our lay leadership, whether new or continuing, to join us for workshops on Finance, SPR, Administrative Council/Board, Lay Leader, and Trustees.

New Ministries for a New Generation:

Discussing the Elephant in the Sanctuary

Lay and Clergy Event • Cost is \$10.00

Saturday, January 16, 2016

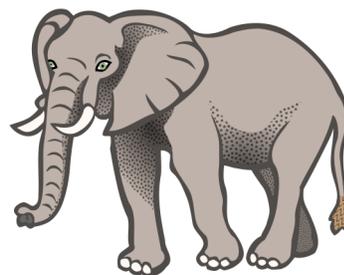
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at The Woodlands UMC

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

Clergy Spouses

Mark your calendar for Monday, November 9, at 6:00 pm. The SE District Clergy Spouses will be gathering for a time of fellowship at Machos Mexican Restaurant (1916 State Hwy 124 in Winnie). For more information, contact Erin Bunch, 409.550.1246 or ebunch@gt.rr.com.

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. The last day to submit payments to the Conference Office is December 4, 2015. Report Day for our district will be January 7, 2016.

Important District Events—Make Plans Now

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

October–November—Charge Conferences

October 28/29—Sexual Ethics Training, 10:00 am–3 pm, Lakeview/Houston

November 18—Report Day Training, 10:00–11:30 am, Beaumont, Wesley UMC, Youth Center, For Clergy & Church Staff

December 3—District Clergy Family Christmas Party, 5:00–8:00 pm, Location TBA

January 7—District Report Day, 9:00 am–12:00 pm, Beaumont, Wesley UMC

January 16—Discussing the Elephant in the Sanctuary, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., The Woodlands

January 31—Leadership Training Event, 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Beaumont, Wesley

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

Emerging Leaders Endowment

In honor of Bishop Huie's ministry in the Texas Annual Conference and her upcoming retirement in September 2016, the Southeast District has pledged \$30,000 to the Emerging Leaders Endowment. The Emerging Leaders Initiative works to attract, encourage, and develop young people on their journey to ministry. Because of the Initiative, young clergy in our district and conference are serving in churches that are increasing in worship attendance, attracting young families to become members, expanding youth outreach, and increasing participation in stewardship campaigns. The Initiative has four programs: Texas Youth Academy for high school youth, College Pastoral Internship Project for undergraduates, Ambassador's Grant for seminary debt, and Advancing Pastoral Leadership for young pastors. To contribute, designate your gift "ELE—SE District" through your local church or the district office.

2016 District & Conference Leadership

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP: If you are interested in a district leadership position or know of someone who you recommend, please mail the following information to the District Office. You may also email the information to Timolin at tcolbert@txcumc.org.

Name • Church • Phone Number and Email • Desired Leadership Area

Layity and Clergy are needed to serve on all areas of leadership: DLT (District Leadership Team), Trustees, District Youth Ministries, and DCOM (District Committee on Ordained Ministry). If selected, leaders would begin serving in January 2016.

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP: To serve in a conference leadership position—

1. Go to www.txcumc.org and read through the Nominations Job Descriptions to learn about available positions.
2. Next go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/DLH6MFX and fill out the form. This information will be sent on to the correct entity (pastor or district superintendent) for endorsement.
3. The pastor or superintendent will send their endorsement to the conference office.
4. The name of the person applying for a position will then be turned in to the Nominations Committee for placement. When the person is placed, the chairperson of that committee will call them and verify their acceptance of the position and their name will be placed on the Nomination Slate for vote at Annual Conference 2016.
5. If elected, leaders would begin serving following Annual Conference 2016.



Prayers

- W.C. Hall (Retired)
- Rev. Amy Walker's nephew (Nederland, Wesley)
- Rev. Erin Muckleroy's father (Fannett, Faith)
- Rev. Bob and Lola Fosburgh (South Liberty UMC)
- Rev. Sharon Sabom's mother (Mauriceville/Deweyville)