



# Southeast District

of the Texas Annual Conference  
of the United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 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](mailto:ebunch@txcumc.org).

## CALENDAR:

**December 3—District Clergy Family Christmas Party, 5:00 -8:00 pm, District Parsonage**

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

**January 16—Discussing the Elephant in the Sanctuary, 9:00am-12:00pm at The Woodlands UMC**

## CONTACTS:

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## God is With Us

Revelation 1:4-8 describes a vision of Jesus' return with the whole world watching. On days when bombs blow up around the city of Paris and people debate helping refugees, I will admit that as much as I love my life here and now, I long for Jesus' return. We don't know the hour or day. For now, we live out the gospel, waiting. In verse 8 we find the hope we need to keep on living, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'" The triune God exists without ending. Our God, in whom we put our trust, was present in the struggles of each generation; is with us now as we try to get our minds around the hate that fills this world; and is already in the future on our behalf. Though the earth may tremble and wars continue, God is with us. This God who is with us is the Almighty, the all-powerful One; more powerful than any bomb or mean-spirited ideology. Remember the light of Christ shines in the darkness of the world, BUT the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5). And I am grateful. I hope you are too. During this Thanksgiving time, I am grateful for the knowledge of God's loving kindness and ever-present hope in our lives. I am grateful to share the ministry of Jesus Christ with you, until His final return when peace will reign forever.

May we join together in this prayer for those who are hurting around the globe:

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who weep, or work, or watch this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick and wounded, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering and broken hearted, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

"A Petition for Compline," adapted for a world in the midst of brokenness, from Phyllis Tickle's "The Divine Hours."

*Alicia*

## Mandatory Clergy Sexual Ethics Training

It is the policy of the Texas Annual Conference that all pastors under appointment attend "face to face" Sexual Ethics Training every four years. For those who were unable to attend the Fall trainings, two make-up events are scheduled in January. Please choose the one that best fits your schedule:

January 9, 2016, Longview area (10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)

January 23, 2016, Houston area (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

We will send the exact location as soon as that information is available. Again, every **pastor under appointment is REQUIRED to attend** this training every four years. Mark your calendars and plan to be there.

# District Leadership Training Event



**With Guest Speaker Jesse Brannen**

**Sunday, January 31, 2016 • 2:30-5:00 p.m.**

**Beaumont, Wesley UMC, 3810 N Major Dr.**

The SE District will kick off the year with a District Leadership Training Event. Our conference 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.

*January*  
**LEADERSHIP**  
**EVENTS**  
*for Laity and*  
**Clergy!**



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*Southeast District  
of the Texas Annual  
Conference, United  
Methodist Church*

## New Ministries for a New Generation:

**Discussing the Elephant in the Sanctuary**

**Lay and Clergy Event • Cost is \$10.00**

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**

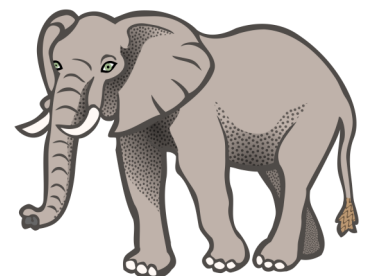
**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at The Woodlands UMC**

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](http://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](http://www.txcumc.org/newsdetail/1840810)

# Report Day is Coming

Thursday, January 7 \* 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Beaumont, Wesley UMC, Youth Center

**What is Report Day?** Report Day is the day churches submit their statistical data and outstanding apportionment payments for the completed year. This is important information in order to see and compare trends in the church, district, conference, and denomination.

**Who completes the information?** Typically the financial secretary and sometimes also the secretary complete the statistical forms. They will also need information from the pastor and ministry area leaders.

**Report Day**  
will be **Thursday,**  
**January 7, 2016.**

## Conference Apportionment News As of 10-31-2015

**Congratulations to these 20 churches who are 100% paid for 2015!**

Anahuac, St. James  
Anahuac, St. Paul  
Port Bolivar, Bolivar  
Beaumont, Forest Park  
Beaumont, Trinity  
Bridge City, St. Paul  
China  
Daisetta  
Devers  
Fannett, Faith UMC  
High Island, St Matthew  
Warren

Magnolia Springs  
Deweyville  
Nederland, First  
Orange, Faith  
Orange, Wesley  
Port Arthur, Barnes Memorial  
Sabine Pass  
Wallisville, Middleton Memorial

**More Information**  
- 12 *additional* churches are on pace to pay out 100% by the end of the year!

- 23 of our churches are behind in paying conference apportionments this year.  
- So far (83% of the year) our district is at 73% paid for 2015. This is equal to last year at this time.

**Aim for 100%!**



**Apportionment payments need to be received no later than December 10, 2015.**  
(Any payments after this date should be turned in at Report Day on January 7, 2016.)

### Reminder

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

- Worship Attendance
- Professions of Faith
- Hands On Mission

## District CLERGY FAMILY Christmas Party

Thursday, December 3 • District Parsonage  
5:00 p.m. Gathering • 5:30 p.m. Dinner

**This will be a fun event for clergy, their spouses, and children.**  
Holiday Casual Attire

RSVP by Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>  
tcolbert@txcumc.org • 409.833.9510



# Important District Events—Make Plans Now

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

**December 3—District Clergy Family Christmas Party,**  
5:00-8:00 pm, District Parsonage

**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

**February 27-28—Lay Servant Ministry Training,** Port  
Arthur, UM Temple

## Creating & Empowering Leaders

### 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 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](mailto:tcolbert@txcumc.org).

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

**Lay 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.



### 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)

### Lay Servant Ministry Training Event 2016

Lay Servant Ministry is about developing leaders and improving leadership skills for use in the local church. **All Laity are encouraged to attend!**

**Saturday, February 27, 9 am-4 pm AND Sunday, February 28, 2-5 pm**

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

**UM Temple, Port Arthur • COST \$30** (includes books and lunch)

**Courses—Local Lay Servant Basic Course**

Advanced Course: **Leading Worship**

Advanced Course: **Discovering Spiritual Gifts**

More Information and Registration Form Soon!

