



Cornerstones live on ... 5A



Wilderness Way ... 4A



Imagine No Malaria ... 8A

Appointment Changes Are Announced

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announce the following changes in clergy appointments:

- **Janice L. Baldwin** (elder in full connection) — from pastor at Ferris Heights United Methodist Church, Waxahachie, to incapacity leave, effective Feb. 1.
- **Andrew Decker** (elder in full connection) — from leave of absence/family to surrender of credentials, Par. 360.3, effective Dec. 10, 2010.
- **Edward D. George** (elder in full connection) — from senior chaplain at Texas Health Resources to associate at White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Southlake, effective Jan. 1.
- **Margaret Ann Holmes** (part-time local pastor) — from pastor of the Palo Pinto/Strawn charge in the Weatherford District to unappointed, effective Jan. 1.

• **Crystal L. Hughes** (full-time local pastor) — from First Hurst United Methodist Church to unappointed, effective Jan. 1.

• **Chansoon Lim** (elder in full connection in the Peninsular-Delaware Conference) will come to St. Luke United Methodist church in the Central Texas Conference Temple District, effective Jan. 1.

• **James N. Newton** (elder in full connection) — from Hugworks

| Continued on page 4A

Lay Speakers' 8th Annual Conference convenes Feb. 25-27 at Glen Lake

Each year the Lay Speaker Ministries offers an introduction to lay speaking and opportunities for lay persons to further their education and to fulfill requirements for continuing certification.

The Lay Speaker Annual Meeting prepares lay speakers for service with training courses and certification for areas of ministry such as leading meetings, prayers and study programs, assisting in worship services and providing support to care-giving ministries.

There are over 1,000 lay speakers in the Central Texas Conference who provide a wide range of services to their congregations, their districts and the conference.

All interested lay persons are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship, spiritual renewal and the various courses:

- Basic Lay Speaking Ministries: The Basic Course
- Lay Speakers Cultivate Christian Community
- Change the World
- Lay Pastoral Care Giving
- Lay Speakers Are Accountable Disciples
- Lay Speakers Can Lead in Evangelism
- Lay Speakers Preach
- Lay Speakers Lead in Prayer
- Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts

- Dancing with Words
- Lay Speakers Growth Spiritually Through Daily Discipline
- Certified Lay Ministry Part 1 (a minimum two-year study program)
- Certified Lay Ministry Part 2

While an integral part of the Central Texas Conference Board of Laity, Lay Speaking Ministries relates also to the Witness Council by collaborating with other ministries in strengthening evangelistic efforts for sharing personal and congregations' stories of Christian experience, faith and service.



A downloadable flyer and more information on each of the courses, registration and accommodations is available on the conference website at www.ctcumc.org. Click on "Ministries" on the menu bar and then select "Lay Speakers."

Please direct questions to Melissa Osborne at oz2@txol.net.

Conference treasurer recaps year-end financial picture

BY REV. HARVEY OZMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUNCIL ON
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Conference Council on Finance & Administration met Jan. 12 and received the 2010 year-end giving report.

Apportionments received was \$10,760,980 or 93.14 percent of budget. In dollars, this is \$792,632

short of the full budget amount.

Compared to 2009, the percentage of budget receipts was down 2.4 percent.

CFA does recognize with great appreciation the 268 local churches that met their connectional giving commitment 100 percent. We had 36 churches unable to remit the connectional giving at that level.

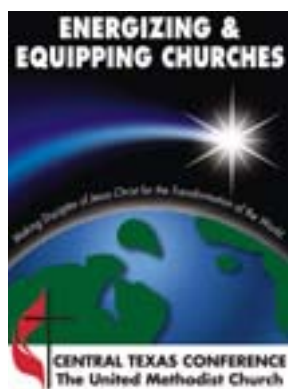
Since our connectional giving

was at this lower level in 2010, our conference will be unable to contribute General Church apportionments. This is only the second time in the last 12 years we have been unable to fulfill that obligation. We will remit 93.13 percent of the General Church apportionments for the 2010 calendar year.

A word of special thanks is extended to the Conference Homes for Retired Ministers. They blessed

the conference with a \$50,000 gift enabling us to care for our retiree medical obligation in full.

Your have already read in a previous *E-Link* that several congregations are beginning 2011 on stronger financial footing. In fact, several have already paid 100 percent of their 2011 apportionments. We trust that every pastor and every local church will do their best in 2011.



the
Central Link

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Editor

Carolyn E. Stephens,
Associate Director for Mission Ministries
& Director of Communications
carolyn@ctcumc.org

Bishop

Bishop Michael Lowry
bishop@ctcumc.org

Mission Ministries

Dr. Georgia Adamson,
Assistant to Bishop/Executive Director
georgia@ctcumc.org

Circulation/Subscriptions

Susan Briles
susan@ctcumc.org

Production/Publishing

UMR Communications Inc.,
Dallas, Texas

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For circulation and/or advertising policy, contact Susan Briles 817. 877. 5222, 800.460.8622 or susan@ctcumc.org. Subscriptions: \$20/year.

Central Texas Conference
464 Bailey Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76107-2153
817.877.5222, 800.460.8622
Conference Website:
www.ctcumc.org

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The Wilderness Way

BY BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY

50.

In the *Wilderness Way* #48, I began a series of writing on the subject of discipleship. As I was stated on a number of occasions, I was deeply impressed on coming to the Central Texas Conference by the strong stated conviction of conference leaders to adhere to the United Methodist Church's mission as our own. "Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Together, we deeply desire to live the Great Commission of Christ – to make disciples.

I intentionally repeat a previously shared comment from a friend that discipleship "is not complicated but it is illusive." By way of illustration you may recall the story of an old Dunkard Christian (a small denominational branch of German pietism) who was accosted by a young ardent evangelist.

The young man asked, demanded, "Are you saved?" The older Dunkard Christian gentleman thought for a moment, took out a piece of paper and began writing some names and contact numbers down. "Here," he said, handing the list to the younger evangelist, "these are the names of some family, friends and business associates. You'd best ask them. I could tell you anything."

To be carefully sure, salvation is accomplished by Christ alone. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) Yet if we are saved by grace through the merits of Christ, discipleship is surely its necessary outgrowth. (Dallas Willard is fond of reminding people that "grace is opposed to earning, but not to effort.")¹

A part of Methodism's true theological genius is its insistence on integrating in a dynamic synergism God's sovereign grace and human participation in both social and personal holiness. Thus, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12b-13)

From such biblical and theological foundation making disciples thrusts us both as individuals and as a church back into the business of spiritual formation. A part of the original Methodist genius was in its small group development (called Class Meeting) for spiritual formation. The recently adopted *Call to Action Report* highlights small groups for spiritual formation as one of the four key components to a vital congregation. (More, much more on this later in other articles.)

All too often we take such calls to action as something to recommend to others. There is truth here. Every church that claims to be Christian will be strengthened by growth in small groups for spiritual formation. But calling on others puts the proverbial cart

before the horse. The first person I need to work on is myself! I need to be formed in Christ as a continual project. I love the way Colossians puts it: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27) We must begin with ourselves.

Dallas Willard in his great classic *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God* writes: "Who teaches you? Whose disciple are you? Honestly. One thing is sure: You are somebody's disciple." (p. 271) Willard goes on to comment, "It is one of the major transitions of life to recognize who has taught us, mastered us, and then to evaluate the results in us of their teaching."² (Robert Quinn's marvelously insightful secular business book *Deep Change* argues persuasively this same essential insight. Quinn would add, and I concur, that we face the choice between deep change or slow death.)

A second cardinal insight which must be embraced is the value of training over trying. If we are called upon to run a marathon, teach a class or building a house, mere trying doesn't get us very far. We need to be trained to do all three. Training teaches us the skills, the abilities, and techniques to accomplish our desired goal. Furthermore training gets us in "shape" to accomplish the feat. Great intent alone won't get us very far.

A friend of mine recalls how his grandmother was always cautioning members of the family to remember their "habits." By habits, she meant the patterns of behavior disciples or rituals or ingrained practices that became a simple part of our "muscle memory." Such habits one does not need to think about, one simply does them. They are ingrained to who we are. These habits are the essence of truly living with and walking with Christ. There are "habits" of the heart more than of the mind (through the mind surely endorses them!).

Spiritual formation is foundational (play on words intended) to make disciples. We must begin with the self and our church. It is advanced by training over trying. Small groups for support, encouragement and accountability are essential. This is the path to the abundant life Christ offers, for ourselves, our loved ones, our church and our hungry world. More next time.

- 1 Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*, p. 76
- 2 Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*, p. 272



Clergy appointment changes announced | Continued from page 1A

extension ministry to retired status, effective Jan. 31.

- Sharon Robertson (elder in full connection) — from pastor of the Hico/Pleasant Hill charge to Hico United Methodist Church, effective Jan. 1. The Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church has been closed.

- Jayme D. Palady (part-time local pastor) — from supply pastor to half-time pastor at Winters United Methodist Church, effective, Jan. 1.

- Jong-nam Song (elder in full connection in the Central Texas Conference) will go to the Delaware Korean United Methodist Church

in Wilmington (Peninsula-Delaware Conference), effective Jan. 1.

- Beverly Tye (elder in full connection) — from pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church (Mid-Cities District) to retired status, effective Feb. 1.

February is
Church Growth
SHARES Month

look for new
opportunities
in the next issue

Preserving Our History

Take a stroll through Methodist history

By CAROLYN STEPHENS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS &
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MISSION MINISTRIES

Where does the cornerstone go when a church closes? Some are lost forever to the denomination.

But a precious few find a happy resting place at a serene little garden on the Texas Wesleyan University campus in Fort Worth.

The Central Texas Conference created the Methodist Cornerstone Garden in 2008 with the help of Jean Traster and Carol Roszell, immediate past and current conference archivists, and Joan S. Canty, interim vice president for University Advancement at Texas Wesleyan.

In September 2008, they dedicated a little corner plot just off the University Mall area at Texas Wesleyan, south of the Schollmaier Science and Technology Center and adjacent to the McFadden Science Center.

The 400-pound Missouri Avenue M.E. Church South cornerstone was among the most challenging to place because of its block-like structure and weight. But this massive piece of marble is far more than a cold stone. It carries the dramatic story of a community in socio-economic and racial transition.

The Missouri Avenue church began 1895 as an all-white congregation. It was a time of racial division, so when the neighborhood became racially blended, the congregation moved on to form Morningside, which later transitioned to a predominantly black congregation. The earlier congregation stayed there just 11 years before moving on to Forest Hill.

Today, that proud Missouri Avenue structure houses the St. Andrews United Methodist Church, a congregation that takes great pride in its history and tradition. Several years ago, they produced an extensive church history book that captures that pride in their church and the architecturally significant structure. St. Andrews was organized in 1888 in the UBF Hall on Fort Worth's downtown Calhoun Street, went to several other locations before settling in 1950 at the old Missouri Avenue church.

The St. John's Methodist Church cornerstone says "Organized 1945, This Unit Erected 1962," but that is



Ready to place cornerstones for the new garden are, l-r, Dave Wilson, Archivists Carol Roszell and Jean Traster, and Richard Squyers.



Above, Richard Squyers places a cornerstone. Below, Joan Canty and Jean Traster watch as the heavy stones are moved into the garden.



Dave Wilson records historical notes from the St. John's Methodist Church cornerstone moving the stone to its next resting place.



just the beginning of their story.

St. John's went on to merge with Trinity Methodist Church and later became Central United Methodist Church in Waco. Today, Central has grown to an active 1,300-member congregation that pro-actively addresses the needs of their burgeoning community, even establishing a school to help the parents working in the surrounding businesses.

One cornerstone presented a mystery to Archivists Roszell and Traster. It read simply "METHODIST CHURCH, MAY 1940, M.L. NELSON, PASTOR."

After much research, and some agreement from Temple District Superintendent Rankin Koch, it was determined the stone refers to the old Rockwood Church in the Brownwood District, Coleman County. The church was "abandoned and sold in 1990," according to the Central Texas Conference Journal of that year.

Another cornerstone reminds us that not every "ministry" was a steeple-type church. It reads: CHARTER MEMBERS, METHODIST RIVER OAKS APARTMENT INC., indicating an apartment building which was founded in the 1960s by the segregated West Texas Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. This was in the Waco area, which later became the Central Texas Conference's Waco District. Listed as chairman was Rev. C.D. Owens who served as

superintendent in the Waco area from 1958 to 1964.

According to Roszell, the *United Methodist Book of Discipline* requires a closing church to remove and preserve their pieces, but that does not always happen. Paragraph 2548.3 states that "the trustees must remove, insofar as reasonably possible, all Christian and church insignia and symbols from such property." Paragraph 2548.4 states that "all the deeds, records and other official and legal papers, including the contents of the cornerstone ... shall be collected by the district superintendent." However, some are lost to the denomination and others remain in place when the church building is sold and goes on to serve the needs of another faith group.

When was the last time you noticed your church's cornerstone? And what sort of history does it capture in its message?



Conference Calendar

January:

- 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 21-22: Transforming Men for Christ Conference at New World UMC, Arlington
- 22: CTCYM Advisory Board meeting at First UMC Hillsboro
- 22: CTCYM Group Leader Training
- 23-25: UMW Legislative Event in Austin
- 25: Conference Board of Trustees at Conference Center
- 27: Conference Board of Pensions meeting at Conference Center
- 29/30: "How to Volunteer Like a Pro" training events (2 locations):
29 at Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth
30 at Georgetown First UMC

February:

- 1-2: Clergy Time Apart at Summers Mill Retreat Center
- 1: Deadline for resolutions to conference secretary
- 1: Deadline for recommendation to Rules Committee
- 3: Conferencewide Mission InSite Training at First Hurst UMC
- 5: UMW Charter for Racial Justice event/Sing A Rainbow at First Burleson UMC
- 7-8: Residency CE Event (required for all first and second-year residents) at Stillwater Lodge, Glen Rose
- 8: Equitable Compensation meeting at Conference Center
- 9: Extended Cabinet

For the latest updates on the conference and youth calendars, visit regularly www.ctcumc.org

Imagine No Malaria

Conference, churches ramp up life-saving efforts

United Methodists worldwide are joining together to Imagine No Malaria.

Imagine No Malaria is a comprehensive approach to creating a sustainable victory over malaria. This commitment will expand prevention activities, strengthen health delivery systems and train health care workers to effectively treat the disease.

We have all supported malaria prevention by raising nearly \$8 million to send life-saving bednets to Africa. This has been an enormous accomplishment and prevention remains an important part of our church's involvement in Imagine No Malaria. Nets reduce malaria, but they cannot eliminate

it — more is needed!

Together, we will overcome a preventable disease and save millions of lives.

In the coming weeks, churches in our districts will have opportunities to learn more about this ministry and how to engage our congregations in this scaled-up effort. We are asking pastors — and especially mission volunteers — from each church to attend a district workshop. The goal is to have 10 representatives from every congregation come together to Imagine No Malaria.

Several programs have already been presented, but feel free to attend any that fit your schedule.



RSVP to the appropriate district office to let them know you feel called by Christ to aid your brothers and sisters in need, and attend that district meeting.

- Saturday, Jan. 22, from 9:30-11 a.m. at First UMC, Corsicana
- Saturday, Jan. 22, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at First UMC, Mansfield
- Sunday, Jan. 23, from

3-4:30 p.m. at First UMC, Brownwood

- Saturday, Jan. 29, Weatherford (details to be announced)

- Sunday, Jan. 30, from 7-8:30 p.m. at First UMC, Fort Worth

- Monday, Jan. 31, from 7-8:30 p.m. at location to be announced.

Programs have already been held in Salado (Temple District) and Waco (Waco District).

Jeremy Kaspar, field coordinator for Imagine No Malaria, will be joining the group at each session. Jeremy joins us from United Methodist Communications in

Nashville, TN. Over the next few months, he will be reaching out to you to share more about the Imagine No Malaria ministry and to help our conference take our efforts to the next level.

It's time that as a conference we take the next step to Imagine No Malaria.

As Christians, we are called to minister to the least among us, and as Wesleyans we are called to do all we can, in all the places we can, to all the people we can. Please prayerfully consider your participation in the Imagine No Malaria effort.

Together, we can accomplish amazing things!

Perkins School of Theology hosts annual Ministers Week Feb. 7-9

Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University will host Ministers Week Feb. 7-9 at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center on the S the campus in Dallas.

“What’s a Christian to Do? — Thinking Faithfully About War and Peace in Troubled Times” is the theme for this year’s gathering with the following presentations.

- Joseph L. Allen, Professor Emeritus of Ethics at Perkins, will present the opening lecture, “Onward, Christian Soldiers? Christian Thinking on War and Peace.”
- Miguel de La Torre, Professor of Social Ethics at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, will present the Barton Lecture, “The Consequences of U.S. Wars in Latin America for Hispanics.”
- Nicole L. Johnson, Assistant Professor, Philosophy & Religious Studies at the University of Mount Union in Ohio, will present the Women’s Lecture, “Ware, Nonviolence and Methodist Doctrine.”
- Laura J. Bender, Command Chaplain, USS New York, will present the Martin Lecture, “Military Ministry: Religion, Conflict, and the Realities of War.”

- Robin W. Lovin, Cary Maguire University Professor of Ethics at SMU, will present the Faculty Lecture, “Shaping the Emerging Global Order: Christianity, War, and the Nation-State.”

- The Fondren Lectures, “Dialogues on War and Peace,” featuring four eminent theologians, including:

- J. Philip Wogaman, Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

- Glen Harold Strassen, Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in California

- D. Stephen Long, Professor of systematic Theology of Marquette university in Milwaukee, Wisc.

- Kevin M. Carnahan, Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religion at Central Methodist University in Missouri.

Registration, pricing, event details and lodging information are available at smu.edu/perkins/publicprograms. For additional information, call 214-768-2251 or email AdvanceMinistry@smu.edu.

Feb. 1 is deadline to submit rules recommendations, conference resolutions

Feb. 1 is the deadline to submit recommendations to the Conference Committee on Rules, Policies and Guidelines regarding changes to the Standing Rules, and to submit resolutions to the Conference Secretary.

Please remember that, per a motion approved at the 2008 Annual Conference, a statement of rationale must be included with the resolution clarifying the author’s intent.

Send all recommendation and resolutions to Rev. Harvey Ozmer at harvey@ctcunc.org.

First Ennis to celebrate 60-year diamond Jubilee

On Jan. 30, 2011, the members and friends of First United Methodist Church of Ennis will celebrate 60 years of worship in their current sanctuary with Bishop Mike Lowry bringing the message.

There will be one worship service that day at 11 a.m., followed by a pot luck dinner. There will be displays of the church’s archives and history from classes and various groups in the church, a token memories for those attending and time for visiting and fellowship.

Visitors are invited to join in the celebration with a history that goes back more than 60 years.

In 1872 two men, both Methodists, arrive in Ennis. They opened a store in a small wooden building on the corner of what is now known as West Ennis Avenue and South Main Street.

No Methodist church had been established in Ennis so they offered their store for a place to worship on Sunday mornings.

In 1875, a Methodist church was organized and the services were held in an old school house on the corner of west Milam and South Dallas Streets. Three years later, lots were purchased in the 300 block of South Dallas Street and the first building was constructed with a bell from Germany placed in the tower where it called people to worship for many years.

On Sept. 27, 1949, the ground was broken for the current church building. The bell, purchased in Germany, was moved to the new building and continues to call people to worship today. Bishop William C. Martin preached the first sermon in this new sanctuary on Jan. 28, 1951.

Developing Hispanic-Latino Ministries

The Lay Missioner and Pastor/Mentor Training for Developing Hispanic-Latino Ministry — Module 1 (bilingual) will be held March 13-18 at Perkins School of Theology’s Prothro Hall in Dallas.

This training is for laypersons and their pastors/mentors who wish

to participate in Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

Module 1 training is an integral part of the national plan for Hispanic ministry and provides participants with the experience of practical curriculum and guidelines for use in the development of

ministries with Hispanics/Latinos.

The contact for more details and to register is Cristina Uranga in the Mexican American office at curanga@smu.edu or 214-768-2265.