



Imagine No Malaria



Good neighbors ... 5A



Jump start on INM ... 5A

2010 Annual Conference will celebrate 29 for commissioning and ordination

In keeping with Methodist tradition, the Conference Board of Ministry will recommend approval at the Central Texas Annual Conference June 6-9 in Fort Worth for 29 persons for ministry positions.

The board will present 15 candidates for ordination as elders in full connection, six as deacons in full connection, three as candidates for commissioning as probationary elders, two as probationary deacons, one for associate membership, and one transferring to full connection from another denomination.

Service of Ordination

Always a highlight of Annual Conference is the service of ordination and commissioning which will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, at First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth with Rev. Jessica Moffatt Seay, senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Ardmore, Okla., preaching.

It is through the ordination that The United Methodist church grants worthy candidates the approval of the denomination to serve as ordained ministers and the authority to carry out those acts which are specifically reserved to the clergy.

The 2008 *Book of Discipline* (§303.2) states: "Ordination is fulfilled in leadership of the people of God through ministries of

Service, Word, Sacrament, and Order ... Those whose leadership in service includes preaching and teaching the Word of God, administration of the sacraments, ordering the Church for its mission and service, and administration of the *Discipline* of the Church are ordained as elders."

Ordinands for Elder in Full Connection

David Michael Alexander
Schools: Texas A&M & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: Cleburne First UMC
Presently Serving: First UMC, Mansfield

Bryan Thomas Bellamy
Schools: University of Texas-Arlington & Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Home Church: Genesis UMC
Presently Serving: Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth

Gladys Childs
Schools: Ouachita Baptist University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary/Brite Divinity School
Home Church: LifePoint UMC
Presently Serving: Texas Wesleyan University faculty

Beth Ann Evers
Schools: Northern Illinois University



David M. Alexander



Julie Ann Allen



Brenda Beaver



Bryan Bellamy



Gladys Childs



Beth Evers



Sheila Fiorella



Jay Frazee

& Perkins School of Theology
Home Church: Ashkum UMC
Presently Serving: Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth

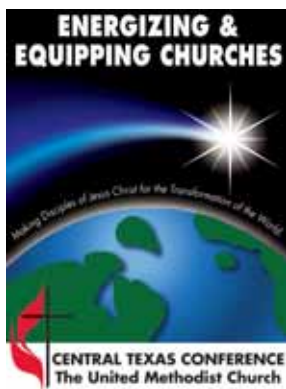
Sheila Fiorella
Schools: The University of Akron & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: St. Barnabas UMC

Presently Serving: New Day UMC

Jay L. Frazee
Schools: Stephen F. Austin State University & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: Central UMC, Waco
Presently Serving: First UMC, Wortham/Kirvin

Paul N. Gravley
Schools: Southwestern University & Perkins School of Theology
Home Church: White's Chapel UMC
Presently Serving: Discovery UMC, Hutto

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the Central Link

An edition of
The United Methodist
Reporter
May 14, 2010
Volume 157 | Number 02

Central Link, an edition of *The United Methodist Reporter*, is the official publication of the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official United Methodist positions. The Central Texas Conference does not endorse any product or service advertised.

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The mission of *Central Link* edition of *The United Methodist Reporter* is to inform, enlighten, inspire and equip leaders for mission and ministry in our connectional church.

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The *Central Link* edition is published every other week and is the official publication of the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107-2153.



The Wilderness Way

BY BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY

35. There is a story that has circulated for a number of years. I do not know who the original attribution goes to, but it is a telling story which is instructive as we travel through the theological wilderness.

“You probably do not remember the name Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin. During his day he was as powerful a man as there was on earth. A Russian Communist leader, he took part in the Bolshevik Revolution 1917, was editor of the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* (which by the way means truth), and was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read today. There is a story told about a journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930 to address a huge assembly on the subject of atheism.

“Addressing the crowd he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity hurling insult, argument, and proof against it.

“An hour later he was finished. He looked out a what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of men’s faith. ‘Are there any questions?’ Bukharin demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium but then one man approached the platform and mounted the lectern standing near the communist leader. He surveyed the crowd first to the left, then to the right. Finally, he shouted the ancient greeting known well in the Russian Orthodox Church: ‘CHRIST IS RISEN!’ En masse, the crowd arose as one man and the response came crashing like the sound of thunder: ‘HE IS RISEN INDEED!’”

This story resonates so well with us because it brings us back to the heart of the Christian gospel. As the Apostle Paul so succinctly put it: “When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”¹ Vague notions of God will not do. Neither will fuzzy intonations of ascending the heights into feel-good synchronistic spirituality. We must once again firmly plant the flag of our faith. We encounter God in Christ reconciling the world. It is the forgotten ways that transcend the tired categories of liberal and conservative that we must once again fully and boldly embrace.

“For authentic missional Christianity, Jesus the Messiah plays an *absolutely* central role. Our identity as a movement, as well as our destiny as a people, is inextricably linked to Jesus — the Second Person of the Trinity. In fact, our connection to God is only through the Mediator — Jesus is ‘the Way’; no one comes to the Father except through him (John 14:6). That is what makes us distinctly *Christ-ian*.

At its very heart, Christianity is therefore a messianic movement, one that seeks to consistently embody the life, spirituality, and mission of its Founder. We have made it so many other things, but this is its utter

simplicity. Discipleship, becoming like Jesus our Lord and Founder, lies at the epicenter of the church’s task. It means that Christology must define all that we do and say.”²



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great German Christian martyr of World War II, anchored his critique of Christianity and empire worship in the conviction of Christ the Center. Christ, he would write, “is not only the head of the community but also the community itself.”³ John Stott offering the *London Lectures in Contemporary Christianity* in 2000 published them under the title *The Incomparable Christ*. At the close of the introduction, he states his hope and prayer “that many readers will acknowledge Jesus Christ as the proper object of our worship, witness and hope and as deserving the description *incomparable*. For he has neither rivals nor peers.”⁴

We will make our way through the spiritual wilderness of our time only in full embrace of Christ as Lord and Savior. In a grace-full and graciously uncompromised embrace of Christ lies the path to a faithful and fruitful future or not at all. There is much to unpack here. Only as we with Thomas and the others boldly proclaim, “my Lord and my God,”⁵ will we make our way through the wilderness. Such a path will on multiple levels help us integrate both orthodoxy and orthopraxis (right think and right living). It will at minimum involve a rediscovery of the ancient truths and Trinitarian formula found in the great ancient Ecumenical Councils (Nicene, etc.). It will at a minimum both norm and trump our allegiance to party, state and race. It will at a minimum involve a reintegration of genuine spirituality with the radical practice of justice and evangelism.

There is more to be said, so much more, but for now let this be where we stand. Let Christ be the leader on our march through the wilderness. “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.”⁶

1 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

2 Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways*, p. 94

3 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Christ the Center*, p. 61

4 John R. Stott, *The Incomparable Christ*, p. 13

5 John 20:28

6 Hebrews 1:1-3a

**Join the worldwide fight to stamp
out malaria by 2015!**
**Give to the Imagine No Malaria Annual Conference
offering and help our conference fulfill its goal
of \$1 per member — a total of \$134,400**



FAITH IN ACTION

Changing the World — all over Central Texas

Davis Memorial UMC - being neighborly in NRH

Davis Memorial United Methodist Church in North Richland Hills supported the denomination's Change the World campaign April 24-25 by partnering with Mid-Cities Care Corps in the Great Day of Caring.

Members hit the community streets at 8 o'clock Sunday morning helping neighbors in need by mowing yards, trimming trees and bushes, weeding, painting and doing minor home repairs.

"We believe that 'church' is outside the building and helping the children of God in our community is a great alternative style of worship that pleases God," share member Trisha Baker.

Deb Brown, the project coordinator said, "It was an honor to have the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of our senior neighbors and friends."



At left, Wayne Brannon and David Gray repair a vacuum cleaner for a neighbor of Davis Memorial UMC.

Below (l-r): Ron Backman repairs windows for a client, Kelsey McDonough and Margaret Bachman paint windows, and client Ms. Lorraine visits with Davis Memorial's Mike Askew and Michele Pettyjohn. (Photos by Patricia Baker)



Mansfield First UMC — brings *Stop Hunger Now* here!

International hunger relief organization Stop Hunger Now has joined forces with The United Methodist Church to bring Stop Hunger Now's successful volunteer food packaging program to Mansfield.

The launching of the event will take place at First United Methodist Church of Mansfield on Saturday, June 5. Volunteers of all ages will package over 100,000 meals for hungry children in developing

countries and collect food for local families in need.

"We selected the National Hunger Awareness Day to launch this partnership as a way for our community to help end hunger worldwide," said Joan Boatman, Stop Hunger Now's program coordinator in Mansfield.

"We're excited to welcome volunteers to experience the program for themselves, and we invite businesses, churches and other

organizations to get involved and learn how we can end hunger in our lifetime."

Through Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program, volunteers package highly nutritional, dehydrated rice and soy meals to feed the world's most impoverished. These life-saving meals combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, flavoring and a mixture of 21 vitamins and minerals into reasonable servings of

six. The meals are easy to transport, have a long self life and cost only 25 cents per meal to create. All costs are covered by donations.

Individuals or groups who want to get involved should contact Amy Vanpool at amyv@firstmethodistmansfield.org. For information about Stop Hunger Now, visit their website at info@stophungernow.org.

Red Oak UMC — gets early start on *Imagine No Malaria* offering

Change the World got an early start at Red Oak First United Methodist Church as well as the Imagine No Malaria conference offering.

"Beginning Sunday, Feb. 21st, we asked each person to commit one dollar a week that they would bring to the altar during our time of commitment at the end of the worship service," explained Rev. Mara Bailey, assistant pastor.

Members didn't just commit the dollar, as they came forward they spent time in prayer at the altar for the brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering from malaria.

"We have done this for 10 weeks," states Bailey, "concluding our collection on Sunday, April 25th."



Conference Calendar

- May**
- 14-16: Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lakeview Camp & Conference Center
 - 17: Mid-Cities District Conference at Richland Hills UMC
 - 18: Central Texas Methodist Foundation meeting at Conference Center
 - 18: Fort Worth District Conference at Edge Park UMC, Fort Worth
 - 18: Temple District Conference at Temple First UMC
 - 20: Temple District Committee on Church Location & Building
 - 20: Waco District Conference at Cogdell UMC, Waco
 - 20: Waxahachie District Conference at Waxahachie First UMC
 - 24: Brownwood District Conference at Comanche UMC
 - 25: Weatherford District Conference at Weatherford First UMC
 - 31: Conference Center closed in observance of Memorial Day
- June**
- 6-9: Annual Conference at Fort Worth First UMC & Will Rogers Memorial Center
 - 6: Youth Mission Celebration & Commissioning at Fort Worth First UMC
 - 8: United Methodist Women's Annual Luncheon at Will Rogers Memorial Center
 - 13-19: CTCYM Senior High and Combination mission trips

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

29 to be recognized for new positions in ministry | Continued from page 1A

James Brady Johnston
Schools: University of Mary Hardin Baylor & Austin Pres-byterian Theological Seminary
Home Church: Salado UMC
Presently Serving: Bethesda UMC, Weatherford

Kaiya Rae Kershaw
Schools: University of Texas-Arlington & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: St. Andrew's UMC, Arlington
Presently Serving: First UMC, Colleyville

Spencer Kory Koch
Schools: Texas A&M & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: First UMC, Colleyville
Presently Serving: Springtown UMC

Denise Allen Luper
Schools: University of Texas-Arlington & Brite School of Divinity
Home Church: St. John the Apostle, Arlington
Presently Serving: First UMC, Weatherford

Joseph Kenneth Nader
Schools: Baylor University & Asbury Theological Seminary
Home Church: Arborlawn UMC
Presently Serving: UTA Wesley Foundation

Judy Mehaffey Richmond
Schools: Texas Wesleyan University & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: Handley UMC
Presently Serving: First UMC, Watauga

Denise E. Rogers
Schools: Tarleton State University & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: King Memorial UMC, Whitney
Presently Serving: Robinson Drive UMC

Jimmy C. Sansom
Schools: Northwood University & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: St. Paul UMC, Hurst
Presently Serving: Sparks Memorial UMC, Waco

Ginger James Watson
Schools: University of Texas-Austin & Perkins School of Theology
Home Church: Arlington Heights UMC
Presently Serving: Genesis UMC

Ordinands for Deacon in Full Connection
Julie Ann Allen
Schools: Diego State University &

Brite Divinity School
Presently Serving: Closer Walk Ministry

Brenda G. Beaver
Schools: Louisiana Baptist College & Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Home Church: Trinity UMC, Arlington
Presently Serving: Trinity UMC, Arlington

Donna D. McKee
Schools: Texas Wesleyan University, Oklahoma University & Brite Divinity School
Presently Serving: Arlington Heights UMC, Fort Worth

Deborah Page Hines
Schools: University of Texas, Pan American Seminary & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: First UMC, Fort Worth
Presently Serving: First Street Mission/First UMC Fort Worth

Gordon Cheney Johnson
Schools: University of North Texas & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: New World UMC
Presently Serving: New World UMC

LilliAnn "Penny" Yaites
Schools: Emporia State University & Brite Divinity School
Home Church: Campus Drive UMC
Presently Serving: Restorative Justice Center, Fort Worth

Commissioning as Provisional Elders
Leah Suzanne Hidde-Gregory
Schools: Perkins School of Theology
Presently Serving: Frost UMC

William Stephen "Steve" Moss
Schools: Perkins School of Theology
Presently Serving: First UMC Corsicana

Sandralyn Lou Pierce
Schools: University of North Texas & Perkins School of Theology
Presently Serving: Blooming Grove/Dresden UMCs

Commissioning as Provisional Deacon
Amy Tate-Almy
Schools: Brite Divinity School
Presently Serving: Extension Ministry-Financial Counseling

Kay Lynn Lancaster
Schools: Texas Wesley University, University of North Texas & Brite Divinity School
Presently Serving: First Arlington UMC



Paul Gravley



Leah Hidde-Gregory



Page Hines



Gordon Johnson



Brady Johnston



Kaiya Kershaw



Mike Kerzee



Kory Koch



Kay Lancaster



Denise Luper



Joseph Nader



Sandralyn Pierce



Judy Richmond



Denise Rogers



Jimmy Sansom



Steve Moss



Amy Tate-Almy



Andy Tyler



Ginger Watson



Penny Yaites

Associate Membership
James Michael "Mike" Kerzee
Presently Serving: First UMC Coleman/Novice UMC

Full Connection on Recognition of Orders
Andrews Mills "Andy" Tyler
Schools: Texas Tech University, &

Baptist Theological Seminary/Drew Theological Seminary
Presently Serving: Newcastle/Jean UMCs