



Peacemaker Quilters ... 5A



Adult Disciples ... 5A



Fall fundraiser listing ... 8A



Annual fall fundraisers spark creativity and fund missions

QUILTS, quilts and more quilts. They are generally the biggest attractions at most local churches' annual fall fundraising events. Over the 100-plus years that churches in Central Texas have been raising funds for missions and special ministries, members have been gathering to work on quilts, crafts and treasures from the kitchen.

It's an American tradition based on the concept of the "Lord's acre" – part of each year's fall harvest would be designated for the Lord's work. Patchwork quilts created over the year were added to that "harvest." Some quilts are warm and practical and some are works of art to be hung on walls, but they all reflect the history of American settlers and early church developers.

The Peacemaker Quilters of Martin United Methodist Church in Bedford is just such a group. Their story is told by Linda Robinson on page 5, and the listing of annual fall church fundraisers across the conference area begins on page 8.

You don't have to be a member to attend any of the fall church festivals – just join in the fun of the day and maybe you'll find a quilt, craft item or baked goods that would delight your family or friends.

For the past 12 years, the Peacemaker Quilters handiwork has been a major attraction and fundraiser at Martin United Methodist Church's annual Lord's Acre.

CTCYM extends Beyond Our Borders to support Water for Life

This morning, when we turned the tap to wet our toothbrushes and brush our teeth, the water flowed without us giving it a second thought. When we filled our glasses or bottles with water, tea or coffee, we never worried about whether the water was clean enough to drink.

For many people in Liberia, Africa, that is not the case. They walk miles, carrying heavy jugs,

just to find water clean and safe enough to drink.

This year, the Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission (CTCYM) has set out to help change that. On Sept. 25-26, CTCYM invites youth groups around the conference to reach Beyond Our Borders and raise \$16,500 for Water for Life, a project constructing wells to provide clean water and bring dignity of life to communities in

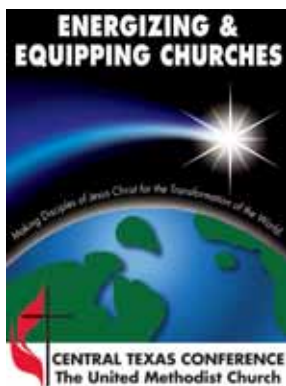
Liberia.

For the second year, CTCYM is organizing a concerted effort to raise funds for an international project. Participating youth groups will pick and implement a local fundraiser to raise money for this important project.

Water for Life is an Advance project with an annual financial goal of more than \$66,000. The long-term goal is that more than

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The Wilderness Way

By BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY

43.

When Jesus came teaching among us, he often told stories. Narrative stories can capture the essence of who we are or are to be in striking ways. For a people disputing the nature of God's relationship with sinners, Jesus told the story of the prodigal son. For those questioning what it means to love thy neighbor, the Lord shared the tale of a good Samaritan. The teaching was lifted up in stories (parables).

A significant part of our transformation effort as we seek to live into this post-Christendom wilderness will be our recovery of the stories of the saints who have gone before us. Every church is filled with stories of the biographies of grace. Consider a few from our past.

One of my heroes is a woman named "Hild," (sometimes you will see it spelled with an "a" as "Hilda," but I think the right spelling is "Hild") who was the Abbess of Whitby Abbey. She helped Christianize the North Umbria (today northeastern England) when it was a battleground between Druids and Christians. The Druids weren't nice people who sat around the campfire humming. According to ancient Roman record, they may have been engaged in human sacrifice. While they honored nature, they were not tree hugging lovers.

Hild was of a royal family and gave up her claim to status and riches to convert a hostile and violent people to Christianity. Other great Christians (including Caedmon who was the original contemporary musical artist) came from Whitby Abbey because of this woman's courageous faith. She is our history. One branch of my family came to America from Barnard Castle near Whitby Abbey.

About four years ago in Leesville, Texas, we dedicated a plaque in memory of Alejo Hernandez. He was the first person of Mexican-American descent to be ordained a United Methodist clergyperson. He was "founder of the United Methodist mission work among the Mexicans." He died sharing the gospel as a young man. In other words, he laid his life on the line so that your church and my church might be here. It says in a history of him that he was a "burning bush and the first to preach the gospel among the Mexicans in the manner done by the Methodists." His story is our history! Our history is of folks who gave their life to spread the gospel.

Another great story that is part of our history is the story of

Harry Hoosier. "I really believe he is one of the best preachers in the world," was the opinion of Thomas Coke, who, along with Francis Asbury, was one of American Methodism's first two bishops.



A freed slave, Harry Hoosier was instrumental in the spread of the gospel among people of all ethnicities. He was courageous in his witness and far more popular as a preacher than the bishops of his day! His story is our history! It is biography of grace and evidence of the movement of God among us.

If you want to transform your church, start talking about why your church came into being in the first place. Go look it up in your own histories; dig it out; talk to people.

When I was in college, after I was converted to Christ, I was at a Quaker school and with my college roommate was co-pastor of a little Friends (Quaker) Meeting. One member of the Meeting, Zona, had turned 100. At her birthday party, Zona told us the story of that little Quaker Meeting.

Rich Square Friends Meeting was part of the Underground Railroad. She remembers her father telling her as a young girl how he and the other men had stood around the smoking ruins of their meeting house when raiders had burned it down before the Civil War because it was a part of the Underground Railroad. They decided they weren't going to be burned out; they were going to rebuild right on the spot. With Zona, we looked at the gravestones. Her history is our story.

The old statement is just a historical fact that the Christian church is watered by the blood of martyrs (Tertullian). Tell the biographers of grace. One of the things I try to teach congregations is to spend a little less time on announcements in their newsletter. Spend time talking about the story of how someone in the congregations came to Christ, and where they've been closest to Christ in deeds of mercy and love and evangelism, etc. Help the congregation reclaim the stories of God in action today, as well as in the past. Reclaim your Christian identity.

CTCYM Water for Life | Continued from page 1A

50,000 residents in 40 communities will have access to safe and clean drinking water, thus reducing water-borne diseases and improving the health situation of residents.

Dependence on creeks, rivers and streams will be eliminated.

The Advance is an accountable, designated arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100 percent of each gift is used for its intended mission or ministry. All gifts to Advance projects made through your church count toward your church's annual giving.

Ask your youth leaders how you can support them in this effort. To learn more about this project and Water for Life, log on to ctcym.org and click "Beyond Our Borders."



Scratch Willie Nelson!

All we can say is "so sorry" to all the Willie Nelson fans who were looking forward to his appearance — along with his sister Bobbie — at the Central Texas Conference Centennial Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 23. According the Centennial Committee, Nelson's manager has withdrawn his appearance due to scheduling conflicts.

Several other performers are under consideration for the main stage and the new headliner will be named later this month. There will be two others stages that will have rotating talent with varying music styles from all over Central Texas. There will also be strolling entertainment, activities for the kids and, at the latest count, 208 churches and ministry organizations with historical display tables.

For tickets and other centennial information, visit www.ctcumc.org and look for the logo.

FAITH IN ACTION

Peacemaker Quilters use their skills to support ministries

By LINDA ROBINSON
MARTIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Martin Peacemaker Quilters was founded in the fall of 1998 with 17 members, three of whom are still active in the group. The Peace-makers are of all levels when it comes to quilting, but everyone is more than willing to help each other learn.

Projects for the group vary — bed quilts, wall hangings, table runners, tree skirts, coasters and pillows. We donate quilted items for Martin's Lord's Acre Festival every year.

A favorite quilt project was making T-shirt quilts using original designed T-shirts representing several Lord's Acre celebrations and other church events. A friendship quilt of Christmas Angels was a joint project of the Peacemakers that was auctioned at last year's Lord's Acre.

We actively participate in community service projects. We've used our sewing skills in making

neck pillows for soldiers being deployed to active duty from the DFW Airport. Each week, a team member takes the pillows to the troops as they leave in order to give them that extra touch of comfort and a reminder that they go with the prayers of those at home.

We sew baby blankets and knit and crochet newborn caps for both the county hospital in Fort Worth and the United Methodist Church's Hope Center in Riga, Latvia. Holiday bags made from fabrics and remnants are made and given to students at Midway Park Elementary School in nearby Euless.

Occasionally, someone will inherit or buy an unfinished quilt. For a fee, we assemble quilt tops with batting and lining in preparation for hand quilting. Any money earned is spent to purchase fabric and other materials used in our projects.

One project we may be called to work on is constructing a quilt for our Sunday School Department after the children create their own drawings on blocks of muslin.



Peacemaker Quilters (above) prepare for their Lord's Acre quilt making, and (below) sew comfort pillows for military troops being deployed.



Parenting Training for local church leaders set for Oct. 16

Train the trainer event prepares local church leaders for parenting training

In times like these, the church can offer to our parents and families a unique perspective and resources that can't be found in the secular world.

The Central Texas Conference Nurture Council's Marriage & Family Coordinators will offer such a unique opportunity to our

local church leaders in Marriage & Family Ministries on Saturday, Oct. 16, at First United Methodist Church in Burleson.

Experience a wide range of curriculum and training resources that your local church can access and use for educating, leading, providing resources and challenging

your parents and families.

In addition to the workshops, Kim Rocha of Tarrant County Alliance for Children will offer the Prevent Now Workshop on how to recognize, understand, report and prevent child abuse. This is a workshop that is available to our local churches, along with other helpful resources from Alliance for Children.

For a full listing of the workshops, go to www.ctcumc.org and select "Marriage and Family"

under the "Ministries menu.

The need is great within our families and in our local churches for support and resources to strengthen our ministries with children and families. Take this opportunity to sample some excellent curricula and network with others for whom this is a critical ministry to our families.

— Contributed by Rev. Karen Granderson, Conference Director of Christian Education



Adult Ministry/Discipleship

Adult Ministries in the Central Texas Conference got a boost during a recent brainstorming meeting. A group of dedicated, energetic and inspired leaders from local churches met Aug. 9 to share best practices and strategies for engaging adults in ministries that grow disciples.

Amy Vanpool of First United Methodist Church of Mansfield and Ramon Smith of Lighthouse Fellowship led the session by sharing their strategies and processes.

If you would like to be on the contact list for this group and receive information about future meetings or to offer input about your adult ministries to this group, please contact Rev. Karen Granderson at karen@ctcumc.org, 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622.



Conference Calendar

September

- 18: Board of Laity at Glen Lake Camp
- 18: UMVIM Team Leader Training at Round Rock First UMC
- 20: Extended Cabinet Leadership Training
- 20-21: Self-Care for Clergy at Stillwater Lodge, Glen Rose
- 21: Mid-Cities Clergy meeting at Colleyville UMC
- 23: Conference Board of Pension meeting at Conference Center
- 23: Waco District Pastors Meeting at McGregor UMC
- 24-26: GoodNEWS Weekend Program at Salado First UMC
- 25: CTCYM Beyond Our Borders fundraiser projects to help build six wells for Liberian communities in need of clean drinking water
- 25: UNIFY - a youth leadership and worship opportunity in multiple locations throughout the conference area
- 26: United Methodist Women Sunday
- 28: Conference Board of Ordained Ministry meeting, location to be announced
- 29: Mid-Cities Older Adult Luncheon to meet new District Superintendent Rev. Randy Wild at Arlington First UMC

Plan Ahead for:

- World Communion Sunday - Oct. 3
- Children's Sabbath - Oct. 8-10
- Laity Sunday - Oct. 17
- All Saints Day - Nov. 1

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

Annual Fall Fundraisers spark creativity, fund missions | Continued from page 1A

September 23 & 24

Killeen First UMC Cafe & Bazaar — lunch 11 am-1 pm (Thursday & Friday) • bazaar with baked goods, crafts • fried pie orders at 254-634-6363

September 25

Covington UMC Lord's Acre — open 8 am • BBQ lunch 11 am • auction 1 pm

Grace UMC, Fort Worth Pancake Breakfast/Garage Sale — 8 am-2 pm

Joshua First UMC 57th Annual Lord's Acre/Mission Fiesta! — 9:30 am-11:30 am • live auction at noon • fajita lunch 11 am-1 pm

Killeen First UMC Lord's Acre Estate Sale — 2-4 pm sale of items that will not be moved to the new church

Lake Shore UMC, Waco 4th Annual Fish Fry — 5-7 pm • all welcome but admission by advance ticket only - call 254-754-7333

New World UMC Fall Fest — 8 am-4 pm/children's activities 10 am-3 pm • breakfast, lunch, gift shop, auction, bake shop, entertainment

Red Oak First UMC Lord's Acre

Springtown First UMC Lord's Acre — opens 9:30 am • shops, handicrafts, baked goods, auction, live music • lunch at 11:30 am-1 pm • live auction at 1 pm

October 2

Comanche First UMC Harvest Festival — open 1 pm • kids carnival, mercantile, silent auction • BBQ meal 5 pm • live auction 6:30 pm

Everman UMC 46th Lord's Acre — 10 am bake shop and activities • 11 am-12:30 pm BBQ lunch • 1 pm live auction • nursery available

Ferris Heights UMC — 9 am-4 pm • country store, silent auction, live music • turkey meal at noon • live auction at 1 pm

Midlothian First UMC Lord's Acre — 9 am-3 pm • live/silent auctions, bookstore, crafts, garage sale, turkey dinner, pie contest, kids' activities

Oakdale UMC Lord's Acre

St. John's UMC, Georgetown Harvest Festival at Georgetown Community Center — Starts with 5K-Run • activities, crafts, auctions • turkey meal

October 9

Central UMC, Brownwood

Annual Fall Festival

Church of the Good Shepherd, Arlington 23rd Annual Fall Fun Fest — 9 am-3 pm • auctions, giant garage sale, food booths/bake sale, vendor booths • kids' activities include puppet shows, face painting, Arlington Fire Dept. truck

Crowley First UMC 51st Lord's Acre/Harvest Festival — 9 am-4 pm • kids area, country store, silent auction, BBQ lunch, live auction • tour of newly completed church addition

Edge Park UMC Fall Festival — 10 am-3 pm • silent auction, kids' activities, bake sale, crafts, books, flu shots • lunch 11 am-1 pm

Maypearl UMC Lord's Acre — BBQ lunch 11:30 am • auction 1 pm

Meridian First UMC Lord's Harvest — 10 am-2 pm homemade food, crafts, free Kids Kingdom area • Blue Light Special 10:30 am-12:30 pm • silent auction 10:45 am-11:45 am • BBQ lunch 11 am-12:30 pm • grand auction 12:30 pm

Poolville UMC Lord's Acre — 9 am-3 pm • baked/craft items, silent auction • live auction 1 pm • BBQ lunch

St. Luke UMC, Haltom City — 9 am-2 pm • duck races, quilt auction, bake shop, country store, auctions, flu shots, chuck wagon lunch, miniature horse & buggy rides

St. Paul UMC, Georgetown — 8 am-5 pm • moon walks, dunking booth, kids train ride, community church bands, sausage wraps, horses

Sardis UMC Lord's Acre — open 10 am

October 15-16

Grace UMC, Copperas Cove Fall Festival — garage sale 7:30 am-3 pm Friday & Saturday • Saturday BBQ dinner 4:30 pm (tickets available from church and members)

October 15-17

Martin UMC, Bedford Lord's Acre — opens Friday evening/concludes Sunday morning • Saturday breakfast, silent/live auctions, kids' events, Martin Mall, live music

October 15-31

Hillsboro First UMC Pumpkin Patch — 10 am-6 pm daily

October 16

Cahill UMC Fall Festival — 9 am-3 pm • giant yard sale, horseshoe tournament, silent/blind/live auctions, quilt raffle, kids' activities • BBQ lunch • Pumpkin Patch remains open from noon to

8 pm daily until Halloween

Dawson First UMC Lord's Acre — opens 10 am • lunch 11 am-1:30 pm • live auction 12:30 pm

Eules First UMC Lord's Acre — open 10 am-5 pm

Hurst First UMC Harvest Festival — 10 am-3 pm • kids' activities include fall pictures and inflatable obstacle course • live/silent auctions • lunch • all proceeds benefit missions

Killeen First Fall Carnival — 11 am-7 pm at 601 FM 2410 south of Hwy. 190 in Harker Heights (Pumpkin Patch site)

Lorena UMC Harvest Festival — baked goods, garage sale, auctions, kids activities

Palmer First UMC Lord's Acre at Palmer Intermediate School (118 FM 813 West) — Country store opens 4:30 pm • silent auction 4:30-7 pm • turkey dinner 5-7 pm • live auction 7 pm

St. Stephen UMC, Arlington Fall Festival — 8 am-2 pm • huge yard sale, games for kids, bake sale, food/drinks

Watts Chapel UMC, Grandview Lord's Acre/Harvest Festival — tent sale opens 10 am • BBQ lunch 11 am-12:30 pm • auction 1 pm

Wesley Memorial UMC, Cleburne 45th Annual Lord's Acre — open 9 am to sell out for country store and sweet shop • silent auction 9 am-noon • BBQ lunch 11 am-12:30 pm • live auction 1 pm

October 17

Ballinger First UMC Lord's Acre — BBQ lunch 11 am-1 pm • country store/homemade items • silent auction 10 am • live auction 1 pm

October 22 & 23

United Christian Fellowship at Navarro College Yard Dawg Sale — open 4-8 pm Friday, open 7 am Saturday

October 30

Coleman First UMC 2nd Annual Lord's Acre — 9 am-3 pm • country store with homemade items, kids' area, music, quilt raffle • auction • stew lunch

October 9-31

Killeen First Pumpkin Patch — Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm, Sunday 1-7 pm at 601 FM 2410 south of Hwy. 190 in Harker Heights

October 30

Bruceville-Eddy UMC — 8 am-2 pm in Family Life Center • garage

sale, live auction, bake/craft sale, kids' activities • BBQ lunch

Glen Rose First UMC Lord's Acre — opens 10 am with kids' carnival, silent/live auctions, crafts/books • BBQ lunch 11 am-1 pm

Handley UMC Fall Festival — opens with breakfast at 8 am • lunch at noon • crafts/silent auction 9 am • live auction 1 pm

Itasca First UMC Lord's Acre — open early to late • BBQ meal & take out sale • auction 1:30 pm

Kennedale UMC Lord's Acre — 10 am-3 pm • family fun & entertainment • silent/live auctions • resale/country/Christmas stores

St. Mark UMC, Cleburne Fall Festival — 9 am-2 pm • Pumpkin Patch, BBQ meal, live/silent auctions, crafts/country store, bake sale, kids' activities • health fair

Temple First UMC 2nd Annual Harvest Faire — open 9 am-3 pm

Venus UMC Lord's Acre — opens 10 am and continues throughout day

Watauga First UMC Fall Festival — 3-7 pm • auctions, kids' activities • food and baked goods • BBQ dinner

October 31

Waxahachie First UMC Trunk or Treat Event — opens 3 pm in church parking lot • adults invited to decorate their car trunks, truck beds or lawn chairs and pass out candy to the children • Funday School Program provides the hot dogs/drinks

November 6

DeLeon First UMC Harvest Festival & Auction at DeLeon City Hall — booths open at 9:30 am • sandwich shoppe for lunch • BBQ dinner 5 pm • auction 6 pm

Gatesville UMC Fall Harvest Festival — 7:30 am-2 pm • garage sale, homemade foods, silent/live auctions • BBQ lunch 11:30 am

Gordon UMC Lord's Acre at the Gordon School Cafeteria • opens 10 am with homemade food/crafts • turkey dinner 11 am-12:30 pm • handmade quilt auction at noon

Grapevine First UMC 8th Annual Gala & Night in New Orleans Auction — opens 6 pm at the Marriott Solana in Westlake • live/big board/silent auctions • entertainment and meal • tickets available at www.firstmethodistgrapevine.org/gala

Ovilla UMC Lord's Acre on the church's new property on Ovilla Road & Westmoreland Drive —

open 9 am-4 pm

Ridglea UMC Designer Arts & Crafts Market in the Fellowship Hall — 10 am-5 pm

Sparks Memorial UMC Harvest Festival — 10 am-2 pm • health fair & blood drive • food/crafts, silent/live auction • roast beef lunch

Walnut Springs Memorial UMC 55th Annual Lord's Acre/Harvest Festival at Walnut Spring Community Center — opens with breakfast at 5-8:30 am • turkey dinner 11 am-12:30 pm • live auction 12:30 pm

Waxahachie First Lord's Acre — opens 9 am • builder's basket auction, shops, crafts, baked items, entertainment, kids' activities, pecans • BBQ lunch 11 am-1 pm • live auction 1 pm

Western Hills UMC, Fort Worth Fall Festival — 10 am-2 pm • kids' carnival, inflatables, trackless train, Sumo wrestling, etc. • silent auction • country store/bake sale • live auction 3 pm

November 11

Early First UMC Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Church & Community — 5 pm dinner • silent auction • bake sale

November 13

Acton UMC Lord's Acre — opens 4 pm • silent/live auctions • dinner, bake and arts/crafts

Cisco First UMC Lord's Acre — 9 am-2 pm • crafts/bake sales • silent auction begins 9 am • turkey lunch 11 am

Colleyville First UMC Holiday Extravaganza in the Event Center — 10 am-4 pm • silent auction, arts & crafts, bake sale, handmade quilts

Cross Plains UMC Lord's Acre — opens 9 am • turkey dinner 5:30-7 pm • live auction 6:30 pm

Emhouse & Barry UMCs Lord's Acre — open 10 am-3 pm

November 19 & 20

Salem-Crestview UMC — open 9 am-4 pm Friday and 9 am-noon Saturday • homemade food items, handmade quilts and crafts

November 20

Grace UMC, Fort Worth Holiday Fair — open 8 am-2 pm

Everman UMC Fall Bazaar — 10 am-4 pm • great variety of vendors