

## Cooperative School of Christian Mission focuses on Faith, Hope, Love in Action

Jack Teddlie spent 36 years as an elementary school teacher in North Richland Hills. When he retired 10 years ago, he chose the role of student at a different kind of school.

The Cooperative School of Christian Mission, cosponsored each summer by the General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women, opened the world for him through the spiritual studies and social issues as well as different geographic areas of the world and their cultures.

Teddlie says he has attended three or four times over the past seven years and always benefitted greatly from the experience. "I don't mind being in the minority," he says, noting that not near enough men tap into this wonderful resource in the Central Texas Conference area.

"The first two years I stayed at Glen Lake Camp for the three-day school, but last time it was more enjoyable because of the proximity to my home," he said, grateful for being able to sleep in his own bed.

Two years ago, the CSCM event

was offered at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose and also at First United Methodist Church in Hurst. It is also conveniently held at three different times to accommodate the busy schedules of those who work, young families and retirees:

**Evening School**  
Monday-Wednesday, Aug. 2-4  
First Hurst UMC

**Weekday School**  
Tuesday-Thursday, Aug. 3-5  
First Hurst UMC

**Weekend School**  
Friday evening-Sunday afternoon  
Aug. 6-8 at Glen Lake Camp

Richland Hills United Methodist Church is the home church for Jack and his wife, Rev. Jeannie Trevino-Teddlie, who serves as director of the Mexican American Program at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

It was in 2002 when Jeannie was starting her new role at Perkins that she and Jack enrolled in a language immersion study program in Cuernaca, Mexico. Jeannie needed

to bone up on her Spanish, but Jack had a leg up on Mexican culture and social issues because he had just attended the CSCM study on the historical basis for "Mexico and Faith."

Ironically, he was the only person from his congregation to attend the 2002 CSCM event and was asked to teach it in a joint study for members of Richland Hills and Colleyville United Methodist churches.

"It was an excellent, well-written study," he recalls, and even more special because while he was in Cuernaca he had an opportunity to travel to nearby Mexico City where he met the author of the study.

Across the U.S. each year, about 20,000 lay and clergy men, women, youth and children participate in the Cooperative School of Christian Mission. The studies are always geared to a spiritual growth topic, a geographic area and an issue impacting society.

Brochures and registration forms for the full program, evening and youth/children programs can be

found on the conference website at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org) under Ministries/United Methodist Women/School of Christian Mission (<http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/1039>). Forms are also available for download from the Metropolitan Board of Missions website at [www.metroboard-umc.org](http://www.metroboard-umc.org).

**Spiritual Study:**  
*For the Love of God —*  
*John's Letters*

### Faith • Hope • Love in Action

As people of FAITH, we trust in the promise of Christ to bring light into darkness and new life to brokenness and death.

As people of HOPE, we celebrate and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Together in the world we are partners in God's mission of healing and wholeness so that all might have abundant life.

As people of God, we LOVE because God first loved us. It is out of that love that we welcome all into community, unite what is divided, mend what is broken, call for peace where there is war, make just what is unjust, and offer hope where there is despair.

The spiritual study, which everyone who registers for the CSCM will take, is "For the Love of God: John's Letters."

This study focuses on modern-day relevance of the Epistles as God's Word, emphasizing love for all humanity. Fellowship with God cannot be separated from fellowship with one another.

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## Does your church have "a table at the place"?

We've all heard about the value of having "a place at the table" — when it's important to share your story — but how about "having a table at the place" when Central Texas Methodists celebrate our 100th anniversary.

Methodists from all over Central

**Rev. Henry Radde, Centennial Celebration Committee chair, demonstrates the vertical and tabletop space that churches have for displaying their story to others at the Oct. 23 celebration.**

Texas and beyond will gather on Saturday, Oct. 23, at Fort Worth's Will Rogers Memorial Complex for a day of celebration, entertainment by Willie Nelson and others, and various ways of remembering our roots as the Central Texas Conference.

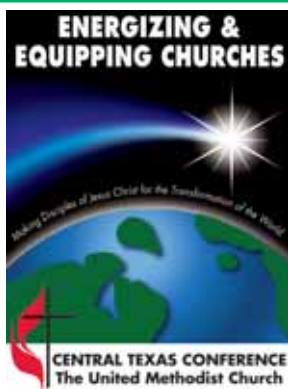
So much of our story is told through our local churches. That's why churches are invited to set up your own displays. It could be pictures of your chartering members; old church bulletins;

commemorative plates, cups or postcards; a photo gallery of clergy who have served the church; building expansions; history booklets; historical markers; future plans, and whatever the imagination can conceive.

The first group of churches to register their display tables are listed below. What images and memorabilia would tell your church's story?

- Alliance UMC

| **Continued** on page 4A



# the Central Link

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## The Wilderness Way

BY BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY

**39.** “I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect”<sup>1</sup>

The imperative “be transformed” is lodged at the core of my being when I consider the church today. We need transformation, not just renewal or revitalization. Such transformation is anchored on passages like Romans 12:1-2. Transformation that is holy and acceptable to God calls not only to the heart of who we are and whose we are, but also to the essence of what we are about.

Building on *The Wilderness Way* #38, attitudes are crucial to the transformation process. An attitude of preservation focuses on the past, the building, the program, the members, the budgets and traditions. A local church (or conference or denomination) would do well to ask what the basic attitude of our church is. Is it on the past — buildings, programs, members, budgets, traditions — or is it an attitude of transformation where the focus is on the present and future, the community, unchurched people and changing our world. If we focus on reaching out to serve people in the community who aren't members of our church, we will paradoxically end up serving ourselves better. (I think this is the paradox of God's incredible genius.)

Consider the difference between a transformation focus and a survival focus. Transformation is vision led, value anchored and mission driven. It deals with outreach in love, justice and mercy.

Evangelism is central to transformation. It's about kingdom building. Survival is about recruiting members, maintaining buildings, finance, programs and tradition. A survival attitude focuses on peace and safety. It is about not rocking the boat.

Please don't misunderstand me. I know that things like buildings, finances and tradition are important. I'm not saying that they don't matter; I am asserting that what is crucial is where you put the emphasis. Too often we put the emphasis on protecting things rather than on kingdom

building. We desperately need a transformation of attitude and focus, but that does not mean ignoring important institutional survival issues. Both are needed. But churches thrive when they are transformed by being a living sacrifice for the Lord. When the focus is on transformation, churches (and individuals) not only survive, they thrive!

What is transformation? I think, ultimately, it's about connecting people to God, transforming lives and the world. Larry Howard (then superintendent of the McAllen District of The United Methodist Church in the Southwest Texas Conference) commented to me once that when people come to our churches we offer them all kinds of things. We offer them a Sunday school class, or a youth group or a children's mission; we offer them fellowship; we offer them a church. But we forget that what we need to do first is offer them Christ. We need to connect them to God. What do we want most from worship? We want to be connected to God and a sense of the holy. People want to know and experience God other than second hand.

Transformation begins in prayer, discerning what is the will of God. Pray for a new and right spirit, for the courage to reach out, for discernment of God's will, for faithfulness and fruitfulness. If you're not sure what we ought to do, the first thing we ought to do is really, really bring the church into prayer on this issue.

Prayer is a dangerous thing. I'm often reminded of the little girl who was asked by her parents or her aunt and uncle or somebody, “Well, did you pray to God and ask God about that?” She said, “Yes, I did, and He said ‘no.’” She was clear about submitting her life to God. When we do so, both for ourselves and our church, we experience divine transformation.

<sup>1</sup> Romans 12:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Carlyle



## Do you have a table at the place? | Continued from page 1A

- Alvarado UMC
- Brack's UMC, Waco
- Christ UMC, Fort Worth
- Cogdell Memorial UMC, Waco
- Corsicana First UMC
- Edge Park UMC, Fort Worth
- El Buen Samaritano UMC, Fort Worth
- Fort Worth First UMC
- Frost UMC
- Glen Rose UMC
- Graham First UMC
- Hamilton UMC
- Jean UMC
- Keller First UMC
- King Memorial UMC, Whitney
- Meadowbrook UMC, Fort Worth
- Newcastle First UMC
- Perry UMC, Riesel
- Pleasant Grove UMC
- Polytechnic UMC, Fort Worth
- Ridglea UMC, Fort Worth
- Salado UMC
- Smithfield UMC
- Springhill UMC
- St. Andrews UMC, Fort Worth
- St. John the Apostle UMC, Arlington
- Wellspring UMC, Georgetown
- Wesley UMC, Waco

Should your church be on the list? For details on how to register your church's display table — plus

information on how to order your Centennial Celebration tickets and other items — visit the conference website at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org) and click on the centennial logo.

Display table set up may be done on Friday afternoon preceding the celebration event or early on Saturday morning. The conference website has the specific set up times and table dimensions. The suggested freestanding tri-fold presentation boards are available at many office supply outlets. They are standard in size, but range in price from about \$8.50 for cardboard to \$15.50 for colored foam board. Only pre-registered display tables will be



assigned a display space at the celebration.

Plan to celebrate our centennial year on Oct. 23. Have fun creating your church or ministry group's table display.

## FAITH IN ACTION

# First Burleson responds to continuing need for volunteers to help those displaced by Hurricane Ike

On May 2nd, seven people from First United Methodist Church of Burleson set out for Galveston. Their destination was Crockett Place United Methodist Church, a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) facility set aside for the restoration and recovery program for Hurricane Ike.

Hurricane Ike struck Galveston in September 2008. Thousands of houses were damaged by flood. In many cases, homeowners were prevented from moving back after the hurricane. Such disasters hit the news headlines and peak our interest for only a few days. So we often forget that it takes years for an area to recover.

UMCOR is working hard to coordinate this effort in Galveston, and there is still much work to be done. To date, UMCOR-sponsored restoration has helped 93 homeowners move back in their homes. More than 1,500 homeowners are



**Volunteers from First United Methodist Church of Burleson responded to UMCOR's call to help restore homes and churches in the hurricane damaged areas of Galveston. More volunteers are needed.**

still displaced from their homes.

Tools, facilities and funding materials are in abundance awaiting volunteers. The Burleson team was able to complete the dry wall, texturing and painting for the inside of the home of a 70-year-old widow. The teams coming after theirs will finish out the house with an anticipated move-in date in July.

Mission teams from all over the U.S. are rotating in and out of this area, working together through the coordination and direction of UMCOR construction managers.

Crockett Place United Methodist Church is one of the facilities set aside to house mission workers. It has bunk rooms, including bedding for upwards of 30 people. It has 12

showers, four full bathrooms, a kitchen table large enough for everyone and outdoor grilling facilities.

Like most teams, the Burleson team supplied their own transportation and food but gathered rich experiences and relationships.

"I left with people I knew in my congregation, I came home with very close friends," said one team member. "We worked, ate and shared together."

To set up a mission trip to the Galveston area, contact Verronda Flanagan at [vflanagan@txcumc.org](mailto:vflanagan@txcumc.org) or 832-370-3099.

The construction manager at Crockett Place UMC was Sandy Langston (832-795-1201) and the construction director Alan Miller (713-202-8563).

For more information about the Burleson team experience, contact Mike Love at 817-295-1166.

## Growth Opportunities Abound

### Children & Youth Worker Training

July 30-31 at First Waxahachie

Oct. 1-2 at First Weatherford

This two-day training is designed to provide the basic in Christian education for smaller churches and volunteer leaders, and is conveniently offered with a choice of locations and dates.

Lodging is provided at the church facility at no charge and the \$30 registration free cover materials, speaker, breakfast and lunch. Dinner will be Dutch treat at a local restaurant. Contact: Joy Roberson at [joy@ctcumc.org](mailto:joy@ctcumc.org), 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622.

### Promoting Disciple-Making Churches

July 29-Aug. 2 at Nashville

The popular School of Congregational Development will bring together speakers and workshop leaders to help United Methodist leaders develop disciple-making churches.

The 2010 gathering, sponsored by

the General Boards of Discipleship and Global Ministries, will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville and area churches. Details available at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org).

### 24-Hour Discernment & Formation Retreat

Sept. 9-11 at Scarritt Bennett Retreat Center, Nashville

Do you think God may be calling you to lay, licensed or ordained ministry? Are you in the early stages of candidacy?

If so, you are invited to this event sponsored jointly by the General Boards of Higher Education & Ministry and Global Ministries. It is designed for anyone who is seriously discerning a call to United Methodist set-apart ministry, those in candidacy prior to commissioning for ordained ministry (deacon, elder, chaplain or pastoral counselor) or the lay office of deaconess or home missioner.

For more details and to register, visit <https://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=af1bcd71-d18a-4a1c-8247-53f38c622e60>.

### Self-Care for Clergy

Sept. 20-21 at Still Water Lodge, Glen Rose

Nov. 8-9 at Summers Mill Retreat Center, Belton

Clergy are often exhausted by the demands of being in ministry 24-7. They often fail to take time to recharge their batteries. Continual giving takes its toll over time.

The Self-Care for Clergy Workshop is designed to provide a break from day-to-day responsibilities and allow for reflections, reviving and renewing the spirit and potential that effective ministry requires.

Register before Sept. 1 for the Glen Rose workshop and by Oct. 15 for the Belton workshop. For details and a registration form, visit the conference website at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org) under "Ministries" and choose "Health and Welfare."

### Annual Leadership Institute

Oct. 7-8 at Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kan.

The best years of the church are ahead of us, and in anticipation, this

year's Leadership Institute will focus on "Preparing for a Future with Hope."

Join Rev. Adam Hamilton, the staff of the Church of the Resurrection, and thousands of United Methodists from around the country in seeking to Prepare for a Future with Hope Oct. 7-8 at Leawood, Kan. Special discounts are available for young adults and leaders of new churches.

For details and registration forms, visit <http://www.cor.org/institute10>.

### Creative Worship & Design Matters Seminar

Multiple locations and dates

Midnight Oil Productions hopes to re-energize your passion for worship, show how to infuse creativity into everything you do and have fun at the same time.

For the first time ever, Midnight Oil is taking their two-day Creative Worship and Design Matters seminars to 11 different cities, including San Antonio in October.

For details, visit <http://www.midnightoilproduction.com/seminar/creative-worship/>.



Conference Calendar

- July**
- 10: Conference United Methodist Women Charter for Racial Justice Committee
- 15: Temple District Committee on Church Location & Building
- 17: Conference United Methodist Women Finance Committee
- 18-23: CTCYM Junior High Trip
- August**
- 2-4: Cooperative School of Christian Mission - Evening at First Hurst
- 3-5: Cooperative School of Christian Mission - Weekday at First Hurst UMC
- 6-8: Cooperative School of Christian Mission - Weekend at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Glen Rose
- 17: Central Texas Methodist Foundation at Conference Center
- 24-26: "Living the Alignment" Cabinet Retreat
- 26: Temple District Trustees meeting at district parsonage
- 28: Nurture Council meeting at Lone Star Cafe, Hillsboro
- 31: Temple District Clergy & Spouse meeting at First Temple UMC
- September**
- 6: Conference Center closed in observance of Labor Day
- 9-10: Created by God Training at First Arlington UMC
- 13-16: Central Texas Sojourners, Chapter 16 Campout at Oak Creek, Weatherford
- 14-15: Cabinet in session

For the latest updates on the conference and youth calendars, visit regularly [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)

## CSCM's three enlightening studies | Continued from page 1A

Study leaders are:

*Rev. Beverly Gilliam*, a native of Jamaica, West Indies, who is pastor at Morningside United Methodist Church, Fort Worth.

*Dr. Harold M. Onwiler*, a frequent instructor for the CSCM across several conferences, who retired in June after serving in the local church for 54 years.

*Rev. Rick Hawkins*, a former teacher in the Dallas ISD, curriculum writer and ESL teacher, is pastor of First United Methodist Church in Lancaster (North Texas Conference) and a board member for the Lancaster Outreach Center.

*Rev. Rhonda Troll* is a member of Bulverde United Methodist Church in San Antonio where she has served as vice president, president and spiritual growth and E&I coordinator for the San Antonio District. She is a certified candidate for ordained ministry.

*Rev. Dr. Lisa L. Neslony* is pastor of Smithfield United Methodist Church in North Richland Hills. A former journalist, she brings to this course a variety of teaching and learning experiences and a great love for Jesus Christ.

*Rev. Melinda Veatch* is the executive director of Tarrant County Area Community of Churches where she focuses on community ministry, education around issues of community, fellowship and shared mission among congregations, and community worship. She is a member of the Grace Presbytery for the Presbyterian Church.

### Geographic Study:

#### *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan — Why a Dream of Peace Is Possible*

This study explores an overview of history that began in Bible times; Sudan's many ethnicities, religions and languages; touch points and possible causes of wars; the way Sudanese women are contributing to the peace process and to the culture as a whole; a critique of the severe impact of colonialism and current challenges; and some ways in which people of faith can embrace and affirm the Sudanese people.

Study leaders are:

*Wanda Holcombe* is a retired Methodist missionary who since returning to the U.S. in 1999 has served as Peace with Justice coordinator in the Southwest Texas Conference and as a regional study leader for numerous UMW Mission Schools.

### Spiritual Growth Study Leaders



Rev. Beverly Gilliam



Dr. Harold Onwiler



Rev. Rick Hawkins



Rev. Rhonda Troll



Rev. Dr. Lisa L. Neslony



Rev. Melinda Veatch

### Geographic Study Leaders



Wanda Holcombe



Nancy Maples



Amy Spaur

*Nancy Maples* is a life-long Methodist and director of music ministry at First United Methodist Church at El Campo in the Southwest Texas Conference. She has led mission school studies in Texas and Oklahoma, and is in her second year of teaching the study on Sudan.

*Amy Spaur* is the volunteer and outreach coordinator for Justice for Our Neighbors, an UMCOR ministry of the North and Central Texas conferences. JFON provides warm welcome and free legal services to low income immigrants in our communities. She is a commissioned missionary, serving through the General Board of Global Ministries' Church and Community Worker Program. Prior to that she was a mission intern serving in Bogota, Colombia, and the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Her study will be provided in Spanish at the First Hurst schools.

### Issue Study:

#### *Joy to the World*

Mission in the "age of global Christianity" explores the flow of mission, evangelism and theology in the context of 21st century Christianity as a worldwide religion, offering hospitality, healing and reconciliation.

Study leaders are:

*Rev. Steven F. Campbell* serves in the Northwest Texas Conference as pastor at Slaton United Methodist Church. He has been leading at Schools of Christian Mission studies since 1975 in conferences in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas and Missouri, and he enjoys traveling in other lands.

### Social Issue Study Leaders



Rev. Steven F. Campbell



Edna Davis



Rev. Maureen Mathias



Rev. Brenda Wier

### Youth & Children's Study Leaders



Kyle Roberson



Rev. Mike Wright-Chapman



Connie Haynie Smith

*Edna Davis* is a director of the Women's Division and General Board of Global Ministries, serving on the Finance Committee for both groups. She is serving her third year on Regional School planning teams, and has led focus groups, officer training and assisted with plenaries at Regional and Conference schools.

*Rev. Maureen Mathias* has had careers in teaching, ordained ministry and hospice ministry. Now retired, she volunteers in spiritual formation and has been a leadership trainer for The Upper Room's curriculum, *Companions in Christ*.

*Rev. Brenda Wier* is executive director of the Metropolitan Board of Missions, the mission and outreach arm of the Fort Worth and Mid-Cities Districts of The United Methodist Church. A calling to justice ministries and Christian unity has led her into many ministry areas including teaching studies and leading focus groups at

Schools of Christian Missions.

### Youth & Children Studies:

#### *Hugging the World — Faith, Hope, Love in Action*

Classes for youth ages 12 through 18 are offered during the weekday (First Hurst) and weekend (Glen Lake Camp) sessions. Classes for children and youth are free at the Hurst location this year's School of Christian Mission, and childcare is provided by reservation only for infants through age 5.

Leading the youth studies will be *Rev. Mike Wright-Chapman* and *Kyle Roberson*. Wright-Chapman is a deacon who has worked at the Central and North Texas Conferences, primarily in youth ministry, and currently serves as associate pastor for nurture ministries at First United Methodist Church in Burleson. Roberson

has completed his master of divinity degree at Perkins School of Theology and is in the ordination process in the Central Texas Conference.

*Connie Haynie Smith* will lead the study for children at the School of Christian Mission for the third consecutive year. She is the children's coordinator at First United Methodist Church of Crowley and involved in a number of community and outreach programs.

### Music Ministry:

Leading the music ministry will be *DeDe Jones*, worship arts director at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Arlington, with J. Katherine Titsworth as accompanist. She is a worship leader, keyboard player and office manager at St. Andrew's.