



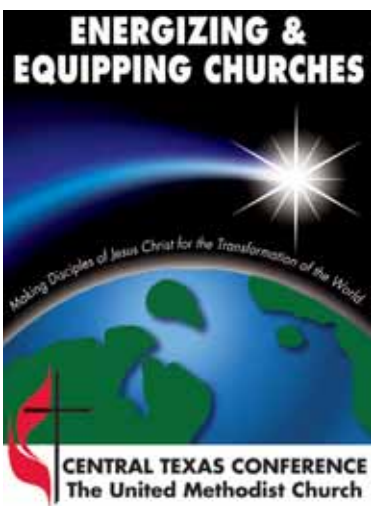
Preaching Eloquence ... 5A



Restorative Justice ... 4A



Birthing Kits ... 5A



Annual Conference Agenda Highlights

Sunday, June 7

7 p.m. Music & Celebration of Christian Worship

Monday, June 8

10 a.m. Joint Clergy/Lay Memorial Worship Service

11 a.m. Business Session
11:15 a.m. Episcopal Address

4 - 5 p.m. Workshops

7:05 p.m. United Methodist Night at the Ballpark (Texas Rangers vs. Toronto Jays)

Tuesday, June 9

8:30 a.m. Business Session
11 a.m. Awards & Scholarships

2 p.m. Retirement Service of Honor/Gratitude

7 p.m. Music and Service of Ordination at White's Chapel

Wednesday, June 10

8:30 a.m. Business Session
4:30 p.m. Sending Forth by Bishop Lowry

2009 Annual Conference will celebrate 22 for commissioning and ordination

In keeping with Methodist tradition, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry will recommend approval at the Central Texas Annual Conference June 7-10 at White's Chapel United Methodist Church, Southlake, for ?? persons for ministry positions.

The board will present 10 candidates for ordination as elders in full connection, one as deacon in full connection, 10 as candidates for commissioning as probationary elders and one as a probationary deacon.

A service of ordination and commissioning will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, at White's Chapel United Methodist Church in Southlake with Dr. Walter L. Kimbrough, pastor emeritus of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta and noted author, preaching.

It is through 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."

Ordaining Elders in Full Connection

Gena Schmidt Anderson
College: Texas Wesleyan University

Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: Arlington Heights UMC, Fort Worth
Presently serving: First UMC, Fort Worth
Sponsors: Jerry Chism, Tim Bruster

Sharon Pauline Bell
College: St. Edwards University
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: Leander UMC
Presently serving: Gorman/Dublin Laurel Street UMCs
Sponsor: Mary Gean Cope

Tiffany Blubaugh Danna
College: University of Southern Mississippi
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: River Oaks UMC, Fort Worth
Presently serving: Bartlett UMC
Sponsors: Rankin Koch, Jerdan Davis

Thomas M. Faile
College: Wofford College
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: Chinn's Chapel UMC
Presently serving: Faith UMC, Fort Worth
Sponsors: Andrew Decker, Steve Langford

Beverly D. Gilliam
College: Dallas Baptist University
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: St. Stephen UMC, Arlington
Presently serving: Morningside UMC, Fort Worth
Sponsors: Luther Henry, Debra Crumpton

Brooks Harrington
College: Oklahoma University
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology

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Gena Anderson



Lori Cotton



Tiffany Danna



Donna DeLuca



Kyland Dobbins



the
Central Link

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The Wilderness Way

By BISHOP MICHAEL LOWRY

13. Traveling through the Mid-Cities District was an exhilarating experience. It hums with vibrancy. St. Andrews, Fort Worth was the first church in the Central Texas Conference that my wife and I visited upon moving to Fort Worth. Their warm hospitality is evident to all. Their history of courageous leadership is phenomenal. They have a challenging and changing future.

A number of other congregations face a challenging future of community change. Richland Hills, Eastern Hills and Handley are all in a similar situation (though with distinctive differences). The past for them is not prelude to the future. And yet, the past can provide resources and insights for reaching out to a new future in the name of Christ if courageous change is embraced.

This district also has a number of huge churches reaching out in powerful ways. White's Chapel in Southlake was not just another big box mega church. It is a mission post of the advancing kingdom of God with an impressive system of making disciples. The same can be said for a number of other churches in the area. First UMC, Hurst has a strong missional orientation with superior ministry reaching across the age spectrum. St. Barnabas exhibits similar strength, also Eules First and St. Paul's in Hurst.

McMillan and New World are reaching youth. I was especially impressed with McMillan's outreach to the neighborhood youth. Prayer is in their DNA. Bedford First is reporting an influx of single parents. St. Matthew and St. Luke's (Haltom City) are islands of stability in a changing neighborhood. Deeper Bible study shows up repeatedly in these and other churches as they experiment with how to reach out to the next generation.

Meadowbrook UMC is impressive in its missional outreach (as are

others). What stood out as distinctive at Meadowbrook are the creative ways this congregation is attempting to reach out to its mission field. They are using non-traditional means to reach a new generation. The pastors have a sense of being appointed not just to the church, but to the mission field as well.

El Buen Samaritano, Korean and Tongan UMCs demonstrate both strength and diversity in reaching out. El Buen Samaritano has an impressive number of new converts and a vibrant evangelistic ministry.

Forgive me for just mentioning a few churches as examples of the great diversity going on in the Mid-Cities District. In some ways, this district reflects the future of Methodism. It is as diverse as any district we have. The places that are fruitful and multiplying are reaching out to a new generation in a host of unconventional ways.

There is evidence of a willingness to change and a slow, somewhat timid, rediscovering of evangelism. If our future as a movement of faith lies in reaching new people in new places in new ways, then the Mid-Cities District is a laboratory from which the rest of the conference can learn. Some clear lessons are emerging from this laboratory.

A younger generation is attracted to larger churches with diverse ministry. No one joins a church to prop up the institution. People join because they want to walk with the Lord. Mission and evangelism are linked and yet distinct. (More on this later.)

The Mid-Cities District is a gem of faithfulness and fruitfulness!



Annual Conference offering supports the many "faces" of justice ministries

— Restorative Justice Center and Home of Greater Joy —

the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and state and local jails.

According to Rev. LilliAnn "Penny" Yaites, executive director of the program, "We serve the counties of the Central Texas Conference and also client referrals of Prison Fellowship Ministries, the Welcome Back program and the Texas Department of Parole.

"Through the collaborative efforts of our churches and ministries," she says, "we provide the critical and essential basic necessities with 24 to 36 hours of their release."

The Tarrant County Restorative Justice Center also developed and implemented a scholarship fund for formerly incarcerated persons who may seek to obtain post secondary education in order to make

themselves more marketable and better contributors in our society.

The Home of Greater Joy aims to offer hurting women hope by teaching positive life skills to achieve long-term stability. In addition, Greater Joy teaches these women the physical skills of living a healthy life as well as recognizing the false beliefs they have lived by and exchange those for the TRUTH. The home will provide safe living facilities to women and their children for at least a 12-month term.

How Will the Conference Offering Help These Ministries?

Goals for the Restorative Justice Center include:

- Supplementing reentry items

that are generally unavailable through supporting churches and ministries, such as socks, under garments, tennis shoes, bus passes and grocery gift cards for future use.

- Undergirding and supporting the L. Clifford Davis Scholarship Fund and program for the formerly incarcerated.
- Assisting in supplemental income for school supplies for children of the formerly incarcerated.
- Supplementing the limited resources available for utility and transportation costs for the spouses and children of the incarcerated.
- Providing scholarships to local churches and community organizations within the Central Texas Conference who wish to host

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Annual Conference Preacher Dr. Walter Kimbrough brings style and message to stir the soul

United Methodists attending the Central Texas Annual Conference June 7-10 at White's Chapel United Methodist Church in Southlake are in for a treat with Dr. Walter L. Kimbrough as preacher — three times.

Dr. Kimbrough is pastor emeritus of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, an honor bestowed by a grateful congregation after his more than 35 years in ministry serving God and his fellow man with humility and devotion, providing leadership at all levels of The United Methodist Church.

He came to Cascade UMC in 1974 after leading congregations in the Chicago area through a period of racial transition. At Atlanta, Dr. Kimbrough shepherded the church from a dying congregation of less than 100 members to a vibrant faith community of over 7,000. His faithful service and leadership brought him a long

list of accolades that include the Chairman's Award from the Convocation for Pastors of African-America Church, the Philip Award from the National Association of United Methodist Evangelists and honored as one of the "Community Heroes" whose face appears on the Coca-Cola Centennial Olympic Wall.

Besides his eloquent preaching, Dr. Kimbrough enjoys writing. He authored *Nothing Is Impossible* and contributed to *365 Meditations for Men* and *365 Meditations for Families*. And his address, "Reclaiming Our Mission to the City," appears in the book, *The World Forever Our Parish*.

Worship services at Annual Conference are open to all who are interested in hearing Dr. Kimbrough. Visitor seating is in the balcony area of White's Chapel UMC in Southlake. (See schedule at left.)

7 p.m. Sunday, June 7
Celebration of Christian Worship
"Remembering Our History"
Acts 2:37-47

10 a.m. Monday, June 8
Joint Laity/Clergy Memorial Service
"Something to Shout About"
I Corinthians 15:50-58

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9
Celebration of Ordination Service
"The Privilege of Ministry"
Acts 3:1-10



Conference Calendar

- May**
- 14: Waxahachie District Conference 6:30 p.m. at First Corsicana
 - 14: Fort Worth District Conference - 7 p.m. at Crowley UMC
 - 15: Face 2 Face Youth Worship Service & Dinner at Davis Memorial UMC
 - 16: Venus UMC Homecoming at Venus Town Square
 - 16: Health & Welfare Task Force at First Hillsboro
 - 17: Retirement celebration for Doyle Allen - 4-6 p.m. at St. Andrews UMC, Fort Worth
 - 18: Weatherford District Conference - 6:30 p.m. at First Weatherford
 - 18: Brownwood District Conference - 6:30 p.m. at First Comanche UMC
 - 18: Mid-Cities District Conference - 6:30 p.m. at Davis Memorial UMC
 - 19: Temple District Conference - 6:30 p.m. at First Belton
 - 19: CTMF Board at Conference Center
 - 21: Waco District Conference - 6 p.m. at Cogdell UMC, Waco
 - 21: Annual Conference Executive Ministry meeting at Conference Center
 - 22: 30-Hour Famine Fundraiser/Worship Service at First Joshua
 - 25: Memorial Day Observance - Conference Center closed
 - 31: Allen Goss retirement reception 2-4 p.m. at First Bursleson UMC
 - 31: Reception for DS Georgia Adamson 2-4 p.m. at Weatherford District office

Birthing Kits improve the odds for birth mother and newborn survival rates in Liberia

Members of Central United Methodist Church in Brownwood are among the United Methodists in Central Texas who are responding to the call for Birthing Kits to help improve the life expectancy for newborns and birth mothers in Liberia.

Julie Warren, Conference coordinator for Volunteers in Mission and a registered nurse in Arlington, brought this critical situation to the attention of Central Texas churches after a fact-finding trip to Zimbabwe and Liberia in March. (See April 3 archived *Central Link* at www.ctcumc.org.)

She found that more than 600,000 women in Africa die each year during pregnancy and childbirth with about 9 million infant deaths. Sixty million women, or about half the births in developing countries, give birth with the help of an untrained traditional birth attendant (TBA) or family member with no training. Most are unfamiliar with the necessity or have the means for safe, clean practices.

When 94-year-old Helen Wesson read about Julie's experience in Liberia, she told members of Central UMC, "Now here's something we can do. We have all these items for the Birthing Kits right here in town ... and we can do it!"

As a result of a group effort, Patsy and Tommy Oehrlein were able to bring a box full of kits to the Conference office May 6 along with a check for \$150 for more kits to be assembled. The check came from members of Sunday school classes at Central. "I have four children myself," shares Patsy, "but I was blessed with being able to go to a hospital for a safe delivery with each one."

For those who would like to help, a listing of items for a Birthing Kit can be found at www.ctcumc.org. Julie Warren is also available to talk with congregations about health-related missions in Zimbabwe and Liberia and providing Birthing Kits for safer births. If interested, contact Julie Warren at 817-453-2682 (home), 817-975-9216 (cell) or steadleaze@charter.net.



Patsy and Tommy Oehrlein of Brownwood turn over a box of Birthing Kits to Jennifer Bellamy (left), Conference director of humanitarian services.

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

Ministry positions | Continued from page 1A



Thomas Faile



Amy Forsythe



Beverly Gilliam



Brooks Harrington



Rebecca Hull



Krista Ingham

Home church: First UMC, Fort Worth
Presently serving: First UMC, Fort Worth
Sponsors: Raul Gutierrez, Tim Bruster

Linda A. Holbrook

College: University of South Florida
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: Trietsch Memorial UMC, Dallas
Presently serving: Davis Memorial UMC, Fort Worth
Sponsors: Matt Gaston, Connally Dugger

Rebecca Ann Ness Hull

College: University of Texas
Seminary: Truett (Baylor) and Brite Divinity School
Home church: First UMC, Waco
Presently serving: Crawford UMC
Sponsors: Danny Tenney, Don Scott

Paul E. Porter

College: Midwestern State University
Seminary: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Home church: Chatfield UMC
Presently serving: Bluffdale and Morgan Mill UMCs
Sponsors: Ed George, Thomas Childs

J. Daniel So

College: Criswell University
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: Korean Central UMC, Dallas
Presently serving: Korean UMC, Waco
Sponsors: Jerry Irvin, Chris Mesa

Ordaining Deacons in Full Connection

Donna DeLuca

College: Texas Wesleyan University
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: Eastland UMC
Presently serving: First UMC, Eastland/Ranger UMC
Sponsors: Nancy Allen, Jeannie Trevino-Teddle

Commissioning as Provisional Elders

Laura Arellano-Davis

College: Southwestern University
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: First UMC, Hurst
Presently serving: Baylor University Medical Center

Lori N. Cotton

College: Texas Wesleyan University
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth



Paul Porter



Daniel So



Matthew Ybanez

Kyland Cason Dobbins
College: Prairie View A&M University
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: McMillan UMC, Fort Worth
Presently serving: Meadowbrook UMC, Fort Worth

Amy Kristin Forsythe
College: University of North Texas
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: Dido UMC

Krista Ingram
College: Texas A&M University
Seminary: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Home church: Foundation UMC, Temple

Katherine A. Meek
College: Texas Wesleyan University

Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: Palmer UMC
Presently serving: Bethel UMC, Weatherford

Robert Nimocks
College: University of Southern Mississippi
Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: William C. Martin UMC
Presently serving: St. Stephen UMC

Jamie Lee Peterson
College: Concordia University, Austin
Seminary: Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Home church: St. Philip's UMC, Round Rock
Presently serving: Nolanville UMC

Estee Valendy
College: Southwestern University

Seminary: Brite Divinity School
Home church: First UMC, Keller
Presently serving: First UMC, Arlington

Linda Wimberley
College: Tarleton State University
Seminary: SMU Course of Study
Home church: Holder's Chapel UMC
Presently serving: Lake Shore UMC, Waco

Commissioning as Provisional Deacon

Matthew Wade Ybanez
College: Southwestern University
Seminary: Perkins School of Theology
Home church: First UMC, Hurst
Presently serving: First UMC, Hurst

Justice ministries to benefit from Annual Conference offering | Continued from page 4A

a local restorative justice workshop to further educate their community on the need for supporting best practices in this area.

Goals for the Home of Great Joy involve utilizing the Annual Conference offering to:

- Enhance and update the computer room at the home. Several of the women are enrolled in school and this will enable them to complete their assignments in a

timelier manner. Current resources are out of date and insufficient for the number of women.

- Supplement the cost of groceries that are usually not available through the Tarrant Area Food Bank such as paper goods, dairy goods, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit.

- Purchase basic necessities for clients who are transitioning from group to independent living.

In other words, to provide each graduate with a "starter" transitional kit for independent living, using a pre-defined list of items. With the exception of personal items, clients graduate from this facility with minimal (if any) possessions. In addition, the majority of clients do not have a support system outside the group home.

2009 Annual Conference

Member registration online at www.ctcumc.org/2009AC/registration

More details on Constitutional Amendments at www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=13368

United Methodist Night at the Ballpark tickets - check for ticket office link on www.ctcumc.org