



Central Texas Conference  
United Methodist Church

Section A | Two Sections

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# 10

10 things  
What do seniors  
want in a church?

# 5



**Demolition**  
The walls come  
tumbling down at  
Glen Lake

# 5



**Seed money**  
Being a good  
neighbor helps one  
church help others

# 8

## New "www.ctcumc.org" conference Web site designed for easy access to information & resources

The new Central Texas Conference Website went live last week but will remain under construction as new areas are developed and more hyperlinks to helpful resources are being created.

After considerable research and discussion with other suppliers, the conference selected Brick River Technologies to host the site. Brick River now hosts over two dozen United Methodist conferences in the U.S. and is becoming adept in providing specialized features to help conferences and their local churches. Moving to a data-based site permits future linking of conference, district and local church data sharing, plus the potential for password access for local churches to enter and view their own information.

Conference staff members are developing and will maintain their specific areas of ministry on the site, but Rev. Bobby Cullen, the conference's Information Technology director, has taken the lead in development and training others. He will be making a report on the new site's features and how to navigate it at Annual Conference Wednesday, June 7.

The clean, simplified look of the new site is intended to make navigation easier for those who are looking for specific information. The feature area in the center introduces users to three brief story options, and the boxes below are the entry points to three ongoing areas of interest:

- something specifically about or for local churches,



- mission-oriented items, and
- Christian education.

The left-hand menu is your easy-access links to scores of information sources beginning with "Churches" and "Clergy" and some built-in short cuts. Every reporting and record-keeping form necessary for local churches is under "Forms," "Camps" takes you to our own Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center and National United Methodist Campers, and "Students" gives you every local church youth director by church or last name.

"Related Links" is your gateway to hyperlinked resources, ministry areas, and organizations by well-defined categories. At this time, there are 286 hyperlinks but that number will grow as new resources and ministries are discovered and added.

Drop-down menus at the top should help to eliminate long scrolling lists and will help to direct users to specific areas. After researching user patterns in our own and other annual conferences, we tried to gather data according to user preferences. Hence, "Calendars" is the first item with "Events" and "Business & Finance" in second and third positions. Many calendar listings will be linked to stories giving more details. Local churches will find year-end reporting forms, insurance and pension information and forms, 2006 Annual Conference business matters, special offerings, and technology under "Business & Administration."

Our conference's weekly *E-Link* newsletter and bi-weekly *Central Link* newspaper are under "News

& Information" along with links to all the latest news from *Reporter Interactive* (online version of *The Reporter*) and United Methodist News Service. Also included here is InfoServ that is the United Methodist Church's one-stop place to find answers to your questions.

"Ministry Areas" is where visitors will find Church Growth & Development and the program ministries as they are organized under the Nurture, Outreach and Witness Councils. To learn more about the new organizational structure, "N.O.W. Ministries" provides the structure diagram, conference goals, *NOW Guidelines*, and then links you to the Nurture, Outreach and Witness areas with explanations and contacts for each area of ministry.

"Resources" is the entry point for resources for local churches like the Resource Center, background checks, scholarships, *When Questions Arise* legal guidelines, and technology resources. "About Us" is another way to access local churches and clergy, the district offices, NOW ministries, and conference staff persons.

A key feature on the Website is the "Search Our Site" icon in the upper left side. This is a powerful search tool to help users locate resources within the site. Please note that this site operates at both www.ctcumc.org and www.ctxumc.org. As construction continues on this new site, we welcome your suggestions for new features and resources.



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the  
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## A Kernel of Truth

# Reflections of the Bishop

By BISHOP BEN. R. CHAMNESS

**F**or a number of reasons the United States Congress has been considering the matter of immigration. They include the following:

1. The border is not secure and numerous undocumented immigrants enter the country every day.
2. There is a danger of terrorists entering the U.S. and causing grave damage.
3. The growing number of undocumented immigrants is taxing our economy and health care system.

However, the early approach of the subject by the House and Senate has drawn criticism and controversy. Demonstrations by a large number of immigrants throughout the country have shown that this matter is very important. The political left and right have found a new issue over which to fight.

It seems this is a complicated issue with very important consequences. We should be reminded that our United Methodist Social Principles speak to this matter (Para. 163.F of the *2004 Book of Discipline*): "We advocate for the rights of all migrants and applaud their efforts toward responsible self-organization and self-determination." This is not just a political issue; it is a human rights issue and a civil rights issue.

A few matters need to be kept in mind as our country tries to resolve this crisis:

- Better security measures must be found for our borders to prevent further undocumented migration and possible terrorist infiltration.
- There are both legally documented and undocumented immigrants in the U.S., and we must

distinguish between them.

- Legally documented immigrants from numerous countries have been admitted throughout the history of the U.S. They have earned their citizenship and must be respected.

- Unless undocumented immigrants have committed some crime other than coming into this country without credentials, it would behoove us to find a way for them to earn their citizenship and let them remain in the U.S. as long as they are making progress toward the goal. They should be registered and not have to fear being caught and deported.

- For those who do not want to become citizens of the U.S., they should be issued worker permits with a defined time period before they must return to their home country.

In all of this we must remember that these immigrants are human beings of sacred worth. Most of them are seeking to feed their families and better their fortunes in life. The Christian conscience would have us treat all human beings with love, respect, and compassion — at least until they prove to be a menace to society. We can draw a line at a date certain when new undocumented immigrants will be returned to their home country, but the ones who are already here should be given the options stated above.

*Ben R. Chamness*



## Bishop's Speaking Schedule

May 7: Bishop preaching at First UMC, Mansfield for the consecration of their redesigned and enlarged sanctuary

May 10: Bishop to deliver keynote address to Transitional-Interim Ministry Specialists (TIMS) gathering at Scarritt Bennett, Nashville, Tenn.

May 15-16: Central Conferences (outside the U.S.) Pension Committee meeting at Chicago, Ill

May 21: Consecration service at St. James UMC, Temple

## Bishops' Week event focuses on Hispanic ministries

**T**he 2006 focus for Bishops' Week June 20-24 is "Discipling Hispanics: A 21st Century Mission Challenge." It will be held at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

Justo L. Gonzalez of the Rio Grande Conference will be keynote speaker for this

event which is hosted by the bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction. Gonzalez was born in Cuba, was educated in the U.S. at Yale University, retired from seminary teaching, and since 1977 has been writing and promoting the theological education of Latinas and Latinos.

The workshops at Bishops' Week will include:

- Helping Non-Hispanic Congregations Reach Hispanics,
- Hispanic Ministry in Rural Areas,
- Understanding and Using Demographic Data.
- Multiple Models of Hispanic Ministry,
- Role of District Superintendents in Developing Hispanic Ministries, and
- Starting New Hispanic Congregations/ Ministries.

"Our gathering at Bishops' Week this year offers an opportunity to gain tools and insights that will allow us to discover ways to build relationships and be in ministry alongside our Hispanic/Latino neighbors," said Bishop Ann B. Sherer of the Nebraska Conference. "Join us on the 'mountain' as we learn together how to live out 'Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors' as The United Methodist Church."

Bishops' Week is an annual event sponsored by the bishops of the South Central Jurisdiction and held at Mount Sequoyah, the jurisdictional conference and retreat center. For more information or registration form, please contact your bishop's office or Mount Sequoyah at 800-760-8126 or [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org).

## MCH earns reaccreditation

**M**ethodist Children's Home in Waco earned one of the highest ratings available as part of its recent reaccreditation process conducted by the Council on Accreditation, according to Bobby Gilliam, MCH president.

The accreditation council attests that an organization meets the highest national standards and is delivering the best quality services to the community it serves. MCH received high marks on more than 600 standards as part of the comprehensive accreditation process.

"I am especially pleased with the hard work and dedication of our staff, which remains committed to offering the highest quality of care to children, youth and families," states Gilliam.

"Although we have been very proud of this ministry, this accreditation validates that our children, staff and board of directors are committed to excellence," he continued. "We will continue to strengthen our programs and services as we carry out our mission to offer hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community."

COA is an international, independent, not-for-profit accrediting body based in New York. Methodist Children's Home is among more than 1,000 private and public organizations that are accredited and recognized in COA's "Community of Excellence." MCH's current accreditation will remain in effective through June 2010.

## History in the Making

# And the walls came tumbling down!

BY GRANT HARRIS, DIRECTOR  
GLEN LAKE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

The familiar line to a classic tune many of us sang in Vacation Bible School — “And the walls came tumbling down ...” — rings true these days as demolition of the Education Building has begun at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in order to make way for the Dr. Norman & Mary Ellis Education Center.

Many longtime campers know the Education Building as the original Dining Hall, constructed in the mid-1940s under the direction of Glen Lake stalwarts such as W.H. Coleman, John A. Siceloff, Hall Cherry and Howard Segó.

This wonderful old structure served as the dining hall until the mid-1960s when construction on a new dining facility began and the existing structure was remodeled to meet the growing need for meeting space.

The vision for the Ellis Education Center came to life a year ago when Norman and Mary approached the camp about making a difference through their stewardship. The Ellis family and Glen Lake have enjoyed a storied history dating back to the 1950s.

This past March marked the 48th year of the Upper Room Sunday School Class Retreat from St. Luke United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, of which the Ellises have played a leadership role since its inception.

Throughout this process, we have worked hard to maintain our original mission to “promote the threefold



**The 1940s Education Building at Glen Lake served the conference well, but the way is being cleared for the new Ellis Education Center to better meet future needs.**



spiritual, mental, and physical development of young persons and adults as Christians.” We continually look for new ideas and programs that retain our identity and purpose while attempting to meet the ever-changing requests and needs of our guests.

Over the past 10 years, we have experienced a dramatic

increase in the demand for additional meeting space that will accommodate a variety of guests’ needs. Glen Lake is excited about the opportunity to offer a facility where our guests can have a place to meet, relax, enjoy fellowship, and recharge their “spiritual batteries.”

The Ellis Education Center will address the meeting needs of many Glen Lake groups for years to come. This 6,500 square foot state-of-the-art facility will provide the latest in multi-media equipment, comfort, and accessibility to many more groups at Glen Lake.

History is not lost with this new facility as the beautiful limestone rock from the original Education Building will remain an essential design element of the new facility.

Glen Lake has been available for more than 65 years to serve in ministry to thousands of people throughout the Central Texas Conference and beyond. It is because of our commitment to this type of ministry that we hope to be able to meet the wishes of our guests as we seek opportunities to express the love of Christ in real and tangible ways.

These needs could not be met without the generous support of Dr. Norman and Mary Ellis, the Hesta Stewart Christian Charitable Trust, the Roy Grogan Foundation, and the donor advised fund of Douglas and Allison Fogle through the Texas Methodist Foundation. As we embark on another chapter in the life of Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center we invite you to track the progress of this exciting project and others by visiting our Website at [www.glenlake.org](http://www.glenlake.org).

## 10 things seniors want in a church

BY RICHARD H. GENTZLER, JR. DIRECTOR, CENTER ON AGING & OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

Some time ago I read an interesting article entitled, “What do seniors want in a restaurant?” I found the article very helpful, especially if I was in the restaurant business!

The writer provided helpful information about the needs and concerns of older adults who enjoy eating in a restaurant.

While I neither own a restaurant nor work in one, I believe the article provided helpful information for restaurant owners/operators who want to successfully meet the needs of the growing numbers of older adults who enjoy dining out.

After reading the article I began

to wonder, what do seniors want in a church? And with so much focus on reaching young people, do our congregations really care about what older adults want in a church?

In other words, are congregations intentionally inviting, nurturing, and equipping older adults to grow in faith and to serve as Christian disciples for the transformation of the world?

So, for the past two years while traveling across the country, leading seminars and workshops on aging and older adult ministries, I have asked the question: What do seniors want in a church?

As a result I have received hundreds, if not thousands, of responses. The responses are quite interesting. I spent time collating the responses into 10 categories. Please keep in mind that this is not a scientific study. While the vast majority of responses are from older adults themselves, I asked people who are already involved in the church.

These are the categories and responses that continued to surface every time I asked the question. These are the prevalent concerns that were raised when the question was asked, “What do you want in a church?”

1. They want a church that helps them deepen their relationship with God.
2. They want a church that provides the freedom for them to seek, doubt and ask questions related to a growing faith.
3. They want a church that provides opportunities for them to be in relationship with others, including children, youth and adults of all ages.
4. They want a church where the Word of God is pro-

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## Conference Calendar

### May:

- 4: Fort Worth District clergy meeting
  - 4-7: UMW Division Assembly at Anaheim, Calif.
  - 7: Golden Cross Sunday
  - 7: Weatherford District pension meeting at Aledo UMC
  - 11: Northern FAYM
  - 12: UMW School of Mission planning
  - 15: General Conference '08 Directors Roundtable
  - 15: Waxahachie District Conference
  - 15: Church Growth & Development Executive Committee
  - 15: Medicare Part D open enrollment deadline
  - 16: Mid-Cities District Conference
  - 17: National United Methodist Campers National Rally at Perry, Georgia
  - 17: The Call to Mexico
  - 18: Waco FAYM meeting
  - 18: Waco District Conference
  - 18: District Disaster Response Coordinators meeting
  - 19: Deadline for materials to be included in Annual Conference packets
  - 20: Commission on Inclusiveness meeting
- June:**
- 4: FUSE - a reunion & celebration for CTCYM in Waco
  - 4-7: Annual Conference in Waco

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

## Local Church Highlights



**Sheryl Cornelius sits at one of the six computer stations now available for seniors to learn computer skills at Bethel UMC in southwest Fort Worth. The lab will also be available with math textbooks and volunteer instructors for children and youth three afternoons a week.**

### Bethel UMC shares their "good neighbor" experience

Bethel United Methodist Church in southwest Fort Worth welcomed a new neighbor recently when Walmart started clearing land for a new facility just across from the 100-member church.

As development got underway in July 2005, the Walmart management team needed a "personnel office" for interviewing and hiring new employees. They asked their Bethel neighbors for help and eventually "adopted" Bethel UMC for that purpose as well as the site for community meetings then and in the future.

Rev. Al Munger, pastor at Bethel and Wesley United Methodist Church, and Sheryl Cornelius, chair of Bethel's Board of Trustees, showed "open hearts, open minds, open doors" hospitality and welcomed their neighbors and visitors.

About three months later, after completion of the Walmart Neighborhood Market and accompanying self-service fuel center, Walmart repaid the favor with a generous \$3,000 grant. It seems Walmart gives community grants every year, and they've adopted Bethel because of their community-minded endeavors.

"We're using the Walmart grant as seed money to further serve our community," states Cornelius. A new Community Computer Lab opened Monday, May 1, at the church at 5000 Southwest Blvd. The six-station lab is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for senior citizens in the community, and from 4 to 7 p.m. for youngsters.

With volunteer instructors from the community, the focus for the seniors will be on computer basics, use of the Internet, and learning how to stay connected through e-mail.

The focus for the youngsters, states Cornelius, will be on developing math and typing skills. She has downloaded math program information from the Fort Worth Independent School District. With those textbooks and volunteers, children will have an opportunity to increase their math skills and proficiency in related endeavors.

"The Fort Worth Independent School System has Board approved the use of our lab for their students," Rev. Munger told area businesses as he invited them to be supporters of such programs in the community.

Bethel is the hub for other activities in their area including the meeting site for the Ridglea Hills Addition Neighborhood Association, an association Cornelius organized. The neighborhood association has been recognized for its effectiveness and involvement in the wider Westside community, states Rev. Munger.

The church's Mother's Day Out program is offered three days a week, but will move to five days a week by the end of the year. The church grounds get a workout too several days a week with organized baseball and soccer events for the neighborhood children and youth. And inside, there are regularly scheduled women's exercise classes and a group called Overeaters who learn about healthy lifestyles and weight control.

Contact for more details: Sheryl Cornelius at 817-738-5184.

## 52 Central Texas women attend UMW General Assembly at Anaheim, CA

**F**ifty-two United Methodist Women from the Central Texas Conference will be among the 8,000 women from around the world convening in Anaheim, Calif., May 4-7 for the UMW General Assembly.

(A list of participants from the Central Texas Conference appears in the right column. Local churches may want to invite them to share their experience.)

The General Assembly, held every fourth year, is a gathering of women from around the world who raise concerns and take action on the plight of women, children and youth nationally and internationally.

The opening worship service featured music representing the diversity in the Los Angeles area and among the participants, including Latino, Tongan, African, Native American, and Japanese Taiko drummers.

At this event, the women experience art with a message as award-winning actress, playwright and author Anna Devere Smith performs May 5 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Event organizers invited Smith to perform because her projects have a message paralleling the understanding and work of their one-million member organization. By examining controversial events from multiple viewpoints, Smith's theater and film work combines journalistic techniques of interviewing her subjects with interpretation of their words through drama.

In other venues, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and Kenyan presidential candidate Wahu Kaara brings a perspective of global

poverty and urgency unknown to many in the U.S. She will speak to the gathering on May 5. This 2007 presidential candidate in the Kenyan presidential elections addressed the United Nations last year, describing herself as a grassroots woman "who experiences on a daily basis the pain and indignity of hunger, disease and illiteracy."

She is the ecumenical program coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals at the All Africa Conference of Churches and also founder and coordinator of the Kenya Debt Relief Network.

On May 6 about 700 American UMW members will make a 5-K "Walk for Mission" to raise funds and awareness for programs and projects supporting women and children. Also that day, Bolivian cabinet member and workers' rights activist Casimira Rodriguez Romero will tackle the common threads of workers globally. She is chief executive of the National Federation of Household Workers, a union that successfully lobbied the Bolivian Parliament to pass the Household Workers Law in 2003. California teenager Kim Hallowell, an activist against child labor who stated a "Free the Children" book club, will join Romero.

Among the closing events will be performances by Clark Atlanta University Steppers, carrying on an African-American tradition that was highlighted at the 1996 Olympic Games, and Ewha High School Alumni Choir, a historic school in Seoul, Korea. They will perform in honor of the women who founded and funded these historic institutions.

### Brownwood District

Pearl Carpenter  
Carolyn Cotton  
Cynthia Rives

### Fort Worth District

Susan Adcock  
Marilyn Anderson  
Gina Baxter  
Virginia Boggess  
Jane Goodspeed  
Nancy Herring  
Linda Hutchings  
Gail Jensen  
Edna Langley  
Virginia Limpomb  
Linda Loggins  
Mary Weathers

### Mid-Cities District

Celesta Anderson  
Clarita Dennis  
Annie Dobbins  
Phyllis Daley  
Pauline Hibbler  
Armentha Hill  
Dianne Humphrey  
Glenda Lawrence  
Myrtis Parker  
Marion Pouncy  
Theresa Robinson  
Mary Strom  
Jacquelyn Strong  
Paulette Terrell  
Ann Thompson  
Nancy Welton  
Cindy Woelke

### Temple District

Marilyn Allison  
Julie Cauthen  
Aurora Cepeda  
Mary Englekling  
Nina Fowler  
Patty Lee  
Wanda Marsh  
Jean Nolen

### Waco District

Maxine Clements  
Cindy Damon  
Carolyn Wallace

### Waxahachie District

Enda Davis  
Cathy Williams

### Weatherford District

Lynne Dechairo  
Glenda Herbert  
Peggy McGlothlin  
Janice Whitecotton  
Helen Goodwin

### 10 things ... | Continued from page 5

claimed with clarity, assurance, and love.

**5.** They want a church that honestly wrestles with the tough issues of life and death.

**6.** They want a church that provides older adults with the opportunity to learn and serve.

**7.** They want a church that values the wisdom, experience, and faith of older adults.

**8.** They want a church that encourages the faith development of older adults.

**9.** They want a church that equips older adults for

living as faithful Christians.

**10.** They want a church that is accessible and free of barriers.

As [someone interested in] older adult ministries, what do older adults want in your church? Have you asked? If not, why not? Invite your older adults to share what it is that they most want in a church. The answers just might surprise you. The answers might invite you to vision new ministries and opportunities for service.

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