



Central Texas Conference
United Methodist Church

Section A | Two Sections

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Women in Ministry

Bishop Chamness joins the denomination in celebrating a milestone for women in ministry

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At the 2005 Annual Conference and equal number of lay and clergy are seated by districts. They have equal votes on all business matters. This year members will celebrate the 50-year milestone for women in ministry and open a new "Follow Me" theme for making disciples.

A milestone to celebrate

June 4-7 Annual Conference preview

Members to the 2006 Central Texas Annual Conference June 4-7 in Waco will join the denomination in observing the 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women.

More than 1,100 members and observers at this year's Annual Conference will find women ministers as worship leaders, as preacher at all four worship services, making reports and presentations, leading the Conference's decision makers through a series of resolutions, and

"unveiling" a compilation of personal writings about their experiences as trail blazers. *Herstory Begins: The Legacy of Ordained Women in the Central Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church* is a collection of personal reflections by the women who have traveled the journey, those who have welcomed them into their church pastorates (some after great resistance), and the men who sing the praises of their sisters in ministry.

Some of the stories are heart wrenching, others full of joy, but they

will be forever be a part of our denominational history. They remind us that major change comes as a result of working through fear and discomfort to a place of acceptance and appreciation.

Annual Conference members will also focus on the message in the new Conference logo and theme to "Follow Me" and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Bishop Ben R. Chamness will open the conference with a message of our mission of witnessing to our faith.

That theme will be amplified in the report of the Cabinet and in the Mission Ministries' Nurture, Outreach and Witness Councils' reports and challenges to churches to be more diligent in their witnessing.

Among the resolutions to be brought before the membership are:

- The Judicial Council decision 1032,
- The war in Iraq,
- The death penalty in Texas, and
- Support for millennium campaign.

Observers are welcome to experience Annual Conference in action.



Stewardship

People are motivated to give to winning organizations!

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Mount Zion & Eules

Two churches get historical markers

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Heritage Sunday

Two churches share roots, receive historic markers

Two congregations of the Central Texas Conference are celebrating milestones in their histories and preparing to receive Texas Historic Markers as the denomination observes Heritage Sunday May 21.

First UMC, Eules

First United Methodist Church of Eules will celebrate its 130 years of service with the dedication and

presentation of a Texas Historical Marker at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21. Located midway between Fort Worth and Dallas at 106 N. Main St., the church is the oldest continuously operating organization in the community of Eules.

The program, open to the public, is appropriately part of the National Methodist Heritage Sunday, since the Methodist Church has long played a significant role in Eules history.

Former University of Texas at Austin

president John W. Calhoun in his 1939 autobiography described Eules as "the most Methodistly religious place that I ever saw," when he arrived in 1897. Calhoun was among the hundreds of families who migrated from Coffee and Bedford counties, Tennessee, to Northeast Tarrant County. Many of them brought their Methodist faith traditions with them.

About 50 faithful worshippers began meeting in 1876, at first in

the Grange Hall, where other denominations also met. Then members erected a separate structure in about 1891 on the site of the present church. The church's growth has mirrored Eules' development from a rural community to a thriving city of 50,000.

As the town increased, the congregation has responded to the needs of its members and the

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A Kernel of Truth

Reflections of the Bishop

BY BISHOP BEN. R. CHAMNESS

Fifty years ago I was a sophomore in high school. If I had ever had a thought about entering ministry at that time, it was a very fleeting notion. However, through the years a number of women in every generation had felt a call to be engaged in ministry. They had no mentors or examples of other women in ministry. It was a male-dominated profession at that time. Besides, the laws of the church did not permit women to be ordained.

If a young woman sought to enter the ministry of The Methodist Church, she was encouraged to be a missionary, a deaconess, and educational director, or to serve God as a faithful member of her local church.

But in 1956 the General Conference of The United Methodist Church made the momentous decision to allow women to be fully ordained, appointed, and engaged in ministry. The decision was long overdue. But even so, The Methodist Church was one of the first major denominations to open its doors to women clergy. Even then, women had a long difficult road to acceptance in clergy roles.

When I attended seminary from 1962 to 1965, there was only one woman in the student body at Perkins School of Theology. And it was not until 1975 that the Central Texas Conference ordained their first woman.

Since 1956 more and more women have entered our seminaries and have been ordained into the United Methodist ministry. The Central Texas Conference has been blessed with many very capable and effective

women clergy. Some churches, and some individuals, have been reluctant to receive a woman pastor. But by far, most of the reluctant parishioners have changed their minds and have been saddened to see their woman pastor leave at some point.

Change comes very hard for some of us, and our female clergy had to pave the way and pioneer for those who will follow this generation with much easier acceptance.

As we celebrate the 50th year of women in ordained ministry in our church, it is time to celebrate the many gifts brought to the church by our faithful sisters who have responded to God's call. It is time to rejoice in this wonderful gift of female pastors that God has raised up among us.

We are now experiencing women in all positions of leadership in The United Methodist Church. Women have joined men to serve as pastors, district superintendents, general secretaries of our general boards, and bishops. They bring special gifts of leadership to every level of the church. I am personally thankful that God has raised up two generations of men and women in my lifetime to carry the good news of Jesus Christ in an effective way to a changing world. The inclusive nature of the ministry is a true blessing! Thanks be to God.

Ben R. Chamness



Bishop's Speaking Schedule

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

June 3: Pre-Annual Conference Cabinet dinner in Waco

June 4: Bishop to preach 10:50 a.m. service at First UMC, Waco

June 4-7: Preside at Central Texas Annual Conference, Waco

June 20: SCJ Episcopacy Committee meeting

June 21: SCJ College of Bishops

June 22-24: Bishops' Weekend at Mt. Sequoyah

June 27: 6:30 p.m. Consecration of Arlington Urban Ministries building

Heritage Sunday honors roots

Historic site marker criteria

The United Methodist Church honors the denomination's Wesleyan heritage each year with Heritage Sunday, this year to be celebrated on or about May 21.

Two of our conference churches have chosen to announce their receipt of Texas Historical Markers to coincide with the UMC's observance. Conference archivist Carol Roszell, who also serves as the conference Resource Center director, has put together the following information on how other churches might pursue this recognition.

United Methodist Historic Marker

Historic sites are buildings, locations, or structures that are specifically related to a significant event, development, or personality in the history of an Annual Conference.

Historic sites are designed by formal action of the Annual Conference to approve a historic site within whose region the site is located. After action by the Annual Conference, the Conference Commission on Archives & History will provide the supporting documentation to the General Commission on Archives & History who shall then issue the marker. The complete wording is found in the *2004 Book of Discipline* ¶ 1712.

Five basic criteria govern the approval of a site.

Age: Sites related to historic congregations and/or institutions which were established at least

100 years ago. Sites related to historically important persons who have been deceased at least 100 years.

Location: The proposed site must be within the bounds of the Central Texas Conference.

Historic: Sites must have significance to the United Methodist Church in Texas.

Historic: An official Texas Historical Marker must have been awarded to the site by the Texas Historical Commission (see below).

Documentation: A documented type-written history of the subject site along with the formal application and required documentation must be provided.

Texas Historic Marker

There are two distinct categories of Official Texas Historical Markers — subject and building. Subject markers are the type applicable for pursuing a Methodist marker.

Subject markers are solely educational and reveal aspects of local history that are important to a community or region. These honor such topics as churches, schools, and businesses. No limitation is placed on the use of the site.

Building markers are awarded only to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical and architectural associations.

For more information and applications, please contact Carol Roszell at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or carol@ctcumc.org.

District Conferences are prelude to Annual Conference

In preparation for the 2006 Annual Conference June 4-7 in Waco, District Conferences are held in each district to give members a preview of what will take place at this yearly meeting.

Annual Conference is the official business session where groups within the conference report on activities and announce future plans; decisions are made about ministries and financial matters; the process of Christian conferencing is employed for discussing issues before the denomination and society; and members join in worship and celebrations. The District Conferences are being held at 7 p.m. with the exception of the Waco District conference which will be at 6:30 p.m.

May 15 Waxahachie District at Ovilla UMC
May 16 Mid-Cities District at Smithfield UMC
May 18 Waco District at Cogdell UMC
May 23 Weatherford District at Calvary UMC
May 23 Temple District at Salado UMC
May 25 Fort Worth District at Christ UMC
May 30 Brownwood District at Comanche UMC

Laity Message

What's appropriate for you?

By ED KOMANDOSKY, CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE LAY LEADER

Easter has come and gone (but hopefully the message lingers), start-up and stewardship seminars are over, and now lots of effort is going into getting ready for Annual Conference.

As I started to organize myself for Annual Conference, I happened upon a quote from Albert Schweitzer (remember Schweitzer? — we used to hear of him often but not so much now). He said, “I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know, the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

What a true statement for those who carry out the Christian faith day in and day out. There are those whose vocation is service — clergy, nurses, teachers, military and many others — and there are those whose service is an extra part of their lives

— Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, camp counselors and many others who perform service we unfortunately often take for granted.

As Annual Conference nears, let us remember those who give of their time and treasure to serve us. Those servant leaders make up a vital part of United Methodism. There will be many reports at Annual Conference that will reflect the areas of work that the United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, our youth, Aldersgate Enrichment Center, Wesleyan Homes, children's homes, colleges and other Methodist organizations are doing to make lives better.

I urge you to take to heart those good works and contribute your time and talent as well as your treasurer to these worthy

causes.

But, as you will hear at Annual Conference July 4-7 in Waco, while we as servant leaders do many good works here at home and around the world, we must not lose sight of God's Great Commission to go out and make disciples.

This initiative will remind us that to continue to do good, we need the hands and hearts of many more — the unchurched, the lost, and those who have not caught the spirit. Be prepared to join in a great new movement in our conference and in your own local church to spread the spirit and make new disciples.

Recently I heard on television a story about a Dallas area sport commentator who said that his real heroes were not on the gridiron or the basketball court or any sports field. His heroes were those public servants who rush toward terror,



danger and death while the rest of us are rushing away. His heroes don't make tons of money or lots of tabloid headlines, but are the servants of the public.

He's right. Our heroes ought to be our public servants, our police and fire personnel, our teachers, and our EMS workers. Our heroes in the church should be our teachers, counselors, youth leaders, and others who expect nothing but to serve us and our God.

See you in Waco.



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN STEPHENS

Clif Christopher, partner in Horizons Stewardship Company, used his boundless energy to shatter myths and build strategic, scripture-based strategies on stewardship to benefit the

ministries of our local churches. Six hundred pastors, financial managers, administrative boards and stewardship committees from Central Texas churches attended recent stewardship seminars.

Stewardship — a new perspective!

Six hundred Central Texas Conference church leaders, most serving on local church stewardship committees or administrative boards and some employed as staff financial managers, took advantage of the two conference-wide stewardship seminars held in late April.

This educational opportunity, titled “This Is Not Your Parents' Offering Plate,” got rave reviews from both lay and clergy participants who left the seminar feeling clearer about their specific roles in church stewardship planning and procedures. The seminars were held April 29 at Central United Methodist Church in Waco and again

April 30 at First United Methodist Church of Hurst.

Clif Christopher, lead trainer with Horizons Stewardship Company, burst several long-held myths about stewardship. At the top of the list is the myth that members give out of loyalty and obligation because the church needs operating funds.

In fact, today's church members' giving practices are in direct response to their belief in the mission of the institution and evidence that the ministries of that institution are changing lives in a positive way.

A changed human being is the core product and service that our

churches can deliver. Churches must deliver on that promise, with results reported to members in “missional” or human-story budgets rather than line item budgets.

“This program brought out a new philosophy that our church never considered,” wrote one participant on his evaluation form. “We have been following a 1960s approach to stewardship but will definitely change that to a 21st century approach!!” “Thank you. You've changed my thinking and I hope my actions,” wrote another.

Another busted myth is everyone receives and responds to our messages equally. The truth is congregations consist of members in different life

stages. Saying “thank you” is the most important message we can convey to all, but it needs to be specific to where the receivers are in their life stage — separate letters to different generations. And we need to do it at least six times a year by personalized letters, never in a newsletter.

From two other participants: “Best information I have ever heard [about stewardship] — straight to the point and very useful.” As the stewardship committee chair of an 1800+ membership, I now have many useful (practical!) ideas for better ministry and service. Thanks!!!”

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Conference Calendar

- May:**
- 17-21: The Call to Mexico mission trip
 - 19: Deadline for items to be included in Annual Conference packets
 - 20: Commission on Inclusiveness meeting
 - 20: Nurture Mission Council meeting
 - 23: Weatherford District Conference
 - 23: Temple District Conference
 - 23: Central Texas Methodist Foundation board meeting
 - 24: Mid-Cities Health & Welfare luncheon
 - 25: Fort Worth District Conference
 - 25: Temple District FAYM meeting
 - 29: Memorial Day observance
 - 29-31: Glen Lake Voyager 1 Camp
 - 30: Brownwood District Conference
- June:**
- 4: FUSE - a reunion & celebration for CTCYM in Waco
 - 4-7: Annual Conference in Waco
 - 5-9: Glen Lake Voyager 2 Camp
 - 9-11: Glen Lake Discovery 1 Camp
 - 11-17: CTCYM Senior High Trip
 - 12-16: Glen Lake Explorer Camp
 - 12-16: Glen Lake Bike Camp
 - 18-20: Glen Lake Camp on the Road at Faith UMC
 - 19: Fort Worth District Clergy & Spouses supper meeting
 - 21-23: Glen Lake Camp on the Road at Aldersgate UMC

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

Stewardship ... | Continued from page 5

Churches can increase stewardship by seeking gifts from three areas, says Christopher:

- annual giving,
- capital campaigns for specific purposes, and
- planned or estate gifts.

New members should not be left in the dark when they join the church. They enter into a covenant with the church to serve it with their prayers, presence, gifts and services. Be certain new members know what that means and are ready to commit to true membership — if not, they may not be ready for membership.

Christopher strongly encourages new members attend regular on-going Christian financial planning classes. If churches are not currently doing this, make it a new tradition, he says.

Christopher also burst the myth that

pastors can't serve the congregation equally if they know members' giving patterns. He says, "Pastors must know about the giving of their members. Lay leaders should also know." Because people give to people, he believes pastors must build relationships with generous disciples. Knowing your major donors' dreams is the first step in making them happen.

From other participants: "Awesome. I felt you were speaking directly to our church. I will do what I can to use this information."

"It's been like my diet; I've had to change everything I've been doing! But I like the changes that were explained — it just makes sense!"

"I learned a great deal of what to do and what we have done for years incorrectly. Much of what I learned can be implemented immediately to effect the necessary change to be successful."



Sharing their roots ... | Continued from page 1

community through worship, education and service.

"The Official Texas Historical Marker program helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation," said Larry Oaks, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission, which awards the marker.

The marker is based on a history written by Weldon Cannon, Ph.D., and Norma Lively, both of whom have strong connections to the congregation. The history was a real labor of love for both. Dr. Cannon, professor emeritus of history at Temple College, has ancestors who were among those Tennesseans who settled in Euless and worshipped at the church. Lively has been a longtime active church member.

Mount Zion UMC, Waco

Mount Zion is the parent church for what would become four black congregations whose roots go back to the end of slavery in the Waco area. The congregation has been observing its founding on the third Sunday each October since the church was established in 1866.

For nearly 140 years, this church has contributed to the moral, cultural, educational, and spiritual development of the Waco community just as it continues to do today. Much of the church's history tells the story of the evolution of the black church in Methodism.

It was in 1864 when the General Conference authorized the organization of Mission Conferences among black people. One year later, at the famous Christmas Annual Conference in New Orleans, Bishop Edward Thompson led in the organization of the Mississippi Mission Conference which included Methodist churches in Texas. From Methodism's early history, the denomination won converts, probably due to its appeal and its stand on social concerns.

Another celebration during that time, which hailed the ranks of all blacks, was the freeing of all slaves. Methodist and Baptist slaves living in Waco at that time worshipped under a large oak tree on the banks of the Brazos and occasionally in the balcony of the white First Baptist Church. Records show that the 18 soon-to-be-freed slaves who worshipped together, along with assistance from the First Baptist pastor and Baylor University's president, chartered their own church in June 1866. The first church home was a foundry located on Jefferson and Sixth streets, rented for \$2 per month. The Baptists and Methodists alternated using the building two Sundays each month.

In 1867, the Texas Conference, covering the entire state, was organized out of the Mississippi Mission Conference, and by 1874 the West Texas Conference was formed.

When the need arose for educating ex-slaves, Howard Institute was organized by the Freedman's Aid Society on the site of the "union church." The building was torn down and the lumber, nails and other items divided equally between the Methodist and Baptist congregations.

Mount Zion moved their congregation to North Sixth and Marlborough, but the two congregations kept a close affiliation even to alternating worship with each other. That first church was dedicated in 1873, but another church was erected in 1894. The church's rich history flourished with such dedicated leaders as Minverva Scott

First UMC, Euless



who served as church school superintendent for 44 years (1930-1974).

It was in May of 1939 that the jurisdictional system was created for the denomination with five regional units and the Central Jurisdiction for all black conferences. Mount Zion continued to develop ministries within and in outreach. Mount Zion has always believed "that a mind is a terrible thing to waste," so they have consistently been associated with and supportive of Huston-Tillotson, Wiley College, Southern Methodist University, Texas Wesleyan University, McMurry College, and Southwestern University in Georgetown. They make monthly contributions to the ongoing leadership of these institutions.

Their outreach efforts also support institutions that help young adults, youth, children/adults with special needs at area and global institutions. Mount Zion became a United Methodist Church in 1968 with the merging of the Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church. Since the constitution of the new church did not provide for the Central Jurisdiction, black conferences were transferred to regional jurisdictions.

Due to Waco's growth and progress, the church and property were purchased by the Urban Renewal Project in 1971. A new church was built on the present site and dedicated in 1973. That mortgage was retired under the leadership of Rev. E. Dolly Scott, the second mortgage years later under the leadership of Rev. Jackie Chambers. Much was done over the years to establish enrichment classes for children in the housing projects as well as the children at Mount Zion. A tutoring program was established for children, and computer equipment supplied by the Waco ISD helped children improve their computer skills, and outreach programs support United Methodist and community service organizations.



Mount Zion UMC