

# Entre Nos/Between Us

A Quarterly Newsletter from CTC Hispanic Ministry



## Diamond Hill UMC: Moving Forward

New pastor, Juanita Montemayor, speaks of a real hope for the future ministries at Diamond Hill UMC located



*Pastor, Juanita Montemayor*

in the heart of Fort Worth's Northside neighborhood. Appointed to the church in June 2006, Montemayor has witnessed a tremendous growth in her short time there. An existing after school program has grown to 29 members, having added two more students only this last week. During the program (Tuesdays-Thursdays from 3:00-5:30 pm), students grades 1-5 are separated into three classrooms where they are taught by committed members of the community. After their two hour study time, Pastor Juanita leads the children in a half-hour worship. Each teacher brings gifts to the program in activities like arts and dance. There is even talk

of forming a traveling folklorico dance group with some of the children.

Along with children's education, the church offers two different ESL classes for community members. The first is offered in partnership with Fort Worth ISD. In this partnership, the church provides the use of their building while the school provides additional resources and the teacher. This free class is offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Pastor Juanita teaches an evening class every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday where students also are given the opportunity to expand their computer skills in the process. The classes together serve roughly sixty people.

Church life has grown as well with the help of the member leadership in all areas. The youth group, lead by church members Joe and Quani Fuentes, meets regularly for a Thursday evening Bible study and Sunday fellowship. They are a

vital part of the outreach ministries of the church, committing one Sunday every month to helping the pastor invite members of the neighborhood to join the church.

Church services have become a central focus in the life of the church. Montemayor preaches weekly bilingual services to the largely Spanish-speaking congregation and is excited about the many visitors that have come through the doors of their beautiful sanctuary. More information about Diamond Hill can be found on their website at [www.diamondhillmission.org](http://www.diamondhillmission.org). We celebrate God's work in



*Morning ESL classes are serving the neighborhood*

this community and lift it up as an example of the kind of Hispanic Ministry that is possible with God's help.

### Special Points of Interest

- 2007: What's coming Up
- Highlights from this year's annual Hispanic Ministries Retreat
- Hispanic Ministry testimonials
- What we've done so far, an overview of the new Bridges Advisory Board
- Ministering to Hispanic Children

### Inside this issue:

SEPTEMBER RETREATS AND WORKSHOPS	2
A WORD ABOUT ST ANDREW UMC	2
BRIDGES INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD MEETS	2
HIGHLIGHTING 2006	3
TERESA SIMS, A TESTIMONY	3
MINISTERING TO HISPANIC CHILDREN	3
2007: LOOKING AHEAD	4

## September Workshops a Great Success

During the last weekend in September, the Hispanic Ministries office in conjunction with the Bridges of the Spirit Hispanic Ministries training institute offered a Friday leadership retreat and a Saturday *Awareness and Opportunities Workshop*. Both events were a great success! The Friday event was the second annual retreat for members of conference and district Hispanic Ministries committees. During the leadership retreat we heard several presentations about the possibilities and complexities of doing Hispanic ministries, and spent a good deal of time in conversation and reflection about what our core values should be.



*Conference Hispanic Ministry Leadership*

The Saturday event centered around becoming aware of many of the obstacles that we face in Hispanic Ministries as well as the opportunities that our churches have for reaching

out to the growing Latino communities in their areas. We welcomed members of conference churches, conference pastors, cabinet members, and later even the bishop in a time of worship followed by a presentation about generational and cultural diversity. After lunch we returned for a panel discussion where we experienced lively conversation about the nature of our current situation, considered what the Gospel looks like in 2006 Central Texas, and shared resources for creating and continuing a meaningful ministry with and among the Latino community. Both days were filled with great information, shared planning, and good fellowship!

*"Multi-cultural and ethnic ministries should be part of the church's core values." —Sam Rodriguez*

## Learning as we go: Church within a Church pilot program St. Andrews, Arlington

If you have not heard, the St. Andrews Arlington Hispanic Ministries Church within a Church pilot ended on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We in the conference office of Church Growth and Development celebrate St. Andrews' leadership and congregation for giving us the opportunity to learn first hand more about differing models in Hispanic Ministry growth. We want to thank Carlos Romero and his family for their commitment and far reaching ministry while at St. Andrews.

What insight did we glean from the

opportunity you may ask? Here are just a few:

- In Hispanic communities names such as Saint Andrews still connote and carry perception traditionally thought of as exclusively Roman Catholic.
- Location is an extremely important factor in terms of someone traveling out of their comfort zone/ neighborhood.
- A church's DNA may not necessarily predispose it towards another ministry even if there are some characteristic similarities between the

two.

- In a bilingual setting outreach ministry may still be the best entry for fostering relationship with people unfamiliar with a church.
- Personal one on one interaction with Hispanics is a major factor of building trust.

If you have any questions about the knowledge we gained, please feel free to contact me, Sam Rodriguez, or Rev. Allen Goss.

## Bridges Advisory Board Meets

A big thanks to the newly formed Bridges of the Spirit Hispanic Ministries Training Institute Advisory board. The board was formed in early August for the purpose of guidance in combining practical training with theological instruction and implementation for Hispanic Ministries. The board includes four area academic leaders along with several members of the Conference Hispanic Ministries

committee. The leaders are Dr. Elaine Robinson (Professor of Theology at Brite Divinity School), Rev. Jeannie Trevino Teddlie (Director of the Mexican American Program, Perkins Theology School) Dr. Daniel Flores (Adjunct professor of Church History at Perkins School of Theology, SMU), and Dr. Mark Hanshaw (Professor of Religious Studies at Richland College).

The Board met for the first time in late August for a time of brainstorming and visioning for the Bridges Institute in 2007. More information about the board can be found at our new Bridges Website on the conference site. We thank the members for their participation and their wisdom and we look forward to the positive outcomes of this group.

## My Testimony, By Teresa Sims (Member Aldersgate UMC)

I was born in South San Antonio, Texas to Hispanic parents. My mother's family came across the border to Texas during the Mexican Revolution in 1912. My father's family came to the city of San Antonio, Texas from Spain in the early 1700's. I am the youngest child in the family and the only girl. I had four older brothers. My family is very religious and we went to church every time the church door opened. I received the sacrament of baptism as a baby. I received my first Holy Communion at six years old, I was confirmed, studied Baltimore Catechism lessons and was very active in my church. At nineteen, I married a man outside the Catholic faith and was ex-communicated because I did not receive the sacrament of matrimony in the church.

My Catholic Faith was strongly implanted in my mind and it was hard for me to join any other faith. There was a neighbor that lived a short distance from me who continued to ask me to attend church with her on Sunday. The Methodist Church is around the corner from my home and I did visit the church with her occasionally for a period of eight years. I became a Methodist in 2004 after finally responding to God's leading. I went through orientation and started learning about the Methodist Faith.

Shortly, after becoming a member of the church, I became a member of the Visions Committee, and was asked to start English as a Second Language classes. I have been coordinating ESL

for over one year and a half. I am showing love and care for my community as I help others to learn the English Language. I am working to lead others to the Lord. The demographics in our community have changed and we are surrounded by a large Hispanic Population. The families have many children and I want to reach out and bring them into our Church. I invite my students to church but they continue to tell me that they will not come because they do not understand English. I feel that there is a need for a Hispanic minister to hold services. The need for a Hispanic minister increases. I will take my petitions to the Lord's Table and pray that his will be done in Jesus name. Amen

## Highlighting 2006

2006 has been a landmark year for the Hispanic Ministries office of the Central Texas Conference UMC! While continuing many of the programs from previous years such as the Spanish Immersion weekend in February, the September leaders retreat, and the annual conference *Cena de Amistad* (Friendship dinner), our activities have grown exponentially. February 2006 marked the

birth of the Bridges of the Spirit Training Institute for Hispanic/Latino Ministries. The Institute began its first year concentrating on the practicalities of Hispanic Ministries with workshops such as Ministering to Hispanic Children and Cultural Diversity as well as a ten week Spanish class. Further, the advisory board was formed during the summer months to begin visioning for the

Institute's future.

We are a very excited also to have been able to bring on an intern in Hispanic Ministries. Her presence in the office represents the growing importance of Hispanic Ministries in this conference. It has truly been an eventful year and we look forward to an even more meaningful 2007!

*"2006 has been a landmark year for the Hispanic Ministries Office at CTC UMC!"*

## Ministering To Hispanic Children Workshop



*Workshop at the Metro Board*

Saturday, October 29 The Bridges Institute offered a workshop covering ministry with Hispanic children. The workshop was taught by Hispanic children's ministry veteran, Shirley Wright, who brought the wisdom that comes from a wealth of experience.

During the workshop we discussed the many possible models for ministry with children, focusing on Polytechnic UMC's Jesus and Me (Saturday Sidewalk Sunday-school) as a successful model to consider. It was a time of encouragement, visioning, and sharing as we considered the possibilities for

Hispanic Ministry in each person's setting. We even welcomed an attendee from a Disciples of Christ church looking to expand her church's ministry. We thank each person involved, especially the Metropolitan Board of missions and Shirley Wright for sharing her passion and experience!



*Central Texas Conference UMC*

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**Mark Your Calendars! Looking Ahead to 2007.**

**Spanish 4 Gringos 10-week Course**

We are again offering the 10 week beginners' Spanish class for people interested in learning basic Spanish skills. This class has been taught twice over the last year and, in order to include a range of people and schedules, we are still in the process of scheduling it. If you are interested, WE NEED YOUR INPUT!! Email Sam@ctcumc.org to let us know when would be the best time for you.

**Spanish Immersion Weekend**

February 9-10, 2007

The Spanish Immersion Event is a weekend for people of beginner and intermediate skill levels to come and learn Spanish. The event will be held at Mansfield UMC. See included brochure for more information.

**Leadership Training for Spanish Speakers**

TBD (tentatively in late March)

This will be a training lead by Rev. Edwin Santos, Hispanic ministries director for the General Board of Discipleship, specifically for Spanish Speakers. He will be addressing many ministry concerns in the area of Hispanic Ministry.

**Widening Leadership in Second Generation Hispanic Contexts**

September 29, 2007

Marigene Chamberlain, Director of International Studies at Samford University, will be giving a workshop centering around developing leaders amongst all generations of Latinos especially the second generation and beyond.

**Christmas Posada**

Arlington Heights UMC and El Buen Samaritano UMC invite you to their respective Posada Celebrations. The Posada is a ritual reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter on Christmas night popular in Latin American countries. There will be live animals at both events including a petting zoo at Arlington Heights. Come out with your walking shoes for singing, fellowship, and celebration the week before Christmas.

**Arlington Heights**

Monday, December 18 5pm  
Meeting at Grace UMC

**El Buen Samaritano**

Saturday, December 23 5pm  
Shalom Park (Collard and Rosedale)