

PARTNERS IN MISSION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>District FORUMS</i>	2
<i>Dr. Hunt visits</i>	2
<i>Cleaning Buckets</i>	2
<i>Hurricane Preparedness</i>	3
<i>Early Response Training</i>	3
<i>Team Leader Training</i>	3
<i>El Salvador projects</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.

Garden of Plenty—Clute church nurtures faith and crops

For many churches, it's all about tending to the flock. For Wesley First United Methodist Church in Clute, TX, planting the seed of faith literally can mean tending to the crop.

The produce harvested from the church's garden goes to community members in need, as distributed through the community Food Basket which is located on the church grounds but is not operated by the church. A large section of ground between the church on Wesley Drive and the railroad tracks that run parallel to Old Angleton Road was plowed in December.



So far the garden has already produced almost 1,000 onions, 50 pounds of radishes, hundreds of tomatoes, beans, a couple of watermelons and cantaloupes, carrots, beets, squash, okra and rows of other delectable's.



It's Wesley First United Methodist's first season of harvesting its own crops and the Rev. Kendall Graham said the garden is not only feeding the hungry who rely on The Food Basket, it's a place that brings folks together.

"People volunteer to come help harvest the crops, weed and water the plants," Pastor Graham said. "It has been really

incredible seeing members of the community working together." By tending the good earth and reaping its bounty, Wesley FUMC has found another way to put its faith in action. It has turned out to be a much greater success than I could ever imagined, Pastor Graham said. The families at Wesley have plans to expand the garden and have it ready for the fall planting. This is a great way to spread Mission, Evangelism and Outreach throughout the community.

Want more information on community gardens? Contact Kendall Graham at 281-808-3901 or kcg@aaahawk.com.



RELIEF SUPPLIES: SCHOOL KITS NEEDED

The latest shipment of school kits to Haiti has seriously depleted UMCOR's supply. School kits provide children with basic school supplies such as paper, pencils, and other items. Collecting supplies and assembling relief supply kits is a great way to be involved in mission without leaving home. Gathering supplies and assembling school kits make for a great VBS project or an activity adults and children can do together. It costs approximately \$11 to assemble each school kit. Learn more about assembling school kits by going to UMCOR website and downloading the list of supplies.



UMCOR Cleaning Bucket

5-gallon bucket new—with sealable lid

- ✦ **liquid household cleaner** 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water no spray cleaners
- ✦ **dish soap** 16-28 oz. bottle, any brand
- ✦ **1 can air freshener**
- ✦ **1 insect repellent spray** 6 - 14 oz. aerosol spray pump with protective cover
- ✦ **1 scrub brush**
- ✦ **18 cleaning wipes** handi-wipes or reusable wipes
- ✦ **7 sponges** remove wrapper
- ✦ **5 scouring pads** remove wrapper
- ✦ **50 clothespins** remove packaging
- ✦ **Clothesline** two 50ft. or one 100ft. cotton or plastic
- ✦ **24 roll heavy duty trash bags** remove from box
- ✦ **5 dust masks**
- ✦ **2 pair disposable kitchen gloves** rubber or latex remove packaging
- ✦ **1 pair work gloves** cotton or leather

Assembling Directions

Place all liquid items in the bucket first. Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items. Sponges, scouring pads, clothespins and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket. Ensure the lid is closed securely.

Deliver to Old River Terrace UMC on I-10 East in Houston.

MISSION FORUMS IN THE DISTRICTS

Once a year since 2002, Partners In Mission has presented the Missions FORUM in the fall to educate our churches and present mission opportunities to our congregations.



Last year at the FORUM it was announced that in 2011 the leadership group would present a smaller version of the FORUM in the districts. It was felt that we could reach more of our congregations by presenting at least 3 workshops and the Global Village on a

Saturday in the district. So far we have conducted two successful District FORUMS. One in Clute at Wesley UMC for South District and the other at McCabe Jones UMC for East District.

Tables can be set up and down the halls, in Sunday School classrooms or in a gym to display local church, national and international projects.

Emphasizing the work of the districts is important so local churches can find ways to serve in their communities.

Equipping local churches in how to choose a mission site, organize a team and have a successful mission is the responsibility of Partners In Mission and Sending Ministries and the District FORUMS accomplish this.

Providing competent workshop leadership and a selection of displays from the Partners In Mission projects, we can set up a District FORUM in your church.

October 1, North District will host the FORUM at Daingerfield FUMC. Contact Noel Denison at 832-541-7480 for more information and with a selection of dates that would work for your district. We will work closely with each district/church as you prepare to host the event and advertise in your district.



DR. HUNT SEMINAR REWARDS ALL

Following God's call, mission volunteers place themselves in settings that are physically, socially, spiritually, and culturally challenging. At Perkins School of Theology, the Global Theological Education Program is committed to helping United Methodist volunteers to meet the challenge of ministry in different cultural contexts.

Dr. Robert Hunt presented his workshop on

cultural sensitivity was designed for Team Leaders and our Project Coordinators. Workshop topics covered cultural systems, customs and mannerism as high priorities of understanding for teams entering the mission field. Further discussion included reading, educating our teams on their host countries and an appreciation for what Dr. Hunt calls our "Cultural Intelligence". We look forward to more seminars as we continue

educating our mission minded volunteers and leaders. Those attending are now able to look at their mission journeys in a new light.



PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Just like clock work, June 1 rolls around and once again we are preparing for hurricane season. With the unusual weather so far in 2011, we need to be prepared for flooding and fires also.

Is your family ready in case of an evacuation? Here are some items you need:

Food and Water

- 3 day supply of non-perishable food
- hand crank can opener
- Plastic utensils, paper plates and cups
- 2 gallons of water per day per person
- Cooler with ice

First Aid

- First aid kit
- Essential medical prescriptions
- Extra glasses, contacts



Lighting

- Flashlights for each member of the family
- Water proof matches
- Candles
- Battery lanterns

Communication

- Battery powered radio
- Landline phone with cord
- Extra batteries
- Cell phone with car charger
- Road maps for evacuation

Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer

- Toilet paper, towels
- Garbage bags
- Health kit
- Sunscreen
- Bug repellent

Pets

- 3 day supply of water and non-perishable food
- Pet meds
- Current photo in case you get separated
- Cat litter and box
- Toys, carrier, leash
- Shot record

It is highly recommended that each home has it's own hurricane kit, cleaning kit (as recommended by UMCOR) and know their evacuation or "hunker down" plans. It is much easier to handle the stress of a storm if you are already prepared. For more information go to www.texasprepares.org

PIM TEAM LEADER TRAINING

Team Leader Training generally takes place from January to April for our summer mission teams and again in the fall for any winter teams. The training will help leaders understand the function of Partners In Mission, how to set up a budget, recruit the team, make team assignments, the importance of our Core Values, how to work in a different setting and bring your team home following a successful and productive mission. Many host sites are asking for proof that Team Leader Training was taken. All participants with PIM training receive a certificate which is valid for two years. After two years a refresher is necessary. You will need to know your training dates to get the General Board of Global Missions Accident Insurance for the team. This year we have 150 leaders have trained for missions to serve all over the world.

If you need training call the PIM office at 713-521-9383

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

Teams going into any of the disaster declared sites as an Early Response Team, must have TACCOR training. Training consists of a full Saturday using the UMCOR training manual. Once you complete the training, you will receive an UMCOR approved badge for identification. Once trained, the

badge will certify you for 4 years. Teams will not be able to enter some of these disaster areas without this identification. Rev. Clay Whitaker is responsible for scheduling training at your church or in your district. Please go to the TACCOR website at www.txcumc.org/taccor and find the currently

scheduled trainings. Before your badge is no longer effective, Clay can help with any questions you might have about additional training and your status. Contact Clay Whitaker at 281-452-2861 claytonwhitaker@sbcglobal.net to schedule a training to update your credentials.

Texas Annual Conference

Texas Annual Conference
5215 Main St.
Houston, Texas 77002

Phone: 713-521-9383
Fax: 713-521-3724
E-mail: texaspm@methodists.net

NEW PARTNERSHIP IN EL SALVADOR

The Salvadoran Mission Project is organized by Brian Dubbert, a United Methodist long-term volunteer from the North Carolina conference and Juan de Dios Pena, President of the Evangelical Methodist church in El Salvador. This partnership brings together the Methodist Church in El Salvador and United Methodist Volunteers In Mission program in the United States. The purpose of Salvadoran Mission Project is to improve the spiritual and physical lives of economically disadvantaged people living in El Salvador. Volunteers locally and from the States, will build and repair church buildings, staff medical clinics, provide food for the hungry and build homes for people who do not have sufficient economic resources to obtain a home through any other program.

In the first six months, the SMP work was productive and exciting. 8 mission teams from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Mississippi have traveled to El Salvador in 2011. They built 4 homes, 3 Sunday School classrooms, conducted 5 free clinics, hosted Bible school, prepared the foundation for a new church and finished a parsonage.

If you are interested in being part of this new mission endeavor into El Salvador, please contact the PIM office for more information or go to www.salvadoranmissionprojects.com and view their website.

SNAP SHOTS- MISSIONS THIS YEAR



Haiti and Kenya teams at multiple sites.