



Cross Connection

a Texas Annual Conference publication
an edition of The United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A

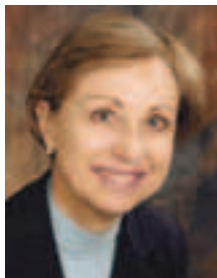
076000 Volume 153

Number 42

February 23, 2007

Contemplate God's love in you and for you this Lent

By Bishop Janice Riggle Huie



"Contemplation is nothing else but a secret, peace and loving infusion of God, which, if admitted, will set the soul on fire with the spirit of love."

John of the Cross

As we enter the 40 days of Lent, we cross the threshold of ordinary time to participate with Jesus in his time of trial, struggle, deepening, and being present with God.

The place Jesus chose (Mark says the Spirit "drove" him) was the wilderness, a place of emptiness, solitude and silence.

Patterning its life on Jesus, from at least the fourth century until now, the Church of Jesus Christ has welcomed the 40 days of Lent as an occasion for more intense prayer, meditation, purification and being present with God.

St. Anthony was one of the early Christians who chose to live virtually his whole life in the desert. After decades of solitude, silence, prayer and struggling to overcome what Anthony described as the "demons" inside of him, he became recognized as a holy person. Many people sought him out for spiritual counsel.

One time, when asked what a person should do to reach holiness, St. Anthony replied, "Become what you are."

Of course, Anthony was not suggesting that we become the sum of all our selfishness and anger and pride. Quite the opposite. Rather, he believed

that human beings are created in the image of God, who is love.

As a consequence of the Fall, God's pure, unbounded love is almost, but not quite, dead in us. It is like our souls are on ice. Becoming what God intended for us has almost become lost.

The desert or wilderness is a place and time where Christians do all in their power to root out every part of their lives that is not love. It takes

Christ comes not only to restore us, but also to wake us up to who and what we have allowed ourselves to become.

Bishop Huie

tremendous effort on our part. In the end, of course, our efforts alone are not enough.

A story from the Talmud tells of the son of a king who abandoned his inheritance and went far away. His father sent a messenger, asking him to come back.

He answered, "I cannot." So the father sent another messenger, saying, "Come back as far as you can, and I will come to meet you there."

For Christians, this story expresses God's actions for us in Jesus. God's only begotten son comes to meet us because we simply cannot go any farther. Christ comes not only to restore us, but also to wake us up to who and what we have allowed ourselves to become.

When we look at ourselves in the light of the Beatitudes or Jesus' own life, most of us have a long way to go to be as loving as Jesus.

According to most of the desert fathers and mothers, love is not a subjective emo-

tion or feeling — although it may sometimes be expressed in that way. It is not merely objective behavior or a good deed — although it may sometimes be expressed in that way.

Love is the driving force of human existence. Everything that is comes from Love and returns to Love.

Christian mystics frequently speak of that love in terms of divine fire. As the "old person" fades away, Christ's

love in each of us grows into a raging flame.

Every human being experiences and expresses God's fire of love differently, but all of us have the potential to be consumed by the flame of divine love and, in the spirit of love, participate in the reign of God.

Lent is an occasion for us to contemplate God, God's love, and God's love expressed in Christ Jesus. It is an occasion for us to become more of what God intended us to become.

John Wesley called this process sanctification, the process of becoming perfect in love in this life. May this Lenten season be such an occasion for you.

Grace and peace,

Janice Riggle Huie

Covenant College bridges cultures in Christ

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Director of Communications

Covenant College participants recently learned the true meaning and value of the event's theme — "Adding Our Stanza to the Great Hymn of the Church."

"singing around the world."
"We've just been centered by a song from Latin America and a prayer from Japan," Hawn said during opening worship. "Put your seat belts



Dr. C. Michael Hawn leads an interactive worship experience at Covenant College.

Keynote speaker C. Michael Hawn, professor of the master of sacred music program at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, led the crowd of 500 laity and clergy in a musicology lecture and in

on, we're going to Nigeria!"
Hawn then led the assembly in welcoming the Holy Spirit: *Wa wa wa Emimimo. Wa wa wa Alagbara. Wao wao wao Alagbara.* The Nigerian

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Southwestern University receives \$2 million gift - meets challenge grants for new center for lifelong learning

By Ellen Davis, Director of Communications
Southwestern University

A \$2 million anonymous pledge received this month will enable Southwestern University to claim \$3 million in challenge grants and move forward with construction of an \$11 million Center for Lifelong Learning.

The new building will house Southwestern's innovative Paideia® Program and bring together many key student services and programs

into one location, including Academic Services, Career Services, the Cashier's Office, Counseling and Health Services, and the Registrar's Office.

Planning for the building started in 2002 after Southwestern received a \$2 million "challenge grant" for the project from the Robert & Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust

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The mission of the Texas Annual Conference is to equip congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.

The Cross Connection is the official publication of the Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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Covenant College bridges cultures in Christ

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words translated mean: Come, come, come Holy Spirit. Come now, come now, come now Holy Spirit!

Additionally, Hawn taught alternate styles of “passing the

tion of God.

“I love hymnals, but you can’t contain the church’s song in one book,” Hawn said. “I want to sing the song of saints. But I want to sing what our

“I love hymnals, but you can’t contain the church’s song in one book.”

Dr. C. Michael Hawn

peace” from Africa and Asia. Covenant College drew participants from the Central North and Central South districts.

Sing a new song (and an old one too)

Emphasizing the vital role that music plays in the Christian worship experience, Hawn explored seven types of congregational song styles for the 21st century. Some examples include: Roman Catholic liturgical renewal hymns such as *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*; African-American spirituals and gospel songs such as *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*; and Pentecostal songs such as *There’s Something About That Name*.

“It’s not just a case of musical style. It’s more than that,” Hawn said. “When we sing *A Mighty Fortress is our God*, the spirit of Martin Luther is present. When we sing *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, the spirit of Charles Wesley is present.”

All of the types of songs Hawn discussed are included either in the *United Methodist Hymnal* or in *The Faith We Sing*. He encouraged congregations to sing a wide variety of music, so as not to limit their understanding and revela-

generation has to say – because our experience is different than anyone who’s gone before us.”

The issues the current generation lifts in song include environmental concerns, natural disasters, incurable diseases and more, Hawn said, as he introduced contemporary hymns addressing global warming and Alzheimer’s disease.

Hawn also emphasized that spirit-filled music is not determined by songs being classified as traditional or contemporary.

“When you start to speak in dichotomies and say ‘this or that,’ you’re not seeing the whole picture,” he said. “The world is rarely as simple as ‘this or that.’ The experience God offers us through Jesus Christ is much more than our little dichotomies of ‘this or that.’”

Likewise, the multicultural, multigenerational worship experience of Covenant College was much more than music. The period of “singing around the world” encouraged participants to consider the global nature of the Christian faith and what their personal contribution will be to the song of the church.

Zion still sings

Popular song book honoring the musical heritage of African Americans is revised

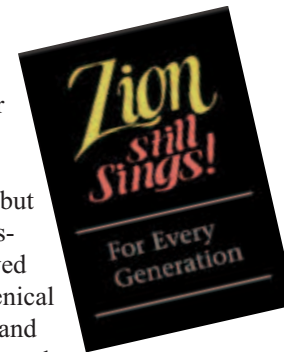
Excerpts taken from Article

By Dean McIntyre, General Board of Discipleship

When Songs of Zion was developed by The General Board of Discipleship and published by Abingdon Press in 1981, it filled the deep void and need in the church for a songbook for and by African Americans.

It was intended for use by United Methodists but it has consistently enjoyed wide ecumenical acceptance and use. It presented songs, hymns, choruses, Spirituals, and some choral settings, along with helpful articles on the history, style, performance, and use of this body of music. Songs of Zion is used today by African American and other congregations in all denominations. It will remain an important item in the Abingdon catalog of church music resources.

Recognizing that it has been more than twenty-five years since the release of Songs of Zion, Abingdon Press is now releasing (Spring 2007) *Zion Still Sings - For Every Generation!* Following independent research by The United Methodist Publishing House, an editorial committee consisting of musicians, composers, pastors, academic and seminary leaders met over several years to do the work of compiling the book. I was privileged to serve as a member of that editorial committee, whose work was guided by the leadership of Bishop Woodie White.



In the spirit of the original Songs of Zion, the editorial committee has compiled a collection of congregational, choral, and solo songs intended for use primarily by African American congregations. The music is largely composed by or has been used and performed by African Americans, as well as music of non-African American origin that has enjoyed wide acceptance in the Black church.

So, is this a collection for the African American church? Yes, it is! But as with Songs of Zion, it will and should find a wide acceptance also in the rest of The United Methodist Church and other denominations.

In numerous ways, *Zion Still Sings* is taking us into new areas of both publishing and worship. It is an important and historical collection for the church. But more than that, it will be a source of new life and vitality for many churches, Black and White. It may be ordered from Cokesbury, toll-free telephone 800-672-1789 or through their web site, www.cokesburymusic.com.

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Leaders strive to revive Gulfside

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Director of Communications

The spirit of Gulfside Methodist Assembly is alive and well, despite the winds and waters of Hurricane Katrina that literally washed the Methodist institution away from the Mississippi coast. More than one year later, the debris has been cleared and the board of directors and staunch Gulfside supporters are ready to move forward.

While keeping an eye on

the past, Gulfside leaders are looking toward the future.

The board is careful not to abandon the rich legacy of Gulfside, which provided educational and fellowship opportunities for African American Methodist youth and young adults; thereby, planting seeds in those who would become for the church faithful lay workers, gifted clergy and spirit-led bishops.

But, celebrating the past alone will not secure Gulfside’s future. So, the board of directors is conducting focus groups nationwide of longtime supporters and those who never visited the Waveland campus, in an effort to solicit input on how to rebuild and restructure Gulfside for the future.

Consultant Tina Moore Council, Chief Consultant

with, I Am Pleased Development Center, is facilitating the gatherings nationwide. Council’s findings will be shared at the next meeting of the Gulfside board of directors. Among the group’s goals is to establish a master plan by Fall 2007 that will aid in establishing a vibrant future for Gulfside.

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Churches in Texas Conference who have paid 100% of their apportionments

By Dr. Elijah Stansell, Jr.
Conference Treasurer

“I am convinced.” Local congregations, laity and clergy have convinced me that they are loyal and believe in the United Methodist connection system. Year after year after year there are those congregations who sacrifice of themselves in order that the connectional obligation may be fulfilled. Thanks be to God for the provisions and thanks to you for your faithfulness.

We recognize all of you for whatever portion you contributed. Our districts that were 100% in their obligation included East, Northwest, Southeast and West. Each of the remaining districts showed significant increases in payment.

From those efforts we were able for the second consecutive year to pay 100% of our Texas Annual Conference obligation to the General Church. This is enormous! This is colossal! This under girds the entire initiative of our Annual Conference priorities specifically related to “accountability.” Milestones of this magnitude are only accomplished by a collective effort of many.

The bar has been raised by you, the local congregation. I am convinced that God is pleased when we fulfill our roles in caring about the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

The Texas Annual Conference Service Center and all of the staff thank you for a job well done. We want you to know that being in service with you is our privilege.

CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT Dr. Jack R. Shelton - District Superintendent

Total Churches: 47	100% PAID: 40
Atascocita	Rev. C. Thomas Stephenson
ColdSpring: Mt Zion	Rev. Lou Ann Franklin
Huntsville: Pleasant Grove	Rev. Elizabeth Palmer
Cleveland: First	Rev. Carl Edward Lundberg
ColdSpring	Rev. J. Larry Smith
Conroe: First	Rev. William R. Taylor
Conroe: Metropolitan	Rev. Cynthia Hunter
Willis: Thomas Chapel	Rev. Elizabeth Palmer
Conroe: St. Paul	Rev. Cynthia T. Hinson
Humble: First	Dr. Allan Wayne Middleton
Huntsville: Warren Chapel	Rev. Lou Ann Franklin
Kingwood	Rev. Joseph W. Fort Jr.
Kingwood: Strawbridge	Rev. R. Winston Goens Jr.
Klein	Dr. Mark H. Young
Lake Houston	Rev. Walter Charles Jordan
Magnolia: Wildwood	Rev. Brenda Moore
Montgomery: China Chapel	Rev. Sam I. Smith
Paul Horton	Rev. Marian Wallace
Phelps	Rev. Gary Smithy
New Waverly	Rev. Gary Smithy
Shepherd	Rev. Nancy Bergfield
Splendora: Countryside	Rev. Patty Jo Cobbs
Spring: Faith	Rev. John E. Reasons
Spring: Faithbridge	Dr. E. Kenneth Werlein
Woodlands: Christ Church	Dr. Daniel T. Hannon
Cypress	Rev. Harry B. Vein
Cypress: Good Shepherd	Rev. William H. Haygood Jr.
Hempstead Ct. Harper	Rev. Robert Alexander Jr.
Hempstead Ct. St. Thomas	Rev. Robert Alexander Jr.
Houston: Cornerstone	Dr. David W. Meadows
Houston: The Foundry	Rev. Godfrey Hubert
Houston: John Wesley	Rev. James William Foster
Houston: Lakewood	Dr. C. Chappell Temple
Macedonia	Rev. Evelyn J. Cox
New Hope	Rev. Evelyn J. Cox
Magnolia	Rev. Patricia Wehn-Glowski
Prairie View	Rev. Wilmer R. Bonner
Rose Hill	Rev. Kay G. Johnson
Tomball	Dr. Richard L. White

CENTRAL SOUTH DISTRICT Rev. Jim Welch - District Superintendent

Total Churches: 72	100% PAID: 41
Galena Park	Rev. Patrick N. Smith Sr.
Houston: Holy Trinity	Rev. Russell James Watkins
Houston: Jacinto City	Rev. Michael James Scalaro

Houston: Pleasantville
Houston: Shaw Tabernacle
Houston: Calvary
Houston: Durkee
Houston: Ebenezer
Houston: Grace
Houston: Hillcrest
Houston: Love
Houston: Sloan
Huffsmith: Salem
Houston: Chapelwood
Houston: Fairbanks
Houston: Fairhaven
Houston: First Korean
Houston: Grace
Houston: Mount Vernon
Houston: St. Andrews
Houston: St. James
Houston: St. Marks (Patterson)
Houston: St. Marks (Pecore)

Houston: St. Stephens
Houston: Alameda
Covenant Of Faith
Houston: Crestmont Park
Houston: Epworth-Parker
Houston: Garden Villas
Houston: Milby
Houston: St. John's
Houston: Norris Chapel
Houston: St. Paul's
Houston: Wesley
Houston: Disciples
Houston: Gethsemane
Houston: St. Luke's
Houston: St. Mary's
Houston: Trinity
Houston: Westminster
Houston: West University

EAST DISTRICT

Dr. Keith C. Whitaker-District Superintendent District Is

Total Churches: 112	100% PAID: 109
Beckville	Rev. Kimberly Hagedorn
Allison's Chapel	Rev. Claude Taylor
Blossom Hill Ct: Blossom Hill	Rev. Malcolm Buchanan
Blossom Hill Ct. Pine Hill	Rev. Malcolm Buchanan
Carlisle	Rev. Tolbert Dill
Henry's Chapel	Rev. Tolbert Dill
Carthage: First	Rev. Paul Thomasson
Carthage Parish: Ebenezer	Rev. Wade Harman
Carthage Parish: Pisgah	Rev. Wade Harman
Carthage: Rehobeth	Rev. John Scott Stewart
Carthage: St. Andrews	Rev. Doug Wintermute
Murvaal	Rev. Doug Wintermute
Church Hill Ct. Churchhill	Rev. Gloria Jennings
Church Hill Ct. Oak Hill	Rev. Gloria Jennings
Church Hill Ct. Oakland	Rev. Gloria Jennings
Goodsprings	Rev. Dime Manning
Bethel	Rev. Dime Manning
Henderson: First	Dr. Ricky Joe Ricks
Henderson: St. Paul's	Rev. Paula J. Behrens-Lopez
Rock Hill	Dr. J.B. Morris
Mt. Zion	Rev. William Ernest Denham
Tatum	Rev. Robert Lee Shelton
Woods	Rev. David Goodwin
Bethlehem	Rev. Lloyd W. Bonner
Bonita	Rev. Steven Bradley Morgan
Bronson-Centerview	Dr. Royce Robb
Burkeville	Rev. Teresa Tressler Smith
Center: First	Rev. Gregory A. Megill
Center: St. Mark's	Rev. Billy Ray Freeman
Campri	Rev. Ozy Ford
Chester: Cade Memorial	Rev. Shirley Brown
Chireno	Rev. H. Farrar Bentley
Corrigan Ct.: Mt. Vernon	Rev. Robert E. Twine
Corrigan Ct.: Shiloh	Rev. Robert E. Twine
Corrigan: First	Rev. Keith Tilley
Moscow: Bible Memorial	Rev. Keith Tilley
Jasper: Curtis	Rev. Richard N. Phillips
Jasper: Homer	Rev. Richard N. Phillips
Cushing Ct.: Cushing	Rev. Joanne Williams Elliott
Cushing Ct.: Libert	Rev. Joanne Williams Elliott
Cushing Ct.: Trawick	Rev. Joanne Williams Elliott
Deadwood	Rev. K. Mervin Scott
Galloway	Rev. K. Mervin Scott
Diboll	Rev. Jeffrey Scott Stull
Fairview	Rev. H. Farrar Bentley
Garrison	Rev. Jean Ferraro
Caledonia	Rev. Jean Ferraro
Goodrich	Rev. Pamela K. Howard
Hemp Hill Ct.: Pine Grove	Rev. Ronald Young
Hemp Hill First	Rev. Gary Leinhardt
Lufkin: Homer	Rev. Michael Wayne Jordan
Burke	Rev. Michael Wayne Jordan
Huntington	Rev. Douglas Wright
Jasper Ct.: Memorial	Rev. Richard P. White Jr.
Jasper: First	Rev. Randall K. Smith
Center: Paxton	Rev. Billy Ray Freeman
Kelty	Rev. Jacqueline B. Harmon
Lake Rayburn	Rev. George Wilson
Laneville	Rev. Michael A. Munn
Reklaw	Rev. Michael A. Munn
Liberty Springs	Rev. Karen Jones
Livingston Ct.: Pleasant Hill	Dr. Sandra Jackson
Livingston Ct.: St. Luke	Dr. Sandra Jackson
Livingston: First	Rev. William M. Mayhugh
Lufkin: First	Rev. Carol Clifford Turner
Lufkin: St. Paul	Rev. Robert L. Faulk
Ryan's Chapel	Rev. Robert L. Faulk
Mc Mahan Chapel	Rev. James Powell
Geneva	Rev. James Powell
Melrose	Rev. Yvonne Garrett
Simpson Campground	Rev. Yvonne Garrett
Mt. Enterprise	Rev. Tom Ramsey
Concord	Rev. Tom Ramsey
Nacogdoches: First	Rev. Danny L. Danheim
Nacogdoches: Perritte	Rev. David Brasher
Onalaska First UMC	Rev. David L. Banks
Pineland	Rev. Jennifer Jackson
Brookeland	Rev. Jennifer Jackson
San Augustine	Rev. David Avis
Shelbyville	Rev. Carla Reed
Stockman	Rev. James Bradley
Shady Grove	Closed
Short	Rev. Carla Reed
Tenaha	Rev. James Bradley
Timpspon	Rev. Jean Ferraro
Wells: Falvey Memorial	Rev. Kenneth Lee Jones
Woodville	Rev. Thomas A. Williams
Zavalla: Shady Chapel	Rev. Joe Beran
Alto: A. Frank Smith	Dr. Randy Fitzgerald
Cold Springs	Dr. Randy Fitzgerald
Atoy	Rev. Godfrey Hubert
Crockett: First	Dr. Jerry House Sr.
Grapeland Ct.: Liberty Hill	Rev. Roger A. Craiker
Grapeland Ct.: Percilla	Rev. Roger A. Craiker
Grapeland: First	Rev. Dick Dobbins
Groveton	Rev. Larry Dunn
Prairie View	Rev. Larry Dunn
Latexo	Rev. Richard Gillet
New Energy	Rev. Richard Gillet
Lovelady Ct.: Alexander	Rev. Arnold Harden
Lovelady Ct.: Anderson Chapel	Rev. Connie Swanson
Lovelady Ct.: Pleasant Hill	Rev. Irv White
Lovelady Ct.: White Rock	Rev. Janet Stevenson
Lovelady: First	Dr. John Montgomery
Center Hill	Dr. John Montgomery
Riverside	Rev. Warren K. Austin
Lynchess Chapel	Rev. Stanley Nabona
Trinity	Rev. James L. White

Rev. Minnie Bingham Baxter	
Rev. James L. Berry	
Rev. Audrey L. Mitchell	
TBS	
Dr. Francis E. W. Guidry	
Rev. Rose Marie Veal	
TBS	
Rev. Vincent Harris	
Rev. Isaiah M. Lee Jr.	
Rev. Curley H. Laster	
Dr. James F. Jackson Jr.	
Rev. David G. Porterfield	
Rev. Richard D. Laster	
Rev. Chung-Soo Park	
Rev. Harvey Hill Johnson III	
Hopewell	Dr. Lewis L. Jackson Sr.
Rev. Andrew Nunley III	
Rev. Develous A. Bright	
Rev. Elнора Marie Nunnally	
Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams	
Rev. Cramer Davis Johnson	
Rev. Howard Bronson Bruce	
Rev. Lathair Walker	
Rev. John Hancock	
Rev. Paul Gene Whitlatch	
Rev. Sherrill K. Corson	
Dr. William S. Reed	
Rev. Rudy Rasmus	
Rev. Gregory Johnson	
Rev. James Bankston	
Rev. Rhene Yvette Johnson	
Rev. Howard Turnley	
Dr. William J. Newcomb	
Dr. Thomas J. Paec III	
Rev. Thomas Walker	
Dr. Robert McGee	
Rev. Robert E. Webb	
Rev. Mark B. Woodward	

NORTH DISTRICT

Dr. Jerry Neff-District Superintendent

Total Churches: 106	100% PAID: 90
Conners: Goodwill	Rev. George Johnson
Diana	Rev. Edward Blackstone
Bettie	Rev. Larry Day
Gilmer: First	Rev. Kenneth S. Calhoun
Gladeater: First	Rev. Rodger Dale Garbs
Hallsville: First	Rev. Jeffrey Hastings
Harleton	Rev. Curtis Jennings
Marshall: Cedar Grove	Rev. Mary Tension
Marshall: Macedonia	Rev. Ross Douglas Hyde
Kilgore: Danville	Rev. Wayne Welborn
Kilgore: Crossroads	Rev. Ralph Rudy
Kilgore: St. Luke's	Rev. James Ernest Turney
Laird Hill	Rev. Dudley J. Plaisance
Pirtle	Rev. Dudley J. Plaisance
Longview: First	Dr. V. Patrick Sparks
Longview: Gregton	Rev. Jonathan Bynum
Longview: Trinity	Rev. Edward Blackstone
Longview: Wesley-McCabe	Rev. Christi Renee Conway
Longview: Winterfield	Rev. Rita Sims
Marshall: Concordia	Rev. Joseph Parrish
Marshall: Zion	Rev. Joseph Parrish
Marshall: Ebenezer	Rev. Maggie Phillips Young
Marshall: Grange Hall	Rev. Samuel C. Cannon Jr.
Marshall: Mallalieu	Rev. F. F. Jim McCutchems
Marshall: St. Mark's	Rev. Brenda Caron Lucas
Marshall: Summit	Rev. William G. Webb
Marshall: Wesley	Rev. Ron Patterson
Marshall: Crossroads	Rev. Samuel C. Cutrone Jr.
McCarly's Chapel	Rev. Charlotte Austin
Elysian Fields: Bethel	Rev. Bruce McKinnon
New London	Rev. Kelly Steven Krone
Noonday	Rev. Charles Schoon
Scottsville Mission	Rev. Charles Schoon
Ore City	Dr. John N. Whitehurst
Snyrna	Rev. Ben Bright
Soules Chapel	Rev. Ross Douglas Hyde
Harmony	Rev. Larry Day
Union Ridge	TBS
Perryville	TBS
Waskom	Rev. Harold M. Coburn
White Oak	Rev. John Thomas Saint
Atlanta: First	Rev. Michael Toland
Avinger	Rev. Melinda Beasley
Bradfield Chapel	Rev. Gerald Holder
Jenkins	Dr. Steven Cruz Diaz
Bridges Chapel	Rev. James Byrd Jones
Jungersfield: First	Rev. Tony Eugene Hoefner
Dekalb: First	Rev. Tony Eugene Hoefner
Hubbard Chapel	Rev. Tony Eugene Hoefner
Douglassville	Rev. Christmas Carol Wilbur
Union Chapel	Rev. Christmas Carol Wilbur
Lewis Chapel	Dr. Winston McCowan
Logans Chapel	Dr. Winston McCowan
Hooks: First	Dr. Arturo V. Parra
Hughes Springs: First	Rev. Ralph Hale
Cornett	Rev. Ralph Hale
Bethlehem	Rev. George M. Hancock
Jefferson: First	Rev. Polly D. Standing
Smithland	Rev. Polly D. Standing
Moore's Chapel	Rev. Polly D. Standing
Queen City: Bethel	Rev. Lee Jones
Karnack	Rev. Chapman W. Huff
Laws Chapel	Rev. Dale Vickers
Shiloh	Rev. Dale Vickers
Linden	Rev. Mark D. McClanahan
Cason	Rev. Jackie Herring
Maud	Rev. Joe Whisenant
Old Boston	Rev. Teresa Tressler Smith
Mims Chapel	Rev. Richard Lee Dowden
Mt. Pleasant: St. Andrew	Rev. Eric Ryburn
West New Hope	Rev. Eric Ryburn
Mt. Pleasant: Tension Memorial	Rev. Ferrel R. Little
Naples	Dr. Timothy Edwards
Nash: Chapelwood	Rev. Stephanie M. Hughes
Pittsburgh: First	Dr. Richard Heyduck
Pittsburgh: Reeves Chapel	Rev. Tommy Earl Burton
Queen City	Rev. John Burchell
Red Bayou	Rev. Donald Martin Holt III
Daniels Chapel	Rev. Donald Martin Holt III
Red Lick: First	Rev. Dudley Childs
Redwater	Rev. Ken Golden
Texaskana: Buchanan	Rev. Carroll Thomas Myrick
Texaskana: Eylau	Dr. Anthony Cecil
Texaskana: First	Rev. Forrest Scott Garrett
Texaskana: Hardy Memorial	Rev. Garry D. Masterson
Texaskana: St. Luke's	Rev. John L. Montgomery
Texaskana: St. Paul's	Rev. Samuel Edward Butler
Texaskana: South Texaskana	Rev. Helen Frazier
Texaskana: Williams Memorial	Dr. Danny Wayman

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

DISTRICT IS 100% PAID Rev. Nick Sholars-District Superintendent

TOTAL CHURCHES: 107	100% PAID: 104
Adams Chapel	Rev. Charles Nunnally
Bethel	Rev. Charles Nunnally
Antioch	Rev. Dale Jamerson
Athens: First	Rev. John Logan Matkin
Athens: Wesley	Rev. Richard Palmer
Athens: Crescent Heights	Rev. Richard Palmer
Brushy Creek	Rev. Richard Palmer
Mt. Vernon	Rev. Larry Krolm
Buffalo: Stewart Memorial	Rev. Jerry Anderson
Dew	Rev. Jerry Anderson
Cedar Creek Lake	Rev. Charles A. Weber IV
Cove Springs	Rev. Dan Middleton
Mt. Selman	Rev. Dan Middleton
Dialville	Rev. Sara Barberee
Elkhart	Rev. Lynn L. Willhite
Slocum	Rev. Lynn L. Willhite
Eustace	Rev. Jerry Williams
Fairfield: First	Rev. Charles Wayne Flowers
Fairfield: Jones Chapel	Rev. Darrell Houston
Fields Chapel	Rev. David R. Blackmon
Frankston	Rev. Douglas Howell
Jacksonville: First	Rev. Kevin King
New Community	TBS
Jacksonville: St. John's	Rev. Norman Newsone
Pierces Chapel	Rev. Norman Newsone
La Rue Ct.: La Rue	Rev. William Ramsey
Carroll Springs	Rev. Gary White
Union	TBS
Malakoff	Rev. Charles E. Kimble
La Rue Ct.: Crossroads	Rev. William Ramsey
Springfield	Rev. Patrick Papp
Neches	Rev. David R. Blackmon
New Summerfield	Rev. Ray Prince
Earles Chapel	Rev. Dale Jamerson
Oakwood	Rev. Jesse R. Haynes
Lanely United Methodist Church	Rev. Scott A. Dornbusch
Palestine: First	Dr. B. Thomas Haygood
Palestine: Grace	Rev. David Davis Sr.
Palestine: St. Paul's	Rev. David Davis Sr.
Oakwood Union	Rev. Larry Dunn
Palestine: Westwood	Rev. Scott Moore
Payne Springs	Rev. David W. Diller
Rusk: First	Rev. Michael E. Caldwell
Rev. Joseph-Joshua Fields	Rev. Joseph-Joshua Fields
Teague Ct.: St. James	Rev. Joseph-Joshua Fields
Teague Ct.: Titus Chapel	Rev. Joseph-Joshua Fields
Teague: First	Rev. Jeffrey Allen Powers
Tennessee Colony	Rev. Ken Dodson
Trinidad: First	Rev. Jimmy L. Steele
Arp	Rev. William Servis
Big Sandy	Rev. Brooks Taylor
Brownsboro	Rev. Ernest Elliott
New Hope	Rev. David Johnson
Bullard	Dr. Gary Fitzgerald Jr.
Canton: First	Rev. James Nathan Hodge

Chandler
Colfax
Holly Springs
Oakland
Edgewood: Cheatham Memorial
Fruitevale
Edom
Sexton Chapel
Emory
Golden
Alba
Grand Saline
Hawkins Ct.: Bethlehem
Hawkins Ct.: Center
Hawkins: First
Lake Palestine
Lindale
Mincola: Brocks Chapel
Mincola: Johnson's Chapel
Mincola: First
Moore
Wallace
Mt. Sylvan
Union Chapel
Quinton: First
Point
Murchison
Liberty
Smith Chapel
Hainesville
Walnut Grove
Tyler: Bascom
Tyler: Glenwood
Tyler: Lanes Chapel
Tyler: Liberty Hill
Flint
Tyler: Marvin
Tyler: Noonday
Tyler: Pleasant Retreat
Tyler: Pollard Memorial
Tyler: St. Paul
Tyler: Walter Fair Memorial
Tyler: Cedar Street
Tyler: Swan Wood Springs
Van
Ben Wheeler
Whitehouse
Willis Point
Winston

SOUTH DISTRICT

Dr. Don Waddleton-District Superintendent

Total Churches: 58	100% PAID: 46
Baytown: Cedar Bayou	Rev. Thomas E. Lyles Jr.
Baytown: St. Emily's	Rev. Howard Wayne Bell
Baytown: St. Mark's	Rev. Michael Proctor
Baytown: St. Paul's	Rev. Dorthia K. Dumas
Crosby	Dr. Charles R. Greene III
Dayton	Rev. Jon Gordon Stauffer
Dickinson: Faith	Rev. E. Lorraine Brown
Dickinson: First	Rev. Keefe Cropper
Galveston: Central	Rev. James C. Dorman
Galveston: Crockett Place	TBS
Galveston: Moody Memorial First	Rev. Bert Bagley
Galveston: St. Paul	Rev. Carolyn E. Robinson
Galveston: Wesley Tabernacle	Rev. Henry Fred Hynson
Highlands	Rev. Sharon Monroe Sabom
Hitchcock: First	Dr. Michael Deaton
Houston: Bay Harbour	Rev. John Newsome
Houston: Clear Lake	Rev. Anthony Vinson
LaMarque: McKinney Memorial	Dr. Janice Gilbert Williams
LaPorte: First	Dr. Thomas A. Kennedy
LaPorte: St. Mark's	Rev. Charles M. Monette Jr.
League City	Rev. William E. Jenkins
Mont Belvieu: First	Rev. James Weldon Lea
Pasadena: Golden Acres	TBS
Pasadena: Parkwood	Rev. Royce George Scott
Pasadena: Sunset	Rev. Darwood Galaway
Sabrook	Rev. Jay Barnes
Texas City: First	Rev. D. Fred Willis
Texas City: Grace	Rev. Bonnie L. Osteen
Texas City: St. John's	Rev. Deborah Karen Proctor
Alvin: First	Rev. James Flagg Jr.
Angleton Ct.: Ward Chapel	Rev. Jesse Trotter
Angleton Ct.: Haven Chapel	Rev. Jesse Trotter
Angleton Ct.: St. Joseph's	Rev. Jesse Trotter
Angleton: First UMC	Rev. Robert Dale Sinclair
Clute: Wesley First	Rev. Janet H. Blackburn
Freeport: First	Dr. Christopher Alan Volz
Freeport: Oyster Creek	Dr. Christopher Alan Volz
Friendswood	Rev. James A. Bass
Hitchcock: Wilbur Chapel	Rev. David Noel Margret
Houston: Cokesbury	Rev. Sandra W. Smith
Hope: Pearland	Rev. Thaddeus Eastland
Houston: Windsor Village	Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell
Lake Jackson: Chapelwood	Dr. George Wesley Welborn
Lake Jackson: First	Rev. Charles G. Geller
Pearland: First	Dr. Jerry Pennington
Santa Fe: Aldersgate	Dr. James Keith Broyles

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

DISTRICT IS 100% PAID Dr. Richard Burnham-District Superintendent

TOTAL CHURCHES: 56	100% PAID 54
Anahuac: First	Rev. John Ramsey Black
Anahuac Ct.: St. James	Rev. Robert Jefferson
Anahuac: Ct.: St. Paul's	Rev. Robert Jefferson
Batson	Rev. Gideon Watson
Bay View	Rev. Mark Matthew Pedersen
Bolivar	Rev. Mark Matthew Pedersen
Beaumont: First	Dr. Frank Alegria
Beaumont: Forest Park	Rev. Gregory Ray Edwards
Beaumont: McCabe Roberts Avenue	Rev. Wanda J. Bess
Beaumont: St. James	Rev. Carlos Randle Phillips
Beaumont: St. Lukes	Rev. Michael D. Liedy
Beaumont: St. Pauls	Rev. Ruby Nelson
Beaumont: Trinity	Rev.

Leaders strive to revive Gulfside

Continued from page 4

Inheriting excellence

Many attending the Texas focus group have memories of Gulfside that date back to their parents and grandparents. West District Superintendent Dr. W. Earl Bledsoe recalled his father's stories of Gulfside. His father, who was also a Methodist preacher, ignited a love for Gulfside in his son, who now serves on the board of directors.

Bledsoe isn't the only Texas Conference pastor with family ties to Gulfside Methodist Assembly.

"I learned about Gulfside from my father," said Dr. Robert McGee, pastor of Trinity UMC in Houston, "because it was the one place they could go to be educated. Wherever you were in the country, if you were black, you went to Gulfside. You went to the

Meridian and Gulfport, Lorraine Vienn is one such Methodist who was deeply impacted by Gulfside. She and all her siblings worked at Gulfside in their formative years. Her uncle was a Methodist minister and her grandmother washed sheets at Gulfside.

"Had it not been for



Consultant Tina Council and Dr. W. Earl Bledsoe share plans for rebuilding Gulfside during one of the many meetings being held nationwide.

Gulfside, I would not be standing here," Vienn said. "It was a struggle to keep Gulfside ... We need to make it a place where not only black people will want to come – but anyone would be proud to say: 'I stayed at Gulfside.'"

generators, such as a strip shopping center with national chains and a gym.

In the past, Gulfside's income has primarily come from private donations. The institution, which is an independent nonprofit organization, is now developing relationships with annual conferences. The Texas Annual Conference, under the leadership of Bishop Janice Riggle Huie has contributed \$125,000 to clean up the area.

Additional support has come from Bishop Hope Morgan Ward of Mississippi; Bishop Alfred L. Norris of North Texas; Bishop James Keen of

Kentucky and Bishop Linda Lee Talbert of Wisconsin.

Board members have stated that in order for Gulfside to be vital, it must be relevant to the younger generations who have little or no connection to the institution. That sentiment resonates with one young pastor.

"I never had the opportunity to go to Gulfside, but I'm willing to share and dream of what the future is like for Gulfside," said the Rev. Ed Jones, pastor of Living Water UMC in Pearland. "I don't believe it should be rebuilt based on the past. I believe it should be rebuilt based upon the future."

During a period of visioning for the future, recommendations were made to add multi-media capabilities; expand youth facilities; add a library and leadership center; and transform the grounds into a five-star retreat center.

The recommendations of all focus group participants will be shared at the next meeting of the Gulfside Board of Directors in March.

To participate in the online survey, go to www.west-district.org, click the ministries link and select Gulfside.

\$2 million donation to Southwestern University

Continued from page 1

of Wichita Falls, which also provided the initial funding for Southwestern's Paideia® Program. This challenge required that the University raise \$8.5 million in additional gifts and pledges for the project by June 30, 2009.

Southwestern's Paideia® Program, which was launched in 2002, requires students not only to make connections between what they are learning and the world around them but also to act upon their learning. In addition to their overall academic curriculum, program participants fulfill requirements in civic engagement, intercultural and diversity experiences, and undergraduate research and creative works.

The Center for Lifelong Learning is one of the key projects to be funded by Thinking Ahead: The Southwestern Campaign, publicly launched in March 2006, which seeks to raise \$125 million to fund new initiatives in four categories – supporting students, supporting faculty, diversity enrichment, and enhancing the living/learning environment on campus. It is the largest fundraising campaign in Southwestern's 166-year history.

The \$2 million anonymous gift brings the campaign total to more than \$60 million – nearly half of the amount being sought.

In April 2006, Southwestern received a second challenge grant for the project from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla. This challenge promised \$1 million for the project if Southwestern could raise the remaining funds for it by April 12, 2007.

Southwestern received a \$3.5 million naming gift for the project from the Perkins-Prothro Foundation of Wichita Falls. The new building will be named the Charles & Elizabeth Prothro Center for Lifelong Learning. Other grants include \$1 million from the Grogan Lord Foundation of Georgetown, and gifts from the Albert and Margaret Alkek Foundation, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Amon Carter Foundation, The Fondren Foundation, Hoblitzelle Foundation, The Kendeda Fund, JPMorgan Trust Company, and other individual donors.

"We are very grateful to all the generous donors who are making this new facility possible," said Southwestern University President Jake Schrum. "This building will enable Southwestern to enhance its student services, will provide exemplary support to the Paideia® Program, and will house a number of programs that encourage Southwestern's core value related to creating lifelong learners."

Cramer Center offers Lenten retreats

During Lent, the Cramer Retreat Center is offering special prices to clergy for personal retreat days.

The "Noon to Noon" special will cost clergy \$30, and allow them to retreat to Cramer on any weeknight (Sunday through Thursday). This is an opportunity to experience a time of peace and quiet, take time out, and focus on the Lenten season.

Pastors are encouraged to

give up the mantle of leadership and enjoy the role of disciple. Return to your congregation rested, refreshed, and energized for the palms and passion and joy of Easter.

To book your day apart, visit the Cramer Retreat Center Web site at www.CramerCenter.org and fill out a reservation request form. Or, contact Nanette Radke, property manager, at 281-350-1355 or NERadke@CramerCenter.org.



Lorraine Vienn shares her memories of growing up at Gulfside and her hopes for its future.

Gulf Coast to learn about Methodism. When we touched our foot to that water, it was like stepping in the Jordan River."

McGee said when he entered the ministry, he learned firsthand about Gulfside's impact on African Americans throughout Methodism.

A native of the Mississippi towns of

New connections

In order to foster cross-cultural and cross-generational connections, some changes must occur. That point was emphasized in responses to the question "What do you want the Gulfside leadership to know?" Answers included add young adults to the advisory board and build income

Do you have news to share with others?

The next deadline for the Cross Connection newspaper is

February 28, 2007