



Cross Connection

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Young clergy invited to special session at The Gathering

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Texas Conference Communications Director

While motivating and spiritually nurturing all Texas Conference clergy members who will come together Sept. 29-30 for the annual Clergy Gathering is a top priority – the event will include a special focus on young clergy.

The Office of Clergy Excellence is hosting a breakfast exclusively for clergy members age 40 and younger.

The Rev. Carol Bruse, associate director of Clergy Excellence, said many conferences have started facilitating young clergy gatherings, in an effort to make sure their issues are heard by the annual conference and that the conference meets their specific needs.

“We have so few young clergy, but they’re like gold,” Bruse said. “They don’t have any vehicle to connect with one another, but they share common issues and concerns.”

There are 114 clergy under 40, out of approximately 900 active clergy in the Texas Conference, Bruse

said. Those who attend the Clergy Gathering breakfast will spend time with the guest speaker, Rev. Craig Gilliam, who is the Director of the Center for Pastoral Effectiveness in the Louisiana Conference; have an opportunity to ask him questions and then

share their thoughts on future activities to connect young clergy.

The Rev. Peter Cammarano, pastor of First UMC Brazoria, is looking forward to connecting with other clergy his

age and hearing from Gilliam, who he respects as an authority on young clergy. Cammarano has a list of issues he’d like to see explored.

“Young clergy are often appointed to isolated environments and places without a lot of dynamics for growth,” Cammarano said. “Putting young clergy together so they can see: ‘I’m not the only one that’s isolated, I’m not the only one that’s burned out,’ could help.”

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We have so few young clergy, but they’re like gold ... They are being asked to carry our future and we need to be particularly sensitive to their needs and concerns.

Rev. Carol Bruse

Associate Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence

Shelter from the storm Event marks Hurricane Rita anniversary and encourages healing

The Southeast Texas Interfaith Organization is planning a commemorative event for those affected by Hurricane Rita.

“Shelter from the Storm: A Time for Healing and Wholeness” will be held on the hurricane’s anniversary, Sunday, September 24, from 4-8 p.m. at Ford Park Pavilion.

From 4-6 p.m., clergy and counselors will be available, and, in addition, attendees will have access to resource information and a devotional area with a labyrinth and prayer wall.

An Interfaith worship service, featuring a community choir, liturgical dance and more, will begin at 6 p.m.

“When you get to the anniversary date of something that has been traumatic, people often have reactions to that,” said the Rev. Carol Tompkins of Westminster Presbyterian Church, who is an event coordi-

nator. “This is an opportunity for us to share our experiences and stories; comfort and console each other; and remind each other how far we’ve come and

There are thousands of homes still damaged and many homes to rebuild

*Angela Baker
Rita Recovery*

how far we have to go.”

Looking back

Hurricane Rita’s devastation impacted 96,471 homes in the 22 county region of

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CLT calls for new wine skin ministry

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Director of Communications

Focused on the formation of new wine skins for the Texas Annual Conference, the Core Leadership Team recently took steps to establish an action plan for the CLT and to bring more clarity to role of districts and local churches in implementing the model for ministry.

Southeast District Superintendent Dr. Richard Burnham set the tone for the gathering by centering the devotion on Luke 5:36-39.

No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst

the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’

“He gives us a word of wisdom about how you deal with change,” said Burnham, while declaring Jesus to be the new wine. “New wine is a change agent, a living organism ... I think about the recipe we’ve created for the new wine – for Jesus’ transformational presence in our midst ... we put the ingredients together and watch the spirit work.”

During devotion, Burnham shared examples of congregations in his district that are trying on new wine skins. Harden UMC is a rural church, led by a local pastor, with a vibrant ministry. Harden is considering mothering a church in the rural

area between Harden and Livingston that is substantially populated, but does not have a United Methodist presence. Another church, Bayview UMC shifted its focused 10 years ago from “how to meet the budget” to “how to make a difference in the community,” Burnham said.

“They decided to tithe 10 percent of the monthly budget to causes beyond that church,” Burnham said. “I’m not talking about apportionments – that’s a part of the budget ... Structure administration and finance, so you can honor the challenge of extravagant generosity. How you prioritize your money ... is how you develop new wine skins.”

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie led the discussion on “new wine skin” expectations for the districts and the CLT.

“How can we center ourselves around

core expectations?” asked Bishop Huie. “That will be the anecdote for what we have done in the past ...”

The overriding expectations are all driven by the conference vision, mission, key drivers, core values and evidence of fruitfulness.

The CLT outlined the prime responsibilities of the districts in implementing the ministry model. Those recommendations will be sent to the cabinet for review and feedback prior to implementation.

All acknowledged that transformation is a process.

“The old way is familiar, old way is comfortable, old way tastes good because that’s what we’re used to,” Burnham said. “If you’re going to enjoy new wine, you have to develop a taste for it.”

Homer-Burke UMC celebrate 90 years of music ministry

By Thelma Jones
Cross Connection

In 1866, the first church building in Angelina County was erected...a Methodist church in Homer, Texas. It became the permanent home for a group that had begun meeting in 1839 at Dr. Brown's home. Since its inception, the church has gone through many permutations, but has always been a home for Methodists who wish to worship their Lord and Savior.

In 1889, 10 miles away, in Burke, Texas a group of people began meeting together and formed another Methodist Church. This church also experienced many changes. Both of these churches have "new" buildings now...Burke in 1956 and Homer in 1966. In 1991 these two churches were combined into a two-point charge.

Homegrown Organists

The dream of a father is a powerful thing. Batson Treadaway wanted his daughter to be a church organist, so in 1954 when she was 9 years of age, Rosemary Treadaway began organ lessons. Just six short months later, her father died, and her mother, Gertrude, made sure she continued her lessons. In June 1956, when the new sanctuary and fellowship hall were completed, at the tender age of 11, Rosemary Treadaway was appointed the official organist for Burke Methodist Church.

Like her church, Rosemary Treadaway Swetland has seen

some changes. She has grown up, married, and graduated with a Master of Arts in Music from Stephen F. Austin State University. She has taught music



Rosemary Swetland (seated) and Sherry Porter Dunham perform during worship service.

in her private studio for over 40 years and takes great delight in seeing her students serve in area churches. Through it all, she has continued to serve Burke United Methodist Church as organist, Lay Leader and other key positions. Rosemary has embarked upon a ministry of recording therapeutic music for hospitals, funeral homes and nursing homes. She has recorded two CDs using traditional hymns for rest, meditation and comfort for the ill.

In the meantime, 10 years later, in 1966, when Homer Methodist was just completing their new sanctuary, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Squyres had the vision of enhancing the worship service by adding an organ as accompaniment to the piano. They asked Miss Sherry Porter to make a commitment to learn how to play the instrument and attend church regularly in order to support the music ministry of the church.

Sherry was 11 years old when she made that commitment. Dr. Sherry Porter Durham, married, raised a family and earned her PhD in Education this year, yet she continues with her church music commitment 40 years later. Durham strives to make a difference in the lives of students in the Lufkin Independent School District and in the lives of the members of Homer United Methodist Church.

Power of Connection

In the last 6 years the combining of these two churches has made for some unique and interesting worship services. Rosemary travels to Homer every Sunday morning to assist with the worship service there after her own service at Burke. With Sherry playing the organ and Rosemary accompanying on the piano, and the 15 members of the Choir, the little Methodist Church at Homer rivals some of the larger churches in the District for musical worship, and is one of the best kept secrets in East Texas.

This year the two-point charge is celebrating 90 years of music with Sherry and Rosemary. "They demonstrate the spirit of connection between churches that is so vital to United Methodism" says Reverend Michael Jordan. "As we so often proclaim in our Affirmation of Faith, we believe this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen." (UMH 885)

Sugarland student wins prestigious fellowship award

By Tasha Schroeder
Communications Associate, The Fund for Theological Education

Richard Newton, who will attend Perkins School of Theology in the fall, has been named a 2006 Ministry Fellow by The Fund for Theological Education (FTE). Newton is one of 40 talented students from across the country who have been awarded a fellowship as part of the Fund's efforts to support gifted young people who demonstrate exceptional leadership skills for ministry.

FTE Ministry Fellowships are awarded annually to help improve the supply, quality and diversity of young candidates for ministry. The 2006 Ministry Fellows represent 13 denominations, 24 graduate theological educational institutions and diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Fellows must hold a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, demonstrate gifts for leadership and be entering a Master of Divinity program at an accredited school. Newton will receive a \$5,000 award to be used for a self-designed project to enrich his formation for ministry. There is a need to attract quality candidates to ministry. Recent studies show a significant decline across most Christian denominations in numbers of clergy under age 35. Other reports indicate declining interest among seminary students in answering the call to ministry—today, only about half of seminary students plan to be ordained and serve a local congregation.

"We know that congregations nationwide have increasing

needs for exceptional leaders, and many denominations face a potential shortage of young ordained clergy," said Melissa Wiginton, vice president for FTE Ministry Programs and Planning. "In our efforts to address that need, we are proud to name Richard as a Ministry Fellow. He has demonstrated excellent abilities for ministry, a commitment to service and a record of high academic achievement. We're pleased to provide this support to help Richard pursue his calling."

FTE is a leading ecumenical advocate for excellence and diversity in Christian ministry and theological scholarship. It supports the next generation of leaders among pastors and scholars, providing fellowships and a network of support to gifted young people from all denominations and racial/ethnic backgrounds. FTE has awarded \$1.3 million in fellowships in 2006.

The Fund is also a resource for educational and faith communities, offering programs to help encourage highly capable candidates to explore vocations in ministry and teaching. Since 1954, the Atlanta-based organization has awarded more than 5,700 fellowships in partnership with others committed to quality church leadership. Information about FTE fellowships is available on the Web at www.the-fund.org.

Planning Sessions for Camp 2007

Camp 2007, Curriculum Writing Input wanted!

Calling all interested camp directors, age level coordinators of past district camps, and anyone with a passion for summer camping with children and youth.

The new camping format will include one week of camp dedicated to senior high students from throughout the conference. This will help concentrate resources to produce one dynamic camping experience for older students and hopefully attract more students, who would be working or otherwise committed later during the summer.

"During the senior high camp, there will be more in terms of Christian vocation and leadership training," Dorris said. "These young people are capable of far more than we've asked of them in recent years."

Other changes will include a uniformed curriculum that will be utilized for all district camps, which will help ensure that all campers receive consistent and quality programming.

The Camping Ministries team wants and needs your input.

Saturday, September 30,
10 a.m. to Noon, **Cypress UMC**
Contact: Marilyn Wadkins,
mwadkins@cypress-umc.org,
281-469-0730

Tuesday, September 26,
6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **St. Luke's UMC—Houston**
Boyd Goodloe, loe@stlukes-hou.org,
713-622-7550

Monday, October 16,
6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **First UMC Crockett**
Cindy Parker,
cindyfumcc@valornet.com,
936-544-2044

Tuesday, October 17,
6 p.m. to 8 p.m., **First UMC Missouri City**
Jen Hanson,
jhanson@fumcmc.org,
281-499-3502

The Purpose:
Acknowledge past traditions and plan exciting new experiences.
Brainstorming, information sharing and bodybuilding.

The Ultimate Goal:
Happy Campers!

Hurricane Rita not forgotten

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Southeastern Texas. Of these damages, 5,233 single family dwellings were destroyed and 19,208 had major damage. With the multi-family dwellings, 483 homes were destroyed and 3,969 had major damage. There were also 1,877 mobile homes destroyed and 4,304 with major damage.

“So often we hear comments like ‘Well, your job is almost completed, right?’ or ‘Everyone’s homes are repaired, right?’” said Angela Baker, project coordinator for Rita Recovery in the Texas Conference. “This concerns us, as staff members who receive so many phone calls everyday from families needing help.

“Sometimes we get comfortable in our recovery and don’t realize that there are still so many people suffering. There are thousands of homes still

damaged and many homes to rebuild.”

In the past year, more than 237 teams totaling more 2,700 volunteers from 20 states have served in the “Golden Triangle,” the area between Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange. Those volunteers have logged 73,801 hours of work on 9,264 days.

Still, there are more than 900 families on the recovery center’s waiting list.

Without more teams, Rita Recovery cannot continue its mission in helping the thousands of families impacted in Southeast Texas by Hurricane Rita. To send a volunteer team, call 409-892-0140 or e-mail volunteers@umcortexas.com.

How are our churches?

Storm damage to Southeast District United Methodist churches exceeded \$8 million. All Southeast District pastors

were displaced from their churches and homes for no less than three weeks.

Of the 55 churches damaged in the district, 12 of them still have not been restored.

Tompkins understands the plight of United Methodist pastors in the area who are healing, while they walk others through the healing process. The leader of a Presbyterian Church, she is still displaced from her home.

“It seems appropriate to worship together and heal together as a community,” Tompkins said. “Because we experienced Hurricane Rita as a community – she was not a discriminatory event – she didn’t ask does this person have a particular faith before dropping a tree in the middle of the house.”

For more information on “Shelter from the Storm,” call the Rev. Tompkins at

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Beaumont at 409-838-6308.

The Rita Recovery web site at www.umcortexas.org was a source of information for this article.



Volunteer workers in the Beaumont area began repairs on the roof of a house damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Special session for young clergy

Continued from page 1

This is the same model we use in our churches to care for those who are grieving, divorced or have other issues.”

If there is interest from the young pastors, the Center for Clergy Excellence hopes to facilitate quarterly gatherings, since geographic distance makes monthly gatherings impractical. What would the gatherings entail?

“Perhaps they will want to spend time with cabinet in a forum,” she said. “Or, maybe they want time fellowshiping

said. “When you get the pregnancy test back, you’re not automatically a parent ... I can remember standing in the parsonage the day I brought my daughter home, knowing that she needed a bath and not knowing how to bathe her.

“My mother walked in and said, ‘It’s bath time ... let’s go to the kitchen sink.’ I thought, ‘Don’t I need a special tub or something from Bay’s R Us?’ I could’ve read every book, listened to every speaker, gone to early child development classes to prepare, and in that moment,

still not know how to bathe the child for the first time.”

So, advanced degrees in theology are just one ingredient in the formula for a successful pastorate.

Cammarano asserts that a system must be in place to help young pastors transition from graduate school to practical application of that knowledge, in an effort to improve the retention rate of young clergy.

Improving the retention rate of diverse, young clergy could also change the face of the denomination.



Rev. Carol Bruse shares her vision for clergy during the Service Center tours.

together with their kids and spouses.”

What makes them special?

“(This is important) because there are so few young clergy,” Bruse said. “They are being asked to carry our future and we need to be particularly sensitive to their needs and concerns.

“We are losing them like crazy. Even after being ordained, they leave the local church because we’re not mentoring and nurturing them and meeting their needs. We desperately need them to lead our church into the future and not leave ministry.”

While pastoral ministry is stressful for most, Bruse added that it can be even harder for young pastors because their pay is low and they often have young children.

“It’s tempting to leave the local church and go other places where the salaries are higher,” she said. “We want to ensure that those who want to serve as pastor and are gifted to serve as pastor have the support system and the network they need.”

Cammarano agreed that supporting young pastors requires special focus.

“The issues that face young clergy are not faced by all,” he

“I’m a white male. I’m the dominant culture,” Cammarano said. “The value that young clergy bring is that we’re not all white, we’re not all old, we’re not all male. And doesn’t the gospel need to be proclaimed to people who are not white, not male and not traditional?”

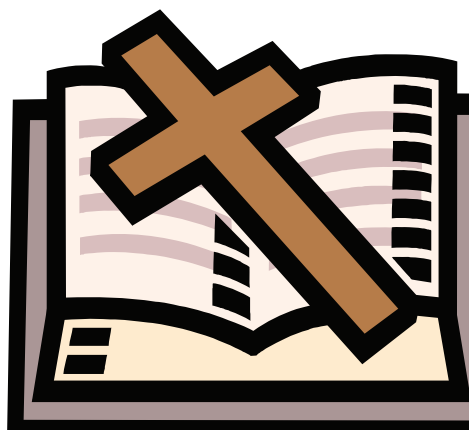
“The older crowd tends to divide itself in terms of liberals and conservatives. For young clergy there are issues that supersede liberal and conservative – some people call it an emergent church – how are we culturally relevant to the world.”

To participate in the The Gathering event for young clergy, pastors are asked to register for breakfast, go through the general serving line and then bring their meal to the private dining area, just off the main cafeteria.

Other highlights of the Clergy Gathering include devotional and meditation opportunities, and messages from Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and guest preacher Rev. Zan Holmes, pastor emeritus at St. Luke’s Community UMC in Dallas.

Register for Spirit Journey 2006

By Annette Breazeale
First United Methodist Church, Gilmer



nating on Saturday, October 28 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center.

This retreat is designed to provide a rhythm of worship, rest, study and fellowship (and the celebration of the Eucharist each day) for clergy and lay

participants.

For more information, contact:

Annette Breazeale, Retreat Leader
First United Methodist Church, Gilmer

Abreaz46@etex.net

Or

Kathy Kothmann, Registrar
College Station United Methodist Church

k.kothmann@verizon.net

The Center for Congregational Excellence will present, *Spirit Journey 2006*, beginning Thursday, October 26 and culmi-

Upcoming Events

September 2006

The Choir of St. Paul's United Methodist Church will sing a Service of Choral Evensong in the St. Paul's Sanctuary at 4 p.m. Sunday, September 24.

At 5501 Main Street, the church is within one block of Museum District MetroRail stops, and free parking is available in two lots across Fannin Street from the church.

John Wesley United Methodist Church presents Cynthia Clawson on Sunday, September 24. She will appear in our worship services at 8:30 & 11 a.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. for a worship and praise concert.

Cynthia Clawson is a 5-time Dove Award winner and the winner of one Grammy. Please join us as she shares the message of God's love through her musical talent! John Wesley United Methodist Church is located at 5830 Bermuda Dunes in the Champions Area of northwest Houston. Call 281-444-2112 for more information or visit www.jwumc.org.

October 2006

St. Paul's United Methodist Church presents several weeks of study, a series for adults and older teens called "History, Humanity, Responsibility: You Can Make a Difference," beginning on October 8. This unit of study developed by the Holocaust Museum of Houston focuses on peacemaking and social justice issues in the context of the events of the

Holocaust. The life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer is interlaced with the Holocaust timeline of events. Taught by Linda Francis, former social studies coordinator in the Fort Bend Independent School District, the study will include videos, a visit to the Holocaust Museum, and interactive discussions based on the readings.

The series is part of St. Paul's regular Sunday night activities called SNAC - Sunday Nights At Church. It will begin October 8 after a 5 p.m. SNAC supper in the church's Activity Center. The supper will be free for children and teens and cost \$3 for adults. On succeeding Sundays the study will begin at 5:30 when no SNAC supper will be served.

Childcare and activities for children through fifth grade will be provided.

Empowering Ministries of Health: Mobilize, Transform, Advocate"

Dr. Gary Gunderson will deliver the keynote address, "Boundary Leaders" at the GBGM Congregational Health Ministries Conference in Memphis, Oct. 8-11, 2006.

His keynote speech will present concepts of boundary leadership and real-life lessons of how boundary leadership can be used to align faith and health assets and enhance the overall health of the community.

Visit the GBGM website at <http://gbgm-umc.org/health/congmin/keynote.cfm> for more information

Wellness Wisdom for October

BREAST CANCER:

Cancer is a disease in which uncontrolled cell division occurs. In the case of breast cancer this uncontrolled division starts in the tissues of the breast. Abnormal, faster growing cells, outnumber the normal ones and do not allow them to function properly.

Breast cancer usually occurs in the tubes that carry milk to the nipples, or in the glands that make the milk. The cancer can also invade nearby tissues, spread through the bloodstream and the lymphatic system to other parts of the body.

Excluding lung cancer, this is the most frequently fatal form of cancer in women. Breast cancer is expected to kill over 40,000 women this year and in rare cases men too.

RISK FACTORS:

-Gender: being a woman is the main risk. The risk is 100 times more likely in women than in men.

-Age: chances of getting breast cancer increase with age.

-Family History: having a mother, sister, or daughter with breast cancer about doubles the risk.

-Personal History: a person with cancer in one breast has higher chances of getting it on the other breast, or getting a new one on the same breast.

-Race: white women are more likely to get it than African-American women, but African-American women are more likely to die from it. It's believed that they have faster growing tumors.

-Earlier breast radiation: persons who had radiation treatment to

their chest area have greatly increased chances of breast cancer.

-Menstrual periods: women who began menstruating before 12 years old or started menopause after 55 years of age have a slightly increased risk.

-Treatment with DES: women who took the drug DES (diethylstilbestrol) have a slightly higher chance of getting breast cancer.

EARLY DETECTION:

-Mammogram: x-ray of the breast is used to detect breast diseases. Women 40 yrs or older should have one yearly, or earlier if you are at an increased risk.

-Clinical breast exam: an exam of the breast by a health expert, looking for lumps, changes in size & shape.

-Monthly Self-exams: should be done as a step-by-step approach after each menstrual cycle.

LIFESTYLE CHANGES TO REDUCE RISKS:

"Screening for breast cancer decreases mortality by identifying & treating cases at an earlier stage."

Being active, maintaining a healthy weight, and eating right are very important for reducing your risk for cancer.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

For a person that is currently not exercising, it is important to incorporate at least a small amount of daily physical activity.

It helps to control weight and positively influences hormonal activity. For breast cancer risk reduction, adults should be active for at least 30 minutes or more on 5 or more days a week.

CONTROLLING WEIGHT:

Maintaining a healthy weight reduces the risk of breast cancer. Being overweight increases the risk by increasing the levels of estrogen and insulin in the blood; this can stimulate cancer growth. Veggies and fruits are a positive step to take towards weight management and healthy nutrition thanks to their vitamins, minerals, fiber, antioxidants, and many other substances.

GETTING STARTED:

Your health coach will help you create eating and exercise plans to address breast cancer prevention, while giving you support along the way.

- Exercise reduces your risk
- Diet: maintain a healthy weight
- Alcohol: having less than 1 drink a day.
- Giving birth: mothers who give birth at earlier ages have a reduced risk.
- Breast Feeding: breastfeeding slightly reduces the risk.
- Birth Control Pills: Using methods other than pills prevents an increase in risk.
- Hormone replacement therapy: combined Hormone Replacement Therapy after menopause increases risk. Alternate methods prevent this increase.

SYMPTOMS:

The most common sign of breast cancer is a new lump or mass. A lump that is painless, hard, and has uneven edges is more likely to be cancer.

Evidence suggests that one third of the 550,000 cancer deaths that occur in the United States each year are due to unhealthy diet and insufficient physical activity.

Schedule Changes for Congregational Equipping Events

During the month of October, the Center for Congregational Excellence will offer the following workshop opportunities for local churches.

Extravagant Generosity

Cliff Christopher of Horizons Stewardship will lead this workshop discussing annual stewardship efforts, capital campaigns and how to develop relationships with persons of means who can make significant gifts to min-

istry development. The workshop will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston on October 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and at Marvin United Methodist Church, Tyler on October 15, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Starting a New Church - Is It for You?

In this workshop, participants will consider different models of new church starts, examine the characteristics of new church

start pastors, discuss the emerging strategies for starting new churches in the Texas Annual Conference and receive vital information about the "next steps" for the discernment process for potential new church start pastors. The facilitator will be Rev. Don Smith who serves as the Church Planting Strategist for the Conference. Two workshops will be held on October 23, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at The Woodlands United Methodist

Church and October 24, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Marvin United Methodist Church, respectively.

What It Takes to "Mother a New Church"

Participants will examine the trends of new church development in the United Methodist Church, consider various models of "mother-daughter" new church starts and begin to discern the potential role of participant churches in supporting the birth of a new church. This event will be facilitated by Rev. Don Smith who has been a resource for more than 20

"mother-daughter" new church starts in six annual conferences. The workshop will be held October 23, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Woodlands United Methodist Church and October 24, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Marvin United Methodist Church, Tyler.

For more information on these and other ministry opportunities, contact the Center's Director, Dr. Karen Dorris at 713-521-9383, ext. 325 or kdorris@txcumc.org.