

# Cross Connection

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## Missouri youth serve Texans

By Eleanor L. Colvin  
Director of Communications  
Texas Annual Conference

A Missouri Annual Conference team of 175 volunteers – filled with the “Show Me State” spirit – recently showed Hurricane Rita victims what a little love and labor can do. The team blessed the Golden Triangle with their time, talents, gifts and service July 29 - August 3.

This is the second year that the Missouri Annual Conference youth have united for a mission trip. Last year, they served storm victims in Mobile,

Alabama. Bobbie Rampley, an adult chaperone from Hillsboro UMC in Hillsboro, Missouri, said each year the conference

establishes a list of mission trip choices from which the youth may choose. She promised the

Texas Annual Conference Rita Recovery – an UMCOR Partner, affirmed the need. After nearly two years of recovery work, she said there are still more than 600 people on the Rita Recovery waiting list.

“I have a construction crew that’s very tired, but we are at 343 homes complete,” said Baker. “After this week, that number will rise dramatically thanks to this team.”

Needless to say, Baker and staff were more than happy to show the Missouri team some Texas hospitality. The caravan arrived at Rita Recovery headquarters at Wesley UMC in Beaumont Sunday night, and was headed out the door for work Monday by 7 a.m. Work days last until around 3 p.m. or 4 p.m.

Rampley’s team worked in the South Park community in

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**Crystal Adamson, a volunteer from Missouri perfects her sheetrock installation skills.**

youth a trip to Texas last year, if there was still a need come summertime.

Angela Baker, director of the

## First class of interns aim to follow God’s lead

By Eleanor L. Colvin  
Director of Communications  
Texas Annual Conference

One intern is considering chaplaincy. At least four interns say God confirmed their call to ministry this summer. Three

journey in May 2007. Ten weeks later, they all emerged grateful for the opportunity and positioned to serve in whatever



**Intern Monica Wallace celebrates communion with Rev. Lisa Beth White, an associate pastor at Moody Memorial First UMC.**

interns are more committed to Christ than ever before, yet still will consider other professional options. Three interns will begin seminary this fall.

Ten young adults began the Texas Annual Conference Pastoral Internship Project at different places in their faith

way God sees fit.

The resounding message: Continue to seek God’s will.

“God made you for a purpose – he knew your purpose before you were born,” said Kathy Goode, a lay member of Riverside UMC in Houston and

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## ‘Here I Am Lord, Send Me’

### PIM and Lakewood UMC, Houston host Mission Forum 2007

Partners In Mission

Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church



September 8, 2007, outstanding leaders will present a series of mission activities and educational workshops at Lakewood U C, 11330 Louetta Road in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Robert Hunt, Director of

Global Theological Education at Southern Methodist University, among others will make his second appearance in the Texas Conference. The Global Village will be open, offering many educational opportunities for local churches.

Project coordinators who are responsible for various mission projects will be available to discuss service opportunities.

Participants will have the chance to ask detailed questions about specific projects.

Participants will attend three workshops:

- Dr. Cherian Thomas, General

Board of Global Ministries - Community Based Medical Missions

- Jeanie Blankenship, Consultant General Board of Global Ministries - Individual Volunteers In Mission Ministry
- Dr. Robert Hunt, SMU - Understanding Islam: What Every Christian Should Know
- Willie Berman, Mission Coordinator for Mexico - Crossing The Border
- Clint Rabb, General Board of Global Ministries - Mission Programs of The

United Methodist Church

- Rev. Samuel Wood, Kansas East Conference - Compassion Fatigue
  - Michael Hick, Memorial Drive UMC, Houston - Fundraising for the Mission Team
  - UMCOR - Where are you needed in Disaster Recovery?
  - Cote d’Ivoire - Introduction to the culture and society of the Ivory Coast
- The cost of \$35 covers all workshops, snacks and lunch. Checks should be made payable to Partners In Mission and mailed

to the PIM office, 5215 Main Street, Houston, Texas, 77002.

Registration is required. The form can be found on the PIM web page located on the Texas Conference web site, [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org) under the Missions tab.

Bring your mission ministry leadership team and learn how to get





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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# General Conference petitions lost through e-mail

By United Methodist News Service  
Nashville, Tennessee

General Conference petitions sent via e-mail before noon on July 27 need to be resubmitted due to technical problems, according to officials with the 2008 General Conference.

The petitions were not delivered because of problems with the e-mail address petitions@umpublishing.org.

Petitions submitted by U.S. mail to the petitions secretary, as well as petitions submitted through the General Conference Web site, are not affected, however.

"I have been assured that the e-mail address is now functioning properly, and I regret the inconvenience that this situation has caused," said the Rev. Fitzgerald Reist, secretary of General Conference.

For future submission, anyone who does not receive an acknowledgement of the receipt of a petition within three weeks should contact the office of the Rev. Gary Graves, petitions secretary, at (270) 274-4590.

Oct. 26 is the deadline for organizations, clergy members and lay members of The United Methodist Church to submit a petition to the denomination's top

legislative body.

Detailed instructions for submitting petitions are available online.

## General Conference 2008

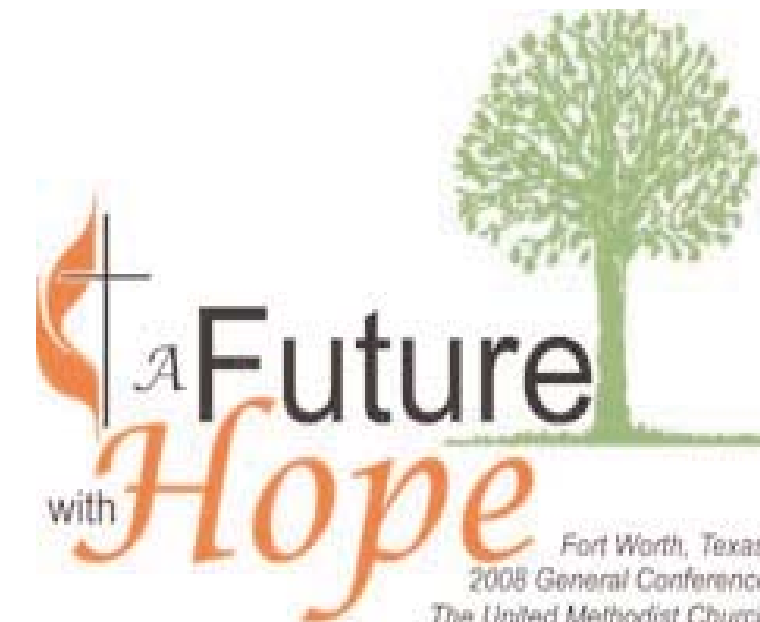
The next meeting of the General Conference, which convenes every four years, will be April 23-May 2, 2008 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Comprising nearly 1,000 delegates- half clergy and half lay - the assembly is the only body that speaks officially for the denomination. After each conference, revised editions of the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions are released.

General Conference delegates can change anything in the Book of Discipline except the church's Constitution, Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith or General Rules of Our United Societies.

It also cannot do away with its episcopacy or destroy the plan of general superintendency. Any recommended changes in the Constitution must be ratified by the annual (regional) conferences.

The 2008 assembly will have



13 legislative committees: two for church and society, and one each for conferences, discipleship, faith and order, financial administration, general administration, global ministries, independent commissions, judicial administration, ministry and higher education, local church and superintendency. In 2004, General Conference had 11 committees.

Each valid petition is given a number and title. Each legislative committee deals with peti-

tions related to a series of paragraphs from the Book of Discipline.

Petitions related to the Book of Resolutions are sorted by subject matter. A legislative committee can recommend to the full assembly concurrence or non-concurrence with the language as submitted, or the committee may change the language and then recommend concurrence.

Legislative committees can also submit majority and minority recommendations.

The Rev. Fitzgerald Reist, secretary of the General Conference, encourages United Methodists to submit their petitions digitally "to enable us to get the petitions processed on time."

"Most of them are submitted digitally today," he said. Non-digital submissions must be received by September 12 and must be typed or legibly printed.

Digitally formatted petitions may be submitted by e-mail, 3.5 inch diskette, CD or through the web site of the General Conference.

Petitioners also can submit via the U.S. Postal Service by sending the required three hard copies and 3.5 inch diskette or CD to Gary W. Graves, Petitions Secretary, United Methodist General Conference, P. O. Box 188, Beaver Dam, KY 42320-0187.

Petitions may also be submitted through overnight carriers (Federal Express, UPS, DHL) to Gary Graves, Petitions Secretary, United Methodist General Conference, 302 N. Lafayette Street, Beaver Dam, KY 42320. They also may be sent by fax to: 270-274-4590 or by e-mail to petitions@umpublishing.org.



Delegates consider legislation during the United Methodist Church's 2004 General Conference in Pittsburgh. Petitions for considerations by the 2008 General Conference may be submitted until October 26.

A United Methodist News Service photo by  
John C. Goodwin

# Interns inspired and ready to serve

*The 10 participants in the Center for Clergy Excellence Pastoral Internship Program shared words of inspiration during chapel at the United Methodist Service Center this summer. The following excerpts are from the testimonies and messages they shared at chapel and during their final time of reflection at the end-of-summer retreat.*

## Michael Anderson

Home Church: Marvin UMC, Tyler  
Host Church: Wesley UMC, Nederland  
School: Baylor University

“I’m not certain if I’ll be a minister, I’m still considering other professional options. But the summer helped me to be a lot more open person – to be braver and bolder and better at little things like praying and talking about spirituality.”

“A week before the internship, someone asked me to say grace out loud in a restaurant. I thought, ‘Do I really have to do that?’ And now, I’d be glad to pray.”

## Grant Barnes

Home Church: Seabrook UMC  
Host Church: First UMC, Longview  
School: Texas State University

“So often in our lives we hear things like what Job’s wife was saying – give up. Most often it’s ourselves saying this ... Sometimes, we need to say things more like Job.”

“I had an opportunity to do volunteer chaplaincy in Longview. That gets you real ready, real fast.”

## Malcolm Ervin

Home Church: Riverside UMC, Houston  
Host Church: Jones Memorial UMC, Houston  
School: Perkins School of Theology; graduate of Texas Southern University

“We can honor and maintain obedience to God by pondering and meditating on the word of God.”

“He wants us to do more than participate by good works ... He wants us to do more than being board chairs. Go out into the harvest and gather all the seeds planted.”

“Being obedient to God is not the same as sticking to the speed limit because you get a fine or speeding ticket if you disobey ... You cannot imitate relationship with God.”

## Patrick Hoffman

Home Church: Christ UMC, Plano  
Host Church: First UMC, Longview  
School: University of Texas at Dallas

“Were these rare coincidences or were these truly a part of God’s plan? If my high school had not closed, if my family hadn’t moved to Houston, I never would’ve met Chap Temple and wouldn’t be here today.”

“I came into the internship not knowing whether or not I was called ... This internship helped me see this is an open door. Ordained ministry is not a closed door.”

## Preston Morgan

Home Church: Christ UMC, College Station  
Host Church: First UMC, Bellville  
School: Southwestern University

“I took a class that shook the foundations of my faith ... Out of high school I was ‘gung ho’ about being a pastor. In college, I was not so ‘gung ho’ after a while ... This summer has been more than amazing. It’s been a blessing in all sorts of ways.”

“My host pastor sent me on a pre-surgical pastoral

(preaching the word) is what grew our church and what will continue to grow it. People are hungry for that.”

“At this point, all I can say is God will do what he wants. It’s not up to me, but I’m ready.”

## John Stephenson

Home Church: First UMC, Cleveland  
Host Church: First UMC, Livingston  
School: Kingwood College

“Each of has a unique gift. Those gifts are needed to complete the body of Christ.”

“Our jobs are to discover and fulfill God’s giftings for our life.”

“In 10 weeks, I have turned around in ways I never expected. I have grown, God has confirmed my call, God has put key players in my life to help me see things through a difference lens.”

## Adam Straznick

Home Church: First UMC, East Bernard  
Host Church: Wesley UMC, Nederland  
School: Brite Theological Seminary

“The internship has gotten me more comfortable with the church and got me to realize it’s more missional.”

“All through high school and college, I’ve always worn a suit to church. Nederland is more relaxed and down to Earth – they got me to shed my jacket.”

## Monica Wallace

Home Church: Wesley-McCabe UMC, Longview  
Host Church: St. Paul’s UMC, Houston  
School: Kilgore College

“God said: Teaching, that’s great, but I’ve got something

bigger planned for you.”

“I was trying to have faith in what I could do and not what God could do.”

“God chose me. It wasn’t that I woke up one day and said, ‘You know, I think I’ll go into ministry.’ He chose me for this and not the other way around ... At that point, I was free for joyful obedience ... All I needed to do was trust God’s plan for me.”

## Jeremy Wester

Home Church: A&M UMC, College Station  
Host Church: First UMC, Bellville  
School: Duke Divinity School; graduate of Texas A&M University

“I used this time to test my call to ministry before making a commitment to seminary. The whole time reinforced my call, reinforced my love for the church.”

“It’s been an amazing chance to live that life a pastor – under a person who’s been doing that for 30 years.”



**Interns and mentors form a prayer circle at the end-of-summer retreat.**

visit. He sent me to comfort the family. You walk into the room with a 101-year-old wonderful woman, who broke her leg, and is not expected to make it out ... and the family doesn’t want to grieve, but isn’t sure if they should say their good-byes ... So, before they take her away, I say, ‘Can we pray?’ And the family lights up ... You walk out of the hospital and think, ‘What just happened?!’ ... I just pray God can refill my cup as fast as I can pour it out.”

“Halfway through the internship, I turned in my letter of intent and met with Dr. Bledsoe, who is my district superintendent.”

## Ethan Prall

Home Church: First UMC, Houston  
Host Church: First UMC, Livingston  
School: Texas A&M University

“There’s an incredible power in words ... look at scripture, we have creation spoken into being by the word of God.”

“I hope that we, as Methodists, never forget that

# Missouri youth serve southeast Tex

Continued from page 1

Beaumont on Joe Mikesic's home. Dry walling, flooring and some exterior painting were among the homeowner's immediate needs. The entire home was gutted and entirely uninhabitable, with the owner still living in a FEMA trailer in his backyard.

## Sign up for the Rita Recovery Repair Blitz. Send a team September 9-29.

"When we walked in, we thought: 'Oh dear Lord,'" said Rampley. "It's been hard, but it's been fun."

Mikesic had already repaired broken roof rafters and the roof, which had blown away in portions. Because he'd already begun work on the ceilings and floors, he knows the value of the work team's help.

"It's put me light years ahead of where I was," Mikesic said. "They work about 1,000 times faster than I could work. They've fast forwarded me ahead with things I needed to get done."

Having already spent \$6,000

to repair his roof, Mikesic noted that the volunteers work faster and at a quality equal to paid professionals.

"When I think back over the last two years, I am in awe of what God has done," Baker said. "It's amazing. He really can do anything."

### Called to serve

This year's theme for the Missouri Conference youth volunteers was SERVE: Sacrifice, Example, Rejoice, Vision and Endurance. With devotions held at lunchtime, evenings and full worship at night, volunteers had ample opportunities to learn about their call to serve, and were encouraged seek out and be aware of each day's specific aspect of service.

In the Golden Triangle, youth worked on 15 homes. This project was one of six mission camps for them this summer. The programs are funded by

individual donations and through the Youth Service Fund and the Conference Council on Youth Ministry.

And, at the same time the Rita Recovery staff thanks and appreciates out-of-state teams, Baker continues to stress the need for nearby volunteers like McCabe Roberts UMC of Beaumont; First UMC Orange and Winfree Baptist Church, which all recently volunteered to help storm victims in the area.

The Rita Recovery office is organizing a Repair Blitz for all United Methodists within the South Central Jurisdiction, September 9-29, 2007. Teams are invited to come to Southeast Texas to assist in repairing homes for families who will not recover from Hurricane Rita without help.

To volunteer, contact the Rita Recovery office at 409-892-0140 or [volunteers@umcortexas.com](mailto:volunteers@umcortexas.com). Or, sign up online at [www.umcortexas.com](http://www.umcortexas.com).

"We need more local teams," Baker said. "After all it's their community. If people can come all the way from Missouri for a week, then surely we can step up."





**Top Left:** Andrea Statler, 13, puts the finishing touches on an exterior paint job.

**Top Middle:** Homeowner Joe Mikesic and volunteer Jim Rampley take a break for conversation. Volunteers say “listening” is a very important part of mission work.

**Top Right:** Rita Recovery staff member Calandre Carr adds another completed home to the office’s Tree of Restoration. To date, 343 homes have been completed. Another 600 homes are on the waiting list.

**Bottom Left:** Eighteen year-old volunteers Crystal Adamson and Jim Rampley, both of Hillsboro UMC in Missouri, complete construction projects in a Beaumont home.

**Bottom Right:** Missouri volunteer JoAnna Hill, 14, battles the Texas sun while stretching to paint the exterior of a storm victim’s home.

**Center:** Volunteer cuts plastic sheeting in preparation for sheetrock repair.

**Bottom Left:** Each volunteer team places a ‘helping hand’ on the wall of the Rita Recovery office. Returning teams place stars on their helping hand.

## I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

This mom, when we were visiting the sites came out and told us how thankful she was and how she was praying for us – praying for God to bless us. She was excited that God had sent us to her.

**Brooke Hines, 18**

Everyone we’ve been helping are all so grateful even though they’ve gone through trauma. They’re thankful for what they still have and are willing to give ... some of them are cooking for the volunteers.

**Kristen Smith, 17**

One glaring example of (how much we take for granted) was, yesterday, the house we went to didn’t have a running toilet. The mother was on dialysis and the daughter was nine months pregnant. They were carrying buckets of water. There was no running water until our group got there and fixed it.

**Katherine Darring, 17**

Everyone has a story to tell here – where they went and how they did it. I love hearing the stories ... When you have a trauma and no one to share with, you just want to tell anyone.

**Ben Rackers, 17**

# Hurricane Rita survivors - focus of local mission team

## McCabe Roberts youth take to the mission field

By Thelma Jones  
Editor, Cross Connection



Under the leadership of Pastor Wanda Bess, youth from McCabe Roberts Avenue United Methodist Church volunteered their time, energy and efforts to help five homeowners repair their homes and their lives during the week of July 23-27, 2007.

Despite the rainy weather, the hard work helped to improve skills for performing tasks such as replacing sheetrock, windows, carpents along with painting.

When everyone involved in a mission project can benefit - the people in the community and the people who make up the mission team - the project is a success. The community received much needed help with restoration and the McCabe Roberts youth learned the importance and value of being able to offer help in times of need.

In response to the often-asked question, "How is your work coming along?" Quewiness Quincy reworded the common response from

"It's going fine," to "It's going very well." Erinisha Bess expressed how thankful she was for the opportunity to serve her community.

Indeed, the project progressed very well.

### Repair Blitz

If you are a United Methodist church within the South Central Jurisdiction, we are looking for you. UMCOR is organizing a "Repair Blitz." Teams within the Jurisdiction are being asked to participate in the Blitz to be held September 9-29, 2007.

Participating teams are needed in Southeast Texas to assist in repairing homes for families who will not recover from Hurricane Rita without help. If you are interested in bringing a volunteer team, go to [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org), click on the "Missions" tab for a link to the *Rita Recovery* web site.

*The Rita Recovery staff contributed to this report.*



**Top Left: Dominique Goodman, Garrett and Gavin Chatman master house painting techniques.**

**Middle: Dominique Woods concentrates on doing a good job of scraping old paint off the house.**

**Top Right: Quewiness Quincy tackles paint scraping during a break in the rainy weather.**

**Bottom Left: Erinisha Bess and Dominique Goodman pair up to tackle the job of paint scraping.**

# Interns follow God's lead

Continued from page 1

member of the Center for Clergy Excellence Clergy Recruitment task force that conceived the internship. "Listen to God first and foremost while discerning your call. I, or B.T. or Carol, we have our ideas. We chose you to be in this program. But God chose you before we did."

## Many are called

"God calls us all down different paths," said task force member Tiffin Wilsford, who is also the youth leader at St. Paul's UMC Houston. "If God is calling you to ordained ministry, go with God's grace."

Several interns already are committed to doing just that. Beginning seminary this year are Malcolm Ervin at Perkins Theological Seminary; Adam Straznicki at Brite Theological Seminary and Jeremy Wester at Duke Divinity School.

"I pretty much had my mind made up that I was definitely called to ministry," said intern John Stevenson, who is pursuing undergraduate studies. "The people at Livingston (First UMC) helped me confirm that."

Weekly meetings with Lay Encouragement Committees and the support of lay members in general played an important role in the experience, some interns said.

"The things that were said to me at St. Paul's were so very encouraging," said intern Monica Wallace, who noted that her home church, Wesley McCabe in Longview is very different from Houston's landmark St. Paul's. "All in all, it was a very positive experience."

And, while intern Michael Anderson is among those who is

not sure that he will enter pastoral ministry, he is sure the summer experience strengthened his faith.

"This summer helped me to be a lot more open person – to be braver and bolder and better at little things like praying and talking about spirituality," said Anderson, whose home church is Marvin UMC in Tyler. "A week before the internship, someone asked me to say grace out loud in a restaurant. I thought, 'Do I really have to do that?' And now, I'd be glad to pray."

## Disciple-making mission

The Pastoral Internship Project was developed to provide a transformational experience in Christian ministry and positive peer and mentor group for reflection and discernment. The project also aims to help interns discover whether their gifts and graces match the needs and requirements of ordained ministry within the church.

The 10-week internship began with an orientation and attendance at the Annual Conference gathering. At a mid-point during the summer, interns gathered for a two-day retreat that took them to one another's ministry sites.

The unique ministry opportunity ended with a final retreat at Moody Memorial First UMC in Galveston. A gift from the church's Permanent Endowment Fund helped support the cost of the intern's \$3,000 summer stipend, retreats and more.

During the final retreat, interns surveyed the diverse roads that a life in ministry may take. Rev. Don Smith, Church Planting Strategist, provided a

look at what it takes to birth new faith communities. Lakewood UMC Houston pastor Rev. Chappell Temple, who chaired the Center for Clergy Excellence Clergy Recruitment task force, candidly shared the life of a pastor. Conversations also explored the ministry of a conference staff member and a local church staff person.

Temple encouraged interns to enjoy every experience placed on their ministry path.

"God is enormously frugal, and he wastes nothing in our lives," said Temple.

The veteran pastor – affectionately known as one of the "ancients" to the young adult interns – also shared some timeless wisdom that hopefully will benefit them for years to come.

"The most important thing for a pastor to do is the same as it is for any Christian – to make disciples," Temple said. "You make disciples, not by getting them saved and putting another notch on your leather bible cover, for one more convert.

"You make disciples by bringing people into relationship with Christ and staying with them until that relationship grows – until they're at the point of being able to self replicate and make disciples."

The Pastoral Internship Project was one step toward preparing these young adults for a lifetime of disciple making.

For information or an application for the 2008 internship, contact the Center for Clergy Excellence at 713-521-9383 or visit its web page at [www.txcumc.org/clergyexcellence](http://www.txcumc.org/clergyexcellence).



**Top: Intern Preston Morgan describes the aviator goggles and flying squirrel costume he sported for vacation bible school at Wesley UMC Nederland.**

**Middle: Malcolm Ervin shares a message during chapel at the United Methodist Service Center.**



**Bottom Left: Center for Congregational Excellence Director, Dr. Karen Dorris greets Monica Wallace at chapel.**



**Bottom Right: Grant Barnes (right) passes the bible to Michael Anderson, as each member of the group reads a scripture verse of the passage describing the diversity of the body of Christ.**



## SPOTLIGHT ON Local church celebrations

### First UMC of Hempstead to celebrate 150 years

Established in 1857, the First United Methodist Church of Hempstead is 150 years old.

The church began soon after the Town of Hempstead was founded in 1856 by R. R. Peebles and J. W. McDade.

According to several histories of the church that have been written, the first known pastor of the Methodist Church in Hempstead was Dr. Nathaniel Norris Allen, pastor of Kirby Chapel Methodist Church.

Sunday, September 16, 2007, the celebration begins with a worship service at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church located at Seventh and Main Streets (1010 7th Street) in Hempstead.

Rev. Richard Laster, former pastor of First UMC Hempstead (1986 to 1997), will bring the message for the service.

After the morning worship service, a luncheon will be held in the fellowship hall of the Church.

All members, former mem-

bers, pastors, and friends of the Church are invited to join the celebration.

### A New Location for First UMC-Jacksonville

After nearly 100 years in their building in downtown, Jacksonville, First United Methodist Church has moved into their beautiful new facilities at 1031 Southeast Loop 456.

A new cornerstone with the following inscription marks the new facility:

“ESTABLISHED 1845  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
WE GO FORTH PROCLAIMING  
CHRIST”

Rev. Kevin King is the senior pastor of the church.

### Thomas Chapel UMC in Willis celebrates its 140th anniversary

Jones Memorial United Methodist Church and senior

pastor, Rev. Lawrence Young will be the guests of Thomas Chapel United Methodist Church as the church celebrates its 140 years of Christian service to the city of Willis, Texas on August 19, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

Christian friends and the community are invited to join the celebration.

For more information, contact Nancy Jackson at 936-344-6728.

### St. Mary's UMC in Houston Commemorates 58th Anniversary

"58 and Doing Great" - In celebration of its 58th Church Anniversary, St. Mary's United Methodist Church is having a Banquet on Friday, September 7, 7:30 p.m. at the University of Houston, Hilton Hotel. The special guest speaker will be Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr. of the Oklahoma Conference. Tickets: \$40 Adult, \$20 for Children 12 and under.

## Dr. Richard Gentzler

Keynote speaker for adult and senior adult ministries retreat

By Marilyn Braswell

Program Coordinator, Mt. Sequoyah Retreat Center



Dr. Richard Gentzler will serve as the keynote speaker for the SCJ Leadership

Dr. Gentzler will lead three sessions: Myths and Realities of Aging, Spirituality and Aging and Intentional Ministry with Older Adults.

In addition to Dr. Gentzler's sessions, there will be six workshops:

- Ministry to Boomers and Seniors in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century-Rev. Laurie Barnes
- The Journey of Frailty and A Ministry of Hope-Karla Woodward, RN, BSN, MS Social Gerontology
- Parish Nursing-Dr. Suzy Lockwood, Assistant Professor, Texas Christian University
- Nuts and Bolts: Starting an Adult Day Care Ministry-Myrtia Ruskauff, LPN
- Motivating and Equipping Senior Adults to Share Their Faith-Rev. David Thomas
- Resources for Effective Sunday Schools for Senior Adults-Marjorie Monnet and Marita Morgan

For more detailed information and registration, visit the Mount Sequoyah website at [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org) or call 800-760-8126.

Training "Aging in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century & Beyond" to be held at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas September 3-5, 2007.

The event is open to all clergy and laity who minister to adult and senior adults in their community and local church.

Dr. Gentzler is director of the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries, the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

Rick is a nationally-recognized teacher, writer, and leader in the field of aging and older adult ministries. He is the 2003 recipient of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging "Spirituality and Aging" award and author of numerous books on adult and older adult ministry.

## Perkins lay school of theology at St. Paul's UMC

By Donna Adair

Communications Coordinator

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

The semi-annual Perkins Lay School of Theology at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston, will be Saturday, August 25.

Dr. Ted Campbell will teach a one-day course named The Christian Gospel: An Historical and Ecumenical Interpretation for the Third Millennium.

This will be a study of the basic Christian message (kerygma) or Gospel (euaggelion) as it appeared in oral tradition before the Christian scriptures, in the Christian scriptures, and in historical Christian traditions after the time of the Christian scriptures.

The course will ask the question of the claim of a basic continuity between the earliest Christian message as it is proclaimed in historical Christian churches today, with some atten-

tion to contemporary issues about the diversity of early Christianity, alternative gospels, and the issue of whether the received gospel was the interposition of Roman governmental authorities.

Dr. Campbell is an associate professor of church history at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. His teaching specialties are Methodist history, doctrine, and polity; the history of Christianity; the history of Christian doctrine and theology; and ecumenical Christian doctrine.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church is located at 5501 Main at Binz/Bissonnet. The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a break for lunch. Cost is \$40 per person, including lunch. For an additional \$5 fee, 1.5

Continuing Education Units may be applied.

Free parking is available in the lots across Fannin Street from the church, and the church is within walking distance of both Museum District MetroRail stops.

For more information, including registration materials, see [www.perkins.smu.edu](http://www.perkins.smu.edu) or contact Sandra Mitchell Obregon at [smo@smu.edu](mailto:smo@smu.edu) or 214-768-2251.

