

# Cross Connection

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

Label Area

Two Sections, Section A

076000 Volume 155

Number 04

June 6, 2008

## What's Inside

# 'It's time to sing and dance!'

## Episcopal address celebrates fruitfulness of ministries in 2007-2008

1	Episcopal Address for Annual Conference 2008
2	Laity Meeting
3	"Sending Forth" Service
4	2008 Annual Conference Worship Services
6	Ordination and Commissioning Service
8	Spotlight on Local Church Ministries



**Total praise and worship.** The Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference choir added their voices to the praise and worship celebration during Annual Conference 2008.

*Vibrant, growing congregations changing lives and reshaping futures for Jesus Christ*

**By Eleanor L. Colvin**  
Texas Annual Conference  
Director of Communications

"We're starting to look like the world."  
Bishop Janice Riggle Huie opened Monday's Episcopal Address to the 39th session of the Texas Annual Conference with an acknowledgement of God's diverse children assembled to glorify their creator. The address was translated in two languages - Spanish and French - for Spanish speakers within the bounds of the conference and for the 71 guests from the

Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference.  
Huie flashed back to the 2005 Episcopal Address to remind the standing-room-only crowd of TAC members how the three-year journey to increased fruitfulness began.  
"I invited us to be open to the possibility of a new Pentecost," Huie said. "You all responded with hallelujah and amen, and then we started making changes... We prayed fervently that God would fill us anew."  
Transformation, she said, became a labor of love. A labor

that birthed a new structure and a new Model for Ministry. And, since people measure the things that matter, the conference also established Measures of Fruitfulness.  
The measures call for increases in professions of faith, worship attendance, apportionment payouts, and people involved in hands-on mission. Some things are easier to report than others.  
"It's ironic that I can access a monthly report of local church apportionment payouts, but still can't get accurate numbers on worship attendance and profes-

sions of faith," Huie said. "You've got a bishop who's praying for the day when reporting numbers about human beings will be as important as reporting numbers about money."  
"Numbers and charts alone can never demonstrate the vitality - we need to hear the stories."  
So, during her multi-media address, Huie shared the stories of churches throughout the conference that are living out the vision of becoming vibrant,

*Continued on page 7*



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.*

**Resident Bishop**  
Janice Riggle Huie

**Director of Communications**  
Eleanor L. Colvin  
ecolvin@txcumc.org

**Editor**  
Thelma Jones  
thelmaj@methodists.net

**Web Content Manager**  
Brant Mills  
bmills@txcumc.org

**Communications Assistant**  
Rebecca Garcia  
garciar@methodists.net

**Cross Connection**  
5215 Main Street  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713-521-9383

**Conference Web Site:**  
www.txcumc.org

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



## Texas Annual Conference laity continues ministry in hope



**Record setting numbers! More than 1,000 lay members attended the laity meeting at the Marriott Waterway hotel during Annual Conference.**

**By Jill Krone**  
**Texas Annual Conference**  
**Communications**

The Marriott meeting room was filled to capacity with standing room only as Lay leader, Leah Taylor, opened the Texas Annual Conference Laity Meeting on Monday morning, May 26, 2008. Taylor prayed for “God to be with us as we strive to do His work in this Conference in a way that makes Him proud.”

Bishop Huie addressed the lay delegates, representing congregations in the Texas Annual Conference, stressing that “this annual conference marks the end of the quadrennium and a lot has happened. We have a lot to celebrate.” Huie recalled being at the April General Conference of the United Methodist Church. “It is hard

to overstate the abundance of grace sitting there with United Methodists representing over 11.4 million members.”

She reminded TAC laity of the four foci (starting new and revitalizing existing congregations; developing principled Christian leadership; eliminating diseases of poverty; and engaging in ministry with the poor) as our guideline for ministry.

General Conference gave forward motion to our mission statement of making disciples of Jesus Christ with the addition of “for the transformation of the world.” Following her address, Bishop Huie shared her hope that “during this annual conference and the next four years laity would become more deeply engaged in working in their communities to transform the world.”

Information from General Conference was shared as delegates who attended the sessions last month in Fort Worth spoke about the highlights. Mary Reed shared a moving video of the Hope of Africa Children’s Choir performing during worship services saying, “Without worship it would have been impossible to do all our work. It was like soaring. Truly you could feel the wind of the Spirit.”

Gil Hanke, who serves on the Connectional Table from which the 4 Areas of Focus originated, noted that its 47 members strived to “give a clear picture to those not in the United Methodist Church about the church.”

Lay Leader, Leah Taylor recounted parts of Lyn Powell’s address to the General Conference which focused on

the role of laity reaching the un-churched and under-churched. Powell’s response to declining UMC membership and disengaged laity, was likened to sleeping giants ready to stir. It included three parts: 1) Invite, invite, invite!, 2) One member, one ministry (beyond inviting of which all should be a part), and 3) joining witness and mission.

Lovelady delegate, Carolyn Huntsman, offered, “I’d like to see our laity have a larger role in planning and to better follow through with our commitments.” Following adjournment, Taylor shared, “My hope for this laity is that we will all leave annual conference and find a young person to train, to love and to lift up to do our job.”



# ‘Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord’

Kibe calls church out of paralysis: when do we get well enough to help someone else?



Pastor Velosia Kibe of Windsor Village UMC delivers a stirring message for the *Sending Forth Service*.

**By Eleanor L. Colvin**  
 Texas Annual Conference  
 Director of Communications

Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord was the charge given to the members of the Texas Annual Conference during the Sending Forth Service on Wednesday, May 28.

Kibe, who sat down to illustrate the story of the lame man who sat at the gate called Beautiful, while church members passed him by. “God is concerned about people at the gate, who need someone to help them get inside the church.

“How is it that we pass by

op and now professor at Duke Divinity School. “Rev. Storey crushed our comfort zones...Thanks be to God,” Kibe said. “We are not called to huddle inside our churches with people we already know, who look like us, smell like us, walk like us and act like us.”

**"There's a difference in the impact of a large church and a church with a large impact. A church with an impact means everyone - not just the pastor and a few key people you see at everything - every member is called from the foundation of the world to work for the kingdom of God."**

**Pastor Velosia Kibe**  
 Windsor Village UMC

Rev. Velosia Kibe, associate pastor of Windsor Village UMC, preached a soul-stirring message designed to live not only within the walls of the church, but to touch those “outside the gates.”

“[The church] is not a storage house. It’s a headquarters, where you come to learn how to minister to the world,” said

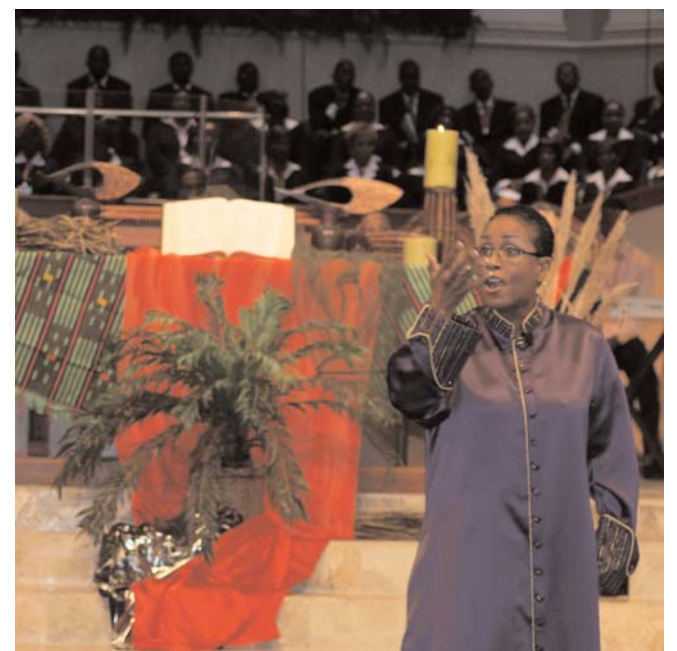
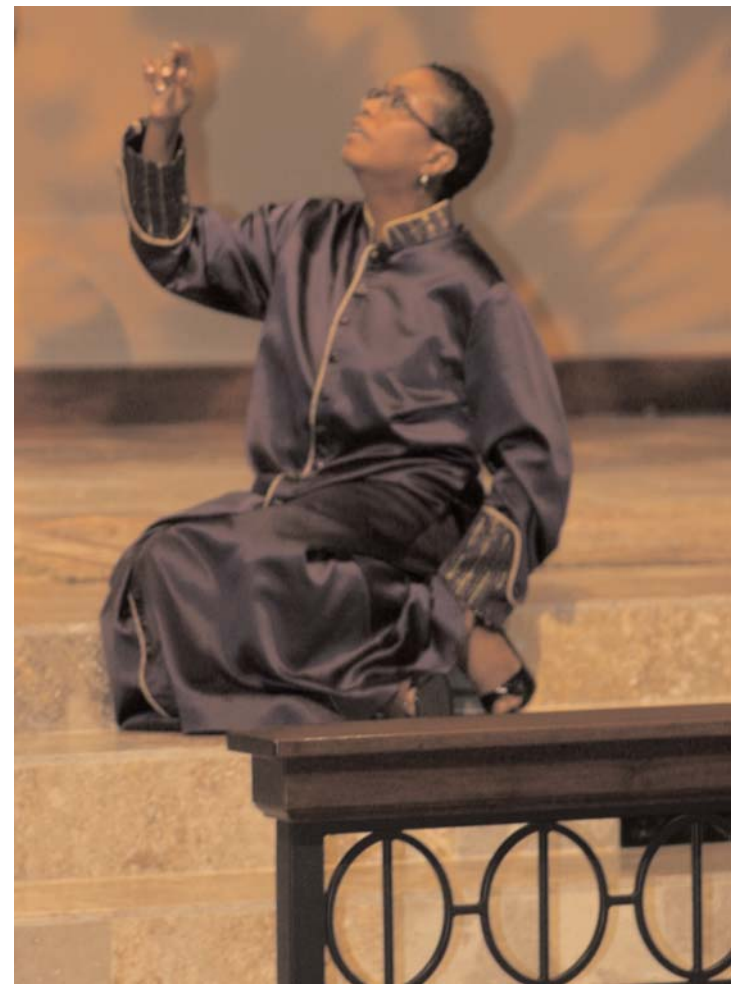
so many opportunities to build the kingdom of God? We leave the opportunities that we have – trying to get to church – at the gate.”

Her message also looked back at the annual conference sermons of Rev. Peter Storey, former president of the Southern African Methodist church, bish-

What is the church called to do? The answer, found in Micah 6:8, was the foundation for Kibe’s message to the annual conference.

“Repent. Do good. Seek justice as opposed to just going along with the system,” she

*Continued on page 7*



**Top Right Photo:** Pastor Kibe demonstrates the story of the lame man at the gate called Beautiful being passed by church members.

**Bottom Photo:** Kibe offers encouragement to the commissioning team who, in November will deliver nets that have been chemically treated to combat malaria to Cote d’Ivoire .



# Spirit-filled preachers and choirs empower

## Memorial service challenges attendees to reclaim call

By Eleanor L. Colvin  
Texas Annual Conference  
Director of Communications

“Do you feel it?”

Rev. Matt Idom, senior pastor of First UMC Bryan, posed the question at the opening of

the deaf could hear...in word and deed, they delivered the word to the poor and the mighty alike.”

“To those who take offense to the Gospel, these people are some really offensive people,” Idom said. “How many lives

ter required for them to serve in such capacities. He concluded with a story that revealed how an elder – Idom’s own ailing father – marveled at his son’s strength of character. Unable to talk, while connected to a breathing machine his father

**“The testimony of the lives we celebrate will be for naught if you and I do not reclaim our call.”**

**Rev. Matt Idom**  
First UMC, Bryan

the message during the Sunday night Service of Remembrance, which marked the opening of the 39th session of the Texas Annual Conference.

Do you feel it? The tension between a celebration of what has been and what will be.

“This remembrance only becomes honorable when something prophetic comes of this moment,” Idom said. “Past. Prophetic. Tension.”

Idom noted the dedication of those being memorialized, saying that they preached and worked “so the blind could see, so the lame could walk, so that

know Jesus Christ today because of these we remember?”

While countless stories and fond memories abounded in the room, Idom noted that the memorial service is not only a time of looking back.

“Be careful. Lest, we stop and languish in this moment,” he said. “The testimony of the lives we celebrate will be for naught if you and I do not reclaim our call.”

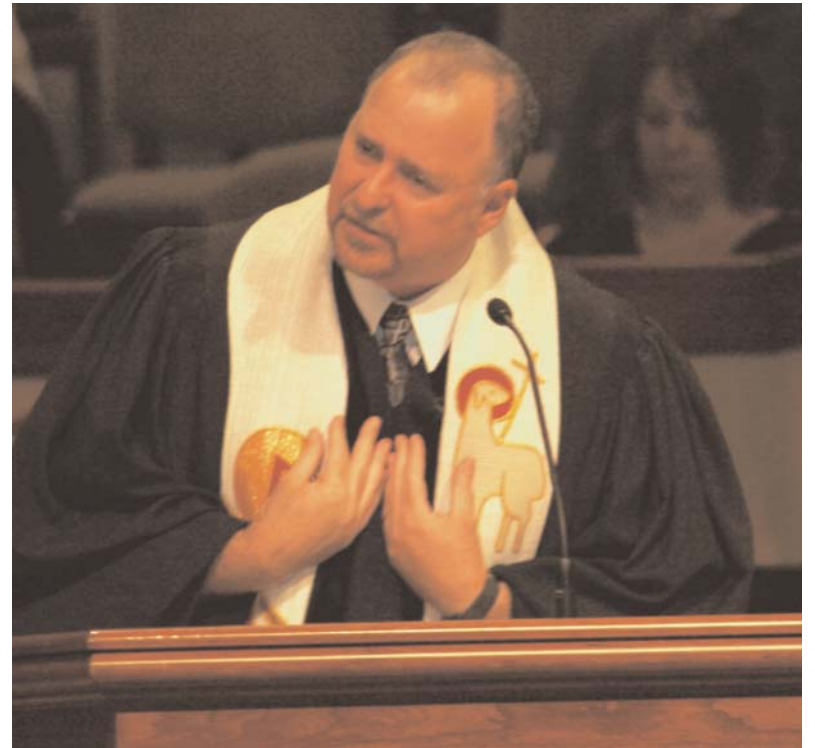
While looking back on the accomplishments of those remembered, Idom often marveled at the strength of charac-

ter directed him to an old family bible. Inside, an envelope held his father’s license to preach. Idom had not known his father was a licensed preacher until that moment.

His father moved his oxygen mask to reveal a tear-strewn face, and said: You did what I could never do. I’m proud of you.

“I said, ‘Daddy, neither could I, except for the grace of God,’” Idom recalled.

Another reminder, to accept God’s grace as an empowering means to do God’s will.



**Above Photo: Rev. Matt Idom of First UMC Bryan delivers a passionate sermon during the Annual Conference Memorial Service.**

**Bottom Left Photo: Altar adornments remind worshippers of God’s faithfulness.**

**Bottom Right Photo: Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and Bishop Benjamin Boni of Cote d’Ivoire and Texas Annual Conference leaders prepare to serve communion to worshippers.**





# Conference to redefine passionate worship

## 'Break our hearts so wide open that the whole world falls in'

Risk-taking mission begins when the broken-hearted become the church

**By Eleanor L. Colvin**  
Texas Annual Conference  
Director of Communications

Rev. Prof. Peter Storey knows first hand that a church "broken open" by God can be used to bless a broken world. The former leader of the Central Methodist Mission in South Africa, which once housed 1,000 Zimbabwean refugees (at least one of whom gave birth there and at least one

at Duke Divinity School. "Risk-taking mission won't happen until we learn the difference between doing church and being the church. And to learn that, God has to break us open – wide open."

"Breaking open" makes the room required for growth.

"When we begin to make space for others inside ourselves, when we let others take up residence in our soul – mission cannot happen until we

inviting the church to be broken open for God's world, because it's God's world for which God gave Jesus," Storey said. "Who or what needs to crash through this roof to get your attention? Who will be the faithful friends? In what way does the church need to be broken open?"

"I was in the Fifth Ward this morning in Houston," Storey continued. "It's a million miles from The Woodlands, but it's

**"Preservation and risk taking don't mix very well. . . Risk-taking mission won't happen until we learn the difference between doing church and being the church. And to learn that, God has to break us open - wide open."**

**Professor Peter Storey**  
Duke Divinity School

whom died there), is intimately acquainted with the pain of the world and the powerful, healing passion of the church.

Sharing the text of the four friends who so desired healing for a paralyzed friend that they lowered him through the roof of a house in which Jesus was preaching, Storey noted the intentionality of mission.

"Risk-taking mission doesn't just happen," he said. "In fact, if I know anything about the church, it rarely happens at all. The default posture of the church, it seems to be a rather defensive one, not a missional one – and certainly not risk taking."

Since few are busy taking risks, there is plenty of time to be "quite obsessive," he said, about saving, preserving and protecting the church.

"Preservation and risk taking don't mix very well," said the former South African Bishop who now is a professor

make that space," Storey said. "Not just space for people like us, but for those people who need us, for those people who disturb our sleep."

Storey counted the believers' request – "come into my heart Jesus" – to be a dangerous and disturbing thing to say, since Jesus will inevitably answer with a question of his own: "Can I bring my friends?"

"I start looking at Jesus' friends and I'm not pleased with what I see, because they're not the kinds of people who would be on my guest list," Storey said. "Lord, can't it be just you and me? [And, he answers]: 'Love me, love my friends, and that's not negotiable.'"

Because it's never negotiable, God will sometimes send Jesus' friends "crashing through the roofs" of churches where the faithful are busy – like those in Capernaum – listening to Jesus and "doing church."

"God is in the business of

just down the road. I wonder if that might be a clue as to who or what needs to break through our roofs."

Comparatively, Storey pointed to the incomparable wealth of the United States and the unfathomable poverty throughout the world: "I wonder if that might be a clue as to who or what needs to break through our roofs."

In an act of repentance and obedience to God's will, the people of the Texas Annual Conference prayed in unison for the forgiveness of the church's collective sins and in preparation for the new thing God is doing among his people: *Send us your Holy Spirit, to break open the churches of the Texas Annual Conference, oh Lord, we pray.* The church prayed as Mother Theresa prayed: "Lord, break my heart so wide open that the whole world falls in."



**Top Photo:** "Who or what needs to crash through this roof to get your attention?," asked Professor Peter Storey, as he encouraged the church to be "broken" for the sake of building the kingdom.

**Middle Photo:** Rev. Rick Goodrich, Chris Goodrich and Rev. Carla Badgett Shield join in exuberant praise, sparked by the Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference choir.

**Bottom Photo:** Bishop Benjamin Boni prays blessings among the worshippers who crowded The Woodlands UMC hallways after the Monday night service ended.



# ‘Take thou authority ... you have been sent’

## Texas Conference ordains and commissions record number of clergy

**By Eleanor L. Colvin**  
**Texas Annual Conference**  
**Director of Communication**

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and Bishop Benjamin Boni commissioned 30 clergy and ordained 18 clergy during a spirit-filled service that reminded these leaders to ‘take thou authority.’

Huie set an atmosphere of appreciation for the number of clergy being celebrated, by recalling the first time she experienced annual conference in Africa. It was post-war Liberia in 1998, and she assisted in the ordination of more than 100 elders and deacons. Ten years later, her partner in ministry, Bishop Boni of Cote d’Ivoire, stood with her, conferred rights on and prayed for the record number of TAC clergy being sent by God.

The scriptural foundation of the evening centered on Jesus’ calling of the disciples, particularly, the following passage: “Jesus summoned the 12 disciples, he gave them authority and then he sent them out.”

Huie revisited her time in Liberia, where the newly ordained were sent into the

bush to minister to refugees of the war-torn country. Little to no salary was provided. Meager huts would be the blessed exception, as most would not have parsonages. There would be no schools for their children, unless the pastors started them. And, for transportation, the Liberian pastors would have their two feet.

“Virtually all they had to take with them was authority,” Huie said. “Would you say they were traveling light? Maybe. Maybe not.”

### Timeless mission

Those sent by God to this annual conference were reminded that they have the same mission as Jesus – to preach, teach and heal. There are various other duties, Huie said, but they all stem from the root – to preach, teach and heal.

“The disciples were sent into a mission that replicates Jesus’ own mission,” she said. “They were not sent out as spiritual entrepreneurs to blaze their own trails. No Jesus, no sending. No Jesus, no authority.”

And so it is for the class of 2008. As they preach, teach and

heal, their charge will be – as Rev. Peter Storey stated in his teachings to the annual conference – both pastoral and prophetic. The pastoral and prophetic, Huie said, will call for compassion, healing and proclamation not of the world, but of the kingdom of God.

The pastors who succeed at this in God’s eyes, may not always be celebrated by the world or by those whom they serve.

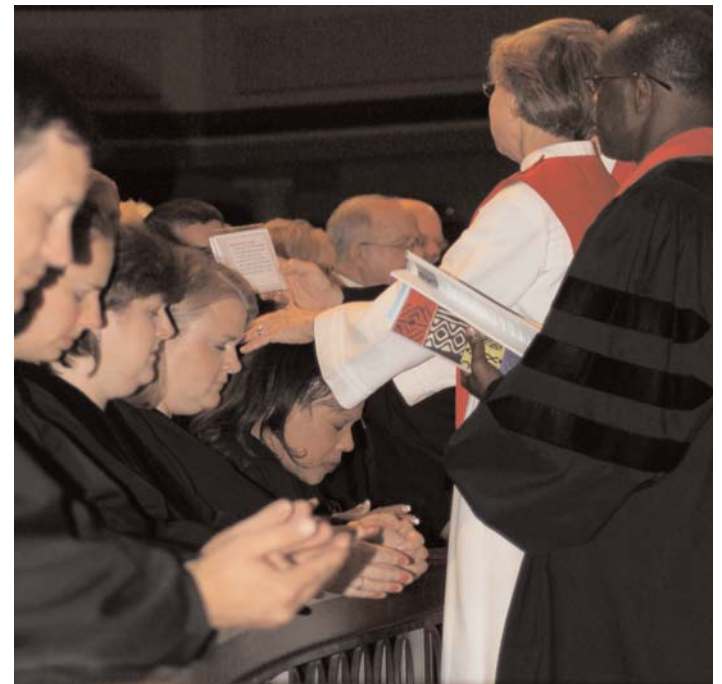
“[It] will get you into more trouble than you can imagine,” Huie said. “Expect suffering. Use it as a platform to proclaim the kingdom. You’ll learn, it’s not about you – it never was. It’s about the kingdom.”

### Worldwide parish

Bishop Huie offered two questions for the clergy to consider throughout their ministry. First, how do we answer the question, who is our neighbor? Second, how do we proclaim a kingdom of God that has no borders?

Eradicating borders within countries is also essential to

*Continued on page 8*



**Top Photo:** Bishop Janice Riggle Huie lays hands on Deborah Vaughn as other pastors pray prior to their commissioning.

**Left Photo:** Worshippers who feel God is calling them into ministry were invited to the altar to pray for discernment.

**Bottom Right Photo:** Newly ordained pastors, Rev. Bryan Harkness and Rev. Jacqi King, congratulate one another after the ordination ceremony.



# ‘Sending Forth’ service

Continued from page 3



The *Sending Forth* service culminated with songs of praise and celebration led by the Cote d’Ivoire Annual Conference choir.

said. “Help the oppressed instead of talking about them. Defend orphans as opposed to taking advantage of them...All this includes ministry to the least, the last, the lost.”

And, just what is really wrong with the way people of today “do church”? Just as God

“[The Israelites] were coming to church with a form of godliness. There was no repentance, but they continued to offer sacrifices. There’s a big difference between repentance and being sorry. Repentance implies we will go forth and sin no more.”

tors determining service, since Christians know, with God, all things are possible.

“There’s a difference in the impact of a large church and a church with a large impact,” Kibe said. “A church with an impact means everyone – not just the pastor and a few key

**“The church is not a storage house. It’s a headquarters, where you come to learn how to minister to the world.”**

**Pastor Velosia Kibe  
Windsor Village UMC**

declared that the Israelites were making their sacrifices before him in sin, Kibe affirmed that the praise of today’s Christian is still saturated with sin.

“The sin is not personal – it has to do with the kingdom of God,” she said. “Neglecting to do justice, neglecting to help the oppressed, neglecting to [care for] the orphans and widows – that’s the sin we bring when we come into the presence of God.

Going forth and sinning no more would mean doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with the Lord in a way that transforms and impacts the world. Kibe acknowledged that some would assume this charge is easier for her to live out as she ministers through a megachurch with a wealth of people and the financial resources needed to make an impact. But, church size and perceived resources should not be the fac-

people you see at everything – every member is called from the foundation of the world to work for the kingdom of God.”  
The *Sending Forth* Service also included the commissioning of the team to deliver nets in November to stop the spread of Malaria throughout Cote d’Ivoire. The conference team will be introduced in an upcoming edition of *Cross Connection* and on the Texas Annual Conference web site.

# Episcopal address celebrates fruitfulness of ministries in 2007-2008

growing congregations transforming lives and re-shaping futures. Those churches and the strides of many others provided a cause to celebrate.

“We did not meet our 5 percent goal increase of professions of faith, but I want to celebrate that for two consecutive years [we have had an increase],” Huie said. “We now have at least 61 percent of our congregations receiving one profession of faith.”

This number is up from 50 percent of churches having one profession of faith.

“Our goal was to increase worship attendance by 1,000,” she said. “I celebrate that this year in the Texas Annual Conference, worship attendance increased by 1,471.”

Also worth celebrating is the fact that the increase came from existing congregations and did not include new church starts or mission congregations.

“It’s time to celebrate - time to show God some praise,” Huie said. “It’s time to say thank you for the extravagant blessings God’s already given. Time to sing and dance. Time to get out those white handkerchiefs in praise and thanksgiving to God. Amen! Let’s sing.”

And with that, the celebration reached an unparalleled level of praise, as the Cote d’Ivoire Annual Conference choir led the Texas Annual Conference in passionate worship like no other.



**Top Photo: An enactment of scripture. Participants in the *Scripture Tableaux* from Katy UMC [participated in] the opening worship celebration.**

**Bottom Photo: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Members of the Cote d’Ivoire Annual Conference choir offer enthusiastic praise to God during the opening service.**



## Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

### Mission Opportunities

The training is designed to help leaders learn to find connectional projects through Partners in Mission or through other avenues and teaches them how to find and recruit their team.

Interested parties can call the church hosting the event to sign up or they can contact the Partners in Mission office, at 713-521-9383 or through the website <http://www.partnersin-mission.org/>.

### Fellowship Opportunities

#### FUMC Houston host Young Adult Worship Experience

Bishop Janice Huie will speak to young adults, age 35 and under, at First Methodist Houston Downtown, 1320 Main Street, Wednesday, June 11, at 7 p.m.

*So Be It*, a band made up of young adults will lead the worship service. All are invited to attend. For more information, contact Linda Calvert at [lcalvert@fmhouston.com](mailto:lcalvert@fmhouston.com).

### Science and Reading Summer Camps

*Super Scientists* and *Page Turners* day camps will be offered this summer at Strawbridge UMC for children ages two years to fourth grade.

*Super Scientists* Day Camp will take place the first three weeks in July on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Children will dive into science with fun experiments like “kick-the-can ice cream” and “solar smores.”

*Page Turners* Reading Camp is Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 29 and 31, and August 5 and 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*Page Turners* will fill your child's days with fun crafts, great books, and visits to the Chef's Corner. Each day will feature a new book that your child will get to keep.

Call 281-360-4500 to register. Space is limited. Cost is \$40 registration fee, plus \$140 for both camps.

**St. Paul's Book Group to Discuss *Birds without Wings***  
The Chapter One Book Group at St. Paul's UMC will discuss *Birds without Wings* by Louis de Bernieres at their June 17 meeting.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the church's Youth Library at 7:30 p.m. It is open to anyone who enjoys reading and discussing a wide variety of books. To be added to the group's emailing list, contact [Linda@hibit.com](mailto:Linda@hibit.com).

### Learning Opportunities

#### Perkins School of Theology Course of Study Program

The Perkins School of Theology Course of Study Extension School at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville announces its fall 2008 schedule. The dates are Saturdays, September 13, October 11 and November 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Courses being offered are COS 114 - Pastoral Leadership and Administration, taught by Rev. Jim Crawford, COS 311- New

Testament 1, taught by Dr. Starr Bowen, COS 313 - Our Mission: Evangelism, taught by Rev. Kevin Young and COS 213 - Formation for Discipleship taught by Rev. Stephanie Scott.

Applications may be secured from District Offices or by contacting Dr. Jimmie A. Reese, Director at 903-586-4116 or e-mail [jareese@aol.com](mailto:jareese@aol.com). Dr. Reese's address is 1803 Turney Circle, Jacksonville, Texas 75766. Registration fee is \$60.00.

#### Being One Marriage Seminar

A marriage seminar, “Being One,” for engaged and newly married couples will be conducted at St. Paul's UMC on Saturday, June 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Topics to be examined will be: the natural stages of married life; how to deal with the inevitable and necessary conflicts that arise between two persons who are close; what is intimacy, how to achieve it and maintain it; how money and sex can be metaphors for how we “talk to each other” in marriage; the many kinds of

intimacy that are possible in a marriage; and how respect, reciprocity, and shared responsibility are keys to marital satisfaction.

Seminar leaders are Dr. Sherry Beeman and Dr. Bill Kerley. Married to each other, each is a former president of the Houston Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. The seminar is free of charge for couples who have been or who are scheduled to be married at St. Paul's. For others, the fee is \$60.

For more information, see the Weddings section at [www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org). To register, contact Katherine Jordan at 713-528-0527 or [info@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:info@stpaulshouston.org). “Being One” is offered by St. Paul's four times a year.

The remaining dates for 2008 are August 16, and November 1.

*Share your ministries and local church events with others.*

Contact *Thelma Jones* at [thelmaj@methodists.net](mailto:thelmaj@methodists.net) or 713-521-9383, ext. 335.

## Texas Conference ordains and commissions record number of clergy

*Continued from page 6*

ministry that replicates Jesus' mission. Huie recalled Rev. Storey's charge to relocate and get in close proximity to the poor, as she told the story of two lay United Methodists who were detained in May during immigration raids in Houston.

“Is that the concern of just one local church,” Huie said. “Or is it a message that it is time to have a conversation about who is our neighbor?”

Serving the worldwide church often is seen as engaging in ministry in far-away places. While she lifted high the aim of the United

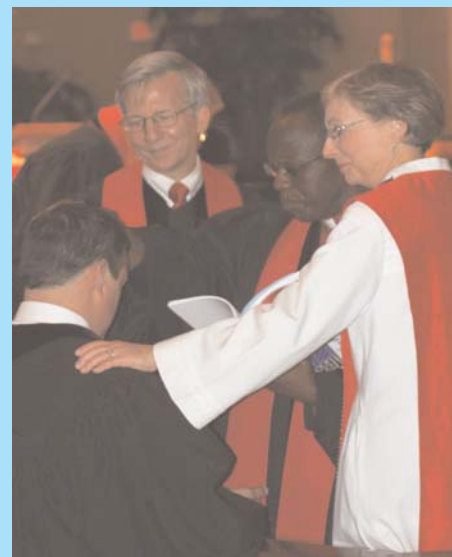
Methodist Church to conquer the diseases of poverty (Malaria, HIV/AIDS, measles and tuberculosis) throughout the world, she pointed to a need to get busy at home. “I can't help but wonder if it isn't time for some clergy and laity to have a conversation about providing adequate healthcare in the U.S.”

Improving education, providing healthcare and eliminating poverty are merely three of many issues to which the newly commissioned and ordained pastors of the TAC will dedicate their lives, as evidence of

their call to preach, teach and heal.

“You are being sent into hazardous duty, but, you are not without resources,” Huie said. “‘The spirit will give you words to speak. I will be with you, even until the ends of the age.’ Beloved, you are going on an incredible journey.

“To be sure, it will be filled with life, with love and blessings. To be sure, there are some perils. Take heart! You travel with the greatest gift of all. Jesus. Jesus goes with you.”



**Rev. Richard White looks on as Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and Bishop Boni commission Rev. Douglas Wintermute during the ordination and commissioning ceremony.**