



# Cross Connection

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## Looking for a few good interns

*Center for Congregational Excellence launches new youth ministry project*

By Thelma Jones  
Editor, Cross Connection

The Center for Congregational Excellence is offering young adults in the Texas Conference the opportunity of spending seven weeks in the summer at a woodland retreat center working with youth, learning more about God's word, and earning \$2,500. *The Youth Ministry Intern Project* is designed to help individuals explore the possibility of youth ministry as a vocation.

The project offers the opportunity to work with youth through the summer camping program of the Texas Annual Conference held each year at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas.

"I'm excited about the creativity of the project," said Pastor Lawrence Young, chairperson for Age Level and Camping Ministries. "It allows us to be intentional about planting seeds in a positive, structured setting."

The Center for Congregational Excellence is looking for persons between the

ages of 19-24 who have completed at least one year of college, earning no less than a 2.5 grade point average with an interest in exploring youth ministry as a career. Qualified applicants should have some past experi-

great impact on the Church as a whole," said Young. "It will open us up to new ways of doing ministry and help identify your calling into the ministry. It is an opportunity to do something in a new and exciting way."

Participants selected for the Youth Ministry Intern Project are under no obligation to choose youth ministry as their vocation, however it is hoped that the experience will be helpful to some in clarifying their calling toward such a service.

Individuals interested in the Youth Ministry Intern Project should complete an application form available online at [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org). Click "Administration," Center for Congregational Excellence, Age Level and Camping Ministries, then "Youth Ministry Intern Project application."

Return it along with three letters of reference (one from your home congregation pastor) by May 1, 2007. Personal interviews for prospective candidates will be held in the middle of May and those selected will be notified by May 18, 2007.

Is God call you to a summer of adventure? If so, contact Dr. Karen Dorris, Director of Center for Congregational Excellence at 713-521-9383 for more information.



**Kids enjoy recreation time at Lakeview Retreat Center.**

ence working with youth or as a participant in an active youth ministry program in an United Methodist Church.

Upon selection, those participating in the internship program will begin their summer with a mandatory orientation session May 29-30, 2007, to be held at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. Interns will work in teams of two, gaining experience by working with fourth through ninth grade level youth.

"This project will have a

## CF&A hears conference concerns on Lakeview camping program

By Rev. Gail Harrelson  
Conference Council on Finance and Administration

In a three-hour conversation about the Lakeview Camping Ministry in March, members of the Council on Finance and Administration heard the conference's concern surrounding the budget changes for camping ministry.

Dr. Von Dawson, Lakeview Administrator, delivered a passionate presentation that highlighted the Christian influence of the camp experience in the lives of Texas Conference children and youth.

"Where else in our conference ministry do we offer Jesus Christ to 4,300 of our children each year?" Dawson asked, as he pointed out that thousands of people have been touched by quality Christian education received at Lakeview Methodist Assembly. Youth throughout the Texas Annual Conference look forward each summer to attending the district camps. For many youth, it is the highlight of their summer vacation, where they spend a week in a beautiful setting forming relationships and learning to be disciples for Jesus Christ.

By majority assent, members of CF&A agreed that the conference camp ministry was effective and produced much fruit in the kingdom of God. The ques-

tion posed to the council became: How can the annual conference best serve our children and youth while helping Lakeview improve future ministry to all persons, regardless of age?

In a creative move, the CF&A will present the following plan to the 2007 annual conference.

Accepting the recommendation of the Strategic Mapping Team, CF&A is proposing a one-year delay in the longer financial plan of moving the financial support for camping from the main budget to a Fair Share Goal.

In the 2008 recommendation, \$200,000 remains in the conference budget under the Center for Connectional Resources for "Lakeview Conference Camping" and \$50,000 continues as a Fair Share Goal for "Lakeview Camp Scholarships," the proceeds of which will be disbursed through the districts.

The purpose of this one-year delay is to ensure more timely collections from the Fair Share Goal and to provide time to establish sufficient promotion of camping and financial support for the Fair Share Goal.

*Continued on page 2*

## Methodists celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday and culture

By Glenna Kyker Brayton  
Chairperson, Committee on Native American Ministries

As Methodists nationwide commemorate Native American Ministries Sunday, April 22, 2007, the Texas Conference Committee on Native American Ministries joyfully continues its celebrations that lift up Native ministries every month of the year.

Through its "Third Sunday Worship," the Texas Conference CoNAM has been simultaneously celebrating and educating.

Rev. Chebon Kernell of Oklahoma City recently preached in English and prayed and sang in Seminole-

Creek at a Third Sunday Worship at Shepherd Drive Fellowship in Houston. His sermon title, "Traditional way of life from the Christian perspective" focused on all God's creation being sacred.

"God created us as Native people with traditions that have sustained us for hundreds of years," he said.

Rev. Kernell added that Native people today have conflicts regarding the observation of old traditions.



**Rev. Chebon Kernell and family. This photo is used for publicity of Native American Ministries Sunday.**

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

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## Leadership training set for United Methodist-endorsed alcohol and drug team ministry

By Constance Bovier  
Faith Partners Alcohol & Drug Team Ministry

"I think many pastors would be shocked at the number of silent sufferers in the pews every Sunday who are ashamed they don't have enough strength to conquer an addiction alone," says John Newsome, Senior Pastor of Bay Harbour United Methodist Church in League City. "The church shouldn't be a place of shame, but a place of healing."

Newsome adds that Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, says that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received.

"When people have struggled with addiction or had family members who've had addictions, this often places a burden on their hearts to help others," Newsome said. "I want to release people to take what they've been through and to do something positive to help others. The Faith Partners ministry is a way to do that."

Bay Harbour UMC is one of the churches that will send a core group of men and women to training in May for a congregational team ministry designed to help churches address the issues of alcoholism and other addictions in their communities.

Although addictions rank among the most devastating problems of our modern society, few churches are well prepared to acknowledge or deal with such problems. The Faith Partners congregational team ministry trains and equips teams to address these issues by partnering with local agencies and resources to offer prevention education, referral assistance and recovery support.

Proven in more than 150

churches of various denominations across the United States, the Faith Partners approach has been endorsed by the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) of the United Methodist Church. Now, in collaboration between the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (SPSARV) at UM Global Ministries and the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute, creator of Faith Partners, team trainings will be held in all U.S. jurisdictions of the United Methodist church during 2007-2008.

This spring, churches throughout the Texas Annual Conference have the opportunity to explore this new ministry thanks to a cooperative effort of the Southeast Harris Community Coalition (SHCC) / Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol (BACODA) and the Rush Center.

Team Leadership Training will be offered on Thursday, May 24, 2007, from 9 am to 4 pm at University Baptist Church, 16106 Middlebrook Drive, Houston, Texas, 77059 in the Clear Lake area. Registration for participating churches is generously funded by SHCC / BACODA.

Mike Lindstrom, Pastor of Asbury UMC in Pasadena, who will attend the May training with Asbury's team facilitator, Lu Harrison, says the Faith Partners ministry falls right in line with their church's intentional commitment to serving those in need.

"Jesus reached out to those that no one else really wanted to reach out to – the untouchables of the time – and he accepted them," Harrison said.

Lindstrom hopes that, besides

helping those already in the pews, the ministry will reach beyond the church walls.

"I have the expectation that we are going to connect with people who aren't here yet, that God will start leading people across the threshold that needs this help, and this ministry has to be in place when they come.

This is the mission and ministry that Jesus began and that we're called to continue – to release the captives. The Faith Partners ministry is one way of doing this."

A great strength of the Faith Partners ministry is its flexibility. Because it not tied to any denomination or doctrine, but to the grace of God, the approach can be adapted to a congregation's demographics, mission and needs. The team at a suburban church populated by many growing families may emphasize prevention activities, while an inner city church team may focus its energy on referrals and recovery support. In addition, the Faith Partners model can embrace a variety of activities and curricula, such as Twelve Step-based Bible studies, to support recovery.

While clergy support is essential for a successful Faith Partners ministry, teams are composed primarily of laypersons such as medical and mental

health professionals, lay caregivers, youth and children's ministry staff, recovering persons, family members, youth and oth-



**Faith Partners team leaders at Bay Harbour UMC in League City, Texas. (left to right: Don Oden, Rev. Greg Oberg Margie Oden and Rev. John Newsome.**

ers with a heart for this issue. Creating a ministry of presence, a team serves as a clearing house for information and resources, a valuable source of encouragement for the congregation, and a complement to the pastoral work of clergy and the caregiving of Stephen Ministers.

For more information about the Faith Partners ministry, contact the Rush Center of Johnson Institute: 888-451-9527 or [www.rushcenter.org](http://www.rushcenter.org).

To learn more or to register for the Houston Team Leadership Training, contact Jennifer Barnhardt of BACODA: 832-741-8241 or [jennifer.barnhardt@bacoda.org](mailto:jennifer.barnhardt@bacoda.org). For information about spring Team Leadership Training in Little Rock, Arkansas, contact Alayna Bingham of SPSARV: 212-870-3699 or [spsarv@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:spsarv@gbgm-umc.org).

## Camping concerns

*Continued from page 1*

CF&A proposes the creation of a task force, composed of representation from CF&A, the conference Camping Committee, the Lakeview Board, and the Center for Congregational Excellence, to design and implement an effective program that will both promote camping and encourage financial support of the Fair Share Goal. Through a Fair Share Goal with sufficient promotion, CF&A seeks and expects to raise more than the original apportioned budget.

Additionally, CF&A, based on a recommendation of the Strategic Mapping Team, is pro-

posing the creation of a second task force, consisting of members from the Lakeview Board and annual conference members, to develop a long range plan for Lakeview, including considerations of future funding for Lakeview from all sources.

On behalf of the annual conference, CF&A seeks to ensure both the present ministry and a future hope for excellence in the spiritual formation of all who make their pilgrimage to Lakeview Methodist Assembly. The CF&A's 2008 proposed budget includes \$45,000 to cover expenses incurred in this plan-

ning effort.

Lakeview Methodist Assembly holds a special place in the hearts and souls of Texas conference members.

Hundreds of persons received their call to ministry at Lakeview and will continue to do so in the future.

Countless persons have felt their hearts "strangely warmed" and made professions of faith in summer camp.

Many adults have sought and found the presence of God in their spiritual quest amidst the serene beauty of the East Texas piney woods.

The members of CF&A recognize and affirm the ministry at Lakeview, which equips individuals to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world to the glory of God.

These proposals represent significant efforts to support both camping and Lakeview, as a treasured institution serving the annual conference. Delegates to conference are asked to carefully review it and prayerfully consider its adoption at the 2007 annual conference.

*Don House, CF&A Chairman contributed to this report.*

# Skip a Lunch. Send a net. Save a Life.

## Make a difference on Malaria Awareness Day—April 25

It's a disease that doesn't threaten our country. Yet, Americans – from "Idols" to the president – are acknowledging Wednesday, April 25, as Malaria Awareness Day.

At the White House Summit on Malaria, President George W. Bush designated April 25, 2007

Methodists to skip lunch on April 25 and donate the \$10 instead to the *Nothing But Nets* campaign. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation challenge grant will match contributions dollar for dollar, net for net.

Churches are encouraged to have a noon worship service that

See [www.UMC.org/nets](http://www.UMC.org/nets) for **worship resources and sermon ideas**. Pick a scripture theme that highlights how Jesus used nets in his ministry ("Cast your nets on the other side of the boat..." see John 21). Or, focus on scriptures involving children, such as: a. Feeding the multitude (see John 6) – a boy offers his lunch as part of a great miracle of Jesus; b. Elijah, a widow & her son (see 1 Kings 17) – sharing our resources, even when we think we can't, may bring blessings to ourselves and those we serve; c. Moses (see Exodus 2) – A child saved from certain death later becomes a great leader of God's people.

**Hire a Helper:** Are you good at child care or yard work?

Advertise your skills and urge church members to hire you for an hour or a day. Donate your earnings.

**Nickels for Nets:** Donate pocket change.

**Party Animal:** Sponsor a Nothing But Nets theme party. Or, coordinate a charity formal.

**Silent Auction:** Seek donations of items related to nets. Examples include basketball game tickets, tennis lessons and a fishing vacation.

**Talent Show:** Are you a great comedian, a wonderful singer or a skilled magician? Have a talent show to benefit others. Or, organize a concert with local musicians. Give the proceeds to NBN.

**Ten-Day Fast:** As a group, decide on something you might purchase each day for \$1. Give up that item for 10 days and "earn" \$10 to buy a net. Emphasize fasting with a purpose.

**Thirty-Second Hoop Shoot:** Give volunteers 30 seconds each to make as many baskets as possible. Solicit a certain amount for each basket made.

**Three-on-Three Tournament:** Invite basketball players from your church and community to pay \$10 entry fees per person. Each team will buy three nets simply by entering.

**Meet the Press:** Send a news release to your local news outlets, highlighting your church's participation in Malaria Awareness Day.

**Add a Link:** Add links to your blog and MySpace pages.

A full list of 50 ways to observe Malaria Awareness Day and links to other resources of the Texas Annual Conference can be found on the Conference web site at [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org).

## "The United Methodist Church has not undertaken a challenge of this magnitude since 1948."

**Bishop Janice Riggle Huie**

as "Malaria Awareness Day" in conjunction with the observance of Africa Malaria Day.

The purpose is to raise global awareness of malaria and to reaffirm the nation's commitment to fighting this disease.

To help raise awareness, *American Idol* will spotlight the *Nothing But Nets* malaria prevention campaign on its April 24-25 "Idol Gives Back" episodes. *Nothing But Nets* is one of the featured charities on *American Idol's* two-night special to raise awareness and funds for children and young people in extreme poverty in America and Africa.

*Nothing But Nets* is a partnership of the people The United Methodist Church, the United Nations Foundation, [Sports Illustrated](#), the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, Major League Soccer's new MLS W.O.R.K.S. initiative, and other partners.

"The United Methodist Church has not undertaken a challenge of this magnitude since 1948," said Bishop Janice Riggle Huie. "It was the Advance for Christ and His Church. After World War II, our denomination raised an astronomical amount for restoration in Europe and some in Japan.

"In the words of Bishop Benjamin Boni (of Cote d'Ivoire), this is us working with Christ for a better world."

### How do I get involved?

The United Methodist Church has a long-standing commitment to reduce the spread of malaria, and awareness day activities are opportunities for individuals and congregations to participate directly in fighting this disease.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and the United Methodist Council of Bishops encourage

day with a focus on malaria, so those who skip lunch can attend church instead.

Individuals are invited to host an *American Idol* watch party, and invite friends and family to their home, place of worship or campus to view "Idol Gives Back." The hope is that by bringing people together, you will inspire them to get involved in the Nothing But Nets campaign in an exciting and entertaining way.

Additionally, people are invited to cover Africa with prayer on April 25. Join with Upper Room Covenant Prayer groups, staff of United Methodist Boards and agencies, and United Methodist churches around the world to pray for the children of Africa, for those suffering with malaria, and for global health.

Organize a 24-hour prayer chain in your local congregation or group, and ask members to commit to prayer for a certain block of time during this day.

By joining our resources and prayers, together we can work to stop the spread of this preventable disease.

Here are 13 ways to observe Malaria Awareness Day:

Challenge every person in your congregation to "Skip a lunch. Send a net. Save a life."

**Launch a prayer vigil** that afternoon or evening. Connect with the Living Prayer Center at the Upper Room for resources: [www.upperroom.org/international/malaria.htm](http://www.upperroom.org/international/malaria.htm)

**Wear a net to work** on April 25th. Provide a square net and blue ribbon to each member to signify commitment and raise awareness outside of the church. Invite friends or your employer to sponsor or match you in raising money to buy bed nets (could be pledges you receive on that day).

## And Are We Yet Alive!

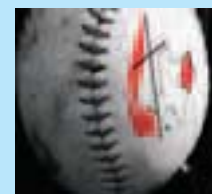
Opening worship to feature dance and more



The Annual Conference Worship Team is making special plans for a first-ever opening ceremony for the 2007 Texas Annual Conference. This ceremony begins in the sanctuary of The Woodlands UMC on Monday, May 28, promptly at 1:00 PM.

You will not want to miss this special presentation, espe-

cially the dancer from Ad Deum Dance Company in Houston ([www.danceaddeum.com](http://www.danceaddeum.com)), so plan ahead for a quick lunch and be in your seat early. This ceremony ends with, and the first combined business session begins with, the traditional singing of "And Are We Yet Alive."



## United Methodist Astros Night!

Friday April 27, 2007

7:05 P.M. at Minute Maid Park

**Bishop Janice Riggle Huie is scheduled to throw the first pitch in the Astros/Bruins game. As an added bonus, the first 10,000 fans will receive a red Houston Astros cap courtesy of Citgo.**

**Contact Jan Ervin at 713-521-9383 for more information.**

# Congratulations To 2007 Candidates for Ordination

## ELDERS AND DEACONS IN FULL CONNECTION



**Danny Barrett**



**Minnie Baxter**



**Paula Behrens-Lopez**



**Lorraine Brown**



**Nancy Jo Cobb**



**Bill Denham**



**Kathy Easom**



**Amy Hodge**



**Stephanie Hughes**



**Vivian Kennear**



**Conrell Lockett**



**Kim Meyers**



**Greg Oberg**



**Jeff Olive**



**Carlos Phillips**



**Suzy Reedstrom**



**Polly Standing**



**Wick Stuckey**



**Lisa Beth White**



**Shelli Williams**

## PROBATIONARY ELDERS AND DEACONS



**Rick Anderson**



**Rhett M. Ansley**



**Patty Bergfield**



**Lorna Bradley**



**Develous Bright**



**Carolyn Davis**



**Taylor Meador Fuerst**



**Preston Greenwaldt**



**Jennifer Jackson**



**Janice Kerlee**



**Jack A. McMahon**



**Bart Reddoch**



**Matthew Stone**



**Benjamin Trammell**



**Virginia Wall**



**Matt Weaver**



**Marilyn White**

## CERTIFICATION CANDIDATES



**Glynden Bode**  
Spiritual Formation



**Edmonia Everett**  
Christian Education



**Judy Gober**  
Christian Education

# FAITH FORMING

## *Relationships*

### United Methodist Women's retreat focuses on spiritual renewal

By Mary Landry - United Methodist Women Conference Secretary

Caring, concerned, acting, committed and involved. These are just a few of the qualities of Resurrection Women. Because they follow Christ's example of love, they are in mission at home and throughout the world.

One hundred eighty-five United Methodist Women and friends explored the theology of

retreat was time to individually commune with God. In addition to individual reflection on love, faithfulness, joy, trust, death and resurrection, and God's kingdom on earth, they explored ways of addressing God that may have been new to them.

Life mapping in word or drawing brought awareness of

**Just as Jesus met people at their point of need, today we are called to share the message of Jesus' love within our sphere of influence, through our witness and service.**

mission during the recent *Resurrection Women* retreat at Lakeview. It offered the luxury of setting aside the busy-ness of our day-to-day lives and spend quality time with friends and, more important, with God.

They set aside the distractions of cell phones, often over-committed schedules, and "stuff" that distract them from listening to

their spiritual journeys with God through times of despair and powerlessness as well as times of power and strength. They walked the labyrinth in attitudes of joy, prayer, and meditation as they centered themselves in God. Others approached God through creative expression — quilting, drawing, knitting — as their individual interests and talents drew



Resurrection Women participate in performing a biblical skit during one of the many activities offered.

reading, devotion, and prayer. Each room centered on a different aspect of Christ's life and Christian experience: The Cross, The Resurrection, and Pentecost.

Study of and reflection on Biblical encounters of women and Jesus provided group explo-

the Samaritan woman, the woman who anointed Jesus with expensive oil, the women who discovered the empty tomb and spread the word of the Lord's resurrection provided insight to the unconditional love of God, the life of sacrifice and service, and the imperative to spread God's word.

"Voices of Women," a musical presentation, demonstrated involvement of American women in issues of justice throughout history: slavery, women's suffrage, labor conditions, civil rights, the temperance movement, responsibility and accountability of elected officials. These issues led participants to consider where resurrection women committed to participating in God's mission are needed today.

The retreat closed with a service of bread and water. These simple elements brought each participant to the question, "Do we hear the voices of those who are hungry? Do we hear the voices of those who are thirsty?" Just as Jesus met people at their point of need, today we are called to share the message of Jesus' love within our

sphere of influence, through our witness and service.

Look for these future events:

#### **Resurrection Women Programs**

##### **April 21, 2007**

Southwest District  
Jones Memorial UMC, Houston, Texas. Contact Sharon Krowl at 281-499-3700.

##### **April 28, 2007**

North District  
Winterfield UMC, Longview, Texas. Contact Pat Harden at 903-935-6361.

Southeast District  
Nederland First UMC. Contact Elizabeth Pittman at 409-892-4082.

Central North District  
First UMC Conroe. Contact Nancy Price at 281-354-3471.

#### **Spiritual Growth Seminar**

##### **July 21, 2007**

"Tough Women in Tough Times" is a seminar sponsored by the UMW unit of Navasota UMC. Keynote speaker will be Leslie Bledsoe. Additional information will be provided at a later date.



Others enjoy meditating on the journey around the labyrinth.

God. Each committed to a time of reflection and renewal.

For many, the highlight of the

them close to their Creator.

Three rooms provided material for silent meditation, Bible

ration, capably led by Joyce Elliot, a member of the South Central Jurisdiction's Core Planning Group. Experiences of

# Pirtle UMC focuses on transformation to “Begin Again”

By Reverend Dudley J. Plaisance  
Pirtle United Methodist Church

*Begin Again* is the theme for Pirtle United Methodist Church as it celebrates 160 years of ministry. Some of the church’s upcoming activities are new to the Pirtle UMC community, while others are familiar func-

with special emphasis on the church’s anniversary celebration.

The Ladies Group continue the celebration with their Garage sale and food court bazaar, Friday and Saturday,

**“This is a call to re-ignite and re-ignite the spirit of evangelism, outreach and mission that built the original church in 1847.”**

Rev. Dudley J. Plaisance, Jr.

tions that will take on new significance this year.

“As we celebrate the past 160 years of ministry in this community, we are focusing on the future of this church and its ministry to the people of this area,” said Rev. Dudley J. Plaisance, Jr., pastor of Pirtle United Methodist Church, which is one of the Texas Conference’s transformation churches. “This is a call to re-ignite and re-ignite the spirit of evangelism, outreach and mission that built the original church in 1847.”

April will feature the re-instituted, historic Pirtle Bar-B-Que on the last Saturday of the month, April 28. A long-time mainstay of the community, this function had been dormant for several years. Last year, it came back with renewed interest, enthusiasm and excitement. This year’s event will be bigger and better,

May 25-26. This event began several years ago and once helped to pay many of the normal operating expenses for the church.

It was the ladies extra effort to keep the church going. Now, it has become both a great source of funds for their mission efforts and an expected event anticipated by surrounding residents.

This summer, Pirtle UMC will play a central role in the reunion activities of Kilgore High School and local families.

As a transformation church, one of Pirtle’s challenges was to become more vital and relevant to its surrounding community. These upcoming activities and events bear witness that Pirtle United Methodist Church members are ready to *begin again*.

# First UMC of Devers has gone to the dogs — — therapy dogs, that is

By Jo Ann Russell  
First United Methodist Church Devers

Seeing the important contributions to the health and comfort of those in need, FUMC of Devers has accepted as one of its ministries the support and promotion of pet therapy in the Liberty-Dayton area.

In March, the church hosted a training session for 10 pet handlers who were interested in participating in pet therapy programs in area nursing homes, hospices, hospitals, and schools.

Delta Society member Diane Carpenter from Huntsville Pets Helping People lead the session.

Participants learned how to manage their visits to health care facilities, manage the stress level of their pet partner, communicate with older adults, how to present dog safety rules to elementary children, and how to establish a R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) with elementary schools or in local libraries.

To become registered in Delta Society Pet Partner teams, the handlers are required to complete a training program and the pet must be evaluated. During the Saturday session, Max, a standard poodle, handled by Linda Thompson, completed his evaluation with flying

colors and proudly sported his Delta Society vest. Max’s evaluation started with Canine Good Citizen requirements of good manners, walking politely on leash, sit, down, stay, and come on command, and politely meeting other handlers and their dogs.

so has the ministry. Linda and Max have an assignment at the Houston Veteran’s Administration Hospital and will be volunteering at Methodist Hospital along with a couple friends who, by association with Linda’s enthusiasm will be revitalizing their Pet

Partner registrations. One of the presenters at the workshop was so moved by Rev. Clint Jordan’s prayer for the handlers, animals, and recipients that she approached her minister. She and Chandler (her Pet Partner) went to Sunday morning services and described the ministry of love known as pet therapy. Other workshop members are preparing



A group from the Delta Society Pet Partner organization test therapy dog Max’s ability to handle stressful situations.

Once passed that hurdle, Max had to show his willingness to be hugged and petted by many hands—some soft and some not so gentle. Loud noises coming from machines, grumpy persons, strange objects like wheelchairs, canes, and lifts all confronted Max. A dog with the assistance of his handler must be able to deal with many different situations when entering a hospital room, a nursing home, or a rehab unit.

## Ministry Multiplies

As ripples in a pond spread,

ing their pets for the coming evaluation. In the Dayton-Liberty area organizers of the workshop and registered Pet Partners, Jo Ann Russell (FUMC-Devers) and her friend Janice Bodenhamer continue their service to the local nursing homes.

For more information on beginning a pet therapy ministry contact Rev. Clint Jordan or Jo Ann Russell ([russelljr@awesomenet.net](mailto:russelljr@awesomenet.net)). Delta Society ([www.deltasociety.org](http://www.deltasociety.org)) is the supporting organization for pet therapy.

# Native American ministries Sunday

Continued from page 1

The “government” [Bureau of Indian Affairs and parochial boarding schools] taught Native Americans that English was better than the language of their homes, and that their native language was bad. But that’s not where the story ends.

“The message is clear for each of us: there is a story to proclaim with modern day prophets going out to tell the Christian Indian story to educate people to our gifts and talents,” Kernell said. “We are to interpret the gospel to all people, the truth that Native people already knew God the Creator when the Whites

came.

“We welcomed the strangers who came ashore; they may have taken our hospitality as weakness, because they began to take advantage of us as we shared what we had. The Natives invited the visitors to sit in the best seats and gave them the best food. ‘Isn’t that what Jesus would do?’”

The role of the prophet – as it was in Israel’s exile – is to remember the old ways and to teach them to all who will listen. During the exodus for both the Israelites and Native Americans, the way of life was destroyed.

Much was lost; but, somehow on the long walks a connection was made with the Christian church.

“Let an authentic way of observing Christianity permeate your Texas Annual Conference, Houston Central District churches, and your homes,” Kernell said.

Director of Interpretation and Programs for the 89 United Methodist churches in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, only one of which is in Texas [Dallas Indian United Methodist Church], Rev. Kernell will receive his Master of Divinity degree from the semi-

nary at Phillips University in Tulsa, this year. In addition to his conference-level duties, Kernell is pastor of the Native American United Methodist church in Norman, Oklahoma.

He and his family are featured on the General Church promotional material for Native American Ministries Sunday.

The public is invited to Third Sunday Worship, which receives support from the Texas Conference giving on Native American Ministries Sunday, a grant from the General Board of Discipleship, and sacrificial offerings during the services.

Worship begins at 6 p.m., and is followed by a pot luck supper. Other preachers have included Rev. Billie Nowabbi, Choctaw, pastor of the Dallas Indian church; and Rev. Robert Soto, Lipan Apache of McAllen, Texas. Rev. Soto travels the globe preaching and telling the Native Christian’s story through dancing, singing, and storytelling.

Shepherd Drive Fellowship is located at 600 Shepherd Drive.



## Annual Conference 2007 Update of Scheduled Meals

GROUP	DATE	DAY	TIME	PLACE	CONTACT PERSON
Cabinet Dinner	May 26	Saturday	6:30 PM	Grotto - Lake Woodlands	
Board of Ordained Ministry Dinner	May 27	Sunday	5:15 PM	The Woodlands UMC - The Loft - Green Room	
Memorial Service Reception	May 27	Sunday	9:00 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	
Southwestern University Alumni	May 28	Monday	7:00 AM	The Woodlands UMC - D-212	
Restorative Justice	May 28	Monday	7:30 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Asbury Hall	Jack Walker (713) 569-1076
United Methodist Men Board Breakfast	May 28	Monday	7:30 AM	The Woodlands UMC - D206	Kenneth Tielke (281) 342-9677
TAC Worship Planning Team	May 28	Monday	8:00 AM	The Woodlands UMC - D213	
Wiley College Alumni	May 28	Monday	8:00 AM	Holiday Inn/Astrodome	Richard Humphrey (713) 729-0142
United Methodist Women	May 28	Monday	8:00 AM	The Woodlands UMC - The Loft - Gym	Gerry Barber (409) 948-0240
Breaking the Silence	May 28	Monday	11:30 AM	Marriott - Ballroom 5	Laura Young (936) 581-9401
Friends of Wesley Foundation Lunch	May 28	Monday	11:30 AM	Double Dave's	
Confessing Movement Lunch	May 28	Monday	11:45 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	Terry Loughridge (281) 297-5932
Fellowship of Older Adults	May 28	Monday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - Aldersgate Hall	Rev. Dean Robinson (713) 956-1710
Clergy Excellence - Jr. Ambassador Dinner	May 28	Monday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - D206	
District Secretaries' Dinner	May 28	Monday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Jones Library	
United Methodist Men - Festival of Faith	May 28	Monday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	Kenneth Tielke (281) 342-9677
Clergy Women's Breakfast	May 29	Tuesday	7:00 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Asbury Hall	Suzy Reedstrom (713) 468-8356
Local and Associate Members	May 29	Tuesday	7:00 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Aldersgate Hall	Martin Doran (936) 876-4420
Deacon's Breakfast	May 29	Tuesday	7:30 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Jones Library	
Retiree Luncheon	May 29	Tuesday	11:30 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	
Candler School of Theology	May 29	Tuesday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - D206	John Whitehurst (903) 968-3833
Celebration Women's Luncheon	May 29	Tuesday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - Asbury Hall	Juanita Jackson (713) 523-6392
Peace with Justice Lunch	May 29	Tuesday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - Aldersgate Hall	Brenda Hardt (979) 830-5210
TCU - Brite Alumni Luncheon	May 29	Tuesday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - Jones Library	Pat Travers (903) 593-1861
Black Methodists for Church Renewal	May 29	Tuesday	12:15 PM	The Woodlands UMC - The Loft - Gym	Eleanor F. Colvin (713) 695-2469
United Methodist Women - Executive	May 29	Tuesday	5:15 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Jones Library	
Friends of Asbury Dinner	May 29	Tuesday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - The Loft - The Hangar	Rev. Jessica LaGrone (281) 297-5922
Duke Divinity School Dinner	May 29	Tuesday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Aldersgate Hall	Cramer Johnson (713) 686-8241
Perkins Alumni Dinner	May 29	Tuesday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Asbury Hall	Suzy Reedstrom (713) 468-8356
TAC Awards Banquet	May 29	Tuesday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	
Lon Morris College	May 30	Wednesday	7:00 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Jones Library	
TAC Secretaries'/Staff Luncheon	May 30	Wednesday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - The Loft - The Summit	Sherri Fitzgerald (903) 856-2839
Clergy Spouses Luncheon	May 30	Wednesday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - Asbury Hall	Sandy Bankston (281) 526-8615
TCCEF Luncheon	May 30	Wednesday	12 Noon	Carrabba's	Nancy Heintz (036) 756-3395
Laity Luncheon	May 30	Wednesday	12:15 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	Leah Taylor (281) 578-5739
Business Administrator's Reception	May 30	Wednesday	2:00 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Jones Library	
Ordination Dinner	May 30	Wednesday	5:30 PM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	
Ordination Reception	May 30	Wednesday	9:00 PM	The Woodlands UMC - The Atrium	
Commissioning Breakfast	May 31	Thursday	7:30 AM	The Woodlands UMC - Wesley Hall	
Commissioning Reception	May 31	Thursday	12 Noon	The Woodlands UMC - The Atrium	