

Cross Connection

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

Label Area

Two Sections, Section A

076000 Volume 154

Number 06

June 15, 2007

East End Parish serves diverse needs of Southeast Houston

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Director of Communications
Texas Annual Conference

While most Texas Annual Conference ministers under new appointment were meeting their new congregation for the first time, Rev. Will Reed met four new congregations, and offered them a message of hope that prayerfully will transform them into one body.

On Sunday, June 10, Reed, who is now the pastor in charge of the East End Parish, celebrated the first worship service of the first new church start of the 2007-2008 conference year. The East End Parish unites the strengths of Park Place UMC, Epworth-Parker UMC, Garden Villas UMC and Mission Milby to better serve the growing Spanish speaking, Vietnamese, and homeless populations of Southeast Houston.

“As the prophet Isaiah told us, ‘God is about to create a new heaven and a new Earth,’ and we are right here in the middle of it,” Reed said in his sermon, through which he introduced the four congregations to one another by asking members of each church to stand, and introduced the parish’s core values to more than 250 people in attendance. The East End Parish core

values mirror those of the annual conference: passionate worship, radical hospitality, extravagant generosity, faith forming relationships, risk-taking mission and service, connectional ministry and fervent prayer and diligent study of scripture.

Among those expressing excitement about the new direction of the parish was Rev.

member of Park Place UMC for 50 years. “You can see what a blessing this is for us. It was so nice to hear babies fussing in the back ... I’ve seen this church in its glory days, seen it declining and will see it thriving again – hallelujah!”

‘Tears at the table’

Reed acknowledged that the transition to a parish ministry had not been easy, and said there were tears at the table when Central South District Superintendent Rev. Jim Welch officially announced the formation of the East End Parish about six weeks ago.

“First, Jim Welch waltzes in and what he said really upset the apple cart,” Reed said. “Well, maybe the apple cart needed to be upset.

“He told us we’re not reaching the diversity that we know is there in Southeast Houston. He told us we needed to do a better job of reaching out. He told us that we needed to be more relevant to the community as it was today – not the community as it was 30 years ago, but as it was today.”

Individually, each church has its strengths, including a community development corporation, an alliance with Shalom Mobile Health Ministry, English second language classes and



Preparing for worship are the acolytes and ministry leaders, Rev. Will Reed, left, Rev. Marvin Hood and Rev. Lois Boyles. Rev. Luis Ramirez and Rev. Sherrill Corson also are part of the East End Parish ministry team.

David Hutchins, who was born and raised in Park Place UMC, accepted his call to ministry there and retired from service there in 1998.

“They should’ve done this in 1999,” said Hutchins. “We knew then, that this church (Park Place UMC) would never see the heyday of when they built the sanctuary. We could see change coming.”

And, members are rejoicing that change is finally here.

“It’s so wonderful to have so many children and youth here today,” said Winna Bjornaas, a

Conference Adjournment delayed

Special commissioning service held for east district pastor Rick Anderson

By Jill Krone - Texas Annual Conference Communications

People flowed into the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church of Nacogdoches on Friday morning, June 8, 2007, eager to share in the joy of this special service. Richard “Rick” Dale Anderson and his wife, Judy, had been unable to attend the formal Service of Commissioning at Annual Conference on Thursday, May 31, due to Judy’s



poor health as she battles cancer.

In an amazing act of love, support and connection, the 38th Session of the Texas Annual Conference was not adjourned until this sacred commissioning could be accomplished. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie said, “This is saved for special circumstances and this is one of those special times,” as she referred to the delay in adjourning Annual Conference.

“What a blessing it is to have a Bishop who is willing to take the Conference to a family in need,” declared Rev. Brad Morgan. “I came into ministry for moments like this.” Rev. Morgan’s sentiments were shared throughout the congregation of First UMC Nacogdoches.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie; East District Superintendent Keith Whitaker; Bill Gandin, Senior Pastor of First UMC Nacogdoches and participants from the Board of Ordained Ministry and the East District Committee on Ministry brought many of the elements of the formal service, held at The Woodlands UMC one week earlier, into this specially designed service for Rev. Anderson.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and East District Superintendent Keith Whitaker conduct the commissioning service for Rev. Anderson with his wife, Judy in attendance.

Following the presentation, affirmation, examination and consent of the candidate, Bishop Huie extended her arms and prayed for “the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon Rick.”

“It was a very touching and poignant time for everyone here. It is a reflection of our love for Christ and the Anderson family,” said, Bishop Huie. “The presence of God’s love is palpable here. It’s been a privilege to be a part of it.”

Anderson expressed his gratitude. “Bishop Huie and the Texas Annual Conference have exemplified radical grace by reaching out to us in our time of difficulty and having a Commissioning Service for me at our home church in Nacogdoches in order that Judy could attend,” offered Rev. Rick Anderson. “We are overwhelmed by the love and support that has been shown to us by everyone involved.”

Following the service, Bishop Huie formally declared the 38th Session of the Texas Annual Conference adjourned at 10:28 a.m. on Friday, June 8, 2007.

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

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

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Radical accessibility for people with special needs workshop

By Patty Prince
Faith United Methodist Church

Blindfolded, each person slowly marched down the hallway clinging to a walker. A “spotter” walked beside to ensure the person’s safety.

It was all part of the “Radical Accessibility” workshop at the 2007 Texas Annual

tape.

It was an incredible experience. Later, each attendee was invited to put on some low-vision glasses to see what the world looks like to someone with macro degeneration.

At the conclusion of the



Participants Jay Dunham (left) and Ron Grammatico (right) get some hands-on experience in being handicapped during the workshop presentation.

Conference in The Woodlands.

Presenters Rev. Greg Edwards and Rev. Wineva Hankamer wanted each attendee to experience first-hand what it’s like to have a disability. And it worked. Comments like, “Scary, unsure, helpless,” were heard throughout the classroom as everyone removed their blindfolds.

Attendees also got to experience how the normal voice sounds to the hearing-impaired. An audiotape was placed with different decibels as everyone in the classroom strained to figure out what was being said on the

workshop, attendees asked questions on how they could make their churches more accessible to people with special needs.

Rev. Edwards responded, “Attitudes are the biggest barriers that we face, but they can be overcome.” He continued, “Be creative; when coming up with ideas and implementing plans, involve people who have disabilities in this process.”

Resource materials and business cards were distributed to everyone and each person left with a profound understanding of what it’s like to have a disability.

Laity elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional conference

Laity of the 2007 Texas Annual Conference focused on electing delegates to General Conference in Fort Worth, April 23-May 2, 2008 and to Jurisdictional Conference in Dallas, July 15-19, 2008. The process called for 11 delegates to be elected for each Conference (for a total of 22), and five additional alternate delegates.

During the last elections of this type, held in 2003, laity voted in 17 ballots to fill the required slate of delegates. This year, only 11 ballots were necessary to fill the roster. Betty Thomas of Cornerstone UMC in Houston was encouraged by the first vote that took place on Monday morning in a confer-

ence room of the Marriott Hotel. “Whoever organized this must have great vision as to what is going to work.”

Lay delegate elections concluded with an eleventh ballot taken on Wednesday evening. Two delegates were elected with the first ballot and an amazing five were elected on the second ballot. Once down to electing the five alternate delegates, a motion was made and passed to fill these positions with the top five vote-receivers of one final ballot. These five were elected based on the criteria of the motion, but all five also received the necessary 50 percent plus one vote of the respective ballot necessary to be elected, as was required on the ten previous ballots. “I’m not sure

“I am amazed at so many people and that we are only voting for 11 each. There are so many we don’t know. It is an awesome situation that requires discernment. Whoever organized this must have great vision as to what is going to work.”

Elizabeth Tipps
Delegate, New London and First UMC, Overton

ence room of the Marriott Hotel. “Voting went faster than I expected. It moved along smoothly,” Thomas stated. “I love having everything else at the church (The Woodlands UMC) as it takes so much time to go back and forth when one has a disability,” Ms. Thomas noted of the process for the remaining balloting.

Laity tellers were kept busy handing out ballots and tabulating the votes from each ballot. Sixty-five persons were featured in the Laity Election Resume Booklet with an additional 44 persons receiving write-in numbers. “I am amazed at so many people and that we are only voting for 11 to each. There are so many we don’t know. It is an awesome situation that requires discernment,” noted Elizabeth Tipps, lay delegate for New London UMC and First UMC

of Overton. “Whoever organized this must have great vision as to what is going to work.”

Lay delegates elected to General Conference are: Donald R. House, Gil Hanke, Andy K. Hernandez, Gib Walton, M. Samuel Daffin, Ewing Werlein, Jr., John R. Worsham, Mary Reed, Leah Taylor, Thomas R. “Tom” Wussow, and Ruth G. Palmer.

Lay delegates elected to Jurisdictional Conference are: Bill Coons, Donna Schlitt, Sue Sullivan, Dennis “Corky” Fowler, William Luton, Virginia Ann Gill, Lee Carson, William E. Brown, Beverly Deerhake, Donel King, and Ethelia “Thebe” Worden.

Laity elected to serve as alternates include: Carolyn Huntsman, Jack Steele, John W. Harrington, Imsook Lee, and Jill E. Krone.

Restorative Justice ministry takes off in a new direction

By Eleanor L. Colvin

Director of Communications, Texas Annual Conference

The prison conference of the United Methodist Church.

In addition to all the innovative and positive things the Texas Annual Conference is renowned for worldwide, the number of prisoners within the region is another area in which the conference is leading the nation.

The Texas Annual Conference has more prisoners within its bounds than any other state in the union, except New York, California and the remainder of Texas. There are 90,000 people in prisons within the East Texas region – not including those in federal prison, local jails, the Youth Commission Prison and those on probation and parole.

Restorative Justice workers in the conference recognize not only the problem, but the opportunity to bring Jesus Christ and the freedom found in God to prisoners, families and correctional facility

workers.

Rev. Marvin Hood knows the importance of standing with families and standing behind offenders and ex-offenders.

“If any of you doubt that restorative justice works. If you have any doubts that when you take the opportunity to go into prisons ... that when you take time to visit with prisoners and families it makes a difference... just look at me, because someone came to visit me.

“I didn’t get where I am without you. I’m here as evidence of what God can do, what God will do and what God wants to do.”

Through Rev. Marvin Hood, God is starting a new church in the Central South District for ex-offenders and their families.

“This new church is going to be packed in six months,” said Central South District Superintendent Rev. Jim Welch.

“It’s going to take that kind of effort, that kind of proclamation of Jesus Christ, so the hopeless can be filled with new life. That’s the promise that’s before us.”

Empowering the connection

The promise and challenge is set before the entire annual conference to be involved in restorative justice ministry. During the Restorative Justice Breakfast at the 2007 Annual Conference, the Director of the Center for Missional Excellence and Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Rick Goodrich named Restorative Justice Ministry as a critical part of the call to Christian discipleship.

“Our emphasis is training pastors and local churches to do the day to day, week to week, month to month ministry of Restorative Justice,” Goodrich said.

Goodrich testified of his experience with restorative justice as a young East Texas pastor. A mother and her children professed their faith and were baptized. When Goodrich visited the family in their home, he met the father, who was a gang member. Not long after, the father was incarcerated. The visits continued, but at the jail.

“It made all the difference in the world to him that someone came to visit him in prison,” Goodrich said. “About a year later, when he got out, we continued to visit, and he made that walk down the aisle for profession of faith and baptism. Twenty years later, he’s one of the lay leaders in this church and community in East Texas.”

Tough on crime and families

Among the reasons for the surplus of prisoners are harsh

sentencing laws, said Emmett Solomon of the Restorative Justice Network that partners with the annual conference for trainings.

“In Texas, if we don’t revamp our laws, we will be building a new prison every year into the foreseeable future,” Solomon said. “Tough on crime is a good mantra. Sounds great. Truth is it doesn’t work very well,” said Solomon, as he encouraged attendees of the breakfast to contact their elected officials.

“They’ve got to know people want smart on crime legislation ... Locking people up incessantly is destructive to society.”

Connie and Eddie McNeil were on hand to testify to that fact. Eddie McNeil served five years of a 15-year sentence for illegal investment activities his

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East End Parish serves diverse needs of Southeast Houston

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Crossroads ministry for the homeless.

But, over the years, the challenges of serving the community increased as membership decreased. Park Place UMC, which once enjoyed a membership of 3,000, now sees around 100 in worship. And, Mission Milby was down to a mere handful of members when Rev. Luis Ramirez began turning it around with bilingual worship services. A key benefit of the parish will be compensating for one another’s weaknesses and capitalizing on one another’s strengths.

“No one individual can do it all, no one church can do it,” said

Rev. Lois Boyles during a children’s ministry lesson that called on kids to attempt to break individual sticks and groups of sticks. “Together we are stronger.”

Team approach

The East End Parish ministry team includes: Rev. Will Reed, pastor in charge; Rev. Lois

Boyles, associate pastor specializing in pastoral care; Rev. Sherrill Corson, associate pastor specializing in programs; Rev.

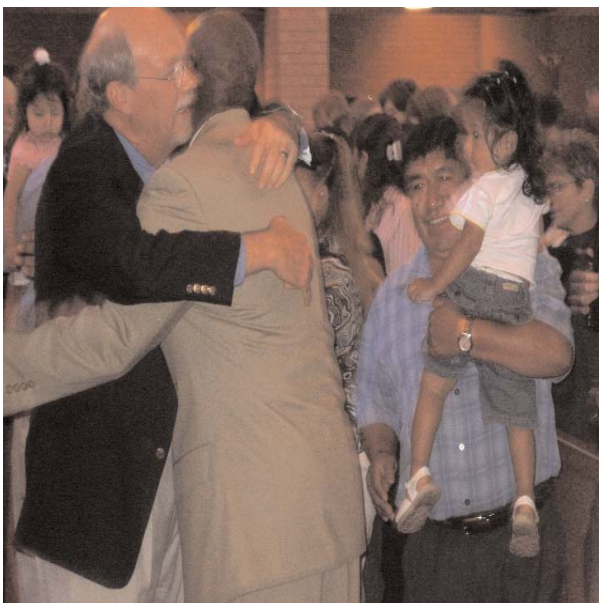
Hood is doing.”

Reed also spoke highly of all the leaders – pointing out Ramirez’s gifts as a bilingual pastor and as a singer; noting Boyles’ desire to meet congregants individually to hear their stories, needs and concerns, and said that Corson is a “master at building relationships” and designing programs that meet the needs of the worshipping community and community at large.

“We stand in the midst, for one of the greatest opportunities for mission,” Reed said. “There is a choice before each of us today – to get on the bus, or stand aside and let the church go on to be the people God has called it to be.

“Are you ready to make disciples? That is the question. Are you ready to work together to be in ministry for the transformation of the world? That is the question.”

The East End Parish will offer worship and ministries at all four campuses. The parish will office at Park Place UMC.



Central South District Superintendent Rev. Jim Welch embraces Rev. Marvin Hood after the service. Both pastors welcomed dozens of people who joined the East End Parish.

Luis Ramirez, associate pastor specializing in bilingual ministries; and Rev. Marvin Hood, founding pastor of the forthcoming Newgate Restorative Justice Congregation.

“I believe Newgate will be a model of restorative justice ministries,” Reed said. “I believe people will come to our conference to find out what Marvin

Clergy spouses connect

By Jill E. Krone

Texas Annual Conference Communications

Throughout the Texas Annual Conference, the Texas Conference Clergy Spouse Association (TCCSA) enjoyed opportunities to meet and gather. On Monday morning, the Executive Committee met for a brief business session before coming together as a group for the Annual Conference Gathering.

The Gathering is an opportunity for all spouses of clergy to take time for visiting and meet-

cluded, “balance is easier depending on where you look.” Dr. McCall admonished those present to pay attention to all situations within our lives including those we have failed to deal with yet. “When God messes with your life, you’ve got to listen to him,” he said. “God doesn’t create coincidences. God creates moments in time.”

Current officers serving the Texas Conference Clergy

“God doesn’t create coincidences. God creates moments in time.”

**Dr. Miles McCall
President, Lon Morris College**

ing new friends while enjoying refreshments.

On Wednesday, the TCCSA enjoyed lunch during what is now an annual event. Dr. Miles McCall, President of Lon Morris College, was the featured speaker. He shared with spouses about maintaining balance in life and how events of our lives become opportunities for us to be a part of God’s plan in a message entitled, “Connections!”

Following a visual demonstration on balancing, that utilized an umbrella, McCall con-

Spouses Association are: Ann Miller, President; Kay Lynn Fenn, Vice-president; Vera Barrett, Secretary; Paula Ryburn, Treasurer; and Jill Krone, Publicity.

During the business portion of Wednesday’s luncheon, the following TCCSA officers were elected to serve for 2008: Erin Bunch, President; Erica Hall, Vice-president; Cathy Luckert, Secretary; Paula Ryburn,

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Encounters with the Holy thro

Jill E. Krone

Texas Annual Conference Communications

Worship services during 2007 Texas Annual Conference had something to offer everyone – from high energy bands to powerful visuals to solemn and traditional experiences. Clergy and laity alike were able to come together, encountering the Holy One and sharing in the celebrations of holy conferencing.

Dr. Julius Scott opened TAC worship with a reminder that we are “to remember those whose faith among us deserves celebration” and “to pass on the legacy of their efforts” during the Sunday night service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. “We are assembled as a people of promise. This Annual Conference has a heritage of promise,” Scott said.

In her Episcopal Address on Monday, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie noted, “All around us are signs of movement, glimpses of the reign of God emerging in our congregations. Truly the wind of the Spirit is moving.” She challenged, “Sisters and brothers, I’m inviting us to join together arm in arm and keep on walking...for God’s Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.” Huie continued, “By the grace of God, this conference can continue to change and reshape lives.”

On Monday evening, we encountered the Holy through the words of Bishop William Willimon as he reminded us that “to be called by Jesus is sometimes to be overwhelmed with the human need before us.” Willimon stated, “Time and again we look out on all we could be doing, all we should be doing – then Jesus takes, blesses, breaks and gives us a miracle.” David Turner expressed, “From Bishop Willimon’s humorous yet powerful sermon to the wonderful piano medley to the sharing of the bread baskets and grapes, this was truly a mountain top experience.”

Tuesday gave us a moving service in which the mantle of ministry symbolically passed from one generation to the next as we shared in a Celebration of Ministry and the Honoring of Retirement. We also experienced lively and meaningful worship that evening through the



preaching of Bishop Willimon, the music of Matt Brouwer and the prayer stations available in the Atrium.

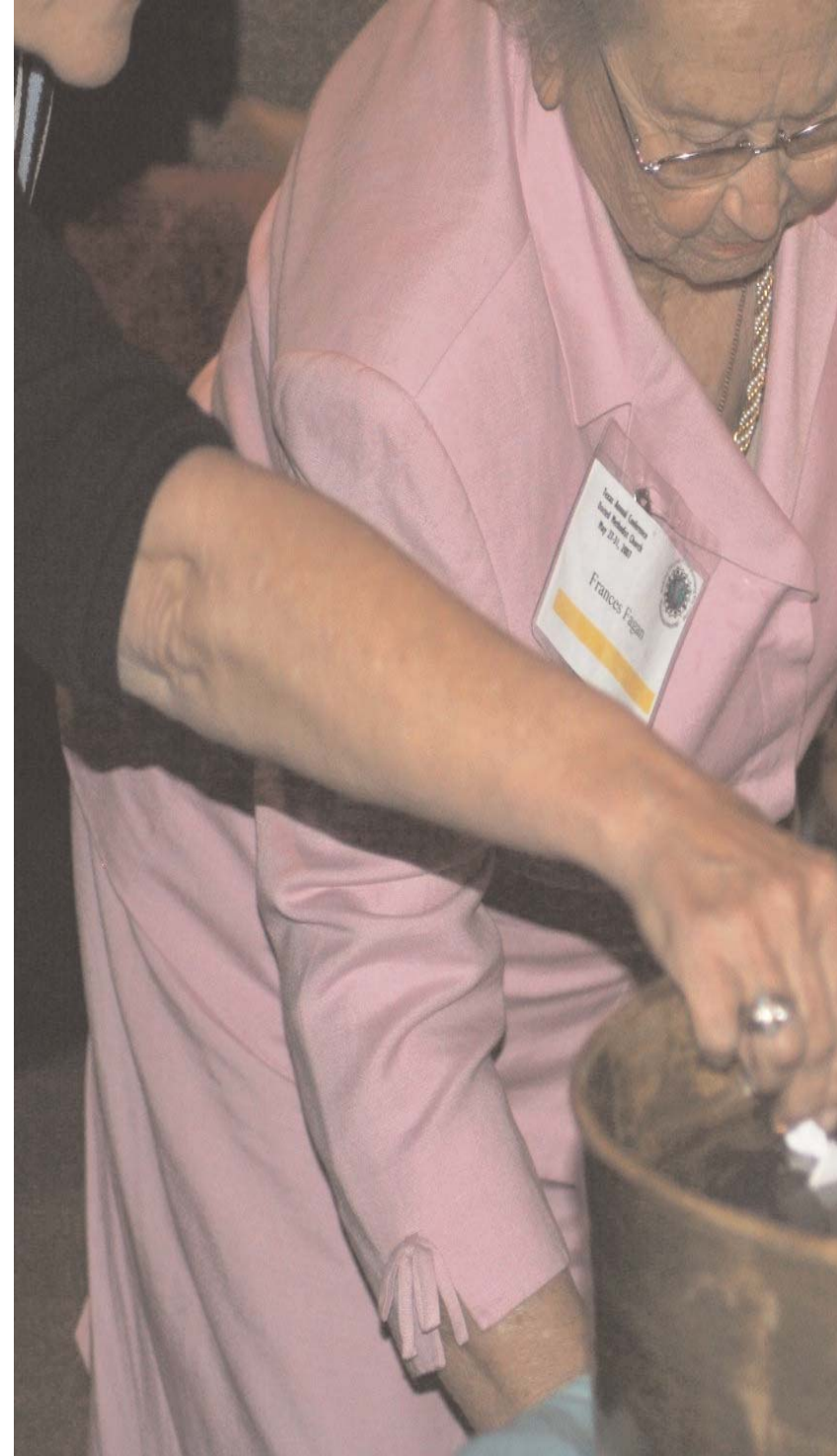
Music played a major part in all services, setting the tone and enhancing the individual attitude of worship. Laura Denham shared, “It is exciting and passionate as we share our faith in song. We just cannot sit still.”

During Wednesday’s Ordination service within the Recognition of our Common Mission and Reaffirmation of Baptism service, Bishop Huie recounted a memorable encounter she had with the Holy while in Cote d’Ivoire when, in a profound worship experience, she learned that thousands waited outside, unable to get into the service and share in the gift of bread during communion until several in clergy determined to take Jesus to them through the bringing and sharing of the Elements. Bishop Huie contrasted this encounter with the Holy to the text of the woman knowing that if she could touch the hem of Jesus’ garment she would be healed. Huie reminded us, “We experience the grace of Jesus Christ in what for many of us has become ordinary. So many other people can receive Christ through the ordinary means of grace.” She shared, “We are praying hard that you will see Christ in the faces of those people who come to you.” Huie concluded with asking, “Who is waiting outside the doors of our 58 counties of the Texas Annual Conference?” Anna Rohde expressed, “This is my absolute favorite of every

service during Conference. It was so meaningful and awesome to see.” She continued, “It was an awesome telling about the touching of the hem that moved to the telling of her experience with the service in the Ivory Coast.”

Rev. Carol Turner brought a moving message during the Service of Commissioning and Sending Forth on Thursday, inquiring, “Do you want peace and power in ministry?” She answered her question with a call to “know God through prayer.” Turner noted that, “Prayer gives peace and power for the provision of others. If we humans respond to need because we are asked, then how much more will the extravagant generosity of God respond?”

Bishop Huie closed the service and the Texas Annual Conference with the mention that Rev. Rick Anderson was unable to participate in this Commissioning Service due to the need to be with his wife as she battles illness. To a standing ovation, Bishop Huie shared that the appropriate members necessary will travel to Rev. Anderson and commission him in the presence of his wife and family at a convenient location as soon as can be arranged. The service and Conference concluded with the Bishop calling forward all persons who are making a change in their ministry and asking the congregation to lift their hands and join her in offering a blessing for them and the ministry all persons, lay and clergy, are part of.



Noteworthy Quote

“All around us are signs of movement, glimpses of the reign of God emerging in our congregations. . . . Sisters and brothers, I’m inviting us to join together arm in arm and keep on walking...for God’s

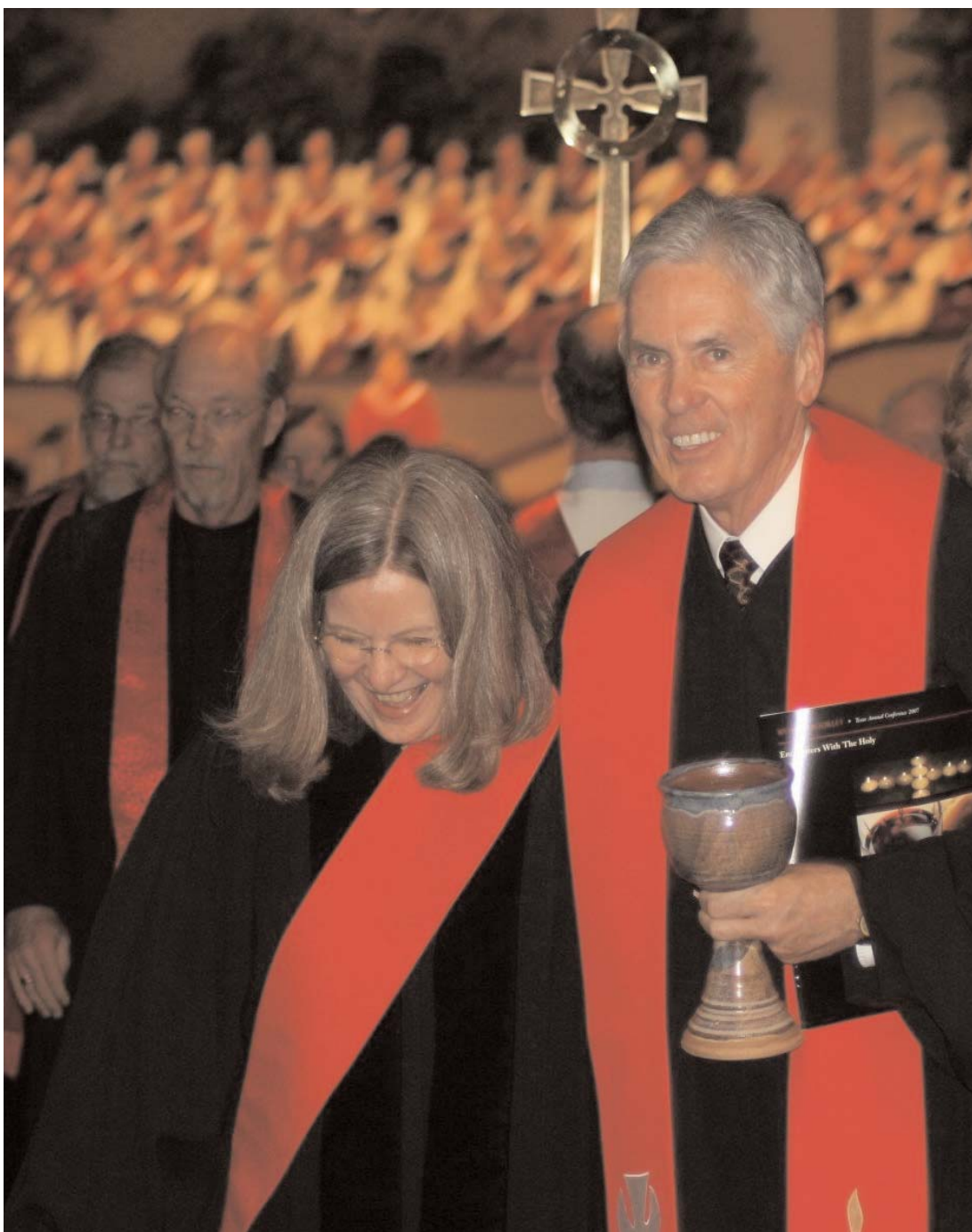
Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
Bishop Janice Riggle Huie

“Time and again we look out on all we could be doing, all we should be doing ... then Jesus takes, blesses, breaks and gives

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Bishop Willimon

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Reverend Carol Turner

“We are assembled
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heritage of prom-
ise.”
Dr. Julius Scott

Above left: Bishop Huie preaches about the women who reached out in faith to touch the hem of Jesus’ garment.

Center: Worshippers wash away sins that hinder them from hearing God’s call.

Above right: Bishop Will Willimon teaches tenets of passionate worship.

Right: Newly ordained pastors exit sanctuary with joy.

Texas Annual Conference 2007 Appointment List

[Click Here to see updated list](#)

Historical marker dedicated at St. Paul's UMC

By Donna V. Adair
Director of Communications, St. Paul's UMC

A historical marker honoring the establishment of the congregation of St. Paul's United Methodist Church was recently dedicated. The congregation officially organized on January 14, 1906. The current sanctuary

Stained glass windows from the previous church building were incorporated into the new structure, and the impressive tower houses (change ringing) bells.

St. Paul's members support an array of outreach, worship, education, mission and music services to the community. The church is a spiritual and social community center as well as a long-standing Houston institution.

St. Paul's commemorated its centennial in January with a celebration worship service and dinner held at the George R. Brown Convention Center. In celebration of this event, a centennial book, *An American Cathedral: A Century of History of St. Paul's United*

Methodist Church, was introduced. It is available for purchase, and has earned recognition by historians and graphic artists alike.

The Texas United Methodist Historical Society (TUMHS) recently awarded St. Paul's the *Kate Warnick* Prize for the best church history in the large church category. Josephine Crain, St. Paul's volunteer archivist, received special recognition from the organization for her research on the book, written by Dr. Fellers.

The book was also selected for exhibition in the *Communication Arts 2006 Design Annual*, which includes only two percent of the work entered for consideration. "In our business, having your work included in the *CA Design Annual* is about as good as it gets," said Mark Geer, who designed the book. The principal photography was by Frank White, and the book was edited by Elizabeth Smith.

To purchase one or more of these award-winning centennial books, please call 713-528-0527 or e-mail jcrain@stpaulshoton.org.

To see the Channel 11 video, go to the Conference web site, www.txcumc.org, and click on the "News" menu button.



Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, Senior Pastor, Dr. Jim Bankston, and Trustees Patrick Van Pelt and J. L. Mayhew admire the historical marker.

building was constructed in 1939 in the Museum District.

Attending the unveiling were Anne Elisabeth Castronovo and her grandfather, Don Jones, sixth- and fourth-generation members of the church, respectively.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and Dr. L. James Bankston, St. Paul's senior minister, officiated at the ceremony that included presentation of the marker by Patrick Van Pelt on behalf of the Texas Historical Commission. Also in the service were J.L. Mayhew, chair of St. Paul's Trustees, who accepted the marker on behalf of the congregation; Kimball McMahan, chair of the church's Centennial Committee; and Dr. John Fellers, a former senior minister of St. Paul's. Channel 11 News (KHOU-TV) was on hand to highlight the event.

The church has grown, along with the City of Houston. In the late 1920s, a campaign was launched to raise money for new facilities. Jesse H. Jones, Walter Fondren, and J.M. West, Sr., each contributed \$150,000, and the church hired architect, Alfred C. Finn to design a new building at the corner of Main and Binz streets. The Neo-Gothic styling features a cruciform plan on a steel-frame structure with limestone cladding.

Restorative Justice ministry

A new direction and focus

Continued from page 3

company made while he served as CEO. McNeil experienced Kairos while at the Carol Vance Unit.

"I thank God he brought, what I call the support, and his

send a man to prison, you send a family to prison.

"The church said they would stand behind us, but they considered him dead. I wouldn't do that to my kids."

"When you send a man to prison, you send a family to prison. The church said they would stand behind us, but they considered him dead. I wouldn't do that to my kids."

Connie McNeil, Restorative Justice Advocate

spirit," he said, "to not only get me through a situation I never thought I'd be in, and (support for) my wife as well."

The McNeils had five children ages 16 years to two months old at the time of his incarceration. Connie McNeil was a stay-at-home mother.

"I hadn't worked in 10 years, my husband was the head of household – he did everything," she said. "When he went in, my family left, the church left – there was nothing. When you

Helping the hopeless

District Superintendent Rev. Jim Welch understands the impact of incarceration on the family and community.

"I've seen too many people through scratched plexiglass. Through the years, we've visited our son in jail more times than I want to count," he said, while giving thanks to God for his son's sobriety and the blessing of aftercare, as his son lives in a supportive, Christian community

in Brookshire.

There's hope. But for those on the Walk to Emmaus, the scripture Welch referenced at the breakfast, there was not.

We had hoped that Jesus would restore Israel, said the men walking along the road.

"I don't know that there's anything sadder than hope in the past tense," Welch said, as he explored numerous New Testament illustrations of followers who had lost hope and Jesus' response to them.

"He does it without condemnation, and with a word of encouragement," Welch said.

"He doesn't respond with anger to their blindness and the hope he brings. He responds relationally – he restores Martha's brother, Lazarus is raised; opens Mary's eyes and provides the evidence Thomas demands.

"All three got what they desperately needed from one source – Jesus himself.

"The hopeless can't help themselves. We as Christian people have that hope. I call on you to continue to proclaim that hope."

Clergy spouse make connections

Continued from page 3



Dr. Miles McCall of Lon Morris College gives a visual demonstration of maintaining balance in one's life with the use of an umbrella. His "assistant" is Kay Lynn Fenn.

Treasurer; and Jill Krone, Publicity.

These representatives serve for one year, taking office at the close of the Fall Retreat held yearly at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center.

The Clergy Spouse Fall Retreat for 2007 is scheduled for October 19-20 with registration currently open by going to the Clergy Spouse page of www.txcumc.org.

The retreat theme is "Also Called" with the featured speaker to be Marty

Sholars. Nancy McClanahan, retreat chairperson, shared about preparations for the 2007 retreat, emphasizing that there is "no typical clergy spouse" as she noted to spouses that "there are people praying for you right now – that you'll be able to come to retreat."

McClanahan concluded by encouraging TAC Clergy Spouses to "come to retreat, make connections, and keep connections."

At the close of the luncheon, appreciation was expressed to Ann Miller for stepping in to fill the Presidency and for all of her hard work on behalf of the Texas Conference Clergy Spouses Association.

"I believe in this organization. I believe we need each other. It's nice to make connections before you need them," said Miller as she adjourned the 2007 Clergy Spouse's Luncheon.