



# Cross Connection

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## Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey to lead United Methodist Committee on Relief

By Elliott Wright  
General Board of  
Global Ministries

The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, a pastor from Texas with a background in the local church, international health ministries, domestic disaster relief, and organizational management is the new head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

She was elected on April 13 by directors of the General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist mission agency of which UMCOR is a part. Harvey succeeds the Rev. Sam Dixon, who was killed in the earthquake that shook Haiti January 12. Her new position is effective May 1.

Harvey began a special assignment in late January as liaison between UMCOR and United Methodist congregations and annual conferences that have to date given \$17.8 million to relief efforts in Haiti. For two years, starting in February 2008, she was director of the Texas Conference's Center for Missional Excellence, which equips leaders to carry out ministries of mercy, justice, and wholeness.

UMCOR is a major Protestant disaster relief and rehabilitation agency. It is known for staying on the scene of disasters to help with long-term restoration of lives and communities. UMCOR, which operates internationally, often remains in a disaster area after most other humanitarian organizations have gone.

**Welcomed by Mission Leaders**  
Bishop Bruce R. Ough of



Rev. Cynthia Harvey administers a vaccination during the November 2008 net distribution in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa.

West Ohio, president of Global Ministries, welcomed the choice of Harvey to lead UMCOR. He said she has "a profound call from God" and combines a passion for relief with "ministry experience and proven adminis-

trative skills." Harvey's experience in mission and local church life as among her strengths. "Cynthia is a leader," said the bishop. "As head of UMCOR, she will make a significant contribution to the leadership capacity of Global

work of "bringing mission and development into a fruitful relationship."

Texas Annual Conference Bishop Janice Riggie Huie, a board director who is president of UMCOR, said that "Cynthia Harvey not only has a passion for mission but is a woman on a mission to witness to God's new creation around the world. Mission is her mission. We have been blessed to have her energy in the Texas Conference and look forward to her bringing her energy and passion to UMCOR."

Harvey's new position is formally that of a deputy general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries, assigned to UMCOR. As such, she sits on the program cabinet of the agency.

**"I pray that God will provide me the courage to serve, and the eyes to see and ears to hear the cries of the people and bring about hope -- life-giving hope."**

**Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey**  
Deputy General Secretary  
United Methodist Committee on Relief

trative skills."

Both Bishop Ough and Thomas Kemper, the general secretary (chief executive) of the mission agency pointed to

Ministries and the entire church."

Kemper described Harvey as having a "passion for mission" and the capacity to continue the

*Continued on page 5*



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## 44 Texas Conference students earn TUMCA awards, attend Methodist schools

Bishop Dan E. Solomon, President of the Texas United Methodist College Association, announced that 44 students from the Texas Conference have received TUMCA scholarships for the current academic year.

"TUMCA links the giving of congregations with the striving of United Methodist students," Solomon commented in announcing the scholarship grants. Many TUMCA scholar-

ship recipients are the first in their family to attend college, reinforcing the vital role of scholarships in enabling students to gain the benefits and the blessings of Christian higher education.

TUMCA funds, received from Texas United Methodist congregations, are "scholarship restricted and may not be used for 'bricks and mortar,' or an institution's administrative expense."

One of the scholarship recipients, in commenting on the vital importance of the TUMCA scholarship said, "Thank you for all the Texas United Methodist College Association does for students like me who yearn for the blessings of attending a church-related college."

Solomon further noted, "As these students become lay and clergy leaders for our congregations, we will discover that the

bread of our TUMCA giving, when cast upon the waters of our young adults' aspirations for education, will return to us sevenfold."

Congratulations, students! You are an important sign of connectional giving! Your lives are being impacted by Methodism's commitment to Christian higher education.

Name	Home Church	College/University
Rebecca Labbe	First UMC, Humble	Lon Morris College
Gabriel Alexander	Jones Memorial UMC, Houston	Lon Morris College
Garland Alexander	Jones Memorial UMC, Houston	Lon Morris College
Patricia Bean	Westwood UMC, Palestine	Lon Morris College
Joshua Bennett	Canton UMC	Lon Morris College
James Bogue	Lufkin UMC	Lon Morris College
Brennan Bonner	Mt. Selman UMC, Athens	Lon Morris College
Jonathan Bushee	First UMC, Quitman	Lon Morris College
Jeffrey Carrington	McKinney Memorial UMC	Lon Morris College
Andre Chavez	Shady Chapel UMC, Zavalla	Lon Morris College
Levi Coppedge	First UMC, Grapeland	Lon Morris College
Kolton Culberson	Emory UMC	Lon Morris College
Jordan Daniel	First UMC, Winnie	Lon Morris College
Ashley DeWoody	First UMC, Gilmer	Lon Morris College
Diamond Estell	McKinney Memorial UMC, LaMarque	Lon Morris College
Phillip Hallberg	Katy UMC	Lon Morris College
Hunter Hudson	First UMC, Buna	Lon Morris College
Jacob Lauxman	Wood UMC, Tenaha	Lon Morris College
Jeffrey Looney	First UMC, Jacksonville	Lon Morris College
Dalton Lovell	First UMC, Crockett	Lon Morris College
Eric Loven	Greggton UMC, Longview	Lon Morris College
John LuPau	Shelbyville UMC	Lon Morris College
Jordan McCann	Grace UMC, Palestine	Lon Morris College
Seth McCartney	Troup UMC	Lon Morris College
Daisy McReynolds	Bellville, UMC	Lon Morris College
Rachel Nesloney	Holly Springs UMC	Lon Morris College
Jeffrey Nielsen	Shady Chapel UMC, Zavalla	Lon Morris College
Samantha Patterson	First UMC, Newton	Lon Morris College
Brooklee Raney	Cushing UMC	Lon Morris College
Cody Roth	First UMC, Livingston	Lon Morris College
Madalyn Russell	Brocks Chapel UMC, Quitman	Lon Morris College
Kyle Stacy	Jacksonville UMC	Lon Morris College
Adrianna Tezeno	Calvary UMC, Houston	Lon Morris College
Stephen Weymouth	St. Luke UMC, Houston	Lon Morris College
Daniel Filis	First UMC, Fairfield	McMurry University
Eduardo Gonzalez	Chapelwood UMC, Houston	McMurry University
Christina James	Mt. Sylvan UMC, Tyler	McMurry University
Sean White	Lakewood UMC, Houston	McMurry University
Chaney Lynn Haralson	First UMC, Longview	Southern Methodist University
Austin D. Jones	First UMC, Jefferson	Southern Methodist University
Janice Contreras	Moody Memorial UMC, Galveston	Southwestern University
Leslie Turner	Cedar Bayou UMC, Baytown	Southwestern University
Michael Clements	Pirtle UMC, Overton	Texas Wesleyan University
Justin Mikulencak	First UMC, Lake Jackson	Texas Wesleyan University



# Mission team from Red Lick, Texas provides help to tornado victims in Greensburg, Kansas



Using a mechanical lift, a volunteer surveys the work yet to be done on the suspended ceiling in Youth for Christ Center.



Pam Felty examines her work as she paints one of walls in the Center. The city of Greensburg, Kansas, hit by a tornado in 2007, is still undergoing reconstruction.

**By Dr. Del Covington  
Pastor, Red Lick FUMC**

Picture one of America's largest recorded tornadoes devastating the city of Greensburg, Kansas; a city with geothermal heating, solar electric power, green homes and businesses.

Now, picture a mission team from FUMC in Red Lick, Texas armed with physical help and the love of Jesus Christ, determined to help return from utter destruction, the city of Greensburg. That was the setting in which the mission team from Texas found themselves last month.

The seven member team spent its days working on the new Southwest Kansas Youth for Christ Center, painting the interior of the 9,600 square foot building, hanging a suspended ceiling and preparing the building for the final carpentry work before the scheduled May opening. The former center was completely destroyed in the May 2007 tornado.

Each evening local leaders from Greensburg shared a meal

with the team at the First Methodist Church, recounting the stories of the tornado and the continuing efforts to rebuild their city and their lives.

Pastor Terry Mayhew, who was appointed to the First Methodist Church the same day the tornado hit, explained how consideration for energy efficiency, tornado resistance and prayer all played major roles in the reconstruction of their facilities. Mayor Bob Dixon gave the team a tour of the recently completed Arts Center explaining how sustainable energy technology is used to power all the utility needs of the building. To date, over 4,000 volunteers have stayed in the First Methodist facilities.

Gene and Cathy McFall, long time leaders in the church and the community shared how the ministerial alliance and the Christian community in general provided the essential leadership needed during the days following the tornado and now during the reconstruction period. Debra Factor, the Executive Director of Southwest Kansas



**Connectionalism and risk-taking mission — a powerful ministry combination. Mission volunteers from Red Lick FUMC work at preparing the ceiling and roof of the Southwest Kansas Youth for Christ Center in Greensburg, Kansas.**

Youth For Christ (YFC) shared how the ministry of YFC partners with all the local churches to make a strategic impact for Christ in the lives of area youth. She also demonstrated how the passive solar heating works in the YFC building.

As in most mission endeavors, the Red Lick team agreed that they had received more from the people of Greensburg than they had given. Team member Donna Owens made the observation that she had never met a group of people

who were more positive and optimistic about the future.

David LaBay, from Hallsville commented on how vibrant Christian faith of the people from Greensburg was despite the adversity. Curt Petty found that the prayer-filled environment provided him with the opportunity to share his faith with a non-Christian volunteer from Arizona.

What the team learned could be summed up in the thoughts of Mayor Bob Dixon when he shared, "When I climbed out of the basement of our home after the tornado and everything I owned was gone, at that moment my wife Ann and I had a decision to make, we could live in despair or we could move ahead, we chose to move ahead. Since that time I've learned a lot about the need for responsible stewardship of everything God has given us. Stewardship has become a key element in our city's desire for sustainability, but it is also important to me personally as I attempt to live my life as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ."



## 3,000 square-foot mural to set scene for conference worship

Everyone is invited to paint; no skill needed

If you can color within the lines, Melissa Burnham, annual conference worship team leader, says you can help create the larger-than-life mural that will be the backdrop of Annual Conference 2010.

Biblical scenes that speak to Extravagant Generosity through art will surround delegates in The Woodlands UMC during worship and business meetings.

Individuals and ministry groups are invited to participate in the creation of the largest mural ever in the Houston area. Artistic ability is not required.

"The process is like a paint-by-number [project]," Burnham said. "No drawing talents needed, just the ability to color within the lines!"

To participate, contact Julie Graham at [juliegraham1201@sbcglobal.net](mailto:juliegraham1201@sbcglobal.net).

The mural is 30 feet tall and 110 feet wide. It was printed and is painted in 10-

foot wide segments.

### Gospel singers sought

Another opportunity to participate in annual conference worship is by joining a Mass Choir, which will minister at the Gospel Service on Monday, May 31, at 7 p.m.

There will be four worship services happening at the same time to provide people with distinct opportunities to praise. Services will be: Traditional, Gospel, Contemplative and Contemporary.

The gospel service, which is designed as a celebration service, is co-led by Karen Sevier of New World UMC and Ina Zellers of Trinity East UMC. Churches are invited to send as many voices as possible to ensure the celebratory spirit.

The music for this service will include Let it Rise (Holland Davis), The Presence of the Lord Is Here (Byron Cage), Praise Him

(Lucinda Moore), In the Sanctuary (Kurt Carr), How Great Is Our God/How Great Thou Art Medley (CeCe Winans), Precious Lord, Take My Hand, and Praise Him (Donald Harper).

If interested, submit: group's name; church; how many singers of each voice part; pastor's name and worship leader/choir director's name. Rehearsals will be held as follows: Thursday, April 29 and May 20, 7 p.m., Trinity East UMC and Saturday, May 15, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., New World UMC.

In order to plan for the correct number of participants, submit information immediately to DeAndre Johnson at [deandrejohnson@gmail.com](mailto:deandrejohnson@gmail.com) or by mail at 2700 W. Villa Maria Road, Bryan, Texas, 77807. If you have questions, contact Johnson at 979-822-9000 or the above mentioned e-mail address.



**The more hands the merrier. It will take a team of scheduled volunteers to complete the massive mural project for Annual Conference 2010. The 3,000 square foot mural is painted in 10-foot sections.**



# Harvey to lead United Methodist Committee on Relief

*Continued from page 1*

## Disaster and Health Experience

Harvey worked with Texas Conference disaster relief responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and Hurricane Ike last year. Additionally, she has international experience in health ministries through a partnership program between the Texas Conference and the Côte d'Ivoire Annual Conference in West Africa. She helped to coordinate the distribution of almost a million mosquito nets in Côte d'Ivoire in 2008. She related to UMCOR in both of these efforts.

After election to the UMCOR post, Harvey said she "considers it a great privilege and an awesome task to serve people around the world on behalf of The United Methodist Church, to bring new life to those living on life's edge, to those teetering between life and death.

"I pray that God will provide me the courage to serve and the eyes to see and ears to hear the cries of the people and bring about hope, life-giving hope," Harvey said.

Ordained a United Methodist elder in 2001, Rev. Harvey has strong experience in corporate management, marketing, and communications. She had a 12-year career in property management with the Rouse Corporation, a major real estate developer based in Columbia, Maryland.

The new UMCOR director has strong ties to other United Methodist agencies, including the General Commission on Communications (UMCOM), serving on its board since 2004 and currently chairing its personnel committee. She is also a board member of the United Methodist Communications

Foundation, and she serves on a committee of the General Council on Finance and Administration. Harvey is fluent in Spanish and has a working command of French and Portuguese, skills that will assist her work in relief and rehabilita-

**"I remember sitting at the Woolworth counter with my grandmother in the area set aside for Mexicans ...**

**I realized that every child of God ought to have an equal place at the 'table or the Woolworth counter.'**

**I have a deep concern for those on the margins, those who live on life's edge. I am convinced that it is our call to give voice to the voiceless, to open the table that all may be served."**

tion in the worldwide church.

Harvey has been married to Dean Alan Harvey for 28 years.

The couple has one daughter, Elizabeth Grace, 19, who is a freshman at Baylor University.

## From A Small Hispanic Town in Texas

Cynthia Fierro Harvey grew up in Big Spring, Texas, a small town in West Texas, surrounded by family in a traditional Hispanic neighborhood.

"Perhaps it was that experience that birthed my passion for caring for others," she reflects. "Our home was always open to everyone – literally. It was a place where there was no distinction between family and friend, family and stranger."

As a child, she also experienced what it means to be marginalized, and those occasions,

she says, helped to shape her life. "I remember sitting at the Woolworth counter with my grandmother in the area set aside for Mexicans. I can still feel the torn plastic scratching my legs and waiting for others to be served before we were served. I realized that every child of God ought to have an equal place at the 'table or the Woolworth counter.' I have a deep concern for those on the margins, those who live on life's edge. I am convinced that it is our call to give voice to the voiceless, to open the table that all may be served."

Her involvement in mission also began as a child: "I recall my first mission trip to a small town in East Texas. I realized at an early age that not everyone had indoor plumbing. Years later I had similar experiences when I encountered children dying of malaria in Zimbabwe and in Côte d'Ivoire. A disease that robs a child of life every 30 seconds. It is unconscionable that a child should die of a disease that is preventable. Just last year, I visited an orphanage in Côte d'Ivoire filled with children with special needs. A nursery lined with beds filled with children, many whose mothers had died at childbirth because of the lack of prenatal care. Unconscionable."

Harvey believes it is the work of UMCOR "to bring hope to places where it is often hard to find. Because of the extravagant generosity of churches across the denomination, UMCOR is able to bring life, to bring hope and health and wholeness to those who need it most. During this season of Easter, I am reminded that our work is life-giving. It is about resurrection – it is Easter work."

## Career in Management and the Pastorate

She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis on public relations from the University of Texas in

Austin in 1980. Following her years in public relations and management, she turned to a church-related vocation in 1992. For three years, she worked with a conference-level program that placed 3,000 young people in summer mission programs and was also an associate and administrator at Foundry United Methodist Church, Houston. She received her theological education at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, graduating with a master of divinity degree in 1999.

From 1996 to 2008, Harvey was executive associate pastor at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, a 6,900-member Houston

congregation. She had oversight of a staff of 15 clergy and laity and was responsible for communications and community relations. At Memorial Drive, she had key roles in two capital campaigns that raised a total of \$17.8 million.

In addition to her United Methodist links, she has active community involvement. In Houston, she serves on the board of Shalom Health and is active in St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities. She was formerly on the board of the Heartspring Foundation.



No stranger to global praise, Harvey waves a worship cloth during the 2008 Texas Annual Conference, as the Cote d'Ivoire choir sings in the background.



## Tim Brown named Methodist Children's Home interim president

By Bryan Mize  
Public Relations Director  
Methodist Children's Home

The Methodist Children's Home Board of Directors named Tim Brown, a veteran childcare administrator, as interim president of the agency.

Brown will serve in this role while the Board of Directors begins its search for a new president to succeed Bobby Gilliam, who retired March 31. The announcement was made by Dr. Clayton Oliphint, chairperson of the Board and senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Richardson.

"I know Tim welcomes this new challenge and he will provide strong leadership as we build on the momentum gained during Bobby's seven years of outstanding service as president," Oliphint said. "Tim is widely-respected at Methodist Children's Home and throughout the childcare profession. As a Board, we are grateful for his commitment and loyalty to Methodist Children's Home for nearly three decades."

Brown has held various leadership roles during 26 years of service at MCH, most recently as vice president for

community services. He left the Home in 1991 to serve as president and chief executive officer of the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home in El Paso, a position he held until he returned to MCH in 2000 as an administrator of residential care.

As vice president for community services, Brown has directed the Home's foster care and family preservation services across Texas and New Mexico. MCH has outreach offices or programs serving 14 cities and surrounding areas in these two states.

Brown has been a strong advocate of services to children in Waco and throughout the state. He has served on the Baylor University Social Work Advisory Board, the McLennan Community College Curriculum Advisory Boards for Child Care and Mental Health, and the Texas Association of Licensed Children's Services, among others. He has been a member of the Child Fatality Review Teams of El Paso County and McLennan County the past 15 years.

"I believe that individuals and agencies who work with at-risk children and families have



Tim Brown

a great privilege and a great responsibility," Brown said. "We must be diligent in our daily efforts to establish and maintain trusting relationships with children who experience tragic hardships in life and who are challenged by the resulting pain and defeats of those experiences. We have the responsibility to help these children discover the power of hope in their lives."

A resident of Crawford, Brown earned degrees from Baylor University and Tarleton State University. He and his wife, Susan, have three children – Remi, Matt and K.C.

Oliphint said the MCH Board of Directors will soon begin the search process for the agency's 10th president. He said a timetable has not been set for the process.

## 'Laying foundations, making disciples and touching the world'

St. Paul UMC Huntsville to expand facilities and ministries



Rev. Rick Nance (center) and members of St. Paul UMC Huntsville participate in a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the church's future facility.

St. Paul UMC Huntsville is breaking ground, which will enable it to break into new areas of ministry.

The church's expansion is inspired by the transformation it has experienced in the last four years. Rev. Rick Nance, who is the pastor of St. Paul in Huntsville, said "leadership, evangelism and strategic outreach and in-reach to our community" has made the difference.

Initially, St. Paul purchased and planned to build on a 25-acre tract, but the Building and Locations Committee thought it best that the church acquire land adjacent to its existing facility.

"We purchased 2 acres, giving us 5 acres total in and around our existing facility," Nance said.

The church broke ground in February and in March celebrated as the foundation had been laid.

Schuler Construction anticipates that St. Paul will

inhabit the edifice around July or August 2010. At which time, the members intend to renovate the existing facility into classrooms and a life center for the church and community.

But that 25-acre tract is not completely off the church's radar.

"We also envision utiliz-

**"In and around the community, St. Paul is known as the 'City of Refuge' – a place of help, hope and healing."**

ing the 25 acres for a master-planned community, with affordable housing and park with a Christian theme," Nance said. "In and around the community, St. Paul is known as the 'City of Refuge' – a place of 'Help, Hope and Healing.' We are laying foundations, making disciples and touching the world!"

## The Margie Jordan Award for Excellence

Margie Jordan had a heart and passion for small membership churches. She was a tireless worker who believed in the smaller congregations and local pastors, always urging a strong emphasis on evangelism. Margie loved the church and was, for many years, the Small Membership Church Specialist for the Texas Annual Conference.

In her memory, the Conference Committee on

Small Membership Churches has established the *Margie Jordan Award for Excellence*.

Two awards will be presented each year - one to clergy and one to laity - for those persons exhibiting those same qualities.

Churches may nominate their pastor or a lay member for this award by submitting, via e-mail, a paragraph of 125 words or less.

Send nominations to

Carolyn Huntsman at [cdhuntsman@gmail.com](mailto:cdhuntsman@gmail.com). Nominations must be received by May 1, 2010,

Awards will be presented during conference at the Small Membership Church Celebration Dinner on June 1, 2010. For additional information, call: Carolyn Huntsman 936-222-4489.



# Ministry Snapshots

## Open house featuring live music in the outdoor labyrinth

Sowing seeds of hope and nourishing emotional health



**By Sally Penning**  
Assistant Communications  
Director  
St. Luke's UMC - Houston

Imagine flowers, greenery and sunshine bringing a sense of new growth and optimism at this time of year.

Celebrate the season by walking through the new outdoor labyrinth created by hedges in the garden at St. Luke's Center for Counseling and Life Enrichment at 2719 Joanel. The Spring Open House will take place on Sunday, April 18 from noon – 2 p.m.

Community partners, supporters, old & new friends will enjoy live instrumental music, refreshments, a tour, gifts of special spring centerpieces provided by Thompson Hanson --

and some surprises during the Spring Open House.

Thanks to donations from corporate and private donors and supporters of the Nick Finnegan Ministry, the Center has brought hope to individuals and the community through referrals, counseling, speaker events and special conferences for two years.

Ongoing opportunities include topical self image and parenting groups for adolescent teens and parents, a free job counseling workshop offered weekly, speaker series on topics ranging from handling online dating issues to various addictions.

"We are hoping that the peaceful beauty of the labyrinth can be appreciated by the whole community. The invitation to

the labyrinth and open doors of the St. Luke's Center for Counseling and Life Enrichment (SLCCLE) offers the unique opportunity to share its message with the city of Houston that, everyone needs help sometimes and we are here to be a support to those in need.

The Center serves anyone who wants help, regardless of religious affiliation. All are invited to experience the labyrinth with music, refreshments, community and to see the difference SLCCLE has made in the lives of so many individuals and families in Houston," says Amy Birchill, Director of the SLCCLE.

Check out the Center's new web site at [www.stlukescounseling.org](http://www.stlukescounseling.org).

## UMW launches Assembly 2010

Inspired by faith and activated by justice, *Assembly 2010* appears to be a *once in a lifetime experience* of notable guest speakers, musicians.

Women from all walks of life will come together as one body to worship in fellowship and discuss issues affecting women, children and youth. Gospel vocalist CeCe Winans, broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff, music powerhouse Lila Downs, and former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders are on the growing list of women leaders slated to address plenaries and "town



**Bishop Joaquina Nhanala**  
Photo Courtesy of Chris Heckert

women as CeCe Winans, Judy Woodruff and Bishop Joaquina Nhanala will offer additional opportunities at Assembly, along with all the sensory experiences that will be provided."

Registration for the event is still open. The United Methodist Women of the Texas Annual Conference will attend Assembly 2010 by bus. For more information, contact



**Vocalist CeCe Winans**  
Photo Courtesy of Pure Springs  
Gospel and CW Entertainment

hall meetings" at the Assembly.

Bishop Joaquina Nhanala of Mozambique, Africa's first female prelate, will address the Assembly. "I am looking forward to being in St. Louis next year in Assembly," Bishop Nhanala said. "The exciting theme of Faith, Hope, and Love in Action is so relevant for the women today, and not only for the women...it is relevant for the whole church, so I will be there, God willing."

Andris Salter, coordinator of the event, said, "I am delighted that such noted



**Journalist Judy Woodruff**  
Photo Courtesy of News Hour

Theresa Graham at 713-408-3783 or visit the UMW web site, [www.txconfumw.org](http://www.txconfumw.org).



## Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

### Fellowship Opportunities

#### F.O.A.M. Spring Retreat: Hidden Treasures

The 61st Texas Conference Senior Adult Retreat is scheduled for April 20–22. The theme is, “*Hidden Treasures*.” The program’s keynote speaker is Rev. Nancy Kellond; Bible Study leader, Rev. Velosia Kibe; and music leader, Rev. David Henry.

The retreat’s location is at Camp Allen Conference Center, a beautiful Episcopal facility just an hour northwest of Houston. The cost of \$160 per person includes lodging, meals, programs and activities.

Brochures and registration forms are available from Mary Magnusson, 281-361-9298 or her email, [dandmmag@cebridge.net](mailto:dandmmag@cebridge.net), or from Dorothy Fontana, 713-402-5031 or her email, [dfontana@stlukes-hou.org](mailto:dfontana@stlukes-hou.org).

The retreat is sponsored by the Conference’s Fellowship of Older Adult Ministries.

#### Rev. Thompson to Retire after 30 Years at St. Paul’s

All of St. Paul’s family and friends are invited to a barbecue on April 18 to celebrate Rev. Terry Thompson’s 30 years of ministry and to wish him and his wife Linda the best as they look forward to his retirement in June.

The celebration will begin with Rev. Thompson preaching at all three worship services that morning – 8:30, 9:45, and 11:05 a.m. – which is exactly the 30th anniversary of his appointment to St. Paul’s.

Barbecue with fixings and a vegetarian option will be served on the grounds at 12:15 p.m. Add to the festivities by bringing a dessert to share, if you like. RSVP for the dinner by calling 713-528-0527. A voluntary contribution of \$10/person or \$30/family of four or more is suggested for the meal — payable at the meal.

#### Spring Tea

Saturday, April 24, 2 – 4 p.m., Rose Hill UMC will host its annual Spring Tea. Speaker and singer Shannon Perry will present, “Goody Two Shoes,” an exciting, fun, faith-filled production for women to learn the powerful truths of God’s Word and how to practically apply them to real life.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10. Children age four and under are free. For more information, visit the web site, [www.shannonperry.com](http://www.shannonperry.com).

### Learning Opportunities

#### Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University Comes to Mission Bend UMC

This life-changing program teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever!

FPU consists of a 13-week video curriculum that will begin June 3 at 7:00 pm and is taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey that incorporates small-group discussion to encourage accountability and discipleship.

FPU is highly entertaining for

everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages.

The cost for the materials is \$95 per individual or couple. For more information or to register go to [www.mbumc.org](http://www.mbumc.org) or contact Mickey Ellis at [altamesa1@comcast.net](mailto:altamesa1@comcast.net).

#### More Guidance, Less Discipline

St. Paul’s School is providing a free parent education workshop Thursday, April 22 from 1-2 p.m.

Facilitator Dr. Kathryn Jenkins will share simple strategies for raising caring children with the use of unconditional love to enhance mutual respect, reasonable expectations, and appropriate consequences.

For more information about the workshop, including childcare during the workshop, contact St. Paul’s School at [spschool@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:spschool@stpaulshouston.org) or 713-528-6779.

#### University Announces New Ministry Programs

Drew Theological School announces two Doctor of Ministry programs beginning Fall 2010: Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Growth and Community Development in Muskogee, OK, and Doctor of Ministry Online.

Submit your free online application at [www.drew.edu/theo/apply](http://www.drew.edu/theo/apply) or learn more at [www.drew.edu/theo/texas](http://www.drew.edu/theo/texas).

The seminary offers 100% tuition scholarships for United Methodists with undergraduate GPAs of 3.5 or above. Learn

more at [www.drew.edu/theo/umscholarship](http://www.drew.edu/theo/umscholarship).

Also, earn your Certification in Spiritual Formation from Drew Theological School.

Certification will develop and enhance the skills required to provide spiritual leadership to individuals and in small group ministries within the local church. Classes are available online and in an intensive format. Learn more at [www.drew.edu/theo/certification](http://www.drew.edu/theo/certification).

#### Take Charge of Your Mind - Owner’s Manual to Your Brain

Based on their forthcoming book, Dr. Carol Kershaw and Dr. Bill Wade are offering a seminar called *The Owner’s Manual to Your Brain for Family and Life Success*.

This seminar will teach you how to take charge of your mind and focus on helping parents learn how to raise successful children.

The seminar will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 24, in Fondren Hall of St. Paul’s UMC Houston, 5501 Main Street.

For more information about the \$35 seminar or to register, please see [www.mhehouston.com](http://www.mhehouston.com) or call Dr. Kershaw at 713-529-4588.

### Mission Opportunities

#### Layette Kits Needed

Many women do not have swaddling clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. Layette kits provide basic supplies for their baby’s needs.

#### Layette Kit Assembly & Shipping Instructions Layette Kit Items Value: \$35 per kit

6 cloth diapers  
2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits  
2 baby washcloths  
2 gowns or sleepers  
2 diaper pins  
1 sweater, open in the front  
2 receiving blankets  
Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

All items included in kits must be NEW items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items—nothing more. Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

#### Packing The Kits

Box Weight: Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.

#### Shipping The Kits

Complete 2 packing lists - one for your records and one to put on the shipping box. Paste the shipping label / packing list on the outside of each box you send. The shipping list helps the depot to quickly process kits.

Processing & Shipping Costs: Please enclose an envelope containing at least \$1 for each kit you send. This donation enables kits to be sent without delay to areas in need. For Cleaning Buckets: \$1.50.

**Send Spotlight submissions to:**

**[thelmaj@methodists.net](mailto:thelmaj@methodists.net) or call 713-521-9383**