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

Lutherans and Methodists celebrate connection through faith and service



Bishop Michael Rinheart and Bishop Janice Riggle Huie officiate the full communion service of the United Methodist and Lutheran churches.

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Director of Communications
Texas Annual Conference

Shared faith is the foundation upon which the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Methodist Church officially celebrated full communion together on Sunday, January 17.

Approximately 300 people gathered at St. Paul's UMC in Houston to affirm "full communion" between the denominations. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie of the United Methodist Church and Bishop Michael Rinheart of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America presided at the Festival Eucharist. The service included a foot washing ceremony, a moment to remember one's baptism, communion and more.

Full communion does not constitute a merger of churches; but it does confer rights across denominational lines, and enable a Lutheran pastor to serve a United Methodist Church and allow a Methodist pastor to be appointed to Evangelical Lutheran churches.

A 10-year conversation surrounding the denominations' core values culminated in a focus on common beliefs – in the triune God, baptism and grace – that position the two churches to partner in making Christ's love felt throughout the world.

Great responders to Great Commission

Service – also is common ground for the Evangelical Lutherans and United

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Helping Haiti

BMCR Youth bring donations of health kits for the UMCOR Disaster Relief Fund for earthquake victims. See story on page 6.



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

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A new Episcopal residence

At Annual Conference in May, 2009, a resolution was passed giving authority to the Committee on Episcopal Residence to recommend to the Council on Finance and Administration and the Conference Trustees, the sale of the old Episcopal residence and the purchase of a new one.

The home which has been purchased, located at 2042 Southgate Boulevard near Rice University, is new construction and includes many energy efficient features. The front rooms of the house, a living and dining room, flow naturally into the kitchen and family room, which are located along the rear of the house. The back yard, which is small but functional, is shaded by a large oak tree. The whole first floor will provide welcoming entertainment spaces for our current bishop and those to come.

Upstairs, the areas are more

private. Three bedrooms, including the master bedroom, each have their own bathroom. A study, which will be an at-home work space for the bishop, opens on to a small balcony which overlooks the back yard. The tranquil view will certainly make it a comfortable place for study and work.

Before the decision to make an offer on the new home, many houses were considered for their appropriateness as an Episcopal residence. The committee considered both older and more recent construction in several different neighborhoods. In addition to considering the drive time from the house to the Methodist Center, the committee looked at such considerations as wheelchair accessibility, maintenance of the neighborhood common areas, the usefulness of the spaces within the house, the quietness of the neighborhood and access to area

amenities. Additionally, because the old residence sold so quickly, the committee had to consider what would have to be done to a new residence to make it move-in ready in a time period that would save the conference the expense of making two moves.

The CF&A approved a spending differential between the sale of the old residence and the purchase of the new residence of \$450,000, \$150,000 to come from a standing building fund, and the remaining \$300,000 from conference reserve funds. The sale of the old home netted the conference, after all repairs, contingencies and closing costs, \$713,491. Thirty years ago, the old Episcopal residence was purchased for \$150,000. The new home cost \$1,091,053. Additional costs included a built-in study with a wall length shelving unit, complete with all electrical and technology connections,

and a wood fence for the back yard. The \$20,000 cost of these items has been underwritten by St. Luke's and St. Paul's United Methodist Churches. Shutters in the new home added \$10,900 and closing costs and other contingencies amounted to \$20,000. There are pending amenities yet to be completed.

The wonderful new home for our Episcopal residence will last for years to come and we have stayed within the guidelines of CF&A. The new residence will prove to be as good an investment for the Texas Annual Conference as the old parsonage proved to be.

With much gratitude to the entire Annual Conference, Episcopal Chair, Rev. Jim Bankston, and Conference Lay Leader, Leah Taylor.

Call to lay ministry is not a suggestion

Event to explore biblical grounds for lay involvement in ministry February 4-6

Early Christians did not receive a suggestion, but a call, to faithfully express their baptism vows, according to the Apostle Paul. And, contemporary Christians are no different. Laypersons are called to serve in accordance with the charisms or gifts they have received through the Holy Spirit in their lives.

"Celebrating a Call to Lay Ministry" is a multi-day conference for laypersons and clergypersons, February 4-6. It consists of plenary addresses by renowned speakers, Q and A sessions, dinner conversations with the speakers, and inspiring worship experiences at St. Paul's UMC in Houston.

Mobilizing and equipping laypersons for the general ministry of the church is a sacred responsibility and exciting opportunity, said Rev. Tom Pace, senior pastor of St. Luke's UMC Houston.

"Many laity want to be recognized and trained to serve in meaningful ways to further realize God's Kingdom on earth," said Pace. "To be attentive to God's movement means, in part, that one becomes an active participant with laypersons as they renew their baptismal vows in

their unfolding life as faithful Christians. Thus the vision authored by St. Paul moves closer to fulfillment, '...equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ' (Ephesians 4:12)."

Goals and facilitators

What will happen at the event? Laity will be inspired to serve; thereby, expressing their baptismal vows. Clergy will be motivated to embrace a laity-based model of ministry.

"Celebrating a Call" will feature the following presenters:

Kathleen Norris

An award-winning poet, writer, and author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Cloister Walk*, *Dakota*, and *Amazing Grace*, she combines live-ly writing with personal transparency and intellectual rigor.

Widowed in 2003, Norris now divides her time between South Dakota and Hawaii, where she volunteers and helps teach a spirituality class for teenagers.



She speaks about the spiritual journey, with its differing contours as one seeks to live the life of faithful service to God.

Rev. Vance Ross

The Deputy General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleship for the United Methodist Church, Ross served as senior pastor of First UMC in Hyattsville, Maryland, and other pastoral appointments in West Virginia, before joining GBOD. In addition to conference leadership duties in the West Virginia Annual Conference, he was elected as a delegate to numerous Jurisdictional and General Conferences.

A native of Bluefield, W.V., Ross has earned degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College and Gammon Theological Seminary, with honors.

Rev. Ross is a commanding speaker whose experience as a pastor and commitment to lay ministry will provide an essential perspective for the conference.



Dr. Ben Witherington

The Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary, Witherington earned a Ph.D. from the University of Durham in England. He has written more than 30 books, including *The Jesus Quest* and *The Paul Quest*, both of which were selected as top biblical studies by Christianity Today. In addition, he has authored six biblical commentaries.

His expertise has been sought by national media outlets including NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, and The Discovery Channel.

Attendees will also be uplifted by exceptional worship services led by Leah Taylor, Lay Leader of the Texas Conference, and the Rev. Dr. James Bankston, Senior Minister at St. Paul's UMC in Houston.

Registration is \$145. For more information, call The Methodist Hospital department of Spiritual Care and Education at 713-441-2381, or visit www.methodistspiritualcare.com/laityconference.





Lutherans and Methodists celebrate connection through faith and service

Continued from page 1

Methodists. Both denominations are global service organizations, and had workers on-the-ground in Haiti on January 12, when a catastrophic earthquake struck. Even as they celebrated full communion, they mourned the loss of seminarian Ben Lawson, who was the son of a Lutheran Bishop; Rev. Sam Dixon, top executive of the United Methodist Committee on Relief; and Rev. Clint Rabb, General Board of Global Ministries mission volunteer coordinator.

“The loss we feel is enor-

mous, but it’s tiny,” said Bishop Janice Riggle Huie. “These losses are multiplied thousands upon thousands for the people of Haiti. On one hand we rejoice, but we also grieve the loss of friends. Yet, the work goes on.”

What is the work that United Methodists and Evangelical Lutherans commit to? “Bring hope, healing and possibility of new life to the people of Haiti,” Huie said, and to “show how people of God – particularly our two denominations – work together

to bring about life.”

Because both denominations believe in the “priesthood of all believers” through baptism, lay workers are essential to spreading the Gospel and spreading the love of God.

“We are called to be signs and instruments of God’s reconciliation on Earth,” Huie said. “We have many gifts among us, and we believe there is one God who animates them.”

The offering raised at the full communion celebration was donated to Haiti Relief.



Top and Bottom Right: Bishop Michael Rineheart and Bishop Janice Riggle Huie process into St. Paul’s UMC Houston and later share the cup during communion.

Bottom Left: Dr. Jim Bankston, St. Paul’s UMC Houston Senior Pastor, reads the Gospel lesson.

Lutheran Minister pours water in the baptismal font, while participants are encouraged to remember their baptism.



‘God is our refuge and strength...so, we will not fear when earthquakes come.’

(Psalm 46:1-2 NLT)

A hand in Haiti’s recovery

By Cassie Smith
The Eagle
Bryan-College Station

Two years ago, members of A&M United Methodist Church in College Station raised \$11,000 to build a portable medical clinic as part of a mission project.

The crate was delivered to an orphanage 21 1/2 miles outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in



Volunteer pilots working with groups such as Bahamas Methodist Habitat are making several flights a day to Haiti taking people out and carrying medical supplies and relief workers into the country.
UMNS Photos courtesy of Bahamas Methodist Habitat.

October. Church members found out this week that not only did it survive Tuesday’s 7.0-magnitude earthquake, but it is already being used to help the injured.

Church member Bill Marr said the congregation has begun collecting money to build a second unit to help

“I think it just reinforces the fact that whenever you have the opportunity to do something good, you do it because you never know when and where you’re going to have an impact in the world,” he said.

Turning the 40-by-10-foot shipping container into a medical office was a project for church members who said.

Christian Alliance founder Jess Stokley said Friday that he had talked to the people working at the clinic, who reported that 50 to 60 people are being treated there each day.

Stokley said his organization is finishing work on eight similar portable units to send to Haiti, but hundreds more will likely be needed to help the country recover.

“It’s a leap of faith because you do something and it’s gone and you go, ‘Boy, I hope that goes somewhere where it can actually be used,’” he said.

Church member David from work or home to go on a mission trip to another country.

The steel container was purchased from Christian Alliance for Humanitarian Aid Inc. after a church member heard the idea at a conference.

Marr said about 40 people worked on the project, which included building three examination rooms and installing doors, fluorescent lighting and a generator for power. Everything in the container can be strapped down so the unit can be picked up and shipped anywhere in the world.



A&M UMC members completed a portable health clinic two years ago that is on the ground in Haiti.

Brochu said many were wondering whether the clinic survived the earthquake.

Brochu said the church hopes to raise enough money to begin building a similar clinic by the end of the month.

“Of course our little container is just a drop in the bucket compared to what the need is,” he said. “There’s always going to be a need, always. It’s a relevant project no matter when you do it. There’s just always so much need out there.”

Linda Marr said the medical clinic wasn’t immediately sent to Haiti because it was being used as a model for other people to see how the project can be done.

Once church members found out, she said, they began pushing to have it sent to be used for its intended purpose.

It’s a “God thing” that the clinic landed in Haiti just two months before the earthquake hit, she said.

This article was originally published in The Eagle.



Rev. Clinton Rabb

By Elliott Wright
General Board of Global Ministries

The Rev. Clinton Rabb, 61, a leader in the United Methodist Church’s extensive mission volunteer program, died on January 17 in a Florida hospital of injuries caused when he was trapped for 55 hours in the ruins of a hotel destroyed by the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

The native of Texas was head of the office of Mission Volunteers of the General Board of Global Ministries. He was the second staff member of the

agency to die from earthquake injuries.

“Clint Rabb was a tough and fearless advocate for the least and most vulnerable of God’s children,” said Bishop Joel N. Martinez, the interim general secretary (CEO) of Global Ministries. “He traveled the world encouraging volunteer ministry in his service on behalf of Christ and the church. He gave his life for others and we celebrate his faithful witness.”

Rabb was in Haiti for meetings and contacts aimed at improving health services in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Global Ministries has long-standing relations with the Methodist Church in Haiti, and dozens of volunteer mission groups from United Methodist congregations in the United States send teams to work in the country every year.

“Our grief is overwhelming, in part because just hours ago we were grateful for his rescue,” said Bishop Bruce R. Ough of West Ohio, president of the General Board of Global Ministries. He called Rabb “a tireless, dedicated advocate for

volunteers in mission around the globe.”

Long Career in Mission
Rabb grew up in northeast Texas, in a family that has been Methodist for generations. “We lived as a family in the shadow of the Almighty,” he said in a 2001 article for New World Outlook, the mission magazine of Global Ministries. “We didn’t do this in a conspicuous manner or make a big deal of it. I was taken to church on Sundays, there were prayers at meals, we tried to be good, and we were supposed to make life in our community a little better.”

A member of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference of his denomination, he had served as head of the Mission Volunteers unit of Global Ministries since 2006. The staff of this area works closely with regional and jurisdictional mission volunteer networks, represented by United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM).

Prior to joining Global Ministries in 1996, he was an executive for special initiatives in the Evangelization and

Texan rescued from earthquake, dies of injuries

Rabb held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Austin (Texas) College, a Master of Divinity degree from the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a Master of Arts in counseling from Trinity University.

His wife, the Rev. Suzanne Field Rabb, is also a member of the Southwest Texas Conference. They have eight children.



A Mexican rescue team frees Anna Zizi from the home of the parish priest at Port-au-Prince’s Roman Cathedral on Jan. 19.
Photos courtesy of Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance.

United Methodist Relief Executive dies before rescue from hotel ruins in Haiti



Rev. Sam Dixon

By Elliott Wright
General Board of Global Ministries

The Rev. Dr. Sam Dixon, head of the humanitarian relief agency of The United Methodist Church, died doing what he loved to do: working for the welfare of the poor and rejected of the world in the name of Jesus Christ. His life ended before he could be rescued from the ruins of a hotel toppled by the powerful earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12.

The executive officer of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was part of a group of mission and relief specialists trapped by the collapse of the Hotel Montana.

Dixon was reportedly alive in the hotel ruins on the morning of January 15. Confirmation of his death before rescue was conveyed to Global Ministries through several sources, including eyewitnesses from a Methodist guest house in Port-au-Prince, where Dixon and his colleagues had been staying.

Frequent press reports throughout the day on January 15 asserting his safety were incorrect.

He and the Rev. Clint Rabb, head of the United Methodist office of mission volunteers, and the Rev. James Gullety, a former missionary and now consultant

to UMCOR, were at the hotel for meetings with representatives of other organizations, making plans to improve medical services in Haiti.

“Sam Dixon was a tireless servant of the church of Jesus Christ on behalf of all of us,” said Bishop Joel N. Martinez, interim general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries. “His death is an incalculable loss to Global

Ministries, UMCOR and our worldwide ministry of relief to God’s most vulnerable children. Our directors and staff extend their condolences to Sam’s wife,

Cindy, their children, and their wider circle of friends and colleagues.”

Bishop Janice Riggle Hule of Texas, president of UMCOR, said that Dixon “was an extremely gifted minister of the Gospel. He lived his life following the commandments of Jesus to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and love the least of these – all over the world. Jesus is holding him dear, and we are in prayer for his family.”

Writing in the January 2010 issue of Global Ministries’ mission magazine, Dixon recalled an experience in a refugee camp:



“The little girl held my hand as we walked through the camp. ‘This is my home,’ she said, as we paused before a canvas tent with a wooden floor provided by the United Nations. In

this large tent several families lived, each with a story of significant horror to tell. The little girl had witnessed the death of her father and brothers. Only she and her mother survived—scared, alone, hungry, sick, and starved. There are too many such stories in the world.”

Dixon was a native of North Carolina where he served for 24 years as a pastor. He came to the General Board of Global Ministries in 1998 to serve as director of field operations of the non-governmental agency (NGO) section of UMCOR. He then became head of the United

Methodist Development Fund and moved up to head the unit on Evangelization and Church Growth. Dixon was tapped to head UMCOR in 2007.

Educated at the University of North Carolina and the Chicago Theological Seminary, Dixon was a member of the North Carolina Annual Conference. He and his wife have four children and two grandchildren. He is also survived by his mother and three sisters.

UMCOR was part of a group of mission and relief specialists trapped by the collapse of the Hotel Montana.



BMCR Martin Luther

'Texas Conference youth united to explore African American



Alicia Ringer dances to the song "Someone Died for Me," which also encouraged people to exercise "the precious right to vote."

A mass choir of youth from churches throughout the Texas Annual Conference provided the soundtrack for the journey through African-American history.

Youth across the Texas Annual Conference connection recently observed the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday by chronicling the history of African-Americans - from slavery to freedom, from the back of the bus to a black president.

"African-American History: the Unending Journey" was the theme of the 2010 MLK breakfast celebration. Hosted by the Houston chapter of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the event attracted 400 celebrants.

Children portrayed well known figures throughout history, such as Dr. King and President Barack Obama, in addition to lifting up the deeply moving stories of unknown figures in history - such as enslaved children.

In addition to looking back through history, they also looked forward - and offered up a gift for the people of Haiti. The participants presented 75 health kits to Bishop Janice Riggle Huie

in response to the call issued just days before by UMCOR.

"You don't know how valuable this gift is in a crisis situation," said Bishop Janice Riggle Huie as she held up a health kit. "Someone comes in with water, and then someone comes in and hands you a health kit. And, now for the first time in days, you can wash your face. You can brush your teeth."

These youth exercised the power of the connection, by offering these gifts through BMCR from the following churches: Ebenezer, Jones, Norris Chapel, Spring Woods, St. Andrew's, St. Mark's, St. Mary's, Trinity, Trinity East, Riverside, A Safe Place Christian Center, and The Awakenings Movement.

In the spirit of Dr. King, the youth reminded the annual conference that collectively we can do more than we can alone.



Above Photo: Jonathan Hill portrays a Young African Warrior whose mother warns him not to venture away from the village alone because of slave catchers.

Above Right: Ja'Caryous Tisdell delivers a powerful speech as President Barack Obama.



Bishop Janice Riggle Huie thanks BMCR youth for donating health kits and explains how valuable its contents are to those in crisis.



King, Jr. celebration

history: the Unending Journey'



Additionally, the following new officers were installed: Dr. Robert McGee, Trinity UMC, Chairperson; Angela Lankford, Ebenezer UMC, Vice Chairperson; Rev. Anjelita Dirden, Asbury UMC, Secretary; Juanita Jackson, Trinity East UMC, Treasurer.

To bolster the connection outside the city of Houston, BMCR has named the following district representatives: Rev. Terence Hagans, Central North; Rev. Ramonica Malone, Central South; Rev. Darrell Houston, East; Rev. Virginia Wall, North; Rev. Elnora M. Nunnally, Northwest; Rev. Lorraine Brown, South; Rev. Derrick Noble, Southeast; Rev. Ed Jones, Southwest, and Rev. Rick Nance, West. Call, e-mail or Facebook an officer or representative, to ensure you stay connected.



Top: A prayerful praise dancer, Chelsea Joseph, portrays one of youth who died in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

Middle: Flutist Lexas Gadison underscores the eulogy of the four girls killed in the Birmingham church bombing with "Jesus Loves Me."



Top Right: Michael Walker delivers Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s eulogy of the "4 Little Girls."



Bottom Right: Jazzy girl Chesley Walton offers an overview of the cultural breakthroughs of the Harlem Renaissance.

Left: Dr. Robert McGee of Trinity UMC Houston, who is the new Chairperson of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, outlines his goals for the organization.



Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

Fellowship Opportunities

Military Support Group Meetings at Memorial Drive UMC

This is a support group for family and friends who have loved ones serving in the military or working overseas.

The group will meet the third Saturday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at La Madeleine's, 12955 Memorial Drive.

For more information, contact Sheri Kelley, 713/468-8356, ext. 119 or sherikelley@mdumc.org.

Learning Opportunities

Tax Seminars Offered

Heartspring Methodist Foundation and the Texas Annual Conference Center for Connectional Resources are sponsoring seminars for clergy, as well as staff and laity who participate in the financial management of a local church.

The cost is \$45 for each session or \$80 for both and includes all books and materials. The seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at St. Paul's UMC in Houston with presenter Amy Hume.

Presenter Frank Sommerville will host a seminar at Marvin UMC in Tyler on Thursday, February 25, 2010.

For registration and additional information, call 713-533-3780 or 1-800-521-9617.

St. Paul's UMC Houston Offers CPR and First Aid Training

American Heart Association-approved CPR and First Aid training classes will be available through St. Paul's UMC School on Saturday, January 30. The classes will be taught by Cintas First Aid and Safety.

The CPR session, covering infants through adults will be from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and the First Aid class will be from 12:15 to 2 p.m. with a lunch break in between. Cost for only the CPR class is \$30, both for \$55. The First Aid class will not be available separately.

For more information or to register, contact the school at spschool@stpaulshouston.org or 713-528-6779. Childcare will be available for registrants during the training.

New Church Leadership Institute

Are you planning to start new UM churches this quadrennium? Mark your calendar for February 8-10, 2010. The United Methodist New Church Leadership Institute at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is designed to equip potential new church pastors with the knowledge and skills for a successful new church start.

Key Note Speakers are Jim Griffith, Don Smith, Candace Lewis, Rusti Moore, Brad Kalajainen, and Clif Christopher.

Registration is now open for all Annual Conferences. For more

information, contact Dr. Bob Crossman, Arkansas Conference, at bcrossman@arumc.org. To register, contact Rose Kuonen, rkuonen@arumc.org. For housing and meals, go to www.mountsequoyah.org and download a registration form or contact Mount Sequoyah, 800-760-8126.

Sexual Orientation and the Church

St. Paul UMC Houston will offer lectures, small-group discussion, and question and answer sessions discussing the theological, psychological, and local church perspectives on this topic. The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Speakers are Dr. Joerg Rieger, SMU-Perkins School of Theology; Dr. Gerald DeSobe, Krist Samaritan Center for Counseling and Education; and Dr. Jim Bankston, St. Paul's UMC, Houston.

Pre-registration cost is \$20; \$30 at the door, with lunch included. CEU and Scholarships are available.

Contact Laura Young, 936-581-9401, or admin@breakingthesilencetxc.org.

Passionate Worship Workshop

Experience passionate worship through 3 diverse worship services and learn from others through 15 workshops. Dates for the workshop are January 29 - 30, at Clear Lake UMC, 16335 El Camino Real Dr., Houston, 77062, 281-488-5110 x 140.

For additional information, visit, <http://www.txcumc.org/pws2010>.

Mission Opportunities

Call for Health Kits

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has issued a call for Health Kits, which provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene and nutrition classes.

Please follow the directions exactly. Include all items; do not add items that are not on the lists. Extra gifts, though given with the best of intentions, render a kit unusable and must be removed. Note: All items must be new.

Place the following items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag:

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27")
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 1 large tube of toothpaste (4.5 oz. or larger, expiration date must be 6 months or longer in advance of the date of shipment to UMCOR Sager Brown)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

Value: \$12 per kit.

In a separate envelope, please send a check for at least \$1 for each kit to help UMCOR Sager Brown with the costs of processing and shipping kits around the world. Important: Please do not include any religious, political or patriotic notes or emblems in any kit.

Deliver kits to TAC Disaster Response Consultant Rev. Clay Whitaker at Old River Terrace UMC, 161 I-10 East, Channelview, TX, 77530 or Rev. Bill Newcomb at Cokesbury UMC.

Son Run, a Healthy Way to Help Local Charities

Strawbridge United Methodist Church is sponsoring the Second Annual Son Run, January 30, 2010 at 9 a.m.

This run will cover a two-mile loop course starting at Strawbridge UMC with options for one half, and one mile distances. For younger participants and their parents, there will also be a smaller course in the parking lot along with relays and an obstacle course. Water and a first aid stations will be available.

Call the office at 281-360-4500 to register, or visit www.strawbridge-umc.org. Participants will receive Son Run shirts and all proceeds will benefit local charities such as Humble Area Assistance Ministries. This is a fun way to promote health and well being while serving your community.

**How is your church responding to the Haiti earthquake?
Send stories and photos to:**

thelmaj@methodists.net or call 713-521-9383