



Cross Connection

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

Two Sections, Section A

076000 Volume 155

Number 8

June 27, 2008

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



UM ARMY blesses youth and those they serve

The youth of St. Peter's UMC in Katy and John Wesley UMC in Houston take a celebration break during a week of volunteering in East Texas.

More photos on pages 4 and 5.

Beat the 'Sunday Blues'

CLT reviews year, encourages leaders to keep the faith

By Eleanor L. Colvin
Texas Annual Conference
Director of Communications

The June Core Leadership Team meeting focused on faithfulness and fruitfulness in the face of kingdom building burnout.

Rev. Jerry House Jr. of Christ UMC in College Station led a devotion based on the book *The Three Signs of a Miserable Job* and Paul's letters in 1 and 2 Timothy.

The book, by business consultant Patrick Lencioni, explored the notion of the "Sunday Blues." House defined Lencioni's Sunday Blues as the depression people feel toward the end of the weekend as the time nears to return to work.

Job dissatisfaction typically brings on the Sunday Blues. And three factors typically bring

on job dissatisfaction: irrelevance, immeasurability and anonymity.

It's a logical explanation in corporate America, but is it possible for church workers feel these Sunday Blues? Absolutely.

House offered a look at church work through the lens of "miserable job" criteria.

"Irrelevance – what I do, doesn't make a difference; it doesn't impact anybody," said House. "Anonymity – nobody knows me...[I'm the person who] greets people, or runs the children's ministry and nobody

knows my parents' names, or that my sister has cancer or that my wife and I have problems. Immeasurability – how we are communicating with people

"Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

1 Timothy 4:15-16 [NIV]

when they visit our church? How are we engaging people?"

The absence of any of these elements can trigger dissatisfaction and burnout – even in Christians.

"I wonder if one of the reasons Paul wrote this letter is because Timothy is approaching burnout," House said.

Just as Paul encouraged Timothy in 2 Timothy 1, House lifted up verses 5-7 of that chapter to encourage the CLT and the leaders – clergy and laity – of the annual conference.

I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.



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

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



Get trained to lead Disciple Bible Studies in your area

Study designed for churches of all sizes, and people at all points on the spiritual journey

By Jill E. Krone
TAC Disciple Bible Studies Taskforce Coordinator

The DISCIPLE Bible Studies (DBS) Taskforce of the Texas Annual Conference is offering mini training events for persons who want to bring these life-changing studies to their church and community.

The United Methodist Publishing House, which publishes the DISCIPLE series, has scaled back the number of national training events offered.

With the closest leadership training several hundred miles away, the Texas Annual Conference DBS Taskforce has elected to offer mini events in host churches of requesting districts.

During these three-hour sessions, attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the study format, explore various ways in which DISCIPLE studies might be offered, scheduled and funded, and discuss advertising and registration

at different phases of their “walk” and by those desiring renewal of spirit and a deeper faith relationship. Training is encouraged as a way to prepare and strengthen those in your church who will assume leadership roles.

itating DISCIPLE Studies.

If your district or church is interested in hosting a DISCIPLE mini training event for your region, contact Jill Krone, TAC Disciple Bible Studies Taskforce Coordinator at 903-473-3755 or

jill.krone@gmail.com, for details and scheduling information.

The DISCIPLE Taskforce is waiting to assist and support you with any questions you might have as you offer these transforming studies to your congregation. What a great time this is to share DISCIPLE Studies with your church or community.

“If you make my word your home, you will indeed be my disciples.”

John 8:31

details that might benefit their particular group.

DISCIPLE Studies allow your church the resources necessary to encourage devotions and disciplines within the congregation. The materials and studies can be utilized in churches that are large or small; with persons

When do we start?

The first mini training event is set for Sunday, July 13, at First UMC in Gladewater (217 W. Quitman Avenue, in the North District). The session is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., and is being offered free of charge to interested laity or clergy.

To ensure an appropriate amount of materials are available, please RSVP with Jill Krone at 903-473-3755. Attendance is open to anyone in any district who would like to know more about facil-



Center leaders share reports of fruitfulness with CLT

Leaders of the Texas Annual Conference Centers for Excellence celebrated the successes of the past conference year during the June Core Leadership Team meeting, and shared their expectancy of fruitfulness in 2008-2009.

The Center for Clergy Excellence is welcoming its second class of interns. The inaugural class included nine undergraduate students or recent graduates. This year’s class includes three returning interns and seminary students from Duke Divinity School and Candler School of Theology.

“That brings our total to 22 – more than double what we had in the first year,” said Rev. B.T. Williamson, director of the Center for Clergy Excellence.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie celebrated the progress: “All these things have a pretty short payoff cycle. We’ll start seeing results really soon.”

Also on the Clergy Excellence slate is the upcoming Candidacy Summit, August

7-9. More than 80 candidates from throughout the conference will gather.

“This is an unprecedented approach to candidacy,” Williamson said.

“They will start in August and in February be finished ... We feel we can take them through efficiently, effectively and thoroughly in the six month process.”

The Center for Congregational Excellence reported on the first year of the transformation process, noting that fewer Texas Annual Conference churches declined from 2006 to 2007.

“If these statistics are to be believed, we moved from 15 to 55 transforming churches. In 2006, 320 were categorized as declining, and now there are only 101,” said Dr. Karen

Dorris, director of the Center for Congregational Excellence.

“All statistics are based on a percentage of average worship attendance, which equalizes

“You don’t have to be a mega church to be a transforming church.”

-- Dr. Karen Dorris

things size wise. So, you don’t have to be a mega church to a transforming church.”

The Center for Missional Excellence reported on the groundbreaking activities of the Hispanic Task Force. Rev. Cynthia Harvey, director of the Center for

Missional Excellence, hosted a breakfast at annual conference for pastors of all ethnicities who are interested in Hispanic ministries.

Since that time, the Fellowship of Hispanic

Ministries has assembled to assess ministry needs, become acquainted with fruitful Hispanic ministries from Galveston to Mt. Pleasant, and to visualize what a vibrant ethnic ministry would look like in the TAC.

“The meeting was so rich in conversation, and it was done in ‘Spanglish,’” Harvey said. “They are an incredible group of folk who are ready to do something.”

Among the accomplishments of the task force to date, are the addition of an Español button on the TAC web site to connect Spanish speakers to United Methodist resources and the live translation of Bishop Huie’s 2008 Episcopal address at annual conference.

For more information on the above programs visit www.txcumc.org. Click the Administration tab to access the Centers for Excellence.



Community Champions

Bay Harbour UMC recovery ministry earns honor

By Constance Bovier
Bay Harbour UMC

Bay Harbour United Methodist Church in League City has been honored for its commitment to drug and alcohol prevention education through the activities of its Safe Harbour Ministry team.

Pastor John Newsome and Safe Harbour Team Facilitator Margie Oden accepted the Community Champion award from the Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Families, an organization that unites more than 60 community resources in efforts directed toward the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among young persons.

Each year, the Bay Area Alliance recognizes individuals and organizations chosen from law enforcement agencies, city governments, schools, community service agencies, businesses and churches. Bay Harbour UMC was the only faith-based award recipient for the 2007-2008 school year.

"This award was a great honor," says Newsome. "Too often, churches hunker down and don't interact with the community, but we want to make a difference for our whole com-

munity and all students, whether they're Christian or not, whether they have a connection with our church or not."

Newsome has been a team member and vocal advocate for the Safe Harbour Ministry since its formation at Bay Harbour in 2007.

"We realize that life is difficult and that people are bringing a lot of heartaches and family issues to church. We want to provide a 'safe harbour' where people can heal and cope with life." He adds that he wants Bay Harbour to be much more than merely a hospital for addictions. "Sometimes families get stuck in dysfunction, but we want our church to be of help on all stages of the journey – to be a place where recovering individuals and families can go on to grow and bloom."

Safe Harbour's origins

Safe Harbour is a confidential Christ-centered ministry based upon the Faith Partners model of the Rush Center of Johnson Institute, a program endorsed by the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. Today, the General Board of Global Ministries Special

Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (SPSARV) is working with the Rush Center, developing leadership for ministries of prevention, treatment and advocacy in all jurisdictions

children," she says. "When I went to Al-Anon and my children went to Alateen [12-step programs for family members of alcoholics and addicts], we learned a new way to cope, but

the Safe Harbour ministry and Bay Harbour's youth program is critical. Bay Harbour's Youth Director, Lisa Garcia, serves as liaison between the staff and Safe Harbour, and two senior high students and a college student participate on the Safe Harbour team.

During the last year, the Safe Harbour team hosted a community-wide seminar that addressed underage drinking and drug abuse, and has encouraged community participation in the "Fifth Quarter" – after-football socials conducted by Bay

Harbour's youth.

While much of Safe Harbour's energies focus on education and prevention among young persons, the team also offers awareness education for adults. Statistics show that two-thirds of all students in grades eight through twelve in Texas have used alcohol, and recently Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) reported that one third of nearly 200,000 students surveyed said that their parents do not set clear rules about underage drinking.

The team is also developing an interactive adult Sunday school curriculum to generate more open conversation about addiction.

In September, Safe Harbour will coordinate its first Recovery Sunday with Pastor Newsome. The event is designed to annually remind the congregation of the team's services and capabilities, and offer personal stories of faith, hope and recovery.

For information about the Safe Harbour Ministry, visit www.bayharbourumc.org. To learn more about beginning a Faith Partners team ministry team, visit www.rushcenter.org.

"We realize that life is difficult and that people are bringing a lot of heartaches and family issues to church. We want to provide a 'safe harbour' where people can heal and cope with life."

-- Pastor John Newsome

of the UM church. A key feature of the Faith Partners model is its adaptability to the needs of individual churches and communities.

Margie Oden, who co-facilitates the Safe Harbour team with her husband Don, says that her personal history compelled her to spearhead this vital ministry in their church.

"I was previously in an alcoholic marriage for 22 years, and I saw how it affected me and my

it was a long time before I could talk openly and share about it. Today, I see others around me suffering in silence, doing everything they can to cover up the problem, and doing even more damage to themselves, the children and the alcoholic/addict."

Through Safe Harbour, Oden is encouraging her congregation to accept addiction as an illness, not a disgrace. "Our team ministry is letting people know that they don't have to go through this alone. Having community around you helps speed recovery for family members and even for the person with the addiction."

Safe Harbour services

The Safe Harbour team works in four primary areas: education and prevention; early intervention; referrals to community resources and recovery support. As a vibrant family church – with many young people in Sunday worship and 30-40 youth in Wednesday night Bible study – Bay Harbour is dedicated to empowering youth to make wise choices when confronted with peer pressure and easily available alcohol and drugs.

A close relationship between



The Safe Harbour Ministry team at Bay Harbour UMC includes a cross section of the congregation committed to helping others affected by alcoholism and addictions.



Blessings



Each summer hundreds of youth and adult mentors go on working mission trips throughout Texas as a part of the UM ARMY ministry. These mission trips help clients by building wheel chair ramps, making minor repairs, cleaning up yards and cutting grass, painting, and more, and bless the volunteers in the process.

The youth of St. Peter's UMC in Katy and John Wesley UMC in Houston united June 8-14, to make a difference in the lives of several families in the Newton area, and to work at the Piney Woods Safe House.

In addition to painting and cleaning, their work included installing gutters and downspouts; building shelves for the storage shed; re-seating

shingles; rebuilding bookshelves; treating fire ants and wasps; and fixing a window screen that had been removed in an attempted break-in.

While these activities are of benefit to clients and communities, the primary goal is the spiritual formation of the youth. The youth work hard for their clients, and the daily worship and prayer is focused on relating their work experiences to their spiritual lives – to show them how they are working as part of the body of Christ in God's world and for God's children.

UM ARMY (The United Methodist Action Reach Out Mission by Youth) is dedicated to making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Photos by Rev. Joe Miller Jr.





s of UM ARMY



John Wesley UMC and St. Peter's UMC youth wield power tools, such as sanders and circular saws with expertise.

Other volunteers meticulously scrape peeling paint and add fresh coats of paint to make residents' home look new again.

To see more photos and read testimonies, visit www.newtomethodist.com, scroll down and click "The UM ARMY 2008."



'Wheels of Love'

First UMC Conroe ministry helps ailing children navigate hospitals, homes, and life

By John Gordon
United Methodist
News Service Freelancer

With just a few modifications, a simple red wagon is transformed into "Lizzie's Limo," enabling 4-year-old leukemia patient Elizabeth Long to navigate her hospital with the help of her family.

"She waves at everybody like she's in a parade," says mom Renee Moore. "She feels like she's the princess. So it helps her."

Elizabeth received one of the first wagons produced by the Wheels of Love ministry launched in 2007 at First United Methodist Church in Conroe. The wagons are customized with IV poles, holders for oxygen bottles, car seats and a trailer.

"It makes the treatment days a lot easier," says Moore. "I would be pushing her in the stroller with one hand and I would be dragging the IV pole with another hand and sometimes having to get both of them on an elevator to go down to day surgery to do the bone marrow or the spinal taps. And it was just very cumbersome trying to maneuver all that."

Setting the wheels in motion

Retired millwright Richard Stanton started the Conroe church ministry to help seriously ill children and their parents

tors or feeding tubes all the time," says Stanton. "It allows the child to be with the rest of the family—take him for a walk down the street, go to the park, go watch big brother play softball."

Church member Phillip Keitel, a retired IRS auditor, helps to customize the wagons. Each one takes about 20 hours. "I just can't turn away from a child in need," says Keitel.

The wagons are given to families regardless of their income. Donations cover the \$350 cost of materials.

Among the beneficiaries are children such as 3-year-old Anthony Castrejon, who is being treated for heart problems and complications including lung, liver and kidney disease and asthma.

"We need the help," says his mother, Elizabeth Castrejon. "God bless them because this is a wonderful idea."

Stanton spreads the word about the wagon availability

help seriously ill children across the United States.

"These kids, you look in their faces and there's absolute innocence. These are God's angels on earth," says Stanton. "And I feel we have an obligation to do the best we can do for them."



Renee Moore buckles her daughter, Elizabeth Long, into a wagon customized by the Wheels of Love ministry of First United Methodist Church in Conroe. Below: Keitel and Stanton outfit a wagon for children with special medical needs.

Photos by John Gordon

"Just the fact that somebody cared enough to take the time — to use their workmanship and their talents to make something that we can use and benefit from and make our life a little bit easier — it just really means a lot."

-- Renee Moore, mother

move more easily through hospitals, their homes and their communities.

"We found that some of the children can't move at all and they have to be on their respira-

through hospitals and social workers. He believes the demand will be big because of the large number of children's hospitals in the area. Eventually, he would like to see the ministry

Keitel agrees. "There's the satisfaction I get when I see these children and their parents receive one of these," he says. "I can see in their eyes what this means to them."

For Elizabeth's family, the wagon serves as both a toy and a tool to help the youngster during

use their workmanship and their talents to make something that we can use and benefit from and



treatments expected to last more than two years at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. The child was diagnosed in August 2007.

"Life is already turned upside down as it is," says Moore. "Just the fact that somebody cared enough to take the time — to

make our life a little bit easier — it just really means a lot."

To view or share the United Methodist News Service video of this story, visit www.txcumc.org under the *news stories link*.



Bishop shares 3 life-shaping questions with young adults

By Brant Mills
TAC Communications

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie's message carried a tone of hopefulness as she spoke with a group of young adults at First UMC Houston's Downtown Campus on Wednesday, June 11. She focused on a theme of looking forward, as young adults begin to take on leadership roles within the church.

Looking back on her own faith journey, she spoke of the transition from growing up in a rural Texas community and the

“You’re the leadership for this church - not just to come... I think you’re the leadership now. Each of you has many, many gifts and you are empowered by God.”

path that lead her through college and on to seminary against the stereotypical gender roles of the day. Huie looked out into the audience and said her life has “revolved around three big questions... though none of these are

questions that you ask once and for all.”

Who am I and who does God want me to become?

Huie said the first question, “Who am I and who does God want me to become?” helps set direction for the future.

“It’s a question about being... It’s about character, it’s about values, it’s about identity,” she said. “It’s a beckoning question. It’s always one more, one more, one more. I didn’t go into ordained ministry with some great sense in mind that I was

going to be a pastor or that I was going to be this or that.

Certainly being Bishop was not even remotely a part of that. It was just

always for one more step. God beckoning me – just one more step. What am I yet to become?”

What am I doing and what is God calling me to do?

She then spoke about the

second question: “What am I doing and what is God calling me to do?”

“It’s the action plan,” she said. “If God is giving me a mission in the last quarter of my leadership in the church..., it would be to pave the way, to make it possible for young adults, clergy and lay, to transition into major leadership up and down the United Methodist Church.”

Who is my neighbor?

The third question – “Who is my neighbor?” – was answered differently when she was a child.

“My neighbors were family, friends... The older I get the more neighbors I have,” she said. “These questions... I think in one way or another are answered every single day of our lives.

“I have never ceased to believe that at some level that God works for good in everything for those who love God and are called according to God’s purpose.”

She asked those in attendance to apply the three questions to the perspective of the woman in Mark 14 who was

criticized by others for anointing Jesus with the alabaster jar of ointment at Bethany.

Huie said this woman was a helpful way for her to understand her own life.

“There was something that helped her come from wherever she was – a sense of God empowering her,” Huie said. “She did whatever she had the power to do. That somehow she received from God and lived out that

sense of empowerment this calling which led her to Jesus.

“The power this woman had stayed focused on the one she loved despite the complaining and criticism of others and Jesus’ response to her was to lift her up and bless her for doing what she could do.”

Huie continued, saying she had to “make it possible for the



As Bishop Janice Riggle Huie spoke with young adults about living God's purpose for their lives, she shared the story of the woman at Bethany with the alabaster jar whose sole focus was Jesus.

generation that will come after [her] to be able to grow and flourish. You’re the leadership for this church - not just to come... I think you’re the leadership now. Each of you has many, many gifts and you are empowered by God. As you listen to God and as you take those next steps I believe that God, like he did to this woman, will make it clear to you.”

Small church makes big impact, awards \$6,000 in scholarships



By Rev. Randall Smith
First UMC, Joaquin

First United Methodist Church in Joaquin recently awarded \$500 scholarships to 12 local graduates.

During a Sunday morning worship service in June, the church recognized the 12 young people who were given scholarships. The church also hosted a luncheon honoring all the graduates, their sponsors, and administrators at Joaquin High School.

Only one of the 12 scholarship recipients is a member of First UMC Joaquin.

As God would have it, the pastor, Rev. Randall Smith, was the elementary school principal when these students started their educational journey.

These students are the beneficiaries of a ministry that started many

years ago, when a young man wanted to go to college but needed some help. First UMC provided that assistance.

It was then decided that awarding scholarships would be a ministry of the church and a scholarship fund was created. The church holds fund-raisers and members donate money in memory or honor of loved ones. In the past 10 years, the small church has awarded over \$60,000 in scholarships.

The 12 who received scholarships from the local church were: Trevor May and Seth Mitchell, who are not pictured; (back row, left to right) Cole Smith, Chad Lawrence, Clayton Carroll, Monica Broadus, Travis Worsham, and Bradley Jones; (front row, left to right) Hannah Matthews, Madeline Silverman, Brad Lawrence and Amanda Russell.



Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

Learning Opportunities

Lay Academy set for July

Preparing Laity for Ministry is the theme for the 2008 Lay Academy hosted by the Central North, Central South, South and Southwest districts of the Texas Annual Conference on July 25-26.

Classes will explore storytelling, mission and outreach, creating a disciple making community and more.

A lay speaker is a professing member of a local church or charge who is ready and desirous to serve the Church and who is well informed on and committed to the Scriptures and the doctrine, heritage, organization and life of the United Methodist Church.

Lay speakers serve the local church or charge in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship, including the interpretation of the Scriptures, doctrine, organization and ministries of the church.

The Lay Academy will be held at Lakewood UMC, 11330 Louetta Road, Houston, Texas. The deadline for early registration (\$25) is July 7. For more information, contact Lakewood UMC at 281-370-2273.

SCJ Lay Speaking Ministries Conference

The South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church will host a Lay Speaking Ministries Conference Friday-Sunday, July 11-13, at the Mount Sequoyah Conference Center.

Doctors Jim and Molly Davis

Scott will teach people to go 'Back to Basics with Wesley.'

A complete brochure and registration information is available at www.mountsequoyah.org. For other details, call the retreat center at 800-760-8126.

Perkins School of Theology Course of Study Program

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

Courses being offered are COS 114 - Pastoral Leadership and Administration, taught by Rev. Jim Crawford; COS 311 - New Testament 1, taught by Dr. Starr Bowen; COS 313 - Our Mission: Evangelism, taught by Rev. Kevin Young and COS 213 - Formation for Discipleship, taught by Rev. Stephanie Scott.

Applications may be secured from District Offices or by contacting Dr. Jimmie A. Reese, Director at 903-586-4116 or e-mail jareese@aol.com. Dr. Reese's address is 1803 Turney Circle, Jacksonville, Texas, 75766. Registration fee is \$60.

Being One: Marriage Seminars

A marriage seminar, "Being One," for engaged and newly married couples is conducted quarterly at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Among the topics examined will be: the natural stages of married life; how to deal with the inevitable and necessary conflicts that arise between two persons who are close; what is intimacy and how not only to achieve it but to

maintain it; how money and sex can be metaphors for how we "talk to each other" in marriage; the many kinds of intimacy that are possible in a marriage; how respect, reciprocity, and shared responsibility are keys to marital satisfaction.

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

For more information, see the Weddings section at www.stpaulshouston.org. To register, contact Katherine Jordan at 713-528-0527 or info@stpaulshouston.org. "Being One" is offered by St. Paul's four times a year. The remaining dates for 2008 are August 16, and November 1.

Fellowship Opportunities

Prayer breakfast invites women to Surrender to God's Blessings

The women of St. Mark's UMC will "Surrender to God's Blessings" at their annual prayer breakfast, Saturday, June 28 at 8 a.m. The event will include interactive prayer opportunities that engage the senses; scriptural meditation time in the church's prayer garden and a dramatic presentation that spotlights women of the Bible who learned to Surrender to God's Blessings. Cost: \$10.

A Women's Day celebration will follow the prayer breakfast on Sunday, June 29, at 11 a.m. Clara Cebrun, a lay member of

Windsor Village UMC will be the guest speaker. For more information, call 713-862-2407 or e-mail Rochelle Cebrun, UMW president, at umw@stmarks1615.com. St. Mark's is located at 1615 Patterson Street in Houston.

Free Tyler concert funds clean water globally

Author Donald Miller and Christian music artist Sara Groves will be in Tyler on July 1 to raise awareness and money for a project to establish safe drinking water in Africa.

The free concert will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. at Bergfeld Park amphitheater and is open to all.

The event is part of an effort called Blood: Water Mission.

Marvin UMC is one of the Tyler churches committed to jointly raise \$40,000 for the cause, according to the event's Web site, bloodwatert Tyler.com.

During the concert on July 1, Miller, author of "Blue Like Jazz," will speak about the mission and Groves, an award-winning singer and songwriter, will perform.

Blood: Water Mission, a non-profit organization, was founded by Christian music band Jars of Clay.

The goal is to make uncontaminated water available in 1,000 communities in sub-Saharan regions of Africa to help battle the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Contaminated water makes those infected by HIV even more susceptible to diseases.

For more information on Blood: Water Mission, visit bloodwatert Tyler.com. To be a part of the

mission's local efforts, contact George Montalvo or Kristen Boldt at 903-253-4202 or 903-330-8163.

Mission Opportunities

PIM Offers Team Leader Training

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

Interested parties can call the church hosting the event to sign up or they can contact the Partners in Mission office.

The training fee of \$15 covers the manual, a snack and lunch. Call Partners In Mission to set up a date. You can contact them at 713-521-9383 or through their website www.partnersinmission.org/.

Spotlight Mission, Fellowship or Learning opportunities at your church.

E-mail events to Thelma Jones, Cross Connections Editor, at thelmaj@methodists.net.