



Cross Connection

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

Two Sections, Section A

076000 Volume 157

Number 46

March 18, 2011

What's Inside

Texas Conference Archives Acquires A Permanent Home 2

United Methodists Respond To Tsunami In Japan

Connectional Giving Appreciated 3

552 Congregations Saluted For Honoring UM Core Value of Connectional Giving 4

First UMC Brazoria - Celebrating A Legacy of 175 Years of Ministry 7

Spotlight On Local Church Ministries 8

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

Connectional giving appreciated, even amid payout decline

On behalf of the ministries and mission of the Texas Annual Conference and the whole United Methodist Church, I want to recognize and thank every church that paid 100% of its apportionments. I also express my appreciation to those congregations that stretched and worked to do the best possible toward reaching 100% of their goal. I am aware that some congregations went into their reserves while others made heroic efforts in this difficult economic year. Thanks to all of you.

Our conference payout this year was 84.57%, much lower than is customary for us. Yet, as we examined the numbers more carefully, we discovered that 60% of our shortfall was in a total of 10 congregations. The district superintendents and I are working directly with all those congregations to learn the cause of their challenge and to address it specifically. Despite the economic uncertainties, the vast majority of our congregations paid their apportionments in full. I expect that group to grow even larger in 2011. Your leadership in financial giving is part of the great tradition and culture of this conference.

It has been my objective as your Bishop to build our relationship upon honesty, availability, and straightforward conversation. Now is just such a moment for some serious reflection.

In light of this year's record, we ask ourselves two important questions:

First of all, "How will this level of payout impact our conference's work for 2011?" It's just like your local church — income received makes a difference in the level of ministry a congregation can extend. In consultation with the Council on Finance and Administration,

The Texas Annual Conference will reduce spending to 80% of the program budget for 2011. We will continue to pay salaries and benefits in full as well as our contributions to pensions and health benefits — much as you would do in a local church, but ministry areas will be reduced.

Practically speaking, it means that although we had intended to start as many as nine new congregations this year, we are now anticipating starting only four or five. New churches are critical factors for membership growth, and we hope this reduction is temporary. We will need to limit transformation funding of existing congregations, such as the "Good Soil" project in the East District, which supports dozens of small member congregations. Although the needs in Ivory Coast are especially critical this year because of the unstable political situation, we are reducing our anticipated support for projects such as the "The Voice of Hope" radio station and 56 Methodist elementary schools in Ivory Coast. We will continue to apply for grants in special areas.

Secondly, "What does this payout mean for our general church connectional ministries?" Although we were able to pay 100% of World Service, virtually every other area of ministry was significantly reduced. Examples include Africa University at 78.58% (down 11.04%), the Ministerial Education Fund at 79.4% (down 9.39%) and Inter-Denominational Cooperation Fund at 76.14% (down 9.71%).

Our conference was not alone in a lower payout, and many denominational groups are already making significant reductions. For example, I am a member of the General Board of Global Ministries, and we have made numerous staff reductions (about 65), combined offices and are considering dramatically reducing the size of the board (that takes General Conference action). I believe that some of these changes are needed as long as we maintain and grow the number of missionaries, humanitarian and relief efforts, and connect congregations with the Advance for Christ and His Church.

Finally, I have a fundamental faith in the Resurrection —

that's the hope I carry through Lent and whatever difficult periods we may endure. All signs indicate that the economy is slowly improving — especially here in Texas. That improvement helps everyone. The new initiatives congregations are exploring in this conference will help those churches meet the future with hope and new energy. My prayer is that the Texas Annual Conference will be in a healthier financial position at the end of 2011.

Thank you again for your faithful witness and for making difficult decisions on behalf of our future.

Grace and peace,
Janice Riggle Huie



TAC volunteers pack school kits at the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot. Apportioned funds support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the mission and ministries of all 10 General Agencies of the United Methodist Church.

See the list of paid apportionments for the Texas Annual Conference on page 3.



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

Resident Bishop
Janice Riggle Huie

Director of Communications
Eleanor L. Colvin
ecolvin@txcumc.org

Editor
Thelma Jones
thelmaj@methodists.net

Web Content Manager
Brant Mills
bmills@txcumc.org

Communications Assistant
Rebecca Garcia
garciar@methodists.net

Conference Web Site:
www.txcumc.org

To Subscribe:

Send your subscription fee of \$20 payable to the Texas Annual Conference to:

Cross Connection
5215 Main Street
Houston, Texas 77002
713-521-9383



Texas Conference archives acquires a permanent home

By Dr. Faulk Landrum
Texas Conference Archivist

It is the mission of the Commission on Archives and History to preserve the official records of the Texas Annual Conference; to assist local churches in preserving their own historical records and to provide a ministry of education and interpretation about the history of the Texas Annual Conference.

The Commission met recently to discuss permanent placement for the Conference's historical records. A new project is underway to build a facility to house archival records, along with enough space for historical artifacts.

The Texas Conference his-

torical records have traveled a long road. Prior to 1840, the records were part of the Mississippi Conference Texas Mission. From 1840 to 1856, scant records were kept at all. After 1856, however, permanent records were recorded and they were kept by one or another of the members of the Historical Society, in the "Conference Trunk."

By 1960, the collection of records and historical artifacts had become large enough that the collection was moved to a room in the new Central Building at Lakeview Conference Center. Rev. C. A. West was instrumental in initiating this arrangement. Over time, the need for more space, climate control and archival

care became apparent.

Through the generosity of the Doornbos family of Nederland and the Moody Foundation at Galveston, an addition was built at the Henderson Library of Lon Morris College in the mid-1980s.

From that time until the summer of 2010, the archives were housed in the Doornbos Archives, then Smith Hall and finally, in the Moody Building. During this time, Lon Morris provided utilities, security, cleaning, building insurance, phone and internet service – approximately a half million dollars worth of free services to the Annual Conference archives.

By 2010, the

school's enrollment more than doubled and the pressing need for classroom space required the archives to be moved out of the Moody Building and into temporary storage. The Center for Connectional Resources is taking the necessary steps to ensure a home for the Archives will be available to serve the conference needs for years to come. Chappell Hill UMC has donated land for the new facility. A new era in archival record keeping has begun.



General Commission on
Archives & History

United Methodists respond to tsunami in Japan

By Linda Bloom
United Methodist News Service

The Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto was having a late lunch with two church members in west Tokyo when the restaurant was shaken by the most powerful earthquake to strike Japan in at least a century.

As they rushed outside on what was a Friday afternoon in Tokyo, the earthquake stopped but the aftershocks began.

"The ground kept moving and the telephone lines were swaying, so we were afraid," said Yamamoto, a United Methodist missionary and California native. "By this time, everyone had come out of the buildings to wait in the street. I told my members to keep praying, and I did the same."

Hours later, Japan was struggling with the aftermath of a combined earthquake and tsunami that killed several hundred people, touched off dozens of fires and raised concerns about a possible radiation leak at a nuclear power plant. The impact was felt around the globe as tsunami alerts were posted in other countries.

United Methodists

expressed concern and offered prayers for the people of Japan. The United Methodist Committee on Relief and Church World Service were consulting with partners in the region on emergency-relief needs.

Continuing aftershocks

Even more than 200 miles from the earthquake's epicenter, those living in the Tokyo area were struggling with transportation and communications problems caused by the disaster.

Sarah Alsgaard, 25, took shelter under her bed when the tremors began. Alsgaard, the daughter of a United Methodist pastor, has been teaching English for the past two years in Toride, northeast of Tokyo.

"There's a storage space underneath my bed," she wrote to her father, the Rev. Erik Alsgaard of St. Ignace, Mich., in an e-mail. "When I came out, my apartment looked like a disaster area. The TV flew off the table it was on. I haven't picked almost anything up yet because the aftershocks keep hitting, and I don't know if there'll be another powerful tremor that'd just send everything back on the floor again."



A building in Ibaragi Prefecture is swept by a tsunami in northeastern Japan.

A UMNS web-only photo courtesy of UMCOR.

In an e-mail to United Methodist News Service received at 9:27 a.m. Eastern Time — 11:27 p.m. in Tokyo — Debbie Umipig-Julian, a missionary there, said communication was difficult because cell phones and landline phones were down, as well as public transportation.

"It is still shaking up to this time so I guess I'll stay awake all night and pray that everybody will be able to contact their loved ones," she wrote.

Umipig-Julian, a social worker for the Christian Coalition for Refugees and

Migrant Workers, and Yamamoto, assigned to the National Christian Council in Japan, are among the nine missionaries working with partner agencies there through the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. A number of individual volunteers-in-mission also are working in Japan.

Thomas Kemper, the board's top executive, sent an e-mail message to mission partners and missionaries expressing shock and sadness over the situation. "You and your ministries are in our fervent prayers in the wake

Continued on page 6



Connectional giving appreciated

CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT

DR. RICHARD BURNHAM - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

TOTAL CHURCH: 48

Atascocita UMC
 Coldspring, Mt. Zion UMC
 Huntsville, Pleasant Grove UMC
 Coldspring UMC
 Conroe, First UMC
 Conroe, Metropolitan UMC
 Willis, Thomas Chapel
 Humble, First UMC
 Kingwood UMC
 Kingwood, Strawbridge UMC
 Klein UMC
 Magnolia, Wildwood UMC
 Montgomery UMC
 Montgomery, China Chapel UMC
 Paul Horton UMC
 Phelps UMC
 Shepherd UMC
 Splendor, Countryside UMC
 Spring, Cypress Trails UMC
 Willis, First UMC
 Christ Church UM, Woodlands
 Cypress, UMC
 Cypress, Good Shepherd UMC
 Hempstead CT, Harper UMC
 Hempstead CT, St. Thomas UMC
 Tomball, Salem UMC
 Houston, Cornerstone UMC
 Houston, Foundry UMC
 Houston, Lakewood UMC
 Waller, New Hope UMC
 Prairie View, First UMC
 Tomball, Rose Hill UMC
 Waller, First UMC

100% PAID: 33

Rev. Andrew Noel
 Rev. Lou Ann Franklin
 Rev. Elizabeth Palmer
 Rev. David Green
 Dr. W. Gerald Neff
 Rev. Willie Sears
 Rev. Andrew Stewart, III
 Dr. E.B. Beasley
 Rev. Jimmy Welch
 Dr. James Reiter
 Dr. Nancy Kellond
 Rev. Brenda Rusti Moore
 Rev. David Paulk Lindwall
 Rev. Sam Smith
 Rev. Mariann Wallace
 Rev. Jeanetta Brewster
 Rev. John F. Stephenson, II
 Rev. Gregory Smith
 Rev. Roberta Maltas
 Rev. Mark B. Woodward
 Dr. Daniel Hannon
 Rev. Jerome Brimmage
 Rev. William Haygood, Jr.
 Rev. Robert Alexander Jr.
 Rev. Robert Alexander, Jr.
 Rev. Dorothy Terry
 Dr. David Meadows
 Rev. Godfrey Hubert
 Dr. C. Chappell Temple
 Rev. Kevin Gilmore
 Rev. Wilmer Bonner
 Rev. Robert E. Webb
 Rev. Jerome Brimmage



A community health worker demonstrates how mosquito nets should be set up to stop the spread of Malaria.

Eradicating diseases of poverty and ministry with the poor are two of the UMC's Four Areas of Focus, which are made possible through appropriations.

CENTRAL SOUTH DISTRICT

REV. LAWRENCE YOUNG - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

TOTAL CHURCH: 66

Galena Park UMC
 Houston, Jacinto City UMC
 Houston, Pleasantville UMC
 Houston, Aldine First UMC
 Houston, Calvary UMC
 Houston, Durkee UMC
 Houston, Ebenezer UMC
 Houston, Hillcrest UMC
 Houston, Love UMC
 Houston, Sloan UMC
 Houston, Chapelwood UMC
 Houston, Grace UMC (Heights)
 Houston, Mallalieu UMC
 Houston, St. Andrew's UMC
 Houston, St. Mark's (Pecore) UMC
 Houston, Alameda UMC
 Houston, Boynton Chapel UMC
 Houston, Covenant of Faith
 Houston, Crestmont Park UMC
 Houston, Genoa UMC
 Houston, St. John's UMC
 Houston, St. Paul's UMC
 Houston, Trinity East UMC
 Houston, Blueridge UMC
 Houston, Disciples UMC
 Houston, St. Luke's UMC
 Houston, St. Philip's UMC
 Houston, Trinity UMC
 Houston, Westchase UMC
 Houston, Westminster UMC
 Houston, West University UMC

100% PAID: 31

Rev. Patrick Smith
 Rev. Carolyn E. Gordon
 Rev. Minnie Baxter
 Rev. John Larry Smith
 Rev. Audrey Mitchell
 Rev. Rex Carleton
 Dr. Francis Guidry
 Dr. Ronald Worden
 Rev. Vincent Harris
 Rev. Joseph Wilson
 Dr. James Jackson, Jr.
 Rev. Harvey Johnson, III
 Rev. Darrell Houston
 Rev. Marilyn White
 Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams
 Rev. Frances Fogar
 Rev. Howard Turnley
 Rev. Luthur Walker
 Rev. Curley Laster
 Rev. Howard Bruce
 Rev. Rudy Rasmus
 Dr. L. James Bankston
 Rev. Bryan Dalco
 Rev. Wanda Bess
 Rev. Rose Marie Veal
 Dr. Thomas Pace, III
 Rev. Anna Lisa Callaway
 Dr. Robert McGee
 Dr. Michael F. Varro
 Rev. Jeffrey Powers
 Rev. Carolyn Bruse

Blossom Hill Ct, Pine Hill UMC
 Carlisle UMC
 Henry's Chapel UMC
 Carthage, First UMC
 Carthage, Ebenezer UMC
 Carthage, Pisgah UMC
 Carthage, Rehobeth UMC
 Carthage, St. Andrew's UMC
 Carthage, Murvaul UMC
 Henderson, Church Hill UMC
 Henderson, Oak Hill UMC
 Henderson, Oakland UMC
 Henderson, Goodsprings UMC
 Henderson, First UMC
 Henderson, St. Paul's UMC
 Rockhill UMC
 Panola, Mt Zion UMC
 Tatum UMC
 Carthage, Woods UMC
 Bonita UMC
 Burkeville UMC
 Center, First UMC
 Center, St. Mark's UMC
 Campti UMC
 Chester, Cade Memorial UMC
 Chireno UMC
 Corrigan Ct Mt Vernon UMC
 Corrigan Ct. Shiloh UMC
 Corrigan First UMC
 Moscow Bible UMC
 Curtis UMC
 Jasper Homer
 Cushing CTCushing UMC
 Cushing CT Lighth UMC
 Douglass, Faith Bridge UMC
 Deadwood UMC
 Galloway UMC
 Diboll UMC
 Fairview UMC
 Garrison UMC
 Caledonia UMC
 Goodrich UMC
 Hemphill CT Milam UMC
 Hemphill CT Pine Grove UMC
 Hemphill First UMC
 Lufkin Homer UMC
 Burke UMC
 Huntington UMC
 Jasper Circuit Memorial UMC
 Jasper First UMC
 Joaquin First UMC
 Paxton UMC
 Keltys UMC
 Lake Rayburn UMC
 Laneville UMC

Rev. Matthew Thomasson
 Rev. David Goodwin
 Rev. David Goodwin
 Rev. Keefe Cropper
 Rev. Wade Harman
 Rev. Wade Harman
 Rev. Jack McMahon
 Rev. Ross Hyde
 Rev. Ross Hyde
 Rev. Gloria Jennings
 Rev. Gloria Jennings
 Rev. Gloria Jennings
 Rev. Dime Manning
 Dr. Ricky Ricks
 Rev. Lynn Loe
 Dr. J B Morris
 Rev. David Urban
 Rev. Shannon Hahn
 Rev. James Bradley
 Dr. Merlin Keith Tilley
 Rev. Barbie Strauss
 Rev. Joel D. McMahon, III
 Rev. Ozay Ford
 Rev. Ozay Ford
 TBS
 Rev. H.Farrar Bentley
 Rev. Robert Twine
 Rev. Robert Twine
 Rev. Bluford Weikel
 Rev. Bluford Weikel
 Rev. Richard Phillips
 Rev. Richard Phillips
 TBS
 TBS
 Rev. Michael Parks
 Rev. K. Mervin Scott
 Rev. K. Mervin Scott
 Rev. Rebecca Love
 Rev. Gary Davis
 Rev. Richard Anderson
 Rev. Richard Anderson
 Rev. Pam Howard
 Rev. Ronald Young
 Rev. Ronald Young
 Rev. Gary Leinhart
 TBS
 Rev. Jerry Anderson
 Rev. Pinckney Love, Jr.
 Rev. Martin Doran
 Rev. Douglas Wright
 Rev. D. Fred Willis
 Rev. Randall Smith
 Rev. Randall Smith
 Rev. Cindy Parker
 Rev. Michael Toland
 Rev. Dime Manning

Liberty Springs UMC
 Livingston CT Pleasant Hill UMC
 Livingston CT St. Luke UMC
 Livingston First UMC
 Lufkin, Abundant Life UMC
 Lufkin, First UMC
 Lufkin St. Paul UMC
 Lufkin, Ryan Chapel UMC
 McMahan's Chapel UMC
 Geneva UMC
 Melrose UMC
 Simpson Campground UMC
 Concord UMC
 Nacogdoches First UMC
 Nacogdoches Perritte Mem. UMC
 Pineland UMC
 Brookeland UMC
 San Augustine, First UMC
 Shelbyville UMC
 Stockman UMC
 Short UMC
 Tenaha UMC
 Timpson UMC
 Wells Falvey Memorial UMC
 Woodville UMC
 Zavalla Shady Chapel UMC
 Alto, A. Frank Smith UMC
 Cold Springs UMC
 Atoy UMC
 Liberty Hill, UMC
 Percilla, UMC
 Grapeland UMC
 Groveton UMC
 Prairie View UMC
 Latexo, UMC
 New Energy, UMC
 Alexander Chapel UMC
 Anderson Chapel
 Pleasant Hill UMC
 White Rock UMC
 Center Hill UMC
 Riverside UMC
 Lynch Chapel UMC
 Trinity UMC

Rev. Karen Jones
 Dr. Sandra Wright
 Dr. Sandra Wright
 Rev. William Mayhugh
 Rev. Rhel Johnson
 Rev. D. Nick Sholars
 Rev. Pinckney Love, Jr.
 Rev. Pinckney Love, Jr.
 Rev. Karen Jones
 Rev. Karen Jones
 Rev. Gary Davis
 TBS
 CLM Clint Johnson
 Dr. William Gandin, Jr.
 Rev. David Brasher
 Rev. Tom Ramsey
 Rev. Tom Ramsey
 Rev. Sara Barberee
 Rev. Carla Reed
 Rev. James Bradley
 Rev. Carla Reed
 Rev. James Bradley
 Rev. Richard Anderson
 Rev. Joseph Beran
 Rev. Bryan Harkness
 CLM Bob Brock
 Rev. Gregory Megill
 Rev. Paul Dobbins
 CLM Clint Johnson
 TBS
 TBS
 Rev. William Denham, III
 Rev. Ben Bagley
 Rev. Ben Bagley
 Rev. Richard Gillet
 Rev. Richard Gillet
 Rev. Bettye Drummond
 Rev. Bettye Drummond
 Rev. Arnold Harden
 Rev. Connie Swanson
 TBS
 Rev. Warren Austin
 Rev. Barbara Gust
 Dr. Russell Munch

NORTH DISTRICT

REV. WILLIAM TAYLOR - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

TOTAL CHURCH: 103

Connors Goodwill UMC
 Diana UMC
 Bettie UMC
 Gilmer, First UMC
 Hallsville First

100% PAID: 81

Rev. Doris Humble
 Rev. Christopher Charles
 Rev. S. Dick Lindsey
 Rev. Richard D. Laster
 Dr. James Nathan Hodge

EAST DISTRICT

DR. JERRY PENNINGTON - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

TOTAL CHURCH: 107

Beckville UMC
 Allison's Chapel UMC
 Blossom Hill UMC

100% PAID: 103

Rev. Kimberly Hagedorn
 Rev. Lynn Loe
 Rev. Matthew Thomasson



552 congregations saluted for honoring UMC core value of connectional giving

NORTH DISTRICT REV. WILLIAM TAYLOR - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 103 | 100% PAID: 81 |
| Harleton UMC | Rev. Charles Schoon |
| Marshall, Macedonia UMC | Rev. Mary Tennison |
| Hopewell UMC | TBS |
| Kilgore, Danville UMC | Rev. Jerry Turner |
| Kilgore, Crossroads UMC | Rev. Ralph Rudy |
| Kilgore, St. Luke's UMC | Rev. Darwood Galaway |
| Longview, La Grones Chapel UMC | Mr. James Fleet |
| Pirtle UMC | Rev. Dudley Plaisance, Jr. |
| Longview, First UMC | Rev. John Matkin |
| Longview, Greggton UMC | Dr. Jonathan Bynum |
| Longview, Trinity UMC | Rev. Brian Brooks |
| Longview, Wesley McCabe UMC | Rev. Virginia Wall |
| Longview, Winterfield UMC | Rev. Rita Sims |
| Marshall, Concordia UMC | Rev. Joseph Parrish |
| Marshall, Zion UMC | Rev. Joseph Parrish |
| Marshall, First UMC | Rev. Rodger Garbs |
| Marshall, St. Mark's UMC | Rev. Edward Blackstone |
| Marshall, Summit UMC | Rev. Mario Parga |
| Marshall, Wesley UMC | Rev. Dan Hoke |
| Marshall, Crossroads UMC | Rev. Leslie Daly |
| Kilgore, McCary's Chapel UMC | Rev. Charlotte Austin |
| Elysian Fields Bethel UMC | Rev. Harold Coburn |
| Noonday UMC | Rev. Jackie Herring |
| Scottsville Mission UMC | Rev. Jackie Herring |
| Ore City UMC | Rev. Douglas Smith |
| Smyrna UMC | Rev. Deborah Brown |
| Gilmer, Soules Chapel UMC | Rev. Timothy Ruland |
| Gilmer, Harmony UMC | Rev. S. Dick Lindsey |
| Union Ridge UMC | Rev. Glenda Mendoza |
| Perryville UMC | Rev. Glenda Mendoza |
| Waskom | Rev. Leslie Daly |
| Atlanta, First UMC | Rev. Guy Williams |
| Avinger UMC | Mr. Lester Colley, Jr. |
| Harris Chapel UMC | Mr. Lester Colley, Jr. |
| Bradfield Chapel UMC | Rev. Mary Avis |
| Jenkins UMC | Rev. Mary Avis |
| Bridges Chapel UMC | Dr. Steven Diaz |
| Greenhill UMC | Dr. Steven Diaz |
| Daingerfield, First UMC | Rev. Dan Gilliam |
| DeKalb, First UMC | Rev. Tony Hoefner |
| Hubbard Chapel UMC | Rev. Greg Fagan |
| Douglassville UMC | Rev. Brian Waddell |
| Union Chapel UMC | Rev. Brian Waddell |
| Lewis Chapel UMC | Dr. Winston McCowan |
| Logan's Chapel UMC | Dr. Winston McCowan |
| Hooks, First UMC | Rev. James Keith Dueroz |
| Cornett UMC | Rev. Heidi Cain |
| Smithland UMC | Rev. Allison Byerley |
| Jefferson, St. Paul UMC | Dr. Winston McCowan |
| Queen City, Bethel UMC | Rev. Janet Blackburn |
| Karnack UMC | Rev. Chapman Huff |
| Law's Chapel UMC | Rev. Dale Vickers |
| Shiloh UMC | Rev. Jackie Herring |
| Linden UMC | Rev. Kevin Young |
| Lone Star UMC | Rev. David Avis |
| Old Boston UMC | Rev. William Lanigan |
| Mims Chapel UMC | Rev. Richard Dowden |
| West New Hope UMC | Rev. John Scott Stewart |
| Mt. Pleasant, Tennison Mem. UMC | Rev. Charles Huffman |
| Naples, First UMC | Rev. Michael Fraley |
| New Boston, Tapp | Rev. Richard D. Ivey, Jr. |
| Omaha UMC | Rev. Michael Fraley |
| Pittsburg, First UMC | Dr. Richard Heyduck |
| Pittsburg, Reeves Chapel UMC | Rev. Melissa Crawford |
| Pittsburg, North Avenue UMC | Rev. Pinelopa Fields |
| Red Bayou UMC | Rev. John Barfield |
| Daniel's Chapel UMC | Rev. John Barfield |
| Redwater UMC | Rev. Danny Carter |
| Texarkana, Buchanan UMC | Rev. Wayne Welborn |
| Texarkana, Eylau UMC | Rev. Patrick Papp |
| Texarkana, First UMC | TBS |
| Texarkana, Hardy Memorial UMC | Rev. Garry Masterson |
| Texarkana, St. Luke's UMC | Rev. Forrest Garrett |
| Texarkana, St. Paul UMC | Rev. Milton Glass |
| Texarkana, South Texarkana UMC | Rev. Helen Fazio |
| Texarkana, Williams Memorial | Dr. Dan P. Wayman |

NORTHWEST DISTRICT REV. SANDRA SMITH - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 102 | 100% PAID: 91 |
| Adams Chapel UMC | Rev. Charles Nunnally |
| Bethel UMC | Rev. Charles Nunnally |
| Antioch UMC | Rev. Dale Jamerson |
| Athens, First UMC | Rev. Kenneth Calhoun |
| Athens, Wesley | Rev. Richard Palmer |
| Athens, Crescent Heights UMC | Rev. Richard Palmer |
| Brushy Creek, UMC | Rev. Larry Krohn |
| Mt. Vernon UMC | Rev. Larry Krohn |
| Buffalo, Stewart Memorial UMC | Rev. Ralph Hale |
| Dew UMC | Rev. Ralph Hale |
| Cedar Creek Lake UMC | Rev. Charles Weber, IV |
| Cove Springs UMC | Rev. Dan Middleton |
| Mt. Selman UMC | Rev. Dan Middleton |
| Dialville UMC | Mr. Raymond Vermillion |
| Elkhart UMC | Rev. Lynn Willhite |
| Slocum UMC | Rev. Lynn Willhite |
| Eustace, UMC | Rev. Jerry Williams |
| Fairfield, Jones Chapel UMC | Rev. Elnora Nunnally |
| Fields Chapel UMC | Rev. David Blackmon |
| Frankton, UMC | Rev. Douglas Howell |
| Jacksonville, First UMC | Rev. Joel McMahon, IV |
| Jacksonville, New Community UMC | Rev. David Daviss |
| Jacksonville, St. John's UMC | Rev. Dale Jamerson |
| Pierce's Chapel UMC | Mr. Jason Smith |
| LaRue, UMC | Rev. Larry Dunn |
| Carroll Springs UMC | Rev. Ben Riggsby |
| Union UMC | Rev. Glenn Taylor |
| Malakoff UMC | Rev. Charles Kimble |
| Crossroads UMC | Rev. William Newman |
| Springfield UMC | Rev. Glenn Taylor |
| Neches UMC | Rev. David Blackmon |
| New Summerfield, UMC | Mr. Jason Smith |
| Earle's Chapel UMC | Rev. Dale Jamerson |
| Oakwood UMC | Rev. Jesse Haynes |
| Lanely, UMC | Rev. Jesse Haynes |
| Palestine, First UMC | Rev. Bruce Hay |
| Palestine, Grace UMC | Rev. Curtis Mathys |
| Palestine, St. Pauls UMC | Mr. Regina Burns |
| Oakwood Union UMC | Mr. Regina Burns |
| Palestine, Westwood UMC | Rev. Ray Prince |
| Payne Springs UMC | Rev. David Diller |
| Rusk, First UMC | Rev. Charles Lightle |

NORTHWEST DISTRICT REV. SANDRA SMITH - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 102 | 100% PAID: 91 |
| St. James UMC | TBS |
| Titus Chapel UMC | TBS |
| Teague, First UMC | Rev. Alan Hooser |
| Trinidad, UMC | Rev. Jimmy Steele |
| Arp UMC | Rev. David Banks |
| Big Sandy UMC | Rev. David Russell |
| Brownsboro UMC | Rev. Gary White, Jr. |
| Bullard, First UMC | Dr. Randy Fitzgerald |
| Chandler UMC | Rev. Jeffery McDonald |
| Canton, Colfax UMC | Rev. Roland Alsbrook |
| Canton, Holly Springs UMC | Rev. Roland Alsbrook |
| Canton, Oakland UMC | Rev. Roland Alsbrook |
| Edgewood, Cheatham Mem. UMC | Rev. Michael Bedevian |
| Fruitvale UMC | Mrs. Susan Smith |
| Edom UMC | Rev. Jeffrey Craft |
| Emory UMC | Rev. Kelly Krone |
| Golden UMC | Rev. Jim Pickens |
| Alba UMC | Rev. Kelly Krone |
| Grand Saline UMC | Rev. Donald Brown, II |
| Hawkins, Bethlehem UMC | Rev. David Daviss |
| Hawkins, Center UMC | Rev. David Daviss |
| Hawkins First UMC | Rev. David Daviss |
| Lake Palestine UMC | Rev. Richard Prather |
| Lindale UMC | Rev. Charles Flowers |
| Mineola, Brock's Chapel UMC | Rev. Linda McCullough |
| Mineola, Johnson Chapel UMC | Rev. Clara Gilbert |
| Mineola First UMC | Rev. Danny Danheim |
| Canton, Wallace UMC | Rev. Micah Welcher |
| Lindale, Mount Sylvan UMC | Rev. Jeffrey Craft |
| Lindale, Union Chapel UMC | Dr. B. Thomas Haygood |
| Murchison UMC | Rev. Brooks Taylor |
| Point UMC | Rev. Douglas Walker |
| Quitman UMC | Rev. Richard White, Jr. |
| Quitman, Liberty UMC | Rev. Richard White, Jr. |
| Mineola, Smith Chapel UMC | Rev. Jim Pickens |
| Mineola, Hainesville UMC | Rev. Jim Pickens |
| Troup UMC | Rev. Michael Cline |
| Walnut Grove UMC | Rev. Michael Cline |
| Tyler, Asbury UMC | Dr. Karen Jones |



The more than 20 new faith communities in the TAC know the power of prayer.

Apportionments fuel the creation of new spaces for new people, which is one of the UMC focus areas.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT REV. SANDRA SMITH - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 102 | 100% PAID: 91 |
| Tyler, Bascom UMC | Rev. Robert Waldman |
| Tyler, Flint UMC | Rev. Brenda Lucas |
| Tyler, Marvin UMC | Dr. John Robbins |
| Tyler, Pollard Memorial UMC | Rev. Robert Fisher |
| Tyler, Saint Paul UMC | Rev. Gerry Giles |
| Tyler, Fairwood UMC | Rev. Rickey Tate |
| Tyler, Swan Wood Springs UMC | Rev. Marion Burgess |
| Ben Wheeler UMC | Dr. David Johnson |
| Whitehouse UMC | Rev. Matthew Thomas |
| Wills Point, Russell Mem. UMC | Rev. William Watson |

SOUTH DISTRICT DR. ROY JAMES - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 54 | 100% PAID: 40 |
| Baytown, Cedar Bayou UMC | Rev. Carol Turner |
| Baytown, St. Emily UMC | Rev. Howard Bell |
| Baytown, St. John's UMC | Dr. Donnie Lewis |
| Baytown, St. Mark's UMC | Rev. Michael Proctor |
| Crosby UMC | Dr. Barbara Gail Harrelson |
| Dayton UMC | Rev. Jon Stouffer |
| Dickinson, Faith UMC | Rev. Lorraine Brown |
| Dickinson, First UMC | Rev. John Reasons |
| Galveston, Central UMC | Rev. James C. Dorman |
| Galveston, Moody Mem. 1st UMC | Rev. Bert Bagley |
| Galveston, St. Paul's UMC | Rev. Kenneth Green |
| Galveston, Wesley Tabernacle UMC | Rev. Dwayne Thompson |
| Highlands UMC | Rev. Nathan Gossett |
| Hitchcock, First UMC | Rev. Sharon Sabom |
| League City, Bay Harbour UMC | Rev. John Newsome |
| Houston, Clear Lake UMC | Rev. Anthony Vinson |
| La Marque, First UMC | Rev. Sharon Sabom |
| League City UMC | Rev. Christopher Harrison |
| Mont Belvieu, First UMC | Rev. James Lea |
| Pasadena, Golden Acres UMC | Rev. Jack Womack |
| Seabrook UMC | Dr. Anthony McCollum |
| Texas City, First UMC | Rev. Michael Holcomb |
| Texas City, Galilee UMC | Rev. Carolyn Robinson |
| Texas City, Grace UMC | Rev. Kathryn Alewine |
| Texas City, St. John's UMC | Rev. Tom Crowe |
| Alvin, First UMC | Rev. Eric Ryburn |
| Angleton, Ward UMC | Rev. Shirley Allen-Jenkins |

SOUTH DISTRICT DR. ROY JAMES - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 54 | 100% PAID: 40 |
| Angleton, Haven UMC | Rev. Shirley Allen-Jenkins |
| Angleton, St. Joseph UMC | Rev. Shirley Allen-Jenkins |
| Angleton, First UMC | Rev. Robert Sinclair |
| Clute, Wesley First UMC | Rev. Kendall Graham |
| Freeport First UMC | Dr. James Keith Broyles |
| Freeport Oyster Creek UMC | Dr. James Keith Broyles |
| Friendswood UMC | Rev. James Bass |
| Hitchcock, Wilbur Chapel UMC | Rev. Charles Monette, Jr. |
| Pearland, Hope Church | Rev. Thaddeus Eastland |
| Lake Jackson, Chapelwood UMC | Rev. George Wesley Welborn |
| Lake Jackson, First UMC | Rev. Charles Geller |
| Pearland, First UMC | Dr. Keith Whitaker |
| Santa Fe, Aldersgate UMC | Rev. William Webb |

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT DR. RICHARD L. WHITE - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 57 | 100% PAID: 47 |
| Anahuac, First UMC | Rev. Randolph Carrion |
| Anahuac, St. James UMC | Rev. Mary Sholow |
| Anahuac, St. Paul UMC | Rev. Mary Sholow |
| Batson UMC | Rev. Gideon Watson |
| Bay Vue UMC | Rev. J. Martin Boddie, Jr. |
| Bolivar UMC | Rev. J. Martin Boddie, Jr. |
| Beaumont, Forest Park | Dr. Carla Shield |
| Beaumont, St. James UMC | Rev. Carlos Phillips |
| Beaumont, St. Luke UMC | Rev. Michael Liely, Sr. |
| Beaumont, St. Paul UMC | Rev. Ruby Nelson |
| Beaumont, Trinity UMC | Dr. Robert Shield |
| Beaumont, Wesley UMC | Rev. Robert Besser |
| Bridge City, St. Paul UMC | Rev. Steven Morgan |
| Buna, First UMC | Rev. James Jones |
| Call UMC | Rev. Ray Nelson |
| Watson Chapel UMC | Rev. Ray Nelson |
| China UMC | Rev. Gregory Edwards |
| Daisetta UMC | Rev. Mary Gossett |
| Devers UMC | Rev. Mary Gossett |
| Fannett, Faith UMC | Rev. William Ramsey |
| Hardin UMC | Rev. Gideon Watson |
| High Island, St. Matthew UMC | Rev. J. Martin Boddie, Jr. |
| Kirbyville UMC | Rev. Bartley Reddoch |
| Kountze, First UMC | Rev. William Jobe, Jr. |
| Warren UMC | Rev. William Jobe, Jr. |
| Liberty, First | Rev. Jay Barnes |
| Lumberton, Woodcrest UMC | Rev. Rick Sittion |
| Magnolia Springs UMC | Rev. Larry Shows |
| Nederland, First UMC | Rev. Malcolm Monroe |
| Nederland, Wesley UMC | Rev. Kevin Otto |
| Orange, Faith UMC | Rev. Kevin Kissel |
| Orange, Salem UMC | Dr. Carolyn McCall |
| Orange, Wesley UMC | Rev. Randy Branch |
| Port Arthur, Aldersgate Trinity UMC | Rev. Russell Hall |
| Port Arthur, Barnes Mem. UMC | Rev. Jefferson English |
| Port Arthur, St. John UMC | Rev. Betty Edwards |
| Port Arthur, St. Paul UMC | Rev. Patricia Wells |
| Port Arthur, Temple | Dr. Jesse Brannen, Jr. |
| Port Neches, First UMC | Rev. Peter Cammarano, Jr. |
| Silsbee, First UMC | Rev. Danny Darby |
| Sour Lake UMC | Rev. Gregory Edwards |
| Liberty, South Liberty | Rev. Robert Fosburgh |
| Spurger UMC | Rev. Larry Shows |
| Vidor, First UMC | Rev. Mark Pedersen |
| Wallisville, Middleton Mem. UMC | Rev. Randolph Carrion |
| Wildwood, Village Mills UMC | Rev. David Foster |
| Winnie, First UMC | Rev. Kevin King |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 49 | 100% PAID: 44 |
| Brookshire, First UMC | Rev. Dorthea Dumas |
| Downey, Wesley Chapel | Rev. Steffon Arrington |
| Houston, Addicks UMC | Rev. Carl Edward Hilliard |
| Houston, Memorial Drive UMC | Dr. Charles Simmons |

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT DR. PARTICK SPARKS - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 49 | 100% PAID: 44 |
| Brookshire, First UMC | Rev. Dorthea Dumas |
| Downey, Wesley Chapel | Rev. Steffon Arrington |
| Houston, Addicks UMC | Rev. Carl Edward Hilliard |
| Houston, Memorial Drive UMC | Dr. Charles Simmons |

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT DR. PARTICK SPARKS - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Continued)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| TOTAL CHURCH: 49 | 100% PAID: 44 |
| Houston Trinity UMC (Barker Cypress) | Rev. Salvador Ramirez, Jr. |
| Katy, Grace Fellowship UMC | Rev. James Leggett |
| Katy, First UMC | Rev. Marlin Fenn |
| Katy, Holy Covenant UMC | Rev. Jay Jackson |
| Katy, St. Peter's UMC | Rev. Donald Smith |
| Pattison, UMC | Rev. Patricia Wehn-Glowski |
| San Felipe, UMC | Rev. Michael Peschke |
| Sealy, Coles Chapel UMC | Rev. Steffon Arrington |
| Sealy, First UMC | Rev. John Tyler |
| Shepherd of the Heart UMC | Rev. Wayne Calder |
| Bay City, First UMC | Rev. Jeffrey Gantz |
| Bay City, St. Paul's UMC | Rev. Thomas Morgan |
| Bay City, Markham UMC | Rev. Thomas Morgan |
| Brazoria, First UMC | Rev. Gregory Oberg |
| East Bernard, First UMC | Rev. Alexander Lupo |
| Fulshear, First UMC | Rev. Alicia Coltzer |
| Houston, Ashford UMC | Rev. Chris Norton |
| Houston, First Filipino American UMC | Rev. Regino Dancel, Jr. |
| Houston, Jones Memorial UMC | Rev. Kenneth Levingston |
| Houston, Mission Bend UMC | Rev. David Meeker-Williams |
| Kendleton, Newman Chapel UMC | Rev. Albert Reed |
| Wharton, Thompson Chapel UMC | Rev. Albert Reed |
| Lissie, First UMC | Rev. Michael Caldwell |
| Matagorda, First UMC | Rev. Pauline Storey |
| Missouri City, Covenant Glen UMC | Dr. Robert Childress |
| Missouri City, First UMC | Dr. Lynne Settlemyre |
| Boling, First UMC | Rev. Martha Girling |
| Orchard, First UMC | Dr. Mark McLanahan |
| Richmond, Mt. Vernon UMC | Rev. Vastine Watson, Jr. |
| Richmond, St. John's UMC | Rev. David Luckert |
| Rosenberg, First UMC | Rev. John Black |
| Rosenberg, St. Luke's UMC | Rev. Diana Creeks |
| Sugar Land, Christ UMC | Rev. Morris Matthis |
| Sweeny Circuit, Grace UMC | Rev. Paul Duncan |
| Sweeny Circuit, Neuzion UMC | Rev. Paul Duncan |
| Sweeny, First UMC | Rev. Sherry Crenshaw |
| Van Vleck, First UMC | Rev. Martha Girling |
| Wallis, First UMC | Rev. Charles Walters |
| West Columbia, Columbia UMC | Rev. Gregory Rogers |
| Wharton, First UMC | Rev. Polly Standing |

"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Luke 12:48b
Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard



This 2009 Texas Youth Academy student writes liturgy for worship. Developing principled Christian leaders like him is one of the denomination's Four Areas of Focus -- all of which are supported by apportionment dollars.



United Methodists respond to tsunami in Japan

Continued from page 2



The aftermath of the March 12 earthquake. The tsunami that resulted from the earthquake demolished everything in its path, including automobiles, buildings and homes.

Courtesy of Huffington Post.com

of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami," he wrote. "We are also in prayer for Japan as a people in this time of crisis. The General Board of Global Ministries has long and highly valued mission partnerships in Japan and a deep affection for its people."

Asian Americans respond

In Sacramento, Calif., the Rev. Motoe Yamada, senior pastor of the Japanese United Methodist Church, was able to confirm that her sister and parents in Tokyo were safe and sent e-mails to the Listservs of the denomination's Japanese American National Caucus and Asian American Pacific Islander Clergywomen Association, asking members to share information on family and friends living in Japan.

The Japanese caucus issued a statement offering condolences and support. "We stand united in our concerns, prayers and support as many of our constituents and churches are related with families and friends in Japan," the Rev. George Nishikawa, caucus chairman, said.

The caucus is part of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists,

which described the earthquake and tsunami as "a tragedy of gigantic proportions" and called for all churches to remember those affected during their weekly worship services.

"We ask all United Methodists to join with us in prayer for the millions who are affected by the earthquake and resulting tsunami," wrote Donald Hayashi, the federation's president. "We recognize that this disaster affects not only Japan, but all countries of the Pacific Rim. We also are praying for the safety of emergency crews who are searching for survivors and giving comfort to the victims."

Yamada's congregation of 550 members was holding a prayer service at 1 p.m. Pacific Time for those affected by the disaster.

The Tokyo native recalled practicing earthquake drills in school each year on Sept. 1. "I was in Japan when the big earthquake hit Kobe (1995), and I went there as a volunteer for two weeks immediately after the event," Yamada added. "The destruction was unspeakable."

Still, she has faith that "whatever happens after this

big earthquake, God is with us and God will help us to restore what we have." Her Sacramento congregation already had plans for mission work in Japan, which she expects to be revised to focus on earthquake recovery.

Assessing relief needs

Relief needs in Japan and elsewhere related to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami also will be the focus of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which is in contact with partners in the region, said Melissa Crutchfield, UMCOR executive for international disaster response.

The Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, UMCOR's top executive, urged prayers for those affected by the disaster. "Once again, in the wake of disaster and in the face of widespread need, we rely on the ever-expansive generosity of United Methodists and all people of goodwill to help us respond to those whose lives have suddenly been turned upside down," she said.

Emergency response staff members at Church World Service are in contact with the agency's office in Bangkok, which is monitoring the situation in Japan and across the region. Tsunami warnings are in effect for North Sulawesi, Indonesia, and two local partners for CWS there have been contacted.

Donations can be made to Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317.

* *Tim Tanton, UMNS executive director of content, contributed to this story.*

Your generosity is appreciated

Continued from page 5

WEST DISTRICT
REV. JOE FORT, JR. - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
DISTRICT IS 100% PAID

TOTAL CHURCH: 87

Mckenzie Chapel UMC
Yarborough Chapel UMC
Bedias UMC
Bellville, First UMC
Bremond, Grace UMC
Calvert, Sneed Memorial UMC
Brenham, Mt. Zion UMC
Brenham, Pleasant Grove UMC
Brenham, First UMC
Bryan, Alexander UMC
Bryan, Wesley UMC
Bryan, Lee Chapel UMC
Bryan, First UMC
Bryan, St. Luke UMC
Caldwell, First UMC
Calvert, Chapel Hill UMC
Bremond, St. James UMC
Calvert, St. Paul's UMC
Cameron, First UMC
Maysfield, Maysfield UMC
Chappell Hill UMC
Golinda, Major's Chapel UMC
Chilton, St. Paul UMC
Satin, Satin UMC
College Station, A&M UMC
College Station, Aldersgate UMC
College Station, Christ UMC
Caldwell, Cooks Point UMC
Elwood UMC
Franklin, Franklin UMC
Gause, Gause UMC
Giddings, First UMC
Paige UMC
Hearne, Grace UMC
Hempstead, First UMC
Navasota, Lynn Grove UMC
Iola, Zion UMC
Kosse, Kosse UMC
Reagan, Reagan UMC
Lexington UMC
Lexington, Blue UMC
Lott UMC
Leona Circuit: Tanyard UMC
Leona, Hillary Chapel UMC
Leona, Two Mile UMC
Madisonville, First UMC
Marlin, Davis Chapel
Marlin, First UMC
Cedar Springs UMC
Milano, Milano UMC
Milano, Liberty UMC
Chriesman, Chriesman UMC
Millican, Millican UMC
Navasota, Lee Tabernacle UMC
Navasota, Pleasant Grove UMC
Navasota, Stonehamville UMC
Navasota, First UMC
Anderson UMC
Normangee, First UMC
Flynn UMC
Richards, Richards UMC
Richards, Bay's Chapel UMC
Navasota, Stoneham UMC
Rockdale, St. John's UMC
Somerville, First UMC
Thorndale, Friendship UMC
Thorndale, Pleasant Retreat UMC
Whelock UMC
Huntsville, Farris Chapel UMC
Huntsville, First UMC
Huntsville, Grace UMC
Huntsville, Wesley UMC
Hempstead, Bethlehem UMC
Hopewell UMC
Springseat
St. Matthew UMC
Centerville, First UMC
Jewett UMC
Donie Memorial UMC
Leona UMC
Marquez, UMC
Normangee, Evans Chapel UMC

100% PAID: 82

Rev. Hopie Solomon
Rev. Hopie Solomon
Rev. Gary Westbrook
Dr. Robert Stutes
Rev. Maurice Bixler
Rev. Maurice Bixler
Rev. Cecil McDowell
Rev. Cecil McDowell
Rev. Dale Chance
Rev. Samuel Cutrone, Jr.
Rev. Samuel Cutrone, Jr.
Rev. Floyd Polk
Rev. Merle Matthews Idom, Jr.
Rev. Jason Burnham
Rev. Todd Jordan
Rev. Otis Greenwood
Rev. Otis Greenwood
Rev. Otis Greenwood
Rev. Charles Bratz, Jr.
Rev. Charles Bratz, Jr.
Rev. Paula Behrens
Rev. Ethelene Green
Rev. Leo Green
Rev. Leo Green
Rev. Kip Gilt
Dr. Bruce Wood
Rev. Jerry House, Jr.
Rev. Matthew Weaver
Rev. Collin Sidney Akin, Jr.
Rev. Lindsey Smith, Jr.
Rev. Kenneth Byrd
Dr. Timothy Edwards
Dr. Timothy Edwards
Rev. Jeffrey Dungan
Rev. Nancy Creason
Rev. Nancy Creason
Rev. Carol Khoury
Rev. John Montgomery, IV
Rev. John Montgomery, IV
Rev. Lance Richards
Rev. Lance Richards
TBS
Rev. Connie Blackshear
Rev. Connie Blackshear
Rev. Connie Blackshear
Dr. George Wilson
Rev. Leo Green
Rev. Jeffrey Stull
Rev. Jeffrey Stull
Rev. Roy Dillard
Rev. Roy Dillard
Rev. Roy Dillard
Rev. Peggy Hines
Rev. Sandra Hall
Rev. Sandra Hall
Rev. Sandra Hall
Rev. C. McAllister Vaughn
Rev. C. McAllister Vaughn
Rev. Daniel Barrett
Rev. Daniel Barrett
Rev. C. Franklin Cowley
Rev. C. Franklin Cowley
Rev. Roger Goldsmith
Rev. John Warren
Rev. Victoria Simons
Rev. John Woody
Rev. John Woody
Rev. Jeffrey Dungan
Rev. Wes Reagan
Rev. Scott Dornbush
Rev. Debra Brown
Dr. Darrell Coats
Rev. Jeanne Kabamba Kiboko
Rev. Carla Goree
Rev. Carla Goree
Rev. Carla Goree
Rev. Joy Richards
Rev. Donald Holt
Rev. Donald Holt
Rev. Ann Worrell
Rev. Vicki Averitt
Rev. Ann Worrell



Ministry Snapshots

Celebrating a legacy of 175 years of ministry

The future looks bright for First UMC of Brazoria

By Rev. Greg Oberg
First UMC of Brazoria

Imagine a rural congregation serving their community for 175 years, across the 19th, 20th and into the 21st centuries. First United Methodist Church of Brazoria was established in 1836 as a direct response to Texas' independence from Mexico. In those days, Protestant congregations could not legally be established in Texas.

Imagine a rural congregation, usually no more than 50 people, standing the test of time and events. Events such as the Civil War, Reconstruction, the advent of electricity, World War I, the roaring 20s and the Great Depression, World War II, the Apollo moon landings, the end of the Cold War, 9/11, and now deeper into the age of incredible technological innovations!

Imagine a weekend to celebrate 175 years of ministry. First United Methodist Church will be experiencing its "175th Birthday Weekend" on April

2-3.

On Saturday, April 2, for the "Homecoming" portion of our weekend, we will host a segment called "Live Chat!" at 2 p.m. where our previous pastors will share lots of humor, insight, reflections and memories of the years passed. Former pastors include: Rev. Chap Temple, Rev. Jim McConnell, Rev. Roy James (South District Superintendent), Rev. Ed Hillyer, Rev. Gail Harrelson, and Rev. Peter Cammarano. A reception will follow afterwards.

Event highlights

Throughout Saturday afternoon and evening, there will be activities on the church campus, which include combined games between the present youth group and the "alumni" youth group (young adults now in their 20s who were in the youth group in the 1990s), a moonwalk, "old fashioned games" (like horse-shoes, and bottle-toss) for kids, and other fun activities.

From 6

p.m. through 9 p.m. will be our Gospelfest portion of the weekend, which will include musical performances from over 12 groups throughout the area and over the past 30 years of the life of First Methodist.

On Sunday morning, we will have a special Sunday worship service starting at 10:30 a.m. to honor God for 175 years of life and ministry. Bishop Janice Riggle Huie will be our guest preacher, and will also lead us in Holy Communion.

All are welcome to come celebrate with us, and thank God with us, as we offer our thanks for 175 years of serving, loving and growing!



One of the First Methodist youth presents free lunches to kids in the neighborhoods of Brazoria. Each summer, First Methodist teams up with other churches in Brazoria to serve free lunches to children living in poverty in our neighborhoods.



Middle Photo: Every December, a group of members from First Methodist "go on tour" to nursing homes in the area. The church views it as a privilege and a responsibility to bring the joy of Christ, the reason for the season, to the aged and ailing.

Bottom Photo: Vacation Bible School 2010 had over 30 adult and youth volunteers, and nearly 50 children.



The Union Church building, built in 1853 in Old Town Brazoria, was across the road from the Country Court-House. This building served three congregations of Christ-followers: The Methodists, the Episcopalians, and the Presbyterians. The building stood on a plot of eight lots given to the Union Church by Mrs. Emily Austin Perry, the sister of Stephen F. Austin.



Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

Learning Opportunities

Magnolia UMC hosts Bible Conference

Entitled, *The Passion of Christ*, the conference will take place April 1-3.

With the exception of Friday, April 1, the format for the event is a series of lectures each day followed by a time for questions.

The speaker for the conference is Dr. James W. Fleming, Director of Biblical Resources Study Center. His lectures are composed of four perspectives (archeology, history, geography and theology) to help participants better understand Biblical times.

Early registration cost before March 24 is \$30 per person. The cost covers a continental breakfast, snacks, lunch and, if requested, a continuing education certificate. After March 24, registration cost is \$40 per person.

To register, visit the church's web site, www.magnoliaumc.org. For more information about the event, contact the church at 281-356-6647.

Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education

The information and application packet for the 2011 Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education Award is now available.

The Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education has been an on-going program of the Texas Conference and the Texas Chapter of Christian Educators Fellowship for over 10 years.

The goals of the program are: to assist the local congregations to make and grow disciples of Christ; to encourage, promote,

strengthen, and facilitate the growth of Christian Education programs, especially the Sunday Schools of our churches; and to connect Christian Education to the overall ministry of the local church and the connectional church.

The submission deadline is May 2, 2011. For additional information, visit the web site, <http://www.txcumc.org/fivestars>.

St. Luke's UMC Houston offers experiential calendar for Lent

St. Luke's experiential calendar suggests a small activity or practice for each day during Lent. This series of little daily experiences has been crafted and organized to help deepen this time of self-examination and the practices are shaped by the Lenten scripture.

The calendar can be received through Twitter, or is available for download at <http://www.stlukesmethodist.org/lent/experiential-calendar/>.

For more information, contact Julia Fox at 713-402-5034 or jfox@stlukes-hou.org.

Financial Peace in today's economy

Mission Bend UMC will offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a life-changing program that helps persons to achieve their financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before.

FPU consists of a 13-week video curriculum that will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7. Taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey, the program incorporates small-group discussions that encourage accountability and discipleship. Go to www.mbumc.org for more

information or to register.

Bi-Lingual Lenten Bible study at St. Paul's UMC Houston

A Lenten study based on the book *24 Hours that Changed the World/24 horas que cambiaron el mundo*, by Adam Hamilton, will be conducted in Spanish and English at St. Paul's UMC on Wednesdays, March 23 to April 20.

The classes will be from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Readers are invited to join the group in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

The classes are free. To register, call 713-528-0527 or email info@stpaulshouston.org. The text may be purchased in English or Spanish at the first session for \$15 or bring your own copy.

Do you hear what I hear? hearing conference

Saturday, March 26, 8:30 a.m. at St. Luke's UMC Houston is the time and date for the conference. This is a free event whose focus is to identify and manage hearing loss.

The keynote speaker is Teri Wathen, Hearing Loss Resource Specialist at Communication Access Ability Group. St. Luke's is equipped with both an induction loop hearing system and FM receivers.

Contact Karen Smith at 713-402-5086, ksmith@stlukes-hou.org or visit the web site, www.stlukesmethodist.org/hearing.

St. Paul's young adult group begins new study

The Tuesday night Young Adult Group at St. Paul's UMC Houston will begin a new study on April 5. The group meets at 7 p.m. in the church's Youth Center. It is led alternately by Rev. Emily Chapman and Rev. Jeremy Wester.

Rev. Wester will lead this study, which will be based on *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission* by Lesslie Newbigin, who describes its purpose as bringing contemporary concerns in mission theology to a wide-reading public, especially to prepare men and women for missionary service."

To participate, contact Rev. Wester at jwester@stpaulshouston.org or 713-528-0527 or simply come to the Youth Center on the lower level of St. Paul's Sanctuary Building.

Fellowship Opportunities

Combined choirs perform joint concert

This event is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, at 7 p.m. The choirs of Kingwood UMC and Strawbridge UMC will host a program featuring a joint concert performance.

The concert, designed to enrich the Lenten season, will include Mozart's Coronation Mass, "Hallelujah" from Beethoven's "Christ on the Mount of Olives," and John Rutter's choral benediction, "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Admission is free. For more information, contact Richard Aslanian at richard.aslanian@strawbridge-umc.org.

Lenten prayer services

Join St. Paul UMC Port Arthur in the Southeast District for fellowship, evangelism and worship in preparation for Resurrection Sunday.

Services are held Monday through Friday in the Education Building of the church.

For more details, visit the church website at www.stpaulumcportarthur.com, or contact Kristal Whitley, church secretary at 409-985-9977 or Rev. Patricia Wells at revpawells@aol.com or stpaulseckw@aol.com.

Mission Opportunities

"Do you sew?"

Are you looking for a mission project? Do you want to be part of a team getting ready for annual conference? There is a project for you!

The Texas Conference has a large amount of fabric from our Methodist friends in Cote d'Ivoire. This fabric was designed especially for the Texas Annual Conference and was to be sold to help raise money to support the Cote d'Ivoire Adopt a Student program.

We will need people to help at the fabric sales table in the display area at Conference this year. We will supply each church/individual the fabric needed to make items which can then be returned to us prior to or at annual conference. Please contact Shirley Broome at 713-521-9383 or sbroome@txcumc.org to add your name to the list, or for more details. Follow this link to see our photo gallery of possible projects, http://www.txcumcmedia.org/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=833.

2011 PIM trip to Costa Rica

Mission teams are invited to help refurbish a small church in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, during the summer months. The cost is approximately \$1,450.

Contact Jack Aulick, 832-928-2981 or zjwa02@comcast.net.

"Extravagantly Generous"

A new series begins in the next edition. Keep reading!