

Cross Connection

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What's Inside

Advancing Pastoral Leadership Announces 2011 Class 2

Chris Tinsley — CanCare Hospital Volunteer of the Year 3

AARP Services Inc. Recognizes United Methodist Layman for Volunteer Work

Conference Responds to Wildfires Across Texas 4

Sunset UMC Youth Celebrate Three Decades of Mission Work 6

Do you hear what I hear? *Hearing Aids Aren't Always Enough*

Card Parties Lead to Surprises in Mailboxes 7

Wesley Community Center Luncheon

Spotlight On Local Church Ministries 8

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



Texas Annual Conference members and churches respond 'for such a time as this'



By Rev. Diane McGehee, Director of Missional Excellence, Texas Annual Conference

"You are an answer to prayer!"

These words have been voiced over and over again in various forms during the past weeks as United Methodist churches throughout the Texas

Annual Conference have stepped forward to meet the needs of immediate and more distant neighbors facing wildfires within the Texas and Southwest Texas Annual Conferences. These wildfires have forced massive evacuations, destroyed homes, possessions, and property, and put the lives of firefighters, early responders, family members,

friends, pets, and livestock at risk.

And yet, our churches continue to offer hope and support to the relief workers and those suffering from these fires. Read about the scenarios and see photos here and on the TAC website of members of Faith Bridge (Douglass), Wildwood (Magnolia), Linden, Lilburn, First UMC Teague, Pattison

UMC, First UMC Jefferson, Avinger First UMC, First UMC Gilmer, Caldwell First UMC, First UMC Giddings, Navasota First UMC, Wesley Memorial, Huntsville First UMC, Hubbard Chapel, Henderson First UMC, Aldersgate UMC, Nederland First UMC, First UMC

Continued on page 4



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Advancing Pastoral Leadership program announces 2011 Class: largest to date

The Center for Clergy Excellence of the Texas Annual Conference announces the selection of its third class of the Advancing Pastoral Leadership (APL) program. Made possible by a five-year grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., the program's goal is to assist emerging clergy leaders in developing their capacity for fruitful and strate-

gic congregational leadership.

APL participants are guided in an intentional, long-term process of leadership formation and development through retreats, assessment, mentorship, and executive coaching. Each new group continues together throughout the five years of the program.

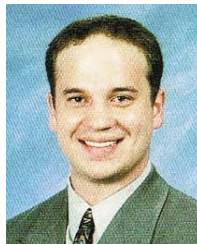
Advancing Pastoral

Leadership is one effort within the Center for Clergy Excellence, which is led by Reverend Gail Ford Smith. The program will continue to be guided by Reverend Janice Virtue, a leadership trainer and consultant with more than a decade of experience in clergy leadership development.

The APL program is pleased

to welcome four participants from the Louisiana Conference and hopes to continue its expansion outside the Texas Annual Conference. With a total of 18 clergy, the 2011 participants enter as the largest class of the Advancing Pastoral Leadership program.

Advancing Pastoral Leadership 2011 Class



Peter Cammarano
First UMC
Port Neches, Texas



Emily Chapman
St. Paul's UMC
Houston, Texas



Nolan McDonald
Word Serve Church
Fulshear, Texas



Elizabeth Duffin
Lakewood UMC
Houston, Texas



Seann Duffin
Lakewood UMC
Houston, Texas



Stephen Fife
Asbury UMC
LaFayette, Louisiana



Taylor Fuerst
Assoc. Director
Conference Center for
Clergy Excellence



Terence Hagens
The Woodlands UMC
The Woodlands, Texas



John Huertas
St. John's UMC
Baton Rouge,
Louisiana



Rick Ivey
Tapp UMC
New Boston, Texas



Stephanie Lind
Holy Covenant UMC
Katy, Texas



Romonica Wardley
Westbury UMC
Houston, Texas



Katie McKay Simpson
First UMC
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



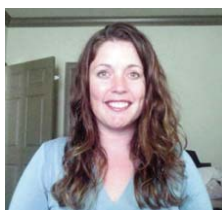
Jeff McDowell
The Harvest
Missouri City, Texas



John Reasons
First UMC
Dickinson, Texas



Jonathan Sims
Spring Woods UMC
Houston, Texas



Leslie Stephens
Faith Crossing UMC
Walker, Louisiana



Guy Williams
First UMC
Atlanta, Texas



Volunteers in Action

Chris Tinsley — CanCare hospital volunteer of the year

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

Around the time she joined St. Paul's UMC Houston, Chris Tinsley heard John Miner speak on Cancer Survivor Sunday about his role as a CanCare volunteer. Also a cancer survivor, she thought, "I can do that."

Through a network of more than 600 highly trained volunteers representing 75 different types of cancer, CanCare offers emotional support to cancer patients and their families. CanCare volunteers act as mentors to patients during their treatment and work with family members to provide encouragement and hope. CanCare partners with 134 corporations, hospitals, and congregations.

A retired teacher for the deaf, Tinsley has become such an active CanCare hospital vol-

unteer that she recently was honored by the organization as Hospital Volunteer of the Year.

To know Chris is to know her enthusiasm for CanCare and the hospital visits she conducts. Every Monday morning she calls CanCare from two or three patients' hospital rooms to connect them to the CanCare office.

Drawing from her volunteer experience at The Methodist

er/family member of a cancer survivor.

"CanCare volunteers go through extensive training to learn how to help others with their diagnosis," said Kim Akel, CanCare's Director of Program Services.

"Our volunteers are trained to listen for concerns and share their own experiences with the individual they are helping, without imposing personal

ideas or beliefs. Our goal is to match the patient to one of our volunteers who has the closest cancer experience to them." Age and gender also are considered.

"The best part about the match," continued Akel, "is that the patient gets to know someone personally who has been through the same frightening experience.

Just knowing someone who beat your type of cancer is encouraging. It's like having your own personal reference to talk to whenever you want."

Tinsley is a three-time cancer survivor — twice breast cancer and once a melanoma under a toe. Indicative of her spirit and spunk, a week after the melanoma was removed from under her toe, she played golf — and gave her opponent "a run for her money."

The next CanCare volunteer training classes will be October 14-16. To find out more about the CanCare organization and the various ways to volunteer, call 713-461-0028 or visit www.cancare.org.

"Our goal is to match the patient to one of our volunteers who has the closest cancer experience to them. The best part about the match is that the patient gets to know someone personally who has been through the same frightening experience."

Kim Akel
 CanCare Director of Program Services

Hospital, she helped write CanCare's Hospital Volunteer Visitation Techniques publication in 2010.

To be a CanCare volunteer, one must either be a cancer survivor or have been the caregiv-



David A. Brooks is the Central South District Coordinator for Disaster Response Relief in the Texas Annual Conference.

AARP Services Inc. recognizes United Methodist layman for volunteer work

AARP Services Inc., a for-profit subsidiary of AARP that oversees providers and the products offered to its members, recognizes David A. Brooks for his 50+ hours of volunteer service in the community.

Community involvement is an important part of the AARP organization's mission and David's life.

He has contributed to the betterment of much of Houston and beyond by serving as the Central South District Coordinator for Disaster Response/Relief through The Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In this capacity, he has provided training opportunities in disaster response, led response/relief efforts, and has participated as a member of the Texas Annual Conference Committee on Relief, a leadership group

overseeing disaster response/reliefs efforts for United Methodists encompassing all of East Texas. The committee also helps coordinate disaster relief teams going to other areas of Texas and throughout the USA.

"I am honored to be recognized by AARP and ASI for the hours of community service I performed," said David. "And I look forward to continuing to volunteer."

Brooks holds a Masters in Health Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and has spent the past 20 years involved in healthcare delivery and health insurance.

For the past five years he has owned and operated his own Insurance Agency focusing on Health, Life, Disability, and Long Term Care Insurance products.



Chris Tinsley proudly display her award during a luncheon recognizing CanCare volunteers.



Reaction to wildfires across Texas

Continued from page 1

Humble, Memorial Drive UMC, and many, many other United Methodist churches who have been on the frontlines directly helping, housing, and feeding fire fighters, first responders, and evacuees, or collecting and distributing supplies and making themselves available in any way needed.

In addition, on September 11, churches throughout the Texas Annual Conference generously collected a special offering, reaching deep into their pockets to help the continued management of the fires while beginning to fund the immediate and long-term recovery that will be needed. Thanks to you, small grants are already being distributed to churches within our annual conference who are working in fire-impacted communities so that they can assist responders and victims immediately and effectively.

Most of the families and individuals who have lost homes and possessions either have no insurance or insufficient insurance to cover their unfathomable losses. These families and individuals are going to need significant help to rebuild. They are also going to need our loving reminder that God loves them and has not abandoned them.

As I write this article, I am proud to be a United Methodist. We are responding, and will continue to respond to those in need, because that is who we are. We did it after 9/11; we did it after three hurricanes – Katrina, Rita, and Ike; and we will do it again. As Methodist Christians, we give generously and tirelessly with Jesus as our example. We are a people called for such a time as this!

Thank you for your prompt, compassionate, generous, and

tireless response. Please continue to pray, volunteer, and give. The Conference website www.txcumc.org will be the hub for updates on how you can best help as circumstances and needs change.

Early Response Teams may be requested for the Bastrop fire area and these teams may also soon be needed in other areas as well. If you are ERT trained, please contact your District Disaster Response Coordinator (listed on the website) to let them know about your availability. If you are not yet ERT trained, you will find the details about the training session offered on Saturday, September 17, also on the web pages featuring fire related news.

Because of the widespread devastation over much of Texas, additional financial resources will greatly be needed to help with ongoing relief and recovery efforts. To continue to make financial contributions, you can give through your local church or directly to the “Texas Annual Conference” and mark your gift, “Texas wildfire relief.”

You can also give through UMCOR, advance # 901670.

I know we will continue to help meet the needs of these communities because we are already doing it. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for being the answer to the prayers of so many! Keep up the good work and remember that the One who goes with us and works through us is the One who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think and will keep us until the day of Christ’s coming.

North District



Aaron Dudley, youth director of Linden UMC works with a client.

The fires in Bastrop made the national news, but in northeast Texas an equally devastating blaze began and consumed more than 40,000 acres of East Texas piney woods. Hundreds of persons were displaced and scores lost homes, equipment, livestock and their livelihoods. On Monday, September 12th, First United Methodist Church in Jefferson opened its facility to the American Red Cross as a Voluntary Organizations Disaster Assistance Center for individuals impacted by the fire. Organizations represented included the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Salvation Army, legal aid, the Jefferson Housing Authority, Marion County Food Pantry, nurses and the Linden and Jefferson First United Methodist Churches.

“We are putting into practice radical hospitality,” adds Rev. Allison Byerley of Jefferson, “stepping up to provide any support and resource that we can and at the same time letting these agencies do what they know how to do best. It is truly an ecumenical effort and a community event.”

In addition to helping people find the assistance they needed, the church provided hot meals to any and all who came. Volunteers from throughout the community arrived with offerings of food, clothing, household items, and furniture. Members of the church stepped up to cook and serve meals.

Central North District

Wildwood UMC was designated as a Red Cross Shelter for wildfire evacuees in the northwest Houston and Magnolia area. Temporarily-homeless families residing at the church or nearby shelters wandered over for church on Sunday, September 11, many wearing borrowed clothes.

Reverend Rusti Moore says, “This has been a real-life lesson in living our faith. When the Red Cross called to set us up as a shelter, it seemed corny but I thought...It’s like God built this building so we could do this.”

Disaster Response Consultant Clay Whitaker gives this update, “The shelter we helped set up at Wildwood UMC in Magnolia was a great success, especially with the shower trailer we brought in. With winds shifting and conditions changing all over Texas, these first few weeks are naturally chaotic, but community leaders are moving into the assessment phase so TACCOR will be poised to put response teams together as needed.”

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- 1) Pray
- 2) Give to a designated recovery fund
- 3) Check website for donation needs
- 4) Get trained as an emergency responder



Local churches respond to wildfire disaster

East District



The new kitchen facility at Faith Bridge UMC (pastor's wife Larka Parks at left) has been a blessing to emergency response personnel. "As of Tuesday evening, we have served approximately 176 hamburgers along with chips, water, and desserts to fire-fighters, police, the sheriff's department, highway patrol and other governmental officials," says Vetta Quackenbush, administrative assistant to Dr. Jerry Pennington, District Superintendent of the East District. One of the fires was a half-mile from the school (at left).



From Reverend David Goodwin

"Henry's Chapel and Carlisle UMC have joined hands as our community battled September fires burning over 2,000 acres, including one reaching within a half-mile from the school and prompting an evacuation of half of the town. We have aided in evacuating the homebound, rescuing livestock and pets from homes in the path of the fire. The outpouring of love and support from our community has been overwhelming, a shining example of God's people coming together to care for those in need."



Update from Pastor Michael Parks: "Faith Bridge Douglass found great joy in the midst of the pain as we were able to be the hands and feet of Jesus. As a result of this fire related ministry we have had several new families show interest in our church. God is good!"

West District



"We collected a cattle trailer full of supplies and \$5,500 in cash from our members and people in the community," says Rev. Todd Jordan, senior pastor of Caldwell UMC. "And the amazing thing was that it was done in a short amount of time — under 48 hours!"

The trailer was driven by Rev. Jordan and church member, Kenneth Key to Austin Relief Network site in Bastrop County.

Northwest District



Approximately 30 students from the Wesley Foundation at UT Tyler and Tyler Junior College spontaneously came together and do something fun in harmony. They went throughout the Tyler Community asking for donations for those fighting the fires nearby. Vans loaded with water drinks, and snacks were delivered to a dozen fire stations in the area.

Update from Teague

Reverend Joy Richards, Centerville and Alan Van Hooser, Teague, spent many sleepless nights serving the community and fire fighters as major fires encircled their neighborhoods. Tired, but happy to report the fires were controlled along the perimeters, they urgently request others across the district, "Pray harder for rain!"



Sunset UMC youth celebrate three decades of mission work

By Brant Mills
Web Content Manager
Texas Annual Conference

For a small church with a tight budget, sending youth on a summer mission trip can be a challenge, but this year's annual summer work trip marked 30 years of youth missions for Sunset UMC in Pasadena, Texas.

Volunteer Stephanie Hatten, who has helped raise money and lead their work trip for the past five years, said the youth engaged in yard work, cleaning up facilities and working with deaf and autistic students at the Methodist Mission Home in San Antonio during this year's trip.

"On our first trip, my husband and I took seven students. I am excited to say this ministry has grown to the point we had 24 youth and five adults go this year. I love working with these kids because they're learning to give back, too. It was amazing to see that they wanted to clean out flower beds and do yard work in the extreme heat without complaining." During free time, youth enjoyed playing games and spending time with residents.

"The Methodist Mission Home has autistic young adults, deaf students and other handicapped people who live there."

Nancy Hinshaw, a member of Sunset UMC, explained. "Theirs is a type of assisted living situation, but residents have jobs. The mission home teaches them practical things like balancing a checkbook or paying bills and the mission helps them find work in the community."

Hatten said the youth thought learning sign language and connecting with people was the best part of the 2011 trip. "The day we worked with deaf children, we were scheduled to leave at 4, but I had to make them leave at 5:30. It was a very moving experience." Having learned some sign language in advance, the youth enjoyed a special sign language class at the Mission Home that enabled them to have fellowship time with deaf students. "Those teens were the same age as our youth, and they were so happy we were there," she continued. "The residents helped our youth find sign language names for themselves, and they loved it."

Prayer Partners

Each person on the trip is assigned a prayer partner who is staying behind. Hinshaw, who helps pair up prayer partners, said each person gets five letters written in advance. "Every day - during devotion time - every youth and adult gets a letter from someone back home. It is a letter of encouragement telling them how

through this partnership."

Youth Involved in Planning

Sunset youth are actively involved in planning their trip each year, Hatten noted. "Each night, one group of youth are in charge of the meal and one night, the devotion. Through the years we've given more choices to youth, along with more responsibility."

"Our youth budget is almost non-existent," Hinshaw said. "We live in an area where it is very difficult for the students, financially, to do these things, so Sunset has done a remarkable job. Choir Director

"We don't turn youth away. . . . We've had youth that came to church the week before the trip and want to go, so we found sponsors for them, and they soon became regular church attenders."

Stephanie Hatten, Volunteer

proud we are of them and that we're praying for them. Sometimes they get little gifts and tokens. No one knows who their partners are for the week, until they open the first letter."

Often, the prayer partners are former Sunday school teachers or Vacation Bible School teachers, but sometimes they are prayer warriors just wanting to volunteer for the support of the students. "The pastor is always someone's prayer partner," she continued, "and when they return, often they have new friendships

Joyce Elliot raises money for youth and children to go to choir camp, and the youth group raises money for District camp and Midwinter camp because these kids need to go - so when it come time for the work trip in the summer, we don't have enough budget left."

"We don't turn youth away," Hatten added. "We even pull new kids from the community. We've had youth that came to church the week before the trip and wanted to go, so we found sponsors for them, and they soon become regular

church attenders."

The church missions committee helps raise money for the youth mission trip, and youth help with fund raisers, but when it gets down to the last month, the youth each sell "stock" to shareholders for \$10. Each student is required to sell 10 stocks, and once they return from the trip they host a dinner for the shareholders.

At the dinner they share a video from their trip and share about their experiences. "This year, the youth said it was the best trip they had ever taken because they connected with people in a totally different way," Hinshaw noted. "They played the song 'Love in Any Language,' and all 29 of them signed the song silently."

"The main thing about a work trip," Hatten said, "is we all get closer which makes evening devotions more special. Students feel they can share openly with people and no one will betray their confidence."

Hatten added that Sunset UMC is very supportive of their youth program. "Anytime we need support, people step forward," she said. "We're already working on next year. I do the research on five potential places to visit and the costs associated and our youth vote on where they want to go next."

Hearing aids aren't always enough Do you hear what I hear?

"After Betty and I married, I attended church services with her but discovered the cathedral reverberations and echoes in the sanctuary prevented me from being able to understand the sermon. Consequently, I quit attending church." - Jess Pettey

By April Canik
Director of Communications
Texas Annual Conference

True or false: A good sound system fits all hearing needs.

Jess Pettey, longtime member of St. Luke's UMC in Houston and an active leader with the Hearing Loss Association of Houston, will tell you otherwise. "If you can't hear what the teacher or preacher are saying at church,

you might rather stay home than be frustrated," he says.

According to current statistics, with the popularity of Mp3 players, hunting and live concerts, 10-15% of all ages have a hearing loss. Hearing loss impacts 50% of those in their 70s.

The American Disabilities Act requires any facility with 50 permanent chairs or more to provide some kind of assisted listening system. Notes Pettey,

"While churches are exempt from this requirement, most would want to voluntarily provide it for their congregations if they understood the tremendous benefit for an aging population and others with hearing challenges." Convincing church leaders of the need for an investment in listening devices comes down to education and

awareness, primarily, he says. "Surprisingly," he adds, "hearing aids are not very effective in large groups and large rooms. It is almost like we can hear everything, so it becomes harder to distinguish speech amidst the background noises."

As an active proponent of the national initiative called "Get in the Loop" America, Pettey began educating the leadership and Senior Adult group at St. Luke's on several options to

Continued on page 8





Ministry Snapshots

Card parties lead to surprises in the mailbox

“When my parents moved into a nursing care facility, friends and church members began sending cards to my parents and it deeply touched their lives. After a while, I wondered how many more lives we might touch and how many more people we might reach and bless in the name of Jesus,” says Jessica Johnson, coordinator a new ‘mailbox ministry’ at First UMC in Dayton, Texas.

Once a quarter, church members stay after the worship service for lunch, fellowship and the opportunity to create cards for the *We Care* ministry. The ministry was initially called *First Connections* and was designed as a caring expression to 6-10 families for the purpose of prayer and visitation. Since its formation, the

ministry has grown into a congregational-wide emphasis that includes sending cards of caring to everyone. Members gather the names and addresses of people on the prayer list, stay-at-home members, visitors and guests and send them notes on greeting cards collected from the congregation.

“This ministry is simply an extension of the hugs, handshakes, and howdy greetings expressed during worship,” says Johnson.

Member Nan Eppinette adds, “We send cards of all kinds — from thank you cards, get well cards, we miss you cards to invitations to ministry events and we’re-thinking-of-and-praying-for-you cards.” Pastor Stouffer adds, “At our *We Care* card party this summer, we sent thank you cards

to the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, because of their commitment to pray for us for 30 days. We wanted to share God’s blessing back with them!”

There are plans to have card parties to usher in fall and prepare for Advent and Christmas. “We gather about once a quarter, share a fellowship over a simple covered-dish meal, and write cards until we’re finished. People participate in the *We Care* card parties by providing cards, postage, money for postage, food for lunch, and their time to write, address, and stamp the cards,” adds Johnson.

“Our *We Care* card parties are one more way that we can reach out to others in the name of Jesus to fulfill our mission



Jim Otto, a member of the *We Care* ministry at First UMC Dayton takes pleasure in sending expressive cards that touch the lives of the individuals receiving them.

at First UMC Dayton where we *Serve God Best by Serving Others First*,” said Johnson.

First UMC is located at 106 South Cleveland Street, Dayton, Texas 77535.



For more ways to get involved, contact Kristen Young | Public Policy Director of :

Alzheimer's Association Houston & Southeast Texas Chapter

2242 W. Holcombe Blvd., Houston TX 77030

713.314.1338 Fax: 713.266.6487

Email: Kristen.Young@alz.org; www.alz.org/texas

Wesley Community Center presents . . .

Spirit of Helping Luncheon

What: Annual fund raising luncheon honoring The Pillars of Wesley: community volunteers from CenterPoint Energy and Cameron; Laura Millikan (St. Paul’s UMC); Robert M. Reed (First UMC, Conroe); Thomas R. Wussow (First UMC, Kingwood), Stephen G. Tipps (St. Luke’s UMC); Mrs. Ruth G. Palmer, Executive Director Emeritus (First UMC, Houston), and The United Methodist Women.

When: Thursday, November 3, 2011 at Noon

Where: Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston, 77027

How: Sponsor a Table for \$15,000; \$5,000; \$2500; or \$1200. Individual Seats: \$500; \$250; \$120.

Reservations: Candy Kneip at ckneip@wesley-househouston.org or 713-223-8131 ext 231.

Background of Wesley Community Center

The women of First UMC of Houston helped found Wesley Community Center in 1904. They saw that many of the women across the bayou were widows with children whose husbands had been killed working the rail yards.

Locked into poverty by more than geographical boundaries, the idea of their families having more than food and shelter seemed like a dream.

Wesley Community Center, whose mission is *helping people help themselves and each other*, is a multi-purpose social service agency that provides comprehensive and publicly recognized programs for infants, children, youth, adults and seniors.

Located in Houston’s Northside Neighborhood, Wesley provides services to individuals and families throughout the Houston area, focusing on programs that help clients gain and maintain long term stability and self-sufficiency.



Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

Learning Opportunities

Using Compassionate Communication

Parenting from the Heart is the theme for a 5-session workshop to be held in the Jones Education Building of St. Paul UMC Houston.

The sessions will take place each Sunday in October, 2-5 p.m. Facilitators, Bren Hardt and Susan Wildin are certified trainers in Compassionate Communication. Space is limited and the first session on October 2 is free.

Contact Bren Hardt for additional information by email, bbhardt@gmail.com or by phone, 713-303-3403.

Church Communications Workshop

Houston Church Communication Coalition is hosting a one-day workshop with author and church communications thought-leader Kem Meyer on Friday, October 7 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Houston's First Baptist Church.

The workshop is for church communicators in leadership positions — people who are decision makers and who have responsibility for shaping and crafting their church's messages.

- Topics include:
- Myth busters: Are people letting you in or shutting you out?
 - Best practices: Start right & stay right
 - Getting buy-in: The social intelligence side of things
- The cost to attend is \$99 per person and includes lunch and all program materials. Registration is limited to 2 people per church or organization. Go to www.txcumc.org/commworkshop.

Resources to Help You Understand Your Community

There are many resources available to help churches as they strive to connect with the people of their communities.

The Congregational Resource Guide identifies many such resources in "Census, Congregation, and Community."

Requests for information may be directed to crngnews@alban.org.

Leadership Institute 2011

Are you looking for practical ideas and proven strategies? Do you want more than just theories and possibilities to help grow a vibrant, dynamic church?

Then save the date of **September 28-30, 2011**. Rev. Adam Hamilton, pastor of The Church of the Resurrection will host its annual leadership institute that offers workshops for pastors, lay staff and volunteer leaders.

The event will cover the following: Establishing Vision; Leading Change; Dealing with Conflict; Equipping Volunteers and Getting People on a Transformational Discipleship Pathway.

For more information or to register, go to <http://li.cor.org/bring-your-team/>.

Sexual Ethics Training

Clergy Sexual Ethics Training is scheduled for September 29, 2011 at FUMC, Longview, Texas and February 2, 2012 at Christ UMC, College Station, Texas.

This training is required of all clergy in the Texas Annual Conference and lay professionals seeking certification or who have not attended a training this quadrennium.

The cost is \$15.00 payable at the door to cover the cost of lunch and materials. Checks are

to be made to: The Texas Annual Conference.

Participants may fill out the registration form on line, www.txcumc.org and email it to marytumulty@gmail.com.

Lay Speaker Training

Basic and advanced lay speaker training courses will be offered October 29-30 at Lakeview Baptist Retreat Center in Lone Star, Texas.

The cost is \$65 per person. For additional information about registration, contact Teresa Fagan, Lay Speaking Ministries Director at teresafagan@aol.com or the New Boston UMC office, 903-628-2381.

Wiley College Choir in Concert

The community is invited to Aldersgate UMC for a concert of classical, spiritual, gospel and contemporary music.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 7-8:30 p.m. The church is located at 13217 FM 1764, Santa Fe, Texas 77510. Contact the church at 409-925-2552.

Trinity UMC Houston to host 'Some Sunday Jazz' Concert

The concert will be held on September 18, 4 p.m. at 2600 Holman Street, Houston, Texas.

Tickets will not be sold for the event, but donations to benefit the Music Ministry are welcome.

Native Houstonians Henrietta Robinson and Louie Carrington are the guest performers. Carrington, a Jazz vocalist and pianist, has toured Europe, Casablanca and Morocco.

For 11 years, vocalist Henrietta Robinson hosted the Friday night edition of, Jazz Gallery for WGHB-89.7 FM radio in Boston, Massachusetts in addition to performing worldwide.

For more information about

Fellowship Opportunities

the event, visit www.tumchouston.org; call the church at 713-528-2356 or Ms. Gloria McKinney at 713-523-8091.

Aldersgate UMC to host Youth Concert

The Youth Ministry of Aldersgate UMC will host, Light the Night Tour 2011 Concert, Saturday September 24 at 7 p.m. Featured artists will be: Satellites and Sirens, Shatter Me, and the Magic of Jaden Maxwell.

Proceeds from the event will benefit mission projects for local teens in the Houston/Galveston area. Tickets are available at www.ticketsevant.com for \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. For more details, contact the church office, 409-925-2552 or Youth Coordinator Cindy Acree at 713-254-5834.

Mission Opportunities

"Outward" Evangelism Conference

This event will take place, Saturday, September 24, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at John Wesley UMC, 5830 Bermuda Dunes, Houston, 77069.

Designed for churches/individuals seeking how to be "outward directed" in their lives and ministries. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Rudy Rasmus, St. John's UMC, Houston.

Cost of \$8 includes brunch. Registration: jthompson@jwumc.org and the deadline date is September 20. RSVP for childcare by September 21. Contact Rev. Matthew Smith, 281-444-2112, msmith@jwumc.org.

Do you hear what I hear?

Continued from page 6

bring greater word clarity to those hard of hearing. The three primary options to provide hearing assistance beyond the typical sound system are:

- 1) **an FM system that requires supplying hand held receivers,**
- 2) **an infrared system that also uses hand receivers and**
- 3) **an induction loop system which is deemed the most user-friendly option and lowest maintenance.**

An induction loop is a thin strand of insulated wire circling a room, a chair or even worn around your neck. Most hearing aids and cochlear implants have telecoils with manual controls that can tie into the looped signal. The wire receives a signal from an amplifier and lets the individual hear clearly while keeping the volume level unchanged for other listeners.

Electricians can typically handle simple installations, but trained specialists can compensate for challenging environments. So far this year, St.

Luke's has installed a loop system in the sanctuary and parlor. (Note: churches will find this much more affordable to install during construction or remodeling than after-the-fact.) For more information on hearing loop technology, go to www.hearingloop.org/loop/America or email Jess about church related installations at jpettey24@comcast.net.

Adds Pettey, "I hope church leaders will begin to learn about these hearing assistance options and budget for it, because hearing what is said at church is life changing!"

Send Spotlight submissions to:

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