



Cross Connection

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College Station church hosts area revival

Lord, send a revival, and let it begin with me!

Are you tired of the mean-spirited nature of our world today? Would you like an infusion of love and hope in your community?

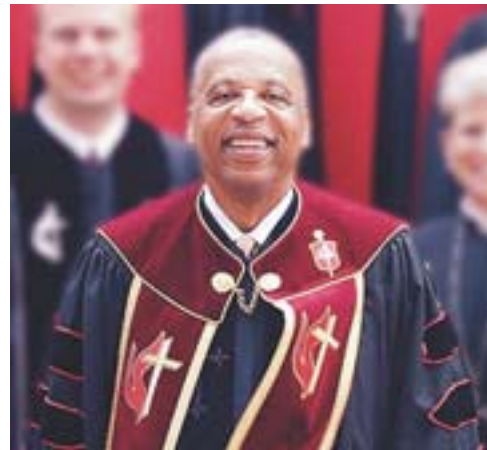
Christ UMC in College Station will host REVIVE-BCS, March 6-8, 2011, in what is hoped to be a mere spark that will re-ignite the fires of Bryan and College Station's heart and vibrant spirit. By reaching out to others across the community and across boundaries that often see things differently, the church hopes to impact the entire Bryan-College Station area.

Years ago, a former U.S. President talked about his personal vision of 1,000 points of light, whereby individuals and organizations would strive to

make a difference in their sphere of influence. We are striving, through this revival, to be a point of light for Jesus Christ in the Bryan-College Station area.

The guest speaker for this revival will be Bishop Robert Hayes, Jr., leader of the Oklahoma Area of The United Methodist Church. As bishop, he presides over 530 churches in the Oklahoma Conference and almost 90 churches of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. Hayes said he felt called to the ministry at the early age of four as he banged his small hands on his father's pulpit after church on Sundays and conducted elaborate funerals for deceased cats, birds and other pets for his friends.

Bishop Hayes has previously served in Texas as the



Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr.

Superintendent of the Houston Southwest District, pastored two churches in Houston, one in Longview, Texas, as a student pastor, and served as chaplain and instructor of religion and philosophy at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas for three years.

The guest Musician for the

series will be Ken Medema, who was born blind, and is known for his compositions sung by choirs all over the world. Medema, who says he has spent his life with some degree of "being different" found empathy with those who feel disenfranchised. He began playing the piano at age five

and by age eight had a wonderful teacher who taught him the classics in Braille music and how to play by ear.

Medema earned a master's degree in music therapy from Michigan State University and worked as a music

Continued on page 3

Celebrate Dawson's ministry at retirement event February 25

**By Monroe Walker
Chief Administrative Officer
Lakeview Conference
Retreat Center**

For over 100 years the Dawson name has resonated through the halls and sanctuaries of Methodist Churches across the Texas Conference, as four generations of Dawsons served and ministered to their congregations.

This month we will celebrate the rich heritage of the Dawson family's legacy as served out through the ministry of Rev. Von Dawson. For more than 40 years, Von has given of himself to be a pastor, mentor, friend, motivator, and Christ-like example. More recently, he gets to add "chief



Rev. Von Dawson

potty patrol" to that list!

Anyone who knows Von would say that he leaves an indelible mark on the lives of people he touches. Having had the privilege of working with him closely for over 13 years, I know that to be a fact. There is no shortage of lifelong friends that you can find at Lakeview or any of the churches he has served.

Since becoming the Superintendent of Lakeview in

1998, there has been no time in Lakeview's history when more has been accomplished in ministering to children, youth, and adults. The facilities are better, bigger, and the operations more efficient and productive than ever.

But ask Von what the paramount driver is for all that he does and he will reply that it's the children and youth. Nothing thrills him more than to see a child understand for the first time how much God loves them. Or to witness youth supporting one of their own struggling with family problems. Or to watch young people grow and develop their relationships with each other and with God.

Whether it's being directly involved with them, or

enabling the experience through the setting of Lakeview, Von has touched the lives of so many people, young and old alike. For his love, dedication, and service we give thanks to God!

Please join the Board of Directors of Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in honoring Von's lifelong ministry with a retirement celebration and luncheon on Friday, February 25, 2011, beginning at noon in the Sparling Cafeteria. You may RSVP to the Lakeview office before February 19th by calling 903-538-2711 or go to the Lakeview web page:

www.lakeviewmcc.org.



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District Events offer opportunities to share

By Leah Taylor
Texas Annual Conference
Lay Leader

God is good ... All the time!

This past weekend there were at least four different training events in our Annual Conference. Saturday morning, I was in Wharton at the Southwest District training event, where I spoke about Evangelism and how to do it.

Sunday afternoon, I was at First UMC Houston, West Campus, where District Lay Leader, Al Calloway, and I worked together to talk about being an effective Lay Leader as well as being a positive leader in the local church, even without having a specific job.

Training was going on in both the North Central and Southeast Districts on Sunday afternoon as well.

Each year, I see more familiar faces at the District events but also new people who are excited about the opportunity to serve God in their churches and the chance to learn how to do it right.

These district-wide events give us a unique way to hear how others are tackling challenges and to explore what has worked and what hasn't.

When I was in the corporate world, we used to talk about "stealing shamelessly" others' ideas when they were tried and found useful. My hope is that in all four venues, someone found some idea worth stealing shamelessly from someone else! If you did, I'd love to hear how it works out so please keep me posted on your results.

An eye toward Annual Conference

Another time that District Laity come together each year is at the Pre-Conference Delegate meetings. These meetings will take place the last week in April and first week in May.

Rev. B.T. Williamson, Assistant to the Bishop, will visit each District with information about Annual Conference. He'll be bringing details about where and when things will happen, and, he'll have specifics on the voting equipment we will use to elect delegates to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional conferences.

I will be with Rev. Williamson at as many of the Pre-Conference meetings as possible. Although all of the meeting places have not yet been designated, dates and time

are set.

More information about the places for the meetings will be available on the Conference web site and on your district web site. Please mark your calendars now so that you can be present for these important meetings.

If you are planning to run as a lay delegate, I hope to recognize you at the meetings. That will give others in your district the opportunity to connect your name with your face and maybe get to know you just a little bit.

Plans are still being made for the Lay Member Assembly and for the possible Laity Luncheon. Please remember that you can give me your feedback about reinstating the Laity Luncheon at www.txcumc.org/laitylunchsurvey.

So far there has been an overwhelming lack of response. I'll leave the survey up for the rest of this week and make a decision soon.

If you have any feelings one way or the other now is your chance to put in your two cents worth!

In the meantime, remember that: *All the time...God is good!*

DISTRICT EVENT SCHEDULE

Central South
April 28 at 7 p.m.

North
April 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Northwest
April 30 at 3 p.m.

South
May 1 at 3 p.m.

Southeast
May 1 at 7 p.m.

East
May 2 at 7 p.m.

West
May 3 at 7 p.m.

Central North
May 4 at 7 p.m.

Southwest
May 5 at 7 p.m.

Welcoming Certified Churches

United Methodist Communications is pleased to announce a new online process for new and renewing welcoming certified congregations. Instead of the "paper and pen" process that has been used over the last 10 years of the program, everything has been moved online using our Online Learning Center.

For those congregations seeking certification for the first time, the forum "Becoming a Welcoming Congregation" walks them through the activities they need to complete toward initial certification. With the help of other congregations seeking certification and a team of facilitators, the process is more efficient and engaging. Plus,

UM Communications is able to quickly update and add new resources to support welcoming ministry. Access to this online forum and process is open to any United Methodist congregation and does not require any pre-authorization.

For those congregations already certified at any point since 2001, you are invited to join another online forum, "Welcoming Certified Congregations," where you will encounter more than 1,000 welcoming certified churches and complete activities toward renewal of their annual certification.

This forum provides additional resources, community building and sharing to enhance welcoming ministry

across the United Methodist connection. Access to this forum is restricted to congregations that have already achieved initial certification and requires a pre-assigned username, password and enrollment key to participate in the renewal certification forum.

Complete details about both the new and renewing certification online forums and processes are available at our Welcoming Certification webpage,

<http://umcom.org/welcomingcertification>.

Promote welcoming certification in your annual conference and continue to spread the word about this vital ministry of the people of The United Methodist Church.





New Church Leadership Institute

A discernment retreat for potential church-start pastors

Leadership is the critical factor to successful church starts. What defines effective leadership, and how can pastors explore and cultivate the unique leadership skills this calling requires?

New Church Leadership

is a discernment retreat for potential church-start pastors, created to share best practices around leadership, church-start models and community building. These insights have been iden-

tified and validated across United Methodist Annual Conferences, as well as within sister denominations. Participants hear from church-planting consultants and successful planting pastors from across the country who

ensure clarity of call. The program also incorporates exercises aimed at discernment, during which participants will have a chance to assess their gifts for church planting privately and honestly.

While only some partici-



Featured left to right: Dr. Don Waddleton, Director of Congregational Excellence, Bob Crossman, Director of NCLI and Jim Griffith, NCLI presenter.

New Church Leadership Institute was created to share information and practices around leadership and church start models.

The next NCLI event will be October 10-13, 2011, at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Arkansas. To learn more about new church starts or attending NCLI, send an e-mail request

to dsutton@txcumc.org in the Texas Annual Conference Center for Congregational Excellence.

“NCLI is helping to reshape the thinking and very culture of the United Methodist Church to effectively proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be a prophetic voice of hope, mercy, and grace in a broken and confused world.”

Rev. Scott Moore
Associate Pastor, First UMC Conroe

will share their experiences, as well as the candid insights about the challenges and blessings of this vocation.

The retreat creates intentional time and space for listening to the Holy Spirit to

participants will eventually start a new congregation, all will benefit from new insights around effective leadership. These skills are transferable wherever one might serve.

The next NCLI event will

College Station church hosts area revival

Lord send a revival, and let it begin with me!

Continued from page 1

therapist for a number of years. He began writing songs about his patient's lives and thus his career as a recording artist began in 1973. In 1985 he founded Brier Patch Music, an independent recording, publishing and booking company that creates musical expression that celebrates all aspects of the human experience with an emphasis on spirituality.

The revival begins on Sunday morning, March 6, when Bishop Hayes will issue a call to revival during his morning message. Sunday evening, there will be an emphasis on the youth of the community. A youth choir composed of youth from the Bryan-College Station area will provide special music along with Ken Medema.

Monday evening is

planned to be a night especially for pastors of all denominations. Area clergy

encourage, and enrich those men and women God calls to serve as pastors.

an encouraging word to the pastors in attendance and Rev. Brian Fisher, senior pastor of Grace Bible Church, will offer a word of prayer.

Highway 6 South. A nursery will be provided.

Members of Christ United Methodist Church began preparing for this revival of spirit back in November, with 120 Days of Prayer and encouraged members to participate in giving back to the community through 3,000 hours of service to others.

To reiterate the goal, this revival is about being a spark for those who have lost their way, those who do not know God, those who are suffering in numerous ways, and those believers who are ready for a renewal of their spirit. The community is invited to join during any or all of the revival.

For more information, visit www.REVIVE-BCS.com or call the church office at 979-690-4673.



Ken Medema shares his inspirational gifts at the 2010 Texas Annual Conference gathering.

will be invited to the revival that evening for a time of worship designed to uplift,

Rev. Chris Osborne, senior pastor of Central Baptist Church in Bryan, will offer

evening services will begin at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of Christ UMC in College Station, 4201



Celebrating our United M

St. Mark's UMC Houston and Buna First UMC

Celebrating God's faithfulness throughout the generations

Members charged to dedicate themselves to kingdom building



Even the banquet centerpieces celebrated the church's heritage. This table featured a photo of a former pastor, the late Rev. Louis W. Greer, and Mrs. Louis Willie Cebrun, mother of the late Rev. Mary J. Cebrun.

"Many things have had their beginning and end in the last 125 years, but that's not so for St. Mark's," said Rev. Julia Harnsberry-Davis, the keynote speaker for the St. Mark's UMC Houston 125th anniversary celebration banquet on January 22.

Harnsberry-Davis, associate minister of New Faith Church, cited businesses and trends that were born and died during St. Mark's life span. "Don't Stop Coming to Church" was the theme of her message, in which she compelled the gathering to cling to the church's traditions and values, not just as a memorial, but as they continue to "be the church" and do the work God calls them to do.

Dr. Elijah Stansell Jr., Texas Annual Conference Treasurer, continued issuing that call to Godly service the following morning, as he reminded the church: "there can be no celebration without

dedication." Stansell encouraged the church to dedicate itself to lifting up Jesus, who in turn, will draw all people unto Him.

Both pastors honored the rich history of the church and inspired members to greater service – a befitting tribute to those who sacrificed before them and a befitting tribute to God, who has sustained them.

The banquet celebration honored nine elders of the church, who have served as faithful trustees, ushers, communion stewards, choir members and more. Joining in the celebration service on Sunday were Central South District Superintendent Rev. Lawrence Young; former pastor Dr. Joseph Cox; and the families of three ministers (who are now deceased) Rev. Louis Greer, Rev. Nathaniel Humphrey and Rev. Matthew Lamb.

Strong, spiritual roots

Established in 1886, during the height of the Reconstruction Era, one of the founding fathers, Mr. Austin Lee, donated a lot on Croom Street, where an arbor was built for worship. The Lee, Lemons and Diggs families, led by Rev. G. W. White, were founding members and among the first to worship under the arbor.

Dreams of a better place of worship materialized into a one-room wood frame building, where services were held until a storm destroyed the structure on August 14, 1914.

Worshippers gathered in the pastor's home until a new structure was built in 1915 at 5302 Blossom Street.

The congregation worshipped at the new location until 1949. Yet, the members had a continuing quest for a better St. Mark's Methodist Church. They instituted an effort to raise money to support the building funds depositing \$400, \$62, and \$51 respectively. The Methodist Church Board of Missions agreed to provide loans of \$1,000 and \$4,000 toward the new church. In 1949, the church on Blossom Street was sold and for a brief period, members worshipped under a tent with Jones Chapel AME Church, while the building at the current location on Patterson Street was built. The opening service was held on July 28, 1950.

St. Mark's has been blessed with the leadership of many faithful ministers of the gospel. Through each, St. Mark's has continued to further the dreams of the founding fathers.

Pastors serving before 1914: Rev. G.W. White, Rev. J.P. Patrick, Rev. W.M. Josey, Rev. W.L. Warren, Rev. Mack, Rev. Lee and Rev. McDonald.

Pastors serving from 1914-1950: Rev. G.G. Felder, Rev. E. Micheaux, Rev. E.D. Summer, Rev. C.C. Curtis, Rev. J.A. Daniels, Rev. H.J. Johnson, Rev. C.H. Payton, Rev. S.A. Jones, Rev. L.B. Felder, Rev. E.T. Albury, Rev. C.L. Hill Jr. and Rev. J.H. Collier.

Pastors serving from 1950-1980: Rev. Richard Robinson, Rev. Joseph F. Cox, Rev. J.S. Carraway, Rev. C.N. Bonner, Rev. Nathaniel Humphery, Rev. Noel Lark, Rev. W.B. Randolph and Rev. Louis

Greer.

Pastors serving from 1980-present: Rev. Matthew Lamb, Rev. Darrell Houston, Rev. Oscar Taylor, Rev. E. Dwayne Dillard, Rev. Marvin Jiles, Rev. Elnora Nunnally and Rev. Gregory Johnson.

A member of the Central South District of the Texas Annual Conference, St. Mark's is a small, service-oriented congregation. Members have been active in Hurricane Recovery work; donated disaster relief health kits, flood buckets and baby layettes; supported Nothing But Nets; participated in the Texas Mission of Mercy dental project; hosted annual school supply drives; delivered meals through Interfaith Ministries, and the church is home to the Commission on Native American Ministries (CONAM) Third Sunday Fellowship.



Children participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of St. Mark's at its present location, where members still strive to break new ground for God.



methodist heritage

celebrate 100+ years of ministry



Church Historian, Doyle Hawkins and Linda Primrose, representative for Jasper Church Historical Commission unveil the historical marker awarded to Buna First UMC.

Buna First UMC celebrates 107 years of service

Local church receives Texas Historical marker

By Thelma Jones
Editor, Cross Connection

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11, New King James Version).

The future and hope described in this scripture passage became the foundation for Buna First UMC in Jasper County. This year, the church was recognized as a significant part of the history of Buna, Texas, by being awarded a historical marker by the Texas

Historical Commission. The church celebrated its 107-year history with dedication of the marker.

Historical background

January 10, 1904, the church received five of its 11 charter members; adding another six members June 10 of the same year. In 1906, First UMC Buna was one of the churches that made up the Silsbee Circuit. Worship services were held twice a month. As the church grew, weekly church services were held in the area school house.

Construction on a new building began in 1914. The

new church was completed and a dedication ceremony was held in 1922, with Bishop John M. Moore officiating.

A community hall was also constructed on the church grounds. This structure was a joint project of the Missionary Society of the church and the Masonic Lodge in the community. The hall had many functions; serving as a place for social functions throughout the community; the upper floor being used by the Masonic Lodge, as well as the first floor being utilized by the church for Sunday School.

Upward and Onward

Over the years, Buna First UMC has continued to grow and serve the community. Through ministries such as Family Volleyball night, MYF Youth Fellowship and the Retiree Fellowship Lunch, the church has forged strong links to the surrounding area.

In 2004, the church celebrated its centennial anniversary. Last month, the church celebrated the unveiling and dedication of its historical marker. Dr. B. T. Williamson, the

Assistant to the Bishop of the Texas Annual Conference, delivered the message and Dr. Richard White, the Southeast District Superintendent, offered closing remarks for the service.

The inscription on the marker was read aloud to the congregation and guests.

The last sentence on the marker holds true for First UMC Buna and echoes the hope and future spoken of in Jeremiah 29:11 – *First UMC continues to serve as a spiritual beacon and a social center of the Buna community.*



The marker honoring 107 years of ministry and service through Buna First UMC.



In the field of Extension Ministry – unity really does matter

By Brant Mills
Web Content Manager
Texas Annual Conference

“All pastors deal with conflict but we must all remember to stay focused on the One we serve.” This is what Rev. Kathy Harrell says is important in her role as an extension minister at Unity Matters Corporation where she helps others work through a variety of difficult situations.

Her ministry is focused on conflict resolution, conflict transformation, and teaching leaders to be effective at leading during times of stress and conflict within church, community, and organizational settings. Her passion is helping people learn to better manage conflict and work toward finding a resolution and ultimately, transformation.

Rev. Harrell has been involved in mediation for over 10 years. Certified by the state of Texas in both civil and family mediation since 2000, she says she has successfully settled cases brought before her whether they were civil or divorce. Her doctorate of ministry in parish leadership focuses on conflict resolution and transformation, and, along with having attended the Lombard mediation center, Rev. Harrell has developed her own style of mediation. She describes it as being, “far less



Rev. Kathy Harrell

lengthy and drawn out, and highly more effective. It leaves the clients/organizations more unified, and is considerably less costly, monetarily and emotionally.”

Unity in the church

“All churches have experienced conflict at some level,” Harrell says, adding that “If conflict gets in the way of doing the work of the Lord, that church is then basically non-productive in its ability to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Her program entitled, *Unity in the Church* works toward the goals of unity, stability and building qualified leaders of the church, thereby leading others to Christ. Conflict resolution within a church setting is centered on conducting interventions and mediations. “Conflict transformation takes

conflict resolution to an entirely different level of effectiveness in the conflictual church, community, or organizational settings, Harrell said, referencing her seminar *Unity in the Church/Unity in Community*.

Harrell noted that in every case, the churches she has worked with, “Communications were opened, respect for pastors has grown, and church leaders are more able to stand strong. They are excited and feel qualified in the jobs that they perform. They definitely enjoy becoming more spiritually unified.” She said, “Both clergy and laity alike become more united, learn how to lead in the

have participated in *Unity in the Church*; *Unity in Community* program have also developed a keener awareness of how important it is to support clergy and leadership as well as the importance of their role as leaders in helping to build a stronger and more unified church or community.

Unity Matters Corporation is also referred cases by judges within the court system for both civil and divorce cases.

In the mediation cases presented to Rev. Harrell by the court system, her husband Jim Harrell, VP of Unity Matters, plays an active part of the mediation process where financial aspects are involved.

“We try to do our very best and honor our clients [with] respect for feelings, their position in life and respect for their future. At Unity Matters, All unity matters.”

midst of conflict, and learn how to conduct meetings with techniques that help in productivity, effectiveness, and, during the process, help to eliminate the possibility of conflict destroying the productivity of the meeting.”

She added that the churches and communities which

“Jim’s background in finance and accounting serves the mediation process well,” Harrell said.

“We try to do our very best and honor our clients [with] respect for feelings, their position in life and respect for their future,” she said, adding, “At Unity Matters, All unity matters.”

One of their ministerial goals is to have pastors refer parishioners from within their congregations or communities who are going through lengthy and difficult situations who need help in resolving conflict. “In all cases, court ordered mediations for family and civil matters are resolved in one to two days,” she said.

“We invite those going through this process to the Unity Matters Center to enjoy the hospitality and peaceful setting during the mediation process; however, we are able to travel if our clients request our services at another location.”

Right setting for Unity

The Unity Matters Center is located in a secluded area outside of Chappell Hill, Texas which is about an hour northwest of Houston on Highway 290. The setting was designed to focus on hospitality, peace, and tranquility. “It looks like a bed and breakfast – very comfortable – very peaceful...” Harrell added.

The center includes a conference room, dining areas, and smaller break out rooms or caucus rooms that are also functional within their home setting - that being a den, art gallery, music room, library, and living room. There are many outdoor areas for attendees to use as well, including front porch rocking chairs, deck, spiritual garden, benches, and a large round table and chairs on the terrace.

Harrell describes the Unity Matters Center as being “rich with imagery,” noting that they emphasize specific Biblical themes throughout the center, including the garden areas.

“A bench near the herb garden invites visitors to sit and meditate in the fragrance of the lovely herbs.” Harrell says, “for me this icon symbolizes how Mary came to Jesus’ tomb after His death with fresh herbs to prepare the body of Christ.”

Going out from the cross-shaped herb garden, gnomes are specifically placed two by two symbolizing Mark’s gospel text, 6:7, “*Calling the Twelve to Him, He sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.*” Thus going out and “*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*”

You can learn more about Rev. Harrell and the ministry of Unity Matters by contacting her at: revharrell@unitymatters.org or by phone at 979-836-8815. Visit their website at: <http://www.unitymatters.org/>.



A photo of the center. As an extension minister, Rev. Kathy Harrell serves as a mediation facilitator at Unity Matters Corporation.



Ministry Snapshots

Having a talk with God

Friendswood UMC presents Prayer Conference 2011

By **Thelma Jones**
Editor, *Cross Connection*

Over the years, churches and religious institutions have sought to answer the questions, “What do you say when you pray? Or, “How do we pray effectively?”

Friendswood UMC will offer a 2-day conference that will address these questions and others concerning prayer. “The event will bring new energy and understanding to the meaning of prayer,” says Diane Taylor, Communications Director for Friendswood UMC. “Can you imagine what would happen if the members of a church began praying powerful prayers in line with God’s plans and purposes for our lives and the life of the

church?”
Indeed, whenever Christians align their prayers with the Word of God, great



Pastor Suzette Caldwell

and exciting things happen.

The Conference will be held February 26-27, with Pastor Suzette Caldwell as the event’s facilitator. Pastor Caldwell is an associate pastor

at Windsor Village UMC in Houston, Texas. She also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Kingdom Builder’s Prayer Institute, a non-profit, commu-

will be successful in achieving their dreams and desires.

When asked about the benefits of this event, Taylor responded, “Intimate relationship with God will develop.

“Can you imagine what would happen if the members of a church began praying powerful prayers in line with God’s plans and purposes our lives and the life of the church?”

Diane Taylor
Communications Director, Friendswood UMC

nity based organization that prays for the Houston metropolitan area and teaches people to pray more effectively.

Caldwell strongly believes that anyone who is willing to “Walk by faith” and trust God

More people will spend a greater amount of time in the presence of God, becoming fully equipped to pray with greater confidence and with expected results.”

Senior Pastor, Rev.

Rosemary Dubois spoke to the relevance of prayer in the church today: “We are all spiritual beings having a spiritual experience. In order to grow in our spirituality, we need to stay connected with God – and that occurs through prayer. As a church, we need to provide opportunities for people to develop a strong and faithful prayer life. My prayer is that people will take the time to attend this prayer conference and prepare their hearts and minds to be transformed.”

If you would like to register for the event or would like additional information, you may contact either Diane Taylor at 281-482-7535, ext. 118 or diane@friendswoodumc.com.

Protecting innovative works created through ministry activities

Trinity UMC Houston to host workshop on guidelines that protect creative ideas for ministry

What do patents, copyrights and trademarks have to do with ministry? The short answer is that patents, copyrights and trademarks protect creativity. A major source of creativity is ministry activities in the local church and other religious organizations.

Saturday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m., Trinity UMC Houston will present a workshop whose focus is protecting works and ideas created through ministry activities.

Creativity in ministry produces *kingdom work*. Five primary ministry areas that produce these works are: 1) praise and worship, 2) education, 3) events, 4) mass media and 5) consumer products and services. The area of praise and worship obviously includes music; although dance, dramatic interpretation, readings, short skits and plays all

involve levels of creativity as well. Copyright protection is the primary form of protection for artistic works which include praise and worship activities.

The area of education includes materials that ministries develop for proclaiming the gospel and for helping persons mature in their spiritual walk. Sunday school classes, weekly Bible studies, and subject matter classes on topics such as prayer, money, and relationships require a certain amount of creativity, skill and experience to produce materials that will educate, empower and equip people with information and resources to help them better live their lives.

For educational products, copyrights are also the primary form of protection. Events including conferences and retreats are similar in purpose to education

because these activities also provide information and inspiration to individuals that enable them to grow and better serve in God’s Kingdom.

In addition, the effective promotion of these events requires substantial creativity. Works created for promotional purposes can involve both copyright and trademark protections. With regards to the area of Mass Media, radio, television and the Internet provide substantial opportunities for ministry exposure and impact. Creativity can be a critical part of branding a ministry and distinguishing that ministry from other ministries.

Trademarks are a form of branding. Some ministry activities grow to the point that they will become viable businesses and/or provide products to consumers. For some churches, a table in the fellowship hall where Bibles

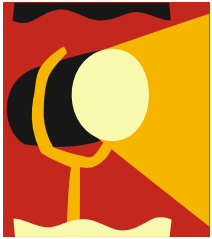
were once sold after service has grown into a full-functioning book store selling books and a variety of other products. Commercial products can incorporate patent, copyright and trademark protections. Trademarks are tools that protect creativity.

In his upcoming book, *God’s Property – Using Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks to Protect Kingdom Works*, minister and attorney Darcell Walker, who assists churches in this area, suggests several reasons why ministries should consider intellectual property protection. One main reason to seek formal protection for creative works is to ensure one’s own ability to use the created work without interference from others. Another reason for pursuing protection is to control all uses of a creative work by others to ensure proper use of the work and prevent mis-

use or unauthorized use. A third reason is that many creative works can generate revenue.

Protection of a creative work helps a ministry maximize the revenue-generating potential of that work. With regards to music in particular, most churches and religious organizations understand the need to protect these types of works. However, many ministries do not practice this same degree of prudence with other types of creative works.

The cost for the workshop is \$10.00. For additional information, email Minister Walker at dw0914@sbcglobal.net or call 713-772-1255. For more information about the book “*Godly Ideas – Perceiving and Pursuing God-Given Ideas*” please visit www.dwalkerlaw.net.



Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

Fellowship Opportunities

Bay Harbour UMC to host Women's Retreat

On February 19, step away from the demands of daily routine for a time of renewal and reflection. Join other women for a day of spiritual retreat on that Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Explore your relationship with God through fellowship, music, prayer and meditation, a labyrinth walk, creative expression and more! This retreat is designed for women of all ages and stages of spiritual journey, and is open to all women in the community.

Leaders for the retreat are Rev. Glynden Bode of "Spirit's Call Ministries," and Connie Bovier, author of several books.

Suggested offering is \$25 for lunch and materials. Free child care is available with advance registration.

For registration information, visit, www.bayharbourumc.org/#/what-we-do/womens-ministry, or contact the church at 281-334-1100 or email Connie Bovier at cjbovier@earthlink.net.

Tour Space Center Houston with St. Paul's UMC Houston

Join with the St. Paul's UMC Salt and Light seniors' group on a tram tour of the Johnson Space Center on Thursday, February 24.

The tour will include Rocket Park, Mission Control, an astronaut training facility, and a short movie about NASA and its history plus many interesting exhibits at Space Center

Houston.

The group rate price for the tour is \$10/person. The group will leave St. Paul's that morning at 9:15 a.m., lunch on your own and return by 3 p.m.

To assure a spot on the bus, please RSVP by Tuesday, February 16, via info@stpaulshouston.org or call 713-528-0527.

Learning Opportunities

2011 Tax and Church Finance Seminar

Heartspring Methodist Foundation and the Center for Connectional Resources will sponsor seminars for clergy and laity who participate in the financial management of the local church.

There will be two events; February 17 at Marvin UMC in Tyler, Texas, and February 22 at St. Paul's UMC in Houston, Texas.

Registration and payment for both events can be done online at www.heartspringmethodist.org.

North District Lay Speaker Training

The event is scheduled for February 26-27 at Lone Star Baptist Retreat Center, 643 N. Wildrose, Lone Star, Texas, 75668.

This training is held for individuals who are eager to serve through the church; well informed on Scripture, doctrine, heritage, organization and life of The United Methodist Church.

Interested persons should also

be committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care giving ministries and spoken communication; willing to improve his/her skills for service.

To become a Local Church or Certified Lay Speaker, you will need to take the Basic and then, the Advanced Classes. Cost is \$60 for overnight stay, food, snacks and course material. For more information on this training event, contact Teresa Fagan, 903-628-2381 or teresaonamission@aol.com.

All In The Family

St. Luke's UMC Houston will host workshops each Sunday, February 13-March 6 that focus on family lifestyles.

We live out our Christian faith primarily with those in our families... and it isn't always easy. While the specific situations have changed over the centuries, the basic issues are still the same: How do we build strong marriages, parent our children well, and care for our parents and other family members.

The Bible shares principles that apply to these key relationships, which can help guide us as we figure out how to be Christians at home. For more information about these events, contact Sally Penning, 713-402-5043 or spenning@stlukeshou.org.

Hire Power Workshop at Clear Lake UMC

Mondays, at 9 a.m. in the Wesley Center.

Hire Power-Houston is a Jobs Ministry, and a sub-group of the Linked Local Houston Bay Area, an organization focused on working with several local

churches, local businesses and many other local organizations.

The goals of the organization are to bring the community together and strengthen it while families, friends and neighbors who have been affected by the current economic conditions are supported.

For additional information, contact Eric Beauford at eric@centivity.com.

Simplified Church Management Workshop

This workshop will examine the challenges churches face staying connected to members, record keeping, church management and offer solutions for the day-to-day work of the local church.

This free event is scheduled for February 10, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Terrace UMC, 1203 Wirt Road, Houston, Texas.

For more information, contact Susan Stitzer, 1-800-773-7570, ext. 118 or scstitzer@hotmail.com.

Spiritual Director Training Application Deadline is March 15

The Charis Spiritual Director Training Program is accepting applications for Class 3, which will begin training in August 2011 and graduate in the summer of 2014.

Both lay and clergy who feel a calling to companion others on the spiritual journey are invited to apply. For more information and application materials, contact Charis program coordinator: Becky Oates, 979-690-9193 or havenofrest@earthlink.net.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group

The group meets on Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at Clear Lake UMC, 16335 El Camino Real, Houston, Texas, 77062. Anyone who is caring for a person who is afflicted with Alzheimer's is invited and urged to attend. No fee or registration is required. For more information contact Betty Flanders at 281-488-5111, x114.

Mission Opportunities

Training Seminar for Mission Leaders and Volunteers

Cultivating cultural intelligence is the theme for the upcoming seminar on February 12. The focus is to better equip mission leaders and volunteers for cultural differences as they serve God in this ministry.

The speaker will be Dr. Robert Hunt, Director of Global Theology at Perkins School of Theology. The cost for this event is \$15, which includes four seminars, lunch and snacks. To register, visit www.partnersinmission.org.

For more information, contact Kathie Mann in the office of, Partners In Mission at 713-521-9383.

Are you interested in Lay Ministry training?

Are you interested in being partners in ministry with chaplains at Methodist Hospital Houston?

Training classes are scheduled for March 4, 5, 10, 17, and 24. Contact Rev. Stacy Pell, 713-441-1985 or spell@tmhs.org for more information.

Send Spotlight submissions to:

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