



Cross Connection

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Our Core Beliefs

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Faith-forming Relationships
- Risk-taking Mission
- Extravagant Generosity
- Connectional Ministry
- Fervent Prayer and Diligent Study of Scripture

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

Report Day 2012 — shaping the future from a solid foundation

By Ivan Krowl
Information Technology
Manager
Texas Annual Conference

This year, the Texas Annual Conference joined over 30 other conferences to move our year-end reporting process to the GCFA written internet data management system named "EZRA".

When looking up the meaning of the name EZRA, the definition is:

Ezra \e-zra, ez-rah\ as a boy's name is pronounced, AIRZ-rah. It is of Hebrew origin, and the meaning of Ezra is "helper."

This system is indeed intended to be our helper in the reporting process and we believe as more and more feedback is received, EZRA will fulfill that role as we move forward. As with any change to a new system, there are several "growing pains" that must be overcome.

Any new system presents a "learning curve" in order to gain the comfort level each person has been used to in using past reporting systems.

We have come a long way as a conference from the old days of huge layout sheets; to a PC based entry system

loaded at every church; to a web based system written specifically for year-end reporting; to the Dove system; and now, to the EZRA system.

Methodists. With that heritage, it is far more suited to the unique requirements we have as a denomination and, as we move into the future, will

directly stores the data collected onto the servers located at the General Council on Finance and Administration in Nashville. We can already see results via graphs that include year 2011 reporting. Such immediate access to real time data simply was not possible in any of our past implementations.

We are continuing the move forward with changes to a new *Vital Signs reporting system*, a new *Candidate Information Management system*, and a new *Church Transformation Survey Reporting system*.

As this transition continues, the Information Technology Department invites your comments and suggestions on any steps we can take to improve or simplify the work required on your part as a user.

As the name EZRA implies, the technology we implement must operate as a "helper" to all of you who are passionately engaged in achieving the mission of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.



EZRA offers much more than any of the other systems we used in the past and have the advantage of being a solution written for Methodists by

change accordingly as new directions are set.

We have already seen some of the distinct advantages of moving to an entry system that



Connectional Ministry

S.M.A.C.U.M — a new concept in shared ministry from churches in the East District of the Texas Annual Conference. See pages 4 and 5 for entire story.



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Rev. Gerald DeSobe named Krist Samaritan Center President and Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Gerald DeSobe

By Jennie Bui-McCoy
Design at Work
Public Relations

Rev. Gerald DeSobe, Ph.D., LPC has been named president and chief executive officer for Krist Samaritan Center, a

Houston-based, not-for-profit, faith-based organization that provides affordable counseling services, psychological testing, psychiatric consultation and educational programs to people of all economic backgrounds.

In addition to seeing clients for therapy, Dr. DeSobe will also oversee the operation of the organization, manage financial and physical resources and implement various business development strategies.

He previously served as the Center's executive director.

Dr. DeSobe is considered an expert in the fields of integration of religion and psychology and clergy mental health, thanks to his experience as a licensed psychologist, ministerial assessment special-

ist, diplomat and past president of both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and Samaritan Institute Advisory Board.

"I'm honored and blessed to be given this amazing opportunity to serve Krist Samaritan Center," says Dr. DeSobe. "The Center has grown to become a significant provider of counseling services in the greater Houston area, and I hope to continue carrying out its mission of touching lives and healing hearts."

Dr. DeSobe is a graduate from Duke University and holds both a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and a doctorate in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling from Northwestern University.

Krist Samaritan Center

The Center is a not-for-profit, faith-based organization committed to providing affordable counseling services, psychological testing, psychiatric consultation and educational programs to people of all economic backgrounds, as well as training for mental health and church professionals.

Celebrating more than 25 years of service to the Houston-Galveston area, the Center has served more than 40,000 area families, and with more than 20 locations, is one of the largest not-for-profit providers of counseling services in the region.

For information, call the Krist Samaritan Center main office at 281-480-7554 or visit www.samaritanhouston.org.



Ministry tools for today's church leaders

The General Board of Discipleship is offering free webinars for church leaders.

January 31 - 6:30 PM CST
Goal Setting For Vital Congregations

This webinar offers a guide for setting realistic numerical goals for your congregation on the website umvitalcongregations.org.

February 9 - 6:30 PM CST
10 Commandments For Church Websites

A website is the new front

door to your church. Patrick Steil, Webmaster for the North Texas Conference and owner of ChurchBuzz.org, will walk you through 10 "Commandments" that transform your website into the BEST outreach and communications tool that has ever been possible.

February 23 - 6:30 PM CST
Healthy Church Leaders - Key Factors

SPRC has a key role for health of body, mind and soul for your pastor and leaders. General Board of Pensions and Health

Benefits' Center for Health shares key factors for a healthy ministry environment.

Training for new church leaders is also available. One-hour recorded modules are available for the Church Council, Trustees, Nominating Committees, Finance leaders, and S/PPRC.

Individuals can watch at home or church groups can view the modules when they meet. Pastors and laity in congregations can access modules posted at www.gbod.org/committee_resources.

January 9 - February 13

Institute for Discipleship - *Leading Worship 101 for Lay Leaders* Direct link: <http://beadisciple.com/layspeakinministries.html#Worship>

Leading Worship 101 will focus on basic worship leadership skills for lay persons who assist the pastor in leading Christian worship.

To register, go to www.gbod.org/committee_resources.



Young Lives:

At 17, Lilliette is a new mom receiving tremendous support from the “Young Lives” ministry group that launched in January 2009 at St. Luke’s UMC, which is just steps away from Lamar High School where teen pregnancies are a growing distraction from school priorities. Young Lives, part of the international Young Life organization, is a mentoring program to pregnant and parenting teens. Young mothers like Lilliette are grateful for the guidance they find in ministry volunteers such as mentor Jill Mulloy who encourages her to continue pursuing her education. Jill, who attends St. Luke’s and teaches Spanish at Lamar, has already witnessed lives being changed through this ministry – and she has helped make it happen.

“By sharing a simple message about God’s love for them at our monthly club meetings, we want the girls to experience what we believe is the greatest love story,” says Mulloy, who experienced the personal reward of making a difference. She adds, “I feel the mentors have a very important job with these girls. We offer real feelings, smiling faces, abundant listening, and an example of living a life based in Christ. We are experiencing small victories, priceless memories and many wonderful moments of joy.”

The Young Lives program, designed to help provide

life coaches and resources, to keep the teen moms in school, and point them towards a brighter future for both themselves and their babies, began with 9 teen moms and now averages several dozen.



According to HISD Health and Medical Services Director, Evelyn Henry, this program is meeting a significant need in the community.

At the monthly meetings, pregnant and parenting moms have dinner, enjoy a special activity and a mes-

sage of hope. They can often pick up free baby items and diapers that have been donated, and enjoy a quiet hour knowing their babies are being cared for in the nursery. A newly formed Real Lives group now offers Bible Study for baby daddies. On several other nights each month, the girls are encouraged to come for a Bible Study at St. Luke’s. Additionally, Young Lives volunteer mentors bring lunch to the girls at their respective schools and present a brief program on subjects ranging from SAT prep, nutrition, etc. Some of them also receive scholarships to go to Young Life camp in the summers.

According to HISD Health and Medical Services Director, Evelyn Henry, this program is meeting a significant need in the community. “Pregnant and parenting teens face many difficult challenges and hardships in their lives when faced with the added responsibilities of pregnancy, parenting and school attendance. HISD applauds the efforts of the Young Lives Program. This program will assist many teen mothers, fathers and families with encouragement and hope for a positive and successful life.”



Investing in Youth

Innovative youth ministries meet young people where they are

One of the top priorities of the Texas Annual Conference is to encourage and inspire congregations to INVEST IN YOUTH. This ministry spotlight introduces two innovative ministries that meet unique needs within this age group. What is your church doing to invest in the youth of your community? Help us share what your church is doing by emailing Thelma Jones at thelmaj@methodists.org.

BREAKDANCING MINISTRY

There is a blatant problem in the at-risk, poverty stricken community surrounding the Gethsemane campus (Gulfton/Sharpstown area) of St. Luke’s UMC in Houston: Young people aren’t given the guidance and enrichment that they deserve. They come from troubled neighborhoods, problematic homes and distressed families — making it hard to succeed in life. According to Jasmine Young, Associate Director of Youth Ministry, this vicious cycle of “do what you got to do to survive” continues and the teens conform. They settle for low paying jobs, get into debt and some even hustle.

Notes Young, “The solution requires adults, young and old, getting involved. We have taken an initiative at Gethsemane to reach out to young men and women to provide them a safe place where they are shown Christ-like love, positively supported and can grow through developing relationships with caring adults...thus, earning the right to share our testimonies, the good news of Jesus Christ and who God created us to be.”

Since the inception of a partnership with Youth Advocates in the fall of 2009, dancers have begun asking questions about the positive nature of the church environment and, in turn, gotten involved. Reports Young, “We have seen several of the students participate in the youth choir retreat, regularly attend high school small groups and participate in Sunday morning worship. This spark of interest is only possible with the aid of thoughtful monetary and time donations of our volun-



teers.” St. Luke’s continues to seek more ways to embrace this predominately male group. “Students in this area have amazing talents and use this medium to express themselves, but do not always have a big enough, warm enough, supervised enough and safe enough place to practice and enjoy time together,” says Local Missions coordinator Lynda Isensee. “The Holy Spirit is at work as this group is embraced by our church to move them forward in a positive direction.

This is an incredible opportunity to reach out to these youngsters, to minister, to meet them on their terms and to witness by listening to them, feeding them, watching them, encouraging them, just being there with them and for them.”

Rethinking rural ministry: What’s a “S.M.A.C.U.M.”?

Startling statistics:

- The East District is 10,000 square miles in size (as large as some entire conferences!), and is the largest rural district in the *largest* conference.
- Out of 107 churches:
 - 75% churches in East District have less than 50 average attendance
 - Many have less than 10 in average attendance which leaves them with a leadership vacuum
 - 50% of churches have less than 20 average attendance
- 50% of the churches don’t have dependable internet, and cannot relate to the conference activities and requirements because they struggle to sustain clergy and programming.
- Attending trainings or meetings at larger churches would require a 1.5 hr drive in many cases, so small churches do not tend to feel very connected.

What might a District Superintendent do in these challenging times?

If that District Superintendent is a solutions-minded maverick thinker like Jerry Pennington, he might begin *experimenting* with some new ideas and ways to do ministry.

Explains Pennington, “The more I learned about the uniqueness of my giant district full of small churches, the more I wanted to find ways to celebrate that uniqueness and help them venture out and rediscover their passions without the pressure of fitting into the model of a mid-size or large church.”

Innovative approach: return to the WESLEYAN WAY of small home fellowships and shared ministry.

While experiments are more commonly associated with science labs than churches, a few years ago, Pennington began experimenting with his restructuring his district as if it were a conference. *His objective: to provide financial support, leadership and facilitation for rural ministry.* In recent months he has rallied elders to serve in a new role called Facilitating Elders to work in 10 sub-districts within the East District and created a “district cabinet.”

Those experiments involve several different “MODELS” for ministry, and several are starting to demonstrate new energy and ministry fruitfulness.

S.M.A.C.U.M. celebrates first year of joint covenant

One of Pennington’s first “guinea pigs” in his experiment was Reverend Becky Love, pastor of Diboll First Methodist. For over a year, she has served in the hands-on role of an innovative position called a Supervising Elder by overseeing the creation of S.M.A.C.U.M.: the Shared Ministry of Angelina County United Methodists. “This Shared Ministry concept brings four churches within 10 miles of each other into

a covenant to join forces to do what no single church could do as well on their own,” explains Love. The four churches include Ryan’s Chapel (25 members on Sunday), First Diboll (90 attendance), Burke UMC (19) and St. Paul’s in Lurkin (30 members).

Under Love’s guidance, the four churches came together for Charge Conference in September and formalized their covenant by signing it as a commitment to continue working together by seeking to know God’s will and acknowledge the assets and resources each church has to offer. The document states, “*We adopt this because of our mutual care for all of God’s people in our common mission field.*”

Therefore, as we identify opportunities for joint ministry, together we will employ our God-given gifts and graces to develop programs that bring witness to God’s love.”

Shaky beginnings

When Pennington first broached the concept of trying a new experiment called Shared Ministry, there may have been a bit of “kicking and screaming” on the inside as evidenced by mixed reactions from members from each church. “All 12 of us at Burke UMC were stressed and scared of the idea at first,” admits Pam Burnett, who now serves as the 2012 secretary on the S.M.A.C.U.M. Council. “We were leery about being shut down

that is, as long as they are in church and getting what they need.”

“This brotherhood/sisterhood among our four churches has been extremely energizing for me,” she admits. “After our S.M.A.C.U.M. Council officers and representatives met monthly, we leave our meetings with all kinds of ideas, projects and plans to tackle as a team.”

Modern Day “Raving Fans”

On the topic of “Shared Ministry,” Ryan Chapel member Daniel Hagan went from *skeptic to raving fan* status over the last year. “Daniel is so pumped up about it, he can talk for an hour non-stop, if given the chance,” says District Superintendent Jerry Pennington. Notes Hagan, “Initially, I was not excited about the concept, but I soon realized this was actually a good way to build up the small churches – to get the Methodist name out there as well as our church names.”

Adds Hagan, “Even though another do a puppet show, another host special music with their children’s choir, and the help with the stone soup supper, we covered by combining our resources and volunteers as a four-some,” she explains. “Our churches are still our churches, but we are jelling and working together and reaching a lot more people than we could have as individual churches.”

“This brotherhood/sisterhood among our four churches has been extremely energizing for me.”

Pam Burnett
Secretary, S.M.A.C.U.M. Council

“I would say we all experienced a breakthrough moment when we met at each others churches during Holy Week and Easter - sharing the responsibility for leading worship at Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Sunrise Services and Easter services,” notes Supervising Elder Becky Love. Later in the year, all four churches sponsored a joint Advent service that Burnett describes as “awesome.” “It worked well for one church to

fourth church would perform a skit about the meaning of the symbols of Christmas.” In addition, Burnett spearheaded a toy drive on behalf of S.M.A.C.U.M. at Christmas that provided clothing and toys to 370 local children, “which was no small undertaking!”

She adds, “We still talk to the families that we adopted, and hope they will someday find a church where they feel comfortable – doesn’t matter where

about more events, help with more activities and feel like I am home, regardless of which church is hosting the project or Bible study.”

In addition to expanding his friendship base, he has been personally touched by the ministry impact S.M.A.C.U.M. has facilitated. “I have a vivid memory of the tears streaming down the faces of young girls we visited a few months ago that just got out of prison. S.M.A.C.U.M. is supporting a nearby ministry called Seasons of Hope that helps these girls transition back into the world, and they could not believe 25 people would come visit them, give them a hug and help the ministry take care of their needs. Our plan for 2012 is to fix up a building so the ministry can expand to help more girls.”

On another occasion, Hagan was excited to meet a need serving hotdogs and snacks at the park. He was glad S.M.A.C.U.M. could provide for a need when children asked him for extras because their parents did not have anything to eat at home. “When we get out of our church buildings and work in the community, we get a whole new perspective on how many people need help.”

Kingdom results

In addition to SMACUM, DS Jerry Pennington is experimenting with other new rural ministry models ranging from “home churches” to church pairings of a smaller and larger church – all designed to bring new enthusiasm and a feeling of empowerment that is contagious. Pennington has learned firsthand, “There is no single right way that fits all small churches. It takes individual consultation and openness to work toward the best solution for making disciples in each community of believers. I am excited to celebrate the rural ministry opportunities in the East District and see new signs of life, facilitation of fruitful-

ness and a passion for adapting to the new demands in a new world of doing church.” He has also been thrilled to share these experiments with representatives from the Arkansas conference and others who have come to learn more about Texas’ unique approaches to rural ministries. “I love knowing the Texas Annual Conference is known for leading by example,” he adds.

Words of warning turn to words of wisdom

“S.M.A.C.U.M. is already working together to plan for an incredible Lenten season, Easter egg hunt, Fall festival, mission activities and Advent,” adds Burnett. “If any small churches are looking to reenergize their congregation, I would encourage them to try something different and give it 150% of your commitment, because we have seen the fruits of our labor expand our ministries and bring new people to our churches.” Adds Mike Waters, current S.M.A.C.U.M. president, “It has been a blessing to see our churches share resources with each other and a blessing to meet new people and serve Christ together.” Raving fan Daniel Hagan sums it up this way, “Shared Ministry, however you decide it works for your situation, gives small churches a new sense of hope. It is ideal, especially for any church with under 50 in attendance.”

Adds Pastor Love, “The S.M.A.C.U.M. team met in mid January for the first time on their own and their meeting minutes reflect that they have taken their commitment seriously and have really taken hold of discerning and planning for future ministries. I am excited about the possibilities in this new year!”



Left: Participating churches hosted “Game Day” for kids at a community park.

Right: Our Shared Ministry churches and some others from the district participated in this making 75 scarves for our local Special Olympics group.





Annual Conference 2012

Reservations. You must be a United Methodist committee, team, group, or under the UM umbrella of ministries. Display booths are very limited and will be reserved on a **first-come, first-serve basis**.

No holding of booths will be accepted. You must fill out the form and send the form **and** your booth fee or voucher together to reserve a booth.

Meal Information

We are taking Group Meal Reservations at this time. You must fill out a meal reservation form for your group to be listed in our Pre-Conference Journal. This rule applies to those having a meal on the premises and also those who have planned meals at any venue in the Galveston area.

There is space on the form for you to give alternate addresses for the benefit of those reading the Meals planned for conference. Please fill out the form and mail to Jan Ervin at the United Methodist Service Center (UMSC), 5215 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

Meeting Information

Please notify the Conference office if you are planning a meeting whether or not you are having that meeting at the Galveston Convention Center property. Fill out the form and mail to Jan Ervin at the UMSC.

All forms can be found on the Texas Annual Conference website, www.txcumc.org.

On-line registration will begin soon. Please secure your room at one of our conference hotels. The San Luis Hotel is now full, but there are still plenty of rooms at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort (409-755-5000) and at the Holiday Inn Resort (409-740-5300). Make sure to tell the operator that you are with the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church conference.

Display Information

We are taking Display Booth

Rethinking Rural Ministry: "What's a S.M.A.C.U.M?"

Continued from page 5



First-year highlights of Shared Ministry

"Change the World" Day: fed several hundred people of the community at two different parks

Disaster Response: rallied the members and community to help send 65 flood buckets, 50 health kits, 40 tarps, 70 cases of water and toys to Mississippi and raised \$2000 to help with supplies and transportation; also took a mission trip to Louisiana to repair hurricane damage.

Vacation Bible School and Back to School Bash where children played games to win school supplies.

Disciple Bible Study/Men's breakfast: ongoing rotation between the churches

Winter coat and blanket drive: combined forces to fill the bed of a pickup truck for Diboll Christian Outreach clients.

Adds Pastor Love, "The Change the World event in May of 2011 brought all four churches to two different park locations to share food and fellowship and the gospel with people in neighborhoods that many had never visited, even though they were just minutes away. One member said that she went into this project thinking 'aren't we doing a great thing for these kids who will probably not be well dressed or well fed.' She was thinking that we were there to help out the poor and later commented on numerous occasions about how she was blessed by these families and children who were so very appreciative. Her expectations were one thing and the blessings she received were far greater."

Collide Registration Information

Pastors of the Texas Conference,

It is not too late for the youth group of your church to register for the Collide Annual Conference Youth Event!

The deadline has been extended to January 26th. Please forward this e-mail to those who work with youth ministry in your congregation.

Online group registra-

tion is only \$100 and is available at www.txcumc.org and the individual registration process happens later in the Spring.



Ministry Snapshots

A tribute to Dr. King — we are still lifting every voice and singing. . .



The Mass Youth Choir of Houston Chapter Black Methodists for Church Renewal salute Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his achievements through song. This year's event was held at the Power Center in Houston, Texas.

By Rochelle Cebrun
St. Mark's Patterson UMC

Every year, Houston Chapter BMCR hosts the,

"Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast," an event that celebrates the life and legacy of Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's

Breakfast took us on a journey from the beginning of the Civil Rights movement to the dedication of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr.

National Memorial.

Having visited Washington, D.C. on a number of occasions, I think Rev. B. T. Williamson said it best; I now have something new to look forward to on my next visit.

This particular event is one that I look forward to each year. One of the reasons is because our youth in the local church are able take away more than just singing a song, praise dancing or reading words from a sheet of paper.

They get the chance to better understand a part of their history. And through interpretation, they learn as well as educate others.

Actually, celebrating the accomplishments of Dr. King is a part of all of our history. Dr. King's dream should be able to resonate within each of us in some form or fashion. The celebration of his birthday is a



Bethany Billings of Sloan Memorial UMC gives an oratorial that focuses on the history of the Civil Rights Movement and its effect on African Americans today.

prelude to Black History Month – a time set apart to recognize the achievements and contributions made by African Americans to this country and the world. It is my hope that by remembering the efforts of Dr. King, it will initiate an appreciation for those who have paved the way for equality to exist between the races.

A Monumental Legacy

The youth presentation was outstanding. Through oration, interpretative dance, and

drama, the history of African Americans' past, present and future was displayed. Working behind the scenes, allows one to be able to sit back and enjoy the final production. The praise dance was glorious, speakers were brilliant, and the choir was simply magnificent. If you were not in attendance, you missed something profound and wonderful. But, there is always next year....



Dr. Robert E. McGee, chairperson of BMCR prepares to give the benediction for the 2012 event.



Learning Opportunities

From the Rethink Church Team

Rethink Church has developed a Lenten series which will have an online component through rethinkchurch.org to further engage those who are participating in the study, and those who may not have a church home.

Additionally, you are invited to a webinar focused on Change the World. It will be held on Tuesday, January 24 at 10 a.m. central standard time and should last about 30 minutes.

Rethink Church Lenten series

How are you reaching people for Christ this Lent?

UM Communications is ready to help you with a free Lenten sermon series, online advertising and a

multimedia bundle to help you include the broader community.

The Journey to Hope series begins with Christ's journey to the cross and connects with matters like relationships, money, work and suffering to share the hope that exists beyond life's most difficult issues.



The sermon series was developed in 2010, and has been supplemented this year by small group, children and youth resources. A new multimedia resource bundle will assist in bringing messages to life (in the sanctuary or classroom) as well as extending an invi-

tation through newspaper, door hangers and more.

An online study component to *Journey to Hope* will be featured on rethinkchurch.org during Lent, offering your congregation another chance to connect with weekly themes and with those who may not have a church home. Digital advertising will connect newcomers to the site and provide an opportunity for them to learn about The United Methodist Church and local congregations. Be sure to review your Find a Church profile to make sure that it provides a welcoming online presence.

Go to www.umcom.org/journey-tohope to review and download the series, order the bundle (\$25) and update your *Find a Church profile*. If you have any questions, contact rethinkchurch@umcom.org.

Fellowship Opportunities

Educational Opportunity at Sea!

Educational Opportunities Travel announces an exciting inspirational itinerary for 2012 - the "Gems of the Baltic" cruise featuring Bishop Will Willimon as inspirational speaker. Rev. Robert and Betsy Stutes will be among the clergy hosts for this trip, which sails out of Copenhagen on the Norwegian Sun.



The Baltic, the trip will feature guided tour opportunities to religious and cultural spots of Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Russia (St. Petersburg), Finland and Sweden.

Anyone interested in learning more about this trip is invited to an informational meeting on Monday, January 23, 2 p.m. or 7 p.m., at Humble First UMC, 800 E. Main Street (Room 221, upstairs in Education Building). For a copy of the trip brochure, or for answers to any questions you may have, contact Rev. Robert Stutes at Bellville UMC, 979-865-5976, robertstutes@hotmail.com.

The Bread of Life, Inc. ministry benefits from "The Artist's Way" project

The Art Project, Houston is hosting *The Artist's Way* February 7-March 13, 2012 at St. John's Downtown, Tuesdays 6:00-8:30 PM in room 127. All Proceeds go to benefit The Art Project, Houston, an art therapy and self-empowerment project of the Bread of Life, Inc. facilitating the healing and transition of homeless men and women of Houston.



Julia Cameron is recommended and available at St. John's Downtown Spirit Books.

The cost is \$25 a week, total \$150. Please make all donations payable to: The Bread of Life Inc, TAPH Artist Way Class in memo line. Fee includes art supplies, but "The Artist's Way" by

You can register online at www.theartprojecthouston.org by clicking under classes and workshops. Space is limited.

Missional Opportunities

Partners in Mission will send two mission teams from the Texas Annual Conference to Cuba February 17.

The teams will work outside of Havana at a Methodist church site and at the Methodist Seminary in Havana.

There is a shortage of medical supplies for the church in Cuba. The following items are needed:

- Children's Tylenol
- Advil
- Motrin
- Aspirin
- Multi-Vitamins
- Pre-Natal Multi-Vitamins
- Antibiotic Cream
- Antifungal Cream
- Anti-Itch Cream



Children's Toothbrushes
Adult Toothbrushes

All of the items **must be in their original boxes and packaging**. Use the name brands on Tylenol, Advil and Motrin. Generic brands are fine for the creams and **every** item must have an expiration date of at least October 2012.

Donations may be brought to the PIM office before Thursday, February 9th.

Contact the PIM office at 713-521-9383 for more information.