

# Cross Connection

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## Texans surpass goal; raise \$1 million for nets

By Eleanor L. Colvin  
Director of Communications  
Texas Annual Conference

The groundbreaking covenant partnership between the Texas and Côte d'Ivoire annual conferences of The United Methodist Church has

But Nets fundraising campaign.

And, the Texas Annual Conference has commissioned a team of 35 clergy and laity, representing all nine districts of the conference, to help distribute the nets.

**“The spirit of support for this effort among our congregations has been energizing and exciting. More than 350 churches have supported Nothing But Nets financially, and many continue to do so.”**

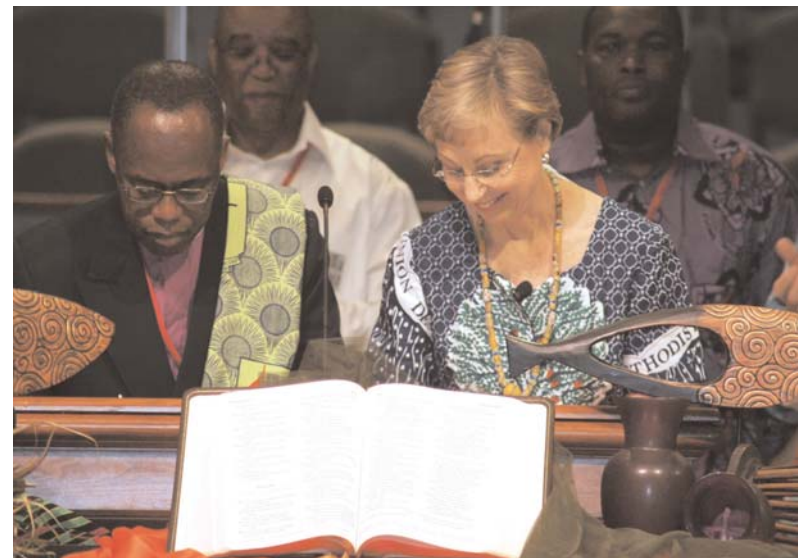
Rev. Cynthia Harvey  
Director of Missional Excellence

yielded its first fruits—more than \$1 million in donations from Texans to fight malaria in West Africa.

At \$10 a net, the gift will buy more than 100,000 nets planned for distribution in Côte d'Ivoire in November as part of a national vaccination campaign. The distribution will include another 400,000 nets authorized by the United Nations Foundation through the Nothing

The Texas funding was generated sooner than expected. Members of the Texas conference pledged at its 2007 legislative meeting to raise \$1 million in two years to cover Côte d'Ivoire with insecticide-treated mosquito nets. During its 2008 meeting, a 60-member Ivorian choir led the celebration that the goal had been surpassed in a single year.

“The spirit of support for this



Bishop Benjamin Boni of Cote d'Ivoire and Bishop Janice Riggle Huie sign a proclamation to affirm the Covenant partnership between the two annual conferences.

effort among our congregations has been energizing and exciting,” said Rev. Cynthia Harvey, director of the Texas Conference Center for Missional Excellence. “More than 350 churches have supported Nothing But Nets financially, and many continue to do so.”

The \$1.1 million from Texas will be contributed to Nothing But Nets, a campaign launched in 2006 with founding partners that include the people of The United Methodist Church, the U.N. Foundation, the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares and Sports Illustrated magazine. Thus far, the campaign has raised more than \$20 million for nets, including more than \$4 million from United Methodists.

The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries will play a key role in helping with the logistics of the distribution through its Health and Welfare unit and the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The involvement of United Methodists and other Nothing But Nets partners, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Union for Reform Judaism, was highlighted in a front-page story on June 2 in

The New York Times.

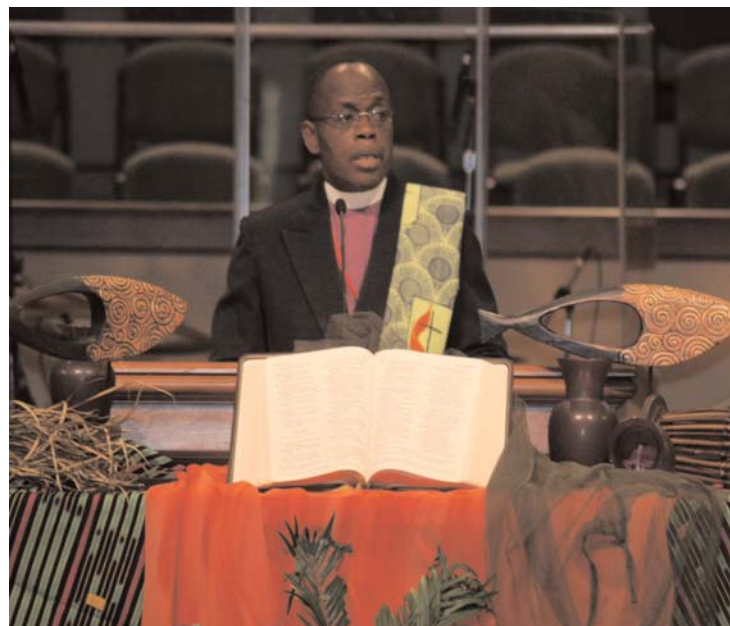
### Casting a wider net

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie explained to the 2008 Texas conference legislative assembly how the power of partnerships is helping in the fight to eradicate malaria in Africa. She shared about the additional 400,000 nets being sent to Côte d'Ivoire from other donations to Nothing But Nets.

“In addition to that, the General Board of Global Ministries is giving money to offset travel and distribution costs, so everything you've given goes for Nothing But Nets only,” she said.

Dr. Allah Kouadio Remi, the Côte d'Ivoire minister of health who helped identify regions to receive the first shipment, affirmed the need for insecticide-treated nets. He told a partnership meeting in April that 27 percent of children in Côte d'Ivoire sleep under bed nets, but only 7 percent of those nets are treated to repel insects. Of children under the age of 5, he said, 17 percent sleep under bed nets, and only 3 percent of those nets are treated. Covering the

Continued on page 3



Bishop Benjamin Boni extends greetings to the Texas Annual Conference following the proclamation signing.

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



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

**Resident Bishop**  
Janice Riggle Huie

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

**Editor**  
Thelma Jones  
thelmaj@methodists.net

**Web Content Manager**  
Brant Mills  
bmills@txcumc.org

**Communications Assistant**  
Rebecca Garcia  
garciar@methodists.net

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

**Conference Web Site:**  
www.txcumc.org

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## Incentives encourage lay employees to get healthy

**By The Center for Clergy Excellence  
The Texas Annual Conference**

The Texas Annual Conference Center for Clergy Excellence is equipping lay employees to achieve a new level of health and wellness. Thirty-five clergy began a pilot program in January, and now, the opportunity is available to lay people working in local churches and on the district and conference staffs, who are members of the HMO or PPO group health benefits program.

Participants must sign up by June 30 to take part in the "Day of Wellness at Methodist Hospital" on either Monday or Tuesday, July 21 or July 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Day of Wellness is the entry point for the Wellness Program. Activities will include a health risk appraisal, cholesterol screening and per-

sonal coaching regarding test results. Additionally, there will be two fitness sessions and two nutrition sessions. And, participants will choose two classes from the following: stress management, journaling or sleep management.

Participation in the Day of Wellness provides the opportunity to earn financial incentives for achieving Wellness Program objectives, such as losing 5-10 percent of one's body weight and attaining a healthy Body Mass Index (BMI).

For more information on incentives and objectives, please visit [www.txcumc.org/wellness-info](http://www.txcumc.org/wellness-info). For registration information, contact Barbara Kilby in the Center for Clergy Excellence at 713-521-9383, ext. 322 or [bkilby@txcumc.org](mailto:bkilby@txcumc.org).

The event will take place at The Methodist Hospital, Rio Grande Room in the Dunn Conference Center. The hospital

address is 6565 Fannin, Houston, Texas, 77030.

Employees who are participants in the Group Health Benefits program must pay a \$150 deposit, which will be returned upon participation in the Day of Wellness.

Employees who are not participants in the Group Health Benefits program must pay the \$150 fee for the Day of Wellness.

Non-employee participants, such as spouses, dependents and friends of the TAC, may participate in the Day of Wellness on a self-pay basis, at a cost of \$150 per participant and are not eligible to earn incentives.

Registration is limited to 40 people per day. Cancellations must be received by June 23 in order to accommodate those on the waiting list and to distribute wellness profiles.

## Texas Conference chapter, Christian Educators Fellowship luncheon

**By Vicky Harris  
Texas Annual Conference**

A room full of Christian educators with a passion for the ministry of Christian education and spiritual formation in the local church makes for great conversations, amazing networking, and sharing of tested ideas.

The Texas Conference Chapter, Christian Educators Fellowship (TCCEF) luncheon on Wednesday, May 28 also provided the backdrop for election of officers, announcements of upcoming events and presentation of awards to honor exceptional ministry in equipping congregations to make disciples.

The Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education awards were presented to 27 churches recognized as seeking to promote, support, and advocate quality in Christian education. For over ten years, this award has been given to honor churches by the Texas Conference and TCCEF.



**Donna Reed (left), TCCEF Past President and Director of Children's Ministries at Memorial Drive UMC, Houston, presents the Dick Murray Award for Excellence in Christian Education to Rev. Judy Tefteller, Associate Minister, Kingwood UMC, Houston.**

Rev. Judy Tefteller, Associate Minister at Kingwood UMC, Houston was presented the *Dick Murray Award* for excellence in Christian Education. The award recognizes those whose ministry contributes to higher professional standards and significant leadership in Christian education.

Rev. Tefteller seeks to link mission, evangelism and education together so that church members are equipped, enabled and empowered to go into the world and witness their faith and love of God.

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### Appointment Information Available Online

The clergy locator section of the conference website has been updated from the 2008 appointment list (<http://www.txcumc.org/08appointments>). Additionally, the extension ministry list (<http://www.txcumc.org/extensionministry>) has been updated as well. Every appointment should be correct throughout the site.

If you are appointed clergy, please search for yourself (clergy locator - [http://www.txcumc.org/clergy\\_find.asp](http://www.txcumc.org/clergy_find.asp)) and your church (church locator - [http://www.txcumc.org/churches\\_find.asp](http://www.txcumc.org/churches_find.asp)) to double-check that your information is accurate.

If any of your church information needs to be updated or if you would like to add your current contact information to your area of the conference website, please contact us at [bmills@txcumc.org](mailto:bmills@txcumc.org).

Much of your church's information can be listed on the conference website including your building's physical address and mailing address (both should be listed), service times, Sunday school and Bible study times, phone and fax numbers, and a link to your website.



## TAC team recognized as 'ambassadors' to Cote d'Ivoire

An exciting part of the *Service of Sending Forth* for the Texas Annual Conference was the commissioning service for the team of individuals whom Bishop Janice Riggle Huie says, "are ambassadors of the Texas Annual Conference in ministry with the people of Cote d'Ivoire."

The Cote d'Ivoire team, is made up of clergy and laity selected from the nine districts across the conference. The team will travel to Cote d'Ivoire in November to deliver and distribute chemically treated mosquito nets used to combat malaria in West Africa.

The Wednesday morning business session included an affirmation ceremony led by Bishop Janice Riggle Huie and a Zimbabwean blessing for each district offered by Bishop Benjamin Boni of Cote d'Ivoire.



**Bishop Benjamin Boni presents Bishop Janice Riggle Huie an African cloth representing the relationship between the Cote d'Ivoire and the Texas Annual Conferences. The fabric features an united circle of elephants, which are a symbol of strength in Cote d'Ivoire.**

Name	District	Clergy/Laity	Church
Bishop Janice Riggle Huie		Clergy	
Mona Avalos	West	Laity	First UMC, Huntsville
Todd Jordan	West	Clergy	Caldwell UMC
Linda Marr	West	Laity	A & M UMC
Steve May	West	Laity	First UMC, Bryan
Rick Goodrich	CN	Clergy	John Wesley UMC
Pam Jackson	CN	Clergy	John Wesley UMC
Nancy Kellond	CN	Clergy	Montgomery UMC
Kilumba Kalamba	CN	Clergy	Prairie View UMC
Jan Ervin	South	Laity	Deer Park UMC
Kathie Mann	South	Laity	Friendswood UMC
Jon Thornsby	South	Clergy	Friendswood UMC
Paula McGehee	South	Laity	Moody Memorial UMC
Douglas Molinueau	CS	Laity	St. Paul's UMC
Will Reed	CS	Clergy	Servants of Christ
Susan Silvus	CS	Laity	St. Luke's UMC
Eleanor L. Colvin	CS	Laity	St. Mark's UMC, Patterson
Noel Denison	CS	Clergy	Chapelwood UMC
Maranda Adams	SW	Laity	Covenant Glen UMC
Cynthia Harvey	SW	Clergy	Memorial Drive UMC
Eddie Hilliard	SW	Laity	Memorial Drive UMC
Morris Matthis	SW	Clergy	Christ UMC
Leah Taylor	SW	Laity	St. Peter's UMC
Elizabeth Byrd	North	Laity	First UMC, Jefferson
Martha Vaughn	North	Laity	Waskom UMC
Bill Webb	North	Clergy	Summit, Marshall
Kevin Gilmore	NW	Clergy	Buffalo
James Moore	NW	Clergy	Westwood UMC
Lara Routon	NW	Laity	Marvin UMC
Lynda Langston	East	Laity	Lufkin UMC
Carmen Rickel	East	Clergy	St. Paul UMC, Henderson
Mary Ellen Riley	East	Laity	Livingston UMC
Mark Bunch	SE	Clergy	Wesley UMC, Beaumont
Donna Syas	SE	Laity	St. James UMC, Beaumont
Dr. Alan B. Coleman	SE	Laity	Trinity UMC, Beaumont

## United Methodists in Texas raise \$1 million for nets

*Continued from page 1*

entire country will require 7 million nets.

"Our goal is to still cover the country of Côte d'Ivoire," Huie told the Texas assembly. "We're not there yet, but friends, God is good ... and with God all things are possible."

In addition to commissioning the team who will help distribute the nets, the conference affirmed the covenant relationship between the Texas and Côte d'Ivoire conferences. Huie of Texas and Bishop Benjamin Boni of Côte d'Ivoire signed a proclamation outlining the scope of the relationship and read the document aloud in French and English. The primary focus areas are evangelism on both continents; eradicating the diseases of poverty — HIV/AIDS,

malaria, measles and tuberculosis—in Africa; and educational

**"May we give the world a glimpse of the kingdom of God united in faith and in service."**

**Bishop Benjamin Boni  
Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference**

support of children, youth and pastors in Côte d'Ivoire.

The covenant signing was ratified with a standing ovation of Ivorians and Americans waving handkerchiefs, or "spirit cloths," found at any Ivorian celebration.

"May we give the world a glimpse of the kingdom of God

united in faith and in service," Boni said. "In spite of our dif-

ferences, in faith we know with Jesus we have the strength we need. If we unite and work together and show our solidarity, we will always be strong."

**'Truly a partnership'**

Harvey said the spirit of partnership has been visible as the relationship has been

defined and will remain a focal point of the net delivery.

"This is truly a partnership. We both give and receive. It's a covenant relationship," Harvey said. "For every person from the U.S., we want to have an Ivorian partner so that together they can distribute nets. This will not be a Texas Annual Conference distribution of nets in the Ivory Coast, but a delivery of the partnership."

Because pregnant woman and children age 5 and younger are most susceptible to the mosquito-borne disease, the distribution this fall will target those two populations. Another fruit of partnering is the free vaccinations that the Measles Initiative will provide in conjunction with the net delivery.

The two United Methodist conferences are working to distribute the nets in cooperation with the Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Health, U.N. Foundation, CARE, UNICEF, Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Communications and other organizations.

"The work before us is bigger than we are," Harvey said.

Donations to support the Nothing But Nets effort in Côte d'Ivoire can be made online through the Advance, the designated giving arm of The United Methodist Church. Give to Advance #982015 at [www.give-tomission.org](http://www.give-tomission.org). Checks can be placed in church collection plates or mailed to GCFA, P.O. Box 9069, New York, NY 10087.



# A view of Missional Excellence

## Mission and service are focal points of workshops

By **Thelma Jones**  
 Editor, *Cross Connection*  
 Texas Annual Conference

Do you want to energize your church's involvement in its community? Need new ideas for ministries and mission?

If your answer to these questions is 'yes,' then the workshops held Tuesday, May 27 at Annual Conference 2008 were the place to be.

Six workshops, focusing on this year's theme, *Risk-Taking Mission and Service* were offered to those attending the event. Each workshop's emphasis was on equipping people to meet the needs of others globally or in your own community through mission and service.

One workshop entitled, *30 Great Mission Ideas in 90 Minutes*, allowed presenters from local churches to share information about successful ministries in different geographical settings. Ideas for ministries such as church and

school partnerships, Back-Pack Buddies, a ministry that provides food for children outside the classroom, to helping at-risk homeless youth were presented to the participants.

Shawn Bakker, associate general secretary for the Advance for Christ and His Church led a workshop whose focus was on connecting local churches with global missions through the Advance program of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Peter Storey, featured speaker for annual conference is the former president of the South African Council of Churches and Methodist Bishop of the Johannesburg/Soweto area, now professor emeritus at Duke Divinity School. He also conducted a workshop that focused on the church's mission and outreach ministry.

Rev. Storey's life and career has been devoted to outreach ministries such as reconciliation and crisis intervention in areas all over the world.



### Ministry In Action!

For those who enjoy hands-on ministry, this year's conference offered workshops that allowed participants to physically get involved.

Photos show participants involved in collecting materials for health kits and sewing projects. The kits consist of hygiene items such as soap, wash cloths, toothpaste, etc. The kits are sent to UMCOR Sager-Brown depot for distribution.

The sewing project consisted of cutting patterns and fabric needed to create baby blankets for impoverished children in the United States and internationally.

Additionally, volunteers built frames for walls that will become a part of the Habitat for Humanity homes.





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## Hands-on Action!

By Jill Krone, TAC Communications

With the business of Annual Conference on break Tuesday afternoon, clergy and laity moved into action, hands-on action! Some delegates took the time to attend leadership workshops or rest, but not those who made their way to The Loft.

Three hands-on mission projects provided an opportunity for active ministry. Participants could choose from preparing health kits, sewing projects for missions or constructing house framework as part of the Habitat for Humanity project.

"I've always wanted to help. It gave me an easy way to get my feet wet," Rev. Jennifer Jackson of Bellville shared while hammering a nail.

Brenda Porter was also glad to serve. "It's work! I like that we have the option to do something active," she said. "I love using my hands and building stuff."

Mike Firenza with Houston's Habitat for Humanity reminds us that this connectional activity means "that not only Habitat in

Houston but those throughout the Conference can benefit as these persons go home to become active participants in their communities."

While packing plastic bags with items required for completing health kits, Nadine R.M. Graham noted, "There's a sense of satisfaction in knowing you're doing something to help someone else." The variety of mission projects provided an opportunity for everyone. "It's something that I could do," Gloria Goolsby said, as she packed a health kit.

"I like to sew and we have a sewing ministry at our church. I want to do more," Linda Wallace explained while cutting fabric to create school bags. Helping her with the project, Bennie Dozier noted, "I love working hands-on mission and I was hoping I could be here."

New to house framing, Annette Easley summed up what many were experiencing, "I just felt like I wanted to do this after hearing all the good things – I want to do a small part to be a part of the great mission of the United Methodist Church. It's a great feeling and very rewarding to be a part of it."





## Laity celebrate common goals for ministry



**“We are one in Christ,”** was the main message from Samuel Koffi, Assistant to Bishop Benjamin Boni of Cote d’Ivoire as he addressed the laity luncheon.

**By Jill Krone,  
Texas Annual Conference  
Communications**

The music could be heard throughout The Woodlands UMC as the choir from Cote d’Ivoire processed into Wesley Hall to share the lunch prepared for the

stated.

With a population of 8 million, Cote d’Ivoire is challenged by having only 132 ordained clergy; difficult and varied terrain; and over 60 different dialects as they mobilize to provide pastoral leadership for the 700,000 United Methodists and share the Good News with those

women are created equal so we need to help one another and support one another because we are one in Christ.”

Without laity willing to take a risk, new faith communities could not have been started. Koffi explained, “They are not afraid to go because they know

received, Christians provide medical support or supply clothing to the village before sharing their message.

Young children and youth also go to work with the young of the village. “Our laity strongly believe,” he said, “in the vision pathways of the global church. We believe all men and

**“Our laity strongly believe in the vision pathways of the global church. We believe all men and women are created equal so we need to help one another and support one another because we are one in Christ.”**

**Samuel Koffi  
Assistant to Bishop of Cote d’Ivoire**

lay delegates of the Texas Annual Conference on Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

Leah Taylor, Conference Lay Leader, welcomed the choir members and other guests from Cote d’Ivoire in their native French, inviting them to join their lay counterparts from the Texas Annual Conference.

Samuel Koffi, Assistant to Bishop Boni of Cote d’Ivoire, a graduate of the University of Georgia and a lay member of his conference offered a message that brought both lay communities together in a discussion of their shared purpose. “We are all connected and working together to make disciples for the transformation of the world,” Koffi

needing to hear this message. “We can transform the world if we are mobile, we just have to get to the area to share the message,” Koffi said. “Language can’t be a barrier – here, we are singing and dancing. We are communicating.”

Koffi shared stories of African villagers whose lives have been transformed through the hearing of the Gospel message and outlined the way their certified local pastors (over 2,000) work with the lay communities to organize for evangelizing. The first step is to go to the tribal chief of the selected community. Those witnessing must respect the customs of the village. After permission is

they are not alone.” The SMM are trained missionaries from within the country of Africa who go into communities where the power of Jesus is unknown to share the Good News without pay. “With their help, we’ve started over 20 new communities in hard to reach areas because of the risk that laity took,” he said.

A wonderful time of worship and fellowship was shared by all. “The music was wonderful but standing here and looking at our delegates intermingled with the colorful dress of the Cote d’Ivoire choir and hearing the mingling buzz of their conversations was really exciting to me,” said Leah Taylor, Lay Leader.

## Hazel Decker award presented to UMW member at luncheon

**By Charlene Fowler  
UMW Communications  
Coordinator**

Either at home or abroad, the United Methodist Women’s focus for ministry is mission and service. The *Hazel Decker Award* is a service award given by the Texas Conference United Methodist Women’s ministry. The annual luncheon is the time when

the award was named.

Pastor Steve Woody, pastor of First UMC, Pasadena was introduced as the guest speaker for the event by his granddaughter, Kallista Woody. “*Entering the Kingdom of God*” as little children was the theme for the event. Pastor Woody is well known for his involvement in youth outreach and evangelism. St. Andrew’s UMC Youth Choir and ASO



**From Left to Right: UMW Vice President, Patrice Ashley, Rev. Steve Woody and wife, Pamela Woody, UMW President, Thebe Worden and 2008 Hazel Decker award honoree, Alyce Christian in attendance at the UMW annual luncheon.**

**Rev. Woody wears the clerical stole presented to him by the UMW.**

the cherished award is given to a deserving United Methodist Woman.

Formal introductions were not needed for this year’s recipient. Alyce Christian, a member of Trinity East UMC, has given many years of service to the United Methodist Church.

Daughter Melva Christian and granddaughter Kema Christian-Taylor paid tribute the 2008 honoree of the Hazel Decker award. She spoke of her memories and her friendship she shared with Hazel Decker, the woman for whom

Steppers provided entertainment during the lunch to a packed audience.

Woody humorously confessed that he did not have very much experience with UMW. By the end of his speech, however, UMW members were applauding his message that spoke of connecting adults and youth in mission and evangelism.

At the end of the luncheon, Thebe Worden, President and Patrice Ashley, Vice President, presented Woody with a clerical stole made by a UMW circle in Latin American.



## Texas Conference Clergy Spouse Association



Clergy spouses enjoy their fellowship during their annual luncheon meeting. TCCSA is an organization that offers information and support to clergy spouses in the conference.

By Jill Krone  
Texas Annual Conference  
Communications

The Texas Conference Clergy Spouse Association (TCCSA) is an organization that provide opportunities for clergy spouses to come together, share information and seek support. TCCSA held its annual luncheon on Monday, May 26 in the Asbury Room at The Woodlands UMC.

"We came from another conference without an organi-

Singer and songwriter, Kerri Crocker from Texarkana provided inspiration to those attending through her words and music. The lyrics reminded one of God's abundant love with words such as, *blessings rush over me, my soul never touches the ground.*

Districts provided gift baskets which were offered as door prizes and special guests were recognized.

A slate of officers, who will be installed at the conclusion of the Fall Retreat, were elected:

**"It is a relief to come here [the Texas Annual Conference] and be a part of this, knowing there is help out there for clergy spouses."**

**Susan Brannen  
President-Elect,  
Texas Conference Clergy Spouse Association**

zation like this. It was a relief to come here and be a part of this, knowing there is help out there for clergy spouses," said Susan Brannen, president elect of the organization.

The luncheon continues the tradition of offering clergy spouses the opportunity to visit and enjoy a shared meal. "It's always good to see other spouses. We don't have time throughout the year to visit," said Gary Meyers.

Susan Brannen, President; Petrella Booker, Vice President; Kathy Reider, Secretary; Paula Ryburn, Treasurer; and Jill Krone, Publicity.

Clergy Spouses next gathering will be the Fall Retreat held October 17-18, 2008 at Lakeview Conference Center. Registration is available online at TCCSA link under the ministries tab at [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org).

## Small membership churches hear the stirring of the Spirit

By Jill Krone, TAC  
Communications

During the Small Membership Church Fellowship and Gathering on Tuesday night, attendees were treated to the celebration of music provided by the Clear Creek Blue Grass Band. Following a time of fellowship and feasting, Rev. Edward Kail, outgoing President of United Methodist Rural Fellowship and a member of the Iowa Conference, spoke and encouraged reflection on the familiar text from John 15, "I am the vine, you are the branches..."

Kail reminded listeners that there are three parts to this text – the vine, branches and the fruit. "In the 70's, I was trained in seminary to be a church manager and didn't always act as if all three of these existed. I was wrong." He continued, "I was acting as if the church was the fruit when Jesus said we are the branches who are to bear fruit. Fruit is the lives impacted and changed with transformation the result."

"Here in the USA, where is

the fruit?" Kail challenged. "Is it any wonder churches are withering away? Yet, here and there, there are stirrings of the Spirit."

He stated, "It seems like we church folk get second or third things first rather than first things first." Rev. Kail stated, "First you are called to love God then neighbor with everything you do and are." He called for churches to move from church work to Kingdom work, from religion to faith, from membership to ministry, from survival to mission, from 'business' to stewardship, from inside to outside and from friendliness to welcome. "Is the Spirit stirring in your church, moving you from where you've been to where you might be?" Kail questioned.

"We've got choices to make, minds to change, hearts to open and gifts to offer. The trajectory of the Spirit is clear – moving us 'from' to 'to'." Kail warned, "The community is changing but the church isn't because it is comfortable." Referencing Weem's book where he refers to the two most

important words for the church in the 21st century as 'so that' he asked, "How do you and your church answer the 'so that' questions? Is your answer a fruitful one?"

Steps churches may take to be a part of this change include: 1) discover what God wants to accomplish through study of the Bible and prayer; 2) research your community learning what human hurts and hopes are present; 3) do something starting with small acts of service; and 4) learn from your experience.

Kail concluded, "I've been sent here to remind you, call you, plead with you to remember that you are the branch, Jesus is the vine, and Lord have mercy, we are NOT the fruit." He said, "When lay get set free for Kingdom work – it's amazing!"

Rev. Bill Denham shared his remarkable realization that, "the church is not the fruit but the branches. I pray that the sap of the Holy Spirit will move through me."

## Texas Conference chapter, Christian educators Fellowship luncheon

Continued from page 2



**Twenty-seven Churches Receive the Five Stars of Excellence in Christian Education Award.**

TCCEF is one of the largest and most active chapters of the

Christian Educators Fellowship of the United Methodist

Church.

The mission of CEF is to nurture, support, challenge and advocate for persons with responsibility for fostering discipleship through Christian Education.

Membership is open to all who have responsibility for Christian education in and beyond the local church.

For information about CEF, visit [cefumc.org](http://cefumc.org), or for information about TCCEF, visit [TCCEF.org](http://TCCEF.org).

As always, there was plenty of fellowship, food, fun and faith-sharing to send us out to be faithful servants!



## Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

### Mission Opportunities

#### PIM Offers Team Leader Training

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

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

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

### Fellowship Opportunities

#### 2008 Women's Day – Trinity UMC Houston

Trinity UMC, Houston will celebrate *Women's Day* with Dr. Patricia Russell-McCloud, orator and author as the guest speaker for the 10 a.m. worship service, June 22, 2008.

Trinity UMC will also host workshops focusing on, *A Day of Spiritual, Health and Emotional Renewal: Taking Care of Self* on Saturday, June 21, 2008. Dr. Russell-McCloud will be the guest speaker at the luncheon and be available for signing copies of her latest book.

The registration fee of \$35 includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Bus transportation from Trinity UMC is available to the workshop site: Bay Oaks Country Club in Clear Lake, Texas. For more information, contact the church at 713-528-2356 or their website, [www.tumchouston.org](http://www.tumchouston.org).

### Anniversary Celebration for Coldspring UMC

Members of the Coldspring United Methodist Church invite the community to join us, in our celebration of 160 years in the Lord's service on June 22, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Many of the church's historical mementoes will be on display, at the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided.

The church was established in 1848 and has been in continuous service to the community. The sanctuary was built in 1858, at the original location, near Oakwood Cemetery. In 1916 it was moved to its present location at Hwy. 150 and Cemetery Road.

District Superintendent Dr. Jack Shelton will speak at the 10 a.m. service, along with Pastor Larry Smith. Lunch will be provided, in the church fellowship hall, following the service.

If further information is needed please contact the church office at 936-653-2287. Hope to see you there.

### Science and Reading Summer Camps

*Super Scientists* and *Page Turners* day camps will be offered this summer at Strawbridge UMC for children ages two years to fourth grade. *Super Scientists* Day Camp will take place the first three weeks in July on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Children will dive into science with fun experiments like "kick-the-can ice cream" and "solar smores."

*Page Turners* Reading Camp is Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 29 and 31, and August 5 and 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*Page Turners* will fill your child's days with fun crafts, great books, and visits to the Chef's Corner. Each day will feature a new book that your child will get to keep.

Call 281-360-4500 to register. Space is limited. Cost is \$40 registration fee, plus \$140 for both camps. Strawbridge UMC is located at 5629 Kingwood Dr. (at Willow Terrace).

### Author of *Faith in the Halls of Power* to Speak at St. Paul's UMC

The author of *Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite*, Dr. D. Michael Lindsay, will be the guest speaker at the Special Studies Sunday School class at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, June 22.

Lindsay is a member of the sociology faculty at Rice University, where he also is the faculty associate of Leadership Rice and assistant director of the Center on Race, Religion, and Urban Life.

He is the author of two books, both with George Gallup, Jr., and has written many scholarly and popular essays. He has received several awards for his writing, teaching, and speaking, and he writes a regular column for *Rev!* magazine.

### Learning Opportunities

#### Perkins School of Theology Course of Study Program

The Perkins School of Theology Course of Study Extension School at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville announces its fall 2008 schedule.

The dates are Saturdays, September 13, October 11 and November 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. with worship.

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

Applications may be secured from District Offices or by contacting Dr. Jimmie A. Reese, Director at 903-586-4116 or e-mail [jareese@aol.com](mailto:jareese@aol.com). Dr. Reese's address is 1803 Turney Circle, Jacksonville, Texas 75766. Registration fee is \$60.00.

### Being One: Marriage Seminars

A marriage seminar, "Being One," for engaged and newly married couples are conducted quarterly at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Among the topics examined will be: the natural stages of married life; how to deal with the inevitable and necessary conflicts that arise between two persons who are close; what is intimacy and how not only to achieve it but to maintain it; how money and sex can be metaphors for how we "talk to each other" in marriage; the many kinds of intimacy that are possible in a marriage; how respect, reciprocity, and shared responsibility are keys to marital satisfaction.

Seminar leaders are Dr. Sherry Beeman and Dr. Bill Kerley. Married to each other, each is a former president of the Houston Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

The seminars are free of charge for couples who have been or who are scheduled to be married at St. Paul's. For others, the fee is \$60.

For more information, see the Weddings section at

[www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org). To register, contact Katherine Jordan at 713-528-0527 or [info@stpaulshouston.org](mailto:info@stpaulshouston.org).

The remaining dates for 2008 are August 16, and November 1.

### Lay Speaking Ministries Workshop

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

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

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

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

*Do you have information about your church or ministry you would like to share with others? Contact Thelma Jones at 713-521-9383, ext. 335 or [thelmaj@methodists.net](mailto:thelmaj@methodists.net).*