



Cross Connection

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

TAC communications honored for ministry excellence

Texas Annual Conference Communications won four awards at the United Methodist Association of Communicators meeting, held in Nashville, October 21-24.

Team coverage of the November 2008 net distribution in Cote d'Ivoire won best blog among all annual conferences. Half dozen writers contributed content throughout the trip, to collaboratively cover the event.

"I was extremely proud of this work because it told the story of our partnership from multiple perspectives," said Eleanor Colvin, TAC Director of Communications. "Because pastors and lay people shared their voices and testimonies, we were able to tell a more compelling and more comprehensive story than if it were only one person writing."

Also, taking top honors among annual conferences was a photo entitled "Worth the Wait." Colvin snapped this photo of a mother waiting in line on the first day of net distribution in the Ivorian village of Alepe.

The wait for a long-lasting insecticide treated mosquito net could range from two to six hours. And occasionally, people were asked to return the next day. But day after day, in six locations across southern Cote d'Ivoire, mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts and older siblings patiently stood in line to secure the health of Ivorian children and protect them against malaria.

"The woman in the photograph embodied the desperation and dedication of the people of Cote d'Ivoire," Colvin said. "They desperately need a way to protect their children from a preventable disease, and they're dedicated enough to walk for miles or wait for hours to do so. She captured that."



"Worth the Wait" is the title of this photo taken in Cote d'Ivoire. It was named best photo taken by an Annual Conference by the United Methodist Association of Communicators.

Ike video hits hard

It was the third-costliest storm in United States history. Hurricane Ike stormed through Texas in September 2008, and one year and one month later, *Hurricane Ike – the Aftermath* stormed the entire UMAC video division.

The compilation of testimonials and footage of what Ike left

behind won first place in its class among annual conferences. Additionally, the video claimed Best in Division. This means it not only excelled among peer annual conferences, but was deemed superior to video resources produced by denominational agencies as well.

Two20 Media, led by TAC Communications Committee

member John Hines, filmed, edited and packaged the Hurricane Ike video.

Although the conference had identified some churches and areas to spotlight, some of Two20 Media's video subjects were a "God send."

"When we first got to Orange, we couldn't communicate with anyone – cell phones were down and street signs down," Hines said. "So, we just started talking to people and the stories were just amazing. Some of the video we used of people wasn't anything pre-arranged. We saw people and realized they had a need.

"It was eye-opening to see the need and to see everyone – no matter what denomination – working together. That gave us hope."

Another thing Hines said impacted him and the film crew was people's willingness to step up.

"People just gave and gave and gave – and it wasn't all just about money," Hines said. "It was about Jesus with skin on, and really caring about each other. And, there were a lot of smaller churches (serving). They sometimes don't have the resources – but they stepped up to the plate."

Accessible at www.txcumc.org/ikevideo, the video was created to educate people on Hurricane Ike's impact on the Texas Annual Conference, and the need for recovery help.

"It was so bad, like a bomb had been dropped – it made you want to fall to your knees." "Everything I own is totally gone." These were among the quotes of residents featured in *Hurricane Ike – the Aftermath*. This resource made it possible for people throughout the connection and beyond to view these stories and respond to the call to serve and restore Ike-damaged communities.



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God manages to deliver the call to ministry in countless ways

By Jeremy Wester
Duke Divinity School

*Former pastoral intern and TAC certified candidate for ministry, Jeremy Wester wrote the following essay, which will be included in the book, *Beyond the Burning Bush: Hearing and Answering God's Call*, published by the United Methodist Church.*

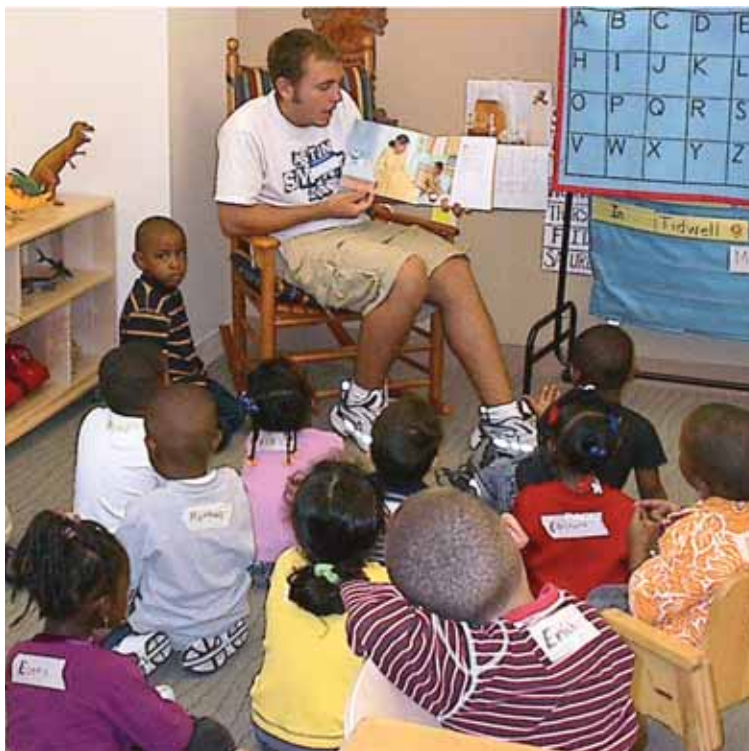
I really couldn't tell you the first time I felt God knocking on the door to my heart. I just know that as I look back I can see the countless ways God has managed to find his way in. I've never seen the heavens part, time has never stood still on my behalf, and I certainly don't expect to see the Spirit of God descend like a dove over me any time soon. In fact, there's nothing grand or epic about my story at all, just a lot of little things that have come together in a big way to make me the person that I am today.

I was born into a United Methodist family, and I don't just mean we went to the local United Methodist Church. One of my great-grandfathers was a circuit-riding preacher many years ago.

I don't know much about the rest of his generation, but both sets of grandparents are long-time Methodists and my parents were both active lay members of the church. They met at the Wesley Foundation at Texas A&M during college and my mom was even the youth director at my church when I started junior high. I guess you could say church has been in my blood since birth.

Up until college, Sunday morning attendance was more of an expectation than an option. In my family, you were in church unless you were sick or out of town, and there was an unwritten rule that youth group events would be funded over any other form of entertainment.

Having this background, I have always been at home in the church and never felt any desire to leave. I even took the opportunity as a young boy to make friends with my pastor on the summer days that my mom would have to work and I was



A picture is worth a thousand words. Jeremy Wester uses an illustrated book to share bible stories with a group of children during a mission trip to Chicago, Illinois.

too young to stay home alone.

I remember times when I would sit in the back of the huge sanctuary staring at a beautiful stained glass portrait of Jesus reaching down toward two of his followers.

To this day, I don't really

family had moved to Pflugerville, Texas, that summer and by January, I was on a mid-winter retreat with a bunch of people that I barely knew. Don't get me wrong, I really liked the youth group and the youth director had a profound

Even as a child I knew on some level that I could never be happy without sharing the power of Christ with everyone I met.

know the full symbolism of the window, but I remember the amazing feeling it gave me to sit in that holy place and gaze upon the face of our Lord. Of course, I didn't have much understanding at the time of what gave me those feelings, I just knew on some level that I was at home in the presence of God.

It wasn't until I was a sophomore in high school that I came to know the fullness of God's presence in my heart. As I said in the beginning, I really couldn't tell you the first time God began to knock on the door to my heart, but I can tell you with absolute certainty about the first time God tore down every wall to my heart and filled me completely with God's love. My

influence on my life; it just takes me a while to get comfortable with people.

So there I was on the retreat, still getting to know my own youth group and suddenly plunged into a group of several hundred unfamiliar faces. In the midst of my uneasiness and fear, I was given a time to sit and listen for the voice of God. During that time, my youth director came over, laid hands on my shoulders, and began to pray.

As he finished praying, something happened to me that I can't even begin to put into words. I have never been at such a loss for words and understanding. The strange thing was for the first time in my life everything made sense.

I had always believed in and followed God, but in that moment things clicked like the last piece of the puzzle was finally in place.

The overwhelming feeling of God's presence gave me a profound look into the reality and meaning of being a child of the risen Lord and a look into the heart of God. In a moment that would probably mean nothing to the rest of the world, I was able to experience the power and call of God in a tangible way.

Even as a child I knew on some level that I could never be happy without sharing the power of Christ with everyone I met. Things had just become a little more concrete in that moment and I began to accept my call into the ordained ministry.

I certainly had not committed to the vocation yet. I wasn't exactly running from the path God had laid out for me, but I was definitely taking some back roads. I went to college as a physics major because I loved math and science and figured I would change the world by proving Einstein wrong and determining an entirely new scientific view of the world.

Those dreams quickly faded, however, as I realized again and again that I could never really enjoy a vocation outside the ministry. I still love math and science, but I decided to put that on the back burner for a time and became a philosophy major, still not fully committed to the idea of becoming a pastor, but at least willing to get a degree that would prepare me for the types of things I would learn in seminary, should I choose to attend.

College was again a time of many small things coming together to help solidify my call into ordained ministry. It took a while for me to find my church home. I don't know if it was a subconscious desire to look beyond The United Methodist Church or just a case of being lazy, but I applied for and got into a Christian leadership organization at Texas A&M and, for my freshman year, treated it like my church home.

Continued on page 6

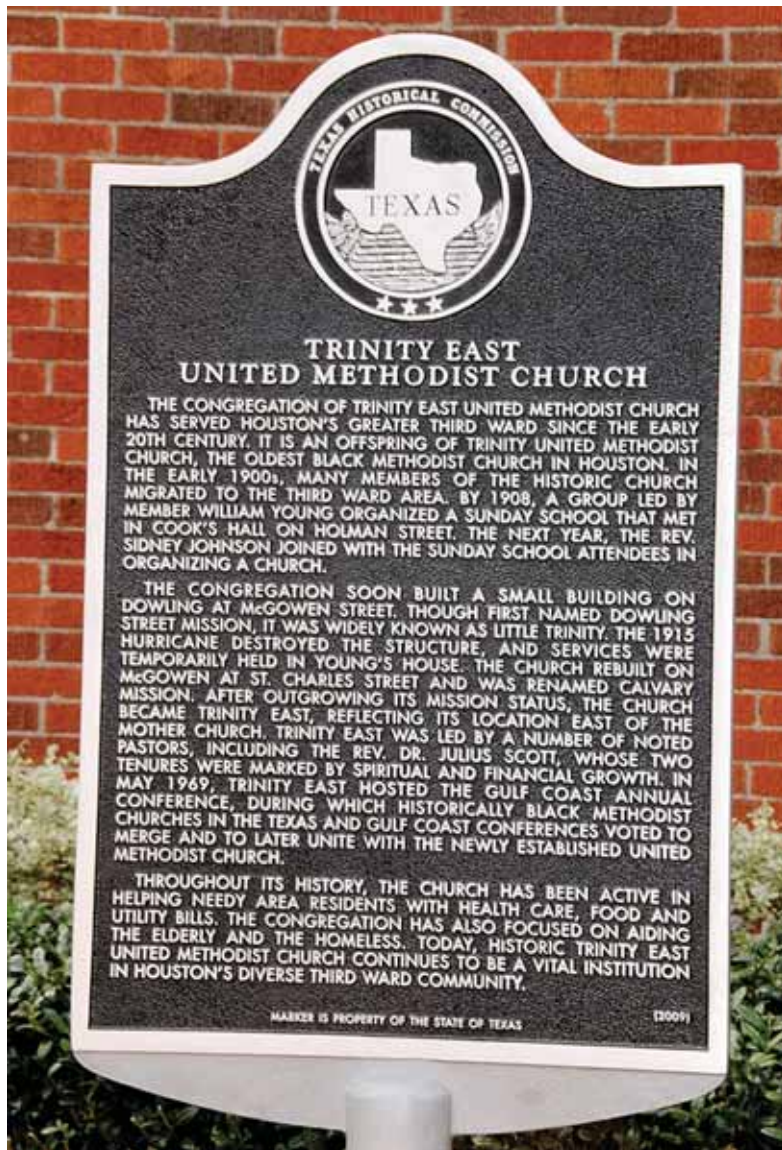


Historical marker highlights Trinity East UMC 100-year celebration

By Vanecia Williams
Trinity East UMC

Street location in Third Ward in Houston.

Brethren Church and The Methodist Church, April 23, 1968.



History – and the safeguarding of it – is among America's greatest treasures. Think about how many times you have visited national, local or regional landmarks and are in awe at the quality of their preservation. There is nothing better than exploring a building's architectural history and the remnants it holds, or landmarks that highlight a spot in this country where something occurred.

This fall, as the finale to its year-long 100th Anniversary Celebration, Trinity East UMC became a landmark in the state of Texas, when the Harris County Historical Commission dedicated and unveiled a Historical Marker for the church at its 2418 McGowen

Rooted in Methodism

Trinity East UMC is an offspring of Trinity UMC, the oldest African-American Methodist Church in Houston, whose origin begins from First Methodist Houston Church, organized in 1841 for Caucasian members. The original 68 members of Trinity Methodist Church included 32 African-Americans, both free and slaves.

The church at that time was located above a store on Capital Avenue, between Milam and Louisiana streets, in Downtown Houston.

Today, a monument to the origin of the Methodist Church in Houston is erected at 801 Texas Avenue in front of the Houston Chronicle building.

In 1908, Trinity Methodist Church members who migrated to Third Ward found it inconvenient to get downtown. It was then that William Young, together with other parishioners organized a new church on the corner of Dowling and McGowen streets nicknaming it "Little Trinity," thus, the beginning of Trinity East Methodist Church, which is now Trinity East UMC.

"United" was inserted in the church name after the creation of The United Methodist Church upon the merger of The Evangelical United

United in celebration

The historical marker presentation ceremony included representatives from the state of Texas and the UMC, including keynote speaker, Central South District Superintendent Rev. Lawrence Young. Clergy making an appearance included retired ministers Rev. Dr. Darnell Walker, Rev. DeFarris Gooden and Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Cox, who is also the former South District Superintendent.

Rev. Constance Gold and Rev. Dr. Robert McGee also participated. McGee, who is the senior pastor of Trinity UMC – the Mother Church of Trinity East – read the Historical Marker inscription during the program upon its unveiling. Trinity East's senior pastor, Rev. Bryan Keith Dalco served as the spiritual leader throughout the program.

Members present from the Harris County Historical Commission included Mrs. Willie Lee Gay, who presented the Church with its Historical Marker. Also on hand was former City of Houston Mayor Dr. Lee P. Brown and former First Lady Francis Young Brown.

Additionally, the church was packed with its own set of very special people, as its sick and shut-in members decided that on this Sunday they would have their caretakers bring them to church.

The Buffalo Soldiers served as the Color Guard for the event with retired Colonel Cameron Wells, Jr., serving as the Sergeant at Arms. The chairs for this event were Mrs. Alpha Henderson and Mrs. Juanita Jackson.



Celebrating our past. From left to right: Former Mayor and Mrs. Lee P. Brown, Rev. Vickie Keys, associate pastor, Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Cox, Ms. Juanita Jackson co-chair, Mrs. Alpha Henderson, co-chair and church historian and senior pastor, Rev. Bryan K. Dalco and wife, Michelle.



Bringing hope and help



**By Eleanor L. Colvin
Texas Annual Conference
Communications Director**

Some day, we'll speak of it all as a thing of the past...but for the people of Eastern Iowa, the disasters of 2008 are still here.

This sentiment from the "Bringing Hope to the Heartland" video reminds people of the long road of disaster recovery. Members of the Texas Annual Conference cabinet and 15 District Connectional Ministry (DCM) members recently walked a few steps on that road with those struggling to recover in America's Heartland.

In the spring of 2008, tornadoes tore through Northeastern Iowa. Then, in June, historic flooding sent the state's major rivers and small streams beyond their banks. The Texas Annual Conference

cabinet made a commitment at that time to help out.

"We promised them that we'd come up and help them with flood recovery," said North District Superintendent Rev. Bill Taylor. "Then, Hurricane Ike happened; so, we weren't able to fulfill our commitment."

But October 15-18, annual conference pastors and cabinet members made good on that year-old promise.

Bishop Julius Trimble of the Iowa Annual Conference said at the beginning of the recovery video that "as time goes on, TV shows the newest disaster. Volunteers are drawn to the freshest crisis—wanting to help those in need."

So, having a team of 26 show up long after the news cameras are gone, is indeed a blessing. Rev. B.T. Williamson, director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, and Taylor were hopeful that the mission



Top Left: Texas Conference Treasurer, Dr. Elijah Stansell helps build a new closet inside a damaged home.

Bottom Left: Rev. Christie Hale and West District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Fort team up to offer a measure of service and love in Iowa.

Bottom Right: A volunteer from Cedar Rapids joins the Texas Conference team in lending a hand.



to the heartland

‘The flood was big, but our God is bigger.’

trip would be a multi-faceted blessing.

“We wanted to continue to encourage a culture of missions in our annual conference,” said Taylor. “There’s relational piece – allowing people to get to know the cabinet on a level that they usually wouldn’t get to know them, by working with them in a different environment. And, we’re supporting the connection by reaching across conference lines and jurisdictional lines.”

The Texas team worked in Iowa’s second-largest city—Cedar Rapids—which at one point was 14 percent under water. In Cedar Rapids alone, 5,390 homes; 1,133 businesses and 486 non-profit organizations were flooded. This doesn’t include damage sustained in the

small, rural communities surrounding the city.

“The simple truth is: our communities will not recover without your help,” the video states, and concludes with, “The flood was big, but our God is bigger.” The Texas team helped show the people of Iowa just how big, wide and inexhaustible the love of God is.

Serving alongside the cabinet were: Revs. Patricia Bergfield, Amanda Davis, Lillie Ferrell, Christie Hale, Becky Hand, Hazeline Jackson, Janice Kerlee, Paige Martin, Tommy Myrick, Stacy Pell, Bob Pierce, Ann Spears, John Stephenson, David Urban and Kristin Watts. All participants are second-year probationary elders or deacons in the TAC.



Top Right: Braced for the cold weather in the North Central Jurisdiction, Central South District Superintendent, Rev. Lawrence Young uses a post hole digger in preparation for a new fence.

Bottom Right: Rev. Ann Spears and Rev. Becky Hand carry a beam and some of the burdens of Iowa residents. They are working alongside Rev. Lawrence Young, Rev. Jerry Pennington and Rev. Tommy Myrick to build a fence.

Top Left: Pulling nails is one of the more tedious tasks that prepares a home for restoration.

Bottom Left: The sign sums up the purpose of the trip—to bring not only hope, but help and support to the area.



A compassionate ministry Pastor finds his niche in hospice care

By Brant Mills
TAC Web Content Manager

This article is part of a series offering a snapshot of extension ministries of the Texas Annual Conference. Please watch the conference website and Cross Connection for future articles.



Rev. Don Storey said he was unsure about where he was headed when he received his calling. “Freshman year in college I was struggling with what I wanted to do. I wanted to go into the military, but it was during the Vietnam conflict and my parents discouraged it.” He said he was “called out of the prophetic tradition of the Old Testament,” but added that he put it off for seven years to work in business.

During that time he became actively involved at Wesley

UMC in Clute where he said the congregation nurtured him and he gained practical experience in ministry.

Storey made the decision to follow his calling in 1972 after a process of praying and talking with his family. He noted that at the time he was married and had two children. He had to finish his undergraduate degree and then went to seminary at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

While in school he worked as a student pastor, but his first taste of working as a chaplain was during his time in seminary as an intern in clinical pastoral education (CPE) at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Storey said that though hospital chaplaincy and CPE had been around for a long time, the idea of hospital chaplaincy as a vocation was new to him. “I had always focused on local church ministry. The Internship provided me a wonderful opportunity

to integrate my studies in practical ministry, under supervision and in a peer group setting.” When he graduated in 1978 with a master’s degree in theology, his first appointment was as a chaplain at the Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas.

He later went to work in the local church, and after serving in other appointments, again had the opportunity to return to the chaplaincy. Storey said after several years he felt the need to do something else as he “began experiencing burnout as a pastor.”

He recalled an appointment where he had developed a relationship with an organization that is now called Houston Hospice. “When I was at FUMC in Wharton, I would visit patients and families in the area who did not have a pastor and would report spiritual care needs to the hospice team.” He asked to be appointed as an extension minister and began working with them full-time.

Rev. Storey has now been a chaplain with Houston Hospice for almost seven years.

When asked about his ministry’s focus, Storey said he has always had compassion for people. “I’ve always enjoyed providing spiritual care. Even as a lay person I enjoyed visiting with church members who were considered home bound... Pastoral care and counseling were always my strengths.”

Storey works with an interdisciplinary team consisting of a medical director, nurses, social workers, and, at times, volunteers. “This team provides end of life care for persons who have decided to discontinue curative treatment, and who generally have six months or less to live.”

He said much of their work is based around helping people with what he called a ‘life review.’ “We evaluate where they are in their spiritual journey. We use active listening and spiritual counseling, scriptures

and prayers. One of the things we try to do in spiritual care assessment is determine if they have pastoral spiritual support from a faith community. That’s how I assess needs. I seek patients who don’t have that kind of support more often than those who do have an affiliation somewhere.

“I feel like I’m doing what I was called to do and be in a ministry that is vital for end of life,” he said. “I would say I’ve been a UM pastor for 37 years now and the last seven years have been the most meaningful years of my ministry. I’m glad to be doing what I do.”

Rev. Storey provides periodic workshops on spiritual care at the end of life for pastors, Stephen Ministers and other groups. For more information on this workshop or other aspects of this ministry, contact Rev. Don Storey at 979-578-0314, dstorey@houstonhospice.org or <http://www.houstonhospice.org>.

God manages to deliver the call to ministry in countless ways

Continued from page 2

It was what I would call a non-denominational Southern Baptist organization, as are many college ministries in College Station. I don’t really have anything against such ministries, except to say that they aren’t where I belong. It was, however, a good experiment in finding where I fit into the church and gave me greater clarity in knowing that The

had a big hand in my being on this earth in the first place. Little did I know at the time that it would become my home for the next three years and it would be the place where God finally got control of my whole self, vocation and all. The campus minister, Max Mertz, pretty quickly began to push me toward ordination. After contemplating my calling and tak-

and taking various leadership roles. I went on all the retreats and even joined the conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, which oversees the operations and budgets of all Wesley Foundations in the Texas Annual Conference.

Through all of these experiences, I continued to feel right at home learning what it really meant to submit to God in service of the church. I served as a pastoral intern for the conference during the summer after graduating college and am presently beginning my master of divinity at Duke Divinity School as a certified candidate for ministry with the Texas Annual Conference.

To this day, God continues to knock on the door to my heart and ensure I’m traveling God’s path for my life. As I look back, I can see so many little blessings that God has poured out on me to make sure I would find my home in ministry for God. I was given a loving family to instill in me the

value of the church. I was blessed beyond measure to meet my fiancée at the Wesley Foundation, just like my parents met years ago. I found friendships in Christian community during youth and college and have been given countless opportunities to live in and serve the body of Christ.

God still hasn’t parted a sea

for me and I don’t reckon I’ll be able to walk on water any time soon, but I can rest easy in my calling knowing that the presence and love of Christ will be with me throughout the rest of the ordination process and throughout my life, gently nudging me along in my life’s journey closer to God.

As I look back, I can see so many little blessings that God has poured out on me to make sure I would find my home in ministry for God.

United Methodist Church is where I belong. Still, I had to start all over finding a church home when my freshman year ended.

I began by checking out the Wesley Foundation where my parents had met so many years before, figuring that it couldn’t be a bad place to start since it

ing the back roads for so long, I finally decided to get on the ordination track and see where God might take me.

I read all the books and met with Max countless times. I got more involved with Wesley than I ever thought possible, easily spending eight or more hours a day with my Christian family



Wester and a youth group from A&M Wesley enjoy a worship service during a mission trip to Belize.



Local Church Ministry Snapshots

Sheltering beneath a TARP

Hurricane recovery projects still plentiful in Terrebonne Parish

By Rev. Clayton Whitaker
TAC Disaster Response

Residents of South Louisiana braced themselves as Hurricane Gustav barreled along the coastline, hoping it wouldn't be another Katrina. The eye of the storm came ashore in the coastal community of Cocodrie, Louisiana, in Terrebonne Parish.

Though Cocodrie is 80 miles southeast of New Orleans and received its share of damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, residents claimed Gustav was the worst storm they had ever seen.

Because of this, volunteers

are still needed to assist in recovery. In an effort to provide help, First UMC of Baton Rouge created *Terrebonne Area Restoration Project (TARP)*, whose purpose is to provide home repair and restoration at no cost to homeowners.

TARP is now accepting youth team registrations for the summer of 2010. The project, which runs June 6- July 31, costs \$225 per person. A fee of \$75 is due at registration. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Extent of need

During the height of the storm, Terrebonne Parish expe-

rienced winds at 110 mph and a storm surge of 12 feet. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Ike brought more wind, rain, and flooding to the area. The damage from these storms was especially severe and not an uncommon occurrence for residents of Terrebonne Parish.

More than 90 percent of Terrebonne Parish is wetlands. Year after year, families face the threat of hurricanes devastating their homes and changing the course of their lives. This threat became a reality for thousands in 2008.

Less than half of all residents of Terrebonne Parish carried adequate flood insurance to cover the damage done to their homes; consequently, many of them are unable to make the needed repairs to their homes.

Last year, over 300 teens from 14 states across the country traveled to Terrebonne Parish to serve. They provided 11,470 hours of service, which translates into 15 homes being restored. Yet, as in Texas, the need still remains. From roofing to foundations and everything in between, homes and lives must be rebuilt.

In addition to providing home repair and restoration, TARP also provides the opportunity for teens to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in mission, while growing in their faith through devotion and worship. Volunteers are asked to commit one week of their summer to the project to make a difference that will last a lifetime. Youth meet other youth, making friends across the country.

For more information, visit www.thebluetarp.com or contact Laurie Byland at 225-383-4777 or laurie.byland@firstmethodist.org.



Learning a new skill while providing a service. Volunteers are still needed in South Louisiana. Above, youth repair a home damaged by Hurricane Gustav.



Made in LA DVD available for viewing

Made in LA is an Emmy award-winning film on the three-year experience of three immigrant women who stood up to exploitation in Los Angeles sweatshops making clothing for a trendy clothing retailer.

The United Methodist Task Force on Immigration has endorsed the powerful documentary for viewing by congregations as a means of introducing and promoting dialogue on issues of immigration and justice in the United States.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño of Phoenix, Arizona, says that the story in the film "beautifully illustrates the courage,

perseverance, and strength that these women show daily in caring for their families, contributing to their communities, organizing to overcome exploitation, and building a life that is both inspiring and challenging."

Copies of the DVD *Made in LA* are available at the Center for Missional Excellence office. (These DVDs are in English.) To check out a copy to view with your congregations, committees or classes call Shirley Broome at 713-521-9383 or by e-mail, sbroome@txcumc.org.



Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

Fellowship Opportunities

St. Paul's UMC Port Arthur Celebrates Homecoming 2009

Possessing the Land...Caring for the People is the theme for this celebration, Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker is Rev. Carolos Phillips, pastor of St. James UMC in Beaumont, Texas.

Contact Rev. Patricia Wells, 409-985-9977 or revpawells@aol.com for additional information.

St. Andrew's UMC Annual Women's Day

Women Continuing To Work for Christ is the theme for St. Andrew's UMC annual women's day program. Festivities for the event began with, Family & Friends Extravaganza, Saturday, November 7, 3 - 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 15, the guest speaker for the worship service is Pastor Linda Wiltz and an evening program with Pastor Jacqui King. For more information, contact Rev. Marilyn White at 713-695-6647 or www.standrewshouston.org.

First UMC Beaumont says, "Don't Go To Church"

First UMC Beaumont is canceling its morning worship services on Sunday, November 8.

The congregation is putting its faith into action by performing purposeful acts of kindness and service throughout the community. Volunteers from both the church and the community will join together to paint, pack food boxes, clean up yards, parks and streets, visit elderly and much more.

A total of 16 projects will be held on Faith in Action Sunday. Many of the workers do not attend First UMC Beaumont, but see the value of what is being done and want to help.

For more information about First UMC and their Faith in Action Sunday, contact Sherry Kilgore, 832-0295 Ext. 11, or SKilgore@firstbeaumont.org.

Santa's Shopping Mall

More than 100 artists and craftsmen will be on hand Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Clear Lake UMC, 16335 El Camino Real, Houston, Texas 77062.

There will be an *Elves Kitchen* serving lunch and a bake shop with homemade goods. A Silent Auction will also be held. Over 100 vendors will be displaying their colorful creative crafts, many suitable for Christmas gifts. It's a great time to see a variety of wonderful surprises available for sale. Proceeds benefit UMW programs and mission outreach projects.

Retirement Dinner for Dr. K. Wayne Day

St. Paul's UMC in Houston is hosting a dinner in honor of Marta and Dr. K. Wayne Day upon the occasion of his retirement. Dr. Day served as senior pastor at St. Paul's from January 1985 to January 1995.

The dinner will be Friday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP for the \$18/plate dinner, email Phyllis Brockermeier at pbrock@stpaulshouston.org or call her at 713-528-0527. Casual attire is encouraged.

Learning Opportunities

Hope for the Holidays - A Series Dealing with Depression

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Greater Houston (DBSA) will partner with St. Luke's Center for Counseling and Enrichment to present a series of six lectures and Q&A sessions focusing on how to reduce stress through the holiday months.

The dates are November 3 and 10; December 8 and 15; and January 7 and 12.

The holiday season can be a time of joy and cheer, but for many people, it is a time of self-evaluation, loneliness, reflection on past failures and anxiety about an uncertain future.

These events are free. For more information, contact Amy Birchill at 713-402-5046 or abirchill@stlukes-hou.org.

The Woodlands UMC Host Conference on Compassionate Ministries

Tough Ministries Conference 09 is scheduled for November 5-7.

This event is designed to encourage, support and equip churches of all sizes to intentionally and lovingly create ministries for the lost, least and looked-over members of today's society.

Special focus areas include: Orphan, Adoption and Foster Care ministries; Special Needs and Disability ministries; Caring and Compassion ministries. The conference will feature keynote presentations by Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell, Coach Gene Stallings, Paul Pennington, David Ring, Mark Tennant, Chris Heuertz, and Nate Huss. Matt Brouwer will lead worship.

Additional information and online registration is available at

www.toughministries.com. Registration cost of \$295 includes entry to all conference sessions, workshops and exhibit hall, conference materials, and two box lunches for the track-specific luncheon speakers and discussion panels.

First UMC Houston Presents: "The History and Archaeology of the Last Supper"

Saturday, November 7, join Dr. Jim Fleming, pre-eminent scholar of biblical archaeology, history and interpretation as he brings together, old and recent discoveries in this study.

Child care is available with advanced registration of children. The registration cost is \$20 and an additional \$20 (optional) for the notebook. Pre-registration is requested, but not mandatory. Visit the link, www.fmhouston.com for more information and registration.

2012 General Conference Worship & Music Director

The Commission on the General Conference is seeking a Worship and Music Director, an individual with a high level of organizational and communication skills responsible for the overall worship and music program management at General Conference. The Director is responsible to the Commission on the General Conference, functioning as a part of the staff coordinated by the Business Manager.

The Worship and Music Director receives a modest honorarium with transportation, housing, and food paid through the submission of expense reports to the Business Manager of the General Conference. Those interested in applying may view the Worship and Music Director position description at

http://www.umcevents.org/2012GC/Worship&Music_Director_Position_Description.pdf.

The position description provides technical requirements for the audition video.

Send Spotlight submissions to:

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