



# Cross Connection

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## What's Inside

Lakeview Retreat Center benefits from generosity of friends

2

Marvin UMC hosts Pirtle Lecture Series

3

Advancing Pastoral Leadership announces new class

5

Lon Morris football team is back after 70 years

6

Huntington UMC ministry serves grieving families

7

Spotlight on local church ministries

8

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

## World Communion Sunday gifts are 'vital to church's future'

Bishop Joel Martinez experienced the call to ministry as a teenager. With the help of the Crusade Scholars program, he followed that call at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

"The Crusade Scholars program made possible my seminary education," Martinez said. "This program is vital to our church's future."

Closer to home in the Texas Annual Conference, Rev.

Richard E. Stewart recently responded to a call for those whose ministries had been



Martinez

impacted by the Crusade Scholars program. A U.S. Air Force veteran, Stewart combined the G.I. Bill and the Crusade scholarship to support himself while in seminary.

"The importance of providing a well-educated clergy is such that financial help is even more vital to helping pay for seminary education," Stewart said. "I would say that the return on that investment is very high, and very much appreciated."

The denomination's investment in him was repaid many times



Stewart

over as he served as Dean of the Chapel at Wiley College; a U.S. Army Chaplain; hospital chaplain; Dean of the Chapel at Fisk University; associate director of the intern program at Perkins School of Theology at SMU, and on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

A 1960 graduate of Perkins, Stewart served the Texas Conference from 1953 to 1999, which happens to be the same year Conference Communicator Eleanor L. Colvin was named a Crusade Scholar.

"At the time, the application called for six essays; several of which asked how I'd use my education to serve the church," Colvin said. "My plans included using my communications

skills and arts training to serve my local church and connect it to underserved communities. I had no idea that God's plans included me serving the annual conference and beyond."

Colvin joined the Texas Conference communications team in 2005, and began fulfilling the promise and pledge that becoming a Crusade Scholar would better equip her to serve God and others with her communications gifts.

On October 3, United Methodists have an opportunity to sow seeds that bear fruit in the lives of people like Bishop Martinez, Rev. Stewart and Ms. Colvin. World Communion Sunday gifts help make it financially possible for people to answer God's calling on their

*continued on page 5*

## District laity invited to meet with Bishop

Following is a schedule of the remaining district laity meetings, *Leading Congregations: A Conversation with Bishop Janice Riggle Huie*. Bishop Huie will be accompanied by the Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. B. T. Williamson and Lay Leader, Mrs. Leah Taylor.

DISTRICT	LOCATION	DATE	TIME
North District	Mt. Pleasant, Tennison Memorial UMC	9/18/10	10 a.m.
Central South District	Houston, Westbury UMC	9/23/10	7 p.m.
Northwest District	Chandler UMC	9/26/10	2:30 p.m.
East District	Lufkin UMC, Youth & Worship Building	9/27/10	7 p.m.
West District	College Station, Aldersgate UMC	9/28/10	6:30 p.m.



The Cross Connection is the official publication of the Texas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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# Lakeview Retreat Center benefits from generosity of friends

**By Monroe Walker**  
Lakeview, Chief  
Administrative Officer

Extravagant generosity is a true trademark of the Texas Annual Conference members and churches, and Lakeview Retreat Center continues to experience the outpouring of support through the generous gifts from friends and local churches.

Recently, four gifts have made a wonderful difference for the summer camping program. The first gift was from an anonymous donor. The gift provided funding for six new fishing piers around Lake Oliphint. Additionally,

the gift included a pool cooler for Pool No. 1 to help make the water a very comfortable and refreshing experience during the hot Texas summer days.

The second gift was given by the Mid-High campers of the North/Northwest district Camp. Through a pass-the-hat collection, these young campers collected more than \$250. The money will be used toward renovations at Camp Wesley.

And, through the tireless recruiting efforts of Rev. Jeff Gage, associate pastor of First UMC in Bryan, Texas, thousands of dollars were given by numerous donors for

the installation of three new fan/mister cooling stations that keep campers cool and safe from the heat.

Perritte Memorial UMC chose to teach children about the apostle Paul and his experiences with Jesus in a camping environment. A large part of their Vacation Bible School (VBS) program focuses on getting children involved in a mission project fund through a tradition of coin collecting.

Kelly Kahlden, chair of the church's VBS says, "Lakeview was the obvious choice as far as donating the money. The collecting of the money is a tradition that we

do at our VBS – each year we decide something different to donate to. The kids get a real sense of giving and how important that is."

Through their efforts, the VBS program of Perritte Memorial UMC presented Lakeview with a check for more than \$1,100 to be used toward facilities for camp.

Such wonderful and creative ways of giving is both inspiring and helpful in continuing Lakeview's strategic planning for improved facilities and services. It is also a beautiful testimony to the churches and organizations that continue to give extravagantly in these difficult times.

## 'Christ's Christmas club'

It's not too soon to consider giving generously in Jesus' name this Advent

**By Melvin Amerson**  
Texas Methodist Foundation

Soon the season of Christmas will be with us, and we will become inundated with commercials and product advertisements on television, radio and the internet. Next, comes the pressure and urge to purchase or reciprocate gifts. Lastly, the challenges of locating funds to acquire items for love ones, friends and co-workers.

Recently, I engaged in conversations with family, friends and co-workers about *Christmas Club Accounts*. The mere mention of it stirred numerous fond memories of the past. Several wondered whether Christmas Club Accounts still existed.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with them, banks typically offered non-interest

bearing savings accounts that would permit individuals, couples, or families to set aside money each pay period leading up to Christmas for the sole purpose of saving for Christmas gifts. These accounts were extremely popular prior to the credit card era. Unfortunately, few financial institutions offer or pro-

tered focus.

Establish a church-wide *Christ Christmas Club Account Program*. A program of this kind is designed for believers to set aside funds for special ministry projects or missional works that will bless others at Christmas. Unlike the bank account, this one will produce eternal

All Christians are eligible to open a *Christ Christmas Club Account*. There is no minimum amount to start one. No background or credit checks are required. In fact, the only requirement is a love for Christ and others.

Consider depositing an additional \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 or more each Sunday in a des-

**"All Christians are eligible to open a *Christ Christmas Club Account*. There is no minimum amount to start one. No background or credit checks are required. In fact, the only requirement is a love for Christ and others."**

note these accounts today.

Since Christmas is about the celebration of the birth of Christ, let's re-think the concept of Christmas Club Accounts, with a Christ-cen-

ter yields and dividends in Kingdom building work, in the form of life changing expressions of love.

Please consider this spiritual investment opportunity.

igned offering envelope to bless others in the spirit of Christ in whose love our worth is found.



# The 45th annual Pirtle Lectures hosted by Marvin UMC

By Karen Bradford  
Marvin UMC

*Unexpected Divine Pre Arrangements* is an intriguing theme for the 45th Annual George W. Pirtle Series to be offered by Marvin UMC, Tyler, Texas, October 2-4.

The purpose of the Series, established in 1965 was “...to inspire, instruct and challenge the minds of people to a greater appreciation and understanding of God’s will and the basic truths of life.”

Pirtle, a prominent Tyler geologist and independent oil producer, was a Methodist and active member of Marvin UMC. He served faithfully in a variety of roles in the church until his death in 1985. Marvin UMC is grateful to Mr. Pirtle for his vision and foresight in establishing this lectureship which brings to the church some of the most outstanding theologians of our time.

This year, Marvin Church is pleased to continue the Pirtle tradition of excellence by welcoming Dr. Joel C. Gregory, currently Professor of Preaching at George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University and a Distinguished



**Dr. Joel C. Gregory**

Fellow at Georgetown College, Kentucky. He is also the founder and president of Joel Gregory Ministries, a non-profit organization supporting a preaching, teaching, counseling, and writing ministry.

Dr. Gregory earned his B.A., Summa Cum Laude, from Baylor University; a M.Div., from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and a Ph.D., also from Baylor.

Dr. Gregory’s career in ministry spans over four decades. His call to a Christian vocation came at an early age and his first preaching experience came when he was a high school student. He went on to serve seven Texas churches as pastor over a period of twenty-four years [1968 -1992]. Through

his non-profit organization, Dr. Gregory preaches and teaches internationally by using his homiletics seminars for ministers from the United States at Oxford University, UK, and within the past year, for ministers in Ghana.

He is frequently invited to speak at conferences and to preach at churches throughout the United States. As Dr. Gregory continues his ministry of teaching and preaching, he acknowledges the providence and leadership of God that has sustained him to this point and anticipates the future with the God who always does a new thing (Isaiah 43:16-20).

Come and explore “*Unexpected Divine Pre Arrangements*” as Dr. Gregory shares his faith and his extensive knowledge of scripture through two sessions and three worship services.

Reservations are required by noon, Monday, September 27 for the Saturday evening banquet and the Monday luncheon. Childcare will be provided upon request.

Contact the Marvin Welcome Center by phone: 903.592.7396; by e-mail: [info@marvinumc.com](mailto:info@marvinumc.com) or via website: [www.marvinumc.com](http://www.marvinumc.com).

## Give a Bible to someone who’s searching

For less than the cost of a matinee movie ticket or a couple of gallons of gas, you can place the New Testament in the hands of a spiritual seeker who has responded to The United Methodist Church’s advertisements.

This is United Methodist Communications’ message to the church, as the agency begins offering the Rethink Church Edition Common English Bible (New Testament) at no cost to seekers who request it when they visit the Rethink Church campaign website, beginning in October.

United Methodist members and friends are encouraged to make gifts of \$5—the

cost to print and ship one Bible to a seeker. Gifts are accepted online or by texting the word Bible to 27722 to make a \$5 gift via cell phone billing.

Churches may also order their own copies at \$5 each to give away to church visitors or at Rethink Church events in their communities.

The Rethink Church Edition Common English Bible (New Testament) is a special edition that features a seeker-sensitive introduction to the Bible and to The United Methodist Church.

Accessibility is key to the entire Common English Bible (New Testament), as it is a new translation (not a revision

or update) that seeks to make the Bible more readable and understandable without compromising scholarship. The translation is sponsored by the Common English Bible Committee, an alliance of denominational publishers that includes The United Methodist Publishing House. The full Bible translation will be available in fall 2011.

Gifts made by mail can be made payable to The Foundation for United Methodist Communications: 810 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37209.

To learn more about the Rethink Church advertising and welcoming campaign, visit [umcom.org/rethinkchurch](http://umcom.org/rethinkchurch).

# Methodist Willowbrook Hospital hosts Central North District meeting

By Julie Peterson  
Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

In late August, the Central North district of the Texas Annual Conference, under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Richard Burnham, held its district meeting at the newly expanded Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.

The meeting was hosted by Dr. Mark H. Young, Director of Spiritual Care and Values Integration at the hospital and a clergy member of

A presentation focusing on the values of the hospital and the vital relationship between the community Methodist churches and the hospital organization was made by Beryl Ramsey, CEO of Methodist Willowbrook.

The hospital was honored to host the event, which was the first time a district meeting of United Methodist clergy was held on the hospital campus. Attendees received a bird’s eye view of “their hospital” and experienced the new surroundings in the



**The first district clergy meeting to be held at Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.**

the Central North district. Over 65 clergy met in the hospital’s new North Pavillion chapel for a brief service and Holy Communion, followed by the district meeting and lunch in the Healing Garden on the hospital’s fourth floor.

North Pavillion. The \$240 million expansion of the hospital was finished in May of 2010. It doubled the size of the hospital and expanded many specialty programs to better serve the Northwest Houston community.



**The Central North district clergy and staff of the Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.**



# Blessing of backpacks and beyond

## Local churches called to support schools with prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness

By JoLisa Hoover  
General Board of Church  
and Society

As a teacher in public schools for the past 18 years, I am in great appreciation of the ministry of local churches to schools. I have seen the difference that church partnerships make in the life of children and in the overall functioning of schools.

I am also a member of The United Methodist Church. I understand that as we, as a denomination, have a special calling to support equitable education in our local schools.

As a member of The United Methodist Church, we covenant to faithfully participate in the denomination's ministries by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. And important component of service is our witness. Based on my own experience as a church member and a teacher, I have listed a few possible ways to support, and be in ministry to your community schools through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness.

### Prayers

Pray for the children, their

teachers, their administrators and their families. Pray for those making educational policy. Pray for children and educators during worship at the start of the school year, perhaps with a "blessing of the backpacks."

### Presence

Volunteer! Make an appointment to meet with teachers to find out how your church can most effectively volunteer to meet the needs of the school. Find out how your church can best support existing volunteer programs or create volunteer programs to meet a need. Attend parent-teacher conferences and school events.

### Gifts and service

Ask your local school for a wish list of donations. Start a Back Pack Buddy program for hungry children. Organize a school supply drive. Volunteer to keep a school supply closet stocked throughout the year. Arrange with the principal to take in a lunch or special snack for the teachers and staff at your local school.

### Witness

Share positive education experiences with others. Invite teachers and staff to a special coffee after worship to thank teachers and those who volunteer in schools. Your prayers, presence, gifts and service constitute a powerful witness!

### Quality Education for All Our Children

The United Methodist General Board of Church & Society's Civil & Human Relations program area has launched new Web pages to address the condition of public education in the United States. The concept behind the pages is fueled by the United Methodist Social Principles that declare,

"All children have the right to quality education" (§162C, 2008 Book of Discipline).

The new Web pages ([www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org)) sport the banner, "Quality Education for All Our Children." They put forth four points that need to be recognized to achieve this goal:

### Equal Access — Close the Gaps!

All children should have equal access to a quality education. We must close the gaps in opportunities to learn because this will lead to closing the gaps in achievement. Demanding equal outcomes on standardized tests without equalizing the resources at federal and state levels is unfair.

### Encourage, Don't Punish

Vulnerable schools should be improved, but not through blaming teachers and punishing the schools that serve poor children.

### Educate the Whole Child

Schools should be allowed to focus on developing the unique gifts of each child, created in the image of God, rather than focusing solely on standardized testing. Tests for children should evaluate real performance that require the use of many skills, measure critical thinking and encourage imagination.



**Apples aren't just for the teacher. Ministries like "Backpack Buddies" bless kids with meals on the weekend, when many often go without food until returning to school.**

### It Takes a Village

Because education reform is one important part of addressing economic and social issues outside the school day that impair learning, school districts should be given incentives to work with state and local social service providers.

Each page provides an opportunity for you to share your story about the lack of quality education or suggest ways to further the cause on its behalf.

"Quality Education for all our children" is on the GBCS Web site at [Action4edu](http://Action4edu).



**Local churches often are the missing puzzle piece in the school system. The prayers and presence of United Methodists make a difference.**



# Advancing Pastoral Leadership Program enjoys successful 1st year, announces 2010 class

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

The Advancing Pastoral Leadership program experienced a successful inaugural year of leadership retreats, one-on-one coaching and guidance, and the cultivation of strong peer relationships. APL is ready to begin a new class of leaders who are eager to learn and serve. This year, the program accepted applications from outside the Texas Annual Conference and is pleased to welcome two participants from the Arkansas Northwest Conference.

APL participants are guided in an intentional, long-term process of leadership formation and development through retreats, assessment, mentorship, and executive coaching. A new cohort will begin the program each year and continue together throughout the five years of the program.

Advancing Pastoral Leadership is one effort within

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

## Advancing Pastoral Leadership 2010 Class

- Alicia Coltzer**  
First UMC Fulshear
- Holly Ebel**  
Lakewood UMC
- David Freeman**  
First UMC Springdale in Arkansas
- Preston Greenwaldt**  
First UMC Missouri City
- Ray Hughes Jr.**  
Foundry UMC – Fry Road Campus
- Tony McCollum**  
Seabrook UMC
- Matt Neely**  
The Watershed Church
- Sara Pair**  
Sequoyah UMC in Arkansas
- Stephen Rhoads**  
Lakeside UMC
- Heather Sims**  
Faith UMC Richmond
- John Stephenson**  
Clear Lake UMC
- Meredith Wende**  
First UMC Nacogdoches



Coltzer



Ebel



Freeman



Greenwaldt



Hughes



McCollum



Neely



Pair



Rhoads



Sims



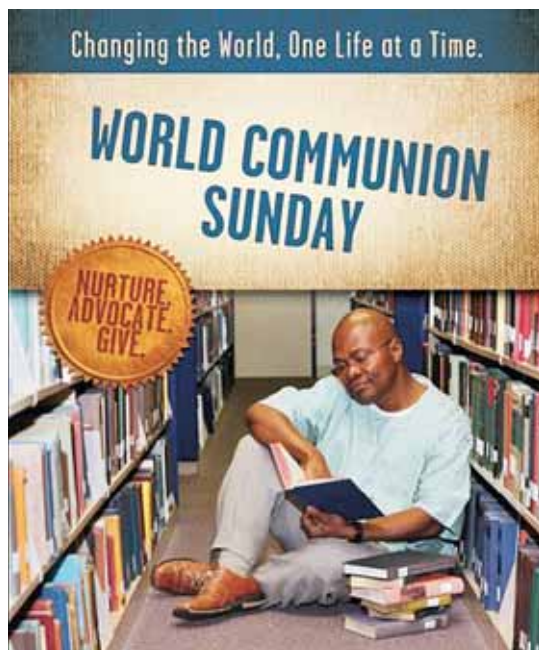
Stephenson



Wende

## World Communion Sunday is October 3

continued from page 1



lives to become pastors, communicators, chaplains and more. In turn, it prepares and positions those people to serve God and God's people.

### Evolution of the award

The 2008 General Conference passed legislation to change the name of the Crusade Scholarship to World Communion Scholarship. The scholarship provides financial assistance for U.S. racial- and

ethnic-minority students and international students on both undergraduate and graduate levels. It is funded through the special offering on World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday is one of the six church-wide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. It is celebrated on the first Sunday in October, but can be observed at a time convenient for a congregation. Dates for the observance are: Oct. 3, 2010; Oct. 2, 2011, and Oct. 7, 2012.

In 2008, \$1 million was given to the World Communion Sunday offering. In 2007, \$1.2 million was given, and \$1.1 million in 2006.

### Allocation of offering

Half of the offering provides World Communion Scholarships for international and U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority graduate students. Thirty-five percent of the receipts support Ethnic Scholarships for undergraduate students. Fifteen percent funds "In-Service Training Program" scholarships for those seeking second careers in church-related vocations.

You can give online to the special offering at any time, by going to [World Communion Sunday](#).

You can order materials to promote the offering at [World Communion Sunday resources](#).

### United Methodist Special Sundays

For more information about World Communion Sunday and the other Special Sunday offerings of the United Methodist Church, go to [umcsgiving.org](#).

Other Special Sunday observances are: United Methodist Student Day on November 28; Human Relations Day on January 16, 2011; One Great Hour of Sharing on April 3, 2011; Native American Ministries Sunday on May 8, 2011; and Peace with Justice Sunday on June 19, 2011.



# Back in the game – Lon Morris returns to football field

Bearcats on gridiron for first time in 70 years



**By Phil Hicks  
Tyler Morning Telegraph**

The year was 1940; President Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected for an unprecedented third term; CBS demonstrates color TV technology; Disney debuts Fantasia; John Steinbeck is awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *Grapes of Wrath*; Hattie McDaniel becomes the first African-American to win an Oscar for best supporting actress in *Gone With The Wind*; the Chicago Bears defeat the Washington Redskins, 73-0, to win the NFL championship; The United States is on the brink of war;

and the Lon Morris Bearcats play what would be their last football game - - until now.

Fast forward 70 years and the Bearcats are back in the gridiron business. Lon Morris met Monterrey (Mexico) Tech at the historic tomato Bowl on August 28. Along with the Bearcats, it's a return to football for head coach, Johnnie Richey.

"It's not a job anymore. It's fun," said Richey, who had retired from football until LMC athletic director, Dale Dotson came calling about re-starting the program. "We're anxious, we're excited, we're scared, we're stressed, but know we are going to play. It will be back to

normal football at 6 p.m."

Richey, a Rusk native, served on the coaching staff of Tom Wilson at Corsicana High School. Later, he was head coach at Blooming Grove and Dawson before becoming an elementary school principal. He then retired.

But he is back at it with a passion. Lon Morris is scheduled to play a 10-game varsity schedule, along with three junior varsity games. The fall camp started with 230 players. By mid-week, some 160 were still trying out for the team.

Richey said he talked with several schools, including Mary Hardin-Baylor, South Alabama,

Lamar, UT San Antonio and Incarnate Word, about starting a football program.

The football program has energized the campus and the community, Richey said. "It's been since 1940 that Lon Morris played its last football game," he said. "The community is really excited....We are using this year as a guide and a gauge to see how we are going to do in future years."

The Bearcats could join the Southwest Junior College Football Conference soon, creating a great rivalry with the likes of Tyler Junior College, Trinity Valley Community, Kilgore College and Navarro

College. "More than likely we will," Richey said of joining the league. "We are going to be an independent a year or two because numbers don't affect us now. We abide by all the rules except for the numbers now."

Richey was talking about the number of players, but he also could be speaking of the number of students on the campus west of downtown Jacksonville. He added that the college enrollment is more than 1,000 after hovering near 300 just two years ago.

*Phil Hicks is the Sports Editor for the Tyler Morning Telegraph.*



# MINISTRY SNAPSHOTS

## Huntington UMC sewing ministry blesses grieving families with baby burial garments

By Melissa Hayes  
The Lufkin Daily News

With soft material, sewing machines, scissors and straight pins, a group of Huntington women hope to give back to families grieving the loss of a child.

Members of Huntington UMC have joined a Tyler-based charity, Angel Layettes, to provide burial garments for families who have lost a baby, whether by miscarriage, stillborn or after-birth complications. The tiny burial garments are hand-sewn with love, along with a blanket, hat and keepsake heart, and packaged for hospital staff across the nation, including Memorial Medical Center-Lufkin.

“This small package has a lot of integrity,” Angel Layettes founder Sharon Sikes said. “The nursing staff can take one of these to the family, and it’s a beginning in helping the family heal when the baby is brought in.”

Sikes started the charity out of her attic in 2004. It became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2007 as the recognized need for burial layettes grew considerably nationwide.

“I love to sew, and I saw this as an opportunity to do what I love, help others and be anonymous in the process,” Sikes said.

The Huntington division of Angel Layettes began in May, and women meet once a week to work.

“I saw a story about Angel Layettes, and it touched me,” Sandy Sheffield, of Huntington, said. “I saw the need and I wanted to get involved. How could you not want to be involved?”

Some of the patterns for the layettes are no bigger than an adult woman’s hand. The design of the garment makes it easy for nurses to handle the baby’s fragile skin. Soft pinks, blues and yellows are used, and each one is specially and uniquely made.



Carol Pinner, Judy Nelson, Janet Thomas and Marty Lynn Frick volunteer once a week to make burial clothes for tiny children through the Angel Layettes organization.

Keepsake hearts are put together with broken lines, symbolizing the broken heart of a mother after losing her child.

“This is our way of saying that was your child, and now you have something to remember this time by,” Sikes said.

Sewing skills are not needed in order to help.

“I can’t sew, but more than two-thirds of what we do doesn’t involve sewing,” Huntington

volunteer Kathy Caton said. “If you can use scissors or an iron, you can help.”

The garments and keepsakes are offered to the family at no charge. Sheffield said there is room to grow at Huntington UMC and volunteers are welcome to join. For more information about the organization, go to [www.angellayettes.org](http://www.angellayettes.org).

“This small package has a lot of integrity. The nursing staff can take one of these to the family, and it’s a beginning in helping the family heal when the baby is brought in.”

*Sharon Sikes*  
Angel Layettes founder



Above: A Huntington UMC volunteer sews love into baby layettes. At right: The United Methodist Women’s annual School of Christian Mission provided an opportunity for women to serve through the Angel Layettes program.





## Spotlight on Local Church Ministries

### Fellowship Opportunities

#### Trinity UMC -Youth Weekend

"I've Got the Power!" is the theme for the upcoming praise and worship services for the youth ministry at Trinity UMC Houston.

Based on the scripture, Philippians 4:13, the focus will be worshipping and praising God in a dynamic new way. The services are Saturday September 18 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, September 19 at 10 a.m. There will be praise dancing, praise stepping, inspirational singing, preaching and great fellowship.

For more information, contact Pastor Darcell Walker at [dwo914@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwo914@sbcglobal.net) or the church at 713-528-2356.

#### Chapelwood Senior Retreat in October 2010

Experience the beauty of the Ozarks in the fall at the, Leaves of Gold Conference, Monday, October 18-21, at Mount Sequoyah, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The program is headlined by retired United Methodist Bishop Richard Wilke, the author of *Disciple 1*. Bishop Wilke will serve as the preacher and Bible study leader.

Departure will be by chartered bus, 7 a.m. on Monday, October 18, from Chapelwood UMC Houston, returning in the evening on Thursday, October 21.

There is a \$50 per person deposit due by Friday October

1 to Chapelwood, 11140 Greenbay Drive, Houston, Texas 77024, c/o Judy Jones. Registration for the retreat should be done directly with Mount Sequoyah, as soon as possible online at <http://www.mountsequoyah.org>. Click on Programs.

For more information, contact Rev. Scott Endress, Associate Pastor, Reaching and Senior Adults Chapelwood UMC [sendress@chapelwood.org](mailto:sendress@chapelwood.org) or (713) 354-4470 – office.

#### St. Paul UMC

##### Church Rededication

You are invited to celebrate the rededication of St. Paul UMC in Port Arthur, Texas, Sunday, October 3 at 10:45 a.m.

St. Paul began renovations on the sanctuary in June 2010. They have been completed and everyone is invited to celebrate the new sanctuary building. St. Paul UMC is located at 821 Texas Avenue in Port Arthur, Texas.

For more information, contact the church secretary, Kristal Whitley at 409-985-9977 or email Rev. Patricia Wells at [stpaul\\_revwells@att.net](mailto:stpaul_revwells@att.net).

### Mission Opportunities

#### St. Paul UMC, Port Arthur Offers Flu Shots

St. Paul UMC in connection with Walgreen Pharmacy will offer flu shots for area residents.

A mobile clinic will be available at the church on Saturday, September 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost for non-Medicare

recipients will be \$29.99 and the cost for Medicare recipients is free.

For your reservation or additional information, contact the church at 409-985-9977.

### Mission Forum

*Thy Kingdom Come* is the focus and title of the October 2 event, presented by Partners In Mission and the Sending Ministries Leadership Team.

The forum will consist of three workshops, guest speakers from Belize, Mexico and Bolivia, and a visit to the Global Village which offers a variety of mission opportunities and a tour of the African village.

The cost is \$25 per person and \$40 per couple. Registration deadline is September 24. You can register online by visiting [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org) or contact the Partners In Mission office at 713-521-9383.

### Leadership Training for the Deaf

Volunteers for the leader training for the deaf and people who are hard of hearing will be held Friday, September 24 from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cypress UMC in Cypress, Texas.

It will be held prior to the UMC Congress of the Deaf. For more information, visit <http://www.txcumc.org/news/detail/1736>.

### Learning Opportunities

**Annual Conference 2011**  
Following are links to TAC 2011 information.

For facts about Annual

Conference 2011:  
[www.txcumc.org/2011tacfaq](http://www.txcumc.org/2011tacfaq); for meetings and events:  
[www.txcumc.org/2011meetingandevents](http://www.txcumc.org/2011meetingandevents); for scheduled meals:  
[www.txcumc.org/2011meals](http://www.txcumc.org/2011meals); and for scheduled meetings:  
[www.txcumc.org/2011meetings](http://www.txcumc.org/2011meetings).

### GriefShare Classes offered by Sugar Land First UMC

Grief reaches many people in all walks of life and can be hindering. Sugar Land First UMC will begin offering an 8-week class September 22, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in room 602.

The class will use a workbook and DVD. The cost is \$13. For more information, contact Cindy Wenz at 281-634-8909 or [cindy.wenz@sugarlandmethodist.org](mailto:cindy.wenz@sugarlandmethodist.org). Childcare available upon request.

### Founders' Day at Gammon

The 127th Founders' Day and 71st Thirkield-Jones Lecture Series is planned for October 18-20, at Gammon Theological Seminary, 653 Beckwith St., Atlanta, Georgia, 30314.

Contact Madelyn Greene at 404-581-0310 or [mgreenegammon@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgreenegammon@bellsouth.net)

Continuing education credits available. Cost: \$185. To learn more about Gammon, visit: [www.gammonseminary.org](http://www.gammonseminary.org).

### Spirit Journey 2010

*Embracing the Mystery of Prayer* is the theme for the event scheduled for October 28-30 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas.

Spirit Journey is a 3-day guided

spiritual life retreat. It is modeled after the Upper Room's Academy for Spiritual Formation and is open to lay and clergy of all denominations.

The rhythm of the retreat will be a Benedictine schedule with worship, rest, study, times of silence, free time, shared meals, community time, fellowship and the Eucharist; with shared silence from evening prayers until morning prayers.

For registration information, contact registrar, Beverly Pichon at 936-588-6774 or [bnp@consolidated.net](mailto:bnp@consolidated.net).

### Clergy health summit

Lake Junaluska, along with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church will host the African-American Clergy Health Summit: A Self Care Covenant, September 27-28, 2010. Participants will participate in a self-care covenant workshop designed specifically for African-American clergy, which reflects the health summit's theme, "Wanting to Heal and Be Healed," John 5: 1-9.

The summit and workshops will be led by The Rev. Dr. Embra Jackson, Assistant to the Bishop of the Mississippi Annual Conference, and Edmond Pienkosz, Health and Wellness Manager of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. Details: <http://www.lakejunaluska.com/2010-health-summit> or 828-454-6730.

**Send Spotlight submissions to:**

**[thelmaj@methodists.net](mailto:thelmaj@methodists.net) or call 713-521-9383**