

## YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONAL RENOVATION VS. REMODELING

When working on property, there are two options available for updating - you can renovate or remodel. To renovate means to restore that property back to the way it once was, using original materials of the quality and age relating to the period of that property. Webster defines it as returning life or vitality. To remodel is to alter a structure, making changes and updates that may reflect the original nature of the home using materials that are not necessarily keeping in the period of the home. Imitations if you will - materials made to look original in detail and design, but are look-a-likes.

When we accept Jesus into our hearts, some maintenance must occur within our lives. Are you prepared to have your life renovated or just remodeled? God wants to restore a relationship with us that is original to His plan when humanity was created and we were invited to walk with Him in the Garden of Eden. <sup>21</sup> *Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old (Lamentations 5)*

We are not called to put on the appearance of Christianity but are commanded to strive for conformity to the image of Christ. Being restored of heart, mind and body - brought back into the original relationship with our Holy Father. This is the entire reason for Christ's time on earth and sacrificial death on the cross.

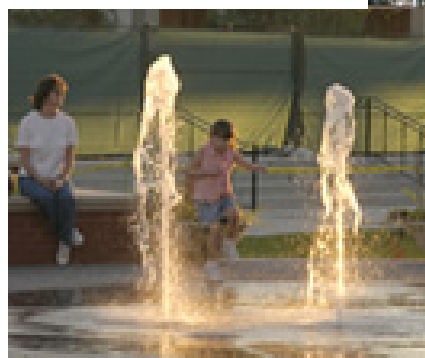
Accept the gift of full renovation and allow God to restore you fully to the person you were created to be! <sup>12</sup> *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. (Psalm 51)*

## **\*WELCOME WAGON\*** Need a Concierge?

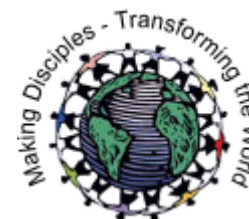
If you need a little help planning a dinner or entertainment for the kids, check out the Information Center at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. We have information on all the restaurants and entertainment venues in the area.

Looking for help entertaining the kids? We have a wide selection - from local parks, to an all-in-one entertainment complex, to a water park only a short drive away. Check with Belinda and Rex Alman at the Information Center to fill in those gaps in your schedule.

Sample menus, from most restaurants, are available for review to help ensure you have selected just the right place to enjoy a wonderful meal. The Woodlands has a great selection of restaurants available, from casual to fine dining. Help with reservations can also be obtained.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
VOICING YOUR OPINION ON  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE?  
WANT TO MAKE A COMMENT  
ON IMPORTANT ISSUES?  
CONTACT MATT IDOM AT  
936.229.9873.



TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## **THE DAILY CONFERENCE RECORD**

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 - MAY 30, 2005

### COMING UP TUESDAY

- RESPONSE TO THE EPISCOPAL ADDRESS AND STRATEGIC MAPPING
- RESPONSE TO CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
- CF&AS

### COMING UP WEDNESDAY

- TREASURES & STATISTICIAN'S
- THE SMALL MEMBER CHURCH

## **AT THE THRESHOLD OF TIME**

BISHOP'S ADDRESS TO OFFER PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE BY SUSAN BUCHANAN

"We're at the threshold of time between what was and the not yet of God's future," says Bishop Janice Riggie Huie, Episcopal leader of the Texas Annual Conference. She will offer this as a foundation for the Episcopal address to be given today following the Memorial Service.

Keeping in mind the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, the bishop will develop a picture of where we are now, the current reality of the Texas Annual Conference as well as where she see God calling the Texas Conference into the future. For example, the region served by the Conference is growing annually in population at a rate of 1% per year, but the

Conference is not growing at the same rate. "That's a lot of people to be reached with the message of the gospel," the bishop offered in an interview last week.

The bishop will offer a proposal for where the Conference needs to go that includes reinvesting in congregations. She will offer the characteristics of strong, vital, healthy congregations. The bishop recognizes that investing in congregations means customizing ministry to the communities where congregations are located. It also means, she said, that congregations are called to adapt to do ministry in their communities.

Much of her proposal has grown from what she learned in her visits throughout the Conference,

the bishop said. She will be sharing what she discovered of the strengths of our congregations as well as areas where we need to stretch and grow.

"I am heartened by the strengths and possibilities as well as the resources and leadership offered by the Texas Annual Conference, and it's size," said Bishop Huie. "The ways that we could make a difference for Jesus Christ in the world became deeply impressed upon me as I visited."

The bishop's address will be available on DVD. This is a Woodlands UMC issue.

## **TASK FORCE ON CLERGY EFFECTIVENESS PROPOSES CONNECTIONAL APPROACH**

BY JACK MATKIN

Effective clergy are a blessing to the entire Texas Annual Conference; helping clergy by effective in ministry is a shared responsibility of clergy and laity. That's the conclusion reached by the Clergy Effectiveness Task Force, shared by B. T. Williamson, Director of Ministerial Services: "It is clear that clergy effectiveness depends upon clergy and laity working together in covenant community, with mutual accountability and support. Blessings come when we live our faith through a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities." The task force identified several groups who shared responsibility for helping enhance clergy effectiveness, including local congregations, pas-

tor/staff parish relations committee, district superintendents, the cabinet, the board of ordained ministry, and the clergy.

Recognizing the connectional aspects of clergy effectiveness, the task force is recommending the implementation of an on-going process for improving clergy effectiveness that is intentional, mutually engaging, and responsive for clergy and laity. The task force will incorporate a number of existing programs, organizations, and personnel into the proposed process; additionally, they are recommending the development of four new programs - a sustentation fund to support clergy in transition, inten-

tional use of interim pastors in situations of congregational conflict or clergy sabbatical leave, implementing special assessment and nurture initiatives for clergy in their 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> years of ministry, and providing a crisis response team for intervention in congregation. The process will continue using assessment documents based on "Faithfulness in the Clergy, a Call to Effectiveness." However, the assessment documents will be subdivided to emphasize various clergy skills, which will be evaluated over a three to four year cycle.

As defined in "Faithfulness in the Clergy," clergy effectiveness encompasses all aspects of a clergy

person's life and can be demonstrated by integrity of heart and life, wholeness in building and maintaining relationships, and competence in skills necessary for ministry.

The task force was established in 2003 by Bishop Alfred L. Norris; it includes representatives from the Board of Laity, Board of Ordained Ministry, Council on Finance and Administration, Cabinet, and Young Clergy. Their report and resolution can be found on page 21 of the Pre-Conference Journal.

## STRATEGIC MAPPING

BY BILL MCCLAIN

Dr. Jim Moore of St. Luke's First United Methodist Church Houston will present to the Annual Conference a proposal for fulfilling the vision to be outlined by Bishop Janice Riggle Huie in Monday's Episcopal address.

The resolution on Strategic Mapping urges the Conference to build upon its strong history to move forward and meet the needs of the 21st century church. At present, the Conference has no comprehensive plan to focus the priorities, resources, structure and staff to

meet the challenges of an aging membership and a changing demographic makeup.

A Strategic Planning Team of both clergy and laity is proposed to first develop a vision and mission statement followed by core values and missional priorities. This process includes consultations with the Conference's Cabinet and the clergy culminating with consideration at fall 2005 District Meetings. At a proposed November 2005 called session of the Conference, this foundation for a strategic plan will be considered. If approved

at that meeting, the clergy-laity team will formulate an implementation plan to be considered at Annual conference in 2005.

In affirming the need for this resolution and the actions called for, Bishop Huie called on the Conference "to move into the 21st century as a more faithful and fruitful part of Christ's body" in earlier correspondence. The Strategic Planning Team will be urged to review structures, policies and processes to make this move into the 21st century and better serve and expand the Kingdom of God.

Conference. As of press time, members are:

### CLERGY

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Kirbyjon Caldwell | Jim Jackson     |
| Jerry House Jr.   | Don Waddleton   |
| Carol Turner      | Bishop Huie     |
| Jim Foster        | Elijah Stansell |
| Jim Moore         |                 |

### LAITY

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Jack Steele      | Sue Sullivan   |
| Charlotte Newton | Jennifer Slade |
| Oscar Garza Jr.  | Melvin Dillard |
| Leah Taylor      | Don House      |

## SPEAKERS FOR THE WEEK

BY JILL KRONE

A highlight of every Texas Annual Conference is the opportunity to join together in worship. This year is no exception as we welcome a number of guests to the pulpit during the various services of Annual Conference.

Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, Episcopal leader for the Iowa Conference, will be the Conference Preacher for the Sunday evening evangelistic service. Bishop

Palmer will also preach at 7:30 p.m. at Monday evening's worship, honoring the Small Membership Church. Retired pastor, Dr. H. Eugene Cragg, will preach the Memorial Service on Monday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

At 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, there will be a service honoring the ministry of Texas Annual Conference pastors who are retiring. Tuesday evenings 8:00 p.m. service prom-

ises wonderful liturgy and music as a closing to the ministry fair.

Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, spiritual leader for the Texas Annual Conference, will preach the ordination service at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

Start the day at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with devotions led by Kenneth Levingston, Frank Ale-

gria and Jessica Box, respectively.

The Service of Commissioning and Sending Forth at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday will feature Rev. Jim Welch bringing the message.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Each year we offer our annual conference participants an opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences and suggestions for future conference sessions. There has been a growing interest in learning experiences for lay and clergy and in 2005 we have scheduled those events as part of our agenda.

On Tuesday afternoon, our business session will dismiss early so that we can attend Session A Workshops from 3:00-

4:00 pm and Session B Workshops from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. The following workshops will be offered:

- Restorative Justice in Practice
- Safe Sanctuary, Understanding the Policy and Certification Training
- Hispanic Ministries-Reaching a Growing Population
- Creating and Refreshing the Worship Experience
- Children's Ministries

- Creating a Culture of Peace: A Journey of Personal and Social Change
- What's Wrong with Being Right: Marriage and the Tree of Life
- Year-Round Stewardship
- UMCOR-United Methodists First at the Scene!
- The New Benefits Plan
- Apportionments-Understanding the New Formula and Where Those Dollars Go

- Introduction and Overview of "Reclaiming the Vision" Program
- Evangelism Panel Discussion with Copeland Award Winners
- Ministry to Youth & Youth Adults-You Can Do It!
- Micah 6 as a Model for Discipleship
- Everything you wanted to know about DOSAM but were afraid to Ask

## CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

BY MARK FLEMING

Following right behind the Episcopal Address and the report from the Strategic Mapping Team in today's opening session will be the report from The Congregational Development Task Force.

While the report in the Pre-Conference Journal (pp. 42-43) focuses on the process of Congregational Development, the goal of the proposal is more basic, according to Don Waddleton, Houston East District Superintendent and chair of the group.

"It is the hope of this bishop and this congregational development task force to in the long run give us a better focus on our mission of bringing people into the church." Waddleton said that the bottom line is "we're trying to reach individuals to make them disciples."

Simple put, the proposal is to centralize new congregational development and congregational redevelopment efforts into a Conference-wide structure headed by a director who reports directly to the bishop. Existing district efforts, such as Room to Grow or district-based programs would be replaced or blended in to the new ef-

fort. Waddleton said that among the Conferences in the United Methodist Church that consistently show growth, the Texas Conference is the only one that does not have a Congregational Development office.

The new structure, he said, will "put the whole Conference effort behind each one of the starts." In a significant change from current practice, the new plan will tie funding to training. "Any church that would get involved would also need to make a commitment to be trained," Waddleton said.

In a preliminary draft of the task force's report, continued funding for each project would also be tied to achieving specific benchmarks at review periods each six months.

At this Conference, Waddleton said, the task force is asking for the acceptance of the concept and the vision of a more intentional, deliberate approach to church growth and renewal.

Under the plan, the Conference would set priorities for areas that need revitalization - looking both geographically and demographically at cur-

rently underserved areas. It envisions a variety of means of reaching those areas, from traditional suburban new church plants or less-common approaches such as satellite congregations and partnering with existing strong congregations.

In all cases, training for both the clergy and the laity involved would be a centerpiece of the new plan, Waddleton said.

"Ultimately," he said, "it is our belief and hope that through starting and developing new churches and revitalizing others that are in areas that are changing we can be more effective."

### BE SURE TO REGISTER!

#### MONDAY

8:30 A.M. - NOON  
CLERGY - TWUMC ATRIUM  
LAITY - MARRIOTT  
WATERWAY

2:00 - 3:30 P.M.  
CLERGY AND LAITY  
TWUMC ATRIUM

#### TUESDAY

8:30 A.M. - NOON  
CLERGY AND LAITY  
TWUMC ATRIUM

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

The Children's Ministry Department of The Woodlands United Methodist Church will provide a variety of fun-filled events for children, grades 1-6, this week. Care and activities are from 6:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. each day in the Children's Area, located at the north end of the church facility.

In addition to daily devotional and story time, games, movies, and snacks - each day will include special activities. Here is a quick look at this weeks events:

### Sunday, May 29

Craft: Awesome African Masks

### Monday, May 30

Craft: Bead Bracelets and African Rain Stick  
Outing: North Shore Park

### Tuesday, May 31

Craft: God's Eye  
3D Animals  
Outing: Main Events (Lazer Tag, Pizza, Bowling)

### Wednesday, June 1

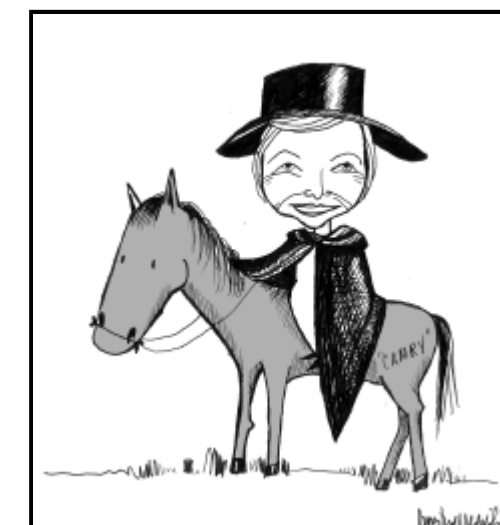
Craft: Safari Animal Weaving Boards  
Lord's Prayer Wall Hanging  
Outing: Sawmill Park (Swimming, Hot Dogs, Playtime)  
AD Players Drama Camp

### Thursday, June 2

Craft: Bead Bracelets

All staff working this student area during Texas Annual Conference are employees of TWUMC Children's Ministry. All Children's Ministry staff will be wearing lime green shirts for easy identification.

If you would like more information on this weeks activities call the Children's Ministry Desk at 281.297.5951.



Circuit Riding Bishops are not a thing of the past!