



# West District Of the Texas Annual Conference United Methodist Church

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January/February 2007



## WEST DISTRICT ENDS YEAR 100+% ON BENEVOLENT GIVING!

*“Being the Best In The West”*

Wow! What a finish! Once again, the churches in the old Bryan District and the newly added churches to the West District fulfilled all their benevolent askings of the annual conference. You are a great district. I want to thank all the pastors and laity that pulled together and made the commitment to complete the task. I know that for many it was a struggle. When it seemed as though we were not going to be able to pay out this year, many of you not only paid your apportionments 100%, but you gave over and above your askings to help others that were not able to do so. I want to thank the following congregations for their extra mile effort: **A&M, Christ, Bellville, St Paul Huntsville, Brazos Valley Parrish (Hearne Grace, Bremond Grace, Gause, and Sneed Memorial), Lee Chapel, and Wheelock.**

A special thank you to the *Reverend Danny Barrett* and his audit team that did a superb job in getting all the churches checked in and out in an efficient manner. I am reminded of Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church in which he writes:

*“God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out. This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.”* [2 Cor. 9:8 The Message]

Praise God for your extravagant generosity! I look forward to sharing another year of ministry with you.

*Earl Bledsoe*

*P.S. Thanks so much for the Christmas gift! Needless to say, your gift, along with our gift, helped two of our smaller congregations pay their apportionments.*



## West District L.E.A.D. INSTITUTE

Sunday, January 28, 2007

3:00-6:00p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church  
4201 Hwy 6, South, College Station

Go to the Ministries link at  
[www.west-district.org](http://www.west-district.org) for class information

***If you did not pre-register, you are still invited!  
Everyone is welcome!***

## NEW CLASS ADDED TO L.E.A.D INSTITUTE

JAN. 28, 2007 3:00 at Christ UMC

### IMPLEMENTING A BUILDING PROJECT



**SPEAKER: David McCaskill,**

**Senior VP of Loans**

**Texas Methodist Foundation**



If your church is contemplating a building project in the near future, this session is for you. In this session Mr. McCaskill will guide you in a step-by-step strategy for implementing a building project: responsibilities and tasks for starting a building

project, conducting a capital campaign, estimated timeline for activities and decisions, questions the Board needs to ask of every project, and the functions, resources and membership of the District Board of Church Location and Building.

As with all the sessions at this event, pre-registration is not necessary.

## NEW DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY- THURSDAY**

**8:30-4:30**

**CLOSED AT THE LUNCH HOUR**

**FRIDAY**

**8:30-12:30**

## Candidate Mentor Training

Persons who have been trained in this quadrennium DO NOT need to attend this session.

**February 15 at Lakeview**  
**Registration deadline is Feb 1**

The training will last about 4 hours.

If you have questions, call

Rev. Rusty Watkins,

Registrar for Candidacy

(713) 453-7203 or

email at [rjwatkins2287@sbcglogal.net](mailto:rjwatkins2287@sbcglogal.net)

## PRAYER



## REQUESTS

**Rev. Obie Groom:** Obie went to the hospital with cellulitis, but while in the hospital they discovered he had heart problems. Obie had a quadruple bypass January 15 and is still in the Methodist Hospital in Dallas.

**Rev. David Davidson:** David has been suffering with chronic back pain and also an injured coccyx. Also, his wife, **Becky**, has had numerous cancers removed, the latest from her mouth.

**Janet Lockie:** Janet was admitted to the hospital last Thursday after she became "unresponsive." The original diagnosis was that she suffered a stroke. However, that was later changed to her having a mini-stroke. She is home now and will be placed under the care of hospice. Please keep her and Chuck in your prayers.

**Teri Nelson:** Mary and Jerry Reed's daughter, was hospitalized Saturday, January 20 with a blood clot on her brain. She is undergoing testing to determine the cause.

**Sandy Watson:** Sandy is the financial secretary at Madisonville FUMC. Sandy is in the hospital with pneumonia and she had a heart attack.

## 2007 District Apportionments

The following 23 churches have already paid their 2007 District Apportionments! Shiro, Wesley in Bryan, Major's Chapel, St Paul Chilton, Cooks Point, Elwood, Gause, Paige, Hearne Grace, Lynn Grove, Lexington, Blue, Lott, Madisonville FUMC, Millican, Lee Tabernacle, Anderson, Bay's Chapel, Somerville FUMC, Wheelock, Springseat, and Evan's Chapel. Another five churches have paid part of their apportionments.

We lacked paying our 2006 District Apportionments by only \$677. I know we will be 100% in 2007. Thank you for supporting the District!

Send your district apportionments to:

**West District**

**526 University Dr East, Bld C**

**College Station, TX 77845**

# WEST DISTRICT HUB RE-ALIGNMENT

*Revised January 1, 2007*

After much discussion in the District Steering and Connectional team, it was decided to downsize the number of hubs from 14 to 12 and to balance them out more equitably. In the old hub system several of you were in hubs with less than 3 churches and some of you were in hubs with as many as 13 churches. We trust this new alignment will enable you to be in connection with one another as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. *Earl*

## **Hub #1 – Brazos Valley Coop.**

1. *Gause\**
2. Grace Hearne
3. Grace, Bremond
4. Sneed Memorial
5. *Cameron First*
6. Maysfield
7. Milano
8. Chriesman
9. Liberty

## **Hub #2 – Brenham**

1. *Brenham First\**
2. *Bellville First*
3. *Chappell Hill*
4. Giddings First
5. Paige
6. Mt. Zion Brenham
7. Pleasant Grove
8. Richard's Grove
9. Blinn Wesley Foundation

## **Hub #3 – Centerville**

1. Centerville First\*
2. *Jewett*
3. Donie
4. Hopewell
5. Springseat
6. St. Matthew
7. Marquez

## **Hub #4–Marlin**

1. Marlin First\*
2. Reagan
3. Kosse
4. Cedar Springs
5. Lott
6. Davis Chapel, Marlin
7. Satin
8. St Paul, Chilton
9. Major's Chapel

## **Hub #5– Rockdale**

1. *St John's, Rockdale*
2. *Pleasant Retreat, Thorndale*
3. Friendship
4. *Lexington*
5. Blue
6. *Caldwell First*
7. *Cooks Point*
8. *Somerville First*

## **Hub #6– Huntsville**

1. *Huntsville First*
2. *St Paul, Huntsville*
3. *Wesley, Huntsville*
4. St. James, Huntsville
5. St. Luke, Huntsville
6. Farris Chapel
7. Sam Houston Wesley Foundation

## **Hub # 7– Madisonville**

1. *Madisonville First\**
2. *Bedias*
3. Shiro
4. Elwood
5. Two Mile
6. Wilson Chapel
7. Tanyard
8. Hillary

## **Hub #8– Navasota**

1. *Navasota First\**
2. *Anderson*
3. Hempstead First
4. Lynn Grove
5. Bethlehem, Hempstead
6. Stoneham
7. Lee Tabernacle
8. Stonehamville
9. Pleasant Grove, Dobbin
10. Prairie View Wesley Foundation

## **Hub # 9– A&M College Station**

1. *A&M, College Station \**
2. College Station First
3. St. Luke's, Bryan
4. A&M Wesley Foundation
5. St. Paul, Calvert
6. St. James, Bremond
7. Chapel Hill

## **Hub #10– Normangee**

1. *Normangee First\**
2. Zion, Iola
3. Leona Chapel
4. Evans Chapel
5. Flynn
6. *Franklin*

## **Hub # 11– Aldersgate**

1. *Aldersgate, College Station\**
2. Bryan First
3. Alexander
4. Lee Chapel
5. Wesley, Bryan
6. Wheelock

## **Hub #12– Christ**

1. *Christ, College Station\**
2. Richards
3. Bays Chapel
4. *Millican*
5. McKinzie
6. Yarborough

\*Leadership Congregation    *Italics denote Transformation Churches*  
88 churches and 4 Wesley Foundations

## 2007 West District Calendar

**January 26-28– A&M Wesley Crunchtime Retreat**

**Sunday, January 28– L.E.A.D. Institute 3:00 @ Christ Church**

**Thursday, February 1– Congregational Excellence Team 10:00 @ the District Office**

**Monday, February 5– District Steering Team 10:00 @ The District Office**

**Thursday, February 8– Clergy & Clergy Spouse Meeting 10:00@ Cooks Point UMC**

**Saturday, February 10 & 17– Lay Speaking School @ Christ Church**

**Monday, February 12– Don Nations training for Transformation Churches 10:00-4:00 and  
6:00-8:00 @ Christ UMC**

**Tuesday, February 13– Don Nations training for pastors of the 25 Transformation Churches  
10:00– 12:00 @ Christ Church**

**Saturday, February 24– District Committee on Ordained Ministry 10:00@ the District Office**

**February 26-28– Elders Order Retreat**

**Monday, March 5– Building and Location Meeting 6:00pm @ The District Office**

**District Finance Meeting 6:00pm @ The District Office**

**Trustees Meeting 6:00pm @ The District Office**

**Support and Resource Team Meeting 7:30pm @ the District Office**

**Tuesday, March 6– District Connectional Team 10:00@ the District Office**

**Wednesday, March 7– Bishop Huie’s Itineration 6:00pm @ Christ UMC**

**Saturday, March 17– Committee on Ordained Ministry 10:00am @ the District Office**

**Sunday, April 8– Easter**

**Thursday, April 12– District Steering Team 10:00am @ the District Office**

**Thursday, April 19– Clergy & Clergy Spouse Meetings 10:00am @ Elwood UMC**

**Tuesday, May 15– District Connectional Team 10:00am @ the District Office**

**May 27-31– Texas Annual Conference at the Woodlands**

**June 16– District Picnic @ Two Mile pavilion**

### *Thank You!*

The West District wants to give First Normangee UMC a big “Thank YOU” for hosting the Christmas party for the district. Everyone is saying it was the best Christmas party ever! The food was great, the decorations lovely, and the music wonderful.

Also, I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful Christmas present. Part of the money went to our church, part to pay for our kid’s Christmas, and a bit went to a new outfit (brown jacket with green leaves). Thank you for remembering me.

Love,

*Priscilla*

## Texas Annual Conference May 27-31, 2007 The Woodlands

If you are clergy or if you have been elected to represent your church at the Texas Annual Conference in May, you need to make housing arrangements. The Marriott Waterway is already full, but there are other options in The Woodlands. When making your reservation be sure to tell them you are with the Texas Annual Conference. Many have blocked rooms for us at a special rate.

Best Western (\$68/night)  
936-271-2378

Residence Inn I (\$149.99/night)  
281-419-1542

Hilton Garden (\$119/night)  
281-364-9300

Residence Inn II (\$149.99/night)  
281-292-3252

LaQuinta Inn (\$69/night)  
281-367-7722

Hampton Inn (\$89/night)  
936-273-3400

### Local Congregations Can Report Vital Signs of Discipleship in 2007

Fruitfulness is evidence we are achieving our mission. More professions of faith, more people in worship, and more members actively in mission mean we are better equipping congregations to make disciples for the transformation of the world to the glory of God! Improving our connectional generosity helps us live out our belief in extravagant generosity and connectional ministry, undergirding mission and ministry beyond the local church.

Each local congregation will report these vital signs of discipleship through an internet-accessible system this year. Your secretary or designated person can go on line at [txcumc.org](http://txcumc.org) to enter your church's "Vital Signs of Discipleship". We are excited that these measures will provide benchmarks and give us reason to celebrate our success!

How to get to the right webpage:

1. Log on [www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org) and click the new link to *Vital Signs of Discipleship* or go directly to <http://www.logicalchurchsolutions.com/Equitable/VitalSignsLogin.aspx>
2. Enter your username and password (same as your Report Day logon)

For a very detailed description of this screen, click on "Help" at the top. Basically, there are four (4) buttons on this screen:

1. Profession of Faith - enter the correct number once a week
2. Worship Attendance - enter the correct number once a week
3. Hands on Mission - enter the number of members involved once each month
4. Connectional Giving - this figure will be automatically filled in for you

The Bryan District Office  
of the United Methodist Church  
526 University Drive East,  
Building C  
College Station, TX 77840

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## Clergy & Clergy Spouse Meeting

Thursday, February 8  
9:30 snacks  
&  
10:00 meeting

Cooks Point United Methodist  
Church

Cooks Point UMC is on highway 21  
between Caldwell and Bryan



## 2007 Lay Speaking School

Saturday, February 11  
Saturday, February 17

Go to the West District  
Website

[www.west-district.org](http://www.west-district.org)  
click the Ministries Link for  
the brochure  
and registration form.