

## Abilene District News



Abilene District Office Northwest Texas Conference United Methodist Church

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**\*Note:** The District Newsletter is being sent to you because of your affiliation with the District Office, United Methodist Church. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, e-mail or paper copy, please notify the Abilene District Office, giving us your complete name, address & e-mail address.

**NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT:**

### Dreams and Visions

As we enter the Christian season of Pentecost, one of the scripture passages often used as sermon emphasis comes from Acts 2:17 as Peter quotes from the prophet Joel *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”* Pentecost reminds us of the Holy Spirit being poured out on us allowing us to dream and vision.

One of my biggest dreams as a student at Booker High School was to make it to the state track meet. My dream fell short at the regional meet and I never made it. Thirty years later my dream is being realized in a vicarious sort of way. My son, Devin, will be running in Austin as part of the state UIL track meet on the Clyde HS 800 meter relay team. He will also graduate at the state track meet as will others who will miss their school graduation due to a direct conflict (both will be the evening of Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>).

Each of you has had your own sets of dreams, some realized and some not. What are your dreams today? What are the dreams God has for you? I believe God is working in a mighty way in our world today. It is a time of great transition for the church. Transition brings struggle and pain, but often transition also brings the realization of dreams. I believe God continues to pour out His Holy Spirit on us and helps us to realize the dreams He has for us. I look forward to seeing many of you at Annual Conference in Midland.

Dreaming God’s dreams,

Don

We welcome several new pastors to our district who we have listed in this newsletter. Next month, we will introduce them more fully in the July newsletter. I will also comment more on the appointment process at that time.

## NOTICES

### Farewell and Best Wishes to the Following Pastors:

Tina Cross leaving Grace/Epworth for ElPaso, Claude McKiddy leaving Southwest Drive for Kress; Greg Kennedy leaving St. Paul for Sante Fe, NM, Laird Cross leaving St. Paul for ElPaso, Jerry Krueger leaving Albany/Moran for Lakeridge in Lubbock, Sandra Keith leaving Baird for Throckmorton, Tom Garmon, leaving Childress for Albuquerque, Janice Kahl leaving Hamby for Clint, TX, Doris Miller retiring from McMurry and leaving Hamby for AZ, Steve Ulrey leaving Seymour/Vera for Albany/Moran, Johnna Bolden leaving Lueders, and Monty Barnett leaving Throckmorton/Elbert for O'Donnell/Draw.

### Welcome New Pastors to the Abilene District:

Toni Bailey from St. Lukes in Midland to Southwest Drive, Eddie Rivers from ElPaso to St. Paul, Pam Rowley from the Rocky Mt. Conference, CO to St. Paul, Steve Ulrey from Seymour/Vera to Albany/Moran, John Westman from White Deer to Baird, George Price from Gruver to Childress, Sammie Ellis from AR to Seymour/Vera, Jeff Sedberry to Aspermont, and Sandra Keith from Baird to Throckmorton/Elbert.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 First United Methodist Church, Midland, June 10-13, 2009. You can find the list of hotels on the conference web site [www.nwtxconf.org](http://www.nwtxconf.org) In the middle section, you will see Annual Conference, click on that to go to the Annual Conference page. Items will be added as they become available.

Small Member Church Display at Annual Conference The Small Member Church Task Force invites all churches (under 100 in worship) to bring something to Annual Conference for a display area that tells the story of how your church is "Leading Beyond the Walls," ministering in your communities. If you are bringing something to display, please send Susan Mouser (Co-Chair of the Nurture Team) and e-mail at [smouser@stpaulabilene.com](mailto:smouser@stpaulabilene.com) Tell your story! There's lots of wonderful ministry going on in small churches.

CLOSING OF RULE UMC, June 14 at 3 PM. Join the church as they celebrate 102 years of ministry at the closing. Everyone is invited to lift up their hearts in thanksgiving to celebrate the memories and ministries of Rule UMC. For additional information, contact Pastor Tom Long, 940-864-3202.

1964 Copyright Red Hymnals (16) left at Archives, McMurry University. They are used, but in good condition. If you can use them, contact Pat Williamson, Archivist, 325-793-4606.

Abilene District Pastor's Lunch with Mark Abbott: 11:30-1 PM, July 16, 2009, Place TBA.

Academy for Faithful Ministry, July 25, 2009, McMurry University.

Abilene District Set Up Meeting, 4 PM, August 27, 2009 Elmwood West UMC.

Abilene District Pastor's Retreat, 8:30-4 PM, Sept. 17, 2009, Caps UMC. For all Abilene District Pastors, retired pastors, (and spouses that would like to attend). See article below under **NUTURE**.

Bishops Whitfield Visits Abilene District, 7 PM, Sept. 29, 2009, Wylie UMC.

## INVITE

Sweet Hour of Prayer, hosted by Grace UMC, 1402 Grape Street, Abilene meets each Friday from 12 noon to 1:30 PM. This is a time for prayer, and you may come and go anytime during that hour and a half. Pastor Tina Cross will be there to pray with you if you desire. For additional information, contact Grace UMC, 325-672-8121.

**The Journey**, Abilene's new church, is meeting at 2565 South Danville, Abilene beginning June 7. Sunday worship time is at 10:00 AM. Contact Pastor Bailey Barkley at 325-260-7801 or [bailey@journeyabilene.com](mailto:bailey@journeyabilene.com)

**Order of St. Luke**, meets each Wednesday, 9:30 AM at St. James UMC, 3100 Barrow Street, Abilene for morning prayer and weekly, Wednesdays, 5:15 PM for Holy Communions in the Chapel at St. Paul UMC, 525 Beech Street.

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**, Sat., July 11, 2009, sponsored by the Wesley Foundation, at Texas Tech. Lubbock, TX. For information, contact Penny Wilson, or Al Martin at 806-762-8749 or 806-762-8788.

### **NUTURE**

**Living Water Retreat for Pastors and Spouses:** Thursday July 16 through Sunday July 19, 2009 at the Refuge at River Falls, Amarillo. This retreat is an opportunity for church members to minister to pastors and their spouses. The Retreat offers up to four couples a quiet environment free from outside distractions. The three days and evenings feature luxury accommodations, superb dining, group and individual time with professionally trained retreat leaders, walks to the falls, hiking in the canyon and private lake access. The program is designed to renew spirits to pastors and spouses can return refreshed and ready to continue serving members of their congregations. The cost per couple is \$975, with required deposit of \$275 and balance due by June 16. For additional information, Call Susie Akers 806-674-9891 or 806-463-1114 or Rodney Laubham at 806-570-7367 or 806-457-9903. **This is a wonderful opportunity for congregations to say thank you** to their pastors for their dedications and service, by paying for cost for the retreat.

**SUMMER CAMP CHANGES LIVES FOREVER!** Dates are on-line to register for summer camp at Butman Methodist Camp at [www.butmancamp.org](http://www.butmancamp.org) & you may register on-line or download a paper form to send in by mail. If you have questions, contact Butman at 325-846-4212.

**Abilene District Pastor's Retreat, FOR ALL ABILENE DISTRICT PASTORS AND RETIRED PASTORS,** and any spouse that would like to attend: 8:30-4 PM, Sept. 17, 2009, Caps UMC-led by Pastors Larry Magnuson and Mike Schafer, of SonScape Retreats in Colorado, also by Rev. Lewis Holland. Retreat will focus on rest, renewal and life change. Are you really experiencing rest for your soul on a daily basis? Those serving in the ministry are very familiar with weariness and burnout. Pastors Larry Magnuson and Mike Schafer will share their own struggles in ministry and how God began to move them toward a different, life-giving path. The day will be filled with teaching, group interaction and lots of good discussion. We will identify what is causing many pastors to live in weariness and discouragement. More importantly, the day will focus on how to live in daily intimacy with God who has called us to serve Him. All Abilene District Pastors are encouraged to attend and we look forward to seeing you for this restful day, which **includes lunch at no cost to you**. **Reservations Deadline** must be made to the District Office by Sept. 14, 2009, 9 AM.

### **United Methodist Service Center & Food Pantries**

Notice the name change as it connects the ministry straight to the United Methodist Church. Name recognition counts.

In April, the Food Pantry provided food to 366 families (1048 individuals) through the Food Pantry. We also helped 37 families with rent, utilities, or medical expenses through the Service Center.

Thank you to the following for helping the Food Pantries: Aldersgate \$366.98, Caps \$404.00, Elmwood West \$259.87, Epworth/Grace \$211.50, First UMC \$819.12, Friends of the Pantry \$150, Hamby \$529.82, The Journey \$74.00, Potosi \$133, St. James \$368.88, St. Paul \$588.85, Southwest Drive \$64.99, Tuscola \$35.00, and Wylie \$407.46.

The United Methodist Service Center received a challenge grant of \$2500.00. We have received over \$2160 identified as a match so far. Please consider taking on the challenge.

Thank you to the following for helping the United Methodist Service Center, Aldersgate \$962.45, Caps \$280, Elmwood West \$505, Epworth/Grace \$10, First UMC \$315, Hamby \$100, Nolan \$250, Northwest Texas

United Methodist Women's Retreat \$585, Pioneer Memorial \$300, Potosi \$100, St. James \$584.48, St. Paul \$45, Southwest Drive \$50, and Wylie \$250.

A huge thank you to Grace UMC for providing 52 Easter baskets for the children at the Food Pantry, Bob Ford's family honoring his birthday, Janice Kahl honoring her children at Easter, and Sue Stacey's gift in memory of Ruth Inez Tucker.

Please make checks out to the United Methodist Service Center and Food Pantries and mail to Coordinator, Jean Butler, 1478 Westview Drive, Abilene, TX 79603. **Please specify if the check is to purchase food for the food pantries or to help with rent, utilities & medicines for needy folks coming into the United Methodist Service Center.** Remember 100% goes directly to the families.

May God bless each and everyone,  
Jean Butler, Coordinator  
Phone 665-1444

**Congregational Renewal Worship** for Clergy and Laity, Consultation and Coaching. For information, contact [www.CourageousSpace.com](http://www.CourageousSpace.com) or contact Dan Smith 206-618-5369 or Mary Huycke 509-961-8138.

### **EQUIP**

**CHALLENGE GRANT FOR METHODIST SERVICE CENTER:** The United Methodist Service Center received a challenge to match a donation of \$2500. Are you or your church willing to help? If we can raise \$2500, we will receive this grant for another \$2500. The service center is turning down many families that need help with utilities and rent. Can you help reach out to these families? If so, make out your checks to the Methodist Service Center, note they are for the challenge grant and mail to Jean Butler, 1478 Westview, Abilene, TX 79603, phone 325-665-1444.

### **Alzheimer's Educational Opportunities: For caregivers, family, friends, pastors, & professionals**

**“Creative Solutions: Tips to Manage Challenging Behaviors,” June 18, 2009, 10:30-12,** Alzheimer's Association Office, 901 Indiana Suite 350, **Wichita Falls.**

To register in Wichita Falls, contact Patty Taylor 940-767-8800.

**To register in Abilene,** contact Libby Connally, 325-672-2907.

**CARING FOR CREATION CONFERENCE AT MOUNT SEQUOYAH** June 23-26, 2009. For complete information [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org) or e-mail [programs@mountsequoyah.org](mailto:programs@mountsequoyah.org) or phone 800-760-8126.

**Ministry Resources for Challenging Times,** June 23-25, 2009, San Antonio, TX. featuring Lovett Weems, Ken Carter and Val Walker. The National Association of UM Foundations is pleased to sponsor this fourth annual Summer Stewardship Gathering with outstanding presenters and resources specifically for your stewardship ministry. All sessions will take place at Alamo Heights UMC in San Antonio, with accommodations at the Marriott Residence Inn Airport, both minutes from the San Antonio Airport. For more information, contact Joyce Russell at TX Methodist Foundation, 800-933-5502 or [jrussell@tmf-fdn.org](mailto:jrussell@tmf-fdn.org) Registration deadline is June 1.

**FREE CHURCH ORGAN:** Caps UMC has an organ to give away. It works well, but needs tuning and cleaning. Last used 3 yr. ago. Brand name is Conn Rhapsody, 15 years old, Model 628, Type 004, style 012, finish 033, 120 volt. If interested, contact Caps UMC 325-691-6241 and leave a message.

**Free Money from General Board of Higher Education Ministry (GBHEM) !** The Scholarships Office is now accepting online applications. Students may go to the Website [www.gbhem.org/](http://www.gbhem.org/) and complete an application from their home computer. They will then receive an email detailing the additional steps to complete the process. The Loans Office went “live” last May; the Scholarships Office went “live” January 5. In 2009 the Scholarships Office awarded more than \$4.5 million to 32000 plus students. We are expecting a

record number of applicants this year and strongly urge students to complete the application process early, rather than waiting until the deadline date.

**Free OnLine Course for UMC's Four Areas of Focus.** Discover how the United Methodist Church is focusing on four key areas of ministry in the "four Areas of Focus" (FAF 101), free, self directed online course. The four areas of leadership development, church growth, ministry with the poor and global health express the vision and yearnings of the people of the UMC. These areas of ministry focus the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by: Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, Creating new places for new people and revitalizing existing congregations, Engaging in ministry with the poor, and Combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally. Complete details about the online course, how to register and a link to the downloadable PDF flyer that can be distributed to everyone in your church can be found at the UMC Com Training website [www.training.umccom.org](http://www.training.umccom.org)

**"5 Practices of a Fruitful Congregation"** Preview DVD is available on the following topics: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk taking mission and service and extravagant generosity. The DVD's can be checked out during normal office hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 AM-1:30 PM, at the Abilene District Office, 1389 Santos Street, Abilene.

**ONLINE SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING** for those churches that are GuideOne customers. GuideOne has provided a new web site that will be very helpful to you. If you go to [www.safechurch.com](http://www.safechurch.com) you will find excellent resources. Other resources are available and most of the material is free to the GuideOne insured's.

**"MOVE" EVENTS FOR YOUTH** many dates and locations beginning June 21-25,2009 where students are called to be in the church in their corner of the world and get involved in God's plan for the entire globe. Information located at [www.city.com/move](http://www.city.com/move) or call 417-781-2273 for more information.

**Student Life in Colorado for Youth.** God centered worship in the Rocky Mountains, several dates and places. Information: [www.studentlife.com/colorado](http://www.studentlife.com/colorado) or phone 800-718-2267.

**Lifeway Worship Leadership Conference,** June 29-July 3, 2009, Ridgecrest, North Carolina and July 27-31, 2009, Glorieta, New Mexico. It is a comprehensive worship conference that is relevant to today's church worship needs,--fresh and different each year, low cost for pastor's, staff, worship teams, family, children's and student choir leaders and lay leaders. Fro more information on these events, visit [www.lifeway.com/worshipevents](http://www.lifeway.com/worshipevents)

**SpiLiRa 2009-SoW What?!** July 13-17, 2009. **Spiritual Life Rally for Youth** of the South Central Judisdiction of the United Methodist Church. For more information: [www.spilira.org](http://www.spilira.org)

**Focus 2009, All People in Ministry for Children Conference,** sponsored by the General Board of Discipleship, UMC. Dates are **July 21-24, 2009**, Indianapolis, Indiana. On-line registration opens Oct. 6, 2008. Early Bird Registration cost is \$260, and you may register at [www.gbod.org/focus2009](http://www.gbod.org/focus2009) Offered will be innovative workshops, unique worship experiences, networking opportunities, inspiring preachers, extensive resource center, Cokesbury Bookstore and activities for children and youth.

**New Web Ministry** a self-directed series of online courses is offered by the United Methodist Church and provided by United Methodist Communications, five-part online course designed to provide foundational information and biblical and theological basis for developing a Web ministry for the local church. This is the first in a new Web Ministry series of online courses that will prepare you to create and maintain a dynamic Web ministry. To learn more or to register for this online course, visit our Web ministry website. For additional information, contact Cheryl A. Hemmerle toll-free at 888-278-4862 or email [training@umcom.org](mailto:training@umcom.org)

**Exploration 2009, Nov. 13-15, 2009, Dallas, TX** addresses the United Methodist Church's need for young clergy by offering youth and young adults who feel God's call a chance to explore that call. "Today, more than ever, the denomination needs to sponsor events that invite, train and support young people as they answer their call to ordained ministry," said the Rev. Meg Lassiat, director of Student Ministries, Vocation, and Enlistment at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, which sponsors EXPLORATION. "In the past three years, we have seen a growth in the numbers and percentage of young adult clergy in the UMC. Last fall, The Lewis Center for Church Leadership released the 20088 Clergy Age Trends report that shows for the first time this century the percentage of young elders has risen to greater than 5 percent. The report said the percentage of young adult elders was 5.21 percent and the percentage of young adults deacons had risen to 7.69 percent." These statistics show a positive trend since this data was first reported in 2005, and the increase helps to demonstrate the importance of events and ministries that encourage youth and young adults to consider ordained ministry as a profession." The **national event is for high school seniors through young adults aged 24** who are considering a call to ordained ministry as a deacon or elder in the United Methodist Church. "By attending EXPLORATION, youth and young adults will have the opportunity to explore a variety of ways to serve in ordained ministry." Keynote speakers for the event are Rev. Tyrone Gordon, Dr. William B. Lawrence, Bishop Sally Dyck, and Rev. Motoe Yamada. Participants will also have the chance to talk with admissions staff from the 13 United Methodist School of Theology, attend workshops and take part in small group discussions. For more information, or to register, visit [www.bbhem.org/exploration](http://www.bbhem.org/exploration) or <http://www.explorecalling.org/>

**Background Checks** Information on background checks can be found at [www.nwtxconf.org](http://www.nwtxconf.org) under background checks from Lexis Nexis, (for Northwest TX. Conference, the parent ID number is 13252) and Screen Now. GuideOne customers can receive discounts with both these companies. Church Mutual customers can receive discounts with ScreenNow.

### **BUTMAN AND CETA NEWS AND EVENTS**

Events happening at Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center can be found at [www.butmancamp.org/](http://www.butmancamp.org/)

Events happening at Ceta Canyon can be found at [www.cetacanyon.org](http://www.cetacanyon.org)

**Job Openings** can be found on the Conference Web site under Quick Link for Classifieds, found on the left side of the page under the search areas.

### **THANKSGIVING, PRAYER, SYMPATHY, PRAISE, CONGRATULATIONS**

(If you have additions or deletions to this section of the newsletter, please contact the District Office)

#### **Congratulations To:**

**Congratulations to all graduates.**

#### **Pray for the following concerns:**

##### **Those in the military:**

**Ryan Sanders**, son of **John Sanders**, St. James UMC, Navy flight engineer.

**Timothy Cross**, USAF, C-130 crewmember and son of Laird Cross, associate pastor at St. Paul UMC.

**Health Concerns:** (Note: Names will be removed from this list after 60 days. Please contact us if you'd like to remain on the list.)

**Ken Metzger**, retired member of our conference. A CaringBridge site has been set up for Ken by his family. You can visit the site at: <http://caringbridge.org/visit/kenmetzger>. Ken is a retired member of our conference, and former District Superintendent.

**Ihsan & Lillith Ardhuerumly**, retired members of our Conference & **Namiqa Shipman**, their daughter. **Namiqa** is the Big Spring District Superintendent. 3/09

**Kay Hanna**, President of the Conference United Methodist Women. 4/09

**Sally Dominguez**, wife of Jack Dominguez, pastor of Rotan UMC. 4/09

**Tina Cross**, pastor of Grace/Epworth UMC's, Abilene. 4/09

**Cleta Holt**, wife of **Irl Holt**, pastor of Fargo UMC 4/09

**Horace Abbott**, pastor of Merkel UMC. 5/09

**Richard Payne**, retired pastor, Anson. 5/09

**Marsha Zobac & family**, assistant treasurer & bookkeeper NWTX Conference Office. 5/09

**Mark Scott & family**, pastor of First UMC, Dumas. 5/09

**Robert Pelfrey**, pastor at Elmwood West UMC. 5/09

**Lela Russell**, wife of **Caro Russell**, retired Pastor. 5/09

**Bob & Linda Kelley**. Bob is pastor at Anson UMC. 5/09

**Other Concerns:**

**Our President and Government Officials**

**Bishop, District Superintendents, Pastors**

**Our military & their families**

**Pastors & families** during moves & new assignments.

**Sympathy To:**

**Jeff Taylor and family** on the death of his son **Adam** on May 6, 2009. Jeff is the pastor of First UMC, Pampa.

**Stephania & Gerald Gilkey** on the death of **Juanita Gilkey**, Gerald's sister recently, in Danville, AK. Stephania is the pastor of Sagerton UMC.

**Bob and Linda Kelley** on the death of Linda's cousin, Walter Sprague, in Iowa about May 25. Bob is the pastor of Anson UMC.

**ABILENE DISTRICT CALENDAR**

**2009**

**June**

**10-13 NWTX Annual Conference/ First UMC, Midland**

**14 Closing Service for Rule UMC, 3 PM.**

**17 Pastor's Move Day**

**23-26 Bishop's Week @ Mt. Sequoyah**

**July**

**16 Abilene District Pastor's Lunch with Mark Abbott, TBA**

**25 Academy For Faithful Ministry, McMurry Univ.**

**28 AABOM, Aldersgate UMC, 6 PM**

**Aug.**

**15 Round Up-Lubbock**

**27 Abilene District Set-Up Meeting, 4 PM, Elmwood West UMC, Abilene**

**Sept.**

**7 Labor Day-Office closed**

**17 Abilene District Pastor Retreat, 8:30 AM- 4 PM, Caps UMC, 6501 Hwy. 277, Abilene.** Led by Sonscape presenters and Lewis Holland

**29 Bishop Whitfield Visits Abilene District, Wylie UMC, 7 PM.**