



West District News

February, 2018



“If you want others to come, bring’em!”

“The very thought of that scares me to death!” “Oh, no! If someone asked me something, I wouldn’t have a clue of what to say!” “Are you kidding me? No way!” You might think that these are things that people might say about being asked about public speaking, teaching a Tagalog class, or some other potentially stressful task. Instead, these are very real-world responses to the question, “Will you consider being a Lay Member to Annual Conference, representing your congregation in Corpus Christi?”

In too many congregations, this is one of the most daunting things that face the laity...being asked to represent their church, whether it is at the Annual Conference meeting, on District and Conference committees/teams, or simply in the mission field beyond the walls of the church!

In the vast majority of the cases, the reason is emblazoned in one of the cultural slogans of the United Methodist Church, “We’ve never done it that way before!” Most congregations, especially very small ones, have a relatively small team of laity, among whom all of the leadership functions of the church rotate. While that is a solution for the church of today, it imperils the church of tomorrow.

The Rio Texas Annual Conference of 2017 represented a new focus for our annual gatherings...a focus on fellowship and learning. Bishop Robert Schnase’s vision affords every congregation unique opportunities to take home experiences and resources that are designed to affect the fruitfulness of the local church and, through that, enhance the impact of the Church Universal on the world! The 2018 meeting will be even better, as more learning experiences are being chosen that address the missional needs of EVERY congregation in our Annual Conference!

Now, back to that daunting question, “Will you consider being a Lay Member to Annual Conference, in Corpus Christi?” While potential leaders run from that question, we have people who have been attending for decades and say that they would love for somebody from their churches to step forward and take their places! So, what do we do about this apparent quandary?

We have all heard it said that the best way to get new people to come to church is to bring them with us. Well, the best way to get new people to feel comfortable at Annual Conference is to bring them! And, with all of the learning opportunities being presented this year, bringing a “guest” to Annual Conference serves to afford your congregations access to even more missional resources and experiences to take back home.

As the agenda for Annual Conference 2018 is congealed, the Rio Texas UMC website (riotexas.org) will post information about what will be offered in Corpus Christi. And, considering that the overall timeframe for the meeting will not significantly changed, learning experiences will displace many of the more mundane business sessions that overwhelmed newcomers in the past!

So, if you are interested in attending Annual Conference for the first time (or the first time in a long time), 2018 is a perfect year for you to come. And, if you are a lay member to Annual Conference who has been waiting for others to step forward, bring’em along this year!

Ralph Thompson
Rio Texas Lay Leader

A Christian Greeting



*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't rely on you own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight."
Proverbs 3:5-6*

A special thanks to all of you that attended the District Leadership Training and also thanks to the Instructors for leading the sessions. Many of you left in the early hours of the morning to join us, we thank you. I must admit, after being a part of this training 13 times now, I look forward to listening to the laity share their concerns and questions regarding the position of Lay Leader and Lay Delegate. Many will mention that they do not have a clear definition of what their job is. Most are not aware of the "Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation," available from Cokesbury, and some have never seen the Book of Discipline. If we can help by having small group trainings for some of these sessions, please let us know.

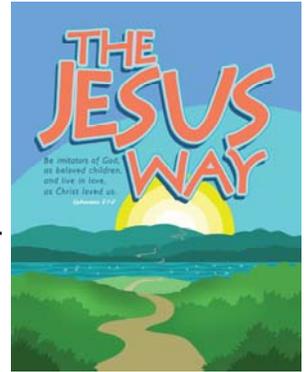
*More of Him, Less of Me,
Gini*

Please Mark Your Calendars:

February:	3	Missional Leadership Development, Eldorado
	10	Lay Speaker Training – Basic & Advanced, Menard
	15-16	Clergy Convocation
March:	6	District Committee on Ordained Ministry Training, 9-noon
	20	Pastors & Professionals Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
April:	4-5	dCOM Annual Interviews
	12-14	PAUMCS Conference
	24	Pastors & Professionals Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
May:	19	District Conference, 1:30 pm
June:	6-9	Annual Conference
August:	5-9	Children's Camp, Camp Butman

2018 Summer Camp

We are writing to let you know about summer camp opportunities for Sierra Vista kids. For the fourth year, Sierra Vista UMC, along with the staff and clergy from several other UMC congregations, is planning a children's camp at Butman Methodist Camp in Merkel, Texas, near Abilene. This camp has traditionally been offered to children who will be going into 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades in the fall, 2018, and we continue to target this age group.



However, this year, we are also adding **camping opportunities for middle-schoolers** who are entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades in the fall. We are excited about this intergenerational ministry opportunity, but we are aware that some parts of camp should and will be separate for these various age groups. In truth, we are planning what we hope will be the best camp experience for all age groups.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our years at Butman Methodist Camp; it is updated and well maintained with many activities for children and youth, including high and low-ropes course challenges, a rock wall, a Gaga court (Israeli dodge ball), three indoor basketball courts, ping pong, sand volleyball, star gazing, geocaching, horseshoes and washer pitching, a truly impressive slip and slide, a water-balloon catapult, three hill crosses to hike to, Butman's homegrown "Garden of Eatin'," and an Olympic pool with a slide and a climbing feature over the deepest end. The kids absolutely LOVE all that there is to do at Camp Butman!

The camp fee will be \$250 per child, and the camp will be held August 5 through 9, a Sunday through Thursday. Our theme for camp this year will be "The Jesus Way," and the focused verse for this theme is "Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us." (Ephesians 5:1-2).

To provide additional information and requirements, camper release and permission/registration forms for this camp are on the District webpage, www.umcwayoutwest.org.

In the meantime, here is additional camp information:

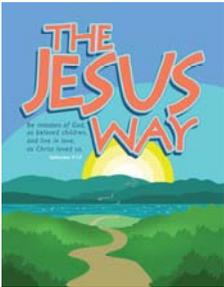
- To sign up for this camp, kids should be entering the third through ninth grades in fall, 2018.
- All children are welcome.
- Camp facilities are air-conditioned, though many activities are outside.
- There is a very nice swimming pool, and time each day will be scheduled for this.
- Other activities include crafts, games, Bible study, worship, hikes, feet-on-bunk time, and many others.
- Camp Butman has a cafeteria where kid-friendly meals will be served.
- There will be qualified medical personnel at camp to administer medications and first aid, if needed.
- Parents are welcome to organize carpools to get kids to camp, and we will also plan to take the Church bus(es).

Further, camp scholarships are available, in full and in part. If you need more information about camp fees and scholarships, please let me know.

Camp fees should not – in any way – limit your child's camp attendance!

(Continued on Page 4)

2018 Summer Camp



Finally, a number of Sierra Vista kids and adult volunteers will be there also. If you have or know of a responsible, hard-working, Jesus-loving youth who would like to serve as camp staff, we encourage their participation as well. Please have them get in touch with one of us so that we can walk them through the youth staff application process.

Church camps truly are a great experience for kids; they prove integral to their faith walks, both immediately and long-term. In truth, many experts in camp and retreat ministries claim that a week at camp is the equivalent of a year's worth of Sunday school classes. Please make an effort to start praying about your child's readiness to attend.

As ever, let us know if you have any questions!!

Kelly Duke

Director, Children and Family Ministries
Cell: 325.656.8068 [Texts welcome!]
Email: kduke@sierravista.org

Tina Glass

Director, Youth Ministries
Cell: 325.450.1231 [Texts welcome!]
Email: tglass@sierravista.org

Sierra Vista United Methodist Church
4522 College Hills Blvd.
San Angelo, Texas 76904

Church website:
<http://www.sierravista.org/>
Church: 325.944.4041
Fax: 325.947.7086

SUPER BOWL
MILES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STEW FEST & SILENT AUCTION
Adults: \$8.00
Children Under 10: \$6.00

Sunday, FEBRUARY 4
Weatherby Hall — Miles, Texas
Meal Served 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Drive Thru Available

SILENT AUCTION

View And Bid Online Prior To Sunday, February 4 At 7 A.M. By Liking Miles United Methodist Church On Facebook
Auction Items Will Be Added So Keep Checking! Live Silent Auction Bidding Begins Sunday Morning And Closes At 1:30 P.M.
No Online Bidding After 7 A.M. Sunday, February 4!

Bill Book 325.895.0622	Wendy Sklenarik 325.340.2292	CiJi Dickson 325.656.1338	Paula Rankin 325.245.7059
----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

THE MCNEILLS

Right In The Middle Concert Tour

Date: Sunday, February 11
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: FUMC Brady / 401 S. Blackburn
Admission: Free-Will Love Offering

McNeillMusic.com • Facebook.com/TheMcNeills

Lay Servant Ministries—Called by God to Serve



Lay Servant Ministries is a leadership development program in The United Methodist Church focused on equipping and empowering laypersons who have responded to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry.

These laypersons are called to live out their own discipleship as servants in leadership through the ministries of leading, caring, and communicating.

Being called to ministry is a serious endeavor. It takes a disciple to make a disciple. Thus we must do all we can to prepare ourselves and others to serve.

For additional information and resources for Lay Servant Ministries contact Louise Whitson, West District Director of Lay Speaking, at (325)869-0554.

The United Methodist Church has established three categories for laypersons in the area of lay servant ministries to develop, prepare, and engage principled Christian leaders for the mission of making disciple for the transformation of the world:

◆ Certified Lay Servant

◆ Certified Lay Speaker

◆ Certified Lay Minister

Certified lay servants who wish to develop their skills further may choose a track to become certified as lay speakers (those who are called specifically to pulpit supply) or as lay ministers (those who are called to long-term, intentional ministry as part of a ministry team).

Certified Lay Servant

A certified lay servant serves the local church or charge (and/or beyond) and:

- ◆ provides program leadership, assistance, and support.
- ◆ leads meetings for prayer, training, study, and discussion.
- ◆ conducts, or assists in conducting, services of worship, preaches the Word, or gives addresses.
- ◆ provides congregational and community leadership and fosters caring ministries.
- ◆ assists in the distribution of the elements of Holy Communion.
- ◆ teaches the Scriptures, doctrine, organization, and ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Certified Lay Speaker

A certified lay speaker serves by preaching the Word when requested by the pastor, district superintendent, or committee on lay servant ministries in accordance and compliance with ¶341.1 or *The Book of Discipline*.

The role of a certified lay speaker is a specific calling for the ministry of pulpit supply.

Certified Lay Minister

A certified lay minister serves as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergyperson and:

- ◆ conducts public worship.
- ◆ cares for the congregation.
- ◆ develops new faith communities.
- ◆ preaches the Word.
- ◆ leads small groups.
- ◆ establishes outreach ministries.
- ◆ serves as a class leader.
- ◆ assists in program leadership.
- ◆ engages in specialized ministries after appropriate training such as in parish nursing, church planting, men's ministry, children's faith formation, congregational care, and more.

There will be a Lay Speaking Training (Basic and Advanced) in Menard, TX on Saturday, February 10, 2017. For more information or to register you may contact Louise (see article) or Gini Christian, (325)486-1500.

Calendar

- Feb. 3 Missional Leadership Development
6 District Strategy Team Meeting, 10-noon
6 Doug Hester Class, SA:FUMC, 11-2
6 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
8-10 Cabinet Assessment
10 Lay Speaker Training – Basic & Advanced, Menard
15-16 Clergy Convocation
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
26 Shush Free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 7:00 pm
28 Cabinet Meeting
- Mar. 1 Cabinet Meeting
6 District Committee on Ordained Ministry Training, 9:00 a.m.
6 Doug Hester Class, SA:FUMC, 11-2
6 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
7-8 Cabinet Meeting
14-15 Cabinet Meeting
20 Pastors and Professionals Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sierra Vista UMC
22-23 Cabinet Meeting
26 Shush Free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 7:00 pm
28 Cabinet Meeting
30 District Office Closed

**West District
Rio Texas Conference
United Methodist Church**

**1315 South Abe Street
San Angelo, TX 76903**

Phone: 325-486-1500

Fax: 325-482-0033

Emails:

**Andy Smith, District Superintendent
asmith@riotexas.org**

**Gini Christian, Director of Programs
westgini@suddenlinkmail.com**

**Amy Moore, Operations Manager
westamy@suddenlinkmail.com**

Pastors and Professionals will meet Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church. We will gather at 9:30 a.m. and begin Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Remember, the cost of the day is \$10 per person which includes lunch, but does not just pay for lunch. Please contact the District Office if you have any questions or to RSVP.

District Web-Page:

umcwayoutwest.org