



West District News

April, 2018



Death Is Not Our Enemy

Friends, Robyn and I cannot thank you enough for your prayers and support during the recent illness and death of Robyn's mother, Gladys Pino Lucas.

Gladys, Mom, was born in 1916 (*that's right, she was 102!*) and grew up in rural Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was quick to tell you she was "Creole, not Cajun."

Mom had a great sense of humor, and was totally devoted to Robyn's Dad, Richard A. Lucas, MD, a general surgeon in Austin, Texas. Mom was a loving mother to four daughters (Robyn's the baby), and had two grandchildren and three great-grands.

A couple of weeks ago, when it became clear that Mom would not recover from her illness, I was sharing with my colleagues on the Cabinet our prayer that Mom would go ahead and cross over into heaven, and our frustration at the extraordinary medical measures being employed to keep her earthbound. Bishop Schnase commented: "It sounds like you and Robyn view death as a friend, and not the enemy."

That's right! We are Easter People. We know that this life, as precious and joyful as it is, is not our final destination. Christ Is Risen! We believe that Jesus has gone before us into heaven to prepare a place for each of us who follow him.

I want to encourage each of you, in this Easter season, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is alive! Each of us will face death, of loved ones and of our own earthly bodies; but death is not our enemy - because Jesus has conquered death, has entered heaven, and is making a place there for each one of us. Thanks be to God!

Blessings and peace,

Andy

IMPORTANT REMINDER

TRUSTed con Confianza certification training at our

Pastors and Professionals Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9:30 AM Big Lake UMC

Our special guest and trainer is Tanya Campen,

Rio Texas Director of Intergenerational Ministries

Those seeking certification, please complete the first two steps prior to April 24:

Register with Safe Gatherings at safegatherings.com (*remit application and \$10*).

Complete the Safe Gatherings online training course.

Please bring anyone from your church who can benefit from this training and certification.

A Christian Greeting



A Word about Kid's Camp

Spring is here, and summer is coming! A reminder that we have two opportunities for youth to attend camps.

May 5: ***Confirmation Day at Camp Butman***
 9 am - 4 pm

Challenge Course Events

Cost: \$27 for the day (includes lunch)

30 youth maximum

Contact- Gini Christian 325-656-7061 (cell) 325-486-1500 (Distr. Ofc)

August 5 - 9: ***Sierra Vista United Methodist Church Camp***

3rd - 9th Grades

Contact: Kelly Duke, Camp Director, at kduke@sierravista.org or 325-656-8068.

Permission & Registration Forms required, and available at District Office.

***More of Him, Less of Me,
Gini***

Ministry Through Administration

Annual Conference is just around the corner. Watch for information on how to register and hotel reservations to arrive soon from the Rio Texas Conference. Remember, if you don't register you will not have a name tag pre-printed when you arrive and will have to register before one can be printed.

There will be a change in the seating arrangements at Annual Conference this year. There will be an area for each District, but there will **NOT** be specific seats for churches. Everyone will have first come first serve seating within the area of the West District seating. If you would like to sit together you may need to arrive early and find an area with seats for your group, and/or you may sit with someone from another congregation in the West District.

Remember our District Conference will be held Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Luke UMC in San Angelo.

Let's stay connected,
Amy

ERT Basic Training - FUMC, Brady

Saturday, May 5, 2018 8:00 AM 5:00 PM

To register go to: www.riotexasresponse.org

Registration - 8:00AM to 8:30AM

Instruction - 8:30AM to 4:30PM

Early Response Teams (ERT) are specially trained teams that offer assistance soon after the disaster strikes. They generally do clean-up work and tasks required to stop further damage from being done, e.g. putting tarps on damaged roofs. They might do minor repairs that help make homes habitable, but they do not do extensive repairs or reconstruction (that is the job for Long Term Recovery).

All members of an Early Response Team are required to complete the eight-hour training course and must have a current background check. The ERT training is done according to UMCOR guidelines and policies. The background check is completed prior to training through [Safe Gatherings/Trusted con Confianza training and certification process](#). As long as your background check is current, you can attend the ERT training. If not, you can complete the training and background check by going to www.riotexas.org/safesteps before your ERT class. Persons completing the training and passing the background check are issued a badge indicating they are approved by the Rio Texas Conference and credentialed by UMCOR for three years. An Early Response Team is a special type of VIM Team.

An Early Response Team has a very narrow function and has no management or administrative responsibility for the overall disaster response. An "Early Response Team" should not be confused with a Disaster Recovery Team. An Early Response Team is a specially trained and certified team called to do early response. A Disaster Recovery Team is a type of UMCOR Team that comes to assist in the long-term recovery, AFTER early response is completed. Each Early Response Team member must be trained and carry an identification badge reissued by UMCOR following successful completion of Early Response Team Training.

ABOUT THE ERT TRAINING

Registration - 8:00 a.m.

Training - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The class will cover the purpose of an Early Response Team:

- To show that the church cares about what has happened to the people,
- To assist the most vulnerable populations with their immediate needs, and
- To provide assistance that will help to prevent further damage to homes and property.

The class will also cover team member responsibilities, how to equip a team, how to prevent further damage (the four basic jobs), and more.

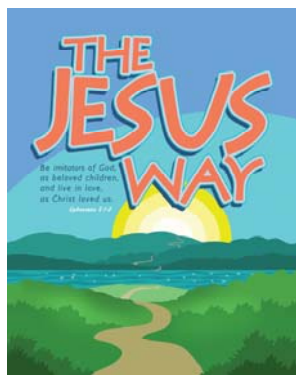
Training will be included for:

- Tarping, mucking/gutting, salvaging
- Tools/Equipment Set-up
- Team member safety

Cost: \$30.00 This includes:

- Training Resources Manual
- Identification Badge
- Rio Texas Conference Early Response Team (ERT) T-shirt
- Lunch

2018 Summer Camp



August 5-9, 2018

Cost: \$250 per child

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).

For more information or the forms go to www.umcwayoutwest.org under the forms and events tab or contact those listed below.

Kelly Duke

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

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

Tina Glass

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

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

Pastors and Professionals will meet Tuesday, April 24 at First United Methodist Church, Big Lake. We will gather at **9:00 a.m.** and begin at **9:30 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 CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars:

All District Committee members, Lay Delegates and Alternates to Annual Conference, and Pastors are encouraged to attend our District Conference on **Saturday, May 19, 2018 at St. Luke UMC, 2781 W. Ave. N, San Angelo.** We will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

About Parish Christian Educator School (PCE)

riotexas.org/pce.

The Parish Christian Educator (PCE) School is a three-year educational experience for United Methodists in local church Christian education service, both volunteer and salaried. The school consists of a series of six courses focusing on essential aspects of Christian education in the local church. Participants may take one or all six courses. Each course includes selected reading assignments, writing and in-class participation. Completion of all six will entitle a United Methodist to carry the conference approved title of Parish Christian Educator. United Methodist membership at the time of commissioning is required. In order to receive credit, participant must be present for the whole course.

Next Session: Christian Education Theory

When: June 20-23, 2018

Where: Mount Wesley Center, Kerrville, TX

Session Leader: Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2018

Registration Fee: \$250 (Includes meals and lodging, Wednesday evening - Saturday Morning)

Calendar

- Apr. 1 Easter
2 District Office Closed
3 Doug Hester Class, SA:FUMC, 11-2
3 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
4 dCOM Annual Interviews, Sierra Vista
9-18 Amy – Vacation / PAUMCS Conference
11-12 Cabinet Meeting
18-19 Cabinet Meeting
23 Shush-free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 7:00 p.m.
24 Pastors and Professionals Meeting, Big Lake, 9:00 a.m.
25-26 Cabinet Meeting
30 Andy – DS Group
May 1-2 Andy – DS Group
1 Doug Hester Class, SA:FUMC, 11-2
1 Concho Country Emmaus Community Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 pm
5 ERT Training, Brady
19 District Conference, 1:30 p.m., St. Luke
21-22 Right Start – For all moving Clergy
28 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

FUMC, Junction, TX is seeking a pianist/organist for Wed. pm choir practice, Sun. am worship. Salary negotiable. Contact Pastor Sheree at:

325-446-4053 or email:

pastorsheree@outlook.com

District Web-Page:

www.umcwayoutwest.org