



West District News

May, 2018



MY TWO-POINT CHARGE

You have probably heard by now that Bishop Robert Schnase will appoint me in July as the Superintendent of two districts, West and Hill Country. This has been expected, and I am excited to be taking on this new challenge.

I want to share a few of the missional reasons for this change, and to try and clear up some possible misconceptions.

Last month Bishop Schnase came to a meeting in Mason that included the District Strategy Teams and a few key leaders from both districts. He pointed out that forty years ago, when he first began attending the Southwest Texas Annual Conference, the conference had over 500 congregations and 400+ full-time pastors, and was organized into six districts (averaging about 85 churches per district).

In 2018, having united with the Rio Grande Conference, the Rio Texas Conference has about 360 congregations and 250+ full-time pastors, organized into seven districts (average, 51 per district). For the foreseeable future we will continue to function with seven districts served by five superintendents.

Obviously, this model helps the conference lower the budget, and allows us to be more nimble and flexible going into the future.

The West and Hill Country districts will maintain separate offices, staffs, and structures. Although we will certainly need to coordinate, cooperate and collaborate our calendars, efforts and ministries. The leadership structure in both districts will be simplified to allow for greater efficiency.

The geographical area of the two districts is quite large, so the bishop has appointed newly retired Rev. Colleen Haley to serve as Ministry Assistant to the DS, giving assistance in both districts. Colleen will assist congregations and pastors as coach, presiding elder at some charge conferences and to represent the DS on some occasions.

So, where will I be living? Because it is more centrally located to both districts, Robyn and I will be living in Kerrville beginning in August. The Hill Country office there will be my primary office, but I will intentionally maintain a regular presence in San Angelo and the West office. And, of course, I will continue to move about the district visiting churches.

I covet your prayers and support in this new way of serving our district.

Blessings and peace,

Andy

A Christian Greeting



Jesus Showers Me with Blessings

"Blessings are on the head of the righteous"

Proverbs 10:6

Regardless of our past failures or present shortcomings, our relationship with Jesus Christ ensures that *"from the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another" John 1:16).*

When you and I are related to Jesus Christ, our strength and wisdom and peace and joy and love and hope may run out, but His life rushes in to keep us filled to the brim--not because of anything we have or have not done, but just because of Him we are showered with blessings.

That's the fullness of His grace. We don't deserve it. We can't earn it. We can't bargain for it. We can't buy it. We just open our hearts and hands to receive it. One blessing after another blessing after another blessing. For a lifetime! Forever.

The Christian life is motivated, not by a list of do's and don'ts, but by the gracious outpouring of God's love and blessing.

*Ann Graham Lotz,
Life Is....Just Better.....with Jesus*

*More of Him, Less of Me,
Gini*

Ministry Through Administration

I want to take the opportunity to thank the DS Committee and the District for supporting me as a Certified Church Secretary since 2007 and a member of the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure (PAUMCS). To keep my certification current I must have approved continuing education. When I attend a PAUMCS conference every other year it gives me the continuing education I need.

I just returned from Nashville and want to share with everyone some of the information I learned. One of the sessions was "Partnerships: Building Community & Strengthening Relationships" led by Rev. Dr. Jacqui King, Director, Leadership for Congregational Vitality, Discipleship Ministries. A couple of things she spoke about:

- Partnerships keep you from being a solo warrior.
- Isolation is not where God wants you to be.
- Jesus had 12—who are your 12?
- Building Community: we must understand the roles and functions of our team.

These are only part of her wonderful session. When she discussed understanding roles she gave us a website that should be beneficial to all local churches. It is:

www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resouces/local-church-officer-job-descriptions.

Please check it out. This gives job descriptions for local church committees and what is expected from everyone. Watch for more in the coming months. (If you are interested in PAUMCS go to www.paumcs.org or give me a call.

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 UMVIM 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

Parish Christian Educator School Offers Professional Training for Local Church Educators

I have had the honor of attending two sessions of Parish Christian Educator School at Mount Wesley. It is an uplifting, challenging educational experience that offers me the opportunity to learn ways to enhance ministry at my local church. I serve as Children's Director at my church and while I have years of experience working with children and youth and a college degree, I lack formal Christian Education training. PCE helps bridge the gaps in my knowledge base and inspires me to plan worship in new ways, understand Methodist doctrine, and implement new programming. I also meet others in the ministry who are working as I am to spread the good news. Great networking!

We are seeking new participants. Volunteers and paid personnel are welcome. The following information is from the PCE Dean, Kim Carroll: "The Parish Christian Educator School (PCE) is a three-year educational experience consisting of a series of six courses focusing on the essential aspects of Christian Faith Formation. Courses are offered twice a year in three-day intensive workshops, in January and June, at Mount Wesley. Upon completion of all six sessions, participants are commissioned with the conference-approved title of Parish Christian Educator. PCE School is designed for those who have primary responsibility for the Ministry of Education in local church, but with little or no formal training. It provides professional training to equip the local educators, volunteer or paid, who are serving in a United Methodist Church."

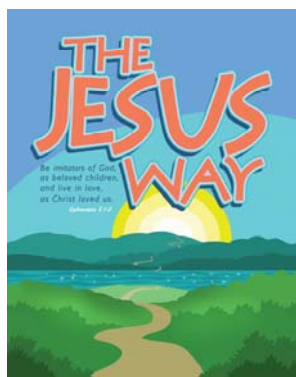
Prepare. Connect. Empower. Please consider joining us. The next session is Wednesday, June 20 - Saturday, June 23 and will focus on Christian Education Theory. If interested, contact Kim at kim@manchacaumc.org, 512-431-6159. Pass it on....this is a fabulous opportunity for many members in our district. I hope to see some new faces on my next trip to Mount Wesley in June!

Rhonda Long, Goldthwaite FUMC

DISTRICT CONFERENCE & CELEBRATION

DATE & TIME CHANGE!! Please mark your calendars:

All District Committee members, Lay Delegates and Alternates to Annual Conference, and Pastors are encouraged to attend our District Conference on **Sunday, May 20, 2018** at **St. Luke UMC, 2781 W. Ave. N, San Angelo**. We will begin at **4:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. We will recognize all retiring clergy as well as all clergy moving this summer. An ice cream social will follow!



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.



Hilda United Methodist Goes Solar

Hilda is a small mission and community-oriented church in the Central Texas community of Hilda - just east of Mason. In their ongoing commitment to taking care of their church, buildings and grounds they chose to go solar in 2018. The system was installed in February by local business *Mason Solar and Energy*, owned by two of our church members, Keith Kaan and Bill Skinner. The systems use 72, 330 watt solar panels and two inverters, one is 10 kw and the other is 7.6. The panels are ground mounted arrays with one on the church grounds and two at the parsonage. They are mounted on iron ridge ground mount frames. The church uses approximately 29,000 kilowatts per hour of electricity yearly. We are now estimated to generate 37,469 kilowatts per hour of energy this year and that should actually bring revenue to our church of \$3072 this year. With no electricity bills! Our new solar system covers the sanctuary, church office, fellowship hall, and parsonage. Hilda Methodist covered the expenses with donations and a small loan. Going solar is another way to give back to the church, the community, and the environment.



Calendar

- 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 West District Confirmation Event, Camp Butman, Merkel, TX
5 ERT Training, Brady – Must Register online (see pg. 3)
6 Safety Training, 3-5 pm, FUMC San Angelo, with Meredith Copeland
20 District Conference & Celebration, 4:00 pm, St. Luke UMC, San Angelo
21-22 Right Start – For all moving Clergy
23 Safety Training, 6:30-8:30 pm, Sierra Vista UMC, San Angelo, with Carol Ann Weston
28 District Office Closed
- June 3 Safety Training, 2-4 pm, FUMC Mason, with Kelly Duke
6 Cabinet Meeting, Corpus Christi
6-9 Annual Conference, Corpus Christi
27-29 Bishop's Week

West District
Rio Texas Conference
United Methodist Church

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West District

Thank you!



Left to right: Anne Hardegree (FUMC-SA); Meredith Copeland (Sterling City); Kelly Duke (SVUMC-SA); Carol Ann Weston (Mason); and Laurel Bradford (FUMC-SA).

District Web-Page:

www.umcwayoutwest.org