



# West District News

June, 2018



## Breakthrough Prayers and Conflux Moments

Friends, I am excited that I will be seeing so many of you at the Rio Texas Annual Conference meeting next week in Corpus Christi. "Conference" is always a great time of worship and fellowship as we see old friends and make some new ones.

Another great thing about Conference under the leadership of Bishop Robert Schnase is the emphasis on worship and learning. We will still "do the business" of the annual conference, but the time devoted to hearing reports and reviewing their minutiae definitely takes a back seat to equipping us for ministry.

To that end, we will be hearing from some excellent teachers at Conference this year. Bishop Schnase will give us a taste of his new book, the revised and updated Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations (it wouldn't surprise me if we each get a complimentary copy!). There will also be several excellent breakout workshops, many of which are focused on taking the gospel beyond the walls of the church.

But the speaker I am most looking forward to hearing (and meeting) is our Plenary Teacher, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, from the West Ohio Conference (UMC). She will be sharing principles from her book, Flood Gates.

In March we gave a copy of Flood Gates to each pastor in the district, and I had the privilege of leading five pastors in reading this book together. And I know that a few of our churches have already put some of Kibbey's ideas into practice.

Kibbey says that fear is one of the things that holds us back from seeking (and making) real change in our churches. She encourages us to pray and ask God to break through - to open the flood gates "of spiritual energy that comes when a leader and congregation make and apply new decisions that release a torrent of God's inspiration, empowerment, and purpose to pour through."

Among the flood gates she identifies are Breakthrough Prayer Initiatives, Flood Gate #2. In the Breakthrough Prayer Initiative, the entire congregation is asked to pray the same prayer, all at the same time of day, to ask God to break through and accomplish what we cannot do ourselves. Combined with prayer walking and other prayer practices, this is a powerful tool God has used to help churches make necessary changes and reach new people.

Another exciting idea is Flood Gate #5, Conflux Moments, defined by Kibbey: "A conflux moment *represents a combusive, synergistic intersection - a living encounter - between you and the heart of God.*" WOW! Imagine if we all prayed for, expected, and worked toward having living encounters with the heart of God!?! Kibbey argues that this is exactly what our worship and witness are to be about.

I don't know about you, but I want to learn more from this God-inspired, Christ-centered teacher.

Peace,

Andy

## A Christian Greeting



*"For where two or more are gathered together in My name, I am here in the midst of them"*

*Confirmation Day  
May 5, 2018*

*Matthew 18:20*

*What a joyful day we had at Camp Butman, with five great participants from Miles UMC. Our camp leader, Josh kept the boys and girls busy, They were amazing to watch on each obstacle challenge. Talking to each other, working as a team, no matter how many times they heard Josh say, "start over!" they kept going until they all finished together! It was so fun to watch them climbing the rock wall as fast as they could, with everyone on the floor helping them and guiding them up to the top. Thank you Miles UMC and parents, for your encouragement and love you share with these very special youth. And a very special thank you to Camp Butman Staff, and the great meal they prepared. The Chapel Service was very special for all of us. It was a great time for these future leaders: Hayven, Jayden, Dallas, Shelton, and Peyton, another big thank you to each of you for such a great day. You were missed Karlee and Jaycee, but you were with us in spirit.....As for Pastor Gary and I, we spent our time taking pictures and looking for shade!*

*Reminder: The Jesus Way, summer camp at Camp Butman  
August 5 - 9, Sunday - Thursday. Cost:\$250 \* Contact: Sierra Vista UMC*

*More of Him, Less of Me,  
Gini*

## Ministry Through Administration

Thank you —

I would like to thank everyone for the gift and the recognition at the District Conference. I was totally surprised! I also want to thank you for the opportunity to be your Operations Manager for the West District.

I can't believe it has been 20 years since I began working for the District Office. Everyone's been so kind and supportive through it all. I have worked for 5 District Superintendents, we have gone from the San Angelo District to the West District, moved from a rented space to our own office building, and added Gini, our program director, to our staff. It has been a great journey and I hope to continue for many more years.

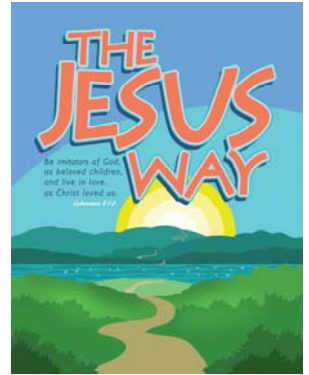
I believe I have grown so much during this 20 years and I contribute it to all the love and support I have received from everyone, clergy and laity. I am honored to work for the West District!

Let's stay connected,  
Amy

## 2018 Summer Camp

Hey West District kids, this is 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).

For additional information and requirements, camper release and permission/registration forms for this camp are on the District webpage, [www.umcwayoutwest.org](http://www.umcwayoutwest.org).

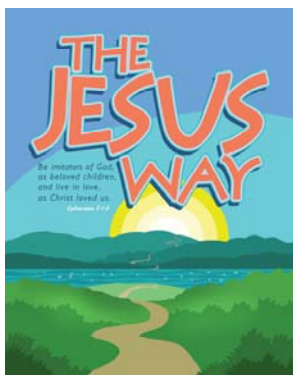
In the meantime, here is additional camp information:

- 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)*



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](mailto: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](mailto:tglass@sierravista.org)

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

## WEST / HILL COUNTRY DISTRICT PRETEEN SUMMER CAMP

JULY 26 - 29

SLUMBER FALLS  
(3610 RIVER RD NEW BRAUNFELS, TX)

OPEN TO PRETEENS (GOING INTO GRADES 4 - 6)

REGISTER BY JUNE 25 FOR \$175.

\$225 AFTER THAT



SPACE IS LIMITED.  
REGISTER EARLY!

TO REGISTER, GO TO:

[HTTPS://FUMC-BOERNE.CHURCHCENTER.COM/REGISTRATIONS/EVENTS/122656](https://fumc-boerne.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/122656)

"SPECIAL GRACES" FOR THE FIRST 5 REGISTERED.

# Calendar

June 3 Safety Training, 2-4 pm, FUMC Mason, with Kelly Duke  
6 Cabinet Meeting, Corpus Christi  
6-9 Annual Conference, Corpus Christi  
22-30 Gini – Vacation  
27-29 Bishop’s Week

July 1-31 Gini – Vacation  
3-20 Andy – Vacation  
4 District Office Closed

For July, the District Office will be closed: 6, 12-13, 20, 26-27

Aug. 1-31 Gini – Vacation  
5-9 Summer Camp, Camp Butman  
7 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC  
20-21 Candidacy Summit, San Antonio  
28 Pastors and Professionals Meeting, TBD

**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**

**Annual Conference 2018  
“Rethinking the Five Practices”  
June 6–9**

**American Bank Center, Corpus Christi**

**Wednesday:**

Registration: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Ministry Display Area open 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Gathering Music & Worship, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

**Thursday:**

Registration: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Gathering Music & Devotion: 7:45 – 8:00 am

First Plenary Session: 8:00 am

(See Preliminary Agenda for more information)

**District Web-Page:**

**[www.umcwayoutwest.org](http://www.umcwayoutwest.org)**