



West District News

January, 2019



Take It Outside in 2019!

In September of last year, Robyn and I began a new fitness regimen run by Camp Gladiator (CG), a trainer-based, boot camp style of group workouts. We usually workout with about 12-15 other campers in a church parking lot, led by our trainer Heather. One of the mottos of CG is *Take It Outside!* Almost all of our workouts take place outside in the fresh hill country air – rain or shine, hot or cold, cedar pollen or ragweed. From September thru December, I had 28 CG check-ins! My goal for 2019 is to take it outside for at least 90 check-ins.

As we enter a new year, I want to encourage all of you to *Take It Outside in 2019!* Find ways this year to take the church outside its walls to where the people are. For years we have focused on how to get people to come to us, with varied degrees of success. We need to make the shift from *come and see* to *go and do*.

Whether it is a new feeding ministry, a home-based Bible study, worship in the park, blessing of the animals, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Volunteers In Mission, disaster response teams, student mentoring, soup kitchen volunteering, laundromat ministry, crockpot suppers at nearby apartments; go and do something to take the church to the people in 2019. (*Please read "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Revised and Updated" by bishop Robert Schnase for more inspiration and ideas.*)

My CG trainer always reminds us to stretch our muscles before and after each workout. Taking it outside will require all of us to stretch – a lot – and to use muscles we haven't used in a while. But if we check-in often, and give it all we've got, we'll be stronger and healthier. So, take it outside in 2019, and take the church to the people.

Blessings and peace,

Andy

Ministry through Administration

It is a new year, 2019 has arrived. There are changes in store for us. One change for the West District is the retirement of Gini Christian, our Program Director. The District Strategy Team will meet soon to begin making decisions for what will take place in the future.

I would like to ask for your help. Gini was out in the District and knows so many of you. I, however, know some of you and recognize names when given to me. She provided a connection, and I would like to ask each of you to continue staying connected to this office. I know it will be different, but we as United Methodists are part of a connectional system and I am here and would like to stay connected to our churches as well as our pastors. You can contact me at the office, (325)486-1500 or email me at: westamy@suddenlinkmail.com.

As most of you know, the special session of General Conference will convene in February. There is still time for information to be gathered and prayer to begin. You can go to <https://riotexas.org/gc2019> or <https://umcprays.org/>.

There are dates you need to be aware of for January 2019.

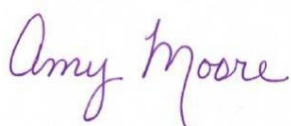
January 11 – Last day for 2018 apportionments to be turned in to the conference office. They are due by noon.

January 14 – Last date to contact Liz at the Hill Country District office to reserve your space for childcare for Equipping the Saints and to pre-register for the meal, \$12.00 per person.

January 22 – Last day to enter your year end report online. Cabinet assessments begin on the 23rd and they will use this information for appointment making.

January 26 – Equipping the Saints – The combined leadership training for the West and Hill Country Districts, to be held at FUMC in Kerrville. (See pages 4, 5, and 6 and the District website for more details.)

Let's stay connected,



TRUSTed con Confianza

As part of the Rio Texas Conference safety policy implementation plan all clergy, staff, and volunteers in ministry with children, youth and/or vulnerable adults must attend a *TRUSTed con Confianza* Certification session either online or in person every two years as part of their certification process.

There are 3 steps in becoming certified.

Step 1 Go to safegatherings.com

 Click on the red **GET STARTED** button at the top of the page.

 Fill out the online application

Safe Gatherings will then process your background check and reach out to your references.

Step 2 Complete the Safe Gathering Training Course

This is approximately an hour long presentation of information on safety guidelines and best practices. Persons will take a test at the end of this training.

Step 3 Attend a *TRUSTed con Confianza* Certification Facilitated Session

This is a 2 hour interactive experience that can be taken online via a webinar or in person via a scheduled workshop.

There will be an interactive training offered at:

First United Methodist Church

37 E. Beauregard

San Angelo, TX 76903

The training will be January 6, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. in Celebration Hall.

Facilitator: Meredith Copland

To attend this course please register online at www.riotexas.org/safetrainings.

There is also a session on January 26th at Equipping the Saints from 1:00 – 3:00 led by Tanya Campen. Please be sure and register online if you are interested in attending it.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS 2019

January 26, 2019

First United Methodist Church Kerrville

321 Thompson Drive, Kerrville, TX

“& I will show you a still more excellent way.” 1 Cor. 12:31b

Bishop Robert Schnase

will lead us in Worship and will be our keynote speaker.

There are several opportunities available to us on January 26th:

Bishop Schnase will lead us in Worship

Leadership Training Sessions

Mission Fair

Light on the Hill @ Mount Wesley

Lunch – \$12.00 per person

Bishop Schnase will be the Keynote Speaker for the day

Childcare is available but you **MUST** register by January 14 by calling Liz at the Hill Country District Office, 830/896-6400.

If you would like to participate in the Mission Fair, a time of sharing what you are doing as the hands and feet of Christ, or if you have any questions, then you will need to contact Pam Elliott, dispro512@gmail.com, to reserve your spot.

The registration form for Equipping the Saints is on Page 4 of this newsletter. Please make checks payable to “Hill Country District” and mail them to:

222 Sidney Baker South, Suite 528

Kerrville, TX 78028

Forms, Flyers & Invitations can be found at: <https://riotexas.org/events/2019/1/26/equipping-the-saints-2019>

as well as on the West District website, www.umcwayoutwest.org, under the “Forms and Events” tab.

SCHEDULE

8:45-9:15 Registration

9:15- 10:30 Worship with Bishop Schnase preaching

MORNING SESSION I 10:45-12:00 P.M.

BONNIE BEVERS UMARMY

BILL KNOBLES Local Church Trustees

WILL RICE How Does Your Church Communicate?

KELLY DUKE Some One Help Me!- Recruiting & Retaining Servant Team Members

RUBEN SAENZ III Youth for Volunteer, Staff & Clergy Leaders

MORNING SESSION II 10:45-11:30 A.M.

PAM TRAVERS Ministering When the End Is Near

PAM ELLIOTT & RICK MERGEN Different Together in Disaster Response - ERT/VIM Teams

LIZ THOMAS, RN & PAUL HARRIS A Local Church Partnership with MHM Wesley Nurse

GEORGE BARNETTE & BECKY BAXTER

BALLOU Missions 101 Your Church In the US (Eagle Pass, TX)

LAURA MERRILL & RALPH THOMPSON A Prayerful Way Forward

COLLEN HALEY & SCOTT BRADFORD

Worship in the Wesleyan Tradition

SCOTT MADERER Being on the Lay Servant Team

GLENN ANDREW Local Church Lay Leader

LUNCH -11:30 - 1:00

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. SPECIAL SESSION

TANYA CAMPEN Trusted con Confianza: Step #3: Face to Face Certification

MUST HAVE REGISTERED ONLINE

AFTERNOON SESSION V 1:15 P.M.-2:45 P.M.

ANDY SMITH PPR/SPRC

AFTERNOON SESSION 1:15 - 2:00 P.M.

CELIA HALFACRE Prayer As A Practice of Hospitality

SCOTT MADERER Being on the Lay Servant Team

GEORGE BARNETTE & REV ROBERTO GOMEZ, METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO

Missions 101 IN YOUR CHURCH & IN Piedras Negras, Mexico

ABEL VEGA Rio Texas Conference Immigration & Border Response

DEBBIE STEINBACH Local Church Finance

SPECIAL SESSION 2:00 PM

DAVID PAYNE, BETH PALMER, TINA BOX, & THERESA STANDAGE What's Happening at Mount Wesley including a Field Trip to Mt. Wesley

**CHILDCARE
AVAILABLE**

If you are in need of
childcare for the event
you **MUST REGISTER**

each child with
Name & Age By
January 14, 2019

CALL LIZ
AT HILL COUNTRY
DISTRICT OFFICE

REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE: JANUARY 14, 2019

Hill Country District Office
222 Sidney Baker South, Suite 528
Kerrville, TX 78028

– FAX to 830-896-6407 or register by phone at 830-896-6400.

Local Church _____ Address: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

COST PER PERSON \$12.00

Pre-registration with a check for all lunch reservations will ensure a speedy check-in.

NAMETAGS WILL BE PRINTED AHEAD OF TIME.

Persons registering at the door will be seated at the meal on a space-available basis, only.

To confirm a meal, contact the District Office by January 14, 2019,

Please make checks payable to

“Hill Country District” - \$12.00 per person.

**LIGHT on the
HILL @ Mount
Wesley**

*It's a new day
at Mount Wes-
ley! Come and
learn how this
treasured Con-
ference Cam-
pus is being
utilized in new
ways to glorify
God.*

**We want to
make the tour
at 3:00pm**

#

Have you heard about the Lenten Disaster Used Clothing Drive?

The partnership between the Hill Country District churches & the Seventh-day Adventist Disaster Services has worked extremely well since 2015. The Texas Division of Emergency Management classes use this collection as a good example of filling the pipeline before the need. This year's collection will be

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – Friday, April 12, 2019.

The Adventist truck will come to make the pickup as soon after that as they can schedule it. That will get the bags & piles out of our buildings for Easter.

Instructions are the same as previous years:

- ⇒ Notify the HCD Mission Team that you are participating.
- ⇒ Put out the word in your community that you're collecting used clothing for survivors of any disasters that might occur in the coming year (2019).
- ⇒ Invite other churches (Methodist or not) in your community to join in.
- ⇒ Then call George Barnette (george@bnpr.com 713-252-2288) at the end about how big your pile is (pickup load or less, U-Haul load, or bigger). **When the truck arrives, help load the clothes, & you're done.** The Adventists volunteers will sort the clothes, sanitize (a step beyond just cleaning) & package the items by size & gender. Then when the need arises, they can send their delivery truck from the warehouse within hours to provide clothes to people affected by the disaster.

Why not wait & do a drive when the disaster occurs? Because the need for used clothing last only 24-48 hours. By the time we could mount a campaign, collect the clothes & deliver them to the disaster site, we would just be adding to the trash pile. **Our job is to fulfil Jesus' guidance in Matthew to "clothe the naked." (Matthew 25:31-46)**

Calendar

- Jan. 1 District Office Closed
6 Trusted con Confianza Training, San Angelo:First UMC, 2:30 p.m.
9-10 Cabinet Meeting
11 2018 Apportionments are due in the Conference Office NO LATER THAN NOON.
21 District Office Closed
22 2018 Year-End Reports DUE ONLINE.
23-25 Cabinet Assessment
26 Equipping the Saints (Leadership Training), Kerrville:First UMC
30-1 Andy – DS Group Meeting
- Feb. 5 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
6-7 Cabinet Meeting
13-14 Cabinet Meeting

**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**

**Colleen Haley, DS Ministry Assistant
revcgh@yahoo.com**

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

District Web-Page:

www.umcwayoutwest.org