



West District News

March, 2019



Just Breathe

Friends, Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the past few days I have heard from or spoken to many dozens of people about the special called session of the General Conference of the UMC that just took place in St. Louis. *(I will spare you yet another summary of actions taken there, and refer you to Bishop Robert Schnase's excellent pastoral letter at riotexas.org.)*

Following the results of the General Conference 2019, many are grateful, while many others are deeply hurting. My heart hurts for those who are hurting, and I have wept for them in these days.

I want to urge us all (myself included) to exercise restraint and patience as we figure out together what the future holds for us as Methodist Christians. And so, I want to ask you to breathe – just breathe.

Breathe in the healing presence of God: *Come, Holy Spirit, Come.*

Breathe out the fruit of the Spirit: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, generosity and self-control.*

And let's really lean into Lent this year. May it be a season of honest self-examination, prayer, and spiritual healing and renewal. Let's spend time on our knees, and in the Scriptures, and in service and witness to our neighbors.

We still have much work to do to spread scriptural holiness; and to seek the lost. Please join me in prayer: *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Amen

Blessings and peace,

Andy

Joint Pastors and Professionals Meeting, March 12

Join our DS Andy Smith in Mason on Tuesday, March 12, for a meeting of Pastors and church Professionals. *Yes, we know it is Spring Break for many school districts, and not everyone will be able to make it.*

We want to take some time to be together and decompress from the stress and weight of recent events. Please dress comfortably and casually, as we are planning some relaxation and recreation activities. The details haven't been worked out yet, but think ping-pong tournament, walk in the park, face painting and drum circles. *We're kidding about some of that.*

Of course, we will worship together, process and share some information, and break bread together. Plan to gather at 9:30 and adjourn after a delicious lunch. More details soon.

Wesley Trinity United Methodist Church

301 W. 18th St. San Angelo, TX 76903

Announces and Extends an Invitation to Join Us as We Celebrate Our
107th Church Anniversary



Theme "MOVING FORWARD WITH LOVE"

Scripture - 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Anniversary & Memorial Celebration March 17, 2019 - 10:00 AM

Speaker of the Day: Rev. Carl Rohlf, District Superintendent (Retired)

District Celebration, May 5

Our West District Conference and Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 5, in San Angelo at a venue to be announced. We hope to make it a Fiesta this year - it's on Cinco de Mayo! And we are searching for a venue somewhere out in the community. (Contact Amy if you have a venue idea.) More than a district conference, we want this to be a District Celebration. **Please send us photos, videos and stories of ways your church is taking church outside the walls** - especially new, fresh expressions of worship, mission and witness. These will be highlighted and celebrated, and you'll want to be part of it.

The Fiesta part of our celebration will be some lively worship, and a light supper together. Plan to gather at 4:00, with dinner at about 5:30. (Location tba.)

Job Title: District Program Coordinator (30 hours)

Salary: Negotiable, commensurate with experience
Continuing Education: United Methodist Lay Ministry Training
Projected start date: Immediately

The responsibilities of District Program Coordinator will be directed towards assessing, designing, and implementing those programs and systems that will enhance and encourage a connectional tie between ministries, communities, and churches within the West District. The goal of this position is to create a consistent connection of ministries within the West District through opportunities for leadership development, information flow, sharing of resources, and shared ministry opportunities. This position requires a working knowledge of the United Methodist Church, Biblical and Wesleyan understanding of ministry, demonstrated personal integrity, consistent work ethic, exceptional leadership, interpersonal and organizational skills, budget administration, ability to work with staff colleagues and ability to maintain confidentiality in all relationships.

Duties

- Responsible directly to the District Superintendent.
- Work with District Superintendent to provide insights and input into ways to connect, support, and resource district churches in ministry.
- Create connections among local churches to facilitate programing through shared resources and expertise... i.e. Youth, children, senior adult, outreach, and evangelism.
- Work in developing systems for dissemination of information and opportunities for ministry through district website, social media, and personal contact.
- Enhance connectedness and involvement through the effective use of social media.
- Encourage and facilitate the opportunities and training for leadership development and ministry participation, such as: Lay Servant/Lay Speaker Ministry, Volunteer-In-Ministry (VIM), and Early Response Training (ERT).
- Create, implement, and facilitate a yearly training whose purpose is to share ideas for ministry development, as well as needed knowledge that provide area churches to function in healthy and growing ways.
- Facilitate and provide for Pulpit Supply for district churches as needed.
- Promote conference events within the district.
- Serve as Liaison to District Strategy Team, coordinate District Strategy Team meetings, and schedule the district calendar and events.
- Other duties as assigned by the District Superintendent regarding mission and outreach.

Send inquiries and resume to: West District, Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, 1315 S. Abe Street, San Angelo, TX 76903 or westamy@suddenlinkmail.com

Upcoming Training:



ERT Basic Training at

FUMC Menard

201 Gay Street, Menard

on May 18th, 2019

from 8:00am to 4:00pm

For more information or to register go to:

<https://riotexasresponse.org/ert-basic>

“Are you Ready, Are you Able, Are you Willing?”

There is something for everyone to do.

For questions or concerns, please contact Ginnie Street, Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Training Coordinator at 512-203-7730 or training@riotexasresponse.org

The Xena Project

PTSD is a disorder of warriors, not men and women who were weak or cowardly but ... who followed orders and who at a young age put their feelings aside and performed unimaginable tasks ... PTSD is a disorder of a good warrior."

-Anonymous disabled Marine

From the book, **The Combat Trauma Healing Manual: Christ-Centered Solutions for Combat Trauma** by Chris Adist

Our church family has been very active in ministering to people who are in need of medical, nutritional, and spiritual care. To that end, every Monday morning volunteers come together to provide for these needs. It was during one of our Monday morning gatherings that I my struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD as it is commonly known, was shared. I wasn't prepared for what would follow. At the conclusion of my testimony a woman stood up and tearfully shared her experience with her son when he returned from combat duty as a soldier in the United States Army. She explained that when her son returned from Afghanistan he had changed emotionally. He went from being a gregarious young man to someone who was angry isolated, and full of despair. She went on to say that she didn't know what to do other than pray to God that her son would be healed. She would not be the only mother who would share her testimony that morning. Another woman stood up and then another, each sharing similar stories. This would be the beginning of a ministry that would bring hope and healing to our wounded warriors and their families. This ministry would be known as The Xena Project.

The Xena Project, is a 501(c)3 organization founded and run by veterans in the Houston and now San Angelo areas. Hosted by La Iglesia Metodista Unida Betel, veterans and their families receive small group and individual instruction and counseling based on a bilingual curriculum currently being developed for both our veterans and their families. The curriculum being used for group discussion is based on two books, **The Combat Trauma Healing Manual: Christ-Centered Solutions for Combat Trauma** and, **When War Comes Home: Christ-Centered Healing for Wives of Combat Veterans**.

Plans for a future curriculum addressing the needs of First Responder struggling with PTSD is currently being developed. The foundational text for this offering will be **The First Responder Healing Manual: Biblical Solutions for Line of Duty Stress & Trauma**.

The first Xena Project small group discussion will take place [on Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m.](#), at La Iglesia Metodista Unida Betel, located at [115 W. Avenue O, San Angelo, Texas](#). A light meal will be served. For more information, please call Pastor Art Mavrode at [\(325\) 234-8545](#).

Volunteers In Mission Training

March 30, 2019 \$30/person

Fredericksburg UMC, 1800 N. Llano, Fredericksburg, TX

For more information or to register contact the Hill Country District at kdumc@kdumc.org, or (830) 896-6400; or Pam Elliott, dispro512@gmail.com.

Calendar

- Mar. 2 Lay Speaker Training, Eldorado
5 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
6-7 Cabinet Meeting
8-9 DST Planning Retreat, Mt. Wesley
12 Joint Pastors and Professionals Meeting, Mason
13-14 Cabinet Meeting
14-15 Amy – Off
20-21 Cabinet Meeting
25 Shush-free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 7:00 p.m.
25-26 Conference Retirement Seminar, University UMC San Antonio
27-28 Cabinet Meeting
- Apr. 1-2 Clergy Convocation, San Antonio
2 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
2-3 Cabinet Meeting
4 Andy – Conference Trustee Meeting
9 Andy – APTS Visit
10-11 Cabinet Meeting
17-18 Cabinet Meeting
22 Shush-free Worship, Sierra Vista UMC, 7:00 p.m.
24-25 Cabinet Meeting
30 Amy – Out, Spiritual Retreat

West District
Rio Texas Conference
United Methodist Church

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San Angelo, TX 76903

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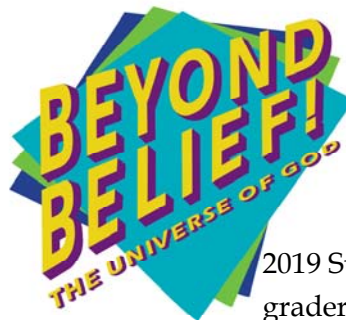
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Amy Moore, Operations Manager
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2019 Summer Camp for 3rd -9th graders will be July 28-August 1, 2019.

Check out the District webpage for information and forms. (Under the "Forms & Events" tab)

District Web-Page:

www.umcwayoutwest.org