



# CONNECTION

## NTC Church Wellness Incentive Honor Roll

The following are the NTC churches in each percentage category of eligible enrollees (clergy, spouse and lay employees) who earned the 2007 wellness incentive recognition.

### **100 percent Participation:**

Aldersgate, First Carrollton, Holy Covenant, Corinth Faith, Cochran Chapel, St. Paul Dallas, University Park, Walnut Hill, Chapel Hill, Christ Farmers Branch, Plymouth Park, Justin, Lewisville, Button Memorial, Fellowship, Sanger, The Colony, Creekwood, CasaView, Grace Dallas, Greenland Hills, Ridgewood Park, Frisco, Axe Memorial, Buckingham, Cornerstone, St. Marks, Arapaho, Rockwall, Rowlett, Royse City, Sachse, Pleasant Valley, Wylie, Aley, Cedar Hill, College Mound, Camp Wisdom, Highland Hills, Kessler Park, Pleasant Mound/Urban Park, Umphress Road, Church of the Disciple, DeSoto, Forney, Lancaster, Seagoville, Boxelder, Bogata, Commerce, Cooper, Deport, Kavanaugh, Salem-Kinser, Wesley Greenville, Westview Greenville, Honey Grove McKenzie, Mt. Vernon, Paris, Mt. Zion, Quinlan, Sulphur Springs First, Sulphur Springs Wesley, Winnsboro, Anna, Bells, Blue Ridge, Bonham, Trinity Denison, Farmersville, Gainesville, Whaley, Leonard, First McKinney, Stonebridge, Wesley McKinney, Princeton, Grace Sherman,

Valley View, Van Alstyne, Whitesboro, Whitewright, Archer City, Bowie, Boyd, Burkburnett, Morris Memorial, Henrietta, Beverly Drive, Trinity Wichita Falls, University, and Wesley Wichita Falls.

### **99-50 percent Participation:**

Coppell, Schreiber Memorial, First Denton, Vista Ridge, Pilot Point, Spring Valley, Grace Avenue, First Garland, St. Philip's, Heath, Christ Plano, Custer Road, First Plano, First Richardson, Oak Cliff, St. Luke "Community," First Grand Prairie, Inglewood, McKenzie Memorial, Oak

Park, Celina, Waples Memorial, Howe, Wellspring, Lakeway, Prosper, Key Memorial, Forestburg, Iowa Park, Jacksboro, Floral Heights, and St. Mark's Wichita Falls.

### **Less Than 50 percent Participation:**

Argyle, Lovers Lane, Northaven, Oak Lawn, Flower Mound, Trietsch Memorial, First Allen, Hamilton Park, Lake Highlands, White Rock, First Mesquite, St. Andrew, Highland Park, First Duncanville, First Decatur, and First Wichita Falls.

### **0 percent Participation:**

44 Eligible Churches

## NTC churches receive Wellness Benefits

NTC received a \$231,458.40 check from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) for the successful 2007 Wellness Initiative.

A \$665 check was paid to each NTC HealthFlex enrollee who completed both the wellness exam and the on-line health risk assessment.

All active clergy, clergy spouses, lay employees and spouses enrolled in the conference health insurance plan are eligible to participate in the Wellness Initiative.

The 348 participants fulfilled the requirements of the initiative in 2007.

The 2008 Wellness Initiative is now in place for participation.

- 1 Have an annual wellness exam.
- 2 Complete the on-line Health Quotient online at [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org).
- 3 Complete and submit the conference wellness initiative form, online at [www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org) "forms." The \$30 office visit co-pay will be refunded upon receipt of verification.

## Deadline for Communication Awards entries, May 21

Deadline for entries in the **2008 Robert L. "Bob" Robertson Award of Excellence in Communication** Competition is May 21. This year's award categories will recognize excellence in photography, newsletters, websites, and materials for local church advertising/marketing campaigns in print publications.

All NTC local churches and communicators are eligible and encouraged to compete. "The idea is not only to recognize achievement, but also share the best that local church communicators are producing so we can learn from one another and raise the standard of communication work throughout the conference," says NTC Communications Director Dr. Joan LaBarr.

Categories will be divided into three divisions based on church size. Entry forms with specific details on each category are available on the website: [www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org) and accessed by selecting the News and Information article, "2008 Robert L. Robertson Award of Excellence in Communication." Print the applicable forms and deliver it together with the associated material to Becki Ozmun, NTC Ministry Center, 500 Maplelawn Drive, Plano.

The awards will be presented at the 2008 NTC Communications Luncheon on Monday, June 9, at Plano Centre as part of the North Texas Annual Conference. Bishop Scott Jameson Jones, resident bishop of the Kansas Area of

the UMC, will be guest speaker.

Reservations for the June 9 Communications Luncheon may be made by e-mail to Becki Ozmun, [ozmun@ntcumc.org](mailto:ozmun@ntcumc.org). Reservation deadline is May 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the Communications Office.

The ticket cost is \$20, which may be either paid at the door or by check mailed in advance to: Communications Office, P.O. Box 866128, Plano, TX 75086. Make check payable to NTC UMC and place "Comm Lunch" in the memo line.

For more information on the competition, please call Dr. Joan LaBarr, 972-526-5036 or 800-969-8201, or e-mail: [labarr@ntcumc.org](mailto:labarr@ntcumc.org).

# INFORMAtion:

◆ **Wesley-Rankin Community Center, Dallas**, honored **Rev. Kathleen Baskin-Ball**, pastor of **Suncreek UMC, Allen**, with its **Hattie Rankin Moore Leadership Award** at a luncheon May 6 at Royal Oaks Country Club. **Rev. Baskin-Ball** was hospitalized for cancer treatment and accepted the award in a video in which she expressed her love for West Dallas and the **Wesley Rankin Community Center**.

◆ **St. Luke "Community" UMC, Dallas**, celebrated its **75th anniversary** beginning April 11 at the Hilton Hotel Lincoln Centre featuring jazz artist **Kirk Whalum**. **Rev. Zan W. Holmes, Jr.** was the guest preacher on April 13. April 14 to 16 featured revival services with **Rev. Cynthia Hale**, founding pastor of **Ray of Hope Church** in Decatur, GA.

◆ The 12th annual **S.E.E.K. Golf Tournament** is set May 12 at The Golf Club at McKinney to benefit **S.E.E.K., "Summer Events for Exceptional Kampers,"** for those who are physically, emotionally or mentally challenged. Beneficiaries include a Children's Camp of 45 campers and 44 staff; the Youth Camp of 60 campers and 30 staff; and the Middle School, High School and Adult Camps of 40 campers and 30 staff. The Golf Tournament Fee is \$125 per player and \$150 per hole sponsor, or \$12 for lunch only. Golfers are invited to sign up online at <http://seekgolftournament.com> or e-mail Jeff Jacobson, [jjacobsen@mckinneysd.net](mailto:jjacobsen@mckinneysd.net).

◆ **The Labyrinth Theatre**, at **Arapaho UMC, Richardson**, will present the musical "*How to Eat Like a Child*," in conjunction with its three week **Summer Youth Theatre Camp** for students entering grades 5-10, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 28-Aug. 17. Performance dates are Aug. 14 - 17, at 7:00 p.m. and Aug. 15 - 18, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5, \$7 at the door. Call 972-213-1012.

◆ **Linda Evans Shepherd**, radio and television host, author of more than 20 books, speaker for **Women of Faith Conferences** and founder of **Right to the Heart Ministry**, was the **2008 James C. and Barbara McCormick Distinguished Speaker** on May 4-5 at **Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas**.

◆ **The Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course** will be offered in a retreat-style experience June 22-27 at Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose, by the **Dallas/Ft. Worth Faith & Health Collaborative**. It utilizes the standardized core curricula developed through the **International Parish Nurse Resource Center**. For more information or application materials, please call **Debbie Seider**, 214-947-2476, or e-mail: [deborahseider@mhd.com](mailto:deborahseider@mhd.com).

◆ **Plymouth Park UMC, Irving**, honored the memories of four members at its annual **Golf Tournament**, May 3, at Bear Creek Golf Course. The 2008 tournament was dedicated to **Ben Brown, Erin Garrett, Chuck Hale and Ken Yancy**, whose lives modeled faithfulness to the church and community, as well as the love for the game of golf. Proceeds benefited the **Plymouth Park UMC** ministries.

◆ **First UMC, Burkburnett**, celebrated a century of worship during a **special centennial service** on April 13, with guest preacher **Bishop Alfred L. Norris**. Also included former pastors, **Revs. Merwin Turner and Ben Read**, and the welcoming of its new pastor, **Rev. Don Pellikan**. A celebration luncheon followed at the Burkburnett Community Center.

◆ Certification studies are offered at the **Perkins School of Theology** for persons called to the specific ministries of **Christian Education/Formation, Youth Ministry and Music Ministry**. Courses offered are: Certification in Youth Ministry - June 5-11; Certification in Christian Education - June 16-26; and Church Music Summer School - June 16-26. For more information, please call chair/registrar, **Rev. Susan Bryan**, 972-462-0471 or email [sbryan@fumcoppell.org](mailto:sbryan@fumcoppell.org).

◆ **First UMC, Richardson**, makes prayers tangible for those who are having surgery, suffering serious illness or grieving the lost of a loved one, by presenting them with a "**prayer blanket**," in a mission brought from **First UMC, Mabank**, by member **Jolynne Harvey**. The church has presented over 400 "**prayer blankets**" to those in need.

## Helping churches adapt to disabled

Revs. Kenny Dickson and Liz Moen have been designated co-chairpersons of the newly established NTC Disabilities Concern Committee.

The committee's work is divided into four areas:

- To create awareness in congregations and the annual conference of the growing numbers of persons with some type of disability,
- To equip churches to minister persons and families living with disabilities through special needs classes, respite ministries, and hearing and visual impaired assistance,
- To identify and remedy inaccessibility problems in church facilities, and to empower churches to broaden their evangelism focus to include those with disabilities.

For more information, please contact Rev. Moen at 972-526-5000, 800-969-8201, or e-mail: [moen@ntcumc.org](mailto:moen@ntcumc.org).

## 'Nothing But Nets' at Annual Conference

The new wrinkle is all about golf - albeit the miniature variety.

It is called "The Net Effect," which will involve pastors and members of NTC new church starts in an Annual Conference effort to raise funds for "Nothing But Nets."

Mike Sherwood, and his volunteer team at Trietsch Memorial UMC, Flower Mound, are building three or four miniature golf holes for the covered exterior walkway at the Plano Centre, for the 2008 NTC Annual Conference.

"The Net Effect" will sell pre-cut inches of mosquito netting which will allow the golfers to move their balls forward, or out of the way of an obstacle.

Each hole will have informational placards detailing the "Net Effect" of the new churches, i.e., baptisms, professions of faith, amount paid in apportionments and other statistics. Also learn why starting new churches is a good investment for the future of NTC.

For more information, please call John McLarty, 940-535-2267, or e-mail: [mail@tryfaith.org](mailto:mail@tryfaith.org).