

# CONNECTION

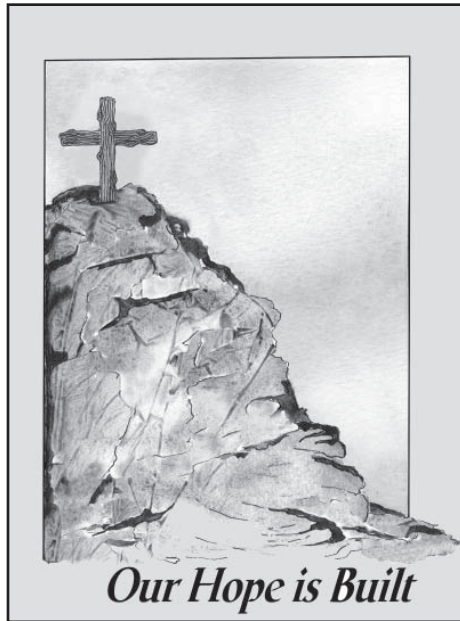
## 142nd NT Annual Conference begins

The 142nd North Texas Annual Conference will be June 8-11 (Sunday through Wednesday) with "Our Hope is Built" as the 2008 theme. Bishop Alfred L. Norris will preside over his final annual conference for the NTC. A special emphasis on Africa and the Bishop's Initiative for Africa University – including Monday night's Africa-theme worship service at Hamilton Park UMC, Dallas – will honor his service and that of his spouse, Dr. Mackie Norris.

Conference begins with 3:30 p.m. Sunday laity and clergy sessions. The laity will meet at Christ UMC, Plano, followed by the annual Laity Dinner, and the clergy at First UMC, Plano.

Opening worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. Sunday at First UMC, Richardson. Rev. Felicia P. Hopkins of the New Mexico Annual Conference, the Resident Preaching Pastor at St. Mark's UMC, El Paso, will add to the contemporary, "emergent" style of the experience.

The Monday morning Service of Commissioning will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Plano Centre and include commissioning of persons seeking ordination on the elder and deacon tracks. The service



will also include a moment of recognition for those who will retire from active ministry this June.

Delegation leaders Mary Brooke Casad, laity, and Rev. Kathleen Baskin-Ball, clergy, will present the 2008 General Conference report later on Monday morning.

The Monday morning session will

also include the Laity Address by Lay Leader Billy Ratcliff, and the afternoon session will feature the Young Person's Address by Brian Tan, Faith UMC, Richardson, and Chidi Anyadike, Trinity UMC, Duncanville.

Monday's agenda will focus on an important priority in a presentation by the Creating Congregations Team and New Church Development Officer Rev. Jim Ozier that will highlight issues of planting new churches in the NTC. Establishing new churches and revitalizing existing congregations is one of the denomination's four areas of focus moving forward into the next four years.

Monday evening's Africa-themed service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Alfred L. Norris will be the preacher for the service, which will include the official announcement of the NTC missional gift raised through the Bishop's Initiative for Africa University.

Wichita Falls District Superintendent Rev. John Rosenburg will be the preacher for Tuesday morning's 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service honoring the memory of NTC clergy and their

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## One new UM church every day for 50 years

By Rev. Jim Ozier  
NTC New Church Development Officer



**Dr. Ozier**

That's not a prediction of the future for United Methodism ... but it is a fact of historical record.

Lovett Weems, church historian, researcher and scholar reminds us

that from around 1870 to about 1920 the Methodists moved amazingly across the country planting churches practically everywhere they could. He says that we were so successful at this that we became the strongest Protestant denomination in the United States.

A joke in those days revolved around whether you were a Democrat, Republican or a Methodist!

But who's laughing now? In more recent years the fervor to plant new churches has died down to the point where we are planting only about one church every 17 days nation-wide.

The joke's on us if we think Methodism will ever return to its vital roots without putting massive emphasis on once again becoming a "reproducing church."

For too long we've lulled ourselves into mediocrity and decline with the mind-set of relying on "growing by addition." That is to say, we've been content with the practice of adding members to the rolls of our existing churches ... the bigger the better.

But to truly impact our world, and to recapture the energy of Wesley, we must not be content with growth by addition, we must realize the value of multiplying ... "growing by reproducing."

Just as in math, 'addition' creates slower increases than 'multiplication.' The hope of our future relies upon good, solid churches (of all sizes) reproducing themselves by birthing daughter churches or satellite extension campuses.

That's why I was so moved to see the new "Heritage Window" at Grace Avenue church in Frisco...and to see the pride and enthusiasm on Billy Echols-Richter's face as he traced Grace Avenue's parentage back to St. Andrew, and St. Andrew's parentage back to Highland Park.

Here's the punch line: Churches

*See "One new UM..." on next page*

# INFORMAtion:

# 142nd Annual Conference...

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◆ NTC chief financial officer, **Director of Administration/Treasurer, Rev. Marvin Guier**, commended the 2008 General Conference for “outstanding leadership” in adopting the 2009-2012 General Conference budget.

◆ The women of **First UMC, Farmersville**, celebrated their annual **LOVE** luncheon on April 19.

◆ **Creekwood UMC, Allen**, celebrated their move into their new 14,000 sq. ft. building.

◆ **Lambuth UMC, Dallas**, UM Women honored musician **Alyce G. Goff** during the March 30 worship service.

◆ NTC MMM campers celebrated their 20th anniversary at its **Spring Rally**, April 14-17.

◆ The second annual High-land Park UMC **“WillieBuild” Habitat for Humanity** was dedicated May 24.

◆ The ninth annual **“Art is Ageless”** April 12 at **C.C. Young’s “The Point”** included awards in both visual arts and writing.

◆ **Deidre Hildebrand**, of **Sun-creek UMC, Allen**, left April 1 to serve the **Karlovy Vary St. Lukas UMC, Czech Republic**.

◆ **Amigos Days** continued its 11-years of service as volunteers worked on 28 homes and two churches, in April.

◆ **Kaufman County UM Men** from four **UM churches** banded together to paint the **First UMC, Kemp** buildings.

◆ **Trietsch Memorial UMC, Flower Mound**, celebrated its 25th year in ministry on April 20, with **Revs. John Allen, Jim Ozier and Bill Jacobs**.

◆ **Forestburg UMC** has launched a capital campaign and is making plans for a new parsonage on land donated by church members.

◆ **South District Trustee Vic Whitley, First UMC, Grand Prairie**, was honored on May 18 for 12 years of service.

◆ Among those to be remembered in the June 10 Memorial Service are the following:

### **Clergypersons**

Rev. Hansel V. Caraway  
Rev. Charles William Cook  
Rev. William C. Crouch  
Rev. Myrtis Nanette Davis  
Rev. Martha Louise Gilmore  
Rev. Marshall Hodge  
Rev. John W. McGee  
Bishop Benjamin Oliphint  
Rev. Philip del Rosario  
Rev. John M. Shuler  
Rev. Charles H. Standifer  
Rev. William Stephenson  
Rev. William D. Swift  
Rev. Gene Welborn

### **Clergy spouses**

Patty Bell  
Joan McPherson  
Joyce Crelia Nelson  
Clotilda Elizabeth Shelley  
Arveline Standifer

spouses who have died since last annual conference.

Kansas Area Bishop Scott Jameson Jones will be the preacher for the 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Service of Ordination at Custer Road UMC, Plano. Before his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Jones served on the Faculty of Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

Two more areas of focus, addressing poverty and global health, will be prominent during the conference. The activities surrounding the Bishop’s Initiative on Africa University and announcements about how close the conference has come to meeting the challenge of a \$1 million dollar gift for a new student health center and health science scholarships will be a major conference highlight. Another is the continuing emphasis on the “Nothing But Nets” anti-malaria initiative.

## Ordination and Commissioning for 19

The Service of Ordination will be held June 10 at 7:00 p.m. in Custer Road UMC, Plano.

The Service of Commissioning will be held June 9, 8:30 a.m. in Plano Centre.

### **Ordained Elders**

Brian Graham Bosworth  
Leroy “Lee” Elder  
Beatriz Estela Pacheco  
Elizabeth Kay Turner Talbert  
Mary Christine Thomas  
Ann Carol Girlinghouse Willet

### **Ordained Deacon**

Lydia Laurel Pellikan

### **Commissioned on Elder Track**

Jay Cousino  
Annelda Joy Crawford  
Wendy Gale Curran  
Dyan Marie Dietz  
Christopher John Everson  
Aleze Michelle Fulbright  
Holly Hatch Gotelli  
David Morgan Lessner  
Stacy Lynn Piyakhun

### **Commissioned on Deacon Track**

Shawn Stephanie Bakker  
Stacy Lee Pell

### **Probationary membership on way to recognizing Orders**

Jerico J. Pagdilao

## One new UM church...

*Continued from front page*

reproducing churches that reproduce churches that reproduce churches.... And who knows... maybe someday soon we’ll be back to planting at least one new church every day for the next 50 years? It all starts with the culture change of every United Methodist seeing herself/himself as a church planter – doing whatever she/he can to help start new United Methodist Churches wherever a churches are needed.

It’s no laughing matter, but we can sure have fun with it. Be sure to play a round of golf at Annual Conference on “The Net Effect” course. You’ll help raise funds for “Nothing But Nets” and you’ll learn about the “Net Effect” of starting new churches!

## Conference Offerings

- Sunday, June 8 Opening Worship  
*Camp Scholarships*
- Monday, June 9 Celebration Worship  
*Africa University*
- Tuesday, June 10 Ordination Service  
*Bishop’s Katrina/Rita  
Appeal for Church Recovery*