



COMMUNICATIONS  
NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# My Church

November — December 2009

Volume 16, Number 6

## Downloadable *Home for Christmas/Watch Night* materials available

The 2009 *Home for Christmas/Watch Night* materials are now available on the [www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org) website. “Incarnation through Transformation” is the theme for this year, emphasizing the importance of moving from the high moments of celebration to a time of intentional discipling. The season of Epiphany, when the church marks the ways that God is encountered in Jesus Christ, provides opportunities to make sure that those who visited special services will have the opportunity to learn and grow in the Christian faith.

The venerable *Home for Christmas/Watch Night* Complete Guide is one of many resources that have been updated in both content and format. The manual is available in full color as a downloadable resource on the NTC website and [www.thecrouchgroup.com](http://www.thecrouchgroup.com), website for The Crouch Group, the NTC advertising agency.

NTC churches preparing to invite and welcome guests for *Christmas Eve, Watch Night* and other special worship services and events are eligible to receive complimentary postcards in a variety of designs. This year, churches may also select either printed or electronic postcards (e-cards). In the case of the printed cards, churches receive cards equal to one and one half times their average worship attendance, and in the case of e-cards, three times the average worship attendance.

Churches selecting electronic cards will receive consultation on the design and distribution plan from The Crouch Group. The e-cards are eight cents for each address, and churches which choose this option are urged to plan for a minimum of 4,000.

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**Home for Christmas**

**A Complete Guide for Outreach and Discipling**

Incarnation to Transformation

**The people of  
The United Methodist Church**

**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ**

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*My Church* is a bi-monthly resource for local church ministry in the North Texas Conference, published by the Conference Leadership Team  
P.O. Box 866128, Plano, TX 75086 • 972-526-5000 • 800-969-8201

# Downloadable *Home for Christmas/Watch Night...*

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“The additional expense to the church is quite reasonable. As an example, a church with an average worship attendance of 500 would receive 1,500 e-cards at no cost, and at eight cents each, would only have to pay \$200 for the additional 2,500. When you factor in the cost of processing and mailing the printed cards, the e-cards may well be the better buy,” said NTC Communications Director Dr. Joan G. LaBarr.

To learn more about e-cards, check out the Frequently Asked Questions posting on the NTC website *Home for Christmas/Watch Night* page.

For more than a decade the NTC has provided marketing support for local church Christmas season programming in all areas of the conference. The 2009 plan includes newspaper advertising outside of the Metroplex and in the suburban areas and internet newspaper advertising, radio and cable television advertising in the urban areas. District Offices collected service times and places and submitted them to the NTC Communications Office following the Oct. 15 deadline. Churches that have not submitted their information may still do so by contacting Jo Ann Hayes at NTC Communications as soon as possible; call 972-525-5000 or e-mail: [hayes@ntcumc.org](mailto:hayes@ntcumc.org).

This information is the basis for internet and newspaper advertising and the *Home for Christmas/Watch Night* page on the conference website, [www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org).

Deadline for ordering customized (at the church’s expense) printed cards and any cards to be delivered free of charge to District Offices is Nov. 16. Deadline for ordering cards with no customization to be sent to a church address (shipping and handling at church expense) is Dec. 4. Churches opting for the e-card distribution must contact The Crouch Group by Nov. 20. To view the designs, log on to [www.thecrouching.com](http://www.thecrouching.com). To order or for a consultation, contact Ron Ray at 888-211-0273 (toll free) or e-mail: [ron@thecrouching.com](mailto:ron@thecrouching.com).

The *Pegasus* internet newspaper campaign will reach 480,000 households, and the radio and cable advertising will reach an estimated 882,800. NTC Communications will produce the cable spots. In addition to placing the conference spots on **Viacom Media** and **Sudden Link**, NTC Communications will make them available to churches that wish to customize the spots for placement

on cable or broadcast television in their markets.

Radio stations that will be airing ads in the two weeks prior to Christmas and New Year include: **KTCK** (The Ticket, appealing to a male, sports loving audience), **KVIL** (appealing to adults 25-54, includes website tile ads and streamed ads), **WRR** (classical), **Radio Disney** (parents and children), and **K-Soul** and **The Beat** (Radio One, appealing to urban and African American listeners).

Newspaper ads will be placed in: *The Denton Record Chronicle; Wichita Falls Times Record News; Sherman Democrat; Sulphur Springs News Telegram; Paris News; Wise County Messenger* and *All Around Wise; The Terrell Tribune; The Cooke County Weekly; The Greenville Herald* and *Commerce Journal*; The Mabank Group: *Mabank Monitor, Kernes Tribune, Malakof News* and *Lake Area Leader; The Bowie News; The Winnsboro News; The Jacksboro News*; and The Star Group: *Plano Courier, Plano Insider, Allen American, Carrollton Leader, Celina Record, Colony Courier, Coppell Gazette, Frisco Enterprise, Lewisville Leader, Flower Mound Leader, Little Elm Journal, McKinney Courier, McKinney Penny Saver, Mesquite News, Rowlett Times* and *Southlake Times*.

Based on circulation figures and other data, the total campaign is expected to reach a minimum of 2,229,903 individuals.

The alternative “**Wondering about Christmas?**” campaign directed to persons who may be lonely, questioning, alienated or upset during the holiday season will be featured in *Dallas Observer* and *Pegasus Internet News* advertising.

The NTC owns the domain name [www.wonderingaboutchristmas.com](http://www.wonderingaboutchristmas.com) and has set up a blog linked to the [www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org) conference website to allow questions to and dialogue with the two writers focusing on the “Wondering about Christmas?” theme. Thanks to Dr. Terry Parsons, a UM clergyperson and psychotherapist, and Rev. Sheron Patterson, pastor of Highland Hills UMC, Dallas. “Drs. Parsons and Patterson have been writing pieces that are simultaneously sensitive and provocative to reach out to this very special audience in a way that they can understand and appreciate,” Dr. LaBarr notes.

# 2010 Bridgeport Summer Camp Schedule

<i>DATE</i>	<i>CAMP</i>	<i>CAMP DIRECTORS</i>
June 8-12 .....	Children's SEEK Camp.....	Cheatham, Cheatham, Parks
June 8-12 .....	Children's Music Camp .....	Ewing, Tisdell
June 8-12 .....	Youth Leadership Camp .....	Hoffmeister, Stoker
June 14-19.....	Senior High Camp I .....	Black, Corazao, Jones
June 15- 19 .....	Youth SEEK Camp .....	Nance, Sharber
June 21-26.....	Junior High Camp I.....	Cullen, Dietz, Rickwartz
June 28-July 3....	Junior High Camp II.....	Harrison, Maletic, Taylor
July 5-10 .....	Senior High Camp II .....	Jones, Moorman, Van Duyne
July 12-17 .....	Junior High IMPACT Camp .....	Farrar, Garrett, Noschese
July 12-17 .....	Senior High IMPACT Camp .....	Garrett, Massingill
July 17-21 .....	Children's Camp I.....	Bishop, George, Livingston
July 22-26 .....	Children's Camp II .....	Andrajack, Dye
July 27-31 .....	Children's Camp III .....	Fecht, Livingston, Stiner
August 2-6.....	PT Urban Camp.....	Godawski, Young
August 9-13 .....	Children's Camp IV .....	Ferguson, Madrid, Sennott

Online Registration: <http://bridgeportcamp.com/campschedule/register>



Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center  
P.O. Box 215, Bridgeport, TX 76426  
Trueman Hoffmeister, Executive Director  
940-683-2555



Andy Stoker, left, shares a special moment with Children's Camper George Elliott, who wears his special "App" T-shirt, as part of the iPray curriculum used at all Children's Camps.

# Windows

November - December 2009

Windows of Opportunity announce North Texas Conference-related leadership events designed to equip church leaders to share in God's continuing process of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

## "CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER"

with noted author and speaker

**Sharon Jaynes**

Trietsch Memorial UMC, Flower Mound

December 12 • 1 pm - 3 pm

Tickets \$10 advance, \$15 at door

Presented by Trietsch Women's Fellowship

For more information, please contact:

Lisa Worley • e-mail: [lbworley@verizon.net](mailto:lbworley@verizon.net)

[www.tmumc.org](http://www.tmumc.org) • 972-539-8547

## Exploration

A three-day event to help high school seniors and young adults to age 24 respond to God's call to ordained ministry

November 13-15 • Sheraton Dallas Hotel

Cost \$150 • Scholarships available

Register online at [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration)

## 'Theology, The Basics'

A study facilitated by Rev. Fred L. Durham, Jr.

Assistant to the Bishop, and Director of Connectional Ministries, NTC

Nov. 14 and 21 • NTC Ministry Center, Plano

A program sponsored by the NTC Lay Speaking Ministries



## Christmas Concert

December 13 at 3 pm

Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas

"Toe-tapping" holiday fun

For more information, please call Jimmy Emery,  
214-706-9591 • [jemery@llumc.org](mailto:jemery@llumc.org)

Giving Hope to  
Orphans in Africa

ZOE Ministry

God's Love  
is Good!

Advent 2009  
Devotional  
for All Ages



**LIFE STAGE MINISTRIES**

North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church

Join the Life Stage Ministries Mailing List

Call Rev. Andy Stoker 972-526-5000 • [stoker@ntcumc.org](mailto:stoker@ntcumc.org)

Register online - [www.ntcumc.org](http://www.ntcumc.org)

Life Stage Ministries

## In Celebration! "Hanging of the Greens"

St. Luke "Community" UMC, Dallas

December 6 • 5 pm

For more information, call 214-821-2970 • [www.slcumc.org](http://www.slcumc.org)

The 5 day Academy for...

## Spiritual Formation

"Markings"

March 7-12, 2010

The Prothro Center at Lake Texoma

For more information, please call Rev. Woodrow Weilage

[pastor.woody@verizon.net](mailto:pastor.woody@verizon.net) • 972-492-9393

## Conference Resource Center

### "A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus"

Dr. Kenneth Bailey answers many questions regarding the Christmas Story

**CHECK  
IT  
OUT!**

To borrow this video, please visit  
[ntcumc.org/resourcecenter](http://ntcumc.org/resourcecenter)

For information on informal gatherings and sharing of ideas, information and resources, please contact: Rev. Marji Bishir, [bishir@ntcumc.org](mailto:bishir@ntcumc.org); Rev. Liz Moen, [moen@ntcumc.org](mailto:moen@ntcumc.org); Rev. Andy Stoker, [stoker@ntcumc.org](mailto:stoker@ntcumc.org); or Sally Vonner, [vonner@ntcumc.org](mailto:vonner@ntcumc.org), at 972-526-5000 or 800-969-8201.