



**Texas Annual Conference**

May 30-June 2, 2010

[www.txcumc.org](http://www.txcumc.org)

**Host Church**

The Woodlands UMC  
2200 Lake Woodlands Dr.  
The Woodlands, TX 77380  
281-297-5900

**Host Hotel**

The Woodlands Waterway  
Marriott Hotel  
1601 Lake Robbins  
The Woodlands, TX 77380  
281-367-9797



**West District Office**

526 University  
Drive East, Bldg. C  
College Station, TX 77840  
979-696-8962 (Office)  
979-764-1428 (Fax)  
[www.west-district.org](http://www.west-district.org)

**Rev. Joe W. Fort, Jr.**  
District Superintendent  
[jfort@txcumc.org](mailto:jfort@txcumc.org)

**Debbie Keim**  
Administrative Assistant  
[dkeim@txcumc.org](mailto:dkeim@txcumc.org)

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# West District

United Methodist Church of the Texas Annual Conference

January/February 2010

## Seek God

*“Seek God, not happiness” – this is the fundamental rule of all meditation. If you seek God alone, you will gain happiness: that is its promise. (from **Life Together**, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

Bonhoeffer's words have so many applications for our spiritual lives and for ministry. How many of us try to find happiness without God? It is something we do all the time. We imagine all sorts of pursuits in life will make us happy and many of them have little or nothing to do with the Lord.

The same could be said for the ideas of meaning and fulfillment. It may sound nobler to be seeking fulfillment in life, as opposed to mere happiness, but if this is an objective sought without God then it is fruitless.

How often in life and in the Church do we replace the word “happiness” in this quote with that of “success”? We try to make a name for ourselves or amount to something or and yet do it with God marginalized. We want our churches to appear successful. We think this is the key to attracting persons. And yet many of our programs could be done in a non-Christian organization just as easily as they are done by our congregations. We are seeking success, not God.

The message above is that to seek and to know God is the only means in life to receiving these other gifts. Happiness, fulfillment, peace, and all other good things come as blessings springing out of an abiding relationship with the Lord. Only God can give them to us. We cannot obtain them for ourselves using other devices. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you, as well.” (Matthew 6: 33)

Yours in Christ,

*Joe W. Fort, Jr.*

## DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING JANUARY 7

Our pastors are urged to attend a gathering for district clergy on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, at the First United Methodist Church in Somerville. The time of the meeting will be 2:00 p.m. Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Joe Fort, has several important items to discuss with our pastors at this time. We will also welcome Dr. Von Dawson, Superintendent of Lakeview Conference Center, to the meeting. Pastors, please make every effort to attend.

# **EZEKIEL'S BONES:**

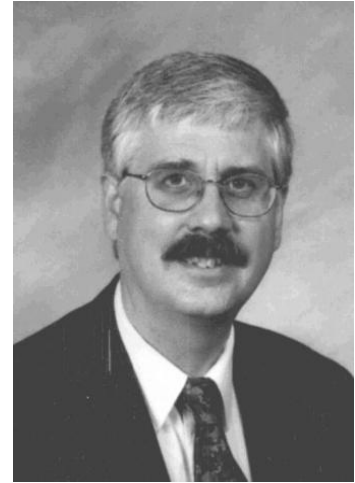
## ***Rekindling Your Congregation's Spiritual Passion***

A Workshop  
with the Reverend Bill Kemp

**Tuesday, February 16**

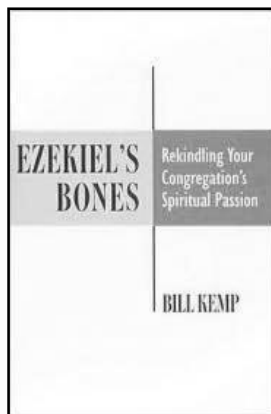
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Christ United Methodist Church  
College Station**



Rev. Bill Kemp

Clergy and laypersons are invited to hear Bill Kemp, author of *Ezekiel's Bones*, teach important concepts from his book. The themes of ***prayer, scripture, witness, and worship*** will be lifted up as keys to recovering a congregation's "spiritual passion." Rev. Kemp will offer specific insights for large and small membership churches, in dedicated teaching blocks.



Cost: \$15 per participant--includes a box lunch

For reservations, contact Tammy in the District Office:

[tgilts@txcumc.org](mailto:tgilts@txcumc.org) or 979-696-8962

**Registration deadline is February 11**

Child care will not be available

***Sponsored by the West District of the Texas Annual Conference***



## Report Day Information

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

*Please have your report ready before the 13<sup>th</sup> as this will help the day go smoothly!!*

**IF INTERNET OR A COMPUTER IS NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO COME IN AND DO YOUR REPORT, OR ARRANGE A TIME/DAY TO MEET WITH ONE OF THE SATELLITE LOCATION AUDITORS LISTED BELOW:**

### Report Day Hub Locations:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Marlin Hub, Cameron Hub & Rockdale Hub | Cameron FUMC ó Gene Bixler                      |
| b. Brenham Hub & Navasota Hub             | Brenham FUMC ó Tim Bruegger                     |
| c. Centerville Hub & Huntsville Hub       | Huntsville FUMC ó Danny Barrett                 |
| d. BCS Hub & Normangee Hub                | District Office ó Cathy Richardson & Mac Vaughn |

*If you are not turning in your report at your hub location, please let the District Office know.*

When inputting information, **be sure to save often**. Once the report data entry person has completed the blue boxes they cannot make changes, only the pastor will be able to at this point.

***Please advise the data entry person to leave one blue blank incomplete until they are sure all entries are correct.***

Deadline for sending monies (apportionments) to the Conference Office was Friday, December 11.

**After this deadline they must be brought to report day.**

Pastor should sign at line 156 (grand total page) and fax or provide the signature page only before or on report day to the District Office.

Vital Signs in DOVE must be complete. Vital signs are pushed to line 2, 13, and 214 on the Year-end report and can only be edited through Vital Signs entry.

The Missional Excellence Report should be emailed to Cynthia Harvey. It may be completed manually, if necessary. It is considered a year-end report and should be completed and transmitted by or on report day.

### **If you have done the following you do not have to attend report day!**

- Certified your Year-end report
- Completed the Transformation Survey
- E-mailed your Missional Excellence report to the TAC
- Turned in all monies
- Provided the signature page to the District Office

# L.E.A.D. Institute 2010

Extravagant Generosity  
Open Hands! - Open Hearts!

January 31, 2010  
Christ United Methodist  
College Station  
3:00 p.m.



Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Jim Jackson  
Senior Pastor  
Chapelwood UMC, Houston

## Workshops:

Fundraising for Pastors led by Dr. Jim Jackson  
Worship led by Rev. Nancy Creason  
Evangelism led by Rev. Thomas Q. Robbins  
Missions led by Rev. John Warren  
Children's Ministry led by Rev. Carol Khoury  
Young Adult Ministry led by Rev. Max Mertz  
Multi-Media Ministry led by Rev. Regina Greenwood  
Stewardship led by Rev. Melvin Amerson

## Nuts and Bolts:

Staff Parish Relations led by Rev. Joe Fort  
Finance led by Rev. Dick Young  
Trustees led by Rev. Jim Crawford

Workshop leaders will be mindful of  
all church sizes--small, medium and large!

Hosted by the West District Congregational Excellence Team

Contact: Ellen Willett 936-295-5441 or ewillett@huntsvillefumc.org

**Thanks to the West District Churches that have paid 100% of their  
District Apportionments as of December 14, 2009:**

Anderson Circuit: McKenzie Yarborough	College Station Christ  Cooks Point	Marlin Circuit: Chilton St. Paul Satin UMC
Bedias	Elwood	Marlin First
Bellville	Flynn	Marquez
Blue	Franklin	Maysfield
Bremond Grace	Gause	Milano Circuit: Chriesman Milano
Calvert Sneed Memorial	Giddings First	
Brenham Circuit: Mount Zion Pleasant Grove	Giddings Paige	Millican
Brenham First	Hearne Grace	Navasota Anderson First
Bryan Alexander	Hempstead Bethlehem	Navasota Circuit: Lee Tabernacle Pleasant Grove Stonehamville
Bryan First	Hempstead First	
Bryan Lee Chapel	Huntsville Farris Chapel	Normangee First
Bryan Wesley	Huntsville First	Reagan
Caldwell First	Huntsville St. Luke	Richards Circuit: Bays Chapel Richards
Calvert Circuit: Chapel Hill St. James St. Paul	Huntsville St. Paul	
Cameron	Huntsville Wesley Memorial	Rockdale St. John's
Cedar Springs	Iola Zion	Shiro
Centerville Circuit: Springseat St. Matthew	Jewett	Somerville First
Centerville First	Kosse	Stoneham
Chappell Hill	Leona Circuit: Hillary Tanyard Two Mile	Thorndale Pleasant Retreat
College Station A&M	Lexington	Wheelock
College Station Aldersgate	Lott	
	Lynn Grove	
	Madisonville First	



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## Retired Ministers' Monthly Social Hosts

**January 18**

Guy & Betty Pry

11:30 a.m. at Mr. Gattiø

2026 Texas Ave. S, College Station



### Passionate Worship Workshop

Experience passionate worship through three diverse worship services and learn from others through 15 workshops. Friday and Saturday January 29-30, Clear Lake UMC, 16335 El Camino Real Drive, Houston.

Contact: 281-488-5110 ext. 140 or

<http://www.txcumc.org/pws2010>



### LAY SPEAKING SCHOOL

**February 6 from 8:30 to 4:00**

**&**

**February 13 from 8:30 to 4:00**

**Christ UMC College Station**

**Cost \$35**

**(includes books and lunch)**

**Contact person: Mary Reed**

**maryreed@att.net or 936-348-2050**

### Prayer Requests

- Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe and familyô his father, Rev. Wilbert Bledsoe, passed away Nov. 29
- Bishop Ben Chamness and familyô his mother, Alice Chamness, passed away Nov. 20
- For Rev. Kip Giltsømom, Kathy, who has esophagus cancer
- Joyô Rev. Jeff Gage adopted Destiny Noel on Dec. 8 (born Dec. 6)
- Joyô Rev. Nancy Creason will be adopting a baby boy in early January



### Help Wanted:

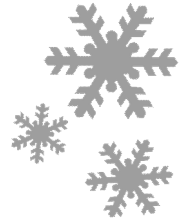
**FUMC Hempstead** Part-time choir directorô contact: Rev. Nancy Creason at 979-826-6321 or preacherlady5239@att.net

**Navasota/Anderson** Youth/childrenø innovator-directorô contact: Rev. Mac Vaughn at 936-825-3342 or pastormacvaughn@yahoo.com

**Aldersgate** Director of children and family ministriesô contact: Rev. Bruce Wood at 979-696-1376 or bruce@aldersgatecs.com



# West District 2010 Calendar



## JANUARY

- Jan. 7 2:00 p.m. West District Clergy Meeting at Somerville First  
Jan. 11 10:00 a.m. Conflict Resolution--Dr. W. Craig Gilliam at Houston First-Westchase  
Jan. 12 10:00 a.m. Conflict Resolution with Dr. W. Craig Gilliam at Tyler--Marvin  
Jan. 13 Annual Report Day  
Jan. 18 11:30 a.m. Retired MinistersøLunch at Mr. Gattiø--2026 Texas Ave. S, College Station  
Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day  
Jan. 19-22 Cabinet  
Jan. 23-24 øHow to Get More Membersø Seminar in Clear Lake  
Jan. 27 2:00 p.m. Clergy Excellence Meeting  
Jan. 29-30 Passionate Worship Seminar at FUMC Clear Lake  
Jan. 29-31 Mid Winter Youth Retreat #1 at Lakeview  
Jan. 30-31 øHow to Get More Membersø Seminar in Tyler  
Jan. 31 3:00 p.m. LEAD Institute at Christ Church in College Station

## FEBRUARY

- Feb. 3-4 Cabinet Inventory  
Feb. 5-7 Mid Winter Youth Retreat #2 at Lakeview  
Feb. 8 6:00 p.m. Buildings & Locations  
6:45 p.m. Trustees & Finance  
7:30 p.m. Support & Resource  
Feb. 6 & 13 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lay Speaking School at Christ UMC College Station  
Feb. 10 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. DCOM Comprehensive Training in Lufkin  
Feb. 14 Valentineø Day  
Feb. 15 2:00 p.m. District Leadership Team  
Feb. 16 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bill Kemp Workshop at Christ UMC College Station  
Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday  
Feb. 23-25 Cabinet

## MARCH

- March 2-4 Conference EldersøRetreat at Lakeview  
March 10-12 Cabinet  
March 22-24 Cabinet  
March 29 Start of Holy Week

**Meetings are at the District Office, unless noted otherwise. Calendar also at: [www.west-district.org](http://www.west-district.org).**



**West/East District Camp—Save the Date!**

**June 21-25, 2010**

**Lakeview Methodist Conference Center**

The West District Office  
Of the United Methodist Church  
526 University Drive East  
Building C  
College Station, TX 77840

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Bryan, Texas  
Permit No. 55

**Return Service Requested**

## **Pulpit Supply**

Going on vacation, not feeling well, or attending one of the upcoming “*How to Get More Members*” overnight seminars? Not to worry! For a list of retired pastors, certified lay ministers and certified lay speakers willing to do pulpit supply, please contact the District Office at 979-696-8962 or [tgilts@txcumc.org](mailto:tgilts@txcumc.org). We are glad to be of help!



## **THANK YOU NOTE**

Debbie and Tammy extend a great big “*Thank You!*” to the pastors of the West District. Your Christmas gift was generous and much appreciated. Along with the gift, Bruce Wood’s words of affirmation meant a lot. It has been a privilege to work for you all from the first day we started! February 15, 2009.

We enjoyed visiting with so many of you at the Christmas Brunch. It’s always fun to see old friends and to put names with faces on our new friends. Also, a big thank you to Rev. and Mrs. Fort, Rev. and Mrs. Stutes, Rev. Haralson and the members of Bellville UMC.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

