

Delegate embraces appointment to 'hot button' conference committee

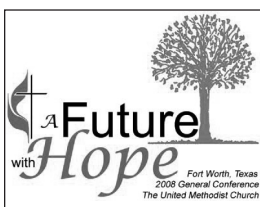
Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles about the upcoming General Conference in Fort Worth and Jurisdictional Conference in Dallas.

If the United Methodist Church's General Conference can be likened to a session of Congress, then UPUMC member Richard Hearne might be considered a statesman.

He was nominated and elected to represent United Methodists in decisions that will affect the way the global church manages a wide variety of issues, from guaranteed appointments for ministers to the church's stance on homosexuality.

The 2008 General Conference will be April 23-May 2 at the Fort Worth Convention Center, and that is where members of 13 committees

will debate the hundreds of petitions that have been submitted by members of the UMC from all over the world.



"So people from all across the world have looked at our (Book of) Discipline and said, 'I don't like this about our discipline, and I think we ought to change it,'" Hearne said.

The committee to which Hearne has been assigned – Church and Society II – will discuss about 200 of

those petitions.

"We're dealing with the hot button, hot potato issues – the social issues of homosexuality, gay marriage, abortion," he explained.

Of course, there are committees to handle
See "Conference," page 5A

How can we be the body of Christ?

by the Rev. Rebecca Frank, senior associate pastor

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Africa. We met people in big cities and in remote villages. We met wealthy and powerful leaders, and we met strong people who were very poor. We met people who felt hopeless, and we met people who refused to let go of hope.

We met bright and beautiful children studying in village schools, in outdoor classrooms, and we met the parents of other children, also bright and beautiful, who had no opportunity for education. The teachers are passionate and committed – but there are not nearly enough to meet the needs.

We toured some very nice hospitals, and some very basic village clinics. We met deeply committed nurses and doctors and support people – and learned that there are not nearly

enough to meet the needs.

We worshiped in simple churches and in lovely sanctuaries. I'll never forget hearing the Communion liturgy, in that almost-musical African-English accent, as the pastor prayed:

"Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood." *That we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood!*

How can we be the body of Christ for the world? In places that are hungry for education, hungry for medical expertise, hungry for decent food and thirsty for clean water, how can we be the body of Christ?

See, "Let's walk," page 4A



WHAT DID JESUS DO?



Children in the rotational Sunday school cooking workshop study the meaning of the last supper while making matzoh balls. All children in kindergarten through fifth grade are participating in a rotation about the last week of Jesus' life. They are learning about why Jesus used the type of food that he did in the last supper, why we celebrate the last supper in Communion, and what Christians in general and Methodists in particular believe happens in the sacrament of Communion.

Connecting Ministries: It's about welcoming people

by Jeff McCormick, Connecting Ministries

Have you ever read something that really got you thinking? I recently read a quote from Leslie Parrott, who said, "An ounce of kindness is worth a pound of preaching. This is one of the reasons church greeters have an important ministry. Christian kindness is a ministry for church greeters who care

deeply about people."

This got me really thinking about my work at the church. Most of you know that on Jan. 1 of this year, I took over Evangelism Ministries. Since then, I have greatly enjoyed getting used to the new role but more importantly have loved getting to know some great members of the church.

I spent some time with
See "Connecting," page 5A



Don't forget to
move your clocks
forward Saturday



Holy Week
schedule 5A

IN WORSHIP MARCH 9, 2008

Traditional, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Does God Cry? John 11:17-44
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
Questions of Loss and Grief: How Would
Jesus Cope? John 11:1-45
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

IN WORSHIP MARCH 16, 2008

Traditional, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
When Is Suffering Sacred? Romans 8:14-17
the Rev. Leighton Bearden

The Bridge, 11 a.m.
Questions of Identity: Who is This Man?
Luke 19:29-40, 23:1-12
the Rev. Rebecca Frank

Project Transformation celebrates 10 years; seeks 100 college interns for summer 2008

Ten years ago, Sarah Wilke and the late Dr. Leighton Farrell cofounded what has now become one of the most successful ministries in the North Texas Conference.

And this summer, 100 Christian young adults will have the opportunity to be part of this life-changing experience called Project Transformation.

Project Transformation connects the energy of college students with the needs of children and youth from low-income neighborhoods by hosting summer day camps in urban United Methodist churches. PT now hosts programming in 10 site churches and partners with more than 70 United Methodist congregations.

PT is currently hiring 100 Christian young adults who have completed at least their freshman year of college to work with underserved children and youth this summer while exploring various opportunities in ministry and service. The internship program is designed to offer young adults a vehicle in which to grow in their faith journey, experience cultural and socioeconomic diversity, and live in Christian community with their peers.

All UPUMC students who fit the criteria are encouraged



to apply. The summer internships pay \$2,900 and offer room, board and a \$1,250 education voucher.

Applications are due by March 15. Applications and more information are available at www.projecttransformation.org or by calling 214.945.3600.

Let's walk together with our African brothers and sisters

Continued from page 1

One way we can do that is by supporting Africa University with both our prayers and our resources.

Africa University is the only United Methodist institution of higher education on the African Continent. We can invest in the lives of millions by supporting Africa University in the work of equipping people for leadership in education and medicine. AU is currently expanding its medical facilities and its training of medical personnel. Our offerings provide scholarship support as well as bricks and mortar.

When I was in Africa, I remember that in that rich accent the words "work" and "walk" sounded nearly identical. Working together means walking together on the journey

toward wholeness for all of God's creation.

An old African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk together." I'm "walking with" my African sisters and brothers by giving generously to Africa University this Lenten season. Want to walk together?

Note: UPUMC is joining with other North Texas United Methodist churches in a goal to raise \$1 million for Africa University during Lent. You can donate by placing a check in the offering plate, turning it in at the Information Center desk or mailing it to the church at 4024 Caruth Blvd., Dallas, TX 75225. Be sure to mark "Africa U" on the note line. You may also donate online at www.upumc.org/pages/Online_Giving_One_Time.

UPUMC ends fiscal year 2007 poised for the future

Thanks to faithful giving from the congregation and careful stewardship of our resources, UPUMC ended fiscal year 2007 in an excellent position to pursue the many programs planned for 2008.

The church's expenses for 2007 were about \$23,000 below what was planned for the year, and income surpassed what was expected by almost \$280,000. That left a \$303,000 surplus that enabled the church to meet some unplanned needs, including funding the 2007 Habitat for Humanity build, abating the asbestos found during the Youth Center renovation and servicing the debt for the Colgate property for both 2007 and 2008.

"The (surplus) allowed us to do a much more meaningful job toward funding our mission and outreach ministries than we've been able to do in the past," said Barry Edwards, chairman of the Finance Committee. "It's great for UPUMC to be able to commit much needed financial resources to mission causes that we believe in, wherever they may be."

UPUMC began 2008 with a balanced checkbook and a bright future. Response to the 2008 Stewardship Campaign was just as strong as in 2007. More than 350 people submitted pledges totaling \$2,027,560, including 67 new pledges and \$1,013 in pledges from children.

"We know that there are several people who haven't had a chance to send in their pledge for 2008, and we just want them to know it's not too late," said George O'Reilly, director of administration and development. "Anyone can put a pledge card in the offering plate or turn it in to the Information Center desk, or they can submit a pledge online." (Visit the Web site at www.upumc.org/pages/Pledge_Card_Form_2008.)

At the annual Charge Conference in December, church members passed a 2008 church budget of \$2.4 million, a 12 percent increase over 2007. With faithful giving and expected interest earnings, the church is well positioned to fund that budget and act on plans for 2008, including:

- \$23,000 to foster the Christian education of UPUMC's children and families
- \$38,000 to build tomorrow's leaders through our Youth Ministries
- \$24,000 to support Adult Christian Formation through Sunday school, the Cooper School of Discipleship and Wesley Covenant Groups
- \$105,000 to reach out to others in Jesus' name via the Mission-Outreach Ministries
- \$91,000 to offer traditional worship and support UPUMC's choir program
- \$42,000 to continue building The Bridge contemporary worship
- \$26,000 to make visitors and new members feel at home and connect with the church
- \$56,000 to communicate the worship, service and fellowship opportunities at UPUMC both inside and outside church walls

Watch for future articles detailing how UPUMC is striving toward our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ through worship of God, covenant relationships and service to others. In the meantime, contact O'Reilly, Edwards or any member of the Finance Committee to get answers to your questions about the finances of UPUMC. For a list of committee members, visit www.upumc.org and click on Our Lay Leaders under the Discover tab.

New Cooper School classes begin soon

Several Cooper School of Discipleship classes will be beginning soon, and now is the time to register. See the course listings and register online at www.upumc.org/pages/Cooper_School_Current_Courses.

Among the new (or continued) offerings are:

- March 12 – Part Three of Gloria Thomas' parenting series. This one, entitled "Who's In Charge Here?" will focus on discipline. Class meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. Course fee is \$5.

- March 25 – Christian Yoga and Christian Chair Yoga. The next session of these popular classes begins the week of March 25. Christian Yoga is available Monday, Tuesday or Thursday mornings or Monday afternoons, and Christian Chair Yoga is Monday mornings. Course fee is \$57.

- March 26 – Wesley for Armchair Theologians led by Dean Wooldridge. Hourlong class is 7-8 p.m. every Wednesday through April 30. Course fee is \$18.50.

- March 31 – Talking to Children about God led by the Rev. Rachel Baughman. Class meets 6-7 p.m. Mondays through May 5. Course fee is \$5.

- April 1 – Living Your Strengths and Doing What You Love led by Jeff McCormick and Julie Harding-Wiley. This incredibly popular class was held earlier this spring and is coming back for another round. Will meet 7-8:15 p.m. Tuesdays through May 6. Course fee is \$21.

- April 20-27 – Introduction to Methodism and UPUMC for New and Prospective Members led by the Rev. Leighton Bearden. Meets 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parlor. There is no fee.

UPUMC's Cooper School of Discipleship provides opportunities for Christian adults to grow in faith and discipleship so that they are inspired and equipped to fulfill the great commandment to love God and love others. The school is a living testament to Dr. Allen Lamar Cooper, who was a professor of Christian Social Ethics and Methodist Studies at Perkins School of Theology and UPUMC's scholar in residence for over 20 years.

Conference delegate hopes to be fair representative of people

Continued from page 1

the many other more mundane but equally important issues, as well, including Conferences, Discipleship, Faith and Order, Financial Administration, General Administration, Global Ministries, Independent Commissions, Judicial Administration, Local Church, Ministry and Higher Education, and Superintendency.

Hearne isn't new to the Church and Society Committee. That's the committee he served on as a General Conference delegate in 2004. This year, however, the committee has been divided into two — Church and Society I and Church and Society II — because the volume of work was more than the committee could handle in 2004.

And despite the committee's high-profile subject matter and all the controversy that comes with it, Hearne embraces his appointment. He even hoped for it.

"This is where I feel called to serve," he said. "I want to bring some fairness, some civility, some transparency to this. What I think we do way too much is stand and point fingers and yell at each other."

Even though, Hearne admits, many people seek to serve on the Church and Society committees because they have an agenda, he says his only agenda is to make the best possible decisions for the church as a whole and be a good representative of the members of the church.

To that end, Hearne will give everyone in the UPUMC congregation a chance to share their opinions and

WHAT: Q & A with
Richard Hearne

WHEN: 9:45 a.m. April 6
& 13

WHERE: Fellowship Hall

concerns with him in early April. The Collage Sunday school class is hosting him as their speaker, and they've invited everyone to join in. The meetings will be at 9:45 a.m. April 6 and 13 in Fellowship Hall.

In the meantime, Hearne is studying the 116 pages of petitions he's received so far to prepare himself for the first five days of the General Conference, when he and the other 56 people in the Church and Society II Committee will begin the process of sorting, narrowing and voting on petitions.

"We'll meet in subcommittees and separate all these petitions and take all the ones that are basically the same and put them together," Hearne said. When the committee work is done, the committee will issue majority reports — and possibly minority reports — that will be debated and voted on again by all 1,000 conference delegates.

"Every delegate has a vote on the floor, but I'll be one of 100 people in Church and Society, so my voice has much more power there," Hearne said. "The thing for the committee is to try to come up with a report — a motion — that will be accepted by all the delegates."

Connecting ministries; connecting people

Continued from Page 1

Cheryl Sargent and Diane Brooks, two dedicated lay leaders, discussing the ministry of evangelism. After giving it some time, thought and prayer, we have decided to change the name of our ministry area to Connecting Ministries.



McCormick

Connecting people is the most important thing we do in what we have previously called evangelism. We now understand our job as people who strive to connect people on three levels.

First, we strive to connect people with the love of God by greeting people on Sunday mornings and welcoming them with open arms.

Second, we strive to connect people to the body of Christ by inviting them to join this congregation of faith in membership.

And, third, we strive to connect

people to grow deeper in their faith by getting them more engaged in the worship, service and covenant relationships of UPUMC.

I don't know about you, but I think this is exciting work! I believe that how we welcome people into the life of this church says a lot about how we view God. And I believe that God's love is for all!

We have the privilege at UPUMC to show God's love to everyone who walks through our doors — visitors, members and guests alike. I can say that I am also privileged. I am privileged to work in job that allows me to connect people to the love, grace and peace of God.

I hope the ministry of greeting, welcoming, inviting, sharing and connecting excites you, as well. In fact, if you want to get involved in connecting people in any way, we would love to have some new faces involved in Connecting Ministries. Call me at 214.368.1435, ext. 106, or e-mail jmccormick@upumc.org.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

March 16, Palm/Passion Sunday

8:30 and 11 a.m., Traditional Worship Services, Sanctuary

The Rev. Leighton Bearden, preaching

"When Is Suffering Sacred?" Romans 8:14-17

Services commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the powerful story of the events of Holy Week ending in the crucifixion of Christ. Celebrated with dramatic music, readings and sermon. Music by the Chancel Choir.

9:45 a.m., Palm Sunday Parade, Front Lawn

Children in preschool through fifth grade are invited to become the people of Jerusalem in a reenactment of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches will be provided for all.

11 a.m., The Bridge Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall

The Rev. Rebecca Frank, preaching

"Questions of Identity: Who Is This Man?" Luke 19:29-40 and 23:1-12

March 20, Maundy Thursday

7 p.m., Holy Communion Service, Sanctuary

The Rev. Leighton Bearden, preaching

"The Ups and Downs of the Upper Room," John 13: 2b-5; 12-15; 34-35

A beautiful service of Holy Communion celebrating the Last Supper of Christ. The service concludes with the dramatic ancient practice of stripping of the Altar as we prepare for the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. Music by the Chancel Choir.

March 21, Good Friday

Noon-6 p.m., Stations of the Cross, Fellowship Hall and Caldwell Room

This self-directed meditation activity is appropriate for all age levels with meditation materials for children, youth and adults. Stations of the Cross provides an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of this season as you walk the journey that Jesus walked on his way to Calvary. Participants may stay as long as they wish at each station or in the prayer chapel at the conclusion of the journey.

March 23, Easter Sunday

7 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service, Tent on Colgate Lawn

The Rev. Rebecca Frank, preaching

"Questions of Purpose: What Does This Mean for My Life?" John 20:1-18

Celebrate the risen Christ as the sun dawns on a new day. Acoustical music by The Bridge Band.

8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m., Traditional Easter Worship, Sanctuary

The Rev. Leighton Bearden, preaching

"CSI Jerusalem: Evidence of the Resurrection," John 20:19-23 and 30-31

Music will be by the Aldersgate Chorale at 8:30 and the Chancel Choir at 9:45 and 11. All services will include festival brass.

9:45 a.m., Children's Easter Celebration, Tent on Colgate Lawn

Children and their parents are invited to join us for a butterfly release followed by an eggstravaganza. We will have eggs for all the children. Bring your basket and hunting spirit to church this morning! We encourage parent participation for this event as there be will some great photo opportunities.

9:45 a.m., Youth Easter Brunch, Youth Center

All sixth- through 12th-graders are invited to join us for this time of food, fun and fellowship. Contact Kathy Champion at kchampion@upumc.org to sign up to bring a dish.

11 a.m., The Bridge Contemporary Worship Service, Fellowship Hall

The Rev. Rebecca Frank, preaching

"Questions of Purpose: What Does This Mean for My Life?" John 20:1-18

Help The Bridge celebrate first year

On Feb. 22, The Bridge contemporary worship service officially turned one year old. Help celebrate this Sunday (March 9) with a Bridge Birthday Party. Join The Bridge congregation for cake and festivities immediately following the 11 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall.

Early worship moving to 8:45 a.m.

Beginning April 6, the early traditional worship service will move from 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. This will leave less time between the early service and Sunday school, enabling more people to attend Sunday school. To find a class that's right for you, contact the Rev. Dick Wilson at dwilson@upumc.org or 214.368.1435, ext. 146.

SAS presents Donna Bearden display

Mark your calendar for the next Spiritual Arts Series event, which will be a display of photography by Donna Bearden. Donna's art will be on display in Fellowship Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 6.

Youth summer interns wanted

The UPUMC Youth Ministries is seeking interns to work with the youth of the church in our many summer programs.

Do you love Jesus Christ and desire to serve His people? Are you a college student and member of UPUMC? Would you like to be involved in all of the fun things we have planned for this summer AND get paid for it?

If you said "YES" to these questions, then you should apply to be a UPUMC youth summer intern. Contact Garth Allen at 214.368.1435, ext. 127 or gallen@upumc.org to get the application forms.

Get Youth Auction/Luncheon tickets

Tickets for the Youth Auction and Luncheon on March 30 are now available in the Information Center or online at www.upumc.org/pages/youth_luncheon_tickets. The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, and the lunch will be a wonderful homemade meal by UPUMC member Kim Wooldridge.

This year's auction is already under way. Bids are now being accepted in the online portion of the auction. Visit www.upumc.org and click on "online auction site" under "Help support our youth." The in-person silent auction will begin at

9:45 a.m. on March 30, and the luncheon and live auction will be at noon.

Not the bidding type? You can still help the youth by making a financial donation. Put "2008-09 Youth" on the note line of your check or donate online at www.upumc.org/pages/Online_Giving_One_Time.

Kids: Come to Lenten Kids Nights

Throughout Lent, the children of UPUMC can participate in a Wednesday night Bible study just for them.

Preschoolers will meet for 30 minutes at 5 p.m. each Wednesday in the Youth Center. Dinner for all ages will follow at 5:30 p.m. and costs \$3 per person. Please RSVP to the Rev. Rachel Baughman at 214.368.1435, ext. 134 so we can ensure there's enough food for everyone.

The school-age Bible study will meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and parents and younger siblings are welcome to hang out in the Youth Center until class is over. If you have questions, contact Rachel Baughman at 214.368.1435, ext. 134 or rbaughman@upumc.org.

Need a gift? Consider a cross

Looking for a wonderful gift for a UPUMC member? How about a UPUMC James Avery cross? This is a perfect gift for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day or graduation.

UPUMC commissioned James Avery Craftsman to create the cross in 1989 to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary. The inscription on the back of the cross reads, "UPUMC 1939-1989." Seven of these original crosses are available for purchase for \$60, chain not included.

The cross was re-released just prior to the 60th anniversary with the inscription "UPUMC est. 1939." The cost for this cross is \$65, chain not included.

To purchase a cross, contact Candy Hearne at 214.841.0895.

Bring items for annual Hat Sale

The Methodist Dallas Medical Center Auxiliary is gathering items for its annual Hat Sale, which will be June 6. Bring gently used, in working order donations (jewelry, purses, belts, toys, household items, decorative items, furniture, etc.) to the Information Center or contact Karen Cude at 214.942.2833 to have your item picked up. Please, no clothing or cassette.

WELCOME REPORT**Baptisms**

We rejoice with Bill and Amy Martens on the baptism of their son, Blake Davis, on Feb. 10.



We rejoice with Michael and Anna Clark on the baptism of their son, Ryan Sterling, on Feb. 17. Also pictured is older daughter Jordan.

We also rejoice with Reed and Jennifer Wilcox on the baptism of their daughter, Hayes Margaret, on Feb. 24. (Photo unavailable)

Worship and visitor attendance

Feb. 3	576	49
Feb. 6	280	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 10	648	69
Feb. 17	473	33
Feb. 24	575	42

Totals: 2,552 193

Of the total number of visitors in February, 24 were first-time visitors.

UMW Circle meetings for March**Circle 1**

Monday, March 10, 10 a.m.
Leaders: Diane Williamson & Cynthia Mills
Location: Home of Toni Terry, 2717 Lovers Lane
Speaker: Jan Karns/Palestine

Circle 3

Monday, March 10, 10 a.m.
Leader: Kathryn Krueger & Marie Head
Location: Home of Sue Blankenship, 3644 Greenbrier
Speaker: Jill Fleming/Bad Girls of the Bible

Circle 4

Monday, March 10, 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Rebecca Montgomery
Location: Parlor
Project: Preparing for Children's Council Easter Egg Hunt

Circle 6

Monday, March 10, 7 p.m.
Leader: Reggie Campbell
Location: Parlor
Program: Journey Through Psalms



United
Methodist
Women

PRAYERS

(Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. To extend, call 214.368.1435, ext. 104.)

Births

David Samuel Kennington, son of Clayton and Casey Kennington, on Feb. 29. Grandparents are David and Dorothy Kennington. • Joel Charles Gray, son of Dan and Katrina Gray and brother of Nathan and Evan, on March 2. Grandparents are Jody and JoNell Lindh, and uncle, aunt and cousin are Eric, Heidi and Isaac Lindh.

Hospital

Bill Kendrick, Julia Frazee, Herb Hamilton, Ruth Bain, Griffin Shoemaker, Jane Hedges

Prayer Requests

Carrie Lochausen; Nippy Dean; Bervin Gaillaspie, uncle of Ricky and Sandra Flanagan; the Rev. Kathleen Baskin-Ball; Johnnie Imah, friend of Leighton Bearden; Bill Hodges, father of Tracy Hodges; Anna Hannibal, friend of Melanie Hoffman; Wes Magruder and his family; Rebecca Bunnell; Elaine Hadaway, friend of Marilyn McKnight; Alan Daniel, friend of Terri Griffeth; Keegan Williams, grandson of Carolyn and Warren Hubbard