

***Bandera United Methodist Church***

***May 2016***

**United Methodist  
Church General  
Conference in  
Portland, Oregon  
May 10-20, 2016  
Very important event taking  
Place which, may have Epic  
Consequences for the  
Future of the The United  
Methodist Church and  
Global Methodism as a  
Whole!**

Official Voice . . . . . World Gathering . . . .  
. . . . . General Conference , . . . . Major  
Legislation . . . . . Restructuring the General  
Church . . . . Church's general agencies . . .  
. . . . . Establish a new unit on global health  
For the mission agency . . . . . , proposals  
From North Texas and Central Texas  
Conferences for a U.S. central conference  
. . . Bishops . . . limited tenure , . . . Retired  
Bishops . . . . . Ordination process for elders  
And deacons . . . . . Standards that are more  
Rigorous for local pastors . . . . . Ordained/  
Licensed Ministry . . . . . Deacons more  
Flexibility . . . . . Issue of security of . . . . .  
Appointment for elders . . . . . Human  
Sexuality . . . . . Denominations' stance  
And statements . . . . . \$611.4 million to  
Support apportioned general funds . . . . .

## **THE PASTORS MESSAGE**

Dear Friends,

Greetings! The month of May is a very busy time in the life of our church and community with many, many activities and celebrations, confirmation, graduation, and a whole host of other important events happening in the lives of a lot of our folks. Another very important event taking place which may have epic consequences for the future of the United Methodist Church and global Methodism as a whole will be the convening of General Conference in Portland, Oregon from May 10-20, 2016.

General Conference is the top policy-making and legislative body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years to determine the denomination's future direction. The Conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs. The voting membership consists of an equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the respective annual conferences. General Conference is the only body that is the **OFFICIAL** voice of the United Methodist Church.

It is a challenging time in the life of UMC and I want to devote this month's article to just a few of the major legislative issues coming before the world wide gathering in a few weeks. You can find much more detailed information about General Conference and other items about the United Methodist Church at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org). You may also pick up a more detailed list of proposed legislation from the church office or on Sunday in the back of the church.

Major Legislation under consideration by the General Conference for the United Methodist Church:

**Restructuring the General Church:** Delegates will consider a number of proposals to restructure the ministries of the general church. Several proposals focus on the Connectional Table. However, a proposal that has drawn perhaps the greatest amount of attention is **Plan UMC Revised**, which aims to **restructure the church's general agencies**.

The General Board of Global Ministries is developing legislation to **establish a new unit on global health for the mission agency**. The strategy for a new international program, tentatively called "Abundant Health: Our Promise to Children," would take into account intersections with the other denominational areas of focus, including ministry with the poor, developing principled Christian leaders, and creating new and renewed congregations.

**Delegates will consider proposals from the North Texas and Central Texas conferences for a U.S. central conference.** The Northeastern Jurisdiction is proposing organizing the church into four continent wide "connections" for Africa, Asia, Europe and North American as part of its wide-ranging "Global Connection Plan."

**Bishops:** The Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders has approved a petition calling for **limited tenure for bishops and changing the relationships of retired bishops from the Council of Bishops to an annual conference**.

**Ordained/Licensed Ministry:** The 2013-16 Ministry Study Commission, formed by the 2012 General Conference, is proposing **significant changes in the ordination process for elders and deacons and standards that are more rigorous for local pastors**. Another proposal would give deacons more (ct pg 2)

## Acolytes

### May

MAY 1

1<sup>st</sup> ServiceLindsey Lewis  
Maci Morrison2<sup>nd</sup> ServiceRyleigh Laine  
Michelle Linson

MAY 8

1<sup>st</sup> ServiceJalyn Lamb  
Hannah Edwards2<sup>nd</sup> ServiceMary Freeman  
Onna Shaw

MAY 15

1<sup>st</sup> ServiceLogan Harmon  
Michelle Linson2<sup>nd</sup> ServiceCheyenne Sheeds  
Elizabeth Sheeds

MAY 22

1<sup>st</sup> ServiceLindsey Lewis  
Kinlee Lawlis2<sup>nd</sup> ServiceAustin Kelley  
Grace Kelley

MAY 29

One Service

Maci Morrison  
Hannah Edwards

## THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued from Front Page)

flexibility to preside at the celebration of sacraments, and all clergy would get additional ongoing formation through mentoring and covenant groups.

The commission is making no proposals concerning the issue of security of appointment for elders, often referred to as "guaranteed appointment." The 2012 General Conference approved legislation to end this practice, but the Judicial Council ruled the legislation in violation of the Constitution.

**Human Sexuality:** Numerous annual conferences and other groups are petitioning General Conference on the denomination's stance and statements on homosexuality. Many propose either removing or adding less-restrictive language to the Social Principles. Others call for upholding the current language and denominational standards regarding homosexuality. Some, such as the Texas Annual Conference, propose maintaining the present stance while offering "more gracious language."

The Connectional Table has voted a compromise legislative proposal that will be before the 2016 General Conference. It would remove prohibitive language from the Discipline concerning homosexuality, while making minor changes to existing Social Principles. The proposal would allow United Methodist clergy to perform ceremonies that celebrate same-sex unions if they wish, but no clergyperson would be required to do so. The proposal would also remove being a practicing homosexual or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies from the list of chargeable offenses for clergy. In addition, the proposal removes language saying that the church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers it incompatible with Christian teaching, while recognizing this has historically been the church's position.

Other legislative issues under consideration deal with abortion, religious freedom, disabilities, sustainable and responsible investments, racism and xenophobia, immigration, creation care and the environment and economics and finance. Many of these topics have been in the news of late and the UM position can be found online. The GC is also proposing a quadrennial budget of \$611.4 million to support apportioned general funds for 2017-2020.

I invite all of us to lift these matters and the future direction of the United Methodist Church in our daily prayers and other means of grace. I welcome the opportunity to visit with you more about General Conference and upcoming events in the life of our church.

Grace and Peace,  
Larry

GOD  
IS  
LOVE!!!

## New UMW Outreach Ministry

### 'Little Bears for Prayers'

The UMW is offering a new outreach ministry called Little Bears for Prayers. The ladies have prayed over a group of small bears and other plush animals to bring comfort and joy to those who are sick, in the hospital, have lost a job, or need comfort of any sort. After the animals were blessed, a small card was attached, with a note to the recipient. The animals are available at the back of the sanctuary for you to pick up. There is no charge, however, UMW does ask that you fill out the form on the clipboard to help avoid duplicate deliveries.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Nicole Lawlis
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Merrily Cage
5 <sup>th</sup>	Leslie Cech
7 <sup>th</sup>	Darlene White
7 <sup>th</sup>	Dana Sorenson
8 <sup>th</sup>	Rylie Foster
9 <sup>th</sup>	Jaren Shaw
10 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Hoskelis
11 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Warren
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rani Reynolds
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Esther Cook
12 <sup>th</sup>	Patti McClaugherty
12 <sup>th</sup>	Bette Jo Koenig
17 <sup>th</sup>	Jolene Jeffery
19 <sup>th</sup>	Maebry Johnston
19 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Psalmonds
20 <sup>th</sup>	Todd Sandidge
20 <sup>th</sup>	Harold Stokes
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Susan D'Spain
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Samantha Shubert
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Louis DuBose
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Carolyn Lister
24 <sup>th</sup>	Lynda Ball
25 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Shoemaker
25 <sup>th</sup>	Roberta Himebrook
25 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Wood
25 <sup>th</sup>	Minneana James
27 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Scharfenberg
27 <sup>th</sup>	Deanna Skoglund
31 <sup>st</sup>	Dakota Gray
31 <sup>st</sup>	Betty Ruede
31 <sup>st</sup>	John Overley

## Kids' Kingdom Graduation

Kids Kingdom Preschool Graduation will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31st. All are welcomed to attend the event to see our students in action. The Board members will host a *spaghetti dinner* following the ceremony. Come and celebrate with our Kids Kingdom program.

## Stewardship

By Larry Scott

### Rid'n For The Brand

As United Methodists we vowed to be faithful to support the ministries of our congregation with our prayers, our presence and this month it is our gifts, so what does that mean? Your talents, time and tithing of course! Giving back with joy and gratitude as a response to God's grace.

GIFT, GIFTED, GIFTS: anything given voluntarily with no compensation, a present or a sacrifice.

**Online Giving.** This month we are excited to offer online giving on our new BUMC website. It is quick, easy and completely secure. Vanco Payment Solutions have the highest security levels available in the market. Endorsements include our own United Methodist Church General Conference of Finance & Administration, as well as the United Church of Christ and the Lutheran Church. Online payments may be set up as a one-time gift or a regular draft from a bank account or credit/debit card. If the online system is overwhelming but you would like to be able to have an automatic transfer of funds, come by the office and Cheryl will be happy to get you a paper authorization form.

## Thank You!

Dear Church Family:

To everyone for their prayers, cards, and the food provided, our deepest Thanks.

Louise Kyle.

Happy  
Mother's Day !!!  
Dear Mothers

## Special Invitation

Dear Church Family,

This invitation is extended to all of you to help us joyfully celebrate Myles's triumph over cancer. To all of you who have supported us in prayer or financially or both, we'd like to express our deepest gratitude. This is NOT a fundraiser; it is a THANKSraiser! My daughter-in-law has included her cell phone number & you can also call me. I will have more information as the date approaches. Again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Sharon Anderwald

(The Church will be receiving a card from Sharon's son and daughter-in-law soon.)

## Helping Hand

Our yearly March and April Food Drive was a great success. Thanks to many churches, organizations, and individuals we were able to help stock our Food Pantry. Your monetary giving helps us purchase food for 15 cents a pound from the Food Bank.

Our special May "want" item will once again be peanut butter and jelly. Thanks also with the donations of pasta for April, and any and all food donations.

Golfers and sponsors are needed for our golf tournament/fund raiser this Friday, May 6, at Flying L. Please contact Helping Hand at 796-8300 to sign up to play golf or be a hole sponsor. You will have a great fun day and also a meal following the tournament.

If you get a chance, stop by Helping Hand and check out the Thrift Store, furniture barn, and our Tranquility Garden with a walking trail and vegetable garden. It's an awesome place.

Once again your support of used clothing, household items, food, and monetary giving helps us fulfill our mission to help those in need in Bandera County. We do not receive government money and your continued assistance is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Bandera UMC, for all of your support.

Marianne Sandidge

Helping Hand Representative

## Bonnie's Beat

Confirmation class began April 6<sup>th</sup> and will run through May 29<sup>th</sup>. We have six middle and high schoolers participating in this year's class. Things are off to a great start and we are looking forward to getting to know these youth better, as well as helping them to grow their relationship with Christ and deepening their understanding of the United Methodist faith.

The registration deadline for the High School Mission Trip is fast approaching. We still have spaces available! We will be traveling to Martindale, TX, to do flood recovery with UM ARMY June 19 - 25, 2016. This trip is open to all incoming Freshmen through outgoing Seniors. If you are interested in attending, please contact me in the church office. The registration deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> and the cost is \$250 per person.

May 29<sup>th</sup> will be a busy Sunday for all our youth! The Sunday School Challenge will conclude that week, with all those who have attended at least 75% of the Sundays this Spring being recognized in church, with a special recognition for those who have Perfect Attendance. We will commission our acolytes during the service. This will also be Confirmation Sunday, with each of our confirmands being recognized and joining BUMC as full members.

May 29<sup>th</sup> is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday worship, which means a meal follows the service, during which we will recognize all those who have graduated this year, including college and graduate school. The meal will be dedicated to our departing high schoolers as they embark on the next phase of their lives. We will recognize their accomplishments, give them a gift from their church family, and offer a blessing as we send them off into the world.

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*

*Matthew 25: 40*

(To be continued next column))

## From Your Lay Leader -

*"Freely, freely you have received, freely freely give.  
Go in my name and because you believe, others may know that I live."*

### REMEMBER ME

As a congregation we are experiencing new and sometimes unfamiliar ways to experience worship on Sundays. We have spruced up the sanctuary a bit with lovely new banners and while I am certain it is not to every one's taste, I know that the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The Worship Team works diligently to enhance your corporate worship experience on Sunday.

Monday through Saturday we can accomplish much on our own; we can read our Bible, we can pray, we can sing or come alongside someone who just needs a kind word. But on Sunday, that third day chosen for us so long ago, we enter our sanctuary with praise and thanks giving. We come together as a community and by inviting the Holy Spirit to join in our worship; our voices are stronger, our prayers become more powerful, and our understanding of the Bible is deepened. Adding the opportunity to receive The Lords' Supper every Sunday gives us all a pause, if you will, to remember the most beautiful gift of all, the sacrifice of Christ.

Even so this opportunity for participation has raised questions about frequency and format and some are afraid that communion will become a habit. Can I suggest that you think of a habit in a new way because Webster tells us that the word habit can also mean to dwell or reside, so perhaps you could see communion as a chance to live in that beautiful sacrifice, given to you at no cost. There is no rush and everyone is invited to kneel at the rail to pray either alone or with our prayer partners; we want you to take all the time that you need.

Serving communion is another option you might consider. It affords you a new way to experience the beauty of the Lord's Supper. It is an opportunity to draw closer to everyone in the congregation face to face, so perhaps you should give it a try. It is in giving that we receive and you will receive a blessing! Your Worship Team considers it an honor to assist in bringing the light of Christ to you on Sunday, yet we realize that we are not perfect and perhaps you feel that we fall short in our efforts. Please grant us your grace because, "Grace is the face love wears when it meets imperfection."

Many hands, one heart,  
Elizabeth

## Bonnie's Beat (continued from column 1)

30-Hour Famine will take place Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> & Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Youth of BUMC and Lakehills UMC are collecting canned goods for Helping Hand as a part of this event. They have set a goal of collecting 777 pounds of non-perishable foodstuffs. Items can be dropped off in the church office, placed in bins outside the Youth rooms in the Fellowship Hall, or placed in the bin at the back of the church. If they reach their goal, they get to pick what color to dye Bonnie's hair! Bring your canned goods and help support our teens (and Bonnie's new hairstyle)!

## Fit for God

Hi there Ladies! We are still getting Fit for God on Monday and Friday mornings at 8:30 in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in adding a little exercise to your life please join us!

Blessings,  
Susie Lewis  
(210)912-8195

## Kids' Kingdom

Well, thanks be to God for another wonderful year! As we bring this school year to an end, here's a bit of what will be going on...

Month: May/June

Theme: Ocean/Summer

Bible Verse: Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.

Mark 1:17

- Nursery Rhyme: Review and favorites
- General Objectives:
- What is the ocean?
- What is summer weather like?
- Bible verse memory and comprehension
- Nursery rhyme memory and comprehension
- Letter recognition and phonics (Z and review all)
- Number and shape recognition and manipulations
- End of year program and Spaghetti Dinner, May 31 @6 pm
- Last day of school with early release @11:30, June 2

We are enrolling for next school year. Spread the word to anyone you know who might be looking for a part time preschool program for their three or four year old.

Blessings,  
Susie Lewis

*(The poem sent to us by Beverly Jo that is in the next column has a short P.S. PS: There are yellow Violets and they are called "Dogtooth Violets")*

## Kids' For Christ

It has been a great year at Kids For Christ. We have enjoyed upwards of 30 children on some weeks! But most of all, we have enjoyed showing the children God's love. My prayer every week is that the children see Jesus in this place, and not so much Shawn or Susie, just Jesus in us.

We wrap up our year on June 1st with our end of the year party.

See you each Wed until then!

In Christ,  
Shawn  
Children's Director

## UMW

Bandera United Methodist Women will meet on May 12 with a covered dish dinner. Bring your favorite dish & join us in the fellowship hall at 10:00 AM. This will be our last meeting until Thursday, September 8.

Karen Zickler,  
President, UMW

The Lady in the Flower Shop  
I asked for yellow violets  
She said, "I never saw a yellow violet.  
I didn't know there were such things.  
I thought Violets were blue, or maybe  
White."

But I remember childhood springs  
When I picked handfuls of golden  
Violets  
And put them in a little vase jar I had  
Along with fern fronds, just then  
Uncurled.  
They were so beautiful!

I think it's sad she doesn't know  
About the yellow Violets,  
Nor saw them blooming on a spring-  
Swept river bank.  
For all her flowers, I would not change  
With her;  
For I remember yellow Violets for My  
Mother still.

Beverly Jo Powell

## Hello Acolytes!

I'm Mrs. Christina Freeman and I will be taking Mrs. Anne Munk's position organizing the acolyte schedule. I hope I can do as well as she has!

We had a very successful training on Wednesday, April 14th and I'm happy to say we have 10 new acolytes joining our ranks! If you are interested in becoming an acolyte and were unable to attend our training please let us know so we can get the ball rolling for you.

I will continue to post schedules in the same locations in and around the church however, we will also begin having our schedule posted on the church website. We are hoping this will make it even more convenient for you to be able to check on your scheduled status. If you notice you are scheduled for a Sunday that you know you are unable to attend, please let me or Pastor Larry know so we can help you find a replacement. I can be reached by text or voicemail at (210)849-7517 or email at [cfreeman90@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfreeman90@sbcglobal.net).

Lastly I would like to encourage all acolytes to attend this month's 5th Sunday Service, May 29th. We will be commissioning our acolytes into a new year of service and recognizing service records. Hope to see all of you there!

Christina Freeman

## Concealed Handgun Class

There will be a concealed handgun class held here in the Fellowship Hall from 8am to 2pm on Saturday, April 30th. Larry Crocker will be the instructor. All proceeds will go to pay for summer camp for the boy scouts. If you would like to sponsor a scout for camp the cost is \$270.00. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office. For more information you may call Larry at 210-288-2597.

## PP&G: Notes from the Troops

Hello,

I want to thank you for all the packages that were sent to me and my shipmates at Christmas from you and the students. We loved the brownies, they were delicious! Everything in the packages was wonderful!! I love the warm beanie.

Everyone on my crew pestered me to write and tell you guys about much they appreciated it also.

Being on deployment constantly in the East takes a toll on all of us, but the packages really lifted our spirits. It reminded us of home.

We so appreciated all y'all have done. Thank you.

Austin Williams

.....

\*\*\* I encourage you to read his letter in its entirety on the fellowship bulletin board. His ship sails out of Japan and he has written some things in Japanese for our benefit.

If you know of a deployed armed forces member please submit their address and your name and phone number to the office or Carol Wolf.

We would like to do a mail our soon and can't include them if we don't have their address.

## Standing on the Promises

May is the month to shed your shoes,  
Stretch your toes and hold your nose  
Then, draw your feet!

Calling all feet! Short and lean, all in between,  
Wiggly, giggly, small or big; please just draw  
All ten little pigs.

Color with crayons, paint or glitter,  
But leave off the toe jam, it makes me shiver!  
Then bring them to me,  
my name is Miss Scott, But only 'til June  
Because then we will stop!

DIRECTIONS: Please outline one foot on a piece of cardboard or card stock, then cut it out and decorate away! Then bring them to Church on Sunday or the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday and if the office is easier to drop it off you can do that as well. We will be collecting the entire month of May so don't miss out because all combined they will form the shape of a cross...talk about being at the foot of the cross! We had fun with our hands now let's make our feet swift and beautiful for the Lord. Many hands one heart, Elizabeth

## Wednesday Bible Studies

### Beginnings of Judaism

Bandera UMC will start a new DVD course in the Fellowship Hall on the Beginnings of Judaism on April 6, 2016. The class will meet each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM and last until 8 PM. Bob Major will facilitate the course. The course consists of 24 lectures taught by Professor Isaiah M. Gafni of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Each evening we will cover two lectures, each of which lasts half an hour, and have fifteen minutes of discussion on each. The course will be completed on June 22, 2016.

Professor Gafni received his PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and by 2008 when the DVDs were made had taught for more than 40 years. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Yale, Brown and Oxford. Dr. Gafni has written or edited more than 15 books on aspects of Jewish history in late antiquity.

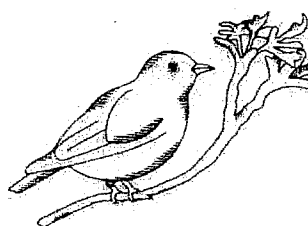
A course guidebook will be available at the start of the course for \$10 which contains an outline of each class, a timeline, glossary, biographical notes and a bibliography.

Monitored by Bob Major

## Breath, The Life of God in Us

A Bible study by Beth Moore starting on April 6 thru May 11. Time is 6:30 pm. A six-session lecture series reflecting on the person, the work, and the power of the Holy Spirit. It examines the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Its title is drawn from the words of John 20:22, which records that Jesus "breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit." The member booklet is \$10.00. Contact Cheryl in the Church Office if you plan to attend so books can be purchased. Cathy McRorey is leader.

## LARK



The Loving Acts of Random Kindness group is wanting to show all the teachers, support staff, bus drivers, and administrators at BISD just how much we appreciate all that they do for all the children in our community and county. Last year we did a meal, but we do not have the time or means to that again this year, so what we want to do is take them goody trays. What we will need from you is baked goods...cookies, brownies, bars, etc. and/or salty or savory snacks as well. We'll even take individually packaged nuts, jerky, cheese sticks, and chewing gum. We have a rough estimate of around 500 people so we will need a lot of goodies. We are looking to assemble and deliver these goodies on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. If you can help with the goodie trays or want to help deliver them, please contact Cathy McRorey at 830-328-1096 or Carol Wolf at 210-381-3002.



Bandera United Methodist Church  
11st & Hackberry  
Bandera, TX 78003

Office (830) 796-3849  
Fax: (830) 460-8160  
Cell: (325) 460-4366  
Parsonage: (830) 460-4366

*Pastor:*  
*Rev. Larry McRorey*

Youth Director,  
Bonnie Bevers

Children's Director,  
Shawn Morrison

Music/Fine Arts Director  
Esther Cook

Office Manager,  
Cheryl Young

Trumpet Editor  
Leah Hawkins  
Leahhawkins@CTESC.net

We're on the Web!  
*See us at:*  
[www.BanderaUMC.com](http://www.BanderaUMC.com)

## ***Editor's Thoughts***

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your contributions. We Need more photos w/captions. Photos are more fun to read!

We are anticipating the continued recovery of Glenn Ingram so that we may have even more great cartoons.

You might want to look at the Church Activities List to see a couple of changes.

Thank you,  
Leah Hawkins

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