

The Hub

2nd Edition

August 2018



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Greetings Colleagues and Friends of the Crossroads District,

Welcome to this second edition of **“The Hub”**, our new Crossroads District newsletter, where we hope to celebrate the great work that churches around the district are doing to magnify our United Methodist the witness of Christ’s love within their communities. In this edition, we are lifting up summer activities that have been reported to us. Praise God for all of the wonderful ways that churches throughout the Crossroads District have this summer enhanced and enriched lives of God’s people of all ages through Vacation Bible Schools, Camping experiences, mission projects, and more.

In addition, this summer, we are excited to invite all clergy and their families, district professionals, leaders and staff to our upcoming **Koinonia Fellowship/Picnic** which will be held at the Cathedral Oaks Worship and Retreat Center on Saturday, August 11th, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Koinonia, the Greek term for “fellowship”, is used in Acts 2:42 where it says of the early church believers: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers....” In this spirit, we will join together for fellowship and family-friendly activities, we will introduce those who have recently been appointed to the district, and we will have food and fun activities in a casual informal environment.

Finally, you may have also received information about this year’s **Leadership Institute** being held at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Each pastor and two lay persons from each church are invited to register at a discounted rate. Our own Bishop Schnase will be leading one of the general sessions. You can go to li.cor.org and follow the prompts to receive the discounted rate.

Thank you for all for your faithful efforts at ministry this summer. We would be blessed by your presence at our Koinonia Fellowship Celebration especially to welcome our newest clergy to the district. It would also be great to see you at the Leadership Institute. Finally, it is my wish all of you are enjoying a refreshing, productive and meaningful summer. Please know that you are always in my prayers.

May God’s Blessings & Peace Be With You,

Marcus



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Gonzales FUMC Youth Group

Revive Summer Camp

The past two winters, we have had the opportunity to take kids to Revive Winter Retreat in February. Well, Revive has expanded and we were able to go to the very first Revive Summer Camp that was held at Kerrville First United Methodist Church. The Lord was very much present at this camp. We were able to see Him work in every activity from worship, service projects, games, getting ice cream, and during small group time. At Revive, 16 youth gave their lives to Christ for the first time, along with 67 people rededicating or renewing their faith. 26 people felt God calling them into some kind of full time ministry. Praise be to God!

Camp Eagle Group Camp

Our second year at Camp Eagle Group camp was not one to disappoint. With 19 youth and 3 adults, we were able to make our presence known! Camp Eagle is a camp that strives to make Christ-like change through outdoor adventure, authentic relationships, and Biblical truth. Our kids had the chance to experience ziplining, rock climbing, sleeping in a yurt (well, the guys did), some intense rounds of Archery Tag, and as always some powerful worship.

La Grange St. James
UMC had 12 kids come to participate in a special day of working on Art projects and Bible Verses. Praise God for the work this congregation is doing to reach and teach the children in their community!



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Gonzales FUMC

Costa Rica Mission Trip:

We were so excited to have the opportunity to bring a team down to Costa Rica this summer. We teamed up with Ray and Lidia Zirkel who have been living in Costa Rica for 20+ years now and who have many ministry areas there including helping teams come down every summer for mission trips. Our trip was July 1-8 and we were able to bring a team of 24 down. While we were there, we were split into two different worksites. The first worksite was at El Tigre Methodist Church where we were putting up the walls to a new multipurpose building that will be used for classrooms, events, and many other forms of ministry. We learned how to lay mortar and cinder blocks down for the walls, tying rebar, and we got to mix a whole bunch of concrete. We were able to completely finish 3 walls of the building while we were there. The second worksite was at Iglesia Evangelica Metodista El Redil. They had the opportunity to pour concrete and form the floor of the second story of the Church's parsonage. They were able

For three of our days there, we worked until 3PM at our worksites before going to different churches to host VBS for kids. It was quite the experience considering none of us really spoke any Spanish. We had such a great experience throughout the week. A lot of hard work but it was also so much fun meeting the people of Costa Rica, doing things that we have never done before and being completely pushed out of our comfort zones. We did get to finish the week with a fun day where we got to experience an amazing waterfall, go zip lining through the jungle canopy and walk on hanging bridges through the jungle to see some monkeys, crocodiles, and so many cool frogs. I can't really express how much our team grew in their own lives and especially in the walks with God. This trip was just the beginning of a new relationship in ministry between our church and the people of Costa Rica. We can't wait to see what else comes out of this relationship.

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Bastrop FUMC VBS Gone Fishin' 2018

We cast our nets to the right side of the boat and the nets were full! We had around 60 kids each day for the three days of VBS.

The decorating team of Pam Simpson, Mac Simpson and Dani Rogers provided us with some great props including a giant fish that swallowed Jonah, disciples in a fishing boat and a fishing booth.

Many thanks and much appreciation go to Joseph Leggett for the lively music for opening and closing. There was lots of dancing and spirit filled singing going on. Brazos Vick stepped right in by running the slides without one mistake!

Joseph and the youth actors, Kiall Heckman, Winter Mosher and Bryce Smith, gave life to the stories in the sanctuary. The kids heard about Jonah, the Miracle of the loaves and fishes and Jesus's appearance to the disciples after the resurrection in their fishing boat.

Snacks were provided by kitchen veterans: Shirley Jacobs, Marie Moulden and Susie Blume. The kids ate well- thanks to these fine ladies and the donations from our members.

Thanks Chrystal and Trinity, you are troopers for sure.

Some people just have that talent and ability for arts and crafts, thank goodness for Nola Linn (another Scout veteran) and Melaney Goebel. Lots of prep work goes into making those crafts so that little hands can complete their artistic treasures in a 20 minute rotation. Thank you for assisting Abigail Delgado, youth member Elaine Hamblin, Brazos Vick and Haley Muff. Love the water bottle whale with a tiny Jonah inside.

Registration was deftly handled by the dream team of Lynda Harris and Kim Wheeler. Both have backgrounds in government and could handle the paperwork and the flurry of activity on the first morning. They even decorated the foyer. You guys were awesome!

At VBS completion, Christy Myers and the kids presented Bastrop County Emergency Food Bank with 237 pounds of food, enough to provide 189 meals for folks in need.

We had t-shirts for kids and volunteers alike, designed by our in house artist, Chris Knioum. Everyone loved the shirts. Thanks Chris!

Finally, to our generous members who provided funds and prayers for Vacation Bible School, thank you

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Vacation Bible School



Edna FUMC



Basic Training Camp at El Shaddai

On July 22-25th, Victoria FUMC hosted a Conference wide camp for children from 3rd-5th grade. There were staff participants and kids from several different cities within the Rio Texas Conference for 4 day, 3 night camp at El Shaddai in Yorktown.

The participants learned about emotions and what the Word of God says about how to handle our different emotions. It was a weekend of fun, worship, sharing and learning. This camp has been going on for over 50 years! Praise God for the great work being done to reach our kids.

A message from the new District Program Director



Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about retirement?

Well, quite honestly not much is said about those golden retirement years from our Holy Scriptures. After searching a bit for any scriptural reference pertaining to retirement, I did find one that really stood out.

"The LORD said to Moses, 'This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the Tent of Meeting, but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer. They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the Tent of Meeting, but they themselves must not do the work. This, then, is how you are to assign the responsibilities of the Levites.'" **(Numbers 8: 23-26, NIV).**

Obviously, God still had something for this group of "retired" Levites to do as they provided assistance and support for their younger colleagues in ministry. Perhaps they were not part of the labor team, but they were able to impart insight and wisdom in the task at hand surrounding the "Tent of the Meeting". One could say, the younger labor team received inspiration and expertise from the retired team. The retirement team wasn't really retired, because God still had a calling for them.

Remember when the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple as seen in Luke 2. Obviously, both Simeon and Anna were well up in "retirement" years. But that didn't stop their devotion and service to God. Simeon's words after seeing the baby Jesus were *"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."* (Luke 2: 30-32, NIV)

The prophet Anna's story is very similar to Simeon as seen in these verses *"and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."* (Luke 2:37-38, NIV). Yes, both Anna and Simeon were in the retirement years, but certainly not retired from serving God.

Having pastored in both the Victoria District and the Crossroads District for 11 years, I have witnessed a great abundance of both the "younger" and the "retired" who go about serving on behalf of the Kingdom. Sometimes, their service is active and even labor intensive (like serving on one of the relief teams from Hurricane Harvey) and sometimes they serve in roles such as teaching (as in teaching Sunday School or leading VBS). All are needed for to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Whatever stage of your Christian journey that you are in, prayerfully consider participating in some of the programming that will be offered through the Crossroads District. They are provided to assist your service and calling to Christ and His Kingdom. Here are a few things we have in place for the upcoming Fall:

Koinonia Family Day: Saturday, August 11, beginning 11 am at Cathedral Oaks

Lay Servant Ministries Training (Advanced and Basic Courses Offered): Friday evening 6pm, November 2, thru Saturday evening, November 3, around 6 pm, at Cathedral Oaks

United Methodist Women District Annual meeting: September 22nd at 9 am at Lockhart FUMC

United Methodist Women Conference meeting (hosted by Crossroads): October 19th at Gonzales FUMC 2 pm

The Spring will include "My Job Workshop" with several added training modules; and the "Confirmation Retreat and Yoking Ceremony". Also, United Methodist Men are planning a major event this coming Spring. Dates and locations for all of these are tentative at this time. By next newsletter we hopefully will have those details confirmed.

Whether we're pre-retirement years or post-retirement years, let's continue to serve Jesus, our Lord and our Savior.

May our Lord bless and keep you always,

Rob Clopton

Crossroads District Program Director

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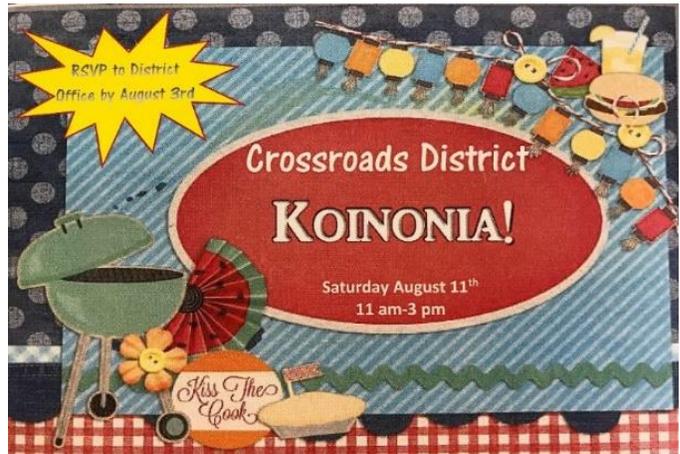
Kingsbury UMC

Saturday, August 4th from 4 pm to 6 pm Kingsbury UMC will be hosting an Ice Cream Social. There will be an opportunity to give a Love Offering that will help fund their scholarship fund.

Family Picnic

We are looking forward to the picnic for our District's pastors and their families on *Saturday, August 11th at Cathedral Oaks at 11 am.*

If you have not sent in your RSVP, please do so to the District Office - gocrossroadsdistrict@gmail.com or vdsumc@tisd.net



Upcoming events

The Leadership Institute for 2018 will be September 26-28 in Leawood, Kansas. Click on the website link to register for this year's event.

[REGISTER](#)

For more information, please visit the Leadership Institute webpage at <https://li.cor.org/>

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