

DISCIPLESHIP

OPPORTUNITIES 2008-09

Southwest Texas Conference The United Methodist Church

Summer 2008

Funded in part by the SWTC Council on Ministries Program Priority Fund

www.umcswtx.org

Parish Christian Educator School June 18-21, 2008

Professional courses for local church volunteer & paid staff with responsibility for Christian Education, held each January & June over three years at [Mount Wesley](#). June '08 course: UM Doctrine with Rev. Dr. Jim Mayfield. Sponsored by SWTC Board of Discipleship Christian Formation Committee.

Contact Kristi Forister kristikf@yahoo.com 210-696-0192

Weekday Ministries Conferences July 26 & Aug 9, 2008

Continuing education with keynote speaker Rev. Leanne Hadley, multiple workshops & vendors for volunteer or paid workers with children in churches with programs for MDO, day care, & weekday preschool. Central event Northwest Hills UMC Austin, **Sat July 26**, South event First UMC Kingsville (keynote on video), **Sat Aug 9**. Sponsored by SWTC Children's Council.

Contact Marcy Williams m.williams@windcrestumc.org 210.654.0404

Summer Camps 2008 Adults, children, youth and families

attend camp to learn more about God's creation, love, & grace through outdoor activities, Bible study, music, art and drama. Pray for (or join!) a camp team. Provide monetary support for campers needing "Camper\$hips" (Advance Special #2021) and Kingdom Kamp (Advance #2005) for mentally challenged adults age 18+. Download registration at: www.umcswtx.org.

Contact Rev. Bill Duke revfumc@hotmail.com 361.358.3335

Music, Art AND Drama Camp July 29-Aug 2, 2008

Discover "Treasure in the Field" at Music, Art and Drama camp for children entering 4th through 6th grade. Creative types needed! A grand opportunity to praise our Creator God for the gift of creativity! Sponsored by SWTC Council on Children's Ministries and held at [Mount Wesley](#).

Contact Rev. Bill Duke revfumc@hotmail.com 361.358.3335

RECRUITING is an ART FORM August 29, 2008

Look at the big picture & receive hands-on training in the techniques of a successful recruitment & retention system for volunteers in Sunday School and summer camps. We are not alone. Don't miss how to hold a "Recruitment pARTy," 1-4 p.m., United Methodist Center, in person or webinar. Sponsored by SWTC Children's Council.

Contact Rev. Bill Duke revfumc@hotmail.com 361.358.3335

Kingdom Kamp Aug 30-Sept 1, 2008

A gentle camp for mentally challenged adults age 18 & older. Led by volunteers who enjoy a relaxed pace and serving others. Campers must meet mobility and other medical requirements. All are blessed at Kingdom Kamp through giving time (*volunteers needed*) or funds (Advance #2005). Sponsored by SWTC Adult Ministry Council.

Contact Dean Dick West rwest@austin.rr.com 512.346.3124

Senior Christian Retreat September 16-18, 2008

Annual Christian fellowship, Bible study, worship, exercise, singing, & creative activities in the relaxing atmosphere of [Mount Wesley](#). "September In The Hills" is a means of grace. Hear keynote speaker Rev. Danny Morris, formerly of GBOD's Evangelism Section & [Upper Room Ministries Academy For Spiritual Formation](#) on "Discovering God's Will Together." Sponsored by SWTC Council on Older Adult Ministries.

Contact Laura Rhodes llrhodes@hctc.net 830.995.3357

Communicating in Multi-Cultural Communities Nov 5 or 6, 2008

If you're called to light a path to a more inclusive church and world, join two Assoc Gen Secretaries from [UMC's General Commission on Religion and Race](#), Rev. Dr. Eliezer Valentín-Castañón and Ms. Suanne Ware Diaz. One-day training (offered twice) in enhancing diversity & encouraging respect and inclusion in your church and in the diverse communities you serve. Sponsored by Commission on Religion and Race.

Contact David Cho dmjacho@swbell.net 210.764.0856

STEPPING UP to Older Adult Ministry Nov. 7-8, 2008

Join Dr. Rick Gentzler, General Board of Discipleship's Director, [Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministry](#), Nashville, at [Alamo Heights UMC](#), San Antonio. Equip your congregation with the latest in OA ministry. Sponsored by the SWTC Council on Older Adult Ministry.

Contact Wilma Williams wwilliams1@stx.rr.com 361.985.6582

Family Pre-Advent Retreat Nov. 8-9, 2008

Traditional families, single parent families, all types of families with young children come to [Mount Wesley](#) to "get ready" for the Advent/Christmas seasons by preparing heart & home for the coming of the Christ child. Event sponsored by [SWTC United Methodist Women](#).

Contact Terry Schoenert 210.479.5911

Clergywomen's Retreat**Nov 10-12, 2008**

A sabbath, set apart soul oasis for rest, renewal, and reigniting. Join with colleagues, ordained elders, deacons, local pastors and seminary students at Canyon Lake Cabins to hear guest speaker Ginger Bassford. Look for details in late summer.

Contact Cathey Meisetschlaeger csmeiset@gmail.com 512.303.1393

THE BASICS: Spiritual Preparation for Christian Leadership

Days apart at Zephyr Encampment

Jan 13-17, 2009

with basic patterns of spiritual formation used for transformation in the local church. Experience a rhythm of prayer, study, worship, reflection time, Q&A, holy hilarity, solitude, and rest for the soul. Sponsored by Board of Discipleship Parish Christian Educator School Sub-committee in collaboration with Spiritual Formation Committee.

Contact Rev. Donna Strieb dstrieb@ahumc.org 210.826.3215
or Misti Mueller mistim@tumcsa.org 210.684.0261

Adult Choral Workshop**January 30-31, 2009**

Choirs & individuals gather at [Northwest Hills UMC](#), Austin, to look at new worship music, improve skills and praise God in song. Join small & large church choirs under the baton of Dr. Andre Thomas. Sponsored in collaboration with Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts ([FUMMWA](#)) by SWTC Worship & Music Committee.

Contact Beth Watson bjudd@nwhillsumc.org 512.345.1743

Lay Speakers Cultivate Christian Community March 6-8, 2009

Hundreds of laity across our conference visibly witness to their faith by speaking, leading and serving. Become a certified Lay Speaker by attending Advanced Training at [Mount Wesley](#). District Lay Speaking Directors schedule Basic Training for certification. Sponsored by SWTC Board of Laity.

Contact Sam Dubberly sdubb27@aol.com 830-741-3416

Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation[®] January 2010

For lay & clergy persons who hunger for a deeper spiritual life, the Academy[®] is a disciplined Christian community emphasizing holistic spirituality, nurturing body, mind, and spirit, through a rhythm of study/prayer, rest/exercise, solitude/relationship...a rediscovering of our rich spiritual heritage thru worship, learning, common life, time and space to discern direction, make covenants & practice commitments. Eight 5-day sessions quarterly over two years (40-day experience) at Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio. 20-pg prospectus available on request. Sponsored by [Upper Room Ministries with SWTC Spiritual Formation](#).

Contact Donna Bryant academy@upperroom.org 877.899.2780

Partners In Ministry Date determined by Congregation

Learn skills needed to be a visionary, effective team member in your local church. Apply "H.E.A.R.T." principles for spiritual empowerment at home, work & church by attending this intensive, quality training event scheduled through your local church. Sponsored by SWTC Board of Laity.

Contact Nell Martin nelway@satx.rr.com 830.379.1405

Marriage Encounter Weekend**TBA**

A "spiritual work weekend" for couples who want to make a good marriage better by rediscovering shared values, communication skills, and commitment to God in marriage. Weekends are held in San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas. Sponsored by San Antonio Area ME-UM Community collaborating with SWTC Family Council.

Contact Dan & Ronda Miller dncryh@gvtc.com 830.885.5159

Engaged Encounter-United Methodist**TBA**

EE-UM is a weekend experience designed to help engaged couples (& those married up to 6 months) prepare individually and as a couple for marriage. Focus is on the marriage, not the wedding, hence the theme "a wedding is a day—a marriage is a lifetime." Learn communication and decision making techniques to use throughout a lifetime together. For more info click on www.encounter.org

Contact Leadership Development Office 888-349-4191

Emmaus Leadership Training Seminar**Monthly**

One-day ELTS events held in each district open to anyone serving a walk, particularly lay directors, board reps and spiritual directors. Asst LDs and others are also welcome. Lay directors and board reps are required to attend ELTS within 15 months of assigned walks; spiritual directors within 3 years of serving walks.

Contact Emmaus Registrar 888.349.4191

Labyrinth

The Labyrinth is a sacred symbol found in many traditions and forms around the world. Hundred of years old, the Labyrinth has been rediscovered as a way to connect with a depth spirituality which integrates body, mind, and spirit. A spiritual tool, it can be walked as a path of prayer, a place of release and renewal, for quieting the mind, and to evoke images, dreams and memories. It is an "active" way of praying: the path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where we are in our own lives, a metaphor for our journey with God. A portable labyrinth is available to local UMCs in the Conference. Sponsored by SWTC Spiritual Formation Committee.

Download Request Form www.umcswtx.org/sf/labyrinth.pdf.

Please communicate these programs through local church e-newsletters & small groups

16400 Huebner Rd San Antonio TX 78248-1693

210-408-4500 (San Antonio) 888-349-4191 (Toll Free)

This document may be viewed at www.umcswtxprograms.org/pdf/discipleshipops.pdf

