

# CONNECTION

## Getting your priorities straight

By Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe  
North Texas Conference



**Bishop Bledsoe**

I had the wonderful experience of watching a television movie with one of my grandkids the other day. The movie, *G-Force*, is the story of a group of guinea

pigs who believed they had been genetically engineered to perform heroic espionage activities to save the world.

Needless to say, Ben, their owner, had told them that they had these super powers. In the end, they discovered that they were ordinary guinea pigs, not genetically engineered. When they found out, they lost hope and began to despair.

However when it seemed all was lost, they began to believe in themselves again. They not only believed, they also acted on those beliefs, understanding that they were members of a family with a special purpose in life. Ultimately, the FBI recognized their heroic work and they became special agents.

The movie caused me to think about our lives with a big question. What are the GForces in life that cause us to believe in ourselves and in God again?

I believe there are three very powerful forces.

- The first is Grace, which is God's unmerited gift freely given that says we are loved even before we know or believe it.
- The second is Gratitude, those words, such as "thank you," that encourage us to focus on God's gift of life to us.

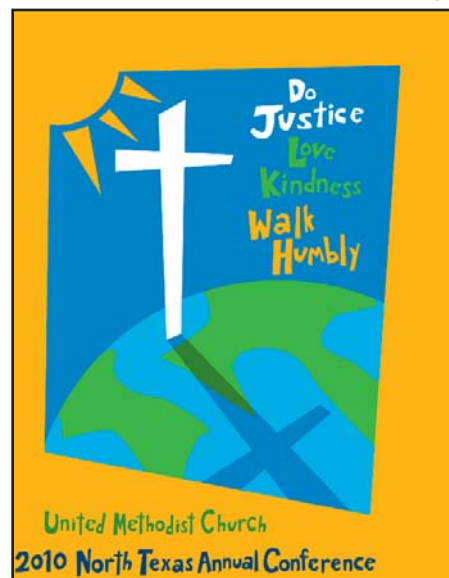
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## Celebrating ordination and commissioning for the Class of 2010

June 7 will be a very special night for 28 clergypersons and their families as the North Texas Annual Conference gathers for the annual service of Ordination and Commissioning scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at First UMC, Wichita Falls. Eighteen elders and one deacon will have been voted into full membership in the North Texas Annual Conference at the clergy session held the day before.

Eleven persons will be commissioned on the elder and deacon tracks at the same service and voted into provisional membership at the clergy session. Seven persons will be commissioned on the elder track and four on the deacon track. They will begin a two-year residency period in which they will perform ministry and continue the process leading to application for ordination and full membership.

The persons ordained were: Lyle C. Benson, Marjorie T. Bishir, Walter (Wally) Butts, Marc Corazao, Nancy M. DeStefano, Chris Dowd, Gloria Young-Eun Kim Fowler, Daniel Alan Gurley, Derek Shawn Jacobs, John Johnson, Elizabeth Mary Kellner, Mai Ngoc Le, Dean Joseph Libby, Lisa Marshall, Ardith Marie Mitch-



ell, Elizabeth A. Moen, Dana G. Norton, Denise Patricia Peckham and Rodney Whitfield.

The persons commissioned were Sharon E. Clepper, Kay Lynn DeBlance, Bethany Graham, Jimmy Decee Greene, Melissa Hatch, Cheryl A. Jones, Elizabeth (Beth) Lutz, Julie Mielke Macpherson, Mary Ncurubi, Miriti, Cheryl Murray and Ugonna Onuoha.

Looking for a mission opportunity for your Sunday School class or church group this summer?

## PROJECT TRANSFORMATION



### Seeks Volunteer Groups to

- Read one-on-one with underserved children
- Provide a dinner for 100 college interns living in community at SMU or 10 college interns living at Austin College

Project Transformation provides ministry exploration internships to college students and community-oriented programs for children and youth living in low-income neighborhoods.

Summer Day Camps operate from June 7 – July 28.

For more information, contact Janalee Shadburn at [www.projecttransformation.org](http://www.projecttransformation.org) or 214-946-3600

# INFORMAtion:

## THE SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

7:00 p.m. Monday, June 7

And

## THE 2010 MEMORIAL SERVICE

11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 8

Will be streamed live

link will be posted June 6 at

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

◆ The **Texas Methodist Foundation** recently announced a challenge grant of up to \$100,000 in matching funds, made possible by a donor to support **Christ's Foundry's** building fundraising goal. To contribute toward the \$100,000 challenge grant contact Rev. Owen Ross at 214-497-9552 or Candy Gross, Texas Methodist Foundation, at 800-933-5502. Donations may also be made securely online at [www.christsfoundry.org](http://www.christsfoundry.org).

◆ Volunteers from three NTC congregations joined forces with other churches and businesses in the Irving community to make the **eighth annual Great Days of Service (GDS)** a success. Teams from **First UMC, Plymouth Park and Kirkwood UMCs** were part of the April 16-17, 23-24 effort to do repairs on 25 homes.

◆ **First UMC, Mount Vernon youth** took their "Let's Rock" youth musical on the road for a May 12 performance at **Tinney Chapel UMC, Winnsboro**, following a May 9 premiere at their own church. It was a lesson about the Christian life not being a solo act, but living as part of the Body of Christ. Choir leaders are Pam Greenberg and Sharilyn Tullis. For more information on **First UMC, Mount Vernon**, log on to [www.fumcmv.com](http://www.fumcmv.com), and for information on **Tinney Chapel**, go to <http://www.tinneychapeltoday.com>.

◆ **Casa Linda UMC, Dallas** hosted an anniversary concert and fellowship on May 30 with the new team of **Project Transformation** interns and Dallas Northeast District Superintendent Rev. Pat Beghtel-Mahle as guest preacher. For more information, call 214-321-2601 or log on to website [www.casalinda.org](http://www.casalinda.org).

◆ The news media regularly show scenes of **incredible devastation** such as the floods in Tennessee and surrounding states and tornadoes in Oklahoma. The good news is that The United Methodist Church and local congregations are responding with donations of money and disaster relief buckets to the **United Methodist Committee on Relief** and by sending volunteer teams to hard-hit areas. Local churches are asked to direct donations to: Treasurer, North Texas Conference, P.O. Box 866128, Plano, TX 75086. Make checks out to the North Texas Conference with **Spring Floods #261** in the memo line.

◆ **First UMC, Richardson**, is celebrating the completion of its 15,000-square-foot education building, a facility designed to support both weekday and Sunday church and community programs. First Richardson was able to build this addition without incurring additional mortgage debt. Information on enrollment in summer programming and other children's ministries is available at [www.fumcr.com](http://www.fumcr.com).

◆ **Children's Music Camp for grades 3-5** is scheduled June 8-12 at **Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center** Scottie Tisdell and Karen Ewing will be directors. For registration information, please go to the camp website: [www.bridgeportcamp.com](http://www.bridgeportcamp.com) and look for CM Camp.

## Dr. Clara Reed to preach at opening service



Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe has announced that Sherman-McKinney District Superintendent Rev. Clara Reed will preach at the June 6 opening worship of the North Texas Annual Conference, replacing Bishop John Innis of Liberia who had to withdraw due to health issues.

The service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Kay Yeager Coliseum in Wichita Falls. It will follow the Clergy/Laity Dinner scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Reed's sermon, "Alignment for Divine Assignment," will be based on Joshua 1:1-9.

## Getting your...

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- The third force is Growth, the ability to risk doing things differently, to make mistakes and learn from them.

I believe these are the G-Forces of life that gives us a quality relationship with God and each other.

We will be assembling together soon in Wichita Falls for holy conferencing. We will be making some important decisions regarding our future together.

May the G-force, the God force, be with us!

## COKESBURY READY FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Cokesbury is proud every year to be part of annual conferences across the country and look forward to seeing everyone from the North Texas Conference in Wichita Falls this year. Here are some specials you will see:

- in-stock clergy robes 15% off and custom order clergy robes 20% off
- Bibles 30% off
- leather Bible cases 35% off
- reusable Cokesbury tote bag, only 99 cents
- blowout specials from 50% to 80% off
- \$10 off purchases of \$50 or more (look for your coupon)

We will be prepared to measure for custom robes. We can also take your Vacation Bible School order – save \$50 when your church purchases \$250 or more in VBS materials. If I have not met you yet at the Dallas store, please stop by during Annual Conference and say hello. If you have questions about what will be available from Cokesbury during annual conference, please call the Dallas store at 972-964-5777. Any profits are dedicated to helping fund clergy pensions.