

PT celebrates successful summer

By MILSE FURTADO
Communications Fellow

Another exciting and thriving summer experience for the Project Transformation (PT) crew has come to an end. With the largest group of interns in PT history, this might have been one of the most successful years of the program's life.

The project managed to gather a very diverse group of 95 interns from 17 different states and three different countries including Pakistan, Singapore and Brazil. Each year the number of interns increases abundantly making the program's mission more outreaching and effective.

"Every year's group of interns is unique, but the interns this summer were incredibly diverse and bonded really well from the beginning," said Eric Lindh PT Executive Director.

PT started a new after-school program at Casa Linda UMC this past year and also

added a new summer program at St. Marks UMC, Mesquite.

"We expanded the ministry exploration visits this summer to allow the interns to learn about more opportunities to be in ministry and service," said Lindh.

According to Lindh the interns visited 18 different churches and ministry-related organizations this summer, making new connections, learning and exploring how God may be calling them to serve in the future.

The PT mission is to connect the energy of young adults, the strength of church-supported institutions, and the untapped resources of underserved neighborhoods to meet the evolving needs of children and youth.

This summer, PT provided after-school and summer programs to over 800 children and youth from low-income neighborhoods. The program conducted the after-school programs at four urban United Methodist churches and one community center.

The summer program included nine site locations, as PT partnered with over 80 churches and 30 other organizations. Approximately 1,500 volunteers served with PT this past year.

Working that closely with the community has a great impact not only in society but on the interns as well.

When asked why they keep returning to the same program summer after summer Chad Pursley, Site Coordinator at Oak Cliff UMC shared a short story about one summer when he was supposed to be a reading volunteer for one day and it ended up lasting for a whole year with an after school program. A little over a year later, he went back to his old job and he missed PT, realizing that he had to go back.

"It was kinda the perfect

thing, I wanted to go back and they needed me back," said Pursley.

William Cephus, Mountain Biking Coordinator responded:

"It's the kids! That's why I came back... There is a lot of potential in them and we can help them grow," said Cephus.

Some first timers can also

get a taste of what it feels like to do mission. Just because it is their first time with the project does not mean less involvement and life impact. They get involved in unique experiences developing deep relationships with the children.

"Just seeing the children

See Service on Page 4A



PT Interns and local children have a great time playing water games on "family fun night" at Pleasant Mound UMC, Dallas.

First UMC, Iowa Park, initiates 'Great Days of Service'

By REV. JOHN KAY
First UMC, Iowa Park

Great Days of Service headed to the western edge of the North Texas Conference after First UMC, Iowa Park, introduced the week of mission projects to the community in Wichita County.

Members of five of the town's largest churches—Cornerstone Word of Faith Church, Faith Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, First UMC, and Lakeview Church of God, and several individual volunteers worked together July 11-14 to serve others in Iowa Park.

Approximately 300 volunteers, almost five percent of the town's population, participated.



Nicole Kay delivers a walker bag filled with toiletries to a resident at the Iowa Park Health Center.

Volunteers painted and repaired the exteriors of four houses. They mowed lawns, cleared brush, and trimmed bushes of

seven homes. "You can't imagine just how much I do appreciate your group helping me out as they did," wrote

Rodney Saunders. "Give them all a big hug of approval from a very appreciative grandpaw." He and the other people on whose houses volunteers worked received prayer blankets made by the sewing group.

Volunteers sewed throws, lap quilts, and walker bags for the residents of the Iowa Park Health Center. They stuffed the walker bags with slipper socks, hairbrushes, tissue packets, and other toiletry items for the residents of this nursing home. Adults sat with individual residents and read them stories. A resident said that the stories brought back fond memories of her family's making ice cream eighty years ago.

On one weekday, children went room to room to sing songs and hymns. Another day, children dressed as clowns and

gave balloons to the residents.

The project began on July 11, with a Prayer Breakfast at the First UMC. The senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Rev. Glen Pearce, told those at the breakfast that the initial Great Days of Service was giving church members an opportunity to go outside the "boxes" of the church buildings and serve in the community.

Approximately 150 youth went on a scavenger hunt for canned food on Wednesday evening. The Commodity Drive team later sorted more than 1,800 pounds of food for the hungry of the community.

The Public Servant Meal team provided a free barbecue lunch on Thursday to the government employees who work in Iowa Park. At each

See First UMC Page 4A

4A | NTC *circuit* First UMC, Iowa Park

Continued from Page 1A

place-setting lay a card and poem by Annetta Reusch saying "thank you" to the employees at the municipal, school, county, state, and national levels of government. After that lunch at the First Family Center, a federal employee told Project Coordinator Mike Isbell, "In my 30 years of public service, this is the first time that anyone ever said 'thank you.'"

The effort concluded at Lakeview Church of God with an outdoor worship service and ice-cream social celebrating Christians' coming together to serve others in Christ's name. The youth celebrated at a subsequent indoor Christian concert at that church.

In his sermon that evening, Rev. John Kay, Pastor of First UMC, Iowa Park, said that we Christians serve others because we follow Christ, Who "came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). He told the volunteers gathered there, "The other leaders and



Iowa Park mayor Randy Catlin delivers a proclamation marking July 11-14 as "Great Days of Service Week" in Iowa Park.

I—and the recipients of these ministries—all thank all of you for your service. Iowa Park is an even-better place because of what you have done."

Leaders were pleased with the television and newspaper publicity that the effort received. The Editorial page of the Wichita Falls *Times Record News* stated, "A community reached out to one another and

became as one." They added, "Congratulations on what appears to be an overwhelming success and an inspiration to small towns everywhere" (*Times Record News*, July 16, 2007, page 6B).

Rev. Kay introduced Great Days of Service to the Ministerial Alliances of Iowa Park in 2006 and of DeSoto in 2004.

He had served as the associate pastor of First UMC, Sherman, when Rev. Jim Pledger conceived and developed the project in 1996.

To receive more information about Iowa Park Great Days of Service or about how to bring the project to your community, contact Rev. John Kay, 940-592-4116 or pastorjohn@fumcix.net.

"This is a marvelous moment in the effort to establish and develop the programming of the Center, and it is an important milestone for Perkins," explains William Lawrence, Dean of Perkins School of Theology.

The Center is headed by Dr. David Maldonado, was excited about the many possibilities that the Luce grant will offer.

The Center will address topics and issues related to the

Latino/a religious experience within a broader ecumenical and religious context, as well as attention to international dynamics and realities. Already known for its Mexican American Program, Perkins seeks to strengthen and deepen its engagement with Latino/a realities through educational programs, the generation and promotion of research, and the dissemination of knowledge.

Perkins receives Luce Foundation grant

The Henry Luce Foundation has approved a \$315,000 grant to the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas.

The funding supports the Center's mission to promote a deeper understanding of the varieties of religious life and expression within the Latino communities in the U.S. and in Latin America.

Hamilton Park UMC celebrates 'Amachi Day'

Hamilton Park UMC, Dallas, held a successful *Amachi Day@Hamilton Park* event on June 24. The day celebrated opportunities for adults to volunteer to work with children of parents who are incarcerated. Activities included a representative of Big Brothers, Big Sisters that addressed the congregation about the need for mentoring, and participants from Hamilton Park speaking



From left, front, Julius Izozuru, Little Brother Jeremy and Little Brother Jordan; back row, Harry McCalla, Floyd Jones, Dale Long and Little Brother LaDarius

about their own experience. Rev. Harold Dangerfield focused on the importance of mentoring in his message from Job 1:1-10. Among those present was Dale Long, the only person in the nation who holds the "Big Brother of the Year" and the "Board Member of the Year" awards. Long was the spokesperson featured in the UM Men's video at the NTC Annual Conference.

United Methodist Challenge: Join the Race for Grace Team

At the Hotter 'N Hell 100 Bike Ride
Aug. 25 in Wichita Falls, Texas

Attention All Cyclists:

Are you a cyclist who loves to ride and would also like to help some of the neediest kids in the Western Hemisphere receive health care? Then plan to join the **Race for Grace Team** and ride for International Child Care (ICC) to benefit Grace Children's Hospital and the betterment of healthcare in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. ICC began 40 years ago by a United Methodist couple from the U.S. Visit the Website www.intchildcare.org for more information.

Join the United Methodist Challenge!

A number of churches in Sherman, Gainesville, and McKinney are sponsoring either clergy or laypersons in their congregations to ride on the **Race for Grace Team** as a sponsored rider. Join the team, and challenge friends, family, neighbors and congregation to sponsor riders for each mile they ride, and help bring health and wholeness to the children of the island of Hispaniola.

How to Sign Up:

- Contact Hotter 'N Hell Hundred Bike Ride organization at www.hh100.org to register for the ride.
- Contact Alison Kern with the International Child Care Office at 800-722-4453 to register as a sponsored rider.
- Ask people to join the ride and/or pledge to sponsor you. Have donors write a check to your local UMC with memo "Advance Special #418520-7."

For More Information, please contact:

Lysle Huddleston 940-767-0602 lyslehuddleston@sw.rr.com
Dr. Ellen Palmer 972-562-7141 ellenipalmer@tx.rr.com
Dr. Jeannine Hatt, 903-465-6784 jhattmd@gmail.com
Alison Kern 800-722-4453 akern@intchildcare.org

PT celebrates success...

Continued from Page 1A

and being able to comfort them... I grew close to them and this is what I will always remember from my time spent here; this relationship," said Albert Ong Huat Meng II, PT intern from Singapore.

According to Lindh several of the interns from this summer will be entering seminary in the fall. "Whether our interns end up pursuing full-time ministry or using their unique gifts in other ways, Project Transformation seeks to engage this generation in connecting their faith with their life," said Lindh

PT also has a year-round internship available for young adults to implement their after-school programs. These year-round interns take part in a leadership course which allows them focus on leadership, professional and spiritual development.

"Through the work of our interns,

we also seek to transform the lives of the children and youth in underserved areas by showing them God's love," said Lindh

Next year, PT will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. The plans are to celebrate by expanding to a 10th site location and hiring 100 interns.

For more information visit www.projecttransformation.org, or contact Volunteer Coordinator Janalee Shadburn, 214-946-3600, e-mail: shadburn@projecttransformation.org.



From left, Milse Furtado with PT Interns Anfreia Roaha and Mariana Bezerra, all from Brazil.

JOE DAN BOYD
Special Correspondent

Although Tinney Chapel UMC is not a "cowboy church," many of its attendees talk the talk, walk the walk and are steeped in cowboy culture. Tinney Chapel pastor, Rev. Duncan Graham, usually serves Holy Communion while wearing cowboy boots under his elder's vestment.

But no one is more authentically cowboy than was the late Jim Asbill, a memorable Tinney Chapel member who raised quarter horses and helped inaugurate the church's first Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 2002. Jim read cowboy poetry and decorated the event's stage with his own prized antique saddle.

After Jim was killed in a tragic horseback riding accident in 2003, the event was re-named in his honor, and he is still considered present in spirit. His antique saddle has remained onstage every year since.

Readers and singers at Tinney Chapel's recent Sixth Annual Jim Asbill Cowboy

Poetry Gathering on June 2, include:

Odena Glover Brannam, at 97, this event's oldest poet and biggest hit for the past several years,

Danny Lake, a working rancher and the event's perennial MC,

Angela Wylie, Winnsboro High School (WHS) teacher and one of Tinney Chapel's three certified lay speakers,

Larry Mitchell, a perennial Wood County entrant and, for the past two years, pastor of Rimrock Cowboy Church,

Dianna Mitchell, Larry's wife, **Sarah Doke**, a young mother of four and one of Tinney Chapel's newest members,

who read a traditional cowboy poem titled *The Zebra Dun*,

Larry Shepherd, who attends Mitchell's Rimrock Cowboy Church, kept the audience in stitches with his description of a cowboy riding the coin-operated horse outside a department store,

Dennis Roberts, a yodeling cowboy singer whose signature performance is an old musical standard, *Cattle Call*,

Bob Deitering, chair of this

event's sponsoring agency, Tinney Chapel Men's Ministries, and

Joe Dan Boyd, Tinney Chapel communications coordinator.

From the get-go, the goal of this interactive Tinney Chapel ministry event has been to encourage art that mirrors life.

Poetry topics don't have to be

overtly cowboy, on the assumption that many of today's cowboys are, for the most part, ordinary human beings who adhere to a certain code of conduct.

Brannam, whose readings move effortlessly between profoundly inspirational, unapologetically spiritual or outrageously funny, draws from a vast, eclectic body of work.



Popular participants Danny Lake and Odena Brannam recite poetry at the Sixth Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering at Tinney Chapel UMC, Winnsboro.

One new poem, *I Feel Like Talking*, was finished just in time for Brannam to read at this event:

"Wait a minute, God...

I want to talk...

There are things I need to say.

The world is too busy to listen.

It goes hurry, hurry: All the time.

I am a little person, God, Very unimportant...

No one has to listen to me So no one does.

Are you listening, God?

Is anyone on your staff

listening?

Somebody, somewhere, sometime should stop

And hear me!

Wait, God, please: I have something to say!"

Danny Lake, whose ranch is just down the road from Tinney Chapel's Family Life Center, is another prolific composer, who also occasionally reads the work of other poets.

See Tinney Chapel... on Page 8A

Annual Conference DVDs now available

The DVDs from the 2007 North Texas Annual Conference are now available. Cost is \$25 per DVD for each:

- **Opening Worship** with Bishop Alfred L. Norris preaching Sunday Evening
- **Faith and Health Address** Monday by Rev. Randy Day, General Board of Global Ministries
- **Memorial Service** with Rev. Thomas Q. Robbins preaching Tuesday morning
- **Retirement Speeches** on Tuesday afternoon
- **Ordination Service** Tuesday evening.

Due to technical difficulties, DVDs of the Monday Commissioning Service and the new Elder and Deacon speeches are not available.

Please identify the DVD and either call the NTC Communications Office, 972-526-5000, 800-969-8201 ext. 210, or e-mail to Dr. Joan LaBarr at labarr@ntcumc.org.

Walnut Hill UMC, Dallas, brings congregation and community together with its *Joys of July*

By KAY PORTER
Walnut Hill UMC, Dallas

July was truly a joy for the people of Walnut Hill UMC, Dallas, and also the community as the congregation held its second annual *Joys of July*.

The Worship and Congregational Life Teams developed programs for each Sunday evening in July to bring the congregation and community together for food, fun, and fellowship.

The highlight of the month was the concert by *Connections*, a band consisting of clergy and laity from throughout NTC, who perform music from the Eagles, Chicago, and John Fogelberg. The concert was a fundraiser benefiting *Nothing But Nets*.

The happy announcement is that the concert raised \$3,668, which translates to almost 370 mosquito nets to protect the children in Africa from malaria-bearing mosquitoes.

In addition to that wonderful evening, Walnut Hill celebrated the Fourth of July with a red, white, and blue parade.

There were also activities that included the screening of classic cartoons ranging from "Betty Boop" to "Superman," enjoying the Dallas Banjo Band, and listening to the New Horizons concert and jazz bands.

For more information, please call 214-357-5656, or visit www.whumc.com.

North Texas Conference United Methodist Reporter

Joan Gray LaBarr *editor*
Lee Zastovnik *prod. assistant*
Becki Ozmun *circulation*

Ozmun@ntcumc.org

P.O. Box 866128
Plano, Texas 75086-6128
972-526-5000 • 800-969-8201
Fax 972-526-5007
www.ntcumc.org

NTC Children's Ministries - Bible Retreat

Oct. 5 • 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 6 • 4:30 p.m.

One Night Retreats - Cost \$50

Bridgeport Camp and Conference Center

For more information, call Rev. Mike Wright-Chapman 972-525-5000 • 800 969-8201



Open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders

Around the Conference

Argyle UMC announces their "Back in the Saddle Sunday," Aug. 26, with a church picnic at Denton's South Lake Park following the 11:15 a.m. worship services. For more information, or to volunteer, please call Mellissa Gautreau, 972-497-1197.

Charleston UMC announces "Lord's Acre - Stew and Auction," Sept. 8 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with the auction at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call Dolores Jackson, 903-395-2397, e-mail: doejackson@hotmail.com.

Tinney Chapel UMC, Winnsboro, is hosting "An AARP Safety Driving Course," Dec. 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. Cost is \$10 and open to anyone. For more information, please call Bill Knoop, 903-342-6873.

Position available

First UMC, DeSoto, is seeking a part-time director of ministry for children. Persons interested may call Rev. Mel Caraway, 972-223-6118.

8A | NTC *circuit* Tinney Chapel poetry . . .

Continued from Page 5A

In addition to serving again as MC for this year's passel of poets, Lake read *Copenhagen Kisses*, which details the inconvenience associated with trying to kiss his wife Pat while also nursing a wad of snuff between cheek and gum.

On a more serious note, Lake read *Daddy's Belt*, an elegy to the inevitability of punishment for childish misdeeds by a father who termed it love when he "tanned the hide" of an errant son.

Larry Mitchell, called to ministry since the 2005 event, now pastors Rimrock Cowboy Church at nearby Pine Mills. One of his readings this year, *Saddle Pards*, is a description of his increasingly intense walk with the Lord.

Another, *What Is A Cowboy Church*, shed light on Mitchell's brand of ministry at Rimrock.

Another Mitchell reading lifted profuse praise to Dianna, his wife and partner in ministry, while yet another spoofed the entire cowboy poetry concept by pretending that he had misunderstood the event as an invitation to a cowboy "poultry" gathering:

"Just imagine some old cowpoke, jabbing his spurs into his steed.

Chasing chickens through the sagebrush, with Colonel Sanders in the lead."

Dianna Mitchell, Larry's wife, made her debut last year when she read *Standing In The Gap*, and was back this year with added confidence and increased inspiration. Dianna's two new poems recalled her girlhood goals and described



Deitering in rodeo clown duds.

her recent participation in a western heritage event at Abilene.

Tinney Chapel's own Bob Deitering usually helps cook the event's meal before walking onstage, and then only after donning the duds and dash of a rodeo clown. His readings have included a variety of subjects, including this year's "serious humor" about a cowboy's disappointment with someone's behavior at a certain church, and his relief upon learning, via personal revelation, that God could not recall ever having been in that particular church.

Joe Dan Boyd is another perennial entrant who also plays guitar and sings traditional cowboy songs: *Cool Water* in 2006, which he later reprised to dramatize a lay speaker sermon on Living Water, and a Tex Ritter medley this year which included

excerpts from *Blood On The Saddle*, *Cowboy's Dream* and *Rounded Up In Glory*.

Angela Wylie read three new poems, including *Roses On The Table*, dedicated to the everyday thoughtfulness of her husband David.

Her previous entries helped her decide to enter, and eventually win, first place in a WHS faculty poetry contest earlier this year.

Angela shared her winning WHS poem, *Life*, which concludes with this amazing finale:

*"These thoughts are in my mind as I reach out
And take into my arms
Life
Precious
A warm, slightly sticky child
Clinging trustingly,
astraddle my hip
Sweat-dampened curls of
fine hair against my shoulder
I carry her up the steps
She is pleasantly heavy
Solid and full of life
She is the future waiting
The seed of dreams yet
undreamed
The hatchling with new
songs to sing
New skies to climb
The sweaty, strong assurance
of joys and sorrows to be
encountered
Life to be embraced
A little bit of me
A little bit of her mom and
dad
A big-eyed mix and whirl of
all those who have gone before
In one curious, busy,
demanding bundle
My grandchild
A piece of my life
The future in my arms."*

Perkins School of Children's Ministries

"Social Justice for All of God's Children"

Saturday, September 8

Keynote speakers

Rev. Annette Williams

UM Deacon, Christian Educator and Children's Ministry Consultant

Rev. Mike Wright-Chapman

NTC Associate Director of Connectional Ministries

Session I - 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

Session II - 12:50 to 1:45 p.m.

Session III - 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

Session IV - 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, SMU, DALLAS

Early Registration, August 17 • Closes, August 31

To register online, please visit:
mycreativeevent/perkinsschoolforchildrensministry/formsregistration/registration.php

Intensive Journal Workshops

Rev. Wallace (Wally) Chappell, longtime associate pastor at First UMC, Dallas, is officially retired, but that does not mean that he is giving up ministry.

Among his most cherished ministry offerings are the *Intensive Journal Workshops* that helps individuals work within the movement of their



Rev. Chappell

lives. He will be offering two workshops in the coming days, an introductory module, Sept. 28-29 and advanced module Nov.16-17.

Classes will be held at First UMC, Dallas, Fridays from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$115 for materials.

Rev. Chappell says, "The Intensive Journal is a way of working in the movement of your life; a way of tying down loose ends and healing old memories; a way of stirring up energy from deep and healing old memories; a way of stirring up energy from deep within when life feels flat and lifeless; a way

of answering the questions:

- Where is my life trying to go?
- What is God doing in my life at this stage?

Intensive Journaling is a way of becoming clear on next steps in life and provides an amazing source of clarity and a way to track all of life, especially what is emerging."

He adds that, "There is nothing like it. Not therapy;

but therapeutic! Not necessarily a 'religious' discipline, but in the hands of a Believer, it's a direct pipeline to the Almighty, as Saint Augustine said, 'the God who speaks within my thoughts.'"

Continuing Education Units in Counseling, Social Work, and Chaplancy are available to those who complete the course.

Rev. Chappell has been leading these workshops for 30 years. He is accredited by the sponsor, Dialogue House of NYC, which holds copyrights to the program.

For more information, or to register, contact Rev. Chappell at 214-220-2727, ext. 206, or www.firstchurchdallas.org.

Cleaning up after flash flooding in Wichita Falls



Volunteers from First UMC, Wichita Falls help a homeowner sort through possessions removed from a flooded home. The family was awakened at 4:00 a.m. by the fire department and told to "Take nothing and get into the truck."