

JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

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Dallas Clinics:

- No December clinic
- January 12, 2010
- February 9, 2010

FTW Clinics:

- No December clinic
- January 15, 2010
- February 5, 2010

For volunteer opportunities, contact us at:

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JFON HOLDS SYMPOSIUMS ON "IMMIGRATION AND FAITH"

In October 2007, Justice For Our Neighbors organized its first symposium on "Immigration and Faith" as a joint effort between the North Texas Conference and the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. The very successful event was held at FUMC Grand Prairie. With the aim of reaching areas of the conferences that were unable to attend the symposium, JFON then received a grant to hold two "mini-symposiums," one in each conference. The "mini-symposiums" were similarly structured and aimed at examining the issue of immigration from a faith perspective as well as providing an opportunity to dialogue about the church's response.

The first was held in the North Texas Conference on Saturday, September 19th in Richardson, Texas. Arapaho UMC hosted the event, with Reverend Jack Soper giving the welcome and opening devotion. The second symposium was held in the



Rev. Dawne McAlpin welcomes participants to Acton UMC at the November symposium "Immigration and Faith"

Central Texas Conference on Saturday, November 7th in Granbury, Texas at Acton UMC, where Reverend Dawne McAlpin opened the day with Biblical reflections and prayer. JFON attorney Mary Beth Garcia was the plenary speaker on both occasions and gave a pres-

entation entitled, "Immigration 101: An overview of our immigration laws." Participants had the opportunity to learn about the complex immigration system and ask questions of the experienced attorney.

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BREAKING BREAD AND BARRIERS SET FOR DECEMBER 1ST

On Tuesday, December 1st, JFON in collaboration with North Texas Conference UMW and the Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN) will be holding our second Breaking Bread and Barriers event.

Pleasant Mound/Urban Park United Methodist Church, located at 8301 Bruton Road in Dallas, will be hosting the event.

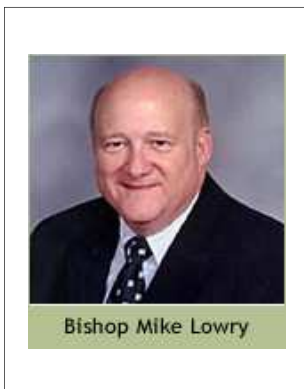
A candlelight prayer vigil and communion service will begin

at 6 PM, followed by a potluck meal.

Breaking Bread and Barriers is part of a nationwide campaign of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, that brings immi-

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BISHOP LOWRY TO SPEAK IN ARLINGTON



WIN is pleased to announce its second “Evening of Compassion”. The event will take place on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 6:30 PM at Aldersgate UMC in Arlington. Bishop Lowry will share the keynote message.

In addition to Bishop Lowry’s message, the event will feature a prayer vigil, a video screening, and the distribution of resources for taking action. The program is sponsored by

WIN—Welcoming Immigrants Network.

The event will help participants understand the struggles faced by those affected by the immigration system, and advocate for comprehensive immigration reform by the U.S. Congress. Aldersgate UMC is located at 2201 E. Park Row in Arlington. Mark your calendar now!

For more information, contact Dean Reed at rdr17@me.com.

“It has been a joyful journey of faith to know that all creatures are created in God’s image and that all people deserve justice and peace.”

SYMPOSIUMS (CONT)

The plenary sessions were followed by workshops. Participants had the opportunity to choose from a variety of topics, including:

- Biblical Reflections: Welcoming the sojourner
- Why Enrique Journeys: The social and economic

contexts of unauthorized immigration

- Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors: Congregations in ministry among immigrants
- Making Our Voices Heard: Basic principles of advocacy

Thank you to Rev. Jack Soper, Rev. Dawne McAlpin, Rev. Owen Ross, Rev. Albano Tayengo, Rev. Victor Pena, Rev. Dean Reed, Dr. Ron Wilhelm, Mary Beth Garcia, and Amy Spaur who gave of their time to lead the workshops.

It was a blessed time of learning and sharing together!

BREAKING BREAD AND BARRIERS (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

grants and native populations together around a common table, celebrating God’s diversity and providing a vision of all God’s creation living in Shalom.

Reverend Kalaba Chali, pastor of Heart of Africa Fellowship and Prison Ministry at Lovers Lane UMC, will be sharing his own immigration story. Rev. Chali is a citizen of the Republic of Zambia, grew up in the Congo, attended seminary at Africa University, Zimbabwe and Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church in June 2006.

Reverend Chali attributes his interest in working in diverse communities to his experience at Africa University, where he

met students and staff from more than 20 different countries.

Reverend Chali shares: “Such a multicultural exposure helped me to appreciate and eventually celebrate diversity among human creatures as a gift from God. It has been a joyful journey of faith to know that all creatures are created in God’s image and that all people deserve justice and peace.”

Reverend Owen K Ross will also be participating in the service. Reverend Ross is the founding pastor of La Fundacion de Cristo, (Christ’s Foundry), a mission of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church to the Spanish-speaking community located north of Love Field in Dallas. Christ’s Foundry serves as both a community

center and a center of worship and spiritual growth.

Ross, an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church, completed his Master of Divinity at Perkins School of Theology and served as Associate Pastor for Outreach Ministries at Lovers Lane UMC before founding Christ’s Foundry.

Several other local pastors and lay persons will be participating in the evening’s events.

Bring a dish to share, or simply join us at 6 PM for a wonderful evening as we pray for immigrant families in the Dallas area and beyond.

For more information about Breaking Bread and Barriers, contact Amy Spaur at amyspaur@hotmail.com or Pastor Annelda Crawford at pastor@pmupumc.org.

AN EVENING OF COMPASSION DRAWS MANY WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WIN

About 100 people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds gathered on a Sunday



Rev. Robert Flowers leads prayer service for immigrants

evening Sept. 27 at Polytechnic United Methodist Church for a prayer vigil and to learn more about the immigrants among us.

Sponsored by Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN), "An Evening of Compassion" viewed the acclaimed film "Made in LA" that reveals the abuse of migrant workers, heard testimonies from local immigrant families telling of their struggles, gathered resources and learned how to get involved in making a difference.

Rev. Dean Reed, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Stephenville, and co-founder of WIN, played a leading role in the program and invited Texas Rep. Lon Burnham to share comments on his efforts.

Burnham credited the United Methodist Church's tradition of being at the forefront of advocacy and social justice and especially churches in the Fort Worth area. He said many "elected officials have been procrastinating too long" and pledged "to fight bad legislation until the federal government does the right thing."

Rev. Robert Flowers, pastor of Polytechnic UMC, Carlos Careaga and Ed Cumpton led the prayer vigil, lighting candles for those who live in fear of abuse, oppression, deportation and separation from family; needed reform of current immigration laws; those who are working towards documentation and citizenship; all people of faith who work for advocacy; change and justice; and the ones who remain in silence and how feel they have no voice.

Marion Surles, Brownwood District Hispanic Ministries coordinator, called for moral voices to unite for reform of our nation's broken immigration system by signing a petition for comprehensive immigration reform (CIR). WIN has gathered 16,000 signatures to date with a goal of 30,000.

Participants in the Evening of Compassion event filled out "Immigration Reform Now" cards calling for CIR that would:

- Provide a pathway to citizenship,
- Reunify immigrant families,
- Increase the number of visas for short-term workers,
- Extend legal protection to all workers who come to stay for certain periods of time,
- Eliminate privately operated detention centers, and
- End all indiscriminate raids.



Participants at "An Evening of Compassion" watch documentary, hear immigrant stories, and lift their voice in prayer

The cards will be forwarded to the UMC's General Board of Church & Society which has been working for immigration reform.

Written by Carolyn Stephens- Reprinted with permission from The Central Link, October 16, 2009 edition

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NCJW AND WITH ONE VOICE ANNOUNCE LUNCHEON

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section and With One Voice Coalition present "The Business of Immigration Reform." The guest speaker for the luncheon will be Ruben Navarrette, syndicated columnist and Editorial Board Member, San Diego Union.

The luncheon will take place on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at The Cityplace Conference Center, located at 2711 N. Haskell, Dallas, TX 75204. Registration begins at 11:30, with the luncheon following from noon-1:30 PM. Cost for "The Business of Immigration Reform" is \$26. Complimen-

tary parking is available under the building or ride the DART to Cityplace Station.

Register online at www.ncjwdallas.org or mail check for \$26/person, payable to NCJW, to 6025 Royal Lane, Suite 219-9, Dallas, Texas, 75230.



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Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) is a faith-driven ministry, welcoming immigrants into our churches and communities by providing free, high-quality immigration legal services, education, and advocacy.

Justice For Our Neighbors is housed at Polytechnic United Methodist Church in Fort Worth and at Pleasant Mound United Methodist Church in Dallas. JFON also partners with Refugee Services of Texas in both Dallas and Fort Worth.

For more information on how you or your church can become involved with Justice For Our Neighbors or to schedule a speaking engagement at your local church or community organization, please contact Amy Spaur, Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator, at 817-534-3293 (FTW), 214-381-0901 (Dallas), or by e-mail at amyspaur@hotmail.com.

...BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY...

Leviticus 19:33-34

When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 15:15

The community is to have the same rules for you and for the alien living among you; this is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. You and the alien shall be the same before the Lord.

Deuteronomy 10:18

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

Psalms 146:9

The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Matthew 25:35b

I was a stranger and you invited me in

Hebrews 13:2

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.