Rev. Randy Nichols believes strongly that he is connected to his United Methodist roots and John Wesley’s tenets of social justice by heading an agency that serves the homeless in his community.

Serving through the Louisiana Annual Conference in an extension ministry, Nichols is the executive director of the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (CAAH) in Baton Rouge, La.

“Wesley encouraged us to be involved in social justice and outreach. Extension ministry gives me an opportunity to connect with this vital Wesleyan tenet of faith,” said Nichols.

Rev. Don Cottrill, director of connectional ministries for the Louisiana Annual Conference, said, “Pastoral ministry is not limited to the local church. Persons called to ordained ministry—as well as laity—serve in the name of Christ in all aspects of the community and the world. Because of that, it is an ‘extension’ of the work of the church beyond the walls of our buildings.”

Serving through the conference in an Extension Ministry, Rev. Randy Nichols is the executive director of the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (CAAH) in Baton Rouge, La. Members of First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge and clients of CAAH are shown after a day of labor installing a community garden.

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Words of Thanksgiving

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey

On Facebook this week, I noticed that many of my friends began posting words of Thanksgiving. At first, I thought it was no surprise of people to post comments about their wonderful parents or spouse. When one of my Facebook friends posted thanks to God for her incredible husband, she received comments filled with congratulations and happy anniversaries. She graciously thanked her friends and shared that it was not her anniversary. Instead, she had chosen to post a daily word of Thanksgiving as we approach the holiday set aside for giving thanks for the bounty God has placed in our lives.

What a wonderful month - a month of thanksgivings instead of just a Thanksgiving Day. I have so much to be thankful for that it will take not a day or a month, but perhaps a lifetime to acknowledge all the blessings God has placed in my life.

My newest blessing is the privilege to serve as your Bishop. As I travel to each of our districts for a time of conversation, I walk away each time feeling abundantly blessed. The energy you share is contagious. Your love for the United Methodist Church and hope for its future is worth telling the world about. I am doing exactly that this week as I gather with bishops from around the world at the Council of Bishops meeting in St. Simeon's Island, Georgia. As we move through the month, I will share my blessings with you along the way. I challenge you as you pray each day for one minute at 1 p.m. that you might add a prayer of Thanksgiving for the blessings in your life.

In Christ,

Cynthia Fierro Harvey

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you."

Philippians 1:3

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Movement, Meaning and the Methodists...

BY REV. LYNN MALONE

I hear a lot about “movements” these days. “We’ve got to reclaim the movement,” the consultants tell us (see The Adaptive Leadership Series published by Abingdon Press prior to General Conference 2012). Leaders, consultants, clergy and lay seek to remind us that John Wesley began a movement to “spread scriptural holiness over the land” that swept across England, moved to America (mainly through the efforts of Francis Asbury) and eventually covered the globe. The idea of Methodism as a movement is front and center in the debate about our future. It only makes me wonder (out loud) if it’s great preaching that communicates eloquently? If so, I’ve heard some great preaching that said little. Nothing said, even in the most eloquent of fashions, changes nothing. Makes me wonder (out loud) if it’s great preaching or just really good motivational speaking? I’m just thinking, “good” preaching talks about sin (and our slavery to it), and about grace (and our need for it); and about repentance (and our responsibility to it); and about forgiveness (and our ability to receive it); and about the cross (and our salvation through it); and finally about Jesus (and our hope in Him). I can’t tell you the times I’ve had people say to me, “I come to church to feel good.” I get the impression that some of us want a feel good message that doesn’t necessarily challenge us to live differently. Actually, we don’t always need a feel good message. Sometimes we need to be challenged that the things we do and the way we live is not the way it’s supposed to be. Sometimes, we need to leave worship feeling bad (Wesley would call that “convicted”), and believing there needs to be a change in me before there can be a change in the world around me. Wesley, Asbury and the other early Methodist preachers had little concern that people left Methodist meetings feeling convicted. They knew conviction led to repentance and repentance led to forgiveness and forgiveness came through a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. Those preachers were part of a movement.

See Malone, page 8
A Service of Installation for Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey was held at First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, La. on Oct. 20 at 11 a.m.

The church’s chancel choir, led by Lamar Drummonds, performed musical selections throughout the service. Choir of the Dawn, the children’s choir from Wesley UMC in Baton Rouge, sang “Got Me Some Angels” and a spiritual rendition of “Jesus Loves Me.”

The Rev. Ellen Alston, chair of the conference Episcopacy Committee and clergy leader of the conference delegation, introduced the bishop as George “Buzzy” Anding, chancellor for the Louisiana Conference, presented Bishop Harvey to the congregation for welcome. The Rev. Dan Krutz, executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Council, brought greetings from the ecumenical community.

A reception was held following the service in First UMC’s conference center.

Bishop Fierro Harvey began her tenure as the Episcopal leader of the Louisiana Conference on Sept. 1. She was elected as a bishop in The United Methodist Church at the denomination’s South Central Jurisdictional meeting this past July in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and appointed to the Louisiana area following her election.

Her appointment just prior to her election was as the Deputy General Secretary (DGS) of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the disaster response component of the church’s General Board of Global Ministries. In this position, she had oversight for programs that ranged in scope from international development and hospital revitalization to long-term disaster recovery and ministry with the poor.

“It has been a great privilege to serve the church as the DGS for UMCOR,” said Bishop Fierro Harvey. “It has prepared me in many ways to serve the larger United Methodist Church at this critical time in the life of our great church.”

A member of the Texas Annual Conference, Bishop Fierro Harvey was ordained an elder in 2001. She served as an associate at The Foundry in Houston as it developed a strong presence in the northwestern part of the city. She later served at the almost 7,000-member Memorial Drive UMC as the executive associate until 2008. She was then appointed to serve as the director of the conference’s Center for Missional Excellence and was a member of the Cabinet.

Before entering full-time ministry, Bishop Fierro Harvey was an active layperson in the United Methodist Church, serving on many committees at the local church, district, and annual conference level. She has a deep appreciation for the role and contribution of the laity.

Bishop Fierro Harvey had a full career prior to ordination working in the area of marketing and communication.

A native of Big Spring, Texas, Bishop Fierro Harvey is fluent in Spanish and speaks what she describes as “survival” French. She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in journalism and a specialization in public relations.

She earned her Masters of Divinity from Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology. She has been married to Dean Harvey for 31 years. Their daughter, Elizabeth Grace, is 22 years old and a senior at Baylor University. Bishop Harvey is pictured with her family, top left.
Mission and service are the focus of this year’s conference Junior High retreats, the first held Oct. 26-28 at The Wesley Center in Woodworth, La.

One hundred youth attended the October event which featured Bishop Cynthia Harvey as the keynote speaker. Rev. Larry Norman, director of Louisiana Volunteers in Mission, will speak at the second retreat slated Nov. 9-11.

Small group discussions centered on Luke 10:27: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength; and your neighbor as yourself.” The youth put that concept into action through a series of service and mission projects, which included assembling 200 cleaning buckets and serving in Alexandria at the Shepherd Center, Hope House, the Butterfly Garden (a bereavement garden for parents who have lost children) and two local nursing homes.

A powerful Saturday night worship service featured a walk down the Wesley Center trail—lit by flashlights—to the “Jesus Cross.”

“At one point on the trail, the group became silent as we prepared for worship. The band began playing and it sounded like angels singing in heaven as we completed the walk and surrounded the fire at the Jesus Cross. God’s presence was felt by everyone—it was an awesome time!” said Jodie Harper, conference director of Youth Ministries.

To view pictures of the retreats, go to www.la-umc.org, click on Ministries, then Youth, then Junior High Retreat. There you will find a picture gallery.
Louisiana conference Now!

TABLESCAPE.

100 tickets are sold. Those purchasing a table for eight are allowed to choose a fabulous.

ner Horseshoe Drive UMC in the Alexandria District  serves a wonderful luncheon. Only

auction raised over $800 for Louisiana Conference mission agencies.

Then come desserts with homemade ice cream. Homemade pies are auctioned. A friendly

year with the Social Hall decorated in red, white and blue. A guest speaker gives a patriot-

inspired by Matthew 25:36 “…I was sick and you visited me..” The purpose of this mis-

sans.

is ever expanding. They also help provide jobs and income by selling crafts for area arti-

is a beloved child of God! Faith, Hope, Love in Action.” Wow!

covered heads mean fewer illnesses. Fewer illnesses mean happier moms. Happier moms

entry: “It gets cold in the Appalachian Mountains. We have become Nifty Knitters sending

st of the teacher's salary. Now beginning their fourth year of involvement, their mission

garten in San Juan del Oberto, Guatemala. They provide school supplies and help with the

 warns of the Louisiana Conference UMW. The executive team commented that the

suggested be forwarded to her email or on

to individual District Presidents. Barbara’s email address is bferguson@researchonre-

forms.org

The executive team commented that the survey revealed a need for conference and
district levels to be in greater contact with local units. “We are doing this now, and

will work even harder on this in the future,” said Ferguson. If a member has not

filled out the survey, it can be found at www.la-umc.org under

Ministries-Laity-United Methodist

women. The president also encourages members
to “be a part” of UMW at the state level by

completing the “Talent Form” on the con-

ference website. “These are not only officer

positions, but committee positions that

members might be interested in,” added

Ferguson.

Louisiana’s UMW celebrates unique mission and fund raising projects at annual meeting

“UNIQUE” CONTEST WINNERS

A year of secrecy ended on Friday, Oct. 12 with the long-awaited announcement of the

winners of the “Most Unique” contests. Supervised by the Conference and District

Education & Interpretation Coordinators, the contest was designed to share the creativ-

ess our units display in carrying out their mission projects. All entries will be printed in

a pamphlet available to all the units by the time of the Spiritual Retreat.

MOST “UNIQUE” MISSION PROJECT

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<th>District Winners</th>
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<td>Acadiana</td>
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The winning project was from Douglas UMC in the Monroe District. To quote their

entry: “It gets cold in the Appalachian Mountains. We have become Nifty Knitters sending

300 plus handmade hats to precious children to help them have warm ears! Warm ears

and covered heads mean fewer illnesses. Fewer illnesses mean happier moms. Happier moms

mean contented families. Each hat is sent with a prayer that the recipient will know he/she

is a beloved child of God! Faith, Hope, Love in Action.” Wow!

Second place winner Westlake UMC in the Lake Charles District supports a kinder-

garten in San Juan del Oberto, Guatemala. They provide school supplies and help with the

cost of the teacher's salary. Now beginning their fourth year of involvement, their mission

is ever expanding. They also help provide jobs and income by selling crafts for area arti-

sans.

St. Matthew UMC in the New Orleans District has a “Care & Concern Mission”

inspired by Matthew 25:36 “…I was sick and you visited me..” The purpose of this mis-

sion project is to aid in the spiritual comfort, praise and uplifting of Jesus Christ to the joy

of those in the community who are unable to attend regular worship services. What beauti-

ful examples of mission involvement all three of these projects give us!

The most unique money raising project entries are just as exciting. First UMC of

Lafayette was the Acadiana first place winner. An annual July 4th celebration is held each

year with the Social Hall decorated in red, white and blue. A guest speaker gives a patriot-

ic talk followed by patriotic music and stories. Hot dogs with all the “fixings” are served.

Then come desserts with homemade ice cream. Homemade pies are auctioned. A friendly

rivalry among the pie bakers has developed and built customer anticipation. This year's pie

auction raised over $500 for Louisiana Conference mission agencies.

It's amazing how many of our UMW projects have to do with food! Second place win-

ner Horseshoe Drive UMC in the Alexandria District serves a wonderful luncheon. Only

100 tickets are sold. Those purchasing a table for eight are allowed to choose a fabulous

tablescape.

St. Paul’s UMC’s project is also a food one. “Soup’s On” is a great idea for small,

older groups, especially. Ladies make and freeze taco soup or chicken and sausage gumbo,

at home in their own time. On the prescribed date, quarts of soup or gumbo are available

for pick-up to put in your own freezer for another day or thawed for today's meal.

Congratulations to the recently elected members of the

Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women’s

Executive Committee and those continuing!

Executive Committee

President Barbara Ferguson

Vice President Sandy DeCelle

Secretary Joyce Thibodeaux

Treasurer Georgie Lee Roberson

Spiritual Growth Majorie Franklin

Education & Interpretation Myrna Freeman

Social Action Laura Salguero

Membership Nuture & Outreach Ouida Smith

Secretary of Program Resources Janell Ducrest

Communication Coordinator Anita Hansberry

Chairperson, Committee on Nominations Judy Nugent

Chairperson, Standing Rules Margaret Washington

Historian Dean, Mission U Sallie Uhl

Assistant Dean, Mission U Debbie Hancock

Secretary Joyce Thibodeaux Anita Hansberry

Class of 2013 Lake Charles

Class of 2013 Sammie Jo Perkins

Class of 2013 Acadiana

Class of 2014 Shreveport

Class of 2014 Judy Nugent

Class of 2014 Baton Rouge

Class of 2015 Bettye Watson

Class of 2015 Alexandria

Class of 2016 Eloise Cox

Class of 2016 Monroe

Class of 2016 Margie Harris

Class of 2016 New Orleans

Class of 2016 Cynthia Logan

Visit the conference website to see more photos from the Annual Meeting and pictures of Unique Mission and Fundraising Projects! Visit www.la-umc.org and click on Ministries, then Laity, then United Methodist Women.

Thanks for your participation. “Share your Mission Vision”, that's our slogan!

Congratulations to these unique fund raisers!

MOST “UNIQUE” MONEY RAISING PROJECT

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Louisiana’s UMW celebrates unique mission and fund raising projects at annual meeting

The annual meeting held Oct. 12-13 at First UMC - Houma

A total of 187 women from across the state gathered at First United Methodist

Church in Houma for the Louisiana United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting held

Oct. 12-13. A total of 155 attended the banquet, held Friday at Marriott Courtyard.

In keeping with this year’s theme, “Women Responding to God’s Love and

Grace,” a budget of $190,000 was set for missions in 2013. In addition, participants

collected a Mission Candle offering of $4,486, keeping the “candle burning” for two hours, 39 minutes and 40 seconds.

Prior to the start of the annual meeting, the UMW executive team met to discuss

the findings of a state-wide survey of members and local units. Results revealed that

currently, only 40 percent of United Methodist churches in Louisiana have

UMW units.

The executive team plans to hold a “brainstorming” session Nov. 16-17 to dis-

cuss the revitalization of United Methodist
United Methodists from throughout the conference participate in leadership workshops

Daughenbaugh Matheny Scholarship has rich history in building Christian leaders

Evaluating young people is just one component of building up Christian leaders for the “transformation of the world.”

One way that the Louisiana Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church has supported higher education in UM colleges is through the establishment and ongoing support of the Daughenbaugh Matheny (DM) Scholarship fund.

Offered to students attending Centenary College in Shreveport or Dillard University in New Orleans, the scholarship enables recipients to obtain an education that will prepare them for a vocation in the church or to serve the church as laity.

“Support of this scholarship fund is an investment in the future ministry of the United Methodist Church,” said Valla Johnson, DM Scholarship fund chair.

In 1950, the Howard L. Daughenbaugh Memorial Scholarship was established by the Board of Laity of the Louisiana Conference to aid young people enrolled full time at Centenary College in the pursuit of careers in Christian education and service.

In 1982, the Thomas H. Matheny Scholarship was started to increase educational opportunities for United Methodists in the conference. These two funds, both named to recognize outstanding conference lay leaders, were combined in 1987.

All applicants must be residents of Louisiana, current members of a Louisiana United Methodist church and attending or planning to attend one of Louisiana’s two Methodist institutions of higher learning—Centenary College or Dillard University.

Candidacy for the award is open to high school seniors and college students who have at least a 2.5 grade point average.

Scholarships are awarded yearly (school year) for a maximum of four years, based upon scholarship, service and need. An application form, accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the individual’s church pastor and a school counselor must be received by March 1. A personal interview is required as part of the application process for the first two years of the award. After that, previous recipients need only fill out an application form accompanied by a letter of reference from their pastor and a teacher.

The amount of individual scholarships is dependent on the amount of money raised divided among the eligible students for that particular year. The scholarship committee sets a goal of raising at least $4,000 in each district to support annual scholarship requests. Applications for the scholarship will be available through the conference media and website in January of 2013.

Skeeter Run, from page 1

More than 200 participants attended Leading Beyond the Walls held Oct. 26-27 at the Alexander Fulton Hotel in Alexandria, left. Teams from local churches considered alternate ways of doing church in order to reach those who are unchurched in their communities. The two-day leadership event was led by Carol Cartmill and Lori Trupp, both staff members of the 8,000 member United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. More than 65 United Methodists from throughout the Louisiana Conference attended L.E.A.D. 2012-Catch and Release, held Nov. 2-3 at The Wesley Center in Woodworth. The leadership workshop focused on “catching” seekers, helping them become disciples and then releasing them into the world to serve others. The keynote speaker for the two-day event was Rev. Dr. Marvin Anthony Moss, pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta. Pictured with Dr. Moss is Rev. Joe Connelly, event organizer.

The more participation we have, the greater chance we have to raise awareness about malaria, which kills nearly 700,000 people annually. The vast majority of these victims are children under the age of five,” said Betty Backstrom, director of communications for the annual conference.

Pastors and lay leaders of local churches are encouraged by the Bishop and the Appointive Cabinet to:

•Promote the Skeeter Run through church media, Facebook, websites and newsletters. Send out a “Save the Date” TODAY! Pastors, please speak about the event from the pulpit during announcements!

•Make SURE there is a point person for signing up church members for the run!

•Plan a “swat team” sign up day at church in January!

•Sign up to participate in the 2013 Louisiana Skeeter Run, yourself! It’s FUN!

Questions: Call Betty Backstrom at (225) 346-1646.
United Methodists rally to help survivors of Hurricane Sandy through housing, donations

The widespread effects of Hurricane Sandy on New Jersey have made it difficult for United Methodists to assess immediately the needs of churches and communities, said Bishop John Schol, Greater New Jersey Annual (regional) Conference. "Our main challenge is 2.4 million people without electricity," the bishop told United Methodist News Service the morning of Nov. 1. "Everything is down."

Another challenge is reaching communities by car with fallen trees littering the roads, but Schol has managed to visit churches in northern and central parts of the state and to meet with pastors and tour shelters and disaster sites in South Jersey. "A lot of our concern right now is the human needs: shelter for people, food, providing support and counseling," he said. "We are making grants available to churches and community organizations engaged in immediate human-needs response."

Chatham United Methodist Church, for example, has provided 100 displaced Drew University students with a place to sleep, hot meals and "electricity to charge up their electronics to call home and do homework." Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church in Maplewood also has opened its doors to the community.
Patti Glasser serves as director of operations for Mission Central, the mission warehouse of the Susquehanna Annual (regional) Conference. In Mechanicsburg, Pa., about three hours from the Big Apple, Glasser and her staff of five already are responding to Hurricane Sandy-related needs from New York. They are waiting to hear from other affected states.

When a disaster occurs, Glasser explained, "we have to allow nature to take its course. First, the floodwaters come, then they recede, then disaster coordinators go into the area and assess the damage and see what is needed." The next step is to coordinate resources – both people and supplies.

Mission Central staff shipped 1,000 cleaning buckets to hurricane survivors in New York, Glasser said. Eventually, she anticipates thousands more of the buckets will be requested from New Jersey and Delaware. Current urgent needs are personal insect repellent spray (6-14 ounces), liquid household cleaner (25- or 50-ounce bottles) and liquid laundry detergent (12-16 ounces). "Ultimately," Glasser added, "we will need the entire contents of the cleaning buckets."

The United Methodist Church is helping prepare, respond and cope with the storm’s effects. Through local United Methodist churches and trained disaster response workers, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides immediate relief, assistance with cleanup and rebuilding, pastoral counseling and support for children and youth who have been through trauma.

"As large as the monster Sandy is, the church is larger and more powerful in its preparations, its spirit and its capacity to be here for years to come," said the Rev. Tom Hazelwood, UMCOR Assistant General Secretary for U.S. Disaster Response.

UMCOR field staff are already at work assessing damages in the Caribbean, where Hurricane Sandy is known to have killed at least 65 people, left widespread power outages and damaged or destroyed agricultural fields and communications systems. "There are many ways you can help, but the most important right now is by giving to UMCOR Hurricane 2012 Advance #3021787, which will cover needs in the affected U.S. and Caribbean regions," said Rev. Hazelwood. You can also text the word RESPONSE to 80888 to give an immediate $10 donation. Church members can make a contribution in the collection plate by writing advance number and the words “UMCOR Hurricane 2012” in the memo line of their check.

For more information, follow UMCOR on Facebook or call (800) 554-8583 between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. ET.

Bishop requests special offering on Nov. 11 for Sandy response

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue to hold our own brothers and sisters affected by Hurricane Isaac in prayer we now lift up in prayer our brothers and sisters who are recovering from the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy.

We know all too well about Hurricanes and Tropical Storms as we have been battered so badly ourselves. In the past eight years, our conference has been blessed

Louisiana still needs assistance in recovery from Isaac: Calling all response teams!

Just as our brothers and sister in states affected by Hurricane Sandy will need Louisiana’s help, there are survivors of Isaac in our own state that still need the vital assistance provided by disaster response teams.

Currently, the Louisiana Disaster Response Ministry is working approximately 50 cases in LaPlace and 50 cases in Maurepas, both hard hit by the Aug. 29 storm. Teams are needed to assist in these cases.

Thank you in advance for sharing your time and effort to assist Louisiana in its recovery from Hurricane Isaac. For all volunteers, the cost per person for five nights is $225. Shorter stays are possible at a cost of $45 a night. This includes orientation, housing, one meal per day, water and insurance coverage. Teams are asked to consider bringing funds to help with supplies and materials needed in the rebuilding effort. Any amount is appreciated.

If a group wants to work for the day only, there will be a charge of $30 to help with cost of materials.

We appreciate you signing up to serve forward to UMCOR as quickly as we receive funds) or they may contribute directly to UMCOR via the UMCOR website (www.umcor.org). The Advance number is #3021787.

Individuals can also text the word RESPONSE to 80888 to give an immediate $10 donation.

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
Malone, from page 2

Methodism can never be a movement that competes with the culture. We are spending tons of resources (both human and financial) to compete with the NFL, or Hollywood, or the country club, or the dance recitals, or the traveling sports teams, or any of the myriad other activities that clamor for people's attention. We build pristine buildings, we install flashy equipment, we develop curriculum around felt needs, all in an effort to compete with culture, hoping someone will find some relevance in what we do. And, we continue to lose the battle. We'll never win that battle because the culture will always make it flashier, more appealing, more exciting than we will be able to do. We'll mostly be one step behind trying to catch up. But we have something the culture can't offer—God, and God's grace, able to change a person and change a culture. Let's offer them Christ. Let's talk about salvation and redemption. Let's talk about repentance and conviction. Then, we won't be competing with culture. We'll be offering a counter cultural perspective. Now, that's a movement!

It probably sounds like I'm getting all preachy here, and perhaps I am. That's okay! I'm a preacher, aren't I? Gil Rendle says "a movement is a group of people who intentionally, at their own risk, join together to make a change in the status quo." Honestly, I have no desire to intentionally join together in a movement whose purpose is to restructure an institution, or develop new small groups, or simply to get more people in worship. I do, however, have a deep desire to intentionally join together in a movement whose purpose is to save souls. Restructuring an institution, developing small groups and offering worship options may be means to an end, but they are not the end. Saving souls is the end. Let's start a movement concerned with that. I'll be a part of that movement.

Okay, so maybe it won't work. But what we're doing now isn't working. Can we just try it and see? Let's add it to the conversation and see what happens. I think Wesley would be proud, and he might even want to be a part of such a movement. I'll hush now. It might sound like I'm preaching.

Blessings,
Rev. Lynn Malone
Monroe District Superintendent
Louisiana Annual Conference