

# News Briefing

June 2010

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org)

NT-NL Synod, ELCA



## Book of Faith Congregations

Thirteen NT-NL congregations have signed the covenant to be “Book of Faith” congregations – pledging renewed efforts to reinvest in the “first language of faith” – the Bible. Resources abound for those interested in learning more about what the Scripture says and how the Scriptures have come to us (go to [BookOfFaith.org](http://BookOfFaith.org)).

St. John, Bartlett  
Christ the Servant, Denton  
Christ the King, Fort Worth  
Emmanuel, Granbury  
Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie  
Trinity, Haskell  
Good Shepherd, Irving  
Holy Trinity, Irving  
Calvary, Richland Hills  
Salem, Rosebud  
First, Shreveport  
Hope, Springtown  
Trinity, Wichita Falls.

## Stewardship Academy

*What does the word “stewardship” bring to mind? If you said “money”, you have more to learn!*

Really, the word is about everything that God has entrusted to us – talents, time, treasure, to be sure – but also care of creation, personal giftedness, faith expression and empowerment. It is about your value system, priorities and choices. It is how you live out your response to the grace of God found in Jesus Christ. The NT-NL *Stewardship Academy* helps participants explore themselves in relationship to these critical topics. Discussion, reflection, projects and Bible study all provide helpful insights. Participants get to reflect on their own history and experience of stewardship, on their giftedness and on their faith practices. Now in its fourth year, the Academy has been a blessing to many who have attended. The Academy consists of three weekend gatherings – Oct. 29-30, Jan. 21-22, and Mar. 25-26 at Briarwood Retreat Center. Participants attend all three and engage in reading and projects in between gatherings. Tuition for the Academy is \$175 (deadline Sept. 15). For more information, look for the link to the brochure on the homepage of [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org) or contact Pr. Steve Kanouse, Director for Evangelical Mission (214.637.6865).

## MISSION PARTNERS: Congregations Helping Congregations

**Mr. Ed Halter** (Good Shepherd, Irving) was honored recently by the NT-NL Synod Council for his 22 years as coordinator of the synod’s Mission Partners program. His tireless efforts resulted in many thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of love and labor being poured into various ministries in the synod by congregations and members of the synod. Thank you Ed!



## FYI...

**June Emphasis:** Please pray for *Briarwood* and our *Hispanic/Latino Ministries*

- ❖ So what happened at the **2010 Synod Assembly** in April in Amarillo? Look for a summary of some of the activities and actions – including videos – at [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org) and click on “assembly recap”.
- ❖ The **Parish Lay Ministry Academy** is hosting their annual reunion on June 12 (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.) at Calvary, Richland Hills. The theme is *Moving Forward* and offers presentations by Bishop Assistant Jane Mar, Pr. Chuck Hubbard, and Pr. Norma Cooper. Info contact Dean Russell Vardell ([dean@plmacademy.org](mailto:dean@plmacademy.org)).
- ❖ **Sunday Brunch at Briarwood** is fun and FULL-FILLing – the quantity and quality of the food is marvelous. Plus you run into some of the nicest NT-NL folks. The brunch is offered quarterly. Reserve June 6, Sept. 5 and Dec. 5.
- ❖ **DiscipleLife Idea Bank** – Did you know that the list of interesting and innovative ministries that NT-NL congregations pursue (originally noted here in *News Briefing*) is compiled for your reference at [www.ntnl.org](http://www.ntnl.org) (click on “disciplelife”)?
- ❖ The ELCA offers **Domestic Hunger Grants** to congregations and organizations working to combat the ravages of hunger in America. Applications are due by June 30. Go to [www.elca.org/DomesticHungerGrants](http://www.elca.org/DomesticHungerGrants).
- ❖ The **Nelson Children’s Center** in Denton (Lutheran Social Services) has helped almost 2,000 children to overcome the effects of extreme abuse and neglect. 70% of them are able to transition successfully into a loving foster home.