

San Angelo woman recognized for service to church, community

UMC Reporter May 29, 1998

A San Angelo laywoman won recognition May 16 for service to her church and random acts of kindness to the community's least fortunate in the name of God.

Mary Hankins, a member of Wesley UMC, San Angelo, received the 1998 Bishop's Exemplar Award during the San Angelo District Celebration.

Bishop Ray Owen presents the honor annually to a lay person in each district "for witness, commitment and service after the example of our Lord Jesus Christ."

'God's blessed me'

"I'm very honored to receive this award," Hankins told the more than 170 people at the event. "I think God has blessed me to be in this place at this time."

"I like helping others. But I could not do it without the support of my family, church and a lot of you out there who help me do what I do."

Hankins has been volunteer director of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen at Wesley UMC since 1987.

She represents the soup kitchen at various community groups and coordinates the work of 55 volunteers. They include youth groups,

Scout troops, military wives and church groups from San Angelo and surrounding communities.

Last year she organized a Christmas party for soup kitchen patrons and presented gifts to 85 children.

In addition, she serves on the State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee, which reviews complaints against attorneys, and a local bank community advisory board.

Hankins is a past board member for:

- Fort Concho Museum.
- San Angelo Healthy Families.
- Concho Valley Regional Food Bank.
- Angelo Day Nursery.

She chairs the conference Commission on Religion and Race and is secretary of the conference Council on Ministries.

Hankins has been active in United Methodist Women, filling various district and conference leadership posts.

At her church she has taught a Sunday school class for young people for the past three years.

Eighty-two members of other local churches as well as the entire congregation of Veribest

UMC received Discipleship Awards for distinguished Christian witness and service.

9-year-old cited

The group included 9-year-old Casey Simons from First UMC, Paint Rock.

Owen said Casey, daughter of Frank Simons, was the first youngster to earn special district recognition for discipleship during his six years as bishop.

"I am very proud of you, Casey," the bishop said. "We sometimes forget that children are not the church of the future. They are the church of today."

Casey was cited as an example to all for her faithful attendance, Bible studies, participation in church activities and willingness to help anyplace she is asked.

Others get awards

Other honorees, listed by congregation, include:

- **Big Lake UMC:** Mike Elkins, Theta Puckett, Pat Turner, Pat Williams.
- **Brackettville UMC:** Elise Huntsman, Kathryn Letsinger.
- **First UMC, Brady:** Jerry Adams, Gilbert and Jackie Currie, Barbara Moorman, Glee Quick.

■ **Bronte UMC:** Ginger Gentry, Lum Lasswell, Mary Percifull.

■ **Trinity UMC, Castell:** Emeth Bauer, Willie Mae Oestreich.

■ **First UMC, Del Rio:** Mike Williams, Karen Wilson.

■ **Eden UMC:** Larry and Judy Crawford, Lillian Ellison, Richard and Sandy Mach.

■ **First UMC, Eldorado:** Brian Brownlow, Cherie Niblett, Harold Steele.

■ **First UMC, Junction:** Mrs. Marc Dobbins.

■ **First UMC, Mason:** Alice Dannheim, Dianna Dail, Clay Kruckemeyer, Curtis Schulze.

■ **McCamey UMC:** Theodora Matthews, Betty McClure, Jean Myrick, John Windbigler.

■ **Melvin UMC:** Ruth Akins, Juanita Kinzel, Bobbie Wahrmond.

■ **First UMC, Menard:** Peggy Decker, Rusty Williamson.

■ **Mertzson UMC:** Cathy Carrell, Shirley Payton, Loye Tankersley.

■ **Miles UMC:** Glenda Smith Lacy, Renonia Eudy West.

■ **Ozona UMC:** Bud Cox, Marilyn Cox, Becky Childress, Katharine Russell.

■ **First UMC, Paint Rock:** Fred Campbell, Elton Click, Nora Stinson.



Bishop Ray Owen embraces Mary Hankins, winner of the 1998 Bishop's Exemplar Award in the San Angelo District, May 16. Rick Mantooth, district lay leader, and the Rev. Barbara Galloway-Edgar, district superintendent, look on. Hankins is a member of Wesley UMC, San Angelo.

■ **Rankin UMC:** Janice Alexander, Alvin King, Roberta Stanland, Opal Whiteside.

■ **First UMC, San Angelo:** Kelly Bryant, Phil and Toddy George, Ray and Delilah Harper, Fred Key.

■ **Grape Creek UMC, San Angelo:** Kalton May.

■ **Lakeview UMC, San Angelo:** Lisa Brady, Dorothy Grosshans, Nadine Knadler, Evelyn Wagner.

■ **Sierra Vista UMC, San Angelo:** Janet Duggan, Judy Turner, Steve Wilson.

■ **St. Luke UMC, San Angelo:** Helen Cunningham, Ed and Phyllis Thurston, Scott and Deborah Underwood.

■ **Wesley UMC, San Angelo:** Franklin DeVore, Sarah Holbert, Diane Raphael.

■ **First UMC, Sterling City:** Clinton Hodges, Henry Robinson, Tracee Robinson.

United Methodist Church
Southwest Texas
Conference

Ray Owen
Bishop

Jerry Jay Smith
Assistant to the
Episcopal Office

Douglas Cannon
Communications Director
Conference Editor

Terry Schoenert
Circulation Coordinator

P.O. Box 781149
San Antonio, Texas 78278-1149
(210) 408-4505 (888) 349-4191
FAX (210) 408-4515
www.umcswtx.org