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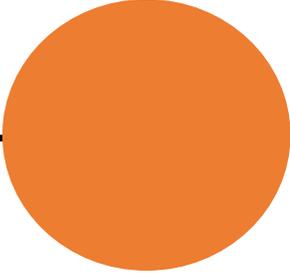
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Jason Valendy



IMPRINTS STORY

Imprint— “to impress or to stamp”

Part of the reason many of us value being ordained in the UMC is the connection we have with colleagues. One cannot help but marvel at all the different gifts and graces God has given to the clergy in the Central Texas Conference. And scripture tells us that God uses the whole of the body of disciples to make to further the message of Christ in this world.

Out of this desire to strengthen the connection and to celebrate different given gifts and graces, *Imprints* was born.

Imprints is a curated collection of the published works of the clergy in the Central Texas Conference. Authors are invited to contribute responses to set questions. Those responses are edited and formatted to create *Imprints*.

It is the big dream of *Imprints* that others might see and understand the “imprint” the Central

Texas Conference clergy are making in the Christian discussion.

It has been said the only way to change culture is to make different culture. May this publication help be an agent of culture change in our conference.

Thank you for writing, reading and sharing.

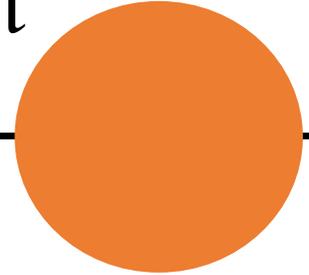
Grace and Peace to you.

Rev. Jason Valendy

Want to contribute to *Imprints*? Email requests to JasonValendy@gmail.com or fill out the form directly at: <http://bit.ly/1D5frud>

**The content of this publication is the responsibility of the editor and contributing members and it does not speak for or on behalf of the Central Texas Conference.*

CTC's Online Imprint



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Seedbed.com (Contributor)

Steven Bell

happytents.org (Author)

Tim Buster

UMC.org article (Featured)

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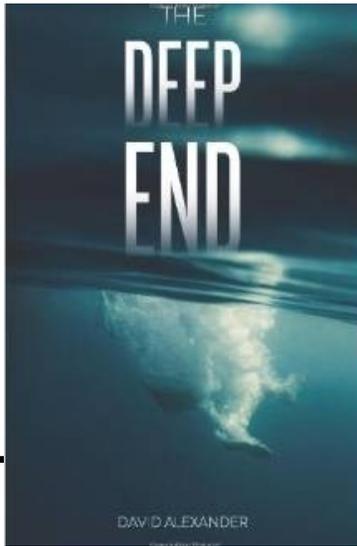
Rev. David Alexander

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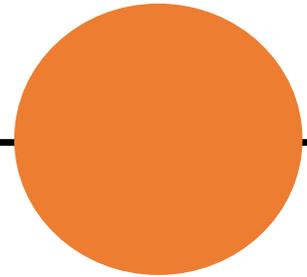
Rev. David Alexander serves as the Directing Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Mansfield, Texas. In that role, David shares the primary leadership and preaching responsibilities with Senior Pastor Mike Ramsdell.

David is also the author of the book *The Deep End*, which focuses on the deep questions of the Christian faith. David describes the book as being for anyone who has ever felt like "the process of finding faith sometimes feels like you are losing faith."

David and his wife, Stephanie have called the Mansfield community home since February of 2005. They have one daughter, Anna, and a son, Jack.



Deep End



Details

Print Length: 186 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace (December 21, 2013)

How to use this book: Sunday School & Small Group Resource

Availability: [Amazon](#)

Why did you write this

“The book is organized around what I describe as the more difficult questions that I believe every person of faith must wrestle with at some point in their journey.

In my work as a pastor these are questions that people ask me all the time and I wanted to provide a resource that would not only address those questions but also help people of faith have more open dialogue with others who may ask these same questions.

What exactly is faith?

Where is God when tragedies occur?

What's wrong with the world?

How is God responding to the brokenness that surrounds us?

How do I talk about faith?

Again, I think these are questions that I think all people ask and my hope is that the book might be a resource that will continue some healthy reflection and dialogue.”

Where can people read more

“I have since written more about that specific question on a guest post I shared with Seedbed. You can find that post here. <http://seedbed.com/feed/3-reasons-questions-sometimes-better-answers/>

I am convinced that our questions have tremendous value in that while that can at times be unsettling, they are also what propel us further on our journey.”

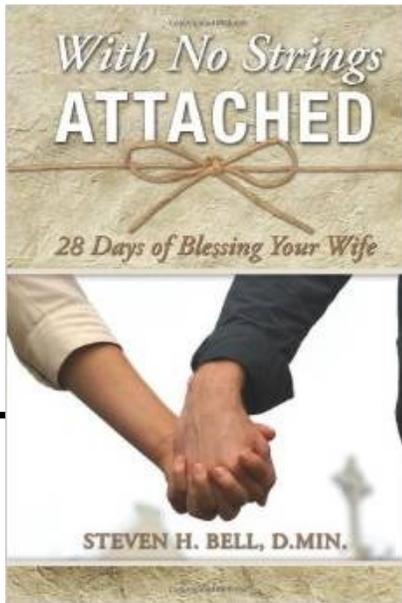
Additionally more can be found at pastordavidalexander.com



Rev. Dr. Steven Henry Bell

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Steven is a native of Northwest Louisiana, being raised in the small town of Coushatta. He loves to be outdoors, running, hiking, camping, kayaking, and fishing. By far, his favorite activity is to hang out with his three girls, his dog Kate, and spend time with friends. Steven, his wife, Meredith, and their two daughters, Ann and Lia, currently reside in North Richland Hills, TX. He is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, and earned his doctorate in Church Leadership from Perkins School of Theology/SMU in Dallas, TX. Steven serves as the Executive Pastor for Family Ministry at White's Chapel, a United Methodist congregation in Southlake, TX.



With No Strings Attached:

28 Days of Blessing Your Wife

Details

Print Length, 86 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace (December 25, 2013)

How to use this book: Devotionally, Marriage/
Premarital Counseling/Enrichment, Men's Ministry

Availability: [Amazon](#)

Why did you write this

I was inspired to write because I wanted to share all I have learned working with couples for 15 years of pastoral ministry, personal experiences from my 14 years of marriage, and serving as the Executive Pastor for Family Ministry at White's Chapel UMC.

What do you hope people gain

“Marriage for many women is simply miserable. And if that’s not bad enough, what makes this even worse is that oftentimes it is we men who inject the misery into the marriage (like injecting our favorite mari-

nade into the Thanksgiving turkey). We judge our wives, criticize them, gripe, complain, and fail to appreciate them. Is this behavior helpful? Is it effective? Is it Christ-like? No (and no wonder why the divorce rate among professing Christians is not much different from those who do not follow Jesus)! To tell you the truth, God’s plan for the way you treat your wife looks very different.

Throughout the book I detail twenty-eight unique ways for husbands to love their wife unconditionally. Each approach to blessing your wife is simple, yet immensely challenging. The days of the “status quo” husband are quickly coming to an end, and our wives need more from us than we’ve been giving them. Grounded in scripture and a number of other helpful resources, I hope to provide a way of how to take your marriage from miserable to magnificent.”

Where can people read more

www.happytents.org



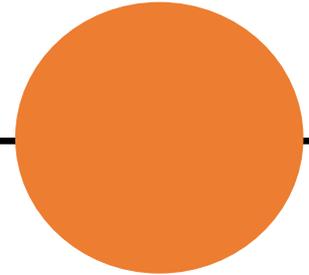
Rev. Penny Stemley

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LilliAnn, affectionately known as Penny, was appointed to Grace UMC, Arlington in 2013 and has a Master of Arts in Christian Service from Brite Divinity school at TCU and is a Deacon in Full Connection with the Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Butterfly Wings



Details

Print Length, 25 pages

Publisher, Accent Digital Publishing (Jan. 3, 2013)

How to use this book.: For grieving children

Availability: [Amazon](#)

Why did you write this

In 2008, I was actively participating in a season of prayer and fasting. During this time I reviewed several personal journals I had written over the course of several years. I found where I had logged a dream I had about a children's fairy tale. The dream occurred many years ago, but this time there was an urgency in reading it. It caught my attention! I knew its purpose (God's plan) was about to be revealed.

A few days later, at Choir Rehearsal, we were sharing prayer requests. Little Sydney came up for prayer with tears welling up in her eyes because she was still grieving, and missed her "Auntie" who had passed

away more than three years ago. It was at that very moment that I knew what "Butterfly Wings" was all about.

What do you hope people gain

My prayer is that this book will give a sense of hope and joy to grieving children; and that it will bring them to a place of peace and comfort - in the midst of their sorrow. It's an interactive book where children will enjoy the journey as they learn about: King Hope, Queen Faith, and a Butterfly named "LOVE".

Where can people read more

Another book "I'm Saved Now What?" also available on [Amazon](#). This book outlines the means of grace as we go from prevenient grace through to perfected grace. Bottom-line - It's a process. This book is recommended for anyone beginning their walk with Christ and even those who have been walking a while.

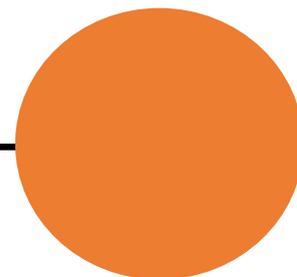


Chaplain (LTC) Rev. Bill Killough

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"I am a child of God by the grace of God in Christ. At 49 years of age, I'm still attempting to 'grow up' and 'workout my salvation' in Christ. Any successes I've obtained in this life and the life to come have been by the loving merciful (and humorous) grace of God, for a terrible son of Perdition who deserves nothing good. I have spiritual scars from my sins but thankfully Jesus is my Great Physician...and that is sufficient. God was graciously protecting me in my adult years in spite of me wallowing in the sins of drug, alcohol and sex abuse. He mercifull watched over me during my 3 years serving as an infantrymen in the US Army followed by 17 years as an Army chaplain, where I currently serve. God provided me a wonderful Christian community at Cousts Memorial UMC in Weatherford, TX to grow in Christ. I only hope to be more like Jesus and rest in his grace, telling and showing the Good News of God in Christ."

Acknowledging Spiritual Dynamics During Trauma Care



Details

Availability: [Topics in Emergency Medicine, Volume 27, No. 3, pp. 183-185](#)

This is a resource to better understand providing 'spiritual triage' and pastoral care as a first responder to trauma victims.

Why did you write this?

It wasn't so much "what" inspired me to write this article as "who" inspired me to write it. I was serving as the Burn Ward/Trauma Room chaplain at Brooke Army Medical Center when the Head Nurse asked to write an article for the Quarterly Magazine "Topics in Emergency Medicine" that focused on first responders' spiritual care to trauma patients. She valued the role of spiritual care in the holistic care of trauma patients and wanted medical providers and first responders (i.e. EMT, trauma room technicians, etc.) to have an appreciation and the tools for the spiritual care of their trauma patients

What do you hope people gain

"As a first responder to victims of trauma, you are already providing care by being present (that's 90% of the 'battle'). To be with one as they experience the terror/pain/fear of trauma is a sacred privilege and honor. Continue to care for victims of trauma by asking questions which highlight their own spiritual strength, which will remind them of where their Ultimate Help comes from and will inform you of their religious needs."

Where can people read more

["Trauma as a Tool for Providing Mentoring and Spiritual Direction: Insights and Strategies"](#), THE ARMY CHAPLAINCY: Professional Bulletin of the Unit Ministry Team, Winter-Spring 2006



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Edition 1

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“The Connection” is often used as an umbrella term used when discussing everything from our global polity to our adherence to the Discipline to clergy itineracy. At the core, the connection is about relationships. It is about being committed to a covenant of relationships that is full of grace, love and peace. It is clear that me that the greatest asset we have is the connection we all share with each other and with God in Christ. It is because of the power of relationships I desire to do things that strengthen the connection.

One of the ways I believe we can strengthen the connection is to support and advocate for one another as clergy peers. I believe it is important that we share with our congregations the good work our colleagues are doing and advocate for one another inside and outside our local congregations.

This publication called *Imprints* may not be the best tool to learn about what we are all doing. But I hope that you will continue your efforts to strengthen the connection, advocate for our colleagues, do the work God is calling us to and trust that together with the Holy Spirit we are making imprints in God’s world.

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 28—29, 2015
SERMONCRAFT 3.0



SermonCraft is a time for storytellers, preachers and teachers to gather and pitch, share and co-create ideas for stories. 2015 will mark the third year of SermonCraft and we are looking to expand and host additional SermonCrafts throughout the year. If you are interested email: Jasonvalendy@gmail.com or Steve@fumceuleless.org to RSVP.