

October 2008

Panel to discuss social networking and blogging

In a good news story, the reporter covers the who, what, when, where, why and how. RCC's four guest panelists will try to cover those points in reference to **social networking** and **blogging** at the Oct. 23 Dallas-Fort Worth RCC Chapter meeting.

Social networking is defined as building online communities of people who share interests and activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. It has created powerful new ways to communicate and share information. A blog (a contraction of the term "Web log") is a Web site, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video – maintaining or adding content to a site is **blogging**.



Our panelists, all of whom use social network services (MySpace, Facebook) and blog, include **Ken Lowery** (UMR Communications), **Wes Magruder** (blogging UMC missionary), **Travis Brown** (TCU journalism student), and **Mary Beth Butler** (regular contributor to RevGalBlog).

So join us at Christ United Methodist Church, Farmer's Branch, (2807 Valwood Parkway, Farmer's Branch 75234) for the panel discussion and lunch on Thursday, October 23, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15; payable at the event. Email or call Deb Christian for reservations: dchristian@umr.org, 214.630.6495 x147 by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 20.

Scholarship Opportunity

Scholarships to attend the 2009 RCC National Convention in Boston (March 26-26) are available for aspiring religion communicators from our college and university campuses.

The scholarship includes: paid registration for the convention; paid hotel room (double occupancy) for four nights; up to \$400 for travel and meals; and paid membership to the RCC for 2009 and 2010. Students can find the scholarship application on our website, www.religioncommunicators.org on the "Convention" page.

We are seeking students who live in proximity to a local chapter so the chapter can establish mentoring relationships with those students.

Local Programs (Save the Date)

- Making Videos and Podcasting; Thursday, November 20, TBA

National

- Renew RCC membership for 2009 – special membership offer available. Join now for 2009 and get the rest of 2008 free. Contact Deb Christian dchristian@umr.org for form.
- Decide on entries for DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards competition. These are RCC's peer awards. You do have to be a member of RCC to enter.
- Join Wilbur Watch – What's the **Wilbur Watch?** Members and friends of RCC take note of movies, books, newspaper columns, TV drama and documentaries, radio programming, editorial cartoons and other secular media that promote faith values. Either contact that media source to encourage an entry to the Wilbur competition or send the information to the Wilbur Award coordinator for follow-up.