



Central E-Link

*News, Resources & Opportunities to Energize & Equip
Church Leaders of the Central Texas Conference*

December 16, 2009

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles/requests should be submitted to Carolyn@ctcumc.org by **12 noon Tuesday** in order to be e-mailed on Wednesday. Articles should be brief and include active links to websites or contact persons for details. Use this information for ministry planning, announcements, church newsletters and/or bulletins. To add a colleague or church member to *E-Link's* weekly distribution, send their addresses to susan@ctcumc.org.

Editor: Carolyn Stephens Carolyn@ctcumc.org

Shortcuts: [Top](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Resources](#) [Calendar](#) [Needs](#)

For worldwide news of our denomination click here! www.umportal.org

News Briefs — The Conference

Don't Miss This Conversation NOW IN PROGRESS

The first of a series of open conversations on "Ministry With the Poor" is being held TODAY in New York City, but Central Texans can participate online. Please read information about "A Learning Circle on Ministry with the Poor" under the "Denomination" heading below or on the website at www.ctcumc.org. If interested, you can "tune in" during any part of the presentation between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Message From Information Technology Director Tracy Dean:

The conference is changing the way we handle the 2009 "Check Out." Basically we will be using a new system that has been assembled by the GCFA. Some of the data that the GCFA has requested has changed, but the overall process should still be the same. There will still be a table to put in your numbers. You will still see comparative number for the current and previous years. It will look a little different, but other than that it does the same thing. There will be more information to follow as we get closer to "Check Out" time.

BOM Mail Service Curtailed During Holidays

The Board of Ordained Ministry, located on the Texas Wesleyan University campus, will be without incoming mail service during the university's Christmas holiday, Monday, Dec. 21, through Monday, Jan. 4. Please call Gala Trimble at 817-795-7120 to make arrangements for other forms of delivery if necessary.

Glen Lake Camp Year-End Gift Update

As of today, Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center has received just under \$14,000 in year-end gifts as the result of a previous article in *E-Link* and efforts of the camp's Board of Directors. "We are so grateful to all who have given thus far, but the economy has taken its toll on the camp," states Executive Director Steve Nance. Cancellations for this past year, he reports, totaled over \$85,000, most of these due to the economy.

Fixed expenses like debt service and utilities cannot be ignored. "Neither can they be met in a timely fashion unless caring Methodists respond with some generous financial help," according to Diane Griffin, GLC&RC Board chair. She asks the thousands of beneficiaries (past and present) of Glen Lake to consider doing three things:

- Pray for this vital ministry of the CTC.

- Promote year-round utilization of both campuses (Glen Lake and Still Water Lodge) among the decision makers in your church as well as other organizations to which you belong.
 - Make a generous contribution to Glen Lake before the end of the year.
- Every contribution, large or small, will help. You can send your contribution to Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, P.O. Box 928, Glen Rose, TX 76043.

Methodist Children's Home on UM-TV Website

UM Television produced a short video about the Methodist Children's Home Boys Ranch in Waco that has been posted on the UM-TV website. You can view the video by clicking on the following link:
http://umtv.org/archives/teen_second_chance_ranch.htm.

Today's Status on the Student Day Offering

Next spring when our students will be looking for scholarships from the UM Board of Higher Education & Ministry and the conference Higher Education Task Force, some will be very disappointed. As of today, only 98 of our congregations have participated in the Student Day Offering, a prerequisite for their students receiving scholarships. That means students from 124 of our churches will be ineligible. In 2009, the Higher Education Task Force was forced to turn down two highly qualified students because their congregations DID NOT participate in the Student Day Offering. Please don't let this happen to the students at your church. This year the UMC's Office of Loans & Scholarships had far more qualified students apply and far fewer funds available.

Bishop/Cabinet Make Appointment Changes

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announce the following clergy change:

Steven W. Buchele — elder in full connection from half-time associate at Wellspring UMC, Georgetown, to three-quarter-time associate at St. Philip's UMC, both in the Temple District, effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Mike Wright-Chapman — deacon in full connection transferring his relationship from the North Texas to Central Texas Conference where he is associate pastor at First UMC, Burleson, effective Nov. 1.

Two Important Dates

Dec. 18, 2009 – Last day to mail apportionments. (Please remember to mail your remittances to the Conference Office at 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth 76107.)

Jan. 5, 2010 – Last day to hand deliver apportionments to Conference Office. (When you bring your apportionments in on Jan. 4 or 5, be prepared to stay a while to allow our staff to say “thank you” and enjoy coffee, cold drinks and cookies.) Office Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations ... join the blog!

Are you interested in continuing to learn new ideas and to share their own “best practices?” Consider the lively blog “discussion” initiated by Bishop Robert Schnase. The latest posting (12.14.09) is a new blog message by Bishop Schnase at www.fivepractices.org: “151. Only if... At our Annual Conference session in June, Rev. Emanuel Cleaver II (Assistant to the Bishop for African-American Leadership Development) provoked us to think in fresh ways about our human tendency to grumble and avoid work rather than to take responsibility and fulfill tasks.” *Read more...*

2010 Clergy Day Apart — Jan. 26-27

“Caring for Your Soul” is the theme for the 2010 Clergy Day Apart Jan. 26-27 at Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose. Rev. Tom Albin, currently dean of the Upper Room Chapel and team leader for the Program Unit of The Upper Room, will be the keynote speaker. His academic interests lie in the areas of spiritual formation, Wesley studies, historical theology and evangelism. For more details visit the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) or Susan Briles at susan@ctcumc.org.

Mid Winter Youth Retreat — 2 dates in February

Registration is now open for the 2010 Mid Winter youth retreats to be held Feb. 5-7 and Feb. 20-21. For details and registration, visit <http://www.ctcumc.org/page.asp?pkvalue=1133>.

Annual Lay Speakers Event — Feb. 26-28

The CTC 7th Annual Lay Speakers Weekend is Feb. 26, 27 & 28 at Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose. For registration forms and more details about this annual training event, please contact Melissa Osborne at oz2@txol.net or 254-734-2849.

UMW Racial Justice Event Feature Former Women's Division President — Jan. 30

"Come to the Feast!" is the theme of the UMW's Sing A Rainbow (the annual Charter for Racial Justice Event) Saturday, Jan. 30, at Arlington First UMC. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the program from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dr. Carol E. Johnson, chief diversity officer for Purdue University, will lead the gathering in a celebration of our diversity. Her vast professional experience includes teaching at all levels of the public schools, executive director of a neighborhood based social service agency, a consultant to numerous school districts, corporations, civic organizations, and textbook companies.

She has served on all levels of United Methodist Women, and is a past national president of the Women's Division. She is currently participating with the Division in a major project on women in higher education with colleges and universities historically founded by the Division. Sing A Rainbow is free to all, but participants are asked to register on the UMW conference website or by contacting Registrar Theresa Robinson at 817-536-5537. Childcare is provided. For lunch, everyone is asked to bring a favorite dish to share that comes from a culture other than their own. Come to the Feast!

Soderquist / Renewal for Clergy Couples — Feb. 8-10

The Soderquist Center gives UM clergy RENEW, a leadership couples retreat for clergy and their spouses. Renew gives couples two rare and precious gifts: Time and Space. Couples have "time" to rest, to talk together and to reflect. They have "space" to be away from the pace of the daily routine. Each RENEW retreat is a donated gift of \$3,000 per couple. The donor's gift includes all meals, lodging, books, materials and session facilitation. The next opportunity is Feb. 8-10 at the Inn on Lake Granbury. If you and your spouse would like to attend, please contact Janet Wood – jan@ctcumc.org. There are spots for two more couples. Space is limited.

Approaching Deadline for Standing Rules/Resolutions

The deadline to submit recommendations to the Committee on Rules, Policies, and Guidelines regarding changes to the Standing Rules is **Feb. 2**. The deadline to submit resolutions to the Conference secretary is **Feb. 2**. Please remember that, per a motion approved at the 2008 Annual Conference, a statement of rationale must be included with the resolution clarifying the author's intent.

Reminder: You Can Contribute to the Alignment Task Force

The Alignment Task Force wants your input on their work through a blog that Pat Stroman (member) and Mike Ramsdell (chair) will be posting after each meeting on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org). This is your opportunity to participate in making a difference in the future of the Conference and the ministries of our local churches. Your thoughts, ideas, suggestions are welcome!

See the World Through New Eyes (Texas Wesleyan Studies)

Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth offers majors, minors and individual courses in Comparative Religious & Christian Studies program. Begin your journey today by calling 817-531-4914 or visiting www.txwes.edu/religion.

Suicide Survivors — Open Enrollment

Suicide Survivors is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new group will begin in January 2010. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks. A mental health professional and a trained survivor facilitate group meetings. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 817-698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

BEEF UP AGAIN Singles Mission Trip to Dulac, La. — Feb. 11-15, 2010

Contact: Chuck Graff as 817-339-5065 or cgraff@myfumc.org and watch for additional details soon.

Spotlight on Our Conference History

Rev. Enoch Mather Marvin was a successful pastor in St. Louis, Mo., who sympathies with the Confederacy caused him to leave his pastorate there in 1862 and spend two years ministering to troops and preaching as opportunities presented themselves. Because of his powerful presentations, he was often invited to preach revival meetings. Dr. John H. McLean told of asking Marvin to preach a protracted meeting at Jefferson, TX.

“He came on horseback, was dressed in a suit of brown homespun jeans with stirrup leathers worn through the inside of his pantlegs from riding on horseback. His coat had broadcloth cuffs and collar ...” or the history goes. During 1866 he preached many times in Marshall and when the pastor there died in 1865, the church requested that Marvin be appointed there. He was.

In 1866 he went to General Conference in New Orleans. He arrived to find that he had been elected bishop the day before. His hair was untrimmed and his beard was long “and covered his face” and his attire was scarcely appropriate for an episcopal leader. Though he was willing to wear a suit purchased for \$65, he refused to have a barber trim his hair or beard. He is reputed to have said that if they wanted him to be a bishop, they would have to take him as he was. Bishop Marvin presided at the organizing session of the Northwest Texas Conference (now Central Texas) at Waxahachie Sept. 16, 1866. He was our Conference’s first bishop.

The CTC’s 100th anniversary will be observed next year with the creation of a conference history book and special anniversary events. For those who wish to make a contribution to help defray the costs, a check marked “100th Celebration” may be sent to Central Texas Conference, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth 76107. One suggestion is for individuals to contribute \$1 per year for the number of years they have been in the bounds of the conference.

Return to [Top](#)

News Briefs — The Denomination

You Can Participate Online!

A Learning Circle on Ministry with the Poor — NOW IN PROGRESS

The first of a series of open conversations on “Ministry with the Poor,” a current priority of the UMC, is being held today (Dec. 16), and broadcast live on the Internet from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Central time) and can be accessed online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/learningcircles>. “Tune in” at any time during this program. (Penny Yaites is online at this moment and reports the materials/information is excellent.) The General Board of Global Ministries apologizes for the short notice, but the possibility of streaming “has just arisen,” they say. The live Internet feed makes possible a permanent record of the conversation that can be posted online and also will be available at a later date.

The discussion is taking place at the UMC of the Village in New York City and is sponsored by GBGM, the international mission agency of the denomination. Global Ministries has special responsibility for a focus area on ministry with the poor. An initial panel deals with micro-credit as a tool in poverty alleviation. A second considers restorative justice in leading to more productive lives for ex-offenders. Invited participants, including a group of Global Ministries directors, will interact at lunchtime with persons from Hope for Our Neighbors in Need, a program of the Church of the Village.

Philippines: UMCOR Expands Typhoon Response

A number of churches have been asking about progress following the typhoons in the Philippines. The following is the latest report from UMCOR:

UMCOR Philippines disaster response efforts are providing relief and rehabilitation support to un-reached and underserved communities hardest-hit by Typhoons Ketsana and Parma. Through an appeal issued by UMCOR's partner Action By Churches Together (ACT), UMCOR Philippines is working with Christian Aid, Lutheran World Relief, and National Council of Churches in the Philippines to coordinate responses and share information about assessments, materials and outputs. UMCOR is providing food relief, shelter materials, livelihood support, micro-credit assistance, and business development services to 9,000 survivors in Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga and Zambales provinces.

UMCOR Philippines is also working with local partners Harris Memorial College, Union Theological Seminary, Asuncion A. Perez Memorial Center, Inc., and Kaptiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc. to provide comprehensive relief operations, reaching vulnerable communities in need of relief assistance. Please give generously to Philippines Emergency, UMCOR Advance #240235 (<http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=240235&id=3018639&CFID=56959&CFTOKEN=36110470>).

Perkins to Waive Application Fee Thru March 1, 2010

Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University is waiving its \$50 application fee through March 1, 2010, for applicants to the master of divinity, master of theological studies, master of church ministries, and master of sacred music degree programs, as well as for all non-degree applicants. March 1, 2010 is the deadline for submitting an application for need-based grant consideration, while Feb. 1, 2010, remains the deadline for submission of applications for merit scholarship consideration. For more information contact Tracy Anne Allred, director of Student Services, at tallred@smu.edu or 214-768-1480; Herbert Coleman, director of Recruitment and Admissions, at hcoleman@smu.edu or 214-768-2139; or visit the Perkins website at www.smu.edu/perkins.

Central Texas Churches Urged to Meet Africa University Fund Obligations

CTC congregations are urged to fully meet their Africa University Fund apportionment obligations before the end of the year. Africa University is sustained by UM congregations' support of the Africa University Fund, a \$2.5 million annual commitment spread across annual conferences. CTC's commitment to the fund is \$38,051 in 2009. "UMs in Central Texas know how important Africa University is to the church, and to Africa's growth and development. They know it is important to support the university in their prayers, their service, and their financial commitments," said James Salley, the university's associate vice chancellor for development. The fund enables hundreds of student to attend the college every year. In the 2009-2010 school year, Africa University's 1,160 students represent 28 African nations.

"The level of our annual conferences' commitment affects students at the university," Salley said. "When we don't live up to that commitment, deserving Africans can't get the education they need so they can help improve the quality of life for communities and countries." One prime example is the work of Walter Manyangarirwa of Zimbabwe, an Africa University graduate who went on to Clemson University in South Carolina for additional training. After earning a doctorate in entomology at Clemson, Dr. Manyangarirwa returned to Africa University, where he teaches and is one of the few doctoral level entomologists on the continent. "Dr. Manyangarirwa is a wonderful example of our mission at Africa University, training leaders who remain in Africa to make a difference," Salley said. Through Africa University, he received a world-class education. His knowledge and skills are vital to improving and sustaining crops across Africa."

See and Share Soul Changing Prayer

UM News Service has released a package on soul changing prayer. The five stories make a reader-friendly series helping enrich the prayer lives of individuals, families and congregations. Open gifts of the Spirit this Advent with http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1tH/b.5610353/k.6EAE/Soul_Changing_Prayer.htm.

2010 Funding Conference Scheduled for March 20

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership will offer its annual *Funding Your Congregation's Vision* conference on Saturday, March 20. It will be held at Glen Mar UMC in Ellicott City, Maryland. Building on the Lewis Center's past work in funding ministry, this year's event will explore a number of new subject areas. Further details and registration information for the half-day workshop (9 a.m.-12:45 p.m.) will be available in January at www.churchleadership.com.

Perkins School of Volunteer Youth Ministry

Jan. 9 at Arapaho UMC, Richardson, TX

A dynamic workshop led by youth workers with more than a century of combined experience will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 (includes lunch). Additional workshop and registration details are available at

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102775915044&s=1343&e=001e64E2hOfaikU6yC06hdx0ZD0fy54lBy8fChoxypLrERfhDxPpHett6j4x9onEZEEd5AUL8Ntl0DsgOx78mnjFOCx9JZ8eX5tob0FOGUSHxN1jEf1DaH7BkHSCz9wAjSoddTwm.>

Perkins GBHEM Certification in Youth Ministry

Jan. 9-15 at FUMC Richardson, TX

Get certified in youth ministry in a week of learning. Special this year only: Spend an afternoon with Mark DeVries, author of *Sustainable Youth Ministry*. Certification course offerings. (Register at

http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102775915044&s=1343&e=001e64E2hOfaini0iY-EXLkPwNRXAbK4Lr3h9QhzHFWui7ciUI4xqC3DpH4J4S8Bm443_6al83YLgAHJppIS6S3oLMzYP0hvP_Z3OIgoojbNqeEjgSa_NbQYed2vtLYGo4brqdReYVJKg8ZbUYxXA27vtEwnbXwomaHPDWOc5Ma5E=.

Human Relations Day Grants — Deadline Jan. 10

Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society. The grants are to support ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through education, advocacy or leadership training and development. Grant funds are raised through the UMC's Human Relations Day Special Sunday each year. For more grant applications, contact Marvlyn Scott at msscott@umc-gbcs.org or 202-488-5643.

Congress on Evangelism 2010 — Jan. 5-8

The 2010 Congress on Evangelism, scheduled for Jan. 5 – 8 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, can be stimulating and informative for pastors and local church evangelism chairs. The agenda and registration are available at <http://www.CongressonEvangelism.org>. Scholarships are available for clergy under 40 (first time participants who have a recommendation from their DS or bishop). Also, the registration fee is waived for full-time seminary students as well as local pastors enrolled in Course of Study.

Clergywoman's Gathering, "Living in Balance: Recapturing Our Creativity" — April 7-9

April 7-9, 2010, at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Ark.). The gathering will focus on recapturing our creativity as well as offering a time of renewal, learning and fellowship with other women in ministry. CEUs will be available. Contact: Kim Ross at spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org or 800-760-8126. Cost varies from \$325-\$285.

Lenten Sermon Writing Retreat — Jan. 11-15

Jan. 11-15, Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Ark.). Clergy and lay ministers are invited to come undertake their in-depth preparation and sermon writing for this season. Cost \$395, Commuter \$155. For more information, contact Kim Ross at 800-760-8126, spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org, or go to www.mountsequoyah.org.

Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21

<http://www.gbod.org/wesleypilgrimage>

Return to [Top](#)

News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

UMC Singles Holiday Dinner — Dec. 18

The last of the UMC Singles hosted Friday Night Holiday Dinners is this Friday: Dec. 18 — meet at 7 p.m. for dinner at Mercado Juarez in North Arlington. More details are available on the UMC Singles - Tarrant Area calendar at www.ctcumc.org/singles. Come join us for fun and fellowship during the holidays. For more information on the dinners, contact Martha Hollis at mghollis@sbcglobal.net.

Blue Christmas Service at Martin UMC — Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health or painful isolation can make some people feel very alone. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. For these reasons, Martin UMC offers a special “**Blue Christmas**” service at 7 p.m. **Sunday, Dec. 20**. Join in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, music that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle – and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The service will be followed by a time for light refreshments and fellowship. Childcare available.

Music Events at White’s Chapel UMC, Southlake

Sunday 7 p.m., Dec. 20 — Handel's "Messiah" Sing-Along

Enjoy the White's Chapel Orchestra and Chancel Choir, joined by a host of singers and soloists from the community, led by Dr. David Thye, chair of the Conducting Department in the School of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, for this annual White's Chapel favorite. Dr. Thye, who also serves as Chorus Master for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, is making his second appearance as conductor at White's Chapel. This English oratorio by George Frederic Handel is his most famous creation and is one of the most popular works in Western choral literature. The text is drawn entirely from the King James and Great Bibles and interprets the Christian doctrine of the Messiah. Admission is free for this concert, which lasts approximately one hour.

Monday 7:30 p.m., Dec. 21 — "Holiday Brass" - Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble

This concert, performed by a full brass choir of trumpets, horns, trombones, tuba and percussion, will feature a variety of festive music including traditional holiday melodies. The skilled musicians of the Fort Worth Symphony combine technical virtuosity and musical flair with the brilliance of brass to convey the joy of the Christmas season. Admission is free!

Sunday 9:30 & 11 a.m. Dec. 27 Services — "Swinging Into the New Year" with Tuxedo Junction

White's Chapel member Steve Lallier brings his acclaimed "Tuxedo Junction" big band to White's Chapel for two special worship services to ring in the New Year. Top instrumentalists and vocalists from the DFW area offer songs of faith in big band style sure to set your feet tapping and your heart soaring.

Christmas Organ Concert by Organist Roger Burnell, Organist — 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20

Dr. Roger Burnell, organist at First UMC of Keller, will present a recital of seasonal music by J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Max Reger, Gerald Near, and Mieczyslaw Surzynski. Burnell earned a DMA in organ performance from Texas Tech University and was the recipient of a 2008 dissertation grant to study Polish organ repertoire in Poland. He has recently accepted an invitation to present his recital on Dec. 28 in Langsdorf, Germany. The public is invited to this free event. For more information call 817-431-1332 or visit www.kellerumc.org.

Listening to Divorce — Tuesdays Jan. 5-Feb. 2

The Center for Creative Transformation at First UMC of Fort Worth (750 W. 5th St. in downtown Fort Worth) offers this five-week program series on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. *People going through divorce need to talk. People GROWING through divorce also listen.* They listen:

- to the past for insights into the dynamics and patterns in their lives that can lead to better relationships in the future,
- to their thoughts and feelings so that they can be mindful in the process of grief and change,
- to others who have faced similar challenges,
- to experts who can suggest paths for healing,

- to their dreams and hopes as they begin to create a new direction for life after divorce. This series, which is free and open to the public, focuses on understanding what happened in the relationship, healing from the traumas, and learning what we need to learn from the past so we can feel more ready to move into the future. Over the past five years many have commented that the information and perspectives have helped them turn deep pain into a significant opportunity for personal growth. Donations are accepted to defray costs. Childcare is available. For more information, contact Marianne Wilson at mwilson@myfumc.org or 817-339-5071.

Help Insure Our Children in Texas — SCHIP program Jan. 9

SCHIP Enrollment Training is at St. Stephen UMC (Arlington) on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 10-11:30 a.m. Churches are invited to send 1-4 people to learn how your church can help enroll children in Medicaid and SCHIP. Over 750,000 children in the State of Texas are eligible, but not covered by these programs. For more details, visit

https://www.ctcoffice.org/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.texaskidswin.org/page.php?page_id=2%26page_title=About%2520CHIP%2520and%2520Children%27s%2520Medicaid or contact Mary Spradlin at mary.spradlin@yahoo.com or Terri Bennett at 817-460-8655.

Christian Theology Study at First Belton — Ongoing

Have you wanted to learn, discuss, or respectfully debate Christian theology with members of your own denomination as well as others? First UMC in Belton is providing that opportunity at noon Tuesdays.

<http://gbgm-umc.org/fumcbeltex>

2010 Faith Community Leadership Summit — Feb. 16

Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth

Contact: SharonBass@texashealth.org

Return to [Top](#)

Resources

Proven Resources for the Local Church

Whether you are looking for new and creative ways to get your congregation and children into God's Word, training your teachers and leaders, or looking for programs to minister to couples and/or parents, Walk Thru the Bible Ministries has a resource for you. For more information on the live events and small group curriculum and resources, please visit the website at www.walkthru.org.

ATTN: Pastors/Stephen Ministers Can Help Cancer Patients

Here's a contact that might help cancer patients cope with one aspect of every-day living. Fighting cancer is difficult enough, but living with it is even tougher - and that's where the Cleaning for A Reason Foundation steps in. This newly formed nonprofit organization offers free professional housecleaning and maid services to improve the lives of women undergoing treatment for cancer - **any type of cancer**. If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass along this free cleaning service — 1 time per month for 4 months — while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. <http://cleaningforareason.org/>

Christmas Eve Service

Dean McIntyre, director of music resource with the General Board of Discipleship, offers to churches a special Christmas Eve Service: A Service of Candles, Carols, Communion at http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48285.

Conference Resource Center

New resources highlighted at the Conference Resource Center this week are described below. There are always new resources; check them out! For these and more resources, contact Carol Roszell at 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622.

Mudhouse Sabbath: Seven Ways of Christian Formation Inspired by the Jewishness of Jesus. Lauren F. Winner. DVD and book. A lesson in Christian formation and a companion to the bestselling book (included). 65 minutes total running time. It will challenge you to:

- Encounter the Jewish context that nurtured Jesus
- Explore spiritual practices of hospitality, mindful eating, prayer, fasting, and mourning.

Church Demographics

Church Growth & Development offers a new demographics program for churches. Check it out (and register, if interested) at <http://www.missioninsite.com/>. If you have questions, contact Vicki Eldridge at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or Vicki@ctcumc.org.

Crime Victims Council Information at www.crimevictimsCouncil.org

The new Crime Victims Council website offers many resources. If you are a survivor who would like to share your story or pass along a word of encouragement to one of our survivors or post a picture and other information about a victim, please email encouragement@crimevictimsCouncil.org.

Return to [Top](#)

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

NOTE TO LISTERS: Please contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org to pull your listing when your opening has been filled.

Assistant Pastor/Focus on Youth & Missions

First UMC in Breckenridge seeks an enthusiastic person to further develop, organize, and lead a comprehensive youth ministry with a breadth of perspective and balance of ministry. This will include leading and involving the youth in the *Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry*. There is also opportunity to assist and lead in worship and other areas of pastoral ministry as desired and time allows.

Hours: 24 hours per week. Some planning and writing may be done off premises. *Compensation includes:* Salary, contribution to UM Pension program, reimbursement for reasonable expenses and cell phone to a certain amount and monies for continuing education. Sick leave, holidays and vacation according to office staff policy. For more information or to express interest contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 West Walker, Breckenridge, Texas 76424. E-mail: pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

Volunteers Needed

Please pass along this message to church members: Tarrant County United Way needs volunteers at tax preparation centers from January through mid-April, including the United Community Center's Wesley Center in North Fort Worth. Helping low-income families obtain tax credits is an important way volunteers can join United Way in making Tarrant County residents more financially stable and self-sufficient. Last year, volunteers helped Tarrant County families receive more than \$2.4 million in earned income tax credits and more than \$2 million in child tax credits. The IRS estimates that Tarrant County citizens are actually eligible for about \$100 million in tax credits. Most credits are not claimed. For details or to volunteer, contact Pablo Calderon at 817-258-8056 or visit www.unitedwaytarrant.org.

2010 Census Workers

Please pass along this message to members: Could you use some extra cash? Apply now to be a census taker. Work up to 40 per week in a temporary, part-time job with the 2010 Census and enjoy good pay, flexible hours, mileage reimbursement, and the chance to serve your community. Call (toll-free) 866-861-2010 for more details.

Clergy Robe

A message from Pastor Bruce Carpenter: The clergy robe offered [last week] by Central UMC Corsicana has been claimed by a student pastor and we are delighted to be able to provide it to him.

Adult Retreat Center Coordinator

Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center seeks a ministry-minded individual interested in serving as retreat center coordinator for Still Water Lodge. Responsibilities include hospitality, marketing and reservations management. Experience in Christian camping, Christian education or adult ministry preferred, but not required. This full-time position requires on-site residence, included as part of the compensation. To apply, please mail resume with references to P.O. Box 928, Glen Rose 76043 or fax to 254-897-2423.

Choir Director

Wesley UMC in Waco seeks a spirit-filled, passionate director for the adult and children's choirs. Must read music, be able to teach and lead choir members in both traditional gospel and contemporary worship. Contact: Theora Davis at 254-752-1822.

Youth Director

Wesley UMC in Waco seeks a part-time youth director committed to spiritual formation and mission. The successful candidate will be available Sundays, Wednesday evenings, and some planning and meeting time, not totaling more than 20 hours per week. Wesley UMC is committed to making disciples for the transformation of the world, beginning with our children and youth. Please contact Evelyn Vonner at 254-752-1822.

Small Upright Piano Needs Church Home

Kelli Carrier (1917 Ramada Trail, Justin, Texas) would like to give his mother's small, upright piano to a church. Now in assisted living with no room for the piano, she would like to know it is being used at a United Methodist church. For pictures or to make arrangements, please contact Kelli Carrier at 940-648-1840 (home), 817-266-8733 (cell) or kellicarrier20@gmail.com. If possible, he would like it picked up before the end of the year.

Lead Teacher

St. Andrew's Mother's Day Out seeks a lead teacher for the toddler class. The ideal candidate will be committed to caring for children in a Christian environment, loves children, is self motivated, has a steady work ethic, is of good moral character, and loves the Lord. Experience in child care setting preferred. Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The church is located in South Arlington on SE Green Oaks between New York Ave. and 360. Contact: Becky Doss at sachildcare@bluebottle.com.

Part-time Pianist

First UMC of Cross Plains seeks a part-time pianist. Some of the responsibilities include preparing and playing for chancel choir rehearsals, weekly worship services (including prelude, postlude and offertory), and special worship services and events, in addition to working with organist, and music director. Pianist must be available for Advent & Christmas holiday season as well as for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Candidate must work well with others, and be able to play a variety of music styles. If interested, e-mail resume to fumccrossplains@gmail.com or mail to: FUMC, P.O. Box 160, Cross Plains 76443. For additional information, call the church office at 254-725-7377.

Director of Music & Worship

Woodway First UMC (21000 Woodway Dr., Waco 76712) is accepting applications for director of music and worship until Dec. 31. Candidates should be able to provide: leadership in a spiritual ministry through music, primary oversight of all music staff, oversight and management of the music and worship programs, oversight and leadership for all worship services; serve as primary choir director for sanctuary choir; establish and lead choral and instrumental ensembles for worship and other events; arrange and schedule vocalists for worship; flexibility in worship planning and execution. An advanced music degree with at least five years experience in professional choral conducting preferred. Experience in church choral programs is preferred. This is a part-time position; salary is negotiable dependent on experience. Submit

applications to Linda Smith at 254-751-0411. Contact: Search Committee Chair Danny Londenberg for more details at 254-751-0411.

Part-time Post Contemporary Music Worship Leader

William C. Martin UMC (2621 Bedford Rd., Bedford, TX 76021) is accepting applications for a music worship leader in Martin's post contemporary worship service. Candidates should be able to provide voice and instrumental (acoustic guitar) leadership in our worship environment. Candidate will work with an established band with a post contemporary flair. Experience in Worship planning and execution with the band and minister are essential to the job. The position is part-time and salary is dependent on experience. Submit applications to Adam Pratt at adamp@martin-methodist.org.

Youth/Young Adult Ministries Director

Christ UMC seeks applicants for the position of director of youth and young adult ministries. Job entails developing and leading all programming and outreach involving youth and young adult. The position is part-time, with a minimum of 25 hours/week. Inquiries should be directed to Vaughn Baker at vaughn_baker@sbcglobal.net or 817-613-7659.

Contemporary Worship Leader Seeks Position

Experienced worship leader Trey Smith, a student at the University of Texas at Arlington, seeks a position with a local church that is within a 30-min. drive from Arlington. He has led the praise band at Silver Creek UMC for about two years and the 2009 summer praise band at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. He currently leads a band outside of church that has played at several churches in the Metroplex area. Contact Trey Smith at 936-524-2378 or dcsmitt242@hotmail.com.

Youth Minister

Church seeking full-time youth minister with a heart for Christ, for youth, and for the church in Midlothian (Waxahachie area). Needs education and experience in leading youth in their spiritual development, worship, understanding of ministry, and willingness to be in mission/witness to the world beyond the church walls. Must be able to lead/teach with an appreciation for mainline theological doctrines rather than literalist or fundamentalist interpretations of scripture. Primary youth activities on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Salary: \$32,000 + housing in the church's large parsonage. Midlothian is a suburban town 10 miles south of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, near several major seminaries. Successful applicant will demonstrate a high degree of professionalism living up to standards of reliability, honesty, attitude, dress, and behavior expected by the ministerial nature of the position. Contact: Allyson Paxton at pastorpaxton@aol.com.

Full-time Director of Youth Ministries

St. John's UMC, Georgetown, is expanding a vital youth program and needs a person who is committed to Christ; knows, loves and relates to youth; and is capable of planning and directing programs for youth and their families. Salary commensurate with education and experience \$30,000 plus. Send resume and questions to SPRC Chair, St John's UMC, 311 E. University Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

Return to [Top](#)

If you know someone in your church, district or even outside the Central Texas Conference who might appreciate receiving this weekly electronic newsletter — or to unsubscribe your own listing — please contact Susan Briles at Susan@ctcumc.org.