



Central E-Link

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

December 15, 2010

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles and 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. 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

See quick links under "Resources" for more news and resources

News Briefs — The Conference

[Advent/Christmas Resources for Families & Local Churches](#)

Check the conference website at www.ctcumc.org for links to Advent and Christmas resources provided by General Agencies of the UMC.

[Safe Sanctuaries Training — Restarts January 2011](#)

The CTC online Safe Sanctuaries course will be available again beginning in early January. If you or someone in your church is interested in completing their Safe Sanctuaries training in this format, contact Karen Granderson at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or karen@ctcumc.org.

[A Message to Church Growth Supporters](#)

From Gary Lindley & Vicki Eldredge: Thank you so much for your generous donations. With the support of people like you, we will be able to help new church starts not only to meet essential daily needs, but to work toward a brighter future making disciples for Christ. This year has been a tough year for everyone so it was more important than ever that we received your pledge and we thank you. If you have not yet made a commitment to the share program, please let this be an invitation to do so. It is a great way to be part of a new church start. This is the time of the year we all see letters asking for a year end gift. We would like to ask you to consider a year end gift to Church Growth & Development. You will be blessing so many and making a difference in people's lives by giving them the opportunity to find Jesus. Please consider this and know we appreciate whatever you are able to do!

[CyberSafety for Families](#)

There is a new resource kit to assist local churches in providing Safe Sanctuaries training for leaders, teachers and others in their congregations. It includes everything needed for training parents and other concerned adults about ways to keep children and teens safe online. The kit is on DVD (Mac and PC compatible) with a planning guide, teaching plans with schedule options, handouts and a slide presentation. Paul O'Briant, creator of this kit, is an active church member who has combined his love for God's people and his passion for new technologies into the work of CyberSafety for churches. Available at Cokesbury stores or at www.cokesbury.com or check out a copy from our Conference Resource Center by contacting Carol Roszell (817-877-5222 or carol@ctcumc.org). For more information about Safe Sanctuaries, contact Karen Granderson (karen@ctcumc.org).

CTCYM Group Registration Deadline Approaching

Group registration is now open for CTC churches planning to join a CTCYM mission project next summer. Registration brochures and forms were sent to every church in October. Leaders can also download a registration form at www.ctcym.org. A \$100 deposit per trip is due by Thursday, Dec. 9. Add a \$50 late fee for group registrations postmarked after Dec. 9. Group registration will close Thursday, Jan. 6. Once a group is registered, leaders will receive more detailed instructions for the individual registration process.

ALERT: Webcasting Hazards Webinar

If your church is thinking about webcasting your worship services, there is more to consider than AV equipment, software, and hosting providers. There are several copyright hazards that you would be wise to avoid and there is a free webinar Dec. 9 that can help you avoid these legal traps. Get more information and register at no cost at:

http://www.copyrightcommunity.com/copyright_community/2010/11/webcasting-hazards-a-survival-guide.html?utm_source=Master&utm_campaign=14e38fea8e-CCS_October_Newsletter_101210_12_2010&utm_medium=email.

Christian Educator's Fellowship Gathering — Jan. 27

12 noon – 2 p.m. at FUMC-Hurst

The Changing Face of Christian Education - Dr. Susanne Johnson

Calling all Christian educators, volunteers, staff, clergy, lay, children, youth, and adult ministries. It is time to re-establish the connection and re-birth the CTC's Christian Educator's Fellowship Chapter with this time of fellowship, lunch, and a thought-provoking presentation and discussion led by Dr. Susanne Johnson, professor of Christian education at Perkins and author of "Christian Spiritual Formation in the Church and Classroom." The new chapter goal is to meet three times a year: January, at Annual Conference, and September. The cost for lunch is \$8. Please send reservation to Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org no later than Thursday, Jan. 20. Make your New Year's resolution to reconnect!

Children's Ministry Forum 2011

If you are looking for an event to help you refresh and renew your children's ministry and build disciples, this one has a lot to offer. Go to

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.6367321/k.5C5D/Childrens_Ministry_Forum.htm for all the details. The General Board of Discipleship offers this event every year in different places around the country. This one is nearby, so most can afford the travel expenses. If you are from a small church and would like to receive some assistance to attend, contact Karen Granderson at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or karen@ctcumc.org. Link also provided on the conference website at www.ctcumc.org.

Holiday Times and Glen Lake Camp

It's a Busy Time Everywhere...Except at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center

Oh, the full-time staff has plenty to do...repairing the facilities and planning for an incredibly busy 2011 retreat season and Summer Camp. Glen Lake is adding Family Camp this summer, so staff "plates are full." The "quiet" is caused by the absence of "guests" from Thanksgiving through the first of the year. You are all spending time with family and church family. And that is how it should be! **However, without "guests" GLC has no retreat income—and the camp bills just keep coming!** Take a minute during **The Race to Christmas Day** to remember the critical ministry being prepared for you and your family at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. You may send a contribution (check) to: Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, P. O. Box 928, Glen Rose 76043. Or visit Glen Lake at: www.glenlake.org to make an on-line contribution.

Task Force on Hunger Seeks 2011 Applicants

Each year the CTC Task Force on Hunger designates recipients for the *Thanksgiving* offering. The offering is split 90/10 with recipients rotating annually between local and global ministries. This year the offering will go to:

90% Central Texas Conference Hunger Ministries

10% Haitian Creole Pig Project, Advance # 418002

To download a flyer with details about the grant, for a two-week Bible study to accompany the *Thanksgiving* offering (*Hunger: The Enemy at the Table, A Bible Study on Hunger*), and an application for the 2011 Hunger Ministry Grants, please visit the conference website at <http://ctcumc.org/pages/detail/902>. The application deadline is March 31.

Evangelism Training for Your Church

The evangelism training offered by the CTC Evangelism Task Force has been fully scheduled for Thursday evenings through January 2011. Anyone wishing to schedule training for their church, or preferably a cluster of churches, may contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org. "The program is first and foremost about evangelism," according to Brad Brittain who is one of the presenters, "but we have found that church transformation is a byproduct of the evangelism."

Desert Streams Retreat — Jan 6-8

The Desert Streams Retreat, sponsored by the Fort Worth District with Bishop Mike Lowry as the presenter, offers an opportunity to "find a quiet center" through worship, study, silence, renewal and reflection. Scheduled at the beginning of the year, the retreat offers a time to breathe, to be still, to experience community, and to be awakened anew to the reality of God's presence. The time together, starting at 7 p.m. Jan. 6, will bring new perspective for a new year of service and witness, healing and empowerment. Cost: \$185 per person/double occupancy. [For more details and to register, contact the district office at \[fortworth@ctcumc.org\]\(mailto:fortworth@ctcumc.org\) or 817-336-3011. Register online \(at an additional \\$5 fee\) at <http://www.ctcumc.org/registrations/register/9>.](#)

2011 Clergy Day Apart: Yearning for Spring — Feb. 1-2

The 2011 Clergy Time Apart features Dr. Elaine A. Health, the McCreless associate professor of Evangelism at Perkins School of Theology and director of the Center for Missional Wisdom at SMU, who will lead 3 sessions as keynote speaker as well as preach at the closing worship service. Several CTC clergy will lead various workshops. The time apart will be held Feb. 1-2 at Summers Mill Retreat & Conference Center (1991 Stagecoach Road/IH 35 N) in Salado, with free time on Tuesday evening to relax, share, fellowship and community building. Accommodations are for single room, double room, clergy couple and commuter rate. This event is open to all ordained, commissioned and/or licensed and appointed clergy. For a brochure and online registration, please click on the "Clergy Growth Opportunities" banner in the lower right quadrant of the conference website (www.ctcumc.org).

"Renew" for Clergy and Their Spouses —Feb. 1-3

UM clergy and their spouses have been attending Soderquist Center for Leadership & Ethics' **Renew** sessions since 2003. Renew provides two rare and precious gifts: time and space. For the next Renew in the CTC area, Feb. 1-3 at Inn on Lake Granbury, there will be time to rest, talk together and reflect, and space to be away from the pace of daily routine. This experience, a donated gift, is open free of charge to both married active clergy and their spouses. The only cost to participants is travel to and from the event. For more details and to register, please contact Susan Briles at Susan@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222.

Mission Insite Training — Feb. 3

First UMC Hurst has offered to host a Mission Insite training Feb. 3 from 9 to 11 a.m. Mission Insite is the program provided by Church Growth & Development to help churches see what is coming to your part of the world. It is a great missional tool and full of possibilities. The training will be of interest to pastors, but also administrative assistants, a trustee, a mission chair or anyone who wants to help your church plan for the future. Feel free to invite anyone you feel would be an asset to you! Bring a laptop if you want, but there will be handouts. Also, Mission Insite is now allowing all churches to plot their members for free! If interested, contact Vicki Eldredge at Vicki@ctcumc.org.

News Briefs — The Denomination

RethinkChurch.org to Launch Dec.15

On December 15, the UMC will officially launch a newly redesigned website for young adult spiritual seekers, RethinkChurch.org, which invites visitors to question, discuss, get involved and make a difference. Throughout December, advertising on cable networks (ABC Family, Comedy Central, Discovery and MTV) and multiple digital channels will direct viewers to the new site. The advertising messages are informed by research that says 18- to 34-year-olds desire to make a difference with their lives.

The initial advertising emphasizes the importance of giving of one's self at Christmas, with the message "What does the world really need for Christmas this year? Hope, peace, joy and love. Find out how you can give of yourself. Rethink Church this Christmas." Beginning on December 26, new spots emphasize living more simply so that we may ultimately focus attention on the needs of others by asking the question, "Should we live more simply, so others can simply live?" The new RethinkChurch.org offers visitors an opportunity to read, watch, comment, and interact on topics that are important both to them and to the UMC—from the environment, to global health, to disaster relief.

The site asks seekers to consider that spirituality – and church – can be "an everyday connection, present and available anywhere, anytime. It exists in global issues, communities, and it is a part of your personal life." RethinkChurch.org features more engagement capabilities and content offerings than its predecessor site, 10thousanddoors.org. Registering as a user is the first step to engage on the website. Users may then enhance their personal profile by adding photos, videos, areas of interest, and more. Once registered, a user may start or add to conversations. An interactive map connects seekers to a church in their area. The map allows users to search for a local church based upon parameters such as distance and ministry offerings or outreach programs that appeal to their particular interests, and provides additional information such as service and event schedules. They may also request a free Common English Bible (New Testament), written in easy-to-understand, everyday English.

UM Communications Tips/Resources for Churches

7 practical elements of welcoming — Especially at Advent/Christmas when visitors come to special events at the church it is good to remember that the ministry of welcoming is the responsibility of the entire church family, not of a committee or a few volunteers. Remember these seven elements.

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084913&ct=8951551¬oc=1&tr=y&aid=7495369>

Top 10 best practices for web ministry — If your church wants to maintain a dynamic, interactive and user-friendly Web ministry, use these Top 10 best practices.

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084849&ct=8951491¬oc=1&tr=y&aid=7495409>

Rockin' church sound system...or rip-off? — These tips will help you find the best possible sound system for your church's needs without getting hosed by greedy sales representatives.

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084879&ct=8950991¬oc=1&tr=y&aid=7495432>

Teaching the who, what and why of the UMC? — If someone were to ask a member of your congregation, "What is a United Methodist," what would you want them to say? Or not say?

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084837&ct=8950967¬oc=1&tr=y&aid=7498035>

College scholarship opportunities available — The Stody-West Fellowship and Leonard M.

Perryman Communications Scholarship are offered by United Methodist Communications for college students and graduates interested in religious communications. The application deadline is March 15.

http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.3579929/k.8293/Scholarships_Fellowships.htm?aid=7495536

Full Tuition Scholarships at Drew Theological School

The Theological School at Drew University (New Jersey) is offering to waive online application fees for the Spring 2011 and Fall 2011 semesters. Apply online at <http://www.drew.edu/theo/admissions.aspx>. UMs admitted to Drew with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or above will receive the 100% tuition UM Initiative scholarship! Drew applicants should apply early to be considered. Learn more about their scholarships on their website at www.drew.edu/theo/umscholarship. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact Drew Theological admissions office at theoadm@drew.edu.

Opportunity for Self-directed Study

UM lay leaders and pastors will have three unique opportunities for a week of self-directed study, worship and prayer during 2011 at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) Learning Center and the adjacent Vanderbilt University Divinity School campus. Called Leave for Leaders, the sessions are designed to give leaders time to breathe, to reflect and to seek God's call for their life and ministry. Times for the three sessions—Jan. 31-Feb. 4, April 25-29 and Oct. 24-28—were selected to avoid traditionally busy times on the church calendar. For more information, contact Steven Manskar at 877-899-2780, ext. 1765, or smanskar@gbod.org, or Craig Miller at 877-899-2780, ext. 7081 or cmiller@gbod.org.

Young Clergy Capitol Hill Leadership Forum Deadline Jan. 6

65 spaces available for full-time local church clergy to participate in program in Washington, D.C. Jan. 6 is the deadline to apply to attend the 8th annual Young Clergy Capitol Hill Leadership Forum sponsored by the UM General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). The forum will be Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at the historic UM Building, next door to the Supreme Court and across the street from the U.S. Capitol. Annual conferences are encouraged to send up to two persons, age 35 and under, who may be either elders or deacons serving a local church full-time. GBCS advocacy staff and representatives of other advocacy organizations will discuss key legislative issues on Capitol Hill, and will provide creative, participatory ways to teach the Social Principles of the UMC in congregations. GBCS resources that support nurture, outreach and witness will be presented. Register online at <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/youngclergy2011>. For more information, contact [Julie Wilson](mailto:Julie.Wilson@umc-gbcs.org), 202-488-5650, or [Neal Christie](mailto:Neal.Christie@umc-gbcs.org), assistant general secretary for Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5611.

Mission Experiences Available for UM Youth in 2011

Youth from UMCs around the nation can learn what it means to serve others next summer by participating in week-long mission work experiences in Nashville that help children, the elderly, the homeless and people with special needs. For the second year, the youth mission trips will be sponsored jointly by Young People's Ministries, a division of The General Board of Discipleship (GBOD), and YouthWorks!, a multi-denominational youth mission organization, and will be hosted at McKendree UMC in downtown Nashville. The mission experience is open to youth who will enter the 7th grade in the fall of 2011 through current high school seniors. Eight weeklong sessions will be available in 2011, beginning the week of June 12 and ending the week of July 31. Cost is \$248 per person. For more information, visit www.youthworks.com and click on the link for UMCs in the left column.

Jan. 10 Deadline to Apply for 2011 Human Relations Day Grant

Ministries should target non-violent young offenders.

Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). 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. This day of social action and raising awareness supports the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday: Jan. 16 next year. To qualify for a Human Relations Day grant, the applicant must be either a UM local church, district, annual conference or other affiliated group/organization, or an ecumenical group/organization working with and through at least one UM agency or organization, whose program affects at least one UM local church. Grant applications are available at [Human Relations Day Grant](#), or by contacting [Marvlyn Scott](mailto:msscott@umc-gbcs.org) (msscott@umc-gbcs.org), in the office of Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5643.

Grants Available to Support UM Caregiving Ministries with Older Adults

Applications for grants to support caregiving ministries for older adults are now being accepted by the Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries at the UM General Board of Discipleship. Richard H. Gentzler Jr., the center's director, says submissions from local UM congregations, districts, annual conferences, central conferences and UM-related institutions may be submitted until the deadline on Jan. 15. Funding for the grants is provided by the UM Committee on Older Adult Ministries, which is administratively related to GBOD. During the current quadrennium, the committee is making grants to support two specific areas of older adult ministries—caregiving ministry and intergenerational ministry. Earlier this year, 38 grants totaling \$75,000 were awarded for intergenerational ministries. Grant applications are available online at www.aging-umc.org. For more information, contact project coordinator Teri Kline at the Center for Aging & Older Adult Ministries at 877-899-2780, ext. 7177, or tkline@gbod.org.

Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internship — Apply by Jan. 10

The deadline to apply for 2011 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in Washington, D.C., is Jan. 10. The EYA program is for persons, ages 18-22, who have an interest in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy and social change. Sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), the nine-week summer internship program is for young adults representing the five ethnic minority caucuses of the UMC: Native Americans, Pacific-Islanders, Hispanic/Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans. Interns will work in social justice placements in the U.S. capital from May 28 to July 31. Interns will live in Christian community. Work placements will be supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of social justice concern, area field trips, and Sunday worship in area UM churches. Participants must commit to being present at these activities. Applicants must be in good academic standing at their college or university, demonstrate evidence of their concern for social justice through extracurricular activity, academic study and have some history of involvement in their church and/or community. EYA is funded through GBCS's Ethnic Local Church Grant program. Application and recommendation forms are available at:

2011 EYA Internship Application Form (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689fea4c-8849-4c05-a89e-c9bc7fff64c%7D/2011EYAAPPLICATIONFORM.PDF>)

2011 EYA Recommendation Form (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689fea4c-8849-4c05-a89e-c9bc7fff64c%7D/2011EYARECOMMENDATION.PDF>)

For more information, contact Neal Christie, assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, General Board of Church & Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202-488-5611.

2011 Congress on Evangelism — Jan. 4-7

The 2011 Congress on Evangelism, scheduled for Jan. 4-7 at Myrtle Beach, SC, is sponsored by the Council on Evangelism and the General Board of Discipleship with the support of The Foundation for Evangelism. The congress meets every January at different locations presenting motivational speakers and workshops based on evangelism. For more details about the event, principal and workshop speakers, visit <http://congressonevangelism.org/>. The Foundation for Evangelism provides a limited number of scholarships for first-time attendees.

Choristers Guild Presents Mid-Winter 2011 Worship — Jan. 7 & 8

The Dallas Chapter of Choristers Guild will present their Mid-Winter 2011 Workshop Jan. 7 and 8

at Lovers Lane UMC (9200 Inwood Road, Dallas 76220). This comprehensive church music seminar for professional and volunteer workers provides the best clinicians in adult, youth, children's and handbell choirs as well as for organ and worship. For details, visit www.dallaschaptercgc.com.

Sexual Ethics Summit — Jan. 26-29

"Do No Harm 2011," a UM summit addressing prevention of and response to abuse, misconduct and harassment of a sexual nature, particularly by persons in ministerial roles, will be Jan. 26-29 at First UMC Houston. This sexual ethics event will provide opportunities for conference leaders to share best practices, discuss emerging issues, and network across the denomination. Workshops will provide understanding, skill building and grounding for participants to clarify their roles and to coordinate their efforts with others as the church addresses problems of sexual abuse and misconduct. Workshops are divided into five categories, each with several sessions to choose from: Prevention, Cyber Safety, Response to Sexual Misconduct, Legal Issues, and Sexuality and Social Justice. "Do No Harm" is for annual conference response teams, and others who coordinate ministries related to sexual ethics and boundaries in ministerial relationships. At least two persons from each annual conference are expected to attend. Conference leaders endeavoring to start or invigorate a Response Team or Safe Sanctuaries Team are especially encouraged to attend. The event can accommodate 250 registered attendees. For details and registration, visit www.umsexualethics.org.

2011 Winter Pastors' School — Feb. 10-12

The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco offers the 2011 Winter Pastors' School Feb. 10-12 featuring Dr. Richard B. Hays, dean and George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Christmas Extravaganza — Dec. 18

Grace UMC in Arlington presents the Christmas Extravaganza, "Oh Come Let Us Adore Him," Saturday, Dec. 18, at Campus Drive UMC's Administrative Center (1400 E. Seminary Drive, Fort Worth 76115). The extravaganza features fellowship and a silent auction from 4 to 6 p.m. (includes introduction of Very Important Babies), and a musical at 6:30 p.m. with performances by The Dynamic Grace Chancel Choir, euphonium solo by Bennett Parson and a skit by the Young Adults group. Everyone is welcome!

Live Nativity at Morgan Mill — Dec. 18

Seventh Annual Gala Nativity is presented by Morgan Mill UMC at the Morgan Mill Community Center Saturday, Dec. 18, at 5:30 p.m. A musical introduction leads into a scripted Nativity presentation with lavish costumes. The Nativity is followed by soup and sandwiches prepared by MMUMC members. Attendance was heavy last year, so come early and claim your seat!

Read This Before You Do Any Holiday Shopping

(Your searches count too!) There's no easier way to support the Metropolitan Board of Mission this holiday than shopping on GoodShop.com, according to Metro Board staffer Troy Chapman. Coupons are available at more than 1,600 top stores (includes Amazon, Macys, J Crew, Toys R Us, Best Buy, Gap and more) and a percentage of virtually every sale will be donated to the Metro Board. Simply go to GoodShop.com, designate Metro Board as the cause you support, and then click over to your favorite store and shop away. Also, by adding your toolbar to your browser at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar>, your purchases will earn a donation for Metro Board even if you forget to go to GoodShop.com. There's no easier way to support the Metropolitan Board of

Tongan First UMC, Euless Hopes to Complete Church Kitchen

The members of Tongan First UMC in Euless are grateful for the many donations that have

helped them in completing their church renovation project. Still needed for the kitchen, however, are the following items:

- Plates/cups/plates/spoons/knives etc. (chinaware/papergoods)
- Towels/napkins
- Stove/toaster/microwave
- Refrigerator/freezer
- Pots/pans/saucepans
- Bowls/jars

Contact: Ofa Tuuholoaki at 817-305-1770, 817-305-1940 or 310-419-2751 (work #).

Wednesday Noon Concerts at Arborlawn

Make plans to join your friends at Arborlawn UMC for the annual Advent Concerts with luncheon at noon Wednesday, Dec. 15, when the concert features Laura Gerstle, Karen Gossett and friends.

Depression Connection: Understanding, Help and Hope

When suffering from depression, bipolar or a related disorder, learn what helps and what hurts. Research confirms that people who participate in regular support groups often experience a better quality of life and a greater likelihood of recovery from the symptoms of depression, anxiety disorder and bipolar disorder. Depression Connection support group meets Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 4 of the Heritage Campus of First UMC Grapevine (4344 Heritage Ave.). The group is structured to include approximately 10 individuals and a licensed, trained facilitator. In addition to an opportunity to communicate about one's individual concerns, an educational component is included in each meeting. Questions about Depression Connection? Contact Katherine Hunter at 817-481-2559 x130 or katherineh@fumcg.org.

Career Transition Support Group at First Hurst

NETworkers is a career transition support group at First UMC Hurst for those who are unemployed and actively looking for jobs. NETworkers meets in the church parlor every Monday for about 1 ½ hours beginning at 9 a.m. Knowing that unemployment is such a difficult situation, the church wants to do something to offer emotional support as well as practical tips for social networking, resume writing, etc. They often have guest speakers. Contact: Sandra Hill at 817-282-7384 ext. 17.

Let Prayer Change Your Life Workshop — Jan. 29

Becky Tirabassi, a best-selling author and motivational speaker whose call in life is to encourage people of all stages and ages to change their lives for the better, will conduct this prayer workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Arlington Heights UMC (4200 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth). The event will be hosted by a team of community volunteers lead by Deborah Jung, a long-time fan of Tirabassi's work and founder and executive Director of Kids Who Care. Through Tirabassi's own challenges, victories and fulfillment of outrageous dreams, she inspires men and women of all ages and backgrounds to believe that they can do the same. She has conquered alcohol, drugs, anger, weight issues and unresolved resentment; and she has experienced success in marriage and parenting. Tirabassi's personal quest for change began at age 21, when she realized she was an alcoholic. Soon after, she made the decision to spend one hour per day for the rest of her life in prayer and Bible study, and she has kept this personal promise to herself for 26 years now. The cost is \$35 (bring a brown bag lunch) or \$45 (boxed lunch provided). A special discount is available for groups of 10 or more at \$30 each (no lunch provided) or \$40 each (boxed lunch provided). For out of town attendees, special hotel rates are available for reservations made by Jan. 8. To register or for more information, call the event hotline hosted by Kids Who Care at 817-737-5437 or go to <http://dayofprayerfw.blogspot.com/>.

Save This Date — March 26, 2011

Keller First UMC (1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248) will host *Worship Workshop Live! With Marcia McFee* from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26. Early bird special fee until March 21 is \$25 per person, \$20 per person with 3 or more registering together from the same church. After

March 21 - \$30 per person. For more information, contact Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org or 817-431-1332.

Resources

Helpful Links for Church Leaders

- **Central Texas Conference:** (www.ctcumc.org) features and other content changes daily
- **InfoServ:** (<http://infoserv.umc.org>)
- **UM Reporter Interactive:** (www.umportal.org)
- **United Methodist News Service:**

(http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355375/k.FA13/UMNS_News.htm)

UMNS on Facebook:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=iflTKWnrGaIKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLeKYLpl&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

United Methodist Reporter Online: www.umportal.org

Interpreter Magazine: (<http://interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=7085>)

EI' Interprete (Interpreter in Spanish): (<http://elinterprete.org/>)

10thousanddoors.org: (<http://www.tenthousanddoors.org>)

Rethink Church: (<http://www.rethinkchurch.org>)

UM TechShop: (<http://secure.umcom.org/store/catalog/categoryinfo.aspx?cid=16>)

UM Global Health Initiative:

(http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.4407745/k.89CF/Global_Health.htm)

How to Use UMC's TechShop

You may wonder, "What is TechShop?" Well, my friend, TechShop is a gem for UM organizations and their budgets. TechShop will quickly become your finance committee's best friend as it keeps your church outfitted with the latest technology available with deeply discounted software from major suppliers like Microsoft and Adobe. Settle in with a cup of Joe and take a tour of TechShop!

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKmg&b=6084837&ct=8860103¬oc=1&tr=y&auid=7367185>

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.

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

Mental Health Facts from the Depression Connection Team: The World Health Organization has reported that four of the 10 leading causes of disability in the U.S. and other developed countries are mental disorders. By 2020, major depressive illness will be the leading cause of disability in the world for women and children. Most people diagnosed with a serious mental illness can experience relief from their symptoms by actively participating in an individual treatment plan. With no cost to your church, the CTC Committee on Mental Health Concerns and Depression Connection Team will provide a seminar for your church. To inquire, contact Tony Campbell at 817-810-9599 or tony@depressionconnection.org.

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.

The Night Before Christmas: Special Church Edition. The complete poem, with notes by Stephen Skelton and four reflections on Peace, Hope, Joy & Love. Today we celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday but for 2000 years it was a cultural battleground. While Christians honored the birth of Christ, others kept the time as a drinking holiday and seasonal drinking became so rampant, the Puritans outlawed Christmas. Then a Christian seminary professor wrote a Christmas poem. And, as its phenomenal popularity swept the country, it proved to be the pivotal victory for the Christians. 40 pages.

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.

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

2 Positions at Lorena UMC

P-T Youth Director — Lorena UMC seeks a new part-time youth director to grow and nurture the youth group. The ideal candidate will have experience working with youth and sharing their faith. They will be active in church and understand the practices of the UMC. Youth is held Wednesday night's 7-8 p.m. and Sunday evenings 5-6 p.m. We need to see growth in our youth group and desire someone with the drive to accomplish this. The pay is \$375 bi-weekly. We need a person with drive, determination and a love of the Lord. If that is you, please send your resume to lorenaumc@lorenaumc.org by Dec. 15. The position will begin Jan. 2.

Administrative Assistant — Lorena UMC seeks a Christian administrative assistant to work Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. with an hour lunch from 11:30-12:30. You will be responsible for answering phones, sending emails, creating bulletins and newsletters, some financial aspects, filing, maintaining an updated office calendar, and many other administrative duties. The pay is \$ 9.75 per hour and you will earn no more than 25 hours per week. A great candidate will be actively involved in a church, have knowledge of the UMC and its practices, and will have great references and administrative skills. We desire someone who is seeking longevity in working with our church. Send resume with references to lorenaumc@lorenaumc.org by Dec. 15. This position will begin Jan. 3.

Choir Robes

First UMC Fort Worth has purchased new choir robes and would like to offer their gently used ones to another church. There are about 150 traditional robes and another 25 with fitted cuffs for playing handbells or piano. The stoles have a simple cross on them. If interested, please contact Janis Rathburn at 817-339-3883 or jrathburn@myfumc.org.

25-Passenger Van for Sale

Early FUMC has a 25-passenger bus for sale — '95 Ford 350 power stroke diesel with 102,000 miles on it. Contact the church office at earlyfumc@gmail.com for more details. Asking \$6000.

Organ Free to Good Home

Free to good home — Yamaha Electone Organ-2 manuals, full-pedal boards and bench. Purchased from Luke Wickmans of Fort Worth around 1970. Needs some repair. Please contact Cathey Hartman at cat3542@yahoo.com / 254-728-3286 or Pastor Laraine Waughtal at revlaraine@yahoo.com / 254-595-1503.

2 P-T Positions at St. Luke, Killeen

St. Luke UMC in Killeen (400 members/50 children and youth and growing) has 2 part-time positions available beginning in January, both requiring someone who is faithful and dedicated to Christian education. Bi-lingual in Korean preferred.

- As the part-time **Sunday School Leader** you will be responsible for leading and ministering to multi-ethnic children; lead and preach weekly at the children's Sunday worship service; lead the program for children on Fridays; attend the staff meetings on Saturday; plan and lead annual summer VBS program and any special church-wide Sunday school worship services.

- As a part-time **Youth Leader** you will be responsible for leading and ministering to multi-ethnic junior and senior high school students; lead and preach weekly at Sunday youth worship service; teach Bible study class on Friday; plan and lead two youth retreats each year and lead any special church-wide Youth Ministry Worship Services.

For more details and to apply, contact St. Luke UMC at 254-526-3993 or 102 E. Church Ave., Killeen 76541. Website: www.umcstluke.org.

Administrative Assistant to Facilities Director

First UMC of Arlington has a part-time position (20 hrs/wk) available for an experienced administrative assistant to work directly with the facilities director. Duties include assigning room set-ups, assisting in staff scheduling, office paperwork, working with vendors, scheduling weddings, and other office duties. Please send resume to byoung@arlingtonmethodist.org.

Director of Youth Ministries

St. Luke UMC (3200 Denton Hwy. Haltom City 76117) seeks applicants for part-time director of youth ministries to coordinate and lead the youth ministry program. Responsibilities include building strong relationships with youth in the church community, shared planning, coordination and leading for weekly fellowship and discipleship, retreat and trips, mission trips and outreach, co-teaching Sunday school, and fundraisers. Requirements include an authentic faith in Jesus Christ, passion for working with youth and UM background considered a plus. Salary: \$12,000/yr. Send resume to address above.

Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC of Keller seeks a dynamic person to lead and grow a spiritually enriched youth ministry. Bachelor's degree and experience in youth ministry are required. Willingness to support and teach UM beliefs is necessary. Position involves 40+hours a week. Salary is competitive. Send resume to Robin Stevens, pastor of Discipleship Ministries, at robins@kellerumc.org. FUMC, 1025 Johnson Rd., Keller 76248.

P-T Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC, Mineral Wells seeks a spiritually mature, dedicated Christian with a heart to make young disciples of Jesus Christ. Experience with youth ministry is preferred along with good communication and relationship building skills. A good understanding of Methodist doctrine is helpful. Will be responsible to plan/coordinate activities for 7-12 graders, including weekly Bible study, Sunday school, youth fellowship, fundraisers, and annual mission trips. Send resume to: FUMC, PO Box 1466, Mineral Wells, TX 76068 or contact church office at 940-325-4707 for more details.

Director of Family Ministries

Christ UMC of Fort Worth has an opening for the position of director of family ministries to coordinate ministries with children, youth, and young adults of the church and its surrounding community, utilizing church volunteers as teachers and leaders. This is a part-time position (15 hours per week). For more information and a job description, contact Lou Hulcy, SPR chair, or Chauncey Nealy, pastor, by emailing the CUMC church office at office.christumc@sbcglobal.net.

Playground Equipment

Oakdale UMC, Stephenville is in need of commercial grade playground equipment to serve their children's ministry. Oakdale has seen the children's attendance double over the past two years; however, the congregation does not have playground equipment to aid their children's ministry.

Any church or individual who is willing to donate or sell new/used equipment or financially contribute to our "Playground for a Purpose," please contact Sara Thetford at 254-968-7606.

Director of Student Ministries

Epworth UMC in Arlington is accepting resumes for the part-time position of director of student ministries who is responsible for ministry with youth (grades 7-12) and young adults who are college age. Resumes may be submitted to epworthpastor@sbcglobal.net. For further information, call Sarah E. Howe Miller at the church office 817-275-2674.

Assistant Minister/Focus on Youth Ministry

Breckenridge First UMC 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 and Compensation:* Full-time or part-time. *Compensation includes:* Salary commensurate with education and experience, contribution to UM Pension program, reimbursement for reasonable expenses and cell phone to an amount certain and moving allowance. Sick leave, holidays and vacation according to office staff policy. (Willing to accept inquires for this position as a part-time position). For more information including full job description and/or to express interest contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 West Walker, Breckenridge 76424 or pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

ESL Teacher

University UMC in Fort Worth seeks individuals interested in teaching English as a Second Language as the church takes steps to build intentional relationships with the community it serves. All interested parties should contact Jason Hamilton at jhamilton@uumcfw.com.

Director of Children's Ministry

Seeking a full-time children's ministry director for 2000+ member church. Great place, great opportunity and future, great staff. Contact Eric Smith at Acton UMC at 817-326-4242 or eric@actonumc.org.

Childcare Worker

United Community Centers, Inc. (UCC) is a National Mission Institution of the General Board of Global Ministries located in low-income neighborhoods in Fort Worth. UCC provides after-school childcare, after-school youth activities, summer day camp, and emergency assistance with groceries and clothing. The available position is childcare worker with primary responsibility for a childcare classroom. UCC's childcare ranges from pre-K through 5th grade, so the classroom assigned may be for any of these age ranges. Must be able to administer positive discipline in the classroom and be respectful with children and their parents. Hours are after-school (1 or 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.) Monday-Friday. There is opportunity for this to increase to full time during spring break and summer (7 a.m.– 4 p.m. or 9 a.m.–6 p.m.). Bi-lingual Spanish / English is strongly preferred. High school diploma or GED required: some college classes in child development preferred. Experience in working with children preferred. Applicant must also have a valid Texas Driver's License, good driving record and auto liability insurance. Must drive 15-passenger van and be able to lift up to 25 pounds. Employment contingent on passing criminal background check and drug test. Contact: Sherry Dunn, LCSW, UCC Director of Programs, at 817-927-5556, ext. 113.

P-T Choir Director

First UMC of Hico seeks applicants for part-time choir director. The person will have a love of Christ and a heart for music ministry for "Passionate Worship" in the local church. The person will conduct choir practice Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and direct the choir and the congregation on Sundays at the 10:50 a.m. worship service. The position also includes times of extra rehearsals during the Advent/Christmas season and Lent/Holy Week/Easter. FUMC seeks a person who has a music degree and experience as a choir director and is willing to work with choir members who

are untrained but who love to sing for the glory of God. Contact Buddy Teague, SPR chair, at fumchico@embarqmail.com.

Youth Ministry

Silver Creek UMC has an opening for a part-time staff position in youth ministry. Responsibilities include developing ministries for Junior and Senior High youth. Inquiries should be directed to Vaughn Baker (pastor) at 817-613-7659.

Nursery Worker

First UMC of Grandview seeks applicants for a part-time nursery worker position during worship, which requires a love of children and residence in the Grandview area. Please send resume to office@gvmethodist.org.

Part-time Choir Director

Cisco First UMC seeks a choir director for Sunday 10:50 a.m. worship. Requirements: experience and confidence in directing a choir; ability to choose weekly anthems and special music at Christmas and Easter; availability for Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. If interested, e-mail resume to revlsm@aol.com or mail to FUMC – Cisco, 405 W. 8th Street, Cisco 76437.

Director of Music Ministries

Saginaw UMC, a growing, dynamic, disciple-making church committed to evangelize, nurture and equip the church body for discipleship and service, seeks a part-time director of music ministries. This position reports directly to the senior pastor. For more requirements, contact Mel Bishara at 817-232-0390 or send resume to Saginaw UMC, 209 S. Bluebonnet, Saginaw 76179 or melbishara@saginawumc.org.

Organist

First UMC Itasca seeks someone to play their 1904 Hilgreen-Lane pipe organ. It is complete and original and has been refurbished to a "reasonable" state of operation. Please contact Tom Wood at 254-462-4364.

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.