



Central E-Link

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

April 20, 2011

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

News Briefs — The Conference

Emergency Supplies Still Needed for Wildfire Fighters Victims

For the latest information about the wildfires in the western portion of our conference and the needs of those who have lost their homes and the emergency responders' needs, please check the conference website at www.ctcumc.org. We are grateful to the many individuals and congregations that are already responding with supplies, but your help is still needed.

ALERT: Conference Resource Center / Archives & History

Requests for the Conference Resource Center and the Archives & History will be continue to be addressed up until May 31 as long as any borrowed resources can be returned by that date. After that time, the conference will be in a time of transition and living into The Exodus Project. All aspects of Archives & History and the Conference Resource Center will be closed from June 1 to Aug. 31. Please watch for their grand re-opening in September. We are deeply sorry for any inconvenience that this might cause and ask for your understanding, patience and prayers during this time of transition and implementation.

There will be a clearance of a large number of Resources Center items May 4-6 during normal conference hours. Most of the clearance items are books and other printed materials, VHS tapes and kits with VHS tapes.

2012 Lay Delegate Candidates on Website

Lay members of the Annual Conference who have indicated an interest and willingness to serve as a lay delegate to the 2012 General and South Central Jurisdictional conference are included in a "booklet" that is posted on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) under the 2011 Annual Conference banner.

Carolyn Stephens retires April 28

On April 28, Carolyn Stephens will retire after nineteen years of dedicated and faithful service to the Central Texas Conference. Words cannot express our gratitude to Carolyn for her kind and generous spirit. If you have anyone in your congregation who has worked closely with Carolyn, please share this information with them. If you would like to express your thanks or thoughts to Carolyn as she starts this new chapter in her life, please send her a note or card to Susan Briles, United Methodist Center, 464 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth 76107 and she will make sure Carolyn receives them.

2011 Annual Conference Registration / Note Changes

There will be no online registration for the 2011 Annual Conference in Waco. Registration cards will be placed on the tables for delegates to complete on Monday morning at the Waco Convention Center. Nametags and table tents will be printed based on the information provided by the churches in the web console. If substitutions are made, the delegate attending will mark through the name on the nametag and table tent of the person they are replacing and write in their own name.

Other Preparations for the 2011 Annual Conference — June 5-8

Check Website: Information concerning the 2011 Annual Conference is posted as information becomes available on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) under the Annual Conference banner on the left side. Annual Conference will be held June 5-8 with business sessions at the Waco Convention Center and all worship services at First UMC Waco. Some construction is still underway at the Convention Center, but all meeting rooms will be complete.

Parking: There will be fewer parking spaces adjacent to the Convention Center, so lay and clergy members may want to consider carpooling.

District Conferences: These will be posted as they become available.

Fort Worth – 7 p.m. May 23 - Arlington Heights UMC
Temple – 7 p.m. May 19 – Georgetown First UMC
Brownwood – 7 p.m. May 23 – Comanche UMC
Mid-Cities – 7 p.m. May 19 – St. Paul UMC, Hurst
Waxahachie – 3 p.m. May 22 – First Waxahachie UMC
Waco – 7 p.m. May 17 — Central UMC
Weatherford – 7 p.m. May 5 – First Weatherford UMC

Deadlines Near for Several 2011 Awards, Honors, Scholarships

Nomination & application info at <http://www.ctcumc.org/news/detail/156> under “Annual Conference Awards, Scholarships & Honors”

Morris Walker & Denman Evangelism Award Nominations: Each year at Annual Conference, outstanding individuals are recognized for their contributions to their church, district and conference with the Morris Walker Award (1 clergy, 1 lay person — April 29 deadline) and the Denman Award for Evangelism (1 clergy, 1 lay person, 1 youth — April 25 deadline). Nominations are due now for recipients of these awards.

Conference Merit Award: The Merit Award will be made to a newly admitted student in a UM-related school. The amount is determined by the previous year conference-wide contributions to the UM Student Day offering (generally around \$1,000). Please note that only students from congregations that participated in the previous year’s Student Day offering are eligible. Also, each local church is invited to nominate no more than one student annually for the Merit Award. The deadline for applications is May 1.

Dr. G. Alfred & Opal Brown Scholarship: This \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to a ministerial student preparing for ministry as an elder in the CTC at a seminary approved by the University Senate of the UMC. Check the criteria and use the application forms on the conference website. Each local church is invited to nominate no more than one student annually. The deadline for applications is May 1.

Giving Back and Giving Forward ... Annual Conference Offering

Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center has been named recipient of the 2011 Central Texas Annual Conference Offering. More than 18,000 children, youth and adults come to the campsite each year for meetings, retreats and as part of the summer and mid-year camping and retreat programs. Besides the Annual Conference Offering, which will be received during the June 5-8 meeting in Waco, the folks at GLC will be asking individuals and local churches for a variety of other gifts. Over an 8-week period, GLC will be asking YOU to become a member of the Glen Lake Gift of the Week Club. To learn more about GLC’s biggest needs and how your contributions can help sustain this remarkable ministry in our conference at www.ctcumc.org.

Week 3: GLC wants to know if you have a great memory from camp or retreat time at Glen Lake — share your story. Make sure the children, youth and young families at your church are going to camp this summer. Look around at church — what about the “new couple” with children — talk to them about Glen Lake. Send GLC their name and address and the staff will send a camp brochure to them. Better yet, direct them to the website at www.glenlake.org and encourage them to register online. Commit to share your memory by April 29, and commit to contact at least three families in your church, your extended family or neighborhood. Send your “great memory note” to GLC’s Executive Director Kay Hawkins at Kay@glenlake.org or write to Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, P.O. Box 928, Glen Rose 76043. If you don’t write, call the camp at 254-897-2247 and ask for Curtis or Seth. They will arrange to record your story.

Videos Sought for GC 2012 Young People’s Address

Young People’s Ministries is organizing the Young People’s Address for the 2012 General Conference. The goal is for two young people (age 11-30) to present the address at General Conference, which will consist of several short video stories from ministries all over the world. To apply as a presenter, send by Aug. 1 a 3-5 minute video that includes:

- you introducing a ministry story from your context
- a one-minute story (a video or a slide show with narrative) of the ministry you’re introducing
- some closing remarks
- an explanation of why it is important to you to represent young people in the UMC to the General Conference

For more details check Facebook at SCJ Young People or contact Abby Parker, South Central Jurisdictional representative for Young People’s Ministries, at aparker@gbod.org or 210-885-6901.

Change the World — May 14-15

Is your church making a difference in the community?

Make a difference in your community and the world through ministry and service. The UMC has some ideas and resources to help your congregation prepare to Change the World May 14-15, and to let the world know you are involved in taking the message and mission of Jesus Christ to the global community. The second annual Change the World event takes place next month, so the time is close to plan and carry out your church’s outreach project. To learn more and to register your church for the event, visit UMCom.org or click on [2011 Change the World Event Registration and Information](http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.5967865/k.86E5/Change_the_World.htm?tr=y&auid=8119945) or (http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.5967865/k.86E5/Change_the_World.htm?tr=y&auid=8119945).

Petition Submissions Are Welcome for 2012 GC

Between now and Sept. 27, any UM individual, group, church, conference can submit petitions for consideration by the 2012 General Conference, the denomination’s top legislative body. For details on how to submit a petition, please check the conference website at www.ctcumc.org.

Golden Cross Sunday

A message from Texas Health Resources: The UMC has designated the first Sunday of May as Golden Cross Sunday. Thank you in advance for remembering to observe Golden Cross Sunday on May 1. Historically, in the CTC, local congregations have collected money designated to assist the medically indigent treated in Harris Methodist Hospitals. Six years ago, we expanded Golden Cross to address the preventive medicine needs of UM congregations through support of Faith Community Nursing. Currently, a portion of the Golden Cross offering is used to provide scholarships for UM nurses (RNs) in the CTC who desire to receive training in Faith Community Nursing. In 2010 three \$375 scholarships were awarded. Chris Hayes, CTC Health & Welfare chair, is presently receiving 2011 scholarships applications. Hayes can be contacted at www.cjhayes@fumccolleyville.org. The deadline for submission of applications is April 30. Thank you again for making Golden Cross Sunday on May 1 a meaningful event in your church.

Relief Kit Delivery to Sager Brown — CTC Collection May 16-20

FUMC Mansfield will be delivering Relief Kits and other supplies to UMCOR Sager Brown (Baldwin, La.) in late May. There will be plenty of room on the truck and the church would love to include any kits that conference churches are assembling. If your church is planning to make relief kits for the Change the World weekend, this would be a great way to get them delivered at no additional cost! Supplies will be collected at FUMC Mansfield (777 N. Walnut Creek Drive, Mansfield 76063) during the week of May 16–20. Please contact Teresa Sherwood (teresas@firstmethodistmansfield.org) if you would like to transport your supplies to Sager Brown with the FUMC Mansfield truck.

UMCOR Responding to Needs in Japan

Continue to check the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) for the latest stories being posted about the UMC and UMCOR's assistance and relief efforts for the people of Japan. The photo may not change, but stories are unfolding almost daily. Many of the photos used by UMNS have been purchased or used by permission from the U.S. military and news wires services. They are not available to our conference, but the articles are. You can help. Donations can be made to **Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317** (<http://secure.gbgmumc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=3021317>). Other specific ways to help will be reported as they are determined by those onsite in Japan. For related stories and resources for local churches, please check the links on the conference website at www.ctcumc.org and Bishop Lowry's blog (The Focused Center banner).

Haiti Earthquake Relief Mission

On Jan. 12, 2010, the nation of Haiti experienced a massive earthquake that eventually claimed over 250,000 lives. The UMC has been working with the Methodist Church of Haiti to rebuild lives and property. By OAS estimates, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The nation has had poor and corrupt leadership. Illiteracy is rampant throughout the country. The earthquake only added to the problems of the Haitian people. People of the CTC have 3 opportunities for hands-on participation:

Lara Whitley (senior pastor at Joshua UMC) will be leading a 10-person UVMIM earthquake relief mission team Aug. 3-11 with 2 remaining slots for participants. If interested, contact Whitley at larawhitley@gmail.com or 817-558-9801.

Laraine Waughtal (pastor at Morgan Mill/Bluff Dale) will lead a 10-person UVMIM earthquake relief mission team Oct. 5-13. She is signing volunteers for the team and a waiting list in case there are cancellations. If you are interested, contact Waughtal at 254-595-1503 or revlaraine@yahoo.com.

George Murphy (member at Salado UMC) will lead a UVMIM earthquake relief mission Oct. 20-28 and has **two** remaining slots for the 10-member team to serve for one week in Haiti. If interested, contact Murphy at 254-947-0601 or temeg@embarqmail.com.

Revised Pentecost Journey Training — May 7

This event, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at First UMC Grapevine, will train people from local churches/districts/conferences to be facilitators for the new Pentecost Journey resource. The \$50 registration fee includes the training and a copy of the resource.

Demographics point to continual growth of the U.S. Hispanic/Latino population. Intentional preparation for cross-cultural ministry has proven to be extremely helpful for growth and sustainability of this type of ministry. Lay leaders, missions/outreach chairpersons, and clergy people willing to facilitate a guide to Hispanic Ministries should plan to attend this training. Grapevine FUMC started a mission congregation that has vastly expanded the outreach to the Hispanic population around the church. The church has exemplified a mindfulness and willingness to be in ministry with the Hispanic population around their church, so, as hosts for this event, they will also provide insights and models. Interested in attending? Contact Blanca Longhurst (blonghurst@gbod.org) for information and registration. For additional information about the resource or the training, please contact Sam Rodriguez, srodriguez@gbod.org.

Mother's Day Special Offering for Wesleyan Homes — May 8

This year Mother's Day, May 8, is especially crucial for all congregations to support the Benevolent Fund of our conference's senior adult ministry, Wesleyan Homes. Near May 1, your church will receive enough specially prepared bulletin inserts to take this offering on May 8. *Why is this year's Mother's Day offering so important?* In the *Great Recession of 2011*, Wesleyan Homes expects the financial needs of our 340 residents to require a *50% increase in our Benevolent Fund requirements*. Remember: *No one has ever been asked to leave Wesleyan Homes because they could not pay*. Your support on May 8 (or for some of you, to make this missional gift in another way during the year, as you choose) is the major reason we can continue this "Jesus Value" of providing residential care for many of Central Texas' senior adults in need. If you plan not to use the Mother's Day bulletin insert, please contact Wesleyan Homes (tenos@wesleyanhomes.org) or call Tiffany at 512-868-1205 by April 25.

Retirement Party for Harvey Ozmer — May 14

In celebration of 43 years of dedicated ministry, St. Luke UMC (3200 Denton Hwy., Fort Worth 76117) is hosting a come-and-go retirement party honoring Harvey L. Ozmer. Harvey currently serves as executive director for the Conference Council on Finance & Administration and will be taking retirement at the June Annual Conference. If you are unable to attend but would like to extend best wishes, please share a memory, story or picture with the Ozmer family. Send a card or note to Ozmer Retirement, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth 76107. They will be presented to him at the party.

Youth 2011 — July 13-17 or July 27-31

This is a nationwide UM Youth Conference held every four years. "MORE THAN: You think you are ordinary? THINK AGAIN." It will be held July 13-17 at Purdue University OR July 27-31 in Sacramento (<http://www.youth2011.org/>).

Texas Youth Academy — June 26-July 9

Texas Youth Academy is for high school sophomores and juniors with a desire to explore their faith and future. The two-week academy contains worship, service, arts, theology and exploring your call to ministry. The 2011 event will be held June 26 – July 9 at Southwestern University in Georgetown. Applications are available online and the deadline is March 7. Visit www.texasyouthacademy.org for more details and to register.

Cooperative School of Christian Mission 2011 "All Things Made New"

For those who like to plan ahead, you will want to mark your calendars for the 2011 CTC Cooperative School of Christian Mission. The weekday classes will be Aug. 1-4 at Fort Worth First UMC, the weekday night classes Aug. 1, 2 and 3 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Fort Worth First UMC, and the weekend classes Aug. 5-7 at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. Watch for more details on the conference website and in the *Central Link* newspaper.

Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation – February 12-16, 2012

A Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be held on February 12-16, 2012 at the Prothro Center in Pottsboro, TX. This is the first Academy to be held in North Texas in over two years. The purpose of The Academy includes providing an experience in spiritual formation and encouraging participants to live out their call through the disciplines of daily prayer. The theme for this Academy is "Holy Time and Holy Rhythm: The Path to Untamed Hospitality" and the presenters are Kathryn Damiano and Loyd Allen. Please visit <http://www.5daynorthtexas.org/> <<http://www.5daynorthtexas.org/>> for more information.

News Briefs — The Denomination

Free Online Webinars Available to Help Congregations — April 28

The General Board of Discipleship's series of free online training sessions for local church leaders continues this month and next with webinars about issues that face church council

members. | “Easter Living for Church Leaders: Prayer and Faith” on April 28—Church leaders care deeply about their faith community so that sometimes the “doing” church work overwhelms “being” the church. Several church leaders will tell about their own experiences to inspire Easter renewal in leaders. | This training session provided by GBOD is made possible by support given to the World Service Fund. For more information about the webinars and free registration go online at www.gbod.org/committee_resources In addition, previous webinars for the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and for finance leaders are available for view at the website.

Native American Ministries Sunday, May 8

Native American Ministries Sunday is just weeks away. There's still time to order free offering resources for this May 8 offering. Your gifts on Native American Ministries Sunday fund ministries that pave the way for those who aspire to serve Christ's church by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Because of your generosity, seminarians prepare to serve, congregations become stronger and communities are transformed. “I want to be the best minister I can be,” said the Chebon Kernell, a Native American seminary scholarship recipient. “The best way to do this is through theological education. My hope is for my children to know who they are as Native people, to hold core values and to know it's OK for them to be what God created them to be.” In today's economy, your contributions are critical to the UMC, honoring its commitment to ministries that support Native Americans. Call 888-346-3862 to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this churchwide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! Find more at <http://www.umcgiving.org/specialsundays>.

Events & Activities at Mount Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Ark.

NCLI Boot Camp for Church Planters: Senior Pastor Track, Basic Training, and Taking New Church Pastor Assessment - May 2-6: The basic training is specifically designed for pastors who are planting new churches in 2011 or for those who have recently planted a new church. **Late registration fee is waived.** For flyers:

http://www.mountsequoyah.org/Mount_Sequoyah/TRAINING_CONFERENCES.html

iGo Green Famcation - June 29 – July 2: An affordable all hands-on environmental family camp that captures a memorable family experience. Educational Excursion Botanical Gardens, Mad Scientist Party, Nature Hike guided by Arkansas Audubon, Marshall Mitchell & Illinois Watershed Project. iGo Green Curriculum and workshops led by certified teachers and instructors. First 20 families to register get a free night's stay added on to the famcation. Commuter rates available. CEUs available. For flyer: http://www.mountsequoyah.org/Mount_Sequoyah/iGO_GREEN.html.

Senior Adult Retreats - Leaves of Gold (Oct 17-20) & Autumn Time (Oct 24-27): Save the dates for a retreat filled with worship, fellowship, preaching, Bible Study, excursions, educational workshops and crafts.

Eremos Retreat: Ongoing personal retreat for **all** clergy, **all** the time. Clergy recognize the value of getting away for rest, renewal and life planning. Enter the front gates of Mount Sequoyah and leave your worries on the other side. For a private room and bath a rate of \$30 a day for the first three days, \$50 a day thereafter. For a 2BR cottage with kitchen, washer/dryer and cable, a rate of \$80 a day. http://www.mountsequoyah.org/Mount_Sequoyah/Eremos.html

For all events at Mount Sequoyah Retreat & Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72701), contact Brenda Thorne at registration@mountsequoyah.org, 479-443-4531 or 800-760-8126.

Hispanic Ministries Institute at Brite Divinity School — June 5-10

Brite Divinity School (TCU campus - 2855 S. University Drive, Fort Worth 76129) will host the Summer Latino/a Church studies and the Hispanic Ministries Institute June 5-10. The program has priority for Latino/a ministers and lay leadership. For more details, contact Reina Rodriguez at 817-257-7575. The deadline for registration and payment is May 20.

School of Congregational Development — July 27-31

The School of Congregational Development will be conveniently close this year — Dallas — and especially good opportunity for new church pastors. Check out this year's SCD, scheduled for

Wednesday-Sunday, July 27-31, at <http://www.scdumc.org>. There will be 15 intensives, 23 ministry tracks and 25 workshops, plus 8 exciting teaching churches. Add it to your calendar now!

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 weeklong 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.

R.E.A.P. Program Hosted by Texas Conference CEF Group — Sept. 16-17

The Texas Conference's Christian Education Fellowship extends an invitation to attend their Renewing, Equipping, Affirming, Preparing (REAP) program Sept. 16-17 in Houston. Guest speakers include John Holbert (Perkins School of Theology), Mary Jane Pierce Norton (General Board of Discipleship), and Gladys Childs (Texas Wesleyan University). For more details, visit www.ghles.org.

Discounts Available for Wesleyan Pilgrimage — Nov. 7-17

UM clergy and lay leaders who want to follow the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley can take advantage of early-registration discounts for a 10-day Wesleyan Pilgrimage to England in November. Additionally, scholarships are available for provisional members. The Nov. 7-17 pilgrimage is being sponsored by the UM Board of Discipleship and Board of Higher Education & Ministry. An early registration discount of \$400 is available through April 29, and a discount of \$200 will be available from April 30 through July 31. After Aug. 1, the cost will be \$2,395. For more details and a 14-min. video clip. Visit http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5717529/k.26AD/Wesleyan_Pilgrimage_in_England.htm?aid=7776351.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Da Vinci's Last Supper Living Drama — April 21

First UMC Corsicana will present a living drama based on Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting entitled the *Last Supper*. The drama will take place 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 21, in the Great Hall. The drama opens with 13 men from the congregation who are in complete costume, along with the choir processing into the Great Hall. After the procession and the prelude finishes, the 13 men will assume a frozen position like da Vinci's *Last Supper* painting. During the drama, each character has the chance to speak his mind about life with Jesus and to wonder about the accusation they have just heard. The choir music will enhance the worship experience. After all the disciples have shared their thoughts; guests will be invited to partake of Holy Communion. Contact: Steve Moss at 903-874-5656. www.fumccorsicana.org

2nd Annual Jerusalem 33 A.D. — April 21 & 22

First UMC Killeen presents the miracles, trials, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ during their 2nd Annual Jerusalem 33 A.D. beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 21, and 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Methodist Park (southwest corner of the new church campus at 3501 E. Elms, Killeen). All are invited to witness this Passion play side-by-side with villagers, Romans, Judas, King Herod and Jesus himself. Admission is one can of food (given to the Killeen Food Care Center) or a donation (used to help defray the cost of the event). For more details, visit the church website at www.fumckilleen.com.

A Requiem for Good Friday: *Eternal Light* — April 22

7 p.m. Friday, April 22, at FUMC Hurst (521 W. Pipeline, Hurst) • free Admission • child care
Emerging from the darkness and despair of Good Friday comes the hopeful sound and melodic writing of British composer Howard Goodall. His *Eternal Light*, written in 2008, is what the composer calls "...a requiem for the living, a requiem focused on interrupted lives." The Music Ministry of FUMC Hurst will present this work in its entirety with choir, orchestra, and soloists.

Godspell Performance at La Trinidad — April 23

By special arrangement with Music Theatre International, The Trinidad Players will present Celebrating the Music of "Godspell the Musical" by Stephen Swartz and John-Michael Tebelac. There will be one performance only at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23, in the chapel of La Trinidad UMC (corner of Northside Drive & 1300 Gould Ave., Fort Worth). Tickets are \$10 at the door with open seating. Church contact: 817-624-3242.

May Day Concert in Central Park — May 1

Celebrate May Day with a free, family friendly concert in FUMC Hurst's Central Park! The outdoor concert features the country swing of The Texas Trailhands, and Old Skool, Birdville ISD's classic rock band. Bring a picnic, or dinner will be available for \$8, with all proceeds benefiting FUMC's Celebration Singers Youth Choir. Central Park is located behind the church in the 700 block of Mary Drive. The church is located at 521 W. Pipeline, Hurst 76053. For information, call 817-282-7384, or go to www.fumchurst.org.

Innovative Conference to Help Churches Grow in a Secular World — May 2-4

FUMC of Arlington & Leadership Nexus host conference on communication and preaching
An innovative, interdenominational conference will explore how communication and effective preaching can help churches grow. The conference, set for May 2–4, will focus on outreach, effective preaching and communicating. First UMC of Arlington will host the "Evangelism Conference and Preaching Academy" presented by Leadership Nexus (<http://www.leadershipnexus.org/index.php>). "This is an opportunity for churches to learn how to reach people and grow in an increasingly secular world," says Dr. Bob Pierson, executive director of Leadership Nexus. "The whole reason we're having this conference is to address the two biggest needs in churches: preaching and outreach." Participants may register online at www.leadershipnexus.org for \$200. Scholarships available.

Speakers include: Kay Lancaster, David Mosser and Estee Valendy, all from FUMC Arlington; William Lawrence, dean of SMU's Perkins School of Theology; John Ed Mathison, author and former pastor of Frazer Memorial UMC; Jim Moore, author and former pastor of St. Luke's UMC, Houston; Bob Pierson, author and executive director of Leadership Nexus; and Jennifer Rodia, Rethink Church director, UM Communications.

National Day of Prayer Event — May 5

First UMC of Waco will co-host a community observance of the National Day of Prayer with Columbus Avenue Baptist Church. "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*" is the national theme for this year's gathering on Thursday, May 5, from noon-1 p.m. in FUMC's Family Life Center (Lake Air and Cobbs Drive). This 60th Anniversary Observance will provide an opportunity to unite in worship, prayer and fellowship for our country, state and city in a non-partisan/non-political setting. For local information, contact Amy Christie at 254-722-6700 or Linda Hammond at 254-772-5630 x 218. The national website can be accessed at NationalDayofPrayer.org.

Resiliency: Transforming Turmoil into Hope — May 7

After Easter passes, then what? On May 7, 2 weeks after Easter, White's Chapel UMC will present an all day conference to be led by Dr. John Woodall on ***Resiliency: Transforming Turmoil into Hope***. This program offers tools to transform daily habits that affect:

1. The nature of our relationship to God, to self, to friendships, church, and community.
2. The nature of our judgment, our habitual thought patterns.

3. The nature of our will — grounding our inner life, aligning our will with God's. For more details and to register, visit www.whiteschapelumc.com. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; registration of \$50 before May 1 and \$60 afterward; lunch on your own from noon to 1 p.m. Childcare with reservation: Dorothea Christ 817-481-4147. Additional information: Tracy Christensen 817-481-4147.

Cybersafety for Families — May 10

On Tuesday, May 10, 6:30-9 p.m., learn tips for talking with children / teens about cybersafety and establishing family guidelines for using the Internet, all hosted by FUMC Hurst (521 W. Pipeline, Hurst). Admission is free, and child care will be available (register online). For information, call 817-282-7384, or go to www.fumchurst.org.

The Pedaling Pastor Project — May 12

One of the last projects Dr. Ken Diehm was planning before his untimely death in February was to ride 100 miles to benefit The Villages ministry at FUMC Grapevine. He planned to ride the Cross Timbers Classic (CTC) on Saturday, May 21. FUMC Grapevine will still participate! You can ride just a few laps around the Texas Motor Speedway, or you can ride the whole 100 miles! Those who don't want to ride can still help by providing support through prayers, gifts and service. Since the ride has a safe and secure location at Texas Motor Speedway, it is a perfect way for children and youth to be actively involved in this mission effort. Adult registration prior to May 15 is \$30, \$35 afterward. Registration for kids 12 and under is \$15. The CTC organizers have agreed to donate back 10% of First Grapevine's entry fees to go towards the The Villages if the church can register 100 or more people!! Please be sure that you register using the form linked at www.thepedalingpastor.com in order for the event organizers to track people participating on behalf of First Grapevine's beneficiary. Questions? Contact Steve Isbell at steve@thepedalingpastor.com.

The Leader Within: An Evening with Coach McCoy — May 12

White's Chapel UMC in Southlake offers an inspiring program on preparing children for life at 7 p.m. May 12. Brad McCoy, a highly decorated coach of 27 years and father of three high-performing athletes, believes that a child cannot be changed from the outside in; you must change them from the inside out. Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a coach, a manager, a role model, or a student, you will be inspired by his personal and powerful insights.

18th Annual Canafax Golf Scramble for Missions — May 15

FUMC Hurst will host the Annual Canafax Golf Scramble May 15 at Bear Creek Resort. Registration is \$150; sign up as an individual, a twosome, or a full team at www.fumchurst.org. Schedule: 1 p.m.: Putting Contest; 2:30 p.m.: Shotgun Start; 7:30 p.m.: Awards Dinner. All proceeds benefit UM missions and Mission Central. For information, call 817-282-7384, or go to www.fumchurst.org.

Mark Winter's One Man Show Jubilee — May 15-17

When some people hear the word "revival," they think of draggy worship services and long-winded sermons. Not so with One Man Show Jubilee! Mark Winter's One Man Show Jubilee is a mix of inspirational messages, humorous sketches and programs designed to help people discover strength, hope and joy in God. Alliance UMC will host a One Man Show Jubilee May 15-17. Sunday worship begins at 8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m. and evening services at 7 p.m. Winter formed his One Man Show Ministries in 1999 as a "creative force for God." He is a General Evangelist of the UMC and author of *If There Is No God*, published by Cook Communications.

Youth Mission Opportunity in Palmer — June 23-26

First UMC Palmer announces PUMP 2011! PUMP (Palmer United Mission Project) is a four-day mission weekend sponsored by the church for youth groups from across Texas and surrounding areas. Dates for PUMP 2011 are June 23-26. Youth entering grades 4-12 and adults alike are

given the opportunity to serve those in need living in the Palmer area. In addition to the mission projects, participants will experience small group study, meaningful daily worship, awesome music and inspired talks. There are many planned activities designed to help everyone let loose, experience God, spread His love and have fun. This is an excellent mission trip for first-timers and/or small youth groups. For more information, contact Debbi Mitchell by at 214-683-1501 or palmerpump@yahoo.com. Space is limited so let the church know if you are interested and a reservation brochure will be sent to you! Reservation deadline: May 15.

Worship Arts Week at Grace UMC, Arlington — June 27-July 1

Grace UMC, Arlington will sponsor the Worship Arts Week June 27 to July 1 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. each evening with a light meal available. St. Albans Episcopal Church (911 S. Davis Drive, Arlington 76013) will host the event. "Swing to the Beat of Praise!" is the theme for this event, which will feature SpeechMakers (Speech Choir), children's and adult music, poetry, drama, art, liturgical dance, praise and raise (connecting worship, mission and service), Hebrew and Greek for worship, Worship in the Bible, and Shake It Up Café (for ages 2-5). There is no charge, but call 817-294-5784 for reservations.

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.

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=ifITKWNrGalKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=oIL5LeMPLLeKYLpl&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edKIWP 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)

Discipleship Resources

The General Board of Discipleship's mission is to support church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of the UMC, visit www.gbod.org and www.godfilms.com for more information or call the Communications Office at 877-899-2780, Ext. 1726.

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>

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.

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.

Part-time Children's Coordinator Needed

Ovilla UMC seeks an enthusiastic person to develop and administer a children's ministry (pre-K - 5th grade) in a growing suburban church. This person will coordinate and expand a variety of children's ministries in outreach and spiritual formation. The ideal candidate loves children, respects them as potential Christ followers, is committed to healthy evangelism and spiritual formation for that age group, has strong relational and organizational skills, with a ministry philosophy of training others and getting work done through teams. This is a newly created position for a part-time staff member. This person will be accountable to and report to the pastor. Contact OUMC at 972-617-8840 or email your resume to ovillaumc@sbcglobal.net.

Part Time Office Manager

Christ UMC, Fort Worth (www.cumcfw.org) seeks a part-time (approximately 20 hours per week) office manager. Person must be positive, friendly, and detail oriented. Prior experience preferred. To submit a resume or learn more about the position, contact: Pastor Chauncey Nealy at 817-346-2400 or office.christumc@sbcglobal.net.

Choir Library

FUMC Grapevine is in the process of culling anthems from their choir library and offering them to any churches that would like to pick up one or more anthems. Attached to this E-Link is a spreadsheet listing of titles and arrangers or composers of those anthems — in numerical, not alpha, order. The number of copies is a guesstimate. They will go to the recycle bin on May 31, if not picked up. Contact: Norma Ruggiero at normar@fumcg.org or 817-481-2559 ext. 121.

Sound Board/Equalizer

St. Paul Georgetown in need of a sound board/equalizer for the church. If you have upgraded your soundboard, we would like to have your old one if it is in good working condition. Contact Arcynthia Louie at 254-541-1828.

Piano for Sale

FUMC Coppell is selling a Hallet, Davis and Co. piano. It was purchased about 10 years ago and is in excellent condition, both mechanically and cosmetically. It has been faithfully maintained and kept in tune and includes casters and a keyboard lock. (The only flaw is the "short stick" was damaged at some point and has been mended for use, but is not in factory condition.) We are looking for \$6,500 + moving costs - Please contact Mark Pope, director of music at mpope@fumccoppell.org.

Director, Creative Learning Center

First UMC in Grapevine seeks qualified applicants for director of the Creative Learning Center. The CLC, an exemplary Christian Preschool with approximately 200 students, is a ministry of First UMC Grapevine. The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, organized and detail oriented. He/she will also have proven managerial skills, interpersonal skills and a love for the education of young children. Visit www.clcgrapevine.org/director.html for detailed information regarding job requirements. The deadline for applications is April 18.

Pianist/Organist

Hubbard First UMC is in need of a part-time pianist for Wednesday night rehearsal and Sunday morning worship service. Compensation is negotiable. Contact Dean Coultas at 254-433-0133.

Part-Time Youth Director

First UMC, Corsicana seeks a part-time youth director. Applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment to Christ, a passion for youth ministry, and a theology compatible with the UMC. Experience in youth ministry is a plus. Salary is negotiable. Resumes or inquiries may be submitted to mikea@fumccorsicana.org or by calling Mike Alexander at 903-874-5656.

New Central District Administrator

What will be the new Central District office in June seeks a district administrator to oversee and supervise the total ministry of clergy and churches within the bounds of the district. The district administrator should be knowledgeable of the workings of the UMC, willing and able to assist clergy, local church staffs, UM members, conference staff and other district offices or organizations as needed. Confidentiality is of utmost importance in the district office. The Central District office will be located in Waco. Hours are 9 a.m. 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday with some evenings and weekends. Please e-mail resume, cover letter and list of references by May 1 to don@ctcumc.org.

Director of Student Ministries

First UMC, Cleburne, a growing, vibrant church seeks a full-time director of student ministries. The church has a long history of youth ministry with both Wednesday and Sunday night weekly worship and activities. Over 75 youth currently participate at Wednesday "Fusion" worship and growth potential is unlimited. Participation in CTCYM summer mission trips, Glen Lake camps, and other conference youth activities is at the heart of our ministry. This position has a part-time youth assistant. A complete job summary with all information is available on request. Candidates

are asked to send a cover letter and resume to Robert Herzig at robert@fumccleburne.com. With your cover letter, please write a paragraph describing what you're passionate about, and how that passion would impact your work in this position. If email is not an option, please send the same requirements to First UMC, Cleburne, c/o Dr. Robert Herzig, Box 114, Cleburne 76033. Deadline for applications is May 15.

Youth Ministry Worship Leader

There has been a change in contact persons for the First UMC of Fort Worth part-time worship leader for its Youth Ministry. Responsibilities include leading youth worship on Sunday mornings with the youth band, holding weekly practices, and managing the stage and equipment. Additional responsibilities may include special events, going on trips, etc. If you are interested, please send your resume to straz71@yahoo.com or to Adam Straznicky, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth 76102.

4 Positions at Alliance UMC

Minister of Music / Director of Music Ministries — Alliance UMC, a young congregation in far north Fort Worth, offers an opportunity for a person of musical breadth to join our staff team that has considerable gifts for music - from traditional and contemporary to Africa and beyond. AUMC utilizes multi-media in all worship settings and celebrates connecting people to God through a variety of means. This position includes working with worship committee, chancel choir, praise team, bell choir, and providing general oversight for and supervision of volunteer music leaders, as well as other music staff. Submit resumes or inquiries to: alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Competitive salary includes continuing education benefits; 20 hour-week. Contact: Jim McClurg (pastor) at 817-581-1688.

Organist / Accompanist — Alliance UMC offers an opportunity for a part-time organist/accompanist. This person will provide organ and/or piano music for Sunday morning worship services to complement the AUMC Chancel Choir and guide congregational singing. Additional responsibilities include accompanying Children's and Youth Choirs and occasional offertory or special soloists (vocal and instrumental). Submit resumes or inquiries to: alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Competitive salary includes continuing education benefits. Contact Jim McClurg at 817-581-1688.

Director of Children's Ministries — Alliance UMC seeks an energetic, organized person with a passion for children's ministry to organize and facilitate all facets of ministry with and for children. This ministry touches the life of the entire congregation including fellowship, worship, discipleship, mission, and evangelism. The director of children's ministries will help plan, organize and take a leading role in organizing and administering children's Sunday School classes, volunteers for various children's ministries, special children's social/ministry functions, and special events/holidays. Also, partner with the Children's Council and other key staff members. 15-hour/week. Send resume, including experience with children's ministry, to alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Contact: Jim McClurg at 817-581-1688.

Parent's Day Out / Creative College for Kids Director — Alliance UMC seeks an energetic, organized person to provide necessary planning, organization, direction, and coordination of AUMC's Parent's Day Out and Creative College for Kids programs. PDO is a twice-weekly program that runs during the school year and provides a creative, nurturing environment for children not yet enrolled in a formal school program. CCK is a series of four weekly summer camps that provide instruction in multiple disciplines (art, science, music, fitness, etc.) in a fun, nurturing Christian environment. The PDO/CCK director will have a position on and work with the AUMC PDO/CCK board of directors to ensure that both programs are organized and run in a manner compatible with the goals and objectives of AUMC. The PDO/CCK director is 12-hour/week during the school year, 25-hour/week during four summer camps. Send resume, including experience with children's programs, alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Contact: Jim McClurg at 817-581-1688.

2 Positions at Glen Lake Camp

Glen Lake Camp has hired all its positions with the exception of two! GLC still seeks applicants for an **activity director** who should be college age with a high-energy personality capable of

coordinating large groups of people. GLC also has a **female cabin counselor** spot for a college age female passionate about sharing Christ with others. Referrals are appreciated. Interested persons should contact Susan Sledge at 817-326-1114 or susansledge@windstream.net.

Part-time Youth Minister

First UMC Coleman seek a part-time youth minister to focus on leading a group of junior high and high school kids to Christ through Bible study, fun activities and some outreach-type work. The group meets on Wednesday evening after a churchwide fellowship meal. A monthly program on Sunday afternoon will also be encouraged as well as Sunday morning worship. Great opportunity for a college student who has an interest in ministry. Pay: \$650/month. Apply with resume by mail or email to: First UMC Coleman, P.O. Box 852, Coleman 76834 | mwening@web-access.net. Website: www.firstunitedmethodistcoleman.com. Pastor: Mike Kerzee. [Please note the address correction.](#)

Gently Used VBS Material Available

Gordon FUMC would like to donate "gently used" VBS material purchased from Group Publishing. This includes the Leader Guide, 4 DVDS, literature and crafts for 35 children, and some decorations. If you are interested or need more information, contact Sara Barron at cbarrs68@att.net or 254-693-5304.

Youth Director/Minister/Pastor/Coordinator

Discovery, a quick-growing and vibrant church in Hutto - just north of Austin, seeks a Youth Director/Minister/Pastor/Coordinator (you'd get to choose the title). The community has exploded in the last decade, growing from a rural community of 1200, to a suburban community of Austin. The primary purpose of this position is to lead students in a relationship with Christ and each other. This church has never had a paid youth position, and this means that you will be building a ministry from the ground up. This is a part time position, but we anticipate, with the right person, and by God's grace, this could transition to a full time position. Summer hours will probably be more than school-year hours, given mission trips, retreats, and summer camps. Please send a cover letter and resume to paul.gravley@huttodiscovery.org. In your cover letter, please write a paragraph describing what you're passionate about, and how that passion would impact your work in this position. If email is not an option, please send the same requirements to Discovery UMC, c/o Paul Gravley, P.O. Box 426, Hutto 78634.

Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC of Stephenville seeks a part-time youth director. Responsibilities include building strong relationships with youth of our church, planning and leading weekly Bible studies and two summer mission trips. The candidate should have a personal faith in Jesus Christ and a desire to guide and direct youth through that faith. Send resume to: FUMC Stephenville, P.O. Box 173, Stephenville 76401.

Flamingos Needed

Do you have a herd of flamingos hiding in your church attic, shed, or garage that need some attention? Ridglea UMC youth are searching for yard flamingos to borrow for spring fundraising endeavors. If you have flamingos to loan, please contact Wendy Coleman at 817-739-5967 or email at wendy.coleman@fwisd.org.

Karaoke Machine/Disks

Glen Lake Camp is planning an exciting summer for the kids. If anyone has a karaoke machine and karaoke disks to donate, the camp will use them at the pool party as kids are welcomed on the first day. Contact Susan Sledge at susansledge@windstream.net. Thanks so much!

Part-time Organist/Accompanist

St. John's UMC in Georgetown seeks a part-time organist to share organ and piano duties for Sunday morning worship services, weekly rehearsals, and special events with current organist. Salary is negotiable depending on education and experience and is based on 7.5 hours per week.

Contact Justin Langford at justin@stjohnsumc.cc, 512-863-5886, or 311 E. University Dr, Georgetown 78626.

Secretary/Admin Position Sought

Lisa Meek, formerly administrative assistant to Don Scroggs at FUMC Brownwood, has moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and seeks a secretary or administrative assistant position in a local church. She can be contacted at kaseykaye59@yahoo.com.

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. Salary \$1250 per month. Send resume to: FUMC, PO Box 1466, Mineral Wells, TX 76068 or contact church office at 940-325-4707 for more details.

Musician

Experienced Methodist Musician looking for a musician position at a church in the greater DFW area. Accomplished choral conductor and worship leader in Praise Band. Member of Community of Hope UMC, Mansfield, Joe Carmichael - reference. Bachelor/Master of Music in choral conducting, voice and Jazz piano from University of North Texas. Contact: Janice Kilgore, 972-291-9130, JKKmusik@aol.com.

Church Coordinator/Secretary

Experienced church worker recently moved to the Fort Worth area and is looking for a church coordinator/secretary position. Contact: Katherine Ferdinandsen at katterdinandsen@yahoo.com.

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.

Sunday School Leader

St. Luke UMC in Killeen (400 members/50 children and youth and growing) seeks a part-time Sunday School Leader who is faithful and dedicated to Christian education. Bi-lingual in Korean preferred. This person 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. 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.

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.