



Central E-Link

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

April 6, 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

Leadership Summit reminder – Wednesday, April 6

On Wednesday, April 6, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Council of Bishops, in collaboration with the Connectional Table, will host an online Leadership Summit. Participants in conferences around the connection will hear more about the Call to Action report and recommendations, and have an opportunity to submit questions. If you have not already registered for the 2 group settings in our conference (First UMC in Fort Worth and Foundation UMC in Temple — both starting at 10:30 a.m.), you can follow the live coverage on your own at www.umcleaderships Summit.org. Details about preparatory materials are available at www.ctcumc.org, click on the Leadership Summit banner. Anyone interested in attending, may register by calling the Temple District office at 254-773-2481 for the Temple location and Susan Briles at 817-877-5222 for the Fort Worth location. Lunch paid by the participant will be available if registered ahead of time.

CTCYM Registration Deadline — Thursday, April 7

The fee for all 2011 CTCYM trips will increase after Thursday, April 7. The Senior High and Combination trip fees will increase from the “on-time” rate of \$235 to the “late” rate of \$250. The Junior High trip fees will increase from the “early bird” rate of \$200 to the “on-time” rate of \$210. To get the best possible rate for your CTCYM mission trip, register at www.ctcym.org by April 7!

TCU Campus Ministry Invitation — April 9

The Wesley Foundation at Texas Christian University extends an invitation to “Launch Yourself into College Life” from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 9, on the Fort Worth campus. This is planned as a day of fun with college-bound students and gives participants a taste of life in active campus ministry. Respond on Facebook.

5th Annual Interfaith Worship Service of Help, Hope & Healing — April 10 *for victims of crime, their families, friends, and the community*

Crime Victims Council, an outreach ministry of First UMC Fort Worth, invites victims of crime, their families, friends and the community to the 5th Annual Interfaith Worship Service of Help, Hope & Healing at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 10, at First Arlington's Great Hall (313 N. Center St., Arlington 76011 - park and enter on north side). The service is designed to be a time of healing for all victims of any crime and will include prayers, scripture, liturgy, and music from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. Victim speakers will share their stories and provide hope for continued healing. There will be an opportunity for victim names to be read or spoken. Children are invited to attend with their families. Sign language and Spanish language interpreters will be present. Following the service, there will be refreshments and tables of resources for victims.

Contact: Sandra Lydick, victim chaplain, at 817-675-6367, sandrallydick@crimevictimsCouncil.org or check out www.crimevictimsCouncil.org.

Giving Back and Giving Forward ...

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.

Week 1: GLC wants to hear your stories. If you came to GLC in 1939 or anytime after that, or if you came to Still Water Lodge last weekend or anytime before that, act now to share your story. Contact GLC Executive Director Kay Hawkins at kay@glenlake.org with your memories — playful, poignant or profound. If you don't write, call the camp at 254-897-2247 and ask for Curtis or Seth. They will arrange to come visit you and record your story. The deadline is April 20 for collecting your stories.

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.

Congratulations to Alvarado First UMC

The congregation of Alvarado First UMC has done it again! They have renewed their certification as an official Welcoming Congregation for 2011. The UMC places a high value on radical hospitality as a vital ministry of our churches, which requires several embracing hospitality as a basic culture in the church,

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 and 1 lay person) and the Denman Award for Evangelism (1 clergy, 1 lay person, 1 youth). Nominations are due now for recipients of these awards. Please check http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/2011_Annual_Conference_Awards_M6XEG7D7.pdf for the criteria and nomination process. Isn't there someone in your midst who deserves recognition?

Merit/Brown Scholarships — May 1 Application Deadline

The CTC Higher Education Task Force serves as administrator for two significant scholarships with the deadline of May 1 for applications. More details and application forms are available at www.ctcumc.org. Click on "Ministries" in the menu bar and select "Higher Education." The recipients will be announced at Annual Conference June 5-8 in Waco.

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 Merit Award recipient will be announced at Annual Conference.

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.

Relief Kit Delivery to Sager Brown

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 area.

You can help. Donations can be made to **Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317** (<http://secure.gbgm-umc.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 UMVIM earthquake relief mission 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 UMVIM earthquake relief mission 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 UMVIM earthquake relief mission Oct. 20-28 and has four 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 TO NOT 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 care or note to Ozmer Retirement, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth 76107. They will be presented to him at the party.

Preparing 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

Awards, scholarship, honors and recognitions:

Information about these awards, honor and recognitions is posted under the Annual Conference 2011 banner at www.ctcumc.org. Also included are the nomination details and who should receive them.

Free Online Webinars Available to Help Congregations

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. | These training sessions 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.

CCIA Offers Clergy Support

Dr. Gary Kindley continues to offer counseling sessions without cost to clergy and their families. CCIA (Counseling, Consulting & Inspiration Associates, LLC) is now in its 4th year and continues its mission to "Strengthen Relationships, Increase Effectiveness, Develop Leadership" with the clergy and laity, non-profits, businesses and congregations that it serves. CCIA offices are located in Dallas (Lemmon Ave., 1 block N of Oak Lawn) with day, evening and weekend appointments available. Call 817-312-9919 or visit www.drkg.org or www.cciadallas.org.

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, CA. Contact Joy Roberson at joy@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222 for information on a conference bus headed to Purdue University. <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

Green Church

We are living in a time that demands attention be paid to the environment around us. Our natural resources are in jeopardy. As Christians, we need to respond but why and how should we? *Green Church*, chosen by the UM Women for the 2012 reading list, answers these questions in ways that are both hopeful and engaging. Citing scripture and science, Rebekah Simon-Peter weaves in personal stories of Sabbath, gardening, recycling, camping, and the power of faith. She challenges us to consider our role in the care of Creation and to help save the earth for future generations. The *Green Church* family of products offers a strong scriptural foundation for becoming stewards of God's creation. Developed for multi-age levels, these studies will encourage, inspire, and motivate congregations to answer the call to go green. For a webinar on how to use the Green Church family of products, visit www.webinars.cokesbury.com. Become a fan at www.Facebook.com/GreenChurch.

Web Ministry 101: Discovery & Strategy for Building

a Dynamic Web Ministry in Your Local Church

Web ministry is more than just having a web presence or website. It is about using the Internet tools of the 21st century to engage with members, reach out to seekers and share the good news of God's love 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year to more than 1.6 billion people online. John Wesley said, "I look upon the world as my parish." Never before has there been a tool like the Internet with which to live out that truth. Web Ministry 101 is the second of a four-part series of online courses to help you launch and maintain a website as a primary tool for your church's Web ministry. You will work with an instructor for four-weeks to make important decisions that form a strong foundation upon which to build a dynamic web ministry in your local church. Register now at http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKmG/b.6605597/k.1509/Web_Ministry_101_Discovery_and_Strategy.htm.

Supplement to 'UM Hymnal' Blends Old, New Praise Tunes

Dean McIntyre, director of music resources with the General Board of Discipleship, suggests this link to a UM Reporter article on the new WORSHIP & SONG collection jointly developed by GBOD and UM Publishing House. <http://www.umportal.org/main/article.asp?id=7741>

Perkins Sponsors "God Loves Diversity" Conference — April 12

Perkins School of Theology will host a conference on "God Loves Diversity & Justice: Progressive Scholars Speak About Faith, Politics, & the World" April 12 from 1:30-5 p.m. in Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. The conference addresses ways that theologically progressive scholars speak about their faith, politics and the world in a culture they often view as dominated by theological conservatism and in a world torn apart by poverty, violence, war, greed, and various forms of exploitation. The conference will invite the audience to what is being described as "an engaged and respectful discussion" during the latter part of the program. This event is free and open to the public. More information about the event is available on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=195845550438434>. For a map of the SMU campus, including options for public parking, visit <http://smu.edu/maps/>. Please contact Susanne Scholz (<http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/FacultyAcademics/DirectoryList/Scholz.aspx>) at sscholz@smu.edu or 214-768-2460 for more details.

SOSA Vacation Bible School Mission Program

Download the Full Packet Now

This year's VBS Mission Program of the Society of St. Andrews, "Order Up!," is based on Galatians 5:22-23, 25 — on the fruits of the spirit. Each day, in addition to being introduced to a Bible character who, by using his or her "Fruit of the Spirit," found favor with God, your students will also meet a "Today's SoSA Superhero" who will encourage them to discover ways they can use their hands to help the hungry. Student sheets containing a short scripture story, facts about hunger, the SoSA ministry, Go Green facts, potato trivia, and a pencil activity, are included for each day - for both younger and older children. New this year - we include song suggestions, craft ideas, and yummy snack choices for each day of your VBS program that go along with the "Fruits of the Spirit" theme. Order at <http://www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm>.

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, except for provisional members. The GBHEM is making \$1,000 scholarships available for provisional elders and deacons. 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

Oldest Member at Blooming Grove & Church Milestone Honored

The Corsicana Daily Sun ran a heartwarming article recently about Millie Alyne McCormick and her church — both observing major milestones. McCormick was to be recognized as the older living UM in the conference at 107 and Blooming Grove for its 100th anniversary. Read this moving story at <http://corsicanadailysun.com/news/x598325079/McCormick-celebrated-as-oldest-church-member>.

Last Supper Tableau at Richland Hills UMC — April 10

Da Vinci's *Last Supper* painting comes to life in this memorable and moving performance of "Master, Is It I?" At 7 p.m. April 10, members of Grace Avenue UMC in Frisco will present the Last Supper Tableau in the Richland Hills UMC sanctuary (7301 Glenview Drive, North Richland Hills). In this inspiring play, each disciple comes to life and tells about his relationship with Christ. The drama is accented by original and poignant music. This presentation is for all ages. Come and experience this beautiful program!

Spring Fling Dinner Dance at St. Barnabas — April 16

The St. Barnabas UMC (Arlington) Music Ministry's spring fundraiser will be held Saturday, April 16, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and dancing from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Music is by the Dynamic Swing Machine band featuring Tina & Will Cotton. For reservations (reserved seating), contact Jan Bergen at 817-637-9442.

Latvia Pastor Welcomed at Smithfield — April 27

Join your fellow Texas Friends of Latvia and Smithfield UMC (6701 Smithfield Rd., North Richland Hills) at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, in giving a big Texas potluck and howdy to Rev. Janis Grunte. Pastor Janis is visiting from Cesis, Latvia, where he serves as pastor of that new UMC congregation. He will give a special presentation on the UMC in Cesis and the work underway there. Donations at the potluck dinner will go toward the work at the UMC in Cesis.

Suicide Survivors: *The Healing Journey After Loss*

Suicide Survivors: *The Healing Journey After Loss* is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved to suicide. Groups form every six to eight weeks in different locations in the Central Texas area. A new group will be forming in the Spring. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks. A mental health professional and a trained survivor facilitate meetings. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 817-698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

Water From the Rock, A Water Song Project Production — April 8 & 9

More than one in six people - 894 million - don't have access to the amount of safe freshwater necessary for their basic requirements. Because of this need, on Saturday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. St. Philip's UMC in Round Rock will host the third annual concert in The Water Song Project, "Water from the Rock," with the goal of raising funds for the construction of a well in Ghana, West Africa. Water From the Rock will include three events on April 8 and 9: The concert will be held in the historic chapel at St. Philip's United Methodist Church, 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock. Suggested donation is \$10/person and can be purchased at the door, in advance on the website <http://watersongproject.org>, or at the church office. Professional musicians will be donating their performances, so that all proceeds will go directly to UMCOR to fund the well. A silent art auction that includes water-themed art created by artists across Texas specifically for The Water Song Project will be available April 8 at 7:30 pm., April 9 from 2 to 6 p.m. and 7:30 to 8 p.m. An ecumenical service will address the topic of working together to do good work in "Privileged to Serve" on Friday, April 8, from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Come refresh your spirit and give the gift of life.

Arlington Shares Dinner/Auction to Benefit Arlington Urban Ministries — April 9

Join Arlington Urban Ministries for its annual fundraiser to support rent and utility assistance for Arlington's disadvantaged. Enjoy an evening of food by Olenjack's Grille, auction items and fellowship Saturday, April 9, in the Great Hall of First UMC Arlington. Tickets are \$35. To make reservations and see a full list of live auction items, please visit www.arlingtonurbanministries.org. A sneak peek of the auction items: Plano hot air balloon ride, Texas Rangers City Suite w/ 20 tickets and 4 parking passes, 50,000 AA Advantage miles, sunset dinner and sail on Lake Arlington, golf packages, restaurant gift certificates, and so much more! Party times: Silent auction opens 5 p.m., dinner 5:30-6:30 p.m., live auction 7 p.m.

Ladies Day Out at First Round Rock: The Sweet Life Café — April 9

The Sweet Life Café, Where Women Savor Time with God, Family and Friends, will be held on Saturday, April 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will feature inspirational speakers, a variety of breakout sessions, music, lunch and lots of laughter. Cost is \$40. Registration is available online at <http://fumc-rr.org>. Topics range from Internet Safety for Families to Zumba to Prayer to the Five Love Languages...something for every woman. Visit the website for all the details and plan to join us on April 9.

Free Dementia Education Seminar — April 13

A free seminar for those who are dealing with dementia and needing to create moments of joy will be offered Wednesday, April 13, from 5:30-6 p.m. for registration and light dinner and 6-7 p.m. for the seminar at Arden Courts Memory Care Community (1501 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 76006). The guest speaker is Jolene Brackey, founder of Enhanced Moments and author of *Creating Moments of Joy*. Sometimes dementia caregivers get too caught up in day-to-day details, often times forgetting to appreciate the better moments with their loved ones. While it may be impossible to create a perfectly wonderful day, you can create perfectly wonderful moments.

During this seminar, Brackey will pass along powerful tools that can create positive outcomes. Adult day care will be provided by qualified staff. Please ask for this service when making your reservation. To RSVP, call 817-795-1700 or email arlington@arden-courts.com.

Basic Lay Speaker Course — April 16

Mt Zion UMC (1212 N. 5th St., Waco) will host the Basic Lay Speaker course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 16. The course book is *Lay Speaking Ministries, Basic Course Participant's Book*. Contact: Gwendolyn McNuckles at 254-717-5171 or Gwendolynmenuckles3@gmail.com.

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.

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

White Chapel UMC at Southlake will host the Resiliency: Transforming Turmoil into Hope conference from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 7 featuring John Woodall, M.D. Dr. Woodall is a board certified psychiatrist formerly of the faculty of Harvard Medical School and founder of the Unity Project. He has heard questions on turmoil and hope many times in his work with trauma survivors. Through his work in the U.S. after 9/11 and Katrina and internationally in Central America, Canada, the Balkans, Cyprus, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Dr. Woodall has been a witness to the power that resilient strengths have in turning victims into role models. He will share his insights into the psychological and spiritual practices he uses to equip and empower people to make choices that transform personal and community turmoil into resilient strengths of hope and unity. Register online at www.whiteschapelumc.org.

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.

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.

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=iflTKWnrGaIKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

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

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>

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.

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.

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.