



Central E-Link

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

February 9, 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

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

News Briefs — The Conference

Lay Delegate Information Forms Available Online

If you, or someone you know, feel God's call to serve as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference(s) a completed Lay Delegate Information Form needs to be submitted by each person to be included on the ballot at Annual Conference this year. The form is available on the Conference website (www.ctcumc.org) at the Annual Conference 2011 tab on the left side of the home page. The form may be submitted online or downloaded and printed to send a hard copy by mail. Please follow the instructions on the form.

Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner — Feb. 24

Inclement weather prevented sending the usual Annual Dinner flyer and ticket order forms by the Metropolitan Board of Missions so consider this your open invitation. The Annual Dinner will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Round-Up Inn in the Will Rogers, Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibits Building. The cost is \$15 and dinner will be served by Risky's BBQ. Additional information and the ticket order form are available on the Metro Board's website <http://metroboardofmissions.com/> or download the attachments to this *E-Link*.

Alleged Theft at Methodist Children's Home

A longtime employee at Methodist Children's Home in Waco has been arrested on charges of first degree felony for theft believed to be up to \$836,000. MCH discovered inappropriate activity through an internal audit and reported it to authorities. In a response to recent legal action and media queries, MCH President Tim Brown released the following statement: "Methodist Children's Home is aware that there has been a recent arrest of a former employee. As we previously stated, we will not comment on this personnel matter since it is prohibited by agency policy. We regret that this matter has diverted attention away from the amazing work of our dedicated and committed employees and volunteers, who give so much of themselves and their time and resources to care for 1,400 children, youth and families across Texas and New Mexico. The real news at Methodist Children's Home centers around the courage, resiliency and tenacity of our children and youth in their personal struggles to overcome traumas, tragedies and losses on their journey to health and wholeness.

"In spite of this unfortunate situation, I can assure our supporters and others that the staff and leadership of Methodist Children's Home will continue to offer hope to these children and youth and the services and programs they empower us to provide. I am confident Methodist Children's Home will emerge from this experience as a stronger organization. Methodist Children's Home is

committed to completing the internal investigation we initiated and an independent audit, and we will continue to cooperate fully with the Waco Police Department in this investigation. Since this is an ongoing investigation, we will have no further comment while this case is an open matter." (See ABC News 25 report at <http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13985434>).

Our Pastors Tackle Issues

- Pastor Ken Diehm gave members of First Grapevine UMC an assignment he didn't want them to fumble ... watch the Super Bowl and pay particular attention to the commercials. It's for his annual sermon on what these million dollar commercials are really saying. See the video clip at www.ctcumc.org.
- Pastor Tim Bruster at First UMC Fort Worth got caught up in the atheism fervor in Tarrant County when the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* asked him to comment on the bus advertising that said "... people are good without God." His "enlightened" attitude, picked up by the *New York Times*, brought a call from one of the local atheist leaders who asked to visit a worship service and to arrange a conversation with Bruster. Bruster is doing a Sunday sermon series Feb. 6-March 6 on "Got Questions: A Thoughtful Response to Atheists" that is followed every Thursday (7 p.m. in Wesley Hall) with panel discussions on related topics — each led by a different spiritual leader. Worship services are carried live Sundays at 11 a.m. (http://www.myfumc.org/templates/_fumcftworth/details.asp?id=35708&PID=798964). For a listing of the Sunday sermon titles and Thursday panel discussion topics, visit http://www.myfumc.org/templates/_fumcftworth/details.asp?id=35708&PID=841843.

You Can Help to Reduce the Number of Uninsured Children in The Community?

Two CTC churches will host Tarrant County CHIP Coalition training session in February for volunteers who want to help families apply for children's Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Nearly one in six Tarrant County children (more than 70,000) are uninsured, according to the Census Bureau. You can help with the Coalition's goal to ensure that every child has access to medical care on a regular basis. Attend one of the training sessions listed below. For more details, contact Elewechi D. Ndukwe (Elewechi.Ndukwe@mhmrtc.org). Contact the Tarrant County CHIP Coalition at tarrantcountychip@yahoo.com. For more on eligibility: <http://www.chipmedicaid.org/cbo/eligibility.htm>.

- 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9
First UMC (800 W. 5th St., Fort Worth 76102) Room 230
- 10-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13
Everman UMC (530 Townley Drive, Everman 76140) Fellowship Hall

Lay Speakers' 8th Annual Meeting Convenes Feb. 25-27 at Glen Lake

Each year the Lay Speaker Ministries offers an introduction to lay speaking and opportunities for lay persons to further their education and to fulfill requirements for continuing certification. The Lay Speaker Annual Meeting prepares lay speakers for service with training courses and certification for areas of ministry such as leading meetings, prayers and study programs, assisting in worship services and providing support to care-giving ministries. There are over 1,000 trained lay speakers in the Central Texas Conference who provide a wide range of services to their congregations, their districts and the conference. A downloadable flyer and more information on each of the courses, registration and accommodations, visit the conference website at www.ctcumc.org. Please direct questions to Melissa Osborne at oz2@txol.net.

Scholarships Available Through BOM

The conference Board of Ministry is accepting applications for the several scholarships it administers. Applicant must be a certified candidate for clergy, currently enrolled in a seminary approved by the University Senate. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be post-marked by midnight Thursday, March 31, or delivered to the BOM office on the Texas Wesleyan Campus by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31, to be eligible for consideration. The application form is located at www.ctcbom.org on the Board Policies and Forms page. The form can be completed electronically, printed, signed and mailed. Scholarships will be awarded at

Annual Conference in June 2011. Contact Gala Trimble in the BOM office if you have problems or questions concerning the form.

Get Ready NOW to “Change the World” — May 14-15

Click here for Change the World video clips on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UMCChangeTheWorld#p/a/u/1/pv80fk76Oew>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UMCChangeTheWorld>

Churches have an opportunity to participate in Change the World, which focuses on building community and fighting malaria globally. In 2010 more than 1,000 sites with over 100,000 volunteers in 16 different countries addressed needs from hunger to human trafficking, malaria, and more. This effort shows the power of the connection when we join together to carry out the mission of the church. In 2011, Change the World is scheduled for May 14-15, and **the conference would like to acknowledge how your congregation will be participating this year** (and/or participated in 2010). UM Communications through Rethink Church will provide free promotional materials and educational resources to support local churches in their projects.

- (1) Each faith community should define a project relevant to its local community's needs and/or find a way to assist our brothers and sisters around the world.
- (2) Each faith community should register its participation at www.umcom.org/changetheworld and be prepared to share stories of their ministry (with UMCOM and CTC) so that the world and other churches in our conference can see the power of the connection. Share your stories within the conference with Carolyn@ctcumc.org.

Midwinter Youth-Led Worship — Feb. 20

Join the Central Texas Youth at their Midwinter Youth-Led Worship on Sunday, Feb. 20, at Glen Rose High School Auditorium. Worship will begin at 2:30 p.m. and is open to all. The youth will have been working all weekend to engage their God-given gifts in worship. Join in worship with them and then encourage them to participate in worship services at home!

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/>

Consider Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday

Purchasing Eco-Palms benefits the environment, empowers small-scale farmers and creates local jobs while helping rural communities prosper. The harvesting of Eco-Palms preserves the vitality of forests in places like Guatemala and lessens the risk of these forests from being converted into agricultural fields. Buying Eco-palms directly from the grower eliminates the need for a contractor and allows for more money to stay within harvesting communities. It also increases employment opportunities for women and helps them support their families. Palm Sunday is April 17. Why not purchase your Eco-Palms today? Visit www.ecopalms.org for facts and purchase opportunities. The deadline for ordering Eco-Palms is late March. The UMC's UMCOR-SA&D, Advance #982188 (<http://list.gb-gm-umc.org/t/1916706/83691/133/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3NIY3VyZS5nYmduLXVtYy5vcmcvZG9uYXRpb25zL3VtY29yL2RvbmF0ZS5jZm0%2fY29kZT05ODIxODgmaWQ9MzAxOTAxNQ%3d%3d&x=04f18543>) supports small-scale farmers' sustainable agriculture and development.

VBS Streamed & Downloadable Training/Information

Cokesbury's 2011 VBS Showcase: Get information for choosing your church's VBS program in 2011. Get details on Bible stories, see decorating items, hear music, and get starter kit information for Cokesbury's Shake It Up Café, Abingdon Press' Island Odyssey, Concordia's Big Jungle Adventure, Gospel Light's SonSurf Beach Bash, Group's Hometown Nazareth and

Pandamania, Standard's Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street, and Urban Ministries' Jesus Truth Seekers.

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=82432897&act=pb&rKey=e8d72e14538583a2>

Download -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/ldr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&rID=82432897&act=pf&rKey=e08965980853e21c>

Using Cokesbury's 2011 VBS Online Registration Tools: Join Cathy Robinson as she demonstrates the functionality and use of our VBS Online Registration tools. Cathy will show you how to use the tools to: □ set up your own unique VBS registration website for your church, pull information about your registrants and sort them into groups, use custom e-cards in addition to your print invitation postcard.

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=82421582&act=pb&rKey=1e622620dad6cd70>

Download -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/ldr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&rID=82421582&act=pf&rKey=f4ade7ac66586bde>

Cokesbury's 2011 VBS: Shake It Up Café: At Cokesbury's "Shake It Up Café VBS for 2011," your kids will explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word. Preview Bible lessons, music, video, crafts, science activities, snacks, games, and more during this webinar. VBS Editor Betsy Parham describes how Shake It Up Café will help your church enjoy a fresh, one-of-a-kind VBS in 2011!

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=80045442&act=pb&rKey=fb57d9fb626c9f02>

Download -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/ldr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&rID=80045442&act=pf&rKey=9bf6f81b65ea28a4>

Woody Roberson Flynt Jr.

Woody Roberson Flynt, Jr. (1928-2011) died peacefully Tuesday, Feb. 1, in Weatherford at the age of 82. He had served as pastor at a number of churches in the CTC, including Frost, St. Paul's in Temple, Forest Hill, Springtown, Alvarado, Robinson Drive and Herring Avenue in Waco. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joan E. Holmes; children Stan and Cynthia Flynt Standfield; W.R. "Rob" and Becky Flynt; Tom and Shari Flynt Williamson; and Rickard "Rick" and Dee Dee Flynt; 11 grandchildren; and brother Hugh Brooks and Betty Flynt. Memorials made be made in his name to the church of your choice or Cook Children's Medical Center, Fort Worth.

Habitat Heroes Volunteer Appreciation Dinner — March 4

If you have been involved in any way with Tarrant County Habitat for Humanity over the past year then you are invited to the 2011 Habitat Heroes Appreciation Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, March 4, at the Stampede Room/Stockyard Station (130 E. Exchange Ave., Fort Worth 76164). During the event, there will be grand entertainment, a complimentary meal, and the honoring of many heroes who help accomplish Habitat's mission. The unofficial rumor is that the Metropolitan Board of Mission and Troy Chapman, currently serving as interim executive director, will be among the honorees. If this is your area of ministry in the community, please RSVP to volunteer.department@trinityhabitat.org by Feb. 25.

Informal Opportunities for Adult Ministry Discussions — Feb. 14

Popular speaker Terry Hershey will be in the Central Texas area in mid-February for several events and has agreed to have an informal meeting over lunch with those who are interested in talking about adult education in their churches. Please contact Karen Granderson at Karen@ctcumc.org if you would like to join the group for lunch in the Arlington area Monday, Feb.

14. On Feb. 16 and 17, Carol Krau from the GBOD will be in Fort Worth to meet with the Adult Ministry/Adult Discipleship group. She would like to meet with several leaders face-to-face either on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, then lunch together on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. She would welcome questions about cutting-edge adult ministry, future trends, etc., but she also wants to hear from locals about what they are doing, what resources would be helpful from GBOD, and probably some other questions she will have. If you are interested in sharing with Carol and having an opportunity to learn from her, contact Karen@ctcumc.org. More details on both of these will follow on the website, in the *E-link*, and on the CTC Adult Ministries/Adult Discipleship group page on Facebook. Have you joined?

Faith Community Leadership Summit — Feb. 15

Terry Hershey, author of *The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less*, and Dr. John Holbert, Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics, will be presenters at Texas Health Resources' 5th Annual Faith Community Leadership Summit from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15, at the Fort Worth Convention Center. A flyer is attached. To make a reservation or for more information, contact LauraVanHoosier@texashealth.org or call 817-703-8432.

Imagine No Malaria District Meetings

The Imagine No Malaria initiative is ramping up in the Central Texas Conference with informative workshops scheduled in each district. Click on http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/1_TRRN6H9X.11.11_Article_submission_CTX.pdf for a complete schedule and details for your area.

Tasting Diversity / Human Trafficking — Feb. 19

Brownwood District United Methodist Women will host a "Tasting Diversity and Human Trafficking Retreat" from 9 a.m. to noon (Tasting Diversity) and 12:30-4 p.m. (Human Trafficking) Feb. 19 at Stephenville First UMC. For more details, contact Nancy Brown at wd.brown@cctc.net.

Make Your Music Matter More — Feb. 26

If you love to play music for others, care about the needs of children and want to give something back, Hugworks would like you to "Make Your Music Matter More!" Hugworks offers a free workshop for musicians for therapeutic music entertainment in pediatric healthcare settings from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 26, at The Hugworks Center, 752 Mary Drive, Hurst 76053. For more details and to register, contact hugworks@hugworks.org or 817-268-0020.

Children's Ministry Forum 2011 — Feb. 22-24

Children's Ministry Forum 2011 can help you refresh and renew your children's ministry and build disciples. The General Board of Discipleship offers this event every year in different places around the country. This one is nearby, so most can afford the travel expenses. If you are from a small church and would like to receive some assistance to attend, contact Karen Granderson at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or karen@ctcumc.org. Link to more details at http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.6367321/k.5C5D/Childrens_Ministry_Forum.htm.

Task Force on Hunger Seeks 2011 Applicants

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

- 90% Central Texas Conference Hunger Ministries
- 10% Haitian Creole Pig Project, Advance # 418002

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

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.

News Briefs — The Denomination

Free Online Webinars Available to Help Congregations

The General Board of Discipleship's series of free online training sessions for local church leaders continues in February with a webinar about issues that face church council members. The live event, "Leading the Church Council: Administration IS Ministry," will begin at 6:30 p.m. CST on Feb. 24, hosted by Betsey Heavner, GBOD's director of congregational renewal. This training will give tips, examples from real churches and a framework for everyone on the team. The other upcoming webinars, both at 6:30 p.m. CST, are:

"Trustees: Stewards of Church Property" on March 24—The role of trustees is practical, legal and Biblical. Every trustee will benefit from this review of the responsibilities and reminder of effective ministry through this job.

"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.

Bishop Medardo Gomez Visits Perkins School of Theology — March 21-24

Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University welcomes Medardo Gomez, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, as guest preacher for a special service in Perkins Chapel. The service, which honors the memory of Archbishop Oscar Romero, is 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 23. At 7 o'clock that evening, Bishop Gomez will also present a public lecture at McCord Auditorium (306 Dallas Hall), in conjunction with the Embrey Human Rights Program at SMU's Dedman College. The chapel service and lecture highlight the last day of Bishop Gomez' activities during his visit to Dallas on March 21-24. For more information about Bishop Gomez, contact Harold Recinos (<http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/FacultyAcademics/DirectoryList/Recinos.aspx>), professor of Church & Society at Perkins (hrecinos@smu.edu, 214-768-1773.) For a map of the SMU campus, visit <http://smu.edu/maps/>.

Four Regional Clergywomen's Consultations Planned for 2011

Regional clergywomen's meetings allow greater participation by all clergywomen, especially those from the Central Conferences, and provide an opportunity for deeper discussions about issues that might be unique to a certain area, the HiRho Park said. The first of four regional conferences in 2011 is scheduled for February 27 - March 2 in Lancaster, Pa. Regional meetings scheduled so far are:

Northeastern Jurisdictional Clergywomen's Consultation, Feb. 27- March 2, Lancaster, Pa. <http://www.epaumc.org/nejclergywomen>

South Central Jurisdictional Clergywomen's Consultation, March 22-25, New Orleans, La. <http://www.wadeinthewater.org/>

Southeastern Jurisdictional Clergywomen's Consultation, April 4-7, 2011, Orlando, Fla. <http://www.certain.com/system/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x2252277343&varPage=agenda>

Philippines Clergywomen's Consultation, Oct. 5-7

Criminal Justice Reform Events to Raise Awareness

- National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform is Feb. 20

Resources for reflection, a sample annual conference resolution calling for an end to mass incarceration, and registration information are available at [National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/DayofPrayerFeb20) (www.umc-gbcs.org/DayofPrayerFeb20).

- Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing, March 7-13, raises awareness of inequities arising from current penal system. For prayers, resources for getting involved and to register your participation, visit [Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing](http://www.healingjusticecoalition.org/juvenile_justice_week.html) (http://www.healingjusticecoalition.org/juvenile_justice_week.html).

Mount Sequoyah Hosts Small Church Leadership Institute — March 20-24

The Small Church Leadership Institute equips laity and clergy with the knowledge and skills for leading their smaller attendance churches into the future. The event will be held March 20-24 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

(http://www.mountsequoyah.org/Mount_Sequoyah/HOME.html). Presenters:

[Asa Whitaker](#) – a past president of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders

[Dr. Tim Reaves](#) – evangelism resource person for the North Carolina Conference

[Ron Crandall](#) – ordained elder in the Kentucky Conference focusing on smaller membership churches and effective Christian witness

[Andy Oden](#) – “Stewardship Is Not a 4-Letter Word”

[Amy Forbus](#) – “Marketing for the Small Attendance Church”

[Bishop Bruce Blake](#) – “Self Care, How Is It With Your Soul?” Clergy Burnout, Conflict Resolution

[Texas Sample](#) – former academic dean at Saint Paul School of Theology

“Wade in the Water” Jurisdictional Clergywomen’s Consultation — March 22-25

“Wade in the Water” is the quadrennial gathering for UM clergywomen held March 22-25 in New Orleans. Events will focus on sharing experiences and learning from one another about effective leadership and justice issues. The plenary speakers include Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson, author of *God’s Troublemakers: How Women of Faith are Changing the World*, and Lorenza Andrade Smith, an advocate for The DREAM Act; and a rare opportunity to dialogue with three women bishops: Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, and Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher. Workshop presenters will include talented South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) clergywomen as well as prominent women in leadership at various United Methodist agencies including GBOD, UMCOR, *Alive Now*, GCSRW, and GBHEM. Optional activities include tours highlighting the city post-Katrina, a tour of St. Mark’s UMC/North Rampart Community Center, which Methodist women establish an innovative urban ministry, and opportunities for other outings and relaxation organized by the Louisiana host clergywomen. For more information or to explore scholarship information or register for the event, visit www.wadeinthewater.org and/or join the Facebook group “Wade in the Water with SCJ Clergywomen.”

Georgia Harkness Scholarship Award

Students are encouraged to apply for the \$5,000 Georgia Harkness Scholarship. The Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry provides the Georgia Harkness Merit Awards to women seeing elder’s ordination in the UMC in memory of the life and service of an outstanding teacher and theologian (1891-1974). This funding can be applied to tuition, fees, and room and board for the basic seminary degree leading to elder’s ordination. Applications and required documents are due by **March 1**. The award is **not** available for undergraduate, D. Min., or Ph.D. work. Get application details at http://www.gbhem.org/site/c.IsKSL3POLvF/b.3876391/k.2F17/Georgia_Harkness_Scholarship_Award.htm.

Renewing The “County Seat” Church — March 29-30

First UMC of Pine Bluff, Ark., will host this seminar which is designed to focus on specific strategies and proven methods to renew the county seat church — an exciting and continuing challenge. Participants will receive practical coaching on how to develop an effective strategy for

implementing ministry back home. Who should attend: clergy, laity and staff from any "County Seat" congregation. Contact: Ann Cain at 870-535-0935 or acain@fumcpba.com.

Annual Funding Conference by Lewis Center — March 26

Lewis Center will host a half-day "Funding Your Ministry in Changing Times" conference from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26, on the campus of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. They will also provide the "Funding Your Ministry in Changing Times DVD/CD Resource Guide" which will be released in April. For more details, visit <http://www.churchleadership.com>.

Training for Developing Hispanic-Latino Ministries-Module 1 — March 13-18

The Lay Missioner and Pastor/Mentor Training for Developing Hispanic-Latino Ministry – Module I (bilingual) will be held March 13-18 at Perkins School of Theology's Prothro Hall in Dallas. This training is for laypersons and their pastors/mentors who wish to participate in Hispanic/Latino ministries as a part of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. Module I training is an integral part of the national plan and provides participants with the experience of practical curriculum and guidelines for use in the development of ministries with Hispanics/Latinos. The contact for more details and to register is Cristina Uranga in the Mexican American office at curanga@smu.edu or 214-768-2265.

Mission Experiences Available for UM Youth in 2011

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

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Waco Area Church Asks for Transportation Assistance

The Wesley UMC (Waco) van is on life support. It has served honorably and well, transporting children and adults to church, food pantries, job interviews and weekday tutoring. But the church cannot continue its ministry without transportation. They need a shuttle bus or large van to transport children from the poorest parts of the city to the church for weekday tutoring, Bible Study and Children's Church. Our outreach ministry focuses on families in crisis to help them discover their futures with hope. Valda Jean Combs: "In the spirit of the connection we share, if you or your church can partner with us to provide transportation, please call me at 817-262-0167."

Discover God's Call Retreat — Feb. 11-12

There's still room for clergy and laity at the Feb. 11-12 Discover God's Call retreat at Covenant UMC, Arlington. This is an excellent retreat for Walk to Emmaus pilgrims who would like to go further down the road with the Lord, or for those who want to effectively serve their church by tapping into their God-given gifts. Discover God's Call is primarily a lay-led experience. The "pump is primed" with a personal home Bible study and then the retreat itself begins. We will focus on the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall. There will also be small group time with friendly, perceptive leaders; sharing of personal progress; testimonies from previous DGC attendees; fellowship, meals and energizing worship with other committed Christians. You will be made alive by discovering your spiritual gifts and God's call to use these gifts in your own ministry through the presence of the Holy Spirit. To register, visit the North

Texas DGC website at <http://www.facebook.com/l/b8443PPpaECWHLkA-tM-B3paM2Q;www.dgcctx.org/wordpress>.

Taize Evening Prayers — Feb. 13

Trinity Arlington UMC invites you to join them for a contemplative worship experience -- “Evening Prayers in the Tradition of Taize.” The second of two Taize prayers is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, in the sanctuary (3321 West Park Row Drive, Arlington). This 40-minute worship experience is centered in prayer – spoken, sung, and silent. For more details, contact G.W. “Dub” Shepherd, minister of worship & fine arts, at 817-274-1345.

STOP Bullying: Take Action to Prevent Bullying and Empower Children — Feb. 27

Trinity UMC (3321 W. Park Row, Arlington) is sponsoring a community outreach event for area parents and students. The topic is “STOP Bullying: Take Action to Prevent Bullying and Empower Children.” It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dr. Ebony Hall will speak with the parents. Todd McKinney, a magician, will teach the elementary children. FREE childcare is provided for infants through 4 years. RSVP for childcare at 817-274-1345 or nicole@trinityumcarlington.org.

2 Spots Open for Haiti Mission Trip — July 5-13

First UMC Mansfield is planning an adult mission trip to Haiti July 5-13 under the direction of UMCOR (UM Committee on Relief) and the Methodist church of Haiti. They will be assisting in projects of construction and community support. There are 2 open spots on the team for someone from another UM church who would like to lead a team in the future. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1600, limit of 8 persons. Registration deadline: Tuesday, May 10. Mandatory Team Meeting Tuesday, May 10. If you are interested in this mission trip or have questions, please contact Teresa Sherwood at teresas@firstmethodistmansfield.org.

Do you know any family who hasn't been touched by cancer? — March 5

Ministry to cancer patients and their families is critical to their health, well being, support and recovery. First UMC Grapevine and the Pastoral Care Dept. of **Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA)** will host a seminar from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 5 training participants to more effectively minister to cancer patients and their families. They will meet at FUMC Grapevine's Family Life Center. The cost is \$20 a person, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and snacks. Register by Feb. 4 with Katherine Hunter at katherineh@fumcg.org or call 817-481-2559, ext. 130.

A Rest from the Rat Race / Giving In Without Giving Up — March 6-7

King of Glory Lutheran Church (6411 LBJ Freeway, Dallas 75240) presents “Living a Real Life in a Real World” with Dr. Walter Brueggemann, theologian and Old Testament scholar, March 6-7. “A Rest from the Rat Race” is the topic for Sunday, March 6, beginning at 7 p.m. “Giving In Without Giving Up” will be presented on Monday, March 7, beginning at 11:30 a.m. To register, go to www.KingofGlory.com or call the church at 972-661-9435.

Worship Workshop Live! Featuring Marcia McFee — March 26

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at First UMC of Keller (1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248) Dr. Marcia McFee – author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher, and artist, combines her background and experience in professional companies of music, theater, and dance with a variety of worship and preaching styles in order to bring a fresh experience of the Gospel to each worship setting. Marcia's passion for helping the church to worship God fully is especially directed toward the education of local congregations. She travels extensively in order to teach regional workshops that are accessible to congregational leaders and worship teams. Dr. McFee served as the director of worship and music for the UMC General Conference in 2008 and has been named the director of worship and music for the 2012 General Conference. Visit www.kellerumc.org for workshop schedule and advance tickets (early bird and group pricing available). For more information contact Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org.

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 rHgIWF>)

United Methodist Reporter Online: www.umportal.org

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

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

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

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

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

UM Global Health Initiative:

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

How to Use UMC's TechShop

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

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084837&ct=8860103¬oc=1&tr=y&aud=7367185>

Church Demographics

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

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

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

Conference Resource Center

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

Five Love Languages of Teenagers. 5-session DVD study. Socially, mentally and spiritually teenagers face a variety of pressures and stresses each day. Despite these peer pressures, it is still parents who can influence teens the most. Are you equipped to love your teenager effectively? Get equipped to be a better parents as The Five Love Languages of Teenagers explores the world in which teens live; explains the developmental changes; and gives tools to help you identify and appropriately communicate in your teens love language. Get practical tips on loving your teen effectively and explore key issues in your teen's life, including anger and independence. Finally, learn how to set boundaries that are enforced with discipline and consequences, and discover useful ways for the difficult task of loving when your teen fails. Get ready to discover how the principles of the five love languages can really work in the lives of your teens and family. Includes a copy of the book and a leader's guide.

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.

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!

Administrative Assistant

The Wesley Foundation at Weatherford College (www.wesleyfoundationwc.org) seeks a part time administrative assistant. Person must be positive, friendly, and detail oriented. Prior experience preferred. To submit a resume or learn more about the position, contact Katie Meek at 817-797-1515 or katie@wesleyfoundationwc.org.

Director of Student Ministries

Aledo UMC, a growing church 15 miles west of Fort Worth with an average weekly worship attendance of 450, seeks a committed and dynamic person of faith as their director of student ministries. Prior experience in youth/student ministries is required. Salary negotiable and competitive. For more details, contact the AUMC church office at 817-441-8329 or email Jason Jones at JasonJones@aledoumc.org, Aledo UMC, PO Box 126, Aledo 76008.

Youth Minister

St. Philip's UMC (www.stphils.us), a wonderfully diverse and dynamic faith community located west of Round Rock in the northwestern corner of the greater Austin metropolitan area, seeks a full-time youth minister to guide a growing and vibrant Youth/Student Ministry. Hire date June 1. Potential candidates need to send résumé/CV and brief biographical statement no later than March 31 to: office@stphilipsumc.org RE: Youth Minister Search.

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.

Children's Ministry Director

St Paul UMC of Hurst seeks a director of children's ministry. This is a part-time position in a growing and vibrant church family, with a creative and fun staff. The hours are very flexible and the salary is attractive. For a copy of the job description and further information please contact Kent Kilbourne at 817-284 8171 or kent@stpaulhurst.org.

Youth Ministry Director

China Spring UMC seeks a part-time youth ministry director to supervise all youth ministries of the church (grades 7-12) and responsible for strategizing, planning, and implementing ministry programs that are in keeping with the church's overall vision. Contact China Spring UMC at 254-836-1107.

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.

Riders for "Wade in Water" – South Central Jurisdiction Clergywomen's Consultation

Sharon P. Bell is registered to attend the SCJ Wade in Water conference March 22-25 in New Orleans and will be driving. She has space for 4 others to ride along. Clergywomen interested in carpooling may contact Sharon at Revspbelle@hotmail.com or call the church office at Wesley Memorial Cleburne between 9 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday at 817-645-2373.

Youth Ministry Intern

First UMC of Fort Worth seeks to hire a part time intern to join their Youth Ministry Team. Responsibilities for this position are to join the rest of the staff in looking after the spiritual needs of the youth, planning and leading Bible studies, working with small groups, planning and attending events and trips, and simply meeting youth where they are. If you are interested, please send your resume to bfrenzel@myfumc.org or to Brandon Frenzel, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth, TX 76102.

Youth Ministry Worship Leader

First UMC of Fort Worth seeks to hire a part time worship leader for its Youth Ministry. Responsibilities include leading youth worship on Sunday mornings with our 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 bfrenzel@myfumc.org or to Brandon Frenzel, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth, TX 76102.

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 katterferdinandsen@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.

2 P-T Positions at St. Luke, Killeen

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

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

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

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

Director of Youth Ministries

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

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.