



Central E-Link

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

February 10, 2010

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles/requests should be submitted to Carolyn@ctcumc.org by **12 noon Tuesday** in order to be e-mailed on Wednesday. Articles should be brief and include active links to websites or contact persons for details. 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

Centennial Celebration Needs Your Logo Ideas

1910 is an important date in the history of the Central Texas Conference — and so is 2010. This year is the 100th anniversary of the conference, which previously was part of the Texas Conference (1840-1866) and then the Northwest Texas Conference (1866-1910). “Recognizing the growth of Methodism in the region, the General Conference of 1910 agreed to divide the Northwest Texas Conference into two annual conference,” states Conference Archivist Carol Roszell.

A special centennial celebration is planned for Oct. 23 in Fort Worth, so please save that date. Another way to participate in this historic event is to submit a logo design to be used in the Centennial Celebration. The 100th Anniversary Committee will judge entries, and the selected artist will be recognized at the event.

Logo guidelines:

- Logo may be color or black/white
- Incorporated in the logo should be some representation of the following: Central Texas Conference, The United Methodist Church Ministry, 100th Anniversary or Centennial Celebration or 1910 - 2010
- Artwork should be suitable for promotional materials, program cover, medallion and/or lapel pin

Logo designs should be submitted in digital format (TIFF, EPS, JPEG) by April 1 to Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org or on flash drive or disk to: Central Texas Conference, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107. Please include a print out of the design along with the digital format and contact information for the artist and church affiliation.

ATTN: Event Web Postings Need Address

Any events or activities posted to the conference website calendar **MUST** have a physical address included in order to activate the Google map. That means, just using Conference Center or Glen Lake Camp is not sufficient; you must include 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107 for the Conference Center, 1102 NE Barnard St., □Glen Rose, TX 76043 for Glen Lake Camp and specific street addresses for churches and other event settings. Thanks for taking the few extra minutes for doing this.

New Stipulations for Online Clergy Sexual Misconduct Prevention Course

An online course on Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct (PCSM) is available to all clergy and supply pastors who are appointed to a charge in the CTC. The training helps clergy learn more about the nature

and hazards of “dual relationship” which are inherent in the ministerial role, and to be able to strategize ways to minimize the risk of violating boundaries in their relationships with parishioners.

To complete this course online, clergy can now go to www.careermarriage.org/pcsm, click on “login,” and set up their personal PCSM access. Completing this course meets the requirements for the sexual misconduct prevention training for clergy. To access the PCSM, each eligible clergy must enter his/her name and work e-mail address as it is listed in CTC records. Clergy who encounter any technical difficulty should consult with Richard Hunt at pcsm@careermarriage.org. To verify that your name and email address are correct in the conference database, contact Susan Briles at susan@ctcumc.org, 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622. **This course is free of charge to all CTC clergy through May 31, 2010. Effective June 1, all participants will be charged \$50.**

All information a person enters through his or her personal PCSM access account is confidential and will not be shared with anyone. At the www.careermarriage.org/pcsm, all the options at the left side of the page are freely available to anyone at any time. This enables anyone with any misconduct concerns to access appropriate help. Access to all the options at the top of the page is limited to those who are eligible to participate in the PCSM course.

GCFA Sends Note of Appreciation

Message from GCFA General Secretary/Treasurer Moses Rathan Kumar: The opportunity to say “Thank you” to the people of the Central Texas Conference is an honor. Your faithful ministry of giving 100% to the apportioned funds in 2009 impacts lives and helps continue the global ministries of The United Methodist Church. To God be the glory. Thank you and God bless you.

Newgate Award Nominations - Deadline April 9

The Conference Restorative Justice Committee recognizes outstanding service for individuals serving within any area of restorative justice ministry of the CTC. The committee is accepting nominations for the 2010 Newgate Awards, which will be announced at Annual Conference in June. The Newgate Award acknowledges exemplary service of individuals, teams or congregations who go "above and beyond" in service to the incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, victims, justice workers or victim/offender families. Nominations should be submitted by April 9 to Rev. Penny Yaites, Tarrant County Restorative Justice Center, P.O. Box 163674, Fort Worth 76161-3674 or emailed to gimlmak@sbcglobal.net.

Kazakhstan Missionary Itinerates to CTC

Dr. Chris Hena, UM GBGM Missionary to Kazakhstan, will be itinerating in the CTC from April 19 to May 15. A native of Liberia, Hena works with community health ministries in remote regions of Kazakhstan, a country that still suffers from its positioning as a nuclear/atomic waste disposal site during the Soviet era. If you are interested in hosting Hena in your church or attending a speaking engagement in another church, please contact Dawne McAlpin, CTC secretary of Global Ministries, at 817-326-4242 or dawne@actonumc.org.

Tax Benefits for Those Responding to Haiti Relief

A new law allows contributors to Haiti relief efforts to claim their cash donations on their 2009 tax returns, according to the Internal Revenue Service. The law, enacted Jan. 22, refers to donations for Haiti relief made to charitable organizations such as UMCOR after Jan. 11 and before March 1, 2010, whether these were made via text message, check, credit card or debit card. Taxpayers may make the deduction on either their 2009 or 2010 returns, but not both. Please visit www.IRS.gov for more details.

From CTC Marriage/Family Coordinator Allen Grant

Last year we had a successful Pre-marriage Education curriculum training event for pastors. We hope to offer this again in 2011. For this fall, we would like to offer a full day of training for congregations who want to offer parenting skills classes in their church. This would include pastors, Christian educators and lay persons who lead parents groups in your church or who would want to do so. But we need your help to plan this event. I would like to know the answers to the following questions:

1. If you offer Parenting Skills classes in your church, what curriculum do you use?
2. Do you have a favorite Curriculum, even if not offering classes right now?
3. Do you have any suggestions for possible leadership of an event like this?
4. Other suggestions for us to use in planning.

Please respond by March 1 to Allen Grant, pastor@chinaspringumc.com or call 254-836-1107.

Central Texas Methodist Foundation Seminar — Feb. 18

The Central Texas Methodist Foundation will conduct a two-part seminar on Feb. 18 at Arlington Heights UMC (4200 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth 76107). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the “Clergy Tax” at 9 a.m. and the “Clergy Church Financial & Legal Issues” at 1 p.m. Please call or e-mail for reservations: 800-333-4096 or 817-332-1394 kathy@ctmf.org. Online registration at: <http://www.heartspringmethodist.org/about-us/2010-tax-seminars-ctmf.html>.

Clergy Tax Seminar — “how to” methods for clergy preparing their 2009 income tax return, as well as all of the relevant features in the IRS tax code specific to clergy; new provisions and tax code changes; geared for individual clergy but appropriate for their tax advisers, spouses, church leaders.

Church Financial & Legal Issues — church financial issues and legal implications; basic church finance & accounting, i.e. payroll administration, forms, documents and procedures related to the financial management of churches and related ministries such as pre-schools, parents-day-out, etc.

Dancing with the Stars at Metro Board Annual Dinner — Feb. 25

The Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner meeting, where outreach ministries and the churches that help to support them are honored, will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Round Up Inn, Fort Worth. The dinner cost is \$15/person with reservations by Feb. 22. For reservations and more details, contact the Metro Board office at 817-569-1454 or metroboard-umc@sbcglobal.net.

7th Annual Meeting of CTC Lay Speakers — Feb. 26, 27, 28

This annual event will be held Feb. 26-28 at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose with the classes offered being those that receive the most interest during the registration processes. The list of courses and registration form are on the conference website under <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/933> / click on “7th Annual Lay Speaking Ministry Weekend.” Contact: Melissa Osborne at oz2@txol.net.

Marriage Course Offered at Texas Wesleyan — March 6

Growing Love in Christian Marriage will be offered at Texas Wesleyan University from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 6. This course is certified by the State of Texas so that couples that participate will receive a certificate for a \$60 discount off their Texas marriage license. Amy Tate-Almy, AFC, a facilitator for the *Depression Connection Team* of Fort Worth and financial educator/counselor for the two Fort Worth Chapter 13 Trustee’s Offices, will lead the premarital counseling workshop. The cost of the workshop is \$7.50 per couple to learn skills to support a lasting, healthy marriage. RSVP to Amy Tate-Almy at aatalmy@hotmail.com. To make registration official, send the couple’s names with a \$7.50 fee (made payable to Texas Wesleyan University) to Attn: Chaplain’s Office, GLCM, Texas Wesleyan University, 1201 Wesleyan Street, Fort Worth 76105.

Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation — March 7-12

The Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be held at The Prothro Center at Lake Texoma March 7-12. Dr. Elaine Robinson, dean of Saint Paul School of Theology-Oklahoma City, and Dr. Doug Skinner, senior minister of Northway Christian Church-Dallas, are the faculty presenters. For more information, a brochure is located at www.ctcumc.org under Spiritual Growth Ministries, or contact Lindsay D. Churchman at ldchurchman@sbcglobal.net.

D.E.A.L. Grant Applications Period Underway

The CTC Committee on Disability Concerns will present the Disability Education and Awareness Leadership (D.E.A.L.) grants to be awarded in May and presented at the Annual Conference in June. A goal of the committee is education and awareness of handicapping conditions and issues facing an individual having a handicapping condition, i.e., attitudinal, environmental, or communicative. Because of this goal, CDC is awarding two grants to an upper classman or returning UM college student — one grant

to a student that has a handicapping condition and another to a student that has a declared major in assisting individuals with handicapping conditions (i.e., special education, speech pathology, hearing and visual impairment, social work, counseling, physical and/or occupational therapies). The application and grant details are available at <http://ctsite.brickriver.com/pages/detail/894>.

Annual Volunteer Work Week at Mount Sequoyah — April 5-9

Each year Mount Sequoyah hosts a volunteer workweek for volunteers from all of the 15 conferences that make up the South Central Jurisdiction. The retreat center is in the heart of Fayetteville, Ark., at the top of a large hill overlooking the city. Mount Sequoyah is host to a number of workshops, meetings, retreats, and training opportunities for our jurisdiction. With the large numbers of guests attending events, the center is in constant need of maintenance and upkeep. The annual volunteer workweek is a time to make sure that big projects get done. For details, please visit

http://www.mountsequoyah.org/www.mountsequoyah.org/Programs_Training_files/FINALWW%20Brochure%202010-reg.pdf.

April 15 Deadline for 5 Star/Global Mission Partner Applications

The **Global Mission Partner Program** and the **Five-Star Program** recognize churches that accomplish a series of support and outreach goals. The requirements are on the conference website at

<http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/905>. Contact: Tom Beaty at fumcgatesville1@embarqmail.com.

UMVIM Team Leader Training — April 24

Training Event: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at Alliance UMC, Fort Worth

UM Volunteers in Mission can be a vital tool in helping you and your church be more effective as partners in God's mission to a hurting and broken world, whether you take a team down the street, to your own community, to Haiti or elsewhere across the globe. Many local churches are planning mission projects for 2010. UMVIM team leader training is for beginners and seasoned leaders alike. Learn tips for all aspects of project planning, group theological reflection, team building, insuring your team, and fostering a transformational mission experience. For more details, contact Jennifer Bellamy at 817-877-5222 or Jennifer@ctcumc.org.

Volunteers needed for the Texas Ramp Project

The Texas Ramp Project provides free wheelchair ramps across Texas and seeks volunteers to help serve their many clients more quickly. The all-volunteer organization serves those disabled Texans who cannot afford the cost of construction of a ramp. For a number of clients, this ministry provides the only way for them to leave their homes and be part of their communities. The Texas Ramp Project works with churches of all denominations in the communities it serves in order to implement this important ministry. For details on volunteering, please visit www.texasramps.org or contact leadership at info@texasramps.org.

Faithfully Fit Forever Leader Training — April 24

The CTC Health & Wellness Task Force is sponsoring Faithfully Fit Forever Leader Training at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 24 at Christ UMC (3301 Sycamore School Road, Fort Worth 76123). Faithfully Fit Forever (FFF) is a non-profit, cooperative community health program created by MeritCare Hospital Parish Nursing and Cardiac Rehab staff. It attempts to eliminate the barriers that keep people from participating in exercise and health enhancing behaviors. To date, over 150 places of worship in 8 states have implemented FFF programs. The \$75 cost includes 16 weeks of programming to get you started, a training manual, educational materials/references, devotional resources and exercise leadership video. More details on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) under health and wellness.

Adult Mission Trip to Sager Brown Depot — May 2-7

The UMCOR Sager Brown Depot has shipped over \$4.7 million in relief supplies in 2008. Sager Brown receives, prepares, holds, and ships material resources used in response to human suffering throughout the nation and the world. Located in Baldwin, LA (about 115 miles southwest of New Orleans), the depot hosts more than 2,700 UM volunteers each year and provides those volunteers with a unique cultural experience. You can join the adult mission trip to Sager Brown May 2-7 by registering with Conference Director of

Humanitarian Services Director Jennifer Bellamy. See details and registration form under UVMIM pages on the conference website www.ctcumc.org.

Red Bird Mission Trip — Oct. 3-9

The deadline is May 15 for this first-time mission trip to the Red Bird Mission Conference in Kentucky. Join the CTC adult team this fall to assist with construction needs and possibly education and community outreach. Not only will the projects provide a rewarding volunteer opportunity, participants will also enjoy a unique cultural experience and may begin developing a relationship between the congregation and this wonderful Missionary Conference. Participants will be asked to attend one planning meeting/team orientation from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at Acton UMC (3433 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury 76049). Contact: Dawne McAlpin, mission team leader, at dawne@actonumc.org or 817-326-4252, 578-1701.

Return to [Top](#)

News Briefs — The Denomination

McCord Named to Campus Ministry Staff

Michael McCord has been named director of Campus Ministry Resources & Training in the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry's Division of Higher Education, effective May 1. The appointment is consistent with the Board's commitment to campus ministry and chaplaincy as integral to the UMC's mission in higher education. He will oversee the development of a comprehensive program for resource development and training of campus ministers and chaplains and continuing formation of campus ministry professionals. That includes development of materials for both print and electronic publication, training for new campus ministers and chaplains, and resources and training for annual conference Boards of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. He will also work with international student movements to promote their effectiveness and develop resources that are relevant in multicultural settings across our global church. In addition, he will handle assignments associated with implementation of GBHEM's Strategic Plan.

<http://bit.ly/cjZXwl>

Deadline Set for New Worship and Song Resource Submissions

Feb. 28 is the deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the print editions of the new resource for worship and congregational singing being developed by the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) and the UM Publishing House (UMPH). The deadline is necessary to allow for copyrights to be cleared, agreements to be drawn up, and production to be completed in time for a February 2011 release date. Submit original hymns, songs, service music, and worship resources for publication consideration to Gary Alan Smith at gsmith@umpublishing.org. Direct inquiries to Amy Smith, United Methodist Publishing House, 201 8th Avenue S., Nashville TN 37203, or e-mail asmith@umpublishing.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing - March 14

She's only 26 years old and came to me in tears. In a whisper the girl said to me, "I'm afraid. I think I have AIDS, but please do not tell my family." Angie Willicore tells this woman's story to illustrate the terrible stigma of AIDS in Liberia. Angie is a registered nurse for Ganta UM Hospital in Liberia and head of the community-based HIV/AIDS counseling team. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation of all of UMCOR's work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. Please give generously at www.umcgiving.org/OGHS. For the rest of Angie's story, visit <http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=gnKPIPMnHdLLL2I&s=crIUK5OBLbLQK5NKJsh&m=hqLQJ4OzFgJ2G>.

Downloadable Ash Wednesday Contemporary Service

Dean McIntye, director of music resources at the General Board of Discipleship, provides this free downloadable material for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17: A Contemporary Service for Ash Wednesday from GBOD: http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48456.

Perkins to Waive Application Fee Through March 1

Perkins School of Theology at SMU is waiving its \$50 application fee through March 1 for applicants to the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Church Ministries, and Master of Sacred Music degree programs, as well as for all non-degree applicants. March 1 is the deadline for submitting an application for need-based grant consideration, while Feb. 1 remains the deadline for submission of applications for merit scholarship consideration. For more information contact Tracy Anne Allred, director of Student Services, at tallred@smu.edu or 214-768-1480; Herbert Coleman, director of Recruitment and Admissions, at hcoleman@smu.edu or 214-768-2139; or visit the Perkins website at www.smu.edu/perkins.

2010 Funding Conference Scheduled for March 20

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

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

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

Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21

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

Return to [Top](#)

News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Rock Haiti Benefit Concert — Feb. 12 - 6 to 9 p.m.

White's Chapel UMC, Southlake, will host this benefit concert in The Bridge with performances by five high school rock bands. Proceeds benefit Haitian earthquake relief. For more information, contact [Kristen Blalock](#).

Black History Month and Lent at Meadowbrook — Feb. 14-17

Meadowbrook UMC celebrates Black History Month and Lent with a lineup of top preachers Feb. 14-17:

Sunday, Feb. 14 — Rev. Kyland Dobbins will bring the message at 10:50 a.m. worship and the Meadowbrook Choir will bring the anthem.

Monday, Feb. 15 — Dr. Sylvester Key will bring the message at 6:30 p.m. and the McMillan Choir will bring the music for the evening.

Tuesday Feb. 16 — Rev. Beverly Gilliam will bring the message at 6:30 p.m. and the Morningside Choir will bring the music for the evening.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 — Rev. Carol Gibson will bring the message at 6:30 p.m. and the St. Andrew Choir will bring the music.

Youth Ministry Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper — Feb. 16

The Youth Ministry of First UMC Fort Worth will host a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, in the Justin Youth Building. Tickets are available at the church (\$6 per person / \$20 for family) this Sunday at church or at the door on Tuesday. "Shrove-to-Go" pancake mixes \$5. For more information on tickets, please call 817-339-3888. All proceeds will be donated to Haiti Relief Fund.

Racism from a White Person's Perspective — Feb 21

The UMC recognizes racism as a sin and affirms the value of all human beings. We recognize the gifts that racial and cultural differences add to our collective living. However, those of us who understand ourselves

as White often are unaware of the benefits others do not experience that are available to us simply because of the color of our skin. Dr. Nancy Ramsay will explore the issue of white privilege, our unwitting complicity in racism and strategies in resisting racism for people of faith. Join Trinity UMC (3321 W. Park Row, Arlington) for this enlightening social justice discussion from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, in Room 201-203. Parking on the east and south sides of the main building. Contact: Miriam Georg at miriam@trinityumcarlington.org.

Pay Less for College - No Matter Where You Go! — Feb. 23

Whether your student is a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior, start planning now! Learn the answers to the questions that keep you awake at night! The White's Chapel Student Ministries Department is sponsoring a workshop to help you prepare for the complicated college admissions, planning and funding processes. Parents and high school students, please join White's Chapel at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the Rawlins Lecture Hall. Seats are limited, so please call ahead to reserve your place at 800-270-3220.

Community Invited: Depression Connection – Feb. 21 & 28

St. John the Apostle UMC in Arlington will host a *Depression Connection* seminar on Sunday afternoons, Feb. 21 and 28, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tony Campbell, executive director of Depression Connection Team, will lead this free, educational seminar covering depression and mood disorders. The church is located at 5450 Mansfield Rd, Arlington 76017, behind Kohl's Department Store, near the corner of S. Cooper St. and Green Oaks Blvd. Questions: call 817-468-8484.

The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less — Feb. 11

Join Terry Hershey, author of *The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less*, for an evening of spiritual refreshment and practical training from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Glen Rose. Sponsored by Glen Lake Camp and First UMC of Glen Rose, this program is open to all who are interested in letting their souls catch up with their bodies. Practical and humorous, Hershey will teach participants how to lose what we don't need, how to make space to hear the heart, and much more. For more information about Hershey, visit www.terryhershey.com. Free event, no registration required but you will have an opportunity to contribute to an honorarium for Hershey.

Clergy Power Lunch at GLC with Terry Hershey — Feb. 11

Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center and Terry Hershey, author of *The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less*, invite clergy of the CTC to enjoy a lunch with their fellow clergy and listen as Hershey share tools to help you bring balance to your life. The noon luncheon discussion stresses Hershey's philosophy of relax, refuel and restart as a great way for church leaders to rest, re-energize and take steps to find balance in their busy lives. Reservations (\$8/person) are due by Feb. 8. Visit Glen Lake's website at www.glenlake.org or call 254-897-2247.

Prayer Retreat at Campus Drive — Feb. 13

Deeper Connection: A Prayer Retreat That Will Take Your Prayer Life Out of the Box will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Campus Drive UMC. This event is for those who want to jump-start their prayer life and want a deeper connection to God. Facilitating the study will be Alfie Wines, pastor at Grace UMC, Arlington; Lonsetta Allen, executive director for the Institute for Educational Excellence; Carolyn Wilson, Genesis UMC, Fort Worth; and Ramona Redwine, First UMC, Fort Worth. There is no cost, but a love offering will be welcome. Contact: 817-922-9256.

Southern Africa Mission Speaker at Early UMC — Feb. 14

Chris McLain, a missionary in Swaziland in Southern Africa for the past two years, will be sharing her experiences there with First UMC in Early at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14. Everyone interested in mission work is invited to come and hear her. Chris came out of the First UMC of Round Rock. Her interest in mission work was ignited by a week-long mission to South Africa in 2004, and after a return visit in 2007, she retired from her work with IBM and arranged this work through another missionary there. Early UMC is located at 1073 Early Blvd., on the right as you leave Early headed east. Church members look forward to this special event, and sharing it with the community.

Community Invited: Goostree Lecture Series — Feb. 21 and 22

First UMC of Fort Worth will host the 2010 Goostree Lecture Series Sunday, Feb. 21, and Monday, Feb. 22, with J. Philip Newell presenting “A New Harmony: The Spirit, The Earth, and The Human Soul.” The schedule for this two-day opportunity:

Sunday: Preaching in the Sanctuary at 9:30 and 11 a.m.; Lecture in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.

Book signing and reception in Wesley Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Monday: Breakfast for *Clergy and Church Leaders* in Wesley Hall at 9 a.m.

(Please RSVP to Virginia (vcovaleski@myfumc.org or 817-336-7277) by Thursday, Feb. 18. Cost of the breakfast lecture is \$12.

Lecture for all in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.

African-American History Month Generosity Summit — Feb. 27

This is a workshop for clergy, finance/stewardship committees and lay leaders from 1 a.m. to noon Feb. 27 at Campus Drive UMC (4301 Campus Drive, Fort Worth 76119). The presenter is Melvin Amerson who is with the Texas Methodist Foundation and author of *Celebrating the Offering* and *Stewardship in African-American Churches*. He will cover “Developing a Culture of Generosity” and “Celebrating the Offering.” To reserve your space by Feb. 20, contact Andrew Nunley at 817-921-5673 or pastor@campusdrive.org.

Vaughn Baker Back at the Senate — April 15

Vaughn Baker, pastor of Christ UMC, Fort Worth, is at it again! He has been invited by Sen. John Cornyn to open the U.S. Senate in prayer on April 15. This will take place in the Senate chambers at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. This will be his second time to open the Senate in prayer.

First Azle Hosts Beth Moore Simulcast — April 24

First Azle UMC will host a Beth Moore simulcast from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24. Doors open at 8 a.m. The cost of \$25 includes lunch with prepaid ticket or \$35 at the door. For reservations and ticket info go to www.fumcazle.org and click on Beth Moore.

“Father Can You Hear Me?” Benefit Performance — May 15

“Father Can You Hear Me?” will be performed at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at St. Barnabas UMC (5011 W. Pleasant Ridge, Arlington 76016-6220) with tickets (\$20) available at the door. The drama is a new gospel stage play presented by Special K’s Special T’s, LLC Productions, written and co-directed by Ka’Mili Grayson, and directed by Eric Beasley. The evening benefit will include an auction, liturgical dance and more. For details, please contact Luther Henry (luther@sbumc.org or 817-483-1667) or Chauncey Nealy (aldersgate1954@sbcglobal.net or 817-274-0116).

Conference UMs Heading to Holy Land — June 8

Join the “Holy Land Trip hosted by Steve Lallier.” Steve, a lay leader for the Adult Singles Class at Whites Chapel UMC in Southlake, and is returning to Israel with friends across the conference. This is a guided tour via Educational Opportunities. For more details, visit <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com>. Interested?

Contact Steve Lallier at 817-424-5704, 214-912-1979 or email BigBandLdr@aol.com.

Return to [Top](#)

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=ifITKWNrGaIKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWPrHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLLeKYLpI&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWPrHgIWF>)

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

El' 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)

Mental Health Facts

With effective medication and a wide range of services tailored to their needs, most people who live with serious mental illness can significantly reduce the impact of their illness and find a satisfying measure of achievement and independence. In addition to medical treatment there are numerous self-help measures that can successfully enhance the result of treatment. — A message from the Depression Connection Team (817-810-9599; tony@depressionconnection.org).

Depression Seminar in Your Church, Free

With no cost to your church, the Conference Committee on Mental Health Concerns and Depression Connection Team will provide a seminar for your church. To inquire, call Tony Campbell at 817/810-9599 or email at tony@depressionconnection.org.

God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action

A new 6-week Lenten study is out focusing on God's renewed creation. The Publishing House is taking orders NOW for a comprehensive, "All-in-One" resource (includes the pastoral letter, foundation document and both study guides for \$7.50 each-\$5 if you order soon) with delivery promised in time for the beginning of Lenten study groups. You can place orders for these printed documents now at www.cokesbury.com (search "God's Renewed Creation: Call..." or by numbers: ISBN-13: 9781426710391, ISBN-13: 9781426711473, ISBN-13: 9781426711473 (paperback, e-book or pdf).

ATTN: Pastors/Stephen Ministers Can Help Cancer Patients

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

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.

When Freedom? Sudan in Captivity. DVD The experience of Sudanese refugees parallels the story of Moses, Aaron, Miriam and their mother. They escaped the immediate danger of living in a war torn land but other family members remained in captivity to war, slavery, and cultural and religious repression. Sudanese refugees help us remember those who remain in Sudan and live in constant fear much like the ancient Israelites in Egypt. One sign of hope is the growth of the Christian churches in Sudan. Despite the religious and political climate in Sudan, churches continue to provide worship experiences, educational opportunities, healthcare and to address issues of justice and peace. 22 minutes.

Church Demographics

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

Crime Victims Council Information at www.crimevictimsCouncil.org

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

Return to [Top](#)

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Pianist/Organist

The music ministry at FUMC Watauga is seeking a pianist/organist with devotion to Christ and a passion for music. There is one service Sunday mornings, rehearsal Wednesday evenings, and special services throughout the year. For more information contact, Seini Mila at 817-939-8835 or seinimila@att.net.

Worship Leader

New Day UMC (www.ndumc.com), a new church start in Mansfield, seeks a part-time worship leader for its non-traditional worship gatherings. Applicants must be able to provide voice and instrumental leadership as well as work to gather and develop a praise team. Salary is negotiable. Send your resume to Sheila Fiorella at Sheila@newdayumc.com or to P.O. Box 2125, Mansfield 76063.

Director of Music Ministry

First UMC Cleburne — a growing suburban church family with a traditionally based music program and occasional contemporary music offerings — seeks candidate resumes for director of music ministry. The candidate must have the flexibility to consider, assess, and implement new and innovative methods and programs to enhance the musical ministry and worship of the church. This is a part-time position with the possibility (or future consideration) of becoming a full-time ministry position. Responsibilities include: planning, organization, recruiting, execution, and evaluation of the music ministry program under the supervision of the senior pastor; supervising the organist and pianist; areas of Adult and Hand Bell Choirs; other essential functions upon request. Bachelor's degree in music and experience required. Resumes will be accepted through March 30. Salary negotiable. Email resumes to robert@fumccleburne.com.

Director of the Learning Tree Preschool

First UMC, Georgetown is accepting resumes until Feb. 26 for director of the Learning Tree Preschool. The preschool is a FUMC outreach operated Tuesday through Thursday during the school year. Candidates should have the leadership skills and educational background to develop and implement plans that will maintain a level of program quality that meets the National Association of Educators of Young Children (NAEYC) standards for developmentally appropriate curriculum. The director is responsible for the effective and efficient operation of the school, which includes staff development, communication with parents, scheduling, budgeting, and procurement of supplies and equipment. A bachelor's degree with 12 college credit hours in child development and 6 college credit hours in business management and at least one year of experience in a licensed child-care center are preferred. Interested persons may submit a letter of interest, resume, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three professional references to Dotty Hooker, director of Christian Education, FUMC, 410 E. University Avenue, Georgetown 78626 or dotty@fumcgt.org.

Organist/Pianist

Organist/pianist position open at Smithfield UMC in North Richland Hills. Duties include two services on Sunday mornings, Wednesday night rehearsal and special holiday services. To apply, send a resume to Lisa Neslony at 6701 Smithfield Rd, North Richland Hills 76182 or pastorlisa@smithfieldumc.org.

Community Center Program Coordinator

Acton UMC is recruiting for a ½ time (20 hrs/wk) Rancho Brazos Community Center program coordinator. The position requires a bachelor's degree with experience in community ministry and a passion for loving the world with the grace of Jesus Christ. The ability to speak Spanish is preferred. Responsibilities include working with the Rancho Brazos Leadership Team to organize and/or lead Bible studies; build relationships with the community that empower community leadership; develop and grow ministries such as ESL, GED and adult literacy classes, coordinate Vacation Bible School, after-school programming, summer lunch and activity programming, women's and youth ministry; and related outreach ministry. The position will also develop partnerships with other community and conference organizations and encourage avenues for ministry for the congregation at AUMC. Interested persons should submit a resume and letter of interest to: Dawne McAlpin, Minister of Outreach, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy., Granbury 76049 or dawne@actonumc.org.

Director of Recreation

Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center is hiring a director of recreation. This position reports directly to the executive director and works closely with other departments in offering a well-planned, safe and fun environment for guests. Areas of responsibility include inventory of recreation equipment, Eagles' Wings Challenge & Confidence Course, the Waterpark, summer staff, program publicity, and hosting guest retreats and events. On site housing is included in compensation. To apply, please mail resume with references to P. O. Box 928, Glen Rose 76043 or fax to 254-897-2423.

Assistant Pastor/Focus on Youth & Missions

First UMC in Breckenridge seeks an enthusiastic person to further develop, organize, and lead a comprehensive youth ministry with a breadth of perspective and balance of ministry. This will include leading and involving the youth in the *Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry*. There is also opportunity to assist and lead in worship and other areas of pastoral ministry as desired and time allows.
Hours: 24 hours per week. Some planning and writing may be done off premises. *Compensation includes:* Salary, contribution to UM Pension program, reimbursement for reasonable expenses and cell phone to a certain amount and monies for continuing education. Sick leave, holidays and vacation according to office staff policy. For more information or to express interest contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 West Walker, Breckenridge, Texas 76424. E-mail: pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

Volunteers Needed

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

Adult Retreat Center Coordinator

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

Choir Director

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

Youth Director

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

Part-time Pianist

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

Youth Minister

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

*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.*