



Central E-Link

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

January 13, 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. Use this information for ministry planning, announcements, church newsletters and/or bulletins. 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

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For worldwide news of our denomination click here! www.umportal.org

News Briefs — The Conference

Lessons in Life

Sometimes God gives us the opportunity to glimpse other people's struggles, and we're better for the experience. Last week, during the coldest days of the winter, our conference staff was concerned about getting people off the streets and into shelters. That's when the conference's heating system crashed. As the temperature dipped into the teens, we spent Wednesday through Friday piling on multiple layers of our warmest clothing, wrapping ourselves in blankets and gathering around several small space heaters — and still we were so cold that it was hard to think straight. The image wasn't far from what we've seen on the streets. The difference is we knew that eventually we would have the comfort of heat. Can we offer a brighter future for those on the streets this winter?

Launching New CTC Website

Take a look Thursday morning at the new conference website format and the features that are in place. Over the next couple weeks we will be revising and updating many of the internal pages to make information more accessible, consistent and useful. The main page lifts up articles and resources that embrace the five areas of fruitful congregations, the UMC's four focus areas, Rethink Church and examples of "Faith in Action." You are invited to suggest story ideas about your church or ministry for Faith in Action. Throughout the new site you will find better tools for searching and sharing, more resources, blogs, maps attached to event announcements, and news tied to our critical areas of ministry. We welcome your suggestions for blogs that inspire and further our cause to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, but please realize there is limited space for blog listings. Your feedback is appreciated as well as your ideas for better accessibility features and possible ministry articles. You will still find us at www.ctcumc.org.

Health Kits & Donations Needed for People of Haiti

If there is a place on Earth that could have done without an earthquake right now, it's Haiti. A 7.0-magnitude quake struck Haiti Tuesday, Jan. 12, shattering buildings and forever changing lives. While authorities still don't know the extent of the damage, it is estimated that 3 million people may be affected by Haiti's worst earthquake in 200 years. One survivor reports there are thousands of people roaming the streets, looking for shelter. Haiti is already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 8 out of 10

people living in extreme poverty. Now a massive earthquake has hit this already vulnerable island nation, and the needs there are greater than every before.

UMCOR is asking for health kits (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/>) and Laraine Waughtal, CTC disaster response coordinator, is arranging for drop off locations in the conference area. An e-blast identifying those locations will be sent to local churches later this week. Please give to the General Board of Global Ministries Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency. Today's update from the South Central Jurisdictional disaster response coordinators says several people are in Port au Prince for a meeting with the new head of the Haitian church, but they have not been heard from them since the earthquake. Our conference will be notified when Haiti is ready for work teams to work on projects that are the priority of the church of Haiti. Check out UMCOR's updates at <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=44445668667>.

2009 Year End Finances

Message from CTC Treasurer Harvey Ozmer: As 2009 arrived, we found ourselves in the midst of financial strain. The recession had touched our families, our churches, and our world. There were some hard meetings and painful budget choices being made. Yet, at the same time, we were called to remember that we are God's people living in God's world and that God will supply all that is needful. I have a conference treasurer friend in another jurisdiction who said "have faith...have faith that something good will come for we are not always aware of the miracles God realizes when we do our best."

I want you to know that so very many in the CTC did their best in 2009 and how very grateful we are to all the laity and clergy for those best efforts. In all, that translates to 272 churches meeting 100% of their apportionments and only 33 falling short. Counting district funds and a wonderful grant from Homes for Retired Ministers to assist paying Retiree Medical Liability we received 94.07% of the 2009 budget - \$10,946,878. Indeed, God worked a miracle in our midst. Let us all give thanks. Ministry goes on: new faith communities are being started and nurtured, children and youth meet and claim Christ at Glen Lake Camp, mission support is extended to local churches and related agencies, and on and on. The mission to Philippine children in the "Smokies" may touch your heart. The children living on the smoldering dumps of Manila receive meals and education from the UM mission at the site. All this because so many of you gave your best. Thank you.

It's a Tie in 2010!

For the past several years, Thrall United Methodist Church in the Temple District has been the first conference church to pay its yearly apportionments in full. It happened again this year...on Thursday, Jan. 7, the check from the church in Thrall arrived here in the office. But, this year the Mullin church in the Brownwood District sent their apportionment check that also arrived on Jan. 7. The Mullin church also paid 100%. Thank you, Thrall and Mullin – you are deeply appreciated! And who knows, maybe next year we'll have a tie that doubles or triples...it could happen. — *From Harvey Ozmer, CTC Treasurer*

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.

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.

April 15 Deadline for 5 Star/Global Mission Partner Applications

The **Global Mission Partner Program** recognizes churches that accomplish the following requirements:

- Give 100% of apportionments
- Have an ongoing program of mission education
- Serve the local community through outreach
- Establish a Covenant Relationship in support of a GBGM-trained missionary with \$2,500 or \$5 per church member per year
- Pledge support for a Person in Mission sent by a partner church in another country at \$1,000 or more per year (or \$2 per church member per year)
- Share your experience with two neighboring congregations

The **Five-Star Program** of the CTC recognizes churches that accomplish the following requirements:

- Give 100% of assigned apportionments
- Have an ongoing program of mission education
- Serve the local community through outreach
- Contribute to a conference, national, international or UMCOR Advance Special
- As a step toward becoming a Global Mission Partner, make a financial contribution of any size to a United Methodist missionary

For more details, contact Tom Beaty at fumcgatesville1@embarqmail.com.

Faithfully Fit Forever — April 24

FFF Event: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 24 at Christ UMC, Fort Worth

Faithfully Fit Forever 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. FFF focuses on the body, mind and spirit connection and may benefit the physical and psychological well being of your local church members. For more details, please contact Janet Wood at 817-877-5222 or janet@ctcumc.org.

Video Licensing Renewals Due by Jan. 29

It's time to renew the conference umbrella policy with Christian Video Licensing International, Inc. The license extends from Feb. 2, 2010 through Feb. 1, 2011. The cost for a new participant is **\$180**. Please make your checks payable to the Central Texas Conference UMC and mail to Susan Briles, CVLI Licensing, 464 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth 76107. Current participants will be notified by mail concerning their policy. If you have any questions concerning the conference's CVLI policy, please contact Susan Briles at susan@ctcumc.org, 800/460-8622 or 817/877-5222. The deadline to participate or renew is Jan. 29.

Volunteers needed for the Texas Ramp Project

The Texas Ramp Project provides free wheelchair ramps widely 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.

Volunteers construct modular ramps stored in warehouses across the state, after which volunteer teams install the ramps at designated homes. Because of this unique model, teams of 4 to 6 volunteers can install a ramp in about half a day with the help of a team leader specially trained by the organization. No tools are needed, though financial contributions for the materials are appreciated and matched by a foundation. The Texas Ramp Project works with churches of all denominations in the communities it serves, and has collaborated with many UM churches, some in the CTC area, in order to implement this important ministry. For more information about volunteering, please visit www.texasramps.org or contact leadership at info@texasramps.org.

2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Event — Jan. 21

This annual dinner and dialogue event, set for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, at Holy Family Catholic Church (6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth 76107), features “A Bish, A Commish and A Frank Friar” talking about life on the street of Tarrant County. **The Bish is our own Bishop Mike Lowry who will bring the Word to life through unified social action in the community.** The Commish is Commissioner Roy Brooks of Tarrant County District 1 who will talk about working together to address the conundrums of community such as homelessness and post-incarceration re-entry. The Frank Friar is Franciscan Friar and social worker with Catholic Charities who will talk the realities of living on the streets and issues of immigration and our Christian response. To reserve your place at the table, contact Tarrant Area Community of Churches at tacc@tarrantareacc.org or 817-737-5554.

VBS Previews Offer 20% Discount to Central Texas Churches

Joyce Brown, Cokesbury curriculum consultant, will offer four hands-on previews of Cokesbury’s 2010 Vacation Bible School Curriculum—GALACTIC BLAST: A COSMIC ADVENTURE PRAISING GOD! A 20% discount will be given on all VBS resources ordered at these events. Dates are listed below. For more details contact Joyce Brown at 817-249-2526 or joyce@danbrownart.com.

Jan. 16 (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – during Waxahachie District Training) at First UMC Waxahachie, 505 West Marvin (972-937-4400)

Jan. 24 (2 p.m.- during Waco District Training) at Austin Avenue UMC in Waco, 1300 Austin Ave (254-754-4685).

Jan. 30 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at Fort Worth Cokesbury Store, 6333 Camp Bowie Blvd, Suite 207 (817-763-9560).

Jan. 31 (3 to 6:30 p.m. -- during Brownwood District Training) at First UMC in Early, 1073 Early Blvd (325-646-2300).

Approaching Deadline for Standing Rules Changes/Resolutions — Feb. 2

Feb. 2 is the deadline to submit recommendations to the Committee on Rules, Policies, and Guidelines regarding changes to the Standing Rules and to submit resolutions to the Conference Secretary. *Please remember that, per a motion approved at the 2008 Annual Conference, a statement of rationale must be included with the resolution clarifying the author’s intent.*

4th Annual Faith Community Leadership Summit with THR — Feb. 16

The focus of this year’s summit, set for 8:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Fort Worth’s Round Up Inn, will be on end-of-life care, support and ministry. It brings together faith leaders from Tarrant and surrounding counties to dialogue and network, share best practices, provide needed resources, and equip leadership for the challenges of the 21st century. For more details and to register, visit www.texashealth.org/faithsummit. The cost is \$25, which is the registration fee and also includes breakfast, lunch, program materials and parking. For those wishing to pay by check, please mail a check payable to "Texas Health Resources" to the following address: Texas Health Resources, ATTN: Call Center/Telemanagement, Tonya Monroe 612 E. Lamar Blvd., 15th Floor, Arlington, TX 76011. For any questions or additional inquiries, please contact Laura Van Hoosier at lauravanhoosier@texashealth.org, or 817-703-8432.

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. Registrations have the opportunity to make three selections from the following courses:

- Lay Speaking Ministries: The Basic Course
- Lay Speakers Cultivate Christian Community
- Internet as Ministry
- Immigration Ministry
- A Ministry of Caring
- Lay Speakers can lead in Evangelism
- Lay Speakers Preach

- Lay Speakers Lead Bible Study
- Lay Speakers Lead in Prayer
- Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts
- Dancing with Words
- Lay Speakers Grow Spiritually Through Daily Discipline
- Certified Lay Ministry Part 1 *A minimum two-year study program*
- Certified Lay Ministry Part 2

For more details on each course and to register, check the conference website or contact Melissa Osborne at oz2@txol.net.

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). The seminar is especially informative for clergy, financial secretaries, bookkeepers, accountants, business administrators, finance committee members and church trustees. The cost is \$45 per session or \$80 for both sessions. The tuition includes all materials and textbooks. 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

Clergy Tax Seminar — covers all the "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; highlights new provisions and tax code changes; geared for individual clergy but appropriate for their tax advisers, spouses and interested church leaders.

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

2010 Clergy Day Apart — Jan. 26-27

“Caring for Your Soul” is the theme for the 2010 Clergy Day Apart Jan. 26-27 at Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose. Rev. Tom Albin, currently dean of the Upper Room Chapel and team leader for the Program Unit of The Upper Room, will be the keynote speaker. His academic interests lie in the areas of spiritual formation, Wesley studies, historical theology and evangelism. For more details visit the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) or Susan Briles at susan@ctcumc.org. The deadline to register has been extended to Jan. 20. There are no more single rooms available – only double occupancy.

Mid Winter Youth Retreat — 2 dates in February

Registration is now open for the 2010 Mid Winter youth retreats to be held Feb. 5-7 and Feb. 20-21. For details and registration, visit <http://www.ctcumc.org/page.asp?pkvalue=1133>. Registration must be received in the conference office by Jan. 19. Questions? Contact MaDora at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or madora@ctcumc.org.

UMW Racial Justice Event Feature Former Women’s Division President — Jan. 30

"Come to the Feast!" is the theme of the UMW’s Sing A Rainbow (the annual Charter for Racial Justice Event) Saturday, Jan. 30, at Arlington First UMC. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the program from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dr. Carol E. Johnson, chief diversity officer for Purdue University, will lead the gathering in a celebration of our diversity. Sing A Rainbow is free to all, but participants are asked to register on the UMW conference website or by contacting Registrar Theresa Robinson at 817-536-5537. Childcare is provided. For lunch, everyone is asked to bring a favorite dish from a culture other than their own to share with others.

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

Each year Mount Sequoyah, our retreat center for the South Central Jurisdiction, hosts a volunteer work week during which volunteers from all of the 15 conferences that make up the SCJ come to give of their time to enhance the mission and beauty of Mount Sequoyah. The retreat center is in the heart of Fayetteville, Ark., at the top of a large hill overlooking the city. It is located in a gorgeous part of the

Ozarks, and 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 a brochure and registration form, visit http://www.mountsequoyah.org/www.mountsequoyah.org/Programs_Training_files/FINALWW%20Brochure%202010-reg.pdf.

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 UMVIM pages on the conference website www.ctcumc.org.

Save the CTC's 100th Anniversary Celebration Date — Oct. 23

Please reserve Saturday, Oct. 23, for the Central Texas Conference's 100th Anniversary Celebration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Will Rogers's Texas Room. Event co-chairs Henry Radde and Gary Turner will have more details later.

Approaching Deadline for Standing Rules/Resolutions

The deadline to submit recommendations to the Committee on Rules, Policies, and Guidelines regarding changes to the Standing Rules is **Feb. 2**. The deadline to submit resolutions to the Conference secretary is **Feb. 2**. Please remember that, per a motion approved at the 2008 Annual Conference, a statement of rationale must be included with the resolution clarifying the author's intent.

Reminder: You Can Contribute to the Alignment Task Force

The Alignment Task Force wants your input on their work in progress through a blog that Pat Stroman (member) and Mike Ramsdell (chair) will be posting after each meeting on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org). This is your opportunity to participate in making a difference in the future of the Conference and the ministries of our local churches. Your thoughts, ideas, suggestions are welcome!

Suicide Survivors — Open Enrollment

Suicide Survivors is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new group begins this month. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks.

A mental health professional and a trained survivor facilitate group meetings. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 817-698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

Singles Mission Trip to Dulac, La. — Feb. 11-15

Chuck Graff, associate pastor at First UMC of Fort Worth, will lead this singles disaster response mission trip to Dulac, LA, over the President's Day weekend. It is open to all singles 18 years and older to serve in southern Louisiana with the recovery process from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Tarrant Area Singles, the CTC and First UMC sponsor the trip. For more details and to register, please contact Chuck Graff as 817-339-5065 or cgraff@myfumc.org.

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News Briefs — The Denomination

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.

Deadline Extended to Apply for Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internships

The deadline to apply for a 2010 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in Washington, D.C., has been extended to Feb. 15. The EYA program is for young adults, ages 18-22, interested in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy and social change. Openings remain for applicants of Hispanic American, Native American and Pacific Islander ethnicity. Sponsored by the UM Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group (IESDG) and administered by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), interns will work in social justice placements in the U.S. capital from May 30 to July 31. IESDG is a coalition of the denomination's five racial/ethnic minority caucuses: Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA), the Native American International Caucus (NAIC), the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM), and the Pacific Islander National Caucus of United Methodists (PINCUM).

Interns will live in Christian community. Work placements will be supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of social justice concern, area field trips and Sunday worship in area United Methodist churches. Participants must commit to participating in these activities.

The intern group will experience the rich diversity of The United Methodist Church by visiting a different congregation each Sunday. Congregations will reflect diversity in worship style as well as ethnicity.

For more information, contact Neal Christie, assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, General Board of Church & Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202-488-5611 or L.A. McCrae, EYA coordinator, 202-488-5644 (office) or 443-528-5138 (mobile).

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>

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News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Community Invited to Elvis Gospel Concert — Jan. 31

First UMC of Grapevine (422 Church St., downtown Grapevine) invites you to an Elvis Gospel Concert. Elvis impersonator Kraig Parker and the Royal Tribute Band present an incredible gospel concert! From Las Vegas to London, Kraig has been called the ultimate image of Elvis Presley. He has been astonishing crowds for over 14 years with his amazing tribute to the king of rock and roll. All ages are shook up by Parker's amazing likeness to Elvis in look, voice, moves and stage presence. This exciting performance has left audiences stunned, thrilled and hungry for more. In this concert, Kraig will be singing the inspirational gospel songs that Elvis sang throughout his career. The event is presented free as a gift to the community. No ticket or RSVP is required - just show up and enjoy the show! Doors open at 6 p.m.

Listening to Divorce — Tuesdays through Feb. 2

The Center for Creative Transformation at First UMC of Fort Worth (750 W. 5th St. in downtown Fort Worth) offers this five-week program series on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. *People going through divorce need to talk. People GROWING through divorce also listen.* They listen:

- to the past for insights into the dynamics and patterns in their lives that can lead to better relationships in the future,
- to their thoughts and feelings so that they can be mindful in the process of grief and change,
- to others who have faced similar challenges,
- to experts who can suggest paths for healing,
- to their dreams and hopes as they begin to create a new direction for life after divorce.

This series, which is free and open to the public, focuses on understanding what happened in the relationship, healing from the traumas, and learning what we need to learn from the past so we can feel more ready to move into the future. Over the past five years many have commented that the information and perspectives have helped them turn deep pain into a significant opportunity for personal growth. Donations are accepted to defray costs. Childcare is available. For more information, contact Marianne Wilson at mwilson@myfumc.org or 817-339-5071.

Thelma Wells to Speak at "The Well" — Jan. 21

First UMC of Grapevine invites area women for Thursday, Jan. 21, for a special gathering of The Well, a revitalizing ministry for women. Internationally known speaker and author Thelma Wells will be the guest speaker inspiring women to find "God's Purpose for You in the New Year." Join Thelma and guest musician Caleb Hailey at The Well at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Tickets (\$15) include the program and a catered dinner and are on sale in the church office and on the web at www.firstmethodistgrapevine.org.

28 Days to the Intended Lifestyle — Feb. 4

Dr. Brian Nimphius will teach the workshop "The Intended Lifestyle" at White's Chapel UMC, Southlake, starting Thursday, Feb. 4. This 28-day Christian-based transformation program will challenge and inspire you to make real and lasting progress in the areas of nutrition, exercise, stress management, spiritual fitness, and time management. The course uses 4 weekly workshops to share with you the greatness of God's plan for your health. Please pre-register by Monday, Feb. 1: Mary Ann Zrake at 817-481-4147 x 242. Class will be held upstairs in AE 3204 at 7 p.m.

"Father Can You Hear Me?" Benefit Performance — Feb. 6

"Father Can You Hear Me?" will be performed at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6th, 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 17-274-0116).

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.

Christian Theology Study at First Belton — Ongoing

Have you wanted to learn, discuss, or respectfully debate Christian theology with members of your own denomination as well as others? First UMC in Belton is providing that opportunity at noon Tuesdays.

<http://gbgm-umc.org/fumcbeltex>

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Resources

Proven Resources for the Local Church

Whether you are looking for new and creative ways to get your congregation and children into God's Word, training your teachers and leaders, or looking for programs to minister to couples and/or parents, Walk Thru the Bible Ministries has a resource for you. For more information on the live events and small group curriculum and resources, please visit the website at www.walkthru.org.

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.

The Teaching of Twelve: Believing & Practicing the Primitive Christianity of the Ancient Didache Community — What can we know about the practices of the early church? The Didache is an early handbook of an anonymous Christian community, likely written before some of the New Testament books were written. It spells out a way of life for Jesus-followers that includes instruction on how to treat

one another, how to practice the Eucharist, and how to take in wandering prophets. In *The Teaching of the Twelve*, Jones unpacks the ancient document, and he traces the life of a small house church in Missouri that is trying to live according to its precepts. Readers will find The Teaching of the Twelve inspirational and challenging, and they will discover a unique window into the life of the very earliest followers of Jesus the Christ. A new, contemporary English translation of the Didache is included. 125 pages.

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.

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Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Reliable Researchers and Conscientious Community Organizers

The General Commission on Religion is accepting resumes for one more week for the following positions:

Team Leader for Monitoring and Advocacy, leads a team in research and design plans for effective advocacy, monitoring and data collection in areas of diversity and inclusiveness.

Advocacy Organizer, researcher and plan designer for effective advocacy in areas of diversity and inclusiveness.

A Review Coordinator for Monitoring and Advocacy, coordinates the reviews and desk audits of the annual conferences, general agencies and theological schools of the UMC.

Annual Conference Coordinator, primary liaison between the GCR and annual conference leadership. This position interprets the work of the commission, provides education opportunities to constituents, organizes and mobilizes conference leaders to respond to racism.

See more detailed information about the positions at www.gcorr.org under the banner **Join our Team**.

Send resume and cover letter to: The General Commission on Religion and Race, Attn: Frances Roberts 100 Maryland Ave NE Washington, DC 20002. Or email: froberts@umc-gbcs.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.

Baby Cribs

Edge Park UMC is in need of some baby cribs for their expanding nursery. Please contact Lynn Moore, pastor, if you have extras to share! ldmoore74@att.net or 817-293-5140.

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.

2010 Census Workers

Please pass along this message to members: Could you use some extra cash? Apply now to be a census taker. Work up to 40 per week in a temporary, part-time job with the 2010 Census and enjoy good pay, flexible hours, mileage reimbursement, and the chance to serve your community. Call (toll-free) 866-861-2010 for more details.

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.

Small Upright Piano Needs Church Home

Kelli Carrier (1917 Ramada Trail, Justin, Texas) would like to give his mother's small, upright piano to a church. Now in assisted living with no room for the piano, she would like to know it is being used at a United Methodist church. For pictures or to make arrangements, please contact Kelli Carrier at 940-648-1840 (home), 817-266-8733 (cell) or kellicarrier20@gmail.com. If possible, he would like it picked up before the end of the year.

Lead Teacher

St. Andrew's Mother's Day Out seeks a lead teacher for the toddler class. The ideal candidate will be committed to caring for children in a Christian environment, loves children, is self motivated, has a steady work ethic, is of good moral character, and loves the Lord. Experience in child care setting preferred. Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The church is located in South Arlington on SE Green Oaks between New York Ave. and 360. Contact: Becky Doss at sachildcare@bluebottle.com.

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.

Director of Music & Worship

Woodway First UMC (21000 Woodway Dr., Waco 76712) is accepting applications for director of music and worship until Dec. 31. Candidates should be able to provide: leadership in a spiritual ministry through music, primary oversight of all music staff, oversight and management of the music and worship programs, oversight and leadership for all worship services; serve as primary choir director for sanctuary choir; establish and lead choral and instrumental ensembles for worship and other events; arrange and schedule vocalists for worship; flexibility in worship planning and execution. An advanced music degree with at least five years experience in professional choral conducting preferred. Experience in church choral programs is preferred. This is a part-time position; salary is negotiable dependent on experience. Submit applications to Linda Smith at 254-751-0411. Contact: Search Committee Chair Danny Londenberg for more details at 254-751-0411.

Part-time Post Contemporary Music Worship Leader

William C. Martin UMC (2621 Bedford Rd., Bedford, TX 76021) is accepting applications for a music worship leader in Martin's post contemporary worship service. Candidates should be able to provide voice and instrumental (acoustic guitar) leadership in our worship environment. Candidate will work with an established band with a post contemporary flair. Experience in Worship planning and execution with the band and minister are essential to the job. The position is part-time and salary is dependent on experience. Submit applications to Adam Pratt at adamp@martin-methodist.org.

Contemporary Worship Leader Seeks Position

Experienced worship leader Trey Smith, a student at the University of Texas at Arlington, seeks a position with a local church that is within a 30-min. drive from Arlington. He has led the praise band at Silver Creek UMC for about two years and the 2009 summer praise band at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. He currently leads a band outside of church that has played at several churches in the Metroplex area. Contact Trey Smith at 936-524-2378 or dcsmitt242@hotmail.com.

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.

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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.