



# Central E-Link

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

**January 20, 2010**

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles/requests should be submitted to [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:susan@ctcumc.org).

Editor: Carolyn Stephens [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto:Carolyn@ctcumc.org)

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For worldwide news of our denomination click here! [www.umportal.org](http://www.umportal.org)

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## News Briefs — The Conference

### Updates on developments and responses to Haiti

The [www.umc.org/haiti](http://www.umc.org/haiti) website maintained by UM Communications provides all of the most up-to-date national and conference-wide news, blogs, video and audio stories from within the UMC. In addition, there are downloadable print ads that can be customized, web graphics and other resources available for communicating with your congregation and your community. UMs everywhere are invited to share a prayer for those affected by the Haiti earthquake. Visit the Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&ref=ts&gid=40517157677>) group [10thousanddoors.org](http://10thousanddoors.org) to lift up your praise or concern on the wall. If this tragedy has had an impact on you or your congregation in some personal way, you are invited to share your story by contacting Carolyn Stephens at [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto:Carolyn@ctcumc.org).

### Health Kits & Donations Needed for People of Haiti

UMCOR is asking for health kits (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/health-kit/>) and Laraine Waughtal, CTC disaster response coordinator, has arranged for drop off locations in each district. Kits must be delivered to the district locations by Feb. 4. See the conference website ([www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)) for more details on the health kit contents and for boxing and delivery instructions. "We learned today that UMCOR made an error on their website concerning the information about health kits," according to Laraine. "They still need the \$1 for the toothpaste (which can be placed in the health kit bag) but they also need \$1 to help with shipping costs. We are asking that individuals/churches please provide the \$1 for shipping per kit that they bring to the drop off site for their district. Please make out the check to UMCOR from your church for the number of kits you are providing and give this check to the drop off site coordinator in your district. They, in turn, will give it to our delivery people to take to Sager Brown. We apologize for the inconvenience of this change in instructions."

Brownwood District (2 sites)  
First UMC, Stephenville & First UMC, Early

Fort Worth District  
Saginaw UMC

Mid-Cities District  
First UMC, Arlington

Temple District (2 sites)  
Wellspring UMC, Georgetown & Salado UMC

Waco District  
Austin Avenue UMC, Waco

Waxahachie District  
First UMC, Waxahachie

Weatherford District  
First UMC, Weatherford

Laraine is asking churches to please pack their kits in boxes and mark the boxes with the number of kits in each box. The districts must bring their boxes to the central collecting point at First UMC, Hillsboro by **3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7**, to be transported immediately to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot. First Hillsboro will have someone available to accept and help unload the boxes on Friday (Feb. 5) from 9 a.m. – noon and Saturday (Feb. 6) from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### **Laraine Waughtal Responds to Questions About Forms of Response for Haiti**

As the crisis continues in Haiti many questions have arisen in relation to the difference between contributing to UMCOR for health kits and giving to the Advance #418325. We hope to clarify your questions that these are two different responses. The health kits are a specific gift that you can put together to help people to have their basic needs met who have been forced to live out on the streets due to the devastation. When you give to the advance, this money goes to Haiti in a variety of ways. In a statement given out by UMCOR today please read how our United Methodist contributions are making a difference. And, again, thank you all for your responses.

UMCOR STATEMENT: UMCOR is providing emergency grants to the Methodist Church in Haiti and GlobalMedic to address the needs of those affected by the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on Jan. 12. UMCOR is partnering with GlobalMedic to provide clean drinking water, treatment for severe diarrhea, and medical attention to those in need. UMCOR is also supporting GlobalMedic's response through the deployment of paramedics, water technicians, and a doctor to assist those sick or injured.

A hub for water distribution is also being set up to provide 65,000 people daily with clean drinking water. In addition, about 110,000 sachets of PUR water purifiers, five million Aquatab water purification tablets, and 110,000 oral rehydration sachets are being distributed to those who have been forced from their homes as a result of the earthquake.

UMCOR and GlobalMedic are working in partnership with local non-government organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations' network of relief organizations to coordinate response efforts and give aid to areas not receiving direct assistance.

Thanks to mission aircraft transportation services provided by Bahamas Methodist Habitat <http://www.methodisthabitat.org> (BMH), a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, UMCOR staff persons Melissa Crutchfield, international disaster response executive, and Edgar Avitia, a Global Ministries executive, arrived in the Dominican Republic over the weekend when all commercial airlines were sold out. Crutchfield and Avitia are assessing relief needs and coordinating relief distribution efforts with on-the-ground partners.

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is conducting 12 flights per day through its Fly-In & Help Out mission program, transporting much-needed medical supplies into and evacuating people out of Haiti for medical

assistance. Through this program, more than 10,000 pounds of emergency medical relief supplies have already been delivered to Haiti. Over three million people are in dire need of assistance in Haiti.

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

The CTC Committee on Disability Concerns will present again this year the Disability Education and Awareness Leadership (D.E.A.L.) grants to 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 is to be awarded to a student that has a handicapping condition and a second grant 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://ctsitesite.brickriver.com/pages/detail/894>.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:janet@ctcumc.org).

### **Jan. 29 deadline nearing for Video Licensing Renewals**

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](mailto: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 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 in order to implement this important ministry. For details on volunteering, please visit [www.texasramps.org](http://www.texasramps.org) or contact leadership at [info@texasramps.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:joyce@danbrownart.com).

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 21<sup>st</sup> century. For more details and to register, visit [www.texashealth.org/faithsummit](http://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](mailto:lauravanhoosier@texashealth.org), or 817-703-8432.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

#### **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](mailto: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](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](http://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](http://www.ctcumc.org).

### **Save the CTC's 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:cgraff@myfumc.org).

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## **News Briefs — The Denomination**

### **Funeral Arrangements for Deceased Relief Workers**

Arrangements have been made for services for both Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb with the following details:

Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Dixon Jr. – memorial services at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22  
Edenton Street UMC, 228 W. Edenton St., Raleigh, NC 27603-1714  
Cards/messages of condolence to Cindy Dixon and family  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1400, New York, NY 10115  
Memorial gifts: Haiti Relief Fund of UMCOR (Advance #418325 Dixon Memorial)

Rev. Clinton Rabb — funeral service at 12 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 23  
University UMC, 2409 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78705  
Cards/messages of condolence to Suzanne Rabb and family  
142 Amsterdam Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532  
Memorial gifts: Individual Volunteers Program, checks to GBGM (Advance #982465 Rabb Memorial in the memo line)

A memorial service for both Rabb and Dixon will be held at a later date in New York with details to follow. Please forward all email condolences to Klay Williams [kswilliams@gbgm-umc.org](mailto:kswilliams@gbgm-umc.org), who will be collecting these messages to be used in a forthcoming memorial board.

### **New Exec Head of Global Ministries**

A former missionary in Brazil, who has strong UM roots in his native Germany and broad ecumenical and international experience, has been chosen as the new chief executive of the denomination's General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). Layman Thomas Kemper, 53, will assume the position of GBGM general secretary March 15. He has led the Board of Missions & International Church Cooperation of the UM Germany Central Conference since 1998. He is also in his second four-year term as a director of GBGM, a 190-year-old organization with personnel, projects and mission partners in 136 countries. Kemper is the first general secretary of a UM general agency who is from outside the U.S. For more details, please visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5738381&ct=7820431&tr=y&auid=5829920>.

### **Peace with Justice Day Grants**

### ***Deadline to apply Feb. 12***

Feb. 12 is the deadline to apply for a Peace with Justice grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). Funding for this program is generated through the [Peace with Justice Special Sunday](#) offering of the UMC. One of six Special Sundays in the denomination, Peace with Justice “witnesses to God’s demands for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world.” Peace with Justice Sunday is May 30 in 2010. Peace with Justice grants are awarded annually. In 2009, \$52,805 was granted to 28 Peace with Justice ministries. Grant applicants must be either a UM or other affiliated organization, or an ecumenical group working with and through at least one UM agency or organization. For more details, please visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5738381&ct=7658239&tr=y&auid=5829926>.

### **Texas Faith & Food**

#### ***How Congregations Can Help Get Healthy Food to Those Who Need It the Most***

Texas Faith & Food, co-sponsored by Texas Impact and the Methodist Federation for Social Action, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at St. John’s UMC (2140 Allandale Road, Austin) to explore ways congregations can participate in summer food programs and address community food security issues. Speakers from the [Texas Department of Agriculture](#), local Summer Food Service Program sponsors and the [Sustainable Food Center](#) will be on hand to answer your questions and identify ways to support a healthy food system. Learn about the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), recent activities to reduce hunger and obesity, and community food security.

### **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](mailto:tallred@smu.edu) or 214-768-1480; Herbert Coleman, director of Recruitment and Admissions, at [hcoleman@smu.edu](mailto:hcoleman@smu.edu) or 214-768-2139; or visit the Perkins website at [www.smu.edu/perkins](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

### The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less

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](http://www.terryhershey.com). Free event, no registration required but you will have an opportunity to contribute to an honorarium for Hershey.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:luther@sbumc.org) or 817-483-1667) or Chauncey Nealy ([aldersgate1954@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

*Gifts of Hope: UMCOR in Darfur.* This DVD tells a story of lives transformed by the gift of hope through the UMCOR work in South Darfur. UMCOR helps people uprooted by conflict and struggling with a lack of resources work toward a better future. Contains one minute and five minute presentations as well as a PDF slide show.

### **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](mailto:Vicki@ctcumc.org).

### **Crime Victims Council Information at [www.crimevictimsCouncil.org](http://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](mailto:encouragement@crimevictimsCouncil.org).

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## **Needs, Resources, Opportunities**

**NOTE TO LISTERS: Please contact Carolyn Stephens at [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto:Carolyn@ctcumc.org) to pull your listing when your opening has been filled.**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [dcsmitty242@hotmail.com](mailto:dcsmitty242@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](mailto: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](mailto:Susan@ctcumc.org).*