



Central E-Link

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

January 26, 2011

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles and requests should be submitted to Carolyn@ctcumc.org by **12 noon Tuesday** in order to be e-mailed on Wednesday. Articles should be brief and include active links to websites or contact persons for details. To add a colleague or church member to *E-Link's* weekly distribution, send their addresses to susan@ctcumc.org. Editor: Carolyn Stephens Carolyn@ctcumc.org

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

News Briefs — The Conference

[E-Link to Skip a Week](#)

E-Link Editor Carolyn Stephens will be in a training conference next week, so the publication schedule will skip one week and resume on Wednesday, Feb. 9.

[Bishop Lowry Appoints Superintendents](#)

Statement by Bishop Mike Lowry: After prayer and deep thought, I am pleased to announce the following superintendent appointments effective at Annual Conference in June: North District – Dr. Virginia Bassford; South District – Rev. Rankin Koch; Central District – Rev. Don Scott; East District – Dr. Bob Holloway; West District – Rev. Carol Woods. In addition, I have asked Dr. Luther Henry to serve as a special consultant to myself and to the Cabinet on matters of inclusivity and diversity. He has graciously consented to do so, and will be a part of all Appointive Cabinet meetings. As we look to a new future implementing *The Exodus Project* alignment, there remains much work and deep changes before us. Throughout this process, I believe we must hold fast to the promise of the Lord: "For I know the plans I have for you, ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11).

[Congratulations to the Members of Burleson and Coleman FUMCs](#)

Renewing their official Certified Welcoming Congregation status are First UMC of Burleson and First UMC of Coleman. Both have already met all the requirements to become Certified Welcoming Congregations, but have continued to grow and meet higher standards in showing radical hospitality. Because the UMC places a high value on radical hospitality as a vital ministry, these two congregations and others in the conference that have achieved this status will continue to embrace newcomers and provide opportunities for discipleship through their welcoming style. For churches that are interested in improving their welcoming ministry, visit http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKMG/b.6375629/k.B30E/Welcoming_Certified_Churches.htm for the steps and qualifications for certification and www.umcom.org/rethinkchurch for Rethink Church information and resources.

[Get Ready NOW to "Change the World" — May 14-15](#)

Click here for Change the World video clips on YouTube:

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

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

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

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

One Church Is All A-Twitter

Check the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) for how Trietsch Memorial UMC in Flower Mound is utilizing new technology effectively in worship. It's not what you're probably thinking.

"How to Volunteer Like a Pro" Youth Ministry Volunteer Training — Jan. 29

This 4-hour session with author Jim Hancock will be foundational for your youth ministry volunteers. Anyone who works with youth is invited! His book will be available for sale at the event, but is not necessary to be read before the training. Hancock is a fantastic speaker with 20+ years in youth ministry. If you have a team of volunteers or you are the "volunteer" youth worker, you will learn much from this event! Saturday, Jan. 29, at Arborlawn UMC, 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person; discounts are available with groups of 10 or more. Fill out the registration form and fax, email or bring it on Saturday! Questions, please contact Joy Roberson (joy@ctcumc.org) or 817-877-5222. The Sunday session has been cancelled.

Midwinter Youth-Led Worship — Feb. 20

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

Youth 2011 <http://www.youth2011.org/> — July 13-17

This is a nationwide UM Youth Conference held every four years. "MORE THAN: You think you are ordinary? THINK AGAIN." It will be held July 13-17 at Purdue University OR July 27-31 in Sacramento, CA. Contact Joy Roberson at joy@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222 for information on a conference bus headed to Purdue University.

2 Corrections on the Cornerstone Garden Story

A story in last week's *Central Link* newspaper incorrectly credited Temple District Superintendent Rankin Koch with verifying a cornerstone that once marked the start of the Rockwood Methodist Church in the Brownwood District. In fact, it was Bob Weathers and his wife, Mary, who made a special trip to check on the Rockwood Methodist Church. Bob was superintendent of the Temple District at the time, and they found the hole in that church's facade that perfectly matched the size of the cornerstone that had been in the hands of the conference for a number of years. Not knowing what to do with the cornerstone, it rested just outside the back door of the conference office until someone decided to protect it by putting it in the boiler room. Today, it more appropriately rests in the Methodist Cornerstone Garden on the campus of Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. The second correction is about the St. John's cornerstone, which was from the St. John's church in Fort Worth rather than Waco.

Consider Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday

Purchasing Eco-Palms benefits the environment, empowers small-scale farmers and creates local jobs while helping rural communities prosper. The harvesting of Eco-Palms preserves the vitality of forests in places like Guatemala and lessens the risk of these forests from being converted into agricultural fields. Buying Eco-palms directly from the grower eliminates the need for a contractor and allows for more money to stay within harvesting communities. It also increases employment opportunities for women and helps them support their families.

Palm Sunday is April 17. Why not purchase your Eco-Palms today? Visit www.ecopalms.org for facts and purchase opportunities. The deadline for ordering Eco-Palms is late March. The UMC's UMCOR-SA&D, Advance #982188 (<http://list.gbgm-umc.org/t/1916706/83691/133/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3NiY3VyZS5nYmVtLXVtYy5vcmcvZG9uYXRpb25zL3VtY29yL2RvbmF0ZS5jZm0%2fY29kZT05ODIxODgmaWQ9MzAxOTAxNQ%3d%3d&x=04f18543>) supports small-scale farmers' sustainable agriculture and development.

Young People's Ministries of GBOD Webinar

At 3 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday, Jan. 27) a free, 45-minute webinar will be hosted by Young People's Ministries of the General Board of Discipleship as one way to enhance the effectiveness of young people's ministries in the church. While the live broadcast of the webinars is free, does ask that you register the first time at the online registration center

(<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/147329809>). After you register, you will automatically receive an invitation and access to subsequent live webinar broadcasts. You can request to discontinue receiving invitations at any time.

Jan. 27 Webinar: "What to Do When a Youth Says They Are Called to ministry: A True Story with Emily Echols. Click on <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/147329800%20> to register for the webinar.

Feb. 24 Webinar: "Creating Sacred Moments"

March 31 Webinar: "Investing Where It Counts"

VBS Streamed & Downloadable Training/Information

2011 VBS Preview Event Invitation — Jan. 28 & 29: Vacation Bible School products will be previewed and staff will be available to answer your questions from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Fort Worth Cokesbury Christian Store (6333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth 76116). RSVP to ftworth@cokesbury.com. Programs will be previewed and all VBS produces will be discounted 20%.

Cokesbury's 2011 VBS Showcase: Get information for choosing your church's VBS program in 2011. Get details on Bible stories, see decorating items, hear music, and get starter kit information for Cokesbury's Shake It Up Café, Abingdon Press' Island Odyssey, Concordia's Big Jungle Adventure, Gospel Light's SonSurf Beach Bash, Group's Hometown Nazareth and Pandamania, Standard's Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street, and Urban Ministries' Jesus Truth Seekers.

Streaming -

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

Download -

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

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

Streaming -

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

Download -

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

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

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=80045442&act=pb&rKey=f b57d9fb626c9f02>

Download -

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

Habitat Heroes Volunteer Appreciation Dinner — March 4

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

MidWinters at Austin Seminary — Jan. 31-Feb. 2

It's not too late to register for this year's MidWinters Jan. 31-Feb. 2 at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Presenters Timothy Tyson, Marcia Riggs and Michael Jenkins will discuss the promises and challenges of Christian life and ministry, and two worship services will be led by Agnes Norfleet. There's also something special planned for reunion classes. For details, visit <http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1012>.

Informal Opportunities for Adult Ministry Discussions — Feb. 14

Popular speaker Terry Hershey will be in the Central Texas area in mid-February for several events and has agreed to have an informal meeting over lunch with those who are interested in talking about adult education in their churches. Please contact Karen Granderson at Karen@ctcumc.org if you would like to join the group for lunch in the Arlington area Monday, Feb. 14. On Feb. 16 and 17, Carol Krau from the GBOD will be in Fort Worth to meet with the Adult Ministry/Adult Discipleship group. She would like to meet with several leaders face-to-face either on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, then lunch together on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. She would welcome questions about cutting-edge adult ministry, future trends, etc., but she also wants to hear from locals about what they are doing, what resources would be helpful from GBOD, and probably some other questions she will have. If you are interested in sharing with Carol and having an opportunity to learn from her, contact Karen@ctcumc.org. More details on both of these will follow on the website, in the *E-link*, and on the CTC Adult Ministries/Adult Discipleship group page on Facebook. Have you joined?

Faith Community Leadership Summit — Feb. 15

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

Imagine No Malaria District Meetings

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

Approaching Deadlines

Feb. 1 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.***

FREE MissionInsite Training — Feb. 3

MissionInsite, the next generation in mission context analysis, will be presented FREE from 9 to 11 a.m. Feb. 3 at First Hurst UMC's Fellowship Hall (521 W. Pipeline Road, Hurst 76053). A demonstration of this incredibly helpful demographics resource is being offered to local churches through the conference's office of Church Growth & Development. Email Vicki@ctcumc.org if you plan to attend. Feel free to check out MissionInsite at www.missioninsite.com. The pdf document attached to [last week's E-Link](#) will help you get signed in.

A Faith Conversation On Immigration

CTC United Methodist Women - Charter for Racial Justice Event - "Sing A Rainbow"

Feb. 5 at Burleson FUMC (590 NE McAlister Rd., Burleson)
9 a.m.- coffee/snacks/check-in, 10 a.m. program, 3 p.m. dismissal
Leaders Amy Spaur, Mary Beth Garcia and Judy Holloway
Lunch will be a covered dish. Child Care will be provided.
Please register so that we have the appropriate number of staff for the day.
Any questions? Contact Cynthia Rives at 254-968-5785

Tasting Diversity / Human Trafficking — Feb. 19

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

Make Your Music Matter More — Feb. 26

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

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

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

Task Force on Hunger Seeks 2011 Applicants

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

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

To download a flyer with details about the grant, for a two-week Bible study to accompany the *Thanksgiving* offering (*Hunger: The Enemy at the Table, A Bible Study on Hunger*), and an

application for the 2011 Hunger Ministry Grants, please visit the conference website at <http://ctcumc.org/pages/detail/902>. The application deadline is March 31.

News Briefs — The Denomination

Retired Bishop Marion Edwards Dead at 71

Retired UM Bishop Marion Edwards, 71, who served as episcopal leader of the denomination's North Carolina Conference from 1996-2004, died Jan. 24 at Columbus Hospice House in Columbus, Ga., after a battle with cancer. Funeral services are set for Saturday.

Higher Ed Board Names Yocom as Executive

The UM Board of Higher Education & Ministry's Division of Ordained Ministry has named Rev. Rena Yocom as its executive for clergy formation and theological education. Yocom, who currently serves as missiologist-in-residence and director of the course of study at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., accepted the position and will begin work on March 7. She has previously worked with the UM Board of Global Ministries and the Louisiana Annual Conference and was a vice president of the Higher Education & Ministry board of directors during the late '70s.

Faith Leaders Gather for Cleansing, Healing

Leaders of faith communities in Arizona gathered Jan. 24 at La Toscana Center—the site of the Jan. 8 shootings—for a service of cleansing and healing. Among the faith community leaders participating were UM Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, episcopal leader of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, and Rev. Cynthia Langston Kirk, also a UM. Other faith groups represented included Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal, Jewish, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Church of Christ. The event was not open to the public, but clergy from any faith in Tucson were invited to attend.

Heeding the Prophets About Health Care

In his blog, Jim Winkler (UMGBCS) says we should consider Ezekiel's warning: "You have not healed the sick ... but with force and harshness you have ruled them. Read: <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=6500913&ct=9033559&tr=y&aid=7635038>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Wade in the Water" Jurisdictional Clergywomen's Consultation — March 22-25

"Wade in the Water" is the quadrennial gathering for UM clergywomen held March 22-25 in New Orleans. Events will focus on sharing experiences and learning from one another about effective leadership and justice issues. The plenary speakers include Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson,

author of *God's Troublemakers: How Women of Faith are Changing the World*, and Lorenza Andrade Smith, an advocate for The DREAM Act; and a rare opportunity to dialogue with three women bishops: Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, and Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher. Workshop presenters will include talented South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) clergywomen as well as prominent women in leadership at various United Methodist agencies including GBOD, UMCOR, *Alive Now*, GCSRW, and GBHEM. Optional activities include tours highlighting the city post-Katrina, a tour of St. Mark's UMC/North Rampart Community Center, which Methodist women establish an innovative urban ministry, and opportunities for other outings and relaxation organized by the Louisiana host clergywomen. For more information or to explore scholarship information or register for the event, visit www.wadeinthewater.org and/or join the Facebook group "Wade in the Water with SCJ Clergywomen."

Georgia Harkness Scholarship Award

Students are encouraged to apply for the \$5,000 Georgia Harkness Scholarship. The Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry provides the Georgia Harkness Merit Awards to women seeing elder's ordination in the UMC in memory of the life and service of an outstanding teacher and theologian (1891-1974). This funding can be applied to tuition, fees, and room and board for the basic seminary degree leading to elder's ordination. Applications and required documents are due by **March 1**. The award is **not** available for undergraduate, D. Min., or Ph.D. work. Get application details at http://www.gbhem.org/site/c.lskSL3POLvF/b.3876391/k.2F17/Georgia_Harkness_Scholarship_Award.htm.

Renewing The "County Seat" Church — March 29-30

First UMC of Pine Bluff, Ark., will host this seminar which is designed to focus on specific strategies and proven methods to renew the county seat church — an exciting and continuing challenge. Participants will receive practical coaching on how to develop an effective strategy for implementing ministry back home. Who should attend: clergy, laity and staff from any "County Seat" congregation. Contact: Ann Cain at 870-535-0935 or acain@fumcpba.com.

Annual Funding Conference by Lewis Center — March 26

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

Ministers Week at Perkins School of Theology — Feb. 7-9

Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, will host Ministers Week Feb. 7-9 at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center on the SMU campus. "What's a Christian to Do? – Thinking Faithfully about War and Peace in Troubled Times" is the theme for this year's gathering. Registration, pricing, event details, and lodging information are available at www.smu.edu/perkins/publicprograms. For additional information, call 214-768-2251 or email AdvanceMinistry@smu.edu.

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

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

Empowering Young People as World Changing Disciples of Jesus Christ — July

July 13-17 on the campus of Purdue University, Indiana, and July 27-31 at the convention center in Sacramento, Calif. Find much more information by using the following links: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJZrZueO6WMM> and <http://www.youth2011.org>.

Mission Experiences Available for UM Youth in 2011

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

2011 Winter Pastors' School — Feb. 10-12

The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco offers the 2011 Winter Pastors' School Feb. 10-12 featuring Dr. Richard B. Hays, dean and George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

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

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

2011 Stalcup Lecture Features Dr. James Duke — Jan 29

Stalcup Lecture at Acton UMC will be held 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. with Dr. James Duke will be speaking on "Passages: Historic Turning Points in Christian Bible Reading." Duke is professor of the History of Christianity & the History of Christ Thought at Brite Divinity School. The cost of the Lecture is \$20, which includes a light lunch. Registration forms are available at <http://www.actonumc.org/>. Childcare is available, if requested. For more information, please contact Margaret Sutton at 817-579-8279.

"Let Prayer Change Your Life" Workshop — Jan. 29

Arlington Height UMC (4200 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth 76107) is hosting the "Let Prayer Change Your Life" workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 29 with author and motivational speaker Becky Tirabassi. She is the founder of a multi-media company dedicated to encouraging people to change their lives daily and keep the change. For more information and to register, please click on <http://dayofprayerfw.blogspot.com>.

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

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

Taize Evening Prayers — Feb. 13

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

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

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

First Ennis Celebrates 60th Anniversary — Jan. 30

First UMC of Ennis will celebrate the church's 60th anniversary with a Diamond Jubilee Service at 11 a.m. Jan. 30. Bishop J. Michael Lowry will be speaking and there will be a pot-luck lunch following the service. All former pastors, members and friends are invited to help celebrate this milestone. Questions? Contact Becky Wilbanks at 972-875-7491 or fumcennis@sbcglobal.net. Or visit www.fumcennis.org.

Ed Kilbourne Joins Worship at 2 Hurst Churches — Jan. 30

Ed Kilbourne, well known for having performed at many conference area churches and jurisdictional events, will be at First Hurst and St. Paul UMCs on Sunday, Jan. 30. Kilbourne is a singer, storyteller and folk theologian known for his collections of moving music, quirky humor and insightful monologues, who will be in the area as part of the Clergy Days Apart program. His will be featured in the morning worship services at First Hurst, at St. Paul, his brother Kent's church, at 1 p.m. and then return to First Hurst for a full concert at 7 p.m.

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

There's still room for clergy and laity at the Feb. 11-12 Discover God's Call retreat at Covenant UMC, Arlington. This is an excellent retreat for Walk to Emmaus pilgrims who would like to go further down the road with the Lord, or for those who want to effectively serve their church by tapping into their God-given gifts. Discover God's Call is primarily a lay-led experience. The "pump is primed" with a personal home Bible study and then the retreat itself begins. We will focus on the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall. There will also be small group time with friendly, perceptive leaders; sharing of personal progress; testimonies from previous DGC attendees; fellowship, meals and energizing worship with other committed Christians. You will be made alive by discovering your spiritual gifts and God's call to use these gifts in your own ministry through the presence of the Holy Spirit. To register, visit the North Texas DGC website at <http://www.facebook.com/l/b8443PPpaECWHLkA-tM-B3paM2Q;www.dgcncx.org/wordpress>.

Depression Connection: Understanding, Help and Hope

When suffering from depression, bipolar or a related disorder, learn what helps and what hurts. Research confirms that people who participate in regular support groups often experience a better quality of life and a greater likelihood of recovery from the symptoms of depression, anxiety disorder and bipolar disorder. Depression Connection support group meets Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 4 of the Heritage Campus of First UMC Grapevine (4344 Heritage Ave.). The group is structured to include approximately 10 individuals and a licensed, trained facilitator. In addition to an opportunity to communicate about one's individual concerns, an educational component is included in each meeting. Questions about Depression Connection? Contact Katherine Hunter at 817-481-2559 x130 or katherineh@fumcg.org.

Career Transition Support Group at First Hurst

NETworkers is a career transition support group at First UMC Hurst for those who are unemployed and actively looking for jobs. NETworkers meets in the church parlor every Monday for about 1 ½ hours beginning at 9 a.m. Knowing that unemployment is such a difficult situation, the church wants to do something to offer emotional support as well as practical tips for social networking, resume writing, etc. They often have guest speakers. Contact: Sandra Hill at 817-282-7384 ext. 17.

Let Prayer Change Your Life Workshop — Jan. 29

Becky Tirabassi, a best-selling author and motivational speaker whose call in life is to encourage people of all stages and ages to change their lives for the better, will conduct this prayer workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Arlington Heights UMC (4200 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth). The event will be hosted by a team of community volunteers lead by Deborah Jung, a long-time fan of Tirabassi's work and founder and executive Director of Kids Who Care. Through Tirabassi's own challenges, victories and fulfillment of outrageous dreams, she inspires men and women of all ages and backgrounds to believe that they can do the same. She has conquered alcohol, drugs, anger, weight issues and unresolved resentment; and she has experienced success in marriage and parenting. Tirabassi's personal quest for change began at age 21, when she realized she was an alcoholic. Soon after, she made the decision to spend one hour per day for the rest of her life in prayer and Bible study, and she has kept this personal promise to herself for 26 years now. The cost is \$35 (bring a brown bag lunch) or \$45 (boxed lunch provided). A special discount is available for groups of 10 or more at \$30 each (no lunch provided) or \$40 each (boxed lunch provided). For out of town attendees, special hotel rates are available for reservations made by Jan. 8. To register or for more information, call the event hotline hosted by Kids Who Care at 817-737-5437 or go to <http://dayofprayerfw.blogspot.com/>.

Save This Date — March 26, 2011

Keller First UMC (1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248) will host *Worship Workshop Live! With Marcia McFee* from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26. Early bird special fee until March 21 is \$25 per person, \$20 per person with 3 or more registering together from the same church. After March 21 - \$30 per person. For more information, contact Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org or 817-431-1332.

Resources

Helpful Links for Church Leaders

- **Central Texas Conference:** (www.ctcumc.org) features and other content changes daily
- **InfoServ:** (<http://infoserv.umc.org>)
- **UM Reporter Interactive:** (www.umportal.org)
- **United Methodist News Service:**

(http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355375/k.FA13/UMNS_News.htm)

UMNS on Facebook:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=ifITKWNrGalKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLLeKYLpl&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

United Methodist Reporter Online: www.umportal.org

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

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

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

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

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

UM Global Health Initiative:

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

How to Use UMC's TechShop

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

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

Church Demographics

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

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

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

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.

Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World. DVD 117 minutes. Step into 18th Century England and experience the transformation of one man whose heart-wrenching search for peace haunts him even as he pours himself into a life of service and evangelism. Wesley's fascinating spiritual struggle is presented in this award-winning feature film based on John's own private journals. Includes bonus features: behind the scenes; creating relationships; improv and bloopers; director's commentary and trailer.

Crime Victims Council Information at www.crimevictimsCouncil.org

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

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Director of Student Ministries

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

Youth Minister

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

Part-time Organist/Accompanist

St. John's UMC in Georgetown seeks a part-time organist to share organ and piano duties for Sunday morning worship services, weekly rehearsals, and special events with current organist. Salary is negotiable depending on education and experience and is based on 7.5 hours per week. Contact Justin Langford at justin@stjohnsumc.cc, 512-863-5886, or 311 E. University Dr, Georgetown 78626.

Children's Ministry Director

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

Youth Ministry Director

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

Secretary/AdMin Position Sought

Lisa Meek, formerly administrative assistant to Don Scroggs at FUMC Brownwood, has moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and seeks a secretary or administrative assistant position in a local church. She can be contacted at kaseykaye59@yahoo.com.

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

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

Youth Ministry Intern

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

Youth Ministry Worship Leader

First UMC of Fort Worth seeks to hire a part time worship leader for its Youth Ministry. Responsibilities include leading youth worship on Sunday mornings with our youth band, holding weekly practices, and managing the stage and equipment. Additional responsibilities may include special events, going on trips, etc. If you are interested, please send your resume to bfrenzel@myfumc.org or to Brandon Frenzel, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth, TX 76102.

P-T Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC, Mineral Wells seeks a spiritually mature, dedicated Christian with a heart to make young disciples of Jesus Christ. Experience with youth ministry is preferred along with good

communication and relationship building skills. A good understanding of Methodist doctrine is helpful. Will be responsible to plan/coordinate activities for 7 – 12 graders, including weekly Bible study, Sunday school, youth fellowship, fundraisers, and annual mission trips. Salary \$1250 per month. Send resume to: FUMC, PO Box 1466, Mineral Wells, TX 76068 or contact church office at 940-325-4707 for more details.

Musician

Experienced Methodist Musician looking for a musician position at a church in the greater DFW area. Accomplished choral conductor and worship leader in Praise Band. Member of Community of Hope UMC, Mansfield, Joe Carmichael - reference. Bachelor/Master of Music in choral conducting, voice and Jazz piano from University of North Texas. Janice Kilgore, 972-291-9130 JKKmusik@aol.com.

Church Coordinator/Secretary

Experienced church worker recently moved to the Fort Worth area and is looking for a church coordinator/secretary position. Contact: Katherine Ferdinandsen at katterdinandsen@yahoo.com.

25-Passenger Van for Sale

Early FUMC has a 25-passenger bus for sale — '95 Ford 350 power stroke diesel with 102,000 miles on it. Contact the church office at earlyfumc@gmail.com for more details. Asking \$6000.

2 P-T Positions at St. Luke, Killeen

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

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

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

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

Director of Youth Ministries

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

If you know someone in your church, district or even outside the Central Texas Conference who might appreciate receiving this weekly electronic newsletter — or to unsubscribe your own listing — please contact Susan Briles at Susan@ctcumc.org.