



Central E-Link

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

January 27, 2010

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

Editor: Carolyn Stephens Carolyn@ctcumc.org

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

News Briefs — The Conference

SPECIAL ALERT to Prospective Mission Volunteers for Haiti

UMCOR is still not ready to send medical or relief teams to Haiti, but is collecting names for a registry of medical Volunteers in Mission from the South Central Jurisdiction. GBGM/UMCOR is in the process of putting up a website so it is possible to register on line to be invited to be a part of the early medical recovery of Haiti. The address will be www.umrespond.org — they are working to get it up and going by the first of next week. Please check the site early next week.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is requesting physicians of specific specialties to deploy with the National Disaster Medical Assistance teams to Haiti. The need is for trauma surgeons, orthopedists, anesthesiologists, and others with experience in treating crush injuries. Volunteers must be able to serve for at least 2 weeks, and be willing to live and work in spartan conditions. Preference will be given to physicians who are Creole or French speaking, and to those currently credentialed through the Medical Reserve Corps in their home state, or the ESAR-VHP program (Emergency Services Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Personnel). These volunteers will need to be credentialed as temporary federal employees and will need to be able to provide credentialing paperwork as soon as asked. Credentialing normally takes about a week. Volunteers with these clinical skills should contact Michala Koch at Michala.Koch@hhs.gov. Not everyone who wishes to help will necessarily be deployed, and those without the requisite skills may not receive a direct response.

For medical professionals wishing to help in this way in future relief efforts, please take a few minutes to learn about the Medical Reserve Corps, identify your local unit, and register to become part of the corps. To do so, visit www.medicalreservecorps.gov. This is the channel through which medical volunteers are deployed immediately following an event, and only those registered beforehand are likely to be deployed. Thank you for your service!

For updates on developments and responses to Haiti ...

Please continue to access the www.umc.org/haiti website maintained by UM Communications for 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 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.

Health Kits & Donations Needed for People of Haiti

UMCOR is asking for health kits (<http://new.gbmg-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) 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.

Jan. 29 Deadline Nearing for Video Licensing Renewals

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

UMW Racial Justice Event Features 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.

VBS Previews Offer 20% Discount to Central Texas Churches

Joyce Brown, Cokesbury curriculum consultant, will offer four hands-on previews of Cokesbury's 2010 Vacation Bible School Curriculum—GALACTIC BLAST: A COSMIC ADVENTURE PRAISING GOD!

A 20% discount will be given on all VBS resources ordered at these events. Dates are listed below. For more details contact Joyce Brown at 817-249-2526 or joyce@danbrownart.com.

Jan. 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.*

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.

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

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

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. To register on-line go to <http://www.heartspringmethodist.org/about-us/2010-tax-seminars-ctmf.html>.

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.

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

The Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner meeting, where outreach ministries and the churches that help to support them are honored, will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, at Round Up Inn, Fort Worth. The dinner cost is \$15/person with reservations by Feb. 22. The Metro Board is motivated by

Christ's love with a mission to resource and fund ministries that respond to human need. For reservations and more details, contact the Metro Board office at 817-569-1454 or metroboard-umc@sbcglobal.net.

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

This annual event will be held Feb. 26-28 at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose with the classes offered being those that receive the most interest during the registration processes. 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.

Marriage Course Offered at Texas Wesleyan — March 6

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

Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation — March 7-12

The Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be held at The Prothro Center at Lake Texoma March 7-12. Dr. Elaine Robinson, dean of Saint Paul School of Theology-Oklahoma City, and Dr. Doug Skinner, senior minister of Northway Christian Church-Dallas, are the faculty presenters. The theme of the retreat is "Markings: Following a path prepared by others... preparing a path for others to follow." For more information, a brochure is located at www.ctcumc.org under Spiritual Growth Ministries, or contact Lindsay D. Churchman at ldchurchman@sbcglobal.net, [http://ntconsole.brickriver.com/files/oFiles Library XZXLCZ/2010 Five Day Academy Brochure 2 doc I6HWVB9H.pdf](http://ntconsole.brickriver.com/files/oFiles%20Library%20XZXLCZ/2010%20Five%20Day%20Academy%20Brochure%20doc%20I6HWVB9H.pdf).

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://cts.site.brickriver.com/pages/detail/894>.

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.

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.

UMVIM Team Leader Training — April 24

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

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

Volunteers needed for the Texas Ramp Project

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

Faithfully Fit Forever Leader Training — April 24

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

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

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

Red Bird Mission Trip — Oct. 3-9

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

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

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

Reminder: You Can Contribute to the Alignment Task Force

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

Suicide Survivors — Open Enrollment

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

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

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News Briefs — The Denomination

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 — Feb. 11

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 or 214-768-1480; Herbert Coleman, director of Recruitment and Admissions, at hcoleman@smu.edu or 214-768-2139; or visit the Perkins website at www.smu.edu/perkins.

Deadline Extended to Feb. 15 for Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internships

The deadline to apply for a 2010 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in Washington, D.C., has been extended to Feb. 15. The EYA program is for young adults, ages 18-22, interested in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy and social change. Openings remain for applicants of Hispanic American, Native American and Pacific Islander ethnicity. Sponsored by the UM Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group (IESDG) and administered by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), interns will work in social justice placements in the U.S. capital from May 30 to July 31. IESDG is a coalition of the denomination's five racial/ethnic minority caucuses: Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans (MARCHA), the Native American International Caucus (NAIC), the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM), and the Pacific Islander National Caucus of United Methodists (PINCUM). Interns will live in Christian community. Work placements will be supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of social justice concern, area field trips and Sunday worship in area United Methodist churches. Participants must commit to participating in these activities. The intern group will experience the rich diversity of The United Methodist Church by visiting a different congregation each Sunday. Congregations will reflect diversity in worship style as well as ethnicity.

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

2010 Funding Conference Scheduled for March 20

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

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

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

Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21

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

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News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

13-Week Financial Peace University Series at Arborlawn — Begins Jan. 31

"What could we do for the Kingdom of God if we were all out of debt?" -- Dave Ramsey

If it's time to get your finances in order, you can do that in a non-threatening Christian environment. The spring Financial Peace University class will begin on January 31, 2010. The Financial Peace University, a 13-week course in personal finances taught on video by Dave Ramsey, begins Jan. 31 at Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth. The topics include: how and why we should save; how to develop a realistic zero-based budget you can actually stick with; paying off debt using the "debt snowball" method; how to save for retirement and college education; dealing with credit reports, credit bureaus and collection agencies; appropriate insurance coverage; how the product of credit is marketed to our culture; getting really big bargains; real estate and mortgages; and charitable giving. Participants must purchase a kit (\$119) online at www.daveramsey.com prior to the first class. Scholarships are available if needed. And the price of the kit allows you to have a lifetime membership in FPU. Please contact Reena Pearson at 817-455-7765 or reena@hiwaay.net for more details.

Community Invited to Elvis Gospel Concert — Jan. 31

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

Listening to Divorce — Tuesdays through Feb. 2

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

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

This series, which is free and open to the public, focuses on understanding what happened in the relationship, healing from the traumas, and learning what we need to learn from the past so we can feel more ready to move into the future. Over the past five years many have commented that the information and perspectives have helped them turn deep pain into a significant opportunity for personal growth.

Donations are accepted to defray costs. Childcare is available. For more information, contact Marianne Wilson at mwilson@myfumc.org or 817-339-5071.

28 Days to the Intended Lifestyle — Feb. 4

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

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

“Father Can You Hear Me?” will be performed at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6th, at St. Barnabas UMC (5011 W. Pleasant Ridge, Arlington 76016-6220) with tickets (\$20) available at the door. The drama is a new gospel stage play presented by Special K’s Special T’s, LLC Productions, written and co-directed by Ka’Mili Grayson, and directed by Eric Beasley. The evening benefit will include an auction, liturgical dance and more. For details, please contact Luther Henry (luther@sbumc.org or 817-483-1667) or Chauncey Nealy (aldersgate1954@sbcglobal.net or 17-274-0116).

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

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

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

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

Prayer Retreat at Campus Drive — Feb. 13

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

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

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

Sunday:

Preaching in the Sanctuary at 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Lecture in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.

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

Monday:

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

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

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

African-American History Month Generosity Summit — Feb. 27

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

Conference UMs Heading to Holy Land — June 8

Join the “Holy Land Trip hosted by Steve Lallier.” Steve is a lay leader for the Adult Singles Class at Whites Chapel UMC in Southlake and is returning to Israel with friends across the conference. There is still time to join this group for the trip of a lifetime. It is a guided tour via Educational Opportunities. For more details, visit <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com>. Watch a movie of the trip at [http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/videos/Educational Opportunities Tours Holy Land Classic.wmv](http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/videos/Educational%20Opportunities%20Tours%20Holy%20Land%20Classic.wmv) and download a brochure with itinerary and prices now at http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/userfiles/brochures/hl10-a_classic.pdf. On Facebook, search for “Holy-Land-Trip-hosted-by-Steve-Lallier” at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Holy-Land-Trip-hosted-by-Steve-Lallier/182549819235?ref=ts>. Interested? Contact Steve Lallier at 817-424-5704, 214-912-1979 or email BigBandLdr@aol.com.

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Resources

Proven Resources for the Local Church

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

ATTN: Pastors/Stephen Ministers Can Help Cancer Patients

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

Conference Resource Center

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

The Patriarchs: Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Beth Moore. 11 sessions DVD kit. Explore such concepts as blessing, covenant, and promise. Get to know the individuals and families God used to implement his redemptive plan. See a perfect and holy God endure in His relationship with man at his best, and at his weakest and worst. This study of Genesis 12-50 is full of twists and turns, ruin and redemption, revelation and mystery.

Church Demographics

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

Crime Victims Council Information at www.crimevictimsCouncil.org

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

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Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Director of the Learning Tree Preschool

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

Organist/Pianist

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

Community Center Program Coordinator

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

Director of Recreation

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

Baby Cribs

Edge Park UMC is in need of some baby cribs for their expanding nursery. Please contact Lynn Moore,

pastor, if you have extras to share! ldmoore74@att.net or 817-293-5140.

Assistant Pastor/Focus on Youth & Missions

First UMC in Breckenridge seeks an enthusiastic person to further develop, organize, and lead a comprehensive youth ministry with a breadth of perspective and balance of ministry. This will include leading and involving the youth in the *Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry*. There is also opportunity to assist and lead in worship and other areas of pastoral ministry as desired and time allows.

Hours: 24 hours per week. Some planning and writing may be done off premises. *Compensation includes:* Salary, contribution to UM Pension program, reimbursement for reasonable expenses and cell phone to a certain amount and monies for continuing education. Sick leave, holidays and vacation according to office staff policy. For more information or to express interest contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 West Walker, Breckenridge, Texas 76424. E-mail: pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

Volunteers Needed

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

2010 Census Workers

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

Adult Retreat Center Coordinator

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

Choir Director

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

Youth Director

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

Small Upright Piano Needs Church Home

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

Lead Teacher

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

Part-time Pianist

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

Part-time Post Contemporary Music Worship Leader

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

Contemporary Worship Leader Seeks Position

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

Youth Minister

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

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