



Central E-Link

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

January 5, 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

Greetings for the New Year

We wish for all our *E-Link* readers a happy, healthy New Year and remind you that *E-Link* is here to serve you. Share information about your events and activities with others. Just send your brief message to Carolyn@ctcumc.org by noon Tuesday for the Wednesday e-newsletter.

A Message from CTC Treasurer Harvey Ozmer

As 2011 gets underway, the new Pastor's Support and Compensation forms have been received, the data has been entered and now the new Pension and Comprehensive Protection Plan (C.P.P) billing for the January 2011 statement has been prepared. Persons involved in the plans should receive that billing statement soon. Two reminders:

- (1) Clergy Pension billing amounts have changed. We trust that you have adjusted your local church budget according to the new formula for all enrolled clergy. On your statement, you will see one amount for the 2 components of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP).
- (2) C.P.P. (Comprehensive Protection Plan). In prior years, every local church received an apportioned amount for C.P.P. This amount was a segment of the Conference Claimants apportionment. Beginning January 2011, C.P.P. was removed from the apportionments and is direct billed to local churches whose pastor(s) is an eligible participant in the plan. Therefore, some local churches will not be billed C.P.P. at all, while others will be billed at 3.1 percent of Plan Compensation.

If you have questions after receiving your statement, please contact our conference benefits administrator Shawn-Marie Riley or conference benefits officer Harvey Ozmer, both at 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622.

Checkout Details for Church Leaders You Won't Want to Miss

CF&A has checkout information you will need in order to successfully complete checkout on time. The statistical reporting system can be accessed by going to the GCFA site at eagle.gcfa.org. Notice that there is no www in front of the web address. Please don't wait until the last minute to begin — start early. Your log-in information should be the same as the one you created last year. If you did not have a login last year or you have forgotten what it is, you can contact the checkout volunteers, your district office or the conference office to get your passwords.

Checkout will be Jan. 7-20. Please note that at midnight on Jan. 21, the tables will be locked for editing. If a church has not completed their tables, they will need to contact the

volunteers, the district office, or the conference office to have them unlocked. In the interest of providing the best possible service to churches filling out their forms, please contact the following for help first before contacting the district and conference offices. These individuals have been equipped to assist with most questions that you may have.

John Dirk | john@woodwayfumc.org | 817-929-5694

Bob Rainey | bobrainey@sbcglobal.net | 254-479-0241

Gary Torian | umcpastor@brazosnet.com | 940-564-2869

Linda Smith | wfumc@woodwayfumc.org | 254-751-0411

If the volunteers are not able to assist you, you can contact the district or conference office.

In Praise of Our CTC Youth!

Marianne Brown (17), president of the CTC Student Leadership Team, won \$5,000 for her school (Arlington High School) by submitting a winning essay to the NBC Dallas-Fort Worth Homeroom Reformers competition. "We have received hundred of excellent ideas, but Marianne's essay proved to be the most game changing for her school," read the announcement. Read her essay at <http://www.nbcdfw.com/brchannel/103729934.html>.

Stefanie Schutz (17), a member of Wellspring UMC in Georgetown a youth representative on the UMC's Connectional Table, was among those nominated for the *UM Reporter's* United Methodist of the Year. The award went to two outstanding men: "For the courageous service to the poorest of God's children that cost them their lives, Rev. Sam Dixon and Rev. Clinton Rabb posthumously share the distinction of being our 2010 United Methodists of the Year. 'They literally gave their lives in the cause of improving human living conditions,' said Thomas Kemper, top executive of the denomination's General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). Both men died of injuries suffered after being buried in the rubble of a collapsed hotel following the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti." Read about the honorees and Stefanie at <http://www.umportal.org/article.asp?id=7478>.

A Message from Bishop Lowry:

I'm hosting a meeting at noon today (Wednesday, Jan. 5) at Arlington Heights UMC to visit about the trip I will be hosting to England this summer. A light lunch will be served, and we'll conclude by 1:30 pm. Jolynn and I would like to invite you to join us for 9 incredible days exploring John Wesley's England. I have become even more certain that it is vital that we better understand the Wesleyan way of faith development so that we might more effectively become the church that God calls us to be in the 21st century. The trip departs Dallas/Fort Worth on July 13. The basic price of the tour is \$2,698 plus the usual tips, taxes, etc. If you have any questions, contact Scott Youngblood, who is serving at the project coordinator, at 817-274-1345 or office@trinityarlington.org. You may also go online to view the details on the trip at www.eo.travelwithus.com/find_trip. The tour number is HE11; code is 071311L. RSVP to yngbld0223@yahoo.com so that we might have a head count for lunch.

CTCYM Group Registration Closes Thursday, Jan. 6

Group registration for CTC churches planning to join a 2011 CTCYM mission project closes on Thursday. Registration brochures and forms were sent to every church in October. Leaders can also download a registration form at www.ctcym.org. To register, a \$150 deposit per trip and registration form must be postmarked no later Thursday, Jan. 6. Once a group is registered, leaders will receive more detailed instructions for the individual registration process. Groups will not be able to register after Thursday, Jan. 6. Online registration for individual participants will open Thursday, Jan. 13.

Jeff Jones Speaks to Youth About Missions — Jan. 8

First UMC Grandview (300 S. 4th St., Grandview) invites area **youth** to hear CTC Director of Youth in Missions Jeff Jones at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, talk about missions and youth. Special music will be presented by DeDe Jones, director of music at St. Andrews UMC, Arlington. Join the Saturday gathering for food and fellowship following the service of praise and worship. For more information, contact the church office at 817-866-3636.

Next Haiti Mission Trip Planning Meeting — Jan. 17

Laraine Waughtal, conference coordinator for Disaster Response and pastor at Buff Dale and Morgan Mill UMCs, will be leading a mission trip to Haiti Oct. 5-13. Anyone interested or think they are interested or would like to support the group is welcome to attend the preliminary planning meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, at Morgan Mill. Details of what to expect, approximate costs, what to bring and other information will be given discussed. Questions? Contact Waughtal at 254-595-1503.

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. Please email Vicki@ctcumc.org if you plan to attend. Feel free to check out MissionInsite at www.missioninsite.com. The pdf document attached to 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

Safe Sanctuaries Training — Restarts January 2011

The CTC online Safe Sanctuaries course will be available again **beginning Jan. 10**. If you or someone in your church is interested in completing their Safe Sanctuaries training in this format, contact Karen Granderson, 817-877-5222, 1-800-460-8622, or karen@ctcumc.org.

CyberSafety for Families

There is a new resource kit to assist local churches in providing Safe Sanctuaries training for leaders, teachers and others in their congregations. It includes everything needed for training parents and other concerned adults about ways to keep children and teens safe online. The kit is on DVD (Mac and PC compatible) with a planning guide, teaching plans with schedule options, handouts and a slide presentation. Paul O'Briant, creator of this kit, is an active church member who has combined his love for God's people and his passion for new technologies into the work of CyberSafety for churches. Available at Cokesbury stores or at www.cokesbury.com or check out a copy from our Conference Resource Center by contacting Carol Roszell (817-877-5222 or carol@ctcumc.org). For more information about Safe Sanctuaries, contact Karen Granderson (karen@ctcumc.org).

Christian Educator's Fellowship Gathering — Jan. 27

12 noon – 2 p.m. at FUMC-Hurst

The Changing Face of Christian Education - Dr. Susanne Johnson

Calling all Christian educators, volunteers, staff, clergy, lay, children, youth, and adult ministries. It is time to re-establish the connection and re-birth the CTC's Christian Educator's Fellowship Chapter with this time of fellowship, lunch, and a thought-provoking presentation and discussion led by Dr. Susanne Johnson, professor of Christian education at Perkins and author of "Christian Spiritual Formation in the Church and Classroom." The new chapter goal is to meet three times a

year: January, at Annual Conference, and September. The cost for lunch is \$8. Please send reservation to Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org no later than Thursday, Jan. 20. Make your New Year's resolution to reconnect!

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

If you are looking for an event to help you refresh and renew your children's ministry and build disciples, this one has a lot to offer. Go to http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.6367321/k.5C5D/Childrens_Ministry_Forum.htm for all the details. 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 also provided on the conference website at www.ctcumc.org.

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.

2011 Clergy Day Apart: Yearning for Spring — Feb. 1-2

The 2011 Clergy Time Apart features Dr. Elaine A. Health, the McCreless associate professor of Evangelism at Perkins School of Theology and director of the Center for Missional Wisdom at SMU, who will lead 3 sessions as keynote speaker as well as preach at the closing worship service. Several CTC clergy will lead various workshops. The time apart will be held Feb. 1-2 at Summers Mill Retreat & Conference Center (1991 Stagecoach Road/IH 35 N) in Salado, with free time on Tuesday evening to relax, share, fellowship and community building. Accommodations are for single room, double room, clergy couple and commuter rate. This event is open to all ordained, commissioned and/or licensed and appointed clergy. For a brochure and online registration, please click on the "Clergy Growth Opportunities" banner in the lower right quadrant of the conference website (www.ctcumc.org).

"Renew" for Clergy and Their Spouses —Feb. 1-3 (Jan. 10 registration deadline)

UM clergy and their spouses have been attending Soderquist Center for Leadership & Ethics' **Renew** sessions since 2003. Renew provides two rare and precious gifts: time and space. For the next Renew in the CTC area, Feb. 1-3 at Inn on Lake Granbury, there will be time to rest, talk together and reflect, and space to be away from the pace of daily routine. This experience, a donated gift, is open free of charge to both married active clergy and their spouses. The only cost to participants is travel to and from the event. For more details and to register, please contact Susan Briles at Susan@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222.

One Great Day of Mission! — Feb. 26

The clergy and laity of the Weatherford district will be working across the district — from Young to Somervell Counties in five different mission areas — from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. The goal is to get every pastor and at least 2 lay persons from every church involved in hands-on mission to the communities — both large and small. Bishop Lowry will be leading in Communion for the closing worship that day. Host congregations are located in Springtown, Graham, Mineral Wells, Cleburne and Glen Rose.

News Briefs — The Denomination

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.

- Joseph L. Allen, Professor *Emeritus* of Ethics at Perkins, will present the opening lecture, “Onward, Christian Soldiers? Christian Thinking on War and Peace.”
- Miguel De La Torre, Professor of Social Ethics at Iliff School of Theology in Denver will present the Barton Lecture, “The Consequences of U.S. Wars in Latin America for Hispanics.”
- Nicole L. Johnson, Assistant Professor, Philosophy & Religious Studies at the University of Mount Union in Ohio will present the Women’s Lecture, “War, Nonviolence and Methodist Doctrine.”
- Laura J. Bender, Command Chaplain, USS *New York* will present the Martin Lecture, “Military Ministry: Religion, Conflict, and the Realities of War.”
- Robin W. Lovin, Cary Maguire University Professor of Ethics at SMU will present the Faculty Lecture, “Shaping the Emerging Global Order: Christianity, War, and the Nation-State.”
- The Fondren Lectures, “Dialogues on War and Peace,” feature four eminent theologians, including: J. Philip Wogaman, Professor *Emeritus* of Christian Ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; Glen Harold Strassen, Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in California; D. Stephen Long, Professor of Systematic Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Kevin M. Carnahan, Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Religion at Central Methodist University in Missouri.

Registration, pricing, event details, and lodging information are available at smu.edu/perkins/publicprograms. For additional information, call 214-768-2251 or email AdvanceMinistry@smu.edu.

Eight Centuries of the Bible in Translation Exhibit — Feb. 1

Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology on the campus of Southern Methodist University announces the opening of an exhibition, “Eight Centuries of the Bible in Translation,” Feb. 1. This exhibition of 60 Bibles from Bridwell Library’s Special Collections traces the enduring effort, despite resistance on many fronts, to translate the Bible into the world’s native languages. Dating from the thirteenth century to the early twentieth century, the exhibited Bibles represent 55 different languages from five continents.

ABC Video Clips Celebrates Funds Raised for Nothing But Nets

Click on this link <http://saveone.net/#866953/Nothing-But-Nets-Mandy-Moore-and-a-young-girl-raise-money-for-bed> for an ABC-TV video clip with Mandy Moore celebrating how one young UM student who is raising funds to prevent malaria with bed nets. For more information, go to www.nothingbutnets.org.

Social Media Feeds

Staying connected has never been easier than with the UMC’s social media feeds — Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and RSS feeds. Click here to start your connections: http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.2744505/k.424C/Social_Networking_and_RSS_Feeds.htm.

UMs Mourn Passing of Bishop Ammons

Retired UM Bishop Edsel A. Ammons, who helped lead the church during the transitional time of integration, died Dec. 24 in Evanston, Ill., after a lengthy illness. He was 86. Ammons was a professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary when he became one of the first African-American bishops elected to the episcopacy by the denomination’s North Central Jurisdiction in 1976. He served the Michigan Area until 1984. He then served as bishop of the West Ohio Area until his retirement in 1992.

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>.

Small Church Leadership Institute — March 20-24

Equipping Laity & Pastors with the Knowledge and Skills for leading their small attendance church into future at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center, Fayetteville, Ark., March 20-24. Register at: www.mountsequoyah.org.

Opportunity for Self-directed Study

UM lay leaders and pastors will have three unique opportunities for a week of self-directed study, worship and prayer during 2011 at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) Learning Center and the adjacent Vanderbilt University Divinity School campus. Called Leave for Leaders, the sessions are designed to give leaders time to breathe, to reflect and to seek God's call for their life and ministry. Times for the three sessions—Jan. 31-Feb. 4, April 25-29 and Oct. 24-28—were selected to avoid traditionally busy times on the church calendar. For more information, contact Steven Manskar at 877-899-2780, ext. 1765, or smanskar@gbod.org, or Craig Miller at 877-899-2780, ext. 7081 or cmiller@gbod.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.

Jan. 10 Deadline to Apply for 2011 Human Relations Day Grant

Ministries should target non-violent young offenders.

Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). The grants are to support ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through education, advocacy or leadership training and development. Grant funds are raised through the UMC's [Human Relations Day Special Sunday](#) each year. This day of social action and raising awareness supports the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday: Jan. 16 next year. To qualify for a Human Relations Day grant, the applicant must be either a UM local church, district, annual conference or other affiliated group/organization, or an ecumenical group/organization working with and through at least one UM agency or organization, whose program affects at least one UM local church. Grant applications are available at [Human Relations Day Grant](#), or by contacting [Marvlyn Scott](#) (msscott@umc-gbcs.org), in the office of Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5643.

Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internship — Apply by Jan. 10

The deadline to apply for 2011 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in Washington, D.C., is Jan. 10. The EYA program is for persons, ages 18-22, who have an interest in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy and social change. Sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), the nine-week summer internship program is for young adults representing the five ethnic minority caucuses of the UMC: Native Americans, Pacific-Islanders, Hispanic/Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans. Interns will work in social justice placements in the U.S. capital from May 28 to July 31. 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 UMC churches. Participants must commit to being present at these activities. Applicants must be in good academic standing at their college or university, demonstrate evidence of their concern for social justice through extracurricular activity, academic study and have some history of involvement in their church and/or community. EYA is funded through GBCS's Ethnic Local Church Grant program. Application and recommendation forms are available at:

2011 EYA Internship Application Form (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689fea4c-8849-4c05-a89e-c9bc7ffff64c%7D/2011EYAAPPLICATIONFORM.PDF>)

2011 EYA Recommendation Form (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689fea4c-8849-4c05-a89e-c9bc7ffff64c%7D/2011EYARECOMMENDATION.PDF>)

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.

Sexual Ethics Summit — Jan. 26-29

"Do No Harm 2011," a UM summit addressing prevention of and response to abuse, misconduct and harassment of a sexual nature, particularly by persons in ministerial roles, will be Jan. 26-29 at First UMC Houston. This sexual ethics event will provide opportunities for conference leaders to share best practices, discuss emerging issues, and network across the denomination.

Workshops will provide understanding, skill building and grounding for participants to clarify their roles and to coordinate their efforts with others as the church addresses problems of sexual abuse and misconduct. Workshops are divided into five categories, each with several sessions to choose from: Prevention, Cyber Safety, Response to Sexual Misconduct, Legal Issues, and Sexuality and Social Justice. "Do No Harm" is for annual conference response teams, and others who coordinate ministries related to sexual ethics and boundaries in ministerial relationships. At least two persons from each annual conference are expected to attend. Conference leaders endeavoring to start or invigorate a Response Team or Safe Sanctuaries Team are especially encouraged to attend. The event can accommodate 250 registered attendees. For details and registration, visit www.umsexualethics.org.

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

Financial Peace University at New World — Jan. 25

Make your New Year's resolution and find Financial Peace at New World UMC (2201 N. Davis, Arlington) as they host the 13-week Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class that begins Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. Can you image what your life would be like if you had NO payments...If you were completely debt free? This class will show you how to get there no matter where you are right now. By the end of the class the average family pays off more than \$5,000 in debt and saves almost \$3,000. You will learn how to handle the money God entrusts you with His way and what it means to have true financial peace. Do you have all your debt paid off already? If so, this class is also for you! Come and learn about investing, wealth building, retirement planning, and more. Please join New World for a free class preview at 7 p.m. on either Tuesday, Jan. 11, or Tuesday, Jan. 18.

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

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLeKYLpI&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edKIWPrHgIWF>)

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.

The Story of God: A Narrative Theology: Lessons for Faith Communities. The Bible is filled with amazing stories, but even more amazing is its overarching account of God. It's a story that, despite its twists and turns, portrays God's mercy and love and His never-ending effort to connect with His people. This celebrated text is an engaging and accessible introduction to Wesleyan narrative theology. Unlike other studies, which use a topical or systematic approach for understanding Christian theology, this foundational text weaves together the events and themes of the Bible to tell God's remarkable story and present a complete picture of his enduring love for us. This updated and expanded second edition will impact your study and appreciation of scripture and challenge you to find yourself--or better yet, to be found--in the incredible story of God. Contains a copy of the book, 7-session DVD and a printable leader's guide.

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.

Administrative Assistant

Saginaw UMC full-time position (40 hrs/wk) available for an experienced administrative assistant. Please email resume to Mel Bishara at melbishara@saginawumc.org.

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 katterferdinandsen@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.

Organ Free to Good Home

Free to good home — Yamaha Electone Organ-2 manuals, full-pedal boards and bench. Purchased from Luke Wickmans of Fort Worth around 1970. Needs some repair. Please contact Cathey Hartman at cat3542@yahoo.com / 254-728-3286 or Pastor Laraine Waughtal at revlaraine@yahoo.com / 254-595-1503.

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.

Administrative Assistant to Facilities Director

First UMC of Arlington has a part-time position (20 hrs/wk) available for an experienced administrative assistant to work directly with the facilities director. Duties include assigning room set-ups, assisting in staff scheduling, office paperwork, working with vendors, scheduling weddings, and other office duties. Please send resume to byoung@arlingtonmethodist.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.

Director of Youth Ministries □

First UMC of Keller seeks a dynamic person to lead and grow a spiritually enriched youth ministry. Bachelor's degree and experience in youth ministry are required. Willingness to support and teach UM beliefs is necessary. Position involves 40+hours a week. Salary is competitive. Send resume to Robin Stevens, pastor of Discipleship Ministries, at robins@kellerumc.org. FUMC, 1025 Johnson Rd., Keller 76248.

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. Send resume to: FUMC, PO Box 1466, Mineral Wells, TX 76068 or contact church office at 940-325-4707 for more details.

Director of Family Ministries

Christ UMC of Fort Worth has an opening for the position of director of family ministries to coordinate ministries with children, youth, and young adults of the church and its surrounding community, utilizing church volunteers as teachers and leaders. This is a part-time position (15 hours per week). For more information and a job description, contact Lou Hulcy, SPR chair, or Chauncey Nealy, pastor, by emailing the CUMC church office at office.christumc@sbcglobal.net.

Assistant Minister/Focus on Youth Ministry

Breckenridge First UMC 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 and Compensation:* Full-time or part-time. *Compensation includes:* Salary commensurate with education and experience, contribution to UM Pension program, reimbursement for reasonable expenses and cell phone to an amount certain and moving allowance. Sick leave, holidays and vacation according to office staff policy. (Willing to accept inquires for this position as a part-time position). For more information including full job description and/or to express interest contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 West Walker, Breckenridge 76424 or pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

ESL Teacher

University UMC in Fort Worth seeks individuals interested in teaching English as a Second Language as the church takes steps to build intentional relationships with the community it serves. All interested parties should contact Jason Hamilton at jhamilton@uumcfw.com.

Director of Children's Ministry

Seeking a full-time children's ministry director for 2000+ member church. Great place, great opportunity and future, great staff. Contact Eric Smith at Acton UMC at 817-326-4242 or eric@actonumc.org.

P-T Choir Director

First UMC of Hico seeks applicants for part-time choir director. The person will have a love of Christ and a heart for music ministry for "Passionate Worship" in the local church. The person will conduct choir practice Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and direct the choir and the congregation on Sundays at the 10:50 a.m. worship service. The position also includes times of extra rehearsals during the Advent/Christmas season and Lent/Holy Week/Easter. FUMC seeks a person who has a music degree and experience as a choir director and is willing to work with choir members who

are untrained but who love to sing for the glory of God. Contact Buddy Teague, SPR chair, at fumchico@embarqmail.com.

Nursery Worker

First UMC of Grandview seeks applicants for a part-time nursery worker position during worship, which requires a love of children and residence in the Grandview area. Please send resume to office@gvmethodist.org.

Part-time Choir Director

Cisco First UMC seeks a choir director for Sunday 10:50 a.m. worship. Requirements: experience and confidence in directing a choir; ability to choose weekly anthems and special music at Christmas and Easter; availability for Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. If interested, e-mail resume to revlsm@aol.com or mail to FUMC – Cisco, 405 W. 8th Street, Cisco 76437.

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.