



# Central E-Link

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

**January 6, 2010**

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

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

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

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## News Briefs — The Conference

### Launching New CTC Website

The new, revamped conference website will be launched within a few days. Some areas will be works in progress, but much of the content will be carried over from the current site. The main purpose in revamping the site is to make it more focused on the conference goal to energize and equip local churches to make disciples for the transformation of the world, but you'll also find new features. These include "Google translate" so that we can all read in our own language preference, better tools for searching and sharing, more resources, blogs, maps attached to event announcements, and news tied to our critical areas of ministry. You will still find us at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org).

### Bishop Lowry Joins the Blogosphere

Last Monday (Jan. 4), Bishop Lowry launched his new blogspot, "This Focused Center," in which he will be writing and reflecting on Christ and His Church, sharing his latest reading choices and looking forward to hearing other opinions. It can be accessed from the conference website ([www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)) under the bishop's picture and at [www.thisfocusedcenter.blogspot.com](http://www.thisfocusedcenter.blogspot.com). Comments are welcome.

### CTCYM Deadline Is Tomorrow!

CTCYM group registrations are due in the conference office tomorrow (Jan.7). If you have questions, please contact MaDora at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or [madora@ctcumc.org](mailto:madora@ctcumc.org).

### Congratulations to Christ and Grandview UMCs

**Christ UMC in Fort Worth** has been selected as the General Board of Discipleship "Church of the Week" on the GBOD Worship web site at [www.gbod.org/worship](http://www.gbod.org/worship). For details on how to submit your church's photo, visit [http://www.gbod.org/worship/default\\_body.asp?act=reader&item\\_id=48335](http://www.gbod.org/worship/default_body.asp?act=reader&item_id=48335).

**First UMC in Grandview** has become an official "Welcoming Congregation," a recognition awarded by the Igniting Ministry team of United Methodist Communications. "Welcoming Congregations" are a select group of UM congregations nationwide that meets criteria including embracing newcomers and providing opportunities in discipleship. The recognition program is part of a larger effort launched in late 2000 by

UMCom, the denomination's communications agency, to use modern technology and the common language of television to spread the Good News of Christ to a world in need.

### **Message From IT Director Tracy Dean:**

The conference is changing the way we handle the 2009 "Check Out." Basically we will be using a new system that has been assembled by GCFA. Some of the data that the GCFA has requested has changed, but the overall process should still be the same. There will still be a table to put in your numbers. You will still see comparative number for the current and previous years. It will look a little different, but other than that it does the same thing. We will be sending the login information to churches on Friday. This will be the e-mail address for the church in the dashboard. Churches will have from Friday, Jan. 8, until Thursday, Jan. 21, to complete their "check out." If you have questions, please contact your district office or Tracy Dean ([tracy@ctcumc.org](mailto:tracy@ctcumc.org) | 817-877-5222) at the conference office.

### **Video Licensing Renewals Due by Jan. 29**

It's time to renew the conference umbrella policy with Christian Video Licensing International, Inc. The license extends from Feb. 2, 2010 through Feb. 1, 2011. The cost for a new participant is **\$180**. Please make your checks payable to the Central Texas Conference UMC and mail to Susan Briles, CVLI Licensing, 464 Bailey Avenue, Fort Worth 76107. Current participants will be notified by mail concerning their policy. Please consider the following as you decide whether to be a new participant or renew your policy with the Central Texas Conference:

*Pre-recorded home videocassettes or DVDs, those commonly available in retail or rental stores and those offered from the conference resource center, are intended for personal home use only. These videos and DVDs generally do not carry licenses for non-home showings and viewing outside of the home, such as in church sanctuaries, meeting rooms, classrooms, fellowship halls, etc. requires a license which specially authorizes the video to be shown regardless of there being no admission fee charged or the video having been purchased.*

If you have any questions concerning the conference's CVLI policy, please contact Susan Briles at [susan@ctcumc.org](mailto:susan@ctcumc.org), 800/460-8622 or 817/877-5222. The deadline to participate or renew is Jan. 29.

### **Volunteers needed for the Texas Ramp Project**

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

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

### **First UMC Fort Worth Reconnects Homeless to Families**

An estimated 842,000 people are homeless in any given week in the U.S. Many factors can cause people to live on the streets and often they have lost contact with family. Here's the story of First UMC of Fort Worth offering people a special way to reconnect during the holidays. [http://www.umtv.org/archives/christmas\\_photos\\_for\\_homeless.htm](http://www.umtv.org/archives/christmas_photos_for_homeless.htm). For DVD copies of this and/or other UMTV stories, contact Lilla Marigza at [lmurigza@umcom.org](mailto:lmurigza@umcom.org).

### **Bethlehem Center Robbed / Needs Food Donations**

United Community Centers, Inc. (UCC) is the National Mission Institution of the General Board of Global Ministries located in Fort Worth as part of the Central Texas Conference. One of UCC's community outreach centers, the Bethlehem Center, was burglarized over the Christmas holidays. About 1500 pounds of food was stolen from the Food Pantry. When the staff opened doors Monday morning to serve the community, the shelves in the Food Pantry were bare and families in need had to be turned away. You can help with restocking the food by bringing canned goods by the Bethlehem Center at 970 East Humbolt, Fort Worth 76104 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday or sending a monetary donation. You can mail donations to United Community Centers, 1200 East Maddox, Fort Worth, TX 76104 or donate online at [www.unitedcommunitycenters.org](http://www.unitedcommunitycenters.org).

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

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

### **VBS Previews Offer 20% Discount to Central Texas Churches**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The focus of this year's summit, set for Feb. 16 at Fort Worth's Round Up Inn, will be on end-of-life care, support and ministry. It brings together faith leaders from Tarrant and surrounding counties to dialogue and network, share best practices, provide needed resources, and equip leadership for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For more details and to register, visit [www.texashealth.org/faithsummit](http://www.texashealth.org/faithsummit).

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of CTC Lay Speakers — Feb. 26, 27, 28**

This annual event will be held Feb. 26-28 at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose with the classes offered being those that receive the most interest during the registration processes. Registrations have the opportunity to make three selections from the following courses:

- Lay Speaking Ministries: The Basic Course
- Lay Speakers Cultivate Christian Community
- Internet as Ministry
- Immigration Ministry
- A Ministry of Caring
- Lay Speakers can lead in Evangelism
- Lay Speakers Preach
- Lay Speakers Lead in Prayer
- Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts
- Dancing with Words

- Lay Speakers Grow Spiritually Through Daily Discipline
- Certified Lay Ministry Part 1 *A minimum two-year study program*
- Certified Lay Ministry Part 2

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

### **Central Texas Methodist Foundation Seminar — Feb. 18**

The Central Texas Methodist Foundation will conduct a two-part seminar on Feb. 18 at Arlington Heights UMC (4200 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth 76107). The seminar is especially informative for clergy, financial secretaries, bookkeepers, accountants, business administrators, finance committee members and church trustees. The cost is \$45 per session or \$80 for both sessions. The tuition includes all materials and textbooks. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the “Clergy Tax” at 9 a.m. and the “Clergy Church Financial & Legal Issues” at 1 p.m. Please call or e-mail for reservations: 800-333-4096 or 817-332-1394 [kathy@ctmf.org](mailto:kathy@ctmf.org)

**Clergy Tax Seminar** — covers all the “how to” methods for clergy preparing their 2009 income tax return, as well as all of the relevant features in the IRS tax code specific to clergy; highlights new provisions and tax code changes; geared for individual clergy but appropriate for their tax advisers, spouses and interested church leaders.

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

### **Update on Year-End Gifts to Glen Lake Camp**

As of yesterday Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center has received \$22,779.40 in year-end gifts to help cover the seasonal and economic downturn in business. “We are so grateful to all who have given thus far, but the economy has taken its toll on the camp,” states Executive Director Steve Nance. Cancellations for this past year, he reports, totaled over \$85,000, most of these due to the economy. Every contribution, large or small, helps as well as the prayers of many congregations and individuals. You can send your contribution to Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, P.O. Box 928, Glen Rose, TX 76043.

### **Update on the Student Day Offering**

**Before Christmas only 98 of our congregations had participated in the Student Day Offering, a prerequisite for their students receiving UMC-related scholarships. We’re happy to report that number has changed to 147 as of checkout on Tuesday (yesterday).** Next spring when our students will be looking for scholarships from the UM Board of Higher Education & Ministry and the conference Higher Education Task Force, some will be very disappointed. **That means students from 75 of our churches will be ineligible.** In 2009, the Higher Education Task Force was forced to turn down two highly qualified students because their congregations DID NOT participate in the Student Day Offering. Please don’t let this happen to the students at your church for the 2011 scholarship application period. In 2009 the UMC’s Office of Loans & Scholarships had far more qualified students apply and far fewer funds available.

### **2010 Clergy Day Apart — Jan. 26-27**

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

### **Mid Winter Youth Retreat — 2 dates in February**

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

### **UMW Racial Justice Event Feature Former Women's Division President — Jan. 30**

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

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

Each year Mount Sequoyah, our retreat center for the South Central Jurisdiction, hosts a volunteer work week during which volunteers from all of the 15 conferences that make up the SCJ come to give of their time to enhance the mission and beauty of Mount Sequoyah. The retreat center is in the heart of Fayetteville, Ark., at the top of a large hill overlooking the city. It is located in a gorgeous part of the Ozarks, and Mount Sequoyah is host to a number of workshops, meetings, retreats, and training opportunities for our jurisdiction. With the large numbers of guests attending events, the center is in constant need of maintenance and upkeep. The annual volunteer workweek is a time to make sure that big projects get done. For a brochure and registration form, visit [http://www.mountsequoyah.org/www.mountsequoyah.org/Programs\\_Training\\_files/FINALWW%20Brochure%202010-reg.pdf](http://www.mountsequoyah.org/www.mountsequoyah.org/Programs_Training_files/FINALWW%20Brochure%202010-reg.pdf).

### **Faithfully Fit Forever Leader Training — April 24**

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

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

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

### **Save the CTC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Date — Oct. 23**

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

### **Approaching Deadline for Standing Rules/Resolutions**

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

### **Reminder: You Can Contribute to the Alignment Task Force**

The Alignment Task Force wants your input on their work in progress through a blog that Pat Stroman (member) and Mike Ramsdell (chair) will be posting after each meeting on the conference website

([www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org)). This is your opportunity to participate in making a difference in the future of the Conference and the ministries of our local churches. Your thoughts, ideas, suggestions are welcome!

### **Suicide Survivors — Open Enrollment**

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

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

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

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

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## **News Briefs — The Denomination**

### **Global Ministries Items of Interest**

As 2009 closed, the General Board of Global Ministries posted several items that may be of interest to Ums in Central Texas:

1. A time-line of the ministry of UMCOR over the last 70 years. The 70th anniversary is in 2010.  
<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/hotline/>
2. A New Year's feature on biblical questions to be confronted in 2010.  
[http://gb-gm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5617](http://gb-gm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5617)
3. An account of a district conference in Liberia that was also a VIM service experience.  
[http://gb-gm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5614](http://gb-gm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5614)
4. A staff report on a visit to Taize [http://gb-gm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5616](http://gb-gm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5616)

### **A Door to Zimbabwe**

Through multiple partnerships, UMCOR gains a stable presence in Zimbabwe, opening a door of hope for ongoing humanitarian relief to a nation in conflict. UMCOR Health and UMCOR International Disaster Response worked closely with annual conference partners including Baltimore-Washington, Western Pennsylvania, North Carolina, **Central Texas** and the UMC in Zimbabwe to provide food, clean water, medicine, school kits, and long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets to communities in need.

UMCOR, through Zoe Ministry, a program North Carolina Annual Conference, Nyadire Connection, a ministry of Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference, and **First UMC in Mansfield, Texas**, helped UM hospitals continue operations when many hospitals were forced to close and cholera outbreaks were widespread. Cholera kits provided by IDA Netherlands were sent to Nyadire and Mutambara Hospitals to treat 2,600 people. UMCOR worked with Nyadire Connection to rehabilitate water systems which brought access to clean water. Through the Baltimore-Washington Conference, 10,000 mosquito nets were distributed to at-risk communities. **CTC Director of Humanitarian Services Director Jennifer Bellamy says, "I believe First Mansfield's mention is for the money they raised for the cholera epidemic and Julie Warren going with ZOE to check on distribution of supplies."**

UMCOR's non-governmental organization, with Zoe Ministry and the UMC in Zimbabwe, delivered a total of 500 metric tons of grain throughout 12 UMC districts in Zimbabwe, as part of a broader distribution facilitated in 2008. The relief supplies benefited more than 16,000 vulnerable families. Through Africa University, UMCOR provided additional food relief to vulnerable families for six months.

Through partners Muslim Aid, GlobalMedic, Foundations for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa, IDA Netherlands, and IMA World health, additional medicines, medical supplies, and water filters were provided to hospitals and communities in need.

### **Global Ministries Seeks Deputy General Secretary Applicants**

The General Board of Global Ministries has retained the services of The Novak Consulting Group to recruit for the position of Deputy General Secretary. Information regarding the position and application process can be found at <http://thenovakconsultinggroup.com/global-ministries>.

### **West Ohio Conference Seeks CFO/Treasurer Applicants**

West Ohio Conference Treasurer Rev. Stan Sutton is retiring in June. Applicants are being sought for the redeveloped position of CFO/Director of Administration which includes serving as the bishop's chief of staff. Check the details at [www.westohioumc.org\CFO](http://www.westohioumc.org\CFO) and apply by Jan. 31. Feel free to encourage qualified candidates you know to consider making themselves available for consideration.

### **Perkins to Waive Application Fee Thru March 1, 2010**

Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University is waiving its \$50 application fee through March 1, 2010, 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, 2010 is the deadline for submitting an application for need-based grant consideration, while Feb. 1, 2010, remains the deadline for submission of applications for merit scholarship consideration.

For more information contact Tracy Anne Allred, director of Student Services, at [tallred@smu.edu](mailto:tallred@smu.edu) or 214-768-1480; Herbert Coleman, director of Recruitment and Admissions, at [hcoleman@smu.edu](mailto:hcoleman@smu.edu) or 214-768-2139; or visit the Perkins website at [www.smu.edu/perkins](http://www.smu.edu/perkins).

### **See and Share Soul Changing Prayer**

UM News Service has released a package on soul changing prayer. The five stories make a reader-friendly series helping enrich the prayer lives of individuals, families and congregations. Open gifts of the Spirit this Advent with [http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.5610353/k.6EAE/Soul\\_Changing\\_Prayer.htm](http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.5610353/k.6EAE/Soul_Changing_Prayer.htm).

### **2010 Funding Conference Scheduled for March 20**

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

### **Perkins GBHEM Certification in Youth Ministry**

#### **Jan. 9-15 at FUMC Richardson, TX**

Get certified in youth ministry in a week of learning. Special this year only: Spend an afternoon with Mark DeVries, author of *Sustainable Youth Ministry*. Register at [http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102775915044&s=1343&e=001e64E2hOfaini0iY-\\_EXLkPwNRXAbK4Lr3h9QhzHFWui7ciUI4xqC3DpH4J4S8Bm443\\_6al83YLgAHJpplS6S3oLMzYP0hvP\\_Z3OIgoojbNqeEjgSa\\_NbQYed2vtLYGo4brqdReYVJKg8ZbUYxXA27vtEwnbXwomaHPDWoc5Ma5E=](http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102775915044&s=1343&e=001e64E2hOfaini0iY-_EXLkPwNRXAbK4Lr3h9QhzHFWui7ciUI4xqC3DpH4J4S8Bm443_6al83YLgAHJpplS6S3oLMzYP0hvP_Z3OIgoojbNqeEjgSa_NbQYed2vtLYGo4brqdReYVJKg8ZbUYxXA27vtEwnbXwomaHPDWoc5Ma5E=).

### **Human Relations Day Grants — Deadline Jan. 10**

Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society. 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. For more grant applications, contact Marvlyn Scott at [msscott@umc-gbcs.org](mailto:msscott@umc-gbcs.org) or 202-488-5643.

### **Lenten Sermon Writing Retreat — Jan. 11-15**

Jan. 11-15, Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Ark.). Clergy and lay ministers are invited to come undertake their in-depth preparation and sermon writing for this season. Cost \$395, Commuter \$155. For more information, contact Kim Ross at 800-760-8126, [spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org](mailto:spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org), or go to [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org).

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

**Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21**  
<http://www.gbod.org/wesleypilgrimage>

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## News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

### **Listening to Divorce — Tuesdays Jan. 5-Feb. 2**

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

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

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

### **Help Insure Our Children in Texas — SCHIP program Jan. 9**

SCHIP Enrollment Training is at St. Stephen UMC (Arlington) on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 10-11:30 a.m. Churches are invited to send 1-4 people to learn how your church can help enroll children in Medicaid and SCHIP. Over 750,000 children in the State of Texas are eligible, but not covered by these programs. For more details, visit

[https://www.ctcoffice.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.texaskidswin.org/page.php?page\\_id=2%26page\\_title=About%2520CHIP%2520and%2520Children%27s%2520Medicaid](https://www.ctcoffice.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.texaskidswin.org/page.php?page_id=2%26page_title=About%2520CHIP%2520and%2520Children%27s%2520Medicaid) or contact Mary Spradlin at [mary.spradlin@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.spradlin@yahoo.com) or Terri Bennett at 817-460-8655.

### **Noted Recruiter to Speak to Career Transition Group — Jan. 11**

Networkers, a career transition group that meets at First UMC of Hurst (521 West Pipeline Road, Hurst 76053), will host noted staffing recruiter Diana Meisenhelter at their Jan. 11 meeting at 9 a.m. All are welcome. Diana Meisenhelter is recognized as a leader and a strategic thinker in the staffing and recruiting community. With more than 20 years experience and knowledge of corporate staffing and recruiting, she has been responsible for directing global staffing functions in recruitment, selection, diversity and placement of talent to service-based organizations. Prior to Diana joining the Riviera Advisors team in 2004, Diana was vice president of Staffing and Talent Acquisition for Wyndham Hotels and Resorts. Childcare will be provided; reservations are requested. For information, call 817-282-7384.

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

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

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

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

### **Christian Theology Study at First Belton — Ongoing**

Have you wanted to learn, discuss, or respectfully debate Christian theology with members of your own denomination as well as others? First UMC in Belton is providing that opportunity at noon Tuesdays. <http://gbgm-umc.org/fumcbeltex>

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## **Resources**

### **Proven Resources for the Local Church**

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

### **ATTN: Pastors/Stephen Ministers Can Help Cancer Patients**

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

### **Conference Resource Center**

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

*The Jesus Prayer: The Ancient Desert Prayer That Tunes the Heart to God.* Frederica Mathewes-Green. 2009. 168 pages. In the earliest centuries of faith, Christians in the deserts of Palestine and Africa sought a short prayer that could be easily repeated, in order to acquire the habit of "prayer without ceasing." The result was "The Jesus Prayer": "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me." This jewel of Eastern Christianity aims at enabling a person to be in God's presence, rather than to focus on feelings or thoughts about God. The first section of "The Jesus Prayer" offers a concise overview of the history, theology, and spirituality of Orthodoxy, so that the Prayer can be understood in its native context.

### **Church Demographics**

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

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

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

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## **Needs, Resources, Opportunities**

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

### **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. To apply, please mail resume with references to P. O. Box 928, Glen Rose 76043 or fax to 254-897-2423.

### **Baby Cribs**

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

### **Assistant Pastor/Focus on Youth & Missions**

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

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

### **Volunteers Needed**

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

### **2010 Census Workers**

Please pass along this message to members: Could you use some extra cash? Apply now to be a census taker. Work up to 40 per week in a temporary, part-time job with the 2010 Census and enjoy good pay,

flexible hours, mileage reimbursement, and the chance to serve your community. Call (toll-free) 866-861-2010 for more details.

### **Adult Retreat Center Coordinator**

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

### **Choir Director**

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

### **Youth Director**

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

### **Small Upright Piano Needs Church Home**

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

### **Lead Teacher**

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

### **Part-time Pianist**

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

### **Director of Music & Worship**

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

applications to Linda Smith at 254-751-0411. Contact: Search Committee Chair Danny Londenberg for more details at 254-751-0411.

### **Part-time Post Contemporary Music Worship Leader**

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

### **Contemporary Worship Leader Seeks Position**

Experienced worship leader Trey Smith, a student at the University of Texas at Arlington, seeks a position with a local church that is within a 30-min. drive from Arlington. He has led the praise band at Silver Creek UMC for about two years and the 2009 summer praise band at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. He currently leads a band outside of church that has played at several churches in the Metroplex area. Contact Trey Smith at 936-524-2378 or [dcsmitty242@hotmail.com](mailto:dcsmitty242@hotmail.com).

### **Youth Minister**

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

### **Full-time Director of Youth Ministries**

St. John's UMC, Georgetown, is expanding a vital youth program and needs a person who is committed to Christ; knows, loves and relates to youth; and is capable of planning and directing programs for youth and their families. Salary commensurate with education and experience \$30,000 plus. Send resume and questions to SPRC Chair, St John's UMC, 311 E. University Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

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