



Central E-Link

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

July 28, 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. To add a colleague or church member to *E-Link's* weekly distribution, send their addresses to susan@ctcumc.org.

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

News Briefs — The Conference

Our Conference Youth in Action

Among the students representing the CTC at the Global Convocation this month in Germany, two are posting details of their experiences on Facebook. Check out Amy Miller's Facebook page with pictures and updates (her mom entered them since Internet is so expensive there) at <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=messages&ref=mb#!/profile.php?id=100000022452450&ref=ts>. Also, check out David McMinn's Facebook with a link to his blog and Germany photo album at <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=messages&ref=mb#!/damcminn?ref=ts>.

Centennial Celebration Makes \$\$ Adjustment for Students

At its meeting last weekend, the Centennial Celebration Committee agreed that our young people (students) are too important for us to let a dinner ticket stand in the way of their participation at the Centennial Celebration event Oct. 23 at the Will Rogers Memorial Complex in Fort Worth. While adult tickets remain at \$20 and children under 7 at \$5 for hotdog at beverage, student tickets will now be offered at \$10. (The ticket fee covers the BBQ lunch and helps to cover the facilities and large screen/technology costs.) For details about the event, to order tickets and register a historical display table, visit www.ctcumc.org and click on the Centennial logo. Entertainment throughout the day will include some of our students' favorite local praise and rock bands, and several students will share their ideas for the future during the program time.

Care to Share a Church Camp Memory?

A link on the Conference website (www.ctcumc.org) gives you an opportunity to join the denomination-wide conversation about your favorite church camp memory. Consider sharing your memories from Glen Lake Camp (recent or from years ago). Upload a video and answer one of the suggested questions or create your own topic.

3 Cheers for Hutto Discovery, Alvarado & Meadowbrook

The U.S. Commerce Association has selected *Hutto (Discovery) UMC* for the 2010 Best of Hutto Award in the Places Of Worship category. In recognition of this achievement, a 2010 Best of Hutto Award has been designed and displayed at the church. It's no wonder that Pastor Paul Gravley would receive such kudos as the following: "Brother Paul, We attended your church a few times while living in Round Rock before moving back to Georgia ... You have been on our hearts lately and we wanted to tell you that you are an awesome pastor and we sincerely enjoyed the messages, comfort and fellowship at Hutto Discovery. It is the standard that we hold all other

congregations and pastors to. We pray for continued blessings for you, your family and your congregation."

First UMC of Alvarado was awarded the Certified Welcoming Congregation designation by UM Communications and members are determined to continue their work toward radical hospitality. According to Jo Ann Walker, chair of the church's Welcoming Congregation Work Area, the church is sponsoring a "Welcome Home Sunday" on Sept. 5 with a former pastor giving the message and the Blue Grass gospel group "No Turning Back" providing special music. Everyone who has been a part of this congregation in the past, including lay and clergy, or is a part of this congregation now, or want to see if they would like to be a part of this congregation, is encouraged to attend and help celebrate having a Methodist congregation in Alvarado for 147 years. Coffee and registration begin at 9:15 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., lunch at 12 noon.

Meadowbrook UMC in Fort Worth is debt free! Members paid off the note on their new Community Life Center building project and celebrated with a Debt Retirement slideshow set to music/video. Share their joy by checking out the video at <http://www.mbrookumc.org>.

Clergy Appointment

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announce the following change in clergy appointments: **Christi M. Hoffman** (elder in full connection) — retains her membership in the Central Texas Conference as she moves to Paducah UMC in Abilene (Northwest Texas Conference), effective Aug. 1.

Obituaries

The funeral for **Sam Samford**, husband of Karen Samford who is on incapacity leave, will be at 12 noon Thursday, July 29, at Alliance UMC with internment at 3 p.m. at the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery. Prior to going on incapacity leave, Karen served as associate pastor at Silver Creek UMC. Cards and messages may be sent to Karen Samford, # 112, c/o Franklin Park at Hometown, 6350 Winter Park Drive, North Richland Hills 76180. **Lewis Sommermeyer**, who had served in ministry at St. Luke (Haltom City), Arlington Heights and Fort Worth First, died July 23. Services were held July 27 at Fort Worth First. His wife, Billie, a daughter, son and grandchildren, survives him.

Reminder to Clergy Needing CEUs

Participants in the CTC Cooperative Schools of Christian Mission sessions (weekday, weekend, evenings) Aug. 2-8 can earn .7 CEU for each study (7 hours/10 hours). There are 3 studies available: For the Love of God-The Epistles of John; The Beauty and Courage of Sudan; and Joy to the World-Mission in the Age of Global Christianity. There is also an evening study of For the Love of God-The Epistles of John, if you cannot attend the full school. For more information go to the CTC website and look for CSCM under UMW or contact CSCM Dean Troy Chapman (817-569-1454, 682-472-0706 cell, metroboard-umc-tc@sbcglobal.net) or UMW Conference President Cynthia Rives (254-592-1510, cynrives@yahoo.com).

Cooperative School of Christian Mission — Aug. 2-4, 3-5, 6-8

Registration is extended for the Cooperative School of Christian Mission, which this year offers three opportunities to participate and learn and grow in your knowledge of mission and faith in God. Plan now to attend:

- Evening School, Monday-Wednesday, Aug. 2-4, at First UMC Hurst
- Weekday School, Tuesday-Thursday, Aug. 3-5, at First UMC Hurst
- Weekend School, Friday evening-Sunday afternoon, Aug. 6-8, at Glen Lake Camp

More details and registration forms available at <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/919> or www.ctcumc.org and click on United Methodist Women under the "Ministries" menu. During the weekday and weekend schools there are classes for youth and children. There are scholarships available through the conference and district UMW units. Make this the year you make time for this important opportunity sponsored by the United Methodist Woman and Global Ministries — open to all men, women, youth and children.

John Beckling, III Shares New Vision for Chrysalis Journey #16

The CTC Chrysalis Journey #16 will be Aug. 19-21 at First UMC in Early (Brownwood District). This is an Emmaus program for young adults ages 18-28. John Beckling, III, the lay coordinator for Chrysalis Journey #16 is asked for prayers for the resumption of this program and “for our caterpillars.” If you have any questions, please contact Beckling at utachristianguy@yahoo.com.

Online Safe Sanctuary Training Available in Mid-August

The CTC now has an online Safe Sanctuaries Training for local church leaders and volunteers who will be working with children, youth and vulnerable adults. This course is not meant to replace the local church’s face-to-face training. Rather, it is hoped that this will be an option for those who, for any reason, are unable to attend the regularly scheduled training a local church provides. The conference estimates that it will require about four to six hours to complete the online training, but those who wish to complete their training online will have up to one month to complete it at their own pace and on their preferred schedule. Upon completion, the participant will be able to print a certificate to present to their Safe Sanctuaries coordinator or the equivalent in their local church. The person who chooses this training will need the book *Safe Sanctuaries* by Joy Melton to be able to successfully complete it. Most local churches have this book, but it can be purchased through the Cokesbury store or at www.cokesbury.com. The first scheduled opportunity to take the **online course will begin on Aug. 15**, and it should be completed by Sept. 15. For more information, contact Karen Granderson at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or Karen@ctcumc.org.

Are You a Potential Centennial Church?

Tapping into this year’s centennial theme — the 100th anniversary of the CTC — a “Centennial Church” will be a designation given to congregations reaching certain achievements and will be celebrated at the 2011 Annual Conference June 5-8 in Waco. Check out the revised Point System list and other details at www.ctcumc.org. Between Sept. 1, 2010 and May 1, 2011, a church may select challenges from the list and will receive the designation of Centennial Church with a score of 100.

Update on Church/Ministry Display Tables

Nineteen more churches (highlighted in yellow) and ministries have signed up for display tables at the CTC Centennial Celebration Oct. 23 at Will Rogers Memorial Complex in Fort Worth. For more details and a registration form, visit www.ctcumc.org and click on the Centennial logo. The 55 display tables already reserved are for:

Alliance First	Alvarado	Arlington First	Asbury, Ft Worth
Bracks/Springhill	Breckenridge First	Cahill	CT Meth. Foundation
Christ, Ft Worth	Cogdell Memorial	Corsicana First	Cransfills Gap
Couts Memorial	Davis Memorial	Dido	Edge Park, Ft Worth
El Buen Samaritano	Epworth, Arlington	Eureka	Ferris Heights
Fort Worth First	Frost	Genesis	Glen Rose First
Grace, Fort Worth	Graham First	Grapevine First	Hamilton First
Hico First	Hillsboro First	Hurst First	Iredell
Jean	Keller First	Kennedale First	King Memorial
Kirvin	Meadowbrook	Mt. Zion/Perry Chapel	Newcastle First
Perry	Pleasant Grove	Polytechnic, Ft Worth	Ridglea, Ft Worth
River Oaks	St. Andrews, Ft Worth	St. James, Waco	St. John the Apostle
Saginaw	Salado	Smithfield	Springtown First
Temple First	Thompson Chapel	Wellspring	Wesley, Waco
Wortham	United Community Centers		

Self-Care for Clergy Program Coming in Sept & Nov

The Self-Care for Clergy Workshop is designed to provide a break from day-to-day responsibilities and allow for reflections, reviving and renewing the spirit and potential that effective ministry requires. There are two programs from which to choose:

Servant Leadership: Personal and Professional Self-Care

Sept. 20-21-- Still Water Lodge, Glen Rose
Register by Sept. 1 • 254-897-2247
www.glenlake.org/stillwater

Nov. 8-9 – Summers Mill Retreat Center, Belton
Register by Oct. 15 • 254-939-6194
www.summersmill.com

Schedule for each: 5:30-9 p.m. Monday; 8:30 a.m. – noon on Tuesday. The cost of the course is \$85/person. Participants in the Virgin Health Miles program will be given a 1,000-mile award for participating in Self-Care for Clergy. Sign up for one of the sessions by the indicated deadline. Register at www.ctcumc.org under “Ministries” and choose Health and Welfare.

Central Texas Methodist Foundation Workshop — 9 a.m.-noon Aug. 28

The Central Texas Methodist Foundation workshop on “Engaging, Equipping and Growing Disciples” for church leaders, scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 28 at Arlington Heights UMC in Fort Worth, will include three discipleship segments:

- New Consecration Sunday program for stewardship development,
- EQUIP – the Methodist version of the Financial Peace University program, and
- Alpha USA – the evangelism program that engages people to explore faith in Christ.

Presentations will be followed by round table discussions. No charge, but reservations are required to assure adequate materials. Call 817-332-1394, 800-333-4096 or e-mail pat@ctmf.org.

Best Practices/Cutting Edge Strategies for Adult Ministries/Discipleship — Aug. 9

If you have responsibilities for **adult ministries/adult discipleship** in your local church, you are welcome to be a part of a group that is forming to share best practices and cutting edge strategies for planning and growing your ministries. The group will meet from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, August 9, at the Conference Office (464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth 76107). Boxed lunches will be ordered, Dutch treat, and will be available for ONLY those who RSVP (communicate any special dietary needs). Please indicate whether you will be attending by contacting Karen Granderson at karen@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222 **before Aug. 4**. Amy Vanpool of FUMC Mansfield and Ramon Smith of Lighthouse Fellowship will lead the discussion. They will share work on their respective discipleship systems for their churches. If you have been working on a system for inviting persons deeper into discipleship, please bring your ideas to share as well as handouts or other information.

Created by God: Train the Trainer — Sept. 10-11

Andy Stoker from the North Texas Conference and Kay Lancaster from the CTC are amassing a group of persons within our conferences to attend a regional *Created By God: Train the Trainer* event for the human sexuality course for tweens. If you would like more information about the process of being trained to lead this course in local churches, contact Karen Granderson at karen@ctcumc.org, 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622. If you have been previously trained, it may be time for a refresher course on the revised materials. The event will be held Sept. 10-11 at FUMC-Arlington. If you feel called to be a trainer, register soon. All are welcome! See http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/CBG_Trainer_Poster_RDGF4U7Y.pdf.

Glen Lake Adventure Race — Oct. 9

Join the first annual Glen Lake Adventure Race on Saturday, Oct. 9, at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Glen Rose. Teams of 2 will run/bike/paddle/climb their way around Glen Lake with a few fun surprises along the way! Team categories: Men, Women, Co-Ed, and Youth (5th-12th grade). Prizes awarded for the top three teams in each category. This is a course that anyone can do. Never done an adventure race before? But up for the challenge? Not a problem. This race will be a fun day of getting to enjoy the outdoors and a little friendly competition along the way. All proceeds from the race go to support the ministry of Glen Lake Camp. Please visit <http://www.glenlake.org/recreation> for further details and to register!

Strengthening Families in the Local Church — Oct. 16

The Conference Nurture Council will present a seminar on “Parenting Skills Curriculum” starting at 9 a.m. Oct. 16 at Burleson First UMC. Registration is \$12 before Oct. 1, \$15 from Oct. 1-15, and \$20 at the door. The goal is to provide opportunities for teachers, pastors and other church leaders to review and understand that teaching parenting skills is possible in their local setting. Keynote speaker Dr. Katie Long will address the theological rationale for the church to teach parents how to raise their children. Following that presentation, participants may choose up to three workshops on curriculum for the local church. Each of the workshops will provide information and resources that local church leaders can use to provide excellent training for parents and leaders who want to raise healthy, happy, responsible children. This conference is intended to increase spiritual growth, transform existing churches and help develop a whole new generation of principled Christian leaders. Check the Conference website (www.ctcumc.org) for more details. The registration brochure and more information about these workshops and leaders can be found from the calendar or on the Nurture Council, Marriage and Family page.

Lay Health Promoter Training — Sept. 24-26

For the past 5 years, several CTC churches have taken the GoodNEWS training from Dr. Mark DeHaven (Genetics, Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness, and Spirituality) for the purpose of training Lay Health Promoters in local congregations. Sept. 24-26, Dr. DeHaven, along with Dr. Jenny L. Lee, will offer this program at Salado First UMC beginning Friday at 6 p.m. and ending Sunday at 3:30 p.m. A registration form is on the Health & Wellness page of www.ctcumc.org with information on motel reservations and a detailed itinerary. Box lunches will be furnished on Saturday and Sunday. Deadline for registration is Sept. 1, although the motels involved have a deadline of Aug. 24 for the training event rate. This workshop is asking for 2 people per church, and even churches that have taken it before can sign up again. There will be a maximum of 20 churches allowed – 2 individuals per church – with a registration cost of \$75/person, \$150/church; and those attending will pay for their motel rooms, as well as dinner on Friday and Saturday nights. Those attending this training will form the CTC focus group for the next 3 years. Dr. DeHaven will follow progress of the local churches and meet with the LHP’s every 6 months for 3 years.

Follow the Conference Centennial Celebration on Facebook — Oct. 23

Mark Winter has set up a Facebook page to follow the growing features for the 100th anniversary Centennial Celebration Saturday, Oct. 23, in Fort Worth. To see more details and confirm this invitation, follow the link at http://www.facebook.com/n/?pages%2FCTC-Centennial-Celebration%2F128618053831428&mid=27b080fG602f37e2G1646330G4c&n_m=carolyn%40ctcumc.org. And look for details and tickets and memorabilia forms on the website at www.ctcumc.org.

The Sower’s Bag Sermon Writing Retreat — Oct. 25-27

The Conference Order of Elders is sponsoring The Sower’s Bag Sermon Writing Retreat Oct. 25-27 at Still Water Retreat Center in Glen Rose. This sermon writing retreat seeks to help inspire, facilitate and lead interested clergy in planning sermons for the Advent and Christmas season. Dr. David Mosser, senior pastor at Arlington First UMC, will lead exegetical and study sessions in a lecture/worship format with lectionary and thematic tracks. Time will be set aside for small group fellowship and discussion as well as time to write and plan sermons. Mosser has been the contributing editor for Abingdon’s Preaching Annual since 2003, and is a regular contributor to Preaching Magazine, The International Lesson Series Annual, Adult Bible Studies and Lectionary homiletics. For a flyer and registration form, visit <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/1459>.

News Briefs — The Denomination

Stuck Churches

Sally Morganthaler, an author, worship leader, speaker and one of the leaders in the Emergent movement, expresses her views on stuck churches and how to move them into the future. She addresses some of the dynamics in a local church that may be preventing real ministry to take place. Check out the video clip at

<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/index.php?ct=store.details&pid=V00778>.

When Christians Get It Wrong

Adam Hamilton's latest book, *When Christians Get It Wrong*, tackles the issues that are keeping young adults away from the church and demonstrates what Christianity is supposed to look like. Chapters include: When Christians Are Unchristian; Christians, Science, and Politics; When Speaking of Other Religions; When Bad Things Happen; In Dealing with Homosexuality; and When Christians Get it Right. For more information including book excerpts, book trailer, and videos from Adam discussing the book, visit www.AdamHamilton.AbingdonPress.com. There is also a Facebook Fan Page at www.Facebook.com/WhenChristiansGetItWrong.

Nashville Agency Seeks Adults Who Love Scouting

The UM Office of Scouting Ministries seeks advocates in CTC churches who are interested in becoming "scouting ministry specialists" and to help in establishing and expanding scouting ministry opportunities. Several other conference areas have already participated, and now the Office of Scouting Ministries wants to test the effectiveness of "scouting ministry specialists" in this area. "During a time when there is an increasing need to mentor boys and young men, scouting provides the ideal venue to do just that," states Joseph Boatman, president of the UM Men and acting scouting coordinator for the CTC. Pastors are asked to provide some sort of vetting process before nominating volunteers from their church. Volunteer specialists will provide neighboring churches with information about the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY), training opportunities, resources for Scout Sunday and various awards for young people and adults. Scouting ministry specialists will also help churches enrich their relationship with existing scout units. "Too frequently, churches treat troops as if they are just renting space instead of being a vital part of their ministry," said Larry Coppock national director of scouting ministries. Fifty percent of the scouts in troops chartered by UM churches are unchurched and might benefit from a closer relationship. For further information about becoming/nominating a scouting ministry specialist, contact LaNisha Sayles at lsayles@gcumm.org or 866-297-4312.

Agencies Receive Poor Grades on Mission

An article by UMNS says UM general agencies rate below average in fulfilling the church's mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." A comprehensive study of church structures also found that agencies often fail to collaborate with each other and their boards are too large and meet too infrequently to provide effective oversight. "The agencies are a cacophony of voices," said the report commissioned by the denomination's Call to Action Steering Team. "Their 'brands and communications compete with one another' and result in confusion and dilution of the impact at the annual conference and local church levels." In short, the autonomous organization structure of the agencies has lessened their value to the church, according to the "Operational Assessment of the Connectional Church." Read the full story at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=5259669&ct=8541727&tr=y&auid=6708059>.

Bishop Carder, Marian Wright Edelman to Present at Peace Conference

"Peace for the World's Children," Sept. 18-21, will offer opportunity to join with advocates from across the U.S. to explore social issues facing children. The third annual Lake Junaluska Peace Conference will offer a variety of workshops and presentations that explore social issues facing children. Leaders at the conference include Marian Wright Edelman, Dr. Jeni Stepanek and UM Bishop Kenneth Carder. Participants will have the opportunity to join with children's advocates from across the U.S. For the first time, the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference includes a Saturday - Sunday session specifically for children, youths and their adult leaders, led by Stepanek, noted advocate for children's and families' needs in health and education. The "Peace Celebration for Youths & Children" will encourage and show youths how they can become peacemakers themselves. The Sunday night opening session of the Peace Conference will be led by Bishop Carder, the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at the Duke Divinity School. Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the

Children's Defense Fund, will be keynote speaker. Coupled with her emphasis on national issues, leadership at the conference will help participants take a hard look at global challenges through more than 20 workshops, each of which focuses on children and each person's responsibility and role as a peacemaker. A complete listing of workshops can be found online at www.lakejunaluska.com/peace. For more information and to take advantage of the extended early registration by July 31, call 828-454-6656 or visit www.lakejunaluska.com/peace.

Choir Music Weekend — Oct. 22-24

Lake Junaluska, NC www.lakejunaluska.com/choirmusic/

Choir Music weekend brings together choral training, hand bells, workshops on various subjects, worship and great fun in one of this country's most beautiful locations. Participants will learn skills and music that they can take home with them, along with many rich memories and lasting friendships. Find out more at www.lakejunaluska.com/choirmusic/.

Hygh to Head Mission Communications at GBGM

Dr. Larry R. Hygh, Jr. will assume the position of director of Mission Communications at the General Board of Global Ministries on Sept. 13. He has been the communications director of the California-Pacific Annual Conference since 2002, having earlier worked with the Mississippi and Baltimore-Washington Conference. He is a native of Texas, and began his ministry as a REM (Racial Ethnic Minority) Fellow. A full story on Hygh and his appointment to Global Ministries is online at http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5812.

Open Your Doors, Lift Up Your Hearts for Immigrants and Their Families

Message from **Bill Mefford**, director of Civil and Human Rights: Tomorrow, July 29, Arizona's law, SB 1070, will begin to be enforced. I will be there to stand with the immigrants in Arizona who are being driven out or driven under because of this repressive law. I am joining other people of faith who are going to Arizona to specifically spend time at the border to hear the voices of all affected by the broken immigration system in the U.S. I know many of you want to be there as well, but are unable to go. You can still be involved by joining in prayer. Following a 4:30 a.m. PST march to the capitol in Phoenix, a statewide prayer vigil will begin at 6 a.m. PST and every two hours through the rest of the day in different cities in Arizona. Many UM churches will open their doors that day for people to come and pray. Please open your church for prayer on July 29, too.

Register for September Ministry Retreat by Aug. 5

The 48-hour Discernment & Formation Retreat, sponsored jointly by the General Boards of Higher Education & Ministry and Global Ministries, is for anyone who is seriously discerning a call to UM set-apart ministry, those in candidacy prior to commissioning for ordained ministry (deacon, elder, chaplain or pastoral counselor) or the lay office of deaconess or home missioner. The event begins at 5 p.m. Sept. 9, ending at 4 p.m. Sept. 11. To register or invite someone else to register, click on

<https://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=af1bcd71-d18a-4a1c-8247-53f38c622e60>. The site includes the schedule, housing and travel information, workshop descriptions, sign-up and plenary speakers. It also contains directions to send the invitation to others whom you think might be interested.

Annual Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection — Oct. 7-8

The best years of the church are ahead of us, and in anticipation, this year's Leadership Institute will focus on "Preparing for a Future with Hope." Join Adam Hamilton, the staff of the Church of the Resurrection, and thousands of UMs from around the country in seeking to "Prepare for a Future with Hope" at Leadership Institute 2010 Oct. 7-8 at Leawood, Kan. <http://www.cor.org/institute10>. Special Discounts available for young adults and leaders of new churches.

2010 Events at Mount Sequoyah Retreat & Conference Center

150 NW Skyline Dr., Fayetteville, Ark. 72701 • 479-443-4531/800-760-8126

Oct. 18-22: *Leaves of Gold*

This retreat features worship, fellowship, workshops, tours, laughter, learning and fun during the turning of the leaves to gold at Mount Sequoyah! Bishop Richard Wilke will be the featured worship leader. Register online by Oct. 10 at www.mountsequoyah.org.

Oct. 25-28: *Autumn Time*

Autumn Time is a wonderful experience featuring worship, praise, fellowship, laughter and fun! Workshops include centering prayer, spiritual journaling, exercise, nutrition workshop, military workshop, tour of the AR Air Museum. Register online by Oct. 15 at www.mountsequoyah.org.

CEF Conference — Oct. 22-25

Come to Kentucky to experience the Divine in a new way at the Christian Educators Fellowship Conference Oct. 22-25. Bringing the messages will be Bishop Lindsey Davis and pastors Rudy Rasmus (St. John's UMC, Houston and founder of Bread of Life, Inc.) and Sherry Daniels (Norfolk UMC and former Denman Evangelism Award recipient). Check the CEF website at www.cefumc.org to register and get updates on worships, tours, pre/post-conference offerings.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Hurst First Member Rides to Victory with \$4000 for Missions

Through the efforts of cyclist John Nixon, the Harmony Sunday School Class members of Hurst First UMC Hurst raised over \$4,000 for mission programs. Check out his blog to learn more about the long journey and conclusion of his coast-to-coast bike ride for mission awareness at <http://johnnixoncyclist.wordpress.com>.

Good Shepherd Adult Activity Center

Good Shepherd UMC announces that a NuStep T4 recumbent cross trainer exercise machine has been donated to the church to be used during the Adult Activity Center which is open on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The machine provides simultaneous upper and lower body motion to work all major muscle groups and is a preferred piece of rehabilitation equipment used by clinicians. The community is invited to share in the use of this equipment. There is no charge. Call Nila Geisel (817-276-0727) to schedule an appointment. Activities on Thursdays also include games, crafts, quilting, tai chi, Bible studies, computers and other "senior" issues plus eating together.

Fishers of Men Dinner at Richardson First — Aug. 3

"There is still time to RSVP for the Fishers of Men dinner at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 3rd, being hosted by Richardson First UMC (503 N. Central Expressway, Richardson 75080). Patrick Morley, co-author of the book, *No Man Left Behind*, will be coming to the Dallas area Aug. 3 to host a Night on Discipleship. The evening is geared toward pastors and men's leaders. It will be a time of fellowship, encouragement, conversation and equipping. He will share some strategies that have proven successful in producing changed lives, stronger families and healthier churches. Cost: \$10 donation at the door to cover dinner and presentation. RSVP to Jim Angelakos at 800-929-2536, ext. 139 or jimangelakos@maninthemirror.org"

Lay Speaker Course / Temple District

Lay speaker courses being offered to all in the Temple District:

Saturday, Aug. 7 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at St. Andrews, Killeen (lunch provided)

United Methodist Heritage — taught by Bill Jones

254 698-3133 or wjones8152@aol.com

Saturday, Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at St. Paul, Georgetown (bring sack lunch)

Basic — taught by Johnel Louie 254 791-1435 or jlouie28@aol.com

Saturday, Sept. 11 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. at Wellspring, Georgetown (lunch provided)
Youth Basic — taught by Pam Dieckert 254 939-5413 pam@dieckert.com & Cindy Weigand

Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Temple Oak Park
Basic — planning underway by Pam Dieckert, Temple District Lay Speaker chair

9500 LIBERTY Screening — 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, July 29

After a sold-out premiere and a six-week run in Phoenix, AZ, the award-winning documentary **9500 LIBERTY** will be shown in Fort Worth at the Rose Marine Theater 1440 North Main St., Fort Worth 76164, 817-624-8333. Following the film, a panel discussion with participants representing various community organizations will discuss the effects of immigration policy on the community. Panelists will represent law enforcement, policy makers, community groups, and students. Coffee Party founder Annabel Park, who grew up in Houston after emigrating from South Korea, and Eric Byler co-directed the film. English with Spanish subtitles (con subtítulos en español). Filmmaker Eric Byler in person after film.

Women of Faith — Round Rock First Women Have Tickets to Share

The women of Round Rock First UMC are going to San Antonio for Women of Faith - Imagine, Oct. 22-23 in the Alamodome. We have a few tickets left and invite others from the conference to join us. The ticket price is \$89. Contact group leader Karah Ricketts at krosyrup@yahoo.com or 512-917-9874. *Escape from the everyday at a Women of Faith weekend and be refreshed, encouraged and inspired. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever imagine.*

Basic Lay Speaking Course at River Oaks — Aug. 14 & 21

A basic lay speaking course is being offered at River Oaks UMC on Saturdays, Aug. 14 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the church. Cost is \$ 25, paid at the first class. Contact Judy Clarke at 817-292-9555 (home), 817-922-9950 (office) or judyclarke@sbcglobal.net.

Financial Peace Workshop — Aug. 4 Preview / Aug. 24 Start Up

Sparks Memorial UMC (900 Maxfield, Waco 76705) will be leading a 13-week session on Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*. A preview session will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 2 with classes beginning on Aug. 24. The goal of FPU is transformation. FPU teaches how to eliminate debt, save for the future and how to give like never before. On average, class members pay off \$5,300 in debt and save \$2,700 in a 90-day period. If you would like to register for the class, go to www.daveramsey.com, click on "classes," then click on "find a class." Type in "76705" in the zip code field. Click "Register" under Sparks Memorial UMC. Cost is \$99.51 for materials and is payable at the preview. For questions, contact Jimmy Sansom at 254-799-5124 (church) or 254-716-9550 (cell).

Financial Peace Workshop — Starts Aug. 24 at First Hurst

For the second year in a row, FUMC Hurst will offer Financial Peace University. It begins Tuesday, Aug. 24, and continues every Tuesday evening through Nov. 16. Cost: \$100. Class time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Register online by Aug. 8 at www.fumchurst.org.

Waco Prayer Conference 2010 — Aug. 7

"I don't want to talk about prayer; I want to ACTually PRAY"

First UMC, Waco will host this event from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. Jim Leggett, senior pastor at Grace Fellowship UMC in Katy, TX, will lead the conference. Registration - **\$20** before July 31; \$25 after July Jul 31. Information available at fumcwaco.org or contact Linda Hammond at 254-772-5630.

Cowboy Church at Christ UMC — Aug. 14-15

Christ UMC, Fort Worth, will be holding its annual Cowboy Church event Aug. 14-15. At 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, there will be a free concert by Christian country music artist and evangelist Jay Johnson and his band. There is no charge for the concert; however, the church will be accepting school supplies or cash donations to be given to those in need in the local school district. At 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning, Aug. 15, Johnson will lead this country-inspired Country Church worship service with special music by the Emmy nominated gospel quartet Praise, Inc. This will be followed by a BBQ lunch in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please visit www.cumcfw.org or call the church office at 817-346-2400, or email Allen Heinecke at aheinecke@sbcglobal.net.

Battle of the Bands at Wellspring — Aug. 21

Wellspring UMC in Georgetown is sponsoring a ***Battle of the Bands*** on Saturday, Aug. 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. in San Gabriel Park. The event is free; fun is mandatory. Come hear bands from around the Georgetown/Austin area compete for best in the show. There will be entertainment for the kids and free hot dogs for everyone. This is a great time to enjoy the dog days of summer before buckling down to schoolbooks and hurried family life. For more information go to www.wellumc.org or contact the church at admin@wellumc.org.

Robbie Seay Band in Concert — Aug. 29

First UMC, Cleburne presents “**The Robbie Seay Band**” in concert 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug 29, at the Cleburne Conference Center. For ticket info contact FUMC, Cleburne at 817-645-6392 or clint@fumccleburne.com.

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=iflTKWNrGalKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLeKYLpl&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edKIWP rHgIWF>)

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

EI' 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)

Midnight Oil Productions Resources

Check out Midnight Oil Production Co.'s Christmas in July sale specials at <http://www.midnightoilproductions.com/products/category/christmas/page/2/>.

Get just the textures you want with the new downloadable texture packs! These inexpensive sets are grouped by category so you can get the exact look you need for your next project. Each pack includes screen and high-resolution options. Choose from the following categories: Abstract, Asphalt, Bokeh, Clouds, Concrete, Dirt, Fabric/Material, Metal, Paper, Patriotic, Plants, Rock/Stonework, Stained Glass, and Wood. To get the whole set, click on <http://www.midnightoilproductions.com/products/worship-textures/>.

Seeing Your Church with Fresh Eyes

Could your church benefit from a program called "Seeing Your Church with Fresh Eyes"? Tom Gibson can conduct a program that shows members how to step back and see their church through the eyes of the first-time visitor. He recently taught 3 classes for the 2010 Texas Ministry Conference in Houston, put on by the Church CO+OP Ministries, and recently gave the program during a luncheon for the Dallas Branch of the National Association of Church Business Administrators. Gibson has been a communications professional for over 35 years and has spent 22 years working specifically with churches and faith-based organizations of all denominations. As a consultant and trainer, his focus has been in communications, benevolence interpretation, evangelism, and church image. He chaired the UM Texas Annual Conference Communications Council for over 3 years and was past president of the UM South Central Jurisdictional Communicators Conference. He served 13 years as director of Mission Communications, an in-house ad agency, for UMR Communications (UM Reporter) in Dallas and 4 years as director of Evangelism and Communications for Moody Memorial First UMC in Galveston. He can be contacted at Tom Gibson, North Texas Representative, Church Interiors, Inc., Direct: 972-998-7416 FAX: 972-947-3813, www.churchinteriors.com.

Fall Preaching Convocation — Sept. 20-21

On Sept. 20-21 George W. Truett Theological Seminary (Baylor University campus in Waco) will host its annual Fall Preaching Convocation, featuring Bishop William Willimon. Registration for the two-day event is \$20 by Sept. 1, and \$30 thereafter. Online registration will be available by late July. Contact: Myles_Werntz@baylor.edu.

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

Mental Health Facts from the Depression Connection Team: Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion or income. Mental illnesses are not the result of personal weakness, lack of character or poor upbringing. Mental illnesses are treatable. 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. In an effort to be as accommodating as possible to our users, old favorites that have been re-released on DVD have been obtained. Here are two recent acquisitions:

The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study (or The Gospel According to Granny) Now on DVD! *The Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study* focuses on a comical clash between morals versus materialism! Join Uncle Jed, Granny, Jethro and Elly May as they try to show Mr. Drysdale the banker that the worth of a person does not depend on his bank account! This hilarious study highlights a simple family in a world obsessed with money that just want to stay true to their humble roots and values! Sound familiar? "In retrospect they seem downright progressive, those counterculture Clampetts. *The Beverly Hillbillies* continues to tweak a foolish modern world that the Clampetts occupied without losing their souls. The Hillbillies look smarter with every passing season. More than ever, the joke is on the rest of us." Associated Press

The Lucy Show Bible Study . Now on DVD! Why do we love Lucy? As *The Lucy Show Bible Study* shows us, no matter how much trouble she gets into, she always winds up on top by grace. See mercy at work with Mr. Mooney - where mercy really needs to work! See kindness at home with Mary Jane, as she helps with the next crazy plan! And see generosity in every walk of life with Lucy! Come on in to *The Lucy Show Bible Study* - and don't forget to bring your own (slightly) wacky best friends!

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.

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Financial Secretary

University UMC, Fort Worth seeks a part-time financial secretary. Applicants should be able to demonstrate strong accounting skills and possess experience in the financial field. Finance or business degree is preferred, but not required. Applicants may submit resume to Dana Boles at officemanager@universityumc.net.

Volunteers for Multiple Tasks

Diamond Hill UMC in North Fort Worth needs volunteers for summer and fall activities:

* Soccer Camp – Friday, July 30, Alliance UMC. Volunteers needed to teach children soccer, help with Bible Studies and music.

* After school tutoring program – Beginning Mid August. Volunteers are needed to help tutor students and assist with their after school programming.

• Bilingual (Spanish speaking) individuals needed!

If you have the gift of working with children and are able to help, please call Laura or Osvaldo Benitez at 210-378-9283.

Financial Secretary

Part-time financial secretary position open at Smithfield UMC in North Richland Hills. Job requires an average of 10 hours per week and a working knowledge of Quick Books and basic bookkeeping skills. High school diploma or equivalent is required. To apply, send resume to Lisa Neslony at pastorlisa@smithfieldumc.org or 6701 Smithfield Road, North Richland Hills 76182.

Pianist/Organist

First UMC of Midlothian seeks pianist/organist with responsibilities for the 8:30 and 11 a.m. traditional worship services and special seasonal worship. Position available immediately.

For detailed information contact Billy Pritchett at billyp@fumc-midlothian.org. A resume with cover letter may be sent to: First UMC of Midlothian c/o Billy Pritchett – Director of Music 800 S. 9th St., Midlothian, 76065.

Portable Kneeling Benches

Good News UMC in Cedar Park is in need of two or three portable kneeling benches for prayer and communion. Please contact Bob Rainey at bobrainey@austin.rr.com or 254-479-0241. We will pick up.

Mini-bus

Lorena UMC wants to buy a good, late-model mini-bus, 14+1 passenger or larger, low mileage. The church will pay cash; the need is now (or soon). Lorena UMC, 254-857-4283, 817-773-6959, lorenaumc@lorenaumc.org.

Organist

First UMC, Belton seeks an organist. If interested, contact Carol Scherer at 254-939-5703 or musicdir@vvm.com.

P-T Director of Music/Fine Arts

Opening for a part-time director of music and fine arts at Aledo UMC, a 1700-member church in East Parker County with an average worship attendance of 450. Responsibilities include oversight of the music and fine arts department, development of creative worship ideas, leading the chancel choir, bell choir, etc., overseeing the contemporary praise and worship leader, overseeing all audio/visual equipment and drama ministries. Requirements: minimum two years of similar experience and an undergraduate degree. Submit resume to Jason Jones at JasonJones@aledoumc.org

Part-time Multi-Media Technician

New World UMC in Arlington seeks an individual with working knowledge of all forms of media including soundboard, light table, personal computer, and CD recording technology. Incumbent must also be familiar with basic principles and operation for the maintenance and handling of

theater lights, wireless and wired microphones, and multimedia projectors. Strong interpersonal communication skills, collaborative and helpful demeanor and a willingness to perform any work for which qualified are a must. Good aural skills and musical training would be a plus. The ideal candidate must be a team player who desires to be a servant to the membership while being a leader and coordinator in the multimedia aspect of church operations. For a full description of this position, go to <http://www.nwumc.org/jobs.php>. Interested individuals may send their resume to staff@nwumc.org.

Organist

First UMC of Waxahachie seeks an organist with primary responsibilities for the 8:30 and 11 a.m. traditional worship services, special seasonal worship, and accompanying the choir on occasional anthems. This position, which is available Oct. 3, is separate from the piano accompanist. The church's organ was built by Wicks Organ Company (opus 6428) and installed in May 2005. It includes three manuals, a pedal board, and is built to AGO specifications. For a detailed job description, please e-mail Ed Gibson, director of Music Ministries, at edchoir@aol.com or contact the church office at 972-937-4400. Résumés with a cover letter may be sent to: First UMC of Waxahachie, c/o Ed Gibson – Director of Music, 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie 75165

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 76068 or contact church office at 940-325-4707 for more details.

Director of ABC Wee School

"Christ UMC of Fort Worth is looking for a director of its ABC Wee School. This is a two-day per week mother's day out program, with the position to begin in September. Inquiries should be directed to Lou Hulcy, SPRC chair, at louhulcy@sbcglobal.net or 817-293-7853.

Display Unit

Custom built tall wooden Stephen Ministry display unit available. Display may be used for stocking Stephen Ministry applications and related literature, as well as having a Stephen Minister stationed beside it to answer questions. Free to a good church home (will require a pickup truck to transport). If interested, contact debbieb@firstmethodistmansfield.org.

Equipment for Hearing Impaired

Godley UMC has three hearing-impaired members who could benefit from amplification devices in worship. Churches that have updated their equipment recently are asked if they would donate their old equipment to Godley. If you can help, please contact Pastor Rudy Rudewick at Godley UMC ([samnrudy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:samnrody@sbcglobal.net).) This is a church that celebrated Easter Sunday with 14 Baptisms and 14 confirmations — 1 baptism and 2 confirmations of older adults.

Music Director

(20 hours) – If you like the sound of "that's the way we've always done it," this position isn't for you. Brock UMC (<http://www.brockumc.com/>), a growing church 30 minutes west of Fort Worth, seeks to hire their first music director; position can include leading music for both contemporary and traditional services, launching an adult choir, overseeing two new kid choirs and even using our two octaves of handbells that are ready to ring once again. Resumes or questions may be sent to Alan@brockumc.com.

Used Folding Machine Needed!

Stephenville Oakdale UMC needs a good used folding machine. If you have one that is no longer needed, please contact Steve Holston at 254-968-8870 or pastor@oakdaleum.org.

Director of Children's Ministry/Assistant Youth Director

First UMC of Azle has an opening for a director of children's ministry/assistant youth director. This person will work with the full-time youth director. The responsibilities of this full-time position will be to oversee all the elements of the children's ministry as well as be an assistant to the youth director in the areas of administration and programming. There will also be some teaching responsibilities involved. For further information or for a job description, please contact Dean Posey at dposey@fumcazle.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.

Pianist

Lakeside UMC at Richland Chambers Lake seeks a pianist for weekly Sunday service from 8 to 11:30 a.m. This paid position is available beginning June 1. If interested, please contact: Bill Brunson, chairman Staff Parish Relations Committee, at 903-599-4035 or Pastor Sandy Hippman at 903-599-3080.

Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC, Red Oak seeks an enthusiastic youth director. The position is half time and will require working with jr. and sr. high youth. Requirements: experience in youth ministry preferred, excellent communication and relationship building skills and excellent references. Needs to have a good understanding of Methodist doctrine and be a mature spiritual leader with a heart for youth and their families. Be able to plan/coordinate activities for 7 – 12 graders, including weekly Bible study, Sunday school, youth meetings, fundraisers, and annual mission trip. Additional ministry opportunities available depending on gifts and graces. Contact church office at 972-617-9100 for an application.

Office Equipment

A member of Cogdell UMC in Waco offers two items:

For sale — RICOH-2051 copier, w/finisher, internet capabilities and maintenance available till 2014. \$1,500 or best offer.

Contact Pat at 254-855-0796 for more info.

Church Pianist

West FUMC seeks a church pianist. This individual should be talented in playing the piano/organ and also possess a strong love of Christ and the hymns that glorify Him. The position requires playing at weekly Sunday church services, one choir practice session the first Wednesday evening of each month, plus any special services scheduled. Interested individuals should contact Pastor Linda Wimberly at 254-826-5448 or westfumc@att.net.

General Development Officer

The Methodist Children's Home in Waco seeks a full time general development officer.

Responsibilities: initiate, build and maintain relationships with benefactors, foundations and churches in the Central Texas area in an effort to secure charitable donations. Bachelor's degree and experience in fundraising or other related field required. A general understanding of the field of development, charitable giving, the UMC and childcare agencies is preferred. Must be willing to travel an average of three days a week, including some weekends. Apply at: www.methodistchildrenshome.org; recruiter@mchwaco.org; or MCH, 1111 Herring Ave. Waco, TX 76708.

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.*