



Central E-Link

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

March 10, 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

Annual Conference Business, Award Nominations & Other Information — June 6-9

Due to the potential lengthiness of Annual Conference information, it will be covered starting on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) under the heading "2010 Annual Conference" in the lower right quadrant of the main page. This is your one-stop place for hotel information, online registration, fellowship meals, award/scholarship/honors nomination information and the full agenda. **Please check the deadlines for scholarship applications and award nominations (received to date) at the end of this E-Link.**

***Imagine No Malaria* Selected for 2010 Annual Conference Offering**

The Mission Leadership Team selected at their annual meeting last Saturday ***Imagine No Malaria*** for the 2010 Annual Conference offering. ***Imagine No Malaria*** (INM) is the UMC's next step in our goal to eradicate malaria in sub-Saharan Africa where a child dies every 30 seconds from this preventable and treatable disease. Broad support for ***Nothing Buts Nets***, our 2007 Annual Conference offering, which brought in \$ \$135,276 confirms that we are a missional people willing to tackle the diseases of poverty and improve health globally. ***Imagine No Malaria*** is a call to churches and individuals to take the global health initiative further, and we hope to increase our contribution in 2010. For INM information and downloadable resources, please visit http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1Lth/b.5554239/k.31EB/Imagine_No_Malaria_a_ministry_to_eliminate_malaria_in_Africa_by_2015.htm. Check out what others are doing on INM's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/umcImagineNoMalaria>.

Appointment Changes

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announced the following changes in clergy appointments: ***Helen Jones*** — from part-time(1/4 time) local pastor serving the Tolar/Temple Hall charge to Tolar, Weatherford District, effective Feb. 1.

Scott Goodfellow — from supply to ½-time local pastor at Nolanville UMC, Temple District, effective Jan. 1.

2010 Census: Your Church Can Help

As members of this faith-based community and the communities in which we live and work, we have a lot at stake going into the 2010 Census. Every year, the federal government distributes

more than \$000 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data. Our ministry organizations can use the information to apply for grants and determine locations for new facilities. By encouraging members of our churches to complete and return their census forms, we all help to guide funding decisions for our schools, hospitals and child-care centers, as well as affect our voice in Congress. The data collected are used to determine voting districts for all levels of city, state and nationally elected offices. Play a role in important decisions that government leaders will make in the next 10 years. Encourage participation in the 2010 Census. For more information, visit 2010census.gov.

Congratulations, First Coleman

First UMC Coleman has been recognized by UM Communications (UMCom) as an official "Welcoming Congregation" for the *third year*. "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. Details on Welcoming Congregations: visit www.rethinkchurch.org or by call toll free **877- 281-6535**.

CTCYM Early Bird Deadline Is This Week!

In order to take advantage of the \$225 early bird rate for the Sr. High and Combination youth mission trips, registrations must be completed by THIS Thursday, March 11, and \$100 deposit postmarked March 11 as well. After that date, the \$235 on-time rate will be in effect until April 8.

Board of Ordained Ministry MEF Changes

Recognizing a need for better documentation of its use of Ministerial Education Funds (Continuing Education and Grant-In-Aid) at its meeting Feb. 9, the BOM approved certain changes to its Ministerial Education Fund policies. Please discard all old request forms. New forms are available at www.ctcbom.org.

Continuing Education Grant requests now require a copy of a completed registration form for the event for which funds are requested be submitted with each request. The form should include the name and purpose of the event, any continuing education units, and fees and housing expenses. Continuing Education funds are available to all ordained clergy, associate members and permanent local pastors (those having completed Basic Course of Study). Provisional members in the Residency Program may also apply for funds for continuing education events required by the program, with the approval of a Residency Registrar. At this time, allowable amounts remain as they were.

Grant-In-Aid Grant requests (financial assistance for undergraduate and seminary expenses for certified candidates) now require attachment of a copy of receipts for tuition, fees and books, a course schedule, and a copy of the transcript for the most recent semester for which Grant-In-Aid was awarded. The form must now be signed by the appropriate district superintendent. The student must also agree to serve one year in the Central Texas Conference UMC for every year of GIA received. Certain conditions apply that may require full or partial repayment for non-compliance or for failing, dropping or withdrawing from a course or semester. At this time, allowable amounts remain as they were. Please e-mail either Billy Strayhorn or Rachel Heyduck with any questions.

Course of Study Grants/Reimbursements have also changed, according to which part of Course of Study a Local Pastor is taking and where. Policy and form are posted to the BOM website. Contact Darren Walker or Gala Trimble at the BOM office, if you have questions.

Psychological Assessments will now require a \$100 contribution from all candidates, to be collected at the time the candidate enrolls online with the GBHEM. In 2009, the BOM voted to require candidates to pay \$100 of the \$215 expense incurred for interpretation of their psychological assessments as an initial investment in his or her call to ministry as a clergy member of the Central Texas Conference. It is suggested that, if the candidate is unable to pay the entire amount, he or she solicit assistance from the recommending Charge Conference. A form with instructions is available in all district offices and posted at www.ctcbom.org.

March Registration Deadlines for Great Day of Service

There are two registration deadlines for Great Day of Service, an opportunity for CTC youth to join together for a one-day mission event on Saturday, April 10. Find your church registration form online at www.ctcumc.org/greatday. The Great Day of Service will be in three locations this year — the **Metroplex and Waco with a March 22 deadline and Temple with a March 12 deadline**. Find out which one is best for you and bring your group for a day of service throughout our conference! **These are new dates.**

Centennial Celebration Needs Your Logo Ideas

A special CTC centennial celebration is planned for Oct. 23 in Fort Worth and you can participate by designing a logo for the Centennial. The 100th Anniversary Committee will judge entries. For more details, contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org

Outdoor Christian Rock Music Festival at Texas Motor Speedway — March 20

Popular Christian rock artists Hawk Nelson, Decyfer Down, Pillar, Emery, Brian “Head” Welch, Project 86, The Letter Black, Wavorly and FlatFoot56 will be performing at “Forty Fest-Resonate! 2010,” a day-long music festival on Saturday, March 20, at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more details, contact www.fortyfest.org or 800-773-7440 x203.

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

Each year Mount Sequoyah hosts a volunteer workweek for volunteers from all of the 15 conferences that make up the South Central Jurisdiction. The retreat center is in the heart of Fayetteville, Ark., at the top of a large hill overlooking the city. 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.

Details at http://www.mountsequoyah.org/www.mountsequoyah.org/Programs_Training_files/FINALWW%20Brochure%202010-reg.pdf.

In The Large Church — April 12-15

Making disciples and decision making are at the heart of an educational opportunity April 12-15 at University UMC in San Antonio for the “Large Church Initiative 2010.” The goal for this 2010 national training event is to introduce you to leading thinkers, major speakers, cutting-edge systems for making disciples and making decisions that make disciples. Participants will gain new tools for coaching individual disciples and coordinating institutional decisions. These tools have the potential to grow your congregation in size and significance. For a complete list of speakers and consultants, click the links below. For more information:

Keynote Speakers <http://lci2010.com/conference/keynotes/>

Bishop's Dinner <http://lci2010.com/experiences/bishops-dinner/>

Breakout Speakers <http://lci2010.com/conference/speakers/>

The Host <http://lci2010.com/conference/about/>

Overview <http://www.lci2010.com>

UMVIM Team Leader Training — April 24

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

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

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 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. The \$75 cost includes 16 weeks of programming to get you started, a training manual, educational materials/references, devotional resources and exercise leadership video. Details: (www.ctcumc.org) under health and wellness.

United Methodist Night at the Ballpark! — May 8

Get discounted tickets for UMC churches for the Saturday, May 8, Ranger game against the Royals. Game time is 7:05 p.m. and tickets start at \$7.50 for upper reserved and \$8 for bleachers. Get order information at <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/1391>.

Red Bird Mission Trip — Oct. 3-9

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

News Briefs — The Denomination

Listening to the Poor

For those who missed yesterday's Listening to the Poor broadcast on "Learning Circle on Poverty," which relates to the UM focus area on Ministry with the Poor, the text can be read online at <http://gbgm-umc.org/learningcircles2>. The March 8 meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Ministry With The Poor met at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, TN.

Did You Know?

The Upper Room and United Methodist Men support a 24-hour intercessory prayer ministry. United Methodist Men prayer advocates presented the center with \$11,375 during their March 3-7 meeting. The men annually provide \$21,000 to pay for the phone line. The 30,000 monthly prayer requests received at the center are sent to 300 covenant prayer groups. (From UMNS)

Church Giving, Membership Decline in Recession

The recession continues to affect giving to the UMC at a time when the denomination is experiencing its largest percentage decline in membership since 1974. UM churches in the 63 annual (regional) conferences of the U.S. contributed 84 percent of what the denomination budgeted to support ministries around the world in 2009. The total apportioned was \$150.3 million; \$126.3 million was collected. Meanwhile, membership dropped 1.01 percent to 7,774,420 in 2008, according to the latest data from the UM General Council on Finance & Administration. Average worship attendance was down 1.83 percent. What continued, amid sacrifices, was the work of the church, officials said.

Fourteen of the U.S. annual (regional) conferences [**including the Central Texas Conference**] contributed to the church's global ministry funds at the 100 percent level. Fourteen conferences also increased their giving percentage over 2008. Statistics reported by local churches and annual conferences indicate that professing membership in 2008 was down 1.01 percent over 2007, the largest percentage decline since 1974, when membership dropped 1.06 percent. Membership was the highest, 10,789,624, when the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist churches merged in 1968. It has been declining since the mid-1960s. There are signs of growth, however. Eight conferences reported increases in membership [**including Central Texas Conference**], and seven reported increases in worship attendance, said Scott Brewer, executive

with the council. For the full story, please visit:

[http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=2789393&ct=8065437&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+umnsheadlines+\(United+Methodist+News+Service+Headlines\)](http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=2789393&ct=8065437&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+umnsheadlines+(United+Methodist+News+Service+Headlines)).

Wesley May be Coming to a Theater Near You

A Moravian preacher is bringing the film "Wesley" to a movie theater near you. The two-hour movie that is slowly building a platform in theaters across the U.S. brings to life the story of the founder of Methodism. Rev. John Jackman, 53, pastor of Trinity Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., says he got into the movie business as a way of telling stories of redemption, and John Wesley's story has enough action for several films. "I wish I could have made this into a mini-series," Jackman says. "There is enough great material here to make an eight-hour film."

Read the full UMNS story at

<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=bpIFKPNvGjITL8K&s=afJQZMtE9IMLZMCIqF&m=msJQIYOFLjJ4G>.

InfoServ Changes Effective April 1, 2010

InfoServ, the official information service of the UMC, will become exclusively an e-mail and online information service effective April 1. At that time, telephone support services will be discontinued. Customers will be able to submit questions via e-mail at infoserv@umcom.org. Answers to the most frequently asked questions are also available online at www.infoserv.umc.org. During an initial transition period, callers will be able to leave a message and callback number. Other customer-friendly options such as live chat are also being explored.

One Great Hour of Sharing Pays UMCOR Overhead — March 24

When the first tremors of the earthquake in Haiti rocked that island nation, UMCOR staff were already in country, strategizing how UMs could help improve the lives of the people there. Their work is a direct result of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the operating expenses for those who bring healing and help in our name. One Great Hour of Sharing makes it possible, when we respond to an emergency like Haiti and now Chile, to know that 100% of our gift goes directly to where the suffering is happening. Especially this year, join in promoting and supporting this ministry. Find resources (at no cost to the local church) at <http://umcgiving.org/specialsundays> or call 888-346-3862.

What's New on www.UMCWorship.org

Week of March 7 – March 13, 2010

Church of the Week: Moose Pass UMC, Seward, Alaska

http://www.kintera.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5759639/k.BFCA/Church_of_the_Week.htm

Chile Earthquake Response – Resources

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc_id=739,1112,1199&act=nav_loc

"Is This the Judgment of a God," Hymn after the Earthquakes by Andrew Pratt

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48570

Preparing for the Easter Vigil, by Dwight Vogel

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48566

Reflecting on the Easter Vigil: An Exercise in Mystagogy

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48567

Worship Planning for Eastertide, Year C

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48573

Lectionary Hymns: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?loc_id=733,14,1173&act=nav_loc

21st Century Worship Resources: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48489&loc_id=733,32,48

Worship Planning Helps: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48488&loc_id=733,32,48

Preaching Planning Helps: March 14, 2010 – 4th Sunday in Lent

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=48490&loc_id=733,32,48

2010 Funding Conference Scheduled for March 20

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

Clergywoman's Gathering — April 7-9

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

Local Congregations & Ministry Group

Killeen Chosen for WinShape C3 Church Camp

Killeen has been chosen for the third consecutive year as the Central Texas community to host the WinShpae C3 church camp, a day camp combining sports, arts, Bible study and worship for children who have completed first through fifth grades. The campus of central texas College will host the event June 7-11 with registration now underway at www.winshapecamps.org or by calling 800-448-6955, ext. 2396. Scholarships are available through First UMC Killeen. WinShape assembles a team of 21 college students who bring day camp experience to children in several states. For more details, contact Terry Bierwirth at terry.bierwirth@fumc-killeen.com.

Music Events at First Bedford

First UMC (1245 Bedford Rd., Bedford – 817-283-5536) will host weekly music events from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays March 11 (WideAwake), 18 (Some Guy Named Bart) and 25 (Joanna Seamen). They will also host the 2010 Inside Out Tour at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 22, featuring Gravity Liberation Front. Contact the church for more details.

Tongan First Choir Fundraising

As a fundraising effort, Tongan First UMC Trustee's Choir and the Youth and Children Choirs are willing to sing at any church worship service within the CTC. A love offering or donation will help the church in their building renovations. Both choirs sing in Tongan language and the Youth and Children choir can sign both ENGLISH and TONGAN. Their choirs sang last year at First Hurst, Grapevine and Trinity, Arlington. Contact: Ofa Tuuholoaki at 817-272-5310 or tuuholoakio@yahoo.com.

Central UMC, Waco's BASIC Choir Performs — March 20

Composer Carlos Colon-Quintana will present a premiere of his revised and completed Requiem, Las Lamentaciones de Rufina Amaya and other sacred choral works in a free concert at Holy Trinity Catholic Church (3811 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas) at 6:30 p.m. March 20. The first part of the concert will feature B.A.S.I.C., the chamber choir of Central UMC, Waco under the direction of

Karen Hogue. The composer's work commemorates the Mozote Massacre of 1981 in El Salvador and the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero on Feb. 23, 1977. For more details, contact Tino Jalomo at 214-718-2384 or augustmax@yahoo.com or Eugenia Aponte at 310-654-3504 or euaponte@aol.com. The Central UMC group will also be perform the requiem mass Feb. 28 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Waco and will leave March 4 to perform in El Salvador.

The Psalms – Prayer and Inspiration — March 21

Trinity UMC in Arlington is sponsoring Dr. Toni Craven from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21, to talk about the Book of Psalms. Craven, a contributing interpreter of the Book of Psalms for the NRSV Bible will talk about the history of the Psalms and how to use them for prayer and inspiration. You will enjoy her wit and knowledge. Trinity is located at 3321 W. Park Row, Arlington 76013. For questions or to reserve a spot, contact Miriam Georg at Miriam@trinityumcarlington.org or 817-773-1158.

Cancer and End-of-Life Care — March 24

The Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care is the local host of the *Hospice Foundation of America 17th Annual National Teleconference* on "Cancer and End-of-Life Care" from 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, at the American Cancer Society (3301 West Freeway, Fort Worth). Contact: info@coalitionqec.org or 682-472-0118.

6th Annual Carvey Golf Tournament — March 29

The Annual Louise & Frank Carvey golf tournament benefiting United Community Centers, Inc. will be held Monday, March 29, at Mira Vista Golf Club, Fort Worth. \$300 per player / \$1,200 per team includes player gifts, golf cart, food, prizes and silent auction. Dress code: collared shirt and no denim. Reservation deadline: March 19. For more details, contact Erin McDonald at 817-927-5556 ext. 118 or emcdonald@unitedcommunitycenters.org. www.unitedcommunitycenters.org.

Prayer Retreat at Campus Drive Rescheduled to April 10

Mark your calendar for a new date! Due to bad weather, the Grace UMC, Arlington Prayer Retreat has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme is "Deeper Connections: Take Your Prayer Life Out of the Box" The retreat is designed to jump start your prayer life and explore ways of making a deeper connection with God. Campus Drive UMC will host the retreat at the Administrative Center/Fellowship Hall (1400 Seminary Drive, Fort Worth 76119). There is no registration fee, but please call 817-922-9256 to RSVP. Everyone is welcome!

Do-It-Yourself Tool Kit for Building Healthier Relationships — April 9-10

Friendship, Workplace, Romance, Family

Sponsored by UMC Singles—Central Texas Conference "Singles with Spirit"
Glen Lake Camp's Still Water Lodge (407 S.W. Barnard, Glen Rose 76043)

The focus is on building healthier relationships in every aspect of our lives - friendships, family, work, dating/love relationships. We were created by God for relationship. Yet nowhere in society are we taught how to have healthy relationships. As a result, we often keep making the same mistakes in relationships, over and over again. This workshop is designed to introduce us to simple tools for living in relationship. Dr. Steve Langford, senior pastor of St. John the Apostle UMC Arlington will lead the study. To hear samples of his teachings, go to www.sjaumc.org. Retreat cost: \$75 if postmarked by March 15 or \$95 afterwards. This includes program materials and overnight accommodations on Friday night, Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Weekend Retreat for Cancer Survivors — April 9-11

For 16 years, Harris Methodist H.E.B. Hospital (now Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford) has sponsored a free weekend retreat for adults who have received treatment for cancer within the preceding five years. Many "campers" have been currently in treatment when they came to the retreat. It is NOT necessary for the camper to have received his/her treatment at a Harris Methodist hospital. Campers are each matched one-to-one with a

"camp counselor" who functions as host/roommate/buddy for the weekend. Camp counselors are former campers, hospital employees, and/or volunteers from the community. Campers and counselors leave by bus from the hospital on Friday morning, and return Sunday afternoon. The Bluebonnet Retreat is held twice a year at Garrett Creek Ranch Conference Center near Paradise, TX (about 45 miles from the hospital). The weekend is filled with fun and relaxation and extraordinary food. The general consensus is that the retreat can be a life-changing experience for campers and counselors alike. Approximately 40 campers are accepted to attend the retreat. Preference is given to persons who have not attended the retreat before. The next Bluebonnet Retreat will be held April 9-11. **Deadline for submitting applications is March 18.** For more information and to download an application to be a camper or a camp counselor, go to <http://www.texashealth.org/body.cfm?id=2072>. Please pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested.

First Mansfield Hosts Invisible Children tour — April 11

Invisible Children are on their Legacy Tour and will be screening their new video at FUMC Mansfield. Joining the Invisible Children group is Lillian, a Ugandan advocate, who was featured in their first video, "Go." Other churches are invited to bring their youth groups and friends to welcome Lillian and Invisible Children! There will be food, fellowship and fun! All are invited to join them in their efforts to end war and restore northern Uganda. Don't miss out on an opportunity to impact lives in northern Uganda by hearing their story and being a part of something bigger. Resources: www.firstmansfieldstudents.org, www.invisiblechildren.com, Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=333317816275>.

Girls United in Christ at Good Shepherd — April 16-17

Good Shepherd UMC (2020 S. Collins, Arlington 76010) will continue the "Girls United! in Christ" program for 3rd -6th grade girls. The next session will be Friday and Saturday, April 16-17, at the church. This free program meets four times per year and teaches girls ways to deal with daily life issues in a scripturally sound way through games, Bible study, skits, activities and crafts. Additional information is available through the church office (817-275-1033) or by emailing Esther Webb at elwebb@mindspring.com.

Laura Edwards Basketball Tourney — April 17

The 5th Annual Laura Edwards Annual Basketball Tournament, named the C.O. Howard Basketball Tournament in honor of the former district superintendent of the Waco district Clifton O. Howard, will be held April 17 at the Methodist Children's Home gym in Waco. The benefit begins at 8 a.m. and participating fees are \$150/team. For further information, call the center at 254-753-1312.

Community Interfaith Worship of Help, Hope & Healing — April 18

The Crime Victims Council, a non-profit organization for crime victims, their families and friends and the community, will sponsor an interfaith worship service at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Garden Community Center of Goodwill Industries (4004 Campus Drive, Fort Worth 76119). This event coincides with National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Tarrant County. For more details, contact Sandra Lydick at sandralydick@crimevictimsCouncil.org.

Beth Moore - So Long Insecurity - Simulcast April 24

Join the folks at Genesis UMC from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 24th for this dynamic special event. All women can benefit from this honest, funny and profound look at the insecurities that keep us from living into the potential that God has in mind for each of us. Please contact Ginger Watson at 817-292-4551 or visit www.genesisumc.com for more information. \$25 includes lunch. Childcare will be provided on request for \$10.

First Azle Hosts Beth Moore Simulcast — Simulcast April 24

First Azle UMC will host a Beth Moore simulcast from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24. Doors open at 8 a.m. The cost of \$25 includes lunch with prepaid ticket or \$35 at the door. For reservations and ticket info go to www.fumcazle.org and click on Beth Moore.

Annual Benefit to Missions — April 24

Presented by the Mid-Cities United Methodist Women Saturday, April 24, from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at First UMC Colleyville (5601 Pleasant Run Rd., Colleyville). Join us for music, dance and food at the annual fundraiser for missions. The luau-themed day will be brought by the Tongan UMC. There will be many items to bid on! \$15 tickets are available from Lynn O'Day at natandlynn@sbcglobal.net or 817-485-0027. Childcare will be available.

“Father Can You Hear Me?” Benefit Performance — May 15

“Father Can You Hear Me?” will be performed at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at St. Barnabas UMC (5011 W. Pleasant Ridge, Arlington 76016-6220) with tickets (\$20) available at the door. The drama is a new gospel stage play presented by Special K's Special T's, LLC Productions, written and co-directed by Ka'Mili Grayson, and directed by Eric Beasley. The evening benefit will include an auction, liturgical dance and more. For details, please contact Luther Henry (luther@sbumc.org or 817-483-1667) or Chauncey Nealy (aldersgate1954@sbcglobal.net or 817-274-0116).

Conference UMs Heading to Holy Land — June 8

Join the “Holy Land Trip hosted by Steve Lallier.” Steve, a lay leader for the Adult Singles Class at Whites Chapel UMC in Southlake, and is returning to Israel with friends across the conference. This is a guided tour via Educational Opportunities. For details, visit <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com>. Interested? Contact Steve Lallier at 817-424-5704, 214-912-1979 or email BigBandLdr@aol.com.

Youth Mission Opportunity in Palmer — June 24-27

FUMC Palmer announces PUMP 2010! PUMP (Palmer United Mission Project) is a four-day mission weekend (June 24-27) for youth groups from across Texas. Youth entering grades 4-12 and adults alike are given the opportunity to serve those in need living in the Palmer area and experience small group study, meaningful daily worship, awesome music and inspired talks. This is an appropriate mission trip for first-timers and/or small youth groups. The cost is \$75/per person. For more details and a pre-registration brochure, contact Debbi Mitchell at 214-683-1501 or palmerpump@yahoo.com. Registration deadline: May 31.

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=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

UM Global Health Initiative:

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

Depression Seminar in Your Church, Free

With no cost to your church, the Conference Committee on Mental Health Concerns and Depression Connection Team will provide a seminar for your church. To inquire, call Tony Campbell at 817/810-9599 or email at 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.

Oceans of Plastic. DVD. The planet's oceans are rapidly becoming the world's trash dump. Every mile of ocean now contains an average of 74,000 pieces of plastic. A "plastic soup" of waste, killing hundreds of thousands of animals every year as chemicals trickle slowly up the food chain. Can anything be done to clean up our oceans? DVD is broken into 5 chapters for a total running time of 54 minutes. 2009

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.

Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center Annual Golf Tournament — April 29

It is time again for the GLC&RC Annual Golf Classic to be held on April 29 at Squaw Creek in Glen Rose. Last year's event was the best ever in terms of money raised and the number of participating golfers. There were also a record number of pastors playing. This year's proceeds will again go toward offsetting camp scholarships and the cost of summer camp in general. For more information and to download a registration form, visit www.glenlake.org/golf. GLC challenges pastors to be a part of this important event by either bringing or sending a team or by their church being a hole-sponsor.

Financial Services Positions

The Central Texas Methodist Foundation has two positions open in financial services: director of financial services and assistant for financial services. Both positions have extensive relationship with loans to churches, investment services offered to individuals and churches, and responsibilities of administration of these services. A full job description for both positions is posted on the website at www.ctmf.org under "Special Announcements."

Carillons

First UMC of Azle has recently upgraded its Carillons. There are 8 tape cartridges from the old Schulmerich Carillon system that the church will gladly donate to any church that can use them. Please contact the church office at 817-444-3323.

Prayer Request Stations

First UMC Mansfield has 4 wooden prayer request stations to offer to another church that might be able to use them. They are made of quality wood construction and each contains a secured

place for people to place prayer requests. Photos are available. Interested persons may contact Debbie Black, Care Ministries coordinator, at debbieb@firstmethodistmansfield.org.

Part-Time Youth Director

Smithfield UMC seeks a part-time youth director to work with a great group of teens on Wednesday nights, Sundays and any other days as necessary. Experience preferred. Ability to lead praise and worship is a plus. Interested persons may send a resume to Lisa Neslony via email, pastorlisa@smithfieldumc.org or snail mail, 6701 Smithfield Road, North Richland Hills, 76182. Deadline for applications is March 30.

2 Children's Ministry Positions

Children's Director — St. John the Apostle UMC in Arlington seeks a director of children's ministries who is a faithful disciple of Christ with a love and passion for children and their families, with a calling to minister to this target audience, and with leadership experience in this ministry area. This director is expected to strengthen, develop and to grow the existing ministries while initiating new ministries to address identified needs. The position is a half-time position (20 hours/week) with the desire for the position to grow quickly to 3/4 or full time. For more info, contact Nancy Froman at 817-468-8484 or nancy.froman@sjaumc.org.

Preschool Director — St. John the Apostle UMC in Arlington seeks a director of preschool ministries (part-time, 12-15 hours/week) who is a faithful disciple of Christ with a love and passion for young children and their families, with a calling to minister to this target audience, and with leadership experience in this ministry area. This director is expected to strengthen, develop and to grow the existing ministries while initiating new ministries to address identified needs. For more info, contact Nancy Froman at 817-468-8484 or nancy.froman@sjaumc.org.

2 Music Positions

Associate Director of Music — First UMC, Killeen seeks associate director of music (PT) to assist in leading and managing all aspects of music ministry. Contemporary music experience and formal music training preferred. Experience leading and directing choirs and instrumental groups in congregational worship setting a plus. Call 254-634-6363 for audition/interview.

Lead Accompanist — First UMC, Killeen seeks lead accompanist for contemporary worship (PT). Must be proficient at sight reading, playing from lead sheet, improvising. Accompaniment experience and formal music training preferred. Experience playing piano and keyboard in congregational worship setting a plus. Call 254-634-6363 for audition/interview.

Ass't Director/Preschool & Asst Director/Parent's Day Out

Chapel Hill Children's School, a ministry of White's Chapel UMC, Southlake, seeks to fill two newly created positions in its ministry to children ages 18 months through kindergarten. Each position will report to the director. Successful candidates will possess a CDA, associate's or bachelor's degree in ECE or related field. A minimum of three years experience in an early childhood classroom setting or teaching grades K-2 is preferred. For more information, please contact Mary Plemons, director, at 817-44-1396 or mplemonw@whiteschapelumc.com.

Church Secretary

This full-time position requires excellent computer skills; bookkeeping and payroll experience; good communication and people skills; the ability to multi-task in a fast paced growth oriented environment. Prior church secretary experience is preferred. E-mail resume to Robert Porter robert@porterins.com and to Don Scroggs don.umc11@verizon.net.

Church Kitchen Supplies

Tongan First UMC seeks donations for their church kitchen — refrigerator, microwave, stove, pots and pans, etc. — from any churches who have extra. Contact: Ofa Tuuholoaki at 817-272-5310 or tuuholoakio@yahoo.com.

Kneelers & Altar Items

Resurrection UMC Cleburne is in need of kneelers for their prayer rooms (short sections under 6 foot long preferred) and general altar items (candlesticks, cross, offering plates, etc.). This new church would gladly accept anything! Contact: Pastor Victor Pena at 254-485-3140.

Part-Time Communications Administrative Assistant

First UMC of Colleyville seeks an experienced, part-time communications administrative assistant and receptionist (M-F 1 p.m.-5 p.m.). This position will create bulletins, church-wide e-mails, newsletters and some web publications. Computer and organizational skills are necessary. Please send resume and/or questions to Chris J. Hayes c/o Janna Elliott at jelliott@fumccolleyville.org.

Assistant Minister for Youth Ministry

First UMC, Breckenridge seeks an enthusiastic person to further develop, organize and lead a comprehensive youth ministry with a breadth of perspective and balance of ministry, which includes: leading/involving youth in the *Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry* and assisting/leading in worship and other areas of pastoral ministry. This is a full-time position with salary commensurate with education/experience, contribution to UM pension program and moving allowance. Pastor Jeff Miller willing to accept inquires for a part-time position. For more details, contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 W. Walker, Breckenridge 76424 or pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

Director of Music Ministry

First UMC of Graham seeks resumes for the part-time position of director of music ministry. The person for this position will be responsible for coordinating music and musicians for worship, directing adult choirs and handbell choir, leading congregational singing in worship and providing leadership for other components of the music program including planning, recruiting and working with staff. Resumes will be accepted through March 10 by mail (First UMC, PO Box 88, Graham, Texas 76450) or email (Richard@fumcgraham.org). Contact for more details: Richard Reed at 940-549-0970.

Children's Coordinator/Mother's Day Out Director

First UMC of Waxahachie is accepting applications for the positions of children's ministry coordinator and director of the church's two-day-a-week Mother's Day Out program. FUMC Waxahachie has many dynamic children's ministry programs that are already in place and the church is looking to expand that even more. If you have an active relationship with Christ, experience in working with children and families, and love to work with and recruit volunteers from church and community, please send your resume to fumcwax.sr.pastor@sbcglobal.net. The part/time children's coordinator position can be combined with the part/time Mother's Day Out director position for the right applicant.

Office Staff

First UMC of Hurst has an opening for a part time (20-25 hours per week) office staff person. Applicants should be able to multi-task, have good organizational and computer skills, and enjoy a very fast-paced and professional work environment. Send resumes to Philip Rhodes at prhodes@fumchurst.org.

Director of Children's Ministry

FUMC Duncanville seeks candidates for director of children's ministry. This part-time position demands a faithful disciple of Christ who is an experienced and well-trained individual with a true passion for children's ministry. They will be responsible for leading all areas of programming for children from infants through sixth grade. FUMCD is a regional church in southwest Dallas County with a dynamic staff and congregation and a proud 150-year heritage of faith and service. For more information, contact Jim Bowden, senior pastor, at revdrjimbowden@gmail.com or 972-298-6121.

Pianist/Organist

The music ministry at FUMC Watauga is seeking a pianist/organist with devotion to Christ and a passion for music. There is one service Sunday mornings, rehearsal Wednesday evenings, and special services throughout the year. For more information contact, Seini Mila at 817-939-8835 or seinimila@att.net.

Worship Leader

New Day UMC (www.ndumc.com), a new church start in Mansfield, seeks a part-time worship leader for its non-traditional worship gatherings. Applicants must be able to provide voice and instrumental leadership as well as work to gather and develop a praise team. Salary is negotiable. Send your resume to Sheila Fiorella at Sheila@newdayumc.com or to P.O. Box 2125, Mansfield 76063.

Director of Music Ministry

First UMC Cleburne — a growing suburban church family with a traditionally based music program and occasional contemporary music offerings — seeks candidate resumes for director of music ministry. The candidate must have the flexibility to consider, assess, and implement new and innovative methods and programs to enhance the musical ministry and worship of the church. This is a part-time position with the possibility (or future consideration) of becoming a full-time ministry position. Responsibilities include: planning, organization, recruiting, execution, and evaluation of the music ministry program under the supervision of the senior pastor; supervising the organist and pianist; areas of Adult and Hand Bell Choirs; other essential functions upon request. Bachelor's degree in music and experience required. Resumes will be accepted through March 30. Salary negotiable. Email resumes to robert@fumccleburne.com.

Director of the Learning Tree Preschool

First UMC, Georgetown is accepting resumes until Feb. 26 for director of the Learning Tree Preschool. The preschool is a FUMC outreach operated Tuesday through Thursday during the school year. A bachelor's degree with 12 college credit hours in child development and 6 college credit hours in business management and at least one year of experience in a licensed child-care center are preferred. Interested persons may submit a letter of interest, resume, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three professional references to Dotty Hooker, director of Christian Education, FUMC, 410 E. University Avenue, Georgetown 78626 or dotty@fumcgt.org.

Community Center Program Coordinator

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

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.

Part-time Pianist

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

2010 Annual Conference Business / Awards / Recognitions

District Conferences

As of today, the following District Conferences have been scheduled:

Fort Worth – May 18 – Edge Park UMC – 7 to 8 p.m.

Temple – May 18 – FUMC Temple – 7 p.m.

Brownwood – May 24 – Comanche UMC 6:30 p.m.

Mid-Cities – May 17 – Richland Hills UMC – 7 to 8 p.m.

Waxahachie – TBA

Waco – May 19 6 p.m. with location TBA

Weatherford – May 10 – time and place TBA

**All awards, scholarship, honors and recognitions
(with links for application/nomination forms)
can be found at <http://www.ctcumc.org/news/detail/103>**

Denman Evangelism Award — Deadline April 20 This award recognizes a clergy, laity and youth whose life and ministry exemplify the teaching of Christ and the Great Commission.

Scholarships Available Through BOM — Deadline March 31 The conference Board of Ministry is accepting applications for the several scholarships it administers. Applicants must be a certified candidate for clergy, currently enrolled in a seminary approved by the University Senate.

Five Star Recognition — Deadline April 15 This is for congregations to be recognized for their efforts in reaching out to others in need and supporting UM missionaries committed to serving some of the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers across the globe.

Morris Walker Award Nominations — Deadline April 20 The Conference Board of Laity recognizes outstanding service and accomplishment with the Morris Walker Awards — one award to a layperson and one award to a clergy person.

Newgate Award Nominations — Deadline April 20 The Conference Restorative Justice Committee recognizes outstanding service for individuals serving within any area of Restorative Justice ministry.

Disability Education/Awareness Leadership Grants — Deadline April 30 The Committee on Disability Concerns gives these grants in order to educate and create an awareness of handicapping conditions and issues with two grants to upper classmen or returning UM college student. One grant is for a student with a handicapping condition and the second to a student with a declared major in assisting individuals with handicapping conditions.

Accessibility Project Grants — Deadline April 30 The Committee on Disability Concerns gives grants for local churches projects that lead to greater accessibility in their facility.

Merit, Stephens and Brown Scholarships — Deadline May 1 The Conference Higher Education Task Force administers scholarships to UM students in the following categories:

Merit Scholarship to a first-year student attending a UM-related college or university (amount to be determined by conference wide contributions to the 2009 Student Day offering)

Stephens Scholarship to UM student majoring in business or accounting (\$1,000)

Stephens Scholarship to UM student majoring in journalism or public relations (\$1,000)

Dr. G. Alfred & Opal Brown Ministerial Scholarship for a student planning for ministry as an elder in the CTC at seminary approved by the UM University Senate (\$5,000)

Bishop's Award for Ecumenism — Deadline April 30 The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns recognizes a person, clergy or laity, who exemplifies an ecumenical spirit in their local community and/or in their local church and conference relationships.

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.