



Central E-Link

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

March 17, 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

Immigration Reform

Friends of immigration reform are invited to gather for scripture, singing and prayer at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 21, in the Lois Perkins Chapel at Southwestern University, Georgetown. This **Prayer Vigil for Immigration Reform** supports the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's national event in Washington DC on the same day. Dean Reed and many from the Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN), our partners in the CTC resolution for immigration reform, will be present at that event. "Please make every effort to be present for this prayer vigil and bring your friends," requests Dean Reed, senior pastor at First UMC in Stephenville and co-founder of WIN. (See related story about the national event in Washington, DC, under *E-Link's* THE DENOMINATION.

New Brownwood DS Takes Helm

Carol Woods, newly appointed superintendent for the Brownwood District, has been representing outgoing DS Jim Olney at various local church and district events over the past few weeks. She will officially take the helm March 15 and will be in the district office beginning March 25. We continue to offer prayers of support for Rev. Olney in his battle with cancer.

Clergy Appointment Changes

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announce the following changes in clergy appointments:

Joe Glenn Chamness — elder in full connection from Ballinger/Winters charge in the Brownwood District to Minerals Wells First in the Weatherford District, effective April 15.

Scott Goodfellow — part-time local pastor from supply to 1/2-time at Nolanville UMC, Temple District, effective Jan. 1.

Helen Jones — part-time local pastor from 1/4-time at Tolar/Temple Hall charge to 1/4-time at Tolar, Weatherford District, effective Feb. 1.

Carol Woods — elder in full connection from Mineral Wells First in the Weatherford District to superintendent in the Brownwood District.

Oberammergau Trip Openings

There are still openings for the educational trip to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, this summer with Bishop Mike Lowry. The trip leaves July 6. Call Suzanne Cate for more information at 817-326-4242 or Suzanne@actonumc.org. The deadline is the end of March!

Powered Up Article Worth a Read/Reread

The UMPortal carried a story in their Feb. 19 issue about a mission team from First UMC of Arlington installing underground cables to replace the old wiring that was damaged in the 1989-2003 civil war in Liberia. Now Ganta UM Hospital and a nearby mission school have the region's most reliable, modern electrical system. It's a great "Faith in Action" model that needs to be read. If you didn't read the article in the Feb. 19 issue, check it out at <http://www.umportal.org/article.asp?id=6437>.

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." 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

For Imagine No Malaria 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>.

2010 Census: Your Church Can Help

By now most folks have received their 2010 Census form. It is one of the shortest census forms in history, asking only 10 questions and taking about 10 minutes to complete. It is easy, important and safe, and the participation of EVERYONE is vital. Often times, people are more trusting of their church than they are of government agencies. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share an individual's personal information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Please encourage members and visitors to complete and mail back their census forms. For more information, visit www.2010census.gov.

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. To date, the conference has received three logo designs and has had inquiries from several others interested in the project. Your designs would be welcomed!

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, located at the top of a large overlooking Fayetteville, Ark., serves as 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 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. Details: <http://www.lci2010.com>.

Have You or Someone You Know Been a Victim of Crime?

Has someone in your church been a victim of crime? You may not know because some people never tell anyone. Others may have family members or neighbors who were victims and wish they knew how to offer healing and hope but are trying to protect their loved one or friend's identity. That is why it is important to let our congregations know that there is a service each year that has brought great comfort to such persons. **A Community Interfaith Worship Service of Help, Hope and Healing for Crime Victims, their families & friends, and the community will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at The Garden Community Center of Goodwill Industries** (4005 Campus Drive, Fort Worth). Several agencies, boards, and faith communities – one of which is the Central Texas Conference, sponsor this event. Your church is invited to go online at www.crimevictimsCouncil.org and download the color brochure to display in your church informing people of this event. Offer healing to those in your midst who might otherwise suffer in silence.

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 discount 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.

Did You Know?

A recent survey reported on in the *Dallas Morning News* finds more Catholics than Methodists at Southern Methodist University. “No one is suggesting a name change from Southern Methodist University to Southern Catholic, but there's a lot of C in SMU these days,” writes Sam Hodges. Read the full story at

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/101808dnmetsmucatholics.3623575.html>.

Texas UMs Join March for Immigration Reform

More than 500 UM Texans plan to join in a national march for immigration reform in the nation's capital March 21. An estimated 12 million undocumented people live in the U.S., and Texas has the second-largest population of immigrants in the country. In coordination with the annual [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#), tens of thousands of people will gather for the “[March for America: Change Takes Courage & Faith](#).” The march is to urge President Obama and Congress to tackle comprehensive immigration reform this year. Read the full story at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=5259669&ct=8083147&tr=y&auid=6075920> and see the related story under *E-Link's* THE CONFERENCE heading.

Latest Updates on Haiti

Visit the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) for new updates on Haiti — a large photo story on the UMC's response to needs of the Haitian people, and the “Faith in Action” video clip (in the lower right corner or <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=2022489&ct=8012459>) on how volunteers are helping turn bad water to clean and saving lives.

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.

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.

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. Preaching and messages will be brought by 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

Dave Ramsey *Financial Peace University* — Begins April 8

Lorena UMC will host Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning April 8. Childcare provided. Most people struggle just to make ends meet. They just have too much month left at the end of the money. *Financial Peace University* is designed to

teach you and your family how to get out of debt, stay out of debt, and build wealth. You'll meet with your class each week to watch the video lesson and participate in discussion and accountability groups that will change your whole attitude about money! Cost (\$99.51) includes the classes, *Financial Peace University Membership Kit* which includes a workbook, audio CD library, Ramsey's bestselling book, budgeting forms, FPU envelope system, and a bonus CD-ROM. Dave breaks through the common financial jargon and explains how money really works in a simple, easy-to-understand style. A free preview will be held at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, March 21. For more details, contact Christie Robbins at 254-857-4283 or pastor@lorenaumc.org

Keyboards Alive! Duo Concert for Piano & Organ — March 21

Shields-Collins Bray, principal keyboardist for the Fort Worth Symphony, joins organist/artist-in-residence Dong-ill Shin for a concert featuring the music of Dupré, Franck and Karg-Elert, and hymn arrangements. Bray is the artistic director for special projects for the Van Cliburn Foundation and has appeared with symphony orchestras of Dallas, New Orleans and Jacksonville and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. First UMC of Hurst (521 W. Pipeline Rd., Hurst) hosts the concert at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Free admission; childcare available.

Good Friday Presentation: *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré — 7 p.m. April 2

For Good Friday, the music ministry of First UMC Hurst presents this timeless choral work for choir, orchestra and soloists. Based on the requiem mass, *Requiem* is one of Fauré's most well-known works, and will be presented during the 7 p.m. worship service marking the events of the crucifixion of Jesus. First UMC Hurst is located at 521 W. Pipeline Rd., Hurst. Childcare available.

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 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.

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.

Basic Lay Speaker Course at First Temple — March 26

Wayne Matthews will offer a Basic Lay Speaker Course at First UMC Temple from 6 -9 p.m. Friday, March 26, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 27. Bring a study Bible. There is no charge for this course, but bring a sack lunch on March 27. Snacks and drinks will be provided. To register, call or email Melissa Minor melissa.minor@fumctemple.org, 254-773-5269.

Book Swap at First Round Rock — March 26

First UMC Round Rock United Methodist Women are hosting a **Book Swap** from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 26. People are invited to donate books they have already read and swap them for "new" books. The event is an opportunity for learning and fellowship. Four book reviews will be offered at the event. <http://bit.ly/cNypUy>.

Memorial Hymn Festival at Acton — March 28

Music at Acton presents the *H. F. Meier Memorial Hymn Festival* with acclaimed organist Joyce Jones, artist-in-residence at Baylor University, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at Acton UMC, Granbury. Admission by donation. Contact: Suzanne Cate at 817-326-4242 or Suzanne@actonumc.org.

Revival at St. Paul, Georgetown — March 27

One Night Revival! St. Paul UMC Georgetown will host a One Night Revival at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27, with Joel Robbins (pastor at Mooreville UMC) preaching. Host for the event is the church's Evangelism/Outreach Ministry. For more information, contact Tammy Walton at 512-868-7876.

St. Paul Georgetown 137th Anniversary — March 28

St. Paul UMC Georgetown will celebrate their 137th anniversary at 3:30 p.m. March 28. Guest preacher will be Quinton J. Gibson, Sr. of St. James UMC, Temple. Theme: "More Than Conquerors," Romans 8:37. All are invited to attend. Host: Planning & Events Ministry. For more information contact Dorris Ross at 512-868-5461.

Resurrection Celebration at First Round Rock – March 28

First UMC Round Rock will host a **Resurrection Celebration, a Walk Through Holy Week**, on Sunday, March 28. Resurrection Celebration has become an Easter tradition at First Round Rock with a five-station walk through Holy Week designed to be experienced by children and their families. <http://bit.ly/ac89kBB>.

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.

Mwangaza Childrne's Choir at Austin Avenue — April 7

Mwangaza Children's Choir, a dynamic group from Uganda, will be appearing in concert at 6 p.m. April 7 at Austin Avenue UMC (1300 Austin Avenue, Waco 76701). No tickets are required. The choir is a group of spirited, talented and passionate children from Uganda who represent the needy and poverty-stricken people of Uganda. Mwangaza tours on behalf of Africa Renewal Ministries in Uganda, a ministry that has the mission to enhance the holistic development of the child, church and community through support systems to ensure next generation leaders. The vision is to change a child, change a village, and change a nation. www.mwangazachoir.org For a story and video clip from *The Stateman*, click on <http://www.austin360.com/music/sxsw-music/ugandan-kids-a-sxsw-novelty-353150.html>.

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!

Tarrant Area Singles Presents "Healthier Relationships" — April 9-10

Come to Still Water Lodge at Glen Rose for TAS's Annual Retreat for single adults this year focusing on building healthier relationships in every aspect of our lives - friendships, family, work, dating/love relationships. This workshop is designed to introduce simple tools for living in relationship. Steve Langford, senior pastor of St. John the Apostle UMC in Arlington will lead the study. To hear samples of his teachings, go to www.sjaumc.org. Cost of the retreat is \$95, which includes program materials and overnight accommodations on Friday and full breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Register at http://ct.brickriver.com/atch/Glen_Rose_Retreat_2010_3_32_32_PM.pdf. For a virtual tour of Still Water Lodge, click <http://www.visualtour.com/shownp.asp?sk=13&t=1830884>. Keep up with the latest events for single adults in the CTC on the TAS calendar: <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/970> <<http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/970>.

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.

Caring for Creation Conference — April 16-18

The third annual Caring for Creation Conference, April 16-18 at Mount Sequoyah Conference & Retreat Center, will bring members of the faith community together to learn how they can become

better caretakers of the Earth. Canon Sally Bingham, president and founder of The Regeneration Project, will be the keynote speaker. The conference will offer workshops, discussions and fellowship. Register before April 2 and receive the early registration discount. For information about workshops, schedules, leadership and fees, contact Mount Sequoyah at 800-760-8126, 479-443-4531, programs@mountsequoyah.org or www.mountsequoyah.org.

Digital Matters Worship — April 17

An exciting educational opportunity is coming up in April from Midnight Oil, one of the UMC's pioneers in the area of developing creative worship. Their one-day "Design Matters" workshop will be held April 17 at First UMC in Missouri City, TX. This hands-on session is designed to help churches really maximize the effectiveness of media in worship, including tips and techniques on how to produce graphics, video and much more! At \$49, this day is a very cost-effective way to make sure your churches are using their investments in valuable technology and equipment to their highest potential. Check out more information on this event at <http://www.midnightoilproductions.com/seminar/locations/missouri-city/>.

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.

"Celebrating Life through Worship Arts" Benefit Performance — May 15

Date/time: May 15 from 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Location: St. Barnabas UMC Church in Arlington (5011 W. Pleasant Ridge, Arlington 76016)

This is a benefit celebration of life through the worship arts, uplifting God's grace and mercy through praise bands, praise dancers, instrumentalists, songsters and the dramatic acts. During this gathering a silent auction will take place, and there will be refreshments for the

nourishment of body and soul. For more information, please contact Luther Henry at luther@sbumc.org or 817-483-1667 or Chauncey Nealy at 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.

No Man Left Behind Dallas – October 21-23

First UMC of Richardson is hosting 2 ½ days of learning, planning and fellowship presented by Man in the Mirror. The conference is designed for any leader who is passionate about seeing men disciplined in their church (pastors, associate pastors, lay leaders and potential leaders). To download a brochure with more details, or to register, visit: www.maninthemirror.org/lc/about-nmlb.htm. To contact a host team member at FUMCR and learn more about the conference send an email to discipliningmen@fumcr.com. Early bird and team registration discounts are available.

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>)

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.

Prodigal Perspectives: A Parable About Selfishness, Jealousy & Forgiveness.

Guilt, shame, entitlement, bitterness, grief-stricken... our relationships with others surface a variety of feelings. In these three sessions, viewers will experience the Prodigal Son story of the Bible through the eyes of the younger son, the elder son and the father. 3 session Bible study with 3 DVD's, leader's guide and workbook. Bluefish TV. 2010

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.

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 817-424-1396 or mplemons@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.

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.

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 – 7-8 p.m. May 18 – Edge Park UMC
Temple – 7 p.m. May 18 – FUMC Temple
Brownwood – 6:30 p.m. May 24 – Comanche UMC
Mid-Cities – 7-8 p.m. May 17 – Richland Hills UMC
Waxahachie – 7 p.m. May 20 – First Waxahachie UMC
Waco – 6 p.m. May 20 -- Cogdell UMC
Weatherford – May 25 – 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.*