



Central E-Link

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

March 23, 2011

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles and requests should be submitted to Carolyn@ctcumc.org by **12 noon Tuesday** in order to be e-mailed on Wednesday. Articles should be brief and include active links to websites or contact persons for details. To add a colleague or church member to *E-Link's* weekly distribution, send their addresses to susan@ctcumc.org. Editor: Carolyn Stephens Carolyn@ctcumc.org

News Briefs — The Conference

[UMCOR Responding to Needs in Japan](#)

A UMNS story just posted to the conference website (www.ctcumc.org / same photo as previous story) gives some details on how the United Methodist Committee on Relief is helping. UMCOR already has sent an emergency grant to the United Church of Christ in Japan, which is using the funds "to distribute food, clean water, clothing and heating fuel," wrote UMCOR's top executive, Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, in a [March 21 letter](#) to The United Methodist Church. The Japanese government has requested that outside groups not come to Japan, she noted. As of March 21, Japan's National Police Agency put the number of dead and missing from the earthquake/tsunami at nearly 22,000. About 350,000 evacuees, including those who fled areas near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, have occupied about 2,100 shelters set up by 15 prefectures, the *Japan Times* reported.

You can help. Donations can be made to **Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317** (<http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=3021317>). Other specific ways to help will be reported as they are determined by those onsite in Japan. For related stories and resources for local churches, please check the links on the conference website at www.ctcumc.org and Bishop Lowry's blog (The Focused Center banner).

[REMEMBER One Great Hour of Sharing — April 3](#)

In light of all the emergencies occurring around the world, we are reminded that our participation in the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering on **April 3**. UMCOR is able to give 100% of donations to disasters like Japan and Haiti because of the giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, which covers the "costs of doing business." Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to bring restoration, healing and hope for tomorrow. Please give generously. Donate to OGHS - <http://bit.ly/f197b6>. Order your free One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes, posters, and other worship materials by calling 888-346-3862 or get them online [here](#). Gifts to this fund can be made all year long. To see more details, follow the link below: http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=193770033996730&mid=3f2b865G602f37e2G1f7f5e9G30&bcode=y9ZcNDaE&n_m=carolyn%40ctcumc.org.

[Wesley Heritage Tour Meeting — March 31](#)

Bishop and Mrs. Mike Lowry are hosting a nine-day Wesley Heritage Tour this summer departing on July 13. Two dozen of your fellow United Methodists and their friends have already registered for this trip. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn of our Methodist roots. The basic cost of this trip is \$2698, which includes air fare, hotels, admissions, breakfast and dinner and bus

transportation. For those who may be interested, an information meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, at Arborlawn UMC (5001 Briarhaven Road, Fort Worth 76109). For more details, contact Scott Youngblood at yngbld0223@yahoo.com or 817-274-1345.

Baylor School of Social Work Offers Benefits Application Training — April 5

Training on benefits applications (CHIP, SNAP, TANF and Medicaid) and on agency referrals will be offered from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at the Baylor School of Social Work (811 Washington between 8th and 9th streets/not on the Baylor campus). Plan to parallel park on Washington, use the parking lot across the street on Washington or the two parking lots behind the Baylor School of Social Work directly off Columbus. Enter through the double glass doors that face Washington, go up the escalators to classroom 211 for Benefits Training or 212 for Agency Referral Training. Contact Jodi Terwilliger-Stacey (L.I.F.T. coordinator) at jstacey2@hotmail.com with the number from your church who wish to do the training and which course.

UMC Leadership Summit — April 6 / 2 CTC Locations & Online

The Council of Bishops, in cooperation with the denomination's Connectional Table, is sponsoring a series of conversations about adaptive challenges facing the church and how we might embrace and sustain change. The Leadership Summit calls together for prayer, discernment and holy conversation a cross-section of leaders and provides shared experience for engaging information and ideas about key initiatives to foster compelling alignment and generate forward momentum for the regeneration of the church.

A key component in the conversations is a three-hour webinar on April 6. The Central Texas Conference will provide two meeting sites from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 6:

Fort Worth First UMC's Wesley Hall — Dr. Tim Bruster, host
Foundation UMC, Temple's New Life Center — Rev. Rankin Koch, host

Anyone interested in attending, may register by calling the Temple District office at 254-773-2481 for the Temple location and Susan Briles at 817-877-5222 for the Fort Worth location. Lunch paid by the participant will be available if registered ahead of time. Those not attending either of the two location sites may follow on their own. The Summit's preparatory materials are available online at <http://www.umcleadershipsommit.org>. There are links to draft reports from study committees that will be part of the webinar conversation. Reading the material ahead of time will enhance effective participation, but is not required. A glossary of terms will be provided to help persons participate fully.

Interfaith Service of Help, Hope & Healing for Victims of Crime — April 10

[Crime Victims Council](#) is the organizing sponsor for the 5th Annual Interfaith Worship Service of Help, Hope, and Healing for victims of crime, their families, friends, and the community to be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 10, in the Great Hall at Arlington First UMC (313 N. Center St., Arlington 76011/park and enter on north street). The service is designed to be a time of healing for all victims of any crime and will include prayers, scripture, liturgy, and music from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. Victim speakers will share their stories and provide hope for continued healing. There will be an opportunity for victim names to be read or spoken. Children are invited to attend with their families. Sign language and Spanish language interpreters will be present. Following the service, information tables will provide resources for victims, and refreshments will be served. Contact: Sandra Lydick, 817-675-6367 or sandralydick@crimevictimsCouncil.org.

Mother's Day Special Offering for Wesleyan Homes — May 8

This year Mother's Day, May 8, is especially crucial for all congregations to support the Benevolent Fund of our conference's senior adult ministry, Wesleyan Homes. Near May 1, your church will receive enough specially prepared bulletin inserts to take this offering on May 8. *Why is this year's Mother's Day offering so important?* In the *Great Recession of 2011*, Wesleyan Homes expects the financial needs of our 340 residents to require a *50% increase in our Benevolent Fund requirements*. Remember: *No one has ever been asked to leave Wesleyan*

Homes because they could not pay. Your support on May 8 (or for some of you, to make this missional gift in another way during the year, as you choose) is the major reason we can continue this "Jesus Value" of providing residential care for many of Central Texas' senior adults in need. IF YOU PLAN TO NOT USE THE MOTHER'S DAY BULLETIN INSERT, please contact Wesleyan Homes (tenos@wesleyanhomes.org) or call Tiffany at 512-868-1205 by April 25.

Preparing for the 2011 Annual Conference

Check Website: Information concerning the 2011 Annual Conference is posted as information becomes available on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) under the Annual Conference banner on the left side. Annual Conference will be held June 5-8 with business sessions at the Waco Convention Center and all worship services at First UMC Waco. Some construction is still underway at the Convention Center, but all meeting rooms will be complete.

Parking: There will be fewer parking spaces adjacent to the Convention Center, so lay and clergy members may want to consider carpooling.

District Conferences: These will be posted as they become available.

Fort Worth – 7 p.m. May 23 - Arlington Heights UMC
Temple – 7 p.m. May 19 – Georgetown First UMC
Brownwood – 7 p.m. May 23 – Comanche UMC
Mid-Cities – 7 p.m. May 19 – St. Paul UMC, Hurst
Waxahachie – 3 p.m. May 22 – First Waxahachie UMC
Waco – TBA
Weatherford – 7 p.m. May 5 – First Weatherford UMC

Awards, scholarship, honors and recognitions:

Information about these awards, honor and recognitions is posted under the Annual Conference 2011 banner at www.ctcumc.org. Also included are the nomination details and who should receive them.

Campus Ministry Messages

The Wesley Foundation at Texas Christian University extends an invitation to "Launch Yourself into College Life" from 1 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 9, on the Fort Worth campus. This is planned as a day of fun with college-bound students and gives participants a taste of life in active campus ministry. Respond on Facebook.

Lay Delegate Information Forms Will be Available Online Only

Lay Delegate Information Forms are available online (www.ctcumc.org) under the Annual Conference 2011 banner. The deadline for submitting a completed form is March 31. Completed forms will then be compiled and posted on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) for lay members of the Annual Conference to view/download before the voting process. If you, or someone you know, feel God's call to serve as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference(s) a completed Lay Delegate Information Form needs to be submitted by each person to be included on the ballot at Annual Conference this year. The form may be submitted online or downloaded and printed to send a hard copy to Central Texas Conference, %Susan Briles, 464 Bailey Ave., Fort Worth 76107. Please follow the instructions on the form.

Free Online Webinars Available to Help Congregations

The General Board of Discipleship's series of free online training sessions for local church leaders continues this month and next with webinars about issues that face church council members. | "Trustees: Stewards of Church Property" on March 24—The role of trustees is practical, legal and Biblical. Every trustee will benefit from this review of the responsibilities and reminder of effective ministry through this job. | "Easter Living for Church Leaders: Prayer and Faith" on April 28—Church leaders care deeply about their faith community so that sometimes the "doing" church work overwhelms "being" the church. Several church leaders will tell about their own experiences to inspire Easter renewal in leaders. | These training sessions provided by

GBOD is made possible by support given to the World Service Fund. For more information about the webinars and free registration go online at www.gbod.org/committee_resources In addition, previous webinars for the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and for finance leaders are available for view at the website.

CCIA Offers Clergy Support

Dr. Gary Kindley continues to offer counseling sessions without cost to clergy and their families. CCIA (Counseling, Consulting & Inspiration Associates, LLC) is now in its 4th year and continues its mission to "Strengthen Relationships, Increase Effectiveness, Develop Leadership" with the clergy and laity, non-profits, businesses and congregations that it serves. CCIA offices are located in Dallas (Lemmon Ave., 1 block N of Oak Lawn) with day, evening and weekend appointments available. Call 817-312-9919 or visit www.drkgk.org or www.cciadallas.org.

Single Adult Ministry Spring Retreat: "We are God's Beloved" — April 1-3

Join singles in the Central Texas Conference and surrounding areas for this retreat April 1-3 at Prothro Center on Lake Texhoma. The retreat will be led by Phyllis McDougal, associate pastor at First UMC Fort Worth, and explore the following questions: How do you see the world? Are you busy and always on the run? Do you slow down enough to explore your own spirituality? Who are you really? Who is God? Do you know that you are a child of God? Laurie Simmons from the 11:11 band at First Fort Worth will provide the music throughout the weekend. Cost is \$130 and that includes lodging for 2 nights and 4 meals (3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday) and the retreat expenses. Registration due by March 21. For additional information, contact Cindy Young at 817-924-9443 or check out the Tarrant Area Singles calendar with the flyer and registration at <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/970>.

Sing a Rainbow Rescheduled — April 2

UMW President Cynthia Rives reports that the Charter for Racial Justice Event "Sing a Rainbow" was rescheduled because of the ice/snow storm. It will be held Saturday, April 2, at Burleson First UMC with registration beginning at 9 a.m., gathering at 9:45 a.m. and concluding by 3 p.m. The theme of the day is "A Faith Conversation on Immigration." A flyer and registration form are attached and posted on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org).

Scholarships Available Through BOM

The conference Board of Ministry is accepting applications for the several scholarships it administers. Applicant must be a certified candidate for clergy, currently enrolled in a seminary approved by the University Senate. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be post-marked by midnight Thursday, March 31, or delivered to the BOM office on the Texas Wesleyan Campus by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31, to be eligible for consideration. The application form is located at www.ctcbom.org on the Board Policies and Forms page. The form can be completed electronically, printed, signed and mailed. Scholarships will be awarded at Annual Conference in June 2011. Contact Gala Trimble in the BOM office if you have problems or questions concerning the form.

Youth 2011 — July 13-17 or July 27-31

This is a nationwide UM Youth Conference held every four years. "MORE THAN: You think you are ordinary? THINK AGAIN." It will be held July 13-17 at Purdue University OR July 27-31 in Sacramento, CA. Contact Joy Roberson at joy@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222 for information on a conference bus headed to Purdue University. <http://www.youth2011.org/>

Task Force on Hunger Seeks 2011 Applicants

Each year the CTC Task Force on Hunger designates recipients for the *Thanksgiving* offering. The offering is split 90/10 with recipients rotating annually between local and global ministries. This year the offering will go to:

- 90% Central Texas Conference Hunger Ministries
- 10% Haitian Creole Pig Project, Advance # 418002

To download a flyer with details about the grant, for a two-week Bible study to accompany the

Thanksgiving offering (*Hunger: The Enemy at the Table, A Bible Study on Hunger*), and an application for the 2011 Hunger Ministry Grants, please visit the conference website at <http://ctcumc.org/pages/detail/902>. **The application deadline is March 31.**

Texas Youth Academy — June 26-July 9

Texas Youth Academy is for high school sophomores and juniors with a desire to explore their faith and future. The two-week academy contains worship, service, arts, theology and exploring your call to ministry. The 2011 event will be held June 26 – July 9 at Southwestern University in Georgetown. Applications are available online and the deadline is March 7. Visit www.texasyouthacademy.org for more details and to register.

Cooperative School of Christian Mission 2011 "All Things Made New"

For those who like to plan ahead, you will want to mark your calendars for the 2011 CTC Cooperative School of Christian Mission. The weekday classes will be Aug. 1-4 at Fort Worth First UMC, the weekday night classes Aug. 1, 2 and 3 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Fort Worth First UMC, and the weekend classes Aug. 5-7 at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. Watch for more details on the conference website and in the *Central Link* newspaper.

News Briefs — The Denomination

GBHEM Elects New General Secretary, Approves MEF Formula

Election of a new general secretary and minor changes to a new formula for allocating church dollars to the 13 UM theological schools were approved by the Board of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry during their spring meeting in Nashville. The board unanimously elected Rev. Kim Cape, former executive director of New Church Growth & Transformation for the Southwest Texas Annual Conference, to lead GBHEM as its new general secretary. She takes office April 4. UM schools of theology that educate more students for ordained ministry in the UMC will get more money from the church in 2012 under a new formula for distributing money from the Ministerial Education Fund, one of the seven apportioned funds of the UMC. GBHEM had approved the changes last fall, but tweaked the formula to include money for the purpose of providing full-time UM faculty and senior administrators at the seminaries. That change came in response to concerns from some of the schools of theology.

The changes approved last fall mean that 65 percent of the MEF dollars distributed to the 13 UM seminaries will be divided based on the number of UM students who are enrolled in candidacy for ordained ministry and the number of graduates who are ordained after completing seminary. The new formula requires no further approval and will go into effect in 2012. For most UM seminaries, the MEF disbursement accounts for 12 to 20 percent of their annual budget under the current formula. In 2010, \$14.6 million was distributed to the 13 UM schools of theology. Twenty-five percent of the money collected for the fund stays with participating annual conferences to support continuing education for pastors and clergy recruitment and to provide financial aid for students in the annual conference.

One Minister's Story (Ministerial Education Fund)

"I love to see the light turn on in people's eyes when they see what we do in worship and what they read in the Old or New Testament," says Rev. Joseph Johnson, pastor of Trinity UMC in Chicago. Growing up, Johnson was always active in the UMC. Completing his degree in chemical engineering, he sensed a call to ordained ministry. He admits he felt "weird" because of his engineering degree. However, he persevered and enrolled at Iliff School of Theology, one of 13 seminaries supported by the Ministerial Education Fund. Later he received his Master of Divinity degree from Iliff.

Gifts to the Ministerial Education Fund allow the UMC to continue its commitment to an educated clergy. When you support the MEF, 25 percent of your gift stays in your annual conference to

assist candidates for ministry, provide financial aid for students and support continuing education for ordained clergy throughout their ministry. Seventy-five percent of gifts to the MEF are distributed among the 13 UM seminaries to provide scholarships for candidates for ordained ministry and help pay faculty salaries. A portion also goes to the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry to support the work of the Division of Ordained Ministry. "As the spiritual leader," Johnson adds, "I'm the one who has the time and training to assist people in their spiritual lives, helping people organize (so they can) be effective in ministering in the world."

Learn more about the Ministerial Education Fund at www.umcgiving.org/MEF or watch a video clip at http://www.youtube.com/user/umcgiving?tr=y&uid=7938659#p/c/11/tExqVv_hxg.

Perkins Sponsors "God Loves Diversity" Conference — April 12

Perkins School of Theology will host a conference on "God Loves Diversity & Justice: Progressive Scholars Speak About Faith, Politics, & the World" April 12 from 1:30-5 p.m. in Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. The conference addresses ways that theologically progressive scholars speak about their faith, politics and the world in a culture they often view as dominated by theological conservatism and in a world torn apart by poverty, violence, war, greed, and various forms of exploitation. The conference will invite the audience to what is being described as "an engaged and respectful discussion" during the latter part of the program. This event is free and open to the public. More information about the event is available on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=195845550438434>. For a map of the SMU campus, including options for public parking, visit <http://smu.edu/maps/>. Please contact Susanne Scholz (<http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/FacultyAcademics/DirectoryList/Scholz.aspx>) at sscholz@smu.edu or 214-768-2460 for more details.

SOSA Vacation Bible School Mission Program

Download the Full Packet Now

This year's VBS Mission Program of the Society of St. Andrews, "Order Up!," is based on Galatians 5:22-23, 25 — on the fruits of the spirit. Each day, in addition to being introduced to a Bible character who, by using his or her "Fruit of the Spirit," found favor with God, your students will also meet a "Today's SoSA Superhero" who will encourage them to discover ways they can use their hands to help the hungry. Student sheets containing a short scripture story, facts about hunger, the SoSA ministry, Go Green facts, potato trivia, and a pencil activity, are included for each day - for both younger and older children. New this year - we include song suggestions, craft ideas, and yummy snack choices for each day of your VBS program that go along with the "Fruits of the Spirit" theme. Order at <http://www.EndHunger.org/vbs.htm>.

Culture of the Call Church Award — April 1 Deadline for Applications

The Foundation for Evangelism is now accepting nominations for the 2011 *Culture of the Call Church Award*. The purpose of this award is to recognize one local congregation of the UMC each year that has a history of having young people 35 or younger respond to God's call to full-time Christian service as a result of their being active in the life of that church. The Foundation wants to recognize and highlight churches that are helping to raise up generations of leaders with a passion for evangelism. The first *Culture of the Call Church Award* was presented in 2010. For more information or to submit a nomination visit www.foundationforevangelism.org. The deadline for applications is April 1. The selected church will be notified in early May and recognized at their 2011 annual conference.

Hispanic Ministries Institute at Brite Divinity School — June 5-10

Brite Divinity School (TCU campus - 2855 S. University Drive, Fort Worth 76129) will host the Summer Latino/a Church studies and the Hispanic Ministries Institute June 5-10. The program has priority for Latino/a ministers and lay leadership. For more details, contact Reina Rodriguez at 817-257-7575. The deadline for registration and payment is May 20.

School of Congregational Development — July 27-31

The School of Congregational Development will be conveniently close this year — Dallas — and especially good opportunity for new church pastors. Check out this year's SCD, scheduled for

Wednesday-Sunday, July 27-31, at <http://www.scdumc.org>. There will be 15 intensives, 23 ministry tracks and 25 workshops, plus 8 exciting teaching churches. Add it to your calendar now!

Mission Experiences Available for UM Youth in 2011

Youth from UMCs around the nation can learn what it means to serve others next summer by participating in weeklong mission work experiences in Nashville that help children, the elderly, the homeless and people with special needs. For the second year, the youth mission trips will be sponsored jointly by Young People's Ministries, a division of The General Board of Discipleship (GBOD), and YouthWorks!, a multi-denominational youth mission organization, and will be hosted at McKendree UMC in downtown Nashville. The mission experience is open to youth who will enter the 7th grade in the fall of 2011 through current high school seniors. Eight weeklong sessions will be available in 2011, beginning the week of June 12 and ending the week of July 31. Cost is \$248 per person. For more information, visit www.youthworks.com and click on the link for UMCs in the left column.

R.E.A.P. Program Hosted by Texas Conference CEF Group — Sept. 16-17

The Texas Conference's Christian Education Fellowship extends an invitation to attend their Renewing, Equipping, Affirming, Preparing (REAP) program Sept. 16-17 in Houston. Guest speakers include John Holbert (Perkins School of Theology), Mary Jane Pierce Norton (General Board of Discipleship), and Gladys Childs (Texas Wesleyan University). For more details, visit www.ghles.org.

Discounts Available for Wesleyan Pilgrimage — Nov. 7-17

UM clergy and lay leaders who want to follow the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley can take advantage of early-registration discounts for a 10-day Wesleyan Pilgrimage to England in November. Additionally, scholarships are available for provisional members. The Nov. 7-17 pilgrimage is being sponsored by the UM Board of Discipleship and Board of Higher Education & Ministry. An early registration discount of \$400 is available through April 29, and a discount of \$200 will be available from April 30 through July 31. After Aug. 1, the cost will be \$2,395, except for provisional members. The GBHEM is making \$1,000 scholarships available for provisional elders and deacons. For more details and a 14-min. video clip. Visit http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5717529/k.26AD/Wesleyan_Pilgrimage_in_England.htm?aid=7776351.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Auditions For Godspell — March 25 & 26

Auditions for the St. Philip's Community Theater Project's production of Godspell will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 25, and 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26, at St. Philip's UMC in Round Rock. All roles are currently available. Please come prepared to sing a number from the show for the part for which you wish to audition. Rehearsals will run March 31-May 31. Performances will be June 2-5. For more information, please email stphilipsdrama@gmail.com.

Golf Tournament Benefits United Community Centers — March 28

It is not too late to sign up to play in the 7th Annual Louise & Frank Carvey Golf Tournament benefitting United Community Centers, a mission institution of the UMC. The annual tournament will be held at Mira Vista Country Club on Monday, March 28, beginning at 12 noon. Registration starts at 10:30 a.m. and the round of golf is followed by a reception and auction. Can't play but you want to help, then come and volunteer? Volunteers are needed for registration, green sitting, and the reception/auction. For more information about playing or volunteering call Susie Reyes, UCC director of development, at 817-927-5556, x115 or sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org. Learn more about UCC at www.unitedcommunitycenters.org or on Facebook.

Church Safety Seminar Hosted by the Cleburne Police Dept. — March 29

The Cleburne Police Department will conduct a Church Safety Seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, at the Cleburne Conference Center (1501 W. Henderson St., Cleburne 76033). There is no charge, and TCLEOSE credit will be given to all current law enforcement officers. The seminar is designed for church leaders and staff as well as law enforcement officials. Topics will include a case study of violence on church property, safety awareness, Eyes and Ears Teams, protection against sexual predators, youth safety and disruptive individuals. Presenters: Det. Mike Carroll with the Fort Worth Police Dept., Jimmy Meeks with Cop & Cross Ministry (www.copandcross.com), Greg Love with Ministry Safe (www.MinistrySafe.com). Contact: W. Mackey at Wesley.mackey@cleburne.net or 817-774-6280.

Bullying: An Elephant in the Room Series Forum — March 29

The Tarrant Area Community of Churches, Brite Divinity School and the host church will present "An Elephant in the Room Series Forum" March 29 focusing on "Beyond Bullying: Empowering Children, Youth & Adults to Win with Each Other. The program will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ (4201 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth). The speakers are Kathryn Everest, director of guidance and counseling for the Student Support Division of the Fort Worth ISD and co-designer of the "It's Not Okay" district-wide anti-bullying initiative, and Rev. Cody Sanders, an ordained Baptist minister and certified counselor. The cost is \$15/person. Register at www.tarrantareacc.org/Events.aspx or contact TACC at 817-737-5554.

Music Fest at Lakeside UMC — March 26

Lakeside UMC will offer a free Music Fest on Saturday, March 26. From 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Performances will be by: TinTop Road Blue Grass Band, Calvary Worship Center Youth Band, The Corsicana Cloggers, Zanada Tally Schoppert and Against the Wind, Tex and Mary Schuts, Todd Jones and The Groove Tones, and the Lakeside UMC Ensembles. Many booths will be on the grounds sponsored by various churches and other community groups. All proceeds from booths and donations go to Navarro and Freestone Counties' Relay for Life.

Suicide Survivors: The Healing Journey After Loss

Suicide Survivors: *The Healing Journey After Loss* is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved to suicide. Groups form every six to eight weeks in different locations in the Central Texas area. A new group will be forming in the Spring. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks. A mental health professional and a trained survivor facilitate meetings. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 817-698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

Bartlett First UMC Garage Sale — April 2

FUMC Bartlett (645 W. Clark St. / FM 487, Bartlett 76511) will host a garage sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 2. With about three packed garages full of items to sell, shoppers will find appliances, electronics, furniture, home décor, toys, tools, etc Single-serving baked goods will also be available. Come find your treasure! Contact: Tamela Baker, tamela@io.com, 512-868-5885 (H), 512-923-9186 (C).

Cross Cultural Encounters in Christian Mission — April 5-6

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminar offers the 2011 Settles Lecture that will focus this year on "Cross-Cultural Encounters in Christian Mission" April 5-6. Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, professor of global Christianities and mission studies, will lead the discussions at 7 p.m. April 5 (Overseas & Across the Street: Tensions in the Embodiment of Christian Mission Work) and 11 a.m. April 6 (The Return Effect: What Happens Within Our Christian Community). For more information, visit <http://www.austinseminary.edu/settles> or call 512-404-4800.

Water From the Rock, A Water Song Project Production — April 8 & 9

More than one in six people - 894 million - don't have access to the amount of safe freshwater necessary for their basic requirements. Because of this need, on Saturday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m. St. Philip's UMC in Round Rock will host the third annual concert in The Water Song Project, "Water from the Rock," with the goal of raising funds for the construction of a well in Ghana, West

Africa. Water From the Rock will include three events on April 8 and 9: The concert will be held in the historic chapel at St. Philip's United Methodist Church, 16321 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock. Suggested donation is \$10/person and can be purchased at the door, in advance on the website <http://watersongproject.org>, or at the church office. Professional musicians will be donating their performances, so that all proceeds will go directly to UMCOR to fund the well. A silent art auction that includes water-themed art created by artists across Texas specifically for The Water Song Project will be available April 8 at 7:30 pm., April 9 from 2 to 6 p.m. and 7:30 to 8 p.m. An ecumenical service will address the topic of working together to do good work in "Privileged to Serve" on Friday, April 8, from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Come refresh your spirit and give the gift of life.

Free Dementia Education Seminar — April 13

A free seminar for those who are dealing with dementia and needing to create moments of joy will be offered Wednesday, April 13, from 5:30-6 p.m. for registration and light dinner and 6-7 p.m. for the seminar at Arden Courts Memory Care Community (1501 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 76006). The guest speaker is Jolene Brackey, founder of Enhanced Moments and author of *Creating Moments of Joy*. Sometimes dementia caregivers get too caught up in day-to-day details, often times forgetting to appreciate the better moments with their loved ones. While it may be impossible to create a perfectly wonderful day, you can create perfectly wonderful moments. During this seminar, Brackey will pass along powerful tools that can create positive outcomes. Adult day care will be provided by qualified staff. Please ask for this service when making your reservation. To RSVP, call 817-795-1700 or email arlington@arden-courts.com.

Ladies Day Out at First Round Rock: The Sweet Life Café — April 9

The Sweet Life Café, Where Women Savor Time with God, Family and Friends, will be held on Saturday, April 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will feature inspirational speakers, a variety of breakout sessions, music, lunch and lots of laughter. Cost is \$40. Registration is available online at <http://fumc-rr.org>. Topics range from Internet Safety for Families to Zumba to Prayer to the Five Love Languages...something for every woman. Visit the website for all the details and plan to join us on April 9.

Basic Lay Speaker Course — April 16

Mt Zion UMC (1212 N. 5th St., Waco) will host the Basic Lay Speaker course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 16. The course book is *Lay Speaking Ministries, Basic Course Participant's Book*. Contact: Gwendolyn McNuckles at 254-717-5171 or Gwendolynmenuckles3@gmail.com.

2nd Annual Jerusalem 33 A.D. — April 21 & 22

First UMC Killeen presents the miracles, trials, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ during their 2nd Annual Jerusalem 33 A.D. beginning at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 21, and 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Methodist Park (southwest corner of the new church campus at 3501 E. Elms, Killeen). All are invited to witness this Passion play side-by-side with villagers, Romans, Judas, King Herod and Jesus himself. Admission is one can of food (given to the Killeen Food Care Center) or a donation (used to help defray the cost of the event). For more details, visit the church website at www.fumckilleen.com.

Resiliency: Transforming Turmoil into Hope — May 7

White Chapel UMC at Southlake will host the Resiliency: Transforming Turmoil into Hope conference from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 7 featuring John Woodall, M.D. Dr. Woodall is a board certified psychiatrist formerly of the faculty of Harvard Medical School and founder of the Unity Project. He has heard questions on turmoil and hope many times in his work with trauma survivors. Through his work in the U.S. after 911 and Katrina and internationally in Central America, Canada, the Balkans, Cyprus, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Dr. Woodall has been a witness to the power that resilient strengths have in turning victims into role models. He will share his insights into the psychological and spiritual practices he uses to equip and empower people to make choices that transform personal and community turmoil into resilient strengths of hope and unity. Register online at www.whiteschapelumc.org.

The Leader Within: An Evening with Coach McCoy — May 12

White's Chapel UMC in Southlake offers an inspiring program on preparing children for life at 7 p.m. May 12. Brad McCoy, a highly decorated coach of 27 years and father of three high-performing athletes, believes that a child cannot be changed from the outside in, you must change them from the inside out. Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a coach, a manager, a role model, or a student, you will be inspired by his personal and powerful insights.

Youth Mission Opportunity in Palmer — June 23-26

First UMC Palmer announces PUMP 2011! PUMP (Palmer United Mission Project) is a four-day mission weekend sponsored by the church for youth groups from across Texas and surrounding areas. Dates for PUMP 2011 are June 23-26. Youth entering grades 4-12 and adults alike are given the opportunity to serve those in need living in the Palmer area. In addition to the mission projects, participants will experience small group study, meaningful daily worship, awesome music and inspired talks. There are many planned activities designed to help everyone let loose, experience God, spread His love and have fun. This is an excellent mission trip for first-timers and/or small youth groups. For more information, contact Debbi Mitchell by at 214-683-1501 or palmerpump@yahoo.com. Space is limited so let the church know if you are interested and a reservation brochure will be sent to you! Reservation deadline: May 15.

Depression Connection: Understanding, Help and Hope

When suffering from depression, bipolar or a related disorder, learn what helps and what hurts. Research confirms that people who participate in regular support groups often experience a better quality of life and a greater likelihood of recovery from the symptoms of depression, anxiety disorder and bipolar disorder. Depression Connection support group meets Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 4 of the Heritage Campus of First UMC Grapevine (4344 Heritage Ave.). The group is structured to include approximately 10 individuals and a licensed, trained facilitator. In addition to an opportunity to communicate about one's individual concerns, an educational component is included in each meeting. Questions about Depression Connection? Contact Katherine Hunter at 817-481-2559 x130 or katherineh@fumcg.org.

Career Transition Support Group at First Hurst

NETworkers is a career transition support group at First UMC Hurst for those who are unemployed and actively looking for jobs. NETworkers meets in the church parlor every Monday for about 1 ½ hours beginning at 9 a.m. Knowing that unemployment is such a difficult situation, the church wants to do something to offer emotional support as well as practical tips for social networking, resume writing, etc. They often have guest speakers. Contact: Sandra Hill at 817-282-7384 ext. 17.

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=ifITKWNrGalKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=oIL5LeMPLeKYLpl&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

United Methodist Reporter Online: www.umportal.org

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

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

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

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

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

UM Global Health Initiative:

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

Discipleship Resources

The General Board of Discipleship's mission is to support church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples. An agency of the UMC, visit www.gbod.org and www.godfilms.com for more information or call the Communications Office at 877-899-2780, Ext. 1726.

How to Use UMC's TechShop

You may wonder, "What is TechShop?" Well, my friend, TechShop is a gem for UM organizations and their budgets. TechShop will quickly become your finance committee's best friend as it keeps your church outfitted with the latest technology available with deeply discounted software from major suppliers like Microsoft and Adobe. Settle in with a cup of Joe and take a tour of TechShop!

<http://www.umcom.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=mrLZJ9PFKMG&b=6084837&ct=8860103¬oc=1&tr=y&aid=7367185>

Church Demographics

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

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

Mental Health Facts from the Depression Connection Team: The World Health Organization has reported that four of the 10 leading causes of disability in the U.S. and other developed countries are mental disorders. By 2020, major depressive illness will be the leading cause of disability in the world for women and children. Most people diagnosed with a serious mental illness can experience relief from their symptoms by actively participating in an individual treatment plan. With no cost to your church, the CTC Committee on Mental Health Concerns and Depression Connection Team will provide a seminar for your church. To inquire, contact Tony Campbell at 817-810-9599 or tony@depressionconnection.org.

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.

New Central District Administrator

What will be the new Central District office in June seeks a district administrator to oversee and supervise the total ministry of clergy and churches within the bounds of the district. The district administrator should be knowledgeable of the workings of the UMC, willing and able to assist clergy, local church staffs, UM members, conference staff and other district offices or organizations as needed. Confidentiality is of utmost importance in the district office. The Central District office will be located in Waco. Hours are 9 a.m. 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday with some

evenings and weekends. Please e-mail resume, cover letter and list of references by May 1 to don@ctcumc.org.

Youth Ministry Worship Leader

There has been a change in contact persons for the First UMC of Fort Worth part-time worship leader for its Youth Ministry. Responsibilities include leading youth worship on Sunday mornings with the youth band, holding weekly practices, and managing the stage and equipment. Additional responsibilities may include special events, going on trips, etc. If you are interested, please send your resume to straz71@yahoo.com or to Adam Straznicky, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth 76102.

4 Positions at Alliance UMC

Minister of Music / Director of Music Ministries — Alliance UMC, a young congregation in far north Fort Worth, offers an opportunity for a person of musical breadth to join our staff team that has considerable gifts for music - from traditional and contemporary to Africa and beyond. AUMC utilizes multi-media in all worship settings and celebrates connecting people to God through a variety of means. This position includes working with worship committee, chancel choir, praise team, bell choir, and providing general oversight for and supervision of volunteer music leaders, as well as other music staff. Submit resumes or inquiries to: alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Competitive salary includes continuing education benefits; 20 hour-week. Contact: Jim McClurg (pastor) at 817-581-1688.

Organist / Accompanist — Alliance UMC offers an opportunity for a part-time organist/accompanist. This person will provide organ and/or piano music for Sunday morning worship services to complement the AUMC Chancel Choir and guide congregational singing. Additional responsibilities include accompanying Children's and Youth Choirs and occasional offertory or special soloists (vocal and instrumental). Submit resumes or inquiries to: alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Competitive salary includes continuing education benefits. Contact Jim McClurg at 817-581-1688.

Director of Children's Ministries — Alliance UMC seeks an energetic, organized person with a passion for children's ministry to organize and facilitate all facets of ministry with and for children. This ministry touches the life of the entire congregation including fellowship, worship, discipleship, mission, and evangelism. The director of children's ministries will help plan, organize and take a leading role in organizing and administering children's Sunday School classes, volunteers for various children's ministries, special children's social/ministry functions, and special events/holidays. Also, partner with the Children's Council and other key staff members. 15-hour/week. Send resume, including experience with children's ministry, to alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Contact: Jim McClurg at 817-581-1688.

Parent's Day Out / Creative College for Kids Director — Alliance UMC seeks an energetic, organized person to provide necessary planning, organization, direction, and coordination of AUMC's Parent's Day Out and Creative College for Kids programs. PDO is a twice-weekly program that runs during the school year and provides a creative, nurturing environment for children not yet enrolled in a formal school program. CCK is a series of four weekly summer camps that provide instruction in multiple disciplines (art, science, music, fitness, etc.) in a fun, nurturing Christian environment. The PDO/CCK director will have a position on and work with the AUMC PDO/CCK board of directors to ensure that both programs are organized and run in a manner compatible with the goals and objectives of AUMC. The PDO/CCK director is 12-hour/week during the school year, 25-hour/week during four summer camps. Send resume, including experience with children's programs, alliance.pastor@sbcglobal.net. Contact: Jim McClurg at 817-581-1688.

2 Positions at Glen Lake Camp

Glen Lake Camp has hired all its positions with the exception of two! GLC still seeks applicants for an **activity director** who should be college age with a high-energy personality capable of coordinating large groups of people. GLC also has a **female cabin counselor** spot for a college age female passionate about sharing Christ with others. Referrals are appreciated. Interested persons should contact Susan Sledge at 817-326-1114 or susansledge@windstream.net.

Part-time Youth Minister

First UMC Coleman seek a part-time youth minister to focus on leading a group of junior high and high school kids to Christ through Bible study, fun activities and some outreach-type work. The group meets on Wednesday evening after a churchwide fellowship meal. A monthly program on Sunday afternoon will also be encouraged as well as Sunday morning worship. Great opportunity for a college student who has an interest in ministry. Pay: \$650/month. Apply with resume by mail or email to: First UMC Coleman, P.O. Box 892, Coleman 76834 | mswening@web-access.net. Website: www.firstunitedmethodistcoleman.com. Pastor: Mike Kerzee.

Gently Used VBS Material Available

Gordon FUMC would like to donate "gently used" VBS material purchased from Group Publishing. This includes the Leader Guide, 4 DVDS, literature and crafts for 35 children, and some decorations. If you are interested or need more information, contact Sara Barron at cbarrs68@att.net or 254-693-5304.

Youth Director/Minister/Pastor/Coordinator

Discovery, a quick-growing and vibrant church in Hutto - just north of Austin, seeks a Youth Director/Minister/Pastor/Coordinator (you'd get to choose the title). The community has exploded in the last decade, growing from a rural community of 1200, to a suburban community of Austin. The primary purpose of this position is to lead students in a relationship with Christ and each other. This church has never had a paid youth position, and this means that you will be building a ministry from the ground up. This is a part time position, but we anticipate, with the right person, and by God's grace, this could transition to a full time position. Summer hours will probably be more than school-year hours, given mission trips, retreats, and summer camps. Please send a cover letter and resume to paul.gravley@huttodiscovery.org. In your cover letter, please write a paragraph describing what you're passionate about, and how that passion would impact your work in this position. If email is not an option, please send the same requirements to Discovery UMC, c/o Paul Gravley, P.O. Box 426, Hutto 78634.

Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC of Stephenville seeks a part-time youth director. Responsibilities include building strong relationships with youth of our church, planning and leading weekly Bible studies and two summer mission trips. The candidate should have a personal faith in Jesus Christ and a desire to guide and direct youth through that faith. Send resume to: FUMC Stephenville, P.O. Box 173, Stephenville 76401.

Flamingos Needed

Do you have a herd of flamingos hiding in your church attic, shed, or garage that need some attention? Ridglea UMC youth are searching for yard flamingos to borrow for spring fundraising endeavors. If you have flamingos to loan, please contact Wendy Coleman at 817-739-5967 or email at wendy.coleman@fwisd.org.

Youth Director

Lorena UMC seeks part-time youth director to grow and nurture youth as Christian disciples, with deep love for God and young people, experience working with adolescents, sharing your faith with others, strong church background, understanding of the UMC. Send resume to Pastor@lorenaumc.org, phone: 254-857-4283.

Karaoke Machine/Disks

Glen Lake Camp is planning an exciting summer for the kids. If anyone has a karaoke machine and karaoke disks to donate, the camp will use them at the pool party as kids are welcomed on the first day. Contact Susan Sledge at susansledge@windstream.net. Thanks so much!

Youth Minister

St. Philip's UMC (www.stphils.us), a wonderfully diverse and dynamic faith community located

west of Round Rock in the northwestern corner of the greater Austin metropolitan area, seeks a full-time youth minister to guide a growing and vibrant Youth/Student Ministry. Hire date June 1. Potential candidates need to send résumé/CV and brief biographical statement no later than March 31 to: office@stphilipsumc.org RE: Youth Minister Search.

Part-time Organist/Accompanist

St. John's UMC in Georgetown seeks a part-time organist to share organ and piano duties for Sunday morning worship services, weekly rehearsals, and special events with current organist. Salary is negotiable depending on education and experience and is based on 7.5 hours per week. Contact Justin Langford at justin@stjohnsumc.cc, 512-863-5886, or 311 E. University Dr, Georgetown 78626.

Secretary/AdMin Position Sought

Lisa Meek, formerly administrative assistant to Don Scroggs at FUMC Brownwood, has moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and seeks a secretary or administrative assistant position in a local church. She can be contacted at kaseykaye59@yahoo.com.

P-T Director of Youth Ministries

First UMC, Mineral Wells seeks a spiritually mature, dedicated Christian with a heart to make young disciples of Jesus Christ. Experience with youth ministry is preferred along with good communication and relationship building skills. A good understanding of Methodist doctrine is helpful. Will be responsible to plan/coordinate activities for 7 – 12 graders, including weekly Bible study, Sunday school, youth fellowship, fundraisers, and annual mission trips. Salary \$1250 per month. Send resume to: FUMC, PO Box 1466, Mineral Wells, TX 76068 or contact church office at 940-325-4707 for more details.

Musician

Experienced Methodist Musician looking for a musician position at a church in the greater DFW area. Accomplished choral conductor and worship leader in Praise Band. Member of Community of Hope UMC, Mansfield, Joe Carmichael - reference. Bachelor/Master of Music in choral conducting, voice and Jazz piano from University of North Texas. Contact: Janice Kilgore, 972-291-9130, JKKmusik@aol.com.

Church Coordinator/Secretary

Experienced church worker recently moved to the Fort Worth area and is looking for a church coordinator/secretary position. Contact: Katherine Ferdinandsen at katferdinandsen@yahoo.com.

25-Passenger Van for Sale

Early FUMC has a 25-passenger bus for sale — '95 Ford 350 power stroke diesel with 102,000 miles on it. Contact the church office at earlyfumc@gmail.com for more details. Asking \$6000.

Sunday School Leader

St. Luke UMC in Killeen (400 members/50 children and youth and growing) seeks a part-time Sunday School Leader who is faithful and dedicated to Christian education. Bi-lingual in Korean preferred. This person will be responsible for leading and ministering to multi-ethnic children; lead and preach weekly at the children's Sunday worship service; lead the program for children on Fridays; attend the staff meetings on Saturday; plan and lead annual summer VBS program and any special church-wide Sunday school worship services. For more details and to apply, contact St. Luke UMC at 254-526-3993 or 102 E. Church Ave., Killeen 76541. Website: www.umcstluke.org.

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.