



Central E-Link

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

November 11, 2009

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. Use this information for ministry planning, announcements, church newsletters and/or bulletins. To add a colleague or church member to *E-Link's* weekly distribution, send their addresses to susan@ctcumc.org.

Editor: Carolyn Stephens Carolyn@ctcumc.org

Shortcuts: [Top](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Resources](#) [Calendar](#) [Needs](#)

For worldwide news of our denomination click here! www.umportal.org

News Briefs — The Conference

Today Is Veterans Day

This year, Veterans' Day falls on the heels of the tragic shootings and loss of lives at Ft. Hood. But this special day, which is more a civic than faith-related observance, is still a reminder of President Woodrow Wilson's call for the nation to remember those who have died in their country's service ... and an opportunity for America to "show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation." Dean McIntyre and Dan Benedict of the General Board of Discipleship offer several resources for private and public observing of this day at http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=3567.

Fall Summit UPDATE (please read)

The numbers continue to climb for the Fall Leadership Summit this Saturday, Nov. 14, at First UMC, Mansfield, with Bishop Robert Schnase taking his *Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations* to the next level of engagement. **Our own Bishop Mike Lowry does not want the 1,100 or so who will be coming to the event to miss even a single aspect of this learning opportunity. That means doing a little schedule adjusting, renting a big tent and eating on the run, but we will include the breakout discussions on each of the five practice areas! Moving that number of people also necessitates lengthening the lunch and rest breaks, thereby extending the event by 45 minutes.**

The conference will still have a blogging opportunity for those who want to share their "five practices" thoughts. Some of the "best practices" presenters for the breakouts will share their ideas and invite others to share their successes or ask questions on a series of blogs that will begin Saturday on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org). These will be open forums, so anyone may participate in one or more of the dialogues.

Reminder: You Can Contribute to the Alignment Task Force

Since transparency is a high priority for the Alignment Task Force, the blogs that Pat Stroman (member) and Mike Ramsdell (chair) will be posting after each meeting will remain on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) over the course of their work. The task force welcomes comments on this blog and will consider all as participatory dialogue. If your comment appears on the blog site, please know that you have been heard even though individual replies are not possible.

Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission – Group Registration

CTCYM 2010 information brochures were mailed recently to youth directors and/or pastors of all CTC churches. Please be on the lookout for them! Group registration forms are in the back of the brochure. They are due in the conference office with \$100 registration fee by Dec. 10 (or by Jan. 7 with an additional \$50 late fee). For more information, visit www.ctcym.org.

Crime Victims Council Promotes:

Hope for the Holidays is a different kind of worship experience at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Arborlawn UMC (5001 Briarhaven Road, Fort Worth). There will be beautiful music, stories of comfort, hope, inspiration and prayer. For more details, contact the church at 817-731-0701 or office@arborlawnumc.org.

New Opportunities to Support ZOE Ministry

ZOE Ministry, a UM ministry serving vulnerable children in several African nations, recently announced two new opportunities for congregations to empower groups of orphans. One project is ZOE's Hope For Christmas Animal Project, which allows individuals or groups to provide animals to be raised by young people in ZOE's program. Animals are often a first step in transforming the lives of orphans and by giving through ZOE; you can directly impact a child's ability to become self-sufficient. See details at http://www.zoeministry.org/?page_id=2766. A second exciting opportunity is ZOE's Hope Companion Program, which allows your congregation to provide financial support to empower orphans and child-led families throughout their Giving Hope Empowerment Project journey. Giving Hope equips orphans and child-led families with essential life skills such as mentoring, vocational training, income-generating activities, training in animal husbandry and farming, and HIV/AIDS education. Through the Hope Companion Program, you can choose various levels of support for a specific working group or community, during which you will have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships in that particular area. Details at <http://www.zoeministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Hope-Companions-Overview.pdf>.

Insurance Enrollment Period — Nov. 4-19

Nov. 4 – 19, 2009 is the 2010 HealthFlex and AFLAC Cafeteria Plan open enrollment period. NO LATE ENROLLMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED! 2010 enrollment information available at www.ctcumc.org. Questions? Contact Shawn-Marie Riley, conference benefits administrator, at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or shawn-marie@ctcumc.org.

Thanksgiving Offering 2009

http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Thanksgiving_2009_KZB8K4MR.pdf.

Advent Opportunity to Learn About and Serve in Women's Health Initiative

This Advent you are invited to participate in a unique quilting and study ministry opportunity to promote women's health worldwide. The CTC is a target conference for this campaign, especially for the new "Advent Visions of Healing and Hope" quilt project/study. The Advent study can also be done without the quilting project. If you are interested, visit www.operationhealinghope.com and click on the link for "Top 10" or contact Jennifer Bellamy at jennifer@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222.

Suicide Survivors — Open Enrollment

Suicide Survivors is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new group will begin in January 2010. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks. A mental health professional and a trained survivor facilitate group meetings. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 817-698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

Civil Rights Road Trip — Jan. 15-18

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was a time of uncertainty and change. The Civil Right Road Trip is a weekend designed to help today's young people connect to the radical possibilities their lives hold for the Kingdom of God. Get more details and register at www.ctcumc.org or contact Steve Heyduck at 254-715-4956, 254-750-1310, sheyduck@MCHWaco.org.

Adult UMVIM Mission/Work Tour to Eastern Mexico Conference — Jan. 16-23

Conference UM Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)-hosted mission work tour to Mexico's Eastern Conference Jan. 16-23. **Registration deadline: Dec. 21.** Contacts: Susan Luttrell (817-473-6650 ext. 204, 817-781-5875, susanl@firstmethodistmansfield.org) or Jennifer Bellamy (817-877-5222, Jennifer@ctcumc.org).

Soderquist — Feb. 8-10

The next Soderquist Retreat, free for clergy and their spouses, is scheduled for Feb. 8-10 at the Inn on Lake Granbury. The only cost is the transportation to and from the retreat, which will not be reimbursed. Many CTC clergy couples have been given the opportunity to attend; unfortunately, repeat couples cannot be accepted. For more information, contact Soderquist Center at lcross@jbu.edu.

Singles Mission Trip to Dulac, La. — Feb. 11-15, 2010

Contact: Chuck Graff as 817-339-5065 or cgraff@myfumc.org and watch for additional details soon.

Return to [Top](#)

News Briefs — The Denomination

Saving Money Without Sacrificing Ministry

In the Lewis Center for Church Leadership's latest newsletter, Dr. Lovett Weems gives the results of a survey on how churches are saving money without sacrificing ministry. "In light of the current economic environment, how are churches reining in their budgets without reducing the quality of ministry? Last month, the Lewis Center asked *Update* readers to respond to that question. Most of those responding indicated the size of their congregations, and their responses tended to follow patterns related to church size categories." See some of the most common ways churches have sought to reduce expenditures without sacrificing the quality of their ministry at <http://www.churchleadership.com/Updates/default.asp>.

Places to Start for Fair-Trade Purchases

Interpreter magazine (<http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=13728>) for church leaders has stories online and in the print publication about how individuals and churches can participate in fair-trade consumerism. Here are a few of the suggested sites:

www.equalexchange.org : Equal Exchange (coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks; supported by UMW and UMCOR)

www.serrv.org : SERRV

www.tenthousandvillages.com : Ten Thousand Villages

www.projecthavehope.org : Project Have Hope

www.globalexchangestore.org : Global Exchange fair-trade store

www.localharvest.org/csa : Find community-supported agriculture near you

U.S. Bishops Prepare to Tighten Belts with Salary Cut

(UMNS) — In a day and age when just having a job is the new raise, it came naturally to the spiritual leaders of the UMC to take a pay cut. "It's as plain as the nose on your face," said Bishop Peggy Johnson, Philadelphia Area. "It makes perfect sense." In less than two months, Johnson and her fellow 49 active U.S. UM bishops will open smaller paychecks and see about \$5,000 less in 2010. ... "It's a great opportunity to be in solidarity with a lot of our churches," she said. Read full story at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lwL4KnNlLh&b=5259669&ct=7659367>.

New York Sailors Carry "Strength for Service to God and Country"

(UMNS-Richard Peck) Sailors aboard the newly commissioned USS New York carry copies of "Strength for Service to God and Country," a historic book of daily devotions. Published by the UM Publishing House and funded by financial gifts from 5,000 individuals and groups through the UM Commission on United Methodist Men, the books have now been distributed to 400,000 people, mostly men and women in the armed forces.

The first edition went to men and women in both World War II and the Korean War. That first edition was forgotten until 11 years ago, when a California Boy Scout found a tattered copy on the bedside of his grandfather, a Navy veteran of both wars. Evan Hunsberger, a Roman Catholic, asked the Publishing House for permission to reprint the historic book for military stationed at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. Upon approval, Hunsberger added 40 additional devotions from current national leaders.

You are invited to join the dialogue. Share your comment

Hunsberger received a major boost when United Methodist Men offered to help raise funds for the project. Neither Hunsberger nor the Nashville-based commission would have guessed they would raise \$1.5 million. <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lwL4KnN1LtH&b=5259669&ct=7657973>.

Summer Collegium Supports Small Congregations — June 23-July 1

Summer Collegium is an all-expenses-paid nine-day project in support of small congregations. It includes small church clergy and their spouses/partners. The deadline for postmarking applications is Dec. 15; so interested clergy will want to check it out right away. The Summer Collegium is an ecumenical project fully funded through the Lilly Endowment and seeks to offer encouragement, education, refreshment and renewal to 25 small-church pastors each year. The dates of the Summer Collegium are June 23-July 1, 2010. Single clergy and locally ordained persons are welcome to apply. Keynote speaker this year is Rev. Dr. Alice Mann with music led by John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland. For more details, visit www.vts.edu/education/collegium or contact Dr. Marilyn Johns at 703-461-1760.

Small Church Leadership Institute — Nov. 15-19

It's not too late for laity and clergy to register for the Small Church Leadership Institute at Mount Sequoyah, Nov. 15-19. Guest presenters include Gil Rendle, Bishop Max Whitfield, Jeff Patton, Asa Whitaker, Rod Hocott, Karen Swales, Russell Cephas, Andy Oden, Janice Meese, Judy Benson and Charles White. The program registration is \$199 per person, which includes program cost and 12 meals. **Register by Oct. 31 and save \$10.** Enrollment forms and lodging reservations are available at www.mountsequoyah.org.

Perkins School of Volunteer Youth Ministry — Jan. 9

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Arapaho UMC, Richardson (North Texas Conference)
This is a dynamic workshop led by youth workers with outstanding experience. Faculty includes: Rev. Walt Marcum, Georgia Harrison, Rod Hocutt and Joy Allen. Additional details are available at http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102775915044&s=1343&e=001e64E2hOfaikU6yC06hdx0ZD0fy54lBy8fChoxypLrERfhDxPpHett6j4x9onEZEEd5AUL8Nt0DsgOx78mnjFOCx9JZ8eX5tob0FOGUSHxN1jEf1DaH7BkHS Cz9wAjSoddTwmyX5hXhtHQijlfj_xl96Sfd4CjL2cZafBOTdvW5MS2vbl0DW5EuoqJRpj_g3Kd5kBYI7ABaoLQyJBdxDbg.

Human Relations Day Grants — Deadline Jan. 10

Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society. The grants are to support ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through education, advocacy or leadership training and development. Grant funds are raised through the UMC's Human Relations Day Special Sunday each year. For more grant applications, contact Marvlyn Scott at msscott@umc-gbcs.org or 202-488-5643.

Congress on Evangelism 2010 — Jan. 5-8

The 2010 Congress on Evangelism, scheduled for Jan. 5 – 8 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, can be stimulating and informative for pastors and local church evangelism chairs. The agenda and registration are available at <http://www.CongressonEvangelism.org>. Scholarships are available for clergy under 40 (first time participants who have a recommendation from their DS or bishop). Also, the registration fee is waived for full-time seminary students as well as local pastors enrolled in Course of Study.

Student Day funds scholarships, loans

United Methodist Special Sunday, Nov. 29

UM Student Day, one of the six churchwide Special Sundays of the denomination, furnishes scholarships

and loans for students attending UM-related and other accredited colleges and universities. UM Student Day is celebrated the last Sunday of November, which is Nov. 29 this year. Read about this year's scholarships and loans to CTC student recipients in the Oct. 16 *Central Link* and remember that ONLY STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING CHURCHES are eligible for the Merit Scholarships awarded each year at Annual Conference. To read more about the UM Student Day, visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5521931&ct=7569367&tr=y&aid=5450008>.

Resources for World AIDS Day — Dec. 1

UM congregations are encouraged to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS around the world by creating awareness about this deadly disease. A new brochure and a poster supporting the UM Global AIDS Fund are now available. Use and share Working Toward an AIDS-Free World brochure or poster, and support global programs engaged in advocacy, education, and prevention, health care and training in response to HIV/AIDS. **World AIDS Day is Dec. 1.** Join the fight against HIV/AIDS by using these resources on Sundays leading up to World AIDS Day. Order Working Toward an AIDS-Free World brochure (<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=817364>) for the small cost of shipping, or download the poster (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/media/wad/wadposter09.pdf>). Look out for more HIV/AIDS resources to come and give to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR Advance #982345.

Clergywoman's Gathering, "Living in Balance: Recapturing Our Creativity"

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.

Lenten Sermon Writing Retreat

Jan. 11-15, 2010, Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Ark.). Clergy and lay ministers are invited to come undertake their in-depth preparation and sermon writing for this season. Cost \$395, Commuter \$155. For more information, contact Kim Ross at 800-760-8126, spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org, or go to www.mountsequoyah.org.

Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21, 2010

<http://www.gbod.org/wesleypilgrimage>

Return to [Top](#)

News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Special Alert, Especially for Churches Offering ESL Programs

Sandra Lydick of the Crime Victims Council forwards this alert from the Attorney General of Texas Office: Spanish-speaking consumers are being targeted on their residential and mobile phones by scam artists offering a "free" English course. According to recent complaints to the Attorney General of Texas, callers are posing as employees of a purported nonprofit agency and claiming that call recipients could qualify for a "free" government English course. The scam artists ask unsuspecting customers for their personal information and the personal information of three friends as references. Follow up calls request \$500 from the parties.

Tamale Sale Benefits Ministries of El Buen Samaritano

The members of El Buen Samaritano UMC (3429 Strong Ave., Fort Worth 76105) will be selling homemade-style tamales. The last day to order is Nov. 30 with all orders picked up on Saturday, Dec. 5, at the church. For chicken, pork beans and combination orders, contact Celia Martinez at buen.sam@sbcglobal.net by Nov. 30. The phone number for the church is 817-534-7868.

Christian Theology Study at First Belton — Ongoing

Have you wanted to learn, discuss, or respectfully debate Christian theology with members of your own denomination as well as others? First UMC in Belton is providing that opportunity at noon Tuesdays.

<http://gbgm-umc.org/fumcbeltex>

Temple District

Lay Speaking Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Lead Music in Worship

When Nov 14 (begins at 9 a.m.)

Where: Florence UMC

Job Transition Support Group Continues to Meet at FUMC Fort Worth

Contact Marianne Wilson at 817-339-5071 or email her at MWilson@MyFUMC.org

Crowley House of Hope Christmas Sale

The Crowley House of Hope's annual Christmas sale begins next week. UMW members have prepared the merchandise, many of the items are new or like new. Shoppers can purchase very reasonably priced items that range from Christmas trees and musical water globes to clothing for the season, throw pillows, stockings, garland and much more. The sale began Nov. 4 and continues on Nov. 11 and 14 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Crowley House of Hope (Bldg. 3) is at 216 N. Magnolia in Crowley. Money from the sale of these items will be partially used to fund the Share the Love Christmas Mission of CHOH.

www.crowleyhouseofhope.org.

Mediation Skills Training — Nov. 16-20 at Winston-Salem, NC

Details and registration available at www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

Roots of Change Group for Pastors/Church Staff in Fort Worth Area — Thru Nov. 19

Contact: Marianne at 817-339-5071.

2010 Faith Community Leadership Summit — Feb. 16

Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth

Contact: SharonBass@texashealth.org

Return to [Top](#)

Resources

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.

90 Minutes in Heaven: See Life's Troubles In a Whole New Light. 7 week DVD study on Heaven. 90 minutes after Don Piper was declared dead as a result of a car collision, he returned to life. After 13 months and 34 surgeries, he faced grueling recovery. Vivid images of heaven and what the bible says about heaven sustained him. Don Piper is an ordained minister and speaks to more than 250 audiences each year. Includes leader's guide and promotional material.

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.

Return to [Top](#)

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Part-time Post Contemporary Music Worship Leader

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

Youth/Young Adult Ministries Director

Christ UMC seeks applicants for the position of director of youth and young adult ministries. Job entails developing and leading all programming and outreach involving youth and young adult. The position is part-time, with a minimum of 25 hours/week. Inquiries should be directed to Vaughn Baker at vaughn_baker@sbcglobal.net or 817-613-7659.

Choir Robes

First UMC Mansfield has 100 teal-colored, adult-sized choir robes to donate. The gently used robes are in great shape with double-sided stoles — one side white with embroidered UM cross and the other side purple. If interested, please contact Beth LaMee at 817-477-2287, ext. 229.

Hand Chimes

The Saginaw Ringers at Saginaw UMC need to borrow or rent three octaves of hand chimes to use with their handbells for two upcoming worship services. If your church has chimes available for our use, please call Jedda Jones, director of music and creative worship, at 817-232-0390, Ext. 305 (church) or 817-267-6459 (home).

Contemporary Worship Leader Seeks Position

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

Youth Minister

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

Full-time Director of Youth Ministries

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

Director of Music & Worship

Woodway First UMC (21000 Woodway Dr., Waco 76712) is accepting applications for director of music and worship until Sept. 1 with the position to be filled by Oct. 1. Candidates should be able to provide: leadership in a spiritual ministry through music, primary oversight of all music staff, oversight and management of the music and worship programs, oversight and leadership for all worship services; serve as primary choir director for sanctuary choir; establish and lead choral and instrumental ensembles for worship and other events; arrange and schedule vocalists for worship; flexibility in worship planning and execution. An advanced music degree with at least five years experience in professional choral conducting preferred. Experience in church choral programs is preferred. This is a part-time position; salary is negotiable dependent on experience. Submit applications to Linda Smith at 254-751-0411. Contact: Search Committee Chair Danny Londenberg for more details at 254-751-0411.

Part-time Choir Director

Hico FUMC seeks a choir director for the 10:50 a.m. worship service and possibly as worship leader for a contemporary service in the planning stages. This person should have a heart for sharing the Gospel through the music ministry, must have experience directing a church choir, be confident in making decisions about weekly anthems and special music at Christmas and Easter, be available for Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. Please contact SPRC Chair Buddy Teague at fumchico@embarqmail.com.

Part-time Music Director

First UMC of Glen Rose seeks a part-time music director. Some of the responsibilities include preparing and leading adult choir for weekly services, choosing hymns for worship services, working with pianist, organist and pastor for worship and special services. If interested, e-mail resume to fumc@valornet.com or mail to FUMC, P.O. Box 426, Glen Rose 76043. For information you may call the church office at 254-897-2572.

Return to [Top](#)

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.