



Central E-Link

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

November 23, 2010

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

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

News Briefs — The Conference

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

*A Thanksgiving message from your conference staff:
At this time when we pause to give thanks for the blessings in our lives,
we are grateful to be in a supportive role with the lay and clergy who are witnessing for
Christ in Congregations across our conference. We give thanks daily for you and your mission.*

A Time of Thanksgiving

E-Link comes to you early this week because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The conference office will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

Faith in Action

Check the conference website at www.ctcumc.org for two congregations that are living out their faith in their communities. First UMC Killeen's story about preparing wreaths for the veterans' cemetery is covered by both newspaper and television. See the links in the banner on the right side of the webpage. First UMC Cleburne is using Resurrection Mission to rethink how they are the church in their community. That story is at the top of the page.

Conference Restructures Health Benefits Staffing

In conjunction with necessary reductions to the 2011 budget, the CTC was forced to streamline office operations in the area of Finance and Administration. Three positions were eliminated, and an application process was opened for restructured positions in the area of Health Benefits. Two people have been hired with a Dec. 1 starting date. Shawn-Marie Riley, formerly Health Benefits/Cafeteria Plan Administrator, will become Benefits Administrator with responsibility for day-to-day operations of the three major benefits programs: HealthFlex, Retirement and Flex-Spending. The Benefits Assistant will be Krystal Robert, who is new to the conference staff.

Holiday Times and Glen Lake Camp

It's a Busy Time Everywhere...Except at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center

Oh, the full-time staff has plenty to do...repairing the facilities and planning for an incredibly busy 2011 retreat season and Summer Camp. Glen Lake is adding Family Camp this summer, so staff "plates are full." The "quiet" is caused by the absence of "guests" from Thanksgiving through the first of the year. You are all spending time with family and church family. And that is how it should be! **However, without "guests" GLC has no retreat income—and the camp bills just keep coming!** Take a minute during **The Race to Christmas Day** to remember the critical ministry

being prepared for you and your family at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. You may send a contribution (check) to: Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, P. O. Box 928, Glen Rose 76043. Or visit Glen Lake at: www.glenlake.org to make an on-line contribution.

Time to Get/Renew Church Video License

Churches, Sunday school classes, and youth groups using video in their services and programs need to be mindful of renewing their Church Video License at this time of year. Pre-recorded home videocassettes or DVDs, those commonly available in retail or rental stores and some of those offered from the Conference Resource Center, are intended for personal home use only. Viewing DVDs outside the home requires a license granting specific authorization. This is the case for each organization that uses videos—even for nonprofit groups, even if admission is not being charged, and even though the video has been purchased. Churches and other ministry organizations can show videos and be in accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act by using one of the following methods:

1. Showing videos which have "Public Performance Rights,"
2. Receiving written permission prior to using the video, or
3. Obtaining coverage with the Church Video License

The Church Video License is one of the most cost effective and convenient ways for churches and other ministry organizations to protect themselves from the possibility of being fined for illegal use of videocassettes and videotapes. Renewal for the conference video license will be in January and participants will be notified that month. **Our current license expires Feb 1. If any church wishes to be a part of this umbrella policy, please contact Susan Briles at susan@ctcumc.org, 817/877-5222 or 800-460-8622.**

MS Word & Excel Training for Church Workers — Dec. 8 & 9

Vicki Eldredge in the CTC Church Growth & Development office has arranged for Ralph Thompson to conduct training for church workers on MS Word (Dec. 8) and Excel (Dec. 9) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day (with a working lunch) at **University UMC, Fort Worth**. You can come to one day for \$75 or both days for \$100 (checks payable to Central Texas Conference). "I pray you will be able to take advantage of this opportunity," Eldredge said. "Normally a class like this would be at least \$400 or more." RSVP to Vicki@ctcumc.org as soon as possible.

CyberSafety for Families

There is a new resource kit to assist local churches in providing Safe Sanctuaries training for leaders, teachers, and congregations. It includes everything needed for training parents and other concerned adults about ways to keep children and teens safe online. The kit is on DVD (Mac and PC compatible) with a planning guide, teaching plans with schedule options, handouts and a slide presentation. Paul O'Briant, creator of this kit, is an active church member who has combined his love for God's people and his passion for new technologies into the work of CyberSafety for churches. Available at Cokesbury stores or at www.cokesbury.com or check out a copy from our Conference Resource Center by contacting Carol Roszell (817-877-5222 or carol@ctcumc.org). For more information about Safe Sanctuaries, contact Karen Granderson (karen@ctcumc.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>.

Evangelism Training for Your Church

The evangelism training offered by the CTC Evangelism Task Force has been fully scheduled for

Thursday evenings through January 2011. Anyone wishing to schedule training for their church, or preferably a cluster of churches, may contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org. "The program is first and foremost about evangelism," according to Brad Brittain who is one of the presenters, "but we have found that church transformation is a byproduct of the evangelism."

Emerging Christianity — Dec. 2-4

New ways of thinking, being and following Christ will be the subject of Emerging Christianity Dec. 3-4 at Texas Christian University's Brown-Lupton University Union (2901 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth) with optional pre-conference workshops on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 2-3. Sponsors of the conference, which includes but is not limited to Brite Divinity School and Tarrant Area Community of Churches, promise lively conversations about the "emerging" future of Christianity and non-dualism, a foundational belief of emerging Christian throughout the world. For more details and to register, visit www.lifeinthetrinityministry.com.

Building on Faith Celebration — Dec. 4

Families, donors, volunteers and supporters are invited to join in the Building on Faith celebration for Habitat for Humanity at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at River Ranch (500 E. 23rd St., Fort Worth 76164/near the Stockyards). BOF is building 19 new homes and completing 16 rehab projects this fall during the annual building season. There will be 33 amazing families realizing their dreams to own a home. If interested, please RSVP to Miranda Ebersole at Miranda.ebersole@trinityhabitat.org.

The Basics of Archives Workshop — Dec. 10

The Basics of Archives Workshop will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at Texas State University-San Marcos' Alkek Library Room 105 (601 University Drive, San Marcos 78666). The workshop is designed to give organizations and individuals who are responsible for the care of historical records an introduction to the core aspects of managing and protecting historical records collections, using appropriate principles and best practices. You will learn how to acquire collections, process collections, properly house archival items, deal with copyright issues, and much more. The cost is \$50, which includes workshop materials, sample archival supplies and refreshments. RSVP: Joel Minor at minor@txstate.edu by Friday, Dec. 3.

Desert Streams Retreat — Jan 6-8

The Desert Streams Retreat, sponsored by the Fort Worth District with Bishop Mike Lowry as the presenter, offers an opportunity to "find a quiet center" through worship, study, silence, renewal and reflection. Scheduled at the beginning of the year, the retreat offers a time to breathe, to be still, to experience community, and to be awakened anew to the reality of God's presence. The time together, starting at 7 p.m. Jan. 6, will bring new perspective for a new year of service and witness, healing and empowerment. Cost: \$185 per person/double occupancy. For more details and to register, contact the district office at fortworth@ctcumc.org or 817-336-3011.

Mission Insite Training — Feb. 3

First UMC Hurst has offered to host a Mission Insite training Feb. 3 from 9 to 11 a.m. Mission Insite is the program provided by Church Growth & Development to help churches see what is coming to your part of the world. It is a great missional tool and full of possibilities. The training will be of interest to pastors, but also administrative assistants, a trustee, a mission chair or anyone who wants to help your church plan for the future. Feel free to invite anyone you feel would be an asset to you! Bring a laptop if you want, but there will be handouts. Also, Mission Insite is now allowing all churches to plot their members for free! If interested, contact Vicki Eldredge at Vicki@ctcumc.org.

News Briefs — The Denomination

[One Church Taps into Other Cultures at Thanksgiving Time](#)

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to learn about another culture. That's why volunteers from Athens First UMC (Georgia) share their holiday spread with international students who are often overlooked at this time of the year. This community meal is just one of the events the church organizes throughout the year, attracting more than 500 students. See their video story at UMTV (<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?b=5259665&c=lwL4KnN1Lth&ct=7678607&tr=y&aid=7401841>).

Interfaith Thanksgiving Services Bridge Faith

(UMNS) — Across the US and the UM connection interfaith Thanksgiving services are gaining popularity. In Manchester, Mich., First UMC has been involved in ecumenical Thanksgiving worship for almost four decades, but the concept is new to the folks in Vashon, Wash. "This is the first year for what we hope will become a tradition," said Darryn Hewson, Vashon UMC. <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lwL4KnN1Lth&b=5259669&ct=8917825&tr=y&aid=7401780>

Advent/Christmas Resources from GBOD

Dean McIntyre (dmcintyre@gbod.org), director of music resources with the General Board of Discipleship, offers some worship resources for Advent and Christmas:

General Advent Resource Page:

<http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5302871/k.B4A3/Advent.htm>

Advent Wreath Candle lighting Meditations for 2010

<http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsG&b=5302879&ct=8641305>

Separate Resources for: (select the blue tab for the resource you are interested in viewing and scroll down to view; each resource has a "print" option at the top of its section)

Advent 1

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20101128

Advent 2

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20101205

Advent 3

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20101212

Advent 4

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20101219

Christmas Eve

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20101224

Christmas Day

http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.3879973/k.9C35/Lectionary_Planning_Helps_for_Sundays.htm?override=yes&date=20101225

Opportunity for Self-directed Study

UM lay leaders and pastors will have three unique opportunities for a week of self-directed study, worship and prayer during 2011 at the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) Learning Center and the adjacent Vanderbilt University Divinity School campus. Called Leave for Leaders, the sessions are designed to give leaders time to breathe, to reflect and to seek God's call for their life and ministry. Times for the three sessions—Jan. 31-Feb. 4, April 25-29 and Oct. 24-28—were selected to avoid traditionally busy times on the church calendar. For more information, contact Steven Manskar at 877-899-2780, ext. 1765, or smanskar@gbod.org, or Craig Miller at 877-899-2780, ext. 7081 or cmiller@gbod.org.

Young Clergy Capitol Hill Leadership Forum Deadline Jan. 6

65 spaces available for full-time local church clergy to participate in program in Washington, D.C. Jan. 6 is the deadline to apply to attend the 8th annual Young Clergy Capitol Hill Leadership

Forum sponsored by the UM General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). The forum will be Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at the historic UM Building, next door to the Supreme Court and across the street from the U.S. Capitol. Annual conferences are encouraged to send up to two persons, age 35 and under, who may be either elders or deacons serving a local church full-time. GBCS advocacy staff and representatives of other advocacy organizations will discuss key legislative issues on Capitol Hill, and will provide creative, participatory ways to teach the Social Principles of the UMC in congregations. GBCS resources that support nurture, outreach and witness will be presented. Register online at <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/youngclergy2011>. For more information, contact [Julie Wilson](#), 202-488-5650, or [Neal Christie](#), assistant general secretary for Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5611.

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 week-long 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 week-long 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.

Jan. 10 Deadline to Apply for 2011 Human Relations Day Grant

Ministries should target non-violent young offenders.

Jan. 10 is the deadline to apply for a Human Relations Day Grant from the UM General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). 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. This day of social action and raising awareness supports the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday: Jan. 16 next year. To qualify for a Human Relations Day grant, the applicant must be either a UM local church, district, annual conference or other affiliated group/organization, or an ecumenical group/organization working with and through at least one UM agency or organization, whose program affects at least one UM local church. Grant applications are available at [Human Relations Day Grant](#), or by contacting [Marvlyn Scott](mailto:msscott@umc-gbcs.org) (msscott@umc-gbcs.org), in the office of Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5643.

Grants Available to Support UM Caregiving Ministries with Older Adults

Applications for grants to support caregiving ministries for older adults are now being accepted by the Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries at the UM General Board of Discipleship. Richard H. Gentzler Jr., the center's director, says submissions from local UM congregations, districts, annual conferences, central conferences and UM-related institutions may be submitted until the deadline on Jan. 15. Funding for the grants is provided by the UM Committee on Older Adult Ministries, which is administratively related to GBOD. During the current quadrennium, the committee is making grants to support two specific areas of older adult ministries—caregiving ministry and intergenerational ministry. Earlier this year, 38 grants totaling \$75,000 were awarded for intergenerational ministries. Grant applications are available online at www.aging-umc.org. For more information, contact project coordinator Teri Kline at the Center for Aging & Older Adult Ministries at 877-899-2780, ext. 7177, or tkline@gbod.org.

World Malaria Day 2011: Host a Malaria House Party

The UMC's Imagine No Malaria campaign is asking UMs to support a lifesaving cause by hosting a malaria house party for World Malaria Day, April 25, 2011, or in the months leading up to the event. "Ending malaria-related deaths is a goal that requires the commitment of UMs around the globe, but the fight against malaria can start in your own living room," said Bishop Thomas

Bickerton, campaign spokesperson. A house party is a cause-oriented fundraising event that is usually held in a private home—although it may also be held in a church or some other community setting. There are countless ways to host a party—a small get-together, a formal dinner, a potluck, or as part of a New Year's, Super Bowl or Valentine's party—but people who are invited should have an interest in the cause and in learning more about it. To learn more about hosting a party or to sign up today, visit www.imaginenomalaria.org/houseparty.

Rethink Church Advent Resources

A "Life-giving Christmas" multimedia bundle has been released as a companion to Rethink Church's Advent sermon series. It is available now by going to www.umcom.org/advent.

Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internship

The deadline to apply for 2011 Ethnic Young Adult (EYA) Summer Internship in Washington, D.C., is Jan. 10. The EYA program is for persons, ages 18-22, who have an interest in exploring issues of public policy, social justice advocacy and social change. Sponsored by the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), the nine-week summer internship program is for young adults representing the five ethnic minority caucuses of the UMC: Native Americans, Pacific-Islanders, Hispanic/Latinos, African Americans and Asian Americans. Interns will work in social justice placements in the U.S. capital from May 28 to July 31. Interns will live in Christian community. Work placements will be supplemented by evening intern-led devotions, Friday seminars on topics of social justice concern, area field trips, and Sunday worship in area UM churches. Participants must commit to being present at these activities. Applicants must be in good academic standing at their college or university, demonstrate evidence of their concern for social justice through extracurricular activity, academic study and have some history of involvement in their church and/or community. EYA is funded through GBCS's Ethnic Local Church Grant program. Application and recommendation forms are available at:

2011 EYA Internship Application Form (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689fea4c-8849-4c05-a89e-c9bc7ffff64c%7D/2011EYAAPPLICATIONFORM.PDF>)

2011 EYA Recommendation Form (<http://www.umc-gbcs.org/atf/cf/%7B689fea4c-8849-4c05-a89e-c9bc7ffff64c%7D/2011EYARECOMMENDATION.PDF>)

For more information, contact Neal Christie, assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, General Board of Church & Society, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, 202-488-5611.

SOSA Christmas Projects

The Society of St. Andrew, the national gleaning ministry, is now offering its two Christmas-related programs that support the ministry of gleaning fields and supplying fresh food to the hungry. The advent devotional booklet, ***Preparing the Way***, is designed for individual and family use, and may be distributed by local congregations. And the **Alternative Gift Christmas Card** program provides original cards sent to friends and loved ones, with the proceeds supporting the gleaning ministry. Details about these programs can be found at www.EndHunger.org/AdventOffers.htm.

2011 Congress on Evangelism — Jan. 4-7

The 2011 Congress on Evangelism, scheduled for Jan. 4-7 at Myrtle Beach, SC, is sponsored by the Council on Evangelism and the General Board of Discipleship with the support of The Foundation for Evangelism. The congress meets every January at different locations presenting motivational speakers and workshops based on evangelism. For more details about the event, principal and workshop speakers, visit <http://congressonevangelism.org/>. The Foundation for Evangelism provides a limited number of scholarships for first-time attendees.

Choristers Guild Presents Mid-Winter 2011 Worship — Jan. 7 & 8

The Dallas Chapter of Choristers Guild will present their Mid-Winter 2011 Workshop Jan. 7 and 8 at Lovers Lane UMC (9200 Inwood Road, Dallas 76220). This comprehensive church music seminar for professional and volunteer workers provides the best clinicians in adult, youth, children's and handbell choirs as well as for organ and worship. For details, visit

www.dallaschaptercg.com.

Sexual Ethics Summit — Jan. 26-29

“Do No Harm 2011,” a UM summit addressing prevention of and response to abuse, misconduct and harassment of a sexual nature, particularly by persons in ministerial roles, will be Jan. 26-29 at First UMC Houston. This sexual ethics event will provide opportunities for conference leaders to share best practices, discuss emerging issues, and network across the denomination. Workshops will provide understanding, skill building and grounding for participants to clarify their roles and to coordinate their efforts with others as the church addresses problems of sexual abuse and misconduct. Workshops are divided into five categories, each with several sessions to choose from: Prevention, Cyber Safety, Response to Sexual Misconduct, Legal Issues, and Sexuality and Social Justice. “Do No Harm” is for annual conference response teams, and others who coordinate ministries related to sexual ethics and boundaries in ministerial relationships. At least two persons from each annual conference are expected to attend. Conference leaders endeavoring to start or invigorate a Response Team or Safe Sanctuaries Team are especially encouraged to attend. The event can accommodate 250 registered attendees. For details and registration, visit www.umsexualethics.org.

2011 Winter Pastors’ School — Feb. 10-12

The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching at the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco offers the 2011 Winter Pastors’ School Feb. 10-12 featuring Dr. Richard B. Hays, dean and George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Christmas Gifts that Won’t Break — A Church-wide Advent Study

The Season of Advent is not far away. Beginning Nov. 28 at Saginaw UMC all Sunday school classes, children, youth and adults will participate in a church-wide Advent study *Christmas Gifts that Won’t Break* by James Moore. Most of us know both the joy of unwrapping a much anticipated gift on Christmas morning and the agony of breaking or losing that gift a few months later. No matter how much enjoyment and excitement a present gives us, the bliss is temporary. Items or gifts that can be wrapped in packages or stuffed into stockings don’t last. *Christmas Gifts that Won’t Break* celebrates four Christmas gifts that will never wear out or go missing: hope, love, joy, and peace. They are especially relevant to the Advent season and to the story of Jesus’ birth. For more details and study books, contact Karen Shawn at 817-232-0390, ext. 300 or check www.saginawumc.org.

Conference Call for Faith Community Leaders with Michelle Obama — Nov. 29

At 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29, at First Lady Michelle Obama will join with faith and community leaders by conference call to formally launch *Let’s Move: Faith and Communities*. *Let’s Move!* is the First Lady’s initiative to solve the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation. On the call, discussion will center on ways your organization can participate, unveiling a new toolkit to support action, highlighting exciting challenge opportunities. Several faith and community leaders will announce their responses to the Let’s Move challenges! ***Dial in at 1-888-790-3160 (no pass code needed).***

FUMC Hurst Presents Organ Concert by Dong-ill Shin — Dec. 5

FUMC Hurst organist/artist-in-residence Dong-ill Shin will present a classical repertoire of organ music, as well as selections for organ and brass for the Advent and Christmas season. Shin is the 2006 Grand Prix de Chartres International Organ Competition winner, and returns from recent concert tours of Europe and Asia. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Admission is free, and childcare will be available. First UMC Hurst is located at 521 W. Pipeline Road, Hurst 76053. For information, call 817-282-7384, or visit www.fumchurst.org.

Free Workshop on ProPresenter & ProVideoPlayer — Dec. 6

A workshop entitled "Introduction to ProPresenter & ProVideoPlayer" will be offered at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 6, at the Apple Store in University Park Village, Fort Worth. The workshop presenters are Cameron Ware, visual worship artist of <http://VisualWorshipper.com> and Brian Certain, the creative director of digital worship at First UMC Mansfield. During the workshop, Cameron will demonstrate ProPresenter and ProVideoPlayer, and Brian will discuss how these tools and others are being used at First Mansfield to enhance the congregation's award-winning experience while not distracting from the message. If you'd like to attend, visit the store's website at <http://www.apple.com/retail/universityparkvillage//> and click the 'Reserve' link next to the workshop description. The Apple Store link will not be active until later this week.

FUMC Hurst Presents Festival of Carols, Dec. 12 & 13

A Christmas tradition! The Music Ministry of First UMC Hurst (521 W. Pipeline Road, Hurst 76053) presents Festival of Carols on Dec. 12 at 5 and 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the glory of favorite Christmas music with full professional orchestra and chorus. The performance will include hand bells, brass, organ, strings and wonderful voices! 2010 marks the eighth year that the Music Ministry of First UMC Hurst has presented Festival of Carols as a Christmas gift to the community. Admission is free, but tickets are required. To reserve tickets, call 817-282-7384 or order online at www.festivalofcarols.org. Childcare will be provided, but children are welcome at the concert. For information, call 817-282-7384, or visit www.fumchurst.org.

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.

Save This Date — March 26, 2011

Keller First UMC (1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248) will host *Worship Workshop Live! With Marcia McFee* from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26. Early bird special fee until March 21 is \$25 per person, \$20 per person with 3 or more registering together from the same church. After March 21 - \$30 per person. For more information, contact Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org or 817-431-1332.

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=ifITKWnrGaIKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLeKYLp&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)

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&auid=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.

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. Featured this week are books, study guides and A/Vs on mental health.

InSight: Harry Potter. *InSight* is a unique series focused on hot topics at the intersection of culture and Christianity. This DVD study addresses Christian insight on Rowlings' wizard through three relevant questions: What does the author say? What does the story say? And what does the Bible say? Complete with direct quotes from the author, an overview of major Christian imagery in the series and discussion question. DVD with 15-minute film and guide books for discussion. 2010.

VeggieTales Live Tour — Nov. 26

Big Idea and 316 Networks have partnered to stream a recently recorded show from the current VeggieTales Live Tour at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 26, free to watchers. Share in this treat from members of your church with young children at <http://bigidea.com/other/live2010/liveshow.html>.

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.

Office Assistant

Brock UMC seeks to hire an office assistant (15 hrs) responsible for bookkeeping and secretarial needs. Please contact church@brockumc.com or call 817-613-0332.

P-T Director of Youth Ministries

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

Nursery Worker

First UMC Keller seeks a part time nursery worker. If you love working with babies and toddlers we have a place for you. If interested, please contact nursery coordinator Traci Nelson at 817-994-2812 or tracin@kellerumc.org. Employees subject to background check and drug screen. EOE.

Director of Family Ministries

Christ UMC of Fort Worth has an opening for the position of director of family ministries to coordinate ministries with children, youth, and young adults of the church and its surrounding community, utilizing church volunteers as teachers and leaders. This is a part-time position (15 hours per week). For more information and a job description, contact Lou Hulcy, SPR chair, or Chauncey Nealy, pastor, by emailing the CUMC church office at office.christumc@sbcglobal.net.

Playground Equipment

Oakdale UMC, Stephenville is in need of commercial grade playground equipment to serve their children's ministry. Oakdale has seen the children's attendance double over the past two years; however, the congregation does not have playground equipment to aid their children's ministry. Any church or individual who is willing to donate or sell new/used equipment or financially contribute to our "Playground for a Purpose," please contact Sara Thetford at 254-968-7606.

Director of Student Ministries

Epworth UMC in Arlington is accepting resumes for the part-time position of director of student ministries who is responsible for ministry with youth (grades 7-12) and young adults who are college age. Resumes may be submitted to epworthpastor@sbcglobal.net. For further information, call Sarah E. Howe Miller at the church office 817-275-2674.

Assistant Minister/Focus on Youth Ministry

Breckenridge First UMC seeks an enthusiastic person to further develop, organize, and lead a comprehensive youth ministry with a breadth of perspective and balance of ministry. This will include leading and involving the youth in the *Five Practices of Fruitful Youth Ministry*. There is also opportunity to assist and lead in worship and other areas of pastoral ministry as desired and time allows. *Hours and Compensation:* Full-time or part-time. *Compensation includes:* Salary commensurate with education and experience, contribution to UM Pension program, reimbursement for reasonable expenses and cell phone to an amount certain and moving allowance. Sick leave, holidays and vacation according to office staff policy. (Willing to accept inquires for this position as a part-time position). For more information including full job description and/or to express interest contact Jeff Miller, FUMC, 419 West Walker, Breckenridge 76424 or pastor@firstumcbreckenridge.org.

ESL Teacher

University UMC in Fort Worth seeks individuals interested in teaching English as a Second Language as the church takes steps to build intentional relationships with the community it serves. All interested parties should contact Jason Hamilton at jhamilton@uumcfw.com.

Director of Children's Ministry

Seeking a full-time children's ministry director for 2000+ member church. Great place, great opportunity and future, great staff. Contact Eric Smith at Acton UMC at 817-326-4242 or eric@actonumc.org.

Childcare Worker

United Community Centers, Inc. (UCC) is a National Mission Institution of the General Board of Global Ministries located in low-income neighborhoods in Fort Worth. UCC provides after-school childcare, after-school youth activities, summer day camp, and emergency assistance with groceries and clothing. The available position is childcare worker with primary responsibility for a childcare classroom. UCC's childcare ranges from pre-K through 5th grade, so the classroom assigned may be for any of these age ranges. Must be able to administer positive discipline in the classroom and be respectful with children and their parents. Hours are after-school (1 or 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.) Monday-Friday. There is opportunity for this to increase to full time during spring break and summer (7 a.m.– 4 p.m. or 9 a.m.–6 p.m.). Bi-lingual Spanish / English is strongly preferred. High school diploma or GED required: some college classes in child development preferred. Experience in working with children preferred. Applicant must also have a valid Texas Driver's License, good driving record and auto liability insurance. Must drive 15-passenger van and be able to lift up to 25 pounds. Employment contingent on passing criminal background check and drug test. Contact: Sherry Dunn, LCSW, UCC Director of Programs, at 817-927-5556, ext. 113.

P-T Choir Director

First UMC of Hico seeks applicants for part-time choir director. The person will have a love of Christ and a heart for music ministry for "Passionate Worship" in the local church. The person will conduct choir practice Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and direct the choir and the congregation on Sundays at the 10:50 a.m. worship service. The position also includes times of extra rehearsals during the Advent/Christmas season and Lent/Holy Week/Easter. FUMC seeks a person who has a music degree and experience as a choir director and is willing to work with choir members who are untrained but who love to sing for the glory of God. Contact Buddy Teague, SPR chair, at fumchico@embarqmail.com.

Youth Ministry

Silver Creek UMC has an opening for a part-time staff position in youth ministry. Responsibilities include developing ministries for Junior and Senior High youth. Inquiries should be directed to Vaughn Baker (pastor) at 817-613-7659.

Nursery Worker

First UMC of Grandview seeks applicants for a part-time nursery worker position during worship,

which requires a love of children and residence in the Grandview area. Please send resume to office@gvmethodist.org.

Part-time Choir Director

Cisco First UMC seeks a choir director for Sunday 10:50 a.m. worship. Requirements: experience and confidence in directing a choir; ability to choose weekly anthems and special music at Christmas and Easter; availability for Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. If interested, e-mail resume to revlsm@aol.com or mail to FUMC – Cisco, 405 W. 8th Street, Cisco 76437.

Preschool Director

First UMC of Midlothian seeks director for licensed M/W/F program. Solid program, friendly work environment, good facilities. Prefer 9 college credit hours in Child Development and 6 college credit hours in Business Management with at least 2 years of experience working directly with children in a licensed child-care center, public or private accredited school. For information or to send resume and copy of college transcripts, contact FUMC Children's Minister, Keelee Allen, at keelee@fumc-midlothian.org or call 972-775-3993.

Director of Music Ministries

Saginaw UMC, a growing, dynamic, disciple-making church committed to evangelize, nurture and equip the church body for discipleship and service, seeks a part-time director of music ministries. This position reports directly to the senior pastor. For more requirements, contact Mel Bishara at 817-232-0390 or send resume to Saginaw UMC, 209 S. Bluebonnet, Saginaw 76179 or melbishara@saginawumc.org.

Youth Ministry Worship Leader

First UMC of Fort Worth seeks to hire a 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 bfrenzel@myfumc.org or to Brandon Frenzel, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth 76102.

Organist

First UMC Itasca seeks someone to play their 1904 Hilgreen-Lane pipe organ. It is complete and original and has been refurbished to a "reasonable" state of operation. Please contact Tom Wood at 254-462-4364.

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.