Central E-Link

Weekly Newsletter of the Central Texas Conference

August 26, 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 announcements, in church newsletters and/or bulletins. The E-Link and the Central Link newspaper are posted on the conference website at www.ctcumc.org. Read them online or download and copy to share with others. 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

Thanksliving Offering 2009

The Conference Task Force on Hunger has designated the General Board of Global Ministries Advance #982029 Hunger & Development to be the recipient of 90% of the annual Thanksliving Offering and to continue the CTC Hunger Ministries grants with 10% of the Thanksliving Offering. CF&A recommends all churches take this offering in November.
http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Thanksliving_2009_KZB8K4MR.pdf.

Two Events Focus on the Faith Development of High Schoolers – Young Adults:

College Preview Day for High School Juniors/Seniors — Sept. 12

Making the right or wrong selection of a college/university can spell success or disaster for a student. And knowing how to access student scholarships and/or loans can make a huge difference for families anticipating that expense one or two years down the road. **The 2009 College & University Preview Event**, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Methodist Children's Home gym in Waco, is designed to help both junior/senior high school students and their parents maneuver through the process of:

- making the right selections for an individual student,
- accessing information and financial resources, and
- making contact with campus ministry groups.

Nineteen colleges and universities from across a multi-state area have been invited to participate along with four seminaries and campus ministers/chaplains from UM and other schools. They will be present to answer questions for students and their parents. Plan to participate.

Who Will Your Church Send to Exploration 2009? — Nov. 13-15

Video available on YouTube and on DVD – contact www.gbhem.org/exploration to order a copy. Exploration 2009 (Nov. 13-15 at Dallas Sheraton Hotel) is a three-day event for high school seniors to young adults age 24 to hear, discern and respond to God's call to ordained ministry and to explore their gifts for service as a deacon or elder in the UMC. If you have sensed that God might be calling you to ordained ministry, wondered what ministry in the UMC is all about, would like some help sorting through the issues surrounding a Christian vocation, or want to find out more about UM seminaries and theological schools, this gathering is for you. **Often times church leaders and people in the congregation are the first to encourage this path to students who they discern as having special gifts and may be struggling**

with how God is calling them. The cost of $150 includes the hotel room and conference, a fee that churches might want to cover for their participating member(s). Details: www.gbhem.org/exploration.

Deadline Is Close for Annual Listing of Church/Ministry Fall Fundraisers — Sept. 1

Once again the conference will publish in the *Central Link* newspaper and on the Web site a listing of local church and ministry fundraisers. Please get your information to Carolyn Stephens (Carolyn@ctcumc.org) by Sept. 1. **This is a hard deadline, so please don't miss it!** Give church name and event location, name of the event, date/time, and any activities that make your event unique or special. This is an opportunity for folks to share in the delight of their own church's event as well as those of neighboring communities.

Churches that have sent their information as of this morning:

Acton	Alvarado	Arlington First
Arlington Heights	Ballinger	Bartlett
Bethel-Waxahachie	Bethesda	Blooming Grove
Brock	Burleson First	Cahill
Christ-Fort Worth	Colleyville	Couts Memorial
Cross Plains	Davis Memorial	C. Davis Scholarship
Dawson	DeLeon	Ennis
Euless	Everman	Faith-Fort Worth
Ferris First	Ferris Heights	Florence
Frost	Gatesville	Godley
Good Shepherd	Grace-Copperas Cove	Grandview
Granger	Handley	Hico
Hubbard	Hurst First	Joshua
Kennedale	Lake Shore	Lakeside
Lorena	Wm. C. Martin	McGregor
Midlothian	Meridian	New Day
Oglesby	Olney	Ovilla
Poolville	Red Oak	Saginaw
Smithfield	Sparks Memorial	Springtown
St. John the Apostle	St. Paul-Georgetown	St. Paul-Hurst
St. Andrew's-Arlington	Temple Hall	Trinity-Arlington
Troy	Walnut Springs	Waples-Granbury
Waxahachie First	Wesley Mem.-Cleburne	Wesley-Corsicana
Winters		

Training for dCOMs / Candidacy Mentors — Sept. 9 & Sept. 10

The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) will be presenting quadrennial training for the District Committees on Ordained Ministry (dCOMs) in the southern part of the conference at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at Central UMC, Waco. The same training will be presented for dCOMs in the northern part of the conference at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10, at Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth. Lunch will be provided for those who RSVP to their respective district offices. Sharon Robertson, candidacy registrar for the BOM, assisted by Nancy Schusler of the Mid-Cities District office, will be presenting training for the new quadrennium for all who are or wish to be candidacy mentors. Candidacy mentors work with prospective clergy candidates from the "exploring" stage until they are recommended to the BOM for commissioning as probationary (provisional) members. This training will take place immediately following dCOM training, beginning around 11 a.m. Sept. 9, at Waco Central and around 11 a.m., Sept. 10, at Arborlawn. Again, lunch will be provided for those who RSVP to their respective district offices. Clergy who wish to mentor candidates during this important, formative time of candidacy must take this training each new quadrennium before they may be listed by GBHEM as approved candidacy mentors.

Keeping the Flame Alive — Sept. 26

Keeping the Flame Alive gives training to Stephens Ministers and those in Nurture/Care Ministries. It will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at First UMC, Fort Worth's Wesley Hall. Sponsors for the event are Crime Victims Council and CTC Mental Health Concerns. Among the topics are: Lighting a Candle Without Burning Yourself Out!, How We can Be Better Care Givers Than Job's Friends, and

What Victims Want the Church and Its Care Givers to Know. For more information and to register, contact Sandra Lydick at 817-675-6367 or sandralydick@crimevictimscouncil.org.

An Evening of Compassion — Sept. 27

Getting to Know the Migrants Among Us

This will be a 2-hour event beginning at 7 p.m. at Polytechnic UMC (1310 S. Collard St., Fort Worth 76105) and will include a prayer vigil, screening of the acclaimed film "Made in L.A.," and an opportunity to gather resources about immigration issues. The UMC's General Board of Church & Society has promoted this film as a poignant vehicle to better understand issues facing today's immigrants. Organizers are part of the Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN), a faith-based network of Texans who reach out in love to immigrants. For more information about WIN or to find out how to join this effort, please contact Dean Reed at rdr17@me.com.

UMW 2009 Autumn Gathering Coming Soon — Oct. 3

"Living Together as God's Children" will be the theme for the Conference United Methodist Women's autumn gathering from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Austin Avenue UMC, Waco. Harriet Olson, deputy general secretary of the Women's Division, and UMC missionary to Kenya Jerri Savuto will be featured guests. Send registration by Sept. 28 to Registrar Donna Hughlett, 2501 Massey Lane, Robinson 76706. Childcare will be provided for this event. Bring a sack lunch for each child. Childcare registration form is due by Sept. 28.

SAVE DATES: Youth Focus on "Engaging in Ministry with the Poor"

CTC youth have three ministry outreach with the poor events scheduled for this fall:

• **CTCYM Beyond Our Borders** invites CTC youth groups to join in the first international CTCYM project by raising funds for Water for Life, an Advance project bringing clean drinking water to communities in Liberia. On the weekend of Sept. 19-20, youth groups around the Conference will do their own fundraisers to help raise enough money to build 10 wells in Liberia. Information and FAQs at www.ctcym.org.

• **Mission Waco Poverty Simulation Weekend** will be held Oct. 9-11 in Waco. This weekend, open to the first 75 CTC youth grades 9-12 and their sponsors, allows youth to experience poverty in a safe environment, which will enable them to live out the call to engage in ministry with the poor. Information and FAQs at www.missionwaco.org/povsimhtml.html.

• **30 Hour Famine**, scheduled for Nov. 6-7 at Glen Lake Camp, is a joint effort between the Student Leadership Team and Glen Lake Camp to raise awareness about hunger and poverty. Youth are invited to spend 30 hours not eating and learning about poverty in the U.S. and around the world, using the time in service, prayer and worship. Register at www.glenlake.org/30hrfamine.

Attn. Pastors: Pre-marital Education Curriculum — Oct. 8

Do you do pre-marital education? Would you like to find good curriculum? Do you know about the help you will get from the State of Texas? There is a pastor's education event to introduce curriculum, resources and the State of Texas Twogether in Texas program from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 8 at Central UMC, Waco. This is a free event sponsored by the Conference Nurture Council to encourage and educate pastors and anyone who does pre-marital education. There is no charge for this event, but please place this date on your calendar and plan to be there to learn ways to improve your ministry to couples wanting to get married. Contact: Allen Grant at pastor@chinaspringumc.com.

Upcoming CROP Hunger Walks in the Central Texas Conference Area

Each year many communities sponsor the CROP Hunger Walk, a Church World Service event to raise community awareness about global hunger as well as raise funds for both international and local hunger relief efforts. This fall you have the opportunity to participate in a CROP Walk in several of our CTC communities:

- Mid-Cities CROP Walk (Bedford)—Oct. 11
- Fort Worth CROP Walk—Oct. 18
- Georgetown CROP Walk—Oct. 18
- Waco CROP Walk—Oct. 18

Information about these events can be found at www.churchworldservice.org. Additionally, information about the Fort Worth CROP Walk is available at www.fortworthcrop.org or www.tarrantareacc.org.

New Faces, New Places: Hispanic Ministries Summit — Oct. 10

This Hispanic Ministries Summit is sponsored by Bridges of the Spirit: A Training Institute for Hispanic-Latino/a Ministries. First UMC Hillsboro (315 E. Elm St., Hillsboro 76645) will host the event that features Rev. Ruben Saenz, pastor of El Buen UMC in Edinburg, TX, in the opening plenary session and Bishop Mike Lowry for the closing plenary. Workshops will be on Hispanic Leadership, Building Intercultural Proficiency, Hispanic-Latino/a Theology, Children's Ministry and Elements of Hispanic Worship. For more details or to register, visit the conference Web site at www.ctcumc.org under "Hispanic Ministries."

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation — Nov. 1-6

The Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation offers a daily rhythm designed for rest and renewal and includes worship, study, silence and solitude, prayer, spiritual friends — all within the context of Christian community. Sponsors for the event, scheduled for Nov. 1-6 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine, are the Center for Congregational Excellence, Center for Clergy Excellence, churches and individuals of the Texas Annual Conference. For more details, contact Denice Foose at 713-203-0783 or dsfoose@comcast.net.

Academy of Christian Education — Nov. 9-13

The 2009 Academy of Christian Education will be held Nov. 9-13 at Still Water Lodge, Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Glen Rose. Last year 23 Central Texas educators attended this event and were inspired, energized and equipped to do great things in Christian Education in their local churches. This event is for all persons who lead education and spiritual formation ministries in our CTC churches, for all age-levels. A brochure and registration information is on the conference website, www.ctcumc.org, or you can contact Karen Granderson, 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622, karen@ctcumc.org. Some scholarship assistance is available for early registrations (Sept. 1), especially for small and ethnic minority churches.

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News Briefs — The Denomination

UMC Call for Health Care Reform

The UMC is sponsoring a campaign through the General Board of Church & Society based on John 10:10b (10 ways and 10 weeks) challenge. Visit http://www.1010challenge.org/site/c.olIZIfNYJwE/b.5337789/k.C006/Home.htm for more details and to register your area.

Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21, 2010

The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM) and the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) are sponsoring a continuing education event that will immerse participants in the Wesleyan tradition in the places the Wesley brothers lived, preached and prayed. The Wesley Pilgrimage in England is designed for provisional members (deacons and elders) of all conferences. The two general agencies are offering, through special scholarship funds, a $500 scholarship to the first 24 provisional members who register. For more details, visit http://www.gbod.org/wesleypilgrimage.

Educational Opportunities Beyond Central Texas

UM Course of Study — Sept. 8-15

The South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops is offering a UM Course of Study for clergy Sept. 8-15 at SCJ Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (Fayetteville, Ark). This event is planned for persons who need to fulfill their UM Doctrine, Polity or History requirement in the Course of Study. Each is a 30-hour course with required reading prior to Sept. 8. For more information and registration, call Susan Steuber at 316-686-0600 or email ssteuber@kswestumc.org.

Intentional Interim Ministry Training — Sept. 15-18
The South Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops, in conjunction with The Intentional Growth Center, offers an Interim Ministry Training Seminar. It is a three-phase training program and will be held at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center in Fayetteville, Ark. Phase I will be Sept. 15-18, 2009, Phase III will be scheduled in 2010 and Phase II is a five-month period of work in one's home parish under a mentor's guidance. Dr. Jan Hill from the IGC will conduct the training. For program information contact Hill at janhill@IntentionalGrowthCenter.org, 800-482-1442 or 910-382-2535. For meals and lodging contact Mount Sequoyah registration@mountsequoyah.org or call 800-760-8126.

Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders — Oct. 5-9
While conflict is normal and inevitable, leaders in all walks of life often have a responsibility to help others work through their conflicts. Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders will be held at three times and locations, but most strategically located for CTC leaders is the Oct. 5-9 program in Arlington. Others are Aug. 3-7 in the Chicago area and Nov. 16-20 in North Carolina. The program is presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Although focused primarily on the church setting, the skills learned are directly transferable to other settings. For more details and to register, visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

Worship Planning Retreat with Marcia McFee — Oct. 11-14 at Lake Tahoe
What if you had the whole liturgical year mapped out with general directions, themes, symbols and ideas? And what if you had three concentrated days in a beautiful retreat setting with someone to guide you through the process and in the company of others with which to share energy and ideas? Famed worship leader Marcia McFee will lead her second annual "Worship Design Studio Tahoe" Planning Retreat at Zephyr Point on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Pastors, music directors, worship team leaders, visual and media artists can get a jump-start on their planning for the year. For details, visit http://www.marciamcfee.com.

Leading the Small Church Seminar — Nov. 15-19
The Small Church Leadership Institute is offering a seminar to equip laity and pastors with the knowledge and skills for leading their small attendance church into the future. The seminar will be Nov. 15-19 at Mount Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Ark. Click for more information http://www.ctxumc.org/weatherford/Forms%20and%20Resources/09%20Final%20Small%20Church%20Initiative.pdf and registration http://www.ctxumc.org/weatherford/Forms%20and%20Resources/Small%20Church%20Registration%20Nov%202009.pdf.

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News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Taize Evening Prayers — Aug. 30
Trinity Arlington invites you to join them for a contemplative worship experience with the last of a series of "Evening Prayers in the Tradition of Taize" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30, in the sanctuary (3321 West Park Row Drive, Arlington). This 40-minute worship experience is centered in prayer – spoken, sung, and silent. For more details, contact G.W. Dub Shepherd, minister of worship & fine arts at 817-274-1345.

An Evening of Motets with Dessert: Arborlawn Hosts Baroque Society — Sept. 1
The Fort Worth Baroque Society, a newly formed choral ensemble, cordially invites all to their upcoming concert, "An Evening of Motets with Dessert." Bach, Handel, Rheinberger, Bruckner and Brahms will all be performed, conducted by Maritza Harth-Bedoya. Arborlawn UMC is hosting this event at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door.

Church Celebrates 150 Years in Ministry — Sept. 13
On Sunday, Sept.13, First UMC of Comanche will celebrate 150 years of continual ministry based in the town of Comanche. The day of celebration begins with coffee and snacks at 9:45 a.m. in the foyer of the

sanctuary. The worship service, beginning at 10:30 a.m., includes reflection on some of the major milestones accomplished by the church, special music by the Chancel Choir, and a message from our guest speaker, Bliss Dodd, representing the laity of the Central Texas Conference. At the conclusion of the worship service, a catered luncheon will be served in the Family Life Center and many photos from the past will be on display. The celebration will culminate with the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker located in front of the church on Grand Ave., followed by a reception for all in attendance to visit with one another.

Everyone is invited to be a part of this grand day of celebration. If you plan to be present for lunch, please contact the church office at 325-356-2120 by Tuesday, Sept. 7, so we can plan for seating and food.

UCC: Commemorating 100 Years of Service — Sept. 13

The Board of Directors of United Community Centers, Inc. extend an open invitation to an Open House at the Wesley Center (3600 N. Crump St., Fort Worth 76106) from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13. United Community Centers, Inc. is commemorating 100 years of service to the Tarrant County community and celebrating all the possibilities of the next 100 years. Please RSVP to Susie Reyes, 817-927-5556, x115 or sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org.

"Big Day at New Day" Sunday — Sept. 13, 6 p.m.

All are invited to the "official" launch of New Day UMC at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13. Meet Bishop Mike Lowry and hear pastor Sheila Fiorella share God's dreams for the future. Then stick around to shoot some hoops with old friends and new. Experience a new day and a brand new church! New Day UMC currently meets every Sunday night at 6 p.m. at the Mansfield Activities Center (MAC), 106 S. Wisteria, Mansfield, TX 76063. Join the city of Mansfield and the Central Texas Conference as we celebrate God's forgiving love together! For more information, go to www.newdayumc.com.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Class — Sept. 13

First UMC of McGregor offers Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University 13-week program this fall beginning Sept. 13. The cost of the full program is $93/family. Financial Peace is designed to help people learn how to pay off their debt, start saving for the future and make wiser, more purposeful decisions regarding money. FPU teaches stewardship — how to manage 100% of what God has given.

The Baby Turns One! — Sept. 13

Rockbridge Church in Round Rock/Cedar Park celebrates one year of weekly worship on Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. "God has done amazing things during this time and we would love for you to share in our celebration by sending a representative from your church to worship with us that day," suggests Wade Killough, pastor. Many in the conference have been praying for and supporting Rockbridge in many different ways. Now they can see what they have been praying for and supporting! Check out www.rockbridgelife.com for more info.

An Evening with Enrique's Journey Author Sonia Nazario — Sept. 21

Aledo UMC (corner of Oak & Pecan in Aledo) will present "An Evening with Sonia Nazario," author of the United Methodist Women's reading program book *Enrique's Journey*, at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21. Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, *Enrique's Journey* is the timeless story of families torn apart, the yearning to be together again, and a boy who would risk his life to find the mother he loves. Sonia met Enrique, a young boy from Honduras, at a shelter when he was attempting to come to the U.S. to reunite with his mother. In her quest to document his story, she rode on the top of trains, slept in cemeteries and spent time in INS detention facilities. She will share this dramatic story on Sept. 21.

Divorce Recovery Workshop — Sept. 25 & 26

Trinity UMC (3321 W. Park Row, Arlington 76013) is the location for a Divorce Recovery Workshop aimed at relational life healing, presented by Licensed Professional Counselor Marty Jeane, PhD. This weekend program is for anyone who feels unfinished with the divorce experience, whether just separated, recently divorced or divorced for years. The workshop will begin on Friday evening, Sept. 25, and

continue during the day on Saturday, Sept. 26. The $20 fee includes workshop materials and Saturday lunch. Registration deadline is Sept. 18. The workshop is jointly sponsored by the Single Adult Ministry groups at three area churches: Trinity UMC Arlington, First UMC Arlington and St. John The Apostle UMC Arlington. For more information or a flyer by email, contact Cheryl Seese: 817-253-2911, cherylseese@sbcglobal.net or Michael Anderson: 817-313-9931, mpacpatx@yahoo.com.

"Girls United! In Christ" for 3rd-6th Grade Girls — Next Session: Sept. 25-26
Church of the Good Shepherd in Arlington invites all girls in 3rd-6th grades to be part of the excitement of **Girls United! In Christ**. During this free program, girls will learn about building character and healthy relationships with friends and family. Each session will be Friday evening through Saturday morning. The girls will extend their learning through every activity and make their own special memories with crafts and learning about the building blocks of character. In previous sessions they explored honesty, trustworthiness and patience, and will dive into the qualities of **kindness, humility and generosity** in this second session (Sept. 25-26). Each session stands alone; you do not have to have attended previous sessions to be eligible for or to enjoy subsequent sessions. To register, or for more details, contact the church at 817-275-1033 or goodshepherdumc@sbcglobal.net. Registration forms may be downloaded at www.churchofgoodshepherd.org. Look for more sessions in the Fall of 2009 and the Spring of 2010.

Temple District

Class: Local (Basic) Lay Speaking Class
Dates: Sept. 26 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sept. 27 2-5 p.m.
Place: St. Paul's UMC Georgetown
Faculty: Johnel Louie
Interested persons should email Rev Arcynthia Louie at cynthlouie@aol.com

Mediation Skills Training — Oct. 5-9

Conflict is normal and inevitable — whether in the home, school, community, church or workplace. Leaders in all walks of life often have a responsibility to help others work through conflicts. The Mediation Skills Training Institute, presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, will be held Oct. 5-9 at St. John the Apostle UMC in Arlington. The program is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational and other forms of group conflict. The five-day institute also includes a component on congregational intervention and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory. Details and registration available at www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

Bluff Dale & Morgan Mill Sponsor Dave Ramsey Class - Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University teaches us how to begin to live debt free! One of our UMC vows is to live without financial embarrassment, and this class is a step in that direction. The 2008 FPU classes at Morgan Mill, Bluff Dale and First Stephenville paid off $189,000 in debt as a result of FPU. **The class will begin the first week in September and ends in December.** This is an outreach ministry with the only cost being $100 per family for the Ramsey FPU kit. There are a very few scholarships available. Everyone who lives with you is considered your family. We have had singles, grandparents, parents, and children take this course as a family together. A ballpark estimate of participants is needed to order the FPU kits this month. Please contact Paul Porter pastorpeporter@sbcglobal.net or 817-579-0385 if you or anyone in your congregation is interested in participating.

HeartPaths DFW

Spiritual Ministries Institute sponsors HeartPaths DFW for persons who sense a gift and calling to spiritual leadership and/or spiritual direction ministry, who desire a personal spiritual discipline and who want to learn to deepen their skills and sensitivities. Participants include laity and ministry professionals who wish to learn in an ecumenical environment through the Christian story and its symbols. The program is designed to have 3 phases. Ongoing discernment is part of the experience each year. The first year deepens personal spiritual formation and group facilitating skills and leads to a *Certificate in Spiritual Leadership*. Those who discern a calling to continue will complete the second year – Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius and the third year Practicum in Spiritual Direction. Completion of all three years leads to a *Certificate in Spiritual Direction*.

White's Chapel UMC in Southlake is excited to bring HeartPaths to their campus in the fall. Classes will be held on Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:30-11 a.m. If you would like more information please phone 214-934-3217 or 214-908-0229 or email: spirmininst@yahoo.com.

Save the Date: Karen Armstrong Scheduled for First Fort Worth Goosetree Lecture Series
Plans are underway for First UMC, Fort Worth to host Karen Armstrong as guest speaker for the church's annual 2009 Goosetree lecture series. She will be speaking at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, on "Religion as Light in Our Broken World: Toward a Spirit of Compassion." Texas Christian University will host her Tuesday evening for a lecture on "Religion in an Age of Terror: Perils and Possibilities." More details later.

Marriage Retreat at Joshua — Oct. 3-4
First UMC of Joshua will host a marriage retreat Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 3-4, at Still Water Lodge, Glen Rose. Adam Hamilton's Making Love Last a Lifetime is the study guide to lead participating couples for the two-day retreat (one night, two-day biblically based encounter). Expect an encounter filled with laughter while delving into the subject of marriage from a Christian perspective. The cost of $175 per couple includes meals. Please contact Tonya Frantz, adult and family ministry director, for more details at 817-558-9801 or tonya@joshuaumc.net.

The Second Hundred Years: Fall Revival Series — Oct. 23-25
Join La Trinidad UMC in Fort Worth on the weekend of Oct. 23 - 25 to mark 100 years of ministry to the historic Northside barrio in North Fort Worth. There will be an ice cream social and photo swap Friday and a youth & young adult service Saturday night. Special Sunday morning speaker: Gilberto Velez, president of The Hispanic Megachurch Association and senior pastor of El Templo Misericordia, a congregation founded on evangelical social outreach in Laredo. Contact: Daniel F. Flores at trinidad_umc@yahoo.com or on Facebook.

Job Transition Support Group Continues to Meet at FUMC Fort Worth
As many people are facing the challenge of unemployment or job transition First UMC of Fort Worth (800 W. Fifth St.) has chosen to offer two new groups for support and resources. Job search coaching and job loss support are both available. For more information contact Marianne Wilson at 817-339-5071 or email her at MWilson@MyFUMC.org.

Roots of Change Group for Pastors/Church Staff in Fort Worth Area — Aug. 27-Nov. 19
This group is facilitated by Charles Gaby from 8-10:30 a.m. Thursdays, Aug. 27-Nov. 19, at First UMC Fort Worth (750 W. 5th St., Fort Worth 76102). The cost for this group is a donation to the Roots of Change program - minimum donation $100. Limited to 10 participants. Meets in the Larry Grubb Group Room of the Center for Creative Transformation at First UMC. Registration ends when full or by Aug. 20. Contact: Marianne at 817-339-5071.

Ken Medema Is Coming to Acton — Sept. 6
Bring your friends, family, youth group, your whole congregation to Acton UMC, Granbury at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 6, to hear the incomparable Ken Medema sing, play, make up songs on the spot, tickle your funny bone and warm your heart. This totally unique singer/songwriter/ pianist, blind from birth, has a minister's heart and an evangelistic fervor in his performance. Stay after the free concert for water slide fun for the kids and teens and a delicious hot dog and watermelon dinner. Please bring a love offering to help us defray expenses and please also bring a can of food for People Helping People of Hood County. Contact Suzanne Cate for more information at 817-326-4242 or Suzanne@actonumc.org.

Josh McDowell Is Willson Lecturer at Texas Wesleyan — Sept 14
Josh McDowell will be the speaker for the Willson Lecture Series at Texas Wesleyan University (Fort Worth) Monday, Sept. 14. During his 47 yeas of ministry, McDowell (http://www.josh.org/site/c.ddKDIMNtEqG/b.4023555/k.BE5B/Home.htm) has authored or co-authored 108 books, including *More Than a Carpenter*, which has been translated into more than 85 languages, and *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, which has been recognized by *World Magazine* as one of the

century's most influential books. Two events will be occurring on that day — a noon luncheon with the author/lecturer for area pastors at $10 per person (Sept. 9 deadline to sign up) and the formal lecture at 7 p.m. at Polytechnic UMC, which is free and open to all. If interested in either of the events, contact Gladys Childs at 817-531-4461 or gchilds@txwes.edu.

Gifts of the Labyrinth — Oct. 23-25

East Fort Worth Montessori Academy (501 Oakland Blvd., Fort Worth) is hosting Gifts of the Labyrinth with Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress Friday-Tuesday, Oct. 23-27. Activities begin with a public lecture on Friday evening and continues with a full day workshop on Saturday, which includes a sunset labyrinth walk with music. Sunday begins and ends with a sunrise/sunset labyrinth walks and Monday and Tuesday focus on Veriditas facilitator training. www.veriditas.org.

Trinity, Arlington Seeks Ride Share to "Leaves of Gold" — Oct. 19-20

Trinity UMC in Arlington will be taking a group of older adults to Mt. Sequoyah's "Leaves of Gold" Conference Oct. 19-22, and would like to share transportation costs with other church groups also planning to go. James Moore, popular author and speaker and retired from a successful 22-year tenure as senior minister of St. Luke's UMC in Houston, is the keynote speaker for this conference. If interested, please call Brenda Beaver at 817-274-1345.

Adult Mission Trip to Nicaragua — Oct. 3-11

Aledo UMC, in conjunction with M.E.D.I.C.O., is planning its annual health care mission trip. They invite others to join them for an adventure to Nicaragua Oct. 3-11. Help them minister to people who have little or no health care available to them. This life-changing experience enables participants to share God's love and reach out to others in need. Be part of a team representing our churches, our communities, and our faith. Who may apply: all health care professionals - physicians, dentists, nurses, dental assistants, pharmacists, optometrists, chiropractors and Spanish speakers. Cost: $700 plus airfare. For more information contact Peggy Badlato at 817-443-0284 or pbadlato@att.net.

Take the Journey — Oct. 16-18

Take the Journey is a spiritual growth opportunity offered by Smithfield UMC Oct. 16-18 at Bridgeport Methodist Camp (3280 FM 2952, Bridgeport 76426). For more details or to register, visit www.smithfieldumc.org, click on "Upcoming" and select "Retreat" from the dropdown menu. Contact: Susie Butcher at 817-501-9167 or retreat@smithfieldumc.org.

The Worship Workshop Live! — Oct. 17

First UMC of Burleson will host a Worship Workshop with Marcia McFee from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. This event, co-sponsored by the CTC Nurture Council, is for lay and clergy throughout the conference. McFee designs and leads worship for local, regional and national gatherings — including the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth — and clients consistently report they have been moved by the weaving together of all worship components into a spirit filled encounter with God. More details later.

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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.

Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics. Adam Hamilton.

Five-session video study. Everyone agrees that America is polarized, with ever hardening position held by people less and less willing to listen to one another. No one agrees on what to do about it. One solution that hasn't yet been tried is for thinking persons of faith to model for the rest of the country a richer, more

thoughtful conversation on the political, moral, and religious issues that divide us. Includes a leader's guide. 2008

Online Access to Clergy Sexual Misconduct Prevention Course

An Internet course on *Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct* (PCSM) is available to all clergy and to all supply pastors who are appointed to a charge in the CTC. All pastors, associates, supply pastors appointed to a charge, and other CTC clergy can now go to www.careermarriage.org/pcsm, click on "Login" and set up their personal PCSM access. Completing this course meets the requirement for training in preventing clergy sexual misconduct. There is no cost to clergy for this Internet course. To access the PCSM each eligible clergy needs to enter his/her name and work e-mail address as it is listed in CTC records. Clergy who encounter any technical difficulty contact Richard Hunt at pcsm@careermarriage.org. To verify that your name and e-mail address are correct in the conference database, contact Susan Briles at susan@ctcumc.org, 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622. All information a person enters through his or her personal PCSM access account is strictly confidential and will not be shared with anyone. At the www.careermarriage.org/pcsm, all the buttons at the left side of the page are freely available to anyone at any time. This enables anyone with any misconduct concerns to access appropriate help. Access to all the top tool buttons is limited to those who are eligible to participate in the PCSM course.

Crime Victims Council Information at www.crimevictimscouncil.org

The new Crime Victims Council website (www.crimevictimscouncil.org), sponsored with a generous grant from Downtown Fort Worth Rotary, 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 your submission to encouragement@crimevictimscouncil.org.

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Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Youth Ministries Director

First UMC of Crawford seeks a committed and dynamic person of faith for a part time position of director of youth ministries. The successful candidate will be a seminary student who has experience working with youth. The position is for 10 hours per week. Contact Rebecca Hull at crawfordumc@netzero.net.

Youth Director/Minister

Wanted: Part-time youth director/minister for First UMC of Grandview (located on I-35 about 30 miles south of Fort Worth). Please send resume to Harrell Braddock, Jr. at harrell@gvmethodist.org or call 903-641-9805.

Music Ministry

Local Christian artist Laura Metze-Roberts of Round Rock seeks places to minister through song and word. Laura has been in music ministry since 1995, written over 400 songs, using instruments of keyboard and guitar in various styles. Graduate of Asbury Theological Seminary and presently in the ordination track heading towards candidacy in the UMC. Her ministry is called "In His Calling." She is available to work with churches and other groups and functions. Contact: 870-416-1005 or ljeanmtz@aol.com.

Youth Director

Youth director, part-time up to 20 hours per week. 7-12 youth with great possibilities in a growing church outside of Waco. Contact: Allen Grant at pastor@chinaspringumc.com or 254-836-1107.

Associate Director of Music Ministries

First UMC of Burleson seeks candidates for associate director of music ministries to: assist and support the director in leading vocal and bell choirs, provides leadership for the Sunday Morning Blend, direct the

youth, drama and Glory Ringers (bell) choirs, serves as a backup for the accompanist and participate in staff development and meetings as needed. For more details, contact Mark Stamper at 817-723-9397 (cell) or maest1020@yahoo.com.

P-T Worship Leader

First UMC of Fort Worth (www.fumcftw.org) seeks a part-time worship leader to create an engaging, welcoming environment in which youth in grades 7-12 will experience real Christian community through worship, teaching, music, media and other creative venues. Responsibilities for the position include coordinating the youth worship service with the youth ministry staff and leading the student band for Sunday worship and fellowship opportunities on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Our candidate should have multiple musical abilities and experience in leading worship. Please send resume to Brandon Frenzel at FUMC Fort Worth, Director of Youth Ministries, 800 W. 5th Street, Fort Worth 76102 or bfrenzel@myfumc.org.

P-T Praise Team Leader

First UMC of Corsicana seeks a part-time praise team leader to lead the existing Praise Team. The ideal candidate will be a devoted and energetic person with a passion for Christ and a desire and ability to share that passion with the congregation through music. This person must possess strong musical leadership, have a broad knowledge of contemporary Christian music, be able to utilize the latest multi-media technology, and have strong leadership and communication skills. Other desired attributes are friendly, creative, collaborative, adaptable and outgoing, and someone who wants to become a part of our church family. The church's goal is for the new contemporary worship to grow in the community as well as within the church walls. If God is calling you to this ministry, please contact Steve Moss, associate pastor, at 214-803-3609 or e-mail your resume to stevem@fumccorsicana.org.

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.

Hammond Organ

First UMC of Dawson is giving away a Hammond Organ, model M-101. The upper and lower keyboards (along with the associated stops and drawbars) work just fine. The volume control pedal works, but the bass pedals do not work very well, but they may simply need a cleaning. The organ is free to anyone who can pick it up. Contact Michael Redmond at 903-229-2123 or michaelr@valornet.com to arrange for a time. The organ needs a good home with someone who will play it.

Administrative Assistant

St. Paul UMC of Hurst seeks an experienced, part-time administrative assistant. Knowledge of Microsoft Publisher and Word, with Web-maintenance skills is necessary. Please send resume to; St. Paul UMC of Hurst, 852 Bedford-Euless Road, Hurst 76053, Saintpaul06@charterinternet.com, 817-284-7181.

Music Director

Stephenville First UMC seeks a full-time music director for their 1300-member church in rural central Texas. Duties include oversight of the entire music program (including part-time positions for pianist and contemporary music leader), conducting the chancel choir, recruiting and resourcing volunteer directors of children's, youth and handbell choirs, and leading or assisting with a variety of special programs or services throughout the year. Salary will be commensurate with experience and skill level. Health insurance and

other benefits included. Motivated, organized servant leaders who enjoy creating excellent worship should apply. Contact Search Committee at fumc@our-town.com or 254-965-5046. The full job description is available at www.fumcville.org.

Church Steeple

Alliance UMC in Fort Worth posted recently the sale of a 31-foot tall steeple. While there were a few inquiries, there has been no sale. The trustees are now prepared to drop the price to the low, low price of nothing, zero, free. If interested, please contact Ken Damon at 940-566-7420.

Worship Leaders/Musician/Vocalist

Troy UMC seeks a part-time (10 hours per week) worship leader, guitarist and vocalist to lead the praise team. Applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment to Christ, possess knowledge of contemporary Christian music and offer strong leadership and organizational skills. Applications may be obtained through the church office 254-938-2364 or by e-mail at troymethodist@sbcglobal.net.

Director of Children's Ministries

Silver Creek UMC seeks a part-time director of children's ministries. This is a vibrant and growing congregation just west of Fort Worth in northeast Parker County. Responsibilities include creating children's programming that disciples and attracts the children of the growing community as well as coordinating volunteers and teachers for existing classes. Salary commensurate with experience. This position will close upon receiving 3 qualifying candidates. Send resumes and questions to Jason Hamilton at jason@silvercreekumc.org or Silver Creek UMC 2200 Church Rd. Azle 76020.

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.

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. Send resume and questions to Jim Fagg, SPRC Chair, St John's UMC, 311 E. University Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

Organist/Accompanist (Part Time-20 hrs. wk)

First UMC of Keller, a growing church 25 minutes north of Fort Worth with an average attendance of 700, seeks an accomplished organist/accompanist who is also a committed person of faith to provide musical leadership in two weekly traditional worship services and other seasonal services in the Wesleyan tradition. This position also includes accompanying weekly Chancel Choir and youth choir rehearsals and accompanying vocalists and instrumentalists as scheduled by the director of music and worship. The church owns a three rank Baldwin 636 electronic organ, a 7 ft. Boston Steinway grand, and a 6 ft. Hobart Cable grand. Salary negotiable and competitive. Send resume to David Gerig, director of music and worship at davidg@kellerumc.org or FUMC of Keller, 1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248. 817-431-1332. www.kellerumc.com.

Pew Cushions

First UMC Georgetown found a new home for their previously advertised 34 choir robes at Discovery UMC in Hutto. However, they still have some pew cushions in various sizes from a recent renovation. Contact Scotty Rundell or Wanda Foster at 512-863-2370 for specifics.

Theatre Organ

A member at Bethesda UMC (Weatherford) would like to donate a "Conn 645 theatre organ" with full

pedal board, antique white cabinet. It needs a service call, but service manual provided. Will donate to a nonprofit organization. If interested, call Imogene Hammond at 940-445-0311.

Family Ministries
First UMC of Waco, an innovative 4,000-member church in a college town, seeks a full-time person committed to ministering to families, who is passionately committed to discipleship and growth and will serve as part of the executive staff team in implementing the church's vision for ministry to children and families. The newly created minister to families will work with dedicated volunteers and an excellent paid children's ministry staff to enhance and focus the children's ministry and develop intergenerational programming to empower families and the congregation to more faithfully provide for the Christian nurture of their children. The ideal candidate will have a heart for ministering to the whole family, will be theologically trained, and have at least 5 years experience in Christian Education. Submit resumes and direct questions by e-mail to Lynn Barger Elliott at lynn@ymarchitects.com.

Pianist/Organist
Midlothian is seeking applicants for pianist/organist position. This is a part-time position that includes accompanying the Adult Choir at Wednesday night rehearsal and playing for two services each Sunday morning. Salary and hours are negotiable. Position opens mid-June. Please submit applications to Billy Pritchett at billyp@fumc-midlothian.org. For more information call 682-465-1371.

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.

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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.