



Central E-Link

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

February 16, 2011

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

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

News Briefs — The Conference

[A Belated Valentine to Our Readers](#)

Our love, good thoughts and appreciation are extended to each of you at this special time of remembering those who are important in our lives. You are the heart of ministry in churches across the conference. We are all blessed by your work.

[New on WWW.CTCUMC.ORG — Check It Out](#)

√ The Conference Personnel Committee has approved 14 staff positions under the new conference alignment. They are posted on the conference website under "The Exodus Project-Job Openings" banner. Current staff and others who are interested in working at the conference are welcome to apply.

√ Under the "2011 Annual Conference" banner is the newly posted information about the CTC block of hotel rooms in Waco. These special rate rooms are booked quickly, so it's best to reserve rooms for your church members as early as possible.

√ Also listed under the "2011 Annual Conference" banner is the 2012 Lay Delegate Nomination Form for the General and South Central Jurisdiction conferences next spring and summer, respectively.

√ Look tomorrow (Thursday) for a feature on "New partnership breathes life into old, established church," or what they're calling "an experiment in neo-connectionalism."

[Clergy Appointment Changes](#)

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announce the following changes in clergy appointments to the Central Texas Conference:

Thomas K. Beaty (elder in full connection) — from pastor at Gatesville First UMC (Temple District) to Palo Pinto/Strawn (1/4 time) (Weatherford District), effective Feb. 1

D. Gene Gurley (elder in full connection) — from pastor at Alvarado First UMC (Waxahachie District) to pastor at Gatesville First UMC (Temple District), effective Feb. 1

Margaret Ann Holmes (part-time local pastor) — from pastor at Palo Pinto/Strawn UMCs (Weatherford District) to unappointed, effective Feb. 1

Rebecca Morton — from associate pastor under Par. 331.8 at Trinity UMC (Mid-Cities District) to return to home conference (Oklahoma), effective Oct. 15, 2010

J. Bryan Patrick (elder in full connection) — from pastor at Eastland/Ranger UMCs (Brownwood District) to pastor at Alvarado First UMC (Waxahachie District), effective Feb. 1

Robert E. Rainey (elder in full connection — from pastor at Good News, Cedar Park (Temple District) to pastor at Eastland First UMC (Brownwood District), effective Feb. 15

Arthur A. Torpy (elder in full connection) — from pastor at Calvary UMC (Weatherford District) to pastor at Asbury UMC (Mid-Cities District), effective Feb. 1

Christian Education & VBS Showcases Extended

Because of inclement weather across much of the nation over the last few weeks, the Christian Education Showcase and VBS Showcase 20% off offers are being extended to Feb. 20. See attachment.

Sing a Rainbow Rescheduled — April 2

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

Midwinter Youth-Led Worship — Feb. 20

Join the Central Texas Youth at their Midwinter Youth-Led Worship on Sunday, Feb. 20, at Glen Rose High School Auditorium. Worship will begin at 2:30 p.m. and is open to all. The youth will have been working all weekend to engage their God-given gifts in worship. Join in worship with them and then encourage them to participate in worship services at home!

Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner — Feb. 24

The Metropolitan Board of Missions Annual Dinner will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Round-Up Inn in the Will Rogers, Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibits Building. The cost is \$15 and dinner will be served by Risky's BBQ. Additional information and the ticket order form are available on the Metro Board's website <http://metroboardofmissions.com/>.

Lay Speakers' 8th Annual Meeting Convenes Feb. 25-27 at Glen Lake

Each year the Lay Speaker Ministries offers an introduction to lay speaking and opportunities for lay persons to further their education and to fulfill requirements for continuing certification. The Lay Speaker Annual Meeting prepares lay speakers for service with training courses and certification for areas of ministry such as leading meetings, prayers and study programs, assisting in worship services and providing support to care-giving ministries. There are over 1,000 trained lay speakers in the Central Texas Conference who provide a wide range of services to their congregations, their districts and the conference. A downloadable flyer and more information on each of the courses, registration and accommodations, visit the conference website at www.ctcumc.org. Please direct questions to Melissa Osborne at oz2@txol.net.

Scholarships Available Through BOM

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

Get Ready NOW to "Change the World" — May 14-15

Click here for Change the World video clips on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UMCChangeTheWorld#p/a/u/1/pv80fk76Oew>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/UMCChangeTheWorld>

Churches have an opportunity to participate in Change the World, which focuses on building community and fighting malaria globally. In 2010 more than 1,000 sites with over 100,000 volunteers in 16 different countries addressed needs from hunger to human trafficking, malaria, and more. This effort shows the power of the connection when we join together to carry out the mission of the church. In 2011, Change the World is scheduled for May 14-15, and **the conference would like to acknowledge how your congregation will be participating this year** (and/or participated in 2010). UM Communications through Rethink Church will provide free promotional materials and educational resources to support local churches in their projects.

- (1) Each faith community should define a project relevant to its local community's needs and/or find a way to assist our brothers and sisters around the world.
- (2) Each faith community should register its participation at www.umcom.org/changetheworld and be prepared to share stories of their ministry (with UMCOM and CTC) so that the world and other churches in our conference can see the power of the connection. Share your stories within the conference with Carolyn@ctcumc.org.

Youth 2011 — July 13-17 or July 27-31

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

VBS Streamed & Downloadable Training/Information

Cokesbury's 2011 VBS Showcase: Get information for choosing your church's VBS program in 2011. Get details on Bible stories, see decorating items, hear music, and get starter kit information for Cokesbury's Shake It Up Café, Abingdon Press' Island Odyssey, Concordia's Big Jungle Adventure, Gospel Light's SonSurf Beach Bash, Group's Hometown Nazareth and Pandamania, Standard's Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street, and Urban Ministries' Jesus Truth Seekers.

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=82432897&act=pb&rKey=e8d72e14538583a2>

Download -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/ldr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&rID=82432897&act=pf&rKey=e08965980853e21c>

Using Cokesbury's 2011 VBS Online Registration Tools: Join Cathy Robinson as she demonstrates the functionality and use of our VBS Online Registration tools. Cathy will show you how to use the tools to: set up your own unique VBS registration website for your church, pull information about your registrants and sort them into groups, use custom e-cards in addition to your print invitation postcard.

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=82421582&act=pb&rKey=1e622620dad6cd70>

Download -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/ldr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&rID=82421582&act=pf&rKey=f4ade7ac66586bde>

Cokesbury's 2011 VBS: Shake It Up Café: At Cokesbury's "Shake It Up Café VBS for 2011," your kids will explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word. Preview Bible lessons, music, video, crafts, science activities, snacks, games, and more during this webinar. VBS Editor Betsy Parham describes how Shake It Up Café will help your church enjoy a fresh, one-of-a-kind VBS in 2011!

Streaming -

<https://cokesbury.webex.com/cokesbury/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=80045442&act=pb&rKey=f657d9fb626c9f02>

Download -
<https://cokebury.webex.com/cokebury/ldr.php?AT=dw&SP=TC&rID=80045442&act=pf&rKey=9bf6f81b65ea28a4>

Tasting Diversity / Human Trafficking — Feb. 19

Brownwood District United Methodist Women will host a “Tasting Diversity and Human Trafficking Retreat” from 9 a.m. to noon (Tasting Diversity) and 12:30-4 p.m. (Human Trafficking) Feb. 19 at Stephenville First UMC. For more details, contact Nancy Brown at wd.brown@cctc.net.

Make Your Music Matter More — Feb. 26

If you love to play music for others, care about the needs of children and want to give something back, Hugworks would like you to “Make Your Music Matter More!” Hugworks offers a free workshop for musicians for therapeutic music entertainment in pediatric healthcare settings from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 26, at The Hugworks Center, 752 Mary Drive, Hurst 76053. For more details and to register, contact hugworks@hugworks.org or 817-268-0020.

Perkins Hosts 2011 Wallace Chappell Lecture — Feb. 28

Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University will host the 2011 Wallace Chappell Lecture on Feb. 28, starting with registration at 8:30 a.m. Featured speakers include Rev. Jeff Kirby, minister of discipleship and Men’s Ministry at UMC of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kan., and Dr. Elaine A. Heath, associate professor of evangelism and director of the Center for Missional Wisdom at Perkins School of Theology. The event theme is “Good News, Gender, and Discipleship Formation.” The Wallace Chappell Lecture will be held in the Great Hall of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall at Perkins, beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 2:30 p.m. after the panel discussion. A \$25 per person registration fee, payable by check or cash, includes lunch. Free parking will be available on Bishop Boulevard. Additional details are available at www.smu.edu/perkins/WCLecture.

Habitat Heroes Volunteer Appreciation Dinner — March 4

If you have been involved in any way with Tarrant County Habitat for Humanity over the past year then you are invited to the 2011 Habitat Heroes Appreciation Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, March 4, at the Stampede Room/Stockyard Station (130 E. Exchange Ave., Fort Worth 76164). During the event, there will be grand entertainment, a complimentary meal, and the honoring of many heroes who help accomplish Habitat’s mission. The unofficial rumor is that the Metropolitan Board of Mission and Troy Chapman, currently serving as interim executive director, will be among the honorees. If this is your area of ministry in the community, please RSVP to volunteer.department@trinityhabitat.org by Feb. 25.

Task Force on Hunger Seeks 2011 Applicants

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

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

To download a flyer with details about the grant, for a two-week Bible study to accompany the *Thanksgiving* offering (*Hunger: The Enemy at the Table, A Bible Study on Hunger*), and an application for the 2011 Hunger Ministry Grants, please visit the conference website at <http://ctcumc.org/pages/detail/902>. The application deadline is March 31.

Texas Youth Academy — June 26-July 9

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

News Briefs — The Denomination

Culture of the Call Church Award

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

Free Online Webinars Available to Help Congregations

The General Board of Discipleship's series of free online training sessions for local church leaders continues in February with a webinar about issues that face church council members. The live event, "**Leading the Church Council: Administration IS Ministry**," will begin at 6:30 p.m. CST on Feb. 24, hosted by Betsey Heavner, GBOD's director of congregational renewal. This training will give tips, examples from real churches and a framework for everyone on the team.

The other upcoming webinars, both at 6:30 p.m. CST, are:

• "**Trustees: Stewards of Church Property**" on March 24—The role of trustees is practical, legal and Biblical. Every trustee will benefit from this review of the responsibilities and reminder of effective ministry through this job.

• "**Easter Living for Church Leaders: Prayer and Faith**" on April 28—Church leaders care deeply about their faith community so that sometimes the "doing" church work overwhelms "being" the church. Several church leaders will tell about their own experiences to inspire Easter renewal in leaders.

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

Criminal Justice Reform Events to Raise Awareness

- National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform is Feb. 20

Resources for reflection, a sample annual conference resolution calling for an end to mass incarceration, and registration information are available at [National Day of Prayer for Criminal Justice Reform](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/DayofPrayerFeb20) (www.umc-gbcs.org/DayofPrayerFeb20).

- Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing, March 7-13, raises awareness of inequities arising from current penal system. For prayers, resources for getting involved and to register your participation, visit [Juvenile Justice Week of Faith & Healing](http://www.healingjusticecoalition.org/juvenile_justice_week.html) (http://www.healingjusticecoalition.org/juvenile_justice_week.html).

World Day of Prayer — March 4

How Many Loaves Have You?

During the past decade, the ministries of Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC), the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World Methodist Council and the Pan-Methodist Commission, all partners with the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (ICF) have expressed a common concern for four major areas – violence against women, economic justice, racism, and the need for greater participation in the life of the church. Learn more about the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund at www.umcsgiving.org/ICF.

Join the 2011 World Day of Prayer Committee in Chile as they invite you to enter a process that draws us into the Bible, into the context of Chile, and into the real situations of our lives and

communities. The theme is, "How Many Loaves Have You?." This year's Bible studies come from 1 Kings 17: 8-16 and Mark 6: 30-44. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. It is:

- Symbolized by an annual day of celebration to which all people are welcome.
- Brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year. Learn more at <http://www.worlddayofprayer.net/wdp11.html>

Training for Developing Hispanic-Latino Ministries-Module 1 — March 13-18

The Lay Missioner and Pastor/Mentor Training for Developing Hispanic-Latino Ministry – Module I (bilingual) will be held March 13-18 at Perkins School of Theology's Prothro Hall in Dallas. This training is for laypersons and their pastors/mentors who wish to participate in Hispanic/Latino ministries as a part of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. Module I training is an integral part of the national plan and provides participants with the experience of practical curriculum and guidelines for use in the development of ministries with Hispanics/Latinos. The contact for more details and to register is Cristina Uranga in the Mexican American office at curanga@smu.edu or 214-768-2265.

Mount Sequoyah Hosts Small Church Leadership Institute — March 20-24

The Small Church Leadership Institute equips laity and clergy with the knowledge and skills for leading their smaller attendance churches into the future. The event will be held March 20-24 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

(http://www.mountsequoyah.org/Mount_Sequoyah/HOME.html). Presenters:

Asa Whitaker – a past president of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders

Dr. Tim Reaves – evangelism resource person for the North Carolina Conference

Ron Crandall – ordained elder in the Kentucky Conference focusing on smaller membership churches and effective Christian witness

Andy Oden – "Stewardship Is Not a 4-Letter Word"

Amy Forbus – "Marketing for the Small Attendance Church"

Bishop Bruce Blake – "Self Care, How Is It With Your Soul?" Clergy Burnout, Conflict Resolution

Tex Sample – former academic dean at Saint Paul School of Theology

"Wade in the Water" Jurisdictional Clergywomen's Consultation — March 22-25

"Wade in the Water" is the quadrennial gathering for UM clergywomen held March 22-25 in New Orleans. Events will focus on sharing experiences and learning from one another about effective leadership and justice issues. The plenary speakers include Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson, author of *God's Troublemakers: How Women of Faith are Changing the World*, and Lorenza Andrade Smith, an advocate for The DREAM Act; and a rare opportunity to dialogue with three women bishops: Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson, Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, and Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher. Workshop presenters will include talented South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) clergywomen as well as prominent women in leadership at various United Methodist agencies including GBOD, UMCOR, *Alive Now*, GCSRW, and GBHEM. Optional activities include tours highlighting the city post-Katrina, a tour of St. Mark's UMC/North Rampart Community Center, which Methodist women establish an innovative urban ministry, and opportunities for other outings and relaxation organized by the Louisiana host clergywomen. For more information or to explore scholarship information or register for the event, visit www.wadeinthewater.org and/or join the Facebook group "Wade in the Water with SCJ Clergywomen."

Intergenerational Ministry Summit — March 24-26

This Intergenerational Ministry Summit, scheduled for March 24-26 at Mount Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Ark., deals with real life, real people, real circumstances in blending generations to become fruitful congregations. Keynote speakers Tex Sample will discuss characteristics of each generation and how they influence our views of authority, leadership, work and religious faith.

Summit leader Jeanne March will use her Age-ing to Sage-ing process to approach aging as a positive journey filled with wisdom, learning and possibilities. For more details, visit www.mountsequoyah.org.

Renewing The “County Seat” Church — March 29-30

First UMC of Pine Bluff, Ark., will host this seminar which is designed to focus on specific strategies and proven methods to renew the county seat church — an exciting and continuing challenge. Participants will receive practical coaching on how to develop an effective strategy for implementing ministry back home. Who should attend: clergy, laity and staff from any “County Seat” congregation. Contact: Ann Cain at 870-535-0935 or acain@fumcpba.com.

Annual Funding Conference by Lewis Center — March 26

Lewis Center will host a half-day “Funding Your Ministry in Changing Times” conference from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26, on the campus of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. They will also provide the “*Funding Your Ministry in Changing Times* DVD/CD Resource Guide” which will be released in April. For more details, visit <http://www.churchleadership.com>.

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 weeklong sessions will be available in 2011, beginning the week of June 12 and ending the week of July 31. Cost is \$248 per person. For more information, visit www.youthworks.com and click on the link for UMCs in the left column.

Discounts Available for Wesleyan Pilgrimage — Nov. 7-17

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

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Waxahachie Symphony Association in Concert at First Waxahachie – Feb. 19

The Waxahachie Symphony Association brings organist, Bradley Welch to First UMC of Waxahachie as a part of their 2010 - 2011 Concert Series, Saturday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Welch is the director of music and arts/organist at Highland Park UMC in Dallas. In addition to his duties at Highland Park, he performs approximately 20 concerts annually under the exclusive artistic management of Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artist, Hartford, CT. Don't miss an opportunity to be wowed. Tickets may be bought in advance or at the door. Tickets at the door sell for \$12 (adult) \$10 (senior adult) and are complimentary for Waxahachie ISD students. For more details, visit <http://waxahachiesymphonyassociation.org/>.

STOP Bullying: Take Action to Prevent Bullying and Empower Children — Feb. 27

Trinity UMC (3321 W. Park Row, Arlington) is sponsoring a community outreach event for area parents and students. The topic is “STOP Bullying: Take Action to Prevent Bullying and Empower Children.” It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dr. Ebony Hall will speak with the parents. Parish Kronen will speak with the junior high students. Todd McKinney, a magician, will teach the elementary children. FREE childcare is provided for infants through 4 years. RSVP is REQUIRED for childcare at 817-274-1345 or nicole@trinityumcarlington.org.

Lay Speaker Training for Students — March 4-5

The Weatherford District Student Leadership Team is hosting a lay speaker training event for students at Acton UMC, but it is open to all 9-12th grade students in the conference. It will be held March 4 & 5 and the cost is \$12. For more details, contact Kathryn Gaarz, assistant youth director at Acton UMC (kathryn_gaarz@yahoo.com or 817-648-2432).

Do you know any family who hasn't been touched by cancer? — March 5

Ministry to cancer patients and their families is critical to their health, well being, support and recovery. First UMC Grapevine and the Pastoral Care Dept. of **Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA)** will host a seminar from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 5 training participants to more effectively minister to cancer patients and their families. They will meet at FUMC Grapevine's Family Life Center. The cost is \$20 a person, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and snacks. Register by Feb. 4 with Katherine Hunter at katherineh@fumcg.org or call 817-481-2559, ext. 130.

First Arlington Fights Against Bullying With Character Network — March 6

First UMC Arlington is reaching out to youth and families to address the growing issue of bullying in our communities. First Arlington (313 N. Center, Arlington) will host “Be a Hero, Not a Bully” assembly, presented by Jim Lord of the Character Network (www.thecharacternetwork.com), at noon March 6. Lord's live presentations are “fun, motivating and inspiring,” says Kay Lancaster, associate pastor and head of the FUMC children's ministries, which is officially sponsoring this event. “The Character Network program stresses that no one has the right to say or do something that is hurtful to another,” says Lancaster. “I am hoping to give tools to our children to be resistant to bullying in a nonviolent way.” Register at www.arlingtonmethodist.org. Box lunches will be served for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Payment will be collected at the door.

A Rest from the Rat Race / Giving In Without Giving Up — March 6-7

King of Glory Lutheran Church (6411 LBJ Freeway, Dallas 75240) presents “Living a Real Life in a Real World” with Dr. Walter Brueggemann, theologian and Old Testament scholar, March 6-7. “A Rest from the Rat Race” is the topic for Sunday, March 6, beginning at 7 p.m. “Giving In Without Giving Up” will be presented on Monday, March 7, beginning at 11:30 a.m. To register, go to www.KingofGlory.com or call the church at 972-661-9435.

Worship Workshop Live! Featuring Marcia McFee — March 26

9 a.m-4 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at First UMC of Keller (1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248) Dr. Marcia McFee – author, worship designer and leader, professor, preacher, and artist, combines her background and experience in professional companies of music, theater, and dance with a variety of worship and preaching styles in order to bring a fresh experience of the Gospel to each worship setting. Marcia's passion for helping the church to worship God fully is especially directed toward the education of local congregations. She travels extensively in order to teach regional workshops that are accessible to congregational leaders and worship teams. Dr. McFee served as the director of worship and music for the UMC General Conference in 2008 and has been named the director of worship and music for the 2012 General Conference. Visit www.kellerumc.org for workshop schedule and advance tickets (early bird and group pricing available). For more information contact Robin Stevens at robins@kellerumc.org.

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

Tried • Convicted • Crucified • Resurrected

This special two-night event is being offered once again as First UMC Killeen presents the miracles, trials, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ in their second annual Jerusalem 33 A.D., 5-7 p.m. Thursday, April 21 and 22 at Methodist Park, southwest corner of their new church campus at 3501 E. Elms in Killeen. The community is invited to witness this passion play and walk side-by-side with villagers, Roman soldiers, Judas, King Herod and Jesus himself.

Youth Mission Opportunity in Palmer — June 23-26

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

Depression Connection: Understanding, Help and Hope

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

Career Transition Support Group at First Hurst

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

Resources

Helpful Links for Church Leaders

- **Central Texas Conference:** (www.ctcumc.org) features and other content changes daily
- **InfoServ:** (<http://infoserv.umc.org>)
- **UM Reporter Interactive:** (www.umportal.org)
- **United Methodist News Service:**
(http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.1355375/k.FA13/UMNS_News.htm)

UMNS on Facebook:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=ifITKWNrGalKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

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

United Methodist Reporter Online: www.umportal.org

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

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

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

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

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

UM Global Health Initiative:

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

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.

Arthur Benton Sanford's An Easter Disciple (special church edition): An Eyewitness Account of the Resurrected Jesus Christ. The chronicle of Quintus the Roman Knight, with notes by Stephen Skelton. Once, the resurrected Christ appeared to more than 500. This is the story of one of the 500. This is the epic story of an ordinary man who encounters the extraordinary Jesus Christ. This story, taken from an ancient Latin manuscript, provides an extra biblical account that lends historical support to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 43 page study.

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.

Communications Director

Waxahachie First seeks someone with a friendly, personable attitude; computer experience with Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel, and e-mail; and efficient typing and spelling skills, (web-site

design/maintenance would be a real plus!). The position is 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Send resume to jerry@fumcwax.com.

Youth Director

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

Karaoke Machine/Disks

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

Administrative Assistant

The Wesley Foundation at Weatherford College (www.wesleyfoundationwc.org) seeks a part time administrative assistant. Person must be positive, friendly, and detail oriented. Prior experience preferred. To submit a resume or learn more about the position, contact Katie Meek at 817-797-1515 or katie@wesleyfoundationwc.org.

Director of Student Ministries

Aledo UMC, a growing church 15 miles west of Fort Worth with an average weekly worship attendance of 450, seeks a committed and dynamic person of faith as their director of student ministries. Prior experience in youth/student ministries is required. Salary negotiable and competitive. For more details, contact the AUMC church office at 817-441-8329 or email Jason Jones at JasonJones@aledoumc.org, Aledo UMC, PO Box 126, Aledo 76008.

Youth Minister

St. Philip's UMC (www.stphils.us), a wonderfully diverse and dynamic faith community located west of Round Rock in the northwestern corner of the greater Austin metropolitan area, seeks a full-time youth minister to guide a growing and vibrant Youth/Student Ministry. Hire date June 1. Potential candidates need to send résumé/CV and brief biographical statement no later than March 31 to: office@stphilisumc.org RE: Youth Minister Search.

Part-time Organist/Accompanist

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

Children's Ministry Director

St Paul UMC of Hurst seeks a director of children's ministry. This is a part-time position in a growing and vibrant church family, with a creative and fun staff. The hours are very flexible and the salary is attractive. For a copy of the job description and further information please contact Kent Kilbourne at 817-284 8171 or kent@stpaulhurst.org.

Youth Ministry Director

China Spring UMC seeks a part-time youth ministry director to supervise all youth ministries of the church (grades 7-12) and responsible for strategizing, planning, and implementing ministry programs that are in keeping with the church's overall vision. Contact China Spring UMC at 254-836-1107.

Secretary/AdMin Position Sought

Lisa Meek, formerly administrative assistant to Don Scroggs at FUMC Brownwood, has moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and seeks a secretary or administrative assistant position in a local

church. She can be contacted at kaseykaye59@yahoo.com.

Riders for “Wade in Water” – South Central Jurisdiction Clergywomen’s Consultation

Sharon P. Bell is registered to attend the SCJ Wade in Water conference March 22-25 in New Orleans and will be driving. She has space for 4 others to ride along. Clergywomen interested in carpooling may contact Sharon at Revspbell@hotmail.com or call the church office at Wesley Memorial Cleburne between 9 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday at 817-645-2373.

Youth Ministry Intern

First UMC of Fort Worth seeks to hire a part time intern to join their Youth Ministry Team. Responsibilities for this position are to join the rest of the staff in looking after the spiritual needs of the youth, planning and leading Bible studies, working with small groups, planning and attending events and trips, and simply meeting youth where they are. 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, TX 76102.

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 our 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, TX 76102.

P-T Director of Youth Ministries

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

Musician

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

Church Coordinator/Secretary

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

25-Passenger Van for Sale

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

2 P-T Positions at St. Luke, Killeen

St. Luke UMC in Killeen (400 members/50 children and youth and growing) has 2 part-time positions available beginning in January, both requiring someone who is faithful and dedicated to Christian education. Bi-lingual in Korean preferred.

- As the part-time **Sunday School Leader** you will be responsible for leading and ministering to multi-ethnic children; lead and preach weekly at the children’s Sunday worship service; lead the program for children on Fridays; attend the staff meetings on Saturday; plan and lead annual summer VBS program and any special church-wide Sunday school worship services.

• As a part-time **Youth Leader** you will be responsible for leading and ministering to multi-ethnic junior and senior high school students; lead and preach weekly at Sunday youth worship service; teach Bible study class on Friday; plan and lead two youth retreats each year and lead any special church-wide Youth Ministry Worship Services. For more details and to apply, contact St. Luke UMC at 254-526-3993 or 102 E. Church Ave., Killeen 76541. Website: www.umcstluke.org.

Director of Youth Ministries

St. Luke UMC (3200 Denton Hwy. Haltom City 76117) seeks applicants for part-time director of youth ministries to coordinate and lead the youth ministry program. Responsibilities include building strong relationships with youth in the church community, shared planning, coordination and leading for weekly fellowship and discipleship, retreat and trips, mission trips and outreach, co-teaching Sunday school, and fundraisers. Requirements include an authentic faith in Jesus Christ, passion for working with youth and UM background considered a plus. Salary: \$12,000/yr. Send resume to address above.

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.