



Central E-Link

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

March 2, 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

If You Don't See Your Message ...

Susan Briles, the staff person who does the electronic distribution of *E-Link*, is out of the office due to a family illness. Anyone whose information has been sent to her via "reply" to the *E-Link*, rather than to the editor (Carolyn@ctcumc.org), will not appear until next week.

More About Ken Diehm Memorial Service

The Colleyville neighborhood edition of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* had a nice article about the memorial service that some may want to read (<http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/03/01/2887177/family-friends-honor-first-united.html>). The service was live streamed for the many who were unable to be present. That video is now available on the church website at <http://www.firstmethodistgrapevine.org/worship/archive.html>.

Great Opportunities This Week and Next:

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.

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, ass't. 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 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.

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.

Clergy Pre-Retirement Seminar — March 31

The CTC Board of Pensions will conduct a Clergy Pre-Retirement Seminar on Thursday, March 31, at St. Luke UMC (3200 Denton Hwy, Haltom City 76117) beginning at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Invitations have been sent to all CTC clergy members born prior to 1954. Those clergy members and their spouses should plan to attend. We are pleased to say that Paula Whitbeck, CTC liaison with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, will provide leadership for this event, including a retirement projection for each participant so it is important to communicate timely your intention to attend. Please respond via email to Harvey Ozmer, CBO (harvey@ctcumc.org), or Shawn-Marie Riley, benefits administrator (shawn-marie@ctcumc.org), or by calling the Conference Office at 817-877-5222, no later than Friday, March 11.

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

Join singles in the Central Texas Conference and surrounding areas for this retreat April 1-3 at Prothro Center on Lake Texhoma. The retreat will be led by Phyllis McDougal, associate pastor at First UMC Fort Worth, and explore the following questions:

- How do you see the world?
- Are you busy and always on the run?
- Do you slow down enough to explore your own spirituality?
- Who are you really?
- Who is God?
- Do you know that you are a child of God?

Laurie Simmons from the 11:11 band at First Fort Worth will provide the music throughout the weekend. Cost is \$130 and that includes lodging for 2 nights and 4 meals (3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday) and the retreat expenses. Registration due by March 21. For additional information, contact Cindy Young at 817-924-9443 or check out the Tarrant Area Singles calendar with the flyer and registration at <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/970>.

One Great Hour of Sharing — April 3

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of the UMC. OGHS enables the UM Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate

human suffering. UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of the UMC. OGHS gifts underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business," meaning that every penny of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project—not on office administrative costs. This enables UMCOR to respond to natural or human made disasters. The OGHS offering makes ministries available in the United State and across the globe. In 81 countries in all, you assure the UMC is in the lead to alleviate suffering through OGHS.

Jesus teaches us to bring healing and restoration wherever we can. That's what you and your congregation do through the work of UMCOR. Join UMs everywhere by encouraging your congregation to participate in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to bring restoration, healing and hope for tomorrow. Call 888-346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this churchwide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! Find more at www.umcgiving.org/specialsundays.

Now on WWW.CTCUMC.ORG — Check It Out

√ Soon to appear under the "2011 Annual Conference" banner will be the special interest group events. As of today the only information received has been for the Perkins Alumni Breakfast: The Perkins Alumni Breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, at the Methodist Children's Home. MCH has graciously offered to host and all money received for the breakfast will be split between the Perkins Fund and MCH. For reservations, please send your \$10 check payable to FUMC Fort Worth (Perkins Breakfast in memo line) to: FUMC Fort Worth, attn: Gena Anderson, 800 W. 5th St., Fort Worth 76102. Contacts: Gena Anderson (817-339-5067 or ganderson@myfumc.org) or Paul Gravley (512-876-3592 or paul@huttodiscovery.org).

√ Under the "2011 Annual Conference" banner is information about childcare, the CTC block of hotel rooms, and the 2012 Lay Delegate Nomination Form for General/Jurisdiction conferences. n

√ 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.

Sing a Rainbow Rescheduled — April 2

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

Scholarships Available Through BOM

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

Youth 2011 — July 13-17 or July 27-31

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

Task Force on Hunger Seeks 2011 Applicants

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

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

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

Texas Youth Academy — June 26-July 9

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

News Briefs — The Denomination

Mission never stops...10-Fold continues

A core goal of sustainable agriculture is teaching farmers in some of the harshest parts of the world methods to better feed their families and communities, while protecting the lands on which they live. These projects are sponsored by the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries and supported by dollars raised through The Advance. Help spread the word to your congregation that the next 10-Fold online event will shine a light on the church's efforts in working directly with farmers to put an end to hunger and malnutrition.

On Thursday, March 10, throughout the day, Judith Santiago will share stories of farmers who are becoming agents of transformation by learning new ways of working with the land, new crops to grow, and techniques to pass along their knowledge to other farmers. There will be a live update at 12 noon with an opportunity ask questions, or you can chat all day long with others who are interested in this project. To participate in this online event, go to www.10-fold.org/live. Each month, 10-Fold.org will feature a different Advance project and we will hear from people closely involved who will report on the progress that is being made around the world. Check back regularly to learn more.

UMR Hires New Managing Editor

Sam Hodges, a veteran journalist with 33 years of experience at daily newspapers, is joining UMR's news staff as managing editor in late March. He worked most recently for the *Dallas Morning News*. His original assignment was the religion beat and later also covered suburban schools. An award-winning journalist, author, and editor, he is a longtime admirer of the *Reporter* and believes writing about religion is "one of the best beats going". Be watching the national pages for Sam's byline and influence as he and the news staff continue to tell the stories of mission and ministry for the UMC in the pages of the *Reporter*. UMR is the publisher on the *Central Link*.

Anonymous Donor Gives \$100,000 to Special Seminary Scholarships Fund

A UM elder, who has a long history with the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry, and his wife have donated \$100,000 to the Special Seminary Scholarship Fund to help those seeking ordination in the UMC. "I was able to graduate from seminary with no debt because of scholarships, and my wife and I wanted to help others do that," he said. They asked that the donation remain anonymous. "Those who enter ministry without significant debt are better prepared to focus on their work, and I believe a seminary education is critical for ministry," he

said. "My wife and I have been blessed, and we wanted to share the gifts that we've had with others." The donor said that during his work with GBHEM he had often read scholarship applications and really wanted to support the work that is done through the Office of Loans and Scholarships in helping educate the future clergy of the church. James Harding, interim executive director of the Office of Loans and Scholarships, said the income from the donation will generate enough funds for two additional \$2,000 scholarships each year.

Texas Faith Leaders Call for "New and Gracious Tone" in State Immigration Debate

More than 40 bishops and other senior leaders of faith groups have called for "new and gracious tone" as the Texas House begins hearings. Leaders of Texas' Christian denominations joined with Jewish and Muslim clergy in calling for compassion and mutual respect as lawmakers opened public testimony on a series of bills that would impose new state sanctions on undocumented persons, require proof of citizenship for an array of activities, and remove the authority of police departments to prioritize public safety over identification of possible undocumented immigrants. These faith group leaders from throughout the state endorsed the "Texas Interfaith Leaders' Statement on Immigration." Together, the leaders represent more than 10 million Texans. For more details, visit <http://texasimpact.org/content/texas-faith-leaders-call-new-and-gracious-tone-state-immigration-debate>.

Encounter Faith: Online Bible Study — March 14 Start Up

Encounter Faith is the UMC's Rethink Church first online Bible study. Beginning March 14, participants will find this a place to engage others about relevant topics and how they relate to the Christian faith. Jacob Armstrong will facilitate this 6-week series through a webinar, podcast and by engaging comment. Learn more about Armstrong at www.rethinkchurch.org/jacobarmstrong. There will be free resources for download (10-minute weekly webinars and podcasts) to use in a local setting. If you are following this series in a local church setting, you will want to purchase the full FaithLink curriculum at www.cokesbury.com/faithlink. Prepare now by setting up your free user profile at Rethinkchurch.org and by sharing this site with others.

Renewing the "County Seat" Church — March 29-30 at Bluff, Ark.

First UMC of Pine Bluff, Ark., will host this seminar March 29-30 designed to focus on specific strategies and proven methods to renew the county seat church, which is an exciting and continuing challenge. Leadership for the event includes:

Dr. Doug Anderson — executive director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development at Dakota Wesleyan University; Rev. Marvin Armpriester — pastor of Broadway UMC, Council Bluffs, Iowa with the team from Broadway UMC. Contact: Ann Cain at 1-870-535-0935 acain@fumcpba.com.

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

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

Free Online Webinars Available to Help Congregations

The General Board of Discipleship's series of free online training sessions for local church leaders continues this month and next with webinars about issues that face church council members.

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

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

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

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.

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>.

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

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

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

Suicide Survivors: *The Healing Journey After Loss*

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

Free Dementia Education Seminar — April 13

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

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.

Alpha Marriage Course Training Event — April 2

Trinity UMC (3321 W. Park Row, Arlington 76013) will host The Marriage Course Training Event Saturday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more details and to register, visit www.alphausa.org/dallas and click on "Marriage Training."

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

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

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=iflTKWNRGaIKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=olL5LeMPLeKYLpl&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edIKIWP rHgIWF>)

United Methodist Reporter Online: www.umportal.org

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

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

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

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

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

UM Global Health Initiative:

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

Discipleship Resources

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

How to Use UMC's TechShop

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

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

Seven Deadly Sins: The Uncomfortable Truth. 8 DVD sessions. This study examines sin's crafty characteristics and shows how sin can seep into the cracks of life when you least expect it. Author Dan Boone discusses how pride, envy, anger, slothfulness, greed, gluttony, and lust have masked themselves in the "newness" of today's technology and culture even in our own enlightened, postmodern Christian thinking.

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.

Youth Director/Minister/Pastor/Coordinator

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

Seeking Director of Youth Ministries:

St. John UMC in Austin is seeking a director of youth ministries. The director will give leadership to a dynamic and growing program in partnership with a vibrant, creative staff. Previous experience preferred. Please contact Georjean Blanton (gblanton@stjohnsaustin.org) or Rev. Paul Escamilla (Escamilla@stjohnsaustin.org) for further information.

Director of Youth Ministries

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

Full-Time Director of Children and Family Ministries

St. John UMC in Austin seeks a full-time director of children and family ministries. The director will give leadership to a dynamic and growing program in partnership with a vibrant, creative staff. Previous experience preferred. Please contact Geogjean Blanton, gblanton@stjohnaustin.org or Paul Escamilla, Escamilla@stjohnaustin.org for further information.

Flamingos Needed

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

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!

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@stphilipsumc.org RE: Youth Minister Search.

Part-time Organist/Accompanist

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

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 katterdinandsen@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.