



Central E-Link

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

November 10, 2010

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

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

News Briefs — The Conference

Called Session This Saturday — Nov. 13

The called session for the CTC Annual Conference starts at 10 a.m. this Saturday, Nov. 13, at Mansfield First UMC (777 N. Walnut Creek Drive, Mansfield 76063). Registration will take place as lay and clergy members are seated and complete a brief registration card. The bar of the conference will be established and a section in the back of the sanctuary will be available for visitors/observers. Members are urged to bring a copy of the *Preliminary Report (Alignment Proposal)* which can be downloaded from the conference website at <http://ctcalignment.blogspot.com/2010/10/conference-alignment-proposal.html>. If you have difficulty in acquiring a copy of this proposal, please check with your local church office. It may be helpful to read Congregational Vitality on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) to see reforms being proposed at the general church level to revitalize the denomination and the local church.

Gift of Love Shifts Date

Wanting to support the Called Session of Annual Conference and the *Exodus Project*, the Metropolitan Board of Missions will **not** hold its annual **Gift of Love** fundraiser, which had been scheduled to take place at Fort Worth First on Saturday, Nov. 13. Watch the mail and *E-Link* for a new and exciting opportunity to support the thousands of local men, women and children touched by the work of Metro Board!

CyberSafety for Families

There is a new resource to assist your local church in providing Safe Sanctuaries training for your leaders, teachers, and congregation. This training kit provides everything needed for training parents and other concerned adults about ways to keep children and teens safe online. Subjects covered include safety in the high-tech world of computers, cell phones, video games and social networking sites. Guidelines and other tools are provided to help assure online safety. The kit is a DVD, which includes a planning guide, teaching plans with schedule options, handouts and a slide presentation. It is Mac and PC compatible.

Paul O'Briant, creator of this kit, worked as the chief information officer in the Currituck County Public School District. As an active church member, he has combined his love for God's people and his passion for new technologies into the work of CyberSafety for churches. You can purchase this kit through Cokesbury stores or at www.cokesbury.com, or you may check out a copy from our Conference Resource Center. Contact Carol Roszell at 817-877-5222 or carol@ctcumc.org. For further information about any aspect of Safe Sanctuaries, contact Karen Granderson, karen@ctcumc.org.

A Place for All: Faith and Community for People with Disabilities

This notice comes from Discipleship Ministries Division of the General Board of Discipleship: *A Place for All* will be broadcast nationwide over the next two weeks. You can link to broadcast times, and view a trailer at <http://www.interfaithbroadcasting.com/onair.aspx?PID=327>. Please let your congregations know about this important resource.

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>.

2010 Thanksgiving Offering and Bible Study on Hunger

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. We also introduce to you a two-week Bible study as an accompaniment to the offering. *Hunger, The Enemy at the Table, A Bible Study on Hunger* was developed by CTC Task Force on Hunger chairperson Rev. Lana Bradley, and will provide your groups with important information about hunger and our call as Christians to respond. For more information about the Thanksgiving Offering and the accompanying Bible Study, please visit the Task Force on Hunger webpage under the Ministries area of the conference website at www.ctcumc.org or <http://ctcumc.org/pages/detail/902>.

Evangelism Training for Your Church

From Brad Brittain: The Conference Evangelism Task Force is ready and willing to come to your church to motivate your people to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The training is not really a "program." We do not bring fancy handouts or come with a "cookie cutter" evangelism program. We realize that each church is different with different challenges and opportunities. A big part of our training involves taking a look at the ministries of each particular church and tying those to making invitations to families in your community. We believe that before we can make honest invitations for people to come to our churches, our churches must be involved in meaningful ministries. We ask the following question at each church: "Would you send your church newsletter to Jesus? Would Jesus approve of what your church is doing in building the kingdom of God? The training event lasts approximately 2 hours and is done in such a way that it is entertaining and fun for those involved. By the end of the session, the church will have a general idea of where it is in regards to being an invitational church, as well as ways it can creatively engage people in the life of the church. This program is first and foremost about evangelism, but we have found that church transformation is a byproduct of the evangelism. Joel Robbins (pastor at Ovilla UMC) and Brad Brittain (pastor at Mexia First) enjoy conducting the events and would love to come to your church! We are committing our Thursday evenings to provide this training for local churches and/or clusters of churches in your area. To schedule a time, please contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org.

Critical Need for Men's Coats

In preparation for winter, First Street Methodist Mission at Fort Worth First UMC began its annual distribution of coats to homeless neighbors on Tuesday. Over 200 homeless lined up early in hopes of getting a coat, but more than half left without a coat. First UMC and the Metropolitan Board of Missions are asking for donations. If you have extra coats the Mission needs them! **They are especially in need of Men's Large, Extra Large and greater size coats.** These sizes are the best fit for most of the homeless men who get help at our mission. Donations can be

brought to the west door of the mission Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Anyone who has a coat to contribute may also leave it with the Metro Board office.

“Can We Talk” Conference — Nov. 19-20

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe and the North Texas Conference extend an invitation to attend the 3rd Annual “Can We Talk” Conference. The goal of the CWT Conference is to educate, equip and empower the African American church leadership to facilitate the revitalization of African American UMCs. St. Paul UMC in Dallas will host the event from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19-20. Registration: \$50 (Includes Meals). For details, check the NTC website at www.ntcumc.org.

Emerging Christianity — Dec. 2-4

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

The Basics of Archives Workshop — Dec. 10

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

Desert Streams Retreat — Jan 6-8

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

News Briefs — The Denomination

Bishops Urged to Embrace Change

UM bishops need to transcend the status quo and abandon church structures and practices that are not working, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster said Nov. 2 in his presidential address to the Council of Bishops. “By our decisions and actions this week in Panama, we will either lean into the future or content ourselves with more of the same,” Goodpaster told the crowd of more than 80 active and retired bishops from around the global church. “Many of us are convinced that what we have in place will work if we try harder, give more or change a few of the players. That’s a recipe for further decline.”

On Nov. 3-4, the council discussed the recommendations in the Call to Action Steering Team report, which recommends widespread reforms in the church from consolidating general church agencies to holding bishops and clergy accountable for church growth. Some of the suggested changes require legislation at General Conference, the church’s top lawmaking body, which will

next meet in 2012. But bishops can begin now by leading the charge in helping the church discern a better future, Goodpaster said.

Worship Attendance Decline Illuminating

Churchgoers are a good-humored group, a resilient demographic, Ray Waddle writes in *The Tennessean*. They put up with much. Today, though, worship attendance faces new tests, threatening decades of stable religious observance. Read his full story at <http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/201011060210/COLUMNIST0126/11060304>.

Ethnic Young Adult Summer Internship

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

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

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

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

Court Upholds Pastor's Right to Accept Members

A UM pastor has the right to determine local church membership, even if the decision is based on whether the potential member is gay or lesbian. Annual conferences cannot limit that right or ask the church's top court to set policy, the UM Judicial Council ruled during its Oct. 27-30 meeting. "The General Conference is the only body authorized and able to resolve the issue for the Church," wrote Jon R. Gray in a concurring opinion on one of the October cases. The General Conference is the denomination's top legislative body and meets every four years. The council declined several requests to revisit a decision allowing a pastor to bar a gay man from joining his congregation. In one case, the denomination's top court ruled that the Northern Illinois Annual Conference did not have the authority to interpret constitutional language to prohibit pastors from denying membership based on a person's sexual identity. Read the full story at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=5723451&ct=8854503&no toc=1>.

Congo Bishop to Receive Peace Award

UM Bishop Nkulu Ntanda Ntamba of the Democratic Republic of Congo and an occasional visitor in the Central Texas Conference, will receive the 2010 Peacemaker in Action award from the Tanenbaum organization during a Nov. 11 reception in New York. He also will speak about his efforts to build sustainable peace in his country's Katanga province. The bishop has helped reduce the recruitment of child soldiers by organizing care for street children, assisted internally displaced persons, created an agricultural training center and built brick churches (many funded by CTC congregations) as a physical sign of permanence and commitment. Tanenbaum is a secular organization that promotes interreligious understanding.

Military Chaplains Ask If Church Cares

Women and men have answered the call to ordained ministry in the UMC, and have further answered the call to serve as military chaplains, to care as shepherds for military personnel in sometimes very difficult places. Yet many chaplains share stories of going home for annual conference and having people remark that it was probably time for them to come home and do "real" ministry, writes the Rev. Randolph Cross in a commentary. Read the full story at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1LtH&b=5259669&ct=8855017&tr=y&auid=7329786>.

Adam Hamilton Films Onsite Study on Birth of Christ

Adam Hamilton, author of the best selling *24 Hours that Changed the World* and pastor of UMC of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., is working with archaeologist Avner Goren to retrace the story of the annunciation and birth of Jesus, starting at Nazareth and then traveling through the hill country of Judea to Bethlehem. In Israel, Hamilton is filming an on-site study and developing material for an Advent 2011 project, a follow-up to *24 Hours*. Goren, known for his role in Bruce Feiler's PBS *Walking the Bible* series in 2005, is an experienced Israel archaeologist. Hamilton will spend nine days in the Holy Land with Goren and archaeologists from Bethlehem Bible College retracing the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. To capture what the journey was like, Hamilton and team will interview shepherds who still keep watch over flocks on the hillsides of Bethlehem and visit first century homes and ancient stretches of the Roman Road that Mary and Joseph likely walked. The team's trip will end with a three-day backpack hike of the "Jesus Trail" along the mountainside and lakeshore in Galilee.

Taking Health & Wellness to the Community — This Evening

The Health and Wellness Committee of First UMC Waxahachie has teamed up with H.O.P.E. Clinic of Waxahachie to offer flu shots at a cost of \$15. Shots will be available from 6-8 p.m. in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. No appointment necessary.

Rethink Church Advent Resources

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

2011 Interpreter Enrollment

Your congregation is eligible to receive 10 complementary subscriptions for leaders (5 print, 5 digital) to *Interpreter* magazine for church leaders. To enroll online for 2011, visit www.umcom.org/subscriptions. You will need your church customer number and password. If you have questions, please contact customer service at 888-346-3862. Please remember to order additional, discounted subscriptions for new and returning leaders at enrollment time.

SOSA Christmas Projects

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

United Methodist Student Day —Nov. 28

Music as ministry of healing: Nearly every one of us can recall a song that made us stop for a minute and listen with a smile. **United Methodist Student Day** scholarship recipient Maria Payne considers it her calling to create those moments for the people who need them the most. Growing up in a family of five in Aberdeen, Md., Maria was active in Grace UMC. Behind the walls of Grace, her interest in music began as she played guitar and piano for her church. "I might have never gotten involved in music without my church," she commented. That early interest in music

followed Maria to college. She did not want to play solely for entertainment. Maria sought to use her music to serve others. Then she learned about Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. A UM-affiliated school, Shenandoah offers a music therapy program. "Music therapy," Maria noted, "is using music to inspire a positive response from persons with a particular need. Most therapists specialize in helping the elderly, the sick, and the physically or developmentally handicapped. Music can lower stress, raise spirits or encourage action." When Maria was applying to college, her mother knew what to do, having sent two children to college. She told her daughter to apply for a scholarship through the UM General Board of Higher Education & Ministry. Sure enough, Maria received support from the UMC to help her pay for college, something for which she is grateful. "College is really expensive. It's wonderful that the church supports good kids who want to do well in life," said Maria.

When we UMs support UM Student Day, we open the door for persons like Maria and minister to the people she will touch. Call 888-346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this church-wide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! You can also place an order for the 2011 Special Sunday materials! Find more at <http://www.umcgiving.org/specialsundays>.

2011 Congress on Evangelism — Jan. 4-7

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

Sexual Ethics Summit — Jan. 26-29

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

2011 Winter Pastors' School — Feb. 10-12

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

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

St. Stephen Featured in Latest Interpreter Magazine

St. Stephen UMC in Arlington is named in the November-December 2010 issue of *Interpreter*, the official ministry magazine of the UMC. A short story features the 90-day journey through the New Testament that many congregants are taking in the last months of 2010. View the story online at <http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=14299>. Other stories of interest in

this issue include how do you deal with the supernatural in the Christmas story (a question raised in "The Nativity: Evoking Wonder"), a ministry to soldiers and families, and resources for Advent.

First Mansfield Wins Award for Production

The winners of the 2010 WFX Solomon Awards were recently announced at the Worship Facilities Conference & Expo <http://www.wfxweb.com/>. The Solomon Awards, presented by *Church Production Magazine* and *Worship Facilities Magazine*, provides churches across the nation with recognition for their excellence in facilities design, operation, use, and A/V production. First UMC Mansfield was awarded "Most Innovative Production" for visual worship for their production of "First Family Christmas" in December 2009.

Breaking Bread & Barriers at Acton UMC — Nov. 18

Acton UMC is sponsoring a Breaking Bread and Barriers pot-luck dinner, "Conversations about Immigration," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov 18, in Granbury. Learning about each other and sharing our stories is a step towards loving our neighbor as Jesus told us to do. Come to listen or to share, with food, music and stories about immigration to our country. Our goal is for people of faith to listen, learn and pray together — in English and in Spanish — to bring a Christian perspective to an issue so dividing our country politically. Amy Spaur with Justice for Our Neighbors will share some stories and participants are invited to bring art, music or written words to describe what immigration issues have meant personally. The event is open to anyone interested in learning more about the truth of immigration in our country and willing to pray for each other. Please bring a dish to share and children are welcome! Questions? Contact Rebecca Lucas @ 817-578-4156 or lucasfam09@gmail.com.

Tamales for Sale — Order by Nov. 19

The Diamond Hill UMC kid's soccer team, "The Diamontes," are selling homemade tamales as a fundraiser. \$10 per dozen of pork or chicken, spicy or not spicy. Deadline to order: Nov. 19. Pick up orders at Diamond Hill UMC (3005 Oscar Ave., Fort Worth 76106) on Wednesday, Nov. 24. To order, contact Pastor Osvaldo Benitez at benitezosvaldo@hotmail.com or 817-626-0620.

Students Seek Help for Mission Trip

The Christian Medical Association at the University of North Texas Health Science Center is looking for donations to help them with their Spring Break Mission Trip. Every year over 100 medical students and their families go on a mission trip to Latin America during their spring break. During the trip they provide free medical care to anyone who comes during the trip, including well child checkups. They are asking for any financial help that your church can afford, as well as donations of over the counter medications with a strong emphasis on children's vitamins. If you have any questions, or would like to help, please contact Robert Mitchell (member at University UMC, Fort Worth) at romitche@live.unthsc.edu.

Organizing Pro Helps Simplify Your Holidays — Nov. 11

Are you looking for a way to simplify the most stressful time of the year? Feeling like it's impossible to keep up with all the demands of this hectic season? First UMC Grapevine (422 Church St.) invites women to gather at The Well at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11. Guest speaker Marcia Ramsland, an organizing pro, will help "Simplify Your Holidays." She will cover how to prepare our hearts and homes for the holidays and turn seasonal stress into organizational success; easier ways to handle gift lists and decorating; finding time to get it all done; and how to enjoy your holidays from start to finish. Tickets are \$15 including a catered meal and program and are available online at www.firstmethodistgrapevine.org or in the church office.

Holly Daze Bazaar — Nov. 13

Arlington Heights UMC (4200 Camp Bowie, Fort Worth)
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. The Chancel Choir of the Arlington Heights UMC will sponsor the Holly Daze Bazaar, benefiting the church's music ministry. For the past 15 years this Bazaar has been bringing many unusual and unique gift items for the holiday shopper. Over 40 crafters from around the state will be showcasing beautiful one-of-a-kind items including wood

carvings, candles, Christmas decorations, jewelry, gourd birdhouses, beaded crosses, purses, handmade greeting cards and much more! Homemade breakfast, snacks and lunch will be available. Admission is free. For more information, call Lois at 817-244-1547.

First UMC Glen Rose Celebrates 125th Anniversary — Nov. 20

First UMC Glen Rose (located off the Square at Pecan and Vernon) will be celebrating their 125th anniversary with festivities beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 20. There will be an opening of a time capsule followed by a historical video presentation, lunch, musical revue and release of balloons. Sunday worship begins at 10 a.m. with Bishop Mike Lowry delivering the message and confirmation. For more details, visit www.glenroseumc.org or call 254-897-2572.

FirstADVENTure Family Event / Las Posadas — Nov. 21

First UMC of Hurst (521 W Pipeline Rd., Hurst 76053) hosts annually First ADVENTure, a family event celebrating the start of Advent. This year's event will celebrate Las Posadas (Spanish for lodging or inns), which is an annual tradition for many Mexicans and some other Latin Americans symbolizing the trials Mary and Joseph endured before finding a place to stay where Jesus could be born. Based on Luke 2:1-9. The children are the pilgrims (*peregrinos*) who have to request lodging by going "house" to "house." All the pilgrims carry small battery-operated candles in their hands, and four people carry small statues of Joseph leading a donkey, on which Mary is riding. At each house, the resident responds by refusing lodging, until the weary travelers reach the inn (which will be the FUMC Hurst Fellowship Hall), where Mary and Joseph are allowed to enter. Once in the "inn," there will be a celebration with crafts and refreshments. The children will create their own colorful piñatas, beautiful poinsettias, Nacimiento (nativity scene), and even bunuelos to eat. For families who have not yet made an Advent wreath, supplies and directions will be available. All families are welcome at this fun event! For details, call 817-282-7384, or go to www.fumchurst.org.

Free Workshop on ProPresenter & ProVideoPlayer — Dec. 6

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

Depression Connection: Understanding, Help and Hope

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

Career Transition Support Group at First Hurst

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

Save This Date — March 26, 2011

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

Resources

Helpful Links for Church Leaders

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

UMNS on Facebook:

(<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=iflTKWNrGalKL3K&s=chKUK5NBKbLQI5OKKsG&m=edKIWP rHgIWF>)

UMNS on Twitter:

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

Church Demographics

Church Growth & Development offers a new demographics program for churches. Check it out (and register, if interested) at <http://www.missioninsite.com/>. If you have questions, contact Vicki Eldridge at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or Vicki@ctcumc.org.

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

Mental Health Facts from the Depression Connection Team: The World Health Organization has reported that four of the 10 leading causes of disability in the U.S. and other developed countries are mental disorders. By 2020, major depressive illness will be the leading cause of disability in the world for women and children. Most people diagnosed with a serious mental illness can experience relief from their symptoms by actively participating in an individual treatment plan. With no cost to your church, the CTC Committee on Mental Health Concerns and Depression Connection Team will provide a seminar for your church. To inquire, contact Tony Campbell at 817-810-9599 or tony@depressionconnection.org.

Conference Resource Center

New resources highlighted at the Conference Resource Center this week are described below. There are always new resources; check them out! For these and more resources, contact Carol Roszell at 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622. Featured this week are books, study guides and A/Vs on mental health.

CyberSafety for Families. Paul O'Briant; GBOD. This training DVD kit provides everything needed for training parents and other concerned adults about ways to keep children and teens safe online. Subjects covered include safety in the high tech world of computers, cell

phones, video games and social networking sites. Includes pdf planning guide, teaching plans, and handouts. Mac and PC compatible

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.

Nursery Worker

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

Director of Camping & Outdoor Ministries

The West Virginia Annual Conference seeks a director of camping and outdoor ministries to lead the conference forward by taking current programs and properties to a new level of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The WVC envisions all persons on a journey of Christ-like holiness. People on this journey encounter God the Creator, live as Christ's disciples and experience Christian community in the fullness of creation. WVC seeks a leader to design, market, staff and direct our camping programs while expanding these ministries in the outdoors to a new appreciation of nature and a renewal of the church in an ever-changing world. Spring Heights, a 1000-acre conference site, is at the heart of this opportunity. Compensation includes salary, health insurance, pension, continuing education and travel expenses. Interested applicants should send a letter detailing interest and experience with a resume and three references to the Office of Connectional Ministries, P. O. Box 2313, Charleston, WV 25328 or electronically to wvconfmin@aol.com by Nov. 17. Call Dr. J. F. Lacia at 800-788-3746, ext. 27 for further information.

Director of Family Ministries

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

Playground Equipment

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

Director of Student Ministries

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

Assistant Minister/Focus on Youth Ministry

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

ESL Teacher

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

Director of Children's Ministry

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

Childcare Worker

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

P-T Choir Director

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

2 Conference Center Positions:

Benefits Administrator — Administer for the day-to-day operations of the 3 major benefit programs: HealthFlex, Retirement and Flex-spending. Requirements include a servant's heart to help people with benefit issues; knowledge of the UMC; excellent computer skills in Microsoft Office; knowledge of UM Pension Plan design and Health Insurance Plan is a plus / or must have a strong willingness and aptitude to learn plan designs; excellent interpersonal skills; strong

organizational skills; ability to work on concurrent projects; stay current with benefit regulations and trends. Mandatory attendance at national UMC benefits meetings. Submit resume by Nov. 15 to Harvey Ozmer at harvey@ctcumc.org.

Benefits Assistant — Assist in the day-to-day operations of the 3 major benefit programs (HealthFlex, Retirement and Flex-spending) while serving as front desk greeter of the Conference Center. Requirements include superior communication skills; good math skills; customer service focused, self-starter, and detail oriented; work with minimal supervision and perform thorough follow-up; excellent computer skills in Microsoft Office; familiarity with databases including the ability to do accurate data entry, data search, and report generation; knowledge of the UMC. Submit resume by Nov. 15 to Harvey Ozmer at harvey@ctcumc.org.

GBHEM Position: Director of Student Ministries

The General Board of Higher Education & Ministry of the UMC seeks candidates to fill the position of Director of Student Ministries, Vocation & Enlistment, a position that has cross-divisional responsibilities within the Division of Higher Education and the Division of Ordained Ministry. The search team is actively seeking a pool of qualified candidates who would be representative of the church. GBHEM requests nominations and assistance in bringing this position to the attention of persons who might be interested in applying for the position. For a position profile, contact hr@gbhem.org or see http://www.gbhem.org/site/c.lsKSL3POLvF/b.3879831/k.677C/Employment_Opportunities.htm. To apply, send a letter indicating how your experience, training, gifts and skills equip you for this work. Include a resume and the names of 3 persons familiar with your ministry and sent to hr@gbhem.org or GBHEM Human Resources, C/O Student Ministry Recruitment, P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007.

Youth Ministry

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

Donated Glass Communion Cups

Killeen First UMC is in need of glass communion cups and is asking for donations from other Methodist churches throughout the CTC. The church will be moving from its 100-year-old location in downtown Killeen to their new facility in south Killeen next spring. Lay leaders at the church will give away the communion cups to church members who attend the last worship service at the current location, to be held in mid-December. The church is in possession of nearly 200 glass communion cups, but needs approximately 300 more to accommodate the number of expected worshipers. If you are interested in donating communion cups to FUMC Killeen, please contact Marian Little at 254-289-9860 or deltdad@dishmail.net. You can also contact the church office at 254-634-6363.

Church Pianist Available

Janice Whorley seeks a position as church pianist. She previously served as pianist and youth choir director at FUMC Bedford and pianist at Fellowship Methodist in Trophy Club. Most recently, she lived in Amarillo after inheriting the family home and served as pianist and choral director at Temple Baptist Church there and as accompanist and assistant choral director of West Amarillo Chorale. Qualifications: Bachelor of Music degree with choral emphasis, Texas certified teacher presently employed by Fort Worth ISD as orchestra director of Arlington Heights High School and Monnig Middle School; excellent sight reader; play by chord chart and by ear; enjoy praise and worship music, as well as traditional; available to help your choral director with sectionals and/or youth choir. Contact: jankath@yahoo.com or 469-323-8699 after 1:30 p.m weekdays or all day Saturday. Resume and references available on request.

Nursery Worker

First UMC of Grandview seeks applicants for a part-time nursery worker position during worship, which requires a love of children and residence in the Grandview area. Please send resume to

office@gvmethodist.org.

Part-time Choir Director

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

Preschool Director

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

Director of Music Ministries

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

Youth Ministry Worship Leader

First UMC of Fort Worth seeks to hire a part time worship leader for its Youth Ministry. Responsibilities include leading youth worship on Sunday mornings with the youth band, holding weekly practices, and managing the stage and equipment. Additional responsibilities may include special events, going on trips, etc. If you are interested, please send your resume to bfrenzel@myfumc.org or to Brandon Frenzel, First UMC Fort Worth, 800 W. 5th St. Fort Worth 76102.

Organist

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

If you know someone in your church, district or even outside the Central Texas Conference who might appreciate receiving this weekly electronic newsletter — or to unsubscribe your own listing — please contact Susan Briles at Susan@ctcumc.org.