



Central E-Link

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

November 3, 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

CTC Is a Beacon of Hope

From CTC Treasurer Harvey Ozmer: 2010 has seen HOPE grow brighter as the months have moved forward. Our conference churches reflected the same anxiety about finances as our nation is facing economic uncertainty. Although our conference apportionment receipts are nominally behind our historic levels for this month of the year, we are ahead of last year's pace. I want to thank the one-third of our local churches that have already fulfilled their connectional giving commitment in full for 2010. These 96 churches are leading the way. I believe that all our conference churches will make HOPE SHINE BRIGHTER as:

- Our focus remains on God's kingdom rather than ourselves
- We seek to participate in the United Methodist Church's Four Focus Areas

Council of Bishops Meeting Nov. 2-6 in Panama

Bishop Mike Lowry is among the more than 87 UM bishops from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. gathering in Panama City, Panama, for the semi-annual Council of Bishops meeting followed by a meeting of the Conference of Methodist Bishops and Presidents Nov. 7-9 and CIEMAL on Nov. 10. □ Highlights of the Council of Bishops meeting include the report and recommendations of the Call to Action steering committee and updates on the Four Areas of Focus. They provide the leadership that helps set the direction of the 11.5 million-member church and its mission throughout the world. — *Excerpts from UM Communications*

A Few Details About the Called Session — Nov. 13

The called session for the CTC Annual Conference starts at 10 a.m. 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.

A Message & Request From GBOD on Bullying

BULLYING is a serious issue in our world. As a society, we tend to be reactive, whether than proactive. Scripture and our General Rules tell us that this type of behavior is not acceptable in

Christian community, but how are we equipping the children in our congregations to deal with it in real life? How do we address bullying in the context of our Christian identity so that everyone understands the deep scars that bullying leaves on children. One congregation in the Holston Annual Conference has addressed this through their commitment to covenant discipleship groups. Their story will be shared so that other congregations can benefit from their experience. Do you have a story to share? If so, please email Melanie Gordon mgordon@gbod.org, and all stories will be compiled into an online resource for all congregations.

CTC NOTE: Some resources that address bullying are already on the conference's Children's Ministry page at www.ctcumc.org. More will be added as they are available. Please contact Karen Granderson at Karen@ctcumc.org, 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622 if you have resources or information to share or if you would like to address this issue in greater depth.

Mission Site Reaches Hundreds of Thousands

10-Fold, a 10-day ministry plan that was promoted in this E-Link, accomplished its purpose more than 40,000-fold, according to a follow up by the GBGM. The innovative online site attracted more than 417,000 people from 92 countries during a recent 10-day period featuring live webcasts about UM mission projects throughout the world. People could help just by clicking the link of a particular project and becoming advocates. For each click, various church groups donated \$1 to the selected project, up to \$10,000. More than 43,000 advocates were counted. An additional \$30,000 was raised online for projects related to 10-Fold. Read more at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1LtH&b=5259669&ct=8852655&tr=y&auid=7284227>.

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

The General Church is looking for UM individuals and churches involved in time banks. "At its most basic level, Time Banking is simply about spending an hour doing something for somebody in your community. That hour goes into the Time Bank as a Time Dollar. Then you have a Time dollar to spend on having someone doing something for you. It's a simple idea, but it has powerful ripple effects in building community connections." If you have an experience to share, please contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org.

Remembering at Grand Celebration

Photos from the Centennial Celebration last Saturday are posted on the Conference Media Library for anyone to see and download for their church or personal use. The current images show activities and speakers, but later additions will be some remarkable local church and ministry display tables. The volunteer photographer is Dick Voss of Hurst First UMC. Other photographers are welcome to add their photos or videos to the Media Library.

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!

Subscribe to the Bishop's Blog!

Bishop Mike Lowry has started a new blog site at www.bishopmikelowry.com. Those who are interested can subscribe via email to receive the latest writings from the bishop by visiting this new site, clicking on "subscribe" at the top of the page, and then following the instructions to supply your email address. You may also see the latest updates on Facebook by "friending" the bishop at www.facebook.com/bishopmikelowry.

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.

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.

Discipleship: Connecting People to the Body of Christ — Nov. 6

Sponsors for this training event for pastors, leadership teams, laity, youth and seminarians are the Black Church Consultation and the CTC Urban Ministries Saturday, Nov. 6, at St. Andrews UMC (522 Missouri Ave., Fort Worth 76104. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with opening worship at 8:30 a.m. and the program at 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Kennedy Jones, senior pastor at Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church, is the plenary leader and workshops will focus on connecting Through a Clear Sense of Mission, Through Small Groups, and Through Ministry with Children and Youth. For more details, visit the conference website at www.ctcumc.org under "Ministries" and then "Urban Ministries" or contact Carol Gibson at 817-336-2117.

"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.

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

Ecumenical Leaders Hold Pre-election Meeting with Obama

On the eve of the mid-term election and in celebration of 100 years of U.S. Christian cooperation across denominational lines, prominent church leaders met with President Obama to speak for the millions of Americans struggling to find jobs, make their next rent or mortgage payment, and put food on the table. During the Nov. 1 meeting, leaders with both the National Council of Churches and the global humanitarian agency Church World Service thanked the president for passage of historic health reform legislation and robust engagement with the faith community, while also pressing him to take a strong stance on behalf of families facing poverty and hunger. UMs in the delegation were the Rev. John McCullough of Church World Service and Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, the denomination's ecumenical officer. Read the full story at <http://www.nccusa.org/news/101101obamameeting.html?tr=y&auid=7284221>.

Living Simply, Giving Generously

Billionaires Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett recently pledged to donate most of their wealth to charity. Kim Riemland introduces us to a middle class couple that is proving generosity is possible even on a budget. Watch this video clip at <http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=IwL4KnN1Lth&b=2022489&ct=8740143> and see what others are saying about connectional giving through the UMGiving Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/umcgiving>.

Inner-City Church Uses Scare Tactics

The economy is giving a lot of people nightmares lately, but for many in the Motor City, hard times are nothing new. In a Detroit neighborhood that can be scarier than any movie, where two out of three families are facing foreclosure, an inner-city church has decided to use scare tactics, of a different kind, to raise funds to help those dealing with real-life traumas. Watch this video clip at http://umtv.org/archives/church_haunted_house.htm?tr=y&auid=7271874.

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.

Small Church Leadership — Nov. 14-18

Small Church Leadership Institute, Nov. 14-18, Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center, Fayetteville, Ark. Topics included are Strengthening Passionate Worship, The Future of the Church, Celebration of Sacraments, Worship Design, & 21st Century Liturgy. Leaders include Dean McIntyre, Director, Music Resources; Safiyah Fosua, Director of Invitational Preaching Ministries; Taylor Burton-Edwards, Director of Worship Resources. A limited number of \$100 scholarships. Additional Summit with Diana Northcutt for conference staff, conferences chairs of Small Church Commissions, and DS's. For information and registration go to the Mount Sequoyah website at <http://www.mountsequoyah.org>.

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>.

Emerging Christianity — Dec. 3-4

Emerging Christianity offers new ways of thinking, being and following Christ Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4 at Texas Christian University's Brown-Lupton University Union (2901 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth). Also available is the preconference workshops Dec. 2 and 3 on Social Media Bootcamp (for church leadership) and Will There Ever Be Youth Ministry in the Emerging Church? (for youth ministers and lay leadership). For more details and registration, visit www.lifeinthetrinityministry.com.

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

Taste of Chocolate Benefits United Community Centers — Nov. 4

United Community Centers cordially invites you to a deliciously unique tasting of appetizers, chocolate delicacies, desserts, and drinks from local chocolatiers and restaurants at UCC's Wild About Chocolate, One Sweet Fundraiser on Thursday, Nov. 4. It is from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lobby of Chesapeake Energy Corporation (100 Energy Way, Fort Worth 76102). Join UCC, presenting sponsor Chesapeake Energy Corporation, entertainers Mondo Drummers, and special guests from the Fort Worth Zoo's Wild Wonders Outreach Program at this event. Tickets are \$50. To make reservations, please contact Susie Reyes at 817-927-5556, x115 or at sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org.

Hymn Festival at FUMC Hurst — Nov. 7

Join the Music Ministry of FUMC Hurst for "Our Singing Faith: Hymns from the Church Year," featuring organist Robert MacDonald, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7. Admission is free; child care will be provided. Hurst's Music Ministry will be joined by several area church choirs for an evening of great congregational singing. MacDonald has served as organist/choirmaster for First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth, the Riverside Church of New York City, and staff organist for the Radio City Music Hall. FUMC Hurst is located at 521 W Pipeline Rd., Hurst 76053. For details, contact the church at 817-282-7384, or go to www.fumchurst.org.

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.

Glen Rose Celebrates 125th Anniversary — Nov. 20-21

FUMC Glen Rose is celebrating 125 year of service to God, shaping past and present into God's Future on Nov. 20 and 21. For more details, contact Sharon Sundby at 254-898-1716.

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.

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=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>)

EI' 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.

In His Service: A Guide to Christian Living in the Military. The military isn't just a profession; it's a way of life. Sometimes an all-consuming way of life. So how does a Christian, who is called to live whole-heartedly for God, mesh life in Christ with life in the military? The author draws from his 30 years of military experience to provide a detailed overview of life in the military, life as a Christian, and, most important, how the two fit together. You can serve God and your country. 212 pg.

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.

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 UM 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.IsKSL3POLvF/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 worshippers. 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 revlsm@aol.com or mail to FUMC – Cisco, 405 W. 8th Street, Cisco 76437.

Preschool Director

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

Sales Associate

The Fort Worth Cokesbury bookstore has an opening for a sales associate — 15 hours/week. Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 12 noon to 5 p.m.; 2 to 3 Saturdays a month from 11 a.m. p 3 p.m. Position is 5 hours a day so all days will not be worked during the week. Description: work on sales floor and phone helping customers, shelving books job requires prolonged standing, walking, occasional lifting, operating the cash register and special orders.

Youth Minister

Wellspring UMC, located just 25 minutes south of Temple and 30 minutes north of Austin, seeks a part-time youth minister. Applicants should be able to work with an established youth program and continue to build it. The position is part-time working with 10-20 youth for Sunday morning Sunday school and Sunday evening MYF. Mission trips and other activities are also a requirement. This position will also assist in leading the Sunday Morning Contemporary Worship Service and prepare youth for worship leadership. Spiritual maturity and a willingness to grow is a must. If you are interested, please submit your resume to admin@wellumc.org. The church is located at 6200 Williams Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628.

Youth Director

China Spring UMC seeks a youth director. Anyone who would be interested in more information, please call 254-836-1107.

Volunteers Needed

Tarrant County Restorative Justice Center is in need of volunteers for occasional office support, sort and organize clothes and day-to-day operations. Also needed is clerical support for the upcoming L. Clifford Davis Program (graphic designs, prepare flyers, mail outs, draft letters for signature, etc.). If available, please contact Penny Yaites at 817-719-5978 or at 817-616-3100. Adults and youth opportunities available. Some items can be completed at your home.

Director of Student Ministries

University UMC, Fort Worth, seeks a half-time director of student ministries. Responsibilities include providing for the spiritual formation of students in 6-12 grades, including mid-week and Sunday activities, an annual mission trip, and the coordination of a midweek outreach ministry to Paschal High School. Applicants should be passionate about sharing the Gospel with students and have strong organizational skills. Experience in student ministry preferred. Resumes should be submitted to: jhamilton@universityumc.net.

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.