



Central E-Link

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

November 4, 2009

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles/requests should be submitted to Carolyn@ctcumc.org by **12 noon Tuesday** in order to be e-mailed on Wednesday. Articles should be brief and include active links to websites or contact persons for details. Use this information for ministry planning, announcements, church newsletters and/or bulletins. 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

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For worldwide news of our denomination click here! www.umportal.org

News Briefs — The Conference

BREAKING NEWS: 1/3 of Churches Registered for Fall Leadership Summit

As of today, 118 churches (with a total of 825 church leaders) are registered for the Fall Leadership Summit Nov. 14 at First UMC, Mansfield. That number represents more than half of Bishop Lowry's goal of 200 churches represented at an event that's intended to help churches become fruitful congregations. Speaker Bishop Robert Schnase will be taking his *Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations* to the next level of engagement.

But due to the large numbers, and more expected by registration end, the agenda must be modified to EXCLUDE the breakout discussion groups on each of the "five fruitful practice" areas. Instead, the conference Web site will carry a blog site for each of those areas beginning Saturday, Nov. 14. Some of the "best practices" presenters for the breakouts will share their ideas and invite others to share their successes or ask questions. These will be open forums, so anyone may participate in one or more of the dialogues.

Transparency Is High Priority for Alignment Task Force

As the Alignment Task Force begins its work, members set as a priority regular communication with churches and conference members. They are charged with examining the conference alignment of resources and the organization of the Annual Conference and districts to ensure faithfulness and fruitfulness in ministry that we might make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Their purpose is not to strengthen or restructure what we have, but to create something new.

So that all may follow their process and share in the excitement of the developing a new way of doing ministry — a system that focuses on energizing and equipping local churches — a blog site has been set up on the conference Web site (www.ctcumc.org). Pat Stroman and Rev. Mike Ramsdell will be doing the updates each time the group meets and to reveal new research findings.

Appointment Changes

Bishop Mike Lowry and the Cabinet announce the following clergy appointment changes:

- **Cathy Bourgoin** (elder) — from retired status to surrender of credentials, effective Oct. 7.
- **John Lukert** (elder) — from retired status for surrender of credentials, effective Oct. 23.

Central Texas Conference Youth in Mission – Group Registration

CTCYM 2010 information brochures were mailed recently to youth directors and/or pastors of all CTC churches. Please be on the lookout for them! Group registration forms are in the back of the brochure. They are due in the conference office with \$100 registration fee by Dec. 10 (or by Jan. 7 with an additional \$50 late fee). For more information, visit www.ctcym.org.

CTC Churches Mentioned in Last Week's *UM Reporter*

Oops! Several Central Texas Conference churches were mentioned in the Oct. 30 issue of the *UM Reporter* for their response to the plight of AIDS orphans. It is a good story by Donald Messer that's worth your time to read, but please be assured that First UM churches of Grapevine, Arlington, Keller and Stephenville are STILL in the CTC and not the Texas Conference as the article reads.

First Arlington Gets Plug in Sunday *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

"Save some money, and maybe your soul" read the opening line of a story in last Sunday's *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* about First UMC, Arlington's alternative parking outreach program. Their \$25 parking with free shuttle, a hot dog and bottle of water is part of the Cowboy game day project that, according to happy users, beats the Cowboy Stadium \$70 parking fee. One church member calls it a way of saying "welcome" while another says it's "radical hospitality" as in Bishop Robert Schnase's *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Enjoy reading the full story at <http://www.star-telegram.com/religion/story/1725382.html>.

Suicide Survivors – Open Enrollment

Suicide Survivors is a grief recovery program for family members and friends who have lost a loved one to suicide. A new group will begin in January 2010. Groups of eight to 10 meet for two hours weekly for eight weeks. A mental health professional and a trained survivor facilitate group meetings. There is no charge for this service. For more information call 817-698-9955 or e-mail suicidesurvivors@myfumc.org.

Crime Victims Council Promotes 2 Events:

The North Texas Region Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will conduct a candlelight vigil of remembrance and hope at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Lecture Hall (3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Fort Worth 76107).

Hope for the Holidays is a different kind of worship experience at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Arborlawn UMC (5001 Briarhaven Road, Fort Worth). There will be beautiful music, stories of comfort, hope, inspiration and prayer. For more details, contact the church at 817-731-0701 or office@arborlawnumc.org.

New Opportunities to Support ZOE Ministry

ZOE Ministry, a UM ministry serving vulnerable children in several African nations, recently announced two new opportunities for congregations to empower groups of orphans. One project is ZOE's Hope For Christmas Animal Project, which allows individuals or groups to provide animals to be raised by young people in ZOE's program. Animals are often a first step in transforming the lives of orphans and by giving through ZOE; you can directly impact a child's ability to become self-sufficient. See details at http://www.zoeministry.org/?page_id=2766. A second exciting opportunity is ZOE's Hope Companion Program, which allows your congregation to provide financial support to empower orphans and child-led families throughout their Giving Hope Empowerment Project journey. Giving Hope equips orphans and child-led families with essential life skills such as mentoring, vocational training, income-generating activities, training in animal husbandry and farming, and HIV/AIDS education. Through the Hope Companion Program, you can choose various levels of support for a specific working group or community, during which you will have the opportunity to build meaningful relationships in that particular area. Details at <http://www.zoeministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Hope-Companions-Overview.pdf>.

Insurance Enrollment Period – Nov. 4-19

Nov. 4 – 19, 2009 is the 2010 HealthFlex and AFLAC Cafeteria Plan open enrollment period. NO LATE

ENROLLMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED! 2010 enrollment information available at www.ctcumc.org. Questions? Contact Shawn-Marie Riley, conference benefits administrator, at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or shawn-marie@ctcumc.org.

CHIP Coalition Community Meeting — Nov. 6

Tarrant County CHIP Coalition community meeting, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at First UMC Fort Worth, will focus on "CHIP Outreach and Enrollment Assistance." Churches interested in helping children receive health coverage are encouraged to send representatives. Registration information can be found at <http://tarrantcountychip.wordpress.com/> or contact Mary Spradlin at mary.spradlin@yahoo.com or 817-460-8655.

Early Response Team Training — Nov. 7

Presented by the CTC Disaster Response Task Force 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 7 at First UMC Round Rock. <http://www.ctcumc.org/page.asp?PKValue=890>

Immigration and Faith Symposium — Nov. 7

Justice For Our Neighbors, an UMCOR ministry in the CTC, will offer a free "Immigration and Faith" symposium from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 7, at Acton UMC, Granbury. The symposium will examine the issue of immigration from a faith perspective and provide an opportunity to dialogue about the church's response. Contact: JFON staff member Amy Spaur at 817-534-3293 or amyspaur@hotmail.com.

Gift of Love Auction — Nov. 7

The Metropolitan Board of Mission annual Gift of Love Auction, which benefits a multitude of outreach ministries in the Metroplex, will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at Meadowbrook UMC (3900 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth 76103). Silent auction begins at 5 p.m. and live auction at 6 p.m. The Metro Board is accepting donations for the auction items. www.metroboard-umc.org.

Thanksgiving Offering 2009

http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Thanksgiving_2009_KZB8K4MR.pdf.

Fall Leadership Summit — Nov. 14

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

Presented by Bishop Robert Schnase

Nov. 14 • 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. • First UMC, Mansfield

Churches are urged to bring a team of people (at least one to represent each of the five practice areas) to this important summit. As of this morning, 825 have registered. Don't wait until the last minute to take advantage of this opportunity. Click here for the brochure

http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Fall_Summit_2009_7NQBFIGI.PDF.

Insurance Reminder from Conference Trustees

The Conference Board of Trustees reminds participants of the **conference policy requiring each church in a charge to carry Workers' Compensation Insurance on pastors and other employees**. If a pastor or other worker receives a work-related injury, health insurance will not pay on what should be a worker's compensation claim. In addition, regular liability insurance will not pay or protect a church against such a gap in coverage. For those who may be unaware, there are conference-wide insurance programs available for the purchase of Workers' Compensation and Directors and Officers Liability insurance. Both programs are available to all CTC churches. Churches currently participating in this program have experienced reduced costs in their church insurance budgets. The programs are administered by Roach Howard Smith & Barton Insurance Agency. For more information, or a quote, contact Bart Tucker or Debbie Rowland at 817-332-1313 or 800-295-6607.

Advent Opportunity to Learn About and Serve in Women's Health Initiative

This Advent you are invited to participate in a unique quilting and study ministry opportunity to promote women's health worldwide. The CTC is a target conference for this campaign, especially for the new

“Advent Visions of Healing and Hope” quilt project/study. The Advent study can also be done without the quilting project. If you are interested, visit www.operationhealinghope.com and click on the link for “Top 10” or contact Jennifer Bellamy at jennifer@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222.

Civil Rights Road Trip — Jan. 15-18

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was a time of uncertainty and change. The Civil Right Road Trip is a weekend designed to help today’s young people connect to the radical possibilities their lives hold for the Kingdom of God. Get more details and register at www.ctcumc.org or contact Steve Heyduck at 254-715-4956, 254-750-1310, sheyduck@MCHWaco.org.

Adult UMVIM Mission/Work Tour to Eastern Mexico Conference — Jan. 16-23

Conference UM Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)-hosted mission work tour to Mexico’s Eastern Conference Jan. 16-23. **Registration deadline: Dec. 21.** Contacts: Susan Luttrell (817-473-6650 ext. 204, 817-781-5875, susanl@firstmethodistmansfield.org) or Jennifer Bellamy (817-877-5222, Jennifer@ctcumc.org).

Singles Mission Trip to Dulac, La. — Feb. 11-15, 2010

Contact: Chuck Graff as 817-339-5065 or cgraff@myfumc.org and watch for additional details soon.

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News Briefs — The Denomination

Summer Collegium Supports Small Congregations — June 23-July 1

Summer Collegium is an all-expenses-paid nine-day project in support of small congregations. It includes small church clergy and their spouses/partners. The deadline for postmarking applications is Dec. 15, so interested clergy will want to check it out right away. The Summer Collegium is an ecumenical project fully funded through the Lilly Endowment and seeks to offer encouragement, education, refreshment and renewal to 25 small-church pastors each year. The dates of the Summer Collegium are June 23-July 1, 2010. Single clergy and locally ordained persons are welcome to apply. Keynote speaker this year is Rev. Dr. Alice Mann with music led by John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland. For more details, visit www.vts.edu/education/collegium or contact Dr. Marilyn Johns at 703-461-1760.

Please Share With Your Church Members

The Honors Program of McMurry University awards full-tuition and other substantial scholarships to incoming freshmen. The deadline for completing the honors application is Feb. 1, 2010. For more information, contact Jamie Arthur, honors admissions coordinator, at arthur.jamie@mcm.edu. McMurry University is affiliated with the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences of the UMC.

RESOURCES: New AIDS Educational Kit & Photo Slide Show

A new online resource developed by the UM Global AIDS Fund team is now available for churches to educate individuals and communities about HIV/AIDS. “Working Toward an AIDS-Free World: An Educational Kit for United Methodist Churches,” equips churches with specific AIDS-related information that will strengthen their existing AIDS ministries and provide a tangible response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. The easy-to-use information helps churches address fear, stigma and myths associated with HIV/AIDS, and learn how the AIDS pandemic is affecting each jurisdiction. Download Working Toward an AIDS Free World Educational Kit now (<http://multimedia.gbgm-umc.org/pindownload/pindownload.do?jsessionid=7784B574224226488E84FA6683ED7772>) and view Hope for an AIDS-Free World (<http://gbgm-umc.org/umcor/globalaidshope/>), a UM Global AIDS Fund photo slide show to learn how people all over the world are living positively with HIV/AIDS. You can also support AIDS projects with gifts to UM Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR Advance #982345.

Best Practices for H1N1 Virus

In response to the growing swine flu epidemic (or H1N1 virus), the National Council of Churches Health

Task Force encourages pastors and congregational leaders to play a key role in educating staff on hygiene practices. The task force has issued comprehensive flu prevention guidelines for congregations to put to use. Standard hygiene practices such as washing hands frequently, the upkeep of hygiene supplies like alcohol-based sanitizers, antibacterial cleaning supplies, and proper disposal of waste materials are outlined.

For more information on ways to prevent the flu, visit <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/H1N1.pdf>. UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more about UMCOR's ministries, please visit [umcor.org \(http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/\)](http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/). Donations can be made to any project by placing a contribution in the offering plate at a local UM church; by sending a check to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068; or by calling 1-800-554-8583, where credit card donations are accepted. You can also give online by clicking on any of the "Give Now" links. UMCOR is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and qualifies for the maximum charitable contribution deduction by donors. And, **please pray** for those who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty because of these and other natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

Perkins School of Volunteer Youth Ministry — Jan. 9

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Arapaho UMC, Richardson (North Texas Conference)
This is a dynamic workshop led by youth workers with outstanding experience. Faculty includes: Rev. Walt Marcum, Georgia Harrison, Rod Hocutt and Joy Allen. Additional details are available at http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102775915044&s=1343&e=001e64E2hOfaikU6yC06hdx0ZD0fy54lBy8fChoxypLrERfhDxPpHett6j4x9onEZEEd5AUL8Ntl0DsgQx78mnjFOCx9JZ8eX5tob0FOGUSHxN1jEf1DaH7BkHS Cz9wAjSoddTwmyX5hXhtHQijlfj_xl96Sfd4CjL2cCzafBQTdvW5MS2vbl0DW5EuoqJRpj_g3Kd5kBYI7ABaoLQyJBdxDbg.

Small Church Leadership Institute — Nov. 15-19

It's not too late for laity and clergy to register for the Small Church Leadership Institute at Mount Sequoyah, Nov. 15-19. Guest presenters include Gil Rendle, Bishop Max Whitfield, Jeff Patton, Asa Whitaker, Rod Hocott, Karen Swales, Russell Cephas, Andy Oden, Janice Meese, Judy Benson and Charles White. The program registration is \$199 per person, which includes program cost and 12 meals. **Register by Oct. 31 and save \$10.** Enrollment forms and lodging reservations are available at www.mountsequoyah.org.

Congress on Evangelism 2010 — Jan. 5-8

The 2010 Congress on Evangelism, scheduled for Jan. 5 – 8 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, can be stimulating and informative for pastors and local church evangelism chairs. The agenda and registration are available at <http://www.CongressonEvangelism.org>. Scholarships are available for clergy under 40 (first time participants who have a recommendation from their DS or bishop). Also, the registration fee is waived for full-time seminary students as well as local pastors enrolled in Course of Study.

Student Day funds scholarships, loans

United Methodist Special Sunday, Nov. 29

UM Student Day, one of the six churchwide Special Sundays of the denomination, furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending UM-related and other accredited colleges and universities. UM Student Day is celebrated the last Sunday of November, which is Nov. 29 this year. Read about this year's scholarships and loans to CTC student recipients in the Oct. 16 *Central Link* and remember that ONLY STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING CHURCHES are eligible for the Merit Scholarships awarded each year at Annual Conference. To read more about the UM Student Day, visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5521931&ct=7569367&tr=y&auid=5450008>.

Mediation Skills Training for Church Leaders — Nov. 16-20 at Winston-Salem, NC

www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

Resources for World AIDS Day — Dec. 1

UM congregations are encouraged to continue the fight against HIV/AIDS around the world by creating

awareness about this deadly disease. A new brochure and a poster supporting the UM Global AIDS Fund are now available. Use and share Working Toward an AIDS-Free World brochure or poster, and support global programs engaged in advocacy, education, and prevention, health care and training in response to HIV/AIDS. **World AIDS Day is Dec. 1.** Join the fight against HIV/AIDS by using these resources on Sundays leading up to World AIDS Day. Order Working Toward an AIDS-Free World brochure (<http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=817364>) for the small cost of shipping, or download the poster (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/media/wad/wadposter09.pdf>). Look out for more HIV/AIDS resources to come and give to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR Advance #982345.

Clergywoman's Gathering, "Living in Balance: Recapturing Our Creativity"

April 7-9, 2010, at Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Ark.). The gathering will focus on recapturing our creativity as well as offering a time of renewal, learning and fellowship with other women in ministry. CEUs will be available. Contact: Kim Ross at spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org or 800-760-8126. Cost varies from \$325-\$285.

Lenten Sermon Writing Retreat

Jan. 11-15, 2010, Mount Sequoyah Conference Center (150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, Ark.). Clergy and lay ministers are invited to come undertake their in-depth preparation and sermon writing for this season. Cost \$395, Commuter \$155. For more information, contact Kim Ross at 800-760-8126, spiritualdirector@mountsequoyah.org, or go to www.mountsequoyah.org.

Wesley Pilgrimage in England — May 11-21, 2010

<http://www.gbod.org/wesleypilgrimage>

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News Briefs — Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Christian Theology Study at First Belton — Ongoing

Have you wanted to learn, discuss, or respectfully debate Christian theology with members of your own denomination as well as others? First UMC in Belton is providing that opportunity at noon Tuesdays.

<http://gbgm-umc.org/fumcbeltex>

Temple District

Lay Speaking Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Lead Music in Worship

When Nov 14 (begins at 9 a.m.)

Where: Florence UMC

Job Transition Support Group Continues to Meet at FUMC Fort Worth

Contact Marianne Wilson at 817-339-5071 or email her at MWilson@MyFUMC.org

Crowley House of Hope Christmas Sale

The Crowley House of Hope's annual Christmas sale begins next week. UMW members have prepared the merchandise, many of the items are new or like new. Shoppers can purchase very reasonably priced items that range from Christmas trees and musical water globes to clothing for the season, throw pillows, stockings, garland and much more. The sale begins Nov. 4 and continues on Nov. 6, 7, 11 and 14 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Crowley House of Hope (Bldg. 3) is at 216 N. Magnolia in Crowley. Money from the sale of these items will be partially used to fund the Share the Love Christmas Mission of CHOH.

www.crowleyhouseofhope.org.

St. Andrew's Golf Tournament — Nov. 7

St. Andrew's in Arlington's annual golf tournament will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at Prairie Lakes Golf Course, Grand Prairie. Four-player teams / \$60 per person which includes driving range balls, green fees and lunch. For more details and to register, e-mail Bob Baker at baker6870@sbcglobal.net.

Blue Like Jazz Author Donald Miller at First Fort Worth — Nov. 8

First UMC of Fort Worth will be hosting Donald Miller (author of *Blue Like Jazz*, and *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*) at 7 p.m. Nov. 8 to speak about his new book and the movie being made that is based on his New York Times bestseller *Blue Like Jazz*. For tickets, contact Brandon Frenzel at 817-339-5070 or bfrenzel@myfumc.org.

Silver Serenaders at FUMC Midlothian – Nov. 8

The Silver Serenaders, a premier senior adult community choir formed in 1981 by members of many different Christian denominations, will present "Our Hymn of Praise." This is a spectacular evening of inspirational hymns, popular songs, and patriotic medleys for your enjoyment. One night only, Sunday, Nov. 8, at 6 p.m. No charge for admission, but a love offering will be received.

5th Annual Louise & Frank Carvey Golf Tournament — Nov. 9

United Community Center, Inc. is eager to sign volunteers for the 5th Annual Louise & Frank Carvey Golf Tournament on Monday, Nov. 9, at Colonial Country Club, Fort Worth. Volunteers are needed all day from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 2 or 3-hour shifts. Jobs include registration, storehouse, auction volunteer, hole in one watching, food & drink stocker, etc. Please sign up by contacting Susie Reyes at 817-927-5556, x115 or at email sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org.

Don't want to volunteer, then come and play golf on Monday, Nov. 9. Registration starts at 8 a.m.; tee time at 10 a.m. After play, there will be a reception with auction. Players, teams and sponsorship slots are still open! To reserve a slot, call Susie Reyes at 817-927-5556, x115 or sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org. To learn more about United Community Centers visit www.unitedcommunitycenters.org.

Mediation Skills Training — Nov. 16-20 at Winston-Salem, NC

Details and registration available at www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

Roots of Change Group for Pastors/Church Staff in Fort Worth Area — Thru Nov. 19

Contact: Marianne at 817-339-5071.

Dealing With Stress & Anxiety — Dec. 10 (this is a date change)

Good news! We can learn how to reduce stress and protect ourselves from anxiety. Dr. Jim Gause will lead a seminar on these issues from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at First UMC of Mansfield. For more details, contact Debbie Black, care ministries coordinator, at 817-477-2287, ext. 162 or debbieb@firstmethodistmansfield.org.

2010 Faith Community Leadership Summit — Feb. 16

Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth
Contact: SharonBass@texashealth.org

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Resources

Conference Resource Center

New resources highlighted at the Conference Resource Center this week are described below. There are always new resources; check them out! For these and more resources, contact Carol Roszell at 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622.

The Dude Abides: The Gospel According to the Coen Brothers. 2009. Whether you've seen only a couple or every one of their 14 films, the Coen brothers' quirky and enduring films are rich with meaning. Films such as *Blood Simple*, *A Serious Man*, *Raising Arizona*, *The Big Lebowski*, *Fargo*, and *No Country for Old Men* create moral universes in which some of life's essential questions are asked. As the author, Cathleen Falsani examines the soul of the movies. She weaves impressions and cultural and spiritual analysis with a journalist's keen eye for investigation. Book. 238 pages including study questions.

Stewardship Campaigns

Does your church have your plans completed for your Fall Stewardship Campaign? There is not much time left to be ready. If you want FREE assistance, contact Dick Swain at 817 573-7035 or at dnlswain@charter.net. Complete step-by-step plans will be provided to help you have a successful campaign. Every church should be conducting a stewardship campaign every year.

Financial Assistance

Does your church have all the financial procedures in place that provide the integrity your congregation expects? How are deposits and money counting handled? Do you have procedures in place to receive gifts, property or stock? Are you keeping the proper financial records that show your correct financial condition? If you need some FREE assistance, contact Dick Swain at 817 573-7035 or at dnlswain@charter.net. Meetings can be held with pastors or finance committees.

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.

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.

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Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

Choir Robes

First UMC Mansfield has 100 teal-colored, adult-sized choir robes to donate. The gently used robes are in great shape with double-sided stoles — one side white with embroidered UM cross and the other side purple. If interested, please contact Beth LaMee at 817-477-2287, ext. 229.

Hand Chimes

The Saginaw Ringers at Saginaw UMC need to borrow or rent three octaves of hand chimes to use with their handbells for two upcoming worship services. If your church has chimes available for our use, please call Jemma Jones, director of music and creative worship, at 817-232-0390, Ext. 305 (church) or 817-267-6459 (home).

Contemporary Worship Leader Seeks Position

Experienced worship leader Trey Smith, a student at the University of Texas at Arlington, seeks a position with a local church that is within a 30-min. drive from Arlington. He has led the praise band at Silver Creek UMC for about two years and the 2009 summer praise band at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center. He currently leads a band outside of church that has played at several churches in the Metroplex area. Contact Trey Smith at 936-524-2378 or dcsmitty242@hotmail.com.

Youth Minister

Church seeking full-time youth minister with a heart for Christ, for youth, and for the church in Midlothian (Waxahachie area). Needs education and experience in leading youth in their spiritual development, worship, understanding of ministry, and willingness to be in mission/witness to the world beyond the church walls. Must be able to lead/teach with an appreciation for mainline theological doctrines rather than literalist or fundamentalist interpretations of scripture. Primary youth activities on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. Salary: \$32,000 + housing in the church's large parsonage. Midlothian is a suburban town 10 miles south of the Dallas/Fort Worth area, near several major seminaries. Successful applicant will demonstrate a high degree of professionalism living up to standards of reliability, honesty, attitude, dress, and behavior expected by the ministerial nature of the position. Contact: Allyson Paxton at pastorpaxton@aol.com.

Full-time Director of Youth Ministries

St. John's UMC, Georgetown, is expanding a vital youth program and needs a person who is committed to Christ; knows, loves and relates to youth; and is capable of planning and directing programs for youth and their families. Salary commensurate with education and experience \$30,000 plus. Send resume and questions to SPRC Chair, St John's UMC, 311 E. University Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78626.

Director of Music & Worship

Woodway First UMC (21000 Woodway Dr., Waco 76712) is accepting applications for director of music and worship until Sept. 1 with the position to be filled by Oct. 1. Candidates should be able to provide: leadership in a spiritual ministry through music, primary oversight of all music staff, oversight and management of the music and worship programs, oversight and leadership for all worship services; serve as primary choir director for sanctuary choir; establish and lead choral and instrumental ensembles for worship and other events; arrange and schedule vocalists for worship; flexibility in worship planning and execution. An advanced music degree with at least five years experience in professional choral conducting preferred. Experience in church choral programs is preferred. This is a part-time position; salary is negotiable dependent on experience. Submit applications to Linda Smith at 254-751-0411. Contact: Search Committee Chair Danny Londenberg for more details at 254-751-0411.

Part-time Choir Director

Hico FUMC seeks a choir director for the 10:50 a.m. worship service and possibly as worship leader for a contemporary service in the planning stages. This person should have a heart for sharing the Gospel through the music ministry, must have experience directing a church choir, be confident in making decisions about weekly anthems and special music at Christmas and Easter, be available for Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. Please contact SPRC Chair Buddy Teague at fumchico@embarqmail.com.

Part-time Music Director

First UMC of Glen Rose seeks a part-time music director. Some of the responsibilities include preparing and leading adult choir for weekly services, choosing hymns for worship services, working with pianist, organist and pastor for worship and special services. If interested, e-mail resume to fumc@valornet.com or mail to FUMC, P.O. Box 426, Glen Rose 76043. For information you may call the church office at 254-897-2572.

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