



# Central E-Link

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

**October 14, 2009**

Welcome! This is the conference's weekly update to church leaders — lay and clergy. Articles/requests should be submitted to [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:susan@ctcumc.org).

Editor: Carolyn Stephens [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto:Carolyn@ctcumc.org)

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For worldwide news of our denomination click here! [www.umportal.org](http://www.umportal.org)

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## News Briefs — The Conference

### **Vaughn Baker Opens U.S. House with Prayer**

Last Wednesday, Vaughn Baker, senior pastor at Christ UMC, Fort Worth, gave the opening prayer for the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC. His appearance, as a guest of U.S. Rep. Kay Granger of Fort Worth, can be viewed on the following C-SPAN link (click on the big arrow): <http://www.c-spanarchives.org/program/289329-1>.

### **Dean Reed's Advocacy on Immigrant Rights Recognized by The Center for American Progress**

Dean Reed, senior pastor at First UMC, Stephenville, was also in our nation's capitol recently (Sept. 22) talking about the Welcoming Immigrants Networks of which he is the co-founder. He shares his Washington, DC experience in the Oct. 16 issue of *Central Link*. For those who don't get the conference's *Central Link* newspaper through their local church or individual subscription, it will be archived at [www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org) shortly after the publication date. Read the CAP's story and link to the "Loving Thy Neighbor" report at <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5521931&ct=7569377&tr=y&auid=5450001>.

### **Oct. 24 Sweet Potato Round-Up Is Canceled!**

The Gleaning Network of Texas reports that after close to 20 inches of rain within 4 weeks, the sweet potato growers can't get into the field to harvest and the potatoes are rotting in the field. While this is the nature of farming, there are some startling statistics that speak to the nature of Texas vegetable production. In 2003 in Wood County, Texas, alone there were at least six sweet potato growers. This year, only one remains. Various reasons have pushed these families out of the business, all related to economics.

For those who had planned to glean on Oct. 24, the Network offers the screening of *FRESH!*, a movie about the "farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are reinventing the nations' food system." This is a positive look at the great things that are happening in the area of sustainable food. To learn more about *FRESH!*, visit <http://www.freshthemovie.com/>. If interested in the screening, contact the Network at [susie@gleantexas.org](mailto:susie@gleantexas.org).

### **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 ministry opportunity to promote women's health worldwide. In March of this year, the UMC launched a year-long campaign to eradicate obstetric fistula, a serious medical condition affecting young or small women after giving birth, disproportionately affecting women in impoverished, developing countries. The CTC is a target conference for this campaign, especially for the new **"Advent Visions of Healing and Hope"** quilt project/study.

Quilting groups may request a baby quilt kit that includes fabric brought back from fistula survivors in Liberia, instructions and conversation starters about the issue of obstetric fistula. Operation Healing Hope, the sponsoring organization, envisions that these quilts will be used as displays in churches to educate congregation members about the issue and how they can get involved in ending it worldwide. In early 2010, Operation Healing Hope will collect the baby quilts and send them to mission nurseries wherever they are needed across the globe. The Advent study can also be done without the quilting project. If you are interested in this project for your group, please visit [www.operationhealinghope.com](http://www.operationhealinghope.com) for more detailed information and click on the link for "Top 10." If you have further questions, please contact Jennifer Bellamy, CTC director of humanitarian services, at [jennifer@ctcumc.org](mailto:jennifer@ctcumc.org) or 817-877-5222.

### **New Bible Study for Singles to Begin in October**

"Returning to the Garden and Our True Sacred Identity," study on the spiritual writings of J. Philip Newell, Henri Nouwen and others is offered to **singles of all ages** at First UMC Fort Worth 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays from Oct. 13-Nov. 3. Contacts: Chuck Graff (817-339-5065 or [cgraff@myfumc.org](mailto:cgraff@myfumc.org)) or Ellen Bauman (817- 564-5595 or [ellen\\_bauman@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_bauman@yahoo.com)).

### **Safe Sanctuaries & Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training — Oct. 24**

Training for those who work with children and youth Oct. 24 at First UMC Hillsboro. It is especially geared to teachers, sponsors, interns, van drivers, mission trip workers and anyone who has ever asked, "Why do we have to follow Safe Sanctuaries?" Contact: MaDora by Oct. 16 at 817-877-5222 or [madora@ctcumc.org](mailto:madora@ctcumc.org). Download the flyer at <http://www.ctcumc.org/page.asp?pkvalue=1137>.

### **Upcoming CROP Hunger Walks in the Central Texas Conference Area**

Fort Worth CROP Walk—Oct. 18

Georgetown CROP Walk—Oct. 18

Waco CROP Walk—Oct. 18

Information: [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org), [www.fortworthcrop.org](http://www.fortworthcrop.org), [www.tarrantareacc.org](http://www.tarrantareacc.org).

### **Perspectives of Grief & Loss Symposium — Oct. 23**

Christian Care Centers and the Coalition for Quality End of Life Care are hosting the Perspective of Grief & Loss Symposium from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens (located on University Drive about 1 mile south of the Conference Center). For more details, visit [www.christiancarecenters.org](http://www.christiancarecenters.org) or call 817-496-4730.

### **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](http://www.ctcumc.org). Questions? Contact Shawn-Marie Riley, conference benefits administrator, at 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622 or [shawn-marie@ctcumc.org](mailto:shawn-marie@ctcumc.org).

### **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. Workshops will include an overview of current immigration laws, biblical reflections, social and economic contexts of immigration, how congregations are in ministry among immigrants and basic principles of advocacy. For more information or to register, please contact JFON staff member Amy Spaur at 817-534-3293 or [amyspaur@hotmail.com](mailto:amyspaur@hotmail.com).

### **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](mailto:susanl@firstmethodistmansfield.org)) or Jennifer Bellamy (817-877-5222, [Jennifer@ctcumc.org](mailto:Jennifer@ctcumc.org)).

### **October Donation-of-the-Month Request**

Refugee Services of Texas invites you to contribute during October in meaningful ways.

October: coats and jackets in all sizes, however blankets and bed linens are still needed  
RST office (5009 Brentwood Stair, Fort Worth 76112), call the RST at 817-457-8110.

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

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

### **Thanksgiving Offering 2009**

[http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles\\_Library\\_XZXLCZ/Thanksgiving\\_2009\\_KZB8K4MR.pdf](http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Thanksgiving_2009_KZB8K4MR.pdf).

### **SAVE DATE: Youth Focus on “Engaging in Ministry with the Poor”**

CTC youth have ministry outreach with the poor events scheduled for this fall that began last week with the Mission Waco Poverty Simulation Weekend. The next event is:

- **30 Hour Famine** — Nov. 6-7 at Glen Lake Camp to raise awareness about hunger and poverty.  
Register at [www.glenlake.org/30-hour-famine](http://www.glenlake.org/30-hour-famine).

### **Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation — Nov. 1-6 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, Palestine**

Contact: Denice Foose at 713-203-0783 or [dsfoose@comcast.net](mailto:dsfoose@comcast.net).

### **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. The silent auction begins at 5 p.m. and the live auction at 6 p.m. The Metro Board is accepting donations for the auction items. [www.metroboard-umc.org](http://www.metroboard-umc.org).

### **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>

### **Academy of Christian Education — Nov. 9-13 at Still Water Lodge, Glen Rose**

[www.ctcumc.org](http://www.ctcumc.org) Contact: Karen Granderson, 817-877-5222, 800-460-8622, [karen@ctcumc.org](mailto:karen@ctcumc.org)

## **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

Church are urged to bring a team of people to this important summit. Click here for the brochure

[http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles\\_Library\\_XZXLCZ/Fall\\_Summit\\_2009\\_7NQBFIGI.PDF](http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Fall_Summit_2009_7NQBFIGI.PDF).

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## **News Briefs — The Denomination**

### **UMCOR's Emergency Response to Recent Natural Disasters**

While food, water, blankets and hygiene supplies are the materials mostly needed by survivors to recent floods, earthquakes, etc., the best way to give help is financially. UMCOR (<http://www.umcor.org>) has downloadable UMCOR Emergency Response church bulletins and PowerPoint slides on their Web site that can shared with congregations as special offerings are taken. UMs everywhere are encouraged to use these resources to encourage congregations in giving and helping affected survivors recover from recent natural disasters.

### **Commissioning Service for UM Missionaries Live Broadcast — Oct. 13**

For the first time, a service commissioning UM missionaries, deaconesses and home missionaries was broadcast live on the Internet yesterday, Oct. 13, during the annual directors meeting of the General Board of Global Ministries in Stamford, Conn. Among the 31 missionaries, seven deaconesses and two home missionaries commissioned was Amy Spaur, a UM church and community worker missionary who works among the poor and marginalized in rural and urban settings in the U.S. Specifically, **Amy works with the Central and North Texas Conferences as volunteer/outreach coordinator for Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)**. More details at [http://gbgm-umc.org/global\\_news/full\\_article.cfm?articleid=5534](http://gbgm-umc.org/global_news/full_article.cfm?articleid=5534).

### **Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF**

#### ***United Methodists raised \$154,000 in 2008***

Every October, UMs have the opportunity to improve the lives of children around the world through a long-standing collaboration between the General Board of Church & Society (GBCS) and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, the United Nation's Children's Fund. This collaboration, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, has helped UNICEF save more children's lives than any other organization, according to Caryl Stern, U.S. Fund president. To read the full report and learn how your church/group can get involved, visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5521931&ct=7569343&tr=y&auid=5449999>.

### **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>.

### **Free, High-Quality Youth Ministry Resources: UMYouthpastor.com**

Methodist youth ministers from across the US have come together to create a revolutionary Web site called **UMYouthpastor.com** that is focused on providing free, high-quality resources to youth ministers/ministries in our denomination (though all are welcome). Youth pastors are uploading content they create for their youth groups to be used free of charge by other youth ministries.

UMYouthpastor.com has two main groupings of resources: downloadable resources and ideas. In the

downloadable resources, youth ministers can find confirmation curriculum, small group studies, youth ministry logos and complete camps and retreats (shirt design, backgrounds, small group books). The ideas area features short articles on everything from recruiting volunteers to youth games to ideas for using technology in ministry. Take a moment to check it out at <http://www.umyouthpastor.com>.

### **Oct. 20 ‘National Day of Remembrance & Hope’**

#### ***45,000 people die yearly due to lack of health insurance***

People of faith throughout the US will join together in a “National Day of Remembrance & Hope” on Oct. 20 to remember the 45,000 people who die each year because they lack insurance that provides access to needed health care. That shocking statistic contained in a recent study conducted by [Harvard Medical School and Cambridge Health Alliance](#) is approximately 2½ times higher than a 2002 estimate from the Institute of Medicine. The study found that uninsured, working-age Americans have a 40% higher risk of death than their privately insured counterparts, up from a 25% excess death rate found in 1993. For the full story, visit <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=5506045&ct=7550821&tr=y&auid=5420271>.

### **Prayers of Hope During Advent**

#### ***Society of St. Andrew’s Advent Devotions ask “What do you hope for in the coming Christ?”***

This year the Society of St. Andrew (Advance #801600) offers its annual Advent Devotions program using the theme “Prayers of Hope: What do you hope for in the coming of Christ?” The Society of St. Andrew is a national nonprofit hunger-relief ministry that rescues 20-30 million pounds of fresh, nutritious, excess produce each year that will go to waste for various marketing reasons. This food is then distributed to critical service agencies across the country at no cost to the agencies or the hungry people they serve. During the season of Advent, the Society of St. Andrew asks participants to prayerfully reflect on the scriptures and devotions and then join in their ministry of feeding America’s hungry by making a financial donation. Last year donations made through SoSA’s Advent devotional program provided more than 1.2 million servings of food to the hungry. The need this year continues to grow among those hit hardest by the recession. All materials are free. For a church sample kit or a personal packet, order online at [www.endhunger.org/advent.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/advent.htm), by phone at 800-333-4597 or by e-mail at [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.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, 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.gb-gm-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.

### **US: Bread for the World Sunday — Oct. 18**

UM churches everywhere have an opportunity to renew their commitment to ending world hunger and poverty. Through Bread for World Sunday on Oct. 18, or any Sunday before Thanksgiving, churches can lift up their voices on behalf of the hungry through education, prayer, and music. Free resources include a scripture and sermon study on Mark 10:35-45 by Dr. John Buchanan, editor and publisher of *Christian Century*, as well as bulletin inserts, offering envelopes and a new sacred song composed by Marty Haugen. Special prayers for the day are also included. For more information and to download resources, click on <http://secure.gb-gm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?id=3019089&code=982920>. Bread for the World is a Christian organization based in the US which seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying US legislators and other decision makers. You can also alleviate world hunger with your gifts to World Hunger Poverty, UMCOR Advance #982920.

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

[www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

**Advent Sermon Writing Retreat — Nov. 2-6 at Mount Sequoyah**

[www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org).

**Just FOCUS: Sequoyah Singles 2009 — Nov. 6-8 at Mount Sequoyah**

Singles outing in the hills of Fayetteville, Ark., to focus on God and focus on how God works in us and through us to bring the message of the Gospel to the world. [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org)

**Small Church Leadership Institute — Nov. 15-19**

Four days of networking and learning from some of the best teachers and leaders from small church congregations. Dr. Jeff Patton, author of “If It Could Happen Here,” and other authorities on small church transformation will be presenting. Registration is \$199 per person (\$189 before Oct. 31) and includes program materials and meals. On **Nov. 19-21 district superintendents** will be offered 48 hours with Dr. Gil Rendle in conversation about “The Small Attendance Church.” Contact: [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://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 Basic (Local) Course

When: Oct 17 (9-5) Oct 18 (2-5)

Where: Florence UMC

Bring: Study Bible, Discipline, UM Hymnal

Lay Speaking Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Lead Music in Worship

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

Where: Florence UMC

**Take the Journey at Smithfield UMC — Oct. 16-18**

[www.smithfieldumc.org](http://www.smithfieldumc.org), click on “Upcoming” and select “Retreat” from the dropdown menu. Contact: Susie Butcher at 817-501-9167 or [retreat@smithfieldumc.org](mailto:retreat@smithfieldumc.org).

**The Worship Workshop Live! At First Burleson with Marcia McFee — Oct. 17**

<http://www.fumcburleson.org>

**Oglesby UMC Lord’s Acre — Oct. 17**

The Oglesby UMC Lord’s Acre was previously listed incorrectly. The date is Saturday, Oct. 17.

**Hurry Less Worry Less at Christmastime — Oct. 21**

Whatever happened to comfort and joy? Judy Pace Christie will be at Fort Worth First UMC Wednesday, Oct. 21, helping people learn to celebrate more joyfully, peacefully and deeply during the holiday season — the time between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day — and on through the Christian celebration of Epiphany. There will be two scheduled presentations — noon and 6:30 p.m. — based on the practical or the

same name, which will be available ahead at Cokesbury at the conclusion of each session. The book offers practical tools to make Thanksgiving a season to build gratitude and provides ideas for spiritual growth during Advent and Epiphany. Join either presentation with \$10 payable at the door (includes a light meal). Contact Pam Cos at 817-339-5062 or [pcos@myfumc.org](mailto:pcos@myfumc.org) for reservations.

**The Second Hundred Years: Fall Revival Series at La Trinidad, Fort Worth— Oct. 23-25**

Contact: Daniel F. Flores at [trinidad\\_umc@yahoo.com](mailto:trinidad_umc@yahoo.com) or on Facebook.

**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](mailto:MWilson@MyFUMC.org)

**Gifts of the Labyrinth — Oct. 23-25**

Veriditas facilitator training. [www.veriditas.org](http://www.veriditas.org)

**Lorena UMC Revival Features Family of Preachers — Oct. 25-27**

Lorena UMC invites all to a revival featuring the Robbins family as the revival preachers. Thomas Q. Robbins will preach at the 8:30 and 11:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, services with music by the combined band and Chancel Choir; John C. Robbins will preach at 7 p.m. Sunday service with music by the choir fir First UMC, Temple; Tom Robbins at the 7 p.m. Monday service with music by the Lorena band featuring guest drummer Joel Robbins; and Joel Robbins at the 7 p.m. Tuesday service with music by the Marlin & Mooreville UM churches. A reception will be held at 6:30 each evening.

**Trinity, Arlington Seeks Ride Share to “Leaves of Gold” — Oct. 19-20**

Contact: Brenda Beaver at 817-274-1345

**Perkins Hosts Visiting Professor Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz — Oct. 29**

Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz, professor of Social Ethics & Theology at the Theological School of Drew University and visiting professor at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, will present “Reconciliation: The Face of Justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29 in the Great Hall of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall at Perkins. The lecture is made possible by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, and is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions of Perkins at Southern Methodist University. Co-sponsors include the Religious Studies Department and the Women's and Gender Studies Programs at SMU. The lecture is free and open to the public.

**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](mailto:bfrenzel@myfumc.org).

**Discover God’s Call — Nov. 6-8**

Nov 6 - 8, Heart of Texas Baptist Retreat Center, Brownwood. Do you know your spiritual gifts that God has enabled you with? Do you know what God is calling you to do? Come to Discover God's Call in November. For more info or to register contact [kathychecki@juno.com](mailto:kathychecki@juno.com) or [judykreitner@juno.com](mailto:judykreitner@juno.com).

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

Details and registration available at [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

**Hope for the Holidays — Nov. 19**

Arborlawn UMC (5001 Briarhaven, Fort Worth) invites all to a different kind of worship experience at 7 p.m. Nov. 19. Despite the beauty of autumn and all the excitement around the holidays, this can be a darker than ever time for those struggling with grief and loss and those who finds the holidays make them sad or blue. This worship experience offers a chance to enter this season with inspiration and comfort as Deb Sewell, singer, songwriter and grief facilitator joins with the pastoral staff and the Chancel Choir to bring

beautiful music, stories of comfort, hope, inspiration and prayer. Contact Arborlawn at 817-731-0701. Transportation and child care provided.

### **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](mailto:debbieb@firstmethodistmansfield.org).

### **2010 Faith Community Leadership Summit — Feb. 16**

Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth

Contact: [SharonBass@texashealth.org](mailto: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.

***Faith Lessons: God Heard Their Cry.*** The 8<sup>th</sup> program in this series hosted by Ray Vander Laan. 5 DVD sessions filmed on location in the Middle East. They illuminate the historical, geographical and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures. God's people were no match against the Egyptians. Discover how God answers the cry of his persecuted people and proclaims himself Lord to them and their oppressors. (1) How big is our God? (2) Israel in Bondage: God Heard Their Cry (3) Finger of God: The Plagues (4) Watch with Me: Israel Leaves Egypt (5) The Lord Reigns: The Red Sea

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Vicki@ctcumc.org).

### **Online Access to Clergy Sexual Misconduct Prevention Course**

An Internet course on *Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct* (PCSM) is available to all clergy and to all supply pastors who are appointed to a charge in the CTC. All pastors, associates, supply pastors appointed to a charge, and other CTC clergy can now go to [www.career marriage.org/pcsm](http://www.career marriage.org/pcsm), click on "Login" and set

up their personal PCSM access. Completing this course meets the requirement for training in preventing clergy sexual misconduct. There is no cost to clergy for this Internet course. To access the PCSM each eligible clergy needs to enter his/her name and work e-mail address as it is listed in CTC records. Clergy who encounter any technical difficulty contact Richard Hunt at [pcsm@careermarriage.org](mailto:pcsm@careermarriage.org). To verify that your name and e-mail address are correct in the conference database, contact Susan Briles at [susan@ctcumc.org](mailto:susan@ctcumc.org), 817-877-5222 or 800-460-8622. All information a person enters through his or her personal PCSM access account is strictly confidential and will not be shared with anyone. At the [www.careermarriage.org/pcsm](http://www.careermarriage.org/pcsm), all the buttons at the left side of the page are freely available to anyone at any time. This enables anyone with any misconduct concerns to access appropriate help. Access to all the top tool buttons is limited to those who are eligible to participate in the PCSM course.

### **Crime Victims Council Information at [www.crimevictimsCouncil.org](http://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](mailto:encouragement@crimevictimsCouncil.org).

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## **Needs, Resources, Opportunities**

**NOTE TO LISTERS: Please contact Carolyn Stephens at [Carolyn@ctcumc.org](mailto:Carolyn@ctcumc.org) to pull your listing when your opening has been filled.**

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Youth Director**

First UMC of Joshua (5 miles SW of Burleson on Hwy. 174) is looking for a highly motivated, self-starter to be the director of youth ministries. FUMC Joshua is a growing church in a growing community. Twenty hours per week. Contact: Lara Whitley at [larawhitley@gmail.com](mailto:larawhitley@gmail.com) or 817-558-9801.

### **Music Director and Pianist**

Harker Heights UMC seeks qualified applicants for two positions:

- part-time music director, responsible for providing spiritual musical oversight.
- part-time pianist, responsible for providing accompaniment to the Praise Band, Choir and membership hymns. Contact HHUMC at 254-699-6271.

### **Christian Education Position Sought by DRC Immigrant**

Joseph Kazaki, ordained Presbyterian minister from the Democratic Republic of Congo, seeks political asylum in the U.S. and has just received his Green Card allowing him to be employed. He has been related

to First UMC of Hurst and volunteering in mission work. He is well educated in the DRC and U.S. and seeks a position in Christian education, if possible, but is open to any ministry-related job. He speaks English and French and is available to speak with groups and classes about the church in the Congo or the political situation there. He hopes to bring his family to the U.S. in the next year or so. For more details on Joseph, contact Henry Radde at 817-291-8965 or Hurst member Bob Nethers at 918-282-1326, or contact Joseph directly at 817-282-1055.

### **Publishing/Administrative Assistant**

First UMC of Keller seeks an energetic professional to fill the role of publishing/administrative assistant. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Office, Adobe InDesign and familiarity in other Adobe products. Ideal applicant would have experience, be able to multi-task and meet deadlines. Please e-mail resumes to [lisag@kellerumc.org](mailto:lisag@kellerumc.org) or call 817-431-1332 for more information.

### **Youth Director**

Youth director, part-time up to 20 hours per week. 7-12 youth with great possibilities in a growing church outside of Waco. Contact: Allen Grant at [pastor@chinaspringumc.com](mailto:pastor@chinaspringumc.com) or 254-836-1107.

### **Associate Director of Music Ministries**

First UMC of Burleson seeks candidates for associate director of music ministries to: assist and support the director in leading vocal and bell choirs, provides leadership for the Sunday Morning Blend, direct the youth, drama and Glory Ringers (bell) choirs, serves as a backup for the accompanist and participate in staff development and meetings as needed. For more details, contact Mark Stamper at 817-723-9397 (cell) or [maest1020@yahoo.com](mailto:maest1020@yahoo.com).

### **P-T Praise Team Leader**

First UMC of Corsicana seeks a part-time praise team leader to lead the existing Praise Team. The ideal candidate will be a devoted and energetic person with a passion for Christ and a desire and ability to share that passion with the congregation through music. This person must possess strong musical leadership, have a broad knowledge of contemporary Christian music, be able to utilize the latest multi-media technology, and have strong leadership and communication skills. Other desired attributes are friendly, creative, collaborative, adaptable and outgoing, and someone who wants to become a part of our church family. The church's goal is for the new contemporary worship to grow in the community as well as within the church walls. If God is calling you to this ministry, please contact Steve Moss, associate pastor, at 214-803-3609 or e-mail your resume to [stevem@fumccorsicana.org](mailto:stevem@fumccorsicana.org).

### **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.

### **Music Director**

Stephenville First UMC seeks a full-time music director for their 1300-member church in rural central Texas. Duties include oversight of the entire music program (including part-time positions for pianist and contemporary music leader), conducting the chancel choir, recruiting and resourcing volunteer directors of children's, youth and handbell choirs, and leading or assisting with a variety of special programs or services throughout the year. Salary will be commensurate with experience and skill level. Health insurance and other benefits included. Motivated, organized servant leaders who enjoy creating excellent worship should

apply. Contact Search Committee at [fumc@our-town.com](mailto:fumc@our-town.com) or 254-965-5046. The full job description is available at [www.fumcville.org](http://www.fumcville.org).

**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](mailto:fumchico@embarqmail.com).

**Pianist/Organist**

Midlothian is seeking applicants for pianist/organist position. This is a part-time position that includes accompanying the Adult Choir at Wednesday night rehearsal and playing for two services each Sunday morning. Salary and hours are negotiable. Position opens mid-June. Please submit applications to Billy Pritchett at [billyp@fumc-midlothian.org](mailto:billyp@fumc-midlothian.org). For more information call 682-465-1371.

**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](mailto: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@ctcumc.org](mailto:Susan@ctcumc.org).*