



Central E-Link

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

September 8, 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

Clergy Appointment Changes

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

Megan Davidson — from North Texas Conference to CTC serving as director of the Wesley Foundation/Palmer House at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth District), effective July 1.

Kevin Diggs (supply pastor) — from not appointed to supply pastor at Watts Chapel in the Waxahachie District, effective Sept. 1.

David James Ray (full-time local pastor) — from ½ time to full-time at associate pastor at Hillsboro First and director of the United Christian Fellowship at Navarro College, Waxahachie District, effective Sept. 1.

Arlene I. Turner (part-time local pastor) — from supply to half-time pastor at Wesley/Chatfield in the Waxahachie District, effective Sept. 1.

Stephanie White (probationary member) — from West Ohio Conference to CTC serving as associate at Weatherford First, Weatherford District, effective July 1.

Candidates for BOM Spring Interviews

All candidates seeking an interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry for Spring 2011 must complete and submit the "Request for Candidacy Interview" form (available at www.ctcbom.org under "Candidacy Information" menu) by the Sept. 15 deadline. This form is required if you are:

- Certified candidate and have made an appointment with your District Committee on Ordained Ministry to request their recommendation for provisional membership
- Local pastor who has completed all Basic Course of Study and believe your District Committee will be recommending you for associate membership
- Ordained member of another denomination, have served two years in the CTC under ¶ 346.2, and wish to apply for provisional membership in the CTC
- Currently a provisional member and need to interview for continuance
- Currently a provisional member and need to interview for ordination
- In the process of changing orders
- Have completed preparation for and wish to seek certification as a para-professional or professional in specialized ministry. This is an electronic form, designed to be completed on your computer. It has several drop-down fields from which you must make a selection appropriate to your situation. Please e-mail the BOM office if you have questions, board@ctcbom.org.

Youth Groups, Register Now for UNIFY — Sept. 25

UNIFY is a 1-day event in multiple locations throughout the CTC, designed for building leadership in our local churches. The event, scheduled for 3 – 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, will begin with

team-building activities and end with youth-led worship.

Fort Worth/Mid-Cities/Waxahachie Districts will meet at FUMC Midlothian (download flyer: http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/Unify_Flyer_FWMCWAX_ZT8TLXTM.pdf)

Brownwood/Weatherford Districts will meet at Glen Lake Camp (download flyer: http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/WEABROflyer_F3RP2EMH.pdf)

Temple/Waco Districts will meet at Bruceville-Eddy UMC (download flyer: http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/UNIFYTempleWacoflyer_H8ZJUHKK.pdf)

For more details, visit the UNIFY web page at <http://ctcumc.org/pages/detail/1447>.

Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century — Sept. 30

On Sept. 30, Church Growth & Development is hosting Dr. Fred Allen, director of the UM program on *Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century*. Allen will be sharing new resources and training to local churches. Bishop Lowry and members of the Cabinet will be sharing this time with the group. Clergy are urged to bring at least two laypersons with you. Campus Drive UMC will host the event at their Administrative & Ministry Center (1400 E. Seminary Drive, Fort Worth 76115) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30. Lunch will be served. RSVP to Vicki@ctcumc.org.

“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.

Bishop Robert Schnase’s Latest Blog 173. Come and See

What’s the primary portal by which people enter into the life of a congregation, and thereby take their first steps toward life in Christ? I heard a consultant describe how the answer to this question has changed over the years... Check it out on the CTC website at www.ctcumc.org.

Demographics Research Information — Sept. 10

Mission Insite is the conference demographics program provided free to you by Church Growth & Development. Peter Wernett is one of the creators and is doing a free training at the North Texas Conference office on Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and again at 1 to 4 p.m. If interested, please contact Deniece@ntcumc.org. This would be a great way to learn Mission Insite and be able to run reports to help in your ministries. If interested but unable to go, contact Vicki@ctcumc.org for help in getting started.

September Is Recovery Month — Substance Abuse/Mental Health Services

Recovery Month is sponsored by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) within the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services. It is a platform to celebrate the people in recovery and those who serve them. Each September thousands of treatment and recovery programs around the country celebrate their successes and share them with their neighbors, friends, and colleagues in an effort to educate the public about treatment, how it works for whom and why. Recovery month also serves to educate the public on substance abuse as a national health crisis that addiction is a treatable disease and that recovery is possible. It highlights the benefits of treatment not only the affected individual, but for their families, workplace, and society as a whole.

The UMC is responding to this substance abuse crisis through Special Programs on Substance Abuse and Related Violence, SPSARV. SPSARV is housed in New York City under the General Board of Global Ministries. SPSARV is mandated through the General Conference and offers an array of trainings that not only undergirds the local church response to substance abuse and its adverse effects on individuals, families, and communities, but also supports those in recovery. Visit www.umspсарv.org for more information. The CTC OMC Addiction & Recovery Task Force would like to know what churches are doing in any recovery ministry. Rev Buddy Moore and

Susan Moore are volunteers for the SPSARV. Anyone that would like to be a part of this ministry contacts them at buddymoore550@gmail.com.

Evangelism Training Opportunity

Hundreds attending the Annual Conference in June signed a Holy Covenant document promising to "heed Jesus' call to 'make disciples of all nations' by extending the hand of Christian witness to at least two people each week." The Conference Evangelism Task Force, mainly Rev. Joel Robbins (chair) and Rev. Brad Brittain, have been providing training to churches that are interested in adopting what Bishop Robert Schnase refers to as "radical hospitality" in his books on *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* and *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*. The two pastors are committing their Thursday evenings to provide this training for local churches and/or clusters of churches anywhere in the conference. The training includes new ideas for leadership and an inspirational component tied to success stories in other churches and the resulting changes in the lives of individuals and the congregation. To schedule a time for your church or cluster of churches, please contact Carolyn Stephens at Carolyn@ctcumc.org.

Join a Crop Walk in Your Area

Join a Church World Service CROP Walk in any of 3 CTC communities. CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide -- and right here in the U.S. -- to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Each year some 2 million CROP Hunger Walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their hearts and soles in motion, raising over \$16 million per year to help end hunger and poverty around the world and in their own communities. Check out www.churchworldservice.org for more information. The following CROP Walks are scheduled in our area this fall:

Oct. 10 — Waco

Oct. 10 — Mid-Cities (in Bedford)

Oct. 17 — Georgetown

Oct. 17 — Fort Worth (see www.tarrantareacc.org for details)

Tarrant Area Community of Churches Hosts Hunger Without Borders Luncheon Sept. 16 Luncheon to Provide Information and Kick Off the 2010 5K Fort Worth CROP Walk

The [Tarrant Area Community of Churches](http://www.tarrantareacc.org) (TACC), an inter-church non-profit organization dedicated to connecting congregations and the community to affect and address unmet needs in Tarrant County, in partnership with Tarrant Area Food Bank, Texas Christian University, Wesley Foundations at TCU and UTA Volunteers, announces *Hunger Without Borders*, a kick-off luncheon for the 2010 Fort Worth CROP Walk Oct. 17. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at First Presbyterian Church (1000 Penn St., Fort Worth).

This no-cost luncheon will feature the personal story of a Sudanese family now residing in Fort Worth and is an information session for those interested in participating in the 2010 5K Fort Worth CROP Walk. The event will raise money to provide assistance and food for children at risk for hunger in Tarrant County and around the world. For more information, go to www.tarrantareacc.org. To reserve a spot at the luncheon or to participate as an individual, team or sponsor in the upcoming 2010 5K Fort Worth CROP Walk, email melindav@tarrantareacc.org or call 817-737-5554.

Looking for that next international mission trip?

Bahamas Methodist Habitat

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=8vuxradab&et=1103647130968&s=0&e=001nFif_GMcnNaGTKH4EOhBJYqPdsxlvdCGiCBIDC8zU6PKbdSnwagK_5M1gnYTzqKCVNbaZOajcvVEFQA243wV2HKaDcFMhPUWOxUxZ-4piY is an organization that works with disaster response and continuing poverty in the Bahamas Islands. Join the executive director, Abraham McIntyre, for an informational session about how to get *any group* in your church involved at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, at FUMC Burleson. If you would like to meet individually with Abraham to plan out your trip, he will be available for appointments on that day only. Please RSVP joy@ctcumc.org for the info session or to set up an appointment.

Self-Care for Clergy Program Coming Nov. 8-9

The Self-Care for Clergy Workshop is designed to provide a break from day-to-day responsibilities and allow for reflections, reviving and renewing the spirit and potential that effective ministry requires.

Servant Leadership: Personal and Professional Self-Care

Nov. 8-9 – Summers Mill Retreat Center, Belton • Register by Oct. 15 • 254-939-6194 or www.summersmill.com

Schedule: 5:30-9 p.m. Monday; 8:30 a.m. – noon on Tuesday. The cost of the course is \$85/person. Participants in the Virgin Health Miles program will be given a 1,000-mile award for participating in Self-Care for Clergy. Register at www.ctcumc.org under “Ministries” and choose Health and Welfare.

Lay Health Promoter Training — Sept. 24-26/Salado

For the past 5 years, several CTC churches have taken the GoodNEWS training from Dr. Mark DeHaven (Genetics, Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness, and Spirituality) for the purpose of training Lay Health Promoters in local congregations. Dr. DeHaven and Dr. Jenny L. Lee will lead the conference Sept. 24-26 at Salado First UMC beginning Friday at 6 p.m. and ending Sunday at 3:30 p.m. A registration form is on the Health & Wellness page of www.ctcumc.org with information on motel reservations and a detailed itinerary. [Registration deadline is Sept. 17.](#) [Motels involved with the Salado event had an Aug. 24 deadline, but rooms my still be available at regular rates.](#) This workshop is asking for 2 people per church, and even churches that have taken it before can sign up again. There will be a maximum of 20 churches allowed – 2 individuals per church – with a registration cost of \$75/person, \$150/church. Those attending this training will form the CTC focus group for the next 3 years. Dr. DeHaven will follow progress of the local churches and meet with the LHP's every 6 months for 3 years.

Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct (PCSM) — Sept. 30

Course to be offered in the Brownwood District: Karen Granderson and Mary Gean Cope will lead this course from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, at Early First UMC (1073 Early Blvd., Early). The course is designed for clergy who wish or need to do the training in person instead of online. Clergy from other districts are welcome to attend as well as church assistants and children and youth workers. A light lunch will be provided for the cost of \$5. Please RSVP to the Brownwood District Office (brownwood@ctcumc.org; 325/646-8223 or 800/646-8223) by Monday, Sept. 27.

Glen Lake Adventure Race — Oct. 9

Join the first annual Glen Lake Adventure Race on Saturday, Oct. 9, at Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Glen Rose. Teams of 2 will run/bike/paddle/climb their way around Glen Lake with a few fun surprises along the way! Team categories: Men, Women, Co-Ed, and Youth (5th-12th grade). Prizes awarded for the top three teams in each category. This is a course that anyone can do. Never done an adventure race before? But up for the challenge? Not a problem. This race will be a fun day of getting to enjoy the outdoors and a little friendly competition along the way. All proceeds from the race go to support the ministry of Glen Lake Camp. Please visit <http://www.glenlake.org/recreation> for further details and to register!

Strengthening Families in the Local Church — Oct. 16

The Conference Nurture Council will present a seminar on “Parenting Skills Curriculum” starting at 9 a.m. Oct. 16 at Bureson First UMC. Registration is \$12 before Oct. 1, \$15 from Oct. 1-15, and \$20 at the door. The goal is to provide opportunities for teachers, pastors and other church leaders to review and understand that teaching parenting skills is possible in their local setting. Keynote speaker Dr. Katie Long will address the theological rationale for the church to teach parents how to raise their children. Following that presentation, participants may choose up to three workshops on curriculum for the local church. Each of the workshops will provide information and resources that local church leaders can use to provide excellent training for parents and leaders who want to raise healthy, happy, responsible children. This conference is

intended to increase spiritual growth, transform existing churches and help develop a whole new generation of principled Christian leaders. Check the Conference website (www.ctcumc.org) for more details. The registration brochure and more information about these workshops and leaders can be found from the calendar or on the Nurture Council, Marriage and Family page.

The Sower's Bag Sermon Writing Retreat — Oct. 25-27

The Conference Order of Elders is sponsoring The Sower's Bag Sermon Writing Retreat Oct. 25-27 at Still Water Lodge in Glen Rose. This sermon writing retreat seeks to help inspire, facilitate and lead interested clergy in planning sermons for the Advent and Christmas season. Dr. David Mosser, senior pastor at Arlington First UMC, will lead exegetical and study sessions in a lecture/worship format with lectionary and thematic tracks. Time will be set aside for small group fellowship and discussion as well as time to write and plan sermons. Mosser has been the contributing editor for Abingdon's Preaching Annual since 2003, and is a regular contributor to Preaching Magazine, The International Lesson Series Annual, Adult Bible Studies and Lectionary homiletics. For a flyer and registration form, visit <http://www.ctcumc.org/pages/detail/1459>.

Faithfully Fit Forever Leader Training — Nov. 13

The CTC Health & Wellness Task Force is sponsoring Faithfully Fit Forever Leader Training at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 13 at Keller First UMC (1025 Johnson Road, Keller 76248). Faithfully Fit Forever (FFF) is a non-profit, cooperative community health program created by MeritCare Hospital Parish Nursing and Cardiac Rehab staff. It attempts to eliminate the barriers that keep people from participating in exercise and health enhancing behaviors. To date, over 150 places of worship in 8 states have implemented FFF programs. The \$75 cost includes 16 weeks of programming to get you started, a training manual, educational materials/references, devotional resources and exercise leadership video. More details on the conference website (www.ctcumc.org) under Ministries/Health and Wellness.

News Briefs — The Denomination

Katrina: Five Years Later

For the latest and archives stories related to Katrina and recovery efforts of the years, check out this UM News Services sites at http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1Lth/b.5968501/k.7E7F/Special_Coverage_Katrina.htm?tr=y&aid=6946538.

Support Our Ministries in Pepsi Project

- **First UMC in Grapevine**, in cooperation with Cannon Elementary in Grapevine, has applied to the Pepsi Refresh Project to receive a \$25,000 grant to start a Community Computer Club. Such a club would benefit parents and children in the entire community who need to learn English and other life and professional skills. Volunteers from the church and school will manage the computer lab and offer classes to assist those using the computers. The Pepsi Refresh Project takes ideas from people, businesses and non-profit organizations that will have a positive impact in the world. The only way to receive a grant is by getting votes from people in the community. The top 10 ideas (by number of votes) each month receive funding so your help is needed to get the project into the top 10! To vote for the Community Computer Club, go to www.refresheverything.com/communitycomputerclub and vote daily through Sept. 30. Votes may also be submitted by texting 100291 to Pepsi (73774). More details about the project are also available on the church website at www.firstmethodistgrapevine.org
- **Society of St. Andrew's** — Your vote can provide 9 million servings of food to hungry Americans. Pepsi is granting 1.3 million dollars in September to fund ideas that will refresh the world. Society of St. Andrew's approach to feeding the hungry will certainly refresh the world of those in need. You can help us feed the hungry by voting every day in September for the Society of St. Andrew in the Food & Shelter-\$250,000 category. Go to SoSA's website to start voting: <http://www.endhunger.org>. The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) is a national, faith-based,

ecumenical, nonprofit organization that gleans America's fields and feeds America's hungry. It effectively tackles the problem of hunger in America through its grassroots *Gleaning Network*, *Potato & Produce Project* and *Harvest of Hope* programs, which salvage fresh produce that will otherwise be wasted and donates it to feed the hungry. SoSA is one of the nation's largest nonprofit suppliers of fresh produce to the hungry.

Church Security Training Seminar — Oct. 19

Receive a free workplace violence prevention video program just for attending (limit 1 per church). Benefits:

- Learn to assess your church for critical security vulnerabilities
- Be able to prioritize and react to security threats
- Recognize signs of a potential crisis before it occurs
- Learn how to respond to and survive an active shooter incident
- Learn to develop and implement a crisis management plan
- Determine strategies to reduce likelihood of your church becoming a target of violence
- Discover how to keep your church family and visitors safe in uncertain times
- Best practices for travel safety training for your Mission Teams
- A Best Practices approach to church security / scaled to your resources and needs

Take advantage of these benefits by attending a one-day church training seminar sponsored by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety. Select between: Oct 19 - Springcreek Church, 2660 Belt Line Road, Garland, TX. Registration: \$149, and all participating churches will receive Flash Point: Recognizing and Preventing Violence in the Workplace - a \$695 value! To register for this seminar or to find future dates and locations, contact Jerry McConnell at 509-252-8533 or via email at jerry.mcconnell@cppssite.com.

2010 Annual Conference Wrap-Up: Racial Justice Legislation

Annual Conference sessions and the legislation they passed this year provide interesting insight into the issues facing communities. Compiled by the General Commission of Religion & Race, it offers a look at the way UMs are addressing justice in our UM churches and communities. Check out the results at http://www.gcorr.org/site/c.mwKWJ9NTJtF/b.6213763/k.B6D3/Leg_2.htm.

National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month

September is National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month and resources for focusing on this problem are available from the General Board of Church & Society at <http://www.recoverymonth.gov/>. Read about combating addiction at <http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=frLJK2PKLqF&b=6176637&ct=8573705> and at the end of the article find other resources, including sample worship services and sermon helps.

Perkins Youth School of Theology — Sept. 20

High school juniors and seniors are invited to learn more about the Perkins YOUTH School of Theology from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, on the SMU campus's Prothro Hall/Great Hall Room 121. The school, held each summer, is a theological program for high school youth to explore faith formation practices of service, mentoring and theological study and mature them as leaders for the church and community. To learn more about PYST, visit <http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms/PYST.aspx> or call 214-768-1333.

Lighten the Burden III AIDS Conference — Deadline: Sept. 20

Lighten the Burden III, the third international AIDS conference sponsored by the UM Global AIDS Fund committee, will be Oct. 14-16 at the Radisson Central Hotel in Dallas. Join along with AIDS activists and advocates on this educational and spiritual journey to work toward an AIDS-free world. Registration: \$100 (includes meals and resources). Deadline: Sept. 20. To register for *Lighten the Burden III*, go to www.umglobalaidsfund.org. Questions? Contact Donna Brandyberry at dbrandyberry@umc-gbcs.org or 202-488-5641.

Preparing for a Future With Hope — Oct. 7-8

The best years of the church are ahead of us, and in anticipation, this year's Leadership Institute

will focus on "**Preparing for a Future with Hope.**" Join Adam Hamilton, the staff of the Church of the Resurrection, and thousands of UMs in our goal to "Prepare for a Future with Hope" at Leadership Institute 2010 October 7-8, Leawood, KS. For a video clip message from Adam Hamilton and more details on the Leadership Institute, visit <http://www.cor.org/catalyst/leadership-institute-2010/>.

Annual Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection — Oct. 7-8

The best years of the church are ahead of us, and in anticipation, this year's Leadership Institute will focus on "Preparing for a Future with Hope." Join Adam Hamilton, the staff of the Church of the Resurrection, and thousands of UMs from around the country in seeking to "Prepare for a Future with Hope" at Leadership Institute 2010 Oct. 7-8 at Leawood, Kan. <http://www.cor.org/institute10>. Special Discounts available for young adults and leaders of new churches.

Local Congregations & Ministry Groups

Red Oak Sponsors Blood Mobile — Sept. 11

Red Oak First UMC, in conjunction with Red Oak ISD and Founder's Day, will sponsor the Carter Blood Mobile on Founder's Day, Saturday, Sept. 11, at the New Red Oak High School baseball field. Please come out and enjoy the festivities and stop by the Blood Mobile to make a donation between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. You can sign up ahead of time at www.fumcro.org.

On the Wings of Prayer — Sept. 12

An experience in evening worship will be led by Bob Holloway, Fort Worth district superintendent, and his wife, Judy Holloway, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at Genesis UMC (7635 S. Hulen, Fort Worth). Participants will experience experiential prayer led by the Prayer Team of Genesis, singing our prayers, Lectio Divina, labyrinth, centering prayer and praying in color. A nursery will be available by request at 817-292-4551.

It's 110 Years for Thompson Chapel

Thompson Chapel will be celebrating 110 years of praising and serving God with a special service at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17. Contact for more details: Twinkle Stubbs at thompsonchapel@sbcglobal.net or 817-626-9404.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University — Starts Sept. 12

Davis Memorial UMC will host this 13-week class that begins Sept. 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. Can you imagine what your life would be like if you had NO payments ... if you were completely debt free! The class will show you how to get there no matter where you are right now. You'll learn how to handle the money God entrusts you with His way and what it means to have true financial peace. Do you have all your debt paid off already? This class is also for you!! Come and learn about investing, wealth building, retirement planning and more. If you would like to sign up, please call the church office at 817-281-0411.

25th Anniversary for St. John the Apostle UMC — Sept. 18

St. John the Apostle UMC in Arlington is having its 25th Anniversary Dinner (5:30 p.m.) and Celebration (7 p.m.) on Saturday, Sept. 18 with founding pastor Jerry Chism sharing the church's early SJA stories. There will be 25th Anniversary Worship Services on Sunday, Sept. 19, with Bishop Lowry preaching at all 3 services (8:30 a.m., 9:40 a.m., and 11 a.m.). If you are planning to come to the dinner, please RSVP to nancy.froman@sjaumc.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.

Paul Saik Concert at Woodway — Sept. 12

Renowned Christian recording artist Paul Saik will be in concert at Woodway First UMC (21000 Woodway Drive, Waco) at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12. Central UMC joins Woodway in sponsoring this concert. For more details, call 254-751-0411.

Gather at the River of Life at First Arlington & Thomas Q. Robbins — Sept. 12-13

Water is a vivid and powerful symbol in the Scriptures of God's providence, deliverance and grace. We are drawn to God's waters at times when we are in need of spiritual renewal. We're baptized in it, refreshed through it, calmed by it. So it's no surprise that "Gathering at the River of Life" is an appropriate theme for the revival to be held at the First UMC in Arlington Sept. 12 and 13. Thomas Q. Robbins will be the guest preacher for the two-day event, which features Sunday morning worship and evening services at 7 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. For full event details, please visit www.ArlingtonMethodist.org/gathering.

Building Consecration at Clifton — Sept. 26

First UMC of Clifton will be consecrating a new foyer, office complex, nursery, choral practice hall, sanctuary platform, handicap bathrooms, and the renovation of other parts of the worship facility and grounds at 4 p.m. Sept. 26. This has been about a 3 ½-year planning and construction journey for this congregation. It really has been a work of love, commitment, beauty and quality. All are invited to the consecration service.

Lay Speaker Course / Temple District

Lay speaker courses being offered to all in the Temple District:

Saturday, Sept. 11 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. at Wellspring, Georgetown (lunch provided)

Youth Basic — taught by Pam Dieckert 254 939-5413 pam@dieckert.com & Cindy Weigand

Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Temple Oak Park

Basic — planning underway by Pam Dieckert, Temple District Lay Speaker chair

Just Say Know Biblically Based Sexuality Education — Oct. 1 & 2

On Friday-Saturday, Oct. 1 and 2, the Methodist Children's Home will host a training event for the "Just Say Know" Biblically Based Sexuality Education. Rev. Linda Goddard, the author of the curriculum, and her husband Richard, will lead the training. Training begins Friday from 7 to 10 p.m., and continues Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MCH has had great responses from students and staff when they have used this curriculum previously. Cost of the training is \$20 per person, which includes lunch Saturday and your own copy of Student Resource Manual. Contact: Chaplain Steve Heyduck at <http://methodistchildrenshome.org/> or 254-750-1310.

Older Adult Retreat at Mt. Sequoyah — Oct. 18-21

Trinity UMC, Arlington is taking a group of older adults to the *Leaves of Gold Older Adult Retreat* at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Ark, Oct. 18-21. The keynote speaker is Bishop Richard Wilke,

retired Bishop in Residence at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. Kathy Youngblood, wife of Trinity pastor Scott Youngblood, will lead a retreat workshop on the art of quilting. Trinity is inviting anyone who would like to attend the retreat to share the cost of transportation via the rental of a mini-bus. You may register for the retreat at www.mtsequoyah.org, and then confirm your transportation reservation by calling Brenda Beaver at 817-274-1345 as soon as possible.

Women of Faith — Round Rock First Women Have Tickets to Share

The women of Round Rock First UMC are going to San Antonio for Women of Faith - Imagine, Oct. 22-23 in the Alamodome. We have a few tickets left and invite others from the conference to join us. The ticket price is \$89. Contact group leader Karah Ricketts at krosyrup@yahoo.com or 512-917-9874. *Escape from the everyday at a Women of Faith weekend and be refreshed, encouraged and inspired. Because the God who loves you can do far more than you can ever imagine.*

Financial Peace Workshop — Aug. 24 Start Up at Sparks Memorial

Sparks Memorial UMC (900 Maxfield, Waco 76705) will be leading a 13-week session on Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*. The goal of FPU is transformation. FPU teaches how to eliminate debt, save for the future and how to give like never before. On average, class members pay off \$5,300 in debt and save \$2,700 in a 90-day period. If you would like to register for the class, go to www.daveramsey.com, click on "classes," then click on "find a class." Type in "76705" in the zip code field. Click "Register" under Sparks Memorial UMC. Cost is \$99.51 for materials and is payable at the preview. For questions, contact Jimmy Sansom at 254-799-5124 (church) or 254-716-9550 (cell).

Woman in the Mirror Workshop at Keller First — Sept. 18

First UMC of Keller (1025 Johnson Road Keller 76248) will host "The Woman in the Mirror, Finding the Beauty Within" featuring Jennifer Strickland, former model and founder of Jennifer Strickland Ministries, and now author of "Girl Perfect: Confessions of a Former Runway Model." The event is 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sept. 18 at the church. Advance tickets \$10/at the door \$15.

Strickland's mission is to inspire young women to shine from the inside out by helping them discover real beauty, worth and a purpose that truly lasts. Jennifer will be sharing her story of her rise in the fashion world and her heart-wrenching fall. She'll speak about the illusion of outward perfection, offering hope and healing to those suffering from eating disorders, poor self-image, drug and alcohol abuse, cutting, sexual abuse and promiscuity, which chip away at their sense of well-being. www.kellerumc.org

Carry the Light Concert at the Bass — Sept. 26

Sept. 26, Bass Hall, Fort Worth, 3 & 7 p.m.

Carry the Light is a contemporary Gospel concert that will feature over 300 singers and instrumentalists from various denominations located across the DFW area. This concert is part of a plan to sponsor an entire community, over 1000 orphaned children, through the three-year Giving Hope Program to transform their lives from hopelessness to blessing. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the children in this life-changing ministry. More information can be found at www.carrythelight2010.org.

Children & Youth Worker Training: The Basics — Oct. 1-2

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 1-2, at FUMC Weatherford (301 South Main St., Weatherford 76086-4305) <http://www.ctcumc.org/churches/detail/1297> Christian Ed Basics is a weekend training experience for leaders in children and youth ministries. It is open to any children or youth ministry leader, new or experienced, volunteer or paid, full time or part time. At Christian Ed Basics, you get an introduction to information and tools you need to succeed in children or youth ministries. Brochure at

http://ct.brickriver.com/files/oFiles_Library_XZXLCZ/conference_brochurefinal_2DKUXFGW.pdf

Maximizing Emotional Connections Conference — Oct. 14-17

Whether you are counseling, preaching or leading an organization, your effectiveness will be greatly impacted by your capacity to connect with others emotionally. Want to learn more about the “how and why” of emotional connection? The Tomkins Institute presents Maximizing Emotional Connection Oct. 14-17 at First UMC Fort Worth. Sponsored by the Center for Creative Transformation at First UMC of Fort Worth, Wesleyan University, The Institute for Restorative Communities and the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School, this conference brings presenters from across the globe to offer presentations on topics like the neurobiology of attachment, cognition and emotion, understanding the dynamics of emotion in organizations and relationships, etc. Experts in these respective fields will explore application to church, school, business, criminal justice and psychotherapy. For more information, visit www.tomkins.org or contact Charles Gaby, MA, LPC at 817-339-3881.

Morningside Class Sponsors Nets for Kids — Oct. 30

The Raven Sunday School Class at Morningside UMC (2860 Evans Ave., Fort Worth) is sponsoring “Nets for Kids” event from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 30. This event is designed to raise funds to purchase nets to help in the fight against malaria for the children's peers in Africa. The Raven class invites your participation in this event. Be ready to horse riding, bounce house, water dunking, other fun games and activities as well as good eats. If your older elementary children's class or Children's Ministry is interested in being a co-sponsor, contact Helen Grape, 817-846-2723 or Peggy Nuttroy, 817-205-2522.

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=olL5LeMPLeKYLp&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)

Worship Resources for Grandparents Day (Sunday after Labor Day)

Here are a few links that may be useful in observing Grandparents Day during worship services.

• <http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsG&b=5609115&ct=3838349>

• <http://www.calpac.org/site/link/BOHPJHKDGPFFIONFMIDJKGIIICEIHBHNDMFHNBHHHPM EFGEBEEFCFPHL>

Several Books of Possible Interest (all available through major booksellers)

Growing Older Without Fear: The Nine Qualities of Successful Aging — may be of special interest to baby boomers, includes the results of a national survey of people's ideas, concerns, successes, wit, and wisdom regarding aging; and has received endorsements from Mayor Tom Leppert, Dr. David Mosser, CEO coach Bill Evans, and others. Book signing: Saturday, Sept. 11,

1 – 3 p.m. Borders Books Colleyville (5615 Colleyville Blvd (Hwy 26) by Market Street)
A Faithful Heart: Daily Guide for Joyful Living — by Bishop Sally Dyck. Passionate, Called, Holy, Equipped, Joyful, Loving, Learning, Authentic. These 8 words, so simple on a page, yet when they are lived out daily they will change your heart and the hearts of those around you. *A Faithful Heart* is an 8-week journey into these words. Follow along and find yourself strengthening your heart and experiencing God in a powerful way. Dyck combines Scripture, engaging stories, and the faith of Mary to encourage women to grow and share their heart. Experience *A Faithful Heart* on your own or as part of a community of women who want to open themselves up to the richness of God's daily presence. Also available: *A Faithful Heart Leader Guide*

The Cure for the Chronic Life: Overcoming the Hopelessness that Holds You Back — Deanna Favre, breast-cancer survivor and wife of NFL legend Brett Favre, and Shane Stanford, an HIV-positive pastor, have something in common. Both have battled life-threatening illnesses, and both have overcome chronic hopelessness to discover the transforming strength of God. Deanna and Shane understand those everyday struggles that cause us to feel our life is in a crisis, whether it's something as simple as an ache or a bad attitude, or as complicated as a broken relationship or a debilitating disease. In *The Cure for the Chronic Life*, Deanna and Shane show readers how Christ's redeeming love will speak to the deepest of our struggles and hurts, answer the deepest of our questions, and put us on a new path toward healing and grace.

Walking Bible Study — It's easy to get lost in the busyness of every day. But taking a walk and discovering God's presence along the way will bring you back to where you need to be. The *Walking Bible Study* by Becca Stevens, a series of short readings and meditations, is your field guide to learning more about Scripture as you travel through nature and life. Wherever you walk, take it along with you and follow the paths of God. "Walking changes us; it can transport our spirits from being weighed down by life into the joy of God's presence." Each study consists of 4 sessions. Sessions include prayer, Scripture, Becca's thoughts and stories, questions to think about or discuss, and activities.

Worship Resources for Children's Sabbath

This year, the UMC will observe Children's Sabbath Oct. 8-10. Children's Sabbath is an ecumenically celebrated weekend committed to educating the congregation about the state of today's children and families in America. Children provide leadership through music, sharing of gifts, and reading of scripture. Downloadable resources for this event are available through the Children's Defense Fund <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/2010-childrens-sabbaths-manual.html>. Use an interactive map to find ideas that worked in congregations and communities in 2009 <http://www.childrensdefense.org/programs-campaigns/faith-based-action/childrens-sabbaths/interactive-map-2009.html>.

Depression Seminar in Your Church — FREE

Mental Health Facts from the Depression Connection Team: Mental illnesses are serious illnesses. They cannot be overcome through "will power" and are not related to a person's "character" or intelligence. The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in four adults — approximately 57 million Americans — experience a mental health disorder in a given year. The U.S. Surgeon General reports that 10% of children and adolescents in the U.S. suffer from serious emotional and mental disorders that cause significant functional impairment in their day-to-day lives at home, in school and with peers. 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.

Discovering Christian Classics: 5 Sessions in the Ancient Faith of Our Future.

Learn about 5 of the essential classic spiritual works of the Christian tradition. 1. The meaning of conversion and prayer from the Desert Fathers and Mothers. 2. How to love from the sermons of St. John Chrysostom. 3. St. Benedict's Rule of Life and how it became one of the foundations of Western Christian spirituality. 4. How to have an intimate relationship with God according to The Cloud of Unknowing. 5. What it means to "pick up your cross" in the Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis. A 5-week study including a leader's guide. Total running time 92 minutes.

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.

Needs, Resources, Opportunities

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

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.

Spanish-Speaking Volunteers for 1-Time Event

Campus Drive UMC in Fort Worth needs of a Spanish-speaking hostess for an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept 18. If you are bilingual and would be willing to volunteer to assist Campus Drive UMC, please contact Shelia Hawkins at 817-478-6166.

P-T Organist/Music Associate

University UMC in Fort Worth seeks a part-time organist/music associate to begin Oct. 1. Primary responsibilities will include playing for one weekly Sunday morning worship service and for Wednesday evening rehearsals, and for choral accompaniment that requires use of the organ, and/or piano. Additional services during the year will include holy day services and accompanying the choirs for special events (funerals and weddings at an additional pay). The church has a 2 manual 27-rank Dan Garland pipe organ (installed in 1998) with 1564 pipes and 32-level memory system. The traditional worship format utilizes multiple styles of music and creative instrumentation, including orchestra for special occasions and services. The successful candidate

will need to be a strong and creative congregational hymn accompanist. Salary is negotiable based upon experience. Send current resume with cover letter to Darin W. Hoppe, director of traditional music/worship arts, at dhoppe@universityumc.net or Darin W. Hoppe, University UMC, 2416 W. Berry St., Fort Worth 76110.

Youth Director

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

Financial Secretary

Part-time financial secretary position open at Smithfield UMC in North Richland Hills. Job requires an average of 10 hours per week and a working knowledge of Quick Books and basic bookkeeping skills. High school diploma or equivalent is required. To apply, send resume to Lisa Neslony at pastorlisa@smithfieldumc.org or 6701 Smithfield Road, North Richland Hills 76182.

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.

Multiple Needs at Tolar UMC

- Tolar UMC is approaching a renovation and prayerfully searches for: a used, lightweight steeple; candle lighters and/or rack; shelving boards.
- Also, used Sunday school DVD Bible study materials for adults or teens; used copies of Max Lucado's FEARLESS or FACING YOUR GIANTS; used Bibles (NRSV); used children's Christmas musicals, gospel music for choirs, paraments. Call 254-835-4005 and leave a message for Sunday a.m. or email shopjay3@pwhome.com, Helen Jones, 817-594-7940.
- Youth leader for grades 7-12. Tolar UMC is located between Granbury and Stephenville on Hwy 377. No experience necessary. Will train and send to train. Must be over 18, pass background check, enthusiastic, willing to lead and learn. Needed Sunday evening and special events. Sunday a.m. optional. For details, call 817-594-7940, Helen Jones, pastor.
- Guitar player for weekday rehearsal with choir and once a month Sunday a.m. Call 817-594-7940, Helen Jones, pastor.

Financial Secretary

University UMC, Fort Worth seeks a part-time financial secretary. Applicants should be able to demonstrate strong accounting skills and possess experience in the financial field. Finance or business degree is preferred, but not required. Applicants may submit resume to Dana Boles at officemanager@universityumc.net.

Volunteers for Multiple Tasks

Diamond Hill UMC in North Fort Worth needs volunteers for summer and fall activities:

- Soccer Camp – Friday, July 30, Alliance UMC. Volunteers needed to teach children soccer, help with Bible S'tudies and music.

* After school tutoring program – Beginning Mid August. Volunteers are needed to help tutor students and assist with their after school programming.

- Bilingual (Spanish speaking) individuals needed!

If you have the gift of working with children and are able to help, please call Laura or Osvaldo Benitez at 210-378-9283.

Pianist/Organist

First UMC of Midlothian seeks pianist/organist with responsibilities for the 8:30 and 11 a.m. traditional worship services and special seasonal worship. Position available immediately. For detailed information contact Billy Pritchett at billyp@fumc-midlothian.org. A resume with cover letter may be sent to: First UMC of Midlothian c/o Billy Pritchett – Director of Music 800 S. 9th St., Midlothian, 76065.

Portable Kneeling Benches

Good News UMC in Cedar Park is in need of two or three portable kneeling benches for prayer and communion. Please contact Bob Rainey at bobrainey@austin.rr.com or 254-479-0241. We will pick up.

Mini-bus

Lorena UMC wants to buy a good, late-model mini-bus, 14+1 passenger or larger, low mileage. The church will pay cash; the need is now (or soon). Lorena UMC, 254-857-4283, 817-773-6959, lorenaumc@lorenaumc.org.

Organist

First UMC, Belton seeks an organist. If interested, contact Carol Scherer at 254-939-5703 or musicdir@vvm.com.

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.