



Dear Colleagues in the mission of Jesus Christ:

Jesus is somewhere "on the road" to Jerusalem; to his passion, death, resurrection and ascension. Some people ask Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate has ruthlessly slaughtered as they offered sacrifices in the Temple. Were they killed because their sins exceeded those of the survivors? What about those people? Jesus turns it around; what about you? "[U]nless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did." (Lk. 13:3). And those eighteen people on whom the tower of Siloam fell? What about those people? Jesus turns it around; what about you? "[U]nless you change your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did." (Lk. 13:5).



On this road to Jerusalem Jesus speaks of death and makes it uncomfortably personal. He speaks not only of his death; he speaks of our death. But what kind of death?

In his most recent daily meditation, spiritual director Richard Rohr writes:

The Christian church has focused for centuries on judging the shadow self, which Jesus never wasted time on. He put all of his energy into revealing the ego self. But we have spent most of our time making people feel guilty about their shadow self; that part of us for which Jesus has great pity and sympathy and compassion. Jesus is never upset at sinners; he is only upset with people who do not think they are sinners (i.e., those who have not faced their shadow and often project their evil elsewhere).

Look at Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee's ego had him trying to engineer his own righteousness. He could not see the shadow of his arrogance and judgment. The tax collector saw his sin, and realized his complete reliance on God's mercy. It was the tax collector who went home "justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 18:14).¹

All of our efforts to "engineer" our own rightness, to find markers and signs by which to distinguish our rightness from those people, will - much like the tower of Siloam - ultimately collapse in upon us; usually not before we have killed off our access to God. Given the current events within our denomination regarding clergy officiating marriage and blessing civil unions, all of us are in danger of utilizing every religious tool at our disposal to justify ourselves and to separate ourselves from those people.

An alternate road to travel is the road of humility. Like the tax collector, daily we own our broken and sinful human nature, meditate upon and act on the knowledge that we are no different than any other human being, with our shadow self and ego self. Who can save us!? (See 1 Co. 15:55-57).

When we "see the light," so to speak, and come to our senses, we do what people in Celebrate Recovery do: we buy the T-shirt that says "I am one of those people."

Yours in faith, hope and love,

Tim

¹ Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation (online April 2, 2014)

<https://cac.org/sign-up>

Church Development Corner

The "**West Side Vision**" continues looking ahead!



The North East District Jacksonville west side UMC pastors met and prayed together on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, and again on Thursday, March 27. Our next gathering for further prayer and ministry exploration as the clergy team will be Thursday, April 24. If you have any questions, comments or ideas about the vision of launching a collaborative, exciting ministry on the west side of Jacksonville, please feel free to contact me, Steve Herbert, our District Superintendent, Rev. Tim Smiley, or any of our participating west side pastors: Rev. Dr. Pam Hall, Rev. Clare Chance, Rev. Greg Freeze, and Rev. Rafe Vigil.

One area of great opportunity we are praying about is our youth...

"YOUTH!!!" is what we are told loud-and-clear by the Jacksonville Sheriff's officers and Assistant Chief of Police when we asked, "What is the most helpful ministry the west side United Methodist churches can provide to the west side of Jacksonville?" Gangs are not the problem. Rather, it is young children and teenagers who have weak parental support and plenty of free time with nothing to do.



In our brainstorming, some ideas we feel led to consider are:

Youth Community Exercise Facility with Christ-Centered focus: is one thing we want to continue praying about and discussing. This would give the youth a safe place to go, burn their energy, and improve their self-image.

Job-Training Center: is another ministry we are praying about and discussing for the west side, perhaps partnering with Peterson Academy (magnet school).

Satellite Worship Center: a place and style of worship that would attract the west side youth is another ministry we are feeling led to offer the west side of Jacksonville.

Some currently existing opportunities which any of us individually can choose to become involved with right now, and possible opportunities for the west side churches to join together in are:

PAL. : the "Police Athletic League": becoming involved with this existing program is another idea to explore---we could both keep our youth away from disruptive/illegal activities as well as witness to them.

ShAdCo: the "Sheriff's Advisory Council" is a way every United Methodist can make a serious impact on crime improvement of the west side. This is something each of us can do right now! It simply means being willing to report any suspicious activity to the police. A citizen's report activates investigation which many times leads to positive crime prevention. There is no cost. To register just call: **Community Affairs at (904) 630-2160.**

Excitedly anticipating a Christian impact on the west side of Jacksonville!

Steve Herbert

Rev. Dr. Stephen R. Herbert
VP-Exec. Director Church Development
email: ncd-ne@flumc.org
call: 904.396.3026

NE Mission Prayer Gathering

April 7, 2014 7:00PM-8:00PM
Christ UMC - Neptune Beach
400 Penman Road
Neptune Beach, FL 32266



You and your church family are invited to join us at the next Monthly Prayer Gathering for the Northeast Florida Mission to be held on Monday, April 7, from 7-8 pm, at Christ United Methodist Church, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach, FL 32266; Phone (904) 249-5370. We will pray for our churches, pastors and leaders, the communities around our churches, and the teams that will come to help us visit our neighbors during Mission Week next summer (June 21-28). All are invited to come pray, even if you are not part of a host church!

Blessings,
Marilyn Coppenhaver, Executive Assistant Celebrate Jesus, Inc.
Phone: (407) 893-7305 FAX: (407) 893-7307



The United Methodist Men

of the North East District of the Florida Conference
cordially invite all men, women & children to a
good old fashion "Family Night at the Ballpark"

When: Friday, April 25, 2014 at 7:05pm

Where: The Baseball Grounds in Jacksonville

Price: \$7.50



Jacksonville Suns vs. Montgomery Biscuits

*Entertainment between innings from the Pirates of Fernandina.
Following the last out enjoy the best fireworks show in town!*

Please see your local church UMM President to order tickets by April 10th.



A Mandatory Meeting of all appointed Supply and Part-Time Local Pastors (SY/PL) An Introduction to Pastor/Clergy Peer Learning Groups

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2014
Time: 9:30AM - 12:00PM (Brunch provided)
Location: Mandarin UMC; 11270 San Jose Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223

Please read carefully the letter from the district superintendent which will be sent to you in the next few days providing further information regarding this important meeting.

RSVP: Faye Johnson, NE district office (904) 396-3026 email flumc-ne2@flumc.org

Community Outreach Ministry Presents "Story Wave Training"



The NE District Community Outreach Minister, Jim Young, in partnership with CRU Campus Crusade for Christ presents **"Story Wave Training" Saturday, May 17, 2014; 9:00AM-4:00PM** Vineyard Church; 5854 Mt Carmel Terrace in Jacksonville.

People love a good story ... Jesus used stories to reach hearts and stir minds... He was the master storyteller! Story Wave connects your story with God's story... Explore creative ways to disciple and share Jesus with others more effectively.



Please join Nancy Wilson, Author, Speaker, Global Ambassador for CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) who recently developed Story Wave Training to unleash the power of Bible storying in evangelism, discipleship and short term missions. Her passion is to mobilize the next "wave" of world changers to reach the unreached and usher in the greatest harvest before Jesus comes again!!

All ministry leaders, and those interested in outreach and discipleship, youth ministry and missions are invited to come join us for this special introductory Story Wave Training. Cost is \$20 if pre-registered by May 12th or pay \$25 at the door. To register email your name, phone, church or ministry to susan.hill@cru.org or call (904) 448-0737 ext. 10.

For more information contact Jim Young, District Community Outreach Minister at (904) 993-2387 or com-ne@flumc.org

Summer Mission Intern Program

Summer Mission Interns serve in community-based ministries that are affiliated with The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church. The 2014 Partnering Ministries include: Branches United Methodist Mission, Centenary Camp & Shadetree Ministries, CROS Ministries, Grace Place for Children and Families, and Riverside

Retreat. A \$2,000 stipend is awarded to each intern for their 10 weeks of service, which runs from June 1 through August 9, 2014 (dates may vary slightly by site). In addition, room and board are provided. Intern applications are accepted from students and young adults, ages 19 through 28, who are eager to be part of God's transformative work in local communities. [Click Here](#) to apply.

The deadline for submitting the completed application and materials is May 1.

Training is provided to the interns at the pre-summer retreat as well as in-service training by the outreach ministries. Supervision and mentoring is provided by Conference and agency staff throughout the summer. The Florida Conference Summer Mission Intern Program is offered through the Office of Missional Engagement. For more information, contact Shelly Denmark, Summer Mission Intern Program Director at sdenmark@flumc.org.



Around the Conference



The Florida United
Methodist Foundation, Inc.

Florida Credit Union College Scholarship Available

United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union is now accepting applications for the 2014 UMC FCU Scholarship. In an effort to include our many graduate students, we have expanded the age eligibility to ages 17-35. **The application must be received in our offices by April 30, 2014.** [Click Here](#) for more information!

Have the Best Christian Education Leaders? Nominate them for this Award.



Dear Church Leaders,

The Florida United Methodist Foundation is seeking nominations for the **Alice W. Lockmiller Christian Education Awards**, and we encourage you to nominate a deserving teacher or program from your church.

These awards honor excellence in Christian education for children and youth in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade within the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Each year, two awards are given: \$500 to the outstanding teacher of the year and \$1,000 to the outstanding program of the year.

These awards are funded by the Alice W. Lockmiller Charitable Trust and administered by the Florida United Methodist Foundation. Mrs. Lockmiller wished to fund ministries within The United Methodist Church that focus on nurturing parents and their children and to increase, in a substantial way, the participation of children in the membership of the church. A dedicated United Methodist, Mrs. Lockmiller valued the role Christian education played in her own life and hoped to recognize those who impart Christian values in ministry to future generations of United Methodists.

Those who wish to nominate a teacher or program may complete a nomination form online at www.fumf.org (a link on the homepage accesses the nomination form and additional information) or print the form and complete it manually. A PDF of the form is attached.

Nominations are due by May 2. A committee will review the submissions and choose the award recipients.

More information is available on the home page of the Florida United Methodist Foundation [website](http://www.fumf.org), or contacting me at titaparham@bigbluecommunications.net or 407-421-3656 or Suzanne McGovern, vice president of communications, Florida United Methodist Foundation, at smcgovern@fumf.org or 866-363-9673, extension 7203.

Thank you so much for your assistance in helping identify worthy recipients of this generous gift.

Warm regards,
Tita Parham
Communications Specialist, Florida United Methodist Foundation



Large Church Initiative 2014 "Engaging All Generations" April 28-30, 2014

Mount Pisgah UMC; 9820 Nesbit Rd.
Johns Creek, GA 30082

This is an excellent opportunity for pastors of larger churches to bring their teams to learn how to develop a strategy and hear best practices around how to become a disciple making church that engages all generations. Check out the event at www.lci2014.com

Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship



Dear Pastors, Campus Ministers, and District Superintendents of the Florida Conference,

We are excited to sponsor the Summer Pastoral Ministry Internship Program for 2014!

This program is for young adults, ages 18-26, who are interested in exploring ordained ministry through 10-week summer internships at United Methodist Churches and other approved extension ministry settings within the Florida Conference. These internships seek to provide a holistic, hands-on experience in pastoral ministry within a variety of areas of responsibility and under the guidance of a supervisor.

Please consider your church or ministry as a host site for an intern this summer--from May 26 through August 4. We are looking for a diversity of faith communities. Attached please find a program description that provides additional information about hours, housing, salary, and responsibilities.

If you would like your church or ministry setting to be an internship site, please email Rwth Fuquay at rwth.fuquay@flumc.org with a position description for your prospective intern, including what arrangements will be made for housing. In addition, there may be young adults in your congregations and campus ministries who would enjoy and benefit from the internship program. If so, please pass along the attached Intern Application to them [Click Here](#).

We are grateful for your consideration and partnership in this vital program to assist young adults in their vocational discernment and to cultivate fresh calls to ordained ministry.

With blessings,
Wayne Wiatt
Rwth Fuquay

2014 Annual Conference



2014 Florida Annual Conference
The Lakeland Center, Lakeland, Florida

172nd Session of the Florida Annual Conference

Wednesday, June 11 through Saturday, June 14 at The Lakeland Center
701 West Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815

Registration opens Wednesday, June 11 at 8:00 a.m.

The Clergy and Laity Sessions will begin Wednesday, June 11th at 1:30 p.m. with the Opening Plenary Session at 3:30 p.m.

[Click here](#) for the complete AC2014 tentative schedule

[Click here](#) for the Pre-Conference Brochure

This year there will be **Pre-Conference Orientation videos** featuring key information related to Annual Conference available on-line in early May. The North East District will not host District Pre-Conference Orientation gatherings as in previous years.

Name Badges for Lay & Clergy Members to Annual Conference **will NOT be mailed this year**. In keeping with the Church's aim to care for creation and be good stewards of resources, name badges will be distributed at Annual Conference this year.

Plan to pick up your name badge when you arrive at registration check-in.

Registration check-in will be located in Jenkins Arena and opens at 8:00am Wednesday.

A Word from Our Bishop's Wife



First, let me say a deep-felt thank you to all the churches that participated in the Million Meals Challenge this past year. We met our goal four months early, and since then have significantly exceeded it! The meals we have packed this year with Stop Hunger Now have been sent around the world, from the Philippines to Haiti, Nicaragua to the African continent. Your faithfulness and generosity will mean that many, many hungry children will be fed. I am looking forward to sharing with you the total number of meals packed, and to show you what the work of your hands has made possible.

Now to the future! **Jewelry Re-Sale for Missions**

While traveling throughout the Conference I have met so many wonderful young adults. They are committed Christians who truly and earnestly desire to make a difference in this world. What is often holding them back from participating in our global missions opportunities is a lack of financial means to pay for the costs that are associated with such travel. With your help, we can change that. This year we are sponsoring a Jewelry Re-Sale for Missions. This is a different kind of jewelry sale because we are asking all of you to contribute items from your jewelry collections that you are no longer using, both real and costume jewelry, and we will sell these items at Annual Conference. Even your damaged jewelry is welcome. We will take it all and try to make the best profits possible to reach our goal.

It is a resale, for a remarkable goal - the goal of making mission participation a reality for the next generation. The money we make will help to fund two young adult trips to our covenant partners in Cuba and Haiti in the coming conference year.

So how can you participate?

- * Check your jewelry box for items you are willing to donate
- * Send items to your District Office (in zip lock bags if possible)
- * Purchase items at the Jewelry ReSale for Missions while at Annual Conference

We ask that you send your donated items to your District Office no later than June 1st. That will give us plenty of time to organize the inventory and get ready for the big resale for remarkable mission opportunities. The jewelry sale will be open on Wednesday and Thursday of Annual Conference. So stop by the sale, find a treasure and make a difference in the life of a young person. Here's hoping our forgotten gems will be the means to making new mission opportunities a reality for many, many young adults.

"The Mission of God"



Once again the Annual Conference agenda will feature storytellers who share stories about the meeting theme, "The Mission of God."

"We want our members to share stories about what they are doing individually, in a small group or with a congregation to fulfill God's dream for the world and how they are in mission with God," said Gretchen Hastings, director of Connectional Relations for the conference. "Stories can be about international or domestic missions, from rebuilding earthquake-ravaged neighborhoods in Haiti to building a playground here in Florida for children who really need a place to play."

Storytellers selected to speak at Annual Conference will be asked to share their stories on the stage during the plenary sessions. For those scheduled and unable to attend, the conference will attempt to produce a video of the storyteller. All stories will be told on the conference storytelling site www.tellingourstories.com.

The Inaugural Florida Annual Conference 5K

Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 6:30am - Lake Hollingsworth - Lakeland, FL



This year at Annual Conference we are proud to announce and invite your participation in the inaugural Florida Annual Conference 5K. This Annual Conference event will be an opportunity to unite our Clergy and Lay Members of the Annual Conference and connect with the greater Lakeland community in an initiative to promote faith and fitness. 100% of the 5K proceeds will go towards our Annual Conference's support of the [Imagine No Malaria](#) campaign. The gift of 100% 5K proceeds to Imagine No Malaria is possible because of the generous sponsorships and partnerships that have been extended to this ministry initiative. If you or your

local congregation would like to contribute as a sponsor or partner, please contact Rev. Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@flumc.org.

Now is the time to begin training for this event. Consider beginning a "[Couch to 5K](#)" program. Consider finding a friend or gathering a team to race alongside you as we race towards greater health - for ourselves and for our sisters and brothers around the globe. The 5K Planning Team is receiving word of teams organizing across the districts and there will be a special recognition for the most represented district at the 5K. Rally your district annual conference representatives! Get your pastor off his or her couch! Start training and we will see you at the Starting Line in June!

Registration for the Florida Annual Conference 5K will open April 1st. Registration will be available by visiting www.flumc.org/5k. The 5K Planning Team is excited to share in this new ministry initiative with you. Together we will run this race that God has set before us.



August 14-August 17, 2014

Matthews UMC; 801 Trade St.

Matthews, NC 28105

SCD 2014 Charlotte will give you the tools and insights you need to create a dynamic ministry. This year's focus on "THE RACE: Strategies for Relevant, Authentic, Christ-centered Engagement with the World" will challenge participants to share a life-transforming relationship with Christ with people in their neighborhoods and communities. [Click Here](#) for more information.

Employment Opportunities/Classified Ads

Administrative Assistant Part-time

Ebenezer United Methodist Church seeks a Christian who is personable, engaging, motivated and self-directed to act as Administrative Assistant to the Pastor. Individual must be highly organized, detail oriented, multi-tasking, dependable and able to handle confidential information. Responsibilities include general office management, maintaining records, preparing reports and designing weekly bulletin. Applicant must be computer literate and proficient in using Microsoft Office programs. Minimum of High School diploma and at least two (2) years previous work experience in office environment required. Part-time (20 hrs week). Salary negotiable. Resumes are accepted immediately. Interested person should send their resume to ebenezerum@att.net

Business Administrator Needed

Mandarin United Methodist is accepting applications for the position of Business Administrator. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Finance or related business field; proficiency in Microsoft Office; experience managing office staff; evidence of team building and leadership skills; ability to work with volunteers. Prefer: CPA certification and 5 years work experience in financial/church management and operations; experience in stewardship. This is a full time, salaried position. Salary range: \$40,000.00 - \$49,000.00. Submit application with resume and cover letter by April 23 to Inez Wilson at iwilson@mumc.net

Item for Donation

I would like to donate a Yamaha Electone B-12 SR Organ to a church that could use it. Please contact John Burrows at (904) 538-9414 for further information.

District Calendar

April 2014

- 6-8 Children's Advocacy Days
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 18 Good Friday (District and Conference Office Closed)
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 24 District New Church Development Meeting, 10am District Office
- 24 Adam Hamilton, "Making Sense of the Bible" First UMC-Orlando 7PM
- 28 District Leadership Council Meeting, 7pm Orange Park UMC

May 2014

- 3 PT Local & SY Pastors Meeting, 9am Mandarin UMC
- 4 Announcement Sunday
- 8 Right Start (for Moving Pastors), Lakeland
- 15 District New Church Development Meeting, 10am District Office
- 26 Memorial Day (District and Conference Office Closed)

June 2014

- 11-14 Annual Conference in Lakeland
- 19 District New Church Development Meeting, 10am District Office
- 23 District Leadership Council Meeting, 7pm Orange Park UMC

July 2014

- 1 Moving Day
- 4 Independence Day (District and Conference Office Closed)
- 17 District New Church Development Meeting, 10am District Office
- 28 District Leadership Council Meeting, 7pm Orange Park UMC