

# South West District Office



Alan Jefferson, District Superintendent  
Julie Bullerdick, Administrative Assistant  
Sandy Voigt, Administrative Assistant

March 2011

Friends and Colleagues in Ministry,

As you have probably heard, I will be returning to the local church in July. This was a difficult decision for me because I have gotten to know many new friends and colleagues in ministry. I have grown to love a new area of the state of Florida and have worked with many wonderful churches and pastors to make their ministry effective and engaging.

But there are things that I feel I could have stressed more in my tenure as a district superintendent. Let me begin by encouraging pastors and church lay members to take advantage of all the resources and opportunities the district and conference offer.

There are two resources I hope you will engage that the Conference is offering. The first is the Church by Size Seminars from the Office of Congregational Excellence. I was able to meet Dr. Doug Anderson and hear his insights on helping churches to grow and improve their effectiveness. These seminars are being offered at an affordable price for local churches. More information is available at the Conference website ([www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org)).

Another area that local churches struggle with is dealing with conflict. Conflict in the congregation is destructive to the congregation and can destroy friendships. Conflict takes the focus off ministry and takes much of the energy of the church and focuses on an issue instead of making Christian disciples. I pray that every church pastor and delegate will participate in this training at Annual Conference.

Finally I want to look at our connectional system. As United Methodists we are connected in our Kingdom work. Rather than being independent and isolated, local churches can work with district or conference offices to find help for growth or addressing some concern. Our connection encourages pastors to connect with other pastors in covenant groups and for congregations to do ministry together when possible. Our connection provides cheaper property insurance, health insurance and ongoing support. I find this support to be a great asset for pastors and churches. But each congregation must do their part for our connection to meet and exceed expectations.





<http://www.clergyrenewal.org/>

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[Click here](#) for more information and [click here](#) for the form to submit for churches to be recognized at Annual Conference.

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- The central section meets at Englewood UMC on March 7 at noon. The topic will be the Extreme Youth lock-in in March. Lunch will be provided.
- The southern section will not meet due to lack of interest.
- The north/northeast section will meet for the first time at St. John's UMC of Sebring, noon on March 14. Lunch will be provided, (Dave Averil is planning sandwiches and chili for us.)

## Coming up in April:

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# Children's Ministry

Englewood UMC is hosting a Group VBS training event Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Attached is an invitation letter and flyer for Group's VBS training that can be distributed to your leadership and volunteers. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact: *Patty Tuff, Programs/Children's Director, Englewood United Methodist Church at 941-474-5588 ext. 261.*

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## FOUNDATION OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNITED METHODIST STUDENTS

The Florida United Methodist Foundation administers two scholarships that are intended exclusively for the use of United Methodist students who wish to further their education beyond high school. The **Sinclair Scholarship** is specifically for *incoming freshmen* with strong academic skills and a record of service to church and community. The **Alice W. Lockmiller Scholarship** is available to United Methodists who are full-time students attending a junior college, senior college, university, seminary or other institution for educational or occupational training beyond the high school level. Applicants do not have to be incoming freshmen. Please see the attached poster [here](#) for further information.

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# SPIRITUAL FORMATION

## The Academy for Spiritual Formation is...

- A time to fill the deep spiritual hunger that characterizes many lives
- An opportunity for intentional spiritual growth in a disciplined, accepting community
- A place where community silence enhances personal prayer and reflection
- A time of spiritual renewal and discovery through academic presentation, personal reflections, and communal sharing
- A sharing of spiritual growth in covenant groups
- A time for healing to continue
- It is for both clergy and laity

**The date is Sunday, March 13 – Friday, March 18 at the Life Enrichment Center outside of Leesburg.**

**For more information, to register on-line or to print the brochure, go to**

[http://www.flumc2.org/event\\_detail.asp?PKValue=3138](http://www.flumc2.org/event_detail.asp?PKValue=3138) If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Barbara W. Riddle, ([briddle@flumc.org](mailto:briddle@flumc.org)), the 5 Day FL Retreat Leader.

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## 2011 Grandparents and Me Summer Camp

This fun and growth filled summer camp is for grandparents and their grandchildren ages 5-11. Held at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, this three day camp is a wonderful opportunity for Grandparents to have a meaningful time with their grandchildren. Housing is in our motel type rooms, and programs are traditional camp activities like swimming, Bible study, games, great food and more. If you have questions, call 352-787-0313.



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To register go to: [www.ummflconf.org](http://www.ummflconf.org)

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FAD brochure  
2011complete.pdf

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**Estero United Methodist Church** will be host to the Purdue Varsity Glee Club in concert on March 13th from 4-5:30pm. We hope you will join us as we are entertained by this top performing group of you men. With integrity, passion and unparalleled showmanship and attention to every detail, the men of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club have proudly served as ambassadors of the university with honor and dignity for more than 115

**SOLO BELL CONCERT - MARCH 13 @ 3PM - Featuring: Christine Anderson**  
First United Methodist Church, 507 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda

Christine began her handbell ringing career at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in late 1972. After completing a B.A. in music at Florida Atlantic University, she directed 6 handbell choirs at Coral Ridge and began conducting workshops and festivals around the country. She writes for several music journals, serves the Southern Baptist Convention as National Handbell Consultant, and is Editor/Consultant for "Handbells" magazine. She is in constant demand as clinician, conductor, and concert artist. Her videos, CDs, cassettes, and over 70 solo handbell arrangements all reflect her commitment to excellence in handbell ringing.

**Billing Information**  
2011 Apportionments  
Now Available  
2010 Apportionment  
Payment Cut-Off **January 14, 2011**

- **Faith UMC-Ft. Myers is looking for Hi and Low Octave bells to add to their bell choir.** In addition we are looking for chimes for our bell choir (middle octaves). Does your church have bells/chimes that are no longer in use? If so, please contact Gary Rushing at 239-482-2030 or [grushing@faithum.com](mailto:grushing@faithum.com).
- **Pre-School Director Needed:** Cape Coral First United Methodist Church is seeking a committed follower of Jesus as the director of its new preschool opening in the summer of 2011. This full time position will be a member of the church staff and will be responsible for the daily operations



of our preschool (currently under construction) as well as enjoy the challenge of hiring a new staff and securing licensing and accreditation from appropriate agencies. The director will be expected to be a part of the worshipping community of our church. The successful candidate will have multiple years of experience as a preschool director and already have all preschool director credentials required by the Florida Department of Children and Families. Please submit your resumes confidentially to Rev. Jay Therrell, Senior Pastor, at [jtherrell@capecoralfirst.org](mailto:jtherrell@capecoralfirst.org). Our website can be viewed at [www.capecoralfirst.org](http://www.capecoralfirst.org)

- **Associate Youth Minister Needed:** Harvest United Methodist Church in Lakewood Ranch, Florida is seeking an Associate Youth Minister to work alongside our Youth Minister who has been with Harvest for more than five years. This half-time, salaried position requires regular hours during the week, every Sunday, and occasional other weekend hours. Harvest is a “diverse community of faith, called by Christ to offer hope by graciously welcoming others, passionately developing leaders, and generously serving people around the globe.” With an average worship attendance of approximately 700, Harvest is seeking a person with a passion for ministry with youth, strong organizational skills, interpersonal skills with both youth and adults, a desire to work as a part of a team, and a mature Christian faith. Bachelor’s degree or commensurate experience as well as an understanding of and commitment to the United Methodist Church is required. For a job description and/or to submit a resume, please contact Charlotte Wright at [cwright@harvest-umc.org](mailto:cwright@harvest-umc.org).

*Don't forget to check the Conference website ([www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org)) to find job postings, items for sale, donations, etc. Just select “Classifieds” on the left side of the homepage.*

## CALENDAR NOTES:

**Mar 1 – DNA Coaching (Transformation COACHING), Location: Charlotte Harbor (9am-11:30am)**

**Mar 1 – DNA Coaching (Transformation COACHING), Location: Vamo, Sarasota (1:30pm-4pm)**

**Mar 11 – Reclaim! Christ UMC-Venice, 7pm**

**Mar 12 – Community Arise, Carlson Memorial UMC-LaBelle, 10am-3pm**

**Mar 13 – Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**Mar 24 – dCOM (Local Pastor Annual Renewal), First UMC, Punta Gorda**

**Apr 4-6 – District Administrative Assistant Training (SW District Office staff will be unavailable)**

**May 1 – Announcement Sunday**

**May 3 – Pre-Annual Conference Orientation, Estero UMC, 6:30pm**

**May 12 – Pre-Annual Conference Orientation, Christ UMC-Venice, 6:30pm**

**May 15 – Pre Annual Conference Orientation, First UMC-Sebring, 3:00pm**

*This newsletter gives an overview of some of the activities of the South West District and the Conference. Please make a note of these events and encourage your lay ministers and church members to participate.*