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).

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 <u>must</u> do their part for our connection to meet and exceed expectations.

In other words, we must assure our responsibility to pay our part or fair share. For United Methodists that is our apportionments, and our health and property insurance premiums.

It's easy to point out the disappointments and frustrations that we may have incurred. However, the security and support far exceeds what I have found in the secular world. I would ask that every church start new, if they haven't already, to pay their fair share of costs so that all churches can enjoy the benefits of our connectional system.

God Bless.





A note from Sandy in the District Office.....

Starting this month all church event information that our local churches would like to send out to our fellow churches, will be included in the Newsletter. The reason for this change is....in the past I would forward event information out to

our churches as I received it, but some recipients have been marking these emails as SPAM. Many servers then started blocking <u>ALL</u> the District emails.

The Newsletter goes out the first week of the month, so please send any events during the last day of the month before. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

CALENDAR OF REPORTS DUE for 2011 is now on the Conference website!! You can find this list by selecting the "CALENDAR" tab on the home page of www.flumc.org.

COMMUNITY ARISE BASIC DISASTER MINISTRY TRAINING

Saturday, <u>March 12, 2011</u> ★★★★ 10:00 – 3:00 NOTE: Date has been changed!!!!!

Carlson Memorial UMC 310 Campbell St, LaBelle, FL 33975

This training provides an introduction to the unique and important role the faith community plays in disaster mitigation, preparation and response. You and your church will hear practical ideas on how to effectively respond to disaster in your community in cooperation with other churches, emergency management officials and the Disaster Recovery Ministry of the conference. You will understand the importance of communication and collaboration in meeting the needs of disaster survivors and the importance of being the church in the midst of crisis.

There is no cost for this training; however, registration is required for planning purposes.

Check in begins at 9:30 and lunch is provided.

For more information or to register, please visit www.flumc.org/DisasterRecovery and follow the links to Community Arise.

Training provided by the Disaster Recovery Ministry of the Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church, 450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815 ---- (800) 282-8011 Ext. 149

South West Reclaim Regional Event

A Reclaim event is happening in the South West District! Reclaim is a conference for UMC young adults, sponsored by the Florida Conference. The main purpose for Reclaim is to inspire young adults to take their place within the church. Young adults are not the church of tomorrow, but a vital part of the church today!

Reclaim is hosting a one night event in the South West District on March 11th at 7pm. The event will be at Christ UMC in Venice. There will be free dinner, a time of worship and a message that will inspire young adults to be the church today. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please visit our website at http://reclaimgathering.com/.



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - Team Leader Training

UMVIM Team Leader Training prepares volunteers to lead short-term mission teams to projects in the United States and around the world. You will learn the "ins and outs" of organizing a mission trip from recruiting the team, to picking the location, getting support, staying safe, planning the work, preparing the team spiritually, and much, much more. Not sure if you're ready to lead a team? Come and learn what it takes – you'll be well informed and a better team member!

Cost is \$25 per person. Participants receive a Team Leader Manual and lunch is included. Please register online at: www.flumc.org/UMVIM. For more information or to learn more about hosting a training, contact Pam Garrison (800) 282-8011 x 148 or pgarrison@flumc.org.

2011 Training Schedule

First UMC Lake City - Lake City, Florida	February 26, 2011	9:00 – 4:00
Wesley Hispanic UMC – Coral Gables	May 7, 2011	9:00 - 4:00
New Covenant UMC – The Villages	September 10, 2011	9:00 - 4:00



Lay Servant Ministry

Summer Church Music Workshop to be held at Florida Southern from July 17th to 22nd, 2011.

The Florida Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts will hold its 55th Annual Church Music Workshop from Sunday afternoon, July 17th through Friday noontime, July 22nd, 2011, at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Anyone involved in church music or worship planning, both traditional and contemporary, adults or youth, are invited to join us. Our theme is "The Best Table – Do This in Remembrance of Me" based on Rev. Jan Richardson's graphic of the same name. Clinicians for the workshop will be Adult Choral Clinician Joel Raney renowned composer and pianist; Organ Clinician Steve Strite, Director of Music and Worship at Bradenton Christian Reformed Church; Handbell Clinician Blanche Marie Lewis, director of the Magic of Bronze and Ascension Lutheran Church Handbell Choir in Casselberry; and Workshop Pastor, Rev. Lisa Degrenia, Senior Pastor at Community UMC, DeBary. We are asking all pastors in the conference to forward this information to the music and worship leaders in their church and encourage them to take this opportunity to connect with other church musicians and worship leaders in the conference and be renewed. For more information and for registration information, please visit our website at: www.floridafellowship.org or contact Joan FitzGerald, Workshop Chairperson, at joan.fitzgerald@verizon.net.

This has been approved as alternate credit (3.5 CEUs) for recertification of Lay Servant Ministries by Gwen

Dube, Conference Director for Lay Servant Ministries.

The Church by Size Seminars

Why aren't we growing?" Often congregational leaders are doing everything they know to do to involve new people to their congregation and help them come to Christ. At the end of the year, however, the congregation is about the same size it has been for years. Nothing seems to work. Doug Anderson has been teaching the five Church by Size Seminars helping congregational leaders make the two or three changes that are holding them back from fulfilling their ministry potential. Each seminar is designed for your team to receive two days of initial instruction and discussion in March and then a one-day follow-up session in September. Choose the seminar that's right for your church leaders:

- € Building a Terrific Team: Staff Ministry in a Large Church (over 250 in AWA)
- € Leading a Church Staff: Basic Tools for Effective Lead Pastors
- € Beyond the Barriers: Ministry for Becoming a Large Church (175-250 in AWA)
- € Mastering the Middle: Ministry in a Mid-Sized Church (100-175 in AWA)
- € Extending the Church Family: Ministry in the Small Church (less than 100 in AWA)

For more information contact Vanessa Morales in the Office of Congregational Excellence at vmorales@flumc.org
or 800-282-8011 ext. 340

<u>Click here</u> to register on-line. **Each seminar is limited to the first 75 participants.**

<u>Lilly Endowment Announces 2011 National Clergy Renewal Program</u>

Lilly Endowment seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry. In the 2011 National Clergy Renewal Program, the Endowment anticipates awarding as many as 150 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to Christian congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for congregational expenses associated with the renewal program. **Deadline for submission of proposals is May 12, 2011.** Notification of grant awards will be made in September 2011. http://www.clergyrenewal.org/

The Hannah Project

The Center for Clergy Excellence is launching a new initiative to recognize churches that are creating a culture of call. The Hannah Project celebrates local churches that, like Hannah (the mother of the prophet Samuel), dedicate and send people into God's service. Specifically, we hope that every local church would create a culture of calling that lifts up licensed and ordained ministry in such a way that our children, youth, and adults hear and respond to God's call. Therefore, each congregation is challenged to participate in this program. Some of the standards may be things you are already doing; others may be new opportunities for you. Churches that meet all six of the standards will be recognized at Annual Conference.

<u>Click here</u> for more information and <u>click here</u> for the form to submit for churches to be recognized at Annual Conference.



FROM MIKE EDWARDS (SW DISTRICT YOUTH COORDINATOR)

The scheduled youth leaders meetings are:

- 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.)

The big event for March is the Extreme Youth lock-in on March 18-20. Contact Mike Edwards (239-369-1433 or youth@christumclehigh.org) for a flyer and registration form. Remember to bring the registration form, your church's youth health form, and a copy of the media release form.

Coming up in April:

- April 1-3, confirmation retreat at Warren Willis. For more info or to register contact Dave Sippel at the Conference offices at 863-393-1492.
- April 11, "Rooted Class," designed for new youth workers or just new to a church, (with in a year or so.) This will be held at Riverside Retreat. To register or for more info, contact Dave Sippel at the Conference Offices at 863-393-1492.
- April 15-16, confirmation retreat at Riverside Retreat. To register or for more info, contact Scott Folsom at Carlson memorial UMC at 863-675-0334.



<u>Volunteer Nurses Needed</u>: Each week during the summer at the Warren Willis UM Camp in Fruitland Park, FL we utilize two nurses to serve in ministry to the Campers, Summer Staff, and Adult Volunteers that will be in attendance during our Summer Camping program. Nurses can serve for 1 week up to 10 weeks as a paid position or as a volunteer. We are looking for currently licensed (in Florida) RNs or LPNs. For more information please visit the Warren Willis Camp web site at www.warrenwilliscamp.org (look under Attend, and then click on Camp Nurses) or contact Heather Pancoast at heather.pancoast@warrenwilliscamp.org or by calling 352-787-4345 (ext. 4151).

Children's Ministry

Englewood UMC is hosting a Group VBS training event Saturday, April 9th 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.

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.

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 If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Barbara W. Riddle, (briddle@flumc.org), the 5 Day FL Retreat Leader.



2011 Grandparents and Me Summer Camp June 27-30 July 18-21

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.

2011 Couple's Retreats

April 29- May 1, 2011

May 20-22, 2011

"As For Me and My House"

At the United Methodist Retreat Center in Fruitland Park

The one constant of life is the reality of change. Would you like more insight in dealing with that reality? The Christian experience provides for certainty and for hope. We do not face life's transitions in the same way that others do. If you need help guiding yourself or your family through the adjustments that different generations bring, then this retreat is for you. Everyone from newly-weds to seniors will benefit from this weekend.

To register go to: www.ummflconf.org



Florida Advocacy Days @ Children's Week

"SHOW UP TO SPEAK OUT"

APRIL 3-5, 2011 - (Sunday—Tuesday) Tallahassee, FL

To get more info and to register click on:



Drew Theological School, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is delighted to announce our Doctor of Ministry offerings for the Fall 2011 semester:

- Global Online Concentration in Congregational Leadership, Online
- Congregational Growth and Development, Hosted in North Carolina
- Congregational Growth and Community Shalom, Hosted in California
- Congregational Growth and Development, Hosted in Oklahoma
- Worship, Spirituality, and Preaching, Hosted at Drew University

To apply or request more information about the Doctor of Ministry at Drew, please visit our website: www.drew.edu/theo/dmin. We would be glad to speak with you about the application or to schedule a visit at 973-408-3111 or theoadm@drew.edu.

RCH EVENTS IN THE SOUTH WEST DISTR

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

years. This select ensemble has entertained on behalf of Purdue University for campus, community, state, national and international events, averaging between 50-60 appearances each year. Embodying the spirit of service above self, the men of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club represent different backgrounds and hometowns across the country. Come enjoy them in concert with a sound all its own through one-of-a-kind arrangements in a tailor-made performance for audiences of all ages. Tickets are available by calling the church at 992-5516, ask for Linda Horne. Tickets are \$20 and may be picked up at the church or mailed to you. The delicious spaghetti dinner is also being served following the concert for \$5. The Glee Club will also be singing at all three services on Sunday the 13th (8am, 9:15am, and 11am).

SOLO BELL CONCERT - MARCH 13 @ 3PM - Featuring: Christine Anderson

First United Methodist Church, 507 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda

The solo handbell artistry of Christine D. Anderson is world-renowned. With finesse, grace and dexterity, Christine's solo handbell artistry has thrilled audiences in concert halls across the country and around the world. Christine is an exceptional and dynamic musician in every respect. Her music, however, is simply a tool for her tremendous witness for Christ and her deep love for the Lord. She radiates her Christian faith with a heart for ministry. Christine maintains a standard of excellence that is worthy of any concert venue and worship experience.

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.

IF YOU HAVE RETIRED UNITED METHODIST CLERGY IN YOUR CONGREGATION WHO WOULD LIKE TO CONNECT WITH THE SOUTH WEST DISTRICT OFFICE (AND OUR SNAPPY NEWSLETTER), PLEASE SEND THEIR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO SANDY AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.



Don't forget to go to flumc.org for your invoicing on health insurance, pension, workman's compensation and property/casualty every month. Look on the right side of the site for the box that says: <u>Billing Information</u>



HELP WANTED & CLASSIFIEDS....

- 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.
- <u>Pre-School Director Needed</u>: 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 itherrell@capecoralfirst.org. Our website can be viewed at 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.

Don't forget to check the Conference website (<u>www.flumc.org</u>) 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.