



# SOUTH WEST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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

June 2011

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Do you remember a song by the Doobie Brothers called "Listen to the Music"? "Can't you feel it growing, day by day...people getting ready for the move". As Annual Conference begins this week, I can feel the anticipation and anxiety growing within me. It will be a new experience meeting this year in Tampa! Most of us will be trying to find out where we need to register as well as the assembly room, Cokesbury Book Store, displays, and of course the restrooms. We will be intrigued by our new voting appliance and also trying to choose candidates we want to support. It will probably take me until Saturday to find my way to the things I need or want to do! But I have faith it will be a great experience with many new things and many, many celebrations.

For me, I am personally "getting ready for the move". Jo and I are preparing for our new appointment at Ocala West, by packing boxes, making arrangements for a place to live and beginning to vision our new ministry with the people of our new appointment. But I want to say there is a great sadness in leaving the S.W. District. I will miss the pastors and laity of this area. Jo and I have made and renewed many friendships. We will miss the days we have worked together as United Methodists within the district. Jo and I will miss Julie and Sandy greatly. Together they have made my work not only easier by taking care of so much of the detail, but also by their friendship and spirit of cooperation as we tried to provide help to the churches, pastors, and laity of this district.

I will miss pastors and laity as we have done kingdom work together. I will also miss the beaches, the vast open spaces, the Everglades, and communities! Personally, I cannot think of a greater area to serve as a District Superintendent. You will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

In the love of Christ,

*Alan*

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**On May 31-June 4, 2011, we will come together for our Florida Annual Conference Event in Tampa at the Tampa Convention Center under the banner of *"Living As Peacemakers."***

**Complete AC Schedule and details are available on the Florida Conference Website [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org). Click on the Annual Conference Link at the right of the home page. View all activities, special group meals (reservations needed), etc.**

**If you were unable to attend a Pre-Conference Orientation, you can view the video explaining the hand-held voting devices online. You can find the video with the Annual Conference information on the [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org) website.**

YOUTH LEADERS  
FROM MIKE EDWARDS (SW DISTRICT YOUTH COORDINATOR)

The district wide lunch meeting of the youth leaders was held in mid-May at Carlson Memorial UMC in Labelle. We had good attendance and some new additions to our ranks. Dave Schutte has joined Edgewater UMC as their new Youth Director. Also, Neal Downs has joined Boca Grande UMC. We sadly said goodbye to Mimi Cook of Gulf Cove UMC who is moving to Pensacola. Two district wide events were discussed. "The UM Youth District Day" at Sunsplash water park in Cape Coral is scheduled for June 25 from 10a.m.-5p.m. Contact Scott Folsom at [edgeyouthministry@comcast.net](mailto:edgeyouthministry@comcast.net) for info. Another district youth lock-in/worship weekend is being planned for October. More info on that as it develops. There are no district youth leader meetings in June or July.

Four of our district youth groups are in the final count down for the work trip to the FLUMC Children's Home. Gulf Cove UMC, Port Charlotte UMC, Ft. Ogden UMC, and Christ UMC, Lehigh are combining time, money, and effort to accomplish a mission that individually they could not complete. We anticipate 15 youth and 7 adults arriving there on Sunday, June 12 to begin a week of work on the grounds. This combined effort by 4 separate churches is a prime example of how connectionalism works to enable us to help others in the Lord's name.

Contact info: Mike Edwards, FLUMC SW District Youth Coordinator

*Director of Youth, Children, and Family Ministries at Christ United Methodist Church, Lehigh Acres, FL. 33936 - 239-369-1433 or [youth@christumclehigh.org](mailto:youth@christumclehigh.org)*

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**On behalf of the Renfro Trust, we are pleased to be able to offer grants up to \$5,000 to churches in rural areas of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. The Renfro Trust Fund considers grants for projects involving new or existing church buildings. Please note that the guidelines have changed somewhat from last**

[www.sejumc.org/renfro-trust](http://www.sejumc.org/renfro-trust)<<http://www.sejumc.org/renfro-trust>>

**We appreciate your efforts to assist us with reaching the rural churches in your conference and we look forward to sharing the Renfro Trust's vision with rural churches in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.**

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*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:

May 31-June 4 – Annual Conference, Tampa Convention Center – **DISTRICT STAFF IN TAMPA**

June 28 – Clergy Moving Day

July 26 – New Clergy Luncheon, Location: River City Grill, Punta Gorda

August 11-12 – Willow Creek Leadership Summit, Location: Grace-Cape Coral

August 20 – DNA Coaching (Transformation TRAINING), Location: TBD (9am-11:30am)

August 20 – DNA Coaching (Transformation TRAINING), Location: TBD (1:30pm-4pm)

August 23 – DNA Coaching (Transformation COACHING), Location: TBD (9am-11:30am)

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**August 30 – CLERGY TEAM MEETING – Save the Date**

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.