

South West District Office

Alan Jefferson, District Superintendent
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February 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The lectionary readings for February are taken from the fifth chapter of Matthew. These teachings include the Beatitudes and affirm the goodness of the listener and qualities that can be helpful to others. Jesus also addresses anger and revenge. He points out that these actions can cause hurt, hatred, and animosity. Around the end of January, a friend of mine was shot and killed by his neighbor. There had been a dispute over late night noises and how an easement between the two properties was used. After the ongoing feud was resolved and compromise was reached, the neighbor created a disturbance after dark one night, and my friend went outside to see what was happening. The family assumes there were angry words exchanged and he died. Jesus tells a crowd, if you are angry with a neighbor, or hurt or ridicule someone, there will be a price to pay. Jesus offers this advice. If you want God to accept your offering, then first go to your neighbor, then go and make peace and God will receive your offering.

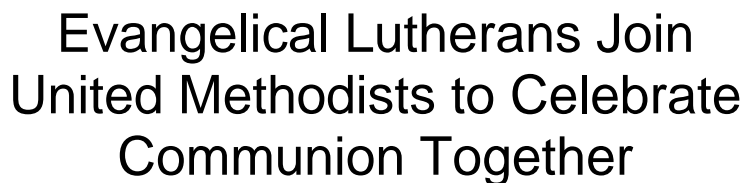
Once my friend was dead, it was too late to make peace. His family, his friends, and people who knew him will never be able to share with him again. The damage and death is final. John Wesley taught his followers to "do no harm". Try to find a way to love your neighbor and not hurt anyone.

Churches have been destroyed because of anger and hatred. That cycle continues to happen. As church leaders we need to make peace and not let anger destroy our lives or the lives of others. At Annual Conference this year, the Office of Congregational Excellence is offering classes on Peace Making. I hope every congregation in the South West District will participate so we can share in the Epiphany of Peace, not anger

God Bless,

Alan

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Area Evangelical Lutheran churches of their Mid-Gulf Conference are joining our South West District United Methodist churches to celebrate the Full Communion relationship between our denominations. Come see and show that the forces dividing us are not as strong as those uniting us, and fulfill the desire of Jesus “that we might be one in order that the world might believe.”

The grand processional of all clergy in full ecclesiastical vestments will begin at 6:30 pm singing “O for a Thousand Tongues...” Bring your family and friends. All are invited who seek Christ to live in peace with one another. Rejoice at what the Holy Spirit has in store for us. For questions call Goodwill Chaplain Tom Pfaff, 941-724-5018.



A Reclaim event is happening in your area! 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 Southwest 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/>.



Dr. Tom Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, will lecture and lead a discussion on the tasks and opportunities of preaching in the 21st century at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Orlando, FL on Thursday, March 3. This event is open to everyone - clergy and other church leaders are encouraged to attend.



United Methodist Volunteers in Mission - Team Leader Training

You are invited to a weekend of learning in Fort Pierce at the First United Methodist Church. On Friday night, March 18th, and Saturday, March 19th, Lay Servant Ministries will present two classes for those interested in becoming better leaders and better servants for Christ. The Basic Course and an advanced course Teaching Adults will be offered.

To register or to get further information, call Rod Groom at 772-595-573, write him at 715 Parkway Drive, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950, or email him at rod.groom@gmail.com. Directions to First UMC are at the bottom of this page.

DIRECTIONS: From I-95, take Exit #131-B for County Road 68/Orange Avenue. Proceed east 4 miles to the church. There is some limited parking available on the street, but it is recommended to go past the church and turn north on 5th Street, and then left on Avenue A and park in the church parking lot.

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The Department of Elder Affairs, in collaboration with the Florida Council on Aging, invites you to nominate a deserving individual for “The Servant’s Heart Award.” “The Servant’s Heart Award” recognizes individuals for outstanding service and volunteerism. Faith-based volunteers use their unique talents to serve others and have a strong ethic of service, a pure compassion for people and an inspirational nature to motivate those around them to serve.

The Department of Elder Affairs, Communities for a Lifetime initiative, recognizes groups (businesses, non-profits, faith-based, service clubs) for their participation in volunteer programs and projects that directly benefit the State of Florida and its residents. Communities for a Lifetime understands the importance of relationships and develops connections between groups and local government to help craft collaborative solutions to local needs.

Janine R. Harris, Community Relations Manager
Communities for a Lifetime
Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way, Suite 250E, Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.414-2373 / 850.414-2372 (fax)
harrisji@elderaffairs.org <http://www.communitiesforalifetime.org>

RIVERSIDE RETREAT

Brochures, registration forms and scholarship forms are available for Riverside Retreat's 2011 summer camp season. Got Spirit? We Do! is the theme for Children's Week (July 10 - 16), Junior High Week (July 17 - 23) and Senior High Week (July 24 - 30). Contact the camp office at 863-675-0334 or mpierceriverside@yahoo.com for all your paperwork.

Riverside Retreat is offering a Junior High Specialty Camp - Circles of Peace, June 19 - 24. This will be a time for Junior High campers to learn conflict resolution, receive help with bullying, learn better communication skills and better prepare them for the challenges they are facing now and will face in the future.

Young Adult Christians Hanging Together - YACHT Club! Riverside Retreat is beginning a ministry to young adults (ages 18 - 28) that will combine adventure experiences and trips with Biblical studies. Our first event is a trip to NE Tennessee May 22 - 28. Brochures and applications are ready. Contact the camp office to receive more information.

Contact:

Martha E. Pierce, Director

Riverside Retreat, 7305 CR 78, LaBelle, FL 33935

863-675-0334



Church by Size Seminars

These five exciting seminars, designed and led by Doug Anderson, will help pastors and lay teams understand the unique ministry opportunities and challenges that their church size offers. Participants are given practical models, principles, and options for effectively dealing with the important possibilities and issues facing them. Making your ministry effective and dynamic is the purpose of each seminar.

Evaluations from participants have been very positive, with most experiencing numerical growth, increased levels of volunteers and effective new outreach ministries and caring systems.

Dr. Doug Anderson is executive director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development at Dakota Wesleyan University and Associate Director of Church Development for the Indiana Annual Conference. He has been a district superintendent and pastor of several growing churches of different sizes in the United Methodist Church. He has led practical church seminars and consultations for over 25 years. He is a member of the Academy for Spiritual Formation of the Upper Room and co-authored the award winning book *The Race to Reach Out* with Bishop Michael Coyner. Best of all, his seminars are energetic, effective, and fun.

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

- **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)**

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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.

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: Billing Information

HELP WANTED & CLASSIFIEDS...

Don't forget to check the Conference website (www.flumc.org) to find job postings, items for sale, donations, etc. Just select "Classifieds" on the left side of the homepage.

Feb 11 – Last Day for Year End Stats to be completed

Feb 18 – Pastor and Church Profiles to be completed

Feb 26 – DNA Coaching (Transformation TRAINING), Location: Trinity, Arcadia (1:30pm-4pm)

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

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.