South West District Office



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

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 resolve 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,





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.

Year-End Statistical Reports online

All churches must complete a year-end statistical report. The deadline is 4 p.m., Friday, February 11th.

The District office will be available to assist you, as well as the Conference Office. The "Year-End Statistics" button is posted on the Florida Conference Website

CHURCH AND PASTOR PROFILES

The church and pastor profiles are to be reviewed and updated annually by all churches and all clergy in the Florida Conference. Church Profiles are reviewed and updated by SPR Committees. Pastor Profiles are personally reviewed and updated by the pastor. **Profiles are on-line and should be completed no later than Feb. 18**rd. Though you may not anticipate a move, it is important that both the pastor and church profile be current and up to date by the appointment–making session of the Cabinet. These should be an honest reflection of the pastoral ministry and the profile of the church. Look for the button link to the profiles start page on the home page of the Florida Conference Website www.flumc.org.

COMMUNITY ARISE BASIC DISASTER MINISTRY TRAINING

Saturday, March 5, 2011 ★★★★ 10:00 - 3:00

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



Evangelical Lutherans Join United Methodists to Celebrate Communion Together



WIDENING THE CIRCLE

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."

Widen Christ's circle, February 22, 6:30 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2256 Bahia Vista, Sarasota, 34239. Hear the Ecumenical Mass Choir of all the churches, and Asbury Seminary retired homiletics professor Charles Killian as he dramatizes John Wesley by becoming him in actual character. Luther too will be impersonated by the recognized great Lutheran preacher Reverend Harold Popp.

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.



South West Reclaim Regional Event

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/.

Preaching in the 21st Century: Candler Lifelong Learning Event

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

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

From the Desk of the Southwest District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries:

Announcing several opportunities (4 to be exact) for Lay Servant Ministry Classes!!

Beginning 6 March and going through 3 April there will be both The Basic Course and an Advanced Course presented every Sunday afternoon at 3 pm until 5:30 pm at the Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21075 Quesada Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33952.

The cost of either course will be \$25.00 (includes books and materials).

The Advanced Course is "Lay Speakers Grow Spiritually Through Daily Discipline".

To Register for either course contact Doris Hixson @ orindad@comcast.net or by phone at 941-235-3556.

If you can't find the time to attend classes perhaps you would be interested in an online course. An Advanced Course for Lay Speaking will be available at www.beadisciple.com. The title of the course is Multimedia Technology in Worship for the Church Volunteer. The time frame is 7 – 18 March 2011. This is one you could take at home sitting in your Pjs.

An Advanced Notice of Lay Servant Ministry Training.

The Florida Conference of Lay Servant Ministries will offer classes at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg during the weekend of 19-21 August 2011. Titles of Classes will be determined later and a brochure will be available. Gwen Dube`, Conference LS Director will coordinate the event.

For those in the eastern portion of the Southwest District (or other areas in the district):

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.

Each class requires 10 hours, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. The cost is \$20.00. Books should be ordered and read in advance from Cokesbury. A meal will be provided at the church with a recommended donation. There will also be beverages on Friday evening, and refreshments on Saturay morning.

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.

LOCATION: First UMC is located at 616 Orange Avenue, Fort Pierce, Fl. 34950.

PHONE: (772) 464-0440.

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.

From US Hwy. 1/South 4th Street, turn west on Avenue A and proceed 1.5 blocks to the church parking lot, on your left.

Nominate a deserving individual for "The Servant's Heart Award."

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.

To access the nomination form and guidelines, and for additional information on the Statewide Interfaith Symposium, access: www.communitiesforalifetime.org.

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)
harrisi@elderaffairs.org http://www.communitiesforalifetime.org

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)

- 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)

Cost: first person \$89, second person \$75, additional persons \$60 Lunches and materials are included; lodging and transportation in on your own. Get more information online at **www.flumc.org**. Each seminar is limited to the first 75 participants.



YOUTH LEADERS

FROM MIKE EDWARDS (SW DISTRICT YOUTH COORDINATOR)

Here's what's happening in the SW District:

- Saturday, 1/29, 2 pm, a meeting of interested youth leaders to plan a district wide youth worship lock-in will be held at Englewood UMC. The date for the lock-in is tentative for 3/18-20 but is subject to change on Saturday.
- Monday, 2/7, the monthly lunch meeting of the central section of youth and children's leaders will be held at Englewood UMC. Lunch is provided. Although this is the monthly central section meeting, the topic of discussion will probably be the March youth lock-in.
- Saturday, 2/12, the monthly lunch meeting of the south section of youth and children's leaders will be held at Mel's Diner on US41 at Page Field in Ft. Myers.
- Friday, 3/18-Sunday, 3/20, (TENTATIVE DATES!!!), a district wide youth worship 2 night lock-in is being planned. This will be a time of fun/games/speakers/and worship with youth praise bands. Watch for more details.
- Tuesday, 3/1, the initial \$60 deposit for the June 12-18 work trip to the FLUM Children's Home is due. Contact Mike Edwards at youth@christumclehigh.org for info.
- Monday, 4/11, the conference training class for new youth/children's directors, (new to youth/children's ministry or new to a church,), "The Rooted", is planned to be held at Riverside Retreat near LaBelle. Contact Dave Sippel at 863-393-1442 or at dsippel@flumc.org for info or to register.
- Friday, 4/15-Saturday 4/16, the confirmation retreat at Riverside Retreat is being held. For info or to register, contact Scott Folsom at edgeyouthministry@comcast.net. Space is limited, so register early.

Mike Edwards, FLUMC SW District Youth Coordinator Christ United Methodist Church, Lehigh Acres, FL. 33936 239-369-1433 **** youth@christumclehigh.org



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.



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 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....

• Part-Time Youth Director Position: First UMC-Ft. Myers is looking for a part-time youth director. Qualifications: Be a Christian believer, demonstrating a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; Be strong in his/her faith and share that faith; Have a desire to discover and develop spiritual gifts; and Hold at least a Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry/Christian Education or similar degree from an accredited college or seminary or equivalent experience acceptable to the church. For more information please call (239) 332-1152 or email: Firstchurch@fumcftmyers.

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:

- Feb 11 Last Day for Year End Stats to be completed
- Feb 15 Last Day to submit Self-Nomination for 2012 General Conference Delegates
- Feb 18 Pastor and Church Profiles to be completed
- Feb 26 DNA Coaching (Transformation TRAINING), Location: Hope, Cape Coral (9am-11:30am)
- Feb 26 DNA Coaching (Transformation <u>TRAINING</u>), Location: Trinity, Arcadia (1:30pm-4pm)
- Mar 1 DNA Coaching (Transformation COACHING), Location: Charlotte Harbor (9am-11:30am)
- Mar 1 DNA Coaching (Transformation <u>COACHING</u>), 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.