

South West District Office



Alan Jefferson, District Superintendent
Julie Bullerdick, Administrative Assistant
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January 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Revelation 21:4-5 says "The old is passed away...see I make all things new". With the ringing in of the New Year of 2011, there are opportunities to put the past behind us and start with some new things such as new directions, a new vision, new goals, new dreams and new challenges.

Each local congregation should take a look at itself and the reflection that appears in the mirror. When we look at our church, what do we see? Usually there are obvious things that catch our attention. It might be the areas in the church that have not been cleaned in a long time or maybe it's a use of space that could be a hazard. Some member may point out a dark hallway that needs a new light. These physical issues are easy to catch even if we often over look them.

There are other reflections that may not be easy to see but may be potentially dangerous! What reflections in the mirror are we over looking? Do we notice when a family that has been deeply involved in our church no longer attends worship or any other part of church? Do we notice when the church no longer takes in new members like it used to? Do we notice when the church doesn't have children baptized or confirmation classes joining the church anymore? Do we notice when the church can't pay its obligations and missional support like it used to do?


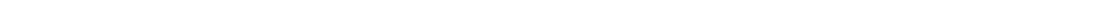
As the New Year begins perhaps new resolutions can be adopted by the church with the goal of rebuilding our vitality, outreach, and commitment.

What resolutions could your church make that might restore and strengthen your witness and mission? In your attempt to set resolutions remember this: make the goals Attainable, Realistic and Measurable (ARM).

I hope you and your church have a great year in front of you with many successful stories of outreach and growth.

God Bless,

Alan


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.
 

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. 18rd.** 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.



Evangelical Lutherans Join United Methodists to Celebrate Communion Together



Delegates to the church wide assembly of the 4.7 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America sang, “O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” August 20, 2009 after voting 958-51 in support of a historic “Full Communion” agreement. The year before, United Methodists at the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas gave overwhelming support in an 864-19 vote to celebrate Full Communion with Evangelical Lutherans. This was the first time United Methodists who number 11.5 million members worldwide have made such an agreement.

Sarasota County region United Methodist Churches and Evangelical Lutheran Churches will celebrate this Full Communion agreement, Tuesday evening, February 22, 2011. Our two great traditions founded by the towering figures in Christian history - Martin Luther and John Wesley will take up centuries of differences and find centuries of commonalities at our Lord's common table. Wesley and Luther impersonated by Asbury Seminary recently retired homiletics professor Reverend Charles Killian and retired recognized great preacher Reverend Harold Popp will be reflecting on the history making communion service.

Come to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2256 Bahia Vista, Sarasota, 34239 at 6:30 pm, February 22 to acknowledge our traditions as partners in the Christian faith. See the processional of all clergy in full ecclesiastical vestments. Hear ecumenical ensemble choruses. Receive our Lord's love. Come and bring your friends. For questions call Goodwill Chaplain Tom Pfaff, 724-5018.

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District Leadership Training

REGISTER NOW ONLINE!

South West District Local Church Leadership Training Event

January 29, 2011

An opportunity for **ALL** Local Church Laity ... especially newly elected leaders and committee members for 2011. Training sessions targeting specific Church Leadership Roles.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend TWO sessions from various topics and leaders. Preference is for everyone to register online. Must register one person at a time. The cost of the event will be \$5.00 (for lunch).

Register online at www.flumc.org.

Select “Districts” on the left side of the homepage

Scroll down and select “South West”

Scroll down and select “SW District Church Leadership Training”

Speakers currently scheduled.....

Sharon Luther – Conference Lay Leader and Jodi Anderson – SW District Lay Leader

Craig Smelser – Controller, Conference Finance Office

Mark Thomas – Conference Ministry Protection Director

Rev. Phil Maynard – Conference Office of Congregational Transformation

Pam Garrison or Marilyn Swanson– Conference Disaster Recovery Team

Rev. Stephen Hartsfield – U. M. Children's Home, Church Relations Director

Rev. Mont Duncan – Conference New Church Development

Rev. Jorge Acevedo – Senior Pastor, Grace-Cape Coral

Continental Breakfast Snacks and Coffee will be available beginning at 9:00am as participants arrive.

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IMPORTANT 2010 APPORTIONMENT INFORMATION

Friday, January 14th, 2011 is the last day for receiving 2010 apportionments. This is not a postmarked by date, but is the last day by which monies must be received in the Conference office to be included in 2010 receivables.

Monies received after this date will be credited to 2011. Include a completed apportionment giving form with your payment. Always include your church's GCFA number on all forms and checks. When paying in January, mark clearly if the payment is for 2010 or 2011 apportionments.

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ATTENTION: 2011 Apportionments are on line

The 2011 apportionment information is now available for local church leaders to access. To download your church's apportionments, go to the conference Web site (www.flumc.org) and scroll down the right side of the home page.

YOUTH LEADERS

FROM MIKE EDWARDS (SW DISTRICT YOUTH COORDINATOR)

In case you haven't heard, all FLUMC sponsored missions trips to Haiti have been cancelled due to expected danger to participants. The upcoming elections are expected to be very tumultuous. Please pray for the people of Haiti during this difficult time.

There are several upcoming events:

- Edgewater UMC youth are hosting a Dodgeball Tournament on 1/15/11 from 12-4 pm. Registration deadline is 1/10/11. For info or to register contact Tim Taylor at 941-456-1421.
- The FLUMC provided training, "The Gathering" class for youth and children's workers is 1/24/11 to 1/26/11 at Warren Willis in Leesburg. For info, contact Dave Sippel at dsippel@flumc.org. To register, go to <http://flumc2.org/registrations/register/27>.
- The FLUMC provided training for those who are new to youth/children's ministry or are new to a church, "The Rooted" class is scheduled for April 11 at Riverside Retreat(Alva, east of Ft. Myers). For info contact, Dave Sippel at dsippel@flumc.org. (I attended this class in September and found it to be very helpful.)
- There are several options for Confirmation weekends this year:
 1. Warren Willis, (Leesburg) 2/25-27, 3/18-20, 4/1-3 (For info or to register, go to <http://warrenwilliscamp.org/page.asp?PKValue+224>). This is a great large group retreat and worship opportunity.
 2. Riverside Retreat, (Alva) 4/15-16 (For info or to register, go to <http://riversideretreatumchurchcamp.com>). This is ideal for those who prefer a more intimate small group experience.

Merry Christmas and Happy new year to all of you who serve the Lord and shepherd His children.

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

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The Florida Department of Elder Affairs', Communities for a Lifetime initiative in partnership with the Florida Council on Aging (FCOA) invites you to "Prepare for Tomorrow - Today" at our first Statewide Interfaith Symposium, to be held February 4-5, 2011 in St Petersburg Florida. We are pleased to have as our keynote speaker Reverend Nathan D. Baxter, Bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and former Dean of the Washington National Cathedral.

Please access: www.communitiesforalifetime.org for registration information and a symposium agenda.

Janine R. Harris, Community Relations Manager, Communities for a Lifetime
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CALENDAR NOTES:

January 6 – Year End Stats available at www.flumc.org

January 13 – dCOM Meeting (for candidate recertification), Location: First, Punta Gorda

January 14 – Last Day for 2010 Apportionments to be RECEIVED by Conference

January 29 – District Training, Location: Grace-Cape Coral

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

February 15 – Last Day to submit Self-Nomination for 2012 General Conference Delegates

February 18 – Pastor and Church Profiles to be completed

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.