

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Rinaldo Hernandez, District Superintendent

Julie Bullerdick, Administrative Assistant

Sandy Voigt, Administrative Assistant

FACEBOOK: South West District of the FL UMC

September 2011

Dear Friends:

I recently came back from Lake Junaluska where I attended the National Orientation for New District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministries. I very much enjoyed making connections with people who are in the same trench I am, and hearing each other's concerns and visions.

During the Opening Service Bishop James Swanson Sr., resident Bishop of the Holston Conference, delivered a message that deeply touched my heart and made me reflect on my calling to be a District Superintendent. As he was sharing about the calling God placed on Moses, Bishop Swanson made clear for us that we were not called by a Bishop, but by the One who is still in the business of inspiring Bishops and helping them make decisions for the benefit of Christ's church. And the One who calls, is the One who will take care of us in all situations we have to face in our new jobs.

As I travel through the SW District, meet one on one with pastors, have committee meetings and hear lay leaders, again and again I experience the blessing of encouraging, supporting and praying with people that sometimes we forget are in need of that personal touch in their lives. Yes, I miss the pulpit! But all the time I spent with people and try to make the right decisions for the Kingdom, I experience the Spirit of the Living God bringing joy, comfort and strength to my own spirit. I can tell you after two months in office: I love my job as a DS! And Maggie loves been with me as I'm doing the work! I find it to be meaningful, rewarding, challenging but at the same time, it brings lots of joy.

I believe we all need to revisit our calling and recuperate the joy of what we do for the Lord. Very often we become prisoners of our anxieties and frustration as we deal with people who have difficulty in accepting the need for a change in our ways to do ministry in this world and to explore ways to bring people to Jesus Christ. We find ourselves trapped in despair, anger and bitterness because things are not moving forward as we would like. Some others simply have quit and lost the passion, motivation and vision needed to be faithful and fruitful in what we do for the Lord.

At such times, I feel we need to go back to that day when we were first called, that moment in life when we experienced the presence of the Risen Christ asking us to be in ministry with Him for the salvation of the world. We need to feel again that fire that once burned in our hearts and made us accept the challenge and do

our best to turn around this world for Christ. Because it is not the Bishop, not the District Superintendent or the Cabinet, or the SPR Committee, or the Trustees who called us to be servants of the Lord: it was God through His Holy Spirit!

So my friends, take courage and do not bend or dismay. We are the Lord's and we are doing this, not for the pay but for the calling, and the One who once called us, He is faithful to help us accomplish the task to full completion! Do not look right or left, up or down: just proceed to the goal, to accomplish the supreme calling of our Lord and Christ. Wherever you are, you were placed by Jesus and He is with you and all you do!

I praise God for the wonderful pastors and lay leaders in the SW District. I praise God for the churches that are faithfully trying to do the best they can to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I praise God because of the wonderful opportunities for ministry that we have in this area.

If you were truly chosen for this ministry, then you all have in you the potential and the power to do the work of the Kingdom. Go then to your place of ministry and prove yourselves to be soldiers at the service of your King. Use the authority you have already received from God and be fruitful workers in the Kingdom of the One who keeps calling you, Jehovah Shebaoth, the Lord of Hosts!

Yours in the name that is above all names, your servant and co-worker,

Rini

Rev. Dr. Rinaldo (Rini) Hernandez

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The South West District staff is hitting the road for Church Administrative Staff Appreciation and Training!

This year we are inviting appointed clergy to join us! Our new DS (Rev. Dr. Rinaldo Hernandez) will open our session with a devotion and prayer and then he will meet with clergy for training and fellowship separately. Some of the topics on the agenda for the Administrative Staff are Charge Conference & Missional Vital Signs-Goal Setting, the NEW Conference website, the NEW Church Administration Page on the Conference website, NEW Church Administration Leaders and Church Contact section and more.

We will be at the following 3 locations from 9:30am until approximately 2:00pm (a lunch will be provided):

September 22, 2011 First-Sebring
September 27, 2011 Christ-Venice
September 29, 2011 Estero

The training is free but we need you to register so we know how much lunch to order! You can select the links above or go to the Conference website (www.flumc.org) and select "Districts" on the left side of the home page. Scroll down to select South West. On the right side of the South West page you can then select the event you would like to attend.

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CLERGY

DO NOT RESPOND TO EMAILS THAT ASK FOR YOUR USER NAME AND PASSWORD!!

WHEN IN DOUBT, SEND AN EMAIL TO HELPDESK@FLUMC.ORG.

A NOTE FROM OUR IT DEPARTMENT.....

August 24—Today, again, our email system was compromised by a social engineering attack. A clergy member clicked on a link inside of an email requesting their user name and password. They submitted the information, and this allowed spammers to send massive amounts of email through our email system causing us to be blacklisted. This is the fourth time in a week that responding to a request for user name and password has compromised our email system and caused us to be blacklisted as a spammer.

This is a sample of the phishing emails that clergy are clicking on, then giving the spammer their user name and password:

Sent: Wed 6/15/2011 7:32 AM

Subject: Your Mailbox Has Exceeded It Storage Limit

Your Mailbox Has Exceeded It Storage Limit As Set By Your Administrator,
And You Will Not Be Able To Receive New Mails Until You Re-Validate It.
To Re-Validate - please [CLICK HERE](#)

<<http://www.formbuddy.com/cgi-bin/formdisp.pl?u=upgradeteam91&f=upgrade>>: System Administrator.

Do not ever respond to an email requesting your user name and password. According to our IT provider, when we give that information to spammers:

- 1) They are authenticated to our server to send as much spam as they like with no consequences.
- 2) We have to delete tens of thousands of emails stuck in the mail server queue that slow down the system.
- 3) Flumc.org and our ip address get blacklisted, which means that legitimate emails get bounced back.
- 4) It takes approximately 10 – 20 hours of IT time to clear up all blacklisting so all mail goes through with no issues.
- 5) In our extreme situation last week, where we had three clergy give out their user names and passwords, we had to reset all 1800+ clergy passwords.

Because all clergy passwords were reset, please take a moment to change your password to something uniquely yours. To change your password: Go to www.flumc2.org and sign on to Clergy Email. Click on “Options” in the upper right hand corner. Now go over to the left side of the screen and look in the “Options” box and scroll down to “Change Password”. Call the District Office with questions.

**Next Clergy Team Meeting: 9:30am
Tuesday, November 29th at Cleveland UMC
Register online at www.flumc.org**



**SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011
Appointed Clergy Christmas & Appreciation Dinner
Kingsway Country Club – Lake Suzy FL**



CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference forms and information are available at

www.flumc.org.

There has been a change to the Agenda. Please make sure that section "VI - The Finances of the Church" references the years 2011 and 2012 for the Pastor's salary (instead of the years 2010 and 2011). Please contact Sandy at the District Office with any questions.

LOCAL CHURCH EVENTS

9/11/2011 - "9-11: Ten-Year Community Commemoration" Will Unite First Responders with Local Government and Faith Leaders

Local government representatives, faith leaders, first responders, and interfaith associations will participate in Sarasota-Manatee's major commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Come Sunday, September 11, 2011, at 7 p.m. to the First Baptist Church, 1670 Main Street and experience the 9-11: Ten-Year Community Commemoration. All are welcome.

Coordinated by the Sarasota Ministerial Association including Sarasota United Methodist churches and the many organizations mentioned below, the "9-11: Ten-Year Community Commemoration" will include the participation of Sarasota Mayor Suzanne Atwell; Sarasota County Commissioner Nora Patterson; leaders of the Sarasota City Police Department, County Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, and Emergency Services; the Diocese of Venice, the Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton, the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, the Sarasota Elks Lodges, The Sarasota Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund, the Sarasota-Manatee Rabbinical Association, The Steering Committee of the Sarasota-Manatee Interfaith Partnership, and the Venice Interfaith Community Association. There is also a possibility that Congressman Vern Buchanan will participate.

The "9-11: Ten-Year Community Commemoration" service has four objectives: to honor the memory of those who died on September 11, 2001; to provide healing for those who lost loved ones; to honor first responders; and to incline hearts to reconciliation. Special commemorative coins have been minted to mark the occasion and will be presented to Sarasota's first responders. A procession of all clergy, first responders and government officials will begin and end the service. All are welcome to this free community commemoration.

For more information please contact: Reverend Dr. Tom Pfaff, Goodwill Chaplain and Chair of the Sarasota Ministerial Association, 941-724-5018, tompfaff@verizon.net

October 25, 2011: Mini College Fair: Event sponsored by the Faith United Methodist Church Scholarship Committee. SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING: Edison State College, Florida Gulf Coast University, High Tech Central Hodges University, ITT Technical Institute, Nova Southeastern University, Rasmussen College

Time: 6 to 7:30 PM

Place: Faith United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 15690 McGregor Boulevard, Ft Myers, FL 339908

Phone: (239)-482-2030

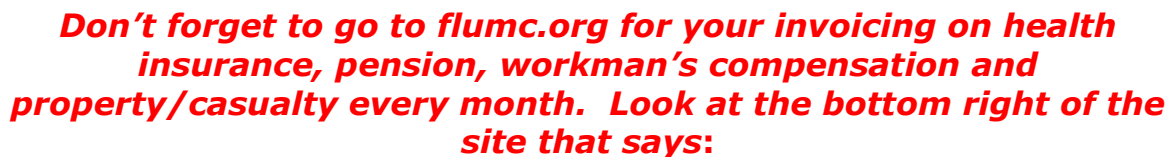


Report from Mike Edwards, SW District Youth Coordinator

See You at the Pole is September 28th! Everything you need for a successful SYATP is now available (for free) at syatp.com. Also, if you need additional promotional items, the [resource center](#) is now open with all the products in stock and currently shipping at www.syatp.com. We pray that your students will have the best See You at the Pole experience ever.

Please forward a rough head count to me or Nathan Downs (Boca's Youth Leader) at lighthouseumcyouth@gmail.com by 9/6. Paid registrations are due by 9/18 to: Nathan Downs, Youth Director, Boca Grande UMC, 325 W. 3rd St., Boca Grande, FL 33921. Registration to attend is \$30 per person, and should be sent to Nathan Downs at Boca Grande UMC, 325 West 3rd. St., Boca Grande, FL 33921 by 9/18 to ensure a spot. Last minute additions will be accepted as space is available. You can contact me at youth@christumclehigh.org or Nathan at lighthouseumcyouth@gmail.com for more info. Please bring at least 2 canned food items, (one should be a can of soup), per person attending. The canned food items and any profits from the event will be donated to a local UMC food pantry.

Director of Youth, Children, and Family Ministries at Christ United Methodist Church, Lehigh Acres, FL. 33936 - 239-369-1433 or youth@christumclehigh.org



BILLING INFORMATION Monthly Reports

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HELP WANTED & CLASSIFIEDS....

- **Part-time Music Minister Needed:** Trinity United Methodist Church, North Port, is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. This person should exhibit a heart for God and devotion to Christ as well as a love for music with a vision for worship. Candidate will work closely with the Pastor and be strong in contemporary-based music as well as the traditional songs. Please send resume' to: Trinity United Methodist Church, 4285 Wesley Lane, North Port, FL 34287.
- **Full Time Youth Director Position:** First UMC, 212 – 3rd Street N, St. Petersburg, FL, seeks a Youth Director for full time position, working & guiding their youth, grades 6-12. Needed is a committed Christian that can reach out to students & their families, connect them with others of the Christian faith, help them seek/grow in their faith & relationship with Jesus Christ, while equipping them to serve in ministry & honor God with their lives. Candidates need to have theologically sound training in Methodist core beliefs, be supportive to the needs of the age groups, be able to lead in diversified ways, while coordinating events & classes on Sunday mornings & evenings, and Wed. nights. They will be expected to work in cooperation with the clergy, staff, parents, and children, while leading the way to expanding the youth ministries program that is already established. A strong relational personality, with a flexible temperament, and focus upon one's ministry and one's community is wanted. A bachelors level degree or higher is sought. Interested candidates should email their cover letter and resume to padams@fumcsp.org. In one page or less, please tell us about your calling, your religious and life experiences that may help you in this position, or anything you feel relevant for us to know you. Selection process will be completed within a few weeks.

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.

CALENDAR NOTES:

Sept 6-10: Cabinet Meeting, DS will be in Lakeland

Sept 12-14: Julie & Sandy (District Office) will be in Leesburg for District Admin. Training

Sept 15 – NCD Meeting, Location: Cleveland UMC, Punta Gorda

Sept 22 – Church Admin. Staff Training & Appreciation/Clergy Training, First UMC-Sebring (9:30am-3pm)

Sept 27 – Church Admin. Staff Training & Appreciation/Clergy Training, Christ UMC-Venice (9:30am-3pm)

Sept 29 – Church Admin. Staff Training & Appreciation/Clergy Training, Estero UMC-Estero (9:30am-3pm)

Nov 12 – DNA Coaching (Transformation TRAINING), Location: First UMC-Bowling Green (9am-11:30am)

Nov 12 – DNA Coaching (Transformation TRAINING), Location: TBD (1:30pm-4pm)

Nov 15 – DNA Coaching (Transformation COACHING), Location: TBD (9am-11:30am)

Nov 15 – DNA Coaching (Transformation COACHING), Location: Trinity UMC-Arcadia (1:30pm-4pm)

Nov 17 – NCD Meeting, Location: Cleveland UMC, Punta Gorda

Nov 29 – Clergy Team Meeting, Cleveland UMC-Punta Gorda (9am-12:30pm)

Dec 9 – Clergy Christmas & Appreciation Dinner, Kingsway Country Club, Lake Suzy FL

Dec 15 – dCOM Meeting (Certification of New Candidates), Location: First UMC-Punta Gorda

Jan 28, 2012 – SW District Leadership Training, Location: TBD (probably Grace-Cape Coral)

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.