



NORTH EAST NEWS

APRIL 2006



North East District
Florida Conference
Newsletter

United Methodist
Church

Office:
1415 LaSalle Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Phone:
(904) 396-3026

Fax:
(904) 396-6294

Email:
distoff@bellsouth.net

Dearhearts,

This is one of my periodic potpourri articles, with a number of unrelated but important items, so don't stop reading at the end of the first paragraph because the next item might be just what you need to know! Please make note of all five of the following:

First and foremost, I pray that this has been a rewarding Lenten Season and that Holy Week will be filled with resurrecting power for you, me, and all God's children. It is a time that should find us standing on tiptoes in anticipation. The most dramatic reversal of fortunes ever is summed up in the angel's announcement to the women at the tomb: "Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." Let us share that Good News with everyone we meet.

Second, it is not only the Easter Season, but also the appointment making season as well. Ironically, this involves some news we cannot share at the moment. I will ask all of you, whether you are involved in a move or not, to respect the need for confidentiality. All appointments are to be announced on May 21. If word or speculation about a pastor or church gets on the rumor mill, it can cause real grief for the pastor and his or her family as well as for the congregation involved. Please resist the excuse that says, "I've heard this from more than one person, so it's fair game to talk about it." Let the rumor stop with you.

Third, Pam Hall, the faithful and energetic Director of our Community Outreach Agency, has been slowed down by surgery on her shoulder that makes it hard to do the simplest of things, let alone run a vigorous campaign to fund Camp AMP this summer. Do Pam a favor and send in your church's support without waiting for further effort on her part. Remember, we have expanded Camp AMP by a week through a grant, but we still need to underwrite the first two weeks. You know you should do it and you are going to do it, so just go ahead do it now!

Continued on page 3

CALENDAR

APRIL

- 9 PALM SUNDAY
- 14 GOOD FRIDAY,
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 16 EASTER SUNDAY
- 21 DEADLINE FOR CLERGY DAY
APART RESERVATIONS

MAY

- 4 CLERGY DAY APART,
MARYWOOD RETREAT CENTER
- 6 LAY SPEAKING CLASS,
CROSSROAD UMC
- 13 LAY SPEAKING CLASS,
CROSSROAD UMC
- 16 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ORIENTATION,
FLEMING ISLAND UMC, 7PM
- 21 CLERGY APPOINTMENT S
ANNOUNCED
- 29 MEMORIAL DAY,
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

JUNE

- 1-3 ANNUAL CONFERENCE,
LAKELAND CENTER
- 10 CONFERENCE DISASTER
TRAINING EVENT,
NE DISTRICT, LOCATION TBA
- 27 CLERGY MOVING DAY

JULY

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY,
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

CLERGY DAY APART

ON THURSDAY, MAY 4TH, OUR QUARTERLY CLERGY TEAM MEETING WILL BE A CLERGY DAY APART AT MARYWOOD RETREAT CENTER. THE DAY WILL BEGIN AT 9:00AM AND END AT 5:00PM.

THIS WILL BE A DAY FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL LED BY FRANCES JENNINGS.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE BEFORE APRIL 21ST. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

The Florida Conference of Deacons Event 2006

May 1

Regional Deacons Gatherings, 10:00am-2:00pm at North East District Office, First UMC Lakeland, & Plantation UMC

June 1

Annual Conference Deacon's Dinner, 5:30pm at Lakeland Center Lake Parker "C"

Oct. 1-2

Deacon's Study Retreat-Christ Plays in 10,000 Places Chapter 3 by Eugene Peterson, 6:00pm both days at Life Enrichment Center



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Life Community UMC is currently seeking a church office administrator/manager. 30-35 hours per week, salary is negotiable depending on skills & experience.

The Village Christian Academy at New Life Community UMC is currently seeking an after-school program director. Part time position requires experience working with elementary age children.

The Village Christian Academy at New Life Community UMC is currently seeking a program director. Full time position requires experience working with elementary age children. Must have all certification.

The Village Christian Academy at New Life Community UMC is currently seeking full time and part time child care teachers and assistants, kitchen staff, and van drivers. Summer camp opportunities are also available for both part time and full time.

Anyone interested in any of the positions listed above should contact Dr. Barbara Green at 904-764-7847 or you may fax your resume to 904-768-0877.

Riverside Park UMC is currently seeking a part time youth coordinator. Candidate must be energetic! Prepare & conduct weekly youth programs, recreation & devotions; coordinate and lead special programs and mission trips; provide positive Christian role model. For more information, contact Reverend Wayne E. Williams at 355-5491 or Drwaynewilliams@aol.com. Riverside Park United Methodist Church, 819 Park Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204.



(cont'd from page 1)

Fourth, let us begin to look ahead to the next Clergy Team Meeting. It is being set up as a Clergy Day Apart, and is going to offer the opportunity for spiritual refreshment after the exertions of this busy time. The date is Thursday, May 4, which is the National Day of Prayer, and the location is the Marywood Retreat Center, which is a beautiful setting on the east bank of the St. John's River just south of Fruit Cove. Our leader will be Frances Jennings, and we will all be the richer for letting her guide us through the day. Details will be forthcoming shortly.

Fifth, Annual Conference Delegate Orientation has been set for Tuesday, May 16, at 7:00 PM. Both new and old delegates should plan to be there. This is an opportunity for new delegates to get acquainted with the process as well as the particular topics getting attention this year. Typically, about one third of our delegates are attending Annual Conference for the first time. This is also an important meeting for "old hands" because the schedule is being condensed into a three day format to allow for everyone to be home by Sunday for the celebration of Pentecost. Some familiar things are going to be done differently for this reason, so do not get caught short because "you've done it all before."

On reflection, this is an exceptionally patch-work quilt collection of thoughts even for me. If its various parts have anything in common, it is the notion of ordering our affairs by the old MYF motto: "Christ Above All."

Grace and peace,

Richard W. Neal, Superintendent
The North East District

Just A Reminder.....



At the 2003 Florida Annual Conference, the Body approved a Housing Resolution relating to parsonage furniture. This resolution called for clergy to provide their own bedroom and study/office furniture for the parsonages by June 1, 2005. Furthermore, it states that the pastor shall provide all furniture for the remainder of the rooms by the year 2007. The resolution recommends that churches and clergy work in a cooperative spirit to set this policy in place by the given dates.

The North East District Clergy Housing Committee suggests that pastors and churches work together to avoid the embarrassment of a bartering system. We believe that most churches will want to provide a generous way for current parsonage furniture to be transferred to the clergy family.

We recommend the following guidelines:

1. That the parsonage family have first right of refusal.
2. That the furniture be sold or gifted in sets and not individually.
3. Antiques and pianos to be considered on a case-by-case method.
4. Incomplete sets or individual items should be priced lower than the “set” prices.
5. Dining Room furniture should be on a case-by-case method.
6. Living Room/ Family Room furniture to be sold in sets. (Upholstery is a set, tables are a set).

We recommend the following pricing guidelines:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Master Bedroom | 1 year or less (actual purchase price less 20%)
2 year (actual purchase price less 40%)
3 year or more \$400. |
| 2. Guest Bedroom | 1 year or less (actual purchase price less 20%)
2 year (actual purchase price less 40%)
3 year or more \$200. |
| 3. Study/Office | \$200. |
| 4. Dining/Piano/Antique | case-by-case |

The above-mentioned prices do not prohibit the church from giving the furniture as a love offering, but we encourage clergy families to pay these nominal prices as a stewardship partnership with the church. We believe that this plan will allow the clergy to secure furniture at a reasonable price and will relieve the church of the issues relating to storage.

These guidelines are recommendations only. We understand that some churches will have unique circumstances and will need to explore additional liquidation options.

