

July 2008



Fireworks display in Jacksonville Beach

Dearhearts,

In my childhood, one of my favorite radio programs, one which some of you may remember as a later television series, was Sergeant Preston of the Yukon. Every week, this intrepid Mountie with his faithful dog, King, would solve some crime and track down the evil doer. Finally, each show would end with the sergeant saying, "Well, King, I guess this case is closed." And his husky would respond with a hearty, "Woof! Woof!"



I wish life's mysteries could be resolved so regularly from week to week, and in thirty minutes no less. But many of the challenges we face are pretty intractable. To name a sampling: The increasing violence, the slowing economy, the enduring prejudices and suspicions we face are just a few of our entrenched problems. In the face of such things, it is tempting to despair.

But this is not the scriptural answer. When Jesus said, "You will always have the poor with you." (Matthew 26:11) I cannot believe he was discouraging compassion and condemning some to unending poverty. Rather, he was stating the obvious, namely that the final crisis in his ministry was at hand, demanding immediate attention, and that there would be another day to deal with the issues of wealth and want. After all, he has just told them the parable of the last judgment (Matthew 25:31-46), which is a parable of radical hospitality, extravagant generosity, and salty service if ever there was one.

So, some of the difficulties we face will require us to face the long haul with faith. In more concrete terms, we are half way through the year and some of our congregations are not half way through their goals and commitments. But the answer is not to give up, but to use the remaining time to do all we can. Authentic discipleship calls upon us to begin where we are and go forward from there. Not being able to do everything is not a reason for doing nothing.

So, it may be a while yet before we can exult, "Well, King of Heaven and Earth, this case is closed!" But it will be worth all the effort, when we are answered in that day, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matthew 26:34)

Grace and peace,

Rick

Rick



Please help us spread the word in your churches about this critical need:

Due to the massive flooding in the Midwest, the United Methodist Committee On Relief's (UMCOR) Sager Brown Depot has nearly depleted its supply of flood buckets. This low inventory is a serious concern with the hurricane season just beginning.

Congregations and individuals are urged to send completed buckets, bulk materials or a contribution to purchase supplies. A list of the contents can be found at <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket/> or you can give \$45 towards the purchase of these items for each bucket.

Gifts can be made to [**UMCOR Material Resources Advance # 901440**](#) which will enable UMCOR to purchase needed relief supplies.

For additional information, please copy and paste this address into your browser- <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/releases/archives08/urgentneed/>

Thank you!

Disaster Recovery Ministry
(800) 282-8011 Ext. 149

Mandatory Bishop's Convocation

Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker has announced that all clergy members of the Florida Conference are asked to attend a convocation of the clergy on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The purpose of the convocation will be to present the agenda for the Florida Conference, including goals and expectations of all congregations and clergy, for the new 2009-2012 quadrennium. Lunch will be provided. To register, contact your district office.

Job Opportunities

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND COLLEGE AGE MINISTRIES

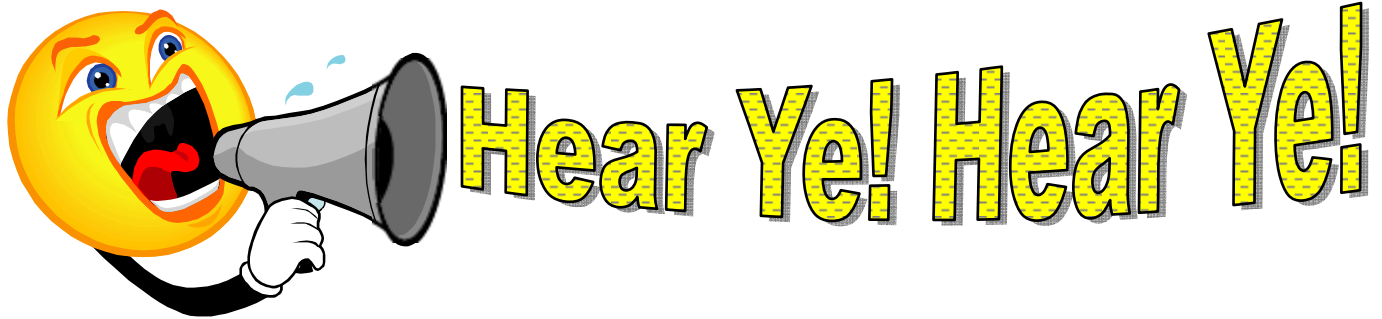
Isle of Faith United Methodist Church, a mid-sized congregation, just a few miles from beautiful north Florida beaches, is now looking for a full-time Director of Youth and College Age Ministries. This position opens this fall as the current Director leaves for Seminary.

The Director of Youth and College Ministries oversees programs which include youth from 6th grade through 12th grade and college age up to the early 20's. The goal of our program is to introduce and strengthen a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The ministry includes Youth Sunday School, Discipleship, Worship, Fellowship, Missions, Music, and Outreach activities. Working with our Pastor and a strong core of volunteers, the director creates a vision for the ministries, develops short and long-range plans, and sees them through to completion.

Candidates should have a college degree, preferably in Christian education. Equivalent work experience with youth and college age may be considered. Excellent relational, leadership, and communication skills are required. This person must be a mature Christian with good working knowledge of the Bible, good management and problem solving skills, a love the Lord and enjoy young people. Check us out @ IO-FUMC.org

To apply or inquire, send questions and resume to nick@iofumc.org.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE HAS AN OPENING FOR A FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO WORK APPROXIMATELY 20 HRS. PER WEEK. DUTIES INCLUDE PERFORMING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, PAYROLL, TAXES, BUDGET PREPARATION AND REPORTS. FAMILIARITY WITH FINANCIAL SOFTWARE A PLUS; CHURCH USES ACS. PLEASE FORWARD RESUME TO [KITTY@FUMC-JAX.ORG](mailto:kitty@fumc-jax.org).



There will be some Charge Conference changes this fall. In order to keep things fair, Charge Conference forms are due from all churches on October 1st, regardless of when your charge conference is scheduled.

Do not forget that your 2007 Audit is part of your Charge Conference forms. If you have not already completed your audit, you need to get started as soon as possible. It will be due with all other Charge Confer-

Calendar

August

9-11 Leadership Summit, Crossroad UMC

28 DCOM Meeting 9am, District Office

21 New Church Development Meeting
10am-Noon, District Office

September

1 Labor Day– Office Closed

October

1 All Charge Conference Forms are Due.

14* Bishop's Convocation, 11am
First UMC of Lakeland

***MANDATORY**

Charge Conference Schedule 2008

Cluster 1

Held at Memorial UMC on Sunday, October 12 at 2:30pm

First Jax, Franklinton, Memorial, Mt. Moriah, Riverside Park, Southside, Trinity

Cluster 2

Held at Garden City UMC on Sunday, October 12 at 7pm

Ebenezer, First-Callahan, Garden City, Highlands, New Life, Wesley Fellowship, Yulee

Cluster 3

Held at Glynlea Grace UMC on Sunday, October 26 at 7pm

Faith, Glynlea Grace, Spring Glen, Swaim

Cluster 4

Held at Grace UMC, Lawtey on Sunday, November 2 at 7pm

Baldwin/Bryceville, First-Macclenny, First-Starke, Grace-Lawtey, Pleasant Grove

Cluster 5

Held at Avondale UMC on Sunday, November 9 at 2:30pm

Asbury-Orange Park, Avondale, First-Green Cove Springs, Fleming Island, Orange Park, Ortega, Middleburg

Cluster 6

Held at Lakewood UMC on Sunday, November 9 at 7pm

Beach, Christ-Neptune Beach, CrossRoad, Isle of Faith, Lakewood, Mandarin

Cluster 7

Held at Good Shepherd UMC on Sunday, October 19 at 7pm

Christ-St. Augustine, Dinsmore, Good Shepherd, Harmony, Oak Leaf, Ponte Vedra, River of Life

Cluster 8

Held at Oak Crest UMC on Sunday, November 23 at 2:30pm

Asbury-Jax, Calvary. Lake Shore, Murray Hill, Oak Crest, Wesconnett, Woodstock Park

Cluster 9

Held at Ft. Caroline UMC on Sunday, October 26 at 2:30pm

Alexander Memorial, Arlington, Ft. Caroline, Mt. Zion, St. Joseph, St. Paul

Cluster 10

Held at Trinity UMC, Jacksonville on Sunday, October 19 at 2:30pm

Bowden, Inman Memorial, Simpson Memorial, Trinity

Cluster 11

Held at Shores UMC, St. Augustine on Sunday, October 5 at 2:30pm

First-St. Augustine, Grace-St. Augustine, Shores, Trinity-St. Augustine

Cluster 12

Held at Keystone UMC on Sunday, November 2 at 2:30pm

First-Lake Butler, Florahome, Greater Bell. Keystone, Worthington Springs

Cluster 13

Held at St. James UMC on Sunday, November 16 at 7pm

Christ-Riverdale, Emmanuel, First-Interlachen, St. James, St. Stephens, Trinity

Cluster 14

Held at Howe Memorial UMC on Sunday, November 16 at 2:30pm.

Welaka, Georgetown, Howe Memorial, Community