

North East District News

March 2010
Volume 3 Issue 3

Rev. Timothy Smiley, District Superintendent
Debbie Moore, Business Manager
Faye Johnson, Administrative Assistant

INVENTORY and the GREAT THREE DAYS

Dear Colleagues in the ministry of Jesus Christ,

My wife, Candy, worked through her high school years at a store whose name Florida old timers might recognize – *Jordan Marsh*. It was a part-time gig, but it helped with pocket money, and she was able to work her store hours mostly to suit herself – except for the annual inventory days. Then it was “all hands on deck” for an all day, wall to wall, bottom of the pile and back of the store accounting of every piece of jewelry, shirt, shoe, blouse and blanket. The store manager accounted for 100% of the merchandise: bought, broken, sold, spoiled, stained, discounted, discarded, distained, returned, redeemed.

Jesus interacted with various people and taught through a variety of stories ways that both encouraged and challenged them to “take stock” of their lives – to do inventory – Simon Peter, the rich young ruler, the Sadducees in the Temple precincts, disciples gathered around The Mount. Not only did Jesus teach the Word of God but his life – birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension – IS the truth, for Jesus is the incarnate The Word of God. His life is light that shines upon us and reveals all that is bought, broken, sold, spoiled, stained, discounted, discarded, distained, returned, redeemed.

One of the great challenges of our vocation as ministers of The Word of God – and a challenge it always has been – is to bear witness to the truth – to tell the truth – among our sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ; and especially to hear and receive that Word spoken into our own lives. “The Great Three Days,”¹ is an intentional rehearsal of Jesus’ embodied truth-telling – “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.” Can we bear witness to this kind of truth? Can we bear this truth? It is difficult, which is why so many participate in the triumphal processions of Palm Sunday and Easter but avoid the *Via Delarosa* of Good Friday and Saturday’s “dark night of the soul.”

Lent is best experienced as a season of preparation not just for Easter but for the Great Three Days. It is a wilderness preparation of feasting on the Word so that we are prepared to hear “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” This is the way of the upper room, the garden, the trial, the way of the cross, the tomb, the empty grave and then the appearance of the Risen Lord. Resurrection presupposes the power of sin and death - all within and among our lives that is bought, broken, sold, spoiled, stained, discounted, discarded, distained, returned, redeemed –else there is nothing to overcome.

Eugene Peterson, in *Eat This Book*, quotes the profound impact of Karl Barth upon John Updike’s vocation as a writer; “Updike credited the Christian faith revealed in Barth’s rediscovered Bible for telling him, as a writer, *‘that truth is holy, and truth-telling a noble and useful profession; that the reality around us is created and worth celebrating; that men and women are radically imperfect and radically valuable.’*”²

What you do as a bearer of God’s Word, as a truth-teller among people, is a holy, noble and courageous profession. I am praying for you all, that you will be empowered and encouraged by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth” as we walk the Holy Week Way.

Yours in faith, hope and love,

Tim Smiley

¹The Great Three Days: “... from sunset Holy Thursday to sunset Easter Day...” *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Copyright © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.

²John Updike, *More Matter* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1999), pp. 843,851, as quoted by Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdsman, 2006), p. 8.

Ponte Vedra United Methodist Mission Consecrates First Building



Children raised their voices and hands in praise to the Lord; youth provided musical accompaniment; men and women led the congregation in liturgy, praise and prayer, as the people of Ponte Vedra United Methodist Mission consecrated their first building on the property along Roscoe Drive on February 28th.

Worshippers, first warmly welcomed by greeters, gathered in the foyer, talking excitedly while sipping coffee. Then all moved into the spacious multi-purpose room, with its rich cypress-decked ceiling, for morning worship and a brief service of consecration. Rev. Tim Smiley, the North East District Superintendent, together with the Rev. Jeff Bennett, Pastor, and Lay Leader Cecily Browning, led the congregation in prayer. North East District Lay Leaders Donnell Wilhite and Bob Holzcamp were both in attendance, together with the new Executive Director of North East New Church Development, the Rev. Steve Herbert.

The building has about 15,000 square feet under roof. The first floor contains the main multi-purpose room, several child-care rooms adjacent, as well as offices. The upstairs is configured for youth worship, teaching and fellowship, as well as rooms for children and adult ministry. A great deal of site preparation was done in conjunction with building this first facility.

The congregation of some three hundred (300) worships on Sunday mornings with a 9:30 a.m. *Alive!* and an 11:00 a.m. *Traditions* services. For more information go to www.pv-umc.org or Facebook.



The Rev. Tim Smiley, North East District Superintendent, welcomed the Rev. Steve Herbert to the position of Executive Director of New Church Development on March 1st. Rev. Herbert is an ordained Elder who, together with his wife, Debbie, holds his Charge Conference membership at Grace United Methodist Church in St. Augustine. He previously served five appointments as a local church pastor in the West Ohio Conference and then became a Senior Protestant Chaplain in the United States Air Force. For the past twenty years he has worked for YUM Brands, Inc., as a store coach and consultant specializing in team building and leadership development. For the past nine years Steve has pioneered a daily on-line devotional called BREAD, which is available to YUM Brand employees. He also has served the past two years as Secretary for the New Church Development Committee here in our district as well as being an active participant in the ministries of Grace Church.



Superintendent Smiley commented, "I hope the pastors, clergy and the laity of our district will warmly welcome Steve. I know he has a passionate commitment to Jesus, to new church development, and to a collaborative style of leadership and team building that will well serve the needs of our mission pastors and churches."

Rev. Herbert succeeds the Rev. Charles Hubbard as Executive Director of New Church Development. Rev. Hubbard, a retired Elder in the Virginia Annual Conference, began his tenure in January 2003 and has been in the forefront of church planting in the Jacksonville and North East Districts. He has shepherded the launching of the following missions: Christ, First Haitian, Harmony, Oakleaf Christian Fellowship, Ponte Vedra, River of Life, a former Korean mission, and a soon to be launched Hispanic mission at Faith United Methodist Church. Rev. Hubbard, together with his wife, Carolyn, will continue to worship and serve in the North East District.



Support Africa University Campaign

More than a dozen Africa University graduates, faculty, board members, and volunteers will bring a campaign urging United Methodists to support the Zimbabwe-based university to the North Central, North East, and East Central Florida districts in mid-March. University representatives are already confirmed to speak at 17 United Methodist churches in the three districts during the weekend of March 20-21, 2010.

"Africa University is a vital part of our mission to Africa," said Florida Bishop Timothy Whitaker. "It is graduating men and women who are becoming key leaders throughout Africa. When other universities closed during Zimbabwe's recent economic and political crises, it remained open."

United Methodist-related Africa University is based in central Zimbabwe. Its 1,190 students come from 28 African countries. The university's advisory committee will meet in Jacksonville on March 23. The development office is located in Nashville.

Congregations hosting representatives of the university include:

- Arlington UMC, pastor, the Rev. Larry W. Shields.
- Avondale UMC, pastor, the Rev. Thomas McLeod.
- Community UMC, Lake Como, pastor the Rev. Ray Start.
- Crossroad UMC, pastor, the Rev. Gee Sprague
- Faith UMC, pastor, the Rev. Barry Andrews.
- First UMC, pastor, the Rev. Michael T. Hutcherson.
- Ft. Caroline UMC, pastor, the Rev. Bruce Galloway.
- Glynlea Grace UMC, pastor, the Rev. David Charlton.
- Lake Shore UMC, pastor, the Rev. Thomas Fuller.
- Lakewood UMC, pastor, the Rev. Bill Sherman.
- Mandarin UMC, pastor, Rev. Debbie McLeod.
- Mt. Moriah UMC, pastor, the Rev. Deloris Demps.
- Mt. Pleasant UMC, Gainesville, pastor the Rev. Geraldine W. McClennan.
- Murray Hill UMC, pastor, the Rev. Nathan Boles.
- New Life Community UMC, pastor, the Rev. Jeffrey Oglesby.
- Riverside Park UMC, pastor, the Rev. Rafael Vigil.
- Stewart Memorial UMC, Daytona Beach, pastor, the Rev. Walter Monroe, Jr.

United Methodist Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, of Charleston, W.Va., chairperson of the AU board development committee, said this visitation is particularly focused on showing the benefits of long-term planned giving to help sustain the university.

"It is a great thing to share God's blessings in this way," Bishop Lyght said. "To me, there is no better feeling than to know I've planted seeds of hope for Africa's bright future."

"The United Methodist Church is committed to Africa, and Africa University is a key focus of our ministry. As it prepares a new generation of leaders, it needs the support of United Methodists in the United States," Bishop Lyght said. "The best way for many to help is to look at the long term, both for their lives, and for the continuation of the university."

Lyght said there are many options for planned giving, such as bequests, gift annuities, life insurance policies, and other income generating instruments.

With its main campus located in Old Mutare, in central Zimbabwe, Africa University opened its doors in 1992. The university currently offers bachelors and masters degree programs in six faculties - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Management and Administration, and Theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers postgraduate diploma and masters Programs.

For more information on the many ways to support the mission and ministry of Africa University, please contact Elaine Jenkins, Director of Planned Giving, at 615-340-7428 or email her at ejenkins@gbhem.org.

In Jesus' Name

Couple's Spiritual Retreats	March 12-14 March 19-21
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Couples Spiritual Retreat

This is an opportunity for couples to spend time with each other and with the Lord at the 2010 Couples Spiritual Retreats, March 12-14 and March 19-21. Sponsored by the Florida Conference United Methodist Men, each weekend retreat centers on the theme, "In Jesus' Name."

Held in Fruitland Park at the beautiful Life Enrichment Center, the retreats feature praise time, plenary sessions and breakout sessions, offering time to take your discipleship deeper. Topics include: "A Jewish Love Story," with Ed Diaz looking at the wedding customs of Jesus' day and how they are interwoven into the picture of Jesus' second coming; John Riley asking the question, "Are there many doors to the hallway of heaven, or just one?"; "Was Jesus at your wedding?" with the Rev. Harold Lewis; digging deep into Jesus' prayer life by looking at the Gospel of Luke, with the Rev. Charley Reeb; and the Rev. Debbie Nelson exploring the powerful "dance of the Trinity" in our everyday lives. Additional information at www.ummflconf.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing (March 14, 2010)



When the first tremors of the earthquake in Haiti rocked that island nation, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) staff were already in country, strategizing how United Methodists could help improve the lives of the people there. Their work is a direct result of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports the operating expenses of those who bring healing and help in our name. It makes it possible, when we respond to an emergency like Haiti, to know that 100% of our gift goes directly to where the suffering is happening.

Every year, but this year more than ever, I hope you'll give your people the opportunity to join with the faithful across the church to support the One Great Hour of Sharing.

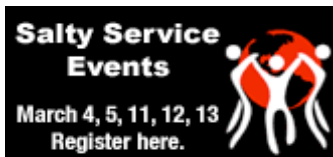
Call (888) 346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this church wide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! Find more at umcgiving.org/specialsundays.



We offer three different options for enrollment:

1. Online: <http://www.umcom.org/subscriptions/>
2. Fax your updated enrollment forms to: (615) 742-5499
3. Mail updated forms to: Interpreter, P.O. Box 440229, Nashville, TN 37244-0229

For anyone who has not enrolled, please take this opportunity to complete the online enrollment process now. If you have any questions, please contact customer service at 1(888) 346-3862.



Salty Service Workshop

The Salty Service Event focusing on the five discipling practices of effective congregations. This one-day event, offered March 12th will help congregational leaders learn practical strategies for joining Jesus in mission to the least, the last, the lost and the left out. Drawing on Acts 1:8, (where Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.") participants will explore how to do outreach ministry in a Wesleyan way in their community, in cross-cultural situations and around the world.

Paul Chilcote will be the keynote speaker. Chilcote is professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio.

Participants will have the opportunity to choose two breakouts. Some of the topics for these sessions include helping church leaders find what community needs exist; being in ministry with the poor; prison ministry; adopting a neighborhood school; ending childhood hunger; mission trips with a difference; disaster response; and earth care.

EC District - Friday, March 12 – First UMC Deland

The event will start with registration at 9 a.m., and end by 4 p.m. -- Cost to attend is \$45 and includes snacks and lunch. Online registration is available through the Florida Conference Web site at www.flumc.org. When people register, they will not be signing up for breakout group sessions, just the event.



Florida Advocacy Days at Children's Week 2010 Tallahassee, FL April 11-13

Show up 2 Speak Out

The Florida Conference will provide resources and training to prepare you to address your state representatives and coordinate your meeting with a representative. Pray and plan now for your participation at this event. Our "little ones" need your voices "to speak up" for them!

Registration Cost: \$70 (includes 4 meals and advocacy materials). Further information is online at the conference website: www.flumc2.org or by clicking on the icon above. Contact Tammy Fisher, Project Coordinator tfisher@flumc.org Phone (toll free) 1(800)-282-8011, Ext. 182, or cell phone: 407-620-9514.

"Speak up for the people who have no voice, for the rights of all the down-and-outers. Speak out for justice! Stand up for the poor and destitute!" Proverbs 31:8 The Message

News from Haiti

GBGM has posted an article on the UMCOR relief efforts on their website:

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/newsroom/releases/archives2010/fieldofficeopens/> The article speaks of a three phase relief effort: emergency, recovery and rehabilitation. UMCOR expects that these efforts will stretch through January 2015.

How can you and your congregation participate in the kingdom work in Haiti?

1. Prayer:

Please pray daily the below prayer from the Upper Room or something similar:

Today, O God,
we pray with all who sit in the rubble,
and live in tents,
remembering what used to be
and who used to be there.

We pray with them for the courage to look
forward more than backward
to days in the future that will be brighter.

We pray, O God,
with anyone who dares to place one stone on top
of another
As an act of rebuilding
As an act of faith in a future unseen.

We pray, O God,
with all who sew up bodies and patch up
limbs,
with all who gather the bodies of the dead,
with all who stand as a symbol of peace and
stability,
and with all who offer a cup of cold water in
your name.

Have mercy upon your people, Lord,
Lift the downtrodden everywhere, Lord,
And grant your peace. Amen.

2. Give financially to:

- a. Florida Bishop Tim Whitaker issued this statement on Wednesday, Jan. 13: "UMCOR, which partners with numerous ecumenical agencies already on the ground in Haiti, is the most efficient way for our churches to be involved in offering a Christian response." Every penny you give to UMCOR goes directly to support their relief ministry. Gifts to Advance Special #418325 are for these purposes. Checks can be mailed to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087, or dropped in your church offering plate on Sunday (with #418325 in the memo line).
 - b. United Methodists in Florida may send monetary donations to the **Methodist Church in Haiti**. Every dollar collected will go directly to the Methodist Church in Haiti to help them rebuild lives and buildings. Checks may be made payable to "FAC Treasurer," and note "2010 Methodist Church in Haiti Relief, #100190" on the check. Individuals may send checks directly to the Florida Conference, 1140 McDonald Street, Lakeland, FL 33801. Churches may send these checks through their normal apportionment giving channels, utilizing lock-box #207.
3. **UMCOR** is also coordinating health and baby kits for Haiti. You can find more information on their website. <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies>
 4. Once UMVIM determines that it is safe to send missionary/volunteer groups into Haiti, we will let you know. The Rev. Hollie Tapley is compiling a list of interested volunteers. Please email her at hollie@mumconline.com and she will be sure to add you to her contact list.

For more information please email Missy Hart at mhart@mumc.net or Hollie Tapley at hollie@mumconline.com.

On Friday, February 19th, 1,091 health kits were dropped off at the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot in Louisiana. The kits filled up our 12' enclosed work trailer. Fourteen churches from the district were involved in the collection. Unfortunately, a few churches dropped off kits without any identification of which congregation had helped out. We would like to get a list of those involved in this project. If your church participated in this project, please contact David Cott at email ALittleSerenity@aol.com or phone 904.387.4406.

Summer Mission Intern applications now being accepted

Applications for the Florida Conference's 2010 Summer Mission Intern program are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is April 9.

Summer Mission Interns serve in a variety of outreach ministry settings throughout Florida, with a focus being on community day camps and United Methodist district outreach agencies. A \$2,000 stipend is awarded to each intern for their 10 weeks of service which runs generally from June 7 through Aug. 13 (this varies with the placement). Internship applications are accepted from students and young adults, ages 19 through 28.

"Being a Summer Mission Intern is a great opportunity to be Christ's hands and feet, in service to a hurting world," said Melinda Trotti, director of Justice and Outreach Ministries for the Florida Conference. "The focus is on service in communities experiencing poverty, but the program includes time and support for reflection on vocational and spiritual goals."

Training is provided to the interns at pre-summer and mid-summer retreats as well as in-service training by the agencies. Supervision and mentoring is provided by conference and agency staff throughout the summer.

In the summer of 2009, the second year of this program, 12 Summer Mission Interns participated at placements with Christians Reaching Out to Society (C.R.O.S. Ministries), the East Central District outreach ministries in Orlando, Sons of Thunder Day Camp in Titusville, and the NE District outreach ministries in Jacksonville. They ranged in age from 19-28 and came from 10 different colleges and universities.

The goal this year is to expand the program to 20-25 interns with new placements in Naples, Miami and Holiday. The Florida Conference Summer Mission Intern program is a partnership of the Office of Justice and Outreach Ministries, Melinda Trotti, Director, and the Office of Camps and Retreat Ministries, Rev. David Berkey, Executive Director.

The application is available online at http://www.flumc.org/mission_intern_app.pdf. Applicants can download and print the application and mail it to David Berkey, 1140 McDonald Ave., Lakeland, FL 33801; or fax it to 863-688-7233. For more information, e-mail dberkey@flumc.org, or call 800-282-8011, Ext. 140.

COMMUNITY ARISE BASIC DISASTER MINISTRY TRAINING

Saturday, May 8th, 2010
10:00 – 4:00

Memorial UMC – Fernandina Beach
601 Centre Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Sponsored by the Disaster Recovery Ministry of the
Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church



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. Lunch is provided.

For more information call Disaster Recovery (800) 282-8011 Ext. 149.

To register, visit www.flumc.org/DisasterRecovery and follow the links.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2010

- 16** Community Outreach Agency Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at District Office
- 22** District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7pm

Calendar of Reports Due

- 31** **Child/Youth Protection Policy adoption** - Review & renew annually. Mail a signed copy of the Annual Review/Endorsement Renewal to the district office by March 31st. (Should the policy undergo major revisions, mail a complete copy to the district office).
- 31** **Fiscal Responsibility and Management Policy adoption** - Review & renew annually. Mail a signed copy of this policy to the distfice by March 31st.
- 31** **Sexual harassment Policy adoption** - Review & renew annually. Mail a signed copy of the Annual Review/ Endorsement Renewal to the district office by March 31st. (Should the policy undergo major revisions, mail a complete and signed copy to the district office).
- 31** **Annual Report to the District Housing Committee/Parsonage Checklist** Review & renew annually. Mail a signed copy of the Annual Parsonage Review to the district office by March 31st.

April 2010

- 1** **Equitable Compensation Forms Due** - to the Center for Clergy Excellence Office for Churches requesting funds.
- 11-13** Florida Advocacy Days at Children's Week in Tallahassee
- 18-23** Five Day Spiritual Academy at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, FL
- 26** District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7 p.m.

May 2010

- 8** Community Disaster Arise, Basic Disaster Ministry Training at Memorial UMC, Fernandina Bch, FL 10am-4pm
- 13** dCOM Meeting, 9 a.m. District Office
- 18** Clergy Team Evening Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in Starke
- 20** Clergy Team Meeting, CrossRoad UMC 9 a.m.-12p.m.
- 24** District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7 p.m.

Don't forget to Report!

**Missional
Vital
Signs**



If you are not receiving your reporting link via email please contact the District Office at 904-396-3026 or for further assistance go to:

www.congregationaltransformation.com

Billing Info for :

WORKER'S COMPENSATION
PROPERTY & CASUALTY
HEALTH INSURANCE
PENSION



Please be reminded to go to www.flumc.org for your workers compensation, property and casualty, health insurance and pension invoices.



The Florida Conference Communications Dept. , in conjunction with Disaster Recovery Ministry, provides "Disaster Updates" Just go to the website at www.flumc.org or click on the icon above.



2010 Florida Annual Conference Event

Eradicating Extreme Poverty
June 10-12, 2010
Lakeland Center, Lakeland, FL

For more information click on the link above or go to the conference website at www.flumc.org

1415 LaSalle Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
Phone: (904)396-3026
Fax: (904)396-6294

We have an extra Beth Moore Daniel DVD Study, and a Beth Moore Ester DVD Study that we don't need. I know there are some churches that would like to purchase these wonderful studies, and we would like you to have them at the discounted price of \$100. We also have a couple other studies on VHS that we would love to give away. Contact Marissa West at CrossRoad UMC -- Community Life, Outreach, and Communications Assistant...phone (904) 493-1239 or email: marissa@crcumc.org