



North East District News

May 2010
Volume 5 Issue 5

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

Dear Colleagues in the Shared Ministry of Jesus Christ,

The “Q” Last week Jeff Stiggins and I attended “The Q Gathering” in Chicago. Even now I’m not sure how to understand this confab of six hundred Christians from “seven different channels of cultural influence.” You can go to the website and decide for yourself (www.qideas.org/event).

I was pleasingly surprised and fascinated to hear leading evangelical Protestant voices in their presentations, and Q participants sharing in table conversations, sound very Wesleyan. Gabe Lyons, one of Q’s founding architects, spoke of the need for Christians to engage culture not simply through critique (read: judgment) but by claiming our God-given call to be “co-creators” of culture. The biblical story begins with Genesis 1, not Genesis 3. Timothy Keller offered a succinct declaration that Justification by Faith, and biblical justice, are inseparably and intrinsically connected. To separate one from the other is to miss the fullness of salvation. He underlined Jesus’ teachings on “last things” – Matthew 25.31-46, as the litmus test of whether or not Jesus’ disciples “get it.” More than one presenter, and many participants, were speaking of *theosis*, the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in which to human lives is restored the image of God in thought, word and deed. *Very Wesleyan!*

The movement of the leading edge of the evangelical Protestant Church toward Wesley is more than gratifying – it is a more comprehensive and healthy biblical understanding of the Christian life. United Methodists can fan this flame and lead the way toward an experiential way of life that embodies the transforming work of God’s grace within human life, a grace that as it is fully forming will necessarily take us into the vocation of justice.

One note of caution: Justification by Faith through Grace alone is an appropriate doctrinal expression of Jesus’ exuberant declaration that God blesses the poor in spirit. Only persons in touch with their own poverty of spirit, their own paucity of goodness before God, can be wholly surrendered into the care and control of the Father in Heaven. Only those persons rendered speechless in gratitude to the Creator and Redeemer of their lives can experience the urgency to move beyond works of mercy to engagement in Kingdom justice. Cursed are “the middle class in spirit” who dismiss or resist justification by faith, and are content with a gospel of ‘good people who do good.’ This too often is descriptive of United Methodists. Today we need a radical experience of Justification by Faith that moves us personally toward holiness and wholeness, and compels us to engage in works of justice that co-operate with the Spirit in ‘kingdom come’ – holiness and wholeness ‘on earth as it is in heaven.’

Pentecost In Chicago the nights were cool, the days filled with sunshine, and the wind blew. Hard. It truly is “the windy city.” The weekend following my Chicago visit, I came upon this poem in *The Christian Century*. It’s a good Pentecost poem, and I hope it speaks to you and perhaps for you, as it does for me:

This was a gale that formed a fist,
a punch turning into a full kick that almost
sent me flying downhill. The Greek word
translates as “a movement of air.” But this
was karate; I loved the force of it, its full
release and enthusiasm.

In my tedium, I wish I might
keel over when that other spirit blows, or that
that fierce, holy breath would fill me to
almost-bursting, a red balloon
buoyant with air; pressure inside and out,
and no strings attached.

Yours in faith, hope and love,

Tim Smiley



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.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Leader Training May 14 – 15, 2010 · Riverside Retreat - LaBelle, Florida

Are you interested in leading a United Methodist Mission Team? Do you want to lead a team to Haiti when long-term recovery efforts begin? UMVIM Leader training prepares volunteers to lead Volunteer in Mission teams to projects in the United States and around the world. You will learn the "ins and outs" of organizing a mission trip from recruiting the team, to picking the location, getting support, staying safe, planning the work and much, much more. You'll also enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship with other mission-minded folks in a beautiful camp setting.

Participants stay in dorm-style lodges with bunk beds. Cost is \$55 per person and includes lodging, three meals (dinner, breakfast and lunch) and all training materials. Trainers include Sue Macchiarella, Florida Conference Chair for UMVIM, as well as trainers from the Southeastern Jurisdiction of UMVIM.

This training will also include a tour of ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization), a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization located on a demonstration farm in North Fort Myers. ECHO has been assisting a global network of missionaries and development workers since 1981 and is currently serving agricultural workers in 180 countries. For more information, please visit their Web site: www.echonet.org.

Please note: **Due to space constraints, this training will be limited to 40 people.** Please visit: www.flumc.org/UMVIM



ALL Black Clergy within the Annual Conference are encouraged to Join Bishop Whitaker on Saturday, May 15, 2010 for Praise and Worship, A Day of Dialogue, and Breaking Bread (lunch) at Stewart Memorial UMC in Daytona Beach

Facilitated by the Center for Congregational Excellence
Harold D. Lewis, Sr
Director of Black Congregational Excellence
1-800-282-8011 ext. 346 or hlewis@flumc.org

Clergy Team Meetings

Tuesday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Dinner Provided)
 IHOP Restaurant
 1350 S Walnut Street
 Starke, FL 32091

Thursday, May 20th at 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 CrossRoad UMC
 10005 Gate Parkway N
 Jacksonville, FL 32246
 Refreshments and Fellowship 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Please contact the District Office at (904) 396-3026, email flumc-ne2@flumc.org if you are attending one of these meetings or contact Rev. Smiley directly if for some reason you are unable to attend.

Florida Clergywomen to Meet May 20 in Winter Park: RSVP Now

Florida United Methodist Clergywomen plan to meet on Thursday, May 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Winter Park. Attendees should plan to order a deli lunch with the group. There is no other cost for the gathering. The agenda includes:

- **Wholeness in the Holy (worship)**
- **Sister Support**
- **System Impact**

Please RSVP now to Tracy Hunter at tracy.hunter@flumc.org so that they will have an accurate count.

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES CLASSES

Friday, May 21, 6:30-9:00 p.m. &
 Saturday, May 22 8:30a.m.-4:00 p.m.
 Middleburg UMC, 3925 Main Street, Middleburg FL



The Basic Course qualifies the participant as a Local Church Lay Servant. Participants are invited to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in discipleship.

The Advanced Courses “Grow Spiritually Through Daily Discipline”
 You are guided in discerning God’s direction for your lives, practicing daily disciples, and reaching out in love.
 “Discover Spiritual Gifts”

This course focuses on acquiring a better understanding of the church and its ministry needs; doing the work of Christ in the church and in the world; and being more fully equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.

Fees of \$30 includes textbook, snacks and lunch on Saturday.
 For further information please contact Gwen Dube’ at (904)751-4912 or email ggdube@comcast.net.

Justice and Outreach Ministries

ACCESS (Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency) is one way for churches to help families find out if they can get help buying food, cash assistance, low or no cost health care, or help paying for Medicare premiums. The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church is one of the partners in the Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger. Becoming an ACCESS site is one of the ways that churches can engage several of the points in the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger's Ten Point Plan. <http://flimpact.org/partnership/documents/2008/2008-TenPointPlan-Full.pdf>

An ACCESS training is being offered at St Luke's United Methodist Church in Orlando Friday May 14 from 9:00-3:00 with two tracks – one for professional social workers and one for local church staff and volunteers.

This one-day workshop is for you if you are interested in learning how to become an ACCESS site, want to network with others who are already ACCESS sites, and/ or engage a panel of church members and staff who are partnering in creative ways across town, denominations, and faith communities to make a difference in their community.

Please RSVP to Tammy Fisher at tfisher@flumc.org by May 7, 2010

Cost of lunch is \$8 and can be paid at the church.

*There is no charge for the training.

The Global Day of Prayer is Coming to the First Coast

An unprecedented opening for transformative worship, prayer, intercession and action is coming to the First Coast, and all of us in the North East District can participate. Birthed by God in the churches of South Africa at the dawn of the 21st century, ***The Global Day of Prayer*** swept across the African continent and now across the world in quick order. Every so often God creates an opening for the catholic Church to lay aside her differences and come together in unity. This is such a time. Pastor Gee Sprague and several committed lay leaders of Crossroad UMC are prime movers in bringing ***The Global Day of Prayer*** to the First Coast.

Prayer: 10 Days of Repentance & Prayer

May 13 – May 22

The Upper Room days between the Ascension and Pentecost

Worship: The Global Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 23rd from 2:00 to 4:30 pm

Pentecost Sunday

at

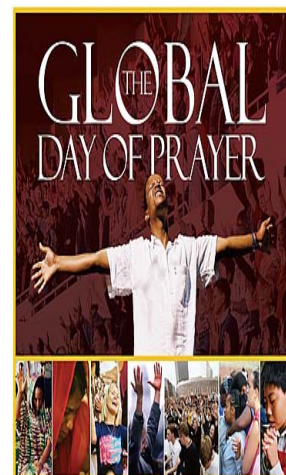
Metropolitan Park in Jacksonville

Worship and Intercession arranged in seven movements of about 20 minutes each

Service: 90 Days of Blessing

May 24 – August 21

We respond to the promptings of the Spirit



Detailed information and easy to use resources are available via the website: www.fcgdop.org . Email fcgdop@gmail.com or you can contact Gee or me. *I am very excited about the God-possibilities of this movement. Join with Crossroad UMC and me in participating in **The Global Day of Prayer!***

2010 Annual Conference

On June 10-12, 2010, we will come together for our Florida Annual Conference Event in Lakeland under the banner of
"Transforming the World by Eradicating Extreme Poverty."



Key information is outlined below:

Annual Conference is Thursday – Saturday, June 10th – 12th

Pre-Conference Activities begin Wednesday afternoon June 9th

2:00 - 7:00 Registration Opens

2:00 – 7:00 Ministry Expo Open (Cokesbury plus over 65 vendors to visit)

2:00 – 6:00 Health Fair Exhibit Hall, Booth 315

2:00 – 3:30 Pre-Conference Classes ([click here](#) for brochure and registration)

4:00 – 5:30 Pre-Conference Classes ([click here](#) for brochure and registration)

6:00 – 7:30 Pre-Conference Classes ([click here](#) for brochure and registration)

Complete AC Schedule and details are available on the Florida Conference Website www.flumc.org. Click on the Annual Conference Link at the right of the home page. View all activities, special group meals (reservations needed), etc.

AC Workbooks were mailed 2 weeks ago:

Clergy and Church Lay Members – mailed to local church

District Lay Members – mailed to their home

If you did not receive your workbook, please send an email to Faye Johnson flumc-ne2@flumc.org. You can pick up a workbook at the orientation. [Click here](#) to access the AC Workbook on-line.

North East District Pre-Conference Orientation.

You are encouraged to attend below:

Thursday, May 27, 2010 at Orange Park UMC, 2051 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Please bring your workbook

Beth Fogle-Miller FL Conference Director of Connectional Ministries will be present at the Pre-Conference Orientations to review the proposed 2011 Florida Conference Budget and share information regarding Conference Restructuring and Financial strategies geared to help lower apportionment costs to the local church. Please take time to review budget information in your AC Workbook prior to attending the orientation. We welcome your questions at the orientations. Anyone interested in this financial information is welcome to attend this orientation gathering.

Annual Conference Offering

This year, the special AC offering will go towards relief efforts for The Methodist Church in Haiti, and The Florida Partnership to End Childhood Hunger as organized by Florida Impact. We encourage every congregation to participate in the offering by receiving a church-wide special offering in the days leading up to the Florida Annual Conference Event. The lay member or pastor of each congregation will then bring the offering (in the form of one check, made payable to the Florida Annual Conference) with them to the 2010 Annual Conference Event. [Click here](#) to read letter from Bishop Whitaker about the AC Offering.

Hospitality Volunteers are needed at Annual Conference. If you know someone who is not serving as a lay member to Annual Conference but would like to join the fun, please invite them to serve as a Radical Hospitality Volunteer. Complete details will be available soon on the Florida Conference website under the [Annual Conference link](#).

Tour New Archives/Heritage Center on Wednesday and Friday

You are invited to an Open House at the new Florida United Methodist Heritage Center in the McKay Archives at Florida Southern College on Wednesday, June 9, 6-8 p.m. or Friday, June 11, 12-1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Barnett Plaza adjacent to the archives building.

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT CORNER!

Rev. Dr. Stephen R. Herbert, VP-Ex. Director

This month featuring...

HARMONY MISSION!**Rev. Marguerite Matthews, Pastor**

Currently meeting at

New Berlin Elementary School**3513 New Berlin Rd. Jacksonville**

Harmony hosted their Fourth Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at New Berlin Elementary School on Palm Sunday afternoon. More than 700 people in the community participated!

The community also joined with the Harmony congregation to help the North Jacksonville Women's Resource Center and United Methodist Committee on Relief for Haiti.

"Whenever we host a community event to bring God's mosaic of people together in North Jacksonville, our goal is to celebrate the unity we are establishing in our community as well as inviting everyone to participate in helping fulfill authentic needs within our own community. Not only did children and families play, pray and hunt 3000 eggs together, but we collected 204 new baby items for the Women's Resource Center and cash donation for Haiti Relief," explains Rev. Marguerite Matthews, pastor.

**Music Give-Away**

Lakewood UMC will be conducting a major music library cleaning project June 7-9. We would like to offer free of charge music no longer needed to churches within the district who have smaller budgets for music. Music will be available June 10th and needs to be picked up by June 22. Styles range from classical to contemporary with multiple copies of each piece. Please call to arrange an appointment to peruse the music.

Brenda Spargo, DWS
 Director of Music Ministries
 Lakewood UMC
 6133 San Jose Blvd
 Jacksonville, FL 32217
 904-733-8477

Classifieds

Youth Minister - For Middle through High School Students. Part-time position will include involving students in regular meetings, special events and activities throughout the year. Approximately 10 hours per week/\$10 per hour. To review complete job description, contact Christ United Methodist Church, 400 Penman Rd., Neptune Beach, FL 32266 Resumes welcomed. E-mail at christumcnb@bellsouth.net.

The First United Methodist Church Starke, Florida is searching for a full time Director of Youth and Family Ministries. POSITION SUMMARY: To direct ministries for the youth of the First United Methodist Church Starke and to provide additional support ministries for young adults and families of all ages. QUALIFICATIONS: College graduate with seminary or religious emphasis or at least five years experience as a Director of Youth and/or Family ministries. For more information, contact Bill McRae at 904 769 2738, or email mcrae_w01@firm.edu or call the Church office at 904 964 6864 or email firstunitedmeth@earthlink.net. Please go to www.fumcstarke.org for a job description.

Pianist/Accompanist Accompany congregation singing, both traditional and contemporary. Accompany the choir for practices and performances. Sight read music. Perform piano solos at a highly skilled level. Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning services. \$5200.00 annually. To review complete job description, contact Christ United Methodist Church, 400 Penman Road, Neptune Beach, 32266. Phone: 904-249-5370. Resumes welcomed. Email: christumcnb@bellsouth.net

REMINDER:

As you may know, Ministry Protection administers the self-insured workers compensation insurance program for each member church, mission and extension ministry of the Florida Conference. This program is regulated by the State of Florida and recently underwent an audit by the State. As a result of this audit, the State of Florida is requiring updated payroll information from each church.

An online form has been developed for your convenience that asks for total payroll information by job classification for the calendar year 2009. In order to comply with this audit, we request that you review your payroll records (941's, etc) and complete the online form below as accurately as possible. Please note that your responses will not affect your workers compensation premiums for 2010 as this updated information is simply to comply with a requirement by the State of Florida.

To assist in information gathering, a printable PDF worksheet has been developed that lists the questions and required information that you will submit on the formal online form.

2009 WC Audit Printable Worksheet: [click here](#)

On-line payroll survey: <http://www.flumc2.org/workerscompaudit>

Information and links to the online payroll response form can be found from any of the following sources:

Ministry Protection website www.flumc.org/ministryprotection

Florida Conference website www.flumc.org (then click on your local church dashboard)

As always, thank you for your support of Ministry Protection. Should you have any questions or need anything further please do not hesitate to contact Ministry Protection at 1-800-282-8011 X 126 or ministryprotection@flumc.org

Mark B. Thomas, ARM
Director of Ministry Protection
Florida Conference UMC
1-800-282-8011 Ext. 137



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2010

*[Recurring Monthly Reports](#)

- 8 Community Disaster Arise, Basic Disaster Ministry Training at Memorial UMC, Fernandina Bch, FL 10am-4pm
- 13 dCOM Meeting, 9 a.m. District Office
- 17 New Church Development Meeting, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., at District Office
- 18 Clergy Team Evening Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at IHOP, Starke, FL
- 20 Clergy Team Meeting, CrossRoad UMC 9 a.m.-12p.m.
- 21 Lay Servant Ministries Training, First UMC in Middleburg, 6:30-9 p.m.
- 22 Lay Servant Ministries Training, First UMC, Middleburg at 8:30a.m.--4p.m.
- 24 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7 p.m.
- 27 District Pre-conference Orientation, Orange Park UMC at 6:30 p.m.
- 31 **Memorial Day – Conference and District Offices Closed**

June 2010

*[Recurring Monthly Reports](#)

- 10-12 Annual Conference, Lakeland Center, Lakeland, FL
- 24 New Church Development Committee Meeting, District Office at 10 a.m.
- 28 District Leadership Council Meeting, Orange Park UMC at 7 p.m.
- 29 Moving Day

July 2010

*[Recurring Monthly Reports](#)

- 5 **Independence Day – Conference and District Offices Closed**

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.

1415 LaSalle Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209
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