

April 2008

Dearhearts,

General Conference begins on April 23, and I trust we will all be praying for the success of the Conference and in particular the well-being of our delegation. Since my readings from the whole story of the Christian Church have included accounts of so many pivotal conferences, councils, and synods, I am even praying that this will be a historic meeting.

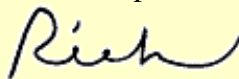
While there is a long list of decisions that would qualify as historic, I am using the term in this fashion: I believe we would find a historic measure of new energy and direction in a re-awakened sense of the unity of the Body of Christ. Oftentimes, we put the cart before the horse, saying that the unity of the Church will come with the resolution of this or that divisive issue, or, heavens forbid, only with the resolution of all of them! But this makes the issues bigger than the whole, and assures that a sense of unity will be virtually unobtainable.

This is why Paul does not say to the Galatians that, in the process of resolving the divisions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, we will find Christ. Rather, he says that having been clothed in Christ; we will discover the means of grace for really dealing with these distinctions. The healing and consequent revitalization of our United Methodist Church can be best begun by putting new emphasis on the word "United," which ought to be more than an echo of by-gone structures.

Now my readings in church history also make me keenly aware that many of those past conferences, councils, and synods were tumultuous, if not down-right acrimonious. So my prayer is for an industrial strength outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in order that a sense of gracious humility might wash away the temptation to bully and manipulate the process in the name of a particular outcome. If such a thing were to happen, it would indeed be historic.

Finally, in order to give a "life application" to this prayer for General Conference, it would not hurt for this vision to be applied to the very next meeting you and I attend at the local, district, or conference level.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick".

Rick Neal, DS-NE

Employment Opportunities

Fleming Island United Methodist Church, Green Cove Springs, FL, is seeking a creative and passionate **full time Youth Minister**, with a calling to help disciple and reach out to the youth in our church and community. Faith Factor Student Ministry exists to expose students to Christ, connect them to a loving family of student believers, model and encourage them to develop a passionate relationship with Christ, and equip each student to live a life of integrity and service to God and community. Bachelors or working toward Bachelors degree preferred, but not required depending on previous experience.

For more information contact Rev. Cory Britt

Fleming Island United Methodist Church

7170 US Highway 17 S

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Daytime Phone-904-284-3366 **Email** cory@fiumc.org **URL** www.fiumc.org

First UMC in Starke is looking for a full time music director. We have a job description at the district office if you are interested. Or contact Ann Haynes, Chairperson of the SPRC First UMC, 200 North Walnut Street, Starke, Florida 32091, (904) 964 6864, firstunitedmeth@earthlink.net

Ministry Assistant needed for 10 hours weekly. Mandatory strong Microsoft Office skills and experience, along with a heart to serve God. General office organizational skills, pleasant telephone skills, and a "can-do" attitude needed. Flexible days and hours within the normal business weekdays 9-5, and is located in Southside. Salary of \$100 weekly. Call 904-396-0073 for information."

2008 FLORIDA CONFERENCE SUMMER MISSION INTERNS

Join us to work in ministry with children at day and overnight camps this summer! You will share your gifts for nine weeks June 8-August 8 at various settings throughout Florida. We are seeking college students and high school graduates with an aptitude for ministry with children and youth and enthusiasm for sharing our Christian faith! You will be placed in groups of 2-5 to work in United Methodist outreach agencies or with our summer camp ministry at the Life Enrichment Center and Riverside Retreat. Training, weekly stipend and room and board will be provided. This is a partnership of the Florida Conference's Outreach Ministries, Camp and Retreat Ministries, Campus Ministries and Justice and Spirituality Ministries. For an application or further information e-mail the Rev. David Berkey at dberkey@flumc.org or go to the conference's web site, www.flumc.org and look for the application. You can also call for an application at 1-800-282-8011, ext. 140. The deadline is April 15th.

New Clergy Email

You should have received a letter informing you of the new email communication between the Florida Conference and the Clergy, please look these over. In the letter a Quick Start Guide is mentioned, it will walk you through how to access and check your emails as well as forwarding your emails if you choose to do so. This guide is available online at www.flumc.org. Click on the "clergy e-mail" button on the right side of the home page; when the next page opens, click on the "Quick Start Guide" and you're all set. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference IT Help Desk. 1-800-282-8011 extensions 187,120 or 119.

Mark your calendars!

The Pre-Conference Forum will be held Thursday, May 15, 2008 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Fleming Island UMC will be hosting this year's forum at their church located on 7170 US Highway 17 S. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. For directions contact the church at 904-284-3366

Clergy Day Apart will be held on Friday, May 2, 2008 at Marywood Retreat Center.

Lay Speaker Training will be held on May 10th and 17th at Highlands UMC in Jacksonville.

Camp AMP 2008

June 9-13 & June 16-20

The people of the North East District United Methodist Church offer a free summer camp for needy children!

What can you do?

Pray for the campers, volunteers and staff

Sponsor a child for a total cost of only \$275 or contribute any amount

Encourage a child to apply as a camper

Volunteer as an adult or as a youth to serve as staff

www.campAMP.net

Thank you for your prayers & generous support.

Camp AMP is a ministry of the North East District UMC's & Community Outreach Agency



An evening to celebrate our United Methodist Connection



Black Tie & Blue Jeans
B E N E F I T D I N N E R
COA - HELPING CHURCHES HELP OTHERS

**A NEW WAY OF
HELPING CHURCHES HELP
THEIR NEIGHBORS**

Featuring
"A Taste of Methodism"

Chefs from across our District showing of their favorite offerings for you! Uniquely prepared dishes made individually for you....featuring a carving station, a fresh seafood pasta station, and freshly prepared salads.

Suggested donation of \$50

Call or e-mail for tickets ▶▶▶▶

**Friday, April 25th
6:00 pm
Lakewood UMC**

- Fabulous food
- Dazzling decorations
- Live DJ
- Dancing
- Live auction
- Silent auction

Community Outreach Agency

1415 LaSalle Street
Jacksonville, FL 32207

**904.396.0073
OutreachUMC
@bellsouth.net**

*8th Annual DLC, Nurse & Learn Tournament
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
N. E. FLA District Methodist Men*



FACT SHEET

EVENT: 8th Annual DLC, Nurse & Learn Golf Tournament

PURPOSE: Funds raised by the tournament are designated to support the handicapped children of the Developmental Learning Center.

DLC: DLC, Nurse & Learn is a special education school dedicated to meeting all the needs of special needs children in a Christian, loving atmosphere. Our program is based upon the idea that children with handicaps are children first and their potential is ours to discover.

DATE: Sunday, April 20th, 1:30 PM

LOCATION: Windsor Parke
4747 Hodges Blvd.
(904)223-4653

ENTRY FEE: Now - March 15th: \$300 / foursome, \$75 person
March 15th – April 15th: \$320 / foursome, \$80 person
Includes cart and green fee, goody bag and dinner following the tournament

SPONSORSHIP: PLATINUM LEVEL \$1,000.00 (includes 4 players)
GOLD LEVEL \$500.00 (Logo add in program & 2 hole signs)
HOLE SPONSOR \$300.00 (Sign on green)
Cart Sponsor \$50.00 (group sign on cart)

FORMAT: Each team will consist of four players in a best ball, scramble. You can put your foursome together or we will pair you.

CONTACTS: Harley Privette, (904) 737-3195 or privette737@juno.com
Jimmy Clark, (904) 421-5380 or jclark@hardenassociates.com
Amy Buggle, (904) 387-0370 or dlcni@att.net

PAYMENT: Make checks out to **DLC SPRING GLEN M/M GOLF EVENT** and mail check & this sheet to:

Attn: DLC Golf, C/O Spring Glen UMC, 6007 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32216