



**Atlantic Central District**  
United Methodist Church

# Atlantic Central District

## E-Connection

Rev. Michael C. Oliver, District Superintendent  
Patti Moxley, Administrative Assistant  
Linda Graham, Financial Assistant

November, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 11

### *District Joys and Concerns:*

Jocelyn Adhemar (St. John Haitian Mission)

Michael, Jen and Luke Sims (Trinity UMC, Jensen Beach; UMC of the Palm Beaches) – Luke was born prematurely)

Dale and Beth Locke (Community of Hope) – Beth's father passed away

Rich Gallo (First UMC, Boynton Beach) and family –

### *Charge Conference Reminders:*

Only the "Appointed Pastor's Compensation and Benefit Form" for each appointed clergy needs to be submitted one week prior to the church's conference date.

All charge/church conference forms (complete with all signatures), minutes, and list of attendees are due in the District office no later than one week following the church's conference.

In cases where there are vacancies in leadership positions at the time of charge/church conference dates information regarding the filling those

### **DISTRICT CALENDAR**

#### **NOVEMBER**

**1** – Radical Hospitality workshop at UMC of Palm Beaches ; registration 8-9 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m.

**5** – Committee on Leadership (Nominations) @ Lakewood Park UMC, Ft. Pierce 11:00

**6** – Webcast on Medical Insurance @ [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org)

**11** – Veteran's Day – District office closed

**17** – dCOM - @ First UMC, Port St. Lucie 9:00

**25** – Refocus Training – District office – 9:00 – 3:00

**27-28** – Thanksgiving Holiday – District office closed

#### **DECEMBER**

**15** – dCOM -8:30 @ First UMC, Pt St. Lucie

**24-31** Christmas Holiday – District office

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### **SPECIAL EVENT FOR POTENTIAL YOUNG CLERGY**

The Center for Clergy Excellence will be holding a special event next February 20-22 for young adults, ages 18 to 25, who exhibit gifts for ministry. **"SCREAM: Get Ready for the Ride,"** will help young adults discern whether they are being called to fulltime Christian ministry. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn in Orlando near the entrance to Universal Studios. The cost to participate is a \$25 registration fee. The Rev. David Dodge, executive director of the Center, asks clergy in the Florida Conference to forward names of young adults who would then be invited to attend this

event. Clergy may send the names and addresses of young adults in an e-mail to Winnie Dean at [wdean@flumc.org](mailto:wdean@flumc.org). Space is limited to the first 75 registrants.

## Information for Pastors and Lay Persons that take part in the Conference Medical Plan:

NOVEMBER WEB CAST SCHEDULED

Here are some highlights :

The Open Enrollment period begins on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and ends on November 14, 2008.

- Open Enrollment information will be sent to current participants home addresses the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>
- Live Open Enrollment webcast **Thursday, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m.** sharp
- Participants must re-enroll in the Health-care Spending Account and Dependent Childcare Account every year - these benefit elections **do not** roll-over from year to year
- All Clergy and lay employees at local churches must print their confirmation statement upon completion of the open enrollment session and provide a copy to their financial administrator/payroll clerk to set up 2009 benefit payroll deductions.
- New benefit elections will be effective January 1, 2009.

Come hear the full story on Thursday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m., by visiting [www.flumc.org](http://www.flumc.org) and clicking on the webcast button. [Click here](#) to see all 2009 health insurance premium rates.

## Cuba-Florida Covenant

Those of us who are involved with a sister church in Cuba have been praying and worrying about our brothers and sisters there, following the recent hurricanes. We have been receiving devastating pictures, many news articles, and personal e-mails telling of the horror they are going through. Many, many families lost their homes and what possessions they had, and many more had some type of damage or loss. Food shortages, lack of safe drinking water, and shortages of building materials are some of the obstacles they are struggling with. Our conference has set out to help them by asking our churches to collect money and items to be sent to the Cuban Methodist Church. At least \$42,000 has been donated to the conference. The conference in turn is waiting for detailed information on the material needs to repair or replace damaged churches there. Once that information is received it will be included with an application to the U.S. Treasury Department for a special license for the Florida Conference to take the money into Cuba. We ask that this be lifted up by all congregations in prayer.

We also need prayers lifted up for the issuing of visas into Cuba. For the past several months the Cuban government has been denying visas to our caravans. Until we get word that the situation has been worked out with the government, caravans will be halted.

Now more than ever small churches in Cuba who do not have a sister church need our churches here in Florida, who are not in this partnership, to step out of the boat and make that commitment. Even if we can not travel to Cuba we can still pray for our church in

Cuba and their congregation, and communicate by e-mail (if they have access) or regular mail with cards, pictures and care packages.

We ask that if your church is not involved that you would have your congregation pray about this.

For presentations for your church, please contact either Ralph or Shirley.

District Co-Coordinator – **Shirley Dunlap** – 321-984-2167 – [sdunlap323@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sdunlap323@cfl.rr.com)

**Ralph Masker** - 321-259-9545 – [rmasker@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rmasker@cfl.rr.com)

## **United Methodists Prepare for Post-Fay Relief Work**

Churches throughout the conference are being asked to notify the Florida Conference office of Disaster Recovery if they have flood buckets or FEMA tarps stored at their church. To contact the Disaster Recovery Ministry, call (800) 282-8011, ext. 149, or e-mail [DisasterRecovery@flumc.org](mailto:DisasterRecovery@flumc.org).

United Methodists are also asked to re-stock their local food pantry or food bank. Recovery from flood damage is a long-term effort and many people will rely on food donations, possibly depleting already strained local food banks.

Work teams are expected to be needed after the water recedes. To volunteer, visit [www.flumc.org/disasterrecovery](http://www.flumc.org/disasterrecovery) and complete the online registration form.

To donate to UMCOR, drop checks in church offering plates or mail them directly to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Write Advance #901670 Domestic Disaster Response on the memo line. Credit-card donations can be made by calling (800) 554-8583 or at [www.givetomission.org](http://www.givetomission.org).

## **Life Enrichment Center begins room renovations with “new tile floors”**

In an effort to reduce mold and mildew in the overnight rooms at the LEC, they are tiling floors, one room at a time. Last month I had an opportunity to preview the first renovated room and it was beautiful – new tile floor, new paint, new furniture, pictures on the wall. Simple and clean – very refreshing. They have one room complete and the second underway. The plan is to manage this project “one room at a time” as donations come in to support it. If you or a group in your local church would like to participate in this project, it costs under \$1,000 to remodel one room...and they will accept donations of any amount. Contact Rev. Jess L. Schload, LEC Director for more information on how you can participate. [jschload@flumc.org](mailto:jschload@flumc.org) 352-787-0313.

# **Clergy Kids Retreat 2009**

*Save the Date...January 23 - 25, 2009*

**\*This will be Number 9. How many have you attended?**

The annual Clergy Kids Retreat will be here at the Warren Willis Camp in Leesburg. The cost is **\$80 per person; \$230 max for family**. (Some scholarships are available upon request.) If you have never been, it's a great way to meet other members of that “very

special group” known as Clergy Kids or Preacher’s Kids. If you have missed a few years, don’t worry, we still play nine-square, that great band of young musicians still come up from Miami, and everyone has fun!

If you have been coming, we want you to come back because it’s just not the same without you!

For questions call Rhonda Kleckner at 352-316-5582 or Sally Campbell-Evans at 850-766-0018.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!**

**Feb. 7, 2009 – District Leadership Training  
Trinity UMC, Palm Beach Gardens**

### **Asbury Seminary hosts Kingdom Encounter, Feb. 2-4, 2009**

Asbury Theological Seminary will host Kingdom Encounter: Reaching the World from Feb. 2-4, 2009, on its Orlando, Fla., campus. The keynote speakers are Danny Wuerffel, 1996 Heisman trophy winner and executive director of Desire Street Ministries, and Tyron Inbody, professor emeritus of theology at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

The 2009 Kingdom Conference features plenary and break-out sessions with both keynote speakers and ministry leaders in and around Orlando who are reaching the world for Christ. Attendees will also experience vibrant worship and interactive small-group seminars together. Seminary credit and continuing education units will be available.

For a complete schedule and conference registration information, visit <http://www.asburyseminary.edu/kingdom-encounter/registration> or call 1.800.2ASBURY.

### **2009 Couple’s Retreats: “Walking With Jesus”**

Now is the time for you to register for the 2009 Couple’s Retreat of your choice, March 13-15 or March 20-22. The theme is “Walking with Jesus” and it is sure to be a wonderful experience with exciting leaders at both retreats. For more information and to print out registration go to: [www.ummflconf.org](http://www.ummflconf.org)

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