



**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

October, 2008 Volume 2, Issue 10

### *District Joys and Concerns:*

Continued prayers for: Jocelyn Adhemar

#### Joys:

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Asbury UMC, Vero Beach – Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at First UMC, Pahokee

Rev. Louis and Andrea Tamburro, St. Andrew UMC in Titusville, are expecting a baby in February.

Revs. Jen and Michael Sims, UMC of the Palm Beaches and Trinity UMC, Jensen Beach, are expecting a baby in mid-January.

Revs Richard and Terri Jones, Sebastian UMC, are expecting a baby due Feb. 3, 2009.

Rev. Jeff and Lori Peppers celebrate the birth of their grandson on 9/23!

### **DISTRICT CALENDAR**

#### **OCTOBER**

**2** – Leadership Council @ Lakewood Park UMC, Ft. Pierce, 11:00 – 2:00

**4** – UM Children’s Home Centennial Celebration @FUMC, Boca Raton

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

**7** – Candidacy Mentor Training @ Peace UMC, Orlando - 10 AM – 2 PM. Folks can register by emailing Carole Rooks at [carole@anona.com](mailto:carole@anona.com).

**14** – Clergy Gathering with the Bishop @ First UMC, Lakeland, 11 – 3 p.m

#### **NOVEMBER**

**1** - dCTT@ District office 9:00 – 1:00

**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

### **October 14 - Florida Conference Convocation of the Clergy**

Bishop Timothy W. Whitaker has announced that all clergy members of the Florida Conference are asked to attend Convocation of the Clergy on Tuesday, **October 14, 2008** at the First UMC in Lakeland, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the Convocation will be to present to the clergy the agenda for the Florida Conference including goals and expectations of all conareations and clerav. for 2009-2012.

**FYI:** Churches that cannot afford to do the Annual Audit need to contact Ron Beyer of the Conference Treasurer’s office. 1-800-282-8011

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## *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 vacancies is due into the district office by December 1.

## **Radical Hospitality events scheduled for Oct., Nov. 2008**

The Florida Conference is sponsoring a one-day event on **November 1 at the United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches , 900 Brandywine Rd., West Palm Beach**, that is designed to help teams of people from local churches think through what it would mean for their congregation to practice "Radical Hospitality." The event, the second in a series of five exploring each of the practices of "Living the United Methodist Way," will provide resources and teaching tools to assist your church in reaching the people in your community and the next generation. In addition to three plenary sessions at each event, each participant will be able to choose from two practical breakout session. Because so many people have asked for registration that reflects the realities of smaller churches, the Florida Conference has revised the registration costs for the five upcoming Radical Hospitality workshops. The new fees are \$75 for up to three people, plus \$15 each for food and snacks. A single registration will be \$50, including food and snacks.

This one-day event, held in five locations across the Florida Annual Conference, is designed to help teams from congregations think through what it would mean for their congregation to be radically hospitable to the people of their community and to the next generation. For more information, dates and locations of the Radical Hospitality events, [click here](#).

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.

## Centennial Celebration for the Children's Home

First United Methodist Church, 625 NE Mizner Boulevard, Boca Raton  
**Oct. 4 – 10:30 a.m.**

Children Singing

Sacred Dancers Perform

Former Resident Testimony

Historical Exhibit

Refreshments served following the Celebration

### THE 2008 CLERGY ASSESSMENT PROCESS NOW UNDERWAY

The Rev. David Dodge, executive director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, reminds Florida Conference clergy that the 2008 assessment process is now underway. It is the intent of this process that it should be used with any clergy appointed to the church – pastors, associate pastors and deacons. In addition, this material can be used effectively with the entire church staff. Deadline to complete the process is Oct. 31. For more information and directions for this process, [click here](#).

### 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.

#### 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).

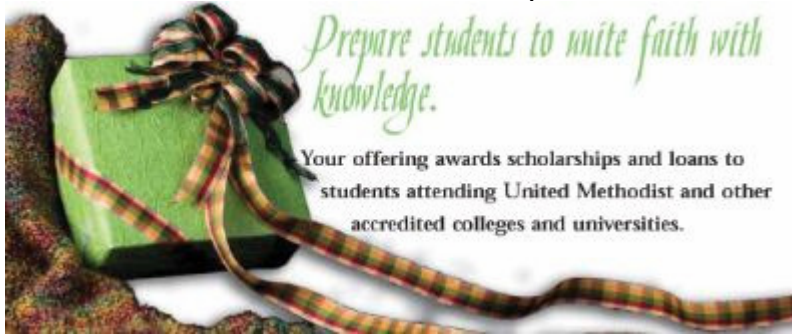
United Methodists are also asked to re-stock their local food pantry or food bank. Recovery from flood damage is a long-term effort and many people will rely on food donations, possibly depleting already strained local food banks.

Work teams are expected to be needed after the water recedes. To volunteer, visit

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

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

United Methodist Student Day is Nov. 30



### A student's story

"In five years, I hope to be a college graduate, living in Central or South America and teaching English. In 10 years, I hope to be settled down and working for a nonprofit organization that deals with international aid."

Amanda Shafer of Miami is in her first year at High Point (N.C.) University, but she already has her life mapped out. Focusing on nonprofit human relations and Spanish, Shafer is involved in Amnesty International Club, Campus Crusade for Christ, Chapel Choir and Spanish Club, and volunteers with an organization that places immigrants in her community. With such a busy schedule, this young woman who has "attended the Florida Annual Conference every year" of her life is grateful for generous gifts made possible through offerings received on United Methodist Student Day. Your gifts on United Methodist Student Day, Nov. 30, prepare students to unite faith with knowledge.

Each year, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards scholarships and loans to students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities through the United Methodist Student Day offering. In addition, a portion of the United Methodist Student Day offering is returned to each Annual Conference for merit scholarship awards to students of its choosing.

**Shafer is one such recipient and she is very thankful for the support.** "Everyone deserves the opportunity to discover him or herself and become the best person they can be. I wish I could thank every donor personally!"

For many students, financial assistance is critical to attaining higher education. Each year the number of applicants continues to rise, furthering the need for more financial assistance. Imagine being able to provide assistance for everyone. That is the goal of United Methodist Student Day.

What would Shafer tell someone who wasn't sure about giving to an offering that provides scholarships and loans? "Pray—and look back on your college days and remember how formational they were: the

dreams you dreamed, the decisions you made about who you wanted to be, the love you gave and the people you met who helped form you into who you are today,” she said.

Every year, the news is the same: “tuition costs are increasing.” For many United Methodist students, the continuous increase places an enormous financial burden that many cannot assume. However, through the United Methodist Student Day offering, you can help prepare students to unite faith with knowledge.

Information and support materials about United Methodist Student Day can be found at:  
[http://www.umcgiving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3595593/k.A832/Special\\_Sundays.htm](http://www.umcgiving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3595593/k.A832/Special_Sundays.htm)

Just click on the United Methodist Student Day link on the left hand side of the page.

**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.