



# South Central District



August 2011 Newsletter

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The South Central District is fortunate to have so many retired clergy residing within its boundaries. Many of our congregations have been blessed with the wisdom and maturity that they willingly share.

During my time as District Superintendent, I have had opportunity to employ their services as presiding elders, guest preachers, pastors and as interim pastors. Some have also served in very specialized areas such as leading the Ministry Assessment Processes. Despite the years that may have occurred since their active tenures as pastors, they maintain a passion for Christ and the Church.

This edition of the newsletter contains two articles written by our retired colleagues. The article contained later in the newsletter was submitted by the Rev. David Groves, Guest Pastor, Highland UMC. The article below was written by Dr. Larry Cook, Associate Minister at Palma Ceia UMC (Dr. Kevin James, Sr. Pastor). As you read both articles I trust that you will receive the reflections and refreshments that they provide. Please thank God and thank our retired colleagues for their willingness to assist us in bearing the load of ministry!

(Rev. Dr.) Sharon G. Austin, Superintendent

*Dear Friends,*

*Years ago, The Florida Annual Conference convened in the First United Methodist Church of Lakeland, a group of striking buildings overlooking one of the lakes which gives the city its name.*

*I was making my way along the picturesque drive that circles the lake, already a few minutes late for the opening clergy session of the conference. I had slept well after a busy Sunday. It was a beautiful morning - one of those days when you wish you had nothing more to do than to enjoy the warmth of the sunlight.*

*And I almost missed him. After all, I was trying to watch the road, and enjoy the lake at the same time. But there he was, seated on*

a park bench facing the lake, with a rustic back pack of a rover nestled by his side. He was shabbily dressed, and had not lifted a razor to his face in months -maybe years , and his hair hung over the shoulders. He wasn't sleeping - just staring out over the lake with his arms stretched out over the back of the bench.

Soon, I was up the hill, and into the next to the last parking space, and then out of the car into the warm sunlight. I walked to the front of the church, and before going in looked toward the lake to see him still there, position unchanged. The main floor of the sanctuary was almost filled, and rather than risk the jibes of my peers at being late, I opted for the balcony. I had my choice of seats, except for one pew occupied by the sleeping custodian, and one seat taken by another late comer.

Candidates for Ordination were being introduced, but my mind was still outside. What was he thinking about as he stared? Where do I go next? Does anybody care where I go? Maybe even, should I go back home - or call them. I mean, when you pause on a journey from somewhere to anywhere or nowhere, what do you think about? You already know that the entire dialogue was going on in my own mind. In the midst of it, I thought about my own ordination as a Minister of the Church. I thought about where I came from, not geographically, but spiritually, and where I was going. In those brief moments, I made a journey into my own soul, and returned with a strong cry of thanksgiving for a place - an identity. Further back than Ordination, there was Baptism. That did it for you, and for me. God said, "You are mine - this is who you are."

When the session was over, I circled the lake again. He was gone. I wondered where. I hoped that he knew that God has a place for him - an identity. I wished that I had stopped to tell him. After all, what's more important - a meeting, or a person enroute to anywhere, that could change to somewhere called home.

Blessings,

Larry

**The church is not called to make us happy;  
it's called to make us holy!**



"They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.

Stay away from people like that!"

2 Timothy 3:5

*Note a Quote as submitted by Rev. Harold Lewis*

# JOYS AND PRAYERS

Prayers are requested for the family of Joan Cottrell who passes away on July 23. Joan was the long time administrative assistant for the former Melbourne District and was a long time member of First UMC Cocoa. She was a founding member of North Merritt Island UMC, and she also served in leadership as the UMW conference treasurer in the early 1980's. Joan joins Les in Christ's loving embrace and leaves 3 sons, Alan, Peter and Kenneth. Peter serves as pastor of First UMC Land O' Lakes. Notes of sympathy and support may be emailed to [peter.cottrell@flumc.org](mailto:peter.cottrell@flumc.org)

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Prayers are requested for the family of Manuel Sardinias, the father of Icel Rodriguez, Director of Global Missions for the Florida Conference. He was also the father-in-law of Rev. Armando Rodriguez, senior pastor of John Wesley UMC in Tallahassee. Mr. Sardinias, who resided in Cuba, suffered a severe stroke earlier this month. Please pray for travel mercies for the family and peace. Notes of sympathy and support can be emailed to [irodriguez@flumc.org](mailto:irodriguez@flumc.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Prayers are requested for the family of Fred Legg, who passed away on July 24th after a long battle with cancer. Rev. John Legg, pastor at South Shore UMC in Riverview, is Mr. Legg's son. Services will be held on August 8th. Visitation will be at the home of John and Kelly Legg, 9618 Greenback Drive, Riverview 33569 from noon to 5 p.m., and the Celebration of Life service will be at 6:30 p.m. at South Shore UMC, 11525 Big Bend Road, Riverview 33563. Cards and condolences may be sent to Rev. Legg at South Shore UMC.

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Prayers are requested for Rev. Earl Smith, pastor at First United Methodist Church of Plant City. Rev. Smith suffered a broken shoulder and broken ribs in a fall while hiking in Alaska. Cards and encouragement can be emailed to [earl.smith@flumc.org](mailto:earl.smith@flumc.org)

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A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all churches who have welcomed new pastors this year. We have heard many stories of your warm welcomes and how you truly showed hospitality to them and their family. It is awesome to hear their excitement and yours. Again...THANK YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*

Prayers are requested for Pat Krause, SC District Registrar who under went out-patient surgery on July 26th. Well wishes can be sent to [pat.krause@flumc.org](mailto:pat.krause@flumc.org)

# DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

 South Central New Pastor Orientation

Now that the moving truck has gone it is time to unpack those boxes, get comfortable with your



new surroundings and start an exciting new chapter with your new church!

To help, we are excited to announce that we will be having our New Pastor Orientation on Saturday, August 13th at 9:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church of Plant City Wesley Centre.

## → South Central District Church Administrative Assistant Training



The South Central District will be holding it's annual training for church Administrative Assistants. The day will be filled with lots of necessary information and fun. This IMPORTANT training is open to all administrative assistants serving a church within the district (either paid or volunteer - if you serve your church in this capacity this training is for you!) For your convenience we will offer two trainings this year, one on the east side of the district and the other on the west side of the district. The dates are August 31st or September 1st. [To register, please click here](#)

## → South Central District Charge Conference Cluster Schedule Announced

The 2011 Charge Conference season is fast approaching. This year, charge conference clusters have been assigned to each church. This will be a great time for fellowship while we do the business of the church.

Please plan to make arrangements with your schedules and those of your congregations for participation in your designated clusters. You can expect this years Charge Conference forms to be online within the next four weeks.

Thank You to the host churches and pastors.

For the Charge Conference Cluster schedule, [please click here](#).

## → South Central District - United Methodist Women Host Mission Sampler

The United Methodist Women are holding a "Mission Sampler" on September 17th. This is an opportunity to experience a "preview" of each of the new UMW Mission Studies. It will be held at Seminole Heights UMC 6111 N. Central Avenue in Tampa. For more information please contact President Elsie Olsen at **813-972-2844** or [elsieolsen@msn.com](mailto:elsieolsen@msn.com)

## → Van Dyke UMC Had a Riot



RIOT Service Camp 2011 kicked off at Van Dyke Church in July. All week long 240 teenage campers and 130 adult volunteers did dozens of service projects across Tampa Bay. They worked on the homes of the elderly and disabled. They worked with our mission partners like Metropolitan Ministries and Cornerstone. They visited nursing homes all week and did many other projects and acts of kindness in the name of Jesus.

Each night they had powerful worship experiences and relationship-building time at Van Dyke Church and they spent the night here as well. What a wonderful week of discipleship!

## → Camp Fun is unveiled at Van Dyke UMC



Van Dyke UMC has started a new ministry initiative called "Camp Fun" It is a 3-week experience for special needs children and youth in their church and in the community. This is a significant new outreach will take place the first 3 weeks in august and provides a much-needed ministry for these students during the weeks before school is back in session. Special needs teachers and other trained volunteers are a part of this new ministry that help Van Dyke UMC be Jesus to these kids and their families.

## → Palma Ceia UMC's Youth Ministry Brings Meals, Hope to the Homeless



Last month, even the youngsters at Palma Ceia UMC got involved. The children who attended the church's Vacation Bible School collected money for the youth ministry's Sunday night mission. They passed buckets, donated allowances and earned dollars for doing jobs around the house, raising more than \$800. They also brought in nonperishable food items to deliver to local food banks.

[There is so much more, true discipleship...to read the article from TBO.com please click here.](#)

## → YMCA Summer Camps at CrossRoads Community UMC



Drama Camp - August 8-19

Soccer Camp - August 8 - 13

[For more information and registration click here.](#)

## → Harvester UMC Announces UMM Golf Challenge



Harvester UMC is hosting a men's golf challenge on Saturday, 9/24/11 at 12:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Mission and Outreach of Harvester UMC.

The location will be THE GROVES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 7924 Melogold Circle, Land O' Lakes, FL 34637.

Players must be checked in by noon for the shotgun start. Cost is \$50 per person and includes greens fees, cart, food and prizes.

For more information call **813-948-2311** or email [harvesterumc@verizon.net](mailto:harvesterumc@verizon.net)

## → United Methodist Church to Host 9-11 Service



*Community Service of Remembrance and Recovery*

*The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, will be hosting a Community Service of Remembrance and Recovery on the tenth anniversary of the events of 9-11 on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 2PM*

*in the church sanctuary. The event will feature local fire & rescue workers, law enforcement officers, various community groups and individuals who were personally impacted by tragedies of that day. The service will also feature music by the Chancel Choir and Orchestra of the church. Community members who were 9-11 survivors or who were involved in 9-11 or its aftermath should contact the church at the number listed below to inquire about participation in this important community event.*

*The community service is free and open to the public. For additional information about this and other events at the United Church of Sun City Center, please, please contact Jeff Jordan, Director of Music and the Arts, at 813-634-2539 . To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City center, please visit our website at [www.sccumc.com](http://www.sccumc.com)*

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

 2011 The Global Leadership Summit



# THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Thursday & Friday  
August 11 & 12, 2011  
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Van Dyke United Methodist Church is a satellite location for The Global Leadership Summit 2011, the Willow Creek Association's annual world-class leadership event broadcast from the Willow campus near Chicago.

**Early Bird Rates through June 28**  
WCA Member Group Rate (10+ people) \$159  
WCA Member Rate (1-9 people) \$199  
Individual Rate \$259  
Student Rate \$79  
Military Rate \$99

**Van Dyke United Methodist Church**  
17030 Lakeshore Rd.  
Lutz, FL 33558  
813-968-3983 / [www.vandyke.org](http://www.vandyke.org)



**BILL HYBELS** Senior Pastor, Willow Creek Community Church  
**HOWARD SCHULIZ** President, Starbucks Corporation  
**ERWIN McMANUS** Innovator, Cultural Architect  
**MICHELLE RHEE** Founder, StudentsFirst.org  
**DR. HENRY CLOUD** Bestselling Author, Leadership Consultant



**SETH GODIN** Bestselling Author, Renowned Blogger  
**REV. DR. BRENDA SALTER MCNEIL** Christian Speaker, Thought Leader  
**LEN SCHLESINGER** President, Babson College  
**STEVEN FURTICK** Lead Pastor, Elevation Church  
**JOHN DICKSON** Director, Centre for Public Christianity  
**MAMA MAGGIE GOBRAN** Founder, Stephen's Children's Ministry

[www.vandyke.org](http://www.vandyke.org)

## → Community Arise Basic Disaster Ministry Training

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.

[For more information and training dates click here.](#)

## → Training Opportunities for Lay Servant(Speaker) Ministers

We welcome our new directors of lay servant ministry Gail Kantz ([flkantz@verizon.net](mailto:flkantz@verizon.net)) and B.J. Coryer ([beedeej@aol.com](mailto:beedeej@aol.com)) They will continue the legacy of faithful leadership most recently fulfilled by Shelia Clark. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

They want to announce that there is still time for on-site training opportunities later this month at the life enrichment center in Leesburg. For more information and [registration, please click here.](#)

There are also ongoing training opportunities available online. For more information on the Lay Servant Ministry program and online opportunities [please click here.](#)

It is vitally important that lay servants who intend to submit paperwork for renewal at this years charge conference complete the required courses necessary for their level of certification. Too many applications in recent years have been devoid of the necessary courses for certification renewal. If you have further question, please contact Gail or B.J.

## → GBOD Announces August Webinars



August Webinars have been announced by GBOD. August 4th is basic training for church nominations committees. August 18th is training for church finance leaders.

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

## → Exploration 2011 - Registration Now Available

**EXPLORATION 2011**, an event for young adults ages 18-26 who are exploring God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church, will take place **Nov. 11-13 in St. Louis, MO.**

Sponsored by the UMC's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the event provides a chance to learn more about the call to ordained ministry through worship, prayer, workshops, networking, and small groups. Find out more at [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration) or <http://www.facebook.com/ExploUMC>

There will be a group from Florida traveling to the event together, flying in and out of Orlando, with Rev. Emily Oliver (Center for Clergy Excellence), Dave Sippel (Director of Young People's Ministries) and other campus ministers and young clergy, and we hope you'll join us! We currently have spots for 15 young adults to travel with us, with airfare paid by the Florida Conference.

Your airfare from Orlando to St. Louis and back will be paid for by the Florida Conference, and you will pay your own registration fee. The registration fee will cover your two-night stay at the Millennium Hotel, meals, and program fees. The cost is \$150 for early registration (now through September 5), \$175 for standard registration (September 6-25), and \$200 for late registration (September 26-October 3).

### Want to join us on the trip?

- 1) Email Emily to sign up for one of the 15 paid-for airfare spots, and
- 2) Register yourself for the event at [www.gbhem.org/exploration](http://www.gbhem.org/exploration) and pay your own registration fee.

Your place in the group will not be finalized until you complete both of these steps!

**Questions?** Email Emily at [emily.oliver@flumc.org](mailto:emily.oliver@flumc.org) or Dave at [dsippel@flumc.org](mailto:dsippel@flumc.org)

## → Intentional Growth Center Offers Trainings

Basic Coach Training is designed to equip pastors, ministry leaders, and church leaders with basic coaching skills that can be integrated and incorporated into their local ministry setting. Coach training can dramatically enhance the ministry leader's effectiveness as a leader and greatly increase the impact within their faith community and the larger local community. In addition, this training will prepare ministry leaders to effectively coach each of them in coaching partnerships among their peers.

[For more information and training dates click here.](#)

Intentional Interim Ministry Training is a four-day introduction to the concepts and principles of Interim Ministry where tools and techniques for this specialized ministry are presented.

[For more information and training dates click here](#)

## → A Sometimes Overlooked Dimension of Church Vitality



Much attention these days is being given to measuring how well churches and pastors are doing. We hear more about measuring disciple making and vitality. There are many challenges associated with this. Most notably, existing statistics do not directly capture either of these areas of interest. The usual membership, worship attendance, new members by profession of faith, and baptisms can give a sense of growth, plateau, or decline but may be capturing numerous other factors in the process. They are to some degree, indicators, but are not necessarily correlated to the two big outcomes we hope for these days.

[To read the rest of the article, please click here.](#)

## → Free Self-study curriculum offered by GBOD

A self-study curriculum designed to help local church staff members obtain a sound foundation in Christian formation and education ministry is now available "free of charge" from the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD).

The new GBOD curriculum was designed to provide a solid first step for church staff members who want and need a sound foundation upon entering professional ministry. This course is not intended to compete with certification, and ideally, these leaders would, over time, continue their studies through certification or other avenues.

[For further information on this new curriculum, please click here.](#)

## → United Methodist Men set October retreat dates!

Do you want fellowship and inspiration? If so then the Men's spiritual retreats are for you! Three retreat events designed to renew and equip men for ministry and service will be held this October at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park. Full payment for the events is due by August 15th.

[Please click here for additional information](#)

## → Office of the Black Church offers selection of seminars & workshops



The Office of the Black Church, part of the Center for Congregational Excellence, is designing and developing workshops that equip, endow and empower local churches to engage in effective ministry.

See their list of offerings for 2011 [\[Click Here\]](#).

## → Transformational Leadership Conference August 7-9

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina Learn and apply spiritual disciplines of Christian Transformational Leadership that are both Biblically based and organizationally effective. Content is appropriate for Annual Conference, District and local church leaders who seek to move their congregations from maintenance to mission. Download and print the [Transformational Leadership Brochure](#) (PDF).

## → Training Session Planned for Prayer Ministry

A national Prayer Ministry Training session for all who are helping to make prayer the foundation of the 2012 General Conference will be offered by The Upper Room Ministries on Aug. 27 in Orlando. Rev. Tom Albin, dean of The Upper Room Ministries, a division of the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD), said the training session comes in response to the call from Bishop Larry Goodpaster, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, to pray for the General Conference, which will convene next year in Tampa. [To learn more please click here.](#)

## → Wisdom and Grace Conference

August 8-11, 2011 Lake Junaluska Assembly, North Carolina  
For those needing CEUs...!

This conference at Lake Junaluska offers a professional track workshop; participants earn one CEU. This year's leader is Brian Jones, Senior Research Engineer, Interactive Media Technology Center, Georgia Tech. Entitled "Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place," Mr. Jones will cover advanced technologies that have the potential to help older adults remain in their home longer, while reducing the need for constant on-site supervision by both professional and family caregivers.

Participants will learn about technologies for: 1.) monitoring independent ambulation (daily activities), 2.) providing medication reminders and adherence, and 3.) assisting with social communication. A portion of the workshop will introduce the future of such technologies providing: wellness coaching to maintain health; tools for self-management of chronic conditions; and the potential to enable clinicians to provide more personalized care through better understanding of the individual's behavior and needs. Demonstrations of some products currently available in these categories will be provided to help participants understand how they function.

Additionally, the conference preacher is Dr. Leonard Sweet. For more information and/or to register, go to [www.lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace/](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace/)

## → African American Woman's Leadership Conference



September 15-17 2011 Lake Junaluska Assembly, North Carolina

This conference provides African-American women clergy and laity an opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills for ministry and to promote and practice self-care specifically as it relates to living as African-American Christian women.

[For more information and registration please click here.](#)

## → The Academy of the Youth Ministry Institute



[Click here for more information](#)

## WANTED / NEEDED

### → Certified Financial Planners Needed



We are blessed to have so many ministry candidates here in the South Central District. With this also comes the need for additional resources. So many of our candidates need financial advice. If you are a certified financial planner and would be willing to assist our candidates, please contact Pastor Daphne Johnson at [umreviam@yahoo.com](mailto:umreviam@yahoo.com). Thank you for your consideration.

### → Help Wanted

**Staff Position Available:** Harvester UMC is seeking to fill a staff position for Director of Children's Ministries. The position is part time and professional experience in Children's Ministry or the equivalent is preferred. Please contact church office for more information or to submit a resume. Church Email is [harvesterumc@verizon.net](mailto:harvesterumc@verizon.net). Office phone is 813-948-2311 and Fax is 813-948-6314. Mailing address is 2432 Collier Parkway, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639. Website is [www.harvesterumc.org](http://www.harvesterumc.org)

### → Items Needed

First UMC Luts is looking for material for the class "Experiencing God" that can be borrowed for the fall semester. If you can help out, please contact Josh Ryan, CED at [josh@fantasticfirst.org](mailto:josh@fantasticfirst.org) or 813-949-1751 x-230.

Thank You!

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

## → A true story of a deceased friend, Hershel Huggins, Elder of the Florida Conference

A friend, Ordained Elder and Evangelist, came to help me in the 1960's for a ten day revival. In the 70's he was appointed to a North Jacksonville church: A church that had once been strong and growing, but was now in deep decline. He called one day from his new assignment and asked: "David, could you come up with some creative ways that I can revitalize these good folk?"

After some days and some prayers I called to suggest that since he had sixty-eight vital and active families that he do the following: The plan was for the pastor to visit each family from Friday afternoon to Saturday after breakfast- yes, staying overnight in each home. Each family would have Friday evening meal, devotion with family participation, and after Saturday morning breakfast the pastor would return to the Parsonage. He would put 68 cards in a hat and draw for the order of visitation. If a conflict of schedule should occur the family could call another family to keep the sequence going.

He did. Two years later the church was revived. People got to really know that good pastor and his love for the Lord. That faithful Bible scholar got to know his people in a loving and personal way. It goes without saying it turned a cold congregation into a living and loving Spirit filled fellowship. A youth department that had died was activated. Christ was at work and I want you to know the hug I got at Lakeland Annual Conference as he began his fourth year at that revitalized fellowship was my great reward.

*Submitted by the Rev. David Groves (ret.), currently serving as guest pastor at Highland UMC*

## → The Florida Conference Announces the "Creation Care Task Force"

If you and your congregation are struggling with why and how to manifest the loving concern that God has for creation, your conference Creation Care Task Force are glad to help you out. Members of our group would consider providing programs for your church's weekly activities or for workshops and retreats. As with every aspect of our spiritual walk, accepting accountability for our part in God's purpose frees us from guilt and releases us into a deeper walk with the Creator. Your task force is happy to come along beside you and help you and your congregation get your footing to represent the Creator's loving kindness to your community. Contact Melinda Trotti, Director of Justice and Outreach of the Annual Conference at **1-800-282-8011** x 504 or email [mtrott@flumc.org](mailto:mtrott@flumc.org) for more information.

If your congregation would like to look at ways to promote earth stewardship to your membership or community, you may be interested in the "Cool Congregations Challenge", through the Interfaith Power and Light. Check it out at [http://action.interfaithpowerandlight.org/site/c.dmJUKgOZJiI8G/b.7546813/k.8938/Take\\_the\\_Cool\\_Congregations\\_Challenge.htm?aid=8637884](http://action.interfaithpowerandlight.org/site/c.dmJUKgOZJiI8G/b.7546813/k.8938/Take_the_Cool_Congregations_Challenge.htm?aid=8637884). Involvement in this program could also help you on your way towards being recognized through our conference program. Contact Melinda Trotti at the conference office for more information on the new conference green recognition program.

The Florida Conference Creation Care Task Force seeks to encourage local churches to celebrate our role as creation stewards, in response to our mission to assist local congregations. If you are doing an earth stewardship event in your community, please share it with your conference task force and we can help spread the word!

Mark Johnson

Chairperson, Creation Care Task Force

## → Robin Mark & Band Appearing at St. Paul UMC in Largo.

St. Paul UMC in Largo presents Robin Mark & Band on August 14th. Christian singer-



songwriter and worship leader based out of Belfast, N. Ireland is making his only area performance at St. Paul UMC in Largo.

[For performance and ticket information click here.](#)

## → Tax Refund Opportunity for Local Churches

- Does your church have 25 or less employees?
- Do you provide health insurance for these employees?
- Are you paying more than 50% of the cost of the health insurance premiums?
- Is your average annual payroll wages less than \$50,000 per person?

If you can answer yes to all of these questions, you may qualify for a refundable tax credit for a percentage of the cost of the employer's share of the health insurance premiums.

Yes, we said "refundable" as in money sent back to you from the IRS. Does this sound too good to be true?

The Credit for Small Employer Health Insurance Premiums was part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in March of 2010, and was intended to motivate smaller employers into providing health insurance to their employees.

So if you answered yes to all of the above questions, follow the link to find out how to calculate this credit for your church, and how to file once you've finished the calculations. Word of warning: the calculations sound complicated, but this link will walk you step by step through the process and get you successfully to the other side, and hopefully to a much appreciated refund.

[For more information please click here](#)

## → Jeri Burgdorf has released her book.



Many of our pastors have called the workshop a significant experience, as they have discovered how important it is to be fully present to a congregation during sermon presentation. In the past several years, the Conference decided to make this experience a part of what every person entering ministry would encounter, and the "Preaching with Presence" seminar is now a part of the Residents in Ministry (RIM) program. Every person who is admitted to provisional membership in the conference participates in a PWP seminar as a part of the first RIM retreat they attend. Just recently Jeri published a book that focuses on the issue of presence. Go to [www.mymissingelement.com](http://www.mymissingelement.com) to visit Jeri's website for a description of her book or to order a copy.

For many years the Florida Conference has contracted with Jeri Burgdorf to do a workshop with

## → Central Florida Chapter of the National Association of Church Business Administrators August Meeting Announced

The Central Florida Chapter of the National Association of Church Business Administrators cordially invites you to attend the Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011 meeting beginning at 11:45 a.m. at the College Park Baptist Church, 1914 Edgewater Drive, Orlando 32804. Membership is not required to attend and first time guests are treated to a free lunch. It will be a "work meeting lunch" and we usually finish by around 1:15 p.m. To make reservations or for further information, please contact Joanna Proferes at [jproferes@flumc.org](mailto:jproferes@flumc.org) or call

863-688-5563 ext. 151.



Lee Johnson and Ed Hampton of *TransformU* will be the guest speakers. In addition to *AngelFlight America*, a non-profit group of volunteer pilots who provide charitable medical transportation, Lee and Ed developed *TransformU*; a seasoned group of independent coaches, trainers and consultants for non-profits, profits and even the U. S. Military. FYI - Lee Johnson is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Tavares and Ed Hampton is a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Orlando.

Come join us on Aug. 18...you will be glad you did.  
Also, check out the National Association online at [www.nacba.net](http://www.nacba.net).

## → New Criteria for Membership Roles

Summer is normally a time to catch up on duties left for quieter times. Updating the membership roles is one of these duties.

As a point of clarification, members may be removed by charge conference action. This would include members for whom this year's charge conference marks two years (not as long as three years) of inactive membership. Pastors, please take seriously the membership role audit and provide us with accurate requested information. We do not need professions of faith, births, deaths, transfers and withdrawals as these do not require a vote. We only need to correct the roles by way of inactive membership lists and names for removal.

## → Renfro Trust Fund considers grants for churches

On behalf of the Renfro Trust, we are pleased to announce that grants up to \$5,000 will be available to churches in rural areas of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. The Renfro Trust Fund considers grants for projects involving new or existing church buildings. Please note that the guidelines have changed somewhat from last year. Applications to be considered for 2011 must be completed with all required signatures and received by September 1, 2011. If you have any questions concerning the Renfro process or application, please contact Aly Groesser, Development Office Assistant at [agroesser@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:agroesser@lakejunaluska.com) or 828-454-6680. For applications and guidelines, please visit [www.sejumc.org/renfro-trust](http://www.sejumc.org/renfro-trust).

## → Asbury Theological Seminary Receives Donation



WILMORE, KY (July 25, 2011) - Asbury Theological Seminary announced today that it will be undergoing additional construction of 50 new family housing units in the North Phase of the Ellsworth and Janet Kalas Family housing complex, also known as Kalas Village, thanks to the generous donation of \$13million provided by the Bill and Carol Latimer Foundation.

In addition, the Foundation will assist Asbury Seminary in constructing a community center designed to promote relationships and community formation among the married students who attend the Seminary. The housing units will be designed to accommodate families of various sizes and built to substantially conform to the current family housing that was dedicated on May 16, 2011. Asbury Seminary will use the net income from the family housing units to fund student scholarships.

President Timothy C. Tennent said, "Asbury Theological Seminary remains deeply committed to providing quality residential theological education. The support we have received from the Latimer family has truly been a blessing from God. I would like to thank the Latimer's for their generous donations over the past two years that will enable Asbury Seminary to continue to advance forward in its global mission."

Parties interested in making private donations towards Asbury Seminary's ongoing commitment to residential theological education or for continuance of campus improvements and academic resources may visit [www.asburyseminary.edu](http://www.asburyseminary.edu) for information on how they can help Asbury Seminary maintain its mission as a community called.

# DISTRICT CALENDAR

August 7: National Friendship Day  
August 13: District New Pastor Orientation  
August 15: MVS report entry deadline  
August 31: District AA Training for Church AA's

September 1: District AA Training for Church AA's  
September 5: Labor Day - Conference  
District Offices will be closed  
September 11: National Grandparents Day  
September 15: MVS report entry deadline  
September 18: National Cheeseburger Day



*News, Connections, Conversations*

[2011 Conference Calendar of Reports Due](#)