



December 2010 Newsletter

In This Issue

[District Leadership Training](#)

[Black Church Symposium](#)

[2010 Apportionments](#)

[Lay Servant Advanced Training](#)

[Getting Christmas Started](#)

Dear South Central,

As we begin to reflect upon another year of difficult ministry work, Rev. Deborah Casanzio, (SC District Coordinator of Specialized Ministries) noted that she led or organized seven Ministry Potential (vitality assessment) Processes in the district on behalf of the district. Ministry potential processes are intense; sometimes leading to painful awarenesses, yet always intended to offer the hope of missional ministry possibilities, if they can exist.

[Celtic Christmas Concert](#)

[Church/Pastor Profiles](#)

[Secretaries Seminar](#)

[2012 General Conference](#)

[Youth Leader Training](#)

[South Shore Arts Camp](#)

[Church by Size Seminars](#)

[Real Ideas Conference](#)

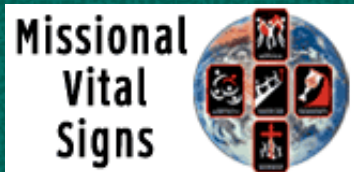
[Latino/Latina Resources](#)

[Church Music Workshop](#)

[Spiritual Formation Academy](#)

[District Calendar](#)

Quick Links



My ongoing concerns about the hope in our ministries surfaced anew last Sunday when I heard our bishop's treatment of hope in his sermon. Bishop Whitaker served as guest preacher at both services at Temple Terrace UMC (St. Clair Moore, pastor). The bishop proclaimed the blessing of hope, both present and future, that are afforded to us through the faith. He indicated that despite our hope in Christ, we sometimes operate within closed systems in which our perspective is one which essentially states that "I won't change, others won't change and the world won't change."

As I listened to his stellar message, I couldn't help but consider his point regarding hope and change to our churches. In a year in which seven MPPS processes were led and three times as many were needed, the process is designed to wed hope and change so that hopeful change will occur. Strangely enough, we continue to expect to launch effective ministries through irrelevant ministry practices; that is, doing 'what we've always done'. Doing what we've always done the way we've always done it and expecting different results is an exercise in futility!

Despite the challenges we face, I am reminded during this season, of our investment in hope! The Word of God reminds us in particular ways during the Advent season of the prophets of old who waited for the deliverance of Israel and the salvation of the Lord. They hoped against 'hope' that the God of their salvation would accomplish for them what they could not accomplish on their own. Even though Israel's understanding of the Messiah's arrival and Kingdom were very different from the realities, still they hoped and so should we! May the incarnation of hope infuse our churches, our ministries and our lives through every season! May the blessings of Advent and Christmas be tendered unto each you and your families!

Rev. Dr. Sharon G. Austin

District Superintendent
South Central District

Prayer Concerns:

- Rev. Tom Hughes (ret.) battling cancer
- Curly Roberts' mother passed November 26
- As the Reverends Jack and Anna Jackson and their children prepare to take leave of Lakeland and head to Claremont School of Theology where Jack has received a teaching position, they have received news of the death of Anna's father. Final services will be held in New Mexico. Please keep the Jacksons in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Anna's father and the adjustment of leaving their Florida Conference family and friends.

Journal Online
click here



2010 Florida
Annual Conference Event



Just a reminder to all of our Pastors:

Please log into your flumc email on a regular basis. This email address is the only one that all Conference and District news and communication is directed to. If email comes to your personal email from the District, know this is just a courtesy. Should you need any assistance with your flumc email, please contact the District Office. Thank You!

→ SC District 2011 Annual Leadership Training

Saturday, January 22, 2011
from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
First UMC of Brandon
120 N. Knights Ave., Brandon, FL 33510

"Working Wisely: Being the Best You"

Pastors, Lay Leaders, Members of SPR, Trustee's, Finance, Lay delegates, Pre-School staff, Council Chairpersons and all other ministry leaders in your faith communities come for a NUTS AND BOLTS of application in your ministry areas. There will be breakout groups for specialized areas of ministry lead by district and conference leaders. Topics include:

- Reporting updates
- Best Practices in Ministry
- Finance, Ministry Protection, SPR, Disaster Recovery, and more
- Time and money savers
- Resources

Working Wisely...

Becoming Artisans of Church Craft



Join us on Saturday January 22nd

9am-12:30pm

First Brandon UMC, Brandon FL

Register

Click Here

**Working to maximize stewardship of time and resources
with the goal of increased participation by District Pastors and Leaders.**

→ Black Church Symposium

December 11, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park

Clergy, Laity, Young Adults and Youth, Join us for a day of praise and worship, preaching, presentations and panel discussion.



Guest presenters include:
Bartley Temple UMC - Mass Choir
Dr. Kevin James - Pastor Palma Ceia UMC - Tampa, FL
Dr. Fred Allen - SBC21 - Nashville, TN
Reverend Candace M. Lewis - Path1 - Nashville, TN
Any many more... [\[Click Here\]](#) for details and registration.

Sponsored by the Center for Congregational Excellence Black Church for Congregational Excellence.



We thank Dr. Kevin James and the members of Palma Ceia UMC for hosting our tri-district black pastors/key leaders conference Sunday, November 7th. Now, we thank them for generously making six scholarships available for persons who need assistance in order to attend the Black Church Symposium. Please contact Laurie, in the district office if you need assistance!

→ "In my lighter, blessed moments"

Dear District Friends,

On last Friday evening the District Leadership Council and Teams were blessed to host the Christmas event at Crosswinds, our Wesley Campus Ministry at USF. Our hearts were thrilled to be the recipients of the gracious hospitality of the Wesley college students, through music, refreshments and conversation. This was all beautifully coordinated by Crosswinds Executive Director, Jennifer Smith, who is a visionary leader in our district, and passionate about the Holy Spirit's transforming power in the lives of the young adults under her care.

In one of the lighter moments of the evening, our district leaders presented me with a basket of cleaning supplies! Yes, the Christmas plunger, rubber gloves, WD 40, a lighter, glass cleaner, flash lights, and building tools. A beautiful plant and cotton candy were included for 'aesthetic and appetite' inspiration. All of these were considered essentials items necessary for cleaning up issues and building transforming ministry in the district. The gift basket was capped with a music CD with the head of the body pictured bearing a strong resemblance to a DS we all know. And no the CD title was not a rendition of Onward, Christian Soldiers!




In my lighter,
blessed moments!

The highlights of the evening were the testimonies shared by the students and those submitted by some of pastors reflecting effective ministries in their churches and communities. These were indeed gifts to be presented to the King of Kings! Our heartfelt thanks go out to Jen Smith and the wonderful students of Crosswinds for their witnesses of Christ's love among us! My heartfelt thanks is extended to the entire District office staff and District Council and Team members for our blessed ministry partnerships!

May God bless you!

Sharon

→ 2010 Apportionments:

 Friday, January 14, 2011 is the last day for receiving 2010

Billing Information

2011 Apportionments
Now Available

2010 Apportionment
Payment Cut-Off January 14, 2011



apportionments. This is not a postmarked by date, but is the last day by which monies must be received in the Conference office or our lockbox to be included in 2010 apportionment receipts. Monies received after January 14, 2011 will be credited to the church's 2011 apportionments. Include a completed apportionment giving form with your payment. Always include your church's GCFA number on all forms and checks. When paying in January, mark clearly if the payment is

for 2010 or 2011 apportionments. [\[Click Here\]](#) for instructions.

→ Lay Servant Ministries Advanced Training

January 8 & January 15, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
First UMC of Lake Wales

The course is on "Lay Pastoral Care Giving". Attendance is required for both days to receive LSM certification. It is open to everyone, you do not have to be a Lay Servant Minister to participate. [\[Click Here\]](#) for the Registration Form. The cost is \$28 and includes all course materials plus lunch each day. Please register by December 29, 2010.



Lay Servant Ministries is seeking two certified Lay Servant Ministers to serve as co-directors of Lay Servant Ministries in the South Central District. For more information about these positions or the training, please contact Sheila Clark, SC District Director of Lay Servant Ministries at 813-340-7543.

→ Christmas with the Celts featuring Marcille Wallis

Friday December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary

Hosted by The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center
1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center, Florida

As part of their popular "Thank God Its Variety" concert series, the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will be hosting Christmas with the Celts: traditional Celtic Christmas music and dance. This year's Christmas tour features Marcille Wallis who is a native Floridian and a classically trained pianist who began her musical studies at age six. Drawing on her 23 years in the classroom as a Mathematics teacher, Marcille's shows are both entertaining as well as educational as she takes audiences on a "tour" of the Celtic lands and their history.



Learn more about Marcille and friends at marcillewallis.com or at celticheritageproductions.com. A suggested donation of \$5 donation will be collected at the door on the evening of the concert. For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, please contact Jeff Jordan, Minister of Worship Arts, at 813-634-2539.

→ Church and Pastor Annual Profiles



The final submission date for profiles is February 18, 2011

Church and Pastor profiles forms will be available on the conference website beginning the first week in December 2010. Church and Pastor Profile forms should be reviewed and updated annually by all church SPR

Committees and all Clergy in the Florida Conference. Though a move may not be anticipated, it is important that both the pastor profile and church profile be current and up to date at the appointment-making session of the cabinet. It should be an honest reflection of the pastoral ministry and the profile of the church. If a pastoral consultation is scheduled with the DS, the Church and Pastor Profile should be completed online no later than one week prior to the consultation. We will be communicating more specific details directly to Clergy and SPRC Chairs in the near future.

→ 2011 Appointment-Making for Pastors

If you are anticipating a move in 2010, you need to call the District Office for a Consultation Time with the District Superintendent as early as December, but no later than January 15.

→ 37th Annual Secretaries Seminar - Register by December 15

The PAUMCS (Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries) will hold their annual seminar **February 25-27, 2011, at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, FL.** This year's theme is Safety and Knowledge, according to registrar Louise Urquhart. Seminar activities will begin Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. and continue through Sunday morning worship. The cost for the entire weekend (workshops, materials, 2 nights' lodging, meals, and snacks) is \$185 for a single room or \$150 for a double room. Some scholarships may be available. Registration deadline is December 15, 2010. For more information, [\[click here\]](#). For registration forms, [\[click here\]](#). For scholarship information, [\[click here\]](#).

→ 2012 General Conference of the UMC

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church meets every 4 years and is a world-wide gathering of Methodists. The decisions made during the General Conference affect the social policies of the church and how we govern ourselves. The Book of Discipline is amended at the General Conference.

The 2012 General Conference is a 12-day event and will be held at the Tampa Convention Center, with us, the Florida Conference, as the host conference. 1,000 delegates from all over the world will be in Tampa from April 23 to May 4, 2012. These delegates represent their conferences located throughout the world. In addition to delegates, there will be 5,000 to 6,000 observers and guests attending the General Conference. As the host conference, our role is to prepare for all the people arriving and to provide volunteer greeters during the General Conference. May we all be inspired to keep the 2012 General Conference in prayer that God's Holy Spirit will use this time to renew and re-energize the church for its ministry.



→ Elections for General & Jurisdictional Conference Delegates



During the upcoming session of the Florida Annual Conference, members will be electing persons to serve as delegates to the 2012 sessions of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church. Serving the Church as a delegate is an awesome responsibility. Decisions are made which effect every congregation throughout the United Methodist Church. It is hard work. It is

rewarding work. What follows quickly sums up some of the important information you need to know now as we begin the discernment and discovery process leading up to the election of our delegates. [\[Read the rest....\]](#).

→ Youth Leader Training, Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

January 24 - 26, 2011 :: Warren W. Willis UM Camp in Fruitland Park
Keynote Speaker: Hank Hilliard from the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville
Worship Leader: Patrick Willis, Former member of the Summer Camp Praise Team

Workshops, networking, fellowship, and fun for Adult leaders of youth. (Paid, volunteer, full-time or part-time.) How Much? \$30.00 (meals, lodging, and program fees). Register at <http://www.flumc2.org/registrations/register/27> or send payment to: Gathering/Heidi Leab, 450 Martin L. King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815-1522.

For more information, contact: Dave Sippel - Director of Ministries with Young People
Direct Line: (863)393-1442 or email: dsippel@flumc.org. See our flyer [\[Click Here\]](#).

→ Exciting New Opportunity for Children in S. Hillsborough County!

South Shore Arts Camp - Providing excellent, accessible and affordable character based after school activities with daily classes in the visual and performing arts.

The vision for South Shore Arts Camp is to offer elementary age school children in South Hillsborough County a wholesome environment in which they may explore the visual and performing arts after regular school hours.

Starting on January 3, 2011, we will offer transportation from Cypress Creek, Reddick, Ruskin, and Wimauma Elementary schools to our campus at The United Methodist Church in Sun City Center. In addition to classes in various forms of art, dance, and music facilitated by staff and community volunteers, the children will have a structured time with snacks and character-based activities to enhance self-esteem and values. The camp will be held daily Monday through Friday until 6:30 p.m.



To learn more about the new South Shore Arts Camp program and student registration, please contact Elizabeth Parry, Arts Director at (813) 817-1662 (email: elizabeth@parrydesign.com) or Pat Hill, Director of Spiritual Growth and Ministries at (813) 634-2539, or visit our website, www.sccumc.com, The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center, FL 33573.

→ Church by Size Seminars March 2011

Each seminar is designed for your team to receive two days of initial instruction and discussion in March and then a one-day follow-up session in September.

These five exciting seminars, designed and led by Doug Anderson, will help pastors and lay teams understand the unique ministry opportunities and challenges that their church size offers. Participants are given practical models, principles, and options for effectively dealing with the important possibilities and issues facing them. Making your ministry effective and dynamic is the purpose of each seminar.

- Building a Terrific Team: Staff Ministry in a Large Church (over 250 in AWA)
- Leading a Church Staff: Basic Tools for Effective Lead Pastors
- Beyond the Barriers: Ministry for Becoming a Large Church (175-250 in AWA)



- Mastering the Middle: Ministry in a Mid-Sized Church (100-175 in AWA)
- Extending the Church Family: Ministry in the Small Church (less than 100 in AWA)

Cost: first person \$89, second person \$75, additional persons \$60. [\[Click Here\]](#) for Seminar Descriptions and Dates. Lunches and materials are included; lodging and transportation in on your own. Register on-line at: www.congregationalexcellence.com or www.flumc.org. Each seminar is limited to the first 75 participants.

Dr. Doug Anderson is executive director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development at Dakota Wesleyan University and Associate Director of Church Development for the Indiana Annual Conference. He has been a district superintendent and pastor of several growing churches of different sizes in the United Methodist Church. He has led practical church seminars and consultations for over 25 years. He is a member of the Academy for Spiritual Formation of the Upper Room and co-authored the award winning book *The Race to Reach Out* with Bishop Michael Coyner. Best of all, his seminars are energetic, effective, and fun.

→ Real Ideas Conference March 3-4, 2011 at Van Dyke UMC Tampa



We live in uncertain times. People are looking for concrete answers. They're searching for hope and clarity in a culture of confusion. Where will they turn for help? Your church? Yes! The local church is the hope of the world and now is our golden moment of opportunity to connect with a confused world. But how can your church do more with less?

At the Real Ideas Conference we'll share positive and practical ideas from our 25 years of learning through success and failure. No matter where you are or the size of your church, you will be inspired and informed to go to the next level at Real Ideas 2011. For more information, visit the [\[website\]](#).

This is our fifth year of Real Ideas. Dozens of churches across the Florida Conference, as well as several from Georgia and Alabama have benefitted from Real Ideas. We have received very encouraging feedback and wonderful stories of positive change in churches. This is a practical conference dealing with the nuts and bolts of effective ministry across all areas of church life. Clergy, staff and laity leave each year with ideas and inspiration to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

→ Justo L. González Resource Center for Latino/Latina Ministries set to open on Asbury Seminary's Florida Dunnam campus

ORLANDO, Fla. (Dec. 6, 2010) - Asbury Theological Seminary's Florida Dunnam campus will house the newly formed Justo L. González Resource Center for Latino/Latina Ministries, announced President Timothy C. Tennent in partnership with the Rev. Stan Perea, Executive Director of the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH).

Set to open early next year, the center will serve as a place that addresses theological issues affecting Latino/Latina ministries, as well as theological education as a whole. It will also produce online and print materials to support Latino/Latina ministries, including the writings of Dr. Justo L. González, the renowned theologian for whom the Center is named.

Asbury Seminary demonstrates a strong commitment to offering opportunities for students to study with faculty from diverse backgrounds and is culturally relevant for the growing Latino community in Florida and the Southeast. The Seminary's Latino-Latina Studies Program offers innovative theological education

to clergy and lay Hispanic leaders to help strengthen their ministry skills and deepen their walk with God.

The Justo L. González Resource Center for Latino/Latina Ministries will be part of the existing facility on Asbury Seminary's Florida Dunnam campus. Perea plans an official ribbon-cutting ceremony in March.

For more information about the Association for Hispanic Theological Education (AETH), visit www.aeth.org. To learn more about Asbury Theological Seminary, visit www.asburyseminary.edu.

→ 55th Annual Church Music Workshop July 17-22, 2011

Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida

The Florida Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts is pleased to announce that our 55th Annual Church Music Workshop will be held from Sunday afternoon, July 17th through Friday noontime, July 22nd, 2011, at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

Anyone involved in church music or worship planning, both traditional and contemporary, adults or youth, are invited to join us. This year's theme, "The Best Table," is based on Rev. Jan Richardson's graphic of the same name. During our 2011 Church Music Workshop, we are going to "linger at the table and savor every scrap" as we seek that foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet that awaits us, give thanks that Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples and showed us how to remember, and welcome everyone to the Banquet Table. Clinicians for the workshop will be Adult Choral Clinician Joel Raney renowned composer and pianist; Organ Clinician Steve Strite, Director of Music and Worship at Bradenton Christian Reformed Church; Handbell Clinician Blanche Marie Lewis, director of the Magic of Bronze and Ascension Lutheran Church Handbell Choir in Casselberry; and Workshop Pastor, Rev. Lisa Degrenia, Senior Pastor at Community UMC, DeBary.

We are asking all pastors in the conference to forward this information to the music and worship leaders in their church and encourage them to take this opportunity to connect with other church musicians and worship leaders in the conference and be renewed. For more information and for registration information (coming soon), please visit our website at: www.floridafellowship.org or contact Joan FitzGerald, Workshop Chairperson, at joan.fitzgerald@verizon.net.



The Fellowship of United Methodists
in Music and Worship Arts

→ 11th Annual 5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

Sunday March 13 - Friday, March 18 at Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park

The Academy for Spiritual Formation is... A time to fill the deep spiritual hunger that characterizes many lives An opportunity for intentional spiritual growth in a disciplined, accepting community A place where community silence enhances personal prayer and reflection A time of spiritual renewal and discovery through academic presentation, personal reflections, and communal sharing A sharing of spiritual growth in covenant groups A time for healing to continue For both clergy and laity

Registration will be Sunday, March 13, 2011 from 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM; Orientation & Dinner will begin at 5:30 PM; The week will conclude on Friday, March 18, 2011 following the Eucharist at Noon, with lunch. For complete information about this event [\[click here\]](#) for a brochure.

→ District Calendar of Events

Dec 1: Church and Pastor Profiles online at Conference Webpage
- deadline for ALL updates is 2/18/2011
Dec 5: Missional Vital Signs report entry deadline
Dec 11: Black Church Symposium
Dec 15: Registration deadline for the 37th Annual Secretaries Seminar
Dec 24-31: District and Conference offices closed for the Christmas holiday

Jan 5: Missional Vital Signs report entry deadline
Jan 6: Year end local church statistics online - due by 4pm on Feb 11th
Jan 8: Lay Servant Ministries Advanced Training
Jan 14: Last day for the Conference to receive 2010 Apportionments
Jan 15: Lay Servant Ministries Advanced Training
Jan 22: District Leadership Training
Jan 24-26: Youth Leader Trainings

There will be two one-hour, live job training sessions with follow up resources online:

-For local church PSRCs on Jan. 20 at 7:30 EDT

-For local church Finance Chairs, Treasurers and Financial Secretaries on Jan. 27 at 7:30 EDT

Hosted by Betsey Heavner of GBOD Leadership Ministries.

For more information or to sign up contact Betsey Heavner at bheavner@gbod.org

Classifieds

FACILITIES MANAGER: Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Seminole, Fla., is taking applications for a full-time facilities manager. This position provides the church and learning center with a safe and clean environment for the church family through continuous maintenance of the facilities. Background experience should include basic mechanical/electrical knowledge including lighting, plumbing, HVAC, irrigations and propane systems. The applicant must possess basic computer skills, with a knowledge of alarm systems preferred; Christian calling and character; competency; and compatibility with good communication skills. Interested candidates can contact Debbie Weekes, administrative assistant, for a complete job description and application at 727-391-0218 or dweekes@aldersgate.com.

BUS FOR SALE: College Park United Methodist Church in Orlando, Fla., has a 2005 Chevy 14 passenger bus (Girardin) for sale. It only has 24,000 miles and is in excellent condition. Asking \$18,000 OBO. Pictures are available upon request. Contact: Jennifer Collis, jcollis@cpumc.org.

