

# 2012

## South Central District January Newsletter

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Enjoy this area of our newsletter for up to the minute thoughts!

[Bishop Whitaker  
Angola Mission Blog  
Congregational Excellence  
El Blog Hispano  
The Black Church Blog  
Jeff Stiggins  
Juan Feliciano](#)

Florida Conference Connection  
Click here for...  
*News, Connections, Conversations*



Healing prayers are requested for:

Rev. Geraldine Christopher of Tyer Temple UMC for her continued recovery.

The Mother of Rev. Debbie Mak of Dundee UMC for recovery her

### LET'S MAKE THIS A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The South Central District has endeavored to provide a comprehensive quality district training event for the last three years and this year is no exception.

Clergy and laity often clamor for more resources, yet do not avail themselves of training events. It will come as no surprise that there is a direct correlation between pastors and congregations who are absent from training events and those from whom requests for assistance are regularly received and crisis management is needed. While attending training events requires special effort, when I consider that there are pastors and leaders who do not take time to read instruction, the sacrifice of attending events becomes difficult to eliminate.

We will all practice better stewardship of time, talents and treasures if we don't have to address so many issues after the fact. Knowledge enables preparation and best practices. In addition, the resourcing and sharing during training events provides new insights and inspirations for ministries that are good but could aspire to become great! No church is too large or small to be or become an effective, missional United Methodist congregation in the denomination, the community or for the Kingdom! District and Conference offices regularly receive input or requests regarding needed resources; given this, our training events should host 'standing room' only!

We are grateful to Pastor Jamie Westlake and our friends at First UMC, Brandon who will graciously host our event for the third consecutive year. The painstaking coordination of District staff and volunteers, the quality of our trainers, the content of the classes and the fellowship are second to none and I am grateful to one and all.

I know of no other venue which effectively gathers the quality of District and Conference resources in the ways in which we gather for our Annual District training event.

recent surgery.

Mercedes Diaz, wife of Rev. Leonardo Diaz from Cuba. Mrs. Diaz was severely injured in an automobile accident on 12/8. (also see *Prayers of Sympathy*)

Calvin Walker, Father of Rev. Vicki Walker of Hyde Park UMC. Mr. Walker is recovering from surgery.

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Prayers of Sympathy and Comfort are requested for...

Mercedes Diaz and the family of Rev. Leonardo Diaz, District Superintendent in the Cuba Conference. Rev. Diaz was killed in an automobile accident on 12/8.

The family of Ellis Hugh Stanford, the father of Patti Moxley (District AA in the Atlantic Central District) Patti's Father passed away on 12/11.

The family of Juanita Goodman, Mother in Law of John Bendall (Business Administrator NC District). Ms. Goodman passed away on 1/3.

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Prayers of Thanksgiving are request for...

Rev. Debbie Mac of Dundee UMC on the birth of her grandson. Her son David Farson and his wife Mara welcomed Declan Creal Farson in to the world on January 3rd.

While the District newsletter and online registration are effective means of communication, there is no means more effective than word of mouth. Your experience, enthusiasm and application of the information is the best witness to the effectiveness of training.

I hope to see all of you, with an especially warm and vital invitation to all of our pastors who were appointed to churches in the SC District during the 2011-2012 Annual Conference year.

Let us resolve to make this a 'happy' new year through dedicated and effective service to the church of Jesus Christ!

Joy and Peace,

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



Celebrating  
**Life Transformation**

SC District Leadership Training | Jan. 28, 2012

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

for the 2012 SC District Leadership Training Event.

This year's event is the best yet with classes and information for most of the leaders in your church.

To review the course schedule, classes offered and to register,  
[please click here.](#)

Hurry, deadline for registration is  
Tuesday, 1/24/2012

# DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

## Considering a Clergy Move in 2012?



In preparation for the upcoming 2012 appointment season, Rev. Austin has been scheduling time to meet with pastors considering a move in 2012. If you are considering a move, you should have already contacted the district office. If you have not, please send an email to [flumc-sc@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-sc@flumc.org) by January 12, 2012 and request a meeting. Please plan to bring a copy of your completed pastor's profile form.

If you are an SPRC Chair and you and your committee are sensing the need for a change in your church's appointed pastor or if your pastor has indicated that she or he has requested change of appointment, please send an email request for a meeting with the district superintendent to [flumc-sc@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-sc@flumc.org). Please plan to bring a copy of your completed church profile form. These meetings will be scheduled for January or at the latest February.

## South Central District Calendar

- January 1: New Years Day
  - January 3: District and Conference Offices re-open
  - January 6: Epiphany
  - January 9: Year End Statistics available online
  - January 11: DLC Meeting - District Office
  - January 13: Last day the conference will receive 2011 apportionment payments
  - January 16: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - District and Conference Offices closed
  - January 23: National "eat pie" day
  - January 28: District Leadership training - First UMC Brandon 8:30am - 12:30pm
  - January 30-31: Florida Advocacy Days
  - January 31: FIRM DEADLINE for completing Church and Pastor Profiles
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- February 2: Ground Hog Day
  - February 7: Mission Centered Ministry Event
  - February 14: Valentines Day
  - February 20: President's day - District and Conference Offices closed
  - February 22: Ash Wednesday
  - February 29: Leap Year Day



### 2012 Conference Calendar of Reports Due

#### **IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:**

April 24 - May 4: GENERAL CONFERENCE, Tampa Convention Center

June 14 - June 16: FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Mission Centered Ministry Seminar



Staying focused on the mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World" is essential to being a fruitful congregation. This event will take place on February 7th, 2012. For more information and registration please [click here](#).

# TRAINING & EVENTS

## Lay Servant Ministries

Beadisciple.com has announced online course offerings which meet the criteria as advanced courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Pastors, please assist us in the dissemination of this information by publishing in your church newsletter, etc. Thank you. [Click here for a listing.](#)

Gail Kantz - Lay Servant Ministries - Co-Director, South Central District - [flkantz@verizon.net](mailto:flkantz@verizon.net)



Van Dyke UMC has teamed up with Jorge Acevedo and Grace Church UMC to offer the best Real Ideas Conference ever. The conference will take place on March 1&2 2012 at Van Dyke UMC Church in Tampa. Come and learn how to Make new disciples for Jesus this year, develop more generous givers in your church and create high impact in your community. [Click here for more information.](#) [Click here to register.](#)

## How Healthy is Your Church Seminar - Part 2



Part 2 of the well attended and received Seminar has now been scheduled. This seminar will help to empower you as church clergy and laity to advance the kingdom of God. If you did not attend part 1, please don't hesitate to attend part 2. [Click here for more information](#)



## Upcoming General Trainings & Events

- HUMAN RELATIONS CHURCH WIDE SUNDAY - January 15th
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- UMVIM TEAM LEADER EVENT - January 21
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- CLERGY KIDS FAMILY RETREAT - January 27-29
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- MARK BRAVERMAN - AUTHOR OF THE BOOK "FATAL EMBRACE" - January 30
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- UMVIM TEAM LEADER EVENT - February 5
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- DARE TO G.R.O.W. - 4th Annual StudentLeadership Conference - February 17-19
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- 12th ANNUAL FLORIDA 5-DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION - March 11-16
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- 2012 RECLAIM Gathering for youth & young adults - March 23 & 24
  - [Click here for more information.](#)
- INTERIM MINISTRY TRAINING - Seminars have been scheduled at Lake Junaluska.
  - [Click here for more information.](#)

- SEJ 2012 DISASTER ACADEMY TRAINING
  - [Click here for more information.](#)

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS

### End of Year Apportionment Payments

Apportionment payments for 2011 must be received either at the Conference office or in the lockbox at Regions Bank by January 13<sup>th</sup> 2012. This is not a postmarked by date, but is the last day by which monies must be received in the Conference or our bank lockbox to be included in 2011 apportionments receipts. Any payments received after that date will be applied to 2012 apportionments. Any payments received between January 1 and January 13th must be clearly marked as to which year they are to be applied.

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

### HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE



**YOU ARE NEEDED.....** The General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be here before you know it. About 1,000 volunteers are needed for this event. For more information about volunteering please [click here](#). Should you wish to download a flyer to hand out to the congregation or to post at the church, please [click here](#).

### United Methodist Garner Highest Favorability Score



About 62% of adult Americans have a favorable impression of United Methodists. That's according to a new survey from LifeWay Research that looks at perceptions of faith groups among adults in the U.S. [Click here to read the rest of the article.](#)

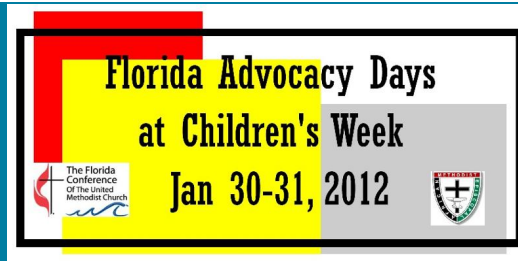
### Congratulations to Lake Wales UMC

The church has been awarded a Renfro Trust Grant. This grant will provide them with the ability to replace their old exterior doors and replace them with steel doors and panic hardware.

### United Methodist Children's Home

The United Methodist Children's Home is seeking foster homes in Hillsborough County. It is believed that the best, most loving and most stable homes are those where foster parents are motivated by their faith, and have a congregational family to support them. For more information, [please click here](#).





In these days of economic strain, it is more important than ever that we become educated and proactive on issues concerning our children. This is an ongoing event which Bishop Whitaker supports and attends and in which we also partner with our A.M.E. bishop and brothers and sisters in Florida. For registration and information visit <http://www.flumc2.org/events/detail/3692>

In addition, [please click here](#) for a Children Coalition and Jail Ministry Conference year end update.



The congregational snapshot gathers on one sheet of paper a significant amount of data about your congregation. While you have had access to all of this information, never before has it been presented together in one place. So, like pieces of a puzzle spread about the house, it was difficult to find and fit the pieces together into a coherent picture of what's going on in your congregation statistically. The Congregational Snapshot now puts the pieces out on the table where you can assemble them into a clearer picture of your congregation's missional vitality. Click this link to get your congregational snapshot [http://www.flumc2.org/congregational\\_snapshot.asp](http://www.flumc2.org/congregational_snapshot.asp)

## Local Church News

Sun City Center UMC has upcoming concerts.

Wesley Memorial UMC joins Hillsborough County to establish a Cold Night Shelter

**For information on the above local church events, [please click here](#)**