



South Central District



January 2011 Newsletter

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Dear South Central,

Some time ago in the midst of one of our many congregational meetings, our SC District Coordinator of Specialized Ministries referred to the analogy of cardiac

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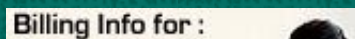
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patients and congregational choices. My desire to have her share this metaphor evolved into an article. I receive Debbie's article and ministry with gratitude!

--Sharon

CLUTCH AND CRADLE INTO THE NEW YEAR!

By The Reverend Deborah Casanzio

Happy New Year!!

It is the New Year with new beginnings and new possibilities. It is the time of year we look forward; we make new resolutions, set new goals and strive for something new. I have begun to wonder, if we do this in our own lives, why do we not do this more regularly in the life of the church? After all, renewal, reconciliation and transformation is the business of the church.

You may have heard of the following statistic before, heart doctors say that after being told exactly what a patient needs to do to live; only 1 in 7 will actually make the lifestyle changes to save or extend their life. These doctors commented on how discouraging it was to have the experience and training of the world's best research providing clear and hopeful prescriptions and yet, still only 1 in 7 people would make the changes in behavior that might save their life.

As a church, with Christ as our head, we too have the choice for continual renewal and transformation. We can be like the 1 in 7 and choose to continue to grow, develop, transform and meet the needs of the communities we reside. Or we can to be like the other 6 and remain comfortable, safe and unchanging; seeking to meet our own desires and pleasures.

So, will 2011 be the same as last year or will it be time for a change, a new resolution, or commitment? As we look into the New Year, maybe we need to ask the church this question: is it time to get to the gym or is it time for a checkup? The road to better health is no secret, no great mystery. Just as in life we need to get a good look at ourselves and then engage in the best fitness program that fits who we are and a path to better health. It is no different in the church. The office of Congregational Excellence has tools for churches in each of these areas. Just as in life, we need regular checkups by someone outside of ourselves and then we need to engage in a matching fitness plan.

If you think it is time for a checkup or to get back to the gym as a community of faith, feel free to have your Pastor contact me at the SC District Office dcasanzio@flumc.org, and I can provide you with the information and options that can get you started.

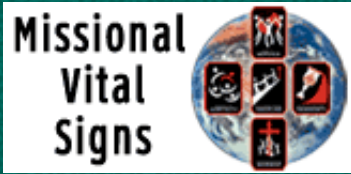
Jim Collins said "We are not imprisoned by our circumstances, our setbacks, our history, our mistakes, or even staggering defeats along the way. We are freed by our choices. The signature of the truly great versus the merely successful is not the absence of difficult, but the ability to come back from setbacks, even cataclysmic

WORKER'S COMPENSATION
PROPERTY & CASUALTY
HEALTH INSURANCE
PENSION

**2011 Apportionments
Now Available**



**Missional
Vital
Signs**



Church by Size Seminars



[Click here for more information](#)

Prayer Concerns:

Rev. Sharon Davis, pastor at Seminole Heights UMC in Tampa, her husband, Len, and their family in the passing of Sharon's mother-in-law Allaine Davis on December 26.

Rev. Tom Hughes (ret.) battling cancer has been accepted by Hospice and is now at Lakeland Hills Center on E. Bella Vista in room #112. He loves having visitors.

Rev. Warren Langer and family, Senior Pastor at Sun City UMC, on the death of his mother-in-law Garnett Vance last Christmas weekend.

Stormy Hodel, Administrative Assistant at Sun City UMC, on the death of her mother Joanna Stephenson over the Christmas weekend.

Rev. Anna Jackson (Family Leave, now in Claremont, CA with husband the Rev. Jack Jackson) on the death of her father.

Update from a Deaconess

This has been a great year at Kenly Elementary. With the

catastrophes, stronger than before...we all need beacons of light as we struggle with the inevitable setbacks of work and life"(How the Mighty Fall, 2009).

We follow the bright light of the One who came to redeem humanity, 'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world' John 1:9. May our churches choose different outcomes than those reflected by the statistics for heart patients and instead may we find that 7 of the 7 choose to change, transform renew; carrying the hope of the world along with us!

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine, was written by Charles Wesley. Because of its focus on covenant and commitment, it is often used in conjunction with Covenant Services. As you read or sing the words, make them your own; use them to frame your spiritual new year goals and resolutions both personally and communally:

1. Come, let us use the grace divine,
and all with one accord,
in a perpetual covenant join
ourselves to Christ the Lord;
Give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power,
his name to glorify;
and promise, in this sacred hour,
for God to live and die.
2. The covenant we this moment make
be ever kept in mind;
we will no more our God forsake,
or cast these words behind.
We never will throw off the fear
of God who hears our vow;
and if thou art well pleased to hear,
come down and meet us now.
3. Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
let all our hearts receive,
present with thy celestial host
the peaceful answer give;
to each covenant the blood apply
which takes our sins away,
and register our names on high
and keep us to that day!

Dear Clergy and SPRC Chairpersons,

Please do diligence in having conversations and contacting Laurie in the district office, in order to set a time to speak with me about *potential* pastoral changes. I have already met with pastors anticipating or initiating a request to move. January and February are months in which to meet with SPRCs. Dates have been designated during these months for the purposes of our meetings. Please contact Laurie as soon as possible for your meetings as I will not be able to wait until February to meet with everyone.

Peace and Prayers in this tender hour,

Kenty Elementary. With the help of community partners and St. Andrew's United Methodist Women, we were able to help 150 students who would not have had a Christmas. They each received at least one toy. They will feel the love every time they play with the toys.

Mary Melvin, Deaconess
If interested in the role of Deaconess, please contact Mary at marymelvin_1@yahoo.com



Rev. Dr. Sharon G. Austin
District Superintendent, South Central District

REMINDER: 2010 Apportionments

Friday, January 14, 2011 is the last day for receiving 2010 apportionments. This is not a postmark date, but the date by which monies must be received in the conference office to be included in 2010 receivables. Monies received after this date will be credited to 2011. 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.



SC District Leadership Training Event:

Preparing leaders to guide others in the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Saturday, January 22, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Registration opens at 8:00 a.m.
First UMC of Brandon, 120 N. Knights Ave., Brandon, FL 33510

We invite you to join us as we begin the New Year!

Working Wisely... Becoming Artisans of Church Craft



This FREE leadership-training event hopes to inspire and equip laity, lay staff, and clergy. The day includes a variety of classes, and a perfect opportunity for Pastors to bring their lay leadership and ministry teams to grow and connect with other leaders in our district.

Each year, every District hosts an event where church leaders can have a time of updating and equipping from our Conference staff and Best Practices in each District. We hope this year will be both a fruitful time together and also a time to seek your feedback on what would be helpful for you in the future.

We will have time together in Worship, break out groups and a main plenary session where we will have the opportunity to learn from our District Superintendent the Rev. Dr. Sharon Austin, and the Director of Florida Conference Office of Congregational Excellence, Rev. Dr. Jeff Stiggins.

Our breakout groups are designed for different areas of leadership and best practices of the Missional Vital Signs, click on link at the bottom of the page to REGISTER and to obtain more detailed information on each breakout session:

[Pastors and Lay Leaders: Finding Strength in Hard Places](#) - Rev. Dr. Jim Harnish, Hyde Park UMC

[Finance Team: Church Finances](#) - Rev. Craig Smelser Florida Annual Conference Controller

Trustees: Disaster Recovery - Marilyn Swanson, Project Director of Disaster Recovery; Pam Garrison, Manager of Disaster Recovery

SPR Team: Completing the Clergy Assessment Process - Rev. David Dodge Executive Director of Clergy Excellence

Church Council/Staff members: Effective Meetings Produce Results - Janet Earls EC District Congregational Excellence

Extravagant Generosity/Stewardship Team - Rev. David McEntire, First Lakeland UMC

Radical Hospitality: Creating a Culture of Evangelism - Rev. Matt Horan Hyde Park UMC

Salty Service: How to Successfully Reach Out to Your Community - Jennifer Smith Director, Crosswinds at USF

Intentional Discipleship - Karen Peel, Director of Newcomers, Van Dyke United Methodist Church; Lynne Fukutani, Director of Community, Van Dyke United Methodist Church

Passionate Worship: Passionate Worship from Beginning to End - Jeff Brant Music Minister, FUMC Brandon; Rev. Jamie Westlake, Senior Pastor FUMC Brandon

Prison / Jail Ministries - Tammy Fisher, Office of Justice and Outreach Ministries

Register Now



Year-End Statistics Now Available Online

This is a reminder that year-end statistical reports are available online beginning Thursday, Jan. 6. All churches must complete a year-end statistical report. The deadline to complete the report is 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11.

Please note that there is an additional login area once you click on the link to complete your statistical form. The username for this login will be your GCFA number, and the password has been set to "password" for all churches. You will be required to create a new password, as well as fill in some contact information on the person submitting the form the first time you login. You have the option to make the new password the same as the password used on the church login for the conference website, allowing everyone with access to the church login access to the statistical forms, as well. Or, you can make the new password different so that only people with the second password can access the statistical reports.

Because of all of these changes for the new quadrennium, it is important that you read through all the information and instructions that will be provided before you begin the process. Please do not assume that anything is the same as it was in years past.

Should you have any questions or need assistance, your [District office](#) and [Conference Office](#) will be able to assist you. When making a contact for assistance, please include your name, your church's name and GCFA number, and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

A "year-end statistics" button has been posted on the [Florida Conference Web site home page](#). To view a PDF version of the new year-end statistical form, [\[Click Here\]](#).

→ Church and Pastor Annual Profiles



The final submission date for profiles is **February 18, 2011**. Church and Pastor profile 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 2011, please call the District Office for a Consultation Time with the District Superintendent as early as December, but no later than January 15.

→ Celebrate Jesus Mission Prayer Gathering on Jan. 11

You and your church family are invited to the next Monthly Prayer Gathering for the Lakeland Area Mission to be held on Tuesday, January 11, from 7-8 pm, at First United Methodist Church of Lakeland-Chapel, 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801; phone (863) 686-3163. We hope you will join us as we pray for our churches, the communities around our churches, and the teams that will come to help us visit our neighbors during Mission Week, June 18-25, 2011.



→ Registration for Clergy Kids 2011 is now open!

January 28-30, 2011 at Warren W. Willis UM Camp in Leesburg

Clergy Kids 2011



January 28-30, 2011

Clergy Kids is a weekend retreat for the entire family to enjoy. Birth-3rd grade stay in cabins with parents, and 4th-12th grade stay in cabins with Leadership Team members. If you've never been to clergy kids, it is a great weekend. For the kids, it's like two days at summer camp, but with other kids who understand the uniqueness of being a clergy kid. For the adults, it is a time to relax and enjoy camp, so even if your kids are old enough to stay without you, come and have a weekend retreat for yourselves! The link to register is below, and has all of the pricing information.

IF YOU NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR, MARTHA GAY DUNCAN AT: 863-559-0953 or email marthagay@verizon.net.
[\[Click Here\]](#) to Register. See you in January!

Andy Sistrunk, Clergy Kids Coordinator.



→ 2011 Human Relations Day Sunday - January 16, 2011

Human Relations Day is one of the opportunities for United Methodist Churches to celebrate our connectional work. This day of social action and raising awareness aims to heal social ills at the national level. It supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. The first two programs are administered through the General Board of Global Ministries.

In The United Methodist Church calendar, Human Relations Day happens the Sunday immediately following the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. However, you can observe Human Relations Day at anytime of the year. To give online [\[click here\]](#). The juxtaposition of these two very special days is not a coincidence. The United Methodist Book of Discipline describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other." (can be celebrated anytime).





→ Online Courses from Doctrine to Church Music

The second semester of online educational opportunities offered by GBHEM and the 13 UM Theological Schools is now available. Twenty-three courses are being offered in a variety of subjects from doctrine and polity to church music. This consortium was formed in the fall of 2009 and began offering classes this past semester. Consortium opportunities [\[Click Here\]](#).



Preparing A New Generation Of Christian Leaders

GENERAL BOARD OF
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www.gbhem.org

→ Tickets on Sale for New Regional Orchestra's Third Concert of the Season

Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 4:00 PM

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center and the South Shore Music Makers present the South Shore Symphony Orchestra's third concert of their five-concert inaugural season. This concert also marks the first anniversary of the ensemble for which founder Dominick Galati promises a special first birthday surprise. This concert, entitled Beginnings: All About Overtures features great orchestral overtures including the Festive Overture by Shostakovich,

Mozart's Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, Wagner's Overture to Tannhauser, the Overture to Nabucco by Verdi, Rossini's Overture to The Barber of Seville, The Cowboys Overture by John Williams and excerpts from other orchestral favorites. Jeff Jordan, Principal Conductor of the SSSO, believes that concert-goers will hear many familiar themes along with some exciting new music. "If they're lucky, the audience might even hear the music that accompanied Tonto's sidekick," quipped Jordan. Tickets for the South Shore Symphony Orchestra's third concert are now on sale and may be purchased by calling the SSSO office at (813) 667-7776 or visiting their website www.thesso.org. Preferred seating is available and patrons are encouraged to buy tickets as early as possible.

→ 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 [\[Click Here\]](#).

→ 1st State-wide Interfaith Symposium on Feb 4-5

You have only A FEW days left to register for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs', Communities for a Lifetime first Statewide Interfaith Symposium, to be held February 4-5, 2011 in St. Petersburg, Florida.



For hotel reservations, please contact the Marriott Hotel, 12600 Roosevelt Blvd, St. Petersburg, FL, directly at 1-800-228-9290 and ask for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs group rate of \$95. This rate is good only until January 14, 2011. After that date, the rate will no longer be available. You may also register online [[Click Here](#)] and use this group code: fdefdea. For additional information about registration and the symposium, please access: www.communitiesoffaith.org.

→ Nominate a deserving individual for "The Servant's Heart Award."

The Department of Elder Affairs, in collaboration with the Florida Council on Aging, invites you to nominate a deserving individual for "The Servant's Heart Award." "The Servant's Heart Award" recognizes individuals for outstanding service and volunteerism. Faith-based volunteers use their unique talents to serve others and have a strong ethic of service, a pure compassion for people and an inspirational nature to motivate those around them to serve.

The Department of Elder Affairs, Communities for a Lifetime initiative, recognizes groups (businesses, non-profits, faith-based, service clubs) for their participation in volunteer programs and projects that directly benefit the State of Florida and its residents. Communities for a Lifetime understands the importance of relationships and develops connections between groups and local government to help craft collaborative solutions to local needs.

To access the nomination form and guidelines, and for additional information on the Statewide Interfaith Symposium, access: www.communitiesoffaith.org

→ URGENT: Haiti Travel Update

UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) has cancelled all teams scheduled to serve in Haiti in January.

"Team safety and welfare is our first priority," remarked Rev. Tom Vencuss, UMVIM Volunteer Management Coordinator in Haiti, "and, regrettably, the events of the last week have led us to the decision that it would not be safe to have UMVIM teams present in Haiti around the presidential run-off, scheduled for January 16, 2011."

The decision to cancel was made by Vencuss and the staff in Haiti; Susan Meister, US-based Calendaring Coordinator; Una Jones, Assistant General Secretary for Annual Conference Relations & Mission Volunteers Program, GBGM; and Greg Forrester, Northeast Jurisdiction UMVIM Coordinator, in consultation with Rev. Gesner Paul, President of the Methodist Church of Haiti.

In addition, the US Department of State warned US Citizens of the risks of traveling to Haiti and recommends against non-essential travel.

Based on the above information, Mark Thomas, Director of Ministry Protection for the conference, and Beth Fogle-Miller, Director of Connectional Ministries, urge any churches planning trips to Haiti to suspend those plans until further notice. Please continue to pray for the people and country of Haiti.

→ Annual Conference Resolutions Due January 31, 2011

All submitted resolutions must be received by the Conference Secretary by January 31 to be considered at the regular Annual Conference Event later this year. The Florida Conference Secretary is the Rev. Dr. Ken Minton, pastor at First United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills. You may contact him by email at kminton@flumc.org, phone 813-782-5645 or fax 813-782-2315. For more information on the Resolution process, see the Standing Rules of the Florida Conference, found in the 2010 Florida Conference Journal, pages 179-180, or visit the [\[website\]](#) to access the Journal online.

→ 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

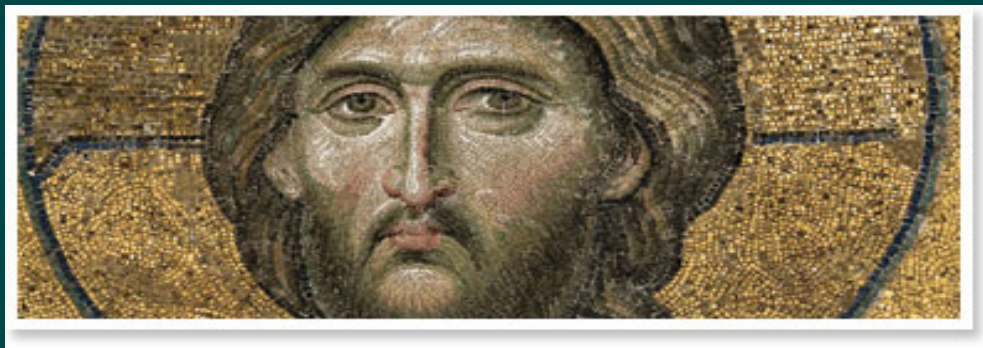


During the upcoming session of the Florida Annual Conference, members will be electing persons to serve as delegates to the 2012 sessions of the General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church. Serving the Church as a delegate is an awesome responsibility. Decisions are made which 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. [\[Read the rest....\]](#).

→ Exploring the Faith Lecture Series and Alumni/ae Gathering

February 15, 2011 at Hyde Park UMC, Tampa



Hyde Park UMC is hosting a one-day Faith Lecture Series as part of the continuing education program

(.4 units) of United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH. Led by Scholarly Ordained Ministers; Practical, Evocative Lectures; Relevant for the 21st Century Church; Rooted in Scripture and Tradition. Free lunch and registration for all perspective seminary students. See flyer for details [\[Click Here\]](#).

→ 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

→ 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.

→ CHURCH BECOMES "BIGGEST LOSER"

During the season infamous as a time for people to gain weight the exact opposite has happened at The United Methodist Church in Sun City Center. Over the last two months members of the church have lost over 700 pounds! It is not only pounds the members of the church are losing. The loss of weight has also resulted in many losing the need for their medical prescriptions. Various members have been taken off of their cholesterol medicine, high blood pressure medicine, etc. One member was taken off of insulin after using it for 15 years.

As people lose their weight they are becoming healthier. Most are reporting they now have more energy and are sleeping better at night. Although they are not eating as much most are saying they are no longer feeling hungry or having cravings.

Those who have reached their weight loss goals over the last three months are also discovering that the good eating habits developed during the weight loss continues afterwards. They are not gaining as they have on diets they have experienced before.

When asked what promoted this recent surge of weight loss in the church, members say it was their pastor. Between August 1 and October 15 the Rev. Dr. Warren Langer lost 60 pounds and 10 inches off of his waist. Inspired by his success and his leadership others have been motivated to do the same. Many say it is the simplest and easiest program they have ever tried. They say the success of the program is on the program's goal of helping people to eat healthy instead of just trying to lose weight.

Some members of the church have been trained to be coaches to help others. Dr. Langer stated alarming statistics. In 1980 there were only three states in the country where at least 10% of the population experiencing obesity. Today there is only 4 states with less than 20% of the population experiencing obesity. There are several states where over 30% of the population is extremely overweight. The overweight problem is the main reason for the rapid growth of Diabetes 2 and other diseases. The health problems resulting from overweight is costing the country billions of dollars in medical and prescription bills and increasing absenteeism from work.

For more information about the program, call Sun City Center UMC at (813) 634-8959 or Rev. Langer at (813) 846-5844.

→ Preaching in the 21st Century: Candler Lifelong Learning Event

Dr. Tom Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, will lecture and lead a discussion on the tasks and opportunities of preaching in the 21st century at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Orlando, FL on Thursday, March 3. This event is open to everyone - clergy and other church leaders are encouraged to attend. The schedule begins with a 9:30 a.m. continental breakfast, followed by lecture and discussion. The program will adjourn by 12:00 p.m. Directions to the event can be found at www.st.lukes.org. To register for this event [\[Click Here\]](#).

→ 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.

→ 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.

→ Guidance for all clergy regarding your 2010 tax filings

Please give careful attention to the calculating and filing of your taxes as a clergy person. **THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR NEW CLERGY AND THOSE SERVING AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

Missing deadlines, not filing as self-employed, etc., can create legal problems and/or penalties for years to come. Be certain to have your church issue a W-2 to you and not a 1099. If you need resources and/or information, you may contact one of the following institutions for guidance:

- Conference Financial Services - 863-688-5563 x-196
- United Methodist Foundation - 866-363-9673
- General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) - 866-367-4232

Note: The above institutions do not prepare your taxes. If you use a tax preparation service, please make certain the tax preparer is experienced and knowledgeable in clergy tax preparation..

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!

→ District Calendar of Events

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

Feb 11: Year end statistics deadline
Feb 11: Workers compensation audit form due
Feb 18: Pastor / Church profiles due

Mar 31: Child/Youth Protection Policy adoption reporting due
Mar 31: Fiscal Responsibility and management policy reporting due
Mar 31: Sexual Harassment Policy reporting due
Mar 31: Disaster Recovery reporting due

2011 Conference Calendar of Reports Due

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