



South Central District

July 2011 Newsletter

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Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm writing to you from camp! I'm having a good time. I think the kids like me and I've made some new friends. I'm only writing to you and not to Mike and our kids (as none of my new friends has a husband and four adult children).

Camp is a little scary at night. I'm sleeping in a bed by myself and trying not to use the night light. The food is pretty good but not as good as home cooking. We're playing hard (my hands were dyed blue from tie-dying tee shirts) and most of all we're learning a lot about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and about God's amazing love for us! Can't wait to see you. I miss you. Love, Sharon

The above excerpt from the letter written to my parents (which was actually written on the customary notebook paper and mailed to them) was a blessing to write! I later understood that my parents wondered (about me) upon receipt of the letter, but it made sense to me and the campers! I joined about ninety elementary children at the Warren W. Willis Camp in Leesburg last week where I had the privilege of serving as the Elementary Camp Worship Leader. Every evening, a new and wonderful surprise awaited us as we reflected on God's Word and the examples of God's love around us. It was a joy for me to engage in ministry with this fresh, younger population within our churches. They don't embrace the same level of cynicism, anger and despair in the midst of faith and life that seems to set in and find a home in

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

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[Jeff Stiggins](#)

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REMINDER:

If you are applying to the Board of Ordained Ministry for recommendation to the Florida Annual Conference for membership in the Florida Conference, your request for the District Superintendent's Evaluation must arrive into the District Office no later than July 15.

the lives of so many adults. It was that 'fresh' experience that can be ours as we live in the 'newness of life' that Christ affords. You might be surprised to hear to hear some of the observations that the kids shared about their home churches; what they think is pretty good and what they would change. They are bright, quick and energetic. While one young man expressed concern about acquiring a credit card and establishing a good credit score, overall the kids' concerns reflected their tender years, but with a wisdom and seriousness which belied their years.

The experience was amazing for me and for the colleagues who served as worship leaders for Middle and High School Camp! Pastor Michael Fordham (who served the former Big Bend UMC in Riverview), invited the kids to follow him through a week of mending a broken vase and the ways in which the light of Christ shines through the cracks of our lives. Pastor Erwin Lopez, (pastor of Good Shepherd and Lakewood Park UMCs, in Lakeland) had all of us on our feet when he included an original Christian rap song in his final service. It was a great week with inspiring colleagues and passionate youth. I don't know what summer holds for you, but I heartily recommend some time spent with kids, in outdoor activities and rest, and most of all an intentional deeper walk with Christ!

May God bless us all with a time of refreshment this summer in order that we may serve the cause of Christ with renewed passion and energy in the days to come!

Rev. Dr. Sharon G. Austin

District Superintendent, South Central District

Joys and Prayers

Joys and congratulations go out to Rev. Kyu Seok Shin and his wife Young-ae Kim on their birth of their son Seo-Jin Shin. He joined the family on May 20, 2011 along with their other son Eo-Jin.

Prayers are requested for Josiah Dreiser, the son of Pastor Kirk Dreiser. Josiah has been diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

Congratulations go out to Rev. Dr. Daniel J. and Toni H. Parrish for the birth of their new grandson Chase Andrew Parrish. He was born on June 16th at 5:59 p.m.

The final service for First United Methodist Church of Tampa was held on Sunday, June 26th at 1:00 p.m. Please continue to keep the members of that congregation in your prayers and receive them with open arms if they identify themselves while visiting your congregation.

A special thanks to the Rev. Mike Standifer, Camp Director and Heather Pancoast, Assistant Camp Director of the Warren W. Willis Camp in Leesburg who lead an incredible ministry in the Florida Conference. Please visit www.fluf.org/together to read about the renovation and expansion of the Barnett Lodge at the Warren W. Willis Camp (Leesburg) and begin to pray about the ways in which you and your congregation can make a contribution to this ministry project. Become a part of "Bringing Hope, and Changing Lives" through our Camps and Retreats ministries!

→ 50 Ways to Welcome your New Senior or Associate Pastor

Prepared by Robert Crossman

Dr. Robert Crossman, Minister of New Church Starts and Congregational Advancement for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, is the primary author of this document. The Lewis Center staff and others provided input, suggestions, and editorial assistance.

Prepare to welcome your new pastor

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
2. Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor and family.
3. Invite church members individually to send cards of welcome and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
4. Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.
5. Plan for the transition. Occasionally important welcoming gestures are missed with everyone thinking someone else is handling these details.
6. Appoint a specific liaison person to whom the pastor can go for help and information during the transition.

Say goodbye to your current pastor in a healthy way

1. Show love, regard, and even grief, for your departing pastor. This is one of the best things you can do for the new pastor. [\[Read the rest...\]](#)

To subscribe to the Lewis Center's free biweekly online newsletter, Leading Ideas, go to www.churchleadership.com.

→ 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.** Make sure to note it on your calendar...more information to follow!

→ 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 years 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 membership removals.

→ Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits introduces Wellness Initiative



Every day, Americans face the risks of developing chronic diseases and no one is immune! The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is introducing a wellness initiative for clergy and laity enrolled in the conference health insurance plan.

[For information on this important initiative, click here](#)

→ Bayshore United Methodist Church celebrates!!!

Bayshore UMC, in south Tampa, celebrated this past weekend (or, recently) the 50th anniversary of the inaugural service on June 25, 1961, in its then newly constructed sanctuary, at 3909 S. MacDill Ave. The church, now in its 90th year, added this milestone to its history with two services, on Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26. A full house of old "Bayshorites" came each time to hear Rev. Robert A. Shelley, former pastor during the period of the church's greatest growth and outreach (1968-1982).

Bob shared memories from those days and preached powerful messages pointing the church forward to "what God is yet to do in and through Bayshore." A reception on Saturday and lunch for all after church on Sunday provided time for old friends and their now grown children to get caught up on what God has been doing in their lives. It was a memorable occasion for all.



→ New Mileage rates announced beginning July 1st!

New mileage rates starting July 1st, 2011 have been announced.

Business Purpose - \$0.555
Medical/Moving Purpose - \$0.235
Charitable Purpose - \$0.14

The IRS reimbursement has been increased as indicated, beginning July 1



through Dec 31.

[For further information, click here to view the Financial Services website.](#)

→ 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. Stay tuned for more information!



→ 2011 THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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 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.

→ Leading the Middle Size Church

Seminar at Lake Junaluska July 25 - 28, 2011

This seminar will identify and examine the unique characteristics of the middle-sized (100-300 average worship attendance) church. Clergy find that they must redefine their role as pastor in the middle-sized church due to its increasing demands and complexities. The skills which may have served one's ministry well in the small membership church may not be inadequate in the middle-sized church. The seminar is especially designed for clergy who currently serve, or will soon serve, in this type of ministry setting.

[Click here for more information](#)

→ Take Time to Listen

For many people today, including Christians, the art of really listening to another person much less to God, seems all but lost. In a world of instant communication, with email, text messaging and twitter, information is quickly exchanged but seldom do we pause long enough to consider what is really being said. The pace of life is intense and ultimately harmful as a sustaining practice. We need to take time to listen.

At its heart, the Academy for Spiritual Formation is an experience in listening: to one another, to oneself, to God. During the two-year experience, participants are guided in a course of reading and instruction in Christian spirituality, yet this is not the heart of the program. It is in the silence and in the worship, in the small groups and around the table that one begins to feel heard. And then one begins to listen, really listen with the ears of one's heart to the heartbeat of God.

Beginning July 26, 2011, the two-year Academy for Spiritual Formation will be offered at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, FL. For the first time, it will be a multi-cultural experience with both English and Spanish speaking leadership. New and continuing faculty presenters make this an especially strong offering, including some you may recognize: Wendy Wright, Juan Bek, Carmen Gaud, Bob Mulholland, Paul Chilcote, Linda Douty, Steve Harper and others. All faculty presenters are chosen because of their ability to listen and every one brings a wealth of insights and gifts to share.

There is still time to apply for Academy #32 but you need to hurry! More information and an application are available at www.upperroom.org/academy or by calling 1-877-899-2781, ext. 7233

→ Celebrate Jesus 2011 Summer Missions

Changing lives, Changing churches, Changing you
Lakeland Area Mission - June 18-25, 2011
Ocala Area Mission - July 16-23, 2011

There are neighborhoods just like yours with people waiting to feel a touch from God. There are people just like you who want to share God's love with others, but they are afraid and don't know how to begin.



Celebrate Jesus Missions offer opportunities to get out into the neighborhoods and share the love of Jesus in invitational ways. No experience is necessary! Volunteer missionaries (that's YOU!) stay at a host church and work with that church family to offer acts of kindness and prayer to their neighbors. Activities include handing out free gifts to neighbors, offering free car washes, delivering homemade goodies to local businesses, giving out cold water bottles at parks.....you'll learn new skills to try at home!

Complete an application and send it to our office. Applications available at www.CJMission.org. Come as an individual, couple or family. Application fee: \$150 individual; \$50 for each additional family member. Celebrate Jesus Inc., PO Box 3386, Orlando, FL 32802-3386. Phone: (407) 893-7305; E-mail: celebrate.jesus@CJMission.org.

→ 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.](#)

→ 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.

Forward this information to the music and worship leaders in your 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, please visit their website at: www.floridafellowship.org or contact Joan FitzGerald, Workshop Chairperson, at joan.fitzgerald@verizon.net.

→ 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 or 828-454-6680. For applications and guidelines, please visit www.sejumc.org/renfro-trust.

→ Continuing Educators Annual Meeting in Miami, Florida July 21-23

The annual meeting of United Methodist Continuing Educators will be held in Miami, Florida, July 21-23, 2011, at the Doral Golf and Spa Resort. The registration fee to attend the Continuing Educators Annual Meeting is \$150, this includes 3 days and 2 nights to include: two dinners; two lunches and two breakfasts at the resort, and all conference materials. This event is open to all who are involved in the continuing education of clergy and laity. Please register now at <http://www.gbhem.org/ce2011>.



→ 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).



Lake Junaluska
Conference & Retreat Center

→ 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 <http://www.lakejunaluska.com/wisdom-and-grace/>

→ The Academy of the Youth Ministry Institute

REGISTER NOW!
The Academy
OF THE
Youth Ministry
INSTITUTE
ORLANDO, FL
OCTOBER 12-15, 2011
WWW.YMINSTITUTE.COM/ACADEMY

Featuring
THE SKIT GUYS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
MARK DEVRIES

[Click here for more information](#)

→ HELP WANTED!!

Christ United Methodist Church in Lakeland, FL is seeking a part-time music minister. We are looking for a committed Christian with a great attitude and high commitment to coordinate, lead and direct the music ministry of our church (including chancel choir and praise band) to further cultivate passionate and creative worship during our Sunday morning service. Preference will be given to those who can play piano or guitar and serve as song leader in the praise and worship band. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested, please contact Rev. Mark Reynolds for further details at 863-521-2858 or mreynol34@gmail.com

→ District Calendar of Events

July 4: Holiday (district/conference offices closed)
July 15: District Superintendent's Evaluation request due into the District Office
July 15: MVS report entry deadline
July 17: National Ice Cream Day
July 24: Parent's Day

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



[2011 Conference Calendar of Reports Due](#)

News, Connections, Conversations