



South Central District

March 2011 Newsletter

In This Issue

[Prayer Requests](#)

[Church by Size Seminars](#)

[Walk for Children Services](#)

[Human Trafficking Speaker](#)

[UMW Spring Day Apart](#)

[Summer Day Camp Training](#)

[Confirmation Retreats](#)

[UM Foundation Scholarships](#)

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#)

[FAD @ Children's Week](#)

[Summer Internships](#)

[Clergy Women's Consultation](#)

[RECLAIM Gathering](#)

[Basic Disaster Training](#)

[Dr. Fiorenza to speak in Orlando](#)

[Communicators Gathering](#)

[Drew Seminary Fall Programs](#)

[Laity Conference](#)

[Church Music Workshop](#)

[District Calendar](#)

Quick Links

Dear South Central,

An Invitation to 'PP' *Remembering Johnny Bartha and Jeffrey Oglesby*

Many of you are aware of the tremendous loss experienced by the deaths of two clergy colleagues in the last two weeks. The loss of these beloved colleagues is the caliber of loss from which we cannot soon recover. Our ministry to grieving families, congregations, and a grieving Conference family has felt like having the wind sucked from our lungs.

This season of loss has brought us to the eve of Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of Lent. The Lenten season always invites us to an intentional time of introspection about and on our faith walk. We ponder God's amazing love for us and constant desire to be in relationship with us. Difficult though it is to understand, death is captured in God's plan of salvation through the willing and loving death of Jesus upon a cross. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us (1 John 3:16, NIV).

It may be that as we walk through this season of preparation (for the Easter Festival) and penance we will value life all the more because loss is real and the pall of death is heavy. One day we will leave work uncompleted as did our fallen colleagues, yet our faith encourages and enables us to live and serve others more fully and completely.

We pray for healing from the pain, yet it's difficult to imagine how the families and congregations who have known loss ever go on with the hole now in their hearts. We who seek to console sometimes may feel moments of certain uncertainty. Yet, Lent also reminds and refreshes us in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection. Let us take comfort in the fact that we walk with the Spirit's leading and the strength and faith of one another.

May the Savior who died so that we might be reconciled to God and walk in the newness of life, offer hope to us all as we observe a



Holy Lent now and forevermore!

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

The South Central District Congratulates the new Mr. & Mrs. John & Pam Childes

On January 28, 2011 Pastor Pam Rhodes & John (Jack) Childes were joined as husband and wife. Their new family includes their children Richard Jr., Keley, Brian and Megan. Please join us in wishing them a life filled with many blessings. Share your excitement, email them at prhodes@flumc.org.

The South Central District Welcomes Pastor Hank Galloway to Ruskin UMC

Pastor Hank Galloway (ret.) will serve as interim pastor. The Ruskin community has welcomed Pastor Hank and his wife Jackie with open arms. Please keep Pastor Hank, Jackie and the entire Ruskin congregation in your prayers as they heal.

→ Prayer Concerns

The family of Rev. John "Johnny" Bartha, who passed away on February 19 and was serving as pastor of Ruskin UMC since 2005. He leaves his wife, Wanda, three adult children, Stephanie, James and John, and their spouses and children.

Rev. Jeffrey Oglesby's wife Patricia and sons Joshua and Emmanuel and his family. Rev. Oglesby, pastor of New Life Community Church in Jacksonville, passed away February 22.

The family of Rev. Bill Roughton (retired), who passed away on March 3. The funeral service for Rev. Roughton will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 12 at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland. The family will greet guests at a reception in the narthex from 10 to 11 a.m. The service of interment will be at Lakeland Memorial Gardens immediately following the funeral service. The family has suggested that memorial gifts be designated to The Roughton Ministerial Endowed Scholarship Fund, Asbury Theological Seminary, 204 N. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390.

Anamaris, the wife of Rev. Dr. Juan Feliciano, the Hispanic Director of Congregational Excellence for the Florida Conference. She underwent surgery on 2/28 and is recovering.

Rev. Jeff Thomas as he recovers from outpatient surgery March 10, 2011.

→ 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

Church by Size Seminars



[Click here for more information](#)

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.

→ Encore Performance of Broadway Baby

An Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein with Kathy Straub

Friday March 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center
1210 Del Webb Blvd West, Sun City Center

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center is proud to present an ENCORE PERFORMANCE of Kathy Straub as the Broadway Baby singing the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein. Their musicals from the 1940s and 50s are considered the "golden age" of Broadway. Ms. Straub will be singing music from Oklahoma (1943), Carousel (1945), South Pacific (1949), The King and I (1951), Flower Drum Song (1958), and The Sound of Music (1959).



Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. A donation of just \$5 is requested at the door. For additional information about this and other concerts and recitals at the United Church of Sun City Center, please, please contact Jeff Jordan, Director of Music and the Arts, at 813-634-2539. To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City center, please visit our website at www.sccumc.com.

→ 31st Annual Wonder Walk for Children's Services

March 12, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon at Hyde Park UMC, Tampa

In this time of economic challenges, there are so many families in need of help with education, therapy and child care. The Wonder Walk provides funds for the ministry to serve approximately 65 at-risk children at the Rosa Valdez Center every week. For details on how you can participate, [\[Click Here\]](#) for the flyer and registration form. Cornerstone Family Ministries is a state-wide, non-profit agency dating back to 1892. Their mission is to "share the compassion of Jesus Christ through feeding the hungry and nurturing the young". They accomplish this mission through the Rosa Valdez Center and the Child Care Food Program. Visit their website at cornerstonefamilyministries.org.

→ Deputy to speak about human trafficking

Saturday, March 12, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Dundee United Methodist Church
219 E. Merrill Avenue, Dundee, FL



The Dundee United Methodist Women invite you to come hear Deputy Angela Stockwell of the Polk County Sheriff's Department as she explains the ongoing battle against human trafficking taking place in our very neighborhoods. Call 863-439-2656 for additional information.

- According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, "after drug dealing, trafficking of humans is tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and it is the fastest growing."
- The Florida Department of Children and Families website says, "The state is often ranked third in the nation in the number of people that are victims of human trafficking."



→ Spring Day Apart - a Salad Luncheon

March 19, 2011 | A SC District UMW Event
Temple Terrace UMC, 5030 E. Busch Blvd., Tampa

Join us for an afternoon with Guest Speaker Rev. Lee Lallance, Minister of Music & Fine Arts at First UMC of Lakeland. Our Chaplain from the Lakeland Police Department will also be with us. The program will inform us about the ongoing battle against Human Trafficking. Call the church at 813-988-4141 with any questions.

→ Summer Day Camp Training Offered

March 25-26 at Riverside Retreat Center, LaBelle (RSVP by Mar 18)

These events are for local church and agency leaders, staff, administrators, and volunteers who sponsor day programs for children and youth in their communities. During each event there will be training on basic operations of a summer day camp program whether one week or 10 in length. Summer day camp curriculum will be provided, resources shared, and opportunities for sharing ideas and support given. There is also a chance to sign up for staff training and consultation including information on the Summer Mission Intern program and summer feeding programs.

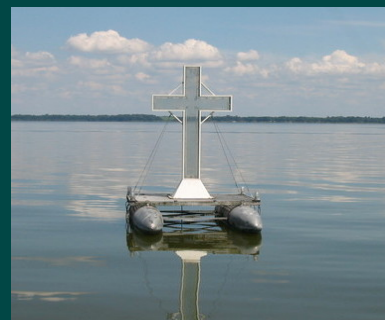
The event at Riverside Retreat March 25-26 is an overnight retreat, but you may attend just the Saturday session. There is no charge for either session. These summer day camp training events are sponsored by the offices of the Florida United Methodist Camps and Retreats and Justice and Outreach Ministries. Please email Tammy Fisher at tfisher@flumc.org for more information and to RSVP.

→ Spring Confirmation Retreats at Warren Willis Camp

March 18-20 :: April 1-3, 2011

The Warren Willis United Methodist Camp in Fruitland Park has four Confirmation Retreats for you to choose from during the 2010/2011 school year. These weekends offer a great retreat experience for confirmation classes from local United Methodist churches throughout the Florida Conference.

Pricing, promotional video, registration information, and a sample schedule of the retreat are available online at www.warrenwilliscamp.org. Click on the attend tab to find the retreat you wish to attend. If you have any questions about this retreat or other retreats offered at the Warren



Willis Camp, contact Joel Pancoast at joel.pancoast@warrenwilliscamp.org or call him at the camp office at 352-787-4345.

→ Foundation offers scholarships for United Methodist Students

The Florida United Methodist Foundation administers two scholarships that are intended exclusively for the use of United Methodist students who wish to further their education beyond high school. The Sinclair Scholarship is specifically for incoming freshmen with strong academic skills and a record of service to church and community. The Alice W. Lockmiller Scholarship is available to United Methodists who are full-time students attending a junior college, senior college, university, seminary or other institution for educational or occupational training beyond the high school level. Applicants do not have to be incoming freshmen. Please see the attached poster [\[Click Here\]](#) for further information.

→ One Great Hour of Sharing



April 3, 2011

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the six church-wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. OGHS enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. OGHS gifts underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business," meaning that every penny of every gift you make to a specific UMCOR project will be spent on that project-not on office administrative costs. This enables UMCOR to respond to natural or human made disasters. The OGHS offering makes ministries available in the United State and across the globe. In 81 countries in all, you assure the United Methodist Church is in the lead to alleviate suffering through OGHS.

Jesus teaches us to bring healing and restoration wherever we can. That's what you and your congregation do through the work of UMCOR.

Restoration. Healing. Hope.

Join United Methodists everywhere by encouraging your congregation to participate in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to bring restoration, healing and hope for tomorrow. Call (888) 346-3862 today to order envelopes and other resources so your congregation can participate in this churchwide offering. They will be sent at no cost to your church! Find more at www.umciving.org/specialsundays.

→ Florida Advocacy Days (FAD) @ Children's Week

April 3-5, 2011 at The Capital, Tallahassee

This is a time where United Methodists partner with the AME Church, Florida Impact, and United Way to host an educational time about legislative issues surrounding children and families in poverty and how to address these issues with their legislators. FAD will conclude with a 'march' to the capitol to 'Show Up to Speak Out' to their State Legislators for the rights and needs of children and to place those needs at the top of their budget and policy priorities.

Join us in strengthening Florida's families by sharing a commitment to improve our communities through events and outreach efforts aimed at



→ Summer Intern Applications now being accepted

An Opportunity to Serve in the Florida Conference May 30 - August 5

Summer Mission Interns serve in a variety of outreach ministry settings throughout Florida, with a focus being on community day camps and United Methodist district outreach agencies. A \$2,000 stipend is awarded to each intern for their 10 weeks of service, which runs generally from May 30 through August 5. Internship applications are accepted from students and young adults, ages 19 through 28. Training is provided. The focus is on service in communities experiencing poverty, but the program includes time and support for reflection on vocational and spiritual goals. Supervision and mentoring is provided by conference and agency staff throughout the summer.

In the summer of 2010, the third year of this program, 26 Summer Mission Interns participated at placements with Christians Reaching Out to Society (C.R.O.S. Ministries) in Lake Worth, the East Central District outreach ministries in Orlando, Sons of Thunder Day Camp in Titusville, Grace Place in Naples, Joining Hands Mission in Holiday, BRANCHES in Florida City, and The Carpenter's Workshop in Melbourne.

The goal this year is to expand the program to 35-40 interns with new placements in Fort Lauderdale, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville. The Florida Conference Summer Mission Intern program is a partnership of the Justice and Outreach Ministries, Melinda Trotti, Director, and the Camps and Retreat Ministries, Rev. David Berkey, Executive Director.

Applications and inquiries can be mailed to Rev. David Berkey, 450 Martin Luther King, Jr., Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815; or fax it to 863-680-1912; or e-mail to dberkey@flumc.org, or call 800-282-8011, Ext. 140

→ SEJ Clergy Women's Consultation

April 4-7, 2011 at the Emory Conference Center and Hotel in Atlanta, GA

For those of you who have never been to the SEJ Clergywomen's Consultation, or have never even heard of it, you are unaware of a great event! All three of our Southeastern Jurisdiction women bishops--Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, and Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor--will be leading worship and participating in workshops during our time together. We will have other great preachers, teachers, and colleagues on hand to guide us spiritually and help us serve Christ and His Church more effectively. Please check the website for a schedule and more detailed descriptions of what will be offered.

The Clergywomen's gatherings across the years have been wonderful experiences in the lives of many women. We have renewed friendships, made new friends, honed skills, and been totally awed by music, worship, and preaching. Plan to come to Atlanta in the springtime. You will find it a blessing to spend four days in Lent with your clergy sisters.



Let us encourage you to take time today to go fill in the blanks and get your checks in the mail. Your registration won't take 15 minutes. Please [\[Click Here\]](#) here to register. Scholarship assistance to attend the event may be available through the FL Conference Center for Clergy Excellence (contact Winnie Dean at wdean@flumc.org) and/or the FL Conference office of Connectional Ministries (contact Sherri Lingle at slingle@flumc.org).

→ Reclaim Main Gathering

Find us on Facebook 

April 8-10, 2011 at First UMC of Coral Gables
Workshops, worship, and fellowship for young adults.

Reclaim Gatherings exists to communicate, embody and champion the message that there is a place for young adults in today's Church. We began this journey at the Reclaim 2010 Gathering at First UMC Winter Park with over 100 young adults from across the state of Florida.

Our goal is ministry for, to and with young adults...twenty-thirty somethings, single and married...full time ministers, young professionals, missionaries, post-graduates and more. We desire to cultivate a community of leaders and laborers who share a collaborative vision of who the Church can be in our day. Reclaim gatherings are open to young adults from all walks of life, perspectives and denominations. We invite you to join the conversation as we embrace our individual and collective callings...to the glory of God.



Visit the following website for more information. You may also register at the address below:
<http://www.reclaimgathering.com/>

→ Community Arise: Basic Disaster Training

Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Beymer Memorial UMC, 700 N. Lake Howard Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33975

This training provides an introduction to the unique and important role the faith community plays in disaster mitigation, preparation and response. You and your church will hear practical ideas on how to effectively respond to disaster in your community in cooperation with other churches, emergency management officials and the Disaster Recovery Ministry of the conference. You will understand the importance of communication and collaboration in meeting the needs of disaster survivors and the importance of being the church in the midst of crisis. There is no cost for this training; however, registration is required for planning purposes. Check in begins at 9:30 and lunch is provided. For more information or to register, please visit www.flumc.org/DisasterRecovery and follow the links to Community Arise.

→ Dr. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza to Speak

April 29, 2011 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.
The Doubletree Hotel, 10100 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821



You are invited to hear a world renown feminist biblical theologian Dr. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, the author of *In Memory of Her*. She is Krister Stendahl Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School. Dr. Schüssler Fiorenza will speak on 'ekklesia of wo/men' including a biblical perspective on befriending among women. This dialogue is part of the closing program for the Lead Women Pastors and Future Leadership Consultation by The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. There is no registration fee to hear Dr. Schüssler Fiorenza, although reservations are required. To reserve your seat, please contact Elizabeth O'Neal at oneal@gbhem.org. Visit the registration [website](#) for more information.

→ United Methodist Communicators Meeting in Orlando

May 12-13, 2011 at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center

Lake Junaluska has set up the Registration site for the May 12-13 SEJ Association of Communicators' conference in Orlando, Florida. On our page at sejumc.org/communicators you will find a link for Online Registration in the first section, along with other meeting information.

The event registration fee is \$125, which includes Thursday and Friday breakfasts, Thursday lunch, and covers costs of the program. There is also a box to check for paying your annual dues to SEJ Association of Communicators (\$25).

You must make your own reservations with the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, 6000 W. Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee, Florida 34746. Individual Reservations: 1-407-586-2000 or www.gaylordpalms.com - Mention "United Methodist Church Communicators" for the special rate of \$129 per night. (The hotel is also offering this special room discount for the weeknights before the meeting and the weekend following the gathering).

→ D.Min. studies at Drew Theological Seminary

Drew Theological School, a seminary of the United Methodist Church, is delighted to announce our Doctor of Ministry offerings for the Fall 2011 semester:

- Global Online Concentration in Congregational Leadership, Online
- Congregational Growth and Development, Hosted in North Carolina
- Congregational Growth and Community Shalom, Hosted in California
- Congregational Growth and Development, Hosted in Oklahoma
- Worship, Spirituality, and Preaching, Hosted at Drew University



To apply or request more information about the Doctor of Ministry at Drew, please visit our website: www.drew.edu/theo/dmin. We would be glad to speak with you about the application or to schedule a visit at 973-408-3111 or theoadm@drew.edu.

→ Rekindling the Flame of the Laity Conference

June 30 - July 3, 2011 Lake Junaluska Assembly, North Carolina

This laity conference will provide an opportunity to experience Jesus Christ and to grow in the Christian Faith and relationship through great preaching, Bible study, inspiring singing, special music, and Christian fellowship as families.

This family experience will focus on the theme of "Christ's Mission and Ours." Adults, college students, youth and children will join together for this weekend of inspiration, information and fellowship!

Download and print the [Rekindling the Flame](#) brochure (PDF).

→ 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.



→ Help Wanted

Cork UMC - Plant City, FL is looking for an administrative assistant to work with the Pastor. Part-time 12-15 hours per week. Computer adept, word processing/typing, organization and people skills are required. This position requires integrity and confidentiality. Please contact Pastor Barry Bahr at 813-967-1410.

→ District Calendar of Events

March 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17: St. Patrick's Day
March 20: First day of spring
March 31: Child/Youth Protection Policy adoption reporting due
March 31: Fiscal Responsibility and management policy reporting due
March 31: Sexual Harassment Policy reporting due
March 31: Disaster Recovery reporting due

April 1: Reoccurring Monthly Reports
April 15: Pastor I-9 form due into the district office
April 17: Palm Sunday
April 22: Good Friday
April 22: Earth Day
April 24: Easter
April 27: Administrative Professionals Day

[2011 Conference Calendar of Reports Due](#)