

# SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



## In This Issue

Joys and Prayers

District Happenings

Training & Events

Ministry Resources

Other Important News

Fall Events

Classifides

As we move through this season of Charge Conferences and as we were recently hosted Dr. Jeff Stiggins and Dr. Joe MacLaren leading our Missional Vital Signs training event, there is an increasing sense of urgency about 'reporting' goals! Following a year of prayer and discernment, each congregation throughout the Connection should be ready to begin the reporting process.

Goals are critical to set and toward which to strive, yet they are never intended to be determined in a vacuum. The goals-setting process is intended to reinvigorate local churches and by so doing, reinvigorate The United Methodist Church. We were reminded in our recent training event, each congregation should set measurable goals that will enable them to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world in ways that will embrace the Four Areas of Focus within our denomination.

Please review the article below as it describes one local congregation's aspirations to 'become' transforming disciples of Christ. I pray that you will remain encouraged in your congregation's journey.

Rev. Dr. Sharon G. Austin  
District Superintendent



Enjoy this new 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](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

Romans 12 Newsletter  
Issue #103  
September 23, 2011

Engaging Lay Leadership

At Oregon City United Methodist Church lay people lead in a plethora of ways--organizing community gardens, regularly sharing their faith stories in worship, leading faith forming small groups, supporting Latin American women in poverty through fair trade ministries, hosting homeless families, and much more. The organization of the church facilitates this ever expanding circle of lay leadership by supporting new and existing ministries that engage people at the intersection of their passions, skills, and calling.

The church has five teams--radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith formation, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Anyone from the faith community can propose a ministry related to these five areas of Christian discipleship. A fundamental role of the teams' leaders is to help people launching new endeavors or taking on new leadership roles succeed. This support frees and inspires more laity to lead. The commitment to shared leadership helps to avoid isolation and burn-out. As one member reflected, "When you are new to a ministry or want to start a ministry, people welcome you. They get jazzed with you and cheer you on. It is very encouraging. People step up and pull together to get behind the efforts."

The commitment to engage more people in spiritual leadership is facilitated by other measures as well. Committees have been streamlined so that people spend less time in meetings and more time in frontline ministry and involvement. The church has used the services of a leadership coach with professional expertise in helping leaders and ministry teams grow more effective. The coaching has included the use of gifts assessment and appreciation tools as well as helping leaders to develop new approaches when dealing with difficult situations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Some Questions for Discussion

- How does your congregation help people discover where their passions, skills, and callings intersect? How do you support them in acting on these discoveries?
- How does your congregation equip leaders to be coaches who develop new leaders? Are there people in the congregation or community who have expertise in organizational coaching that might be helpful to your core leadership team?

\*\*\*\*\*

Kevin Witt is the Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries at the GBOD. He can be reached at [kwitt@gbod.org](mailto:kwitt@gbod.org). You can read more about Oregon City UMC at <http://www.oregoncityumc.com>. Romans 12 is a project of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church to communicate effective principles and practices demonstrated by congregations that are actively making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

These congregations are marked by:

- Clarity around the mission and vision of the congregation.
- Practice of spiritual disciplines, both corporately and individually.
- Nurture of growth in discipleship through mutual support and accountability.
- Cultivation of intentional and mutual relationships with the most vulnerable--the poor, children, the imprisoned, the powerless.
- Consistent concern for inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ, combined with wise practices for initiating them into the Body of Christ.

- Connectional relationships that facilitate participation in God's mission of global transformation.

- Shared clergy and lay leadership.

\*\*\*\*\*

Romans 12 Newsletter. Issue #103. © 2011 GBOD. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to copy this newsletter for use in United Methodist congregations. This newsletter is provided as a service of the General Board of Discipleship and is funded through World Service apportionment giving by local United Methodist congregations.

GBOD | The United Methodist Church

[www.GBOD.org](http://www.GBOD.org)

Toll-free: (877) 899-2780

Equipping World-Changing Disciples

## JOYS AND PRAYERS

Our prayers are with Pastor Sue Garcia of Lena Vista UMC for the death of her Mother. Please keep Pastor Sue and her family in your prayers. You may contact Pastor Sue at [sue.garcia@flumc.org](mailto:sue.garcia@flumc.org)

\*\*\*\*\*



Congratulations to Pastor Corey and Carol Jones on the birth of their son. Gavin Michel came into the world on 9/16 at 11:17 a.m. He weighed 6 lbs 2 oz and was 19 inches long. You may contact Pastor Corey at [corey.jones@flumc.org](mailto:corey.jones@flumc.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Prayers are requested for Aaron Wallis, son of Rev. Matt Wallis of Grace Community UMC at Fish Hawk for healing after recent surgery. You may contact Pastor Matt at [matt.wallis@flumc.org](mailto:matt.wallis@flumc.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Prayers are requested for the Mother Pastor John Price of Trilby UMC & Blanton UMC.

\*\*\*\*\*

Prayers are requested for the Father of Rev. Vicki Walter of Hyde Park UMC.

## DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

### Welcome New Clergy to the District

We would like to welcome four new clergy to the district:

Pastor Thomas Hanna - Highlands UMC

Pastor John Price - Trilby UMC and Blanton UMC

Pastor Hank Galloway (Ret. Interim)- Manhattan UMC

Pastor Norm Coffman (Ret. Interim) - Oak Grove UMC

Pastor Curtiss Cain - Alturas UMC

## October is Clergy Appreciation Month

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Please don't forget that **October is Pastor Appreciation Month** and again I appeal to each of you to work with your SPRC team and Lay Leader to arrange some type of recognition for your Pastor or Pastors.

I know that many of you have this marked on your calendars and have/are already planning ways to show just how much your congregation appreciates the pastoral leadership. For those congregations with new Pastors, I strongly encourage you to use this opportunity to expand the bonds of love and friendship to your newly appointed Pastor.

Small congregations and those churches struggling to meet financial obligations need not feel left out. Monetary appreciation is not always the best way to show appreciation. Baby sitting or house cleaning are just two ways that a servant congregation can honor your shepherd. Remember a covered dish dinner, always a stalwart for the United Methodist, can produce a closeness of family that may just be what is needed in a congregation. Cards of appreciation are another way of expressing gratitude.

I know that each of you will work diligently with your congregation to make this a most memorable time for your Pastor and his/her family. I look forward to feed back as to what your church did for their Pastor or Pastors. You can reach me at

[jmreever@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jmreever@tampabay.rr.com).

Yours in Christ,

**John Reever**

District Lay Leader - South Central District



**SC DISTRICT FALL CLERGY MEETING**  
*REQUIRED EVENT*

Wednesday 10/26/2011  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
First UMC Plant City  
202 W. Evers Street  
Plant City, FL 33563

**To register please click here**  
**Registration closes Sunday, 10/23**

*Should you not be able to attend, please send your regrets to the D.S. via email at [flumc-sc@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-sc@flumc.org)*

Charge Conference Forms are Online!











