



## South Central District

# September 2010 Newsletter

## Fall SC District Clergy Gathering with Bishop Whitaker!

**Tuesday, Sept. 28**  
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**First UMC Plant City**  
303 N. Evers Street  
Plant City FL, 33563  
Wesley Center Building

Please make every effort to attend our district meeting with Bishop Whitaker. Attendance is expected. Please send regrets only to Laurie at [flumc-sc@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-sc@flumc.org)

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Dear South Central,

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. *Isaiah 11:6, NIV*

iPods, headphones, lap tops, cell phones, text messages and short, shorts and tee shirts, collectively spell young people in the house! Multiply the youth and gadgets times three hundred, add bibles, jumping and praising the Lord with the use of translation equipment and you will have a good idea of the balcony view of the 2010 Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC-LA) in Berlin, Germany. The GYPC-LA is a quadrennial event sponsored by the Division of Ministry with Young People (DMYP), a division of the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) of The United Methodist Church. Lest you think that I just happened to wander through a Berlin neighborhood and came upon this gathering, please know that I am privileged to serve as a Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) representative to GBOD. DMYP is one of my work areas.

I don't mind sharing with you that two years ago, I thought that my appointment to DMYP was a clerical error, which when discovered would result in my reappointment to an area more suited to my age (i.e., Division of Ministry with Old Folks). The wisdom of having adult workers offer support to the DMYP soon became apparent. At times, the personal needs and drama felt very much like being at home with my kids!

However, I was elated at the maturity, wisdom, spirituality and skill of young people in our global church. Our own Molly McEntire (daughter of Pastor and Mrs. David and Nancy McEntire, First, Lakeland) was one such young adult in attendance. The work of the young people consisted of reading, discerning, praying, developing and voting on legislation as they and we prepare for General Conference in 2012. Yet, as they read legislation on laptops from early mornings to late nights, used translation equipment, and ate what for many might be unusual foods, they did so with unusual respect and grace. Worship in area Methodist churches, humbling

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### Quick Links



Welcome our new  
 Business  
 Administrator!

**Laurie Hofts**

She will begin mid-September and we are excited to have her joining the SC

standing on the grounds of former concentration camps, and visiting historic sites, served to contextualize our ministry work.

The regard that youth and young people have for the mission of the church, fervent expressions of faith, passionate expressions of the mission of the church and knowledge of The Book of Discipline, 2008, appeared to belie their tender years. They were open to new ideas in the midst of long held values, willing to embrace diversity of people and cultures, and concerned about offending one another, while speaking the truth about ideas. I was impressed that some of these tenets were included in the Covenant Guidelines that adults and youth alike were required to sign as a condition of participation. My return to the U.S. and the challenges of our churches leads me to increasingly appreciate the faith perspectives and ministry contributions of our youth and young adults. While they feel strongly and deeply about ideas and opinions they 'get over themselves' because they seem to feel strongest about their faith! I believe that we can and should learn much from our young members. Some of our congregations seem to believe that youth and adult ministries are 'optional' or 'trophy' ministries, which can give a church a certain Sunday morning look on the pew but are not legitimate discipleship and missional opportunities. Some of our congregations are appreciative of the fresh dialogue occurring in their midst as they attempt to reach beyond the generational boundaries and engage and learn from the young among them and those beyond their churches. In the heaviness, pettiness and resulting decline of some other congregations this willingness is slow to occur (if at all).

Opportunities such as GYPC-LA 2010 and the ongoing work of DMYP should remind all of us, that we can ill-afford to consider youth and young adults as luxury of the church. The Church is blessed in every age with a new generation of faithful, insightful, capable leaders. We, who are now 'of an age' once comprised that new, young generation of leaders of whom our elders may have had doubts. Now, the legacy passed to us yesterday demands a hand off! Our young people are not only the leaders for the church of tomorrow, but rather essential leaders for the church of today!

### Prayer Concerns:

Please be in prayer for the health concerns of the daughter of Dennis Roebuck, Pastor, First, Thonotosassa.

Continue to be in prayer for the health concerns of the daughter of SC District retired Administrative Assistant, Romaine Haas.

First UMC of Seffner, Adullam Worship Center and Un Ministerio Sanador are responding to a call from God to "intentionally" bring a new generation (ages 13 - 30) into the Body of Christ with a unique worship experience: **Intention**.

Beginning August 29 at 6:30 p.m., the churches will unite for

## District Staff.

### New Website for Ministries with Young People!

[www.flumc-mwyp.org](http://www.flumc-mwyp.org)

The new site contains a ton of helpful information. Bookmark it and visit often. We will work very hard to keep it current and relevant.



worship that will draw worshippers into a deeper place, igniting spiritual revolution as they celebrate their cultural diversity. This worship is intended solely for the glory of God and to intentionally lead people to professions of faith and spirit filled worship. Music, message, and prayer will be available in three languages. Worship will be followed by free food and fellowship. Please add Intention to your prayer list and perhaps even bring your youth or young adult group to join us as we follow this movement of God. Building Location: 1310 Kingsway Rd S., Seffner, FL 33584.

### → Charge Conference forms are now online!

Please download and pay close attention to the SC District specific forms and note new Charge Conference format.



Churches with new pastoral appointments have already been scheduled, along with any others that the DS would prefer to lead. We are still waiting to hear from many of our pastors regarding the date, Cluster group and presiding elder for your Charge Conference. The deadline for submitting this information to [flumc-sc@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-sc@flumc.org) is September 15th. Please be reminded to complete the three required October reports, and the recurring September and November reports. Do not allow Charge Conference to become an excuse for failing to complete other required reports in a timely fashion

[\[Click Here\]](#) for Calendar of Reports Due

### → Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits Freezes Health Insurance Premiums Again for 2011

The Health Insurance Subcommittee of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) recommended there be no increase to health insurance premiums in 2011. This is the second consecutive year there will be NO PREMIUM INCREASE for actively working clergy, local churches, laity at local churches and Conference staff. The blended rate that local churches pay for their pastor to be enrolled in the health insurance program remains at \$839 per month. Clergy contributions also remain unchanged at \$96 per month for a single person and \$236 per month for two or more covered individuals. The benefit plan also remains unchanged with deductibles and copays remaining the same into 2011. Retirees over age 65 and eligible for Medicare will also have NO INCREASE in their premiums in 2011. This is the third consecutive year that retirees have not had a premium increase.

The CBOPHB made the decision to self-fund the health insurance program in 2008 and since that time premiums have stabilized. This is very good news given several external sources that track trends in health care are reporting that most employers will see premium increases of approximately 7 to 11

percent for 2011. In addition, many employers report having to increase member cost-sharing by raising deductibles and copayments to keep the premium increase to less than 10 percent. [[Read More...](#)]

## → 2010 Small Church Retreat

Saturday, September 25, 2010, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Small Church, Big Ministries! Member of a small church? Need to be re-charged? Then this is the place for you!

Join leaders and other members of small churches at the Life Enrichment Center Friday, September 24 - Saturday, September 25 as we gather to worship with, encourage and fellowship with one another. [[Register Here](#)]

Small Church Retreat



## → A Day of Food, Fun, and Fellowship for Plant City Area Residents

Saturday, September 25, 2010, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

FESTIVAL OF JOY! Presented By the SUNSET HEIGHTS WORSHIP AND MINISTRY CENTER  
A Campus of Trinity UMC, 416 Walter Drive, Plant City, FL 33563

Huge Yard Sale :: Free Food and Drinks :: Free Haircuts and Health Screenings :: Free Car Wash :: Musical Entertainment :: Information on GED, ESOL, Music Classes :: Spiritual Counseling/Prayer.

And for the Kids....Clowns, Face Painting, Balloons, Games.

## → 1-day Event for Youth Workers

Monday, September 20, 2010 from 9am to 5pm  
Warren W. Willis Camp in Fruitland Park, FL

**What is Rooted??** It's a one-day event designed to help new youth workers get connected and start off in a positive direction. Who should come? Brand new youth workers and those who have made a recent move to a new church. [[Click Here](#)] for flyer.

Cost: \$20.00. The camp has available lodging if you need to come up on Sunday night or stay over on Monday night. \*Registration fee with one night of lodging included is \$35.00.

Please register for this event online at: <http://www.flumc2.org/registrations/register/20>. Registration fees should be mailed to: Rooted/Heidi Leab, 450 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815.

Questions?? Call Dave Sippel: Conference Director of Ministries with Young People: (800) 282-8011 ext. 142, email: [dsippel@flumc.org](mailto:dsippel@flumc.org).



## → Fall and Spring Confirmation Retreats

**Fall Retreat: October 1-3, 2010**

**Spring Retreats: February 25-27, 2011; March 18-20, 2011; and April 1-3, 2011**

Warren W. Willis Camp in Fruitland Park, FL

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.

The Fall Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for October 1-3, 2010. In the spring you will have three confirmation retreats to choose from. The spring retreats are scheduled on the following weekends: Retreat #1 - February 25-27, 2011; Retreat #2 - March 18-20, 2011; and Retreat #3 - April 1-3, 2011. Church groups are invited to come for the entire weekend, or leave on Saturday night to be back in their home church on Sunday morning.

Pricing, promotional video, registration information, and a sample schedule of the retreat are available online at [www.warrenwilliscamp.org](http://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, please contact Joel Pancoast at [joel.pancoast@warrenwilliscamp.org](mailto:joel.pancoast@warrenwilliscamp.org) or call him at the camp office at 352-787-4345.

## → Crosstrainers 2010 - The Last Crosstrainers Ever!

**November 12-14, 2010 - Warren W. Willis Camp in Fruitland Park, FL**

**Cost: \$100 per person (one free registration for every 15 paid)**

Crosstrainers has been a great youth group fall retreat opportunity at the Warren Willis United Methodist Camp for over 15 years. This year we are blowing it up, to have a massive celebration and send off celebrating the ministry and fun that has been Crosstrainers. If you have ever taken your group to Crosstrainers, or ever thought about going, this is the year to jump on board and sign up your youth group. We hope to make this weekend at camp one of the best retreats you have ever taken your group to.

Your group will be lead in worship by our Camp Band and Rev Wes Olds from Grace Church Cape Coral & North Fort Meyers. The band Lost and Found will be playing a show on Saturday night of the retreat. We will have the most epic competition ever played on camp property on Saturday afternoon. As always, there will be a variety of games, activities, and hang out time for your group to enjoy during the weekend.

Bring your middle school and high school youth group and have a chance for spiritual renewal, amazing fun, and a time to develop friendships within your group and with other groups from around our conference. Please check out our [\[website\]](#) for more information, a promo video, and a registration form.

At this event, we will be unveiling the next generation of fall retreat coming in November 2011!!

## → EntreLeadership Seminar Simulcast

# SIMULCAST

EXPERIENCE ENTRELEADERSHIP 1-DAY NEAR YOU

We help companies and people every day solve simple and complex questions about running and operating their businesses.



Friday November 5, 2010 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
First United Methodist Church of Brandon

Want to understand business and leadership based on biblical principles?

EntreLeadership is for you. This one-day seminar conducted by Dale Carnegie Leadership recipient, Dave Ramsey, will open the window to the leadership practices that has made his LAMPO Group the Nashville Journal's Best Place to work each of the past four years.

As the exclusive Tampa SIMULCAST site, South Central District members have a unique opportunity to hear this "one of a kind" seminar that will provide information to help your organization, whether profit or non-profit, reach the next level.

You will learn the keys to successful marketing, administration, accounting, management, team building-and even unique life lessons that have directly impacted how Dave operates each day. Not only will it allow you to reach your business and leadership goals, but it has the potential to transform your business into a place where people LOVE to work!

This event will be broadcast out of Orlando where the cost of the LIVE seminar of \$99. By attending by SIMULCAST you can receive a special price of \$35. Call First United Methodist Church-Brandon at 813-689-4161 to register and receive a 10% discount of the on-line SIMULCAST price or email Dave Schapiro at [hdeas@earthlink.net](mailto:hdeas@earthlink.net).

→ "Church" is a verb! Vital, Energized, Resourced, Body of Christ

Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 8:00 am to 12 noon  
Asbury UMC in Bartow

The South Polk Cluster (First-Bartow, First-Lake Wales, Mulberry, Alturas, Asbury, Highland City) is sponsoring a training day. We invite anyone who is interested to participate. The event "Church" is a verb! Vital, Energized, Resourced, Body of Christ. Energized and Resourced by the Holy Spirit, each local church, as well as the church universal, is the continuing expression of Jesus Christ in the world today. Together we will explore; How to be an Energized Church and How the Holy Spirit has Resourced Us. To register, please call Asbury UMC church office at 863-533-2301.

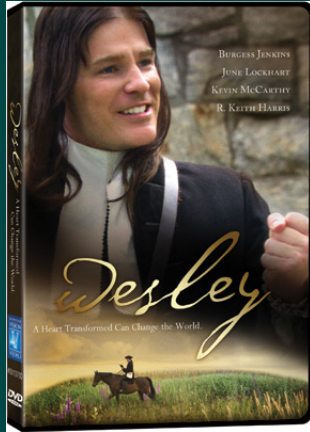
→ Clergy Day Apart 2010: November 15

Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland, Park  
Register Online Now!

Bishop Timothy Whitaker and the Clergy Excellence Team invite all active clergy to come and join us in a day focused on connecting with God and one another. The day will include worship, breakout

sessions, Q&A with the Bishop, lunch and unstructured free time. Check-in and refreshments will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the event will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with lunch available at the Life Enrichment Center or off-site. Please contact Rev. Emily Oliver with questions at [emily.oliver@flumc.org](mailto:emily.oliver@flumc.org). Registration [\[Click Here\]](#).

## → WESLEY film now available on DVD



The award-winning feature film WESLEY, based on the private journals of John Wesley, is now available on home DVD from Vision Video!

Brief Description: John Wesley is well known as the spiritual father of Methodism. His heartfelt struggles, his passion for authentic faith expressing itself through meaningful kingdom work, and his message of saving grace resonate with audiences of all ages.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER ONLINE](#)

## → 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](mailto:dsippel@flumc.org). See our flyer [\[Click Here\]](#).

## Classifieds

First UMC of Lutz has a Symphonic Golden Harp Organ to donate to a church. It is a light oak color with dimensions of 44" tall, 53" long, and 30" wide. They will deliver free of charge. Please contact Judy Chapman at 813-244-8274 for more information.