



## Atlantic Central District



### DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

March 2018

On Sunday, Feb. 25, Judy and I attended Covenant UMC in Port Orange for worship service. B. J. Foster is the pastor and she began the sermon with these words – “Jesus wept!”

The Parkland tragedy with 17 victims of gun violence, prompts us to ask - where do we begin. B. J. reminds us we begin with mourning and sadness. The text where it says Jesus wept happens when he is entering Jerusalem with the crowds hailing Him as the King. Then Luke says this:

*“If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time God’s coming to you.” (Luke: 19:41-44)*

Jesus weeps that God’s world, God’s city has turned from peace to violence (the cross). I think Jesus wept on Ash Wednesday when that school was attacked. We should weep as a church that needed to reach the shooter.

*“God forgive us when we fail to see those who need your love and grace. Father, help us to reach out and fulfill your mission to transform this world.”*

In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus laments for Jerusalem.

*Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ (Matthew 23:37-39)*

We need to weep, pray and long for a world that is loving not violent. In Luke’s Gospel Jesus then turns to action – He cleans the Temple. Jesus weeps and laments and then acts. I hope we all can take action. One way is to be a part of the Conference 5000 Letter Action Plan. [www.5000letters.com](http://www.5000letters.com)

Let me close with a Psalm I turn to in time of grief and sorrow:

*I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord watches over you- the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Ps. 121)*

Peace and love,  
Gary

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## **March Reports**

Thank you for getting your End of the Year Statistical Reports in! Now it is time to get those March Reports completed.

- Child/Youth Protection Policy adoption - review and renew annually
  - Fiscal Responsibility and Management Report - review and renew annually
  - Employee Conduct Policy Adoption - review and renew annually
  - Parsonage Report -review and renew annually
  - Disaster Recovery Quick Resource Survey - on your dashboard under "forms"
  - Fund balance Report for the Year Ended 2017
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**The District is still looking for more District at Large Lay Members to Annual Conference. If you have reported some names to me already - they are on the list! Please contact those who you think would like to be District at Large Lay Members and if they agree, please send their name and email to me. Thank you.**

Patti

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## **Easter Pilgrimage to Italy with Bishop Carter slated for April 2018**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
I am excited about our spiritual journey to Italy in 2018. As we visit the stunning cities of Venice, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Rome, we will be immersed in the rich**

**traditions of the Christian faith. We will learn more about the gospel of Mark in Venice and the legacy of Peter; we will read the dialogues of Catherine of Sienna and the meditations of Dante, and we will reflect on the renewing vision given to Francis of Assisi. In Rome, as we visit the Sistine Chapel, we will consider the legacies of the most recent Popes, especially John XXIII, Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis. And in each setting, we will be inspired by the world's great art and architecture. I hope you will join friends from across Florida on this Easter pilgrimage.**

The Peace of the Lord,  
Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

View more information [online](#) or in this [downloadable brochure](#).  
[Click here](#) for online registration.

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#### Upcoming Plus 50 webinars

April 13, 2018 - Beyond Retirement: How Retirees Make the Best Evangelists

June 1, 2018 - Beyond Dinners: Drive-Ins, and Dives: What Older-Adult Ministry Will Look Like in the 21st Century

August 3, 2018 - Beyond Legacy: Where the Third Act Meets the Life to Come

October 5, 2018 - Beyond Dementia Care: What Church Leaders Need to Know

December 7, 2018 - Beyond Grandparenting: How Grandparenting Supports Inter-Generational Ministry

## **Calendar 2018**

### **March**

5-8th - Appointive Cabinet in St. Augustine  
31st - March Reports Due (see article)

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