



## East Central District

*Wholeness for our Clergy, Congregations, and Communities*

# June 2017 Newsletter

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Dear Claudia,



"How should I pray?" was the question asked of Jesus by his disciples. And his answer?

*Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours forever. Amen.  
--Matthew 6:9-13  
New Revised Standard Version*

E. Stanley Jones described the effect of prayer on us like this:

*Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. Aligned to God's redemptive will,*

**UMW Trumpet Sound**



*anything, everything can happen in character, conduct, and creativeness. The whole person is heightened by that prayer contact. In that contact I find health for my body, illumination for my mind, and moral and spiritual reinforcement for my soul. 'Prayer is a time exposure to God,' so I expose myself to God for an hour and a half or two hours a day, asking less and less for things and more and more for Himself. For having Him, I have everything. He gives me what I need for character, conduct, and creativeness, so I'm rich with His riches, strong in His strength, pure in His purity, and able in His ability.*

An hour and a half to two hours a day? That's probably not happening for most of us. To set aside fifteen to twenty minutes a day for intentional communication with God would be a great start for many folks in our context. For many of us, claiming that quiet time is not an easy thing to do. And yet, it is essential.

Prayer makes a critical difference in our lives: because of the presence of the Spirit of God in our lives of which prayer reminds us; because of our need for "exposure to God," as Jones puts it; because through regular, intentional prayer we do receive a strong sense of God's leading, of God's direction, of God's purpose for our lives.

Prayer often is defined as "communicating with God," not a bad definition. However, when we pray regularly, when we do it in a heartfelt manner, when it becomes a part of our daily routine, when we look forward to it and put it in a place of priority, we find that we don't only communicate with God . . . we also commune with God. We become one with God in mind and spirit and purpose.

Prayer then becomes for us not just a time set aside; it becomes a way of life. It becomes a part of us that is interwoven with all that happens throughout our day. It becomes something that we realize we cannot live without.

Grace and Peace,



Bob Bushong  
District Superintendent  
East Central District

## *In the District*

### July Appointments



Below are the East Central District Appointment changes. Let me invite you to be intentional about welcoming and congratulating these pastors on their moves, new appointments and retirements!

#### **Appointments in the East Central District:**

East Central District - Michele Van Son  
 Broadway - Rodney Wallace  
 Christ, Sanford - Arch Fisher  
 First, Sanford - David and Meghan Killingsworth  
 Montverde - Nicole Logan  
 New Church Start (NCD) - Brian Johnson  
 Ocoee Oaks - Wade Arnold  
 Orange City - Janet Chilcote  
 Peace, Hunter's Creek (Associate) - Jim Berlau  
 Pine Ridge Fellowship - Josias Andujar  
 Reeves - Patti Thue  
 Sanlando - Jonathan Tarman  
 South Street, Winter Park (Associate) - Craig Blocher  
 Tomoka - Jose Carrion  
 Trinity, DeLand - Dale Golden  
 University Carillon, Oviedo (Associate) - Bobby Brooks

#### **EC Clergy receiving appointments out of the East Central District:**

David Carefoot - First, New Port Richey  
 Brian Carr - First, Port St. Lucie  
 Raphael Dessieu - Druid Hills, Ocala  
 Stephen Hartsfield - First, Plant City  
 Matt Kern - St. Paul's, Tallahassee (Associate)  
 Jacquie Leveron - East Naples, Naples  
 Eric McCrea - Bokeelia, Pine Island  
 Troy Ray - Lake Shore, Jacksonville  
 Ben Stilwell-Hernandez - First, Homestead

#### **Retirement:**

Wayne Stone

### East Central District Lay Leaders

#### **Thank You to Alice Williams!**

Alice has served as the Lay Leader of the East Central District since 2011 and is rotating off of that position at the end of the end of June. An active member of St. Luke's UMC, Alice has brought a deep level of commitment to her leadership work, both in her local church, in the district, and in the Florida Conference. Thank you, Alice, for your faithful service, and more than that, for being who you are!



#### **Kim and Melanie Lee New ECD Lay Leaders**



We are pleased to announce that Kim and Melanie Lee will become Co-Lay Leaders of the East Central District beginning July 1. Active members of



First UMC Orlando since the 1980s, Kim and Melanie have raised three remarkable children who are now grown, and recently have celebrated the birth of their first grandchild.

Kim has practiced law for many years and also worked as a national healthcare company senior executive. Melanie has held numerous positions emerging from her background in psychology and education, most recently teaching at Winter Park High School. Together the Lee's founded "Flourish in Place," an agency that helps senior adults and adults with disabilities flourish while leading dignified, independent lives in the comfort and safety of their own homes. Both Kim and Melanie are Certified Senior Care Managers and, on a personal level, have experienced caring for aging parents and a sibling who is intellectually disabled.

Melanie is a Certified Lay Servant in the UMC, and both Melanie and Kim have gained much satisfaction over the years from serving in a variety of leadership and servant roles in the life of their local church.

Grace and peace,  
Bob Bushong  
District Superintendent, East Central District

### **A Farewell Message from Alice Williams, District Lay Leader**



It was one of those perfect April Saturday mornings that we are blessed to have here in Florida. It wasn't too hot and certainly not too cold, perfect "top down" weather for a drive in the convertible. While driving through Winter Park soaking in the morning, and admittedly just kind of meandering since I wasn't under any pressure to be somewhere at a certain time, a young man drove up behind me on a motorcycle and proceeded to utter words that I will take with me to my grave, "Come on, sexy - giddy up!" At first I was embarrassed at the critique of my pokey driving. Then the absurdity of the moment struck me and I ended up howling with laughter. I was easily old enough to be his mother, possibly even his grandmother! And while I'm called many things, "sexy" is just not one of them. His comment was both an admonishment and compliment that motivated my driving and, quite honestly, made my day.

You know the more I've thought about it, I think God is saying the same thing to us, "Come on, Church, - giddy up!" "Come on, my beloved creation, quit basking in my love for you and get a move on to the work I've called you for!" "Take all that I've given you - my love, the gifts and talents I've bestowed on you, my unfailing presence with you, and share all these things with a world who aches to know what you know!"

The theme for Annual Conference this year is more than appropriate, "Revive Us Again!" I've been so blessed to have had the opportunity to serve as Lay Leader for the best district in the UMC (yes, I'm admittedly bias). I have learned so much from our clergy and laity, many of who have become dear friends. And I've had the privilege of working with three of the FLUMC's finest District Superintendents who have been amazing mentors and guides through the workings of the FLUMC. I've also witnessed firsthand the immense dedication and hours of work that our District Staff have selflessly given to the glory of God (you ladies are truly awesome!).

The membership of the East Central District has extended grace upon grace over the years to me as together we've tried to discern God's calling. Most of all, you've given of yourselves and shown love and support in ways that I could never have imagined. And I know you will do the

same for Melanie and Kim Lee as they step into this role with their unique and wonderful gifts and graces.

I pray God's richest blessings on each of you and look forward to seeing where God takes us next! I also pray you will continue to listen to God's calling in your own life and that you will follow that calling without hesitation. I can say from experience that doing so will lead to amazing "God moments" that will last a lifetime.

Grace and peace,  
-- Alice

## 2017 Annual Conference | June 8-10

*Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Orlando*



**175th Session of the Florida Annual Conference**  
**Thursday, June 8 - Saturday, June 10**  
**Gathering Events begin Wednesday, June 7**

Buena Vista Palace Hotel  
 1900 Buena Vista Drive; Orlando, FL 32830

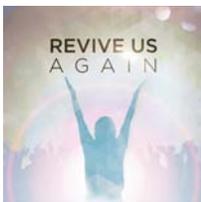
[Click HERE](#) for the AC2017 webpage.

**Volunteer Opportunities** - AC2017 provides many opportunities for folks from our local congregations to serve as volunteers helping provide radical hospitality throughout the event.

Sign up opportunities are available to volunteer at Guest Services and as Ushers at Daytime Plenary and Evening Worship Sessions. Please be aware that the majority of the Usher positions require standing for portions of the shift time.

[Click HERE](#) to sign up as a volunteer. Questions? Contact Heidi Leab [hleab@flumc.org](mailto:hleab@flumc.org) or 863-688-5563 x192.

## Fresh Expressions at Annual Conference



The Fresh Expressions Florida team will be hosting a number of events throughout Annual Conference. Anyone who is looking to learn more about Fresh Expressions, hear a story about an existing Fresh Expression, or would like to experience one are encouraged to join us. The schedule of events for the week is below.

**Pre-Conference Workshop** - Wednesday, June 7th 3:15pm at St. Luke's UMC  
 This is a great introduction to the Fresh Expressions initiative.

**Demo Fest** - Come by our booth in the exhibit hall! We will have local leaders from around the state giving short presentations during the main session breaks on their Fresh Expressions.

- Eat, Pray, Love with Heather Evans, Grace Church (Cape Coral) - Thursday 5pm
- Crock Pot Church with Carole Stevenson, First UMC Starke - Thursday 7pm
- Community Garden with Jan Etzel, Cornerstone UMC (Naples) - Friday 10:20am
- Kayaking with Jeff St. Clair, Mandarin UMC - Friday 5:00pm
- Let's Go! with Shari Lacey, Grace Church (Ft. Myers Shores) - Friday 5:00pm

**Experience a Fresh Expression**- There will be three opportunities throughout Annual Conference to participate in a Fresh Expression. This is a great chance to experience a Fresh Expression first hand.

- Yoga Chapel with Audrey Warren - Friday 11:45am
- Burritos & Bibles with Michael Beck & team, Wildwood UMC - Friday noon
- Pints & Parables with Dan Jackson - Friday 9:30pm

[Click HERE](#) to registration for the Pre-Conference Workshop and Experience a Fresh Expression events. Questions? Email [freshexpressions@flumc.org](mailto:freshexpressions@flumc.org).



## 4th Annual 5k Run | June 8

*6:30 am, Thursday, June 8, 2017; Windermere Town Hall*

The Florida Annual Conference 5K is running and walking in its fourth year! This is an opportunity to unite our clergy and lay members of the Annual Conference in an initiative to promote faith and fitness in a 3.1 mile fun run/walk in beautiful and historic downtown Windermere, Florida. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the 5K will go toward our Annual Conference's support of the **Cuban Pastor Pension Initiative**.



### PACKET PICK-UP & RACE INFO:

**Pre-Race Packet Pick-Up - Wednesday, June 7, from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC, 4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando, Florida**

### Race Day ~ Thursday, June 8

Windermere Town Hall ~ 520 Main St., Windermere, Florida 34786

5:30 a.m. - Packet Pick-Up & Registration

6:15 a.m. - Late Registration Ends

6:30 a.m. - 5K Start!

[Click here to register](#)

## News from Lay Servant Ministries

Dear friends, we pray this finds you doing well and basking in the love and grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you have already been trained in the Lay Servant Ministry, welcome. If this is new to you please accept this invitation to join this fellowship of "vineyard" workers.



This area of the Ministry of the Laity was previously known as the Lay Speaking Ministries and in January 2010, the Florida Conference took the lead to change the name from Lay Speaking to Lay Servant Ministries. There were a couple of other conferences who had made similar changes. At the General Conference in 2012, it was approved and the name change took effect the next year. There were other approved changes within this Ministry approved at General Conference 2016 (these will be explained in-depth in future articles), With this change this ministry opened its doors

wider to encompass many who shied away because of the original title. Opportunities abound for laity to learn where, when and how God is calling them to serve Him and each other and this name change placed renewed emphasis on the principle of Servant Leadership, which is what we are all called to do as Christians.

As Lay Servants, we are asked to serve the local church or charge, in any way in which our witness or leadership and service inspire us to a deeper commitment to Christ and towards more effective discipleship. What unique and remarkable opportunities exist for us to serve working alongside our pastors to help with the interpretation of scriptures, doctrine,

organization, and ministries of the church. Prior to 1948, Lay Speakers/Lay Servants were known as "Exhorters," a name which provides us the joy of encouraging, challenging, comforting and motivating each other as we serve in the vineyard working as Kingdom builders a.k.a Lay Servants.

Training events for this ministry in the East Central District, are usually held in Spring and Fall each year. **Fall 2017 sessions are Friday and Saturday, September 15 and 16 at First UMC- Kissimmee.** Look for more detailed information in the District newsletter and website and on the Florida Conference website.

This column is the result of your requests for a space to ask questions and learn more about the Lay Servant Ministry. We are excited about providing as much as we can to you. We would love to hear from you. Please contact: Jim Boesch at 407-721-0416 or email: [jimboesch68@gmail.com](mailto:jimboesch68@gmail.com); or Lynn Campbell at 407-520-0272 or email [lzdcamp1951@gmail.com](mailto:lzdcamp1951@gmail.com).

We live to serve!  
Lynn & Jim

## **Prelude: A Retreat for Incoming Freshmen**

*August 7, 2017 - UCF Wesley*

Do you have students coming to UCF in Orlando? Help us connect them to campus ministry! We are starting a new retreat for incoming freshmen to the Orlando-UCF area. It is a retreat for incoming freshmen that helps them develop a community before school starts. Please share this retreat with your youth! [Click HERE](#) to register.



## **The Global Leadership Summit (GLS)**

*August 10-11, 2017; Pine Ridge Fellowship, Deltona, FL*



The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day event telecast LIVE in HD from Willow's campus near Chicago every August to hundreds of locations in North America. You are invited to join an expected 305,000 people committed to getting better as leaders in 2017. Throughout the fall, Summit events take place at an additional 675+ sites in 128 countries and 60 languages. For more information, click [HERE](#). [Pine Ridge Fellowship](#) in Deltona is a host site. Questions? Contact

Yvonne at [Yvonne@prfchurch.org](mailto:Yvonne@prfchurch.org). **Register by June 28th for the Early Bird rate.** To register, [Click HERE](#).

## **Rock the Universe Christian Music Festival: September 8 & 9**



**Rock, Ride And Rejoice At Florida's Biggest Christian Music Festival**  
Friday, September 8: Chris Tomlin, Lecrae, Lauren Daigle, Kari Jobe

**Saturday, September 9:** Casting Crowns for King & Country, Thousand Foot Crutch, Andy Mineo

## Around the Conference

### LEC Family Programs

Want to help create meaningful experiences for your church's families this year? Want to encourage your parents to be more active in their kids' spiritual lives? Be sure they know about [LECFamily programs!](#)

[Grandparents and Me](#) - June 19-22, 2017 & July 10-13, 2017

[Family Camp](#) - July 7-9, 2017 & July 14-16, 2017

[Mom and Me Weekend](#) - September 15-17, 2017



Questions? Email Rev. Melissa Cooper [Melissa@lecfamily.org](mailto:Melissa@lecfamily.org).

### Warren W. Willis Retreats & Summer Camp



Check out Warren W. Willis for many opportunities to reflect and fellowship.

[Summer Camps](#) - June - August

[Connect 2017](#) - October 13-16, November 10-12

[Plan your own retreat!](#)

### Festival of Wisdom and Grace Conference

*August 7-10; Lake Junaluska*

This year's theme, *Forgiveness - Living in Grace*, will carry throughout the weekend of worship, workshops, professional training, and fellowship relating to the second half of life. Designed for individuals, couples, small groups or church leaders. Sponsored by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association of Older Adults, it is an experience of inspiration and renewal. [Click HERE](#) to register.

#### REGISTRATION, LODGING, AND MEALS QUESTIONS

[reservations@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:reservations@lakejunaluska.com)

800-222-4930

#### PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Tammy McDowell, Assistant Director of Programming

[tmcdowell@lakejunaluska.com](mailto:tmcdowell@lakejunaluska.com)

828-454-6681



### Rooted Youth, Children & Family Ministry Training Event

*September 18-19; Warren Willis Training Camp; Fruitland Park, FL*



Community. Training. Worship

September 18-19, 2017

Warren Willis Camp

Fruitland Park, FL

ROOTED  
Youth Worker Training Event

Training for children, youth and family ministry staff is critical to prevent burnout and promote strong, healthy ministries in the local church. At Rooted Conference, 100% provides two full days

of workshops, training, speakers and networking (not to mention food and lodging, too!) to equip your staff for the next level of ministry!

Cost: \$50 per person (includes meals and lodging) Scholarships are available to East Central District Church Workers. Contact Claudia Sava at [flumc-ec@flumc.org](mailto:flumc-ec@flumc.org). To Register, Click [HERE](#).

## District Calendar of Events

[Click Here for a Printable Calendar](#)

### June 2017

June 7: Pre-Annual Conference Workshops  
 June 8-10: Annual Conference - Buena Vista Palace Hotel & Spa, Orlando  
 June 15: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due May 25)  
 June 27: Moving Day for Clergy Moving

### July 2017

July 4: Independence Day - Conference and District Offices Closed  
 July 13-16: Mission U; Bethune-Cookman University; Daytona Beach  
 July 14-15: Candidacy Retreat, Lakeland

### August 2017

August 10-11: Global Leadership Summit - Pine Ridge Fellowship UMC, Deltona  
 August 17: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due July 27)  
 August 23: New Clergy Gathering - Asbury UMC, Maitland

### September 2017

September 4: Labor Day Holiday - Conference and District Offices Closed  
 September 7: Fall Clergy Meeting - Asbury UMC, Maitland  
 September 8-10: UMW Conference Spiritual Retreat; LEC, Fruitland Park  
 September 15 & 16: Lay Servant Weekend, First Kissimmee  
 September 21: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due Aug. 31)  
 September 23: "Mission Sampler;" Sanlando UMC, Longwood  
 September 26: District Leadership Team Meeting - 4:00pm - District Office  
 September 28: Local Church AA Training - Asbury UMC, Maitland

### October 2017

October 19: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due Sept. 28)  
 October 21: UMW District Annual Meeting - First UMC, Clermont  
 October 24-25: Clergy Gathering - LEC

### November 2017

November 4: UMW Conference Annual Meeting; Lakeland  
 November 10: Veterans Day Holiday - Conference and District Offices Closed  
 November 23 & 24: Thanksgiving Holiday - Conference and District Offices Closed

### December 2017

December 21: dCOM 9:00am-4:00pm Asbury UMC, Maitland (materials due Nov. 30)  
 December 25: Christmas Day - Conference and District Offices Closed

### 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

#### February 2018

February 3: Called to Serve - First UMC, Oviedo



East Central District, (407) 636-9240, Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9-4, Fri 9-2,  
2221 Lee Road, Suite 21, Winter Park, FL 32789

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