

Attendance:

Emily Kincaid – Wetumpka
Jackie Smith – Millbrook
Patric Newton – Prog. Dir Blue Lake
Cheryl Mothershed – Bay Minette
Ida Jean Martin – Bay Minette
Brandon - Park Memorial
Janet Neighbors – Church Street, Selma
Molly Cross _ Dalraida
Cindy Stafford – St. James
Patty Macready – Whitfield UMC
Paul Ferrell – Hartford
Ann Thames – Elizabeth Chapel
Tracy Bollinger – St. Luke, Enterprise
Janet Boston – Myrtle Grove, Pensacola
Leigh Ann Scarborough – Thomasville
Leigh Meekins – Conference Coord. for Ministries with Children

Galactic Blast – VBS curriculum – 20% off through Saturday (2/13) plus free shipping

Advocacy Week for Floridians

Children Min. Conference in Raleigh, NC (2/23-25)

Academy for Ministry with Children – (2/19-20)

Children Ministry mag.

Praying in Color & Let there be peace in the Classroom – books

3 simple rules for children – book

Created by God – 5th & 6th grade sexuality training on DVD and CD with power point

Took oldest couple of grades off site for VBS lessons – Janet Neighbors – keeps children involved

5th & 6th – Park Memorial – totally separate group from children, spend some time with Youth 6th, 7th and 8th together for SS- mentoring is very important

Children Ministry Council – quadrennial guidelines for what a council should do

5th & 6th grade officers during Music - to keep them interested and helps them take on responsibility

Blue Lake camp registration now open

Website new www.bluelakecamp.com

Summer Camp – need leadership deans (can shadow current deans to see what job entails) Are You Afraid of the Dark?

Family Camps in March and April – coincide with Spring Breaks

Winter Retreat 2011 - Feb 11th-13th (age 3rd-5th grade) stay at Dogwood and Pinewood

Children Ministry team – for Annual Conference

Highlight ministries for children at Annual Conference

Church that Works – pics of children doing ministries that work from any size church – pics due May 1st, include church website or phone#

Photo releases required for posted pics

Prayer Concerns:

Church Street church in Selma

Pat Cross – surgery on his arm

Ellie Stafford – peace & calm

Park Memorial – 10 year old son who was molested, meeting with Grand Jury

Ann's friend who was burned on Christmas Day – William

Jackie's daughter, Hunter, regarding school

Leigh's Dad (Ned) – teeth pulled yesterday – prayer for healing

Janet's church member (Josh) – Sr. who broke neck, regaining some feeling

Jim Bollinger – traveling mercies

Bishops and Cabinets for discernment with appointments

Traveling mercies for Directors traveling

Luann – taking new appointments

Frazer Staff and congregation

Worship – Janet Neighbors

**NEXT MEETING FOR CHILDREN'S DIRECTORS GATHERING:
MAY 11, 2010 AT MYRTLE GROVE UMC IN PENSACOLA FROM 10-3
If you need hotel info or housing for night before contact Janet Boston at Myrtle
Grove UMC.**

Safe Sanctuaries Training

- Began in 1996
- UMC is leading the way in Safe Sanctuary
- Need policy to help protect children, youth and vulnerable adults
- Protects them from bodily harm, emotional damage and spiritual destruction
- Can prevent most of it with procedures
- Children are birth -6th grade
- Youth are 7th -12th grade
- Vulnerable adults – mentally &/or physically disabled; those who volunteer under the assumption that the church is protecting them
- SS is a church policy, not just for children or youth

- At least 2 adults in each room
- Windows in the doors of classrooms or open doors
- No child ever left alone
- No child left with just one adult
- No authority person younger than 18 years of age
- Sign in /sign out procedures for children so you know that the right adult has the child
- Ration requirements based on state – begin with 2 adults
- 2 adults when transporting children or youth
- Understanding personal space boundaries and not invading the child's or youth's space
- Adults should not be sleeping in the room with children when traveling – if must sleep in same room do not share a bed with a child or youth (adults shower at different time than youth/children)
- 6 month rule for new attenders before becoming active with youth and children (team teaching)
- Pairing new volunteers with experience – get to know their gifts for ministry
- Check references for both volunteers and new hires employees
- Training what is abuse and how to report it
- Do background check on those who work with children, youth and vulnerable adults either as a volunteer or a hired capacity

- Backgrd checks are needed for those who are hired to work with children, youth or vulnerable adult. If these persons will be transporting children, they need a Motor Vehicle Registration check as well.
- Backgrd checks are needed for adults with children, youth and vulnerable adults.
- Allow us to know who is working with our protected groups.
- Backgrd checks are technically good for 5 years; AWF says only 2 years.
- Backgrd checks have to be done every 2 years or if a person has a change of physical address (predators move frequently)
- Affidavits of Backgrd check can be used from other places that hold your backgrd check if they are done every 2 years and up to date.
- Printed backgrd checks have to be kept under lock and key.
- AWF recommends Trak 1 for backgrd checks – they cost \$9. MVR check is \$14.50; AL state fee of \$7.95. Turn around is usually instantaneous., unless a common name.
- If you don't have a policy and procedure – church is liable.
- If you ignore a policy – church is even more liable.
- The more steps a predator has to go through the less likely they are to stay around. They want immediate access.
- Give insurance company a copy of SS policy. Applies to anyone who uses the facility with access to protected group. Other mtg can take place in another building or on a night when protected groups aren't present. To rent facility, people must meet set SS policy. Other people using our bldg need to meet our SS policy.
- Temper policy with grace and mercy.
- Looking for violent crimes and ones against children, and /or abuse.
- Policy needs to be reviewed & updated every 2 years.
- Can use conference version or create your own, make sure it meets conference guidelines, and needs to be approved by Trustees and Admin Council.
- Safe Sanctuaries, SS for youth, SS in Spanish, SS for everyone. – books available
- Keep sign in and sign out sheets for basically the duration of the statute of limitation time set by law.
- If an offender wants to attend church, church needs to assign an escort whose sole responsibility to escort them while on church property. They are not allowed where children or youth are at all.
- Video monitoring in nursery rooms? Some churches have it already implemented. There aren't any policies from Conf. regarding video taping in classrooms.