

BAYPINES DISTRICT NETWORK

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

MAY 2008

251-580-2021

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Getting Ready for Annual Conference

What: Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference

When: June 1-4, 2008

Where: Frazer Memorial UMC

6000 Atlanta Hwy., Montgomery, AL 36117

The Baypines District will have an Annual Conference orientation meeting May 17, 2008 at Atmore First UMC at 11:00 AM. A lot of information about Annual Conference has been distributed and is also readily available on Conference and District websites. The official page is www.awfumc.org/ac2008. If you have any questions please contact the District Office at (251) 580-2021.

The Brochure of Reports can be downloaded from the Conference and website, www.awfumc.org/ac2008. Having this as an electronic document enables you to enlarge the print if needed, do topic searches, and print selected pages.

This year's special offering will benefit the Ganta United Methodist Hospital in Liberia, Africa, for emergency program support. This builds on last year's Nothing-but-Nets offering and expands to include other diseases of poverty that are being addressed through Ganta. The goal is \$60,000, in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of The Advance for Christ and His Church. Ganta Hospital is a long-standing Advance project. Churches should collect donations toward the special offering in advance, make one check payable to the AWF Conference, mark it "AC 2008 Special Offering," and present it at the Annual Conference opening worship service. A bulletin insert is available at www.awfumc.org/ac2008.

Getting Ready for New Appointments

Reminders for Pastors with New Appointments:

(1) Complete a new compensation report form and send it to your District office as soon as you can.

(2) Complete a new UMPIP agreement if you want to participate in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan. Your agreement is established with the church you are serving, and your enrollment is NOT automatically transferred to your new appointment. Although the amount may remain the same as it was at your last appointment, since you have a new salary-paying unit the old agreement is no longer valid. The toll free Fiscal Office number is (888) 873-3127.

(3) Send your new contact information to your new District office as soon as possible. This is needed for the Conference database and communications. Please let us know your new home address, name of spouse, spouse e-mail address, home phone number, office phone number (if the church phone number changes), fax number, e-mail address, and (for the D.S.) cell phone number. Please let us know what your preferred mailing address is (home or office).

(4) Before you move, finish out administrative tasks that would help the continuation of ministry. For instance, consider leaving information for their coming pastor concerning visitation of shut-ins, and have membership and attendance records in proper order for the pastor to complete the quarterly membership report that is due July 11th.

A blue decorative box with a white border and a wavy top and bottom edge. Inside the box, the following text is centered:

PASTORS MEETING
THURSDAY
MAY 15, 2008
BAY MINETTE FIRST UMC
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM



FAQ From Church Leaders Regarding New Appointments

As the time approaches for new ministerial appointments, church leaders often have questions about compensation, parsonages, and moving guidelines. You might find the *Brochure of Reports* a helpful resource in these and other matters. The *Brochure* can be downloaded at the Conference website. Viewing it on your computer enables the user to do topic searches, enlarge the print if needed, and print selected portions. Below are sample topics which may interest and answer questions of local church leaders. Beside the topic is the page where the report may be found in the *Brochure*.

Page 106 . . . Pensions for Lay Employees
Page 123 . . . Parsonage Standards 2008
Page 129 . . . Safe Sanctuaries Policy (approved June 2007)
Page 149 . . . Conference-wide Insurance Program (PACT)
Page 155 . . . Recommended Minimum Salaries for 2009
Page 165 . . . Apportionment Formula and Allocations
Page 166 . . . Moving Guidelines and Expenses
Page 173 . . . Fiscal Year End

For pastors moving to a new local church appointment in June, the last day to preach at the church from which you are moving is June 15 and may be adjusted according to the needs and concerns worked out in consultation with the clergy persons, the churches, and approved by the District Superintendent. June 22 will be a transition Sunday and your church will need to have someone besides the outgoing pastor preach that day. Pastors' first Sunday at the new appointment will be June 29.

Concerning compensation, the current pastor is paid through June and the compensation period for the new pastor begins July 1st. Health insurance assessments and/or premiums, as well as any UMPIP payments, are to be deducted from the current pastor's compensation for the full month of June, with the receiving church beginning such payment in July.

Guidelines for clergy under appointment:

(1) Following notification of appointment change by the District Superintendent, the PPRC Chair should contact the minister to be appointed to communicate the church's policy in paying moving expenses and to discuss moving plans.

(2) The receiving church is responsible for the first \$3,000 of documented moving expenses and is encouraged to pay all documented expenses for the incoming ministerial family.

Local Church Office Checklist:

Be sure you have correct addresses for the Conference, Episcopal, and District offices.

The Fiscal Office, Office of Connectional Ministries, and Bishop's Office are located in Montgomery, Alabama; whereas the Baypines District Office is in Bay Minette, Alabama.

Conference Fiscal Office
100 Interstate Park Drive, Suite 106
Montgomery, AL 36109
Phone toll-free (888) 873-3127

Conference Office of Connectional Ministries
100 Interstate Park Drive, Suite 120
Montgomery, AL 36109
Phone toll-free (888) 873-3127

The Episcopal Office (Bishop Larry Goodpaster)
P.O. Box 11108
Montgomery, AL 36111
Phone (334) 277-1787

The Baypines District UMC Office
Post Office Box 1711
Bay Minette, AL 36502



Please send us your email address to bpdist@bellsouth.net so we can keep you up to date on all the district happenings and events.

***Conference Orientation
And
Pre-Registration
May 17th
11:00AM – 1:00PM
Atmore First UMC***

We are encouraging ALL Clergy and Lay Members to attend the Annual Conference orientation and pre-registration on May 17th at 11:00 AM at Atmore First United Methodist Church.

Those who pre-register will pick up their Brochure of Reports, nametag and registration card. (The registration card verifies contact information for the Journal listing.) This meeting also offers an opportunity to ask questions about Annual Conference.

Pre-registration does not complete the process of registration. At Annual Conference everyone will still need to verify attendance by checking-in at the registration area.



Methodist Men's Softball Tournament
The ASA Benefit Men's Slow Pitch Softball Tournament will take place May 31st at the Sports Complex in Daphne. For more information call Tony Caminiti at 251-928-8585.



GUIDELINES FOR THE ANNUAL LOCAL CHURCH HERITAGE AWARD

An annual award, "The Local Church Heritage Award," was established in 1988 to be given to the church most diligent in preserving its heritage during the year. The award to be given at the 2008 Annual Conference session is for the calendar year 2007. The first criterion is that the church celebrate a significant anniversary or other significant historical event in a special way during the year. Following is the list of six criteria a church should meet:

1. During 2007 the Church celebrated in a special way its anniversary, marked the graves of Methodist ministers in the church cemetery, was placed on a state or national historic register, or celebrated other significant historical events related to the church or general Methodism.
2. Church has a copy of the form "Historical Information on Churches" on file in the Conference Depository. If you do not have this form, contact the Archivist, Mary Ann Pickard (e-mail <archives@huntingdon.edu> or phone 334-833-4413) for a copy of this form.
3. Church has submitted the "Local Church Update" form for the calendar year 2007 to its annual Charge Conference. If your church did not receive this form, contact the Archivist, Mary Ann Pickard (e-mail: <archives@huntingdon.edu> or phone: 334-833-4413) to get one.
4. Church has an Historian and a Committee on Records. In small churches the Committee on Records may be a committee of one or two.
5. Church has a written or updated its church history, has submitted annual "Local Church Update" forms to its charge conferences, has written annual supplements to its church history, or has kept a scrapbook.
6. Church has a designated place for storing its archives and artifacts. Ideally this should be a room or large closet meeting archival standards that can be locked for security reasons. In some cases it may be necessary to find some other place in the community designated as an official depository where the records can be stored safely and be accessible.

Strategies for Growing the Middle Sized Churches

The Reverend Dr. Herb Sadler (Dothan District Superintendent) will lead the seminar "New Wineskins: Strategies for Growing the Middle Sized Church" May 20, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, at Highland Park United Methodist Church, 1619 South Park Avenue, Dothan, AL 36301. The cost is \$20 (includes a steak lunch). This continuing education event (1.0 CEU) is designed for United Methodist pastors and key leaders whose worship attendance is between 75 and 200. All are welcome. This event is open to other denominational leaders. Register by May 13 by contacting the Dothan District Office at (334) 792-4259 or umcdothan@graceba.net.



For Your Health: Fruit Drinks – Juice vs. Junk

Doctors are warning parents to check juice drink labels before purchasing them or giving them to children. Physicians say not

all fruity drinks are healthy. Parents can be misled if a beverage claims it is made with real "fruit juice" or "provides daily recommended amount of vitamin C." Some fruity beverages like fruit drinks, fruit cocktails and fruit punch can contain less than ten percent of real fruit juices. They are loaded with added sugars and artificial sweeteners. Many feel the daily recommended amount of vitamin C is far less than the amount truly needed for good health. Parents need to look at labels to see what percentage of juice-and not junk-their children will be drinking. Doctors say 100 percent pure juices provide the best nutrition.

Cranberry juice is an exception. It has many health benefits despite being less than 100 percent pure cranberry juice. A higher percentage of real cranberry juice would be too tart to drink, so it is combined with other juices or diluted. Stay away from drinks with added sugar, fructose or corn syrup.

Suggested drinks: orange, grapefruit, pineapple, prune, tomato and cranberry. These juices are not only healthy for children, they taste great too!

The above information is provided courtesy of the AWF Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama cares about your health and wellness. "For Your Health" is an informational series designed to provide you with specific ideas for ensuring you and your family enjoy a healthy and safe lifestyle.



United Methodists Score \$3.35 Million For Nothing But Nets

(UMCom) - The people of The United Methodist Church have raised more than \$3.35 million for the Nothing But Nets malaria prevention campaign since its launch in November 2006--enough to cover the cost of 335,000 nets. Every \$10 raised pays for the purchase and distribution of a long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito net to a child under the age of five in Africa--one of whom dies every 30 seconds from malaria.

"To think that we can, through a simple mosquito net, give every child in the world a chance to live the same long-sustained life that we anticipate for our own children, is a very exciting possibility. Even though we've had a wonderful period of success, we have just scratched the surface," said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Nothing But Nets spokesperson. "Our work will not be done until we have effectively removed the word "malaria" from our vocabulary. We can achieve that goal but we have to realize that there is yet a long way to go. We have to keep raising awareness and money however we can. It's wonderful to think that we have raised over \$18 million dollars with an average contribution of \$60 per person. We've done it \$10 at a time!"

Overall the campaign and its partner organizations have raised more than \$18 million. Because of the many different ways that United Methodists have contributed--through online giving, direct contributions to Nothing But Nets, contributions made through the Advance from local churches and annual conferences, and participation in fundraising activities--it is difficult to identify precisely how much of the total can be directly attributed to United Methodist giving.

Bishop Bickerton says, however, that it's the partnership that's more important than the total given by each organization. "Preventing malaria cannot be achieved by one agency alone, either United Methodist or secular. If we are interested in actually preventing malaria we must come to an understanding that it is only possible to do so through a comprehensive partnership with persons in all sectors of the world," he said.

One of the advantages to having the involvement of many partners is that it makes an integrated health approach possible. Children who receive insecticide-treated bed nets may at the same time also get polio and measles vaccinations, de-worming medication, and vitamin A to prevent blindness. For more information, visit www.NothingButNets.net.



Hospitality and Sunday School

(Diana L. Hynson) - Biblical hospitality involved an intricate "dance" between guest and host, in which both observed, even tested, each other to ensure that each fulfilled his role with integrity. In a desert context, the extension of hospitality was a matter of life or death. An unobservant or insulting host might seal his fate when expecting the hospitality of others. Likewise, the guest who offended or usurped the role of his host might find himself denied shelter in the future.

We may breathe a sigh of relief that we are not in such a trying context and thus relax our vigilance. Yet, how many times have we heard the lament, "I visited at First Church, and no one spoke to me. I couldn't find my way around, and I was just left to figure it out" We may not want anyone to make a fuss, but we do want to feel welcome and included.

Perhaps hospitality in our classes and worship is still a matter of life and death. We recall the often-expressed adage that any church or class is one generation away from extinction. The United Methodist Church has lost millions of members in the last few decades, even though our spending has been in the billions of dollars. Still, we want to share the faith of Jesus Christ and to welcome everyone to experience the grace and love of God that we find so life-giving. We are reminded of Matthew 10:40—"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me [Jesus], and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." So, how can we ensure that our Sunday schools, which are populated by well over one million people each week, are places of exquisite hospitality? What will make visitors feel so welcome that they can't help but return?

Think about these questions:

1. Are guests and visitors welcomed as you would welcome Jesus?
2. Is care taken to include persons without prejudice who look, dress, speak, and

think differently than the majority? Are classes open and welcoming to persons from different cultural or racial groups?

3. Does each class practice the means of grace in age-appropriate ways? Do visitors understand that they are prayed for and cared about?
4. Do you use the Bible each week in some way?
5. Is the content of the class both enriching and edifying spiritually? Is it challenging enough to help people grow? Is it worth experiencing?
6. Are the expectations and standards in content, leadership, and preparation so clear that class members recognize they are a part of an experience that is intentional and committed to excellence (or are members just hanging out together)?
7. Do all participants have an opportunity to share their gifts? Do other group members want to know what those gifts are?
8. Do group members and leaders exhibit a contagious gladness and excitement about being there?
9. Are group members encouraged in growth toward spiritual leadership? To take action based on their classroom experience and learning?
10. Is the conversation welcoming to visitors and to newcomers to the church or to the faith? Are last names used, church lingo explained, contexts provided to bring new folks up to speed?
11. Is the leadership aware of the group dynamics so that everyone has a chance to participate? Do group members listen to one another and observe courtesies?
12. Do all current members extend words and actions of welcome so that no one assumes that welcoming is someone else's "job"?
13. Do class participants refrain from gossip or other off-putting behaviors so that the class is a safe place for new people?
14. Can visitors figure out what classes offer and which ones are appropriate for them?
15. Are classrooms accessible for all comers? Are signs or directions to those classes easy to find? Are the start and end times clear?

What might happen if you committed to your top five issues mentioned in this list and worked to see that those behaviors were so well ingrained that they became a part of the class "DNA"? *Diana L. Hynson is Director, Learning and Teaching Ministries at the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, TN.*

****Editor's Note, Hynson will be leading a workshop in the AWF Conference in September. Reprinted from the *NEWSCONNECTION*. ****

Baypines District Calendar

May

- 9** **Deadline to register at Huntington for housing during Annual Conference**
- 13-14** **Cabinet Meeting**
- 15** **Pastor's Meeting**
- Bay Minette First 11:00 AM**
- 17** **Annual Conference Orientation**
- Atmore First 11:00-1:00**
- 17** **Safe Sanctuaries General Information Event**
- Gulf Breeze UMC, Pensacola**
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**
- 20** **"New Wineskins: Strategies for Growing the Middle-Sized Church**
- Highland Park UMC, Dothan**
- 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**
- 23-26** **Celebrate Singles**
- Spanish Fort UMC**
- 5:30 PM**
- 30** **Lay Speaking Training**
- Dothan**
- 5:00 PM**
- 31** **UM Children's Home Charity Softball Tournament**

June

- 1** **Annual Conference**
- Frazer Memorial**
- Montgomery, AL**
- 2** **Spiritual Formation Luncheon**
- 12:00 Noon**
- Frazer Memorial UMC Room 6202**
- 3** **Clergy Spouse Gathering**
- 12:00-1:30**
- Frazer Memorial UMC Room 7207/7209**
- 16-19** **SE Jurisdictional Conference**
- Lake Junaluska**
- 19** **Leadership Council Meeting**
- District Office**

The
Baypines District
Network

The United Methodist Church
Baypines District Office

P.O. Box 1711
301 East 3rd Street
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Thursday
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