

"making disciples for the transformation of the world."

August 2011



MONTGOMERY ~ PRATTVILLE DISTRICT NEWS

“Going Forward and Moving in the Same Direction”

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Frank Howard the former football coach and athletic director of Clemson was asked if would fund the sport of rowing. He replied...“Absolutely not! I am not going to support a sport where everyone sits down and rows backwards!” No one gets very excited about sitting down and going backwards. We become excited when a purpose causes us to rise up and go forward! Our United Methodist Church has a mission to go forward...”Making discipleship of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Is it not a great time to place all our oars in the water and row forward? The United Methodist Church can live this mission by God’s power and our accountability to rise up and move into same direction of bearing fruit.

In seeking to live into this mission, what markers or benchmarks will help us stay on track? These indicators will help us measure our progress along the way. Otherwise our living the mission will become vague. Below are five benchmarks that hold us accountable to our covenant.

PROFESSIONS OF FAITH (when people are coming to know Jesus and be baptized obviously the church is on track)

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE (In the weekly gathering of God’s people, we know if the number of people is increasing and we are on track)

SMALL GROUPS (every church regardless of size can develop healthy small groups for discipleship, study, and fellowship)

MEMBERS IN MISSION (The number attending worship is one indicator and the number going out to serve is a strong indicator of a church on track)

MISSIONAL GIVING (Obviously, a church that gives 100 % and supports the overall mission is a strong indicator of moving in the right direction.)

As we sit down and plan for the next year, I would like to invite all our churches to envision how we can strive to grow in these five areas. Every church has a different context but all make strides toward fruitfulness. Let’s put our oars in the water and move toward this mission of “making disciples for the transformation of the world!”

Shalom,
Philip



District Prayer Needs

7/15/2011

Please be in prayer for David, our oldest son, who has had a heart attack some weeks ago and did not know what it was. He will be having a heart cath next Tuesday to determine best possible treatment. Sharon is having eye surgery next Wednesday and our Grand daughter is also having surgery next Wednesday. I am getting better after the heat stroke, just a few odd things that will get fixed with time.
 Rev. Richard Holmes,
 Cameron Chapel
 Charge



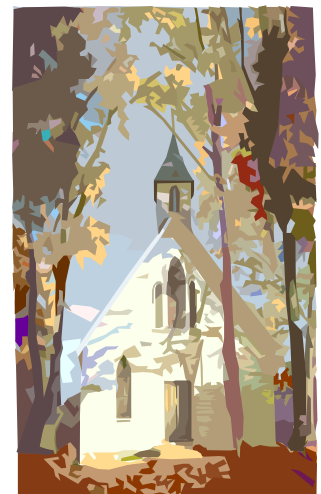
7/15/2011

We talked to our son, Jonathan, who was in CCU for almost two weeks from a bad fall. He is home now, but he is still having severe headaches EVERY DAY. Doctors say it may take 6 months to a year to get over it. He still struggles with a walker and is on oxygen 24/7. He is 9 years in remission from his chronic myeloid leukemia and we have 1 more year to go before we know if he is "cancer-free". He has had so many problems from the chemo he took, but he never complains. We would appreciate continued prayers on his behalf. It's hard for us to see him struggling so, but we know God is still in control, and He is the Great Physician.

Thanks to all the prayer warriors,
 Leonard and Carlyn
 Howell
 (Cox Chapel Charge)

7-7-2011

Rev. Jim Sasser, Elmore UMC, will be having another back surgery next Wednesday, July 13th, at Baptist South, Montgomery. He request your prayer for the medical staff, his wife Terri, and for fast healing for him.





Montgomery-Prattville District Lay Speaking Ministry Training

Courses Offered:

Basic Lay Speaking Course led by Peggy Duck and Gloria Murphy

Advanced Course: From Your Heart to Theirs – Delivering an Effective Sermon led by Dr. Chris Perry

Advanced Course: Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts led by Rev. Steve Kopp

Where: Dalraida United Methodist Church, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109

Schedule:

Friday, August 19

4:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Registration (Heavy snacks and pizza provided)

5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Welcome and Opening Worship

6:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. – Class time

Saturday, August 20

7:30 a.m. – Full Breakfast Provided

8:30 a.m. – Classes Begin

11:30 a.m. – Lunch Provided

12:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. – Class time

4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. – Consecration and Sending Forth

Cost: \$50 (includes books, snacks, breakfast, and lunch)

Register by: Friday, August 5, 2011. Fee is \$65 after this date if seats are available.

Mail this form and check to: David Bowen, 16-B Brantwood Drive, Montgomery, AL 36109.

Checks should be made payable to: Montgomery/Prattville Lay Speaking Ministries

Questions?: Contact David Bowen at 334-414-8012 or dbowenjnr@aol.com

Register for one of the following courses:

Please Print Legibly

<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course	My check is enclosed <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Delivering an Effective Sermon	Will pay at registration <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Gifts	

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Church _____ District _____

You must have the **Senior Minister** of your church sign this form if you are registering for the **Basic course**.

x _____

CLERGY MEETING FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE PREPARATION:

We will have a meeting at the District Office for those who missed the Picnic & Meeting last Thursday night at Mulder Memorial UMC to discuss some important information that will be helpful for your Fall and 2012 planning at your church.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 10th, in the District Office, 1749 Platt Place, Montgomery.

Please make your plans now to attend this meeting and receive your Charge Conference packets.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

Prattville UMC Annual Salad Supper is scheduled for Monday, September 26th, at 6:00 pm. All UMW members in the District are invited to attend this exciting event. Our wonderful cooks at Prattville First prepare an array of salads and desserts and we have the best fellowship around! Ms. Jan Love, Dean of Candler School of Theology, will be our guest speaker for the evening. She grew up in this annual conference while her father served as an elder so many of you probably already know her.

Please, let the UMW President of your unit know you are planning to attend so she can turn in a count to Prattville First – we want to prepare enough for everyone!!



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:

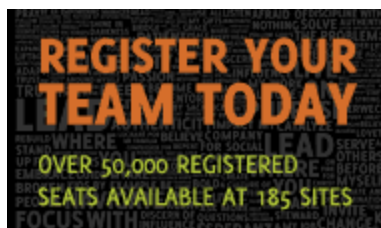
Thursday, August 11, 2011 - Friday, August 12, 2011, registration 8:00-9:00, sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. at St. James UMC, 9045 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery

Through the Global Leadership Summit, you will have access to a faculty line-up that brings incredible depth and breadth of talent, perspective, and insight. Gain practical, hands-on wisdom as some of the world's brightest leaders download their experiences and expertise.

Step up today and take responsibility for your own leadership development. Be a part of the growing global coalition of servant-oriented, fired-up men and women committed to becoming better leaders bringing redemption and restoration to our broken world.

Click [HERE](#) to register. Type in GLS2011SPO as the priority code.

Questions? Contact: Coordinator: Rev. Brad Goode at bgoode@sjlife.com



Becoming A More Inviting Church

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

Saturday, August 20, 2011 8:30 Registration 9:00am—2:30pm
Saint James UMC—www.sjlife.com
9045 Vaughn Road/Montgomery, Alabama 36535

“Becoming A More Inviting Church”

Got Questions?

During our time together we will help answer your questions.

Imagine... what would happen if more people understood that church isn't just a building but **people** on a mission to share love and hope. In

Jesus' final instructions to his friends, he said this, “a new command I give you: love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,

if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

There is probably no better measure of a person's connection to Jesus than seeing how that person loves, so we're reaching for more of God's love as we discover together.

If you want to discover how to become more inviting, come journey with us.

Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes lunch

FYII
 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (S) .5

Barbara Sadler our Keynote Speaker, offers insightful presentations with practical tips for becoming more inviting. Barbara has given presentations on hospitality at many leadership events around the country. She has coached Natural Church Development, a church health process, within our annual conference for the past 7 years and has recently joined Path 1 as an associate, helping annual conferences develop systems for planting new faith communities. Her passion is to help churches grow in health, number and faith.

Morning Workshop Topics

- **Practicing the Art of Invitational Worship**
Traditional- *Dr. Lawson Bryan*
Senior Pastor, FUMC, Montgomery
- **Welcoming the Children-** *Jennifer Aughtman, Director*
Children's Ministries, St. James UMC
- **Making Connections That Last; Stopping The Revolving Door** -*Barbara Sadler, Director*
Natural Church Development

Afternoon Workshop Topics

- **Practicing the Art of Invitational Worship**
Contemporary- *Allen Newton*
Senior Pastor, St. James UMC
- **Welcoming the Children-** *Jennifer Aughtman, Director*
Children's Ministries, St. James UMC
- **Making Connections That Last; Stopping The Revolving Door** -*Barbara Sadler, Director*
Natural Church Development

RSVP:

The Alabama-West Florida Conference Office
 of Congregational Development
 2600 W. Strong St., Pensacola, FL 32505
 (850) 430-4300 sgutting@mchsi.com
 OR
 RSVP on line @ www.awfumc.org

Soul Care:

A special retreat for clergy (Elders, deacons, local pastors, and provisional and associate members) and their spouses. Soul Care is designed to refresh, reconnect and renew participants:

·**Refresh.** The average pastor works 60 hours a week. Ministry is exhausting work! Soul Care gives participants the opportunity to renew bodies, minds, bodies and souls through rest and relaxation.

·**Reconnect.** Many pastors feel isolated and alone. Soul Care gives participants the opportunity to reconnect with God and other clergy through meditation and fellowship.

Renew. Do you remember the passion you felt for ministry when you first answered God's call? Soul Care gives participants the opportunity to renew the call through theological reflection and prayer. Soul Care begins Sunday, October 2 with a special celebration and cookout. Blue Lake is providing free accommodations to all participants Sunday night and First United Methodist Church, Brewton is providing dinner. It will be a night you will not want to miss!

Monday morning will be a time for rest, fellowship, and contemplation including options to ride motorcycles together, golf, play tennis, walk or bike around the trails of Blue Lake, visit the Solon Dixon Nature Center, enjoy the lake, hike to the streams, learn about stewardship or wellness or talk to one of the spiritual directors available to you during the Soul Care retreat.

The remainder of our retreat will consist of four (4) sessions with Dr. Roberta Bondi and plenty of time for fellowship, rest, worship, prayer, and reflection.

The cost for Soul Care is \$130 per person which includes the program and materials, accommodations at Oakwood (double occupancy) and all meals. If space becomes available, partial or non-resident fees will be determined. It is our hope that everyone would stay at Blue Lake and participate in the entire event.

Click **HERE** to register. Deadline to register is August 31.

Questions? Contact Pat Luna patluna@charter.net

Montgomery ~ Prattville Spouses
Blog Spot - Mrs. Karen McVay
<http://mpspouses.blogspot.com/>



We're on the web
www.themontgomerydistricts.com



Montgomery ~ Prattville District UMC
1749 Platt Place
Montgomery AL 36117

Phone: 334.239.7329

Email: mtptds@knology.net

Free Hymnals

FROM THE DOTHAN DISTRICT:

Mt. Carmel UMC recently purchased new hymnals and would like to donate the old ones (these are the older version of the hymnal). There are 16 blue and 12 red books. They are generally in fair condition. If your church can use these, please contact Tom Skeen at 334-596-4317