

BAYPINES DISTRICT NETWORK

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2008

251-580-2021

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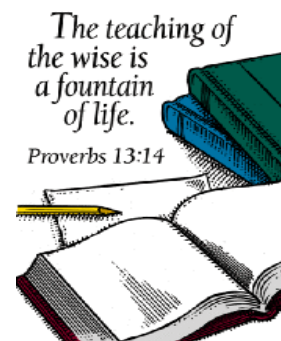
On November 18th we gathered at Atmore First United Methodist Church for our District Rally. Our hearts were lifted by the inspirational music of "Runner" from Daphne UMC and the Little Zion UMC Praise Team.

We were challenged by and invited into the ministry of our White Christmas offerings for our United Methodist Children's Home by Keron Kyzar. Materials are now available to our churches through the Conference and District Offices. Carolyn Jennings share with us the work of the Brewton branch of Alabama Rural Ministries (ARM) and what they are doing to help people who have fallen through the gap in terms of decent housing. We voted in an \$80,418.00 district budget for 2008 and a projected District Administrative budget of \$85,000.00; District Missions Fund of \$27,500; Congregational Development Fund of \$27,500 and USA Wesley Foundation Fund of \$27,500 for the year 2009.

We are grateful for the hard work that Rev. Jim Fillingim and the District Board of Trustees do to be fiscally responsible for our churches and our district. We elected Lay Officers and leaders for the District and presented the proposed Leadership Training events coming in January and February.

Our major emphasis at the rally was the Blue Lake Capitol Development campaign. Chaplain Marvin K. Vickers brought the message of the day and shared with us not only the stories of what Blue Lake has meant in the lives of so many of our youth, children and adults, but he

also talked about a new vision and a new Day for Blue Lake in expanded ministries to all God's people. Materials for our Blue Lake Campaign are being mailed this month. Our rally theme of "Opening Our Hearts to Reach Others" is in keeping with the hopes and dreams we are asked to share for Blue Lake in the coming months. We have an opportunity this coming year to remember and be grateful for the past by investing in the future in an exciting and promising way. A grateful heart to all who participated in our Rally. It was a good day for a New Beginning.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENTS

Sunday, January, 20, 2008
Brewton FUMC
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Sunday, January 27, 2008
Andalusia FUMC
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Saturday, February 9, 2008
Fairhope FUMC
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM



FROM THE DISTRICT DESK

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS ? “

“...she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins...”

Matthew 1:21(RSV)

“...for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...”

Luke 2:11(RSV)

The season of Advent 2007 has come upon us-the beginning of the Christian year. Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is purple. This is the color of penitence and fasting as well as the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and his grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching. The word **Advent** means coming or arrival. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the king in his Second Advent. Advent celebrates a truth about God- the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. Scripture readings reflect themes of accountability for faithfulness at his coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of

longing. We yearn for deliverance from the evils of this world. It is about a hope God brings to the world, the anticipation of king who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world. Such an expectation also anticipates a judgment on sin and a calling of the world to accountability before God- to come and set the world right. We celebrate with gladness the great promise in Advent. Also, we must accept the realization with an expectant promise comes a somber understanding of our own sin. We can not save, or deliver ourselves. Only a living God can bring salvation and deliverance. The season of Advent reminds us of the sovereignty of such a God. We remember the universal announcement of His coming and birth. Our journey as heirs to the promise, offsprings of Abraham is again recalled and celebrated. God's promises are true and eternal.

The two accounts of this divine moment are recorded for us in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Both accounts reference the proclamation of who will be born and what he has come to do. The remnant community has waited centuries for this moment. The consolation for the New Israel has arrived. Our celebration of this coming is depicted during Advent. The four Sundays of Advent represent HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, and JOY. These Sundays are geared to telling the story of redemption through God's grace in the incarnation. The incarnation of God's son is the heart of the season. From the Old Testament, we read of the prophecy proclaiming His coming. So, we again prepare to make room for Him in our hearts. **WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

HAVE A JOYOUS ADVENT, A BLESSED CHRISTMAS and a FAITHFUL NEW YEAR

Brother Outlaw





LAY SPEAKING WORKSHOPS 2008

January - Dothan
February - Pensacola
March - Montgomery-Opelika
April - Conference Retreat-Blue Lake
May - Dothan
June - Mobile
July - Baypines
August-Marianna-Panama City
September - Montgomery Prattville
October - Pensacola

The conference Lay Speaking courses will be at Blue Lake April 3-5, 2008, Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday ending at lunch. For more information, contact Peggy Duck at 251-964-5344.



Pictures of Historic Churches Needed

The Bishop Larry Goodpaster has asked the Commission on Archives and History to produce three minute video segments to be shown during the next Annual Conference. We would like to feature your historic church during this celebration of the Bicentennial of Methodism in Alabama. The deadline for receiving the required materials is January 15th, 2008. For complete details on what is needed call the District Office or contact Rev. Ed Shirley at reved59@yahoo.com or 334-682-4478.



You can be a part of this worthwhile cause by donating to the cost of the project, volunteering in-kind material, volunteering your time on the build days and including this project in your prayers.

The build will start on January 19, 2008 at 7:00 am and will continue each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:00 am until completed!

If you choose to donate to the build - send your check to the district office earmarked for the 2008 HFH Build.

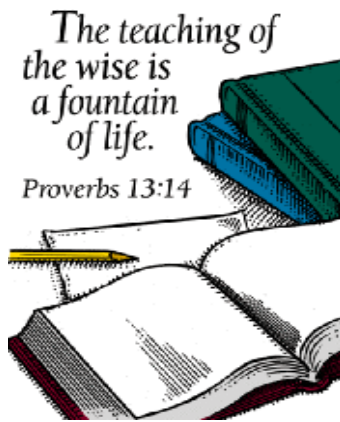
If you choose to donate in-kind material - please contact Bruce Lang at 228-217-3830. All materials and services are needed. Basic plumbing (excluding fixtures) and electrical materials (not installation) have been donated.

If you choose to volunteer your time and labor on build days - please contact your church representative - posters are displayed in each church with the team leader contact name and phone number or you can call the district office.

If you choose to pray about the project - you already know the number and the line is always open!

Don't wait for everyone else - become a part of this project and help a deserving family move into a decent, well built home! All church representatives should attend the final planning meeting at Loxley UMC on Thursday, January 10 at 6PM.





BAYPINES LEADERSHIP EVENTS (BLE)
“...for encouragement and development...”

Again this year our Baypines District will offer three (3) locations and dates for officer training and leadership development.

BLE SATURDAY/SUNDAYS:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| - Sunday, January 20, 2008
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Brewton FUMC |
| - Sunday, January 27, 2008
2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Andalusia FUMC |
| -Saturday, February 9, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Fairhope FUMC |

CLASSES:

1. Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

(And Administration and Structure of the Local Church – Brewton/Andalusia Sites)

2. “Reaching out to our community and our world”

We will provide a panel of people who are involved through their local churches in a wide variety of outreach experiences. They will share and invite you to share with each other ways in which we can bring Christ’s love to our world. We hope to continue to build a network of sharing and pooling resources so that every church, no matter how small can be involved in hands on ministries.

3. “Nurturing the promise that is within us”

This panel will share new ways to provide learning and growth experiences through small groups, long term studies, varied curriculum and hands on learning. We will try to provide ideas and resources for all age groups.

Pastors are especially encouraged to bring members from their church who are involved in missions, evangelism, inviting congregations, outreach ministries, Sunday school teachers, youth and children workers, small group leaders, council on ministries planners, and Ad/Min Board and Staff/Parish members. We will rotate our panels so that everyone will have an opportunity to participate in more than one presentation.



Hunger doesn't make an appointment. Prodissee Pantry is here to help. 8,600 families in Baldwin County facing tough times have received food in the four short years since The Pantry opened. That's over 23 thousand individuals. Prodissee Pantry is the largest emergency food provider in Baldwin County.

The Pantry is an integral part of the social service safety net in the County. We get referrals from a wide variety of agencies including but not limited to Ecumenical Ministries, Catholic Social Services, Goodwill Easter Seals, Food Stamps, Baldwin County Mental Health and local churches. Prodissee Pantry has discovered that governmental requirements and other agency constraints leave many families falling through the cracks... or having to wait weeks for services.

Prodissee Pantry has served 2,000 families so far this year. Baldwin County families facing financial hardships stemming from job losses, medical expenses, natural disasters and other crisis are provided with food and information from a caring listener about other programs that may help make their lives more stable. The Pantry opened November 18, 2003, as an outreach ministry of Spanish Fort United Methodist Church, and incorporated in 2005. Following Hurricane Katrina, The Pantry sent out more than 16,000 emergency food boxes and other relief supplies valued at \$20 million all along the Gulf Coast.

As a faith-based organization the goal of Prodissee Pantry and the desire of its volunteer staff is to ease the hunger pangs of those in need in Baldwin County. But The Pantry is more than food to families in crisis, our volunteers comfort, encourage and give hope. In addition, members of the local community are furnished an outlet for ministering to others. Our mission is simply based on the scripture, *"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* Matthew 25:35.

Providing food to single moms, unemployed and under-employed households, families in transition, homeless, retirees, and grandparents raising grandchildren, is always deemed an emergency. We offer our services each Tuesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at The Gathering Place in Prodissee Center at the corners of Highways 31 and 98 in Spanish Fort. We often receive calls for help that cannot be delayed until our regular operating hours, so a volunteer will box and arrange food delivery to help a family who is having trouble making ends meet.

Prodissee Pantry needs the support, interest and input of community leaders like you. This way we can continue to fulfill our mission of helping families help themselves recover from life's tough times without having to deal with hunger too! Please contact Deann Servos, Prodissee Pantry Director for information on how you and your church can contribute at (251) 626-1334 ext 124 or deann@spanishfortumc.org.



Prodissee Pantry Client Stats as of 11/06/07

Number of Families since 11/18/2003 **8,224***
Number of Individuals since 11/18/2003 **23,331***
October 2007

- 285 families totaling 795 individuals
- An average of 57 families per week

January 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007

Total Number of Families **2,081**
Total Number of Individuals **5,551**

- 2,025 were Children (0 to 18)
- 787 were Seniors (60 +)
- An average of 231 families per month
- An average of 50 to 60 families per week
- Racial breakdown
53% Black, 45% White, 2% Hispanic, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander

January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

Total Number of Families in 2006 **2,348**
Total Number of Individuals in 2006 **6,998**

- 2,973 were Children (0 to 18)
- 628 were Seniors (60 +)
- An average of 196 families per month
- An average of 45 to 55 families per week
- Racial breakdown
47% Black, 52% White, 1% Hispanic, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander

* please note these numbers do not reflect persons fleeing domestic situations. It is policy to not keep records as to protect accidental release of information to abuser. In the past four years an estimated 90 families have fallen under this category. These numbers do not include any mass assistance for the two months following Hurricane Katrina (Sept. & Oct. 2005).

Other interesting facts in 2006

- Core volunteers served an estimate 3,500 hours
- 95,205 pounds of food were purchased from Bay Area Food Bank and distributed at Prodissee Pantry
- 11 different Boy and Girl Scout groups visited and donated food to the Pantry
- Local Schools, youth groups, civic & community groups and small business food drives continue to make up the bulk of food donations.
- 728 Turkeys or Hams were distributed at Easter, Thanksgiving, & Christmas



LOCAL CLUB WILL HELP CONSTRUCT NEEDED BRIDGE IN KENYA

By [*Andrew Garner*](#)

The First United Methodist Church Men's Club is selling barbecue to help build a bridge in Africa.

The men's group has committed to raising \$10,000 to replace a wooden plank bridge over an 80-foot-wide river with a steel bridge. So far, they've raised half of the money needed and John Roberts said he hopes they'll raise the rest of it with their next fundraiser.

FUMC Men's Club members are selling advance tickets for the event, which is set for 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 15. Plates are \$6 and whole Boston butts are \$25.

Roberts became interested in the project because his son, Ben, has been serving as a full time missionary for one-and-a-half years in Bonet, Kenya, at Tenwek Hospital in East Africa.

The bridge allows 500 local residents to cross the river daily to work or buy food.

"This is a walking bridge," Roberts said. "Most of the places people travel is on a path, not a road. It wouldn't be unusual for people to walk an hour to work and from work each day."

The hospital is a multi-faceted organization, he said. In addition to providing health care, it provides training for village leaders on water safety, building latrines, cooking, handling food, hand washing and other sanitation issues.

Once the local men's group has raised the money for the bridge, the supplies will be procured by the hospital's maintenance division, and eight Andalusia-area residents plan to spend two weeks in Africa next March helping build the new bridge.

"My son identified the project and I said that I would like to get a team together and establish a relationship with Andalusia FUMC and the mission of the hospital in Kenya," he said. "During our time there, we plan to be building at least five days."

Roberts' son has a family that also lives in Kenya, wife Jenny and sons Luke, Isaac and Nate.

The local team will enter a tribal culture that is drastically different from America.

"We will be joined by approximately 25 Kenyans in building the bridge," he said. "Africa is different and we want to go over there and make their lives a little easier by way of crossing a river. It's that simple."

Roberts said that the timing is an important factor in building the bridge as well.

"We'll be working around the rainy season," he said. "It will be easier for us to build foundations on the river in the dry season."

The local group - which includes six men and two women - will fly to Nairobi, the capitol of Kenya.

"The hospital is at least a four-hour drive over horrible roads," he said. "It's really the worst roads you can imagine. Sometimes the ditches are better for driving than the roads."

The group will stay in a facility the hospital uses to house people.

"It's about a quarter-mile from the hospital and we'll hire a cook to prepare food for us," he said.

Roberts said that the team overall is anxious to take on the responsibility.

"We are excited and looking forward to the opportunity of learning the culture and accomplishing the bridge," he said. "A word of thanks goes to those in the Andalusia area that have supported the project."

The group will depart on March 22, 2008.

(This article was taken from the Andalusia Star News.)



Don't Forget Your Apportionments

REPORT NO. 14 FISCAL YEAR END 2007AWF Journal p. 518

1. The fiscal office the annual financial records on the fifth working day of January.
2. This date will be the last day that apportionment payments can be payments can be credited to the prior year asking.
3. Churches sending the apportionments payments AFTER December 31 must do one of the following:
 - a. Deliver payment to the Fiscal Office anytime before 10:00 AM on the closing date.
 - b. Mail the payment. Regardless of the postmark date, payments received after 10.00 AM on the closing date cannot be credited to the prior year apportionments.
 - c. Deposit payment in the Annual Conference account on or before 1:00 PM on the closing date at a local Regions Bank. **Fax** a copy of the **bank receipt** and a copy of **the remittance breakdown** to the Fiscal Office when the deposit is made. Call the Fiscal Office (1-888-873-3127) to obtain the current deposit account number.
4. The Fiscal Office must know of these deposits on the closing date. Persons without access to a fax machine should call 1-888-873-3127 and report the deposit information. **Please Note:** The bank's business day may end earlier that the time the bank closes. For example, often deposits received after 2:00 PM are credited to the next day's business. **CONTACT THE LOCAL BANK TO DETERMINE WHEN A DEPOSIT MUST BE MADE IN ORDER TO BE CREDITED ON THE CLOSING DATE.**

Baypines District Calendar

December

13-15

**Transforming Lives...
Embracing God's Diversity
Lake Junaluska**

20

District Office Closed for Holidays

January

2

Office opens for the New Year

7

**Last Day to pay on Apportionments for
2007 (1:00 PM cutoff time)**

14-16

**Older Adult Event, "Warmth in Winter"
Epworth by the Sea, Georgia**

16-19

**Pastors' Semi-Annual Consultations
Bay Minette**

18-19

**United Methodist Men's Advance
Blue Lake Assembly**

19

**Baypines District United Methodist
Habitat Build 7:00 AM**

20

**Baypines Leadership Event
Brewton 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

22

**Pastors' Semi-Annual Consultations
Brewton**

23-24

**Pastors' Semi-Annual Consultations
Robertsdale**

25

COSROW Retreat

27

**Baypines Leadership Event
Andalusia 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

28

**Pastors' Semi-Annual Consultations
Andalusia**

29

**Pastors' Semi-Annual Consultations
Monroeville**

30

**Pastors' Semi-Annual Consultations
Baypines District Office**

31

**Baypines Leadership Council Meeting
4:00 PM**

31

**Baypines Committee on Superintendency
6:00 PM**

February

9

**Baypines Leadership Council Meeting
4:00 PM**

The Baypines District Network

The United Methodist Church
Baypines District Office

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*The teaching of
the wise is
a fountain
of life.*

Proverbs 13:14



LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAYS

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2:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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