

DISTRICT NEWS

Festival Service Marks Juan Martin's Retirement

The ministry of Rev. Juan Martin was celebrated during a January 29 worship service at Miramar Lutheran-Miramar, FL. Martin served Miramar Lutheran and Prince of Peace-Hollywood for the past 11 years.

Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg, pastor of Gloria Dei-Davie and Gold Coast Circuit Counselor, officiated and preached at the retirement service. Also participating were Rev. James Vehling, former pastor at St. Mark's-Hollywood; Rev. Daniel Czaplewski, pastor at Shepherd

of the Coast-Fort Lauderdale; Bert Matlock, pastoral assistant at Hope-Pompano Beach; Rev. James Tino, pastor of New Life-Miramar; and Rev. Thomas Hackett, interim pastor at Trinity-Fort Lauderdale.

Doug Larson, a traveling Christian musician from Minnesota, provided music for the worship service.

Approximately 100 people participated in the afternoon service and the reception afterwards, which was hosted by Miramar Lutheran members.

Rev. Raymond Huddle of Vero Beach began serving Miramar Lutheran as part-time interim pastor in February. Pastor Martin continues to serve the Spanish service at Prince of Peace. □

Participating in the retirement service were (left to right) James Vehling, Daniel Czaplewski, Bert Matlock, Darrell Stuehrenberg, James Tino and Thomas Hackett.



Retirement Service Celebrates Ministry of Wayman Still

Members and friends of Beautiful Savior-Sarasota, FL, paid tribute to Rev. Wayman Still — the congregation's first called pastor — at a special retirement service and reception on February 12.

When Still arrived at Beautiful Savior 16 years ago, the congregation numbered just 25 members. Under his direction and nurture, Beautiful Savior today has more than 500 members.

He continued to lead the congregation through serious health challenges — including gradual blindness resulting from a stroke suffered in 2000. He is losing his hearing and still recovering from two recent bouts of pneumonia that nearly killed him. He also continues to suffer

debilitating migraines, another reminder of the stroke.

Those setbacks did not stop Still from shepherding Beautiful Savior, members emphasized at the retirement celebration. He overcame the challenges of his blindness through "prayer, tenacity and his amazing accurate memory of the Bible, chapter and verse," noted the program. "He has fulfilled his duties with few limitations

with the help of Associate Pastor Rosseter Leavitt," who arrived in Sarasota a few months before Still's vision began to deteriorate.

Still told the local newspaper *Herald-Tribune* that he hoped to leave a legacy behind

—"one that instills in the church a joy of being a Christian and of being among Christians. Without joy," he emphasized, "there isn't much point of breathing."

Participating in the retirement worship were Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., president of

Beautiful Savior's choir, handbell choir and instrumentalists provided special music under the direction of Bonnie Wolfgram, choir director, and Kyle Miller Wallace, handbell choir director. The children of Beautiful Savior's Sunday School sang as well.

The message and an historical video were presented by Leavitt, who also read Still's remembrance to the congregation. Beautiful Savior's president Dan Najjar assisted with readings. Other congregations served by Still earlier in his 33-year ministry sent greetings.

A native Floridian, Still was born in Winter Garden in 1940. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary-Springfield, IL, and was ordained on June 18, 1972. He served congregations in Manassas, VA; Macon, GA; and Marathon, FL.

Still and his wife, Nita, have been married for 40 years. Their children — daughter Karen and husband Rick Bryant, and son Michael and his wife Jennifer — live in the Sarasota area. □

Participating in the retirement service for Rev. Wayman Still (front center) were Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael (front left), Rev. Rosseter Leavitt (front right) and (rear, left to right) Rev. Dana Narring, Rev. Kenneth Redmann, Rev. David Hinman, Rev. Daniel Fulmer and Rev. Vic Mennicke. Not pictured are Rev. Randy Winkel and Rev. James Roseman.



the Florida-Georgia District; Rev. Dr. Randy Winkel, Sarasota Circuit Counselor; and Rev. Daniel Fulmer, former Beautiful Savior vicar; and area clergymen.



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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL—Boca Raton, FL, welcomed Rev. Ben Haupt as associate pastor in January. Haupt was installed by Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael Jr. during a special afternoon service, followed by a congregational dinner in the Family Life Center. Shown here with President Michael (far left) are members of St. Paul's ministry team (left to right) Senior Pastor Dennis Glick, Vicar Jeremy Lucke, Associate Pastor Ben Haupt, Celina Haupt, Associate Pastor Tom Pfothenauer and Minister of Music Stephanie Pfothenauer. □