



LUTHERAN LIFE

Abwazet
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Capital Campaign Achieves Half-Way Mark in Receipts

When the Florida-Georgia District came together in convention in June of 2000, delegates charted a bold course for the new millennium with the overwhelming approval of two resolutions: to establish a House

of Studies serving college students within the two states and to launch a capital campaign to expand District ministries.

Both resolutions supported the District goal to "increase outreach potential and achieve a three percent annual growth in the number of congregations between 2000 and 2010."

Today the Concordia House of Studies is thriving, providing instruction, learning opportunities and services to students in six locations: Atlanta, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Orlando, South Florida and Tampa/St. Petersburg. Program graduates are now serving the church in various capacities — and enrollment continues to grow.

Forward Together-Servants in His Mission, the District's capital campaign, was launched

with a \$10 million goal to support District mission starts and strengthen existing congregations; establish the Concordia House of Studies; to provide funds for capital expenditures at Woodlands Lutheran Ministries;

and to strengthen Lutheran Services Florida and Lutheran Services of Georgia.

As of December 31, 2005, cash receipts have passed the 50% mark and pledges from individuals and congregations

are approaching the 90% mark. Funds received to date have benefitted the designated ministries, including Woodlands.

Since the District Board of Directors voted to close the Woodlands due to unmanageable operating losses, it should be noted that the Board is working toward an appropriate and responsible disposition of funds earmarked for the Woodlands that have not been expended.

With the next District convention approaching this summer, the push is on to complete the solicitation phase of *Forward Together-Servants in His Mission*. Rev. Robert Besalski, pastor emeritus of First Lutheran-Gainesville, FL, is serving as the coordinator of this effort.

For additional information contact the District office at 877-457-5556 or 407-857-5556. □



FORWARD TOGETHER-SERVANTS IN HIS MISSION — Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael Jr. (left) receives an oversized replica of the check from Cliff and Betty Berry (right) of Trinity Lutheran-Fort Lauderdale, FL, that pushed cash receipts for the District's capital campaign over the \$5 million mark.

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Outreach Summits Set for February

Hundreds of Florida-Georgia District members are expected to participate in the three Outreach Summits planned for February 2006.

Hosting the Summits are St. John-Ocala, FL, February 2-4; St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL, February 9-11; and Faith-Marietta, GA, February 23-25.

The three-day events — themed "Partnering in Christ" — will offer Bible study, worship, fellowship, a variety of workshops and the opportunity

to develop work plans. Rev. Charles Mueller will serve as the keynote speaker for each of the events, with District President

Individual registration is \$60 per person. Group rates, available when five or more people from a congregation

more. Congregations which worship fewer than 100 people per Sunday who send five to 19 participants will be charged \$40 per person.

Registration costs cover all sessions and two meals on Friday. Hotel information and site maps are available on line.

Registration packets have been sent to all Florida-Georgia congregations. Complete registration information is also available online at www.flga-lcms.org. □

"I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now..." -Philippians 1:4, 5

Rev. Gerhard Michael Jr. serving as Bible study leader. Workshops will focus on partnering and outreach issues.

register, are \$50 per person for groups of five to nine; \$40 each for groups of 10-19; and \$30 per person for groups of 20 or

Students Bring Christmas Cheer to Children with Hospice Connection

For the fourth consecutive year, fifth-grade students at St. Paul Lutheran School-Boca Raton, FL, raised money for a Christmas shopping trip for children who are being served in some capacity by hospice.

"Over the past three years, we've raised \$700, \$1,100 and \$1,300," said teacher Karla Hardies. "This year, students raised \$1,870 which went toward buying gifts for 19 children whose caregivers are in Hospice by the Sea" in Boca Raton.

Fundraising efforts began in early November, with students doing "everything from washing cars to walking dogs to weeding gardens," according to Hardies.

"We ask the parents to have the children earn the money, not simply be given money."

St. Paul parent and Hospice staff member Denise DaPra

Johnson supplied the shoppers with the age and gender of the gift recipients. Armed with that information and the funds they earned, the St. Paul students

headed to Target on December 16 to shop.

"They spend a long time trying to get the best deal and the most stuff for their particular person," Hardies said. "It is really fun and refreshing to see them realize that \$100 can go a long way when you are trying to make someone's Christmas better.

The students wrapped their purchases when they returned to St. Paul's campus with paper donated by the school's Parent Teacher League. Hospice by the Sea volunteers picked up the gifts that same day.

"This is really my favorite day in fifth grade," Hardies concluded. □



St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL, fifth-grade students Brittany Gentile, Julie Spinner and Jen Truzzolino with some of their purchases for children being served by hospice.

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