

DISTRICT UPDATES

Trinity-Delray Beach Recognized for Stewardship

Capital Funding Services, a ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, honored Trinity Church and School-Delray Beach, FL, with the Antioch Reflection Award at LCEF's annual conference last fall.

Accepting the award were Trinity's Senior Pastor Rev. Scott Gress and his wife, Maria.

The Award "recognizes congregations that have made strong, Biblically centered stewardship efforts over a three-year period, using innovative strategies to surpass pledged amounts" said David Kuerschner, CFS Vice President.

"Trinity members completed their giving efforts in July of 2006. Over and above regular tithes and offerings, members committed \$4,675,897 — 340% of what they had originally pledged!"

Trinity was established in 1904 with seven families. In 1948, Trinity School was built with only one class. Today congregation includes 930 baptized and 625 confirmed members; the school serves 320 students.

In January of 2003, Trinity partnered with school families and with CFS to launch a stewardship campaign to raise funds

to build a 29,000-square-foot community life center. Ground was broken in October 2005, and the facility was completed in August 2006. It includes a gymnasium, locker rooms, a state-of-the-art audio-visual system, and eight classrooms.

CFS Regional Consultant Hal Chase said, "Trinity is a great example of an 'Acts 2:42-47' church. The congregation, staff, school and pastors worked so well together in getting the mission moving. They are a joy to work with."

Since 1992, Capital Funding Services has worked with

more than 750 congregations and agencies, helping members commit more than \$287 million

to help make ministry visions realities. □



Pictured at 2007 Antioch Reflection Award presentation are (l to r) LCEF President Merle Freitag, CFS Regional Consultant Hal Chase, Maria and Rev. Scott Gress, CFS Vice President David Kuerschner.

LCS Helps Families of Deployed Troops

Lutheran Counseling Services, Inc., recently joined with the David R. Wilson Reserve Center in Orlando to help families of U.S. troops deployed to serve in Iraq.

LCS therapists were on-site at the Reserve Center during four weekends from September to December, 2007, as resources for training and support to more than 150 reservists and family members.

Participants experiencing loss and change in the family related to military absence of a

parent/spouse were given information on stress management, coping with change, strategies for parenting and grandparenting and building resiliency.

Last October, 34 Marines participated in a training session with LCS staff after receiving mobilization orders. This session focused on issues and reactions to the news of their imminent deployment and the effects on families. "Will my one-year old son still know me when I return?" and "How much will I be changed?" were two touch-

ing concerns reported by LCS specialists.

On Family Day in December, reservists' children participated in games that facilitated the expression of a child's view when a parent is gone to war. Approximately 100 reservist family members attended a seminar during which they discussed healthy and unhealthy adjustments. Individual listening and coaching sessions were also offered.

"It's hard to talk with anybody ... they would not

understand," was an insightful comment from an enlisted female soldier. A middle-aged male officer shared, "My marriage has gone south ... my wife says she does not know me ... what do I do?"

LCS staff participating in the sessions included Rev. Dr. Mel Jacob, Executive Director; Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong, Associate Director; Mary Jo Hoard, LCSW; Dr. Mary Jacob; and Dr. Georgina

Panting, who also provided Spanish-speaking services.

Rev. Jacob commented, "Families of reservists do not have the support of a military base that active duty personnel have. Family members are deeply affected, and often do not know where to turn during and after deployments.

"Offering the face of Christ, Lutheran Counseling Services is grateful we were asked to help." □

CAPSULES by Rev. Gerhard Michael Jr., President, Florida-Georgia District

CALLING CONGREGATIONS Pastors

Augusta GA..... Our Redeemer
Bartow FL.....Redeemer
Belle Glade FL..... St. Peter
Boca Raton FL..... St. Paul (Senior)
Brunswick GA.....(Mission Developer)
Chiefland FL..... Good Shepherd
Clewiston FL.....Faith
Estero FL Estero Lutheran Mission (Mission Planter)
Eustis FL..... Faith (Senior)
Fort Myers FL..... Zion (Associate)
Jacksonville FL..... Grace (Assistant/Associate)
Kendall FL..... Concordia
LaBelle FL..... Christ the King
Marco Island FL..... Marco
Newnan GA..... Zion
North Dade County (Miami Shores FL).....Redeemer (Mission Developer)
North Miami FL..... Holy Cross
Orlando..... Our Savior
St. Cloud FL..... Grace
Tavernier FL..... Immanuel
Titusville FL..... Good Shepherd
West Palm Beach FL.....Redeemer

Principal/Administrator

Jacksonville.....Grace (new high school)
Orlando FL.....Trinity
Peachtree City GA..... St. Paul
Gotha FL..... Zion

DCE/DCO/Music

Sarasota FL.....Beautiful Savior

CALLS EXTENDED

Trinity-Orlando FL, extended a call to Mrs. Gladys A. Wendt-Foust, St. Luke's-Oviedo FL, as teacher.
Christ Community-Naples FL, extended a call to Ms. Sarah E. Koehneke, St. Paul- Napoleon OH, as teacher.
St. John-Ocala FL, extended a call to Mr. Andrew T. Rehkop, First-Knoxville TN, as teacher.

First-Gainesville FL, extended a call to Ms. Deborah A. Schrank, Christ-Murray UT, as teacher.
Trinity-Delray Beach FL, extended a call to Mr. John F. Eriksen, St. John-Ocala FL, as teacher.

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Thomas J. Pfothenhauer, St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, received a call from Gloria Dei-Hudson OH, as pastor.
Mr. Jeff Wielert, Oak Road-Lilburn GA, received a call from Trinity-Sauk Rapids MN, as DCE.
Ms. Danielle Schaeffer, Bethlehem-Jacksonville Beach FL, received a call from Trinity-Lansing, MI, as Director of Youth Ministry.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Mrs. Gladys A. Wendt-Foust, St. Luke's-Oviedo FL, accepted the call from Trinity-Orlando FL.
Ms. Sarah E. Koehneke, St. Paul-Napoleon OH, accepted the call from Christ Community-Naples FL.
Mr. Andrew T. Rehkop, First-Knoxville TN, accepted the call from St. John-Ocala FL.
Ms. Deborah A. Schrank, Christ-Murray UT, accepted the call from First-Gainesville FL.
Mr. John F. Eriksen, St. John-Ocala FL, accepted the call from Trinity-Delray Beach FL.

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Bruce Alberts, Tahlequah OK, declined the call from Grace-Jacksonville FL.
Rev. Thomas J. Pfothenhauer, St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, declined the call from Gloria Dei-Hudson OH.

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Mrs. Gladys Wendt-Foust from SELC District.
Ms. Mary Faith Tereskiewicz from New England District.

Ms. Dorothy C. Costley from Missouri District.
Mr. Bryan C. F. Polzin from Nebraska District.
Ms. Sarah Koehneke from Ohio District.
Mr. Andrew T. Rehkop from Mid-South District.
Ms. Deborah A. Schrank from Rocky Mountain District.

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Harlan J. Heiserman to Southern District.
Mrs. Rachel A. (Witzel) King to Nebraska District.

RESIGNATION

Ms. Ruth D. Westol from St. John-Ocala FL.
Mr. Steven T. Mennicke from St. John-Ocala FL.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Matthew T. Bergholt - Concordia-Chicago IL - Trinity-Orlando FL
Ms. Rachel E. Tapling - Concordia-Ann Arbor MI - Marco-Marco Island FL
Ms. Greta A. Gieseke - Concordia-Seward NE - St. John-Ocala FL

EMERITUS

Mr. James R. Cruise, Tavares FL.

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Rev. Dr. George Loose, Oviedo FL, November 12, 2007
Rev. Samuel L. Hoard, Orlando FL, November 30, 2007

CORRECTIONS

Zion-Fort Myers FL, extended a call to Mrs. Rebecca Duport, Fort Smith AR, as DCE.
Mrs. Rebecca Duport, Fort Smith AR, accepted the call from Zion-Fort Myers FL.
Mr. Kyle Duport transferred from the Mid-South District.
Mrs. Rebecca Duport transferred from the Mid-South District.

Hope-Plant City Thanks Music Director

On Sunday, November 25, 2007, members of Hope-Plant City, FL, gave thanks for Music Director Christine Mansell.

As a surprise to Mansell, substitute organist and friend Gloria Klockzeim, Minister of Music at St. Paul-Lakeland, FL, was sitting at Hope's organ to play for the morning services.

Members were encouraged to bring cards, and a "Christine Mansell Roast" was held that morning. Memories were shared by members and staff past and present. Hope's choir sang a special anthem written by director Ellen Whitehurst.

New worship

An Hispanic/Bilingual worship service was introduced at Hope on Epiphany, January 6.

The 12:30 p.m. Sunday service is under the direction of Hispanic Ministry Coordinator Rev. Linford Houck. The worship will "reach into the vast Hispanic community of Plant City while providing a liturgical worship opportunity for couples who are both Hispanic and Angelo," he said.

Working with Houck are Hope's staff and Pastor Dean Pfeffer. Music director for the new service is John Foxx, who previously served in the same capacity at another area congregation.

"The congregation also thanks Rev. Doug Kallesen of Florida Georgia District Mission's office for the financial support and prayers he has given in this endeavor," said Pfeffer. □



Hope Music Director Christine Mansell with Pastor Dean Pfeffer, who presented her with a banner designed and made by Helen Justice.