

Futures Committee Announces Regional Sessions

The Florida-Georgia Futures Committee held its third planning meeting January 11-12 at the District Office in Orlando.

Committee members continued to process and investigate the strategic planning function it was charged to conduct. Chairman Rev. John Roth reported some

"excellent progress" in reviewing and digesting a wide variety of materials related to strategic planning and how to best focus on the District Mission.

Publications reviewed to date include *A Mainline Turn-around* by Lyle E. Schaller; *Leading Change* by John P. Kotter; *Planning in Times of Uncertainty*;

An Overview of FastForward Planning by James C. Galvin; *Values for Growing Churches, Evangelism Value Study* by Growth Associates; and *Hit the Bullseye — How Denominations Can Aim the Congregation At the Mission Field* by Paul Borden.

Six regional discussion groups intended to share information with attendees and gather useful input and feedback relating to the future of the Florida-Georgia District will be held in April.

"Growth or Decline ... The Future of the Florida Georgia District" sessions are scheduled for:

- St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL, on April 21; 12:00 - 2:00 with a light lunch
- St. Michael- Fort Myers, FL, on April 21; 10:00 - 12:00
- Messiah-Tampa, FL, on April 21; 12:00 - 2:00 with a light lunch

- Prince of Peace-Orlando on April 14; 10:00 - 12:00
- Faith-Marietta, GA on April 28; 10:00 - 12:00
- Grace-Jacksonville on April 21; 12:00 - 2:00 with a light lunch

All Florida-Georgia District congregations are invited to the sessions and encouraged to bring pastors, DCEs and DCOs, principals, congregational leaders and head elders. Information will be shared to describe accurately and comprehensively the existing conditions in the District, and input will be gathered to help the committee focus on the District's mission statement of "every congregation in mission and every member a missionary."

The committee hopes that this information will further enhance input already received from nearly 30 pastors. If you would like to attend one of

these sessions, please contact your congregation's pastor for more information.

The Futures Committee was appointed by Florida-Georgia President Rev. Gerhard Michael last summer to help the District strategize for the future. Committee members include Chairman Rev. John Roth, First-Gainesville, FL; Rev. James Guelzow, Messiah-Tampa; Mrs. Leslie Schnake, St. Paul-Boca Raton; Mr. Peter LeBorious, Christ the King Lutheran-Largo; Rev. Dan Schepmann, St. Paul-Peachtree City, GA; Mrs. Lynn Andersen, St. Paul-Lakeland; Mr. Jim Ingersoll, Prince of Peace-Orlando and Mr. Dave Weidner, Florida-Georgia Executive Director for Congregational Services.

"Keep these committee members in your prayers as they strive to help the District pursue efforts to do something significant for the mission of Jesus Christ," Roth encouraged.

Stewardship Seminars Set for April, May

Seminars designed to provide assistance and resources for congregational leaders to carry out ongoing stewardship training are set for nine locations throughout Florida-Georgia on April 21 and May 5.

Sponsored by the District's Stewardship Advisory Council, the seminars will be led by certified guest leaders of the "Consecrated Stewards" program. They will be presenting materials to acquaint participants with the eight-week program made available through Capital Funding Services of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and the LCMS.

"They will also be making available other Biblically based resources both for short-term and long-term stewardship training in the congregations," said Rev. Edgar Trinklein, chairman of the District Stewardship Advisory Council. "Our District partnership in managing the mission and ministry plans for the immediate future will also be shared by a video available to each congregation."

Designed for congregation pastors, presidents and stew-

ardship leaders, the "Ongoing Stewardship Resources" seminars have been crafted to assist pastors and congregation leaders "in providing opportunities for congregation members to grow in God-honored management of the resources which He grants us," Trinklein added.

"Jesus talked so much about management of money and resources. Sixteen of 38 parables of Jesus addressed how to handle money and possessions. The Bible contains 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith — but more than 2,350 verses on money and possessions.

"Good stewardship in planning our congregational activities of the year demands using effective means to nurture stewardship growth."

The seminars are offered at no cost. Registration information is being sent to all Florida-Georgia congregations, including postcards to be completed and returned to the District office. Responses may also be made via the District website — www.flga-lcms.org, link to Kathy Keene. □

Use of Congregation Support Dollars

Twenty percent of all unrestricted contributions to the Florida-Georgia District received from congregations is forwarded on to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in support of its world-wide ministries and missions, including being a partner with LCMS World Mission in Thailand.

Currently, more than 40 ministries are being supported by regular congregation support and *Forward Together—Servants in His Mission* funds.

Your mission dollars provided new and continued support to campus, deaf, Anglo, Asian (Laotian, Korean and Hmong), African American and African Immigrant (Sudanese, Eritrean, & Ethiopian), Hispanic and Multi-Ethnic ministries. We also support the work of our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas and Haiti.

We are seeking to raise up leaders among the Hispanic, Ethiopian, Sudanese, and Haitian communities, utilizing the

Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology and the Hispanic Institute's Theological Education by Extension program of Concordia Seminary.

In addition your contributions support the work of Lutheran Services Florida, Lutheran Services of Georgia, the LCMS Center for U.S. Missions (training for church planting) and the Center for Asian Missions and Evangelism. □

See chart on next page -->

Ongoing Stewardship Resources

Working Together 2007

April 21 Seminar Locations

Rivercliff Lutheran Church
8750 Roswell Rd NW
Roswell, GA 30350
770-993-4316
Leader Robert Strickert

Grace Lutheran Church
12200 McCormick Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904-928-9136
Leader Rev. Bob Jacobs

Messiah Lutheran Church
14920 Hutchinson Rd
Tampa, FL 33625
813-961-2182
Leader Rev. Gilbert Kuehn

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4450 Harden Blvd.
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-644-7710
Leader Rev. Edgar Trinklein

St. Paul Lutheran Church
701 W Palmetto Park Rd
Boca Raton, FL 33486
561-395-0433

May 5 Seminar Locations

First Lutheran Church
1801 NW 5th Ave
Gainesville, FL 34474
352-376-2062
Leader Norman Thompson

St. Michael Lutheran Church
3595 Broadway
Fort Myers, FL 33901
941-939-4711
Leader Rev. Edgar Trinklein
Lord of Life Lutheran Church

3250 Mount Zion Rd
Stockbridge, GA 30280
770-474-3668
Leader Rev. Robert Strickert
Trinity Lutheran Church
427 N Magnolia Ave
Orlando, FL 32801
407-422-5704
Leader Rev. Bob Jacobs

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