

DISTRICT UPDATE

District Musicians Encouraged to "Go Out in Joy"

Musicians from around the Florida-Georgia District gathered at St. Paul-Lakeland, FL, February 2-3, for the 27th Annual Church-School Music Conference.

Dr. Kenneth Kosche, professor of music at Concordia University-Wisconsin and director of both the touring and chapel choirs, was the morning keynoter each day. He spoke on "Nurturing the Choir" to open the conference, and on "Effective Choir Rehearsals" on Saturday morning.

Rev. Lee Lallance, minister of fine arts at First United Methodist-Lakeland, led the Friday afternoon session — "Toys & Techniques...for the art of ringing Handbells."

Clinicians for the two-day event, themed "You shall go out in joy!" (Isaiah 55:12), included:

- Sheila King, musician at Apollo Elementary School-Titusville, FL, who demonstrated how to use Orff instruments.

- Craig Denison, director of Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir of Broward County, FL, who spoke about the "Changing Boys'Voice."

- Cathy Blanchard, regional manager of Central Music in

Clearwater, offered tips on organ registration.

- Scott Baumer, instrumental teacher at St. Luke's-Oviedo, FL, led a session on "Creating and Arranging with PrintMusic Software."

- Julie Van Winkle, Note-able Beginnings instructor at St. Paul, presented Kindermuisk — teaching music from birth to age 7.

A highlight of the conference was contemporary worship Friday evening at Grace-Winter Haven.

Gloria Klockziem, minister of music at host congregation St. Paul-Lakeland, coordinated the conference. The two-day event was sponsored by the Florida-Georgia District.

The Florida-Georgia Musicians' Association promotes excellence in the use of music in worship and support for those

serving congregations in music ministry. Musicians serving in the Florida-Georgia District are automatically members of this association.

Association activities include the fall educator's conference, a music workshop and a school music festival. Activities being developed include a spiritual/music retreat and area (circuit or geographical) how-to workshops.

Serving on the planning team are Jonathan Birner (birnerj@yahoo.com), Bill Brusick (sasha17@verizon.net), Gloria Klockziem (gklockziem@stpaullakeland.org), Jim Marriott (blcjames@bellsouth.net) and Art Swett (art@flcgainsville.org).

The District office has established a list serve for Florida-Georgia musicians at fgmusicpros@lists.lcms.org. □



Seeds of Hope

LCMS Members Honored

Wheat Ridge Ministries executives came to Florida last month to present 2007 "Seeds of Hope" awards to Dr. Betty Duda, Cindi Kopelman, Michael Mueller, Rev. Robert Selle and Rev. Robert Zimmer.

The "Seeds of Hope Award" recognizes individuals for their exemplary dedication and commitment to serving in ministries of health, hope and healing. Making the recent presentations was Dr. Richard Herman, Wheat Ridge president and a former member of the Florida-Georgia District executive team.

Among the more than 200 well-wishers at the February 19 recognition dinner at Mattison's Riverside Restaurant and Ballroom in Bradenton were Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael and his wife Joan; representatives for Lutheran Services Florida; local pastors and long-time Wheat Ridge supporters.

"Each of our Seeds of Hope Award recipients has been a significant leader and source of health and healing for many people in Florida and beyond," said Herman. "One of the things that made this a very special evening was the close ties that each honoree has to Wheat Ridge Ministries.

"Bob Zimmer served for many years as our president. Betty Duda served as a board member and as our board chair. Mike Mueller, Bob Selle and Cindy Kopelman are leaders of organizations whose work has been seeded by Wheat Ridge. We were greatly blessed by the opportunity to praise God for each of these wonderful individuals."

Duda is a homemaker, nationally noted philanthropist and volunteer laywoman. A former teacher, she is an honor trustee of Rollins College-Winter Park and serves on the LCMS' Concordia University System

Advancement Cabinet. She is a member of the various boards of directors, including the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach and Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf.

Kopelman is the president of Shepherd's Hope, Inc., a nonprofit, faith-based organization operating free medical clinics utilizing an all-volunteer health care staff to serve uninsured individuals and families. A licensed school psychologist, she serves as vice chair of the Primary Care Access Network, a collaborative network of providers serving the uninsured and underinsured in Orange County, and participates on numerous health care initiatives for vulnerable populations throughout the Greater Orlando area.

Mueller is the founder and chief executive officer of "Hope Seeds," a Christian, charitable organization that provides seeds and agricultural support to missionaries and mission teams around the world that are working to alleviate hunger in poor and underdeveloped countries and communities. Since its

founding in 1999, Hope Seeds has sent more than 2.5 million packets of seeds to an estimated 200,000 families and 10,000 small farmers in 38 countries.

Selle is the executive director of the Amigos Center, a social service agency providing the tools necessary for immigrants in Southwest Florida to succeed and have abundant life in the United States. He has served in that position since its founding in 1999. A missionary for the LCMS, Selle serves Hispanics in the 12 churches of Lee, Hendry and Collier Counties and is responsible for establishing three Lutheran Hispanic Churches in Southwest Florida.

Zimmer, who began his career as teacher and a principal, from 1963-1972 was Education Counselor for the China Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taiwan. He served as president of Wheat Ridge Ministries from 1973-1989 and traveled extensively during his presidency, visiting Wheat Ridge projects in the United States and around the world. Bob also did extensive writing and lecturing on the subjects of world missions, medical missions, holistic health and the congregation as a caring community. □



2007 Seeds of Hope award recipients (l-r) Michael Mueller, Rev. Robert Zimmer, Dr. Betty Duda, Cindi Kopelman and Rev. Robert Selle with Dr. Richard Herman, president of Wheat Ridge Ministries.



A Personal Perspective on an Award Winner

by Kate Schnake

My grandmother's name is Betty Duda. I have the privilege of calling her DeeDee AKA Grandma.

On February 19, my grandmother received an award from Wheat Ridge Ministries. This award recognized and affirmed individuals who exemplify Christian service, care and compassion as servant leaders of new ministries of health and hope or as supporters of these new ministries.

The award itself was a big vase that had the Bible verse "I will bring health and hope; I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundant peace and security. Jeremiah 33:6" and a bouquet of beautiful roses.

When she was getting her award, she thanked her husband, her daughters and me! I am her only granddaughter out of 11 grandchildren.

Ever since I was a little girl, I have been very close to my grandmother. I

am amazed at what my grandmother does. She volunteers for so many things and never asks for anything in return. She has met many famous people and has helped so many people.

She began as a Lutheran School teacher and now is an honor trustee of Rollins College-Winter Park. She serves on the Concordia University System Advancement Cabinet and several Board of Directors.

My grandma plays a huge roll in my life. She is always there for me and I have always looked up to her. It always amazes me how she helps so much in the Lutheran Church. I love my grandmother and am so proud and happy to be her granddaughter. □

