



LUTHERAN LIFE

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District Execs Hopeful for Woodlands Finalization in 2007

Members of the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors continue to devote considerable time at each meeting to the process of finalizing the closing of Woodlands Lutheran Camp.

"Closing of this ministry was a painful decision, made only after extensive deliberation and prayer," emphasized Rev.

James Guelzow, who chairs the Board. "That deliberation and prayer continue as we focus on making the best decisions for the future use of the property and the potential resources for our District."

The committee appointed by District President Gerhard Michael Jr. to manage the closing of Woodlands has

completed much of its task, including assisting relocating residents and staff members. To date, the District has dedicated almost three-quarters of a million dollars to assistance and severance pay.

Earlier this year the Board of Directors approved signing a contract with a purchaser who plans to develop the

Woodlands property into a residential neighborhood. The buyer is in the midst of the permitting process.

"The sale of the property will not be an immediate transaction, as the buyer needs to receive approvals that they can in fact proceed with their plans before making a final commitment," said President Michael. "We feel

their planned development shows considerable respect for and appreciation of the unique beauty of the Woodlands site — indeed these factors were key in the Board's decision to sign the contract.

"We are hopeful that sale will be finalized in 2007." □

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Futures Committee Looks to Ministry Beyond Woodlands

The seven-member Futures Committee met for the second time October 12-13 at the Florida-Georgia District Lutheran Ministries Center-Orlando.

District President Gerhard Michael Jr. appointed the Committee after the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors made the decision to close Woodlands Lutheran Camp in Montverde.

"The Futures Committee's task is to help us determine how we can move into the future, honoring the legacy of the Woodlands, but hopefully moving us to another level of service and performance," President Michael elaborated.

"The Committee is seeking to take a very thorough approach to its task, that they might genuinely help our District move forward in its mission and ministry."

As a guide for setting the course for the future, Committee

members are using the District vision statement: Every congregation is a church in mission, and every member is a missionary with all of us working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel to share His love. Their goal is to make this statement a reality for every Florida-Georgia member.

"The Committee will be looking to our District congregations, pastors and members for help in this undertaking," said committee chairman Rev. John Roth.

"The committee has already completed a preliminary SWOT [Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats] analysis of some District congregations.

"The committee plans to involve as many members of the District as possible in this process as they work through

strategic planning. We are asking our Lord for His insight and wisdom as we ascertain the most effective ways to become a missional District with every member in missions."

The Committee plans to meet again in January of 2007.

"We ask that District members please keep us in their your prayers as we work to find a meaningful, God pleasing strategy for the future," Roth concluded.

Members of the Futures Committee include:

Lynn Andersen — Member of St. Paul-Lakeland, FL; served on the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors for nine years.

James Guelzow — Pastor of Messiah-Tampa, FL; chairman and regional representative on the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors.

Jim Ingersoll — Florida-Georgia Treasurer; chairman of Prince of Peace-Orlando; recently retired from Darden Restaurants as VP of Internal Audit.

Peter LaBorious — Director of Christian Education at Christ The King-Largo, FL; works with other congregations on planning and goal setting.

John Roth — Pastor of First-Gainesville, FL; was part of the first class of the Pastoral Leadership Institute in 1999.

Daniel Schepmann — Pastor of St. Paul-Peachtree City, GA; just completed four years of Pastoral Leadership Institute training.

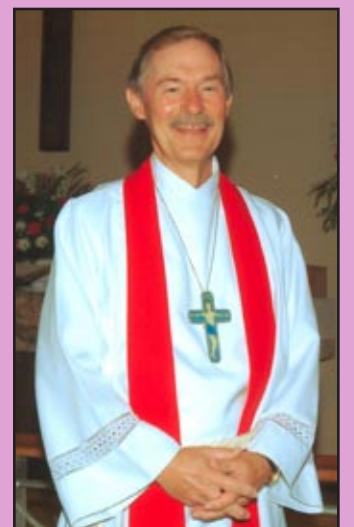
Leslie Schnake — Member of St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL, where she is on staff as Director of Family Ministry. □

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THE DRISKILL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTER of Trinity Church & School-Delray Beach, FL, was dedicated on Sunday, September 24. Members gathered outside singing the hymn, "This is the Day," then processed through the front doors of the new gymnasium and were seated for a brief worship service. The readings were 1 Chronicles 29:10-14 and Ephesians 2:19-22. After singing "Now Thank We All Our God" special recognition — including cheers from the school children and thunderous applause — was given to Lucienne Driskill for her generosity in making a dream a reality. Capping the celebration were a catered reception and tours of the new facilities, which include a new gymnasium, youth room and classrooms. Shown here with Mrs. Drikill are (l-r) Principal Tim Guelzow, Pastor Vince Putnam, Past Congregational President Phil Brandt, Pastor Scott Gress □



REV. DR. DAVID H. BERNTHAL was among servants at Grace Lutheran Church & School-Winter Haven, FL, honored for their service recently. Other honorees — and Grace's new associate pastor — are shown on page 3.