

PENSACOLA DISTRICT

District CORE Team Report

Rev. Dr. Robert McKibben, Chairperson

In 2006 the Pensacola District CORE Team focused its efforts around the challenge “Continue to Expand the Vision.” Our dedicated group of women and men, both lay and clergy, met several times throughout the calendar year to plan and implement various ministries designed to proclaim Jesus Christ to the people of our communities and throughout the world.

One of the most memorable moments in the life of our district in 2006 was the ground-breaking ceremony for the Pensacola District Children’s Crisis Shelter. After years of prayer, planning, and extensive fundraising, the Crisis Shelter is finally becoming a reality. Because of hurricane delays and the resultant stricter building codes, the cost of building the shelter escalated and additional funds were needed. Donations are being received through designations to the Pensacola District office.

The Pensacola District CORE Team also approved continued expansion of the Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries. It is now host to seven service or ministry organizations, all of which are reaching out to meet various community needs. These services include literacy programs, drug abuse recovery, homeless veterans assistance, food distribution, and much more. One of the highlights for 2006 was a program established to feed children during the summer months when school is not in session. While meeting the needs of the people, Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries also provides local church members with wonderful opportunities to volunteer their gifts, time, and talents in serving others. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Rev. Joe Mullen as the director of Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries. It is also a pleasure to share that PUMCM is a Conference Advance Special (#0109-2).

The Pensacola District continues to support the Love for Peru Foundation with financial and physical assistance. Through the efforts of several congregations within the district, mission teams were able to build an additional seven houses in Peru, bringing the total to more than 80 new homes. In addition, the CORE Team sponsored the shipment of 250 wheelchairs to Peru, culminating in a very moving presentation and celebration in Lima. A second container of wheelchairs is almost ready for shipment.

The Pensacola CORE Team will again provide leadership training for pastors and members of our local congregations. The annual LITE Day will feature Dr. Bert Jones of the Christian Medical and Dental Association who will spotlight the theme “Being a Leader in the Local Church.”

The Pensacola CORE continues to expand its vision into 2007 by searching for new fields of ministry. Explorations are already underway for establishing community ministry sites in each of the counties served by the District. The CORE Team has renewed its vision for a Hispanic Ministry on the western part of the District. There is also a dynamic new vision emerging for designing and launching a Stewardship Resource Team created specifically to help

congregations and the District with non-cash and planned giving. Under the vibrant leadership of our District Superintendent, Rev. Mike Roberts, and with the continued visionary efforts of the men and women of the Pensacola CORE Team, 2007 will certainly be a year of spiritual and numerical growth for the District and for the Kingdom of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Disaster Recovery Ministries 2006

Rev. Alan Gantzhorn, Coordinator

No major hurricanes entered the Gulf of Mexico during the 2006 hurricane season, giving churches of the Pensacola District a much-needed reprieve after two very active hurricane seasons in 2004 and 2005. From Shalimar to Perdido Bay, the churches of our district turned their attention from immediate disaster response to long-term hurricane recovery and preparedness for the next disaster. Many churches began to revise and refine their disaster plans, while others began to train response teams to deal with future emergencies. The churches of our District continue to provide leadership to partner organizations in the long-term recovery efforts in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. In addition, many district churches that adopted sister churches in Mississippi or Louisiana after hurricane Katrina continue to work with those churches on long-term recovery efforts.

Lay Speaking Ministries

Bruce Knecht, Director

In 2006 Pensacola District had 73 local church lay speakers and 81 certified lay speakers. Lay Speaking Ministries filled pulpits 85 times at 28 different churches. Certified lay speakers were supplied to The Haven of Our Lady of Peace Nursing Home in Pensacola every Sunday of the year. Israel Cruz, CLS, conducted 48 Spanish worship services at Saufley Field Prison Camp. Alba Kerwin also conducted Spanish services. We had two training sessions, hosted by Mary Esther UMC and Ferry Pass UMC. 31 attended basic courses, 38 attended advanced courses, and five were consecrated as certified lay speakers (CLS). The session at Ferry Pass was the first time the District has offered a five-week course. Twenty from the Pensacola District attended Conference Lay Speaking Training at Blue Lake April 7-9. There four taught the adult basic course, two attended the youth course, one adult attended the basic course, and 13 attended advanced courses.

United Methodist Women

Debbie Bush, Director

Pensacola District United Methodist Women began 2006 with training: a UMW workshop at the annual District Leadership Inspirational Training Event January 7, Conference UMW Leadership Training January 14, then District UMW Leadership Training January 21 at St. Andrew UMC.

The District held three mission studies. The study "Public Education" was held February 18 at two locations. 43 members (4 units) attended at Gadsden Street UMC and 86 (14 units) attended at Crestview FUMC. St. Luke UMC hosted the study "Children of the Bible" on March 4. 99 members (18 units) participated. St. Mark UMC in Pensacola hosted the study "India & Pakistan" on April 1st. 86 members (15 units) participated.

Seven members from our District went to the UMW Assembly held in Anaheim, California, May 4-7. When the Cooperative School of Christian Mission was held at Blue Lake July 27-30, 30 members from 12 units participated.

District UMW Annual Day 2006 (September 23 at Warrington UMC) was one of the best Annual Days that we have had. 110 participated, representing 22 units and the Pineview UMW which is to be formalized in 2007. District UMW presented a plaque to St. Andrew UMW for most members participating in a UMW event throughout the year. St. Mark UMW received a plaque for Host Unit having the most members present during the year. We also had 3 Bronze units, 9 Silver units, and 7 Gold units.

We continue to endorse such projects as "Give-A-Book Foundation," working with the Children Service Center, and other avenues that aid and support women, children, and youth.