

## PENSACOLA DISTRICT REPORT 2012

The Pensacola District continues to celebrate increased membership and giving. We give thanks to God for the blessings of hospitality and stewardship. We realize that though there is evidence of growth, we still have much work to do. Our district emphasis for 2012, based on *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Bishop Robert Schnase, has been on generous stewardship.

We began the year by sending a letter to all of the General Conference delegates from the AWF Conference pledging our support by acknowledging their preparation for the work required and the personal sacrifice they have made as they serve our denomination in this capacity. We pledged our prayers for the delegates and their families.

The Pensacola District CORE Team meets five or six times a year as needed. We have made a decisive effort to keep consistency and continuity in our district-wide meetings and a concerted effort to meet in all areas of our district by rotating gatherings in geographical locations. In January Cokesbury UMC hosted the seminar "Body and Soul: The Essentials of Self Care" offered by the AWFC Academy for Congregational Excellence. This was our first holistic attempt for laity and clergy. Each year we begin the new season after Annual Conference by hosting the District Welcoming Event. Pastors, SPPR chairpersons, lay leaders and spouses are invited to attend a dinner with childcare provided. In the fall we began our focus on stewardship. In September we held a day apart for clergy and laity with Dr. Ross Dickens speaking on "Faith and Money." Dr. John Ed Mathison led "Treasures of the Transformed Life" at our District Conference. The District Conference is held each year on the first Sunday in November concurrent with a youth "FUSED" event. This past year we had more than four hundred youth attend for this time of praise and worship. The district clergy Christmas party hosted by the district superintendent and spouse is held the first week in December. Other small group training sessions were held for lay leaders, SPPR chairpersons, children directors, and finance chairpersons.

Continuing with *Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation*, the emphasis for the Pensacola District for 2013 will be mission and service. Planning ahead to 2014, the emphasis will be worship. If we continue in this trend, the emphasis for 2015 will be faith development and will complete the "Five Practices."

With regret, we said good-bye to our CORE Team chairperson, Rev. Allison Posell. Allison has served our CORE Team from 2007 to 2012 and as chairperson from 2008 to 2012. Allison is now part of the St. James UMC staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Maddox, Lay Leader  
Pensacola District