

## PENSACOLA DISTRICT

The Pensacola District includes Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties in Florida and part of Baldwin County in Alabama. Although we are spread out geographically, we are 50 connected congregations. At the time of our District Conference on Nov. 3, 2013, we were 34,352 members strong and growing. We had 545 baptized members and 629 members join on profession of faith. There are over 15,000 in worship each Sunday. As we celebrate growth in the Kingdom, here are some of the highlights of 2013:

Meltdown, an annual youth event in Panama City Beach, was attended by over 1000 people in late January. Special thanks goes to the many youth directors of our district, to Reverend Stuart Worth, and the Wesley Foundation of University of West Florida/Pensacola State College for making this happen each year.

In April, Bishop Will Willimon led a session for clergy and laity about the book of Acts at First UMC, Pensacola.

In July, we had a District welcoming event for pastors, lay leaders, SPRC chairs and their spouses. This event was held at the Soundside campus of Gulf Breeze UMC and was well attended.

In August, Rev. Dr. Jeremy Pridgeon called a clergy meeting to cover upcoming District and Conference events, charge conferences, and the state of ministry in our District. First UMC Milton served as our hosts.

First UMC, Crestview hosted one of the Quadrennial Clergy Sexual Ethics Trainings in September.

In October, Rev. Jim White and Gene Schmidt took a group from our district to the Bahamas to work with Bahamas Methodist Habitat. Two of our CORE team members, Rev. Paula Roane and Susan Bleiler, went to assess how we could offer district-wide mission trips in the future, especially for smaller congregations.

At our District Conference at Navarre UMC in November, we tried a new format. We shortened the worship and business meeting, and participants were invited to attend one of about nine breakout sessions. Feedback from these sessions was positive. Concurrent with the District Conference was FUSED event for over 400 youth at the Soundside campus of Gulf Breeze UMC.

In December, we had the clergy Christmas gathering at Destin UMC. At the end of the year, we said good-bye to Rev. Joe Mullen, who is retiring from leading the Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries where he served for the last seven years.

In January 2014, we hosted the Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops, the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy and the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders in Pensacola. We participated in the General Church initiative,

“Imagine No Malaria” during Lent. A new District-wide initiative called “A Moveable Feast” provides quarterly spiritual formation events around the District, drawing on our 2014 emphasis on Passionate Worship. We continue to have vital United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men groups throughout the district, as well as an outstanding number of Certified Lay Servants. We are blessed to have talented and creative clergy, working alongside equally dedicated laity to fulfill the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We look forward to continued opportunities to worship, study, and serve together as we seek to bear witness to the love of Christ on the beautiful Gulf Coast.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Weant  
Chairperson, Pensacola District CORE Team