

PENSACOLA

The Pensacola District comprises 50 connected congregations in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties in Florida and part of Baldwin County in Alabama. This has been a fruitful year for the Pensacola District. Here are some of the events which took place in 2015:

- Several churches pulled together for the annual “Great Night of Singing,” which included a 250-voice choir.
- Three of our congregations, Richard Memorial, Bellview and Gonzalez, are participating this year in the Matthew Initiative, a church revitalization program.
- Meltdown, the annual youth retreat in Panama City Beach, was attended by about 800 youth and adults in late January. We are grateful to Rev. Stuart Worth and the dedicated team of youth directors and Wesley Foundation students who put this event on each year.
- Our Lay Servant Ministry is very active under the leadership of Bruce Knecht. They are serving at the Haven as well as doing pulpit supply and other ministries. It has been noted that we have more lay servants than clergy in our district!
- Pensacola United Methodist Community Ministries (PUMCM) had a banner year in providing for the needs of the community. For example, 18,859 meals were prepared, the thrift store generated \$19,235 while providing over \$12,000 in clothing and household vouchers, and Celebrate Recovery averaged 55 persons weekly. PUMCM also provided housing for six disaster recovery teams who had come to work on homes damaged by flooding.
- Our Clergy Welcoming Event was held at Crestview First UMC this summer.
- Our District Conference was held November 1st at Navarre UMC.
- Concurrent with District Conference, the District Fused Youth Rally met at the Soundside campus of Gulf Breeze UMC. Although rain effected attendance, 18 churches were represented, with 234 students and approximately 60 adults. Everyone that came had great fun, fellowship, worship, and heard an inspiring message.
- The Clergy Christmas party was held December 1st at First UMC in Pensacola.

We experienced a change in District leadership in July, when Dr. Jeremy Pridgeon departed and Dr. Tim Trent assumed the position of District Superintendent. We are grateful for the ministry of both these men and, as always, for the support of Mrs. Mary Hernandez, the Pensacola District Administrative Assistant! We look forward to continued opportunities to worship, study, and serve together as we seek to bear witness to the love of Christ here on the Gulf Coast.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Weant, Chairperson
Pensacola District CORE Team