

# PARISH LIFE NEWS

*Connecting Churches with Nurturing Resources*

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Thomas Edison, Willoughby Smith, Guglielmo Marconi and a host of other communication inventors would be amazed at the information highway of today. From the beginning of time humanity has sought avenues of expression, and today we are inundated with a plethora of opportunities to tell the world, "Here I am, I matter and have something to say!" And the world is watching and listening; sometimes reluctantly, oftentimes enthusiastically!

In taking advantage of our contemporary means of disseminating information to others. it was decided at the December, 2008 meeting of the Board of Connectional Ministries (*Executive Team*), to pursue the "You Tube" phenomenon in getting the word out regarding resources and opportunities available through the five program teams (*Advocacy, Nurture, Outreach, Parish Life and Witness*). This should prove to be an exciting time as we seek to utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Have no fear, in being sensitive to the needs of the whole, we will still provide other avenues of communication with our local churches. So be on the lookout for some advanced modes of reaching a wider audience, as we seek to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world through our witness. (*Further meeting summary forthcoming under separate cover.*)

**Happy New Year! God's Blessings and Protection in 2009 . . .**

## **PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING 2009 DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR**

*In the event Shari Rates, Mark Burgess, Jeaninne Singleton or Irene Davis are unavailable to attend the Board of Connectional Ministries meetings, Joe Watson, Carol Helton, Chris Barbieri or a team member will be asked to attend on behalf of our area (2 attendees from our area per meeting).*

### **BOARD OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES**

**JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> – 1:30 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood-Atrium

**MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> – 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood- Atrium

**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> – 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood – Davis Room

**AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> – 10:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood – Atrium

**OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood – Atrium

**DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> – 6:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood-Davis Room

### **PARISH LIFE TEAM AND KEY EVENTS**

**JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> -6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.**  
*Please remove this meeting date from your schedule*

**MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> - 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.**  
Central United Methodist Church

**MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> - 6:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M.**  
Central United Methodist Church

**EXCELLENCE IN TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**  
**JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 – 12:00 P.M.- 3:00 P.M.**  
Decatur First UMC

**LIVING THE: UNITED METHODIST WAY**  
**JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 1, 2009**  
Jacksonville, Florida  
*(Shari Rates will attend for Parish Life)*

**NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT REUNION EVENT**  
**FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>-9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M.**  
Simpsonwood

**DAY OF LOVE AND JUSTICE**  
**FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2009-TIME TBA**  
State Capitol – Atlanta

#### **SCRIPTURAL GUIDE:**

*For I know the plans I have for you ... to give you a future and a hope. —Jeremiah 29:11 NLT*