

New Orleans District Office

NOVEMBER DECEMBER
2008



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

IN THE N.O.

"Lunch and Laughter"

When I was in the Shreveport District my D.S. was all about covenant groups. One year during my plan of ministry William Peeples asked me if I was involved in some type of group with other clergy. I quickly named for him the pastors that I met with every other Thursday for lunch in a small diner in north Louisiana. He then asked me the question, "what are you reading with them?" To which I responded, "the menu!" Now if you are familiar with Giles Restaurant in Plain Dealing then you know right away they did not have a menu. Their daily special was messily written on a chalk board and easily recited by the waitress and the regulars that frequented this stop on the side of the road.

It was in that group around those fake wooden veneer tables that we solved all the problems of the United Methodist church, discussed appointment making, cheered our successes and jeered our failures and problems. We were all in small churches so we swapped ideas, resources, war stories and lies. Most of all we listened, laughed and loved. Often I felt guilty because by the time I drove to Plain Dealing, enjoyed a very long lunch, and drove back to my church my day was near completion. I was, however, encouraged by my lay leadership to continue these lunches because they knew the blessing it gave me personally, and the benefit of new ideas it gave the church. In their eyes, this was important work for their pastor.

Some weeks we were all there. Other weeks funerals or the business of the church took us away. We came if we could, called if we couldn't. But every other week, on the back table in the corner sat a reserved sign for our little group of sometimes wounded, sometimes happy, but always grateful pastors. I guess it was that group that formed the initial institution of Lunch and Laughter.

I would like to bring to the New Orleans District that same blessing that I received from my peers in the Shreveport District. Once a month I would hope that the clergy of this district would come together for lunch. Just lunch. No agenda, no business, no paperwork. Just lunch and of course laughter. My hope is to move it around the district and shore to shore, and that you would attend even if it is a distance for you that month. I am even taking suggestions for the favorite restaurant in your town. But most of all I hope that you will be blessed by joining your colleagues for lunch as we journey together in our shared ministry to the people of the New Orleans District.

Finally let me say one word about the coupons that some of you will get in the mail. As your church completes 100% of your Conference Apportionments I will send you a coupon for one free lunch at Lunch and Laughter. They do not expire so if you can't make it to Lunch and Laughter this month, cash it in the next. Just my little way of saying thank you for a job well done.

Our next Lunch and Laughter is Tuesday, December 16th beginning at 11:30 at The Macaroni Grill (3410 Highway 190) in Slidell. Hope to see you there.

Grace and Peace,

RL



**BATON ROUGE DISTRICT LEJEUNE GRANT
2009 APPLICATION**

Church: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

District: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax _____

Email: _____

Contact Person/Title/Phone#: _____

Signatures of those supporting project (please type or print name after signature):

Pastor: _____

Admin. Board/Council Chairperson: _____

Amount Requested: ___\$_____

Please state your grant request and how it will help reach unchurched or nominally churched people in your area (in 100 words or less). Please attach an itemized breakdown of project costs in the following categories:

Personnel – Salaried or contract staff

Buildings/Facilities

Equipment/Furniture

Signage

Misc. (Includes items such as printing, purchase or printed materials, etc.)

Have questions about this? Call Lynette at the Baton Rouge District Office. Phone: (225) 293-8868

*North Rampart Community Center-
Developing Leaders for the Future*
First Annual Comedy Hour Fund-Raiser

**Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6
7:00 – 9:30 P.M.**

Two nights of comedy, music and talents featuring Reverend Connie Saizon, Christian Comedian, and Pastor of St. Landry United Methodist Church in Gonzales, Louisiana and Hughes United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Mr. Clark J. Knighten, owner and Director of Operations at Black Cat Productions, LLC and the Stars of North Rampart Center.

\$10 donation is requested!

Comedy Event Location:

Bethany United Methodist Church
4533 Mendez Street
New Orleans, LA 70126



To Benefit:

North Rampart Community Center
1130 North Rampart Street
New Orleans, LA 70116

Phone: 504-529-1681

Fax: 504-522-9981

Email: nrcc07@bellsouth.net

Web:

www.northrampartcommunity.com



**NEW ORLEANS
DISTRICT OFFICE, UMC**

William Hutchinson

BISHOP

Ramonalynn Bethley

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Phone: (504)835-6330
Fax: (504)835-6364
noladistrict@bellsouth.net

3117 22nd Street, Suite 5
Metairie, LA 70002

Treschere Washington
Administrative Assistant

Holiday Schedule

See the “In the N.O.—On the Fly” Calendar for more details

- November, 21-22, 2008 - WT Handy Convocation
- November 26, 27, 28, 2008 - District Office Closed
- December 3, 2008 - Audit Training, First LaPlace “Audit Team Only”
- December 6, 2008 - Work Day in the District “Making A Difference”
- December 16, 2008 - 11:30am Lunch and Laughter - Macaroni Grill - 3410 Highway 190 - Mandeville
- December 9-10, 2008 - DS in Cabinet
- December 22, 2008 January 2, 2009 —Office Closed for Holidays (Re-open Jan. 5th)
- January 8, 2008 - All remittances must be in the Conference Office
- January 12, 13, 14, 2009 - New Orleans District Annual Audit –See E-mail sent from District Office for your time.
- January 20, 2009 - Epiphany Dinner—Hartzell Mount Zion UMC, Slidell

If your church still needs SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING:

Saturday, December 6th at the Wesley Center from 10 am until 3 pm. Churches interested in this session should register at <http://events.signup4.com/Safesanctrn08> or www.la-umc.org/youth/safe.php