

Children's Directors Gathering  
March 10, 2011  
FUMC, Panama City

As we did introductions each person told what is their favorite children's story:

Leigh Meekins: Old Turtle

Gindi Prutzman: Runaway Bunny

Dena Ogletree: I think I Can

Laura Guffin: The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey

Terri Legg: The Three Trees

Cheryl Mothershed: Red Mittens

Jane Snell: A Certain Small Shepherd

Imogene Martin: The Cat and the Hat

Tracy Bullinger: any Max Lucado children's book

Jacki Smith: The Giving Tree

Becca Rutherford: The Monster at the End of the Book

Paula Roane: The Velveteen Rabbit

From the meeting:

Resources for VBS materials: Christian Resource Center in Montgomery, Discount VBS.com

What people are doing during Lent: 24 hours that changed the world; Five Practices of Fruitful Living; Enough; a mission focus for the children; Journey with Jesus

Other ideas: Goovin' with Jesus Disco Party to celebrate Easter; Spring Kite Fly

Musicals: Malice in the Palace, Cross Country. Gindi Prutzman at FUMC, Dothan indicated it folks were interested in borrowing musicals, she has several that she would be willing to loan out

We had communion worship in the chapel before lunch.

After lunch we discussed Children's Ministry Forum and FOCUS.

Additionally, we discussed Leadership Essentials for ministry (info below with a copy of a power point presentation attached)

## Leadership Essentials and Volunteers

Gary McIntosh in  
Taking Your Church to the Next Level

### **5 life cycle stages of a church**

Emerging

Growing

Consolidating

Declining

Dying

### **Church Sizes**

Relational Church (15-200 worshippers)

Managerial Church (200-400 worshippers)

Organizational Church (400-800 worshippers)

Centralized Church (800-1500 worshippers)

Decentralized Church (1500 - plus worshippers)

Craig Jutila in  
Leadership Essentials for Children's Ministry

### **4 Essentials**

Passion

Attitude

Teamwork

Honor

## 2011 CHRISTIAN HOME MONTH

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Watch "Remember the Titans." As the group watches the movie, invite them to use the chenille sticks, play dough, or art materials to show visually what justice looks like to them. At the end of the movie, take some time to reflect together what they saw in the movie that helps us know ways to bring about justice. Invite those who created something during the movie to tell others about their creations.

Break: 8:30 – 8:45 p.m.

8:45 – 9:15 p.m. Lead the group in sharing and praying about their joys and concerns. Ask those who wish to name a song, or a

scripture verse, or something they have seen this day that helped them understand God's peace.

9:15 – 10:00 p.m. **Snack and Game Times.** Recruit volunteers to plan the ending worship service for Sunday. If weather permits, go outside for stargazing or a campfire.

### SUNDAY

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Closing worship.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Clean-up and Journey Home.

## CALLED TO PEACE: CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Reprint the Family Devotional Times** material in your church newsletter or place it on your Web site.

**Using the Planning Calendar,** list one suggestion a month that details how families can engage in activities of justice.

**Collect stories from families** of experiences they have related to justice and publish these (with their permission) in your church newsletter or e-newsletter.

**Enjoy a meal together at church.** Include as part of the time together, making health kits to be distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). For instructions on the kits, contact your annual conference office or go directly to [www.umc-gbgm.org/umcor](http://www.umc-gbgm.org/umcor) and look for "relief supplies."

**Encourage families to adopt the Family Covenant for Justice** and carry out the practices for at least a month. Suggest a starting day for all in the congregation to participate. As part of worship, ask those who intend to live the covenant to stand. Pray for all who are taking the covenant. On the ending date, ask all who lived with the covenant to stand. Recognize each and join in singing a song of praise, giving thanks for this commitment.

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\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*MIXED AADC 380  
REV. KATRINA LEIGH MEEKINS 5  
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
100 INTERSTATE PARK DR STE 120  
MONTGOMERY AL 36109-5488

LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES DIVISION  
TOLLFREE (877)899-2700, EXT 7141  
FAX (615) 340-7011  
EMAIL: MNDRTON@GBOD.ORG  
WWW.GBOD.ORG/FAMILY/HOMEMONTH.HTM



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# CALLED TO JUSTICE: RETREAT MODEL

1. The congregation prays for the retreat, the participants, and the team that will plan the retreat.

2. A retreat planning team is created, which consists of three to five people in the congregation.

3. The retreat team meets and:

- Chooses a date and location.
- Decides on the study to use.
- Designs and plans the retreat.
- Prepares a budget.
- Secures a location.
- Recruits leaders.
- Plans times for prayer and worship.
- Arranges all food needs.
- Plans an offering for an organization in the community with a mission for helping families in need of lodging and food.
- Designs a flyer, or announcement, which includes a registration form and information about fees, dates, and location.

4. The team prepares for publicity and promotion. Someone from the team prepares information and distributes it through the church newsletter, e-newsletters, worship bulletins, bulletin boards, and other avenues in the congregation. Regular notices with sign-up forms should appear six months prior to the retreat and should be available one week prior to the retreat

5. The team collects supplies needed for the retreat. Those needed if following this retreat model: hymnals or songbooks/sheets; Bibles; board games; sports equipment; bag of miscellaneous items (e.g. masking tape, box of tissues, car keys; hula hoop, basketball, running shoes, toothbrush, roll of toilet paper, towel, spatula, hat, etc.); *Christian Home Month* (a copy for each participant); poster board for each group; markers; writing paper; magazines, scissors, glue; DVD or VH tape of a movie that focuses on justice such as *Glory Road* or *Remember the Titans* (or another movie of your choice that illustrates justice for you); play dough; chenille sticks; drawing paper; markers.

## FRIDAY

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner (A served meal or bring-your-own-bag-supper)

7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Gathering Time. Share announcements and opening prayer. Sing familiar camp songs, favorite hymn, and praise choruses. Be certain to explain the theme of justice. Give every family a copy of *Christian Home Month*.

7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Divide participants into "family groups"

of four to six people (mixing up actual family members with others in the congregation). Have a bag of miscellaneous items available and let each group choose an item. Instruct all participants that each family group gets the next 30 minutes to prepare a short commercial, no longer than 90 seconds. The commercial must be on the theme of "justice."

Find one or two people to be emcees for the show. As the family groups prepare their commercial, the emcees should wander among the groups to create a list of commercial titles and set an order for the "performances."

8:15 – 9:00 p.m. Present the commercials. Let the emcees guide the groups through presenting their family commercials on justice to the total group. At the conclusion, ask the total group to list some key words or phrases they heard that help us focus on justice. End with a prayer using the words or phrases lifted up by the group.

9:00 – 10:00 p.m. Snack and Game Time. Share snacks. Have board games available, music to listen to, and other activities suitable for all ages. If the setting allows, have a campfire or take a flashlight walk.

## SATURDAY

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. Lead the group in singing, scripture and prayer.

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Ask the participants to reassemble in the same family groups as the previous night. Provide a Bible, a hymnal, markers, paper, and a piece of poster board for each group. Ask each group to read Amos 5:24. After they have had time to read the scripture, ask each group to talk together about what would make 'justice' flow in their community. What would need to change? What would need to continue to happen? Make a list of these items. Next to each item, ask the group to list agencies, or places that address each of the issues of justice the group has raised. Using the magazines provided, ask each group to find pictures that would show what is needed to make each item listed "just" in your community. For instance, if "not everyone has enough food" is listed, pictures of food would be added to the poster board. Glue the pictures onto the poster board to create a picture of what is needed to make your community one of justice.

Break: 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Distribute hymnals or song books to each group. Give them 15 minutes to locate a hymn or song that helps talk about justice. Ask them to rehearse this song so that they can teach it to the total group. Call the group together and invite each family group to share their poster, then teach their song of justice to everyone.

Noon – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. Afternoon Fun. Encourage naps. Provide walking/hiking trail maps, recreational/sports equipment, and arts and crafts.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner

*continued on back*





## CHRISTIAN HOME MONTH PLANNING CALENDAR

**APRIL:** Begin plans for celebrating Christian Home Month in worship, in small group gatherings, with a church wide meal, and in homes. Ask families to bring pictures and written statements about how they participate in acts of justice at home and in their communities. Use these to create a bulletin board and put in the church newsletter and bulletin.

**MAY:** Carry out plans made for celebrating the Christian Home. Recognize women in the congregation for those who are mothers in families and mothers in faith.

**JUNE:** Celebrate Pentecost Sunday on June 12. Invite congregation members to wear red. Make a Pentecost bulletin board and ask individuals and families to add to the tree the names of those in the congregation who have helped the church grow. Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday June 19. Also on June 19, for Father's Day, recognize men in the congregation who are fathers in families and fathers in faith. Publish a devotional guide for families to use on vacation. Include scripture, meditations, and prayers.

**JULY:** Plan a service project that allows families to serve in a soup kitchen or help prepare food for community dinners that serve the homeless. If you have a community food bank, ask the congregation to bring in a particular food item needed by the food bank each week in July.

**AUGUST:** Have an "end of summer" ice cream social. Ask church members to bring school supplies that can be given to local schools for families who cannot afford to buy supplies for their children.

**SEPTEMBER:** Hold a parenting class for parents and grandparents. Use the book, "Let the Children Give: Time, Talents, Love, and Money" by Delia Halverson.

**OCTOBER:** Celebrate the Children's Sabbath on the second Sunday of October. Call the Office of Children's Ministries, General Board of Discipleship

1-877-899-2780, ext. 1762, for instructions on how to get resources.

**NOVEMBER:** Provide a bulletin insert with prayers for families to use in celebrating Thanksgiving. Plan needed resources for celebrating Advent and Christmas in the home. Provide a list of places needing volunteers and who would welcome families volunteering together for Thanksgiving celebrations for those who are without food and shelter.

**DECEMBER:** Offer an Advent workshop for families. Invite individuals to bring to the church one Advent/Christmas decoration they use in their home and talk about why this is important to them. Provide a devotional guide for lighting the Advent wreath and praying together at home. Use the guide provided at [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org) or write your own.

**JANUARY:** If you haven't yet used the Covenant of Justice, invite families to do so as a New Year Resolution. Publish a list of "beat the winter doldrums" ideas such as playing a board game with the family, telling one another stories of ancestors, having a star-gazing night, or picking a favorite Bible story and acting it out.

**FEBRUARY:** Celebrate Marriage Ministries on the Sunday nearest Valentine's Day. Recognize anniversaries, engagements, and milestones in the lives of couples in the congregation. Encourage families to have pancakes the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, remembering that with Ash Wednesday we begin Lent and a time of study and self-denial.

**MARCH:** Plan a retreat for couples. Use the book, "Love Never Ends: Growing Together in Marriage and Faith" or contact one of the United Methodist affiliate groups which have as their mission strengthening marriage. Call the Office of Family Ministries, General Board of Discipleship (1-877-899-2780, ext. 7170) for information on each affiliate organization or check out the information

at [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org). Offer a church wide study on the United Methodist Social Principles using the power point and other resources found at [www.unc-gbcs.org](http://www.unc-gbcs.org).

**APRIL:** Provide resources for families to observe Holy Week and Easter in the home. Begin plans for celebrating Christian Home Month in May. Call the Office of Family Ministries, General Board of Discipleship (1-877-899-2780, ext. 7170) and request any new resources available for support of family ministries.

### RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT MINISTRIES WITH FAMILIES

The Christian Home Month Resource, published annually by the General Board of Discipleship, is designed for leaders of family ministries. Available on the GBOD website, print copies are also available from Family & Life Span Ministries Office, General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN, 37203-0003. Phone tollfree 1-877-899-2780 Ext. 7170. Fax: 615-340-7071. Email: [mnorton@gbod.org](mailto:mnorton@gbod.org)

A complete recommended resource list for Christian Home Month 2010 is available online at [www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org)



# CALLED TO JUSTICE: FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIMES

• **Talk together in the family about what is justice.**

Justice is when all of God's creation (the earth, animals, people) are treated with love and care so that all have what they need. We have injustice when some do not have food or shelter; when the earth is harmed; when there is inequality because of culture, ethnicity, or religion.

• **Sort through clothing and belongings.** Find those items that are in great shape, but are no longer being used by your family. Give these items to clothing closets or shelters.

• **Take the word JUSTICE and create an acrostic** Using each letter of the word, list words or phrases that will help give peace in the family and in the world. For example:

**Jesus**  
**Undergird us so that your life**  
**Shines and**  
**Tells others of God's desire for Justice**  
**In our**  
**Communities and homes**  
**Everywhere. Amen.**

• **Plan a family day for helping others.** Contact agencies in your community and find one that will allow your entire family to volunteer for an evening activity or a weekend.

• **Set aside a family game night at least once a month.** Rotate which family member chooses the games each month. Play games together chosen by that family member.

• **Borrow hymnals from your church for each family member.** Do a search of songs that speak about justice. Sing the ones you know. Try to learn one new one.

• **Place cards on your dining table with the following discussion starters on them.** Once a week choose a card and invite everyone at the table to say what they think.

1. Tell about an act of justice you've read about in the paper or seen on television and say why you think this is important.
  2. Name someone who you know prays for you. Why do you think this person prays for you?
  3. Think of another country where you would like to live. Tell us which country and why you would like to live there.
  4. Tell about something you've seen this week that you feel was unjust. Why?
  5. Where did you see someone taking care of God's earth this week? What did they do?
  6. Tell about a time when you gave up something for Lent. What was it? How did this make you feel?
  7. Who is the nicest person you know? Why?
  8. Who are the people you feel sorriest for? Why?
  9. What is your most important treasure in life? Why?
  10. Tell about something you saw in nature that made you glad for God's creation.
- **Establish a family covenant for living justly.** This covenant can be renewed every three months; however, the basic elements of the covenant stay intact. The promise of love, forgiveness, acceptance, truthfulness, growth and witness is the basis of the covenant. This leads to living justly in the family.

## FAMILY COVENANT FOR LIVING JUSTLY

This covenant will be in effect from \_\_\_\_\_ (beginning date) to \_\_\_\_\_ (ending date)

**In order that our family may be one that promotes justice as we learn to live in this world together, we promise to:**

1. Seek God's presence together through regular Bible study, reflection and prayer.
2. Love one another unconditionally, including loving the person even while naming behaviors that might need to be changed by a person.
3. Be truthful to all members of the family.
4. Spend time together determining ways we can do our part to care for the whole world such as recycling or taking food to food banks.
5. Learn about hunger. Eat with, prepare, and/or serve one meal for the homeless.
6. Educate our family about justice issues in our church and community and together write a letter to an official in local, state or national government either praising their efforts for justice or asking for them to take action for justice.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS SIGN THE COVENANT.



## WORSHIP SERVICE RESOURCES

While celebrating Christian Home Month, or Family Life Sunday, the following assistance is suggested for use in worship. For additional resources, consult the *United Methodist Book of Worship*.

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### Call to Worship:

**Leader:** Come! Gather near to praise God, the creator of us all.

**People:** We come to recognize and support families who practice justice in their homes and communities, and in the world.

**Leader:** Come! Gather near to listen to God's call to speak out on behalf of the oppressed.

**People:** We come praying for families who struggle for fair treatment, who are without communities who care for them.

**All:** Let us worship, trusting in God's love and mercy. Praise be to God!

**Hymns:** Choose which hymns best fit your worship service:

"The Voice of God is Calling," *UMH #436*

"Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)" *UMH #583*

"What Does the Lord Require?," *UMH #441*

"The Summons" *The Faith We Sing #2130*

"The Family Prayer Song" *The Faith We Sing #2188*

"Goodness is Stronger than Evil" *The Faith We Sing #2219*

### Scripture Readings

Lectionary readings for the day may be used, or you may choose from the following:

Old Testament: Micah 6:6-8

Psalter: Psalm 97

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29

### Prayer for Families:

"For Courage to Do Justice," *UMH #456*

"Bread and Justice," *UMH #639*

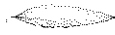
### A Litany for Families

**Leader:** Let us give thanks...

**People:** For families that work hard to be caring and supportive of one another and help other families gain strength.

**Leader:** Let us pray...

**People:** For families suffering because of abuse, who feel separated from God, who experience constant hardship, or are without homes.

**Leader:** Let us speak... 

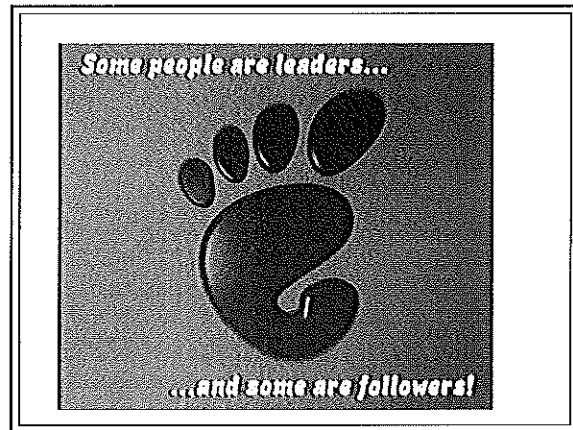
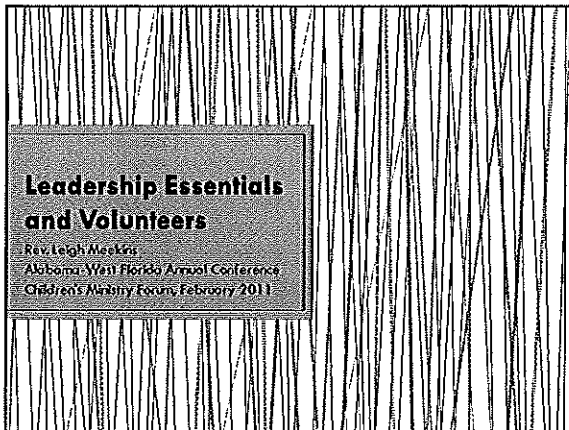
**People:** For families that are judged wrongly, for those caught in a system of mistrust and greed, and for families for whom the world is a cold and uncaring place.

**Leader:** Let us seek guidance...

**People:** For families who read the scripture, pray together, worship in the home and seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**All:** O God, we are your children. Help us remember that justice was not meant for only a few but was intended for all. Open our eyes for the ways we as a community of faith can be a witness to all in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. AMEN.





**Leadership**  
*"organizing a group of people to achieve a common goal." The leader may or may not have any formal authority.*

**Life stages of churches**  
Emerging Church

**Life stages of churches**  
Growing Church

**Life stages of churches**  
Consolidating Church



**Life stages of churches**  
Declining Church

**Life stages of churches**  
Dying Church

**Different Size Churches**

- Relational Church (15-200 worshippers)
- Managerial Church (200-400 worshippers)
- Organizational Church (400-800 worshippers)
- Centralized Church (800-1500 worshippers)
- Decentralized Church (1500 – plus worshippers).

**4 Leadership Essentials**

Passion

**4 Leadership Essentials**

Attitude

**4 Leadership Essentials**

Teamwork



## 4 Leadership Essentials

Honor

Teaching Leadership or Developing Leaders

