



NEWSLETTER COLUMBUS DISTRICT

The United Methodist Church
3434 Hilton Woods Drive
Columbus, Georgia 31906
Phone 706-561-4541

James R. King, Jr., Bishop
P. Shane Green, Superintendent

Volume 21

December 2009

Number 12

Joseph Roberson
March 30, 1952 - November 21, 2009
Served South Columbus United Methodist Church 1994-2009



A Word of Thanksgiving

I want to thank you for a wonderful Charge Conference season. I have thoroughly enjoyed being in your churches and meeting many of the delightful people who fill your pews every Sunday. The conferences have allowed me to see a closer view of each church and her ministries. It has blessed my soul. I have compared this experience to that of flying in a plane. When the plane first takes off, you can see some things closer up but it isn't too long before it all gets plunged together. At 10,000 meters, one can see a beautiful panoramic view but seldom see any detail. It is only in landing does one see the "up close" clearly. Charge Conferences have allowed me to see all of your work "up close." Thank you again for the privilege of seeing your sacrifices and efforts to make God's Kingdom a reality on earth.

District Christmas Party

I hope that you will join our family for a time of celebration at the district parsonage on December 12th, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Please drop in and out at your convenience. Connor and Caroline will gladly entertain any children or grandchildren as they play together. Our desire is for you to come, be at home, laugh, eat, and have fun as we celebrate the Advent season.

Consultation for Appointments

If you haven't already made an appointment for consultation, please do so. December 1, 8, and 14 will be devoted to consultation time. If those dates present a hardship for your schedule, please contact me for a time that is better suited. Bishop King would like for every pastor and every church to meet with their DS—even if they aren't expecting a move. It is better to be on the safe side of consultation and meet than not to. In January I will be meeting with every church.

Merry Christmas

Finally, from the depths of my being, I want to express my sincere gratitude for everything that you strive to do in our district. I cannot begin to express how humbled I am because of your love for Christ and his church. It is a high privilege for me to be connected to so many great churches and pastors who sacrifice often for God's glory. My desire is you have received from me what I have received from you. Because of you, I have experienced a windfall of grace from your hands. My prayer for you is that your life would overflow with the goodness of God during this celebratory time of Christ's birth. God bless and thank you again.

Grace and Peace,
Shane



District Ministers' Christmas Party

December 12, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

District Parsonage

3434 Hilton Woods Drive

•Please drop in and out at your convenience.

•Children are invited.



United
Methodist
Women

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat March 26-28, 2010



UMM Spring Retreat April 16-18, 2010

DISTRICT SENIOR ADULTS

All senior adults of the Columbus District are invited
to a . . .

Christmas

Music Extravaganza and Luncheon

St. Luke Ministry Center
December 15, 11:45 a.m.

Outstanding entertainment features
professional singer Gerald Atkins
Carol Cox's dulcimer ensemble
Doyle and Nancy Register
Hannah Massey and
other special music and surprises
Luncheon cost is \$10

Visit with other seniors and enjoy a wonderful program!
Reservations-Sandee, 706-256-1017, by December 8.

Sponsored by: *Connectional Ministries Office*
Theme: *"Enduring Faith: A Heart of Wisdom"*

Older Adult Retreat April 12-14, 2010

Epworth By The Sea

Rev. Jim Rush will be the preacher

Dr. Evelyn Laycock will be the Bible teacher

0.5 CEU credits are available for persons wishing to
take professional training with Dr. Rick Gentzler, director
of the Center on Aging and Older-Adult Ministries for the
General Board of Discipleship.

For details contact Diane Giles, 888-266-7642.

Local Pastors' Licensing School Epworth By The Sea

February 5 - February 12, 2010

For more information email or call Steve Meguiar,
Assistant Dean, LPLS at smeguiar@bellsouth.net or 912-
234-7234.

Confirmation Retreats 2010

Retreat 1: February 26-28

Retreat 2: March 19-21

Space is limited to 500 participants per retreat. The retreats are intended for 6th graders and above. Each year this event provides students with an experience that helps them understand the grace offered through Jesus and information about the rich heritage of the United Methodist Church. The Join the Journey Confirmation Retreat is modeled after the Claim the Name curriculum and is intended to be a supplement to the ongoing training offered by local congregations. The cost for this weekend event is \$40 per person and includes a t-shirt, meals, lodging, and program costs. For info, Adam Ricker, 888-2676-7642 or adam@sgaumc.com

2010 South Georgia Annual Conference Session

Theme: "Sowing the Word"

June 6-9, 2010

UGA, Tifton Campus Conference Center
Tifton, GA

Nurture Café

The Nurture Café is designed to feed the local church by offering a MENU of ENTREES (workshops) with SERVERS (presenters) from which YOU (local churches) can "place an order." Members of the Nurture Team will go directly to the local church with trainings tailored to the specific ministry needs of the local church. Team members can "cater" their "menu of entrees" to you for a special emphasis, a Wednesday Night Program, a training event, or a Bible Study. To place an order or for more info please contact Allison Eastin, Nurture Team chair, allisone_dfumc1@windstream.net or 912-384-4404, ext. 13.

Columbus District Stewardship Summary

2009 Apportionments: As of October 31 the District has paid \$997,882.73 (65.3%) of their Conference Apportionments and \$104,338.45 (67.2%) of their District Apportionments.

Membership: As of October 31, the District has 15,666 members which is -84 for the year. Those churches showing a net gain are: Asbury +1, East Highland +4, M. L. Harris +1, Pierce Chapel +40, St. Luke +59, St. Paul +14, St. Peter +3, South Columbus +29, Wesley Heights +4, Lumpkin +3, Shellman +1, Talbotton +2, and Woodland+3.

The last day for 2009 apportionments to be turned in is January 13, 2010.

District Concerns and Celebrations

Our sympathy to **Daryl Brown** on the death of his grandmother, *Claudia Brown*, on November 16. The funeral was November 17 at Howard UMC.

Our sympathy to *Beverly Roberson* on the death of **Joseph** on November 21, 2009. Please keep the Roberson family in your prayers. Visitation-November 27, 6-8 p.m. at South Columbus UMC, Funeral-November 28, 11:00 a.m. at St. Luke UMC, Interment-November 30, 1:00 p.m. in Waynesboro, and Memorial Service-December 3, 6:30 p.m. Statesboro First UMC.

Please keep in your prayers: **Bishop Marion Edwards** as he undergoes chemotherapy in Columbus; **Bill Willis** (retired) recently had spinal surgery at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta; and, *Andrew Barrett*, son of **Beth and Alan Barrett**.

Warmth in Winter III

An Event for Older Adults

“The Time Of Your Life”

January 11-13, 2010, EBTS

Presented by: Ed Kilbourne

Singer/Humorist/Folk Theologian

Enjoy great meals and fellowship, comfortable accommodations, the power of the ocean and the peace of the historic Marshes of Glynn plus 4 in-concert presentations by Ed Kilbourne

•Register at www.epworthbythesea.org

Clergy Sexual Ethics Workshop

Sponsored by: Commission on Pastoral Counseling

•**Thursday, February 11, 2010, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

Epworth By The Sea

•**Tuesday, April 27, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

St. Paul United Methodist Church, Columbus, GA

•**Thursday, September 9, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Porterfield UMC, Albany, GA

These workshops are required every three years for persons serving under appointment by the bishop (clergy, local pastors, extension ministers, appointed lay speakers). Cost is \$5 for lunch (collected at the door).

To register, please e-mail cpcassistant@sgaumc.com.

E-Mail Newsletter

Starting in January, we will publish our district newsletter over the internet and you could have your copy delivered to your inbox on your computer. This is the last District Newsletter that we will mail. If you want to receive your newsletter by e-mail, contact us at cdumc@aol.com.

To view the December Newsletter online go to

www.sgaumc.org

Weekend event for young men and women exploring a call to ministry . . .

January 8-10, 2010 Epworth By The Sea

Guest Speakers:

- Dr. Rick Lanford •Rev. Denise Walton
- Rev. Andy Lamon •Rev. Matt Woodberry
- Rev. Reggie William •Mr. David Herndon

LiveFeed is the perfect place to listen, to ask questions, and to meet others who are sensing a call from God. The event is being sponsored by the SGC Board of Ordained Ministry. Thanks to generous support from the St. Marys Foundation and the Board of Ordained Ministry, there is **NO COST** to attend. It begins at 6 pm, January 8 in the Jones Auditorium at EBTS and ends with lunch on Sunday, January 10. For registration info contact Diane Giles at 888-266-7642. For event questions contact Rev. Jay Tucker at 478-923-7317 or jayctucker@gmail.com.

Conference Website

For the most up to date news and information of the South Georgia Conference . . . www.sgaumc.org

South Georgia Advocate

The conference is now printing its own newspaper in partnership with the United Methodist Reporter.

Subscribe today! www.sgaumc.org/advocate

Bishop's Blog

Bishop James King has a blog, "Snapshots of South Georgia." www.bishopking.com

Conference E-mails

To sign up for the conference e-newsletters, send an e-mail to kelly@sgaumc.com

- Concerns and Celebrations
- The Link-biweekly from Office of Communications
- Bishop's Newsletter-Periodic communications
- Disaster Link-updates on disaster response

ALL UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 6—UMethodist Global AIDS Fund
- December 12—Ministers' Christmas Party**
- December 15—District Senior Adults Christmas Luncheon
- January 4-7, 2010—Children's Pastor Conference
- January 8-10—LiveFeed Ministry Exploration
- January 11-13— Warmth in Winter III
- January 24-27—Epworth Winter Camp Meeting

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The United Methodist Church
3434 Hilton Woods Drive
Columbus, GA 31906

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Birthdays

1-Ginny Connelly	7-Cindy Rollins
2-Shannon McIlrath	9-Shannon Baxter
2-Wilda Wilson	10-Charles Cox
4-Ken Carpenter	12-Mavis Trice
6-Sandra Homer	31-Nancy Rice

Anniversaries

3-Mollie and Irie Cyree
8-Rachel and Grant Abernathy
11-Claudia and David Seyle
12-Beth and Alan Barrett
14-Sharon and Norman Dunlap
14-Pat and Dan Gates
17-Marsha and Jim Emery
17-Stacy and Matt Avera
17-Cathy and Dan Smith
23-Sandra and Bill Henry
24-Sherryl and Earl James
27-Myron and Hal Brady
27-Wanda and Gerald Goodman
27-Ivelisse Quinones and Jairo Franco
29-Sandi and Bill Hortman
31-Jane and Daryl Brown

Epworth Winter Camp Meeting 2010 January 24-27, Epworth By The Sea

Christ is the One who calls!

- Bishop James R. King, Jr.: Preaching Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
- Rev. Don Kea: Preaching Monday, 10:45 a.m.
- Rev. Jim Trice: Preaching Monday, 7:00 p.m.
- Rev. Vance Mathis: Preaching Tuesday, 10:45 a.m.
- Rev. Jim Rush: Preaching Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
- Rev. Herschel Sheets: Preaching Wednesday, 10:45 a.m.
- Dr. William (Bill) Mallard: Bible Teacher, Monday-Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
- Mr. Jason Patton: Director of Music (College Place UMC)
- Ms. DeDe Singleton: Pianist (College Place UMC)
- Mr. George Ingram: Organist (First UMC Church and Lovely Lane)

Outstanding preachers, teachers, area choirs and musicians!
All retired pastors will be honored during each service.

Applications Being Accepted for Summer Camp Counselors

The summer break is too far away for most of us to think about, but plans are already underway for the South Georgia Conference Summer Camps at Epworth By The Sea. We are currently accepting applications for the 2010 Summer Leadership Team. Applications are available under the camping section on the conference website, www.sgaumc.org. If you know someone who will have completed their freshman year of college by May 2010 and would make a great camp counselor please pass along the information. For questions, contact Adam Ricker, Camp Director, at 888-266-7642 or adam@sgaumc.com

2010 Summer Camps

Mid High Camps

Mid-High Mania 1: June 7-11

Mid-High Mania 2: June 14-18

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 6th-9th grades

Elementary Camps

Elementary Camp 1: June 21-25

Elementary Camp 2: July 5-9

Elementary Camp 3: July 12-16

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 4th-6th Grades