

Cabinet, episcopal office see changes

Bishop James R. King, Jr. is a leader who likes to “live into” the future.

For the last fourteen months Bishop King has entered each day fully engaged in prayerful listening, watching and learning about the people and ministry of South Georgia United Methodism.

There is much fruit coming from his “living into” South Georgia.

By Thanksgiving he will have met with nearly 300 clergy in thirty-minute get acquainted sessions and he will have been in each district at least three times.

These encounters have all been an investment in coming to know the Annual Conference and for the Annual Conference to get to know Bishop King’s passion around growing a Christlike world.

“Rose and I are delighted to be in South Georgia,” said Bishop King. “We are certain that God has called us to this Annual Conference. We cannot imagine being in any other place.

As things have come into focus from listening and learning, Bishop King set in motion several structural and personnel changes for his staff. These changes are intended to create a team that will compliment his working style and spiritual passions. The bottom line is that Bishop King wants to be freed up to be a spiritual leader who focuses on and partners with others to grow a Christlike world.

This summer and fall, Bishop King implemented several structural and personnel

changes that have been communicated in various settings, but not officially announced. These changes are being “lived into.”

One of the first changes resulted in a realignment of the Cabinet into three different bodies.

The Appointive Cabinet now consists of the Bishop, the nine District Superintendents, and the Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries. This group deals with matters related to clergy personnel supervision and deployment. Also, the Appointive Cabinet members are the direct connecting link with local churches.

The Full Cabinet, a new title, consists of the Appointive Cabinet plus the Director of Administrative Services, the Director of Ministerial Services, the Director of New and Revitalized Congregational Development, and the Conference Pastoral Counselor. This group of “director-level” staff seeks to optimize the mission and ministry of the Annual Conference.

The Extended Cabinet consists of the Full Cabinet plus the Conference Lay Leader, the lay and clergy leaders of the General Conference delegation, the Director of Communications, and the two Associate Directors of Connectional Ministries. This group seeks to create a team approach around shared learning, reflecting, praying and acting to support local churches in the mission of making disciples.

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News in Brief

Annual Conference: Plans are underway for the 2010 Annual Conference Session. (See page 4)

November Celebration: This big youth event is only a month away. Register today. (See page 5)

Ministry Exploration Event: LiveFeed is a free event for those exploring a call to ministry. (See page 6)

Confirmation Retreats 2010: The dates have been set. Start planning now. (See page 6)

Nurture Café: The Conference Nurture Team is serving up training to local churches. (See page 7)

‘Disciples do what Jesus did’

BY DR. BRAD BRADY*

At its very core, being a Christ-follower is not all that difficult to grasp. Bishop James King frequently says, “Disciples do what Jesus did.”

In Jesus, we have a great example to follow. We have someone after whom we can pattern our life.



BRAD BRADY

Loving God and loving neighbor sum up Jesus’ life-pattern pretty quickly.

The time Jesus spent growing an intimate relationship with God is impossible to calculate. Yet, the evidence of an abiding love relationship appears multiple times on every page of the Gospels. Jesus, our Example, invites us to follow that pattern to experience a loving relationship that is real and personal. We have each experienced an appetizer portion of this love relationship with God that causes the yearning for more to well-up within us.

Equally evident is the life-pattern of Jesus loving his neighbor. Jesus loved people of all ages, of both genders, of every persuasion and of every circumstance. Jesus had a pretty broad definition of neighbor. He broke

barriers at every turn. In fact, it is because of such unprecedented grace that we Gentiles were introduced to a loving God. We are released to love our neighbors because we have experienced God’s radically transforming love through Jesus’ boundless definition of “neighbor.”

Not only was Jesus’ definition of neighbor expansive for his and our generation, but it is equally instructive that it was through his genuine love of neighbor that Jesus was later in a position to share the Source of that love. Jesus’ pattern was first to love God, then to love neighbor, then to tell neighbor about the love of God, and then to invite neighbor to love God.

Jesus always started by loving his neighbor at their point of need. No matter what the symptoms or signs of brokenness, Jesus had the gift of knowing exactly how to discern and lovingly focus upon the deepest hurt. Frequently, we read accounts of those to whom Jesus reached out being astounded by his genuine expression of Godly love. Not only was their curiosity peeked, these neighbors had a way of spreading the word so many others benefitted from Jesus’ original loving act.

This life-pattern is worth considering as we think about how we share our faith with others. We have all known people who skip the step of loving neighbor at their deepest point of need and who instead move “full-steam ahead” into telling the person about their need for God. There is something hollow and often manipulative feeling when such a testimony is offered.

However, when we begin with an authentic, grace-filled, act of taking the person seriously enough to identify and react to their greatest human need, we have a greater possibility that the neighbor will ask the questions that eventually lead to a faith-sharing opportunity.

Human need is all around us. We bump into a diverse cast of characters, our neighbors, every day. It is my prayer that all of us will grow in our love for God and, in so doing, grow in our ability to discern and respond to our neighbor’s greatest human need with Christlike love. Such a response will position us to say more about the One who is Love. That, my sisters and brothers, is “doing what Jesus did.”

*BRAD BRADY is the Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries for the South Ga. Conference.

Keeping You Connected

There are so many great things happening in the South Georgia Conference. Make sure you stay in the know with these great tools and resources!

Conference Website—Check out www.sgaumc.org for the most up to date news and information of the South Georgia Conference. Searching

for clergy contact information or trying to find a church? Make sure to visit the church & clergy locator on the website.

South Georgia Advocate—A new and exciting venture for South Georgia, the conference is now printing its own newspaper in partnership with the United Methodist Reporter. Visit www.sgaumc.org/advocate to subscribe today.

Bishop’s Blog—Bishop James King has a blog—“Snapshots of South Georgia.” Visit www.bishopking.com to see who the bishop has snapped a shot of this week!

Conference E-mails—Stay connected and informed—right in your in-box!

To sign up for one of our informative e-newsletters, send an e-mail to kelly@sgaumc.com.

--Concerns and Celebrations—daily prayer requests and praises

--The Link—bi-weekly e-newsletter from the Office of Communications

--Bishop’s Newsletter—periodic communications from Bishop King

--Disaster Link—updates on disaster response.

Safe Sanctuaries enhances ministry and combats abuse

BY KARA WITHEROW*

Jesus makes it clear that children hold a special place in the kingdom of God. In the gospels, He says, "Let the children come to me for to such belongs the Kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16).

And, when United Methodists profess the Baptismal Covenant, they assume a holy responsibility to protect and nurture children, youth and vulnerable adults.

In order to reduce the risk of harm and provide clear guidelines and practical policies to local churches, the South Georgia Annual Conference adopted its Safe Sanctuaries policy on June 5, 2007.

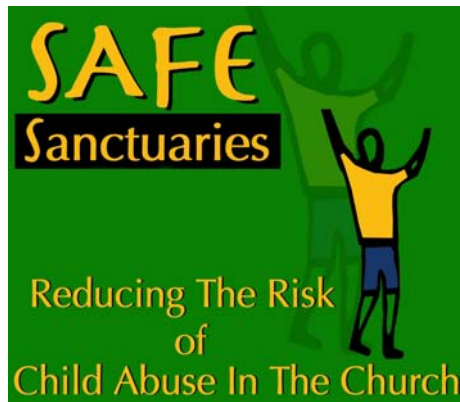
As outlined in the official Safe Sanctuaries policy, the purpose of Safe Sanctuaries is threefold: to protect the children, youth and vulnerable adults that participate in the ministries of the church; to protect staff, both paid and volunteer, from potential false allegations of abuse; and to protect all the various ministry assets of the church for making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Far from being a set of outmoded procedures intended to stifle creative ministry, Safe Sanctuaries is meant to enhance the local church's ability to protect and serve those most vulnerable.

Pastors and children's ministers say that adopting Safe Sanctuaries policies has had a positive impact within their churches.

While many churches struggle to recruit volunteers for their children's and youth ministries, Martha Bowman United Methodist Church's children's minister Mickey Moring says that adopting Safe Sanctuaries policies has helped him attract and retain volunteers. Moring, who coordinates ministry for children in grades one through six at the Macon church, averages 400 program participants per week and needs 70 volunteers per week.

"It has enhanced the ministry because it gets more people and adults involved," he said. "The most important



thing was to educate our congregation. The parents especially are very happy that their kids are safe. I've had parents thank us for move forward in their execution of Safe Sanctuaries policies when a male visitor – someone who had never before attended a service at the church – expressed an unusually strong interest in working with young children. Already in the midst of discussing their implementation of Safe Sanctuary policies, the church council voted to conduct background checks on every children's and youth ministry volunteer.

Rev. Green, who volunteered to be one of the first in the church to submit to a background check, says that the guest never returned after the new policy was announced in the church bulletin.

"Our church has a sense of closeness, and I want children to always feel like they are safe at church and that nothing will ever harm them at church."

Rev. Adam Ricker, Connectional Ministries associate director for Life Span Ministries and Safe Sanctuaries task force member, says that Safe Sanctuaries is designed to enhance the ministries of the local church.

"It enhances the ministries by providing a safe environment where children, youth and vulnerable adults are free to engage in worship and encounter God in an environment that is safe from distractions and things that would deter them in their relationship with God," he said.

Rev. Cleo Conaway, pastor of Nepsey-Warren Charge, also says that adopting Safe Sanctuaries policies has improved their ministries by increasing adult involvement and volunteerism and by giving parents a feeling of inclusiveness.

Members of the three churches on the charge – Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Oakey Grove United Methodist Church and Nepsey-Warren United Methodist Church – attended a Safe Sanctuaries workshop in Dublin and took what they learned back to the church leaders. After discussing the policies, the leaders decided that they would be the first to undergo background checks.

"We're always inviting the community into the churches," said Rev. Conaway. "We have a lot of unchurched folks (attending our events), so we really needed to have it (Safe Sanctuaries policies) in place."

When the policies were presented to the congregations in a positive light with a focus on safety rather than making would-be volunteers feel like suspects, Rev. Conaway says that the churches jumped on board, with the administrative chair and lay leaders taking the initiative to oversee the implementation.

"This is on our agenda, and it is from on high to protect our children and us," she said.

The intention of Safe Sanctuaries is to make those in leadership think intentionally about safety, Rev. Ricker said, and to enhance the ministries of the church, never to detract from them or make it more difficult to reach people for Christ.

"The biggest impact I've seen is that it has made those in leadership more aware of the dangers that are out there," he said. "The church is seen as a forgiving and trusting institution, and it sometimes attracts those that want to do harm. Safe Sanctuaries has caused us to intentionally provide safeguards for our children, youth and vulnerable adults."

SEE SAFE SANCTUARIES PAGE 4

2010 Annual Conference Session

Plans are taking shape for the 2010 South Georgia Annual Conference session scheduled for June 6-9 in Tifton, Ga. at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center. The theme of the conference will be "Sowing the Word."

The Annual Conference Session Program Committee met in Tifton recently to evaluate the 2009 conference and to begin planning for 2010. While many of the normal conference routines will remain, several schedule changes were determined at the meeting.

Sunday evening will be a time of conference-wide worship in the John Hunt Auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. Currently, we are looking at a service of singing favorites from the Cokesbury hymnal and an evening message. A reception will follow this evening worship experience.

The laity session and clergy session will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday. The laity will gather in the John Hunt Auditorium and the clergy will meet in the Conference Center Ballroom.

Bishop James R. King, Jr. will preach in an opening worship service scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the John Hunt Auditorium. The first plenary session will begin at 11:15 a.m.

The worship service to commission new provisional clergy will be held Monday at 2:00 p.m. The ordination

service for Full Elders and Full Deacons will be at 7:30 p.m. with Bishop Richard Looney preaching.

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings will begin at 8:45 a.m. with a brief worship experience. There will not be a Day of Service this year.

Recognition of retiring clergy will be held on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. The Memorial Service for deceased clergy and clergy spouses will be held Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. An evening worship experience will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Woven between worship services will be plenary sessions for information sharing, celebration, inspiration, and decision-making. Bishop Richard Wilke, of Disciple Bible Study fame, will be with us to teach on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of the 2010 Annual Conference will be the sending forth service late Wednesday morning. In addition to challenging the conference and finalizing the appointments, Bishop King will distribute to each clergy a token of their commitment for faithful service for the coming year. Simultaneously Roy Blackwood, Conference Lay Leader, will be presenting each lay member of the Annual Conference with the same token.

All conference business and worship sessions will be held at the

University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center, which is located on the Abraham Baldwin College campus.

"The Annual Conference Session Planning Committee is constantly evaluating the conference experience based on the feedback received from conference participants. Our goal is to glorify Christ, to edify the body of Christ known as the South Georgia Annual Conference, and to highlight our disciple-making mission," said Dr. Brad Brady, Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries, in speaking for the committee.

"The changes in this year's schedule are in response to suggestions we have received, to the new location where we will be conferencing, and to the Christlike spirit we hope to enhance in our gathering."

Tifton First United Methodist Church planning team is well underway in making preparation for our gathering.

Members are encouraged to go to the South Georgia Annual Conference website (www.sgaumc.org) for information about lodging and additional information as plans become firm.

The Annual Conference Session Program Committee will meet again in late January to solidify the next stage of logistical details.

Safe Sanctuaries: *Evaluation is key*

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

While all South Georgia United Methodist Churches were required to have adopted a Safe Sanctuaries policy by January 1, 2009, Rev. Ricker recommends that churches continue to evaluate the effectiveness of their policy as it is followed and implemented.

There are four key parts to the Safe Sanctuaries policy, and within each are minimum requirements to comply:

- Screening procedures
- Minimum supervisory standards
- Reporting
- Response plan

To read the conference Safe Sanctuaries policy and to see sample

policies from other churches, log on to www.sgaumc.org.

For questions regarding Safe Sanctuaries, email safesanctuaries@sgaumc.org or call 888-266-7642.

*KARA WITHEROW is the Editor of the *South Georgia Advocate*.

November Celebration will inspire youth to “OBEY”

“What does God want me to do?”

It’s a question that many wrestle with in their search for purpose and meaning in life.

God, however, has already answered the question.

The answer is simple: obey the instructions given to mankind through God’s word, the Bible. With the theme of “OBEY,” this year’s November Celebration will explore the idea that application – not revelation – is what most Christians are lacking.

Set for November 20-22 at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island,

November Celebration will retell the story of Jonah and answer the question, “What happens when we obey God’s commands?”

Event speaker is Fred Whaples, children and youth ministry trainer. Joining him to lead the weekend are worship leaders Living Anthem and guest musician Heath McNease.

November Celebration, a conference sponsored youth event that seeks to offer young people an opportunity to connect with Christ and one another in a safe and friendly environment, is intended for 6th – 12th

grade students. Adult counselors must accompany each group, and a 1 adult per 6 youth ratio is required. Make plans to attend as registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for the event is \$130 and is all-inclusive. To register online or download a brochure, visit www.sgaumc.org. For more information, contact Adam Ricker or Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.

Guest Speaker: Fred Whaples

Fred Whaples is a highly sought after trainer in children and youth ministry. Fred takes his full knowledge, experience and education to partner with churches in growing vibrant ministries and impacting the world for Christ. Fred served as a successful youth pastor for 17 years in both urban and suburban areas. Fred will share practical insight on growing closer to Jesus Christ by obeying Jesus’ commands.

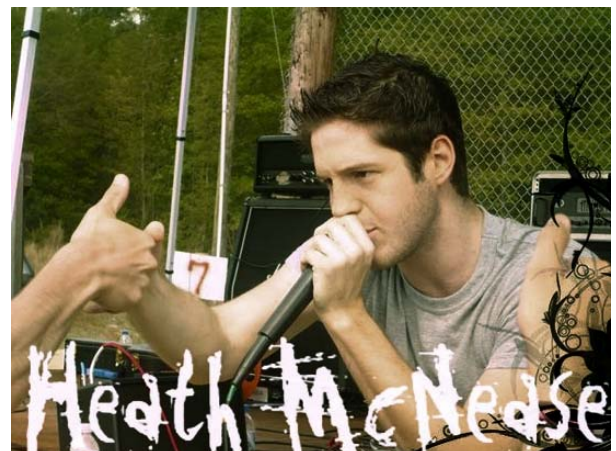


Music: Living Anthem

These young men have performed at Atlanta fest since 2002, and in 2008 they performed two separate days on the main stage. Their heart has remained the same, to serve. No matter the denomination, race, or age, from Living Anthem you will only find a heart for the people -- to see the body of Christ unified.

Special Guest: Heath McNease

Heath McNease is the antithesis of what you might expect when you think about hip-hop. He is so far removed from the exploits of the rap game that some may think his inclusion in hip-hop is oxymoronic. Heath mixes in elements of boom bap, dirty south, blues, jazz, reggae, rock, and even a bit of gospel music to his sound. “I’m such a fan of music. There is no way I could ever box myself in.”



Ministry Exploration Event Set for January 8-10

LiveFeed is a weekend event for young men and women exploring a call to ministry. LiveFeed is the perfect place for participants to listen, to ask questions, and to meet others who are sensing a call from God.

Set for January 8-10, 2010, at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island, this event is being sponsored by the South Georgia Conference 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 this event. Come as you are - no strings attached.



Guest speakers include: Dr. Rick Lanford, Rev. Denise Walton, Rev. Andy Lamon and Rev. Matt Woodberry.

Worship leaders will be Rev. Reggie Williams and Mr. David Herndon.

LiveFeed begins with registration at 6:00 pm on January 8 in the Jones Auditorium at Epworth By The Sea. The

event will end with lunch on Sunday, January 10.

Check out the LiveFeed Facebook group - LiveFeed: Listening to God's Call on YOUR Life. You can also follow the event on Twitter, www.twitter.com/LiveFeed_2010.

Cost for the event is FREE. For more information about registration contact Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.

For questions about the event, contact Rev. Jay Tucker at 478-923-7317.

Confirmation Retreats 2010

Retreat 1: Feb. 26-28

Retreat 2: March 19-21

Two Confirmation Events are schedule for 2010. The first retreat will be **February 26-28** and the second event will be **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 more information, please contact Adam Ricker 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

Elem. Camp 1: June 21-25

Elem. Camp 2: July 5-9

Elem. Camp 3: July 12-16

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 4th-6th grades

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.

Nurture Café serves up practical training

Looking for practical training in a variety of ministry areas? Look no further than the Nurture Café sponsored by the South Georgia Conference Nurture Team.

The Nurture Café is designed to feed the local church by offering a MENU of ENTRÉES (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. The possibilities are endless! Order a la carte (a single workshop) or a combo (two or more).

If there is an idea or need that you have that you do not find on the Fall Menu, please contact the team and let them see how they might be able to meet your needs.

To place an order or for more information please contact Allison Eastin, Nurture Team chair, at allisone_dfumc1@windstream.net or (912) 384-4404, ext. 13.

The Conference Nurture Team looks forward to serving you!

*Delivering the
freshest ideas in
ministry!*

The Fall 2009 Menu

Keeping Traditional Worship Contemporary

With much buzz about contemporary worship today, this workshop offers insight into helping very traditional services embrace variety within their traditional forms.

The Evolution of Church Hymnody

With every generation music changes. This workshop explores the changes in church music over the centuries from a musical and cultural point of view to help churches gain a better appreciation for offering something for everyone.

ABIDE

This interactive presentation based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Selling Swimsuits in the Arctic*, will explore 7 keys to success in what your church has to offer in outreach and ministry for growth.

S.H.A.P.E.

Get your congregation “in shape” – in shape for ministry that is! Based on Eric Rees' book, *S.H.A.P.E.*, this interactive workshop will help to unveil how God has given us a unique shape for ministry and service.

Can we build it? Yes, we can!

Build connections, build partners, build success and build balance. In this workshop learn ways to construct and build a strong team of faithful, committed volunteers.

A Preteen Prescription: ‘Tween Ministry

Ages 10-12 – are they children or youth? That is a good question for kids that often feel caught “in-between.” This workshop explores the unique needs of this group to create a jam-up ‘tween ministry.

All in the Family

The dynamics of our families are ever-changing. In this workshop, discover ways to encourage families of all shapes and sizes to worship, serve, fellowship and grow together in their faith and within their church “family.”

PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY!

North Georgia in need of rebuilding teams

Mike Yoder, disaster response coordinator for the North Georgia Conference, reports that they are through with the Early Response Phase following last month's flooding and are now transitioning themselves into long-term recovery mode. Mike says that their need now is for volunteer teams to help with the re-build process that is about to begin. He is requesting that all team leaders register their teams, and most importantly their skill areas and strengths, with the North Georgia Call Center at 678-533-1443. Mike and his volunteers are currently in the process of doing a Needs Assessment and will be ready shortly to begin receiving teams for the Long Term Recovery. At that time they will contact teams who have registered with the Call Center to determine specific dates and locations for teams to come in.

Bishop King: 'frame for fruit'

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

A second change that emerged during the late summer and early fall is a new staff configuration in the Bishop's Office.

First, Bishop King appointed Dr. Brad Brady to a newly expanded position, Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries. In this role, Brady will direct Connectional Ministries and assist the Bishop in his disciple formation emphasis. Brady will support Bishop King by coordinating many administrative aspects of mission and ministry within the Annual Conference. Brady is in the Macon office about one-third of the time, in the Connectional Ministries Office about one-third of the time, and in the conference working with the Bishop or others about one-third of the time.

Bishop King invited Rev. Sam Lamback to join his staff as a part-time Assistant to the Bishop for Administration. Lamback, a retired United Methodist clergy, is helping manage the Bishop's correspondence and calendar requests. Local churches seeking to invite the Bishop should still work through their District Superintendent. Other agencies and committees should refer invitations to



From L to R: Bishop James King, Sandy Scaggs, Brad Brady, Pam Kanode, Sam Lamback

Lamback at slamback@sgaumc.com. Lamback works in the Macon office three days each week.

Bishop King also brought Mrs. Pam Kanode on his office staff as a part-time correspondence secretary. Kanode assists Lamback in coordinating the receipt and response to all the various pieces of correspondence and invitations. Kanode is in the Macon office four hours each day.

Mrs. Sandy Scaggs, the Bishop's Secretary, is in her 22nd year of service in the Bishop's office. Scaggs receives phone calls, assists the Bishop with various projects and helps coordinate his travel arrangements.

"I am grateful to the Conference Personnel Committee and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration for helping me align my staff in ways that will ultimately let my gifts and graces be used in ways that glorify God and generate the most spiritual fruit," said Bishop King.

At the close of Annual Conference 2009, Bishop King clarified that structures and programs are not spiritual fruit. At their best, programs and structures are frames to support spiritual fruit. It is in this spirit that these changes were designed and implemented: to "frame for fruit."

Read the Good News of what God is doing in South Georgia!

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Clergy Sexual Ethics Workshop

Sponsored By: Commission on Pastoral Counseling

Below are the dates that have been set for the 2010 Sexual Ethics Workshop for Clergy. 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. This event is sponsored by the Conference Commission on Pastoral Counseling.

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Epworth By The Sea
St. Simons Island, GA
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

St. Paul United Methodist Church
Columbus, GA
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Porterfield United Methodist Church
Albany, GA
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Older Adult Retreat

Sponsored By: Connectional Ministries Office

“Enduring Faith: A Heart of Wisdom” will be the theme for the 2010 Older Adult Retreat set for April 12-14, 2010, at Epworth By The Sea. Rev. Jim Rush will be the preacher, and 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 more details contact Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.

Wesley Glen Life Skills Center Grand Opening

Sponsored By: Wesley Glen Ministries, Inc.

Wesley Glen Ministries will have their Grand Opening Celebration of the Life Skills Center on Friday, November 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. CNN's Nancy Grace will be the keynote speaker.

Bishop's Hour

**Americus District – November 1
Thomasville District – November 22**

Bishop James King has been traveling across South Georgia and has already been in 7 of the 9 districts for the Bishop's Hour. The Bishop's Hour is an opportunity for Bishop King to come close to the laity and clergy of each district, and for him to fulfill the teaching role that is intended to flow out of the office of Bishop. The Hour provides him an opportunity to do what God has called him to teach about, which are the various components of disciple formation - the church's chief purpose. The Americus District Bishop's Hour will be November 1 at Americus First UMC at 4:00 p.m. The Thomasville District Bishop's Hour will be November 22 at Porterfield UMC in Albany at 4:00 p.m.

Wesleyan College Sunday

Wesleyan College Sunday is November 8. This year every dollar given to Wesleyan College on Wesleyan College Sunday will go directly to support The Wesleyan Disciples, an innovative student program designed to create a broad Christian witness on campus. The Wesleyan Disciple scholarships are not paid from the college's budget, but funds are raised from individuals and local churches. Local church credit for Conference Advance Special gifts may be received by sending gifts through the conference treasurer #6611. Visit www.sgaumc.org to find out more about Wesleyan Disciples (see article: Wesleyan College is training new Disciples).

UM Student Day

The United Methodist Student Day Special Sunday Offering – set for November 29 - helps provide funds for scholarships and loans for United Methodist students. In 2009, more than twice as many students applied for UM scholarships than in 2008. Student Day gifts make a real difference for those who hope to attend college. Ninety percent (90%) of the offering goes toward funding the many scholarships and loans administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (www.gbhem.org) and ten percent (10%) stays within our state and goes to Georgia UM-related schools for merit scholarships. Contact the Georgia Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry (770-854-7283 or www.gahied.com) or visit www.umcgiving.org for more information and promotional materials.

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat
March 26-28, 2010

UMM Spring Retreat
April 16-18, 2010

Conference Coordinated Calendar 2009-2010

NOVEMBER

1 Americus District Bishop's Hour
 2-4 Eagles' Reunion, EBTS*
 2-4 Natural Church Development
 Coach Training, EBTS*
 8 Wesleyan College
 20-22 November Youth Celebration,
 EBTS*
 20 Full Cabinet Meeting, Macon
 22 Thomasville District Bishop's Hour
 27 Wesley Glen Life Center Skills
 Grand Opening
 29 United Methodist Student Day

DECEMBER

1 Conference Personnel Committee
 Meeting, Macon
 6 United Methodist Global AIDS
 Fund Sunday

JANUARY

7-8 Residency in Ministry Retreat,
 EBTS*
 8-10 LiveFeed Ministry Exploration
 Event, EBTS*
 10 Bishop King preaching in Macon
 District
 13 Last day for apportionments to be
 turned in
 14-15 Connectional Ministries Council
 Executive Meeting
 17 Bishop King preaching in
 Statesboro District

17 Human Relations Day
 23 Dublin District Training Event
 24 Bishop King preaching in
 Waycross District
 24-27 Winter Camp Meeting, EBTS*
 25 Annual Conference Program
 Committee Meeting, EBTS*
 26 Extended Cabinet Meeting,
 EBTS*
 27 Full Cabinet Meeting, EBTS*
 28 Cabinet Meeting, EBTS*

FEBRUARY

5-13 Licensing School for Local
 Pastors, EBTS*
 11 Sexual Ethics Workshop, EBTS*
 14 Andrew College Sunday
 16-18 Cabinet Appointment Making
 Session 1
 21 Bishop King preaching in Dublin
 District
 21 Volunteers in Mission Awareness
 Sunday
 23-24 Cabinet Appointment Making
 Session 2
 26-28 Confirmation Retreat 1, EBTS*
 28 Bishop King preaching in
 Thomasville District
 28 Kingdom Builders Promotion
 Sunday

MARCH

2-3 Appointment Making Session 3
 7-10 Board of Ordained Ministry
 Meeting, Macon
 14 Bishop King preaching in
 Columbus
 14 One Great Hour of Sharing
 16-17 Appointment Making Session 4
 18 Full Cabinet Meeting
 19-21 Confirmation Retreat 2, EBTS*
 21 Bishop King preaching in
 Americus District
 26-28 United Methodist Women Spiritual
 Growth Retreat, EBTS*

APRIL

6-7 Appointment Making Session 5
 12-14 Older Adult Retreat, EBTS*
 13-14 Appointment Making Session 6
 15 Extended Cabinet Meeting
 16-18 United Methodist Men's Retreat,
 EBTS*
 18 Bishop King preaching in
 Savannah District
 18 Native American Awareness
 Sunday
 25 Bishop King preaching in Valdosta
 District
 27 Sexual Ethics Workshop,
 Columbus

* Epworth By The Sea

Online Communicator

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