

faithful, fruitful, bold

Bishop Names 2 New Superintendents, Director of Connectional Ministries

Bishop Mike Watson announced three Cabinet-level appointments on Friday, April 13, following weeks of consultation and discernment.

The Reverend Marcia Cochran will become the Waycross District Superintendent, Dr. Brad Brady will be appointed as the Macon District Superintendent, and the Reverend Lowery Brantley will be the next Director of Connectional Ministries. These and other pastoral appointments will be finalized during the concluding moments of the 2007 Annual Conference session on June 7 in Savannah.

“These are three of the most exceptional clergy in South Georgia,” said Bishop Watson. “Each one has great love for the Lord and is fully committed to advancing God’s mission of making disciples through the United Methodist Church. I know they will do well in their new assignments. I look forward to working with them in their new roles.”

Cochran is currently Senior

Pastor of Waycross First. Among her previous appointments, Cochran served as Pastor of Epworth UMC in Columbus and as an Associate Director of the Conference Council on Ministries.

Cochran was born and grew up in Bainbridge, GA. She graduated from Andrew College, LaGrange College, and Candler School of Theology. Cochran holds the distinction of being one of the first two women ordained elder in the South Georgia Annual Conference in 1978. As such, Cochran has been a trailblazer and mentor for many female clergy through the years.

Cochran has offered faithful service on district and conference committees. She has served as Chairperson of Commission on Status and Role of Women, member of the

REV. MARCIA COCHRAN

DR. BRAD BRADY

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News in Brief

REV. LOWERY BRANTLEY

Safe Sanctuaries Training: One more Safe Sanctuary training is scheduled in Columbus. (See page 2)

Summer Camps: Registration for summer camps has begun. (See page 5)

Disaster Recovery: Rebuilding has begun following the March tornadoes. Find out how you can help. (See page 7)

Annual Conference Information: Find information on Annual Conference, set for June 3-7. (See page 13-17)

Doxology

BY DR. BRAD BRADY*

In the last few days, Bishop Watson announced that he will assign me to another appointment at the upcoming Annual Conference session. Since this is my last edition of the Communicator, I want to take this opportunity to express gratitude to God and so many of you.

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve the Annual Conference as Director of Connectional Ministries for the last seven years.

Every aspect of this ministry position has stretched and blessed me tremendously.

Allowing me to be associated with a wonderfully gifted and spiritually committed staff is a means by which God blessed me the most. Cathy Crawford and Diane Giles have completed their 20th and 15th year respectively as members of the Council staff. Both women faithfully go the second-mile as they offer service to the laity and clergy of the Annual Conference. Kelly Roberson, Patrick Witherow, Adam Ricker, and Denise Walton bring youthful energy

and spiritual creativity that benefit those we serve in innumerable ways. Also, Willis Moore, Suzanne Akins, and Brenda Iglehart Eddings blessed our Annual Conference marvelously during their terms of service. Each of these individuals enriched my life in ways that I will never forget. I am a better person because of our relationships. I praise God for each of them!

Another way I have been blessed is having the opportunity to see how God is at work through the dynamic United Methodist connection. God is redeeming souls and circumstances in congregations of every size and through the wonderful agencies of our Annual Conference. God is impacting so many through our faithful, fruitful and bold laity and clergy all across South Georgia. It has been a wonderful blessing to observe the spiritual fruit generated by God through those who risk so much and trust God so completely. As Director of Connectional Ministries, I have had the opportunity to see this exemplified within the bounds of South Georgia and through the global Church. I praise God for each faithful disciple and leader, and for God blessing their faithfulness.

Finally, let me express gratitude to God for the opportunities I have had to work with Bishop Mike Watson,

the Extended Cabinet, and other members of the Connectional Staff.

Occasionally, I will hear someone refer to those of us in Connectional work as bureaucrats. Such reference is always spoken with a tinge of a negative connotation as if what we do is meaningless in God's realm. I must say that each of those with whom I have worked in South Georgia's bureaucracy care deeply about the common good and see their work as an act of ministry unto the Lord. Each has added value to our Annual Conference and to me. I praise God for each of them!

Making the transition from Connectional Ministries will be difficult because these blessings are so evident. Even so, I embrace the transition, realizing that God has blessed me in each appointment I have been fortunate to receive. I am who I am because each appointment afforded me similar occasions to experience God's faithfulness . . . and to have proven repeatedly that God equips those whom He calls else all is folly.

So as I prepare to make the move to Macon, I go with gratitude for so much. And I go singing doxology—with alleluias!

**BRAD BRADY is the Director of Connectional Ministries for the South Georgia Conference.*

Safe Sanctuaries Training – April 28

The Office of Connectional Ministries will offer training for congregational leaders that is intended to help prevent the abuse of children, youth and vulnerable adults while they are involved in the ministries of the church. The next training is scheduled for April 28, 2007, at Pierce Chapel UMC in Columbus.

This workshop is designed for pastors who are seeking to establish a prevention plan; lay persons responsible for nurseries and day care center; staff and volunteers working with children and youth ministries; volunteers in scouting, Vacation Bible School, church camps, and ministries sponsored by several churches; and local church trustees responsible for risk management.

Cost of the event is \$5 per person. To register and pay online, go to www.sgaumc.org; or contact the Office of Connectional Ministries at 888-266-7642.

News from the Administrative Services Office

BY MIRIAM HAGAN*

At the recent Health Flex Summit, our conference received some good news. For 2008 our projected premium cost will remain at the present rate, which means there will be a zero percent increase. The decision our Annual Conference made to move to mandatory participation for active clergy in Health Flex is paying off. We will not know until September if this projection will be final, but we are certainly hopeful.

WELLNESS

At every Health Flex Summit, we hear more and more about the importance of encouraging our participants to take better care of their health. Health Flex recommends that conferences start programs to encourage our participants to walk or exercise regularly and to eat healthier meals. We have begun to encourage our participants to take an active role in their health and some are now walking and being more careful about what they eat. We thank them and want them to continue.

The last two years, ministers have been asked to take the Health Quotient, a survey from WebMd. We gave the minister's church a discount on the bill in order to encourage the ministers to participate. In 2006 because some ministers took the survey, we received a 1% rebate on our "active plan" premiums from Health Flex. With even greater participation from our ministers, we could have qualified for an even higher percentage rebate. The Conference Board of Pensions voted to give it back to the persons who participate;

so, before June, the ministers who participated in the survey last year and their churches will receive a check.

Again in 2007, Health Flex will give us a rebate on the premium cost for our "active PPO" plan provided our participants do the following:

- (1) take the WebMD Health Quotient survey, AND
- (2) complete a Wellness exam.

We want everyone in the "active PPO plan" to participate. Our incentive rebate will increase to 3% of our "active plan" premiums, if ministers help us attain the goal of 70% participation. The Conference Board of Pensions will continue to encourage participation in these incentives with the purpose of reducing overall health costs and premiums to our churches and ministers.

Our plan is designed to encourage all ministers to have a wellness exam annually. The only cost of a wellness exam for our ministers is the co-pay. Guidelines related to Wellness exam by age groups are on the South Georgia Conference website, <http://www.sgaumc.org> under Treasurer/Admin Services on the main index. Look for the link to the Wellness Information. Participants should print a copy of the guidelines and the insurance codes and take them to their doctor when they have their annual checkup.

HEALTH SCREENING

Because we believe that a wellness exam is very important, we are trying something new at Annual Conference this year. The Conference Board of Pensions will be offering a Procheck Health Screening by Health Ministries Association at no cost to participants covered under Health Flex. This

screening will qualify as a wellness exam for purposes of the incentive being offered by Health Flex but will not interfere with participants taking a wellness exam with their own doctor. (In other words, you can do this and still have your annual wellness exam.)

The screenings will be offered on Monday, June 4th, and Tuesday, June 5th, from 6:30 AM to Noon and then on Wednesday, June 6th from 6:30 AM to 9:00 AM. The Procheck Health Screening consists of a comprehensive profile of medical tests that will screen for the following:

- Heart disease and stroke risk
- Diabetes, kidney and liver disease
- Thyroid disease
- Anemia, infection or iron overload disease
- Colorectal cancer
- Prostrate cancer

The screenings will be conducted at the civic center. Persons who wish to participate should not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before they plan to have the screening done. The results will be mailed to you. Our office will not get a copy of your personal health information. If persons who are not Health Flex participants wish to have the screening done, it will cost them \$89.50. We will be able to accept checks but not debit cards or credit cards.

If you have questions about this opportunity, call Bob Shell before Annual Conference at 800-535-4224 or come to the Administrative Services Office table in the lobby of the Savannah Civic Center during conference.

**MIRIAM HAGAN is the Director of Administrative Services for the South Ga. Conference.*

You Are Invited...

BY ANN CODY BEALL*

I bring you greetings on behalf of the New and Revitalized Congregational Development (NRCD) committee. We want to share with you some of the excitement in the 31 ministries of NRCD. These ministries are the heart of the South Georgia Conference, and we want you to be a part of the excitement that is NRCD!

In our **Hispanic Ministries**, Dr. Hugo Magallanes and the Hispanic pastors of South Georgia have been busy. Today there are 13 Hispanic Congregations spread across South Georgia. The Warner Robins congregation has expanded their already vibrant ministry into Fort Valley. The next area we are reaching out to is Savannah; plans are moving forward to begin our ministry to this Hispanic population in June. With an ever growing membership and expanding reach into the communities that they serve, the Hispanic Ministries of the South Georgia Annual Conference are one of the fastest growing segments of our United Methodist population.

Currently eight **New Congregations** are growing and thriving in South Georgia. Our most recent addition is Gateway United Methodist Church in Pooler, Georgia. We are excited that Rev. Matt Hearn is leading this vibrant new congregation. The Pointe in South Lee County was constituted in March of this year.

Under Bryan Gerstel's leadership they are averaging more than 400 people in worship each Sunday.

There are ten churches going through the process of **Revitalization**. At Alpha UMC in Savannah, Rev. Loran Smith tells us that they have many celebration points as they move through the revitalization process. One major celebration for this growing congregation is the addition of the new "8:55 Alive Worship Service." Rev. Smith also shares with us that their Wednesday night programs are thriving and growing. We are excited for this congregation and their community! Please continue to pray with them and for them.

This Spring the United Methodist Men throughout South Georgia helped to bring new members to the Giving

Clubs of NRCD (Kingdom Builders, New Congregational Supporters, Vision Promoters, and New Congregational Planters). Our thanks to Mr. Larry Price for his vision and leadership during this effort. We could not have done it without him!

It is truly a privilege and joy to see God working through your generosity to make these celebration points a reality in South Georgia. For additional information contact me at acbeall@cox.net or (478) 737-6299. For those of you who have not begun supporting this important ministry I invite you to join us, and for those of you who already support us thank you for all that you do for NRCD.

**ANN CODY BEALL is the Assistant for Development and Communications for NRCD.*

I want to be a part of the Kingdom Builder's Club!

Name: _____ Home Church: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

I/We want to be: **Kingdom Builders**: \$15 twice a year **New Congregation Supporters**: \$50 twice a year

Vision Promoters: \$100 twice a year **New Congregation Planters**: \$500 twice a year

Travel to the depths of the “C” this summer!

As warm weather starts setting in across South Georgia, students young and old yearn for the day that school gets out. Opportunities abound, but there’s one place every child wants to spend at least one week, and that’s at summer camp! “C Quest” summer camps, sponsored by the South Georgia Conference Youth and Children’s Ministries, are just a couple of months away.

Our camp captain will lead this year’s crew to the depths of the “C” of life. Discover the beauty of the **C of Character**, the mysteries of the **C of Calling**, the treasures of the **C of Courage**, and the reward of the **C of Commitment**. All Mid High Mania and Elementary Camps are filled with a weeks worth of fun activities and opportunities to grow closer to Christ. Campers will enjoy the beach, pool,

boat rides, crafts, games, and much more at this year’s camp.

Cost for the week is \$225 and includes lodging, meals, programs, a t-shirt, and a camp DVD. **Counselors are provided.** Online registration and a brochure is available at <http://www.sgaumc.org>.

For more information, call the Connectional Ministries office toll free at (888) 266-7642.

MID HIGH MANIA 1 & 2

MID HIGH MANIA, for all students entering 6th-9th grades, will have two different sessions at Epworth By The Sea. The first session will be held **June 11-15**, while the second session will be held **June 18-22**. Mid High Camps give youth an opportunity to pursue Christ on a deeper level. Campers will enjoy a week away from the distractions of daily life, pursuing Christian fellowship and experiencing Christ-centered daily activities. These activities include high-energy, hilarious morning shows, small group Bible studies, beach trips, pool time, boat rides, craft shack, camp-wide competitions, and evenings of powerful worship. Cost is \$225. Counselors are provided.

ELEMENTARY CAMPS 1, 2 & 3

Three **ELEMENTARY CAMPS** will also be offered this summer at Epworth By The Sea. The first session is **June 25-29**; the second session is **July 9-13**; and the final session is **July 16-20**. Elementary Camps are filled with a week's worth of fun activities and opportunities to grow closer to Christ through daily worship, Bible study, and fellowship. Campers will enjoy the beach, pool, boat rides, crafts, camp-wide games, morning shows, and worship. Don't forget to invite a friend to travel to the depths of the “C” with you! Cost is \$225. Counselors are provided.

ROAD RULES

The South Georgia Conference Summer Leadership Team is available to come to your church for **ROAD RULES** during the week of **July 22-28**. A team can lead a youth week, children’s event, camp meeting, or some other program resource for children and youth. They will be available in small groups or large for the entire week or for specific days within that week. Call Adam Ricker at 888-266-7642 to reserve your team.

REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS ONLINE

Register online at <http://www.sgaumc.org> for a faster, more accurate registration process. Credit card payments are accepted online only. To ensure efficiency and correct information with regards to the large number of registrants for summer camp, faxed registration forms to the Connectional Ministries office will not be accepted, nor will reservations by phone. Due to limited availability for each event, online registration will be the fastest and most secure form of registration, while mailed in registrations will also be accepted. All forms and money must be turned in for campers to be completely registered, whether online or by mail. Please see our website for camp policies before registering your child for camp. For more information, visit <http://www.sgaumc.org>. You may also contact Diane Giles, Camp Registrar, at (888) 266-7642.

Summer Leadership Team 2007

The 2007 Leadership Team for the South Georgia Conference summer camps has been finalized. Please be in prayer for these individuals who have given their summer to be in ministry to God's children and youth. These college students will plan, prepare, pray for, and pull off summer camps this year. They have a tough job ahead but a rewarding one as well. As each of these counselors listens to God's call on his/her life to be in full-time Christian service, please continue to lift each of these young servants up in prayer.

Mary Pinson (Head Counselor)	LaGrange College
Charlie Judd (Head Counselor)	Valdosta State University
Jack Caldwell	Georgia Southern University
Lauren Caldwell	University of Georgia
Isaac Callahan	Mercer University
Alex Carter	Valdosta State University
Jess Coleman	Georgia Southwestern University
Rebecca Ezell	Georgia College and State University
Teresa Feagain	Georgia Southern University
Joshua Harris	Wofford College
Emily Hoxsie	LaGrange College
Allison Jones	Converse College
Erin Langdon	Georgetown College
Cassandra Morrow	Converse College
Kaelyn Parkins	Georgia Southwestern College
Stephen Sparks	Valdosta State University
Amber Wray	Mercer University
Danielle MacMinn	Nurse
Lauren Burke	Crafts

Youth Leader Training: Exploring the 3 V's

It's an understatement to say that youth ministry can be trying at times. However, part of effective leadership is to be encouraged in the ups and downs of ministry. The more a leader is able to receive the more he or she is able to give to the youth.

The South Georgia Conference is committed to helping you be successful as you minister to teenagers. A great way for you to get connected, encouraged, and equipped is right around the corner.

On May 19, 2007, a youth ministry training workshop will be held at

Forest Hills UMC in Macon from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This one-day seminar will explore the 3 V's of youth ministry: *Validation, Vision, and Volunteers*.

Jeremy Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries at Forest Hills UMC in Macon, GA, and Jason Sansbury, Youth Pastor at Bethlehem UMC in Franklin, TN, will lead the seminar. Jeremy and Jason have over 20 years of combined practical ministry experience.

This seminar will provide

useful tips on recruiting and maintaining a committed core of volunteers, learning how to discern God's vision for your youth ministry, and steps to developing talks that matter. Whether you are a veteran youth minister or a committed volunteer, this event will strengthen the work that you are already doing!

The cost for the seminar is \$20, which includes lunch and giveaways. For more information or to register, contact Adam Ricker at 888-266-7642.

Mark your calendar for these fall events

Youth Celebration '07

On November 30-December 2, 2007, the South Georgia Conference Youth Ministries will be sponsoring Youth Celebration '07 at Epworth By The Sea. Included in the weekend will be worship, individual church time, workshops, large group sessions, nightly entertainment, and afternoons of fun. Adult counselors must accompany each group, and a 1 adult per 6 youth ratio is requested. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information to come.

KidzQuest 2007

On September 14-16, 2007, the South Georgia Conference annual children's retreat, KidzQuest, will be held at Epworth By The Sea for all 3rd-6th graders. Registration will be available this summer so stay tuned to www.sgaumc.org for more information.

Rebuilding Begins Following March Tornadoes

Tornadoes swept across South Georgia on Thursday, March 1, causing drastic loss to property and several deaths. The United Methodist Church joined other relief agencies in responding to the various human needs brought on by the disaster.

Since that time many United Methodist volunteer teams have assisted homeowners in cleaning up their yards. Insurance adjusters are making their rounds to inspect the damage and file claims. Individuals have applied with FEMA, Red Cross, and other agencies for assistance. Slowly, people are beginning to put their lives back together.

“Recovery will be a long process,” said Brad Brady, South Georgia’s staff member working with disaster response. “We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated pastors and volunteers who are investing themselves in the long-term recovery process.”

In Americus, the community with the largest area impacted, the Reverend Jim McIlrath and other members of the Americus First UMC

are fully involved in organizing the long-term rebuilding effort. Mr. Jody Wade, a lay person from Americus First, is the case manager working with individuals with unmet needs.

Several training sessions have been conducted to better equip volunteers to organize and implement a long-term recovery effort. Case workers were trained recently to meet with families and begin assessing their needs. Volunteers from several of the United Methodist congregations in Sumter County have offered themselves to serve as case workers.

Sumter Disaster Recovery, a long-term recovery organization, has been formed. This is a community wide effort among all the churches and many other non-profits in the area. A permanent office has been established at 101 Habitat Street, Americus, GA. This office was made available by the Habitat for Humanity International organization. The toll-free number to call to register needs or offer volunteer services is 1-888-435-7191. Shortly, Americus will be ready to schedule volunteer work teams to assist with the rebuilding efforts.

The Crawford County area was also impacted by the tornadoes. Though the area affected is smaller, the damage done was traumatic for those who experienced the high winds. The Reverend Bill Huddle, pastor at Dixon UMC, has spearheaded the United Methodist response in that area.

Huddle reports that insurance companies are beginning to pay off, but there are substantial uninsured and under-insured losses. An inter-faith long-term recovery organization is being formed to assist persons with unmet needs.

South Georgia Disaster Response funds, made possible through the generous gifts of United Methodists, will be made available to both the Sumter and Crawford county long-term recovery efforts. Both areas will be needing volunteers to assist with rebuilding. We encourage you to watch the conference website for more details as they become available regarding these two counties and the recovery efforts in other parts of the conference.

Mission Awards Move to the Local Church

(A Note from the Conference Outreach Team)

We are exceedingly grateful for the many disciples across the South Georgia Conference who continue to respond by faithful, fruitful and bold outreach, giving generously of time, talent and treasure to alleviate suffering and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Whether through hands-on ministry, prayer partnerships, mission education, or financial contributions, congregations and individuals across our Conference lend their support to the mission ministries of South Georgia. We want to celebrate!

This year, we will not have the

mission celebration luncheon.

Instead, we are encouraging each organization and agency to give your mission award directly to the individual at their local church.

The Outreach Team would like to encourage the celebration of mission at the local church level where family, friends and the wider church community can celebrate what is happening through mission stewardship in South Georgia.

Agencies should make plans to give their awards in the local setting and send a minimum of two photos of the award honoree to: Reverend

Denise Walton, P.O. Box 20408 / St. Simons Island, GA 31522 or denise@sgaumc.com. The photos will be on display at the 2007 South Georgia Annual Conference. A list of the award honorees will also be available. The absolute deadline for sending photos is May 15, 2007.

Please call Rev. Denise Walton at 888-266-7642 if you have questions or need further assistance. Thank you in advance for helping us to make this a joyous celebration of those who dare to be bold disciples for Jesus Christ.

Project Tariro - Hope Restoring Faith

BY HOLLIE TAPLEY*

My love for Africa and especially Zimbabwe has changed me in more ways than there are words to express. My first trip in 1998 with my church, Pittman Park UMC in Statesboro, began what I never dreamed would become a vital aspect of my life.

In 2005, I was among a group of four other Deacons in Full Connection who were chosen to be the Deacon Mission Caravan to Zimbabwe and Africa University. Our group was joined by Sam Dhlamini, a native of Zimbabwe and a man after God's own heart when it comes to sharing the Gospel and being our brothers and sisters keeper.

After listening to Sam's proposal for Project Tariro, our team of Deacons was moved by the Spirit of God to accept this is our mission. We spent two days walking over available land praying, dreaming, and seeking God's direction. We found an area near Africa University and claimed this piece of property as our Field of Hope.

Next, we began to meet with the Health Science Department, Agriculture Department, Theology Department, interested faculty and

students of Africa University. Everyone we proposed our project to was excited and felt certain of God's direction in this new ministry. The Health Science Department agreed to work with us to implement the project and to provide students in the medical field to aid in any way we dreamed. Over the past two years we have continued to work and rework our project.

You can look at the news and see that Zimbabwe is in crisis. They have one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates of infection in the world. Since the year 2000, the number of AIDS related deaths continues to rage at a rate of about 4,000 per week. It is estimated that over 2.2 million persons of the 11 million remaining in Zimbabwe are considered infected with HIV/AIDS. The average life expectancy has dropped to only 34 years.

Our team feels that Project Tariro is needed because within the target area there are approximately 600 individuals living with HIV/AIDS needing a holistic treatment and respite care. Project Tariro is an HIV/AIDS non-profit organization created to support and care for these persons and their care-givers in a holistic rehabilitation program with

practical education experience. The scope of the HIV/AIDS problem in Zimbabwe continues to grow, along with the extremely poor economic crisis, severe food shortages and climbing inflation rates.

Two phases are planned for this project. The initial cost of the project is \$250,000 for both phases. We are undertaking the challenge to begin Phase 1 as soon as we can raise \$60,000. The program, administered by the Faculty of Health Sciences at Africa University, will be located at the Old Mutare Mission.

Your help for this project would be greatly appreciated. Funding for Project Tariro can be designated as *AIDS Project Tariro, c/o Africa University* and channeled through the Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR, Advance #98234. To receive 6 lane credit, checks can be made out to the South Georgia Conference and sent to the Administrative Services Office or you can send a check to the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, 475 Riverside Dr., NY, NY 10115.

**HOLLIE TAPLEY is a Full Deacon in the South GA Conference serving as a chaplain at the East Georgia Regional Hospital.*

Hollie is available to share more about Project Tariro in your local church. She can be reached at htapley@nctv.com.

Vision of Jesus empowered for community action

Vision of Jesus United Methodist Church in Macon has developed a new community ministry, "CAPS: Community Advocating Positive Solutions."

CAPS is a program that will offer a community forum around issues of teen pregnancy, drugs, violence and education. In addition, the program will recruit young women to be a part of a mentoring project and

implement a community social action group to empower the community to address its own needs.

The idea for CAPS came about after leaders from the congregation attended the conference sponsored Black Church Summit in September. The theme of the summit was "Can We Talk? – Conversations and Challenges to Wholistic Congregational Health." The focus was on wholeness and health in the

African American church and wider community. Vision of Jesus leaders felt empowered to go back to their local setting and continue the discussions around health disparities among teenage girls within marginalized communities.

Vision of Jesus has partnered with agencies/organizations in their area to accomplish these goals.

Appointments: *Cabinet-level appointments announced*

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Board of Ordained Ministry and as a member of the Conference Trustees. Cochran has served as Dean of Local Pastors' Licensing School during this and a previous quadrennium.

"I was very surprised to be asked to serve on the Cabinet and very pleased to be able to remain in Waycross," Cochran said upon learning of her new assignment. "I have grown to love 'small town living' after being in Columbus for 15 years.

"I have served in this district before and have a great appreciation for the diversity of churches and communities. I am looking forward to working with the pastors and laity throughout the district."

Brady is completing his seventh year as Director of Connectional Ministries. Previously, he served as pastor of Pittman Park UMC, Epworth UMC in Jesup, and spent the first eight years of his ministry in Macon district churches.

Brady was born in Statesboro and grew up in Savannah. He graduated from Armstrong State College, Candler School of Theology and earned a doctorate from McCormick Theological Seminary. His doctoral work focused on congregational revitalization.

Brady has extensive experience serving the connectional church. He has been on the Board of Ordained Ministry, Leadership Forum, Annual Conference Session Program Committee and Conference Secretary. As Director of Connectional Ministries he has served on the Board of Pensions, Council on Finance and Administration, SEJ Administrative Council in addition to working with all the discipleship areas.

Brady feels blessed to have served as Director of Connectional Ministries. Together, the staff has

creatively worked to resource local churches in all areas of making disciples.

"My association with a wonderfully creative and deeply committed staff has been both personally and professionally fulfilling," said Brady. "I will miss working directly with each of these team members and the countless volunteer leaders who are passionate about their faith and the church's mission."

Of his new appointment Brady says he is moved by Bishop Watson's confidence to appoint him there and very humbled by it.

"I am humbled by the prospects of working with clergy, many of whom I have known and respected for many years. Many of these people mentored and encouraged me from the earliest days of my call, through seminary, and throughout the years of my ministry," said Brady. "I am also humbled to be entering into a new relationship with the laity of the Macon District, in many of whose churches I have preached, taught and consulted over the last seven years."

Brady says he has much to learn about his new role. He is convinced that looking at the district superintendency from the outside is quite different than actually serving in that position. But he knows these are exciting and challenging times to serve in the position given the recent work of the district study task force.

The Office of Connectional Ministries is something familiar to Brantley. His brother, Rev. Mac Brantley, served in this position in the North Georgia Conference.

Brantley is currently Senior Pastor of Wesley Monumental in Savannah. His connectional service includes the former Committee on Missions, Committee on Evangelism, Equitable Compensation, and the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Brantley was the Americus District Superintendent prior to his appointment to Wesley Monumental.

Brantley is a native of Wrightsville, Ga. He attended Young Harris College, Georgia Southern University, and Mercer University. His seminary work was done at Princeton Theological Seminary and Emory University.

Brantley is married to Diane Conner Brantley and they have two sons: Marc who lives in Ellabell and Christopher who lives in Sandy Springs.

Brantley says it is an honor to be appointed as Conference Director of Connectional Ministries, and he is grateful to Bishop Watson for the opportunity to serve the conference in this capacity.

"*The Book of Discipline* speaks of the Director as being the 'steward of the vision' of the conference. Our vision calls us to be 'faithful, fruitful and bold' in making disciples and working with the Holy Spirit in redeeming every soul and circumstance," explained Brantley. "As the steward of the vision, I do not want to bury the vision, but to magnify the vision and make it an ever-growing and dynamic reality for our congregations and conference."

Brantley believes that God has blessed every congregation to fulfill its divinely appointed mission. His task as pastor has been to help members to acknowledge their own "giftedness" and to use these gifts to the glory of God and to the building up of the church.

"The South Georgia Conference has all the gifts it needs to fulfill God's purpose for us in our time," said Brantley. "As the Director of Connectional Ministries, I believe I will have both the privilege and responsibility to help congregations and individuals to utilize their gifts to this end."

Third Annual Pathways Event Set for August 18

Pathways to a Healthy Church

Saturday, August 18

Trinity UMC in Warner Robins

9:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Three Day Long Workshops

Youth Leadership Academy: for emerging leaders in your youth group

Music Leadership Academy: for directors of small/medium sized choirs

I Have Had Enough!: a workshop designed for clergy spouses

Forty Dynamic Workshops

Workshops will cover a wide range of topics that will be helpful for leaders in every segment of the church's life.

Pathways to a Healthy Church is a day of training intended to help support local churches as they seek to fulfill their mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ. The goal is for participants to be stimulated with new ideas that will work in their local ministry setting, recommitted to their role as spiritual leaders, and empowered to go forth to offer vision-driven leadership. Mark your calendars and plan to bring a group from your local church! Brochures will be available at Annual Conference or online after Conference at www.sgaumc.org.

Wesley Glen Granted EAGLE Accreditation

The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA), a national network of health and welfare-related organizations, announced that Wesley Glen Ministries, the South Georgia Conference ministry to mentally disabled adults, has successfully attained EAGLE Accreditation.

The Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) accreditation is a quality enhancement program offered to faith-based organizations providing care to older adults,

children, youth and families, community services ministries and hospitals and health systems. The intensive self assessment and peer review process encourages and recognizes excellence in Christian mission and ministry. EAGLE accredited facilities are reviewed stringently based on business practices and social principles as well as their Christian mission. Relationships with the local community, The United Methodist Church and/or their faith based connection are considered as well.

Wesley Glen Ministries was

recognized for their accomplishment on Friday, March 9, 2007 at UMA's 67th Anniversary & National Convention in Boston, MA. UMA is a national, non-profit network of approximately 400 health and human service organizations. UMA provides its members with education, accreditation, networking, communication and business services while keeping with the rich, historical, Wesleyan traditions and practices of the United Methodist denomination.

Instructions for Petitions to General Conference

The General Conference, which meets every four years and is made up of delegates from United Methodist Annual and Central Conferences throughout the world, is the only body that may officially speak for the United Methodist Church. The decisions General Conference makes help create the United Methodist Book of Discipline, the book of rules and procedure for the denomination. "Any organization, clergy member, or lay member of The United Methodist Church may petition the General Conference..." (§1507, The Book of Discipline). Petitions to the 2008 General Conference must be postmarked by October 26, 2007. **Petitions may be sent directly to the General Conference and do not require prior endorsement of the Annual Conference.** For complete instructions and guidelines, visit <http://www.umc.org>.

Methodist Children's Home Celebration Day

Sponsored By: The Methodist Home for Children & Youth

You are invited to the 17th Annual Celebration Day at The Methodist Home for Children and Youth on April 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The day will be filled with auctions, arts & crafts, children's carnival activities, delicious food and lots of fun for the entire family. Special guests include artist Mark Ballard and Chuck Leavell, one of the most sought after pianists and keyboardists in modern music. You don't want to miss out on this day of fun! All proceeds will benefit The Methodist Children's Home. If you would like to donate an item for the silent and live auctions or bake sale, please contact Ann Keadle at 478-751-2827. For general information about the event, please visit <http://www.celebrationday.org>.

PK Retreats

Sponsored By: The Commission on Pastoral Counseling Services

Two PK retreats are set for this summer at Epworth By The Sea. The older elementary retreat is scheduled for **July 13-15** and the retreat for teenagers will be **July 21-23**. The theme will be, "PK's Meet Harry Potter: Discovering the Magic Within." For more information or to make reservations, contact Deborah Wight-Knight at williamscenter1@yahoo.com or 478-929-1032.

Lay Speaking Courses

Sponsored By: Office of Connectional Ministries

Two lay speaking courses will be offered during the 2007 Conference School of Christian Mission scheduled for **July 19-22** at Epworth By The Sea. Basic Lay Speaking will be taught by Rev. Earl James, Senior Pastor of ML Harris UMC in Columbus. An Advance Lay Speaking course on Spiritual Gifts will also be offered. Randel Bryan, Dublin District Lay Leader, will teach the advance course. Brochures and additional information will be available soon. For questions, please contact Rev. Denise Walton at 888-266-7642.

Magnolia Manor Sunday

Celebrate a special Mother in your life by giving a gift to Magnolia Manor in her honor on May 13. Visit <http://www.sgaumc.org> to download a flyer for use in your local church.

Lay Speaking Courses

Sponsored By: The Dublin District

The Dublin District will be holding Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking Courses May 18-19, 2007, at Louisville UMC. These courses are intended for lay speaker certification and spiritual growth. All laity and clergy are invited to attend. Visit <http://www.sgaumc.org> for more information.

UMVIM Team Leader Training

Sponsored By: UMVIM

Do you have the desire to lead a domestic or international United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Team but need guidance? Are you ready to take your leadership skills to the next level? Would you like to discover the keys for successfully leading a team? If so, this training program is designed to help you prepare volunteers to lead Volunteer in Mission teams to projects domestically and internationally. The training will be held May 4-6, 2007, at SIFAT Campus in Lineville, AL. Cost is \$150. Register online or download a registration form at <http://www.umvim.org/Training.htm>

Transitional Workshops

These workshops are for those pastors moving in June. A letter will be sent out to those required to attend.

Tuesday, May 15 in Dublin
Wednesday, May 16 in Tifton

UMVIM Work Teams Needed

United Methodist Volunteers In Missions teams are needed to work on the Day Care Center at Taylors UMC in Brunswick. The church is constructing the building on faith using volunteer teams for the construction. The church will feed and house any team that needs these services. Contact persons: Rev. George Herndon 912-267-0589; Rev. Jim Emery (O) 912-265-224, (H) 912-265-1694 or 912-617-4875.

UMM Spring Retreat

Sponsored By: South Georgia Conference UMM

The United Methodist Men Spring Retreat is set for April 20-22, 2007, at Epworth By The Sea under the theme "Kingdom Builders – God Using UMM in Building His Kingdom." Chris Buskirk, pastor of Abiding Harvest United Methodist Church in Tulsa, OK, will be the keynote speaker. Along with Chris' leadership will be Frank Lowrey and Carl Tott who will lead the music once again this year. Added to this year's retreat is a fundraising golf tournament scheduled for Friday at noon at Coastal Pines Golf Club in Brunswick. Make plans now to bring a group of men from your church. See your UMM president for more information.

Local Pastors & Associate Members Luncheon

The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members will be hosting their annual luncheon June 5, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at Wesley Monumental UMC in Savannah. Cost for the meal is \$11.50. Those wishing to make reservations can now do so online at <http://www.sgaumc.org>. For more information, contact Rev. Ron Burbank at ronaldburbank@bellsouth.net.

SEJ UMM Spiritual Gathering & Training

Sponsored By: SEJ UMM

The Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Men will be holding their Quadrennial Spiritual Gathering & Training August 10-12, 2007, at Lake Junaluska. To learn more, visit sejumm.registerme.cc.

Sexual Ethics Workshop

Sponsored By: The Commission on Pastoral Counseling Services

The South Georgia Conference requires that all ministers under appointment by the Bishop take a five hour course in sexual ethics every three years, beginning June 2005. To register, please contact the office of Deborah Wight-Knight at 478-929-1032 or fumcdwk@bellsouth.net.

May 3, 2007

The Methodist Home for Children & Youth
Macon Campus
9:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

September 6, 2007

Tifton First UMC
9:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

SEJ Clergywomen's Convocation

Clergywomen from all over the Southeastern Jurisdiction will gather April 23-26, 2007, at Epworth By The Sea for the SEJ Clergywomen's Convocation. The theme for this event is "Someone's Calling My Name." The convocation is intended to inspire women in ministry through worship; to equip women in ministry for service; and to develop an on-going jurisdictional network of support. Visit <http://www.sejclergywomen.com> for more information.

**School of Christian Mission: July 19-22, 2007 at Epworth By The Sea
Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!**

**Observe Malaria Awareness Day
April 25, 2007**

Skip a Lunch. Send a net. Save a Life.

Find out more about how United Methodists can be involved in the Nothing But Nets campaign at <http://www.umc.org>.

2007 South Georgia Annual Conference Session

June 3-7, 2007

Johnny Mercer Theater

Savannah Civic Center

Hosted by the Savannah District

Hotel Accommodations

The following hotels have blocked rooms for the South Georgia United Methodist Annual Conference and have given us a special rate. You must specify that you are with the United Methodist South Georgia Annual Conference to receive these discounted rates. Please check cancellation and early departure fees with hotel. These rates are only good through May 3, 2007.

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Courtyard Marriot / 415 West Liberty Street
Hotel Rate: \$109.00; Parking Rate: \$10.00
Beds Available: King, 2 Queens; Continental Breakfast: No
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: Yes;
Tours Available: Yes; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.marriot.com/SAVDT>
Phone Number: 800-321-2211

Doubletree Hotel / 411 West Bay Street
Hotel Rate: \$115.00; Parking Rate: \$8.00
Beds Available: King, 2 Queens; Continental Breakfast: No
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: Yes; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.historicsavannah.doubletree.com>
Phone Number: 912-790-7000 or 800-222-TREE

Garden Hotel / 321 West Bay Street
Hotel Rate: \$115.00; Parking Rate: \$8.00
Beds Available: King, 2 Queens; Continental Breakfast: No
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: No; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.gardenhotelsavannah.com>
Phone Number: 912-721-5000 or 877-245-8854

Hilton Savannah DeSoto / 15 East Liberty Street
Hotel Rate: \$119-139; Parking Rate: \$10.00
Beds Available: Single-Quad; Continental Breakfast: No
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: Yes; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.desotohilton.com>
Phone Number: 800-426-8483

Inn at Ellis Square / 201 West Bay Street
Hotel Rate: \$109-134; Parking Rate: \$8.00
Beds Available: 2 Doubles, Suite; Continental Breakfast: Yes
Fitness Center: Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: Yes; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.innatellissquare.com>
Phone Number: 877-542-7666

Hampton Inn & Suites / 201 MKL Jr. Blvd.
Hotel Rate: \$129; Parking Rate: \$8.00
Beds Available: King, 2 Queens; Continental Breakfast: Yes
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: Yes; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.innatellissquare.com>
Phone Number: 877-542-7666

MIDTOWN

Hampton Inn-Midtown / 201 Stephenson Ave.
Hotel Rate: \$65.00; Parking Rate: Free
Beds Available: King, Queen, 2 Queens;
Continental Breakfast: Yes
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: No; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.hamptoninn.com>
Phone Number: 912-355-4100 or 800-426-7866

Holiday Inn-Midtown / 7100 Abercorn Street
Hotel Rate: \$95.95; Parking Rate: Free
Beds Available: King, 2 Doubles
Continental Breakfast: No
Fitness Center : Yes; Pool: yes
Tours Available: No; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.holiday-inn.com>
Phone Number: 912-352-7100

La Quinta Inn / 6805 Abercorn Street
Hotel Rate: \$54.00; Parking Rate: Free
Beds Available: King, 2 Doubles
Continental Breakfast: Yes
Fitness Center: No; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: Yes; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://www.lq.com>
Phone Number: 912-355-3004

Comfort Inn and Suites / 211 Stephenson Ave.
(Please note: Comfort Inn will NOT accept cancellations after 5/08. Also, guests must stay 3 nights to receive the Conference rate.)
Hotel Rate: \$69.95-\$89.95; Parking Rate: Free
Beds Available: 2 Doubles, King, Suites
Continental Breakfast: Yes
Fitness Center: Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: No; Internet Access: Yes
Phone Number: 912-352-9884

Fairfield Inn / 2 Lee Blvd.
Hotel Rate: \$84-95; Parking Rate: Free
Beds Available: King, 2 Doubles
Continental Breakfast: Yes; Fitness Center: Yes; Pool: Yes
Tours Available: No; Internet Access: Yes
Hotel Website: <http://marriott.com/fairfieldinn>
Phone Number: 912-355-7100 or 800-228-2800

2007 Conference to focus on tangible evangelism

Savannah, Ga will be the host for the 2007 South Georgia Annual Conference session June 3-7. Registration and all business sessions will be held in the Savannah Civic Center.

The Conference will gather around the theme "By All Means," which will focus on tangible evangelism and continue the evangelistic challenge extended last year by Bishop Mike Watson and Conference Lay Leader Roy Blackwood.

"A major priority for every Christian is to share faith with others so all can experience the benefits of salvation," said Bishop Watson. "This year's theme encourages us to follow Paul's example by prayerfully reaching out to people in ways that will instantly bring a connection so our faith in Christ can be authentically shared."

Both the clergy and laity sessions will be held at the Civic Center on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. The clergy will meet in the Johnny Mercer Theater, and the laity will meet in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Arena. Receptions will be held following these meetings.

The opening worship service will be held on Monday, June 4, at 8:30 a.m. in the Johnny Mercer Theater. Bishop Mike Watson will preach. A special offering will be received to continue and expand our partnership with the East Africa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Several major items of business will be considered by the clergy and laity attending this year's session.

One item that will consume much of the conference's time is the election of the clergy and laity who will represent the South Georgia Conference at the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Six lay

persons and six clergy will be elected to represent South Georgia at the global meeting of United Methodism, which will be held in Fort Worth, Texas in late April/early May of 2008. An additional six lay and six clergy will be elected to serve at the regional meeting, which will be held at Lake Junaluska, NC in July of 2008. Additional lay and clergy persons will be elected as reserve delegates.

The Annual Conference adopted policies to govern the process by which people express their interest in being elected. Members are directed to the conference website, www.sgaumc.org, to learn about the individuals who are willing to serve.

The conference will also consider recommendations to adopt a Safe Sanctuaries policy for preventing the abuse of children, youth and vulnerable adults; for protecting the adult workers against false allegations; and for protecting the various assets of the church for making disciples. A task force composed of persons working with children and youth developed the policies. More than 500 people have

been trained in the basics of Safe Sanctuaries since the last Annual Conference.

The District Study Task Force will make their report to the Annual Conference. The Reverend Michael McAfee, chair, will offer several recommendations intended to expand the effectiveness of the district organization. One recommendation will be to change the means by which district budgets are developed and funded for greater standardization and to make it easier to re-draw district lines in the future.

The Conference Personnel Committee will recommend moving our part-time Conference Pastoral Counselor to full time status effective July 1, 2007. This expedited time-line is presented as our conference has undergone a leadership transition in this office. Dr. Edwin Chase decided to end his appointment as Pastoral Counselor effective December 31, 2006. The search committee heard from all applicants how difficult it would be

SEE AC PAGE 15

AC: June 3-7 in Savannah

CONT'D FROM PAGE 14

to fulfill the conference's job expectations in a part-time (20 hour) arrangement while having to generate 20 billable hours weekly through private counseling. The truth of this unrealistic arrangement was made evident in the first quarter of the year when the Pastoral Counselor was asked to respond to three major critical incidents, which consumed 50-60 hours per week and resulted in the cancellation of pre-arranged counseling sessions that were intended to complete the Counselor's compensation and overhead.

Roy Blackwood, Conference Lay Leader, convened another task group this year to consider the most appropriate way to reimburse business expenses related to doing the local church's ministry. The Clergy Compensation Task Force will recommend the establishment of a bonafide Accountable Reimbursements policy and account. This policy will expect accountability on the part of the clergy and expect the congregation to

reimburse the expenses from funds beyond the pastor's salary.

Bishop G. Lindsey Davis, resident bishop of the North Georgia Area, will preach in the Ordination Service on Monday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Johnny Mercer Theater. Eight elders will be ordained during this service.

Ten probationary elders will be commissioned and fourteen clergy will retire during a special afternoon worship service on Monday, June 4, at 2:00 p.m. This is always a special service marking the transitional moments in the lives of those who have been called to preach and those who are moving into the retired relationship.

Dr. Don Kea will preach the Memorial service sermon on Tuesday, June 5, at 2:00 p.m. This service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated by Bishop Watson.

Our conference members will take to the streets of Savannah on Wednesday morning, June 6, for a Day of Service. A wide-array of service projects have been planned, which will allow our conference to serve our neighbors in Christ's name and in very

tangible ways. This was a very powerful experience for last year's conference members and the community.

The conference will have a special treat as we hear the Boys' Choirs of Mitchell County and Tallahassee in a concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Many will remember the wonderful program presented in Albany by the Boys Choir of Tallahassee. After much prayer and effort, director Earl Lee agreed to start a small choir in Mitchell County (Pelham) as an outreach to youth. The combined choirs will be concluding an early summer tour with their performance at our conference. We will invite the whole Savannah community to enjoy this presentation.

The Book of Recommendations, which contains most of the reports detailing this year's business will be mailed by May 3.

For more information, go to the conference website, <http://www.sgaumc.org>.

Pre-conference Orientations

Each District will conduct a pre-conference orientation meeting to introduce important recommendations that will be acted on at the Annual Conference session. The following dates have been established for these meetings.

Americus	Sunday	May 20	3:00 p.m.	Peavy
Columbus	Sunday	May 6	3:30 p.m.	Edgewood
Dublin	Thursday	May 17	7:00 p.m.	Pine Forest
Macon	Monday	May 7	7:00 p.m.	Wesley
Savannah	Monday	May 14	7:00 p.m.	White Bluff
Statesboro	Tuesday	May 22	7:30 p.m.	Pittman Park
Thomasville	Monday	May 21	7:00 p.m.	Albany First
Valdosta	Thursday	May 10	7:30 p.m.	Hahira
Waycross	Tuesday	May 8	7:00 p.m.	Trinity

AC Offering to assist East Africa Initiative

The 2007 South Georgia Annual Conference Special Offering will be designated for the East Africa Initiative. This year the initiative is primarily focusing on partnership coordination and specific areas of financial support to impact long term stability in the region. The offering will assist with mission transportation, Humble Place Operating Capital, East Africa Coordinator and General Partnership. Look for a letter from the Bishop and a bulletin insert in the pre-conference mailout.

2007 Annual Conference Information

DAY OF SERVICE: Following the success of last year's Day of Service, even more opportunities will be offered in 2007. On Wednesday, June 6, each delegate will have the opportunity to participate in ministry in the Savannah community. Specific projects will be available for all ages and abilities. More information will be provided in the May pre-conference mailing.

CONSENT CALENDAR: We will continue the use of the Consent Calendar for "information only" reports. Reports without financial or policy implications will be placed on the consent calendar.

AWARDS: No awards will be personally presented. All groups who present awards will be asked to share their award recipients in the following manner:

1) Submit any pictures of recipient(s) to Kelly Roberson (kelly@sgaumc.com) by Monday, May 19, 2007 for inclusion in a media presentation that will be shown at Annual Conference.

2) Plan to present your award directly to the recipient in their own local church or at your organization's banquet. Please note that the Outreach Team will not be hosting a banquet in May.

VIDEO/MEDIA PRESENTATIONS: Any media presentation (video, DVD, PowerPoint, etc.) intended to be shown at the Annual Conference session must be submitted to Kelly Roberson (kelly@sgaumc.com) no later than May 19. Any last minute presentations should be given to Kelly, who will present them to our AV provider.

BANQUETS & DISPLAYS: Contact Rev. Karen Kilhefner at 912-232-0191 or karen@wesleymonumental.org to make arrangements for banquets or displays. Groups seeking to distribute information should reserve display space as early as possible. The conference policy for permissible displays is that a group must have a direct relation to the Annual Conference through the conference structure or be an approved conference advance special. Also, those with Wednesday lunches may want to be creative in their thinking due to the Day of Service.

LOCAL CONTACT: The Reverend Karen Kilhefner is the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2007 conference. You may contact Karen at 912-232-0191 or karen@wesleymonumental.org. You should contact Karen for any of the following reasons: 1) event information for the conference brochure; 2) coordination of business items to be included in the conference packet; or 3) any other questions or needs concerning local arrangements.

CHILDCARE INFORMATION: Childcare will be available for children ages newborn-5th grade throughout Annual Conference. **Pre-registration is very important. Please read the following information carefully.** Click [here](#) to download a registration form. Forms must be turned in before **MAY 1, 2007**. For questions, contact Melissa Traver at 912-691-1500 or traver_m@bellsouth.net.

DROP-IN Childcare for young children (Newborn-4 years old)

Drop-in Childcare will be available at Trinity UMC for young children during all conference sessions beginning at **6:30 p.m.** on Sunday and then **8:00 a.m.** each day until 1 hour after the closing session. Trinity is within walking distance of the Civic Center. Parents must provide meals for their children or pick them up for meals. No meals will be provided. **Children must bring lunch with them on Thursday.**

ALL DAY Care for older children (5 years – 5th grade)

All Day Care is available for older children Monday - Thursday. 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. at Isle of Hope UMC. Isle of Hope's bus will pick up children at Trinity UMC at 8:30 a.m. and return to Trinity UMC at 5:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. The cost for this childcare is \$10 per child, \$20 maximum per family for all four days. You will receive additional information including waiver forms for activities such as swimming and service projects. Isle of Hope UMC is located approximately 30 minutes from the Civic Center. **Please note: we will be unable to accommodate children 5 years and up who are not pre-registered.**

PARKING: Passes will be distributed at registration for free parking in designated downtown sites. Specific information will be included in the May pre-conference mailing. A free CAT (Chatham Area Transit) shuttle is available in the downtown area from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SEATING: We will be meeting in the Johnny Mercer Theater. No tables will be available for conference members' use. The Bar of the Conference will be the floor of the Theater.

PACKET INSERTS: Only business related information will be placed in the conference packets. All groups wanting to distribute promotional materials should arrange to have a display space. Promotional items will not be allowed to be distributed on the floor.

Annual Conference Agenda

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

7:00 pm Laity Orientation Session

Savannah Civic Center – Arena
Introducing General and Jurisdictional
Delegation Nominees
Reception to follow

7:00 pm Clergy Session

Savannah Civic Center – Theater
Historic Question: Are all clergy members
blameless in life and administration?
Board of Ordained Ministry Report
Report of the Registrars
Report from the Order of Deacons
Report from the Order of Elders
Report from the Association of Local
Pastors and Associate Members
Action Item: The Relief Association
Reception to follow

MONDAY, JUNE 4

8:30 am The Conference Worships

Bishop B. Michael Watson, preaching
Special Offering: East Africa Partnership,
Humble Place and East
Africa Annual Conference
Transportation Projects
Savannah Civic Center

9:45 am First Plenary Business Session

Hymn: *And Are We Yet Alive*
Prayer
Welcome
Organization of the Conference
Election of Secretarial Staff and Tellers
Roll Call
Establishing the Bar of the Conference
Adoption of the Agenda
Preliminary Report Presentations
Request to Suspend Rules to Consider
BMCR Resolution
Preparing for the First Ballot
The Lay Leader's Address
Cabinet Report
Board of Ordained Ministry
Extension Clergy Introductions
Reception of Clergy to new Conference
Relationships
Deaconess Recognition
Second Ballot
Day of Service Reminders
General Announcements

Noon Lunch Break

2:00 pm The Conference Worships

Commissioning of Probationary Clergy and
Recognition of Retiring Clergy
Savannah Civic Center

3:30 pm Plenary Business Session

Third Ballot
Golden Anniversary in Ministry
Safe Sanctuaries Policy
Fourth Ballot

5:15 pm Supper Break

7:30 pm The Conference Worships

The Service of Ordination
Bishop G. Lindsey Davis, preaching
Savannah Civic Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

8:30 am Morning Praise and Bible Study

Gathering Music led by Summer Camp
Leadership Team
Bible Study led by Dr. Hugo
Magallanes
Savannah Civic Center

9:15 am Plenary Session

Fifth Ballot
Cabinet Report
Consent Calendar
Nominations Committee Report
Nominations for 2007-2011
Nominations Committee At-large
Members
Sixth Ballot
District Study Task Force
Seventh Ballot
Conference Personnel Committee
Vision Moment
Standing Rules
Equitable Compensation
Church Closings
Eighth Ballot

Noon Lunch Break

2:00 pm The Conference Worships

The Memorial Service with the
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Dr. Don Kea, preaching
Savannah Civic Center

3:45 pm Plenary Session

Ninth Ballot
Vision Moment
Clergy Compensation Task Force
Tenth Ballot
The Wesleyan Christian Advocate
Elections for At-Large Members to
Nominations Committee
Eleventh Ballot
Closing Announcements

5:30 pm Supper Break

**There are no officially scheduled
activities for Tuesday Evening.**

Wednesday, June 6

8:30 am Morning Praise and Devotional

Music led by Summer Camp
Leadership Team
Bible Study led by Dr. Hugo
Magallanes
Savannah Civic Center

8:45 am Plenary Session

Twelfth Ballot

9:00 am Day of Service in the Savannah Community

2:30 pm Plenary Session

Thirteenth Ballot
Vision Moment
Pension and Health Benefits
Fourteenth Ballot
Council on Finance and Administration
Conference Trustees
Fifteenth Ballot
Standing Break
Pastoral Counseling Services
Resolutions
Sixteenth Ballot

5:15 pm Supper Break

7:30 pm Special Event for the Conference and Community

The Boys' Choir of Mitchell County and
Tallahassee
Directed by Mr. Earl Lee
Savannah Civic Center

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

8:30 am Morning Praise and Bible Study

Gathering Music led by Summer Camp
Leadership Team
Bible Study led by Dr. Hugo Magallanes
Savannah Civic Center

9:15 am South Georgia Conference Foundation, Annual Meeting

9:25 am Final Plenary Session

Unfinished Business
Balloting as Needed
Vision Moment
Consent Calendar Items
By All Means DVD
New and Revitalized Congregational
Development
United Methodist Leadership Scholars
Epworth By The Sea
Awards in Review
Day of Service Video
2008 Invitation
Closing Motions

Standing Transition Break

11:30 am The Conference Worships

The Setting of Appointments and Service
of Sending Forth
Bishop B. Michael Watson, Presiding
Savannah Civic Center

1:00 pm Adjourn

Conference Coordinated Calendar 2007

April		15	Transitional Workshop, Dublin		Lake Junaluska
16-18	Older Adult Retreat, EBTS*	16	Transitional Workshop, Tifton	9-13	Elementary 2 Camp, EBTS*
20-22	UMM Retreat, EBTS*	17	Dublin Pre-Conference	11-15	SPLAT – Youth 2007, NC
23	EBTS* Trustees Meeting		Orientation	16-20	Elementary 3 Camp, EBTS*
23-27	SEJ Women in Ministry Convocation, EBTS*	18	Extended Cabinet, Macon	19-22	School of Mission, EBTS*
25-26	Appointive Cabinet Review Session	19	Youth Leader Training	21-27	Road Rules
27	Nominations Committee Meeting	20	Americus Pre-Conference	23-26	Pastors' School, EBTS*
28	Safe Sanctuaries Training, Pierce Chapel UMC, Columbus	21	Thomasville Pre-Conference Orientation	24	Appointive Cabinet
		22	Statesboro Pre-Conference Orientation	25	Extended Cabinet
May		24-25	Cabinet Spiritual Growth Retreat	August	
1-2	Natural Church Development Coaching Event, EBTS*	28	Memorial Day Holiday	1-14	East Africa Mission Trip
3	Sexual Ethics Workshop, Macon			4	UMW Social Issue Workshop, Dublin
4-5	UMW Executive Committee Meeting, Columbus	June		18	Pathways to a Healthy Church, Warner Robins
6	Columbus Pre-Conference Orientation	2	Extended Cabinet Meeting, Savannah	24-25	UMW Finance & Executive Committee Meeting, Fitzgerald
7	Macon Pre-Conference Orientation	3-7	Annual Conference, Savannah	September	
8	Waycross Pre-Conference Orientation	11-15	Mid High 1 Camp, EBTS*	3	Labor Day Holiday
10	Valdosta Pre-Conference Orientation	13	Moving Day	6	Sexual Ethics Workshop, Tifton
10	Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting	17	Father's Day	14-16	KidzQuest
13	Mother's Day	18-22	Mid High 2 Camp, EBTS*	24	CFA**, Macon
14	Annual Conference Walk-thru	25-29	Elementary 1 Camp, EBTS*	28	Pastoral Counseling Commission
14	Savannah Pre-Conference Orientation	July			
		4	4 th of July Holiday		
		9-13	SEJ Ministers' Conference,		

* Epworth By The Sea
** Council on Finance and Administration

Online Communicator
Office of Connectional Ministries
P.O. Box 20408, St. Simons Island, GA 31522
(912) 638-8626 - (888) 266-7642 - Fax (912) 638-5258
 South Georgia Conference website: <http://www.sgaumc.org>
 E-Mail Address: connectionalministries@sgaumc.com

The Online Communicator is published quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) as an Adobe .pdf document and is available on the conference website, <http://www.sgaumc.org>.

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