

faithful, fruitful, bold

Bishop James King assigned to serve the South Georgia Area

Bishop James R. King, Jr. has been assigned to the South Georgia Area of the United Methodist Church as the new episcopal leader. This announcement came Friday night, July 18 at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Lake Junaluska, NC.

Bishop King has served the past eight years in the Louisville Area, which includes the Kentucky and Red Bird Missionary Conferences. Bishop King will be the first African-American to serve as the episcopal leader of South Georgia.

“It is extremely important for us to feel like we are where God wants us to be. From the bottom of our hearts and from the depths of our being, we feel like God has been at work preparing us for this moment,” King said to a group of South Georgia United Methodists following the announcement of his assignment.

“We are excited to be where God wants us to be. God has been at work preparing us to come to South Georgia.”

Prior to his election as a bishop in 2000, Bishop King was the senior pastor at Brentwood United Methodist Church in Brentwood, TN. During his tenure in the Tennessee Annual Conference, he also served as a District Superintendent and as the Conference Council Director. He is a graduate of Clark College in Atlanta and received a Master of Divinity at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. Bishop King was ordained a deacon in the Central Alabama



BISHOP JAMES R. KING, JR.

Conference in 1970 and an elder in the Central Alabama Conference in 1972. Bishop King and his wife, Rose, have three children.

After serving faithfully in South Georgia for 8 years, Bishop Mike Watson has been assigned to the North Georgia Area. This will be Bishop Watson's second assignment as an episcopal leader. He was elected at the 2000 Jurisdictional Conference, along with Bishop King.

The election of one bishop, Bishop Paul Leeland, and the re-assignments of others took place at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, which is held every four years at Lake Junaluska, NC. The assignments for the bishops become effective Sept. 1, 2008.

See page 4 for a complete list of the episcopal assignments in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

News in Brief

Farewell/Welcome Receptions: Two receptions have been planned, one for the Watsons and one for the Kings. (See pg 4)

Early Response Team Trainings: Two dates have been set for ERT training. (See page 5)

KidzQuest: Two exciting children's retreats have been planned for the Fall. (See page 6)

Pathways Event, Black Church Summit: Two events you won't want to miss! (See pages 7 & 8)

God envisions faithful, fruitful and bold congregations and ministries passionately growing mature disciples of Jesus Christ who are living vessels of the Holy Spirit's desire and miraculous power to redeem every soul and circumstance.

Are We Finished? I Hope Not!

BY REV. LOWERY BRANTLEY*

There is an aphorism attributed to Benjamin Franklin that compels our reflection and response if we are to live and fully develop as we are intended. It reads, “When you’re finished changing, you’ve finished.”



LOWERY BRANTLEY

To live is to change. The world spins eternally on its axis. The seasons come and go. Each day is different from the last. We

look at family albums, there are both smiles and tinges of regret. We are not what we were; we are not what we will become. To change is to live; to resist change is both futile and misdirected. There is profound wisdom in Franklin’s observation that we are finished when we are finished

changing.

Yesterday, my wife Diane and I were looking at our flowers when she reached down and picked up a beautiful wing feather from a blue jay – one of many that make their homes among our trees and loudly and playfully eat from the seeds our feeders provide. The feather, of course, was a sign of molting among our feathered friends – the process of casting off old, used feathers for new ones. Molting is natural in nature. The only time a bird is not subject to molting is when the bird has died.

Change is constant in growing and healthy churches, too. Not all change may be desirable, but a healthy church is constantly changing to dynamics within and contextual realities without. A healthy church is a relevant church, always seeking to engage its communities in witness and

ministry. Even as a healthy church lovingly and faithfully handles, teaches, and incarnates the eternal truths of our faith, it is also and always a student of its world, constantly changing the ways the church seeks to witness to its world.

We have heard many times that insanity is doing the same old thing again and again and expecting different results.

I long for the day when all of the congregations of our beloved conference will strive diligently to become healthy congregations where change is embraced and new life and relevance are forever being made possible.

Franklin’s maxim – “When you’re finished changing, you’re finished” – is worthy of our attention.

*LOWERY BRANTLEY is the Director of Connectional Ministries for the South Ga. Conference.

Rev. Tom Nichols serving as Congregational Specialist

The Reverend Tom Nichols began as the new Congregational Specialist on July 1, working in both the Savannah and Statesboro Districts. Tom retired from the pastorate in June of this year. Earlier he had retired from the military chaplaincy, serving 22 years in the Navy. He brings to this new position a wealth of experiences, expertise, and energy.

As a Congregational Specialist, Tom has been assigned four major areas of responsibility: (1) work with Natural Church Development in two districts, (2) assist the District Superintendents in implementing Safe Sanctuaries in 2008, (3) whenever appropriate, work with the Urban Task Force(s), and (4) help to equip and deploy resources in making disciples, in addition to other areas.



REV. TOM NICHOLS

Churches in the Savannah and Statesboro Districts can contact Tom at 912-704-1508 (cell) or nicholstom82@yahoo.com. He is available to help not only with Natural Church Development, Safe Sanctuaries, Urban Task Force, but in other areas of church life and pastoral concerns, too.

The Congregational Specialist position was created by the 2007 Annual Conference as a pilot project and was made a part of the Office of Connectional Ministries. The Reverend Denise Walton, an Associate Director, is also assigned to the Waycross District as a Congregational Specialist. A third Congregational Specialist is expected to be named effective January 1, 2009.

Tom and his wife Joann are making their home in Pooler, near to some of their family. Tom is an avid golfer and is a published author of a new book *Phone Call from the Fifth Tee* which blends together his Christian faith and his passion for golf.

Feed His Sheep

BY KAREN HAHN*

As the church, we are called to reach others for Christ. We are all God's ministers, and we are called to do His work in our community, in our family and in our church. May we be obedient!

The Word of God in John 21:17 says: "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

New and Revitalized Congregational Development (NRCD) offers several opportunities to support congregational development across the South Georgia Conference. Giving Clubs of NRCD include Kingdom Builders, New Congregational Supporters, Vision Promoters and New Congregational Planters. Join with us as we seek to "feed His sheep."

For additional information, please contact me at kkhahn@cox.net or 478-477-7838.

What a joy it is to be in ministry with you! Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.

*KAREN HAHN is the Assistant for Development and Communications for NRCD.

Karen Hahn to serve as Assistant of Development for NRCD

Mrs. Karen Hahn has recently accepted the position of Assistant of Development for New and Revitalized Congregational Development in the South Georgia Conference. Karen officially began her new position on July 21 and will serve on staff with New and Revitalized Congregational Development (NRCD) on a half-time basis.

As Assistant of Development, Karen's primary focus will be to develop strategies for growing the resources NRCD has for congregations under the umbrella of NRCD as well as congregations which will be under the NRCD umbrella in the future. Her work is of vital importance.



MRS. KAREN HAHN

"It was clear from the beginning that she was the person for the job," said Dr. Tim Bagwell, Executive Director for NRCD. "Karen brings great skill, but of equal importance are her motivation and vision for the position.

"She has a servant's heart," said Bagwell.

Karen is available to speak or will help arrange someone to speak at your church or Sunday School Class about ways to support this exciting ministry in the South Georgia Conference.

Karen resides in Macon with her husband Bill Hahn. They have four grown children.

Karen can be contacted at:

P. O. Box 26938 / Macon, GA 31221
kkhahn@cox.net / 478-477-7838

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

Return completed form to: NRCD / P.O. Box 26938 / Macon, Georgia 31220

Watsons to be honored with Farewell Reception on August 17

A farewell reception celebrating the ministry of Bishop Mike and Margaret Watson is planned for Sunday, August 17 at the Vineville United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Macon at 4:00 p.m.

All clergy and lay members and friends of the South Georgia Conference are invited to bid our bishop and his wife farewell as they begin a new appointment in the North Georgia Conference in September, after eight years of faithful service to our conference.

In appreciation of the Watson's ministry among the people of South



BISHOP AND MRS. MIKE WATSON

Georgia, the Conference Episcopacy Committee is inviting individuals and congregations to tangibly express appreciation by making a financial contribution to the Allie

and Excell Watson Scholarship Fund at the Candler School of Theology. This scholarship fund will generate income to provide scholarship assistance to seminarians enrolled at Candler, our Bishop's alma mater. It is the sincere hope of the Episcopacy Committee that they will have a very generous gift from the South Georgia Conference to present to the Watsons on August 17.

All contributions toward the honorary offering should be sent prior to August 15 to the Conference Treasurer's Office (P.O. Box 52101, Macon, GA 31208), clearly earmarked "The Allie and Excell Watson Scholarship Fund."

Worship Service and Reception Planned to Welcome the Kings to South Georgia

The Conference Episcopacy Committee invites you to help celebrate the arrival of our new first family, Bishop James and Mrs. Rose King, on Sunday, September 14 at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church in Macon. The worship service will begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be followed by a reception. Bishop and Mrs. King are a dynamic, energetic couple and will accomplish great things in South Georgia. Make plans to attend so we can provide them with a hearty South Georgia welcome.

Episcopal Assignments for the Southeastern Jurisdiction

The assignments for the Southeastern Jurisdiction, which become effective September 1, 2008, are:

- Bishop G. Lindsey Davis—Louisville Area, which includes the Kentucky and Red Bird Missionary conferences.
- Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster—Charlotte Area, which includes the Western North Carolina Conference.
- Bishop Alfred Gwinn—Raleigh Area, which includes the North Carolina Conference.
- Bishop Charlene Kammerer—Richmond Area, which includes the Virginia Conference.
- Bishop James R. King, Jr.—South Georgia Area, which includes the South Georgia Conference.
- Bishop Paul Leeland—Alabama-West Florida Area, which includes the Alabama-West Florida Conference.
- Bishop James Swanson—Holston Area, which includes the Holston Conference.
- Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor—Columbia Area, which includes the South Carolina Conference.
- Bishop Hope Morgan Ward—Mississippi Area, which includes the Mississippi Conference.
- Bishop B. Michael Watson—North Georgia Area, which includes the North Georgia Conference.
- Bishop William H. Willimon—Birmingham Area, which includes the North Alabama Conference.
- Bishop Richard J. Wills Jr.—Nashville Area, which includes the Memphis and Tennessee conferences.
- Bishop Timothy Whitaker—Florida Area, which includes the Florida Conference.

Disaster Response Update

A Disaster Response Update from
Rev. Lowery Brantley:

Mother's Day this year was a horrific day throughout many of our communities and counties as numerous tornadoes touched down. The Governor declared states of emergency in ten counties in South Georgia, from Glynn and McIntosh on the coast to Jenkins, Emanuel, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Twiggs, Bibb, and Crawford. There were also tornadoes in Washington County and in Cobbtown.

South Georgia United Methodists responded by volunteering to help with

the clean up. In Macon/Bibb County, the hardest hit area, Bloomfield UMC and Lizella UMC were centers for early response work, which included debris removal, mucking, and tree removal. Between the two – Bloomfield and Lizella – we did emergency work on over 650 homes. Elsewhere in South Georgia, United Methodists volunteers responded.

Working through the auspices of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, South Georgia United Methodists are a vital part of the long-term recovery work in Macon/Bibb

County. Two UMCOR consultants have come in to help. Barbara Tripp helped with the initial assessment. Rick Hill trained volunteers from Macon/Bibb to do case management. In addition, the Macon District Board of Missions has offered the use of the Aldersgate Church as a central site for case management. The Executive Committee is working with Dr. Brad Brady in regards to the final details of that arrangement.

In addition, two Early Response Team training events have been scheduled for September 13 and October 4 (see details below).

Two Early Response Team Trainings Planned

The South Georgia Conference Disaster Response Team has planned two Early Response Team (ERT) trainings for the Fall. The first is set for **September 13, 2008**, at Tifton First United Methodist Church. The second training is scheduled for **October 4, 2008**, at Pittman Park United Methodist Church in Statesboro. Both trainings will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 5:00 p.m.

An ERT is a group of 8-12 trained, insured and credentialed people who are deployed into a disaster-site to help

with initial clean-up following a disaster. Teams are deployed after the immediate emergency stage when areas are cleared by government officials and faith-based groups are first welcomed into the area.

Barbara Tripp with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will lead the trainings. South Georgia Conference ERT identification cards will be issued to participants in attendance. New FEMA and Homeland Security regulations have made it harder in many cases for

volunteers to go into a work site without proper credentials and a photo-ID.

There is a limit of 60 persons per training. Because of the size limitation, participants must pre-register for this event. No walk-ups will be accepted. The cost of the training is \$10.00, which includes lunch and snacks. UMCOR volunteer t-shirts will be available for purchase for \$8.00. To register online or print out a registration form, please visit www.sgaumc.org. For questions contact Rev. Lowery Brantley at lowery@sgaumc.com or 888-266-7642.

Lake Junaluska Dam Restoration Fund

The Lake Junaluska Dam was built in 1912 and is classified as an intermediate sized, Class "C" High Hazard Potential Structure. This means that without proper maintenance, a failure could cause loss of life and significant property damage. Therefore regular inspections are required. The last maintenance project was done in 1977.

Several years ago the State of NC Inspectors determined the dam needed major repairs. In November 2001 SEJAC was faced with regulatory intervention and potential sanctions if a Repair Plan was not submitted. SEJAC hired Pinnacle Engineering to

assess the work and draw plans for permitting. Studies were done and structural engineers determined that the spillway and twenty-six of the thirty-three buttresses needed major renovation.

Repairs and reconstruction of the Dam were done. The construction cost for the entire project was \$3,200,000. Debt service (interest) cost on funds borrowed to complete the project through 12/31/2007 was \$340,000. The outstanding debt on this Dam project as of 6/30/2008 is \$1,960,500.

In 2004, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference approved a special asking known as the Lake Junaluska Dam Restoration Fund. The

voluntary fund asks that each local church member pay 50 cents during the 2004-2008 quadrennium. Currently the South Georgia Conference is lagging behind in its contributions. The good news is that there are still a few more months to contribute to this quadrennium's special asking.

The Conference Administrative Services Office would like to encourage your church to make a donation before the end of the year. Donations to the Lake Junaluska Dam Restoration Fund should be made through their office.

For questions, please contact the Administrative Services Office at 800-535-4224.

Learn to “Live Out Loud” at one of two KidzQuest Retreats this Fall

Most people will agree that if you get a group of kids together in one room it won't take long for things to get pretty loud! Fun and excitement are a big part of God's creation. This year's KidzQuest is designed for students to explore what it means to “Live Out Loud.”

Due to growing numbers there will be two identical KidzQuest events this year! Set for **September 26-28** and **October 10-12, 2008**, the South Georgia Conference annual children's retreat will be held at Epworth By The Sea for all 3rd-6th graders.

One of the highlights of last year's KidzQuest will be back and bigger than ever. Brandon Rushin, better known as “Hey Ya,” will serve as this year's Emcee. Hey Ya brings an energetic personality that is contagious for kids and adults alike. His interactive, fun characters leave such a lasting impression kids will remember and recount their



experience for years!

Uncle Charlie will be back again this year leading worship. Uncle Charlie has become a favorite in South Georgia, leading high-energy worship for KidzQuest for the past 5 years. Uncle Charlie will be sure to revolutionize the way your kids worship!

Keith Coast will be this year's speaker/entertainer. Keith believes that Christians should have more fun than anyone else because of the joy we have in Christ. By combining the art of illusion, escapes, balloon art and comedy, along with the Gospel, Keith

creates an experience you won't forget.

Along with these jam-packed sessions with Hey Ya, Uncle Charlie and Keith, kids will enjoy indoor and outdoor games, Bible studies, large group worship times with awesome multi-media, crafts, church time, swimming, cookouts, and hanging out with the hundreds of other children in attendance.

Cost for the event is \$125. For more information or to register online, log onto www.sgaumc.org or call Diane Giles or Adam Ricker at 888-266-7642.

The joy that we've been given was not meant to be bottled up but to be shared with the world and lived out loud. Come experience with us the joy of living, playing and worshipping together as we learn to enthusiastically live out our faith. Register today!

“Becoming”

November Celebration 2008

November 21-23, 2008

Epworth By The Sea

ABOUT THE WEEKEND: November Celebration is 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. Former youth director and last year's worship leader, David Herndon, will be this year's guest speaker. David is a recording artist with Rebuilt Records and is a nationally recognized speaker. David is also on staff at The Chapel, a United Methodist Congregation in Brunswick, GA. David will share biblical truths and his own personal experiences of what it means to become the person God wants us to be. This year's retreat will feature the same exciting entertainment, fun and friendship that you have come to expect from November Celebration. For more information, please contact Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.

Confirmation Retreats 2009

February 27-March 1 and March 20-22

2008 *Pathways to a Healthy Church* event will equip lay and clergy

Equipping churches to become more spiritually healthy will again be the focus for the fourth annual *Pathways to a Healthy Church* event scheduled for Saturday, August 16 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Forty-three workshops plus three day long workshops have been designed to assist churches struggling in a particular area of disciple-making, and for those who are new leaders to a specific ministry area.

Workshops will help participants be better prepared to guide their congregations in spiritual formation, worship, hospitality, evangelism, social action, outreach, community-building, stewardship, clarity of mission, effective communications, and leadership development. Additional workshops will focus on

Pathways to a Healthy Church

August 16, 2008
Trinity UMC, Warner Robins



ministering to children, youth, young adults and older adults.

Workshop leaders include pastors and laity from throughout the South Georgia Conference who have a proven record in the subject matter they will be presenting.

Each participant will attend three different workshops of their choice or choose from one of the three day-long workshops. The first of the three day-long workshops is a “Youth Leadership

Academy,” which is intended for youth who are emerging leaders in their local church youth group. The second day-long workshop will be “Extending the Church Family,” which will focus on ministry in the small church. “Life in the Fishbowl” is the third day-long workshop designed specifically for clergy spouses and will explore issues unique to being the spouse of a clergy person.

The registration fee is \$20 per adult and \$15 per youth. Childcare is provided for those who pre-register. The deadline to register is August 8. A complete list of workshops and other registration information is available at www.sgaumc.org. Workshops are filling up quickly so make sure to register today!

Safe Sanctuaries Policy Update

A Safe Sanctuaries Update from Rev. Lowery Brantley:

By action of the 2007 Annual Conference, every church is mandated to have in place by December 31, 2008, a Safe Sanctuaries policy.

There will be a Certificate of Adoption in the online charge conference forms for both the Administrative Board Chair and the Pastor to sign, certifying that their church has adopted a policy and will be working toward full compliance. A copy of the policy will be given to the District Superintendent. The Certificate of Adoption will be mailed to the Office of Connectional Ministries. The names of these churches will be entered into our church directory database and will be

printed in the 2009 Journal (Church Directory) and in the Master Move List for the Appointive Cabinet.

The 2007 Annual Conference, in adopting a Safe Sanctuaries policy for the Conference, also made the pastor in each local church responsible for seeing that his or her church adopt a local church policy.

All pastors and churches are urged to be faithful to this charge so that we as an annual conference can speak as one voice, offering a safe and secure place for all children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

If you have any questions, please contact Lowery Brantley, Denise Walton or Adam Ricker at 888-266-7642.

Safe Sanctuaries Workshops to be held at *Pathways* event

A workshop at the *Pathways to a Healthy Church* event, scheduled for August 16, 2008, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Warner Robins, will provide information on Safe Sanctuaries. This particular workshop will be offered from 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. and will review the necessary steps to develop a Safe Sanctuaries policy that is appropriate for your local church’s ministry with children, youth and vulnerable adults. For more information on the *Pathways* event see the article above or visit www.sgaumc.org.

2008 Black Church Summit to meet in Savannah

Meeting under the theme "A Future with a Hope," the 2008 Black Church Summit is set for September 25-27, 2008, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Savannah, Georgia. The Summit will focus on Practical Implications of Revitalization and Church Growth.

Dr. Pamela R. Lightsey, Dean of Students at Garrett Theological Seminary, and the Rev. Marvin Taylor, Senior Pastor of the St. Thomas Charge UMC in Huger, South Carolina and the founder of the Rural Church Institute, will lead the Summit with dynamic preaching and teaching.

"The overall goal of the 2008 Black Church Summit is to focus on areas that strengthen congregations and pastors," said Rev. Denise Walton, Associate Director of the Office of Connectional Ministries.

And, although she says the gathering targets African American congregations and leadership, racially

diverse participation is strongly encouraged.

"Registrants for the 2006 conference included a culturally diverse range of leadership," said Rev. Walton. "We look forward to a diverse training event again this year."

Five new components have been added to the schedule this year:

- Rev. Joseph Roberson, Senior Pastor of South Columbus UMC, will lead a discussion on the actions taken at the 2008 General Conference.
- Rev. Cleo Conaway, Senior Pastor of the Nepsy-Warren Charge, will lead a workshop on Safe Sanctuaries Policy Guidelines.
- Mr. Richard Shinhoster, lay person from Speedwell UMC, will provide the 2008 Laity Address.
- Rev. Gerald Goodman, Senior Pastor of St. Mary's Road UMC,

will provide a one hour introduction to Natural Church Development.

- Rev. Earl James, Senior Pastor of M.L. Harris UMC, will instruct the Basic Lay Speaking Course.

Each worship service during the 2008 Summit will focus on a different style of worship. The opening service will be a traditional worship service on Thursday, September 25 at Speedwell UMC at 7:00 p.m. Clergy must arrive by 6:30 p.m. fully robed in order to take part in the processional.

The Black Church Summit Design Team invites you to take this unique opportunity to learn and grow! For registration information, please call Denise Walton at 888-266-7642 or go to the conference website www.sgaumc.org to register online or to print out a brochure.

Bishop Watson to speak at Empowering Ministries of Health Conference

The 4th Annual National Congregational Health Ministries Conference – *Empowering Ministries of Health* – is set for September 21-24, 2008, at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in North Carolina.

The objectives for this conference are:

- To articulate strategies to transform health program into dynamic and effective ministries;
- To identify tools that mobilize people to develop ministries of health and learn techniques to collaborate with others in the faith and business communities;
- To name components necessary in advocating for health, healing and wholeness around the world; and

- To provide an opportunity to experience the "Servant Leadership: A Model for Self-Care" workshop, a private journey of self-assessment in all aspects of health.

The *Empowering Ministries of Health* conference will also provide participants the opportunity to share information about successful health ministry programs as well as empower the church community to provide a wellness service that is an effective ministry tool to serve its congregants in mind, body and spirit. Conference participants will learn how to analyze their wellness programs for return on investment, learn how to build a wellness team and seek grant funding, as well as identify the tools that mobilize people to develop ministries of

health. A parish nurse track on "caring for the caregivers" will examine tools for empowering and working with clergy and helping families in crisis.

Bishop Mike Watson will be leading a plenary session around "Clergy and Congregational Health: Strengthening the Connection."

Registration is now open for those interested in advancing or incorporating a health ministry in their congregation. For more information and to download a brochure, visit www.gbophb.org.

This event is being co-sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.

Sponsor a Child at Humble United Methodist School

The South Georgia Conference had the high honor of hosting the Hope for Africa Children's Choir this summer. The Hope for Africa Children's Choir is a new ministry of Humble United Methodist School.

The choir is comprised of twenty-three children from Uganda, East Africa. Many of the children in the choir are orphans who have lost their families to violence or AIDS. They live together and attend Humble United Methodist School where they are learning English, hearing about God and faith, sleeping in beds, eating nutritious foods and playing in a safe, happy environment. These children are able to attend Humble United Methodist School through scholarships made possible through generous sponsors.

The Office of Connectional Ministries and the Open Hands Partnership would like to invite your



local church, Sunday school classes, small group(s), and/or individuals to consider a three year commitment of \$1,500.00 to sponsor a child at Humble United Methodist School. A three year commitment will ensure financial continuity and stability as Humble United Methodist School prepares for the primary education of 250 children each year.

What does the sponsorship include?

This pays for a student to live as a boarding student at Humble United Methodist School, providing food, clothing, shelter, spiritual enrichment,

education, medical care, and transportation.

How do I send the funds?

Please make your check payable to your local church and clearly mark Humble School Program/ Scholarship Fund Conference Advance #1754. Your church will send the gift(s) to the South Georgia Conference Treasurer (P.O. Box 52101, Macon, GA 31208). The Conference Treasurer will forward the gift(s) on to our United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. The General Board of Global Ministries will then carefully administer the gifts in the East Africa Annual Conference.

For more information or to request a representative to speak at your local church, please contact Denise Walton at 888-266-7642 or denise@sgaumc.com.



A Special Thank You

The Hope for Africa Children's Choir made its debut appearance at the 2008 General Conference and captured our hearts. Twenty-three bright eyed, well-mannered, curious children and youth traveled to Texas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Georgia, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

We were blessed in the South Georgia Annual Conference to have the choir touring in our area for twenty-one days. The energy and witness of these wonderful children was contagious as many joined to help make the events a success.

The children are preparing to return to Uganda this week where they will enroll in Humble United Methodist School. For the first time in their lives, they will have access to an education, sustainable food, medicine, and a system of support.

Rev. Denise Walton, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries, would like to extend a special thank you to the South Georgia Conference for the many ways you embraced these children, extending love and care. Truly, it was an opportunity to see the connectional structure of our church at its best!

Sexual Ethics Workshop for Clergy

Sponsored By: The Commission on
Pastoral Counseling

Below are the dates that have been set for the 2008-2009 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.

Thursday, September 11, 2008

St. Paul United Methodist Church - Columbus, GA
9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Epworth By The Sea - St. Simons Island, GA
10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Warner Robins First United Methodist Church
9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Valdosta First United Methodist Church
9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Lunch with President Carter & Seminar of Christian Discipleship

Sponsored By: The Georgia
Christian Council

Bishop Henry Louttit, President, Leland Collins, Executive Director, and the members of the Georgia Christian Council Executive Board would like to invite you to participate in the Lunch with President Carter and Seminar of Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century. The event will take place Thursday, August 21, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Plains United Methodist Church in Plains, GA. The special presenter and keynote speaker will be President Jimmy Carter. Visit www.sgaumc.org to download a flyer with registration information.

**UMW Annual Meeting
October 18, 2008 – Americus, GA**

Sexual Ethics in Ministry Workshop for Lay Professionals

Sponsored By: The Commission on
Pastoral Counseling

A Sexual Ethics in Ministry Workshop for Lay Professionals is set for **October 7, 2008**, at Warner Robins First United Methodist Church from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Anyone who ministers to others is potentially vulnerable to becoming extremely powerful. The temptation exists for church professionals no less than for any other human being. This temptation may result in the abuse of that power, sometimes sexually. This workshop is designed for youth directors, children's ministers, and other lay church professionals employed by a local church. It will include lecture, video, and small group interaction designed to foster productive discussion and a real seeking for clarity, understanding, and moral vision. The cost is \$10.00 (includes lunch and all materials). Participants must register by September 15 by e-mailing cpcassistant@sgaumc.com.

CEU Opportunity with Dr. John Ed Mathison

Sponsored By: The Valdosta District

Dr. John Ed Mathison will be leading a continuing education session on the subjects of "Every Member in Ministry" and "Stewardship" September 23 at Adel United Methodist Church, 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration is \$15.00. Persons planning to participate should register with the Valdosta District office either by calling 229-242-7470 or e-mailing umdov@bellsouth.net. Participants should eat lunch before arrival. This is open to clergy and laity. 0.5 CEU's will be available for pastors.

Lay Speaker Training

Sponsored By: The Dublin District

The Dublin District is offering basic and advanced Lay Speakers Courses **September 12-13, 2008**, at Gethsemane United Methodist Church in East Dublin, Georgia. Each course is 10 hours long, running from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Friday evening and 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. Rev. Wayne McDonald will be the instructor for the Basic Course. Dublin District lay leader Randel Bryan will lead the Advanced Course, "Come Let Us Worship." Cost for the course is \$30. For more information contact Randel Bryan at 478-272-2770 or randc@bellsouth.net or visit www.sgaumc.org to download a registration form.

Salute to the South Georgia Delegation to SEJ

BY DR. CHARLENE BLACK*

The South Georgia Delegation to the Southeastern Jurisdictional (SEJ) Conference served with dignity and integrity. As Delegation Head I want to salute the entire delegation for the superb manner in which they represented the South Georgia Conference at the SEJ Conference at Lake Junaluska on July 16-19. I believe that God called each of the delegates and they responded with a spirit that enabled them to fulfill their responsibilities in the finest manner.

Thirty persons elected by the annual conference in 2007 served as delegates and reserve delegates. Clergy delegates: Hal Brady, Joe Roberson, Bob Moon, Mike McAfee, Brad Brady, Robert Beckum, Cindy Autry, Buddy Cooper, Hugh Davis, Don Adams, Ramon Hernandez, Jimmy Cason, Marcia Cochran, Beverly Flowers, and Ronnie Wills. Laity: Charlene Black, Bill Hatcher, Roy Blackwood, Sunshine Bird, Taylor Phillips, Steve Rumford, Miriam Hagan, Gloria Gilmore, Mark Shelnutt, Richard Shinhoster, Lee Bush, Flo Sapp Martin, Gloria Morgan, Matthew Martin, and Robert Anderson.

The primary business of the conference was to elect a bishop to replace Bishop Lawrence McClesky, who retired at the close of the conference. Paul Leeland of North Carolina was elected to this position, and every member of our delegation had an opportunity to vote in at least one of the six ballots that were taken during the election process. Rev. Leeland was officially consecrated as a Bishop on Saturday morning.

Our delegates provided leadership in a variety of capacities. Brad Brady was elected SEJ Conference Secretary at the beginning of the conference and became SEJ Conference Secretary at the close of the meeting. Brad's election is a recognition and affirmation of his many gifts and competencies and reflects positively not only on him but also on our conference. The SEJ conference proceeded more smoothly thanks to Brad's contributions and the assistance he provided to Joetta Rinehart, the outgoing Secretary prior to and during the meeting.

Flo Sapp Martin and Mike McAfee represented our conference on the SEJ

Nominating Committee. Flo was elected chair of this group and is the first woman to serve in this capacity. This group is responsible for nominating persons to serve on our General Church Boards and Agencies.

A number of South Georgians represented us on SEJ Standing Committees, which meet only during the SEJ Conference: Church Membership Statistics—Roy Blackwood, Matthew Martin and Bob Moon; Finance and Administration—Robert Beckum, Lee Bush, and Miriam Hagan; Conferences—Beverly Flowers, Mark Shelnutt, and Ronnie Wills, and Connectional Table—Cindy Autry, Sunshine Bird, and Jimmy Cason.

Hal Brady and I began our work early as members of the SEJ Committee on the Episcopacy as we gathered Monday before the conference began to interview the current bishops and identify the needs of each conference, information which was considered in the assignment of bishops, a process which was completed on Friday evening.

Two teams of tellers consisting of Joe Roberson and Roy Blackwood and Cindy Autry and Steve Rumford assisted in the election process and the vote tally.

Nancy Bearden Hudson as President of the SEJ United Methodist Women spoke effectively and eloquently about the work of this group. We are proud of her service in this capacity.

Elected to serve on the Boards and Agencies of our General Church are: Joe Roberson, Board of Higher Education and Ministry; Bill Hatcher, United Methodist Publishing House; Roy Blackwood, Commission on the Status and Role of Women; and Charlene Black, Connectional Table. Four other South Georgians will serve on Boards as a result of elections by other groups: Hal Brady, General Council on Finance and Administration; Nancy Bearden Hudson and Gloria Gilmore, General Board of Global Ministries; and Miriam Hagan, Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. In addition Columbus Gilmore's name was submitted for consideration for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA General Board. As the boards and agencies elect persons to serve as members at large other South Georgians will be considered and

hopefully selected.

Several persons were elected to serve in positions on boards and agencies of the Southeastern Jurisdiction: Lee Bush, Committee on Finance and Administration; Brenda Iglehart Eddings, Hinton Rural Life Center Board of Directors; and Joe Roberson, Lake Junaluska Board of Directors.

On Friday evening Bishop James King was appointed to serve the South Georgia Conference. Many of you heard Bishop King's powerful preaching during our annual conference and found him to be a person with a warm heart and a desire to serve.

Approximately 100 South Georgians gathered to welcome Bishop King and his wife Rose with a reception following the announcement of his appointment. Thanks to Myron Brady and Gloria Morgan who helped coordinate this event and to Roy Blackwood and Gloria Gilmore who assisted with the receiving line.

Hal Brady employed his keen sense of humor as he presented gifts that the bishop will need as he begins his ministry in the South Georgia Conference. Fortunately, Hal did not include a top ten list in his welcoming remarks.

The delegation thanks Gloria Morgan who has served ably as secretary for the delegation.

Kelly Roberson deserves numerous accolades for her fine work in reporting our activities and photographing our group on numerous occasions; she is the best.

As always it has been a privilege and joy to serve with Hal Brady as leaders of this capable group of delegates. Hal's integrity, guidance, and wisdom served as a model to all.

I am honored and humbled by this gift of service. Most of all I am proud to be a member of the South Georgia Conference.

Thanks be to God for this delegation and this experience.

**CHARLENE BLACK is the head of the South Georgia Conference delegation.*

Conference Coordinated Calendar 2008

August

16 Pathways
 17 Farewell Reception for Bishop and Mrs. Watson
 17 Christian Education Sunday
 21 GA Christian Council Lunch with President Jimmy Carter, Plains
 24-25 CFA** Meeting, Macon

August/September

30-1 Emmaus By The Sea, EBTS***

September

4 Extended Cabinet Meeting
 5 Appointive Cabinet Meeting
 9-10 NCD**** Emerging Coach Trainers Seminar, Lake Charles, Illinois
 11 Sexual Ethics Workshop, Columbus
 13 Disaster Early Response Training, Tifton
 14 Welcome Reception for Bishop and Mrs. King
 16-17 NRCD* Leadership Academy
 18 Extended Cabinet Meeting

19 Appointive Cabinet Meeting
 21 Methodist Children's Home Sunday
 21-24 Empowering Ministry of Health Conference, Lake Junaluska
 23 Every Member in Ministry Continuing Education Event with John Ed Mathison, Adel
 25-27 Black Church Summit, Savannah
 26-28 KidzQuest 1, EBTS***
 27 NRCD* Committee Meeting, Cordele

October

4 Disaster Early Response Training, Statesboro
 5 World Communion Day
 7 Board of Pensions Meeting
 7 Sexual Ethics in Ministry Workshop for Lay Professionals, Warner Robins
 9 NRCD* Leadership Academy
 9 Appointive Cabinet Meeting
 10 Extended Cabinet Meeting
 10-12 KidzQuest 2, EBTS***

18 UMW Annual Meeting, Americus
 19 Vashti Day
 30-31 Cabinet Spiritual Growth Retreat

November

9 Wesleyan College Day
 10-12 Eagles' Retreat
 12-14 NCD**** Denominational Leaders Gathering, Tampa Bay, Florida
 13 NRCD* Leadership Academy
 21 Extended Cabinet Meeting
 21-23 November Youth Celebration, EBTS***
 30 United Methodist Student Day

December

7 United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Sunday
 11 NRCD* Leadership Academy

* New and Revitalized Congregational Development
 ** Council on Finance and Administration
 *** Epworth By The Sea
 **** Natural Church Development

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>.

Connectional Ministries Staff

Director of Connectional Ministries:

Lowery Brantley — lowery@sgaumc.com

Associate Director:

Denise Walton — denise@sgaumc.com

Associate Director:

Adam Ricker — adam@sgaumc.com

Director of Communications:

Kelly Roberson — kelly@sgaumc.com

Information Technology Specialist:

Patrick Witherow — patrick@sgaumc.com

Congregational Specialist:

Tom Nichols — nicholstom82@yahoo.com

Support Staff:

Diane Giles — diane@sgaumc.com

Support Staff:

Cathy Crawford — cathy@sgaumc.com