

THE WAYCROSS DISTRICT NEWSLETER



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February 2012

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

On February 22nd, we will observe what is known as Ash Wednesday. Some churches practice the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who desire it as a reminder of our sin and our need to repent. There is something very humbling in that practice of placing the ashes because it speaks of the commonality of our sin. The Psalmist reminds us that "The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any that act wisely, that seek after God. They have all gone astray, they are all alike corrupt; there is not one that does good, no, not one." (Psalm 14:2-3) Paul picks up this same passage as he makes the point that sin is the human condition. He says there is no distinction between us no matter who we are or where we came from. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) This, like it or not, is where we are, but thanks be to God, it is not where we have to stay.

Paul goes on to say that if we believe in Jesus we find a way out of our sinful prison. Through God's prevenient grace we are moved to a point where we can choose to accept the salvation from sin purchased by Jesus on Calvary's cross. We can receive justification by God's grace as a free gift. This gift is received not by works that we do as if we earned it or even deserved it. It is a gift received by faith that indeed we have been redeemed or bought back by the shed blood of Jesus.

When Paul asks the question later in Romans, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (that is, this life of sin), he knows there's only one answer. There is only one Deliverer and His name is Jesus the Christ. All attempts to deliver or save ourselves are futile. All of our knowledge, technology, culture, and achievements combined will not save us. Without Jesus no one gets out alive, with Jesus, all can be made alive.

Remember his words to Martha after the resurrection of Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." Then, he asks her, as he is asking us today, "Do you believe this?"

As we move through the Lenten journey, we are made aware once again of our struggle to avoid sin and death. The truth is, they cannot be avoided. They are part and parcel of who we are. However, the good news, the gospel truth, is that sin and death can be overcome. Not by our efforts, but by the efforts of One who died for all. Without Jesus, we remain ever defeated, lost in a maze of sin, but with Jesus leading the way, we find the way out of the maze. We find, as Paul sums it up in Romans, that "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Thanks be to God for His Son, Jesus Christ, who moves us from sin to righteousness, from death into life!

In His name,
Benjy

EVANGELISM REPORTS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 5th!

THANK YOU so much for your giving to the Conference and District Apportionments for 2011. We encourage you to give 100% in 2012 or at least set that as a goal and work toward it. Your generous support is appreciated.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ernest Bass, Elizabeth Brown, Marguerite Buchan, Ron Burbank, Augusta Carruth, Alice Chancey, Cardy Edmundson, Marvin Goodman, Dwain Harper, Janis Kenney, Ann Pierce, Rebecca Ramsey, Eddie and Patricia Ratcliffe, Byron Scott, Dwayne Smith, Marshall Strickland, Julian Tucker, Les Tucker, Mabel Waye, Napoleon Waye

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1 Rodney Body
February 4 Precious Lundy
February 6 Rob McDaniel
February 9 Marlene Smith
February 10 Bill Reinheld
February 14 Jim Jensen
February 15 Leonard Wildes
February 18 Susan Wester
February 19 Don Proctor
February 20 F. J. Beverly
February 21 Jim Duvall; Eddie Conaway
February 22 Pinky Wildes
February 24 Marcelle Myers
February 27 Jim Osborn; Rebecca Ramsey



(if your birthday was omitted, please contact the District Office)

FEBRUARY CLUSTER MEETINGS

Douglas Cluster – February 16th, Douglas First UMC, 10:30 am
Waycross Cluster – February 20th, Waycross First UMC, 10:30 am
Brunswick/Kingsland Cluster – February 23rd, Brunswick First UMC, 10:30 am

We will be looking at the book Renovate or Die by Bob Farr. It's available on Amazon for \$11.00.

Sexual Ethics Workshops For 2012

February 9, 2012 at Epworth By The Sea
April 24, 2012 at Warner Robins First UMC

To register email cpcassistant@sgaumc.com. You are required to attend a workshop every THREE YEARS.

WAYCROSS DISTRICT UMW MISSION STUDY FEBRUARY 18, 2012

The Waycross District Mission Study will be held at Alma UMC on February 18th at 9:30 am. Studies will be Mission and Evangelism led by Rev. Tony Crosby; Reconciliation led by Rev. Marcia Cochran and Haiti led by Mrs. Rebecca Ramsey. The bookroom will be available. Lunch will be provided for a love offering. A nursery will be available.

DISCIPLESHIP COVENANT CONFERENCE February 24-25, 2012 Macon Centreplex Macon, Georgia



Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you know how to make disciples of Jesus Christ? Is there room in your life to grow in your discipleship walk with the Lord? Come join us for our second Disciple Covenant Conference to learn how to do these things. Music leaders will be Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson both are from Atlanta. Speakers will include Tim Stevens, Sister Kathleen Flood, Jay Hanson, Jim and Jennifer Cowart. For more information contact Pam Kanode at 478-475-9286 or email her at pkanode@sgaumc.com.

THE DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN ALL REPORTS WAS FEBRUARY 1ST. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL YOUR REPORTS ARE IN.

THE PORPOISE-GIVEN LIFE
A Lenten Spiritual Renewal Retreat
Epworth By The Sea, St. Simons Island, GA
March 5-7, 2012

Teachings, Bible Study, Worship, Reflection and Renewal all drawing upon metaphors of water and life among porpoises, dolphins and whales led by Rev. Dr. Chris B. Hughes. For more details go www.epworthbythesea.org or call 912-638-8688.

PLEASE NOTE: There will only be 1 Confirmation Retreat this year. The first retreat, originally scheduled for March 2 – 4, 2012, **has been canceled**. Due to the fact that there will be only 1 retreat, March 16 – 18, 2012, a maximum number of 500 on-campus and 50 off-campus participants will be accepted. Registrations will be on a first come first served basis with no exceptions. Registrations will be available by a brochure to be sent out in a couple of weeks or a registration form can be downloaded from our website with the option to register online with a credit card. If you have any questions, please call Jim or Diane at 888-266-7642.

2012 SOUTH GEORGIA SPOUSES' RETREAT
Epworth By The Sea
March 16-18, 2012

"I Don't Have Baggage—I Have Designer Luggage"
Cathy Lee Phillips, Guest Speaker

If you can provide an item for the auction, please let Mary Varnell know. Additional information will be mailed soon.

LAY SPEAKER TRAINING—We are planning to have a Lay Speaker Training course on February 11th in Waycross. It will be held at Waycross First UMC starting at 10 am and ending at 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided at noon. Registration fee will be \$15.00 which includes lunch. Dr. Carl McDonald will lead this training. Call the District Office (912-283-5861) to register.

Please note: The Year End Statistical Reports will be online beginning February 3rd through February 24th. Please go online and get your reports filled out as soon as you can.

Scholarships for United Methodist Students

Candler has a number of full-tuition awards available to United Methodist students preparing for ministry in the Master of Divinity degree program. If you are working with someone who could benefit from this, please urge them to apply by March 1. Email any questions to candleradmissions@emory.edu. The awards process will begin the first week in March and will continue to awards funds, as they are available, into the summer.

A Marriage Enrichment Retreat

“Beginning, Renewing and Rescuing Marriage”

Presented by Dr. Jim Collins

Epworth By The Sea – April 20-22, 2012

Online Evangelism Reporting

Online Evangelism Reporting is now available to churches in the Waycross District. You may begin using it by going to <http://sgaumc.com/evangelism.asp> and sign in with your church's login information (the one you use for Charge Conference), select your name from the drop down box and click “Enter Evangelism for 2012”. You will be looking at your church's summary page. Click on “Enter Evangelism Details” located at the top of the page. You will then select the month for which you are reporting and then enter your information. Click on “Save” at the bottom (or top) of the page. Then click “Review the summary” at the top. If you have names to add or take off, click on “Enter Member Details”, select the month for which you are reporting and enter the information. Then save your report. Do this for each name you have, saving each time. Information is entered for EACH church. If you are on a charge, you will need to enter information for each of your churches. This will save both you and me time. You won't need to send me a copy of your report each month.

If you have problems or questions, call the District Office (912-283-5861).