

faithful, fruitful, bold

## In the Grip of God's Hand

BY REV. LOWERY BRANTLEY\*

In many congregations today, after the reading of the scripture, the reader will say, "This is the Word of God for the people of God." The congregation responds with these words, "Thanks be to God." The precedence for this response to the reading and hearing of scripture is found in one of the holy days of ancient Judaism. During the celebration of their new year, one day would be set aside to give thanks to God for God's gift of the Torah, the first part of the Hebrew scriptures [and the first books of our Old Testament].

Oftentimes we read the Bible and we may be put off by the demands that holy scripture places upon us. The more we read the Bible, the more apparent it becomes to us that God has high expectations of us.

In the beginning, the ancient Hebrews knew that God had high expectations of them, too – but they did not know what these expectations were. They had no sacred writings to teach them.

Pleasing God was a hit-and-miss proposition, because they did not always know what God desired. Hence they received the Torah with joy and thanksgiving. In spite of the numerous laws and rituals for them to obey, now they knew how to live and order their lives in a manner pleasing to God. Hence they set aside an entire day each year to give thanks to God for the gift of holy scripture.

Certainly the most obvious way to express our joy and gratitude for the Bible is to read it daily and faithfully and to strive diligently to live into the divine truths found within it.

Dr. Jay Harris, Senior Pastor of College Place UMC in Brunswick, has developed an interesting format for reading through the Bible in 2009: the Layered Bible Study. The guide and helpful notes are found on our conference website, [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org), under "Resources." You will find the Layered Bible Journey both helpful and inspiring – but only if you faithfully read God's Word this year.

Decades ago, Karl Barth wrote, "The Word of God that comes to us through the Scriptures is the long, strong hand of God that reaches out after us. What will happen to us in the grip of this hand is none of our business. We only need to know that we are in the grip of his hand. He who knows this understands the heart of the Bible."

As we negotiate our way through the opportunities and the adversities of this new year, may we do so in the grip of His hand.

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

### Bishop's Day Apart

February 10, 2009

Harvest Church

Warner Robins, Ga

*See page 7 for more information.*

## News in Brief

**Pastors Salaries:** For the 2009 clergy compensation list visit <http://www.sgaumc.org/communicator>.

**Walk your way to a healthier '09:** Find out how you can earn money by becoming more active. (See page 3)

**Confirmation Retreats 2009:** Make sure to register to be a part of this great retreat! (See page 4)

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** Find out how your church can take part in this vital offering. (See page 6)

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.

## More Cracked Pots Wanted

BY REV. LOWERY BRANTLEY\*

A Chinese woman walked each day to the village well with two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried around her neck. One of the pots was cracked, so it was nearly half empty by the time she arrived



LOWERY BRANTLEY

home. Day after day she carried out this arduous task with the two pots.

The perfect pot was proud of its

accomplishments, but the poor cracked pot was embarrassed by its imperfection. Finally, the cracked pot shared its shame with the old woman.

The old woman replied, "Have you ever noticed there are beautiful flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?"

She continued, "I knew of your imperfection, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. For two years, I have enjoyed beautiful flowers as I did my daily chore. Without you, there would have been no beauty in my life."

Each of us is wonderfully and beautifully made, but each of us is imperfect. We have our weaknesses and flaws, just as we have our strengths and virtues. But God has fashioned every imperfect believer into the Body of Christ. All we have to bring with us is ourselves, with all of our imperfections; but when God is in our gifts, God does extraordinary things with them...and with us!

The twelve disciples were at times a motley crew. One moment they epitomized the virtues of disciples; the next they demonstrated the flaws of their humanity.

In this new year we will witness many examples of the flaws of humanity and institutions. We will cope with many adversities. These are the times that call for the best within us, even when our best is less than perfect. Now is the time for us to do what we can do to create a more beautiful world – a world of compassion and grace. Now is the time for the people of God called Methodists to use what we have to the glory of God and to the works of ministry, instead of bemoaning what we do not have.

Now is the time for more cracked pots giving all of themselves to the ministry of the church!

Remember, when God is in our gifts, God blesses them extraordinarily. To God be the glory!

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

## Check This Out!

### NEW CONFERENCE WEBSITE

The South Georgia Conference has launched a new website that has a new look and new features. If you haven't already, check it out at [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org). And then keep checking back for more great features! During the next year new features will be added that will help keep South Georgia United Methodists better connected online. Eventually, the new site will feature more information about local churches, districts, the latest online technologies and more conference news and information.

### BISHOP'S BLOG

A blog is an online, regularly updated journal or newsletter that is readily accessible to the general public by

virtue of being posted on a website. Blogs typically report and comment on topics of interest to the author. Well, Bishop James King has taken a keen interest in the happenings in South Georgia in his 4 1/2 months as episcopal leader and has started a blog entitled "Snapshots of South Georgia." You can check out his blog at [www.bishopking.com](http://www.bishopking.com). Bishop King will be taking pictures as he travels across South Georgia and posting them on his blog. "As I'm out and about among the people of South Georgia and being blessed by you as we share together, you will be able to go online and check out my blog to see how we are engaged in ministry together," said Bishop King. So if you see Bishop King and he has his camera in hand, watch out -- you just might appear in the next entry of his blog!

### CONFERENCE E-MAILS

In order to better serve South Georgia United Methodists and get you the information you want – right in your in-box – we are now offering a subscription based e-mail service. You can choose which e-mails you want to receive. If you've noticed you haven't been receiving any conference communications lately, would like to sign up to receive e-mails, or would like to set your preferences, please contact Cathy Crawford at [cathy@sgaumc.com](mailto:cathy@sgaumc.com).

### INFOCUS – VIDEO PORTAL

The South Georgia Conference website has a new feature – a video portal. This is a great resource for local churches. Find out more about the video portal on page 5.

## Walk your way to a healthier '09 -- and earn money while doing it!

BY MIRIAM HAGAN\*

At the beginning of the New Year many of us make resolutions about things we will try to do differently during this year. Each year I start off determined that this office will give better service to the churches and ministers of the conference.



MIRIAM HAGAN

My first idealistic resolution is that we will always have plenty of time to answer their questions in as much depth as each caller wants. The second resolution is at the same time we will still get the work done each day, that we will have all the reports that every committee wants as soon as they want them (in fact, that we will have already finished them so we can send them out immediately as soon as they ask) and that no one will have to stay after hours to get it done.

I also usually make resolutions for myself – that I will try to get home in time to cook supper, that I will call my mother more often, that I will find more time to play with my grandchildren, and that I will establish a regular time to exercise and actually stick to it.

Last month I started working on at least one of my annual resolutions – walking more. I want to tell you about it.

Our conference's group insurance, HealthFlex, is encouraging all of our participants – **active and retired ministers and spouses that participate in HealthFlex** – to take advantage of an opportunity to begin down the path toward better fitness. The new Center for Health (established by



General Conference) and HealthFlex are pleased to introduce the Virgin HealthMiles walking program. **There is no cost to HealthFlex participants.**

As a part of Virgin HealthMiles program each person will receive a free pedometer to help them track their progress. **A part of the program includes earning "Health Miles," which are like reward points that are earned by tracking your daily activity and demonstrating improvement in your overall health.** Participants can earn up to \$300 over a twelve month period.

Our office had the opportunity to get started about a month early in order for us to be ready to answer questions and help participants sign up. One thing I like about this program is that it did not tell me immediately that I had to walk 10,000 steps a day nor does it say that I should walk for 30 minutes three or four times a week. That would sound like exercise. This program is letting me start where I am. It is not making me feel guilty if I only walk a couple of thousand steps in a day.

I am already discovering that I am willing to park further out in the parking lot so I get a few more steps

in, or when I shop I walk up or down the stairs or the escalator so my number of steps will increase. So far, my walking is not the kind that will burn enough calories that I actually lose weight; however, maybe I will be doing that kind of walking soon. My goal is by annual conference to be in better shape. Maybe I will have earned enough "Health Miles" points that I can cash them in and buy a new pair of walking shoes.

The pedometer you receive can be plugged into your computer and will transfer your record of steps taken, give you encouragement to continue walking, and tell you how many reward points, "Health Miles," you have earned. It is so amazingly quick and easy to transfer the information – even a "technology challenged" person like me can make it work.

By now you should have received information in the mail telling you about the program and how to sign up. Another way to begin is by going to the General Board of Pensions website, [www.gbop.org](http://www.gbop.org), and clicking on HealthFlex/WebMD. If you cannot remember your password call our office (1-800-535-4224) and we will help you with it.

After you sign up, your pedometer will arrive in just a few days, and you can start walking and earning "Health Miles" rewards. Who knows, by annual conference you may earn enough points to get a gift card to a favorite restaurant so you can enjoy a meal out with friends.

What do you know? This year I may actually keep one of my New Year's Resolutions!

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

## Confirmation Retreats 2009

**Retreat 1: February 27 – March 1** ■ **Retreat 2: March 20 – 22**

Make sure to register for one of the 2009 Confirmation Events. The first Confirmation Event will be February 27- March 1, 2009 and the second event will be March 20 - March 22, 2009. Each year this event provides students with an experience that helps them understand the grace offered through Jesus and information about the rich heritage of the United Methodist Church. The Join the Journey Confirmation Retreat is modeled after the Claim The Name curriculum and is intended to be a supplement to the ongoing training offered by local congregations. Intended for 6th graders and above, the event has a limit of 500 participants per retreat. Cost for this weekend event is \$40/person and includes a t-shirt, meals, lodging, and program costs. Registration information can be found at [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org) or contact Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.



**2008 Leadership Team**

## Applications now being accepted for summer camp counselors

Attention college students: summer camp counselors needed! If you desire a summer in ministry, Epworth By The Sea is the place to be. As a camp counselor, you will be able to minister to hundreds of youth and children throughout the summer, while making Christian friendships with other staff members that last a lifetime. As a paid position, staff members on the Leadership Team will commit to nine weeks of service which will include serving at mid-high camps, elementary camps, as well as traveling to local churches. The summer will run from May 23 – July 25, 2009. Begin praying now to see if this opportunity is for you. Applications are available online and interviews will be completed by February. For more detailed information please call Adam Ricker at 888-266-7642, or check out the camping section of our website at [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org).

## 2009 Summer Camps

### MID HIGH CAMPS

**Mid-High Mania 1: June 8-12**  
**Mid-High Mania 2: June 15-19**  
Epworth By The Sea  
For those entering 6th-9th grades

### ELEMENTARY CAMPS

**Elem. Camp 1: June 22-26**  
**Elem. Camp 2: July 6-10**  
**Elem. Camp 3: July 13-17**  
Epworth By The Sea  
For those entering 4th-6th grades

## Conference Website Features New Video Portal

The South Georgia Conference website has a new addition – InFocus – an online video portal that allows South Georgia United Methodists to view, post and share videos. The posted videos can also be embedded into local church websites or personal blogs.

InFocus is a ministry tool that seeks to better equip local churches in their online ministry. Many churches would like a way to showcase video on their websites, but can't afford the expensive hosting required. Other churches would like to share their ministry videos and view others from throughout the conference. With a user interface similar to other video



sharing systems, InFocus allows conference members to easily add videos to the portal, free of charge and free from distracting advertising. In addition, all content has to be viewed and approved by the site administrator before it can be publicly viewed. This will insure that only appropriate content is available to view on the site.

We are excited to provide this resource to our local churches and Conference ministry teams. Today with computers, affordable video cameras and even cell phones many people are active video producers. Our hope is that this video portal site allows South Georgia United Methodists to use their video skills to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Visit [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org) to learn more about InFocus and to watch an instructional video on how to use the new conference video portal.

## New membership vows and ritual now available

The new baptismal and professing membership vows of The United Methodist Church, adopted by delegates to the 2008 General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body, are now available at [www.gbod.org/worship](http://www.gbod.org/worship). Among the many actions taken by the 2008 General Conference were revisions to paragraphs 217 and 225 of the *2004 Book of Discipline* that changed vows for all professing members in The United Methodist Church and clarified the process for receiving members from other denominations. The new language of 217.6 will read: 6. To faithfully participate in its ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, **and their witness**. The changes in the vows in the *Discipline* also affect the official ritual of the church in Baptismal Covenants I, II, and IV (UMH 33 ff., UMH 39 ff., and UMH 50 ff.). All these changes went into effect January 1, 2009.

## Gateway Community to be constituted January 25th

Gateway Community Church, a United Methodist congregation in Pooler, Ga, began on June 26, 2006, with a group of 20 people in the living room of Rev. Matt Hearn. They began with four simple goals:

- Goal 1: Create a relaxed, casual atmosphere where people can feel welcomed and comfortable.
- Goal 2: Provide excellent child care where those who come feel like their children are safe, having fun, and learning about a God who loves them.
- Goal 3: Have music that would be familiar to those who might be coming for the first time, or the first time in a long time.
- Goal 4: Deliver messages that speak to the felt needs that we all share.

With these goals in mind Gateway Community has grown from 20 people to an average attendance of nearly 300 in just two and a half years. That is something to celebrate!

The Office of New and Revitalized Church Development is pleased to announce that on Sunday, January 25th, Gateway Community will celebrate its Constituting Service. This is an exciting time as Gateway becomes a fully connected part of the South Georgia Annual Conference.

"I want to say a special thank you to the South Georgia Annual Conference," said Rev. Matt Hearn. "We have felt your support through your prayers, those who have served and through generous financial support."

## Worship Resources Support Week's Celebrations

(GBOD) Next week is an important time in both the life of the church and the nation. Sunday is Human Relations Day. It is a time to "recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other." This is a United Methodist celebration established in 1972 and held on the Sunday before the nation's Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Together these days celebrate the connections between all God's people.

This year the King holiday is followed by the inauguration of Barack Obama as president of the United States on Tuesday, January 20. Many people will be joining those festivities, both in Washington, D.C., and around the nation.

Lastly next week is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is the 101<sup>st</sup> observance of this week devoted to the hope of all Christians coming together.

The General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) is providing several resources to help in planning worship for this important time and to show the connections between all the celebrations. These resources may be found online at <http://www.gbod.org/worship>. They include litanies, prayers, collections and benedictions from bishops, pastors and scholars throughout the connected church.

"As Barack Obama assumes the office of President, we pray that your Holy Spirit will enable him to light candles of hope," writes Bishop Ernest S. Lyght (West Virginia Area) in his pastoral prayer. "We pray that our global village will realize that

hope is never stillborn, but always remains alive, even in the midst of chaos and confusion, illusion and delusion, oppression and suppression."

Other contributors include Bishop Linda Lee (Wisconsin Area), the Reverend Marilyn E. Thornton, Dr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson and more. Keep checking the website, <http://www.gbod.org/worship>, until January 18, as new items will be posted as they come available. There are also many links provided to sources of additional information throughout the World Wide Web.

Each of these resources will help local churches connect further with the greater events of the church and the world during the week.

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## One Great Hour of Sharing is March 22

You and your congregation can join United Methodists worldwide March 22 by making a special offering through One Great Hour of Sharing to support humanitarian aid through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain.

Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps them keep their promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to



a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project - not on home office costs.

UMCOR is a good steward of God's

gifts. Offering gifts over and above those used to cover administrative costs are channeled where they're most needed. UMCOR's specialized ministries - responding in disaster, fighting hunger, alleviating poverty, providing relief supplies around the world, and offering hospitality to immigrants and refugees - all assist the most vulnerable people whose need is greatest.

To learn more about UMCOR or to order resources to promote the offering, visit [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org) or call 888-346-3862.

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## GBPHB Makes Ernst & Young Financial Planning Services Available Again This Year

The General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has once again arranged to offer Ernst & Young Financial Planning Services in 2009 at no charge to: active participants with an account balance, surviving spouses with an account balance, and terminated and retired participants with an account balance of at least \$10,000. Ernst & Young's financial planners can provide confidential, objective guidance on: making investment decisions, saving for retirement, managing debt, understanding tax issues, evaluating insurance needs and options, buying a home, and more! To take advantage of this valuable resource, just call Ernst & Young directly at 1-800-360-2539 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**BISHOP'S DAY APART**

*Bishop King's Core Values for Ministry*

**February 10, 2009**

**10:00 am—3:30 pm**

**Harvest Church**

**3322 Highway 41 / Byron, GA 31008**

**SCHEDULE OF THE DAY**

10:00 am	Opening Worship
11:00 am	Transition Break
11:10 am	Session 1
12:00 pm	Lunch and Fellowship
1:00 pm	Gathering Music
1:10 pm	Session 2
2:00 pm	Stand-up Break
2:10 pm	Session 3
3:00 pm	Sending Forth Service
3:30 pm	Adjourn

Bishop James R. King, Jr. invites all South Georgia clergy (active and retired) to the 2009 Bishop's Day Apart. Bishop King will be the main speaker for the event and will share his core values and expectations for ministry. Attendees will also hear some of the guiding principles the Bishop will employ as he leads the Appointive Cabinet through the appointment-making process.

Clergy should make reservations for lunch through their District Office by Monday, Feb. 2. All persons will be asked to contribute \$5 toward their box lunch. One-half Continuing Education Unit will be distributed at the conclusion of event.

**Bishop Marion Edwards,  
Dr. Evelyn Laycock to  
lead Older Adult Retreat**



Mark your calendars for the 2009 Older Adult Retreat, "Joy for Today – Hope for Tomorrow," set for April 13-15, 2009, at Epworth By The Sea. This year's retreat promises to be a wonderful experience in fellowship, worship, and outreach and will explore the mystery of God's design to use us at every stage in life, including right now. The retreat speaker will be

Bishop Marion Edwards, and the Bible study leader will be Dr. Evelyn Laycock. The retreat will begin on Monday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude Wednesday, April 15, at 1:00 p.m. An additional night's stay may be added to your retreat package for those who cannot get enough of beautiful St. Simons Island. For more information, please contact Adam Ricker at the Connectional Ministries Office at (888) 266-7642 or by email at [adam@sgaumc.com](mailto:adam@sgaumc.com).

**Waycross District  
Leadership Training Event**

January 24, 2009

Trinity United Methodist Church - Waycross

**Savannah District  
Leadership Training Event**

February 7, 2009

Richmond Hill United Methodist Church

These trainings are one day district-wide events designed to equip congregational leaders with tools to be effective in the area they have been called to serve. Cost for the event is \$6, which includes lunch. Participants will be able to order and/or purchases VBS resources at the training at a 20% discount. Please contact your District Office for more information or visit [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org).

Workshops include: Advocacy ▪ Children's Ministry ▪ Clergy Roundtable ▪ Communications ▪ Finance and Stewardship ▪ Lay Leader ▪ Natural Church Development ▪ Nurture ▪ Older Adult Ministry ▪ Outreach ▪ Pastor-Parish Relations Committee ▪ Trustees ▪ VBS – And More! ▪ Witness ▪ Young Adult Ministry ▪ Youth Ministry

## Sexual Ethics Workshops

**Sponsored By: Commission on Pastoral Counseling**

According to the Conference Sexual Ethics policy, the conference sponsored Sexual Ethics workshop is required every (3) three years for any person 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](mailto:cpcassistant@sgaumc.com). Please note that spouses and lay employees who are not appointed by the bishop are not eligible to attend the workshop.

**February 12, 2009**  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Epworth By The Sea  
St. Simons Island, Ga

**April 28, 2009**  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Warner Robins First UMC  
Warner Robins, Ga

**September 10, 2009**  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Valdosta First UMC  
Valdosta, Ga

## 2009 Special Sundays

Human Relations Day	January 18*
Andrew College Sunday	February 15**
Volunteer in Mission Awareness Sunday	February 22**
One Great Hour of Sharing	March 22*
Native American Awareness	April 26*
Magnolia Manor Sunday	May 10**
Peace With Justice	May 17*
Wesley Glen Day	June 21**
Golden Cross Sunday	July 5*
Christian Education Sunday	August 16**
Methodist Children's Home Day	September 20**
World Communion Day	October 4*
Vashti Day	October 18**
Wesleyan College Day	November 8**
United Methodist Student Day	November 29*
United Methodist Global AIDS Fund	December 6**

\* General Church Offerings

\*\* Annual Conference Special Offerings

*For General Church Offering resources visit [www.umcsgiving.org](http://www.umcsgiving.org).*

## Day of Prayer for the Appointive Process

February 18

## Winter Camp Meeting

**Sponsored By: Epworth By The Sea**

Epworth By The Sea is hosting the 2009 Winter Camp Meeting January 25-28 under the theme "Celebrating Our Heritage and Envisioning Our Future." The keynote preachers are Bishop James R. King Jr. and Bishop Richard Looney. The Bible study teacher is Dr. William (Bill) Mallard. For more information, visit [www.epworthbythesea.org](http://www.epworthbythesea.org).

## Bishop James King's Holy Land Tour

Bishop and Mrs. James King will host a tour to the Holy Land departing on March 4, 2009. This will be a "Lands of the Bible Cruise" coordinated by Educational Opportunities. For more information go to [www.eo.travelwithus.com](http://www.eo.travelwithus.com).

## Georgia Celebration of Christian Unity

**Sponsored By: The Georgia Christian Council**

The Georgia Christian Council and the North & South Georgia Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church invite you to participate in the 20th annual Georgia Celebration of Christian Unity Tuesday, January 27, 2009, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Riverside United Methodist Church. The featured speaker will be Rev. Dr. Stephen Sidorak, the General Secretary of The Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns of The United Methodist Church. Visit [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org) for a flyer.

## Moving Pastor Transition Workshops

May 12 – Tifton

May 13 – Dublin

**Spouses' Retreat**  
March 13-15, 2009

**UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat**  
March 27-29, 2009

**UMM Spring Retreat**  
April 24-26, 2009

## Conference Coordinated Calendar 2009

### JANUARY

18 Human Relations Sunday  
 24 Waycross District Leadership Training Event  
 25-28 Winter Camp Meeting, EBTS\*\*\*  
 26 Annual Conference Program Committee Meeting, EBTS\*\*\*

### FEBRUARY

6-13 Licensing School for Local Pastors, EBTS\*\*\*  
 7 Savannah District Leadership Training Event  
 9 UM Day at the Capitol, Atlanta  
 10 Bishop's Day Apart, Warner Robins  
 12 Sexual Ethics Workshop, EBTS\*\*\*  
 12 NRCD\* Leadership Academy  
 15 Andrew College Sunday  
 18 Day of Prayer for the Appointive Process  
 22 UMWIM Awareness Sunday  
 23-25 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, EBTS\*\*\*  
 26 Extended Cabinet Meeting, EBTS\*\*\*  
 28 NRCD\* Committee Meeting, Cordele

### FEBRUARY/MARCH

27-01 Confirmation Retreat 1, EBTS\*\*\*

### MARCH

1-4 Board of Ministry Meeting, Macon  
 4-14 Bishop's Holy Land Trip  
 12 NRCD\* Leadership Academy  
 16-17 Appointive Cabinet Meeting  
 18 Extended Cabinet Meeting  
 20-22 Confirmation Retreat 2, EBTS\*\*\*  
 22 One Great Hour of Sharing  
 27-29 UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat, EBTS\*\*\*

### APRIL

13-15 Appointive Cabinet Meeting  
 13-15 Older Adult Retreat, EBTS\*\*\*  
 23 Annual Conference Program Committee Meeting  
 24-25 Web Connections Training, Macon  
 26 Native American Awareness Sunday  
 27-29 Appointive Cabinet Meeting  
 28 Sexual Ethics Workshop, Warner Robins  
 30 Conference Nominations Committee Meeting, Macon

### MAY

10 Magnolia Manor Sunday  
 12 Moving Pastor Transition Workshop, Tifton  
 13 Moving Pastor Transition Workshop, Dublin

17 Peace With Justice Sunday  
 26 Annual Conference Program Committee Walk-thru, Columbus

### JUNE

7-10 Annual Conference, Columbus  
 8-12 Mid-High Mania 1 Summer Camp, EBTS\*\*\*  
 15-19 Mid-High Mania 2 Summer Camp, EBTS\*\*\*  
 17 Moving Day  
 21 Wesley Glen Day  
 22-26 Elementary 1 Summer Camp, EBTS\*\*\*

### JULY

5 Golden Cross Sunday  
 6-10 Elementary 2 Summer Camp, EBTS\*\*\*  
 13-17 Elementary 3 Summer Camp, EBTS\*\*\*  
 16-19 School of Christian Mission, EBTS\*\*\*  
 20-24 Summer Leadership Team Road Rules

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

**Online Communicator**  
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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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