



STATESBORO DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

THE AWESOME DISTRICT

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“Renovate or Die: Ten Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission” by Bob Farr

Many of you have been reading with me the book “Renovate or Die” by Bob Farr. We started our discussion of the book at our District Pastor’s Meeting last month. The District purchased every pastor a copy of the book several months ago (if you haven’t picked yours up yet you still can). Because of the importance of the information in the book and the limited time we had to work through it, we are scheduling another **District Pastor’s Meeting at Pittman Park on March 21st at 10:00 a.m.** to finish studying the book together. (this was the normal day scheduled for our Local Pastor’s Group, instead we will all meet). This book would be excellent to study together with your church leadership teams. While the book certainly doesn’t have all the answers and no one can instantly implement even the best of its ideas, they will challenge us to think through how we are doing ministry in a world that has changed significantly while most often we have not. Farr contends that in most of our churches, as well as our denomination as a whole, we have done a lot of “re-decoration” (cosmetic change) instead of renovation (major structural change) because it is easier, less risky, and less costly.

It seems hopeful, yet sad, that while the mission crisis and numerical decline facing our church could not get us to take serious the critical place in which we find ourselves, the financial crisis has finally accomplished it. We are now in significant conversation and action about “renovation” on the conference level, including the CFA’s work to reduce budget by \$2,000,000, the District Study Committee evaluating the number of Districts we need and can afford, a reshaping of our focus on disciple making instead of making church members, and the Bishop’s development of “Project Turnaround”. On the General church level it is taking shape in the General Conference proposals coming from the “Call to Action” report, and various legislative proposals to be discussed and voted on in Tampa this April. All our pastors and lay leaders would be served well to read about those proposals. Lovett Weems book “Focus” does a good job of summing up the majority of those issues.

The real question however will lie in whether or not our local churches will be willing to take a hard look at the necessity of “renovation”. Farr’s first step says “it all starts with the pastor”, but the pastor cannot do it alone; the laity must see the need, buy into the vision and be willing to look beyond a church that serves its members to one which exists to “seek and save the lost”. This is a critical time for our church and yet one full of hope as crisis drives creative thinking and necessary change.

STATESBORO DISTRICT CONFERENCE**MAY 20, 2012****4:00 PM – 6:30 PM****STATESBORO FIRST UMC—STATESBORO, GA****South Georgia Conference sees slight rise in apportionment giving**

The 2011 financial books have closed, and the story is a slightly more positive one than in recent years. United Methodist churches in the South Georgia Conference paid just over 81 percent of the conference adjusted budget. The total apportionments collected - \$10,004,881 - were an almost \$15,000 increase on 2010 apportionments paid.

The 81 percent paid on the nearly \$12.3 million amended 2011 total conference budget means that almost \$2.3 million were not collected. The Conference spent nearly 87 percent, or \$10,637,202, of the amended budget of \$12,272,099.

Of the 612 local churches in the South Georgia Conference, 408 paid 100 percent of their apportionments and an additional six churches paid more than 100 percent of their apportionments.

Statesboro District had 61 churches that paid 100% of their conference apportionments, Paying 86% total conference apportionments. 64 churches paid 100% of district apportionments. Paying 87% district apportionments

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING—March 18, 2012

One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. A special offering is taken on this day to support humanitarian aid through UMCOR.

United Methodist Women's annual retreat set for March 23-25

The United Methodist Women of the South Georgia Conference will host their annual Spiritual Growth Retreat March 23-25 at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. Coming together under the theme of "My Joy Cometh in the Morning," from Psalm 30:5, retreat participants will hear speaker Cindy Ricker.

Appointments - Projected for 2012-2013

The Appointments for 2012-2013 will be projected on the conference web-site www.sgauhc.com. Note: All appointments appearing on line are considered firm projections pending the official announcement at the June 5 conclusion of the South Georgia Annual Conference session in Macon.

Evangelism

The following churches had a gain in membership for the year 2011.

Bellville	Brannen	Brooklet	Buck Creek	Crosby Chapel
Daisy	Fair Haven	Friendship	Hazlehurst	Hopewell (Glen)
Millen	Mt. Moriah	Mt. Zion	Nannie Williams	Nevils
Oak Grove	Odum	Sikes Chapel	Springhead	Statesboro 1 st
Union Grove				

Highest Net Gain for 2011: Brooklet UMC

TEN TIMELESS VALUES DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

The Ten Timeless Values Devotional Guide for your local church designed around Bishop King's Ten Timeless Values for Discipleship. The Ten Timeless Values Devotional Guide is also available on the web-site www.sgaumc.com/Statesboro. Look for Ten Timeless Values Devotional-March. Each month will focus on one of the "timeless values". There is one devotional for each week of the month and it will include scripture, reflections on the discipline, and some ways to put the discipline into practice that week. It will also be posted each week on Ben's blog page. Please try and put the devotional guide into the hands of as many of your church as possible. Missed Ten Timeless Values for January and February there on the web-site.

The 2012 Annual Conference

June 3-5, 2012

Macon Coliseum Centreplex Macon, GA

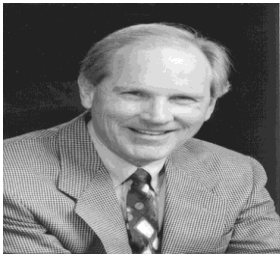
The Annual Conference Local Arrangements Committee is pleased to welcome you to Macon for the 2012 Annual Conference Session.

All conference business and worship will be held at the Macon Coliseum Centreplex in Macon. The Centreplex is located off I-16 at Exit 2. Physical address is 200 Coliseum Dr.

Hotel information is available on the conference website at www.sgaumc.org/ac2012.

Registration will begin Sunday afternoon, June 3, 2012 at 3:00 pm in the lobby of the Macon Coliseum Centreplex. Registration fee \$20. Opening worship service will begin on Sunday evening at 7:00 pm in the coliseum. A reception will follow the worship service.

MILLEN UMC REVIVAL



Professor Robert G. Tuttle, freshly retired from Asbury Theological Seminary, will be preaching a revival at Millen UMC Sunday April 15 through Tuesday April 17, at 11 am & 6 pm on Sunday, and noon and 6 pm on Monday and Tuesday. Bob is a Spirit-driven evangelist, and a loving friend to so many. All are welcome to come.



The GCFA endorses and supports the Certification Institute for church secretaries. The classes are held at the GCFA building in Nashville. Most of the instructors are from the general boards and agencies in Nashville which allows for better stewardship of time, staffing, and funding. The dates are July 15-20, 2012.

Each year UMC Professionals from across the country and sometimes the world, meet for the PAUMCS Annual Conference. This year's Conference will be "Celebrate the Past and Build the Future" in Richmond, VA, April 12-15. For more information go to the PAUMCS web-site at www.paumcs.org.

Look for the Georgia PAUMCS annual conference on Sept 13-16, in Gainesville, GA.

Our Sympathy to the families of.....

Cindy Adams, (mother in law of Eric Mathews, Exec. Assistant to Bishop King), who died, February 9.
Ms. Avril Maxine Wells (sister of Norman Wells-ST district treasurer), who died on February 19.
Marjorie Rhodes Newberry, (mother-in law of Matt Stewart-AM), who died February 20.
Reverend Ernest Bass (Retired WA), who died on February 22.
Reverend Timothy Green (retired WA), who died on February 28.

Happy Birthday To....

- March 03 Ruth Khaw
- 09 Jay Williams
- 12 David Whitman
- 15 Sophia Medley
- 16 Ben Defore
- 16 Barbara Sharpe
- 17 George Durham
- 18 Tom Oliver
- 19 Brenda France
- 19 James Snell
- 19 Sam Vernon
- 21 Tom Norman
- 21 Delia Steffen
- 22 Beverly Flowers
- 24 Larry Bird
- 28 Harry Brazell
- 31 Fran Henry

Happy Anniversary To....

- March 05 Tom & Betty Oliver
- 19 George & Marty Durham



Denman /Carl and Ruth Looney Evangelism Award

Know a pastor or lay person in the South Georgia Annual Conference who has distinguished themselves in the area of evangelism? If so then you are encouraged to submit his or her name to be nominated for the Denman Evangelism Award or the Carl and Ruth Looney Evangelism Award.

Each year, the Denman Evangelism Award recognizes both a pastor and a lay person who are effective in developing true disciples of Jesus Christ in keeping with United Methodist history and tradition. The Carl and Ruth Looney Evangelism Award recognizes a clergy person who has completed their educational requirements, is serving in a full time ministry position, and has the gifts, graces and passion for evangelism and outreach. This award includes a scholarship for continuing their education in evangelism. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2012. For questions, contact Rev. Mark Addington, Witness Team Chair, at 478-781-0332.

Celebrate Recovery at Brooklet UMC

Don't let the word "recovery" throw you. This is a group of Christians who get together not to judge, diagnose or cure anything. We are here to support each other through our hurts, hang-ups and habits. We meet every Friday night at the John Wesley Center behind the church from 7:00-8:00 for a time of praise & worship, prayer, and to hear a speaker. Then we break out into gender-based small groups for about 20 minutes to discuss the speaker's presentation and what spoke to us through it. After that we have a pot-luck meal together. Child-care is provided at no charge. Call Billy or Diane Wright at 912-842-2908 for more information.

Bishop King names task force to study district realignment



Bishop James R. King, Jr. has named 12 people to a newly formed District Study Team. Comprised of six clergy and six lay members, the group will study the alignment of districts in the South Georgia Conference and make a recommendation to the Annual Conference during the 2012 Annual Conference session. During the 2011 Annual Conference session, held June 5-9 in Tifton, Helen Rhea Stumbo, a member of Fort Valley United Methodist Church "I want them to ... listen to the different agencies, organizations and individuals in this Conference and to the bishops of other Annual Conferences who have already reduced their districts for financial or ministry reasons,"

Bishop King said. "My hope is that they will listen well and make sound recommendations based on what they're hearing and that all of that will come together sometime in April or May. I hope to have recommendations that can be integrated into my comprehensive Project Turnaround plan."

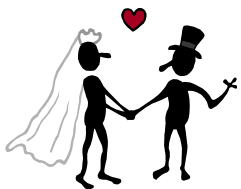
Bishop King has named the following people to the task force:

Clergy

Chair - Rev. Cindy Autry (CO) District
 Rev. Mike McAfee retired (CO) District
 Rev. Andrew Young II, (SA) District
 Rev. Robert Greene, (DU) District
 Rev. Jay Harris, (MA) District
 Rev. David Thompson (AM) District)

Laity

Helen Rhea Stumbo, (MA) District)
 Robert Anderson (CO) District
 Milton Clements (WA) District
 Bonnie Kelly (VA) District
 Richard Vanlandingham (TH) District
 Lynn Walker, (ST) District



2012 Clergy Spouses' Retreat – March 16-18 at Epworth By The Sea. Meeting under the theme "I Don't Have Baggage-I Have Designer Luggage" this year's retreat will feature speaker Cathy Lee Phillips. Contact the district office for more information or visit the web at www.sgaumc.org.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

THOUGHT...Life is a glorious opportunity, if it is used to condition us for eternity. If we fail in this, though we succeed in everything else, our life will have been a failure. There is no escape for the man who squanders his opportunity to prepare to meet God. -Billy Graham

Dates of Importance Conference and District

MARCH

- 5-7 *A Lenten Spiritual Renewal Retreat- Epworth By The Sea*
- 12-14 *Appointive Cabinet Meeting-Epworth By The Sea*
- 16-18 *Confirmation Retreat II, Epworth By The Sea*
- 21 *District Pastors Meeting @ Pittman Park UMC 10am*
- 22 *Delegation Meeting, Macon*
- 23-25 *UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat, Epworth By The Sea*
- 26-28 *Appointive Cabinet Meetings- Epworth By The Sea*
- 30-31 *Early Response Team Training, St. Simons UMC*

APRIL

- 6 *Good Friday*
- 8 *Easter Sunday*
- 9-11 *Appointive Cabinet Meeting-Epworth By The Sea*
- 13-15 *UMM Retreat, Epworth By The Sea*
- 16-18 *Older Adult Retreat, Epworth By The Sea*
- 17 *Transition Workshop/Clergy (Moving Clergy) –Dublin First UMC*
- 18 *Transition Workshop/Clergy(Moving Clergy)-Tifton First UMC*
- 19 *District Pastors Meeting @Pittman Park UMC*
- 22 *Natived American Awareness Sunday*
- 24 *Sexual Ethics Training, 10AM-Warner Robins First*

MAY

- 6 *Magnolia Manor Sunday*
- 8-9 *Appointive Cabinet Meeting*
- 10 *Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Macon*
- 13 *Magnolia ManorSunday*
- 15 *Extended Cabinet Meeting, Macon*
- 16-17 *Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon*
- 19 *Transiton Workshop/Part-time Clergy/Lay Speakers Eastman First UMC 10am-3pm*
- 20 *District Conference @ Statesboro First UMC, 4pm-6:30pm*

JUNE

- 3-5 *South Georgia Annual Conference-Macon, GA*
- 13 *Moving Day*

