

THE COMMUNICATOR

Quarterly Newsletter of the Office of Connectional Ministries

WINTER 2011

The Office of Connectional Ministries seeks to resource local churches and strengthen connections among local churches, clusters, districts, ministries, and the global church for making disciples.

Disciple Covenant Conference aims to help groups make disciples

By Kara Witherow

In his ongoing effort to focus on disciple making and growing a Christlike world, South Georgia area resident Bishop James R. King, Jr. invites individuals and groups to join him at the inaugural Disciple Covenant Conference.

Scheduled for February 11-12 at the Macon Centreplex, the Disciple Covenant Conference will be a time of developing and sharpening discipleship efforts.

“Our hope and prayer is

that people will be moved to come and attend the Disciple Covenant Conference so that they can learn how to grow a Christlike world,” said Dr. Rick Lanford, chair of the Disciple Covenant Conference planning team. “I’m really excited about this conference. This is the first time our Annual Conference has, to my knowledge, done something like this and undergone something of this magnitude where teams from churches

will come together to learn and plan how to be a disciple.”

This event is not new to Bishop King; after seeing the need for discipleship training he convened similar conferences while bishop of the Kentucky Conference.

“He saw that there are people who come to our churches and join the church, but they aren’t being discipled in growing a Christlike world,” Dr. Lanford said of Bishop

SEE DCC PAGE 4

Pastors Salaries:
For the 2011 clergy compensation list visit
www.sgaumc.org/communicator.

ENGAGING IN JUSTICE MINISTRIES TO GROW A CHRISTLIKE WORLD

By Dr. Brad Brady

I hope you have been reading the South Georgia Advocate over the last year. Many things impress me about the tremendous product, but one overwhelming impression from reading last year's editions is how our local churches and conference ministries are faithfully and creatively engaged in justice ministries.

Justice ministries encompass everything that intentionally expresses God's love and mercy to a broken world. For many of us, we have thought of these ministries as "missions," "outreach," or "advocacy." We at the conference level are now beginning to group all of these under the umbrella of what we are calling "Do Justice".

Justice ministry is one of the most concrete ways that we engage in "Growing a Christlike World." It is one of the signs that we have experienced God's love in such a transforming way that we see our neighbor through the eyes of Jesus Christ. Our new life in Christ makes strangers become our neighbors.

I can't help but think of the scene recorded in Matthew 23, when Jesus looked at people coming and going through life oblivious to their brokenness. Jesus was heartbroken over how far humanity had wandered away from the life God designed from the beginning.

Jesus' lament over Jerusalem summarized his motivation for all his self-giving acts of love, mercy and justice—including his death on a

cross. Jesus' lament, also, helps us understand what fuels our immersion in acts of justice.

Truth is, when our hearts break over the things that break God's heart—it is second nature to reach out to help and serve others. When we see people and their circumstance through the eyes of Christ it is easy to engage in the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-ff).

The stories reported in last year's South Georgia Advocate give us a great sampling of how our local churches and conference ministries have engaged in acts of justice.

Consider these examples: Perry's "Snax Sax"; St. Luke Savannah's "Soles helping Souls"; St. Marys' "Helping Hands Food Pantry"; Forest Hills' "River of Life"; Nepsey-Warren's "Partnership with Second Harvest"; Wynnton's "Midtown Classic" for missions; Pine Forest youth's "Tent collection for Haiti"; Emanuel's "Second Saturday of Service"; and UVMIM in Ecuador.

These ministries are just a *few* examples of the many projects and programs that our congregations and conference ministries are undertaking to Do Justice.

We are launching a new section on our conference website to focus on the many ways South Georgia United Methodists are seeking to make an impact on the world that reflects God's best intentions for all creation and all creatures. More details as well as directions for submitting ways that you or your church are participating in just ministries are provided on the next page.

I encourage you to visit the site frequently to see and celebrate the many ways our brothers and sisters are seeking to Do Justice. As the list grows, you might find some neat ideas that you can adapt to your location or you might find someone with whom you can partner to expand the impact for the good of many.

Together, we are making a difference as agents of a heartbroken God who longs for each to be healed and whole. Together, we are "Growing a Christlike World."

*Dr. Brad Brady is the Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries.

DO JUSTICE

conference website to highlight justice ministries

The Office of Connectional Ministries has launched a new section on the conference website that highlights the justice ministries flowing out of South Georgia's congregations and ministries. This is part of our 2011 emphasis called *Do Justice*.

"As Bishop King has so eloquently reminded us in his teaching and preaching, a holistic view of discipleship includes engaging in justice ministries," said Rev. Doreen Smalls, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries and Conference Global Missions Secretary.

Justice ministries come in many forms. Any act that outwardly expresses God's love through word or deed seeking to mend brokenness is a justice ministry. Acts that have traditionally fallen under the large umbrellas of missions and advocacy are considered justice ministries.

"Clothes closets; soup kitchens; volunteers-in-mission teams; transitional housing; community gardens; outreach ministries; tutoring ministries; awareness building and advocacy around hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, AIDS, and poverty; Kairos ministries; well-drilling; Shalom Zones; and global health initiatives are just a small sampling of how South Georgia United Methodist Christians are active in the area of justice ministries," Smalls said.

The *Do Justice* website is designed to compile a list of all the creative ways local churches and conference ministries are intentionally engaged in doing justice.

"One of the exciting things about this tool is that the information provided will generate a color-coded push-pin on a map showing the location and type of justice ministry in which your church or group is engaged," said Kelly Roberson, Director of Communications. "With everyone's assistance, we will be able to see the wide array of how our congregations and ministries *Do Justice* locally and globally."

To get started, go to www.sgaumc.org/dojustice. On the left menu you will see a link to "Submit a Do Justice Opportunity." You are encouraged to add as many ministries as you like and then explore the growing list of reported justice ministries.

"We are confident that we will all be amazed by the number, scope and creativity of justice ministries that will be reported," said Rev. Smalls. "Hopefully, we will all find ways to celebrate what is happening across the world, as well as learn from and partner with others to maximize the impact."

DCC: providing a spiritual & learning environment for covenant planning

FROM PAGE 1

King. “In the United Methodist Church ... we have open doors, open hearts, and open minds, and we are really good about getting people into the church, but we don’t always do a good job of keeping the people in the church. Not only keeping them in the church, but in discipling them as to where their gifts and graces can be used for the kingdom.”

The purpose of the Disciple Covenant Conference is to provide a spiritual and learning environment for covenant planning, said Bishop King. The two primary goals of the event are to focus on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the church’s Wesleyan heritage as the foundation for making disciples and to encourage participants to either start covenant plans on site, improve the plans they have in existence, or affirm the plans they already have in place.

“I have observed over the years that if people in the church do not experience the love of God and are not taught the values of the faith it is not logical to expect that the world would be different and better,” Bishop King said. “My hope and prayer is that every person, team and congregation who says they believe in Jesus Christ and desires to follow him will have a plan to guide them.”

The conference will begin with registration at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 11 and will conclude after Saturday’s noon worship session.

Organizers say that teams of three to 10 people are ideal. Teams need not be clergy-led; others that will

benefit from the conference include United Methodist Women groups, United Methodist Men groups, evangelism teams, Wesley Foundation groups, Sunday school classes and more. Each attendee will receive a study guide that will help as they improve their team and as they form other teams within their local church.

Attendees will hear from speakers Dr. Lovett H. Weems, Jr., Dr. H. Eddie Fox and Bishop King. Leading worship for the weekend will be the Chapel Hill UMC Praise Band of Henderson, Ky.

“The Disciple Covenant Conference is not about what I want,” Bishop King said. “It is more about seeing a need and filling it ... it’s about returning to the basics of our faith. The Disciple Covenant Conference is a focus on values, not programs. Each person and team will develop plans at their own pace, reflecting on their unique situation. Over the last two years I have attempted to communicate my love of God through Jesus Christ and my love for the people who make up my Christian family here in South Georgia. Now, I hope we can take the steps forward to do something new and different to produce something meaningful and amazing for the glory of God.”

Advance Special Renewal Notice deadline is Jan. 31

The Advance is an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile mission giving. Advance Specials are those approved mission projects and personnel which local churches, groups, classes and individuals are encouraged to support with their financial gifts. This entails giving beyond apportionments, World Service and/or Conference Benevolence.

Seven categories have been designated through which persons are encouraged to channel their gifts; these categories include: (1) Africa Church Growth and Development; (2) World Hunger and Poverty; (3) Mission Personnel; (4) Global Mission Projects; (5) United Methodist Committee on Relief; (6) Conference Advance Specials and (7) PLUS Lane (Conference Special Support).

Over the years, individuals and groups throughout the South Georgia Annual Conference have been faithful in their giving to the Advance Specials. Various mission projects and personnel have been blessed because of your financial support.

Conference Advance Specials, including those in the PLUS Lane, must submit an annual renewal application to continue as an Advance Special. New applications and renewal forms can be accessed through the conference website at www.sgaumc.org. The deadline for new and renewal applications is January 31, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Doreen Smalls, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, at 888-266-7642.

TWO CONFIRMATION RETREATS SET FOR MARCH

come join the journey

Two weekend-long Confirmation Retreats are scheduled for 2011, the first from March 4-6 and the second from March 18-20.

Designed for students in the sixth grade and above, the “Join the Journey” Confirmation Retreats will provide churches of all sizes an opportunity to connect with others through worship, study, and fellowship. They will also include large group gatherings around the church seasons and breakout sessions with topics of grace, United Methodist History and United Methodist lingo.

The entire event will compliment Cokesbury's “Claim the Name” curriculum. Not meant to be the only confirmation youth go through, the Confirmation Retreat should be complimentary to what a church is or will be doing.

“The Confirmation Retreats are about experiencing the good news of Jesus Christ with others who are on the same spiritual journey,” said Rev. Adam Ricker, event planner and associate director of Connectional Ministries. “Even after six years of attending these retreats there is something new that I learn each time. Whether it is about the character and nature of God or the history of our United Methodist Church, I am always inspired to continue growing in my faith.”

Workshop topics include:

--Talkin' Funny / Mumbo Jumbo: This workshop will help attendees understand and define the words used in United Methodism, including Wesleyan terms, organizational terms, titles, and more. Confirmands will gain a greater sense of

organization and understanding of key people and terms.

--Three Simple Rules: This workshop is a study of the General Rules that were observed by the Methodist societies of John Wesley and that are found in the United Methodist Book of Discipline. Students will explore what it means to do no harm, to do good, and to attend upon all the ordinances of God.

--Packing for the Journey: This workshop will help students learn about things they will need on their “journey” of faith. They will learn about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus, how to grow in that relationship, and why it is important to serve others because of that relationship.

Also offered during the weekend are Join the Journey “Holy Clubs,” smaller breakout groups that will study specific topics with a method and purpose, to grow in knowledge and love for Jesus Christ.

Confirmands may choose to study any of the following:

--An Invitation to Chat (prayer): this workshop focuses on looking into the practice of praying and gives confirmands a better understanding of what prayer is: when, where, and how they can pray. Opportunities to lead prayers in Sunday morning worship will be available if a group or individuals desire.

--Come to the Table (Holy Communion) – this workshop explores the meaning of Holy Communion and gives confirmands the opportunity to serve during Sunday morning worship.

--Feast on the Word (Bible study) – this workshop helps unlock the mysteries of an ancient book with an ever-so present message applicable to daily life.

“The Confirmation Retreats are about experiencing the good news of Jesus Christ with others who are on the same spiritual journey.”

Rev. Adam Ricker

--Devotion Motion (Devotions & Meditations) – this workshop looks at and practices reading devotions and meditations appropriate for youth.

The large group general session gatherings will take place in Strickland Auditorium and will include high-energy music, a contemporary blend of new and old, drama relevant to the topic being discussed, a speaker, individual church time for discussion, multi-media presentations, and youth involvement. The following church seasons will theme each of the individual sessions: Advent and penitential grace, Lent/Good Friday and justifying grace, Easter and justifying grace, and Pentecost and sanctifying grace.

“The Confirmation Retreats bring together the best of a diverse group of leaders from across our conference who really want to help our students encounter the living God,” Rev. Ricker said.

For more information about the Join the Journey Confirmation Retreats or to register your group, call Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.

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 June 2 - July 23, 2011. Begin praying now to see if this opportunity is for you. Applications are available online. The deadline is February 11. 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.

Keeping children safe and protected is a main focus of Safe Sanctuaries.

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAININGS

The Office of Connectional Ministries will be holding two Safe Sanctuaries trainings - January 29 at Pittman Park UMC in Statesboro and April 2 at Cordele First UMC. Safe Sanctuaries is the name commonly given by local United Methodist Annual Conferences and local churches to their individual efforts to make conference, district, and local church programs welcoming and safe for children and youth.

Both training days will be broken down into two sections: Basic Safe Sanctuaries & Safe Sanctuaries Next Steps.

The Basic Safe Sanctuaries section will focus on 1) proper ways to recruit and screen workers with children and youth; 2) proven procedures for safe ministry with children and youth; and 3) appropriate ways to report and respond to allegations of abuse for all involved.

The Safe Sanctuaries Next Steps section will focus on 1) best practices (screenings, off campus trips, overnight trips, mentoring/confirmation); 2) ministries to children and youth with special needs; 3) shepherding programs for offenders; and 4) risks related to emerging technologies.

Both trainings begins at 10:30 a.m. with the Basic Safe Sanctuaries. There will be a lunch break from noon to 1:00 p.m. (lunch is on your own). The training will resume at 1:00 p.m. with Safe Sanctuaries Next Steps.

If you have already attended a basic training you are more than welcome to join us after lunch. Or even if you have been but would like a refresher course you are welcome for the whole day.

No registration is required. This is a free event. For questions, contact Adam Ricker at 888-266-7642 or adam@sgaumc.com.

2011 SUMMER CAMPS



MID HIGH CAMPS

Mid-High Mania 1: June 13-17

Mid-High Mania 2: June 20-24

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 6th-9th grades

ELEMENTARY CAMPS

Elem. Camp 1: June 27 – June 1

Elem. Camp 2: July 11-15

Elem. Camp 3: July 18-22

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 4th-6th grades

More information will be available at www.sgaumc.org.

Sponsored by the Office of Connectional Ministries

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

churches increase giving at end of year

By Miriam C. Hagan

Each year as the old year ends and a new year begins, my sense of appreciation for all the blessings I have received in life once again sweep over me. This year is no exception. However, I must admit that for a few days, I was having doubts. The “what else can go wrong blues” was trying to attack me and get me down. (Are you familiar with that feeling?)

On Dec. 23rd the last day we were to work before Christmas, one of the hard drives in our computer server began to malfunction. Our computer consultant told me he would check on it the first day he was back in Macon. But after working with it for several hours, he told me that our server had bigger problems and would have to be replaced. He somewhat joking asked me, “Is this office busy the first couple of weeks of the year?” My reply was that they may be the two busiest weeks of the year. Thankfully, he was able to piece our computer system together so we can work, as we await the arrival of a new server.

Why is January the busiest time of the year for us? Well, in January we are working in two different years. Most businesses and individuals will have closed their 2010 books and moved on to 2011, but we are still encouraging churches to see if they can find a few dollars more to send us on their 2010 apportionments or to send another \$25 in order to make sure they have paid enough Advance Special Lanes to qualify them as a “Three Star Church”. In order to answer questions, we have to use our computers.

This year we are keeping our books open until Jan. 14th. While we are trying to receive more money for 2010 and finishing paying all the expenses which relate to the 2010 conference budget, we are also paying bills in 2011.

On the pension side of our responsibilities, we have to get all the minister’s compensation forms entered into our computer system and uploaded to the General Board of Pensions computer system in order to make sure the information on the pension and insurance bills will be correct. The General Board of Pensions says we

have to have all of this done by the 5th working day of the month (Jan. 7th). Knowing all of this was on the agenda for this week was why I started getting the “what else can go wrong blues”.

But I got off course. I wanted to tell you that as I was getting the “blues” thinking about having to buy a new server and what an inconvenient time it was, the churches of this conference cured me of my “blues”.

When Laura and Pam, who both work here in the Administrative Services Office, came in last week on Thursday to count the money they told me that we had received \$319,304 on apportionments and advance specials and another \$161,049 in payments on pension and health insurance bills. My “blues” evaporated.

For many churches, 2010 has been a difficult year financially. It seems this economic downturn does not want to turn around and get better. People are still looking for jobs, many persons are still trying to sell their houses, and Social Security recipients are going another year without a cost of living raise .

We have been running behind in our collections most of the year and I have been sharing with people that I was hoping our churches would end the year on a positive financial note, because I realize that would allow churches to support the UM connection. Once again, the churches of this conference are sending us money for the payment of apportionments, and insurance and pension benefits. So far this week almost \$400,000 more has arrived.

So it is with an extremely grateful heart that I write this article and try to find words that somehow adequately express how grateful I am. I also realize that the ministries in Georgia and around the world which are supported in whole or in part by the donations and gifts of South Georgia United Methodists are grateful. It allows them to continue to serve in Christ’ name.

*Miriam C. Hagan is the Director of Administrative Services for the South Georgia Conference.

South Georgia Advocate

The South Georgia Advocate is the official news source of the South Georgia Annual Conference. Produced twice-monthly, this outstanding newspaper serves to tell the stories of God at work in South Georgia United Methodist Churches.

SHARE YOUR NEWS: advocate@sgaumc.com or 912-270-0851

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW: www.sgaumc.org/advocate or 877-465-1685

BE A KINGDOM BUILDER NEW AND REVITALIZED CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Can you believe it? Each Sunday in South Georgia there are more than 5000 new worshipers in 43 churches connected with New and Revitalized Congregational Development.

NRCD looks for gifted and passionate leaders who are able to lead new or revitalizing congregations on the path of transition. The desire is to “make and train disciples of Jesus Christ.”

When you invest with NRCD, 100% of your gift goes to enable NRCD to plant a new church or bring about radical transition and growth in an existing congregation. Your partnership with NRCD makes a difference in the lives of people all across South Georgia.

For those who have been faithful Kingdom Builders, thank you! For those of you who have not yet begun to support this ministry, February 27, 2011, is Kingdom Builders Sunday. You are invited to partner with NRCD as we seek to offer exciting worship opportunities to people across South Georgia.

As you read about the amazing things happening in the South Georgia Annual Conference, you are invited to reflect on God’s call in your life to “make disciples.” Is this an opportunity for you to serve God faithfully?

To make a donation, fill out the form below and mail in with your check. You can also donate online at www.sgaumc.org/nrcd. For more information, contact Karen Hahn at 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 Builder:** \$15 twice a yr. **New Congregation Supporter:** \$50 twice a yr.

Vision Promoter: \$100 twice a year **New Congregation Planter:** \$500 twice a year

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

IN OTHER NRCD NEWS

Did you know that Harvest Church, a United Methodist congregation in Byron and one of the fastest-growing Protestant churches in the U. S., has recently added a second campus and fifth weekend worship service. Located at the Houston Lakes Stadium Cinemas in Kathleen, about four miles away from Harvest Church’s main campus, the new Kathleen location is a throwback to Harvest’s early days – before moving to their current location on Highway 41 in Byron, Harvest Church met for five years in the Galleria movie theater at the Warner Robins mall. Dr. Tim Bagwell, Executive Director of Congregational Development for the South Georgia Conference, points to that intentionality as one of the reasons for Harvest Church’s growth. “Harvest has been intentional about its sense of call,” he said. “They are sharing the love of Christ in non-traditional ways. Worship is alive, vibrant, and challenging. People long to be a part of something where they sense the spirit of God moving.” To read the full story, visit www.sgaumc.org.

2012 General Conference Elections Process Defined

delegation will be elected at the 2011 Annual Conference session

The South Georgia Conference will elect its delegation to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences during the 2011 Annual Conference Session in Tifton, June 5th - 9th.

The General Conference is the global gathering of The United Methodist Church where mission and ministry priorities are established and *The Book of Discipline* is reviewed for possible revisions. The General Conference is the policy setting body of United Methodism. The 2012 General Conference will be held April 24-May 4, 2012, in Tampa, Florida.

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference meets July 17-21, 2012, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, to coordinate the connected ministry and mission of this region and to elect and assign Bishops for leadership in the Church.

“The South Georgia Annual Conference will elect 5 lay delegates and 5 clergy delegates to General Conference, and an additional 5 lay and 5 clergy to the Jurisdictional Conference delegation,” announced Rev. Craig Hutto, Conference Secretary. Also, the conference will elect several reserve delegates.

“This is a reduction of one lay and one clergy delegate to both the General and Jurisdictional Conferences,” said Hutto. The General Conference Secretary calculates the allocation of delegates based on lay and clergy membership as it relates to other Annual Conferences.

“We get a proportional share of representation based on our membership as compared to the whole Church,” said Hutto.

The 2005 session of the South Georgia Annual Conference established a policy on elections in an effort to “create a level playing field and be fair with all potential candidates.” The complete policy can be found on the South Georgia Conference website, www.sgaumc.org/policies.

Please note the following time line for the distribution of the informational letter and the use of the website for persons interested in declaring their interest in being elected:

February 1, 2011: An informational letter will be mailed by the Conference Secretary to all clergy, lay members to annual conference and local church lay leaders. The letter will outline the elections process, inform interested laity and clergy of how they may declare their interest in serving on the delegation through the conference website, and encourage diversity in the delegation membership.

February 15, 2011: The conference website will be open for receiving information from those interested in serving on the delegation. The policy calls for the site to include a provision for personal contact information, appointments served, and leadership positions held in the conference and district by clergy. Interested laity will be provided a space to put personal contact information, local church membership, occupation, and whether they are a youth, young adult or adult. All persons interested in serving may submit their picture for the website and a statement up to 100 words concerning their interest, issues and qualifications to be considered as a potential delegate.

The website will remain open through the Annual Conference session for persons interested in declaring their desire to serve as a delegate and for persons interested in reviewing the profiles of potential delegates.

However, laity interested in serving will have a deadline of March 31, 2011, to submit their information for inclusion in a printed booklet that will be mailed out with the Book of Recommendations and Reports in early May. The website will remain open for other laypersons to declare their availability. Lay persons declaring their willingness to serve after March 31 will not be included in the printed booklet, but they will be able to speak during the time allotted to meet “candidates” during the laity session.

The elections policy is clear in stating, “This website information is intended to be sufficient and to preclude candidates or supporters from sending other forms of campaign materials printed and/or electronic such as brochures, flyers, e-mails, faxes, letters of encouragement, etc.”

The Book of Discipline outlines the prerequisites for being elected to the delegation:

CLERGY: An important change in the 2008 edition will affect our voting in 2011. ¶35 now reads: “The clergy delegates to the General and to the jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected from the clergy members in full connection and shall be elected by the clergy members of the annual conference who are deacons and elders in full connection, associate members, and those provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements and local pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment immediately preceding the

DELEGATION PROCESS DEFINED

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election" (italics added). Full Elders or Deacons on leave of absence may vote and may be elected as delegates (§354.7). Full Elders or Deacons on sabbatical, family, paternity/maternity, or disability leave may vote and be elected (See Judicial Council Decision #473). Clergy on honorable location are no longer members of the annual conference (§359.2) and therefore cannot vote or be elected as clergy delegates. Retired Full Elders or Deacons can vote and be elected as clergy delegates (See Judicial Council Decision #531). Full Elders or Deacons under suspension from pastoral duties may vote but may not be elected as a delegate (See Judicial Council Decision #534). Persons who are to be received into provisional membership and commissioned at the 2011 session of the annual conference may vote after they have been both received and commissioned (on Monday afternoon) as long as they have fulfilled the educational requirements as stated above in ¶35.

LAITY: The Constitution states (§36) that to be eligible for election as a lay member of General or Jurisdictional Conference, the member must: (1) be a professing member of the UMC for at least the past two years, (2) be an active participant of the UMC for at least the past four years, and (3) be a professing member of a church within the bounds of the South Georgia Annual Conference. The following laity may vote during the balloting for the Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference: Lay Member elected by their charge (one per appointed clergy), the conference lay leader, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference president of United Methodist Women, Lay delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, Diaconal Ministers, Lay Staff in the Conference Connectional Ministries Office, Lay Chairpersons of Conference Committees, District Lay Officers, and District At-Large Lay Members.

Persons with additional questions may contact Craig Hutto, Conference Secretary, at craighutto@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

DATES

June 5-9, 2011

LOCATION

University of Georgia
Tifton Campus
Conference Center,
Tifton, Georgia

THEME

Never Alone

INFORMATION

A letter will be sent this month to all clergy and lay members to Annual Conference with details regarding the 2011 Annual Conference Session. Information will also be posted on the conference website, www.sgaumc.org.

Early Response Team (ERT) Trainings

Early Response Team Trainings help equip individuals and teams to respond in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. At the training, participants will receive an ERT Training Manual and, upon completing the course, will receive an UMCOR ID Badge and a T-shirt. For more information about these trainings please contact the trainer listed under each of the dates.

February 5

An ERT Training will take place February 5 at Waynesboro First UMC in Waynesboro, Ga. For details and to register, contact Pat Hozey, ERT trainer, at phozey1@bellsouth.net or 706-554-1564.

February 18-19

An ERT Training will take place February 18-19 at Brunswick First UMC in Brunswick, Ga. For details and to register, contact Jamie Gibson, ERT trainer, at jamie720@aol.com or 478-986-4772.

March 5

An ERT Training will take place March 5 at Vineville UMC in Macon, Ga. For details and to register, contact Pat Hozey, ERT trainer, at phozey1@bellsouth.net or 706-554-1564.

March 25-26

An ERT Training will take place March 25-26 at Salem UMC in Americus, Ga. For details and to register, contact Jamie Gibson, ERT trainer, at jamie720@aol.com or 478-986-4772.

August 6

An ERT Training will take place August 6 at Valdosta First UMC at in Valdosta, Ga. For details and to register, contact Pat Hozey, ERT trainer, at phozey1@bellsouth.net or 706-554-1564.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Epworth Winter Camp Meeting

The 2011 Epworth Winter Camp Meeting, set for January 23-26, will focus on "Disciples By The Sea" based on John 21. Bishop James R. King, Jr. will preach Sunday evening followed by Rev. Leigh Ann Raynor, Rev. Bob Moon and Rev. Ricky Varnell for the morning services. Rev. Varnell will assist Bishop King with Holy Communion on Wednesday morning. Rev. Dr. Lee Weaver will portray Peter - The Great Fisherman - on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Dr. Derrick Lewis from the Antiquities Center will conduct the Bible study. Laurie Frank will serve as the music director, accompanied by George Ingram and Donna Nielson. Area choirs will sing each evening. For more information, contact Epworth By The Sea at 912-638-8688 or www.epworthbythesea.org.

Sexual Ethics Workshop

A Sexual Ethics Workshop is scheduled for 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on February 10, 2011, at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. This workshop is required every three years for persons serving under appointment by the Bishop (clergy, local pastors, extension ministers, appointed lay speakers). To register, please e-mail cpcassistant@sgaumc.com. This event is sponsored by the Conference Commission on Pastoral Counseling. Please note that spouses and lay employees who are not appointed by the Bishop are not eligible to attend the workshop.

One Great Hour of Sharing is April 3

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering helps UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of gifts to UMCOR go directly to those in need.

You and your congregation can join United Methodists worldwide by making a special offering through One Great Hour of Sharing on April 3 to support humanitarian aid through UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief. 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 this offering under-

write UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps UMCOR 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.

Visit www.umcsgiving.org or call 888-346-3862 to order your resources today.

Spouses' Retreat
March 18-20
Epworth By The Sea

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat
March 25-28
Epworth By The Sea

UMM Retreat
April 8-10
Epworth By The Sea

Older Adult Retreat
April 11-13
Epworth By The Sea

TECH TRAINING WILL FOCUS ON SELECTING CHURCH PRESENTATION SOFTWARE

Do you want to enhance the use of technology in your local church? Are you interested in using technology tools and resources for effective ministry? Then join local church volunteers, staff, webmasters/servants, communicators, and pastors for this one day training event sponsored by the South Georgia Conference Office of Communications.

This year's "Using All God's Tools" is set for Saturday, January 29 at Nashville UMC in Nashville, Ga. "Using All God's Tools" is a workshop series that helps local churches with various aspects of technology. Through interactive presentations, hands-on demonstrations and comprehensive handouts participants will explore a variety of options for using technology tools for effective ministry.

This year's workshop will focus on selecting the best church presentation software for your worship service. If you are searching for new worship presentation software or you need some fresh ideas for your current software, join us for this day long training session. We will explore several of the most popular products on the market, how they compare to each other and how to best use them in your worship service. Leading the training sessions will be Mr. Ken Spears.

New this year, participants will have a chance to "swap" resources with each other during the training. You are invited to bring any equipment you would like to sell or trade. You are also encouraged to bring any public domain video loops or back ground pictures to share with the group. Got some helpful tips or websites that you use? Come prepared to share those with the group as well. Contact Ken Spears at spearsk@windstream.net for questions about the Resource Swap.

The workshop begins at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$15, payable at the door. CEU credit (0.5) is available for full participation.

To register e-mail Kelly Roberson at kelly@sgaumc.com or call Kelly at 888-277-7642. Please provide your name, church, and phone number.

THE NURTURE TEAM IS AT YOUR SERVICE

The South Georgia Annual Conference Nurture Team is at your service – delivering the freshest ideas in ministry through the Nurture Café.

The Nurture Café is designed to feed the local church by offering a MENU of ENTRÉES (workshops) with SERVERS (presenters) from which YOU (local churches) can "place an order." Their goal is to go directly to the local church with trainings tailored to your specific ministry needs!

Visit www.sgaumc.org/nurturecafe for more information. To place an order or for more information please contact Allison Eastin, Nurture Team chair, at allison_dfumc1@windstream.net or (912) 384-4404.

THE MENU

ABIDE This interactive presentation based on Adam Hamilton's book, *Selling Swimsuits in the Arctic*, will explore 7 keys to success in what your church has to offer in outreach & ministry for growth.

S.H.A.P.E. Get your congregation "in shape" – in shape for ministry that is! Based on Eric Rees' book, *S.H.A.P.E.*, this interactive workshop will help to unveil how God has given us a unique shape for ministry and service.

All in the Family Discover ways to encourage families of all shapes and sizes to worship, serve, fellowship and grow together in their faith and within their church "family."

Let ALL the Children Come to Jesus: Serving Children With Special Needs This workshop will assist Sunday School teachers, pastors and others helping children with special needs and their families learn about the love of Christ while feeling welcome and a part of our congregations.

New Wineskins Explore new ways to reach out beyond the walls of our churches to gain a better understanding of and learn to meet the needs of the poor in our communities.

CARE (Christians Actively Reaching Everyone) CARE is a unique ministry opportunity that reaches IN to inactive and active church members and reaches OUT to visitors and potential church members. This workshop will give practical tools to help your church build relationships by sharing God's love and care.

Topsy Turvy: Leadership Development from the Bottom Up This workshop focuses on inspiring the creativity and potential within the laity of the church.

The Perfect Fit! Explore the "connectional" dynamic of the United Methodist Church starting with local churches all the way up to the General Conference. Discover how all the pieces fit together to build the kingdom and make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Resources for Christian Education This is an opportunity to get hands on with resources and teacher/leader training available for Sunday School and/or small groups.

Small Church, Big Possibilities Explore the great possibilities in a small membership church. This workshop will focus on three areas that can have a great impact on your ministry: evangelism, spiritual leadership and administration.

2011 Coordinated Calendar

JANUARY

- 16 Human Relations Day
- 17 MLK Day, Offices Closed
- 22 Waycross District Local Church Leader Training Event
- 23-26 Epworth Winter Camp Meeting, EBTS*
- 24 Annual Conference Program Committee Meeting, EBTS*
- 24 Extended Cabinet Meeting, EBTS*
- 25-26 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, EBTS*
- 29 Tech Training, Nashville
- 29 Safe Sanctuaries Training, Statesboro

FEBRUARY

- 4-11 Licensing School for Local Pastors, EBTS*
- 5 ERT Training, Waynesboro UMC
- 10 Sexual Ethics Workshop, EBTS*
- 11-12 Disciple Covenant Conference, Macon
- 13 Andrew College Sunday
- 15-18 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, EBTS*
- 19 ERT Training, Brunswick First UMC
- 20 Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday
- 21-22 Appointive Cabinet Meeting

- 26 NRC D Meeting, Macon
- 27 Kingdom Builder's Promotion Sunday

MARCH

- 4-5 Confirmation Retreat 1, EBTS*
- 5 ERT Training, Vineville UMC, Macon
- 6-9 Board of Ministry Meeting, Macon
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 10-11 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 15-16 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 18-20 Confirmation Retreat 2, EBTS*
- 18-20 2011 Spouses' Retreat, EBTS*
- 23-24 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 25-26 ERT Training, Salem UMC, Americus
- 25-28 UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat

APRIL

- 2 Safe Sanctuaries Training, Cordele
- 3 One Great Hour of Sharing
- 4-6 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 6 Denominational Leadership Summit, Telecast
- 6 Leadership Forum Meeting, Macon
- 7 Conference Nominations Committee Meeting
- 8-10 UMM Retreat, EBTS*

- 11-13 Older Adult Retreat, EBTS*
- 12 Sexual Ethics Workshop, Methodist Home, Macon
- 22 Good Friday, Offices Closed
- 24 Easter
- 25-26 Appointive Cabinet Meeting
- 27 Transition Workshop, Dublin
- 28 Transition Workshop, Tifton

MAY

- 1-7 Council of Bishops, EBTS*
- 8 Magnolia Manor Sunday
- 8 Native American Awareness Sunday
- 12 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Macon
- 16 AC Program Committee Walk-thru, Tifton
- 17-18 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Tifton
- 21 Transition Workshop for Part-time Local Pastors and Lay Speaker Serving as Supply Pastor, Eastman

JUNE

- 5-9 Annual Conference Session, Tifton
- 13-17 Mid-High Mania 1 Camp, EBTS*
- 19 Wesley Glen Day
- 19 Peace with Justice Sunday
- 20-24 Mid-High Mania 2 Camp, EBTS*

* Epworth By The Sea

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