

THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Office of Connectional Ministries

JANUARY 2012

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.

Helping churches, individuals make disciples is goal of 2012 DCC

By Kara Witherow

A focus on making disciples by helping persons, individually or in teams, develop disciple plans based on the 10 timeless values of the faith is the focus of the second annual Disciple Covenant Conference, set for Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25, 2012. The conference will meet in Macon at the Macon Centreplex (Macon Coliseum).

“I am excited about the Disciple Covenant Conference for so many reasons,” said Bishop James R. King, Jr. “A lot of people talk about

making disciples, but I don’t think a lot of people even know how to make disciples or how to focus on it in a very significant way. It’s the mission of the Church to make disciples.”

The purpose of the Disciple Covenant Conference is to provide a spiritual and learning environment for people to develop their disciple-making plans, 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 have already in place.

“As I’m around the connection interacting with leaders I do not pick up in our conversations or presentations that people really understand what it takes to make disciples,” he said. “I’m excited

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Pastors Salaries:
For the 2012 clergy compensation list visit
www.sgaumc.org/communicator.

BEGINNER, NOVICE, APPRENTICE, AND THEN...

By Dr. Brad Brady

It will not surprise those of you who know me to read this confession: I am not a plumber or electrician or mechanically inclined in any way! I have several hilarious stories about previous attempts of trying the most routine projects only to end up with extra parts and non-functioning equipment.

Recently, I tried another project. This time, I went to YouTube and searched for a video intended to guide a first-time “self-helper” to do a basic plumbing repair. I watched two or three videos from different presenters. I learned how to diagnose the problem and what new parts were needed.

With problem diagnosed, new parts and necessary tools in hand, I turned off the water supply and started the “repair.” Praying without ceasing, I moved slowly and carefully—remembering some of my past repair attempts gone awry.

As you would expect, things did not come apart as easily as they did for the folks teaching on the videos. I went back and forth to the video clips to see details I missed. Finally, (I mean 45-60 minutes later) I had the old part off. It took the experts only 5 minutes for the entire project!

Now, after watching the replacement steps one more time, I started putting the new parts in place. Slowly, carefully, with multiple un-dos and re-dos, I finished. As you would predict, there was a not-so-slow leak when I turned on the water supply. After a few more twists, the project was completed.

I know you have been wondering where this article is going, so here is the connection! I thought back to this repair project recently while reading about how we human beings ideally learn new information and skills.

Mike Breen observes that we learn best when we progress through stages

of instruction, apprenticeship, and then immersion. In my plumbing repair episode, I missed the apprenticeship stage and went directly from instruction to immersion. There was no safety net, and I don’t feel like I am any more qualified as a plumber. I was just lucky (and extremely blessed) things didn’t go awry.

Of course, Breen was not writing about plumbing. His e-book entitled, *Building a Discipleship Culture*, talks about the important process of faith development and disciple formation. Breen takes this basic learning progression and applies it to our efforts of guiding spiritual beginners through the proven stages that lead to mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

Most congregations and spiritual leaders have the first stage of offering instruction down to a science. We proclaim the gospel through word, song, visual image, PowerPoint, DVDs, and repeated explanation. We offer this instruction in classroom, in sanctuary, in fellowship halls, in homes, on the Internet, and in just about any place a person can receive it.

For most, our instruction is a one-way transmission of information. Very few opportunities exist for genuine dialog to clarify meaning, to test comprehension, or to guide the emerging disciple in the practical application of the faith concepts into his/her life.

Next, Breen observes that we learn best and develop in discipleship when we apprentice under someone who is more experienced and more proficient in spiritual things. Apprentices watch as the coach expresses and lives out faith in a variety of settings and circumstances. After instruction and observation the emerging disciple attempts to apply what he/she has learned under the watchful eye of the spiritual coach.

Apprenticeship is a dynamic laboratory experience with much more conversation and with deeper connection between student and coach. These coaching moments are filled with the trial and error, and with the many starts and restarts that come in real life.

Apprenticeship is much less formal than our lectures and sermons. Apprenticeship is a dynamic laboratory experience with much more conversation and with deeper connection between student and coach. These coaching moments are filled with the trial and error, and

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DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

FROM PAGE 2

with the many starts and restarts that come in real life. Apprenticeship is conducted intentionally in a safe environment and yields mutual learning by apprentice and coach.

After a season of instruction and apprenticeship, we are ready for immersion. That might mean we lead a small group or class, or we organize a service project, or we visit the hospital, or we invite someone to faith, or we engage in any of the thousands of expressions of risk-taking service. The coach turns us loose with a foundation of basic knowledge and faith experiences and the ever-present Holy Spirit to venture out on our own as an ambassador of Christ.

Jesus, the Master Teacher, followed this same pattern when he developed disciples. There are many biblical examples of Jesus teaching the spiritual concepts (the multitudes and the 12), coaching (the 12, the 3 in the inner circle, and 1-on-1), and sending the disciples out for their immersion experiences (2 by 2 and the 70).

Do you and your congregation have this holistic pattern for disciple-formation? Do you instruct, intentionally coach, and then launch people into immersion experiences?

For most, we depend heavily on instruction and immersion. We received little and we offer little coaching, which allows emerging disciples to apprentice with a more seasoned disciple.

If making disciples could be completely accomplished through one-way transmission of content (instruction) followed by turning people loose to figure it out by themselves, we would have churches full of mature followers of Jesus Christ. But we know it is not that easy!

As we begin this New Year, will you join me in pondering our disciple-formation methods? Will you join me in praying for God to lead us toward the right person or two that we could connect with for in depth spiritual coaching?

No doubt, we need to be coached before we coach others or else we fall in to the same old trap of jumping straight into immersion! We all need a safe environment to develop the necessary skills and spiritual experiences that will prepare us to coach others. A good coach will prepare us and then push us out into our immersion experience—to the spiritual benefit of those we coach and ourselves.

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

South Georgia Advocate



View the South Georgia Advocate, the official news source of the South Georgia Conference, online at www.sgaumc.org/advocate.

Subscribe today to the printed version, which includes the United Methodist Reporter, by calling 877-465-1685.

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, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Doreen Smalls, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, at 888-266-7642.

SAFE SANCTUARIES

living up to the sacred trust

By Dr. Brad Brady

When you stop and think about it, every local church is the steward of an awesome sacred trust.

On one-hand, God entrusts every congregation with the high calling of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with a hurting world. Consider this tremendous truth: we are part of a long-line of salvation history where God chooses to use people just like us to tell the salvation story and invite others into the life that is really Life. What a sacred trust!

On the other hand, people enter within the realm of the church's influence with some degree of trust that the message and the outward signs of Christian love we share are genuine in every respect. Granted the degree of suspicion we encounter seems greater than at any other time in history, but there is at least temporary trust that gives us a chance to show authentic Christian love.

It is amazing, really, that God and the general public grant us these privileges! And, I do not know of anyone who wants to misuse or abuse this trust.

In fact, each time we participate in the baptismal covenant for infants we restate our intentions and commitment to live up to the sacred trust placed in us by God and neighbor. We promise to surround the baptized with Christian love and "to so order our lives after the example of Christ that this child surrounded by steadfast love may be confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal."

The Safe Sanctuaries ministry in each of our congregations is an important expression of how we order our lives so nothing will interfere with the transmission of the faith and the spiritual growth of any

person under the care of our ministry.

Congregations in South Georgia have been very intentional about creating Safe Sanctuaries for the last six years. In 2008, those attending our Annual Conference session overwhelmingly adopted a policy requiring each local church to implement their own policy intended to protect all ministry participants, protect all ministry workers, and protect all the resources of the local church for disciple-making.

The Office of Connectional Ministries has provided training materials, district workshops, and individual coaching to help congregations of all sizes creatively develop protocols and practices that create and maintain safe environments where disciple-making ministry can unfold without the unspeakable pain that comes with an incident of broken trust.

Additionally, the Connectional Ministries staff and other conference staff have rallied to the aid of local churches when an allegation of abuse has arisen. Each situation has reinforced the importance of doing everything possible to prevent harm to those placed in our spiritual care. No matter what the allegation, or whether the allegation was substantiated by the facts—casualties abound, and in most cases could have been avoided by practicing the minimum, universally accepted standards.

The Annual Conference's Safe Sanctuaries team salutes every layperson and clergy person who fully embraces the sacred trust given us by God and our neighbors. We commend each congregation who proactively seek to maintain safe environments that allow God's mission of disciple formation to unfold without the setbacks that come when the sacred trust is broken.

**We are part of a long-line
of salvation history where
God chooses to use
people just like us to tell
the salvation story and
invite others into the life
that is really Life.
What a sacred trust!**

With safe environments in place, each congregation is positioned to develop more fully a congregational culture where faith is transmitted in partnership with the Holy Spirit. Our discipleship efforts flow simultaneously with each congregation continuously sharing God's love through word and deed, inviting the curious to "come and see," cultivating the embers of emerging faith, challenging seekers to take the next steps, inviting believers to confess faith in Christ, nurturing baby Christians to deeper faith and greater experience of God's boundless love, and creating countless opportunities for Christ-followers to share God's love with a hurting world. Therein, living out the sacred trust placed in us by God and neighbor.

Summer camp counselors needed

College students interested in a summer serving in ministry are invited to apply to be counselors at Camp Connect on St. Simons Island. As a camp counselor, students will minister to hundreds of youth and children throughout the summer while making lifelong friendships with other staff members. As a paid position, staff members on the Leadership Team will commit to eight weeks of service which will include serving at mid-high and elementary camps. The summer will run from May 29- July 22, 2012.

The Leadership Team provides for the day-to-day operation of the summer camp program. Each team member will be assigned to be a camp counselor for Elementary Camp (rising fourth to sixth graders) and Middle School Camp (rising sixth to ninth graders). Assignments are made weekly. Each regular camp session runs from Monday afternoon to Friday after lunch.

Benefits of being a Leadership Team member include opportunities for Christian leadership, personal spiritual growth and serving alongside college students from across the state and beyond. Compensation ranges from \$2,000 to \$2,400, based on experience.

Additional information and application are available at www.sgaumc.org. The Leadership Team experience is open to any college student who has completed at least one year of college. The application deadline is March 1.

The summer camps are sponsored by the Connectional Ministries Office.

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

NEW RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES: SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING VIDEOS

The Office of Connectional Ministries continues its support of local churches by releasing a new Safe Sanctuaries training video designed to be used as a key part of the volunteer orientation held in each congregation.

“This is a project we have been discussing for several years,” said Dr. Brad Brady, Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries. “We are delighted that everything has come together so that we can now make this resource available.”

This orientation video will present three brief segments designed to inform volunteers about the basics of Safe Sanctuaries.

“We are very grateful that Allison Lindsey was willing to present this material in a way that is tailor-made for front-line ministry volunteers,” Brady continued. “Allison has been on the Conference Safe Sanctuaries team and a trainer from the beginning. Her experience as a Children’s Ministry Director at Douglas First UMC adds perspective and credibility to the way she teaches and consults around this important area of ministry.”

Initially, the orientation video will be available on the Safe Sanctuaries page on the conference website (www.sgaumc.org) by February 1. Church leaders interested in accessing the video may show the orientation video directly from the website or by saving the clips to a computer.

Plans are also underway to have additional instructional segments available online and for the whole package to be available for purchase as a DVD by March 1. The additional segments are intended to resource local church Safe Sanctuaries Committees with some of the best practices around some of the challenges congregations have faced around faithful implementation.

Watch the conference website for details on how to order the DVD for use in your local church.



2012 MID HIGH CAMPS

Mid-High Mania 1: June 11-15

Mid-High Mania 2: June 18-22

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 6th-9th grades

2012 ELEMENTARY CAMPS

Elem. Camp 1: June 25-29

Elem. Camp 2: July 9-13

Elem. Camp 3: July 16-20

Epworth By The Sea

For those entering 4th-6th grades

More information will be available at www.sgaumc.org

ONE CONFIRMATION RETREAT SET FOR MARCH

Connectional Ministries, in partnership with Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island, will again offer youth from around the Conference the opportunity to learn, worship and fellowship at their annual Confirmation Retreat.

With only one Confirmation Retreat this year, set for March 16-18, 2012, registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. While the retreat itself has space for 600 participants, the maximum space for on-site housing at Epworth By The Sea is 500.

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

Not meant to be the only confirmation experience youth go through, the Confirmation Retreat should be complimentary to what a church is or will be doing.

“The Confirmation Retreat is a great opportunity for us to grow in our relationship with God and learn about our United Methodist heritage with 500 other students the same age,” said Jim Towson, associate director of Life Span Ministries with Connectional Ministries. “It’s amazing how learning about our past can better prepare us for the future.”

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.

Devotion Motion (Devotions & Meditations): this workshop looks at

“There is nothing like the energy of 500 youth worshipping in Strickland Auditorium to both inspire you and humble you to the responsibility and opportunity that we have to make disciples.”

Allison Lindsey

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, 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 prevenient grace, Lent/ Good Friday and justifying grace, Easter and justifying grace, and Pentecost and sanctifying grace.

“Our conference overflows with so many gifted leaders and teachers,” said Allison Lindsey, Confirmation Retreat planner and director of children and programming at Douglas First United Methodist Church. “It is awesome to pull in so many different individuals to speak for our general sessions, teach workshops and holy clubs, and lead worship for the weekend. There is nothing like the energy of 500 youth worshipping in Strickland Auditorium to both inspire you and humble you to the responsibility and opportunity that we have to make disciples.”

For more information about the Confirmation Retreat or to register your group, visit www.sgaumc.org or call Diane Giles at 888-266-7642.

DCC: providing a spiritual & learning environment for covenant planning

FROM PAGE 1

that we're making this a focal point in South Georgia."

The conference, which will be a time of teaching mixed with praise and worship, will commence at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 24 and will conclude at noon on Saturday.

The Disciple Covenant Conference is an opportunity for pastors, laity and congregations to receive much-needed training, to gain ideas and to develop skills so they can go back to their local churches and continue to live out the disciple making process, said Dublin District Superintendent and Disciple Covenant Conference planning team member Rev. Denise Walton.

"Coming to the Disciple Covenant Conference is not so much about the development of a plan, but about strengthening that team and making the team stronger," she said. "The development of the plan and the living out of the plan will be done back at their local church. This is just enhancing what we hope clergy and teams are working on prior to coming to the conference, or gaining information so they can leave the conference and further work on their plan."

Attendees will hear from speakers Tim Stevens, Sister Kathleen Flood, Jennifer and Rev. Jim Cowart and Rev. Jay Hanson. Leading worship for the weekend will be Robert McMichael and Jarvis Wilson.

Bishop King will lead Friday night's service of healing and Holy Communion.

"Our speakers will talk about the particular values and how they feed into a disciple plan," Bishop King said. "We have a neat mix and balance of speakers with two of our own South Georgia pastors and two speakers from outside the Conference. The speakers are people

who are well known for understanding the value they'll speak on or they are well known as church leaders who are demonstrating the value."

This event is being planned by Bishop King and the DCC design team.

"I hope we can build on last year's experience and reach more congregations to help them develop disciple plans," Bishop King said.

For more information and to register, visit www.disciplecovenantconference.org or contact Pam Kanode, secretary to the Bishop, at (478) 475-9286 or pkanode@sgaumc.org.

SCHEDULE

Friday, February 24

5 p.m. Registration opens
6:30 p.m. Worship through music
Presentation #1
Reflection and Covenant Time #1
Presentation #2
Reflection and Covenant Time #2
Additional Worship Experience:
Communion and healing service
with Bishop James R. King, Jr.

Saturday, February 25

8:30 a.m.: Morning worship
Presentation #3
Reflection and Covenant Time #3
10:30 a.m.: Presentation #4
Reflection and Covenant Time #4
Challenge and Sending Forth
Worship
Noon: Adjournment

Become a Friend of the Museum

By Judi Fergus*

If you are like me, you probably receive too many requests for money. It isn't just mail. There are also the telephone calls, the knocks on the door, the face to face fundraisers and the text messages on our mobile phones. Then there are the ads on television and radio, in the newspapers, at the cinema, online and on billboards. I read that the average person receives five direct mail fundraising appeals every day.

This year we had to cut our budget. We did as we were asked. We are supported by the Conference, but rely on our Friends to add to and improve our museum and exhibits.

We know that we cannot compete with nonprofits that work with the hungry, the poor, abused animals, the environment. But we do believe that we become stronger in our faith today by learning about our shared past. So many of our visitors are in awe of what a small group of dedicated people can do in just one Conference. We are so grateful for every donation that we receive and want to give you the right amount of information about our mission.

We really do want you to be our Friend. Not just a donor, but someone that really connects with us. So we want to know what you think. How often would you like to hear from us? What can we do to better get the word to our local churches? Call me; better yet, let's do lunch here at Epworth.

Please support your Friends of the Museum!

*Judi Fergus is the director of the Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum on St. Simons Island. You can reach her at 912-638-4050.

2012 Annual Conference Session Shortened

The South Georgia Conference Annual Conference Session Program Committee has announced that the 2012 Annual Conference session has been shortened by one day. It will now be held Sunday, June 3, 2012 through Tuesday, June 5, 2012.

Wednesday's sessions were cut in an effort to save the Conference and local churches money, they say. According to Director of Administrative Services Miriam Hagan, as much as \$20,000 could be saved.

"This is one way of us responding to the economic climate," said Rev. Craig Hutto, Conference Secretary and pastor of Douglas First United Methodist Church. "We're trying to be better stewards of our resources."

On the final day of the 2011 Annual Conference session, held June 5 through June 9 in Tifton, the Conference approved a motion to look into reducing the Annual Conference session by one day. Eliminating Wednesday's activities is in response to that motion and the Conference's desire to cut costs.

The 2012 Annual Conference session, which will be held in Macon, will begin on Sunday, June 3 with an opening worship service. It will conclude on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 5, after the

fixing of appointments and sending forth service.

Because of the shortened timeframe, there will be no health break component to the 2012 Annual Conference session, as has been done the past two years in Tifton.

"Because of the shortened time, I encourage delegates to plan their time carefully," Rev. Hutto said. "I encourage them to get to Macon a little earlier on Sunday afternoon before the opening worship service to fellowship."

The conference will also utilize technology to help cut costs. Annual Conference delegates will have the option to download all of the needed documents and forms instead of having them mailed.

"This will be an option for the delegates," Rev. Hutto said. "The idea is to begin moving in that direction and have everything available for download. It will be a cost and time-saving measure."

Delegates who would prefer to have their documents mailed may still choose that option.

The theme of the 2012 Annual Conference session, taken from Psalm 107:2, is "Let the Redeemed Say So," with a focus on evangelism and witness.

In addition to regular business and worship sessions, members of the Annual Conference will hear reports from the General Conference delegation and from the task force for district realignment, Rev. Hutto said.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

DATES

June 3-5, 2012

LOCATION

Macon
Centreplex,
Macon, Georgia

THEME

Let the Redeemed Say So

INFORMATION

A letter will be sent this month to all clergy and lay members to Annual Conference with details regarding the 2012 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. Background checks are required before receiving badges. Please provide proof of background check. Safe Sanctuaries background checks are applicable. For more information about these trainings please contact the person listed under

each of the dates. Trainings begin on a Friday night and continue Saturday morning. All three of these trainings are being taught by Jamie Gibson, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator.

Jan 20-21 - Valdosta

An ERT Training will take place January 20-21 at Park Avenue UMC in Valdosta, Ga. For more details and to register, contact Jamie Bone at jamielynebone@yahoo.com or 229-242-3562.

February 10-11 - Gray

An ERT Training will take place February 10-11 at Gray UMC. For more details and to register, contact Contact David Hinely at 478-986-5754.

March 30-31 - SSI

An ERT Training will take place March 30-31 at St. Simons UMC. For details and to register, contact Rev. Marcia Cochran at mjcochran@earthlink.com or 912-638-3317.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Epworth Winter Camp Meeting

The 2012 Epworth Winter Camp Meeting, set for January 29 - February 1, will focus on "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Bishop James R. King, Jr. will preach Sunday evening followed by Revs. Wayne Moseley, Mike Huling, and Benjy Varnell for the morning services and Revs. Tommy Martin and Henry Bass for the evening services. Revs. Shane Green, Ben Martin and Lowery Brantley will each lead one of the three Bible studies. 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 9, 2012, 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). Cost is \$35, which includes lunch (collected at the door). 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 March 18

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 March 18 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 16-18
Epworth By The Sea

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat
March 23-25
Epworth By The Sea

UMM Retreat
April 13-15
Epworth By The Sea

Older Adult Retreat
April 16-18
Epworth By The Sea

2012 Coordinated Calendar

JANUARY

- 15 Human Relations Day
- 20-21 ERT Training, Valdosta
- 26 Delegation Meeting, Macon
- 27 Council on Finance and Administration Meeting
- 28 Statesboro District Training
- 30 Annual Conference Program Committee Meeting, EBTS*

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- 29-1 Epworth Winter Camp Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 3-10 Local Pastors' Licensing School, EBTS*
- 6-9 Appointive Cabinet, EBTS*
- 9 Clergy Sexual Ethics Workshop, EBTS*
- 10-11 ERT Training, Gray
- 12 Andrew College Sunday
- 13-15 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, EBTS*
- 19 Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday
- 24 Delegation Meeting, Macon
- 24-25 Disciple Covenant Conference, Macon
- 25 NRCD Meeting, Macon

- 27-28 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 26 Kingdom Builders' Promotion Sunday

MARCH

- 4-6 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Macon
- 12-14 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 16-18 Confirmation Retreat, EBTS*
- 16-18 Spouses Retreat, EBTS*
- 18 One Great Hour of Sharing
- 22 Delegation Meeting, Macon
- 23-25 UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat, EBTS*
- 26-28 Appointive Cabinet Meeting
- 30-31 ERT Training, St. Simons

APRIL

- 6 Good Friday – Offices Closed
- 8 Easter
- 9-11 Appointive Cabinet Meeting
- 13-15 UMM Retreat, EBTS*
- 16-18 Older Adult Retreat, EBTS*
- 16 Moving Pastors' Transition Workshop, Dublin
- 17 Moving Pastors' Transition Workshop, Tifton
- 22 Native American Awareness Sunday
- 24 Clergy Sexual Ethics Workshop, Warner Robins

APRIL/MAY

- 24-4 General Conference, Tampa

MAY

- 8 Magnolia Manor Sunday
- 10 Board of Ordained Ministry Meeting, Macon
- 13 Magnolia Manor Sunday
- 15 Annual Conference Sessions Walk-thru, Macon
- 15 Extended Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 16-17 Appointive Cabinet Meeting, Macon
- 19 Transition Workshop for Part-time Local Pastors and Lay Speaker Serving as Supply Pastor, Eastman

JUNE

- 2 Cabinet Meeting
- 3 Peace with Justice Sunday
- 3-5 Annual Conference Session, Macon
- 11-15 Mid-High Mania 1 Camp, EBTS*
- 17 Wesley Glen Day
- 18-22 Mid-High Mania 2 Camp, EBTS*
- 25-29 Elementary 1 Camp, EBTS*

* Epworth By The Sea

The Communicator

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