



The *South Georgia* Conference
of The United Methodist Church

SOUTH GEORGIA ADVOCATE – FEB. 17 EDITION

FaithWorks looks to create day center for homeless

By Bethany Leggett, *The Brunswick News**

When an arctic blast slammed the nation last month and brought record-low temperatures that dipped into Coastal Georgia, volunteers went to work to make sure homeless people had a warm place to spend the nights out of the cold.

First United Methodist Church in Brunswick opened its doors to host a makeshift shelter with the help of FaithWorks, a nondenominational social services ministry, bringing out donated beds, with jackets, scarves and other warm garments offered and warm meals served to people who stayed the night.

The quickly assembled shelter helped for the momentary cold snap, but the Rev. Wright Culpepper, executive director of FaithWorks, wants to find a permanent solution that goes beyond bad weather and becomes an everyday resource for people living on the streets, in cars or on friends' sofas.

“We want to facilitate those with a passion or longing to help the homeless. We had many volunteers this week that showed up and pulled this shelter together. But one group or church can't do it all,” Culpepper said.

His vision for this year is to create a day center for homeless people, where they can wash clothes, take showers, have access to computers and other resources that can help them find jobs and make their way off the streets. FaithWorks volunteers are looking at successful day center models as close as Daybreak at Macon and as far as the Portland Rescue Mission in Oregon.

“Each year, we like to have a new focus. We don't let go of everything else we do, but we add to what we are already doing, and I have been wanting to extend our efforts to help the homeless for a while,” Culpepper said.

“The Salvation Army, Amity House, Safe Harbor and others (in Brunswick), they do a great job, but there's a big need, and a lot of homeless who need a place to go, especially during the day, besides parks and the library.”

FaithWorks' initiative this past year, a textile recycling program, has been a success, with the ministry shipping off enough used and tattered clothing to collect about \$1,000 per month, money that will go toward the day center fund.

"We knew with the textile ministry that we would use the funds for a homeless initiative. We have a good amount coming in each month, but we need more, so we can find a permanent home and not have to lease a facility. We want a place, like the old bus station, or some property along the Norwich corridor, where the homeless know they can go, not just when there is an acute crisis," Culpepper said.

"We want to establish trust and a relationship with the people who have a hard time trusting, because of what they have experienced."

The focus on helping the homeless isn't new for Faithworks. Ministry members completed face-to-face interviews with more than 100 homeless people as part of the 2012 annual action plan by the city of Brunswick that included addressing the needs of chronically homeless people – those who have been homeless most of their lives and will likely remain homeless, Culpepper said – and the acutely homeless – those who have faced a temporary setback, such as job loss and may be sleeping in cars or on a friend's couch.

The survey's findings included identifying needs to work on job placements, streamlining services so people know what is available and where, and creating safe areas for homeless people to spend the day.

Other resources for the homeless are already in place, making a difference on a day-to-day scale.

A house FaithWorks owns on R Street in Brunswick is where homeless discharged from a hospital can recuperate for a few days.

Todd and Joy Johnson, caretakers of the house, have seen between 60 and 80 men and women stay at the home since they moved in two years ago.

"God put us here, that really tells the whole story. We were introduced through a friend to Wright (Culpepper) at a halfway house, and wanted to get involved," Todd Johnson said. "FaithWorks has the right attitude when it comes to really wanting to help. God has placed a big burden and a big vision on Wright's heart, but he is the man that can get it done."

The couple say they have witnessed a lot while overseeing the transition home.

Generally, a person stays two or three nights while the Johnsons work with others in the community to help them find a place to stay, from contacting family members, finding an available spot at the 16-bed Salvation Army shelter or getting them in touch with a rehabilitation or specialized facility.

Some men and women return to the streets, but that doesn't dissuade the Johnsons from keeping track of those who come through the house.

“We have one gentleman come through. His name was Juan Valdez, like the coffee. We would always joke with him about that. Well, he stuck around and now works as house parent for a halfway home,” Todd Johnson said. “What we do, it’s a blessing for us. We get to share the word of God and give back for what he has given us and see that carry forward.”

For Culpepper, the reality is that a homeless outreach is not going to get everyone off the streets.

“We know that for some, they have been homeless for a while and may always be homeless. There are others who are temporarily homeless, having been displaced for one reason or another, like with the loss of a job.

“No matter whether they are chronically or acutely homeless, though, we want to give them a place where they feel validated and have somewhere to turn at times of darkness. We want to have a visible presence that shows we care, whether it’s giving them a place to wash up or giving them access to resources for jobs. We are carrying what we already have done and taking it to a new level,” he said.

How to help

For information about how to get involved with FaithWorks’ homeless initiative or to donate clothing and other materials in poor condition to the textile ministry that will help fund a planned day center for the homeless, go online to www.faithworksministry.org or email the Rev. Wright Culpepper at wright@faithworksministry.org.

**Reprinted courtesy of The Brunswick News.*

Couple Cycles 3,000 Miles for The Methodist Home

A life-long United Methodist, Frank May wanted to do some small act to help better a child’s life. Susan, his wife, had a passionate desire to support The Methodist Home. Together, they decided to use their talent of riding bicycles to better a child’s life at The Home.

The Mays will ride from St. Augustine, Florida to San Diego, California, over 3,000 miles. The journey will take the couple two months to complete. Neither one has ever done such a ride before.

“This purpose is just the kind of thing that our (United Methodist) church is instilling in its members,” said Susan. “We are encouraged to use our talents to serve and I believe that is exactly what we are doing.”

This is not their first act of kindness with The Methodist Home on the receiving end. When the Mays first started dating back in 2002 they decided to forgo traditional Christmas gifts in favor of gifts that would help others. They donated to The Methodist Home in each other’s honor.

Susan is passionate about The Methodist Home's cause and always tries to support any venue that helps families survive.

With that kind of selflessness and desire to help others, the Mays felt led to begin this ride.

“We want to ride, but we want to do more than just ride,” said Frank. “We want to ride in such a way that it helps change a child’s life. Through the support we earn over the 3,000 miles, we will impact the lives of boys and girls at The Methodist Home.”

The Mays hope to travel about fifty-seven miles in a day. Frank and Susan will carry everything they need (tent, sleeping bag, mattress, clothes, shoes, rain gear, cookware, and the list goes on).

They also hope to carry your love and concern for abused boys and girls with them. Your pledge - per mile or just a total pledge - will be an encouragement as they cycle through the states.

Along their way, you can keep up with the adventures of Wes the Bear. Wes is a Methodist Home Bear that was given to Frank and Susan. They named him Wes after Methodist Founder, John Wesley.

"The parts of this journey that are exciting to me include the sheer dedication of Frank and Susan to do this to help our boys and girls; the opportunity to share the story of The Methodist Home to people who do not know about our ministry of healing and hope; and the way our young people are reminded that many, many adults do care for them, and want to be a helpful part of their life," said Dr. Derek McAleer, Vice President for Development and Church Relations at The Methodist Home. "I think those who pledge to the ride and follow the Mays' journey online will find their own hearts encouraged."

You can follow the adventure by searching Bicycling for The Methodist Home on Facebook. The Mays are also collecting online donations for The Methodist Home on The Home’s website, www.themethodisthome.org/bike.

You can help Frank and Susan May and the boys and girls of The Methodist Home with your prayers, your support of the bike ride, and by inviting the Mays to speak to your church, civic club, or other group about their ride. To schedule them to speak, send an email to frank0823@gmail.com or dsusanmay@gmail.com.

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Kingsland First UMC becomes temporary warming shelter

In January, leaders at Kingsland First United Methodist Church began discussing ways to better utilize their existing facilities.

With a desire to more effectively use their buildings to serve God and their community, one of the ideas mentioned was to use the church’s youth center, called The Warehouse, as a warming shelter to temporarily house homeless people during cold weather.

Kingsland First UMC member Don Koski contacted the Camden County Emergency Management Director, The American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Missions for Camden to identify what the church would need to do and the requirements it would need to meet in order to be designated a shelter.

Little did he know that a cold front would hit the area just three days later, making emergency warming shelters an immediate and pressing need for those without shelter to find warmth during the freezing night.

“A few in the church were skeptical and thought we had tried to do something too big, but that didn’t change the weather forecast,” said Koski, who helped spearhead the effort. “We pressed on with the majority of the church members in full support. To be fair, everything happened so fast.”

Though the idea of a warming shelter had been discussed, it was part of a two-year plan church leaders were just starting to develop.

“We were thinking long term, maybe months or so,” he said. “Three days later, however, the Salvation Army asked if we could set up a shelter that day due to the predicted heavy rains and freezing temperatures.”

Working with the Salvation Army and the Red Cross in Brunswick, enough cots, blankets and food to serve 50 guests were brought to the church.

The quickly assembled shelter offered much-needed temporary help during the brief cold spell.

Koski says church members learned from that first effort and have some fining tuning to do, but that “all of us acted as the one Body of Christ, trying to look out for our fellow man in a situation that required something to be done.”



SOUTH GEORGIA HAPPENINGS

Local Pastors' Licensing School – Feb. 21-28

The 2014 session of the Local Pastor’s Licensing School will be held Feb. 21-28 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. The cost is \$425 for South Georgia Conference candidates and \$950 for out of Conference (price includes room and board). This event is open only to Certified Candidates. Pre-work is required, so register early. The deadline for registration is Jan. 13. More details about pre-work assignments and school details will be provided to students when they complete an application. For more information about Local Pastors' Licensing School, contact Dr. Jimmy Asbell, Jr. at jasbell@vinevillemethodist.org.

Kingdom Builder’s Promotion Sunday – Feb. 23

Support the ministries of the Office of New and Revitalized Congregational Development (NRCD) of the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church on Kingdom Builder’s Sunday, Feb. 23. NRCD seeks to bring gifted leaders, called by God to churches and communities in need, to provide

financial support to birth new congregations and to revitalize declining congregations. These congregations include new congregations, revitalized congregations and Hispanic congregations. Contact Karen Hahn at kkhahn@cox.net for more information.

Clergy Sexual Ethics Workshop – Feb. 27

A Sexual Ethics Workshop is scheduled for February 27 at White Bluff UMC in Savannah from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 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). Checks can be made payable to South Georgia Conference. To register, please email epcassistant@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.

2014 Confirmation Retreat – March 14-16

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. Set for March 14-16, 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. [Click here for more details.](#)

South Georgia Ministers’ Spouses’ Retreat – March 14-16

The 2014 South Georgia Minister’s Spouses’ Retreat, “Joy in the Journey,” is set for March 14-16 at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. All clergy spouses are encouraged to attend this uplifting weekend of fun, fellowship and faith. Letters will be sent out by District Superintendents to each church's PSPR Chairperson requesting the church cover the expenses for their clergy spouse to attend the retreat. Scholarships are available upon request and/or need if your church is not able to cover expenses. Please contact your District Superintendent’s spouse for scholarship resources. [Click here for more information and to download a brochure and event registration form.](#)

UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat – March 21-23

The United Methodist Women of the South Georgia Conference will host their annual Spiritual Growth Retreat March 21-23 at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. [Click here to download the retreat brochure.](#) [Click here to download the retreat registration form.](#)

Rethinking Welcome evangelism/mission training event – March 29

The World Methodist Evangelism Institute (WMEI) announces: **[RETHINKING WELCOME](#)** in the Methodist/Wesleyan Movement in North America. This evangelism/mission training event for clergy and laity will be held at Epworth By The Sea on Saturday, March 29 from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clergy,

lay leaders, usher boards, worship teams, welcome stewards, church council teams, committee chairpersons, etc. are encouraged to attend. Help your congregation welcome and incorporate visitors, reach new members, and face outward to your multicultural community. Expose leaders to new thinking and practices of evangelism in our Methodist heritage. [Click here for more information.](#)

One Great Hour Of Sharing – March 30

One Great Hour Of Sharing (fourth Sunday in Lent) 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 the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion, will be in the lead to ease the pain. Gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." That helps them keep their promise that 100 percent of every other gift you make to a specific UMCOR project can be spent on that project - not on home office costs. To learn more about UMCOR or to order resources to promote the offering, visit www.umcor.org or call 888-346-3862. [Click here for resources to help promote this offering in your local church.](#)

UMM Spring Retreat – April 25-27

The South Georgia United Methodist Men will gather together for their annual Spring Retreat Friday, April 25, 2014 through Sunday, April 27, 2014, at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island. Gathering under the theme "God's Men - Sharing the Good News," men from around the Conference will worship, fellowship and learn together. [Click here for more information and to download a retreat brochure.](#)

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Yellow Ribbons

PATHWAY TO HIS PRESENCE

B.J. FUNK

Perhaps some of you will recognize this story written by an unknown man:

“Many years ago, I was sentenced to federal prison. I had a beautiful wife and wonderful children. I said to her, ‘Honey, don't write to me. I won't write to you. The kids should not know their dad is in prison. If you want to, go ahead and find another man - somebody who will be a good father to those boys.’

“I do not know if she kept her part of the bargain. I kept mine. Last week when I knew for sure I was getting out, I wrote a letter to our old address. It's just outside of Jacksonville. I said to her, ‘If you are still living there and get this letter, if you haven't found any one else, and if there is a chance of you taking me back - here is how you can let me know. I will be on the bus as it comes through town. I want you to take a piece of white cloth and hang it in the old oak tree right outside of town.’”

When they got back on the bus and were getting a few miles from Jacksonville, all the teenagers moved to the man's side of the bus and pressed their faces against the windows. Just as they came to the

outskirts of Jacksonville there was the old oak tree. The teenagers let out a yell and they jumped out of their seats. They hugged and danced in the center of the aisle. All they said was, “Look at it! Look at it!”

Not a single white cloth was tied to the tree. Instead there was a white bed sheet, a white dress, a little boy's white trousers, and white pillow cases! The whole tree was covered with dozens of pieces of white cloth!

What an illustration of God's mercy - how God treats you and me – undeserving as we are! If you recall, in the song the white cloths were changed to yellow ribbons.

This wife showed unconditional love at its best. She could have hung an old sheet with the words, “I will never forgive you,” or “If you apologize to me, I will consider taking you back.”

Instead, she reached down into her heart and pulled out an “I forgive you completely” sentence and posted it all over the tree with white cloths.

What about you? Is there someone you need to forgive? Would you consider finding an oak tree, tying cloths of love all over it, and giving forgiveness to that one who has offended you?

Jesus did. Instead of white cloths tied to an oak tree, He allowed others to tie *Him* to a cross and asked His Father to forgive those who put Him there.

What a Savior we have!

The Rev. B.J. Funk is associate pastor of Central UMC in Fitzgerald. Email her at bjfunk@bellsouth.net.

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Control your speech

Quarter: Jesus and the Reign of God
Unit 3: Live justly in the reign of God

Sunday school lesson for the week of February 23, 2014
By Helen & Rev. Sam Rogers

Scripture Lesson: James 3: 1-12

As we finish the Winter Quarter lessons, James reminds all of us who teach how awesome is the task, and how diligent we must be to fill that God-given role in the Kingdom. His disclaimer that not many should presume to teach is no excuse to say “get someone else!” Obviously, the Church of his generation was going through growing pains, and everybody had their personal theological axe to grind. Paul confronted the same problem in the Corinthian Church with various groups claiming authority from some charismatic leader. (I Cor. 1:12) But Paul also saw teaching as one of the five gifts given by the Spirit for building up the Body of Christ, the Church. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

The role of teacher requires diligent preparation and commitment of significant amounts of time to be effective. Is our teaching true to the revelation of God in Christ Jesus, or are we riding our own hobby horse? We have John Wesley's guidelines, sometimes called the Wesley Quadrilateral, to check what we believe and teach to insure we are not misleading others away from the Gospel truth. False teachers have been a problem for the Church from the very beginning.

The test of Scripture is of first importance. If what you teach isn't affirmed in Scripture, don't teach it! Secondly, Reason is a gift from the God of all wisdom, and what we teach must make sense. Thirdly, Tradition is the test of time. We have 2,000 years of Christian history to measure where we are today against the Church's teaching across the centuries. In addition, add the Jewish tradition of several more thousand years. What we teach ought to fit into the grand scheme of historical events in the Judeo-Christian revelation of God. Finally, we must consider Experience in walking the walk and talking the talk. The Quadrilateral (Scripture, Reason, Tradition and Experience), like a compass for a hiker, sailor, or flier, is an effective guide for living and teaching in the Kingdom.

Because James understands the power of the spoken word, he shifts to the danger of speech in general. Certainly teachers must guard their tongue to teach, but James sees the power of loose tongues in many other ways. In fact, his experience is very negative from the human perspective – even evil. With several metaphors he illustrates the power of talk. A horse is controlled with a bit and bridle, a ship is steered with a rudder, and a spark can devastate a forest with fire. With each metaphor James is guiding the reader to understand that humans cannot control speech –only God can.

As a preacher, Sam knows the power of speech to help, to heal, AND to hurt! With the best of intentions, words can do great harm. Sometimes, without realizing the consequences, we speak to a congregation or a class and someone present is offended by what is said or the way we say it. We have learned that the hearer has experiences to which our words speak in negative ways. The unintentional power of words is one thing, to say nothing about words intentionally spoken to alienate and denigrate persons.

For James, there is something evil in the ways humans can use words. In reading the passage for today, one could say James is fatalistic about the use of speech at all. However, such a conclusion would be erroneous. In verse 2, he recognizes our human tendency to stumble/sin, but he reminds us perfection can come only from God.

The reality is the tongue, one of the smallest organs in the body, has the power to control the whole body. Here is where the metaphors of bit, rudder and fire have power to get our attention. If one can control the tongue, one can control the whole body.

We have seen the devastating effect of cruel words as they destroy both individual lives and the life of the church. During the civil rights controversies of the 1960s and 1970s, we heard and felt the vicious words of parishioners as they expressed their attitudes about race. Another example was Sam's annual

renewal of marriage vows on Mothers' Day, and the unintentional hurt done to divorced and widowed members. Words can hurt! Believe it!

Only God is perfect. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him alone (James 1:16-18). Only a perfect person could control his tongue (3:2). Such a person could not only control his tongue but also his total being. Since God is the only one who is perfect, He is the only one who can control the tongue. Our deep need is to be possessed by Him so he can forgive all of our sin and enable us by the power of the Holy Spirit to control our tongues and our total being.

The double effect of the tongue to bless or curse is made very visible in a recent movie "Twelve Years a Slave." The true story of an educated, northern, free African-American who is kidnapped and sold into southern slavery is brought vividly to the screen. There are scenes of brutality, voices of hate, human pathos of children separated from their mother, the human yearning to be free, and the reality of death being preferable to living enslaved. To watch makes us as southerners once again conscious of a heritage we would like to escape and forget. For us as Christians, the most disturbing scene is Sunday worship where the scriptures are read by the slave owner and used to keep human beings "in their place."

You ask, "How could he do that with a clear conscience and a straight face?" James would say "With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." (James 3:9-10)

Helen and Rev. Sam Rogers are a retired clergy couple. They can be reached at sgr3@cox.net and hcsrogers@cox.net.

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An Eternal Kingdom

Sunday school lesson for the week of March 2, 2014

By Dr. Hal Brady

Lesson Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:4-16

During this third quarter, our focus will be on the connections between Jesus and the Hebrew Scriptures. As one pastor/scholar suggested, we will look at these connections from three different perspectives: how Jesus relates to God's covenant with David, prophecies concerning Jesus, and the ways in which Jesus used Scripture.

Unit 1, which contains four sessions, deals with "Jesus and the Davidic Covenant." In these four sessions, we will look at a variety of biblical passages that make connections between the reign of King David and the Lordship of Christ. Our first lesson is entitled "An Eternal Kingdom."

More specifically, our theme is how do people seek to build a legacy. Our focus is on what we can learn from King David (2 Samuel 7:1-17).

The connections between the house David wanted to build for God and the house God promised to build for David.

David has been king over the twelve tribes of Israel long enough to feel comfortable and secure. He has captured the Jebusite City of Jerusalem and made it his new capital. Additionally, he has built his palace there and moved the Ark of the Covenant there.

One day, David realizes a great inequality. He is living in a lovely home, while the Ark, which represents God's presence, is still being kept in a tent. To his credit, David senses the wrongness of this and proposes to the prophet Nathan his plan to build a home (Temple) for God.

Nathan, who appears for the first time, notes the rightness of David's heart and issues him a building permit for the Temple. But suddenly, the prophet Nathan has spoken prematurely. And so, under God's direction, Nathan has to cancel the permit. There is no reason given for the cancellation, but if we read the later retelling of the story (1 Chronicles 22:6-8), we will discover that it's because David has "spilled blood" in his earlier battles.

At this point, God reminds David, through Nathan, of Israel's history. Several centuries before David, God has led his people out of bondage in Egypt and through the wilderness under Moses. God had instructed Moses and the people to build a Tabernacle- a portable place of worship that could travel with the people as they moved toward the Promised Land. And what had been established then under Moses continued to be the dwelling place of God's presence until that very day. You see, God had not authorized any of the other shepherds of His people, now including David, to build a Temple.

As Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann explains, "Yahweh argues that a permanent residence is unacceptable because it violates Yahweh's freedom." No religious arrangement will hold this God in place.

Having reminded David of Israel's history, God also reminds David of his own history. David had begun as an anonymous shepherd boy out on the Bethlehem hillsides. And it was God's choice, not David's merits that caused David to become the shepherd of God's flock. It was also God who was responsible for David's successes and who still had greater plans for David. Verse 9 says, "Now I will make your name great – like the name of the greatest people on earth." One scholar adds, "Three thousand years later, the star of David still stands as the emblem of the State for Israel."

We resume the story at verse 11, "And the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make a dynasty for you." The situation has changed. David will not build God a house (Temple), but God will build David a house (dynasty). Not a bad deal, a physical structure for a lasting dynasty beginning with David.

Grace is written all over this story. God has already blessed David, but now he plans a greater blessing.

So God promises to raise up offspring for David and establish a dynasty for his son. God pledges himself to solidarity with David and David's family. Furthermore, God pledges that this offspring will build a house for God (Temple) and that his throne will last forever. And, as you know, it was David's son, Solomon, who built the Temple and reigned over his people.

Now it's true that in the immediate moment God's promises are recognized in Solomon. But for the duration, it is not difficult to understand how the community around Jesus recognized God's promises as even more true through Jesus Christ.

Adjusting Our Plans

A medical student applies to a medical school and is rejected. In his determination to be a physician, however, he applies to another medical school and is accepted. What do you know? In the second medical school, he not only does well, but he also meets his wife.

Here's a situation that at first didn't look so good in the eyes of that medical student. But in the end, things worked out better than he could have ever imagined.

Think about David! His outcome, with the promises of God, was certainly better than his original plan. For sure, David's plan to build the Temple was good and carefully envisioned. But David discovered that God's plan was better. One scholar observed, "The Temple in Jerusalem has been built and destroyed several times throughout history, and it hasn't stood for nearly two thousand years. On the other hand, what God promised to build for David continues to endure."

Like David, our challenge is to always throw our lot in with what God's building even it means changing our own plans.

The Inadequacy of Seeking a Name for Ourselves

God says in verse 9, "Now I will make your name great..." God is making a promise to David.

So many moderns try to make a name for themselves. With a goal to get ahead, they work overtime at self-promotion. Yet, as we have been reminded, "the irony is that there is very little actual fame and importance in this world." Today's celebrities and trophy winners often become tomorrow's trivia questions.

I reiterate, God's promise was to make David's name great..." (2 Samuel 7:9). So where was David when we first heard of him. He was an anonymous teenager tending his father's sheep on a hillside. David began with almost nothing and just think of what he has become. Even three thousand years later this unknown teenager continues to be known and venerated the world over.

Now, if David had sought his own fame, he would probably would have achieved some temporary notoriety and power and then faded from view. However, is the providence of God, David became the standard by which all other kings in Jerusalem would be measured. But most important of all, David's

name is eternally linked to the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords,” even Jesus Christ. Jesus states in Revelation 22:16, “I am the root and descendent of David, the bright morning star.”

Action Plan:

- 1- **Have you ever felt that God’s plans for your life were different from your own? Please share.**
- 2- **Discuss several ingredients of a good legacy.**

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Partner with NRCD in 2014

By Karen Hahn, *NRCD Assistant Director of Development*

So, how are your New Year’s Resolutions working out?

A group of friends and I decided to start Rick Warren’s “The Daniel Plan” in January. Rick talks about the Holy Spirit dwelling in our bodies and how we should treat our body. One friend decided she was not quite ready to join us and that she was going to continue to show the Holy Spirit a good time! All kidding aside, I am thankful to have my small group joining me to be healthier in 2014. Grateful for the gift of community. “If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.” Ecclesiastes 4:10

One resolution that many people make is to attend church more regularly. I think that instead of making the resolution to attend church we should all decide to “quit going to church.” Pretty drastic words for someone who has attended church her whole life. Instead of going to church I think it is more important to start being the church.

I am thankful the churches that are part of New and Revitalized Congregational Development are living into that resolution. Backpack ministries, food and clothing pantries, food programs, tutoring, the list goes on. These congregations are blessing others all across our Conference. The gift of community. Would you like to join us?

Feb. 23, 2014 is designated as Kingdom Builder’s Sunday. Please sign up to partner with NRCD as we seek to share the love of Christ across the South Georgia Conference.

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV)

Today I am enclosing a donation and will continue twice a year donations to NRCD:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:
Zip:
Phone:
Email address:

Please complete this form and mail it along with your donation to NRCD, PO Box 26938, Macon, GA, 31221

\$15 - Kingdom Builders Club

\$50 - New Congregation Supporters

\$100 - Vision Promoters

\$500 - New Congregation Planter

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Retired Clergy Birthdays – March

- 3/01 – **Ralph Bailey**: 9650 Lehigh St.; Savannah, GA 31406
- 3/01 – **Charles Whatley**: 2153 Bold Springs Rd.; Ochlocknee, GA 31773
- 3/02 – **William Whipple**: 2247 Eastway Rd.; Decatur, GA 30033
- 3/02 – **Gene Yates**: 154 Saint Clair Dr.; St Simons Island, GA 31522
- 3/03 – **Richard Bishop**: 292 Timberwind Dr.; Byron, GA 31008
- 3/03 – **Thomas Williams**: 1072 Lee Rd. 292; Smith’s Station, AL 36877
- 3/04 – **Irie Cyree**: 4402 Bridgewater Dr.; Phenix City, AL 36867
- 3/06 – **Ellison Whitt**: 443 Les Smith Rd.; Ellaville, GA 31806
- 3/08 – **Jarrell Lillard**: 253 Paul Lockley Rd.; Lyons GA 30436
- 3/08 – **Hugh Shirah**: 139 Lee Road 554; Phenix City, AL 36867
- 3/09 – **Grover Bell**: 333 E. 53rd St.; Savannah, GA 31405
- 3/14 – **Charles Rooks**: 600 East 12th St.; Tifton, GA 31794
- 3/15 – **Brenda Iglehart**: P.O. Box 351; Woodbine, GA 31569
- 3/16 – **Joel Dent**: 1819 Pine Forest Cir.; Dublin, GA 31021
- 3/16 – **Vance Mathis**: 305 Jasmine Way; Bonaire, GA 31005
- 3/17 – **George Durham**: 844 Woods Hole Cr.; Statesboro, GA 30461
- 3/18 – **Tom Oliver**: 511 Victory Dr.; Waynesboro, GA 30830
- 3/19 – **James Snell, Jr.**: 1590 Piney Grove Rd.; Loganville, GA 30052
- 3/20 – **Ronnie Culpepper**: 2848 Sue Mack Dr.; Columbus, GA 31906
- 3/20 – **Dan MacMinn**: 95 Harding St.; Waverly Hall, GA 31831
- 3/21 – **Delia Steffen**: 128 Cambridge Way; Macon, GA 31220
- 3/22 – **Beverly Flowers**: 390 Brook Hollow Dr.; McDonough, GA 30252
- 3/23 – **Jimmy Pennell**: 2257 S. Lakeshore Dr.; Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
- 3/28 – **Hal Brady**: 36 Lullwater Estate; Atlanta, GA 30307
- 3/30 – **Allen Brooks**: 535 Hendley Cir.; Nashville, GA 31639

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Scripture Readings – Feb. 17

February 23

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalm 119:33-40

I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

March 2

Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

March 5

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11