



Newsletter

When it is Time to Say Goodbye

A WORD FROM
SUPERINTENDENT GRANTHAM



Sheri and I would like to share a heartfelt word of gratitude for the going away reception you all held for us after District Conference on April 23rd. We are also very grateful for the very nice gift you all gave to us as we depart. As many of you know we will be moving to Isle of Hope UMC in Savannah. We count it a privilege to have served here for two years as your District Superintendent. We will miss all of you and cherish our time with you. Thank you for the opportunities we have all had to do ministry together in the Northeast District. We will keep you all in our prayers and do have confidence God will continue to great ministry in this District.

I am looking forward to returning to the local church to be a pastor as I have served in that capacity for 39 years. Isle of Hope is a great church with wonderful people and a heart for missions. We are excited to move back to Savannah where I grew up from 1968 to 1980. It is not often a United Methodist pastor has the opportunity to return to his/her hometown and do ministry but this will be our privilege. Please be in prayer for us as we move and adjust to a new community.

You will be well served by The Rev. Dr. Scott Hagan who will assume responsibilities as the new District Superintendent of the Northeast/Coastal Region of the South Georgia Annual Conference on June 18. Scott comes from a family that has deep roots in this Annual Conference. His mother, Miriam Hagan, served as our Administrative Treasurer for many years. His grandfather, The Rev. Carlton Carruth and great uncle, The Rev. Edward Carruth also served our Annual Conference for many years. Scott's brother Kirk and first cousin, Tom Carruth are fellow pastors as well. Scott and Julie will live here in Statesboro as they continue their service to God and to our Annual Conference.

We have come to know through the years that God has a very special way of working through our connectional system. Through the movement of pastors, churches have the opportunity to experience a wealth of differing leadership styles and emphases. What we all know is that God is the one whom we all serve and who calls us to ministry, both Lay and Clergy. It is He whom we honor with our lives, gifts and talents as He seeks to do His good work all around us...The Kingdom Work. I look forward to hearing great things from the district.

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THE *South Georgia* CONFERENCE
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

May 2023



South Georgia Conference Announces District Leadership Restructuring Plan, Proposed Budget Reductions

The South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church will be undergoing budget reductions to appropriately plan for financial implications as a result of local church disaffiliations. Based upon recent trends and detailed predictions, the annual conference is seeking to decrease its 2024 operating budget in order to maximize its sustainability and viability as an annual conference.

[read more here](#)



Bishop Graves Calls for Special Annual Conference Session

Bishop David Graves, episcopal leader of the South Georgia Annual Conference, in accordance with ¶603.5 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, calls for a special session of the annual conference on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The meeting will begin at 4 pm using the Zoom Webinar platform in conjunction with an online voting system. The sole purpose of the special called session of the Annual Conference* is to complete the process of ratifying the current requests for disaffiliation of local churches who have met the requirements outlined in ¶2553 of the Book of Discipline and who have met the published South Georgia Conference deadlines.

The special session will consider only matters pertaining to this call; no other business can be considered.

[read more here](#)

Certificate Investments with Missional Impact

Certificate Rates*

- 1-Year = 3.00%
- 2-Year = 4.00%
- 3-Year = 3.75%
- 4-Year = 3.50%

**Highest Rate in 10 years

[more info here](#)

*Rates as of January 2023. All rates are subject to change without notice. Please call the Foundation at 770-449-6726.

Your investment in the Georgia United Methodist Foundation's Certificate Program enables churches and nonprofits to expand their missional impact in their community while being better stewards of the resources entrusted to them by God.

United Methodists to Meet in Charlotte for Worldwide Conference

The Commission on the General Conference announced that the 2024 United Methodist General Conference will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024, at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. “The Commission selected Charlotte as the site that best met our varied needs. We believe that delegates and attendees will be pleased with all the city has to offer,” said Kim Simpson, Chair of the Commission on the General Conference. “Charlotte is a part of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference – but due to the shorter timeframe for planning, both the Western North Carolina Conference and the North Carolina Annual Conference will co-host the event.”

[read more here](#)



EVENTS & NEWS

Epworth by the Sea

Adventurous Adult Retreat

May 15-18, 2023

[register here](#)

Camp Connect 2023

runs through: June 12-July 21, 2023

[learn more here](#)

Let's Join Together in Prayer

The South Georgia Conference is centering itself around prayer in 2023. This year for Annual Conference our theme is, "When They Prayed." During the six weeks leading up to Annual Conference each district is assigned one week to pray for our Annual Conference. Laity and clergy from each district will gather over Zoom and spend time praying through scripture, liturgy, response, and silent individual prayer. The most important part is that we all pray!

May 24th at noon - Northeast District Prayer Day

[register here to join in prayer via zoom](#)

Lay Planters Training - Falls 2023

Here in South Georgia, we are seizing the opportunity to start new things for new people in new places. We are seeing a resurgence of grassroots efforts among our laity to dive deeply into disciple-making using new models for church planting like home churches, fresh expressions and more. Can you imagine what it will be like in a few years when laity across the conference will be engaged in leading discipleship efforts across the conference? These discipleship groups and home churches will be able to meet in all kinds of places, made up of all kinds of people. Coming up on July 22, we will have an informational zoom session to find out more about an online Lay Planter's Course we will be offering this Fall to interested laity. Coming to the meeting doesn't commit you to the course; it's an opportunity to hear more about it.

[read more here](#)

Clergy Mental Health Retreat - May 18th

In a season of high anxiety, we realize that those called to meet the needs of others are in need themselves. To help address the needs of our clergy, the South Georgia Conference Clergy Mental Health Task Force is putting together a series of retreats to support clergy in their mental health.

The first retreat, *Anxiety: Enemy or Ally*, is set for May 18 from 10am-4pm at Wesley Gardens in Savannah, Ga. Led by Jason Mehl and Christian Swails, this one-day retreat will focus on what anxiety is and is not, how to work through anxiety, and how to speak to fear. The cost for this event is \$20 (lunch is included).

[register here](#)

Please note: this retreat will be capped at 30 participants. Additional clergy retreats are being planned for the Fall.



May 11, 2023
6:30pm-8:30pm

[purchase tickets here](#)

2023 Prayer Emphasis:

In a focused effort, the South Georgia Conference is centering itself around prayer in 2023. Each month a prayer guide will be developed that contains a specific focus, including a weekly scripture, a breath prayer, and a prayer prompt.

May's prayer guide, written by Reese McCurry, Alison Evans, Angela Gilbert, and Gail Springstead.

[now available here](#)



SETUP MEETING



June 28th, 2023



09.30 am - 1:00 pm



Pittman Park UMC

RSVP by June 15th
(email or call District office)

Important Dates

- May 14 Mother's Day
- May 16 Moving Pastors Workshop via Zoom @ 10am - noon
- May 21 Annual Conference
- May 24 Northeast District Prayer Day
- June 4-6 Annual Conference
- June 14 Moving Day
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 28 Setup Meeting @ PPUMC
9:30am - 1pm

BIRTHDAYS

- May 1st - Rick Mitchell
- May 4th - Mary Parker
- May 5th - Tammy Brown
- May 7th - Brandy Donnan
- May 11th - Lee Pettis
- May 13th - Brenda Johnson
- May 14th - Sue Bagwell
- May 15th - Elise Miller
- May 16th - Lori Velasquez
- May 18th - Bryan Price
- May 18th - Chip Strickland
- May 19th - Mary Louise Jones
- May 21st - Karen Zeigler
- May 25th - Tris Strickland
- May 26th - Faye Burgamy
- May 29th - Susan Cason
- May 31st - Mike Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

- May 14th - Tom & Nona Tidwell
- May 30th - Allen & Kristen Cason
- May 30th - Lee & Pam Pettis

Georgia United Methodist Newsletter

Check out the latest news at

www.gumf.org

Sign up at www.gumf.org/stay-connected to have the latest news delivered right to your inbox.

To learn more about GUMF's faith-based financial solutions for investing, lending, training, and planned giving, please call

770-449-6726 or 478-256-7130

(South Georgia) or email info@gumf.org.

PRAYERS, CONCERNS, & PRAISES

Peggy MacDonald

Lexy McRae - granddaughter of Rev. Chris Ramsey

The family of Lynn Strickland - wife of retired Bill Strickland

Carol Collins - wife of Rev. Mike Collins

The family of Fred Alexander - father of Tris Strickland

The family of Rev. Mike Huling

Rev. Jeane Strudivant

Rev. Lee Pettis

Rev. Ricky Varnell - retired

Appointment Making Process and the Report to the Bishop and Cabinet

Each year the Cabinet utilizes online tools to help facilitate the appointment making process. The forms below are used to populate these tools and ensure accurate information is used as the Cabinet discusses clergy appointments. Your help in completing these forms in a timely manner is appreciated.

Appointment Preference: Report to the Bishop and Cabinet

Form sent by: January 4, 2023 | Deadline to return: February 1, 2023

No later than January 4, the District Office will mail to each clergyperson a form entitled “Report to the Bishop and Cabinet” where information relative to the appointment process for 2023 will be recorded. The District Office will also mail a similar report to each SPRC chairperson that solicits similar information. Each party is to sign the other's form after it is completed prior to returning to the District Office. Please remember that the deadline to return forms to the District Office is Monday, February 1.

Appointment Information Review

Review form made available: January 18, 2023 | Deadline to complete review: January 26, 2023

Clergy Serving a Local Church: www.sgaumc.org/dashboard

Clergy Serving in an Extension Ministry Position: www.sgaumc.org/emdashboard

In order to provide one last snapshot for clergy to review their information prior to the printing of the “Master Move Book,” clergy will be asked to login to their dashboard (links above) between January 18 and January 26. There is nothing to complete; it is simply a one-page sheet to review. If there are any changes that need to be made clergy will need to contact their District Office. There are 5 sections to review:

- Charge Membership Information for 2022 (pulled from the December Discipleship Report)
- Charge Apportionment Information for 2022 (pulled from the Administrative Services Office)
 - Appointment Information as of 7/1/2022 (pulled from the Conference Database)
- Compensation Information for 2023 (pulled from the Clergy Compensation Form)
- Sexual Ethics Workshop Last Attended (pulled from the Conference Database, see note below)

Again, if there are any changes that need to be made please contact your District Office. Please note that the Charge Membership and Apportionment Information will be blank for Extension Ministers. The deadline to review this form, and to request changes to be made, is January 26.

Cabinet Appointment Making Dates

The Appointive Cabinet will be doing the work of appointment making on the following dates. Consultation is a year-round process, and District Superintendents will continue consultations with Pastors and SPRC as needed throughout the appointment making process.

- February 9-10, 2023 (Appointment Making Meeting)
- February 23-24, 2023 (Appointment Making Meeting)
 - March 8-10, 2023 (Appointment Making Meeting)
 - March 28-29, 2023 (Appointment Making/Review)

-Clergy and SPR Committees will begin to be informed of the appointments affecting them when it is appropriate. At the same time, they will be notified when they can share the information with the congregation. Once the congregation has been informed, the information can be shared with others. Please note: Because changes sometimes occur after the projection of an appointment, the only public release of the appointments will be at the conclusion of the 2023 Annual Conference Session.

Sexual Ethics Workshops

As you may remember, when our Conference Pastoral Counselor went on medical leave, we had to cancel our workshops scheduled for February and April of 2022, and had to postpone future workshops while we planned how to move forward. We are now able to announce plans for our quadrennial Sexual Ethics Workshop, which is being led by our Conference Ministerial Services Office. We are moving to a quadrennial emphasis model like many other annual conferences follow. This means that all clergy will need to attend one of three workshops being offered in the first quarter of 2023 in order to be appointed this June of 2023 (dates to be announced soon). Please note that this will satisfy your requirement for the quadrennium. Part of the workshop will be completed online, and the other part will be completed in-person. Both parts are needed to satisfy the requirement. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Orientation for Moving Pastors

Bishop Graves and the Appointive Cabinet will host a workshop for full-time moving clergy on a date to be announced. Superintendents will release the location and time for this event in the spring. Please remember that this is a mandatory meeting for all moving pastors.

Preaching Schedule & Moving Day

In an effort to encourage clergy to take a Sabbath break, the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet invite all clergy, especially those who are projected to move to a new appointment, to observe the following:

- Preach in Local Churches as Scheduled – June 4, 2023: For Clergy moving to a new appointment, you are encouraged to make this your final preaching Sunday in your current appointment.
- Pulpit Supply Sunday – June 11, 2023: Clergy are encouraged to coordinate with their SPRC to have retired clergy or lay supply fill the pulpit to preach this Sunday. All clergy are invited to participate in this Sabbath break but clergy on the projected move list are strongly encouraged to do so.
- Moving Day – June 14, 2023

Annual Conference Session Information

Annual Conference Meeting Dates

The 2023 regular session of the South Georgia Annual Conference is set for June 4-6 at UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center in Tifton, Ga, during which Bishop Graves will fix the appointments for 2023-2024. Also, we have a called session of the Annual Conference set for May 21, 2023, at 4:00pm, to be held by Zoom.

Annual Conference Materials

All Annual Conference materials for the 2023 session will be placed on the conference and district websites to download and print or save to an electronic device prior to Annual Conference. The Book of Recommendations will also be available to order at a minimal cost through lulu.com. All clergy for whom we have an email address will receive a notification when Annual Conference materials are available. If an email address was entered during Charge Conference season for the lay member to Annual Conference from your church that person will receive an email as well. However, clergy are requested to check with the church's lay member of Annual Conference to make sure they receive all of the Annual Conference materials. Information will also be included in the district newsletter and conference communications.

Apportionments

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving to the mission and ministry of The South Georgia Conference and The United Methodist Church. The final day to make payments on your local church's 2022 apportionments is January 6, 2023. Payments must be turned into the Administrative Services Office by this date. As a reminder, there are electronic means available in which to pay apportionments.

Statistical Tables Information

The Statistical Tables will launch on January 10, 2023, and must be completed by February 28, 2023. Statistical tables will be filled out through the new ACstats website. Login information will be emailed to the pastor and treasurer/financial secretary in early January.



Pittman Park UMC held a rummage sale that raised over \$9,500 for missions and literacy.



James from Wesley Glenn Ministries is preparing to travel to Berlin, Germany to participate Special Olympics World Games 2023.



Sylvania UMC held a Holy Week luncheon and decorated their Easter cross.



A Few Good Men
Special Concert



May 5th at 6:30PM

Sylvania First United Methodist Church



Pittman Park UMC held a volunteer meeting for their VBS "Christmas Camp."