



Newsletter

As Things Change, We Say Goodbye

A WORD FROM
SUPERINTENDENT GRANTHAM



As many of you have already heard, I will no longer be the District Superintendent of the Northeast District in June. The Rev. Dr. Scott Hagan will assume the duties of District Superintendent on Moving Day, Wednesday, June 17.

It has been a pleasure for me to be your District Superintendent for the last two years. I have enjoyed traveling throughout the district worshipping in your churches, performing your Charge Conferences, and getting to know so many of you. I will be assuming the duties of the Senior Pastor of a local congregation in June. This will be in keeping with my ministry of 41 years.

My hope and prayer is that you will give Dr. Hagan the same respect and kindness that you have given me. He will need your assistance in finding his way around the district and learning about all of you. He will also be District Superintendent of the Coastal District.

Please be in prayer for Sheri and me as we make this move and also for Scott and Julie as they move. We will continue to keep you all in our prayers as you continue to fulfill Christ's high calling of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

With great affection,
Stephen and Sheri Grantham

NORTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICE

P.O. Box 2054
Statesboro, GA 30459



Phone: (912)-871-3306



Fax: (912)-681-9739



Email: northeastdistrict@sgaumc.com



Website: www.northeastdistrict-umc.org



THE *South Georgia* CONFERENCE
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

APRIL 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](#)



Certificate Investments with Missional Impact

Certificate Rates*

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

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

**Highest Rate in 10 years

[more info here](#)

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.



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](#)

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](#)

Dr. Scott Hagan to Serve as Superintendent of Coastal & Northeast Districts



Bishop David Graves announces the projected appointment of one new District Superintendent to the South Georgia Conference Cabinet, effective June 2023.

The Rev. Dr. Scott Hagan, currently serving as senior pastor of Statesboro First United Methodist Church, will be appointed to serve as superintendent of both the Coastal and Northeast districts.

Dr. Hagan was ordained an Elder in The United Methodist Church in 2006. Born in Brunswick, Georgia to Dan and Miriam Hagan, he grew up in Statesboro with his brother, Kirk. Along with his wife, Julie, they have served local churches in Fayetteville, Albany, Waverly Hall, Columbus, Bonaire, and Statesboro.

Dr. Hagan will join Rev. Doreen Smalls, the Rev. Dr. Paula Lewis, and the Rev. Dr. Jay Harris on the Appointive Cabinet in the new district leadership structure. Dr. Harris will assume an expanded role as the Superintendent of Clergy and District Services.

In this structure, the six existing districts will remain as is. However, there will now be three regions composed of two districts each. One District Superintendent will oversee one region.

Along with Dr. Hagan's service to the Coastal and Northeast districts, Rev. Smalls will give oversight to both the Northwest and Southwest districts while Dr. Lewis will oversee both the North Central and South Central districts.





EVENTS & NEWS

Epworth by the Sea

Adventurous Adult Retreat

May 15-18, 2023

[register here](#)

Men's Spiritual Life Retreat

April 20-21, 2023

[register here](#)

We are kicking off our third annual Evening with Magnolia Event!

Evening with Magnolia will be on the lawn of the Lee Council House with dinner catered by The Canterbury Kitchen. A live and silent auction will follow. This will be a great time to fellowship with one another and enjoy great food.

Tables will seat six or eight people. Please feel free to purchase a table in whole, or split a table with friends and family.

All money raised from this event will go toward our benevolent fund, The League of the Good Samaritan. The League of the Good Samaritan ensures that no resident would ever have to leave if, through no fault of their own, they were unable to pay.

Magnolia Manor is excited to announce that we have been awarded a matching grant opportunity from our friends at the St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation!

The St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation will graciously match any donations that Magnolia Manor receives up to \$58,500, including any donations made to Evening with Magnolia.

[Purchase tickets here.](#)



Job Announcement

Director of Music Ministry Sylvania UMC

A Part Time position in charge of the music ministry at a medium sized United Methodist Church. The church has a strong choir program, a men's gospel group, and also performs Christmas and Easter cantatas. There is also a handbell choir.

Interested parties should submit a resume that includes contact information, education background, work experiences, related musical training and experiences, experience with choral music, and any other information that may be appropriate to the position. Please include at least two references, professional and personal, with appropriate contact information.

Applications can be mailed to the church at PO Box 258, Sylvania, GA 30467 or emailed to admin@sylvaniamethodist.com.

If further information is required, you may call the church office at 912-564-2747.

[View the application here.](#)

Deadline is May 1, 2023

United Methodist Connectional FCU 2023 Annual College Scholarships

Are you or do you know a member age 17-35 who is attending or planning to attend college and attend church in in one of the four conferences? If so, please let them know about your Credit Union's college scholarship program. Four winning applicants, one from each of our four conferences, Florida, North Georgia, South Georgia and Alabama-West Florida will receive a \$1000 scholarship each.

[Learn more 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.

April's prayer guide, written by Anne Bosarge, Chris Moncus, and Ben Hasty

[now available here.](#)



EVENTS & NEWS

Pittman Park UMC Evaluates Accessibility and Comfort for Individuals Living with Disabilities



Easily recognized, Pittman Park United Methodist Church is frequently involved with the Statesboro community by serving as volunteers at many events, such as local soup kitchens, and even hosting a few of their own, namely their Trunk or Treat. Recently, however, the church has been striving to serve its congregation and the local community in a whole new way: through prioritizing inclusivity and evaluating the accessibility and comfort of their church's environment for individuals living with disabilities.

While the church building itself is already accessible in many aspects, featuring ease of entry and adjustable row seating for those in wheelchairs, leadership recognized it still had room to grow and desired to improve. This desire to better serve their congregation is the beginning of a moving story between two friends - a children's pastor with a heart for change and a dedicated mother with a vision for her family, both of who overcame individual anxieties to have a difficult yet powerful conversation, sparking significant change within the walls of Pittman Park UMC.

[Read more here](#)

METHODISM COMES TO AMERICA- THE BRISTOL CONNECTION



Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:00 PM
Lovely Lane Chapel at Epworth By The Sea
St. Simons Island, GA
Free Event

The New Room is the oldest Methodist building in the world and Worthington's one-hour lecture will focus on the Father of Methodism John Wesley's arrival in Bristol in 1739 and his subsequent establishment of the Methodist movement in England. A Meet and Greet with the author and refreshments will follow at the Moore Methodist Museum next door.



David Worthington,
British lecturer and
Director of
Global Relations at
the New Room,
Bristol, England

**CALL 912-638-4050
OR EMAIL
ASSISTANTDIRECTOR@
MOOREMUSEUM.COM
TO RESERVE A SEAT TODAY**

Heard Scholarship Available for Clergy and Certified Candidates

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church located in Macon, Ga. announces the application process for its annual Heard Scholarship. The Heard Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for persons pursuing Methodist ministry, whether seminary or doctoral studies. Because of the generosity of generous donors and their families, Mulberry is able to bless others who are pursuing a "wise heart."

[View the application here](#)

The deadline for spring 2023 is April 10.
Scholarships are renewable each semester of enrollment.

Imagine Day - April 15th, 2023

Imagine the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church expanding and growing in new ways to meet new people with the love and grace of the Gospel of Christ. Imagine seeing people coming to Christ where they work, in their homes, and in the places where they play. Imagine what it would look like to see new discipling communities popping up regularly across the conference as more and more people feel the call of God to lead others to faith in Him! Can you see it? I believe it's about to happen in South Georgia in 2023!

[Interested? Learn more here](#)

Denman Award Nominations Sought

The Witness Team of the South Georgia Annual Conference is now accepting nominations for The Harry Denman Evangelism Award for Clergy, Lay, and Youth.

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award program recognizes United Methodists in each annual conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism - expressed in Word (what), Sign (why), and Deed (how) - brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.

[Read more here](#)



Important Dates

- April 13 Eagles Fish Fry @ McRae UMC
- April 23 Northeast District Conference
@ Pittman Park UMC - 6pm
- May 21 Annual Conference
- May 24 Northeast District Prayer Day
- June 14 Moving Day

BIRTHDAYS

- April 1st - Ed Chance
April 6th - Alivia Palmore
April 8th - Terry Deloach
April 10th - Joey Holloway
April 19th - Betty Sue Brantley
April 23th - Perry Medley
April 24th - Dorsia Atkinson
April 30th - Kristen Cason

ANNIVERSARIES

- April 4th - James and Joanne Snell
April 19th - Jeane and Jimme Sturdivant
April 22nd - Perry and Sophia Medley

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

Missy Brenton - wife of Rev. Scott Brenton

Carol Collins - wife of Rev. Mike Collins

Rev. Mike Huling - retired

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.



Sylvania UMC held their annual United Methodist Men's Club Barbecue. Funds will go toward providing food boxes during Christmas time to feed the community.



Mark Miller, Pastor of Payne's Chapel and Twin City UMC read to preschool children during Red Cross America Week.

He was also approved for elder's orders. Congrats Mark!



Pittman Park and Brooklet UMC held a Men's Breakfast. Pastor Dorsia Atkinson spoke at the meeting.

David Cromley, a member of Brooklet UMC was named young farmer of the year during the blessing of the crops held at Pittman Park UMC.



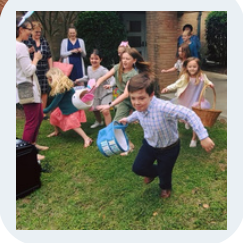
Pittman Park students traveled to North Carolina for a Youth Retreat.





Sikes Chapel UMC held a homecoming dinner for their church congregation.

Pittman Park UMC held their annual Easter Egg hunt on Sunday, March 26th.



"The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Romans 6:8-11