



**Northeast District Office**

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R. Lawson Bryan – Resident Bishop

R. Christopher Ramsey - Superintendent

**April 2021**

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## *Alive Together At The Table*

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### **Annual Conference Session 2021**

#### **2021 South Georgia Annual Conference to be held Virtually**

Bishop Lawson Bryan, in collaboration with the Annual Conference Program Committee, the officers of the Annual Conference, and the Cabinet, announces that the 2021 South Georgia Annual Conference session will be held virtually. The virtual clergy session is set for **Tuesday, June 1, 2021, from 10:00 am – noon**. The one-day virtual annual conference session is set for **Monday, June 7, beginning at 8:30 am**.

An online **Retiree Recognition Service** will take place **Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00 pm** to honor clergy retiring in 2021. An online **Memorial Service** to remember clergy and clergy spouses who have passed away in the past conference year is set for **Thursday, June 3 at 7:00 pm**.

Those approved for provisional membership or full connection at the clergy session will be commissioned or ordained in a local church setting on **Sunday, June 6:00 pm**. The Commissioning and Ordination Services will be live streamed so the entire conference may share virtually in this important worship experience.

#### **SGA CONFERENCE GATHERING | October 9, 2021**

In addition to the June Annual Conference session, Bishop Lawson Bryan has set Saturday, October 9, 2021, as a post-General Conference gathering. Our hope is that this gathering will take place in person at a conference-central location to be announced later. However, if it is not yet safe to do so, Bishop Bryan has asked that all members plan to gather electronically.

## **BOOK OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS | Available by May 1**

Business items for the 2021 Annual Conference session are contained in the Book of Recommendations and Reports (BOR). The purpose of the BOR is for delegates to have the necessary recommendations and reports to read and study prior to the conference session. The BOR will be made available to the conference by May 1.

## **2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION TIMELINE**

*\*Please note: Details are forthcoming. To receive updates, please be sure an email address is entered into the Conference database for all clergy and lay members.*

March 10	Book of Recommendations and Reports Submission Deadline
April 1	Delegate Contact Information Submission Deadline
May 1	Book of Recommendations and Reports Published
June 1	Electronic Clergy Session 10 a.m. - 12 noon
June 1	Online Retiree Recognition 7 pm
June 3	Online Memorial Service 7 pm
June 6	Service(s) of Ordination/Commissioning (live-streamed)
June 7	Electronic Annual Conference Business Session - 8:30 am

## **QUESTIONS**

For questions regarding the business of Annual Conference, please contact Meredyth Earnest, Conference Secretary, at [meredyth@sgaumc.com](mailto:meredyth@sgaumc.com).

For general inquiries, contact Kelly Roberson, Director of Communications, at [kelly@sgaumc.com](mailto:kelly@sgaumc.com).

## **Social Media for the 2021 Annual Conference**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sgaumc](https://www.facebook.com/sgaumc)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/sgaumc](https://www.twitter.com/sgaumc) / #sgaumc

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/sgaumc](https://www.instagram.com/sgaumc)



## **South Georgia** **Conference Sexual Ethics Training**

### **Virtual Format**

There will be four videos that will be sent to clergy registered for the workshop. You will have a two-week window to watch all four videos. At the time the videos are sent to you, you will also sign up for one of several Zoom discussion meetings that will be held after that two-week period. You will need to join a discussion meeting to receive credit for the workshop. The Zoom discussion meetings, composed of small groups of clergy, will be facilitated by me and will last 1 ½ hours. Again, you must attend one of these meetings to get credit. After you complete the process, you will receive a CEU certificate.

For questions, please email [cpcassistant@sgaumc.com](mailto:cpcassistant@sgaumc.com). Gratefully, *Deborah*

## **Pastors in the Northeast District Needing** **Sexual Ethics Re-Certification** **By Annual Conference 2021**

**Dorsia Atkinson**  
**Brian Durden**  
**Thomas Kennison**  
**Tom Tidwell**

**Judson Barnes**  
**Bruce Eaton**  
**Robert Poston**  
**Karen Zeigler**

**Steve Brown**  
**Mark Hardin**  
**Jeane Sturdivant**

## **An update from the South Georgia delegation**

Greetings to the South Georgia Annual Conference from Jim Cowart, Bill Hatcher, and the South Georgia delegation.

Hello friends!

There are many moving pieces in our denomination right now. And it is challenging to stay on top of the most current information. With that in mind, I hope this update is helpful. Let me share some key dates, what has been happening, and what is ahead. [Read more](#)

# Between Two Rivers Cluster Churches fight COVID with care boxes



**By Kara Witherow**

“Get off the sidelines and get into the game.”

That is what Rev. Dorsia Atkinson heard God saying to him earlier this year. Rev. Atkinson is not an athlete or a coach, but pastor of Sylvania United Methodist Church.

As a pastor, Rev. Atkinson understood his congregation was frightened and worried. The coronavirus pandemic had not spared Screven County, and Rev. Atkinson knew he had to do something to help.

“I just felt like we were talking about COVID but not doing anything. Everyone was scared and I wanted to be more proactive,” he said.

During his prayers, Rev. Atkinson felt God nudging him to help bring relief to the rural county of about 14,000.

“When COVID hits these small counties, it is devastating. We don’t have Walmart, and some do not have Dollar General, so people run to the gas stations to get what they need, and they spread the virus,” he said. “I needed to help keep people home.”

So like any good coach, he rallied players from several area churches and the Screven County Chamber of Commerce to assemble 400 COVID Care Boxes for those who contract COVID-19.

Full of medicine, vitamins, food, hand sanitizer, an N-95 face mask, other necessities, and a 14-page devotional book written by community members, the COVID Care Boxes are helping those

who have coronavirus avoid stores and potentially spread the virus. They are delivered to people's front porches or safely picked up at a distribution site.

In addition to the Care Boxes, Rev. Atkinson has arranged for 1,000 bottles of disinfectant to be given to Screven County residents. 10 distribution sites also have been set up so residents may refill the 32-ounce bottles with concentrated disinfectant solution.

"The whole point of all this is that the chemical spray will help prevent COVID and the boxes will help keep people at home if they do get it," he said.

The entire Between Two Rivers Cluster is involved in the project, Rev. Atkinson said, along with several other Screven County churches. They are collecting donated items, packing them into boxes, serving as distribution sites, and more.

Now recovering from COVID-19, Rev. Judson Barnes, pastor of Hiltonia United Methodist Church, knows how helpful a COVID Care Box is to those who are sick.

"Having experienced COVID opened my eyes," he said. "When I was sick, this community reached out and helped us, but it took probably five different people a couple of days to bring the same items that this one box contains."

Revs. Barnes and Atkinson hope that their efforts help keep people in their community healthy and that through them they understand God loves them and has not forgotten them.

"The world needs to see Christ more than just on Sunday mornings," Rev. Barnes said. "They need to see us reaching out to people who don't come through our doors. To give back as the hands of Christ is what we are called to do. It is the reason Christ died for us and asked us to follow Him. It's a way to show people Christ is still in the world and Alive."

## **Conversations at the Table with Bishop Bryan for April & May**

We continue to have great conversations for our Alive Together at the Table with Bishop Bryan. Participants are able to ask questions, and we are providing timely resources and answers to what is on their mind. The interactive time also helps shape our agenda for future conversations. Our next ones will be Tuesday, April 20 at noon and Tuesday, May 11 at noon. Mark your calendars and [register here](#) for your seat at the table. We use the same link for each gathering so if you only need to register once.

## **Clergy Financial Literacy Academy**

The Clergy Financial Literacy Academy is an electronic toolbox developed by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to equip and empower you to make better financial decisions! CFLA is now open and taking registrations for the next training of cohorts.

The cost of the program is \$50. The estimated time to complete the course is 12 hours of individual computer time and six mandatory Zoom sessions. There will be optional Zoom office hours after the sessions.

To learn more, contact Rev. Keith E. Lawder, GUMF President/CEO, at 770-449-6726, 877-220-5664, or [klawder@gumf.org](mailto:klawder@gumf.org), or Dr. Laudis H. "Rick" Lanford, GUMF Regional Vice President, at 478-256-7130 or [rlanford@gumf.org](mailto:rlanford@gumf.org).

More information can also be found [online](#).



## **Georgia United Methodist Foundation Newsletter**

Check out the latest edition.

Sign up at [www.gumf.org/stay-connected](http://www.gumf.org/stay-connected) to have Growing Generosity delivered right to your inbox. For more information, please contact GUMF at 770-449-6726, 877-22 0-5664 or [info@gumf.org](mailto:info@gumf.org)

## **New District Website**

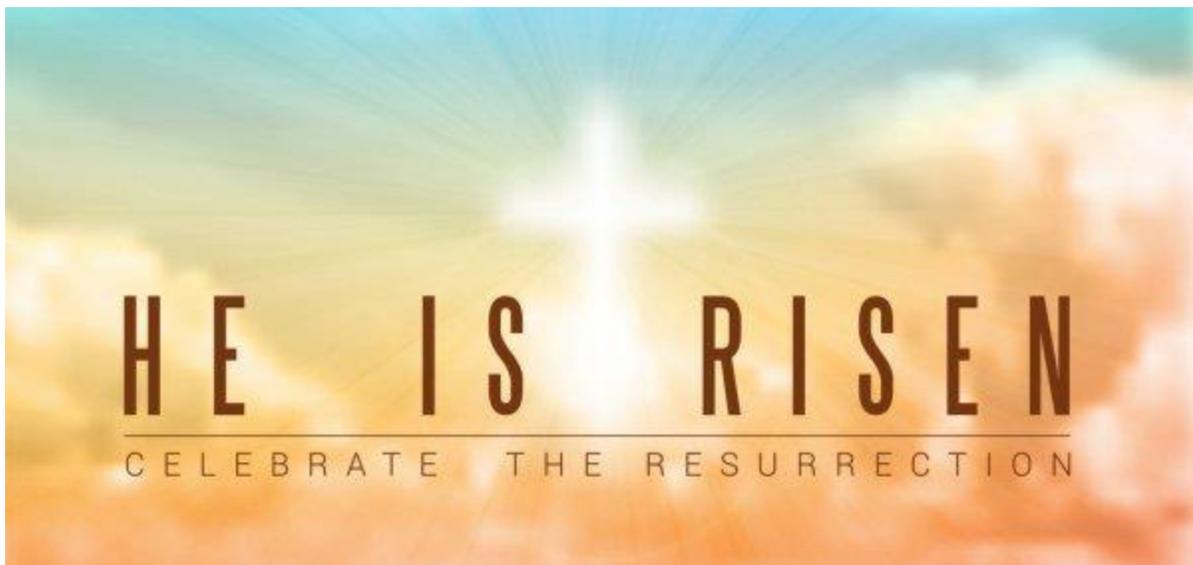
Thank you, Kelly Roberson, Director of Communications for the South Georgia Conference, for updating the Northeast District website!

[www.northeastdistrict-umc.org](http://www.northeastdistrict-umc.org)



1<sup>st</sup> Ed Chance  
5<sup>th</sup> Robert & Joyce Poston  
8<sup>th</sup> Terry Deloach  
10<sup>th</sup> Joey Holloway  
19<sup>th</sup> Jeane & Jonnie Sturdivant  
22<sup>nd</sup> Perry & Sophia Medley  
23<sup>rd</sup> Becky Reppert  
30<sup>th</sup> Kristen Cason

4<sup>th</sup> James & Joanne Snell  
6<sup>th</sup> Alivia Palmore  
9<sup>th</sup> Patrick & Paris Brannen  
16<sup>th</sup> David & Brandy Donnan  
22<sup>nd</sup> Fred Maddox  
23<sup>rd</sup> Perry Medley  
24<sup>th</sup> Dorsia Atkinson



## **2021 Dates for Lay Ministries (LSM and CLM)**

The 2021 dates for Lay Ministries - [Lay Servant Training](#) and [Certified Lay Ministry](#) - have been posted on the [conference website](#). The time is right for churches to take advantage of these leadership development opportunities. More than ever, we need well trained leaders in our local churches. For more information, contact Anne Bosarge, Associate Director, Office of Congregational Development, at [anne@thechapelministries.com](mailto:anne@thechapelministries.com) or 912-262-1331.

## **Camp Connect opens for summer 2021!**

Camp is back! And this time, with a twist. With Epworth By The Sea remaining closed to the public for the 2021 summer, [Camp Connect](#) is packing up and moving 18 miles away to Camp Jekyll on Jekyll Island! Registration is **now open** for all six camps (Bridge Camp, High School Camp, two Middle School Camps and two Elementary Camps). We cannot wait to see you on Jekyll Island this summer for a once-in-a-Camp-Connect experience!

[More information](#) | [Registration](#)

## **Apply today for Camp Connect Leadership Team!**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2021 [Camp Connect](#) Summer Leadership Team. Applications are open to college students who have completed at least one year of college. The Leadership Team will commit to nine weeks of camping ministry which will include serving at high school, middle school, and elementary camps. These camp counselors will minister to hundreds of youth and children throughout the summer while making Christian friendships with other staff members that last a lifetime.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Suzanne Akins, Camp Director, at (912) 638-8626 ext. 107 or by email at [suzanne@sgaumc.com](mailto:suzanne@sgaumc.com).

Follow Camp Connect on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CampConnectUMC](https://www.facebook.com/CampConnectUMC).

## Local Church Ministry Training

**5 THINGS YOUR VISITORS ARE THINKING BUT WON'T ASK**  
with Jason Moore  
April 12, 2021 | 1:00 - 3:30pm

Register at [www.sgaumc.org](http://www.sgaumc.org).

**VIRTUAL TOOLS FOR MINISTRY**  
with David Wood  
April 15, 2021 | 10:00 - 11:30am

We are excited to bring you relevant trainings to help equip local churches in their ministry setting. We have got a great line-up for April with trainings around hospitality and the virtual tools. We hope you will join us!

<https://sgaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/5thingshospitality>

## FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19-Related Deaths

In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020, for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. We know many churches across our Conference have been impacted by the loss of members of the church family. This information may be helpful for someone qualifying for assistance during a difficult time. FEMA's mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense grief for so many people. FEMA affirms their commitment to help with funeral and burial expenses that many families did not anticipate. There are certain criteria that must be met to be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance. For more information and for details on eligibility and how to apply, you can direct people to:

<http://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

# Journal of the South Georgia Annual Conference

## 2020 Journal of the South Georgia Annual Conference

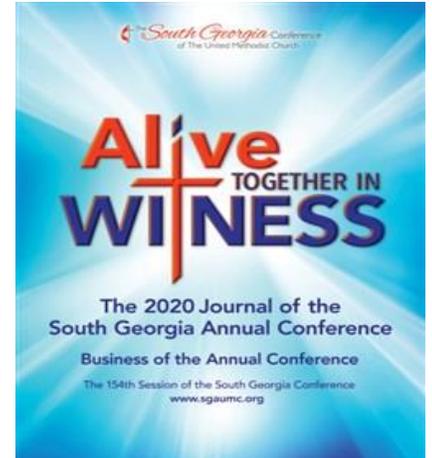
The 2020 *Journal of the South Georgia Annual Conference* is now available to order and download. Those wishing to purchase a Conference Journal will order their copy(ies) online, directly from the printer. The cost of the *Journal* is \$25 each plus tax and shipping. This method has streamlined the ordering process and promotes better stewardship of Conference resources. The *Journal* is also available as a free PDF download. If you have questions, please contact the Conference Journal Editor, Meredyth Earnest, at [meredyth@sgaumc.com](mailto:meredyth@sgaumc.com).

### [CLICK HERE to order your printed copy](#)

*Each print copy of the Journal costs \$25 plus tax and shipping.*

Digital download / free PDF

The Journal Committee is offering a digital copy of the *Journal of the South Georgia Annual Conference* as a free PDF download. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to download the file(s). If you do not already have it installed, visit [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and follow the instructions.



## Licensing School

The Office of Methodist Studies, the South Georgia Annual Conference, and the North Georgia Annual Conference work together to provide one educational program for the licensing of all certified candidates for ministry. The Division of Ordained Ministry, an entity of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, dictates the curriculum for licensing by providing guidelines based on competence in skills of ministry.

For further information, contact Amy Walker via email at [awalke8@emory.edu](mailto:awalke8@emory.edu) or call 404.727.4587.

For we walk by  
**Faith,**  
not by Sight.  
2 corinthians 5:7



# JOB OPPORTUNITY

## **Full Time Director of Youth Ministries – Swainsboro First UMC**

Swainsboro First United Methodist Church is seeking a full-time Director of Youth Ministries. Swainsboro is a vibrant mid-sized church with a growing children's ministry and desires to extend this success into the youth and young adult age groups. This position would begin in June. Salary and benefits would be commensurate with education, experience, and position development. Interested applicants should submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and a list of references to the following email address: [funcswainsboro@gmail.com](mailto:funcswainsboro@gmail.com).

Contact: Rev. David Unkles at 478-237-7535 for more information

## **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY**

Pittman Park United Methodist Church in Statesboro, GA is seeking a part-time Director of Youth Ministry. This position is responsible for leading Pittman Park's youth program to provide a nurturing and encouraging atmosphere to support youth in our community in the growth of their spiritual lives and walk with Christ. The Youth Ministry serves youth 6th through 12th grade.

Typical responsibilities of the position include leading/coordinating weekly youth activities at Pittman Park on Sundays and Wednesday evenings; coordinate activities of adult volunteers; organize events and trips for the youth; provide opportunities for youth to put their faith into action through caring for others; maintain Safe Sanctuaries guidelines for all youth activities; promote the youth program by reaching out to youth not currently involved in the program and provide a welcoming environment; build relationships with youth and families; administer budget for youth ministry. The position reports to the Senior Pastor.

The ideal candidate is someone who is spiritually mature, self-motivated, knowledgeable of the Bible, and can connect easily with youth. Background in the United Methodist Church is preferable.

Send cover letter and resume to email or address below. Please include in cover letter a statement of why you feel you would be a good fit for this position. Complete job description available upon request. High school diploma required.

Email address: [ppumc@nctv.com](mailto:ppumc@nctv.com)

Attention: Mark Murphree

Church address: 1102 Fair Road, Statesboro, GA 30458

## James Leon and Myrtice Marie K. Peed Award \$7,000 - \$10,000

The James Leon and Myrtice Marie K. Peed Award is open only to members of the South Georgia Annual Conference. Students must be a candidate for ministry in the South Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Applicants must be full-time undergraduate students at an accredited college or university, or a seminary student (part-time or full-time) at a United Methodist University Senate-approved seminary. All applicants should be pursuing academic requirements for ordination as a deacon or elder. Recipients must serve in the South Georgia Annual Conference for at least five years after ordination.

[Note: Apply using the specific Peed Award application link.](#)  
Scholarship Code for the Peed application: "GBHEMPeed".

The deadline is May 3, 2021.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

### **Lesley Baskette**

Director of Administration,  
UMCommission  
770.854.7283 | [umcommission.org](http://umcommission.org)

## Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Administrative Professionals Day

