



November 2020 Newsletter

Rev. David Thompson, District Superintendent
Jane Seaman, Administrative Assistant
Resident Bishop: Lawson Bryan



From the Bishop & Cabinet: Church Matters

October 19, 2020

Dear South Georgia Conference Family,

The Cabinet and I write to you with gratitude and respect for the way you have navigated the past eight months. The global pandemic, reckoning with racial justice, and the rolling restart of local churches - any one of those alone would be a huge challenge. Yet, you have faced them all with a perseverance and passion that comes from Christ our Lord.

While we continue to pray for a successful vaccine, we also recognize that we must plan for several more months of this unprecedented season. You already know that Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas will be different in 2020. However, many of you are focusing on the question, "How can we reach more people than ever this year?" **The Holy Spirit is at work giving us fresh visions and dreams for ministry!**

We draw your attention to the way John Wesley's General Rules continue to provide the guidance we need:

1. First, do no harm.

Acting with an abundance of caution, you have helped lower the rate of infection by using masks, frequent hand washing, and appropriate distancing. Protocols are in place for sanitizing church buildings and providing safe movement for people. Some are offering services designed specifically for medically fragile persons. Thank you for continuing all of these best practices.

2. Second, do all the good you can.

You have done this in a myriad of ways: adding online worship, Bible study, and prayer times; helping schools, hospitals, and nursing homes; and now you have resumed in-person worship and other gatherings based on your own awareness of conditions in your community. Close collaboration between pastors and lay leadership is absolutely essential to effectiveness in the local church. One important area for this collaboration is in addressing the question of [what happens if a member of the church tests positive for the coronavirus](#).

3. Third, attend upon all the ordinances of God.

In addition to worship, Bible study, and prayer opportunities - both online and in-person - we have reacquainted ourselves with the early Methodist tradition of the [Agape meal](#) when Holy Communion is not feasible. With the resumption of in-person services, many churches are utilizing best practices to offer Communion in ways that reduce the likelihood of spreading infection. We commend the intentionality with which our clergy and laity are developing ways of serving Holy Communion that are safe and yet do not diminish the profound meaning of the sacrament.

For all the interruptions and uncertainties of 2020, one thing emerges with great clarity: church matters. Local churches are the glue of every community. What you do makes a difference. Thanks be to God that you have been strategically placed to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ in such a time as this.

Alive Together at the Table,

Bishop R. Lawson Bryan & the South Georgia Cabinet

Coastal District Churches Keep Serving in the Midst of Pandemic!

Canaan Community UMC donates detergent to women's shelter



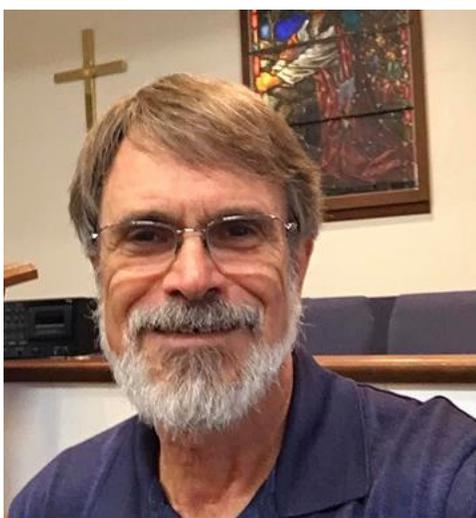
Canaan Community UMC in Savannah recently donated more than 40 bottles of laundry detergent to the Safe Shelter Women's Shelter in Savannah.

Pew Crew at Work to keep church Healthy!

Hinesville First United Methodist Church's "Pew Crew," pictured above, sanitizes the church's seats between the 9:30 and 11 a.m. worship services.



Rev. Ashley Randall participates in ONE.org series of conversations about faith



Rev. Ashley Randall, pictured above, pastor of Garden City United Methodist Church and a member of the Conference Advocacy Team, recently participated in a series of conversations that attempted to look at the public square through a faith lens. Rev. Randall was one of several faith leaders from across denominations and religions who offered perspective. His insights are found in episode four, "Our Duty" & "Least of These". [Click here to watch](#). The videos are produced by One.org, which fights extreme poverty and preventable disease.

District Board of Missions New Ministry Grants

The Coastal District Board of Missions is dedicated to supporting new initiatives that extend the life of the church into our communities. We encourage churches to be creative in starting new avenues that minister to those God has called you to serve. Perhaps you have been trying to figure out how to support families as they return to school in an online environment; maybe you are designing creative new online worship settings; want to start a food delivery ministry; or want to mentor students who need some extra help. Those new areas of ministry are innovative and exciting, but can also be filled with costs that were not dreamed of when budgets were being approved in the fall of 2019. Alternately, many new projects that were in process prior to 2020 may have come to a halt due to budgeting issues related to the pandemic. In support of these new efforts at reaching out into the community, the District Missions Board would like to partner with churches by offering grants to Coastal District churches and agencies. The grants offered are meant as a supplement to assist with the funding of the project. Support in the way of connection with churches that are doing ministry well in that area can also be arranged, as there is expressed need.

To make a request for a grant, please submit a detailed plan of the project to Jane Seaman (jane@sgaumc.org). The plan should include both time tables and a budget (which should show all the avenues being explored to fully fund the project). You may be asked to meet with the Board of Missions as a

Zoom Conversations at Noon!

Grab some lunch, pull up a chair, and join Connectional Ministries for Conversations at the Table. We have several upcoming topics to explore so you can learn from others, share ideas, and be inspired. All conversations will be held via Zoom. Register today at www.sgaumc.org/conversationsatthetable.

- November 10: Communications: Clarifying your Message

Disaster Response Update

Our [South Georgia Disaster Response](#) coordinators and teams continue to show the strength of the connection and the value in reaching out immediately in the aftermath of a disaster. Below is just a sampling of our teams' work and other ways in which the South Georgia Conference is active in our [Disaster Response](#) ministry.



Responding in Rincon

Thank you to the 12 South Georgia Early Response Team volunteers who quickly responded and deployed to help clean up after an F1 tornado touched down in the Coastal District in September. "I am blessed to be a blessing," said one volunteer. We are thankful for the leadership of Kelly Crane, Coastal District Disaster Response Coordinator.

RESOURCES

New Digital Media training

(UMCom) A brand new Digital Media for Ministry online training course is now available! This course is an in-depth guide to the most effective ways to communicate using technology. You'll learn how to create engaging podcasts, captivating videos, blogs and email newsletters as well as promote your new messaging through social media.

[Learn more](#)

Training series: Video Editing for Churches

Compelling video is a powerful way to tell your church's story. Get started with the support of a FREE new training series: Video Editing for Churches. The first fast-track learning opportunity focuses on Adobe Rush, an editing tool that helps busy clergy and volunteers give ministry videos a professional touch. [Read more](#)

Lay Ministry Opportunities Online Classes using the Zoom Platform

In-Person Training:

Nov. 6 - 7 (Advanced) [Register here](#)

Schedule of the Day

Friday, 6:30 pm – 9 pm

Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm

In-Person Registration Fee: \$40
(includes lunch on Saturday)

(Note: Basic Lay Servant class
must be completed before taking
Advanced Class)

Certified Lay Minister Training

A Certified Lay Minister shall preach the Word, provide care to the congregation, assist in program leadership, witness to the community, develop new and existing faith communities, lead small groups, and establish outreach ministries. The CLM is supported by a mutual ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person and mentor. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶419.2 in the Book of Discipline. The Certified Lay Minister training builds on the foundation established in the Basic and Advanced Lay Servant courses in which participants:

Develop a Mutual Ministry Team which covenants with them and supports them as long as they are CLMs.

All Certified Lay Ministry courses offered in the district can be found

here: <https://www.sgaumc.org/certifiedlayministrytraining>. Have questions about Lay Ministry Training?

E-mail anne@thechapelministries.com for more information.

[Certified Lay Minister Training Brochure](#)

2020-2021 Sexual Ethics Workshops for Clergy

Due to Covid-19 and the limitations on large group gatherings, the 2020-2021 Sexual Ethics Workshop will be held virtually. [Click here for more details.](#)

According to the Conference Sexual Ethics policy, this workshop is REQUIRED EVERY (3) THREE YEARS for any person serving under appointment by the bishop (clergy, local pastors, extension ministers, appointed lay speakers). Cost for the workshop is \$35.

For questions, please email cpcassistant@sgaumc.com.

February 2021

New Virtual Format

[Click here to register for the February workshop](#)

April 2021

New Virtual Format

[Click here to register for the April workshop](#)

Clergy Needing Re-Certification:

Aimee Baxter	Wright Culpepper	Derek Hobbs	Eddie Morrison	Scott Tucker
Hale Bishop	James Davis	Jin-Won Park	Jose' Velasquez	Sam Vernon
Dylan Bowden	Tom Dent	Brantley Horton	Anita Pringle	Jason Wade
Gary Boyles	Kris Dockery	Damon Hubert	Meg Procopio	Matt Waldron
Paul Broussard	Jeffery Doke	Sue Jackson	Nicholas Pumfrey	Tom Whatley
Darrell Carter	Josh Duckworth	Andy Lamon	Eddie Rawl	Roy White
Marcia Cochran	Fred Edie	Ralph Long	Debora Richards	Andrew Young
Bessie Cohen	David Farrior	Ben Martin	Adam Ricker	
Donald Combs	Doug Goode	Sam Martin	Christina Ruehl	
Eddie Conaway	Ben Gosden	Jim McIlrath	John Ryan	
Michael Culbreth	Cathy Green	Michael Miller	Ken Sharpe	
Bill Culpepper	Chester Harris	Ken Morgan	Shelly Sims	

Upcoming Events:

- **Virtual District-Wide Charge Conference via Zoom on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 3:00pm** (Look for Email instructions!)
- **November 9, 2020: Clergy Compensation Forms Part 2 Open** (Input your Health Insurance and Pension information into your Clergy Compensation Forms on Dashboard!)
- **December 4, 2020: Clergy Compensation Forms Part 2 Close**

Conference News

Bishop Bryan: Vote - it's our right and responsibility

With the November 3 Election Day only three weeks away, I encourage all eligible voters to cast their ballot either in person or by absentee ballot. Each time I vote in an election, I find myself remembering what Teddy Roosevelt said more than 100 years ago: "The Methodist Church is the most American of all denominations." [Read more](#)

2021 Annual Conference dates, Post-General Conference gathering announced

The 2021 Annual Conference Session is set for **June 6-8** at [The Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center](#).

The Annual Conference Session program committee met this week to discuss both the June session and other potential gatherings needed later in 2021. The 155th session of the South Georgia Annual Conference will meet in Columbus, Ga. beginning Sunday evening, June 6 and concluding on Tuesday, June 8. In addition to our time together in June, Bishop Lawson Bryan, in consultation with the program committee, has set a post-General Conference gathering for Saturday, **October 9, 2021**. The October meeting will be held in a conference-central location to be announced at a later date.



Epworth
by the Sea



Join us for the
6th annual
St. Simons Island Storytelling Festival!
February 19-21, 2021

Epworth By The Sea

[On-Campus Housing Registration & Tickets click here!](#)
[Commuter Registration & Tickets click here!](#)

Spend a weekend listening to tales of adventure, excitement and hilarity. Relive past times and celebrate the best of humanity in the joy-filled space of story. You will laugh, you will cry and you will discover how very alive you can feel!



VIDEO EDITING FOR CHURCHES

Are you a busy clergy person, lay leader or ministry volunteer who wants to create videos that stand out? The **Video Editing for Churches** learning experience is for you! Enroll to access online courses that focus on recording great videos and using Adobe Rush and iMovie to format videos for platforms like Facebook, YouTube or your website. [Enroll Here!](#)

Pastors! Do you need a financial first aid kit?

Do you feel confident in your ability to manage both your personal finances AND the church's finances? If not, help is on the way! The Georgia United Methodist Foundation has pioneered a program called the Clergy Financial Literacy Academy. CFLA is an online and Zoom course designed especially for pastors with little training in finance and less time to invest. [Click Here](#) for more info or to register!



Birthdays:

Carolyn Seckinger (RS)	2
Tracy B. Young (S)	2
Devin Schultz (P)	3
Jose' Velasquez (P)	4
Sara Beth Stout (S)	6
Mary Ann Traver (RetP)	8
Marie Rainge (P)	11
Patricia Zeitlin(RS)	11
Shelly Sims (P)	
Bernadine Nease (S)	13
Mary Varnell (RS)	13
Ben Gosden (P)	14
Randy Mosley (P)	14
Susan Martin (S)	15
Larry Striklin (P)	15
J. Michael Culbreth (P)	19
Gary L. Boyles (P)	22
Andrew J. Young, II (P)	22
Amy Perry (S)	26
Clay Loadman (P)	27
Enoch L. Hendry (RP)	30



Anniversaries:

Bill & Becky Reinheld	23
Jay & Cathy Tucker	24

Clergy: *If you or your spouse are not listed, notify Jane Seaman at jane@sgaumc.com*



Please Pray:

- [Rev. Grover Bell](#) (Retired - Coastal District) was admitted to Memorial Hospital Cardiac Center in Savannah for heart problems.
- Marlene Thornton, widow of Rev. Dale Thornton (Coastal District), passed away on October 6. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, her funeral and burial will be private. Please remember her family and many friends in your prayers. The obituary for Mrs. Marlene Thornton, widow of Rev. Dale Thornton (Coastal District), may be viewed [here](#).
- [Rev. Matt Hearn](#) (Gateway - Coastal District) has received infusions of his own T-cells that have been engineered to specifically fight his cancer. Please pray those new T-cells will actively do their job and kill the cancer cells and shrink the tumors. One of the tumors is wrapped around a place on his spine making surgery very risky. He has been in a lot of pain.
- [Rev. Shannon Baxter](#) (Isle of Hope - Coastal District) had a procedure on Friday, October 9, 2020, to remove kidney stones. Pray for full recuperation.
- Mrs. Brooke Deverger (wife of Rev. Wesley Deverger - Arco UMC - Coastal District) has had persistently low platelet blood counts since giving birth earlier this year. Prayers for healing and wisdom as doctors are investigating and trying treatments.
- Billie June Boyd, wife of James Boyd, Retired, Coastal District has moved to Dacula, GA. If you would like her information, please call Jane at 912-445-5852. Please pray for her adjustment to her new residence.