



The *South Georgia* Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

**SOUTH GEORGIA ADVOCATE – APRIL 7 EDITION**

**Richmond Hill's Waterfront Church constituted**

**By Kara Witherow, *Editor***

On Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011, about 140 people joined Rev. Adam Ricker and his family as they launched The Waterfront Church.

A little more than two years later, on Sunday, March 2, 2014, 235 worshippers, including 49 charter members, celebrated the Richmond Hill church plant's official constitution into The United Methodist Church.

Moving from St. Simons Island, where he previously served as Associate Director of Life Span Ministries for Connectional Ministries, to Richmond Hill to plant the church from scratch – called a parachute drop plant – was scary, says Rev. Ricker. He and his family didn't know anyone in town and the church didn't have a place to meet.

“What we've learned over the past two-and-half years is that God had been preparing this place for The Waterfront Church long before we arrived,” he said. “In fact, we've met individuals who have been praying for this new church for more than 15 years. Despite our initial fears, God has been incredibly faithful and our family has been blessed by the lives that we've seen impacted through this ministry.”

Bishop James King, Savannah District Superintendent Rev. Mike Huling and Dr. Tim Bagwell, executive director of South Georgia's New and Revitalized Congregational Development (NRCD), were present to preside over official business. Bishop King preached a message titled “FLOW,” and said that Christians should be instruments of God who allow the Spirit to flow and impact communities through them.

The service also included members sharing, via video, why they love The Waterfront Church. At the close of the service, the church's children joined with the congregation to celebrate with a balloon drop. The United Methodist connection celebrated too, with representatives on hand from churches including Isle of Hope UMC, Gateway Community Church Effingham, Richmond Hill UMC, Baxley First UMC and Gilchrist Park UMC.

The Waterfront Church is just one of the 684 new United Methodist Churches that were established in the United States during 2008-2012. The number surpassed the denomination's new church development goal for the quadrennium by 34.

Starting new churches is not a new initiative, said Dr. Bagwell.

"John Wesley was interested in movement far more than he was interested in organization," Dr. Bagwell said. "New congregations remind all of us of Wesleyan passion. The Waterfront is a movement! Lives are changed. Jesus is introduced. Relationships are started. New and Revitalized Congregational Development seeks to help all congregations discover and rediscover the power of the Spirit's movement."

Lives are truly being changed through The Waterfront Church. A few weeks ago the congregation celebrated as two youth and three adults were baptized.

"One of the adults baptized was 60 years old and was joining a church for first time in her life," Rev. Ricker said. "In her testimony she shared that if God could save her then He could save anyone. Her story is only one of many who admit that for the first time in their adult lives they are aware of the grace of God at work in them and want desperately to grow in that grace."

Planting, growing and nurturing The Waterfront Church has been an honor, a challenge and an opportunity for growth, said Rev. Ricker.

"Planting a church was not what we began ministry intending to accomplish, but this opportunity is and will always be something that we cherish," he said. "Every day our faith grows through the opportunities and obstacles we experience in this unique ministry setting."

The support, prayers, resources and encouragement he and the congregation have received during the past two-and-a-half years has been vital to their success.

"The Waterfront Church was birthed through the connection of The United Methodist Church," Rev. Ricker said. "I am encouraged weekly through emails and phone calls from pastors and churches in South Georgia who believe this ministry is an investment in the future of The United Methodist Church."

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## **Waterfront Church has a heart for missions**

**By Kara Witherow, *Editor***

At just two years old, Richmond Hill's Waterfront Church has already developed a heart for missions, both locally and abroad.

In November 2013, seven members of the newly constituted church traveled to Chincha Alta, Peru. The trip was coordinated through Light For The Nations, an evangelism and missions ministry founded by Rev. Mike Ricker, senior pastor of Isle of Hope United Methodist Church and father of Waterfront Church's pastor Rev. Adam Ricker.

Located near Peru's coast about 124 miles south of Lima, Chincha Alta was devastated when a magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck the area in August 2007, killing more than 500 people.

Not only were lives, homes, churches and businesses destroyed, many residents also lost hope.

Not long after the earthquake, a Peruvian friend and fellow pastor invited Rev. Mike Ricker to Chincha Alta. During that first trip, he forged deep relationships with area pastors and congregations.

"Our purpose in going was not to rebuild structures, but to help people rebuild their faith and their hope," said Rev. Mike Ricker. "Many of them had lost that. We weren't able to rebuild structures, but we were able to help rebuild lives through teaching and preaching the word of God, praying with the people, talking with people and encouraging them."

The main purpose of Waterfront Church's trip was to minister to Chincha Alta's large population of young adults through nightly rallies. The team also operated a temporary dental clinic that served more than 200 children.

During the day, several team members, one a dentist, cleaned teeth, pulled teeth, filled cavities, and taught children and parents about basic oral hygiene. Others traveled to local television and radio stations to share their testimonies and promote the evening young adult worship services.

This was Anna and Matt Ross's first mission trip, but they both feel called to eventually be full-time missionaries and jumped at the chance to go to Peru.

Anna, an Army dentist, spent her days serving children at the dental clinic, most who had never before received dental care. Matt shared his personal testimony and the gospel message on television and the radio. Both say that the trip helped solidify their desire to one day serve as full-time missionaries.

"Sharing the gospel is my passion," Matt said. "I think that missions is what the gospel is all about. There are billions of people out there who have never had the opportunity to hear the name of Jesus, and they are dying eternally separated from God. That's a burden that's been placed on our hearts to do what we can to get the word out to more people."

Evenings were spent preaching, teaching and building relationships.

Rev. Adam Ricker, pastor of the Waterfront Church, preached at each evening rally. Through an interpreter, he shared with hundreds of young adults the message and hope of Jesus Christ.

The trip, he said, was an opportunity for the church to spread the gospel and to grow its faith.

“Our church is just two years old, so a lot of our ministry has been focused on growing the congregation and to try to get it to a place where it’s a healthy, mature, functioning church,” he said. “So this was really the first opportunity we’ve had to invest outside of ourselves. We’ve done a lot in the community... but this was solely for the purpose of us giving outside of ourselves without any real expectation of return other than being a blessing on that community.

“This was a huge step in our faith journey.”

Several church members gave sacrificially so the team could make the trip, and many others supported it with their prayers and finances.

“This was an opportunity for our church to grow, not necessarily in terms of adding to our numbers, but growing in our faith and in what we are able to do in the world around us,” Rev. Adam Ricker said. “This was a maturing moment for our congregation.”

While in Peru, team members built relationships with local pastors and congregations. They hope to cultivate and grow those friendships, to continue to send teams, and offer support and encouragement and help where they can. Another group will travel back to Chincha Alta in July.

The trip also helped the Waterfront Church congregation realize that they can make a significant impact in their own community. They are partnering with other area congregations to bring Family Promise, an organization that helps homeless and low-income families achieve independence, to Bryan County.

“This trip to Peru opened our eyes to seeing the needs in our own community and where we might be able to have an impact,” Rev. Adam Ricker said. “We were able to go to Peru and see the ministry they were doing and the tremendous impact they were having with limited resources. That helped us realize that we’re not limited by our resources and that we can make an impact in our community. We just need to take a look around and see what those needs are and figure out how we can start meeting those needs.”

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## **440 congregations pay 100% or more**

With a commitment to stewardship, 425 congregations paid 100 percent of their 2013 apportionments and 15 congregations paid greater than 100 percent.

“Thank you for your devotion to the connection,” said Bishop James King in an email to pastors and congregants. “You are well on your way to being Five-Star Pastors and Congregations!”

[Click here to view the complete list of churches who have paid 100 percent or more.](#)

## **On the heart of your Bishop – April**

**FROM THE BISHOP**

**JAMES R. KING, JR.**

Hello, beautiful people of South Georgia!

This article features comments on the following:

- Five-Star Pastors
- The Transition
- Sabbath
- Communication

Thanks to the pastors and congregations who paid 100% of their apportionments:

15 congregations paid more than 100% of their apportionments.

425 congregations paid 100 % of their apportionments.

More and more pastors and congregations are taking their stewardship commitment seriously. The United Methodist way is connectional and links us to the mission to *make disciples of all nations*.

We must continue to teach stewardship principles and the United Methodist way. We must not only teach but measure for results as well as encourage by highlighting and affirming those who are faithful.

Please note: Because we are adding the Five-Star System for laity we are changing the name of the “Apportionment Star” to “Stewardship Star.” This will also help us connect the Ten Timeless Values to the Five-Star System.

Based on this year’s apportionment year-end report, we have 440 potential Five-Star Pastors. When we are able to proclaim 440 pastors and congregations who have *all five stars*, we will have the greatest disciple-making conference in United Methodism.

Alleluia!!!

Praise God!!!

### **The Transition**

I hope all clergy, lay members to Annual Conference and concerned members of The United Methodist Church in South Georgia will attend the District Conference in their district. A large portion of the agenda at your District Conference will be the report regarding the transition from nine to six districts.

It is common for change to increase anxiety. Sometimes negative thinking and negative comments surface as we attempt to resist an unfamiliar future. There are two things you can count on: first, recommendations will be relevant because they will be tied to the Ten Timeless Values and our Wesleyan heritage. Second, we will be more connectional because more people will be involved close to home.

### **Sabbath**

No break time!

It is an unwritten statement in our culture. The work of ministry is sacred, urgent but also endless. Sabbath time means time for rest. Sabbath is also sacred. *If you do not brake you will break.* Sabbath is one of the Ten Timeless Values – live it and teach it.

### **Communicate**

The word Gospel means good news. People are very busy and occupied with multiple agendas. You must find various ways and multiple opportunities for members to receive your message. I am constantly looking for people and systems who can help me communicate the vision to Grow a Christlike World. Read our Advocate ([sgaumc.org/advocate](http://sgaumc.org/advocate)), follow me as I tweet ([twitter.com/BishopJamesKing](https://twitter.com/BishopJamesKing)), and visit my blog at [bishopking.org](http://bishopking.org).

For a faster response when communicating with me by email, use [bishopsec@sgaumc.com](mailto:bishopsec@sgaumc.com).

Until next time, remember – God’s will for us is good. We must do the rest.

*Growing a Christlike World.*

With love,

Your Bishop,  
James R. King, Jr.

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### **South Georgia partners with Imagine No Malaria to eradicate disease**

In 2011, a child died from malaria every 30 seconds. Today, malaria claims a life in Africa every 60 seconds.

Through the extraordinary effort of the people of The United Methodist Church, malaria’s impact has been cut in half and lives are being saved. But still more needs to be done. Hundreds of thousands of lives are needlessly lost each year because of this preventable disease.

Together with other annual conferences within the connection, the South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church is partnering with Imagine No Malaria to completely eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015.

An effort of The United Methodist Church, Imagine No Malaria is a way to put faith into action. At the 2011 Annual Conference Session, South Georgia United Methodists joined hands and hearts to give more than \$75,000 in a single special offering for the cause. With those funds, more than 7,500 lifesaving mosquito nets were able to be purchased and distributed.

At this year's Annual Conference session in Savannah, the Conference will again collect a special offering to support Imagine No Malaria in its quest to eradicate the disease. Each church is encouraged to receive an offering in the weeks prior to Annual Conference and bring the offering with them to Savannah.

"The proceeds from this year's annual conference offering will aid United Methodists in our combined efforts to eliminate the threat of malaria deaths in Africa," said Rev. Denise Walton, Assistant to the Bishop for Connectional Ministries. "Together, we can help to save lives of our brothers and sisters. Dear Lord, according to your will let it be so."

Achieving the goal of eradicating malaria requires a comprehensive, four-pronged approach to fighting the disease that includes prevention, education, treatment and communication. With The United Methodist Church's help, malaria will soon be a thing of the past.

*Money collected prior to the June 1-3 Annual Conference Session in Savannah can be placed in the offering place during opening worship. Donations can be sent anytime to the Office of Administrative Services; PO Box 52101; Macon, GA 31208 with the Imagine No Malaria Advance Special #5840. For more information about Imagine No Malaria, visit [www.imagenomalaria.org](http://www.imagenomalaria.org).*

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## **UMM Retreat set for April 25-27**

### [DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE](#)

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.

The retreat's speaker and music leader is Eddie Middleton, a Georgia-based evangelist. The Retreat will begin at noon on Friday, April 25 with a golf tournament at Sanctuary Cove Golf Club in Waverly (just off I-95) and will conclude after lunch on Sunday, April 27.

Golf Tournament information is below. They are currently looking for hole sponsors and players for this event to help fund Missions projects for UMM of South Georgia.

[Click here to download the golf registration form.](#)

[Click here to download the golf tournament rules.](#)

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## **A Messianic Priest-King**

**Sunday school lesson for the week of April 13, 2014**

**By Dr. Hal Brady**

**Lesson Scripture:** Jeremiah 23:5, 6; Zachariah 6:9-15; John 19:1-5

Some individuals and couples are known as “fun people.” We look forward to being with them in the present and future because we have experienced them as enjoyable in the past. On the other hand, if we’ve experienced folks as being “perpetual complainers,” our expectations are entirely different.

It has been suggested that what is true for individuals or couples may also be true of entire peoples and nations. Here, I’m not talking about “fun people,” but the fact that our present and future expectations are based on experiences from the past. A case in point is that Israel’s past experiences with kings shaped its future expectations for a certain king. And our two Old Testament lessons from Jeremiah and Zachariah illustrate that connection.

### **The King Recognized**

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God declared his intention “to raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king...” (23:5). Right there, we see the promise of a future king made in reference to a past king. David’s reign had occurred 400 years prior to Jeremiah’s ministry in Judah and Jerusalem. During David’s kingship, the 12 tribes of Israel were strong and united, but in Jeremiah’s time things had fallen apart. The northern 10 tribes had been destroyed by the Assyrians a century earlier. And the remaining southern kingdom of Judah was tottering on the brink of destruction. Compared to the chaos of Jeremiah’s day, David’s era must have looked “golden,” indeed. David’s reign symbolized the good old days, when Jerusalem had everything going for it – strength, prosperity, and security.

No doubt, it was with a hopeful, pleasant expectancy that the people thought of the future king in Davidic terms. In the past, all the kings of Israel had been measured by David. So, based on Israel’s past experiences with David, the people’s future expectations were bright.

As we know, the prophecy of Zachariah 6 does not specifically mention David. However, because Zachariah was several generations after Jeremiah, his use of the term “Branch” may have been thought of as a connection to David’s promised descendent. Furthermore, scholars inform us that Zachariah, like

Jeremiah, greatly anticipated the reign of this “Branch” who is a priest and king, who establishes the Lord’s house, who is implicitly identified with David; and whose name, in the New Testament Greek, would be Jesus.

Consider how God characterizes this coming reign: wisdom, justice, righteousness and safety. As we are informed, these words reveal the perfect will of God. The reign of this “Branch” will, in fact, be the kingdom of God.

### **The King Unrecognized**

If David and his reign are seen as the best, then everyone should strive to that standard. Undoubtedly, the people’s past experiences biased their future expectations for David’s “golden era.” But what if David was not the end of all ends? What if David’s good reign was meant to be only a beginning? When looking for a Messiah, scholars suggest “that David is not the sticker price from which you negotiate down. Rather, David is the opening bid to which God adds still more value.”

For sure, David was great, but he was also mortal. In David’s character, there were royal qualities of strength and magnanimity, but there were also dangerous passions. At times, he showed serious weaknesses and terrible lapses of judgment. But regarding his descendant, the “Branch” that is something entirely different.

If the people were looking for a warrior-king just to liberate and rule their nation for a generation, then David might do. But God has a much larger vision in mind regarding this Promised Branch of David. In terms of the Messiah, God is thinking global and his plan includes the salvation and liberation of all people. Indeed, God’s plan is eternal and includes the redemption of all creation. And his method of conquest is the way of humble service in using “a towel and basin,” embodying self-sacrifice and love. In addition, his followers will likewise do the same. To be sure, the world has never seen this king of king and perhaps that’s the reason he is unrecognized.

### **The King Rejected**

“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged” (John 19:1). Just that! Yet a flogging with the terrible iron-tipped and iron-weighted Roman lash was a horrible ordeal. Flogging would tear the lacerated flesh to ribbons and often cause death. But of that, there was not a word.

Sick and dizzy with pain, Jesus found no sympathy among the guards. These were hardened soldiers, and they had heard of the charge that Jesus had claimed to be the king of the Jews. They saw a chance for some immense entertainment. So these guards dressed Jesus in a faded tunic, which would pass for royal purple. They wove some sharp thorns into a crown and forced it down upon his head. In derision, they kept chanting, “Hail, King of the Jews!” while they continued striking him on the face” (19:3).

“Here’s the man!” said Pilate, bringing Jesus out, still wearing the emblems of his bogus royalty” (19:5). Pilate saw through the false charges of the officials and wanted Jesus flogged and freed, but he didn’t have the courage to take a stand.

For all the speculation about Jesus' identity as "King of the Jews" prior to his birth and during his lifetime, people didn't really understand what kind of king he was. As we are told, the leaders and people alike only thought in terms of the kind of kings they had known. And with their limited vision they didn't recognize the real king right there in their midst. They never understood that "(his) kingdom is not of the world" (John 18:36).

So many years of hoping and waiting for God's special king, but they didn't recognize him. What about us?

Dr. Kirby Godsey, former President of Mercer, says, "That you and I are not defined by the passing of days, of hours or minutes, or even months or years...in each of our histories, it is the moments that count, not the minutes. There are moments that are unique and defining for each of us...When certain, specific events occur, we are never quite the same – an encounter, a marriage, a divorce, an automobile accident, an illness, a fire, an angry word, a storm, a broken relationship, and enduring friendship. And I would add, **a divine recognition.**

**Action Plan:**

1. Whose leadership and power is threatened in this story?
2. What keeps us from recognizing Jesus?

*Dr. Hal Brady is a retired pastor who continues his ministry through Hal Brady Ministries ([www.halbradyministries.com](http://www.halbradyministries.com)). He can be reached at [hal@halbradyministries.com](mailto:hal@halbradyministries.com).*

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**The Third Day**

**Sunday school lesson for the week of April 20, 2014**

**By Dr. Hal Brady**

**Lesson Scripture:** Hosea 6:1-3; Luke 24:1-12

On this glorious Easter Sunday, we will investigate how "The Third Day," which is based on Luke 24:1-12, fulfills a prophecy of Hosea (6:1-3). The eighth century prophet, Hosea, along with Amos, preached in the Northern kingdom of Israel. It was the era of the powerful and ruthless Assyrian Empire, which eventually conquered the north.

Because the Israelites had abandoned their covenantal agreement with God and had lived for themselves and their idols, consequently, the Lord chastened them. But God's chastening, though painful, was not meant to be final. The call was for the people to "return to the Lord" (genuinely repent of their sins) in order to benefit from the assurances of the second-half of verse one – "the healing and binding us up."

Now, the central issue of the first two verses of Hosea is the promise of restoration from God. That theme is introduced and re-introduced in these verses. In Hebrew, parallelism is a poetic literary device aimed at the repetition and contrasting of images. For example, “It is he [the Lord] who has torn” and is paralleled by the statement that “he has struck down.” There, we see that “God will revive us” and “he will raise us up.” Scholars suggest that evidently that perfect restoration will occur “on the third day.”

Verse three of our Hosea text even holds a stronger urging to return to the Lord, “Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord...” For his coming is as certain as the sunrise and his blessings are as sure as the seasonal rains.

Note that Hosea specified “two and three days.” Question! Did Hosea know what he was talking about more than 700 years before the death and resurrection of Jesus? Scholars answer, “Probably not. But the Lord who spoke through him knew what he was talking about.”

From our traditional understanding of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ final week in Jerusalem we are informed that Jesus was arrested on Thursday evening, crucified Friday afternoon and rose from the dead early on Sunday morning. The time between his death and resurrection simply doesn’t match the 72-hour total that we would declare as three days. However, as scholars inform us, the Jewish reckoning of a new day starts at sundown and even a part of a day counts as a day, therefore, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday would together be considered three days.

On Easter morning, the angels said to the women at the tomb, “Remember, how he told you that while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again” (Luke 24:7). In notable balance, Jesus had previously told his disciples three times what would happen to him in Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19), and each time he said he would rise “on the third day.”

Jesus also referred to the significance of “the third day” on other occasions. When he sent messengers to Herod, the message was that he would finish his work “on the third day” (Luke 13:32). And Jesus’ followers on the Emmaus Road mentioned to him, “It is now the third day since these things took place” (Luke 24:21).

The point is we take the words of Hosea and superimpose them onto the Gospel story. Jesus was betrayed on Thursday night, crucified Friday afternoon (the first day), buried Saturday (the second day) and He rose again “On the third day.”

### **Hosea’s Timeless Gospel**

The people of Hosea’s day had drifted away from God. In so doing, they are representative of all humanity. Paul said, “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). So, undoubtedly, these people had felt some of the consequences of their life away from God (even as we do). But God’s word to them was not a word of condemnation. God didn’t want to destroy or abandon them. What God wanted to do was redeem them.

Thus, Hosea's message of redemption was twofold. First, God invited the people to return to him. Second, God would graciously revive and restore those who returned. Hear me now! It is the timing of Hosea that is the key here. Hosea declared, "After two day he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him" (Hosea 6:2). The timing given in Hosea is the specific that rewards God's ultimate plan, not only for his audience, but for all of us as well. As the scholars state, it is what Jesus did after two days and on the third day that truly revives and restores. Our hope always is in our returning to the Lord.

### **"Third Day" Resurrection Power**

At the tomb, according to Luke, the angels said to the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He's not here, but has risen" (Luke 24:5). What incredible news! He has risen!!!!

I simply cannot imagine these women's initial reaction. At any rate, they were off to tell the eleven. But when these women arrived and shared their good new, there were not believed. We are told that the apostles, those who had spent three intimate years with Jesus, disbelieved the women. Their words seemed to them...take your pick...as in idle take," "empty talk," "utter nonsense."

Now, honestly, do we not feel a measure of comfort with these apostles? Sure we do! No one needs to remind us that ours is not one of the great ages of faith. The energetic beliefs and mighty affirmations of yesterday simply do not come easily for contemporary Christians.

But for those of us who are in the struggle, mixtures of faith and doubt, I offer these suggestions and conclude:

1. Remember! The angels said to the women, "Remember how he told you that the Son of man must be crucified and on the third day be raised" (Luke 24:6, 7). Concentrate on the teachings of Holy Scripture.
2. Respond! Response is always the key! Notice that the resurrection happened only to his followers. It is only by first following him that we can begin to find out who he is.
3. Represent! Be the resurrection for somebody else.

On a Sunday morning in a certain city church, the Gospel lesson had been read and the minister was about to begin the sermon. Suddenly, a stranger seated in the balcony stood up and interrupted the service. "I have a word from the Lord!" he shouted. Heads whipped around and ushers raced up to the balcony like roadrunners to escort the man into the street before he could comment on just what "word" he had been given.

So week after week we preachers and teachers stand in or around an array of pulpits and say, in effect, the same thing as that man in the balcony: "I have a word from the Lord!" But for the most part, no alarm sounds and no one is astounded. No one muscles us out into the street.

"He's not here! He has Risen!"

I wish I could have written this lesson from the balcony.

**Action Plan:**

1. What does “return to the Lord” mean in Hosea 6:1 and how is it possible?
2. Compare the Easter accounts in John 20:1-18 and Luke 24:1-12. How are these accounts different and similar?

*Dr. Hal Brady is a retired pastor who continues his ministry through Hal Brady Ministries ([www.halbradyministries.com](http://www.halbradyministries.com)). He can be reached at [hal@halbradyministries.com](mailto:hal@halbradyministries.com).*

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**Events in the South Georgia Conference – 4/7/2014 edition**

**Wesley Glen Ministries’ Annual Fish Fry – April 12**

On Saturday, April 12, Wesley Glen Ministries in Macon will hold their Annual Fish Fry. They will also present Gospel Praise 2014 featuring local praise and worship groups. This year’s special attraction will be Wesley Glen’s very own Indoor Marketplace. All activities will take place at the Wesley Glen Ministries Life Skills Center at 4580 North Mumford Road in Macon from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Fish fry plates are available for \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Come and take part in this great event benefiting a great ministry. Bring the whole family and a heart ready to worship! For more information call 478-471-3711.

**Eagles’ Annual Picnic – April 24**

The Eagles, better known as the retired ministers of the South Georgia Conference, will have their annual picnic on April 24 (the Thursday after Easter) at McRae United Methodist Church. The Eagles will start gathering at 11:30 a.m. A brief business session will be held at noon, followed by a fish fry (with all the trimmings) provided by the church’s United Methodist Men. Reservations are needed by April 15. Contact Rev. Dave Hanson ([912-634-6384](tel:912-634-6384) or [jdavehanson@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdavehanson@bellsouth.net)) or Rev. Eugene Barlow ([478-953-3422](tel:478-953-3422) or [cunwr10@yahoo.com](mailto:cunwr10@yahoo.com)). The picnic is a great time to renew friendships, learn the news of the conference and just have some good fellowship.

**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.](#)

**Statesboro District Conference – April 27**

The Statesboro District Conference is set for Sunday, April 27, from 4 until 6 p.m., at Pittman Park United Methodist Church in Statesboro.

### **Clergy Sexual Ethics Workshop – April 29**

A Sexual Ethics Workshop is scheduled for April 29, 2014, at Vineville UMC in Macon. 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, email [cpcassistant@sgaumc.com](mailto:cpcassistant@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.

### **Thomasville District Conference – May 4**

The Thomasville District Conference will meet Sunday, May 4, from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m., at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Albany.

### **Americus District Conference – May 4**

The Americus District Conference will be held Sunday, May 4, from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at Cordele First United Methodist Church.

### **Native American Awareness Sunday – May 4**

On Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists cultivate and support urban missions with Native Americans and fund scholarships for Native American seminarians. Your annual conference retains 50 percent of the offering is to strengthen and develop Native American ministries. However, if no Native American ministries exist in the conference, the entire offering is remitted to the General Council on Finance and Administration for Native American ministries in other areas. The remaining 50 percent of the offering expands mission work with the Native American Urban Initiative and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist and other approved schools of theology. Is it easier to learn Native American traditions from a Native American or an Irish American? This is why the Native American Ministries Sunday offering is critical – to continue the traditions and nurture the gifts of Native Americans. [Click here for resources to help promote this special Sunday.](#)

### **Columbus District Conference – May 6**

The Columbus District Conference will be held Tuesday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m. at Wynnton United Methodist Church in Columbus.

### **Magnolia Manor Sunday – May 11**

Magnolia Manor was founded on the promise that no one should be denied care because of their inability to pay. 50 years later that promise remains, but we need your help. A ministry of The United Methodist Church that serves older adults of all faiths throughout South Georgia, Magnolia Manor invites you to honor or remember your mother with a donation this Mother's Day. Donate through your church or [click here to give online](#). To learn more about Magnolia Manor, visit [www.magnoliamanor.com](http://www.magnoliamanor.com).

### **Valdosta District Lay Servant Training – May 17**

On Saturday, May 17, the Valdosta District will offer a combination basic and advanced lay servant

training course. There is always a need for qualified Lay Servants/Speakers who can fill in if a pastor needs to be away from his/her pulpit. Lay Servant/Speakers are also asked to do devotionals, meditations, etc. at other events. The cost is \$20 per participant and includes lunch. This course also qualifies as the refresher course that a Certified Lay Servant/Speaker must complete once every three years to maintain “Certified” status. Led by Dr. Carl McDonald, the training will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on May 17 at Hahira United Methodist Church. For more information, contact the Valdosta District Office at 229-242-7470.

**2014 Annual Conference Session – June 1-3**

More than 1,000 United Methodists will descend on Savannah June 1 through June 3 for the 2014 South Georgia Annual Conference Session.

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**Magnolia Manor celebrates mothers in a big way**

Join United Methodists across South Georgia in honoring or remembering your Mother this Mother’s Day with a special contribution to Magnolia Manor. Magnolia Manor was founded on the promise that no one should be denied care because of their inability to pay. Fifty years later that promise remains, but we need your help. With eight locations across South Georgia, Magnolia Manor is sure to impact your community or loved ones in some way.

Lib Wilbanks is a resident at Magnolia Manor on the Coast in Richmond Hill. Lib and her husband knew of Magnolia Manor since its inception and have donated to the cause ever since. Now as a resident herself, she appreciates the peace of mind Magnolia Manor provides. Please consider a contribution that provides this peace of mind for our senior adults – they deserve it.

There are also other ways to support Magnolia Manor. Visit any of the three businesses listed below, mention Magnolia Manor, and a contribution will be made. Magnolia Manor is thankful to have the support of local churches, businesses, and individuals like you to make it a success.

**Ms. Robyn’s Country Restaurant, Inc. in Moultrie**

*Take mom to this restaurant in Moultrie and a percentage of your bill will be donated to Magnolia Manor.*

**White Water in Columbus**

*Mention Magnolia Manor at the gate and enjoy all the fun that White Water in Columbus has to offer from May 11-18.*

**Sweet Frog in Columbus**

*After taking mom out for lunch, stop by Sweet Frog in Columbus for dessert. Mention Magnolia Manor the week of May 11-18 and a portion of your bill will support the Mother's Day promise.*

Magnolia Manor is a ministry of the United Methodist Church and serves older adults of all faiths throughout South Georgia. This not-for-profit Georgia Corporation was chartered in 1959, and it is recognized by the IRS as a charitable, 501(c)3 organization. Governed by a Board of Trustees, Magnolia Manor provides a loving Christian environment and a caring staff, ensuring the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of residents and their families. Services include a wide array of independent retirement living options, assisted living, skilled nursing care, rehabilitative therapy and specialized dementia care. Currently, 1,100 employees provide care for nearly 1,300 older adults on eight Magnolia Manor campuses across South Georgia.

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## **August 4, 1727 – An Important Day in the Life of John Wesley**

### **JOHN WESLEY MOMENTS**

#### **DAVE HANSON**

On Aug. 4, 1727, John Wesley left his classes at Oxford to help his father. A “Fellow of Lincoln College” during those days could do that sort of thing. Samuel Wesley needed his son to help him get out of debt. So John became his curate (assistant pastor) and served a little church at Wroote across the river from Epworth where his father was pastor.

Except for his time in Georgia, this was the only pastorate John Wesley ever served. Epworth was located on an island made up of four rivers. It was a very isolated community, but Wroote was even more isolated. So much so that it was often called “Wroote Outside of England”. John labored there for almost two years. He was very happy when he was finally called back to Oxford.

Much later, after his heart warming experience at Aldersgate, he returned to preach for two weeks at Epworth and Wroote. He wrote in his diary, “I did more good in those two weeks than I did in the two years I had worked there earlier...” He said that during those first two years he did not call people to repentance because at that time he assumed that everyone was already Christian.

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## **Registration for Summer Camps now open**

Registration for the 2014 South Georgia Conference Summer Camps is now open online. There will be two mid-high camps and three elementary camps. Camp dates and a downloadable brochure can be found at [www.campconnectumc.org](http://www.campconnectumc.org).

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## **April 12 deadline to sign up to go paperless at Annual Conference**

Those attending the 2014 Annual Conference Session have the option to go paperless by downloading all essential materials, including the Book of Recommendations, online. To "opt-in," [click here and fill out the form](#) by April 2. Those who do not "opt-in" will receive the printed materials as usual. Those downloading materials will need to check the website periodically from April 2 through Conference for updated materials. An email will also be sent with the email address provided on the form once the Book of Recommendations is available.

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## **OBITUARIES**

### **Rev. Pete Barlow**

Peter (Pete) Eugene Barlow, age 60, of McRae went home to be with his Lord and Savior on March 30, 2014.

A celebration of his life was held at on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at the McRae First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Wayne E. Moseley, Bishop James R. King, Jr. and Rev. Tommy Mason officiated.

Pete was the son of the late Melvin Howard and Betty Jean Frandsen Barlow of Carrizo Springs, Texas.

He was the pastor of the McRae First United Methodist Church and the Chaplain with the Telfair County Sheriff's Department. He was a Chief Petty Officer with the U.S. Navy Submarine Service.

Survivors include his wife, Reba Eve Hitt Barlow of McRae; 6 children, Brandee (Tab) Tillman of Warner Robins, Darlene (Brian) Solomon of Thomaston, Melissa (Randy) Winters of Thomaston, Charles (Krystal) Belew of Cartersville, Melinda (James) Winters of Thomaston and Danielle (Devin) Porter of Rome; 17 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; 4 sisters, Marlene Barlow of Covington, Louisiana, Diane Autrey of Covington, Louisiana, Patsy St. Blanc of Covington, Louisiana and Peggy Wade of Mobile, Alabama.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be made to:

McRae United Methodist Church, Navy Relief or Georgia Sheriff's Association, Chaplain Division.

Please register online condolences at [lowesfuneralhome.net](http://lowesfuneralhome.net)

Lowe's Funeral Home of Helena has charge of the arrangements.

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## **MAYBE SO ...**

Dear Editor,

Our pastor here at Utmost United Methodist Church, Rev. Mostly Wright, bemoans the fact that Cokesbury closed its "brick and mortar" stores. He said, "I do a lot of online business, but I miss being able to go to the Atlanta store or the Candler School of Theology store and peruse actual books."

Missy Fishency, our church secretary, likes to kid him. She says, "Rev. Wright, one day you will be able to click your iPhone and read books on the lens of your glasses!" He just grins and says, "Well, I guess I'm part Hutterite reminiscing about the olden days."

"You just have your fun," Rev. Wright said. "You have to admit there were advantages in going into one of the Cokesburys and browsing, scanning actual books and merchandise... even if it did mean buying more than you meant to."

Major Day said, "You've got to give it to Rev. Wright. If it were not for his pressing the matter, our church would not have a website, nor use email. Not to mention many other techno advances we have made. It doesn't take much to recall when such subjects raised all kinds of ire in board meetings."

Until Next Time ...

Homer Heardmore  
Rhodes Crossing, GA

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## **Scripture Readings – April 7**

**April 13**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

*Liturgy of the Palms*

Matthew 21:1–11

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

*Liturgy of the Passion*

Isaiah 50:4–9a  
Psalm 31:9–16  
Philippians 2:5–11  
Matthew 26:14–27:66  
or Matthew 27:11–54

**April 14**

**Monday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 42:1–9  
Psalm 36:5–11  
Hebrews 9:11–15  
John 12:1–11

**April 15**

**Tuesday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 49:1–7  
Psalm 71:1–14  
1 Corinthians 1:18–31  
John 12:20–36

**April 16**

**Wednesday of Holy Week**

Isaiah 50:4–9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1–3  
John 13:21–32

**April 17**

**Holy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14  
Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19  
1 Corinthians 11:23–26  
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

**April 18**

**Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13–53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16–25  
John 18:1–19:42

**April 19**

**Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

I Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66

**April 19**

**Easter Vigil**

*The number of readings may vary, but Exodus 14 and at least two other readings from the Old Testament should be used in addition to the New Testament readings.*

***Old Testament Readings with Psalms or Canticles***

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

Psalm 136:1–9, 23–26 or Psalm 33

Genesis 7:1–5, 11–18; 8:6–18; 9:8–13

Psalm 46

Genesis 22:1–18

Psalm 16

Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21

Exodus 15:1b –13, 17–18

Isaiah 55:1–11

Isaiah 12:2–6

Ezekiel 36:24–28

Psalm 42

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 143

***Second Reading and Psalm***

Romans 6:3–11

Psalm 114

***Gospel Reading***

Matthew 28:1–10

**April 20**

**Easter Sunday**

**Festival of God's Creation**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

or Matthew 28:1-10

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**Old Journals for Sale**

The time has come to get rid of old South Georgia Conference Journals. There are many remaining and there is no longer room to store them.

If you are missing a year or a couple of years this is your last chance to get them.

**Cost per journal:**

1976 - 2010: \$8 per paper bound set (includes shipping)

2011-2013: paperbound \$35 (\$20 for retirees)

A few hardbound copies remain in various years:

1976 – 2010: \$35

2011 – 2013: \$55

To order, contact Cathy at [cathy@sgaumc.com](mailto:cathy@sgaumc.com) or call 1-888-266-7642.

**This offer will end on May 12, 2014. After that date no extra copies will be available.**