

Your Connection to The Mississippi Annual Conference

The Circuit Rider

Published Wednesday | April 12, 2017

The POWER of We

In This Issue

- word POWER 2
- Bishop On the Move 3
- Connecting 3
- Faith Communities 6
- Administry 7
- Students 7
- Save the Date / Announcements 8
- Cares & Concerns 9
- Recipe 10
- Employment 10

Share Your News in The Circuit Rider

Contact The Circuit Rider at news@mississippi-umc.org.

Mission:

The mission of the Mississippi Annual Conference is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Scholarship Revives Wood Legacy



Work to review funds left over from the closure of the United Methodist related Wood College continues. However there is good news for those in need of scholarships. In the section **Connecting on page 3** read how the Wood legacy is reviving.

Just Around the Corner!

2017 Annual Conference Session, June 8-10
2017 Pre-Conference Workshops, June 7



2016 Special Edition of The Circuit Rider is now available to view online! Go to: <http://bit.ly/28OxETH>

Purpose:

The Mississippi Annual Conference—empowered by love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship—forms spiritual leaders, faith communities and connections so more disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world.

Our Values

The Mississippi Conference Four Core Values are love, generosity, justice and apprenticeship. For more information, visit www.mississippi-umc.org/thepowerofwe.



LOVE



GENEROSITY



JUSTICE



APPRENTICESHIP



Mississippi Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out
The POWER of We

320-C Briarwood Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39206
601.354.0515 | Fax 601.948.5982
www.mississippi-umc.org

word POWER

John 20: 1-8

New International Version (NIV)

The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

Bishop On the Move

April 16, 2017 (Sunday) - Bishop Swanson will preach during the three services on Easter Sunday at First UMC in Tupelo, Mississippi. The church is celebrating its 150th Anniversary.

April 24, 2017 (Friday) - Bishop Swanson will spend a day with the ordinands at the Mississippi United Methodist Conference Center in Jackson.

April 30-May 5 (Sunday-Wednesday) - Bishop Swanson will attend a gathering of the Council of Bishops in Dallas, Texas.

May 15-22, 2017 (Saturday-Saturday) - Bishop Swanson will attend the Connectional Table meeting in Oslo, Norway.

May 25 - June 1, 2017 (Thursday-Thursday) - Bishop Swanson will attend the meeting of International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU) in Puebla, Mexico.



District pre-conference briefings begin this month.
To attend a meeting near you, go to <http://bit.ly/2orjK1i>.



MS Conference Office
Easter Holiday Closure

In observance of the Easter holiday, the Mississippi United Methodist Conference administrative offices will be closed Friday, March 14, 2017 and will resume regular business hours Tuesday, April 18, 2017. He is Risen!

INM Update

Living Out The **POWER** of We

IMAGINE
NO
MALARIA
2017 Mission Focus

As of 4/13/17
10,520
LIVES
SAVED!

GOAL:
SAVE
100,000
LIVES!

For more information:

www.mississippi-umc.org/INMeventideas

New Scholarship Restores Wood College Legacy Award Offerings Begin Summer 2017

By Tamica Smith Jeuit, Communications Specialist, Mississippi Conference

Photo right: Meet some of the Wood College board members. From left to right: Phillip K. Williams, David Stotts, Andy Ray, Connie Marion, John Moore, Bobby Sacus, and Carl Grubbs. The full board is not pictured.

A move to restore the legacy of Wood College through scholarships has Bobby Sacus reliving his Wood story. Sacus a lifelong United Methodist, received a scholarship to the college back in the 70s. The campus which is located in Mathis-ton, Mississippi once belonged to the Women's Division of The United Methodist Church. It has been dormant since 2008 when it ceased to be a Mississippi Conference institution.

Sacus grew up about 45 minutes away from Wood in Aberdeen. His parent's education level did not exceed the eighth grade, but they encouraged him to further his schooling. So, he went on to attend a high school during a time of integration.

His plan after graduation was to work at the local gas station where he was employed through the summer. Nevertheless, that plan changed on the day a recruiter from the Wood music department showed up at his home and offered Sacus a scholarship. He has long suspected the person behind the recruiter's visit was his high school music teacher. She was the wife of a United Methodist pastor.

"I am almost certain that she was the one that turned my name in trying to help me further my education back then and I ended up at Wood. I made no hesitance in quitting my job that summer at Conoco and accepted Wood when I found out my full year would pretty much be covered," he said.

Wood College afforded Sacus the chance to travel and experience various leadership opportunities around the campus and beyond.

Fast forward some 40 years, he still leads. One of his most cherished responsibilities came last November when he was asked to serve on the re-formed Wood College board.

"I love being a part of it because I think you must show gratefulness when something or someone has been a part of shaping you. Wood College was good to me," Sacus said.

For more than a decade, board members have been busy taking account of funds residual following Wood's closure. According to David Stotts, a member of the board and a graduate of Wood, the excess was \$700,000. That money will be moved into an endowment to offer the scholarships. He said the audit is ongoing.

"It has taken us 14 years to get all of this figured out and to get the money moved to where it needed to be. Now, we are at the point where we got money that still belongs to Wood College for educational scholarships," stated Stotts.

The amount allocated for educational scholarships is \$25,000. In the summer of 2017, a total of 25 \$1,000 gifts will be dispersed through the Mississippi Methodist Foundation on behalf of what Stotts and others affectionately call "the Wood family."

"It is a landmark archive of Methodism in Mississippi of how we can work together to make a difference in people's lives. Now, we have revitalized that in a way that we will be giving scholarships so that we can continue honoring the roots of Wood College," said Stotts.

Like Sacus, Stotts attended Wood College on a scholarship and learned to be a leader there. Currently, Stotts serves as the treasurer and benefits officer for the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church.

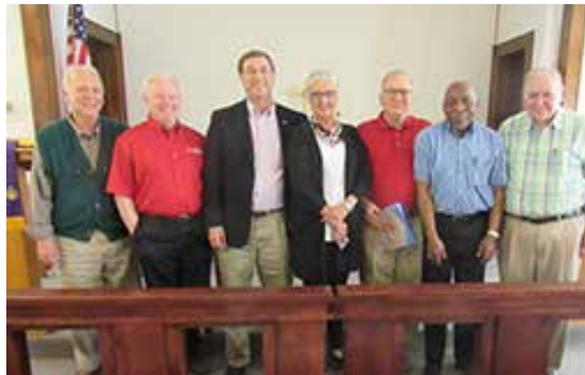
To apply for a Wood Foundation Scholarship or to contribute to the legacy, contact the Mississippi Methodist Foundation at 601-948-8845 or email melissa@ms-umf.org.

Long-term Recovery Teams wanted in Hattiesburg/Petal

Submitted to The Circuit Rider

Photo right: The owner of this home located in Petal, Mississippi accepted relief from United Methodists volunteers following a tornado in January 2017.

The long term recovery coordinator for Hattiesburg and Petal are calling for teams to assist with recovery efforts. These areas suffered severe tornado damage in January. As of March 31, work orders were being compiled for team assignments. Work needs include carpentry, drywall removal, and general helpers.



Housing and meals are available at the Volunteer House. The cost is \$25 per night. Other accommodations can be arranged. Meals are flexible too. You can bring your own cook and food if preferred.

Mass Choir Members Needed for 2017 Mississippi Annual Conference

Photo right: *The 2015 Mississippi Annual Conference Mass choir.*

The Mississippi Annual Conference Mass Choir is a growing ministry welcoming more voices to sing during the 2017 session of the Mississippi Annual Conference in June.

For the past three years, leaders have assembled a Mass Choir that has grown every year thanks to more and more of members of the conference offering their gifts and time.

This year the conference will be celebrating "Justice is the POWER of We." To honor that, the choir will perform the anthem "We Are Called" by David Haas arranged by Mark Hayes. It is based on the scripture Micah 6:8. There will be only one rehearsal for this Mass Choir.

Please e-mail James Martin jamesmartin@wellschurch.org for further information and details.



Commission on a Way Forward Optimistic of Future, Delves into Tough Task

By United Methodist Communications Press Center

"I ask that you join with me and The Bishop's Prayer Team in continuing to lift these Commission members up in prayer unto the Lord Jesus asking that The Holy Spirit will give them wisdom, guidance and a true openness to hearing God's voice. I believe prayer shapes our future. Let our prayers be strong." - Bishop James Swanson Sr., Mississippi Conference

Members of the Commission on a Way Forward have expressed optimism at reaching consensus on a plan or plans to guide the Council of Bishops in leading The United Methodist Church into the future.

During the three-day meeting, April 6-8, at the United Methodist Building in Washington, D.C., the Commission members began discussing possible outcomes and timelines on accomplishing their task of examining paragraphs in the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.

Commission moderators Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Bishop Ken Carter, and consultant Gil Rendle provided guidance for the discussions. The Commission's other moderator, Bishop David Yemba, was unable to attend the meeting due to events in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Commission members indicated that they were leaning toward a simpler structure with clearer processes for decision-making and accountability for the church in its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. In personal responses, the members showed that they were honoring the learnings of the Call to Action and a worldwide Book of Discipline. Conversations during the meeting indicated a commitment to finding a way forward that honors the complexity of the global denomination and the unity of a shared faith in Christ.

This was the third meeting of the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward, which was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in discerning a way forward on human sexuality in the denomination. The first two meetings were spent on building trust and community among the members, developing a covenant, a common language, and working in learning teams.

At the heart of the discussion at the meeting in Washington, D.C., was the struggle among the Commission members, who have diverse perspectives, experiences, and relationships with a wide variety of constituencies, to have a fresh understanding of unity and connectionalism.

One member, Myungrae Kim Lee, summarized the meeting in this way:

"We all spent difficult time together at this meeting. We laughed and cried together to create new possibility for our UMC. This is a necessary step we must pass through to direct ourselves to a new future of UMC. I believe that the Holy Spirit was with us."

Commission members also noted that the upcoming Judicial Council hearing would not be dealing with the same question or task given them by the General Conference and that whatever decisions the Judicial Council makes, the work of the Commission would continue. The moderators will issue a separate statement on the Judicial Council hearing.

IMAGINE
NO
MALARIA

Link for 2017 MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE
LENTEN DEVOTION GUIDE: <http://bit.ly/2kmjChE>

Living Out The POWER of We

The members began the day on Thursday with acknowledging the election of one of their own to the episcopacy, Bishop Mande Muyombo, who was elected during the Congo Central Conference in March. The group then was led in Bible study on Galatians 4 by Rev. Jessica LaGrone.

"As Christians, we tend to see God through a transactional model and we often like to earn our way into God's good nature and love," LaGrone noted, reminding the Commission of the need to focus on the relationship with God.

Following small-group conversations which focused on the question "How is it with your Soul?", the Commission then heard from Texas Annual Conference Resident Bishop Scott Jones, the chair of the UMC Committee on Faith and Order, who discussed the document, "Wonder, Love and Praise," which was approved for study by the 2016 General Conference.

"We are in a period of discernment, listening to feedback and asking if this reflects who we are. Our church does have doctrinal standards (Articles of Religion, Confession of Faith, General Rules, Wesley Sermons and Notes on the New Testament) and those doctrinal standards are supplemented by statements of the General Conference," Jones noted.

Bishop Gregory Palmer, who is a member of the Commission and a former president of the Council of Bishops, led a conversation on the Call to Action, which was presented at the 2012 General Conference.

"Part of our productive work was naming what we saw at that time as the Adaptive Challenge moving forward: Redirecting the flow of attention, energy and resources to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," Bishop Palmer said. "I don't think we could ever say we only have one adaptive challenge but I think this has currency in our time."

After Bishop Carter reviewed the Anatomy of Peace document as a framework for engaging in the complex and, at times, conflictual work of the church, members began to discuss a draft of an outline of their initial report to Council of Bishops.

Since the work is global, the Commission members discussed ways of informing annual conferences around the globe about their work through videos, listening sessions, and collaborating with groups and organizations with vested interest in the participation of LGBTQ persons in the UMC. The members agreed to decentralize the listening sessions regarding groups from Africa, Europe and Asia since human sexuality is understood differently in various parts of the world.

LaGrone also led a time of sharing and discussion around the recent academic theological colloquy, "The Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness," held at March 10-12, 2017 at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia. Several members of the Commission attended. Bishop Carter said the original purpose of the colloquy was to align the work with the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. "We respect the foundational work of many of our scholars and we asked them to reflect on questions related to our work. I urged them to be constructive and help us to seek unity and a way forward."

The work on Friday began with a greeting from General Board of Church and Society General Secretary Rev. Dr. Susan Henry Crowe, who welcomed the Commission to "the UM space here on Capitol Hill, where we promote, educate and engage the substance of the Social Principles." She said her agency's priorities are health, immigration, poverty and peace.

Bishop Mande conducted the Friday Bible Study using Galatians 5. He noted that the radical notion in this passage is that "far before we arrive with moral perfection, the gift of God comes to us in such a way that allows us to show up without any claim to anything but ourselves. Any claim to figuring it all out or knowing anything, falls away with the grace that comes freely."

After Bible Study, the group began by discussing a list of many of the currently and popularly discussed options related to LGBTQ identity and the unity of the church. Bishop Carter reminded the group that this was not an exhaustive list nor did it offer exhaustive descriptions. "We may see the world through these lenses. Many of the plans often discussed in social media, for example, were created not by global groups but by leaders within the USA. Sometimes language can tend to flatten things and we use a term that labels someone or puts them in a box."

Gil Rendle asked the members to be open to learning together in new ways, as these plans were presented to address a problem within the church. He reminded the Commission that they have a task of finding a way forward for our church.

Generally, there was a sense of willingness to learn more about all the various proposals, their strengths and weaknesses, in order to inform the work of the commission and to prepare for the deliberations and questions of the General Conference.

Rendle then led a discussion of centralization and decentralization, complexity and simplicity. The Commission did some work on its own vision for the future church's mission and structure. There is within the membership of the Commission a desire for some loosening of structure (or giving each other space), honoring differences, and yet finding a clearer consensus on matters of theology and doctrine.

On Saturday, the Bible Study was conducted by Bishop Rosemarie Wenner on Galatians 6, noting that if we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit and that there was a difference between being led by the Spirit and being guided by the Spirit. "Carrying one another's burden means we live together for restoration.

Restoration is different than punishment or separation. Restoration does not mean you don't take seriously who we are and what we are doing. It means you journey together, engage with one another in the Christian spirit of faithfulness and trust, reminding one another what we learn from God. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of gentleness, is meant to restore relationship."

The end of the meeting brought the formation of some new teams: a Writing Team and an Equipping Team, along with task teams to engage work on unity and Central Conference matters.

Bishop Steiner Ball offered the closing devotion based on Colossians 3:12-17 with the reminder to the members of the Commission that "forgiveness is needed when we get off track and we fail to make the choice to live by the Spirit. It is not all easy going. There is wrestling in this intentionality. There is a wrestling to be able to forgive. Forgiveness is not all about what we do for someone else. Forgiveness also opens us up to the healing power of God and enables us to work from a heart of peace."

She asked them to have thankfulness and gratitude as they go away from this meeting and that in word and in deed, "whatever we do, we do it in the name of Jesus Christ."

The next meeting of the Commission will be July 17-21 in Chicago. For more information on the Commission on a Way Forward, visit umc.org/wayforward.

Follow the Commission's work via social media: Facebook: www.facebook.com/umcforward/.

Twitter: @UMCForward Instagram: www.instagram.com/umcforward/

About the Commission on a Way Forward

The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge from the 2016 General Conference to lead the church forward amid the present impasse related to human sexuality and resulting questions about the unity of the church.

Faith Communities

Mathiston Methodist Ladies Hear About 911 Center

Submitted By Mathiston UMC

Photo right: Church members attending the meeting were encouraged to tour the Webster County 911 center.

The ladies of the Mathiston Methodist Church, pastored by Rev. Jeep Pepper have a better idea on how the 911 center for their area operates. The church is located in Webster County, Mississippi. The group recently invited Jimmy McLemore, the director of the county's 911 center to speak. McLemore, is a veteran lawman. He told the group, which included the men of the church, about the many upgrades and additions the departments has made in the last 9 years. The Webster County 911 Center has new radios that will reach out longer distances, which were added since Katrina. The center is in the Science Building, on The Wood College campus.



Dozens Attend Starkville District Lay Servant Training

Starkville First United Methodist Church was the meeting place for 44 people who participated in Lay Servant Training classes earlier this month. Five classes were offered. The two discipleship classes were the most popular. The annual training was open to anyone who wanted to join. However, the director of lay servant ministries, Alberta Hendrix, works with local congregations that desire to host lay servant training throughout the year. To reach Hendrix, call the Starkville District office, 662-323-0198.

Heritage UMC Baptisms

Heritage UMC in Hattiesburg, Mississippi held confirmation baptisms at a lake on April 9, 2017. The Rev. Steve Casteel posted on facebook that the service was "such an incredible experience." Casteel is the senior pastor at Heritage. To see more pictures, visit the Heritage UMC on facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/humchattiesburg/>





PRAYING THROUGH "A PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT"

Bishop James Swanson Sr. continues to solicit prayers for himself and those involved in "a period of discernment." Pray for the bishop, the congregations of Getwell Road UMC of the Senatobia District and The Orchard UMC of the Tupelo District, the pastors of these congregations, their district superintendents, and the Mississippi Conference treasurer. The bishop covets your prayer for a fruitful resolution as this process is ongoing. To read Swanson's full statement on "a period of discernment," go to <http://bit.ly/2ltKThe>.

Administry

Easter Is Coming

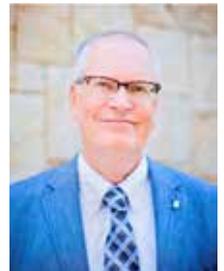
Rev. Mike Hicks, Executive Director, The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation

Yes, Easter is coming! This is the great day of the Christian Year. It is the day that declares that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. It is the day that declares that life is triumphant over death and hell through the work of God in Jesus Christ. Everything else pales in comparison. Our joy is to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.

All the work around generosity is to enable the church to proclaim the message of Easter to all the world. It is impossible to get the message of Easter out into the world without people willing to give of their time, their talents, their gifts, their service and their witness. This is all about generosity.

May our generosity fully support the proclamation of Christ is Risen.

Easter joy from all of the staff at The Foundation.



The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation Scholarship Deadline Is Approaching!

The Mississippi United Methodist Foundation deadline for 2017 - 2018 academic year scholarship applications is June 5, 2017. The Foundation awards scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and seminary students. Students must attend an accredited institution of higher learning and be an active participant in a United Methodist Church.

The foundation is thrilled to announce that due to recent bequests, there are more funds available for scholarships this year, thanks to the opportunity to partner with the Wood College Foundation to award 25 \$1,000 scholarships on their behalf.

Applications must be requested from the Foundation. Please contact Melissa at melissa@msumf.org or call 601-948-8845.

Students

Student Prepares for Pilot Holy Land Experience

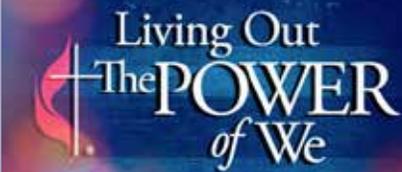
Photo right: Tyler Henry is a member of Central United Methodist Church in Jackson. He attends Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. Photo courtesy Tyler Henry.

Tyler Henry of the Mississippi Conference was recently invited to join the Young People's Ministries in a pilot Holy Land experience. May 27 through June 7, he will travel with four others from the U.S., five from the Central Conferences and members of Young People's Ministries to Tel Aviv Israel. According to YPM, the pilot program has three basic goals: to increase Biblical understanding through visits to Biblical locations, to network upcoming leaders in The UMC together to increase the understanding of global church contexts, and to learn lessons in conflict leadership by studying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



"The United Methodist Church has afforded me opportunities I may have never had. Over the past quadrennial I have been privileged to serve on the General Board of Church and Society. During my tenure I was able to network with leaders from all over the General Church, travel to new places and mature in my faith and knowledge of The United Methodist Church. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities," he said.

Upon his return, Henry plans to schedule a debriefing session with members of the Mississippi Conference to talk about his experience.



Four-part Bible Study: Living Out The POWER of We
With Bishop James E. Swanson Sr.
Link to access the videos: <http://bit.ly/2l1bUbW>

Save the Date | Announcements

His Last Days

April 13-15, 2017

All people are invited to the production of the annual Passion Play, "His Last Days," presented by First United Methodist Church in Kosciusko, Mississippi. This is the 31st year in production. The play is a 1-hour outdoor drama documenting Christ's last days. The production is free and open to everyone. Lawn chairs are encouraged. There is a free nursery offered for children up to K4. For more information, call 662-289-1412.

Good Friday Service at John Wesley UMC

April 14, 2017

John Wesley's Good Friday Seven Sayings of the Cross service will be held at 10 am on April 14, 2017. Theme is "It is Written." Everyone is invited to join us as we expound on the meaning of the final words of Jesus from the Cross. John Wesley UMC is located at 49 Lexington Street in Durant, Mississippi. Agnes Redmond at vivacious789@att.net.

Annual Seniors Citizens Day and Fish Fry

April 20, 2017

The Smith-Simpson Cluster of United Methodist churches will host its annual Senior Citizens' Day/Fish Fry on Thursday, April 20, at Harrisville UMC Family Life Center, Harrisville, MS. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m. A day of inspiration, fellowship, singing, activities, health checks, bingo, entertainment, and delicious catfish is promised. Contact Barbara Fuller at bful4@aol.com for more information.

UMVIM Team Leader Training

April 22, 2017

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) highly recommends that any mission team have a trained team leader. If you are planning to lead a short-term mission trip (nationally or internationally or disaster response) or simply exploring the possibility, you are encouraged to attend. Training led by Rev. Amanda Gordon is Saturday, April, 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Luke's UMC in Jackson, Mississippi. Pre-Register by April 17. Call 662-781-1333 or email amandammumc@gmail.com. The cost is \$30 for the UMVIM manual and lunch (pay at the door).

2017 Sacred Conversations Events for Young Clergy (Under 40)

April 27, 2017

The Center for Ministry is sponsoring "Sacred Conversations for Young Clergy." The regional gatherings are planned and facilitated by young clergy for the purpose of learning from each other, worshipping together, and creating community. A half CEU is available for those who attend. Bring money for lunch. The last opportunity to participate is April 27, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Court St. in Hattiesburg. Amy Roller and Brad Corban will lead this event. RSVP to Amy Roller at 601-479-7743, brotheramy@gmail.com.

Coffeerville UMC Ladies Luncheon

April 29, 2017

Guest speaker Cristin Carven Barnard will share from her experience how God makes his presence real to people in every step of the process of grief. Her message is titled "Have Faith Now." This event is Saturday, April 29, 2017, 11 a.m., at Coffeerville UMC. Lunch will be followed by praise and worship. There is no cost, but reserve your place. Call 662-675-2690.

Women's Luncheon with Doris Bowman

April 29, 2017

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to a Women's Luncheon with Doris Bowman on Saturday, April 29, 2017, noon at Pleasant Hill UMC. Bowman is a regular speaker for women's conferences and retreats nationwide. She makes her home in Spring City, Tennessee, at Cedine Bible Ministries. Her personal heartwarming stories of God's provision for her daily needs will compel you to reach out of your comfort zone and watch God at work through you! Cost is by donation. RSVP's appreciated and can be made to the church office. Call 662-895-2323 or email, phumcmsg@yahoo.com.

Methodist Teach-in on Migration

April 30, 2017

The Methodist Teach-in on Migration (CEU workshop) will train Methodist leaders on what the Methodist faith teaches about migration and how to organize a Methodist Teach-in. Participants will receive .5 CEU through the Center for Ministry. For more information, view the flyer here: <http://bit.ly/2oDyCMn>, or call Sue Weishar at 504-864-7749.

Retirement Service for Rev. David and Pattie Cumbest

June 24, 2017

Safe Harbor UMC invites you to a retirement celebration in honor Rev. David and Pattie Cumbest on Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 5 p.m. To attend, RSVP to safeharborumc@cableone.net.

FAM JAM

Aug. 12, 2017

Save the date, Aug. 12, 2017. The Mississippi Conference presents a family event especially for children, kindergarten through 6th grades. Keep checking Mississippi Conference newsletters, social media and the website for details.

2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing

Jan. 23-24, 2020

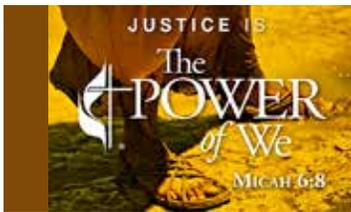
Mark your calendar to attend the 2020 Pre-General Conference Briefing in Nashville, Tennessee on Jan. 23-24, 2020.

- Learn about legislation and logistics
- Prepare for your work at General Conference
- Connect with fellow attendees

More details will be provided closer to the date of the event.

UMC Events

Visit <http://www.umc.org/events> to see more educational opportunities and other upcoming events in the life of The United Methodist Church.



All things related to the 2017 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference!

For details, go to <http://bit.ly/2obIRDJ>.

Cares & Concerns

Scottie Staudy

Scottie Staudy, widow of Rev. Jimmy Staudy passed away April 10. Visitation for will be Friday, April 14 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Grenada First UMC. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 15.

Rev. Jack Milton Loflin

The funeral for Rev. Jack Milton Loflin will be Thursday, April 13 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. at Wesleyanna United Methodist Church, 122 Wesleyanna St., in Star, Mississippi.

His Service of Remembrance and Celebration will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, at Wesleyanna United Methodist Church. Clergy are asked to wear black robes with white stoles and are invited to worship together in the tent set up for ministers and their families. Please remember the Loflin family in your prayers.

Faye Curtis

Faye Curtis, the surviving spouse of Rev. William Ed Curtis, passed away on March 29, 2017.

Her funeral was Saturday, April 8, 2017 at Starkville First United Methodist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. The family is requesting memorial donations in lieu of flowers to Sanctuary Hospice House of Tupelo, Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research, or the Ed Curtis at Wesley Foundation at Mississippi State. Condolences can be sent to Faye's daughter and son-in-law, Larry and Janet Pearson, 2800 W Main St #405, Tupelo, MS 38801.

Rev. Dr. Sam Morris

Please continue to keep the family of Rev. Dr. Sam Morris in your prayers. Funeral services for Morris was held on Friday, April 7, 2017 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Madison.

Cassie James

The funeral service for Cassie James, surviving spouse of the late Rev. J.Q.C. James will be Saturday, April 15, 2017 at Decell UMC in Greenwood, MS. The service begins at 2 p.m. Please keep the James family in your prayers.

Methodist Tested Recipes

Chantilly Sauce

2 eggs	Freshly ground black pepper
1 tsp. fresh lemon juice	1 stick melted butter
Dash of hot pepper sauce	¼ c. whipped heavy cream
2 tsp. water	
Salt	

In double boiler (or stainless steel bowl over a pot of simmering water) whisk the egg yolks with the lemon juice, hot pepper sauce and water until pale in color. Season with salt and pepper. Be careful that bowl does not touch water. Remove from heat; add butter, 1 teaspoon at a time, whisking vigorously, until all is incorporated. Fold in whipped cream. Yield: Approximately 1 ¼ cups.

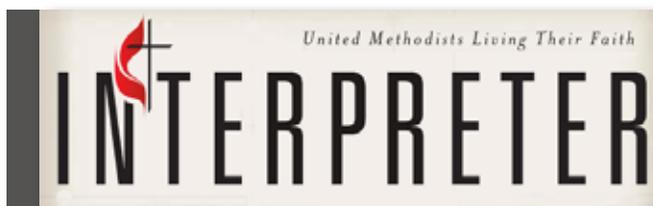


— By Gina Clement from "Loaves and Fishes, A Collection of Favorites" from St. Paul UMC, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Employment

As a courtesy to the Mississippi Annual Conference, job announcements from across the United Methodist connection are featured in *The Circuit Rider*. To submit an employment notice, send an email to news@mississippi-umc.org. Postings are not guaranteed to appear more than once in Mississippi Conference publications. **To read a description of job opening(s) listed below as well as other listings, go to www.mississippi-umc.org/employmentopportunities.**

- Part-time Pianist at Memorial UMC, Bolton, MS
- Office Manager/Secretary Position at First UMC, Brandon, MS
- Director of Youth Ministries at Central UMC, Meridian, MS



Visit <http://bit.ly/2kCN81h> to receive UM Interpreter
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Stay Connected

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mississippi-United-Methodist-Conference/436491529732524
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/Mississippi_UMC
- You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSRtxv_Kix8lbYuHKRMLjg
- Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/119483421@N02/

Stay Connected with ConnectText

Mississippi United Methodists with the ability to receive text messaging via phone are encouraged to sign up for ConnectText. The service is another option for people to stay informed about important dates and other conference happenings.

To sign up for ConnectText:

1. Remember, you must have the ability to get text messages on your phone.
2. From your mobile phone, text the letters 'MSUMC' to the number 95577 and press send.

3. Wait a few seconds for a confirmation text and you're connected!

Mississippi Conference's Mobile App—MY MSUMC

MY MSUMC—the Mississippi Conference of The United Methodist Church's official mobile app—is available at no cost on all iPhone, Android, Galaxy and Blackberry phones and their corresponding pads and tablets. MY MSUMC allows easy access to the latest conference events, local UM news and The *Circuit Rider*. The MY MSUMC app presents users with a unique opportunity to interact with the conference by submitting prayer requests, recording audio of personal testimonies and posting comments via facebook and twitter. Plus, the 'Our Districts' feature shows a comprehensive list of district contact information and even directions from the user's current location—all from a mobile smart phone or tablet device.