

The Presbytery Press

Volume 1 Issue 2

February - April 2009

Presbytery New Faces in the Savannah

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Get Ready for Summer Camp!

Mark your calendars now for our new
Summer Camp Schedule!

We are expanding our summer resident camps to two weeks. Take note of the dates so you can plan your congregation's calendar accordingly. Please include us in your summer plans!

Elementary Camp (rising 5th & 6th graders)
- June 15 - 18

Primary Camp (rising 3rd & 4th graders)
- June 18 - 20

Family Camp (Parents and rising 1st & 2nd graders)
- June 19 - 20

Youth Camp (rising 7th graders - graduated seniors)
- June 22 - 26

Kayak Camp and Montreat Youth Conference Dates are to be announced. For the latest information on Youth Events, please visit www.savannahpresbytery.org.



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What's New?

Church Events, Announcements, Prayer Concerns, etc...

Kirkin O' the Tartans



On Sunday, February 15, 2009, a touch of Scotland will come to the Jesup

Presbyterian Church. Heritage Sunday serves as a reminder of the Scottish background of the Presbyterian Church and as an annual homecoming for Jesup Presbyterian. The worship service at eleven o'clock will include the Kirkin 'O the Tartans in the Peter Marshall tradition. Over thirty tartans will march into the church accompanied by pipers and other kilted participants. After the morning worship service, everyone will gather for a feast of traditional Scottish foods and desserts. All of our friends in the Presbytery are cordially invited to join us on this special day. It is a good excuse to wear your kilts.

Prayer Concerns

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Those with health concerns: Rev. Herman Pride, Rev. Woody Choate

- Laity Committee as they plan and hold the Church Officer Leadership Training Event and the Leadership Development Conference, and for participants and instructors as they travel to these events.
- The Christian Education Committee as they plan and hold the Leadership Development Conference and upcoming youth events, and for the safe travel of participants.
- Churches Searching for Pastors and their Pastor Nominating Committees: First Waycross, First Eastman, Montgomery, First Hinesville, First Statesboro, Metter
- Churches Welcoming New Pastors: Skidaway Island

LDC and Stated Meeting Info

There are some very important things to remember about the upcoming Leadership Development Conference (LDC), February 20-21, and Winter Stated Meeting, February 21, following the LDC:

- Final registration for the Conference is February 4th. If you missed this deadline, and if there is still class space, you can register as a commuter and provide your own lodging arrangements.
- Don't miss the Discussion with the Keynote, Rev. Ben Mathes of Rivers of the World! It begins Friday at 4 PM and is open to registered conferees only!
- 2008 Session Minutes will be read starting at 4 PM
- The Montreat Bookstore will be open during the conference in the Brown Center Auditorium with Presbyterian resources, popular Christian reading materials, and small gift items for purchase.

IF YOUR CHURCH HAS AN EVENT IN MAY, JUNE, OR JULY AND YOU WOULD LIKE IT ADVERTISED IN THE NEWSLETTER, EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO HOME@SAVANNAHPRESBYTERY.ORG BY APRIL 1ST!

Savannah Presbytery

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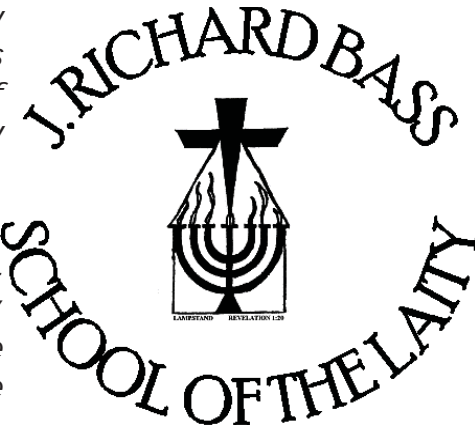
The Presbytery Office is open Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and on Fridays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We also have a Resource Center, which is open during office hours.

Laity & Christian Education News

The School of the Laity's Class of 2011 Begins its Journey in June. Space is limited. Reserve your place today!

Mark your calendar and get ready for Laity Day, April 26th!! This is the day when the School of the Laity is promoted presbytery wide in our worship services.

We are gearing up for the beginning of another School of the Laity session. The "Class of 2011" will begin their journey in June of this year at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, GA. Classes will occur in June, October, and March, for a two year commitment. Please encourage anyone in your congregation who might be interested to give it a try. Let them know not to be intimidated by the program. This is not



a class for Bible scholars, it is for everyday people who want to know more about the Bible, learn how we as lay persons can minister, and discern what it means to be Presbyterian.

We are limited in our enrollment for the class, so don't delay!! Your churches will begin receiving information in the near future about this program. Please, help us in our promotion of this valuable lay-person study program. For more information see your pastor, visit our website www.savannahpresbytery.org or contact Lynn Garis at the Presbytery office.

Vacation Bible School Planning Resources Available

Beginning in January, the Savannah Presbytery Resource Center will have Vacation Bible School starter kits from a variety of different companies. We invite you to come preview them, or Lou Ellen Burdick can meet with your VBS planning committees to help you with your program. For more information, please call Lou Ellen Burdick at the Presbytery Office, 912-264-1997, or email her at LEBurdick@savannahpresbytery.org

To Be Filed ...from the Stated Clerk

The “Form of Government” (FOG) report which proposes a new form and understanding of our polity is now being circulated within the Presbyteries of PC (USA). This major revision of the *Book of Order* will be brought to the 219th (2010) General Assembly. The 218th (2008) GA voted that there be a period of consultation and study with the sessions and presbyteries to give feedback to the Form of Government Task Force. This group is charged with reporting to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly with a final proposal by October 15, 2009 for distribution to the churches by January 15, 2010, for consideration by the 219th GA in June, 2010.

Savannah Presbytery has a June 30, 2009 deadline to submit our responses. Our Permanent Judicial Committee will be meeting December 10, 2008 and January 7, 2009 to, among other duties, make a recommendation to our presbytery as to the procedure of studying this document and timelines for submitting responses to the Stated Clerk of Savannah Presbytery.

The proposal has two components to it:

1. “Foundations of Presbyterian Policy” is presented as a replacement for Chapters G-1 through G-4, and
2. “Form of Government” is six chapters that are proposed to replace the remainder of the “G” sections of the *Book of Order*

So what is this all about? The rationale for these proposed changes is stated as follows. “While the purpose of the Form of Government is to provide standards for the whole church it has become a regulatory manual placing impractical limitations on the missional work of

sessions and higher governing bodies. Giving freedom to governing bodies while maintaining denominational standards challenges us to focus on what principles of governance are clearly foundational principles, principles on which we may all stand as we respond to the call of the triune God, whom alone we worship and serve. This revision is designed to provide a constitution for the whole Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a community of witness called into being and equipped by God and sent into the world to testify to and participate in Christ’s work. The polity provides flexibility for mission in changing and variable contexts while setting standards for the whole church.”

“Giving freedom to governing bodies while maintaining denominational standards challenges us to focus on what principles of governance are clearly foundational principles, principles on which we may all stand as we respond to the call of the triune God...”

The PC (U.S.A.) website has more information on the proposed new Form of Government and some suggestions for the study of it. Just enter Form of Government in the search area and you will find all of the documents. The PJC will bring its responses and suggestions to the February Stated Meeting. Individuals, sessions and Churches

can then decide to study further and give additional thoughts to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery by the May Stated Meeting. These will be compiled into a Presbytery response to the Task Force by the June 30, deadline. The guidelines for study indicate that only responses from governing bodies of the church will be considered by the task force.

As we study and respond it is a good time to remember that our polity should always reflect God’s mission in the creation of God’s church. It is how we understand this that can help us to govern and not one particular form of the *Book of Order* versus another.

*Grace and Peace,
Russell Gladding*

Make sure to check out the Savannah Presbytery website! You can find a PDF version of this newsletter, read or sign up for the supplemental e-newsletter, see and read about the staff, find churches, or download and print publications and forms! You can also check out all of our upcoming events and programs, including viewing and printing flyers, brochures, and registration forms! Visit www.savannahpresbytery.org today!

New Faces in the Presbytery

In 2008, we had many new people come into the presbytery, either as installed pastors, minister members, or commissioned lay pastors, as well as candidates and an inquirer. We would like to introduce them to you here, and when you get the opportunity to run into any of our "newbies" make sure to say hello!



Ben Beasley - Ben was approved as a Candidate for ordination at the October 2008 presbytery meeting. His home church is First PC in Savannah, and he's a student at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is currently serving a Supervised Ministry Internship at Ormewood Park PC in Atlanta. He has a Bachelor's in English from UGA and a Master's in Photography from SCAD.

Kate Brearley - Kate was accepted as an Inquirer at the October 2008 presbytery meeting, which coincidentally was held at White Bluff PC, the church that Kate grew up in! She also follows in her proud father's footsteps: her dad is Bob Brearley, the Senior Pastor at St. Simons PC. Kate is lucky to have two church families who are rooting for her as she makes this journey. Kate is currently a student at UGA.



Greg Gillispie - Greg is the Pastor at Richmond Hill PC, and began in April 2008. He is from Beatrice, Nebraska. He is married to Marcia, and has two sons: Zach, eight, and Ben, seven. Marcia is a registered nurse and licensed clinical social worker. Greg spent thirteen years as a broadcaster, which he feels help prepare him for his work as a minister. Greg began his first call in 1995 as the associate pastor at the Little Chapel on the Boardwalk, in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. In his four years there, he and the church endured four direct hits from hurricanes!

Dawn Mayes - Dawn was approved by the presbytery in October 2008, and began work at First PC in Brunswick on December 2008 as the Pastor. Dawn grew

up in Indiana. She attended college in Indiana and Seminary in North Carolina. When Dawn felt the call to ministry, she also found the Presbyterian Church (USA) was the best fit for her. She says, "I think that I always was a Presbyterian at heart and just didn't know it!" She is married to Joseph, who served as Music Minister at a UMC church in Cartersville before they moved to Brunswick.



Yoon Nam - Along with Dawn Mayes, Yoon was approved by the presbytery at the October 2008 meeting. He began as the Pastor at Savannah Korean in November. He was born in Seoul, Korea and studied at Korea Theological Seminary, Methodist Theological Seminary, and Memphis Theological Seminary. Yoon was ordained on April 9, 1985. He came to America to study in 1992, and joined the Memphis Presbytery in 1988 as a pastor. He has been married to Mi Yang Han for 28 years, and they have two sons, Paul (23) and John (20). Mi Yang has a Masters Degree in piano performance.

Kent Pettit - Kent has been Pastor at First PC in Douglas since July. He is serving his first call, which started the day after he was ordained! He joined us from Johnson City, Tennessee, but is originally from North Vernon, Indiana. Kent is a history buff, especially interested in the Civil War. He also likes to cook, and is no doubt using those skills as a newlywed: he married his wife Emily on January 10, 2009! So far the thing that stands out the most since he's been a part of our presbytery has been the very warm welcome and encouragement he received as he went through the process of becoming a minister member and installed pastor.

Caitlin Phillips - Caitlin Phillips and Ben Beasley have a few things in common: they are both members of First PC in Savannah, became Inquirers at the same time, and were accepted as Candidates at the same time. Caitlin is a student at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, which

is a non-denominational seminary. When asked how that aspect of her school is influencing her, she said that she believes it is giving her a well rounded education, and also reaffirms what she loves about being Presbyterian. On top of discerning her call and entering seminary, Caitlin became a newlywed last year!

Will Shelburne - Many of you may well know Will, since he joined our presbytery in January 2008. He is originally from Kingsport, Tennessee, but joined us from Lawrenceville, Georgia. Will attended Presbyterian College, and by the time he graduated, he knew he was called to ministry. He attended Columbia Theological Seminary, graduated in May 2007 and got his first call as Associate Pastor at First PC Savannah. He is married to Sara, who also attend Presbyterian College and has a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Richard Troost - Richard began as Pastor at Allenhurst PC on April 13, 2008. He is originally from Detroit, but has lived "all over". In September, he celebrated his 25th year as an ordained minister. Richard has two grown children: a daughter who serves as the Youth Director for Mandarin PC in Florida, and a son who is a senior at Samford University in Birmingham. Richard loves to fish, especially freshwater, and wishes he could find a lake nearby. When asked what experience stands out the most so far in his time here, he says, "Getting lost in Savannah looking for Candler hospital, and I even got lost trying to find my way out of the parking lot!"

Dean Wohlgenuth - Dean is actually not new to the presbytery, since as an elder, he has been supplying the pulpit of English Eddy since 2003; he became a Commissioned Lay Pastor in October 2008.



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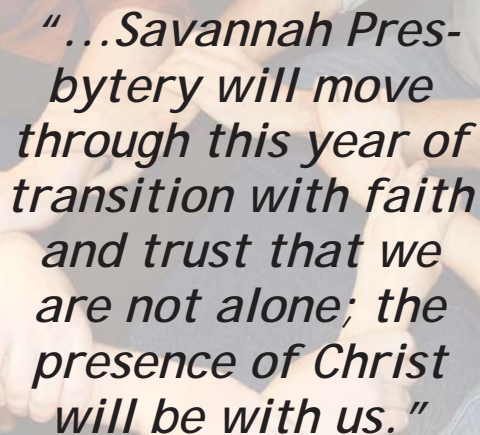
A Year of Transition

There are some years in life that are marked by change and transition: the year that we first learned to walk; the year we got our drivers license; the year we graduated from high school or college; the year we got married. Most of these events of change are recognized and celebrated. We move through life encountering change and transition.

Just as our individual lives shift and change, so do the organizations, structures and groups that we belong too. Savannah Presbytery has moved through various shifts and changes in its rich history and in 2009 and 2010 our Presbytery will encounter another change and transition. Last October, the Presbytery voted and approved a new structure. The structure provides us with a new way to do the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ. Instead of committees we will have ministry teams which are based upon the Great Ends of the Church. The new structure will not be implemented until January 2010. The Coordinating Council has established a Transition Team which will help us move from our current structure into this new way.

We will move from eighteen committees to five ministry teams plus a Council. The *Education and Training Ministry Team* will do the work of both the Christian Education and the Laity Committees. The *Pastoral Care Ministry Team* will be responsible for three of

our former committees; the Committee on Ministry, the Committee on the Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Care of Church Professionals. The *Mission Ministry Team* will continue the work of the Mission Committee, the Social Concerns Committee, the Self Development of People committee and Savannah Presbytery Disaster Assistance. The *Evangelism Minis-*



“...Savannah Presbytery will move through this year of transition with faith and trust that we are not alone; the presence of Christ will be with us.”

try Team will be in charge of New Church Development, Congregational Development, Campus Ministry and Satellite Bible Studies. And the *Fellowship and Celebration Ministry Team* will be responsible for the Nominating Committee work, the Representation Committee, networking, Stewardship and the celebrations that occur at the Presbytery Meetings. The work of Presbyterian Women, the M.K. Pentecost Committee, Swainsboro Apartments Board, the Permanent Judicial Commission and a few other groups will continue as is and be a part of the new structure. My

hope is that the Transition Team will be able to help our Presbytery iron out the details and make our transition into this new work as smooth as possible.

Business consultant William Bridges writes in *Managing Transitions* (2003) that change and transition are not the same thing. Transition, he writes, “is psychological; it is the three-phase process that people go through as they internalize and come to terms with the details of the new situation that change brings about.” We all know about change, but where we might struggle the most is with transition we move through as we face change.

The year we started walking we fell countless times, but eventually we were able to walk and run with out falling. That first day after we got our drivers license, we might have been fearful to drive on the highway alone, but eventually we were able to maneuver it with ease. So too, will Savannah Presbytery move through this year of transition with faith and trust that we are not alone; the presence of Christ will be with us. And just as the Holy Spirit equipped the first disciples to spread the Word, so will we be guided and nurtured by the Spirit to do the ministry of Jesus Christ in a new way. May God work through our transition so that we will be faithful.

*Thanks be to God,
Greg Garis,
Interim Executive Presbyter*

(from previous page)

He has been very active, serving on committees and as a Commissioner to the 2003 General Assembly, an experience he says is the “standout” event for him in this presbytery. Dean is from Natoma, Kansas, the youngest of six children of Rev. & Mrs. Robert J.

Wohlgemuth. He lives in Jesup with his wife Kay. They have three children, Warren, Cheryl, and Glenda, and six grandchildren. Dean is a retired journalist, and has worked as a news reporter, sports writer, sports editor, free lance writer, and in public relations; he is also a photographer and has

done a lot of public speaking.

Be on the lookout for these “New Faces” around the presbytery or maybe even in your church! You can also look for “New Faces” in upcoming newsletters, since we will introduce new presbytery members each quarter.

Presbytery Calendar February - April 2009

February	March	April
<p><i>Tuesday, 3rd :: 10:00 AM</i> - Presbytery Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>Wednesday, 4th ::</i> - Final Registration Deadline for the Leadership Development Conference</p> <p><i>Thursday, 5th :: 12:00 PM</i> - Pastor Lunch, First PC in Savannah</p> <p><i>Tuesday, 10th :: 1:00 PM</i> - Committee on Ministry Meeting, Presbytery Office</p> <p><i>Fri., 20th - Sat., 21st ::</i> - Leadership Development Conference, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA (registration begins Friday at 4:00 PM)</p> <p><i>Saturday, 21st :: 1:30 PM</i> - Stated Meeting of Savannah Presbytery, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA (worship begins at 11:00 AM; registration begins at 12:30 PM)</p>	<p><i>Tuesday, 3rd :: 10:00 AM</i> - Presbytery Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>Thursday, 5th :: 12:00 PM</i> - Pastor Lunch, Henry Memorial PC in Dublin</p> <p><i>Tuesday, 10th :: 1:00 PM</i> - Committee on Ministry Meeting, Presbytery Office</p> <p><i>Sat., 6th - Sun., 7th ::</i> - School of the Laity, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA</p>	<p><i>Wednesday, 1st :: 11:00 AM</i> - Laity Committee Meeting, Christ NCD in Pooler</p> <p><i>Thursday, 2nd :: 12:00 PM</i> - Pastor Lunch, Jesup PC</p> <p><i>Tuesday, 7th :: 10:00 AM</i> - Presbytery Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>Tuesday, 14th :: 1:00 PM</i> - Committee on Ministry Meeting, Presbytery Office</p> <p><i>Sunday, 26th ::</i> - Laity Day for Savannah Presbytery</p>
<p><i>The information listed here is subject to change. Please visit www.savannahpresbytery.org where you can view the presbytery calendar, or subscribe to our bi-monthly newsletter, both of which will keep you updated on what's going on in the Savannah Presbytery!</i></p>		