

The Presbytery Press

Volume 2 Issue 2

February - March 2010

What's Next?

2010 Will Be the Year of Transition.

What Can You Expect?



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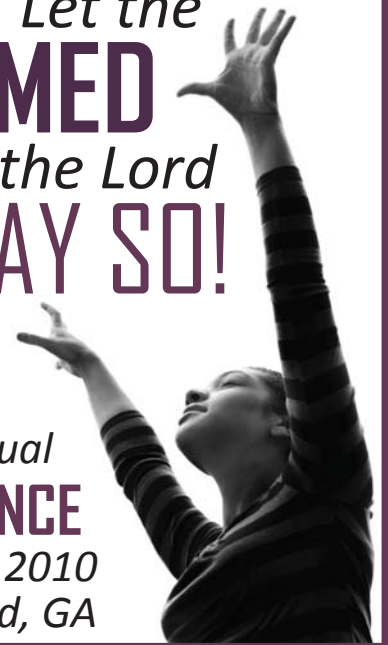
IT'S ALMOST HERE! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 3, 2010. DON'T MISS IT!

Get a registration brochure today! Visit www.savannahpresbytery.org, call 912-264-1997, or email home@savannahpresbytery.org.

Savannah Presbytery's 31st Annual
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

*February 19-20, 2010
Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA*

Let the
REDEEMED
of the Lord
SAY SO!



Come to the
SPRING YOUTH CONNECT!

The Spring YOUTH Connect is March 12-13, 2010 at New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA.

This event is for Mid High and Senior High Youth to fellowship, worship, dance, eat, and have fun! The cost is \$35 per person.

*Registration deadline is March 1st.
To get event and registration information, visit the Youth Events page at www.savannahpresbytery.org.*

What You Need to Know About the
Winter Stated Meeting
February 19, 2010



Handbooks will be available online to download and print by February 5th.

Registration begins at 12:15 PM on Friday afternoon. The meeting will be called to order at 1:00 PM.

2009 Church Session Minutes will be read during and after the meeting

LDC Registration will begin at 4:00 PM on Friday in the Pitts Office.

SEE YOU AT EPWORTH!

People, Places, and Things



New Face: Dan Lewis. Reverend Dan Lewis was welcomed by Savannah Presbytery in October as the new pastor at

First PC in Statesboro. Dan is married to Susan, who is also a Presbyterian minister, and they have a baby girl, Elizabeth.

Desmond Walker Retires. The Reverend Desmond Walker retired in October after 45 years of service as Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Many kind words and wonderful stories were shared at the Fall Stated Meeting by Desmond's colleagues and friends. He and his wife Barbara have relocated to Florida.

Pastors leaving us. This fall saw a few familiar faces moving on to other adventures. In September, the Reverend Joe Brice left Blackshear PC to take a call at a church in Cherokee Presbytery. In December, the Reverend Jim Hendrickson left Swainsboro PC to take a call at Fincastle PC in Virginia.

Savannah Presbytery Youth on Triennium Planning Team.

Rachel Miles of Faith PC in Rincon has been chosen to be part of the planning team for this summer's National Youth Triennium to be held at Purdue University in June. Rachel



is an active member of her church, and has also served as a Youth Counselor for the presbytery's summer camp. The presbytery congratulates Rachel on this exciting accomplishment.

VBS Now! Beginning February 1st, Vacation Bible School curriculum is available for preview in the Savannah Presbytery Resource Center. We'll have curricula from Augsburg Fortress, Cokesbury and others. If you are interested, please email Lou Ellen Hartley at lehartley@savannahpresbytery.org to schedule an appointment.

St. Simons PC Members Release CD.

Tim and Annie Akins, members of St. Simons PC and the musical group "After Hours", are excited to announce the release of their first Christian CD, *In His Service*. This CD contains 12 original Christian songs filled with scriptural lyrics set to the kind of music you love to hear but haven't heard in Christian music before. These songs are eclectic, touching, inspirational, and totally original. As Tim & Annie like to say, "this ain't your kids' contemporary Christian music"! Please visit www.timandannie.com to order your copy and to hear song samples of these 12 original songs. Tell your friends! Tim and Annie are also available to play at your church or other events.



Contact them at 912-506-6355 or info@timandannie.com.



Does Your Church Know About the Resource Connection?

The Resource Connection has video resources available to

Savannah Presbytery Congregations from the Synod Resource Center in Atlanta. All churches in Savannah Presbytery with memberships of 100 or less receive a free membership. For more information, visit www.theresourceconnection.org, or contact Director Mardeee Rightmyer at 404-898-0711, ext 131. The office is located at the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, 1024 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30306, and is open Monday – Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Please Pray For...

- The Savannah Presbytery Transition Team
- New General Presbyter Ken McKenzie and the Presbytery Staff
- The Leadership Development Conference and its participants, including the Laity and Christian Education Committees
- The Spring YOUTH Connect and its participants
- The March session of the School of the Laity and its participants

DOES YOUR CHURCH WANT TO ADVERTISE NEWS OR EVENTS IN APRIL, MAY, OR JUNE 2010? EMAIL THE INFORMATION TO HOME@SAVANNAHPRESBYTERY.ORG BY MARCH 1ST!

Savannah Presbytery

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Our Office & Resource Center are open Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

To Be Filed

2010 Here We Go Again!!

By Russell Gladding, Stated Clerk

By the time you read this we will be well into the New Year. Savannah Presbytery will have quite a new look. We will have two gray beards on staff; I hope Ken is not sensitive about this. We are glad to have him here and are looking forward to new relationships as we endeavor to serve the churches of our presbytery. It's a new statistical year and the online file cabinet is open so all Clerks and Treasurers can get those old 2009 statistics entered. And, while you're at it why not get your old unread minutes to us. Did you think I could write an article without mentioning these items?

The transition to our new Ministry Teams is another new and exciting way we will implement God's mission for Savannah Presbytery. It's like we have finally come out of the wilderness, only 3 years, glad it wasn't 40, and are looking at a new place to be! Even the Promised Land will have challenges, but right now it's

fresh and we are all excited.

Other new possibilities include a possible adoption of a new *Book of Order* at this year's General Assembly. This is both exciting and scary for those of us who deal with our polity on a regular basis.

There are lots of new pastors since this time last year. Pastor Nominating Committees are currently at work in seven congregations, so we anticipate more new arrivals soon.

There is lots of newness, code word CHANGE going on! Sometimes that gets us a little anxious and takes us out of our comfort zones. God may say to us in this new time of Savannah Presbytery 2010, "See, I am making all things new! Do not be afraid follow me!"

May it be so!



Russell Gladding

Be a Part of the New Class!

SOL Class of 2012 Begins

Registration in April

Registration for the J. Richard Bass School of the Laity Class of 2012 will begin in April. This is your chance to be a part of a legacy that started more than 20 years ago as a vision of then Executive Presbyter Dr. J. Richard Bass, who saw the desire of laypersons to engage in serious study of scripture, theology, and ministry. Class are small, up to twenty people

Some quick facts about the SOL:

- The SOL has developed into one of the most advance presbytery sponsored lay education programs in the denomination.
- To date, over 250 laypeople have participated in the SOL.

- It is a very demanding program of study requiring a two-year commitment and additional hours of class and preparation time.
- SOL graduates are providing outstanding leadership in their congregations, the presbytery and the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
- Many graduates have continued on into the Lay Pastor Program, with several serving as Commissioned Lay Pastors in a Savannah Presbytery congregation.

Look for registration brochures in churches in early April. Space is limited, so register early. For more information, you can contact Lynn Garis at laity@savannahpresbytery.org or 912-264-1997, or check us out on the web at www.savannahpresbytery.org, events and programs "School of the Laity".

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As I write this I find myself between two worlds. The furniture, books, etc. have been moved to our rental home. We are currently riding out the last of Advent/Christmas at our Rome home, surrounded by an eclectic collection of abused furniture which has been described by one of my decorator friends as, "Early American Filling Station." The boys are coping well with the semi-empty house and are finding long-lost treasures heretofore hidden beneath dressers, beds, recliners, etc. "Look, here's that half-stick of gum I lost in 2001!" Our dogs, Faith and Rocco have somewhat bewildered looks on their faces, but that is nothing new. It comes from living in a Pastor's home where you never know who is coming, going, or staying for dinner.

It is, in short, a time of transition. The time between what has been and what is not yet. In this vague moment, it is hard to focus on the present. Hard to remember that the present moment is the only one I really have. Jesus had a few words to say about that, as I remember. Something about surrendering the past, not worrying about the future, and embracing the present.

Years ago I read a book entitled *Zen and the Art*

of Motorcycle Maintenance. The gist of that work was that whatever you are doing at the moment deserves your complete attention, especially if it is something mundane and routine. It teaches that the distractions of past and future serve only to dilute the blessing of the present. I think that Jesus would smile and nod His head at that observation.



Ken McKenzie

So, off I go. There are a million things to do as I close out my parish ministry and prepare to come among you. But right now, Handel's Messiah is playing on my XM radio and I have some serious conducting to do as I drive to the office. Yes, I get occasional stares from my fellow motorists, but most of them are busy worrying about getting to their destinations, accomplishing their daily tasks, and worrying about making Christmas perfect. For me, for this moment, it is simply "Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest!"

I bid you peace, Ken

Get Ready for Summer!

Registration Begins for Summer Youth Events

Resident Camp, June 20 – 26. Summer Camp is where memories are made! Children entering first grade through graduating seniors are invited to New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA, for sun, fun, and fellowship in the Lord! There is fishing, swimming, tennis, games, crafts, Bible classes, talent shows, worship, sing-a-longs, eating, playing, and many other fun activities. Registration information will go out in the spring.

Kayak Adventure Camp, June 28 – July 1. Kayak Camp is fun! Kids entering ninth grade through graduating seniors join adults and guides on Sapelo Island as they kayak the surrounding waters, learn history and customs from the local Geechee islanders, worship and study God's Word, and learn to appreciate and care for His Creation! Space is limited, so register early. Registration information will go out in the spring.

Youth Triennium, July 19 – 25. Every three years, thousands of Presbyterian youth and adult youth leaders gather together for worship, play, music, community building, and Bible study. This is known as the Presbyterian Youth Triennium or PYT! PYT will take place July 20-24, 2010 at Perdue University in Indiana. Savannah Presbytery is taking a group and we want you to be a part of it! Early Bird registration is February 15th and final registration is March 31st.

Montreat Middle School Conference, July 19-25. Go INTO THE WILD at Presbyterian College this summer. Through spirit-filled recreation, study, music, fellowship, and worship, we will explore how God walks with us along the wilderness road. Come join us for a fun, grace-filled atmosphere as we equip God's children for their journey into the wild. This conference is for youth who have completed fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade. The registration deadline is March 15th.

What's Next?

Welcome to 2010. For Savannah Presbytery, this is the year of transition. New leaders, new structures, and restructured staff positions are all things we have been and will be experiencing in the following months. What is changing? And what can the people of Savannah Presbytery expect from these changes? You may have questions about this process, and we'll do our best to answer them here.



We just hired a General Presbyter. What do I need to know about him?

January 4, 2010 was the first day on the job for the Reverend Ken McKenzie, Savannah Presbytery's new General Presbyter. Ken is still getting his feet wet in his new job, and has been meeting as many pastors and churches as he can and will continue to do so in the next several months. Ken knew that joining the staff during this transitional time would be a challenge, and he is ready and excited to face it head on. He can be reached at the presbytery Monday through Thursday during office hours or by email at kmckenzie@savannahpresbytery.org. Please do not hesitate to call on Ken for anything.



Why are we getting a General Presbyter?

Following the retirement of Executive Presbyter Carl Schlich in 2007, the presbytery created a search committee to hire a new person for the job. The search process can be long, so an interim executive was hired. The Reverend Greg Garis was called to that job in January 2008 for a two year period. During that time, the search committee worked hard to find someone to fill the permanent position, changing the job title to General Presbyter, and Ken was approved at the October 2009 Stated Meeting.



I keep hearing about the Transition Team. What exactly are they doing?

The Transition Team was formed a year ago to implement the changes that were recommended by the Visioning Task Force and approved at the October 2008 Stated Meeting. They are firming up the new structure, creating a working manual, forming the new Ministry Teams, and getting the information ready to be presented for approval at the upcoming Stated Meeting in February. At the Winter Stated Meeting on February 25, 2006, Savannah Presbytery approved the following recommendation: "That the Presbytery appoint a blue-ribbon committee on the Presbytery to listen carefully to our churches and pastors, to understand critically our strengths and weaknesses, to propose creatively changes that will strengthen our ministry as a presbytery." That recommendation started a four year process, beginning with the creation of the Visioning Task and ending with the recommendation that will be presented by the Transition Team.



What is our new structure?

The presbytery is moving from fourteen committees and a large Coordinating Council to five Ministry Teams and a few committees required by the Book of Order. The Council will be smaller, some presbytery staff job descriptions and titles will change, committee/team meeting frequency and locations will change, and the number of team/committee members will reduce. The Ministry Teams are Church & Polity, Mission, Education & Training, Fellowship & Celebration, and Evangelism & Transformation. The Transition Team has created a working manual, which will be used by the teams/committees and presbytery staff this year as they implement the structure. These groups are encouraged to recommend changes as they discover what works best in the coming year.



When does it start?

If the presbytery approves the new structure, it will start immediately following that meeting. The Transition Team, some current committee chairs, and the presbytery staff have already started working

THE NEWS AND INFORMATION DOESN'T STOP HERE! VISIT WWW.SAVANNAHPRESBYTERY.ORG TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-NEWSLETTER, "KEEPING UP WITH SAVANNAH PRESBYTERY"! GET IN TOUCH AND STAY INFORMED!

The Most Important Things...

The ten most important things you need to know about your church's communications:

1. Keep the information current!
2. Know that your audience will include everyone from members to visitors, Presbyterians to non-Presbyterians. Don't exclude non-members with lack of details and unfamiliar terms and names.
3. Establish a web presence and keep it up-to-date!
4. Be presentable inside and out. Keep your building and grounds neat and in good repair. Once inside, the building and the congregation should be informative, warm and inviting.
5. Make your publications look professional by investing in good software, printing services, and/or buying printed materials to distribute.
6. Have a communications plan. Make rules and deadlines and stick to them.
7. Support your church's communications with time and money, as well as those who do the work.
8. Pictures are important! They tell a visual history of your church. Have them on your website, in your newsletter/email/e-newsletter, on your church walls and in albums to share with others. Make them big, bright and in color. Change them out often.
9. Get the word out. Advertise in your newspaper, send press releases for events to local newspapers, and create colorful flyers and post them where they will be seen. Send your newsletter to other churches and community leaders. No one will know what you are doing if you don't tell them.
10. **AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING:** Communication is a ministry. You are telling the story of God's presence in this world through your church and you are growing his body by telling the story to as many people as you can. It is one of, if not the, most important ministry of our denomination. Information creates interest, which leads to participation and support.

These points and more were addressed in the series of articles focusing on church communications which wrapped up on November 30th. This nine part series was published in the e-newsletter and on the website, and focused on different aspects of church communications such as the bulletin, newsletter, website, their importance and tips on how churches can incorporate or improve each area. You can read it by visiting www.savannahpresbytery.org or by contacting the Presbytery Office for a copy.

"What's Next" continued...

through some of the changes in anticipation of the recommendation approval. If you currently serve on a presbytery committee, you may have already received some instructions about what will happen next for you. You might also hear from a team chair or the Nominating Committee about serving on a team.



I need more information and/or I want to get involved. Who do I contact?

The presbytery staff is always available for help and information, so please call them at any time. If you currently serve on a committee, you can also call that committee chair and they may be able to help. If you would like to make sure the Nominating Committee has your name so that you can continue serving or would like to start serving on teams, please contact Tavia Harrison at 912-264-1997 or tharrison@savannahpresbytery.org.

This is an exciting time for Savannah Presbytery. We have a new mission and a new vision, and we will begin to see that mission and vision implemented through our new Ministry Teams, Coordinating Council, and restructured staff positions. We will continue to provide you with information throughout the year.

Savannah Presbytery
 3590 Darien Highway, Suite 8
 Brunswick, GA 31525

Presbytery Calendar

February - March 2010

February	March	Event Deadlines
<p><i>Tuesday, 2nd :: 10:00 AM</i> - Presbytery Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>Thursday, 4th :: 12:00 PM</i> - Monthly Pastor Lunch, Jesup PC</p> <p><i>Tuesday, 9th :: 1:00 PM</i> - Committee on Ministry Meeting, Presbytery Office</p> <p><i>Thursday, 18th ::</i> - Clergy Colleague Support Group, Fraser Center, Hinesville</p> <p><i>Friday, 19th :: 1:00 PM</i> - Winter Stated Meeting of Savannah Presbytery, Epworth by the Sea (Registration begins at 12:15 PM)</p> <p><i>Friday, 19th - Saturday, 20th ::</i> - Leadership Development Conference, Epworth by the Sea</p> <p><i>Sunday, 21st ::</i> Annual Pulpit Swap</p>	<p><i>Tuesday, 2nd :: 10:00 AM</i> - Presbytery Staff Meeting</p> <p><i>Thursday, 4th :: 12:00 PM</i> - Monthly Pastor Lunch, Henry Memorial PC in Dublin</p> <p><i>Tuesday, 9th :: 1:00 PM</i> - Committee on Ministry Meeting, Presbytery Office</p> <p><i>Friday, 12th - Saturday, 13th ::</i> - Spring YOUth Connect, New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon</p> <p><i>Saturday, 13th - Sunday, 14th ::</i> - School of the Laity, Epworth by the Sea</p> <p><i>Thursday, 18th ::</i> - Clergy Colleague Support Group, Fraser Center, Hinesville</p>	<p><i>LDC Final Registration</i> February 3rd</p> <p><i>Triennium Early Bird Registration</i> February 15th</p> <p><i>Spring YOUth Connect Registration</i> March 1st</p> <p><i>Montreat Middle School Conference Final Registration</i> March 15th</p> <p><i>Triennium Final Registration</i> March 31st</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 bimonthly newsletter, both of which will keep you updated on what's going on in the Savannah Presbytery!</i></p>