From your District Superintendent . . .

The Old Testament book of Isaiah begins with these words: “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.” Like many of the biblical prophets, Isaiah’s ministry is measured and framed within the political context of his time. The prophet served as God’s voice: to the king, to the people of Israel and, at times, to the surrounding nations.

At all times and in all places, God’s people live within some particular political context. Directly and indirectly, politics influences and shapes our daily lives. Some Christians even aspire to public office with the conviction that serving in this way is a calling from God. Christians have always been involved in politics to some degree, and there is nothing inherently wrong with that. But there are dangers.

For the Church, the problem with our politics comes when we start looking for political solutions to spiritual problems. In Isaiah’s day, the nation had rebelled and rejected God. Instead of worshipping the One True God, they worshipped idols and the false gods of their pagan neighbors. And with their enemies at the gates, instead of turning to the Lord for help and safety, they looked to Egypt. Through the prophet, God says to His people:

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD! (Isaiah 31:1)

Isaiah reminded the people that their real problems would never be solved by mere human agency. Real, lasting solutions to their problems would only come by returning to the Lord.

In thirty days, we will vote to elect our President and many other key leaders. Many of you will cast your ballots before November 3rd through absentee or early voting. We should all vote. And on the eve of what promises to be one of the most (if not THE most) contentious elections in our nation’s history, I offer the following thoughts for your consideration:

1. As Christians, and as Americans it has never been about what one person can do for us. If your candidate does not win, it is not the end of the world. If your candidate does win, it is not the beginning of the Kingdom of God.
2. For a Christian, there is no place for bitterness in defeat or arrogance in victory – let’s show the world a better way!
3. We can only vote once every 4 years - but we can pray every day!

A few elections ago, on the day after the “Day of Decision,” I was driving behind a car that had a patchwork of bumper stickers. Many of the bumper stickers were of a political nature and it became clear that the driver did not vote for the winning candidate. But with that white foam lettering used on car windows to say “Just Married,” or to write the name of your favorite team going to a state championship, the driver had written, “GOD HELP US!”

Seriously. God help us. That is precisely the message from God, through the prophet, Isaiah. God help us. That is exactly what God did, in sending His own Son in the flesh, to be the sin-payment for all humanity. God help us. On the day after the election, let that be the prayer of every person and every church in this great land!

Steve
Carmichael and Evans Transfer Membership to South Georgia Conference

Allen Carmichael (FE - Dawson/Graves Charge)
Rev. Allen Carmichael’s transfer of membership into the South Georgia Conference from the North Georgia Conference was effective July 1, 2020. Allen was appointed to the Dawson/Graves Charge in 2017.

Kimberly Evans (FD - Wynnton UMC) Kim Evans’s transfer of membership into the South Georgia Conference from the North Georgia Conference was effective July 1, 2020. Kim was appointed to Wynnton UMC in 2019.

Lay Servant Training - Advanced VIA ZOOM
This event recurs Every 2 days from Tuesday, October 6, 2020 to Thursday, October 8, 2020
Lay Servant training is designed to educate those persons interested in stretching their faith to participate more fully in the ministries of the church. They have three main areas of focus: Leading, Caring, and Communicating. The advanced class, based on Cokesbury’s book, “Each One a Minister,” by William Carter is a study of the book of Ephesians and what it teaches us about how we are called to use our spiritual gifts.
Registration fee for the class is $25.
(Note: Basic Lay Speaking class must be completed before taking Advanced Class)
Attendance in all four classes is required for certification:
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6-8pm
Thursday, Oct. 8, 6-8pm
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6-8pm
Thursday, Oct. 15, 6-8pm
Contact Anne Bosarge for more information. anne@thechapelminis

NORTHWEST DISTRICT 2020 CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Cluster 7 > October 4, 2:00 p.m. Cluster 8 > October 4, 5:00 p.m.
Cluster 5 > October 11, 2:00 p.m. Cluster 6 > October 11, 5:00 p.m.
Cluster 3 > October 18, 2:00 p.m. Cluster 4 > October 18, 5:00 p.m.
Cluster 1 > October 25, 2:00 p.m. Cluster 2 > October 25, 5:00 p.m.

October Is Celebrating Our Pastors
October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an opportunity to express the gratitude we have for our pastors and what they mean to us throughout the year. Take this opportunity to thank your pastor for his or her service and commitment. A simple card or thank you note can mean so much to those who shepherd the flock. Be a source of encouragement for the ones who encourage and lead us in Christ!
District Cares and Concerns

*Please keep in your prayers:* Hal Stalvey, son of Dennis and Jerita Stalvey (Morningside/Lee Street), as he continues to recuperate from a fall.

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**World Communion Day**

**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

World Communion Sunday is one of the six churchwide Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. Our church is at its best when we reach out to sisters and brothers in need. World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God’s children. United Methodists relate to World Communion Sunday by celebrating communion with other Christians around the world on this special Sunday. Churches are also encouraged to receive an offering to support scholarships for ethnic undergraduate and graduate students. Our gifts often enable first-generation students to attend college.

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**Conversations at the Table: C.U.R.E & Justice Ministry**

**Thursday, October 8, 2020**

[Register]

Grab some lunch, pull up a chair, and join Connectional Ministries for Conversations at the Table. This conversation will focus on C.U.R.E (Connecting and Understanding Race and Equality and Justice Ministry). *(This article provides background information about C.U.R.E).* We will share ideas, explore various topics, and become inspired. All conversations will be held via Zoom. Zoom link will be provided in your confirmation email once you register.

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**Georgia United Methodist Foundation Newsletter**

sign-up [www.gumf.org/newsletters](http://www.gumf.org/newsletters) For more information: GUMF

770-449-6726

877-220-5663

info@gumf.org

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**South Georgia Conference Offices have Moved**

The Episcopal, Administrative Services, Ministerial Services and OCM offices have moved. This will enable them to work closely together. E-mails and telephones remain the same

3040 Riverside Drive

Suite A 2

Macon, GA 31210

Mailing ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 7227

Macon, GR 31209-7227
Responding to Hurricane Laura

Hurricane Laura made landfall near Cameron, La., about 35 miles east of the Texas border, early Thursday, August 27, as a Category 4 storm, one of the most powerful to strike the Gulf Coast in decades.

When a part of our connection is impacted, we are impacted. Our connectional system is at its best when we come together to help those in need. Please continue to be in prayer for all those in the path of the hurricane. We will continue to keep you informed as we are made aware of needs.

Below are four things we can all do now to help those impacted by this storm:

1. **Pray.** Please continue to pray for those whose lives have been affected by Hurricane Laura. Please also pray for the First Responders through the search and rescue phase of this response, Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators, and the volunteers in the Texas and Louisiana Conferences of The United Methodist Church who are working tirelessly to provide relief and assess immediate needs.

2. **Give.** Give to relief and recovery efforts.
   - Donate online through your local church to SGA Conference Advance #6798: Disaster Response - Outside SGA
   - Mail a check to the Administrative Services Office made out to the South Georgia Conference and earmarked Conference Advance #6798 - Hurricane Laura Relief (address: PO Box 7727, Macon, GA 31209).
   - Give through UMCOR to US Disaster Response #901670

3. **Wait.** Please do not deploy until our Conference Disaster Response team receives a call for volunteers. Our Conference Disaster Response Coordinator, Luis Morales, will provide information for the District Disaster Response Coordinators and the ERT teams to deploy as soon as it is secure, safe, and sanitary and the Texas Conf. and/or Louisiana Conf. have issued an invitation for teams.
   - If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We will continue to keep you updated through our website and Facebook page as assessments are made and invitations are given for outside ERT teams to go into these areas if needed. Praying for all those affected and displaced from this storm.

4. **Connect.** Stay connected to the conferences that have been impacted through their websites and Facebook pages for updated, timely information:
   - Louisiana Annual Conference:
     - Website: https://www.la-umc.org/
     - Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/louisianaconference
   - Texas Annual Conference:
     - Website: https://www.txcumc.org/
     - Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/txumc

   **Questions**

   If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We will continue to keep you updated through our website and Facebook page as assessments are made and invitations are given for outside ERT teams to go into these areas if needed. Praying for all those affected and displaced from this storm.

   Luis Morales
   South Georgia Conference Disaster Coordinator
   morhilll@gmail.com

   Allison Lindsey
   Director, Office of Connectional Ministries
   allison@sgaumc.com
The Northwest District
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