



# Monday Morning in North Georgia

## September 1, 2008

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SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA UNITED METHODISTS

### This Week's Calendar

**Week of  
September 1-7**  
(click on item for  
information)

#### Monday 25th

- [ACPK District Trustees](#)
- [LAGR District Set-Up Meeting](#)

#### Tuesday 19th

- [August Preparation Workshop](#)

- [Entire Calendar](#)

### Article Archives

- [Monday Morning in North Georgia](#)
- [Weekly Conference Update](#)

### Links of Interest

- [Sign Up to receive the Monday Morning Newsletter, & other North Georgia e-mails.](#)
- [Manage e-mail preferences](#)
- [E-mail Jamie Jenkins](#)
- [Employment Openings](#)

### Lectionary and Bible Readings

#### Daily Bible Reading

- [Readings that will take you through the entire Bible in a Year](#)

#### Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, August 25

## Investing in Our Future Leadership

Twenty persons have been selected from the United States to participate in the Young Pastors' Network. Five of those selected are from the North Georgia Conference. Olu Brown, Jason Danuser, Carter McInnis, David Walters, and Stephen Walters will be among the participants in this 13-month program.

The Young Pastors' Network is designed specifically for high capacity clergy within the United Methodist Church who are under the age of 35. Participants were

nominated by their bishops based on each candidate's potential to serve as a future leader of a large membership church within the annual conference.

Over the 13 months, these young pastors will spend eight days together at five key events. They will be led by Adam Hamilton, the founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas and Mike Slaughter of the Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio.

Church of the Resurrection has grown from four people in 1990 to average a weekly worship attendance of over 7,500 today. The church was listed as the most influential mainline church in America in a 2005 survey of American pastors by *The Church Report*.

Ginghamburg had an average worship attendance of 90 in 1979 with an annual budget of \$27,000. As of 2008, 4,000 attendees on average worship weekly and the multi-million dollar budget helps resource a faith community committed to serving the poor, lost and disenfranchised.

Stephen Walters said he was "excited to learn from clergy on a 'different level' (Adam Hamilton and Mike Slaughter) and from other ministers on the same level as me." David Walters said he was "a sponge when it comes to wisdom and leadership" and he looked forward to sharing the experience with others from North Georgia. "This will help us to refine each other and to hold each other accountable," he added. Olu Brown said he "could hardly wait for our first meeting in October."

Several North Georgia clergy have generously underwritten the cost of around \$3,000 for each of these five gifted young pastors. Dr. John Simmons, Director of the Office of Ministerial Services, calls it "a significant



- Exodus 3:1-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

### Worship Tools

- Worship Planning Helps
- Preaching Helps
- 21st Century Africana
- Lectionary Hymns
- "Vision": A 21st Century Worship Resource



investing in our future leadership.” Stephen Walters said he was brought “almost to tears to realize that ministers in the conference cared enough to make this kind of

investment” in him and others. Olu Brown echoed that sentiment and added, “It is great to be a part of the Connection where we are blessed and benefit from one another.” Others agreed with Walters and Brown that they expected not only to learn for themselves but they would be eager to share their experience with the conference.

The focus on equipping young pastors comes as the number of under-35 elders in the United Methodist Church continues to decline. Young elders were 15.06% of all elders in 1985. In 2007 the figure had dropped to 4.92%. The actual number of under-35 elders in the United Methodist Church has gone from 3,408 in 1985 to 876 in 2007. This trend may continue in the coming years as Baby Boomers retire in large numbers.

Thank God and the United Methodist Connection for making this opportunity possible. Thank God for gifted and called young pastors like Olu, Jason, Carter, David, and Stephen.

Jamie Jenkins

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### Bishop Watson to Be Installed September 7

The Service of Installation for Bishop B. Michael Watson begins at 3 p. m. September 7 at [Dunwoody UMC](#). United Methodist clergy and laity will especially want to be present for this significant moment. A reception will follow the worship service and everyone is welcome to come to meet and greet Bishop and Mrs. Watson. The afternoon event is scheduled to conclude at 6 p.m.

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