



# Monday Morning in North Georgia

May 14, 2007

[www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org)

SHARING WEEKLY NEWS WITH NORTH GEORGIA METHODISTS

## This Week's Calendar

**Week of May 14- 20**

(click on item for information)

### Monday 14th

- LAGR District Clergy Meeting

### Wednesday 16th

- Appointment Adjustment Session

### Thursday 17th

- Bartow/Gordon Clergy Zone Meeting

### Friday 18th

- APCM - Steering Committee

### Sunday 20th

- ACPK District Pre-Conference Briefing Session
- Atlanta Emory Pre-Conference Briefing
- Atlanta Roswell Pre-Conference Briefing
- Atlanta-Marietta Pre-Conference Briefing
- Griffin Pre-Conference Briefing
- LaGrange Pre-Conference Briefing
- ROCA Pre-Conference Briefing

- Entire Calendar

## Article Archives

- Monday Morning in North Georgia

## Know the Secret Handshake?

A growing number of restaurants are instructing their wait staffs to greet customers with a question – namely, “Have you been here before?” While this query enables the newcomer to be identified and welcomed and the specialties of the house touted, its constant use has its drawbacks.

None of us want to think of ourselves as less than memorable. When we frequent any eatery on a regular basis and go unrecognized, we wonder if our patronage is valued. Do we not tend to favor those places where they know our names (or at least our faces)?

Additionally, the initial question implies some “rocket science” or secret knowledge about the establishment's offerings. Is it not enough to come hungry, carefully read the choices, make our selections, and anticipate a well-prepared meal? Any menu that requires explanation or elaborate instruction is hardly friendly to us.

All the above musings signal some concerns about our strategy for “welcoming” in the church. Is not a better greeting, “I am glad you are here today!” instead of “Have you been here before?” Whether a person has placed his or her name on the membership roll, communication of a sense of belonging brings people back again and again.



Just as a well done menu says what needs to be said in a restaurant, carefully worded and placed signage can raise the comfort level of newcomers and spare the embarrassment of confusion. Indeed, a church bulletin (or some audio-visual) that assumes little about the congregation's familiarity of prayers



- [Event Spotlight Articles](#)
- [Weekly Conference Update](#)

### Links of Interest

- [Sign Up to receive the Monday Morning Newsletter, & other North Georgia e-mails.](#)
- [Manage e-mail preferences](#)
- [Retired clergy and spouse birthday listing](#)
- [E-mail Ed Tomlinson](#)
- [Employment Openings](#)

### Lectionary and Bible Readings

#### Daily Bible Reading

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

#### Lectionary Scriptures

Sunday, May 20th  
Seventh Sunday of  
Easter

- [Acts 16:16-34](#)
- [Psalm 97](#)
- [Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#)
- [John 17:20-26](#)
  
- [Worship Planning Helps](#)
- [Preaching Helps](#)

or creeds or responses contributes to participation and a sense of belonging.

How is it in your church? Has an inventory of what is offered the visitor (i.e., both first time and multiple succeeding times) been taken? For help, see [www.ignitingministry.org](http://www.ignitingministry.org) and click on “welcoming”. The message presented is best when each person’s presence is clearly valued and all feel “at home” in the House of the Lord.

Ed Tomlinson

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### Bishop's Appeal Offering for Simpsonwood

Join the churches of the North Georgia Conference as we lift up Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center through the 2007 Bishop’s Appeal Offering. All gifts received will enable Simpsonwood to continue its vital ministry of hospitality. Color bulletin inserts will be available at District Briefing Sessions, but if you would like inserts immediately, [email the Communications Office](#). More information and new resources are available at [www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org).

### We Wanna See Your Feet!

“We are called to walk humbly with our God” is the theme for the [2007 Annual Conference Session](#). To reinforce the symbolism of this concept, we’d like to receive pictures of your feet that we will use at various times throughout the week of Conference. Really ... no joke! So, when you get a chance, take out your camera and take a picture of your friends' feet—or if you are feet-shy, take a digital photo of your own feet—and [email the pictures to us!](#) We’d like to receive as many photos as possible of young and older feet, feet in fancy shoes, feet in shabby shoes, pretty feet—and even not-so-pretty feet. Hey, we wanna see your feet, so send ‘em in!

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