

**ACTS OF THE AUGUSTANS**  
*an account of the ministry and mission  
of the Augusta District UMC  
July 2019*



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**WELCOME PARTY**

Sunday, August 4 | 3-6 pm  
Camp Collinswood at Lake Oconee  
(1180 Fraction Bottoms Road;  
Buckhead, GA)

We'll have boats and water activities, or just sit on the shore and enjoy a summer Sunday afternoon. We'll gather for a cookout at 5, then a brief welcome to the new pastors at 5:30. You will also receive the district calendar and district directory.

Bring the whole family (children and grandchildren welcome) to enjoy Sabbath recreation together in the beauty of God's creation.

**ONBOARDING DS &  
MISSION SPECIALIST**

Monday, September 23  
11 am-3 pm | lunch provided  
Thomson First UMC

Pastors and laity are all invited to this important meeting in the life of our district. Claire Bowen is an active member of Peachtree Road UMC and a management consultant who has worked with conferences, districts, and large congregations to create a great start for new leadership. She will guide us in assessing our district's strengths and weaknesses and help us begin this new style of leadership well.

Note: There will NOT be a setup meeting this year, as this onboarding meeting takes its place.

**INSTALLATION**

Sunday, October 13 | 4 pm  
Wesley UMC

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will join us for worship to officially install Greg Porterfield as the Augusta District Superintendent. All are invited to join in praying God's blessing upon him and celebrating his pastoral leadership of our congregations in mission together for the kingdom of God.

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**CHARGE CONFERENCE INFORMATION IS ATTACHED AS SEPARATE DOCUMENTS,  
INCLUDING AN INFORMATIONAL LETTER AND SCHEDULE.**

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# WELCOME TO THE AUGUSTA DISTRICT

## FULL-TIME PASTORS

**Nancy Johnson** (Todd Pierson)  
Lewis Memorial

**Mark Outlaw** (Lynn)  
Washington First

**Matt Stewart** (Julia)  
Greensboro First Associate

**David Wofford** (Sarah)  
Eatonton First

## PART-TIME PASTORS

**Jessica Blackwood** (David)  
Norwood Charge

**Thom Davies** (Di)  
Asbury

**Stacie Eller** (Eric)  
Mesena

**Christopher Goss**  
Mosaic Assistant

**Scott Harris** (Laine)  
Wesley Associate

**George Holcombe**  
Berlin

**Lisa Powell** (David)  
St. Paul (Lincoln County)

**Bobby Ross** (Debra)  
Concord-Union Chapel Charge

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

**David Bohling** (LaDonna)  
Liberty (Hephzibah)

**Ray Camp** (Debbie)  
Anthony Chapel-Midway Charge

**Jennifer Cheely** (Richard)  
Dunn's Chapel

**Deborah Griffith**  
Siloam-Union Point Charge

**James Hyder, Jr.**  
Philadelphia (Harlem)

**Jan Oglesbee** (Jim Turner)  
Marvin/Woodlawn Circuit

**Beth Sanders**  
Mission Specialist



## A WORD FROM THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

### The Big Reveal

A new cultural phenomenon for expectant couples is the reveal. Did you know that parents spend sometimes thousands just to announce if their child will be a boy or a girl? From cakes with white icing so that you have to slice to see if it's pink or blue, to sky diving with handheld flares trailing streams of color pronouncing boy or girl, the reveal is becoming a big deal. The problem is sometimes even the best plans go array. One family ordered a cake only to find that the color inside was purple. What does that make their child? Martian. Oh, for the days of that grainy black and white sonogram.

I say all this as a way to announce our new structure at the district office. While I will serve as the District Superintendent, I am retaining my role as pastor of Wesley. For me, it is important to communicate that the role of the district is to serve the local church. I am a pastor, and our district's primary function is here to serve our churches and those of us privileged to be appointed to them. Beth Sanders will work fulltime in the District Office as our Mission Specialist (you will see her in churches on Sunday, and she will be available to you throughout the week), and of course we are both assisted in our task by Tina Lancaster, the District Administrative Assistant. The idea behind all of this is that the church is where our energy and resource should be spent, and we want more to support your dreams for ministry rather than our own.

However, sometimes the best intentions can go amiss. If you have questions or see where we can do better, please do not hesitate to let us know. We benefit from your thoughts and never forget that we are in this together. It is a privilege to serve with you in the highest calling and greatest work there is – the ministry.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Portefield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## A WORD FROM THE MISSION SPECIALIST

It's great that Greg introduces our new roles in the Augusta District with a birth analogy, because God our Creator is always giving birth to new things. The God of Resurrection is always giving life. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19).

Years ago, when an intern interviewing me for a seminary class asked what metaphor I thought most apt for pastoral ministry, I answered, *midwife*. Something about that image stuck with me as I continued through the next twelve years of ministry, leading congregations of varying sizes in diverse communities across North Georgia. Then, when I began doctoral studies in 2014, that image grew into a thesis, gleaning leadership lessons from midwives for the role of congregational leaders as *Midwife to the Missio Dei*.

We are midwives for the mission of God in each of our communities through the work of our congregations and our connection in the Augusta District. Being a midwife requires us to have courage and patience, to hold fast to hope, to persevere through the pain of change and conflict, to be willing to intervene or to step aside and give the Holy Spirit freedom. Birth is exciting, but it is also frightening. The unknown is unsettling, and the outcome of any particular endeavor never assured.

I am here to come along beside you as midwife for all the new things God is doing in the Augusta District. I will be your coach, your conversation partner, your encourager, or just a non-anxious presence. I will pray with you, envision with you, discern with you, and create with you. This is my full-time appointment. I am available to preach, teach, lead workshops, attend special events, consult on administrative matters...whatever will be most helpful to the congregations of the Augusta District. I am so grateful for this opportunity and excited for all that God will do among us! "Behold, I have left an open door before you, which no one can close." (Revelation 3:8)

The best is yet to come! Call me...let's welcome it together!

Beth



## **A WORD FROM THE DISTRICT LAY LEADERS**

Greetings from the Augusta District Lay Leaders,

As we move forward with Greg and Beth in place as new district clergy leadership, our focus together will be on growing in ministry and reaching outside our buildings and campuses to work together. As district lay leaders, we are committed to encouraging our churches to partner up throughout the district, teaching and supporting one another and making an impact on our communities. This can be accomplished in many ways and we are excited to hear your ideas. We'll soon start meeting in connectional groups to figure out ways to make this happen.

Applications are available now for Leadership UMC and Advanced Leadership. If you have local church leaders who would like to grow in their leadership, this is a good place to start. You can download an application here <https://www.ngumc.org/agstleadershipumc> or contact Sonny by email or phone: s.mcdowell@icloud.com or 706.399.3777.

We hope to get to know you all better in the coming months as we gather together to plan the work that lies ahead.

Blessings,

**Congratulations to the 2019 Leadership UMC Graduates  
from the Augusta District**



Miguel Favre (Salem)  
Susan Young (Greensboro First)  
Taylor Thompson (Lewis Memorial)

**Congratulations to the 2019 Leadership UMC Advanced Graduates  
from the Augusta District**



Nicole Kelley (Lincolnton)  
David Hardy (Hephzibah)  
Terry Hale (Liberty)  
Judy Teasley (Wesley)  
Linda Tapley (Asbury)

\*From the kitchen of: The Center for Congregational Excellence

**\* Recipe \*** Fresh Expressions Micro Grant

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

**\* Ingredients**

Written Proposal

Church Council Approval

Call with the Fresh Expressions "Executive Chef"

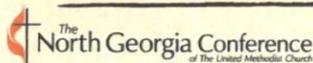


**\* Directions**

1. Propose your idea to your church council
2. Submit a one paragraph proposal on the Fresh Expressions webpage
3. Schedule a 15-minute consultation with Rev. Heather Jallad, Fresh Expressions "Executive Chef" at [www.ngumc.org/freshexpressions](http://www.ngumc.org/freshexpressions)

**\* Optional**

Complete your consult by September 1st and get \$100 off registration for the FX Pioneer Learning Community.



<https://www.ngumc.org/freshexpressions>

Contact Beth Sanders about Fresh Expressions in the Augusta District  
706.651.8621 | [beth.sanders@ngumc.net](mailto:beth.sanders@ngumc.net)

## MORE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

### MURPHY-HARPST OFFERING

Sunday, July 21 (or another Sunday that works for your church schedule)

Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers provide life and hope to Georgia's most vulnerable children through residential treatment, foster care, and therapeutic services. Your gifts and talents allow Murphy-Harpst to provide a safe and stable place to call home where children can participate in horse therapy, art therapy, learn life skills, gain confidence, and grow as children of God.

View this video about Murphy-Harpst's ministry <https://vimeo.com/220504611>, and contact Claire Wood ([cwood@murphyharpst.org](mailto:cwood@murphyharpst.org)) for offering resources and ways to get involved.

### LAY SERVANT CLASSES

#### **Basic**

September 14 & 21 | 9 am-4 pm  
Young Memorial

#### **Advanced: Leading Worship**

October 5 & 12 | 9 am-4 pm  
Young Memorial

#### **Sermon Writing Summer Workshop**

August 17 | 9am-4 pm  
Young Memorial  
\*Note, no credit offered, but beneficial for those who teach Sunday School or occasionally fill the pulpit. There is no fee for this class.

Go to the Lay Servant Ministry page of our website for much more information:  
<https://www.ngumc.org/agstlayservant>

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

Augusta District Meet & Greet  
Sunday, July 21 | 1:30-3:30 pm  
Lewis Memorial UMC

Click here to sign-up:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a054caaa92ba3f49-augusta>

Contact: Louis Johnson at (678-822-3641 or [louis.johnson@ngcumm.org](mailto:louis.johnson@ngcumm.org)) or Odell Horn ([odell.horne@ngcumm.org](mailto:odell.horne@ngcumm.org) or 404.327.5826)

