

2009

Augusta District  
Welcome Aboard



On July 10, 2009 the clergy of the Augusta District gathered at Thomson First to share a meal and to welcome the new clergy to the district.

Mitchell Keith Cox- an elder in full connection- is appointed to serve as the pastor of Burns Memorial.



My family and I are very excited that we will be serving at Burns. My wife- April- will be working in deaf education for the Richmond County School System at Sego Middle School. Our children- Meagan and Jordan- will be attending Augusta Christian School.

Amanda Ruth Garvin- a provisional elder- is appointed to serve as the associate pastor of Greensboro First.

“I was born and lived in Lilburn, Georgia until I went to college. I attended Presbyterian College and received a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education. I knew that God had called me to youth ministry before I entered college but God began calling me to seminary during my junior year of college.



“In 2006 I entered Candler School of Theology at Emory University. I entered Candler anticipating ordination as a deacon. While studying at Candler I was stretched theologically and spiritually. It was after my second year at Candler – and a lot of trying to “reason” with God - that I accepted the call to be an elder. I graduated in May 2009 with a Master of Divinity degree, and was commissioned at this summer’s Annual Conference.



“ I am currently appointed as an Associate Pastor at Greensboro First United Methodist Church. My main ministry area is with the youth. I’m very eager to see the youth of Greensboro and Eatonton grow and develop in their faith. I’m also very excited to be a part of this growing community, and to be a part of the Augusta district.

“When I’m not at church or hanging out with the youth I enjoy reading, hiking or running or walking outside, being around other people, and I am trying to learn how to have a green thumb!”

Ginny Best- a local pastor- is appointed to serve as the pastor of Independence.



“I was called into youth ministry more than 15 years ago. I served at Martinez UMC as director of youth and young adults and lead an evening contemporary service. I have served as camp director and counselor at Chrysalis and River of Life. I have volunteered at Augusta Urban Ministries, New Bethlehem Center, and at more places than I can recall right now. I served as pastor of Celebrate Recovery at Mosaic UMC this past season.

“It was during my service at Martinez that I went through the Candidacy process for Local Pastor. Independence is my first appointment as PT local pastor. I attend classes at Emory to continue my pastoral education.

“I am married to Jim Best. We met in 1976 and we have made a life-time of memories together with our family. We have two children and three grandchildren. We are a nuclear family!

“Previously I worked in emergency medicine and as a science teacher. I currently teach talent development in science at Augusta Christian School.

“My hope is to serve the people of God in the fullness of God.

“I am thankful for the United Methodist Church and for those leaders who have helped me and continue to offer their service along this journey.

“Thanks be to God!”

Matt Martin- a local pastor- is serving as the pastor of Montpelier and the campus director of the Wesley Foundation at Georgia College and State University.

An alumnus of UGA, Matt came to know Christ through the ministry of the UGA Wesley Foundation. That is also where he met and fell in love with his beautiful wife, Autumn. In 2007, Matt graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Matt has previously served at a Korean UMC in CA and at Mt Zion UMC in Marietta. Matt and Autumn have two beautiful children- Fisher, who is three years old, and Sophie, who is 19 months old. The whole Martin clan is excited about their new adventure in Milledgeville at the GCSU Wesley Foundation and Montpelier UMC. Matt's deepest hope is to see God change lives the way God changed his life.



Dr. Doris L. Harvey was born in Byromville, Georgia. She received the B.A. Degree from Paine College at the age of 19, the M.A. Degree Magna Cum Laude from Atlanta University, the Master of Divinity Degree Magna Cum Laude from Gammon Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, and the Ph.D. Degree Summa Cum Laude from LaSalle University. She is an ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Harvey is a recipient of more than 75 awards, trophies, plaques, and other special recognitions for outstanding service as an educator, a community worker, a church laity leader, and a minister. Her most recent award is being listed in the 2005-2006 publication of Who's Who Among America's Best Teachers after being nominated for the honor by Paine College Dean 's List students.



Before joining the faculty at Paine College, Dr. Harvey served as a member of the Task Force of the Faith Based Initiative and was the associate pastor at St. Timothy and Bowen United Methodist Churches in Atlanta, GA. Doris is engaged in several writing projects, and has been invited to present a religious paper in July of 2009 at the Scholars of the Round Table session of Oxford University, London, England.

Dr. Harvey is the widow of the late Fort Gordon Army Chaplain Henry P. Harvey, the mother of Savita Harvey and Trennis Alan (Tiffany) Harvey, and the grandmother of Trenyce Alaina and Jordyn Tamirah Harvey.

Doris Harvey- an elder in full connection- is serving as the pastor of St. Marks (MCR) .



Catherine, Jack, and John

John was born in Virginia, but moved to Roswell, Georgia in 1968. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a BA in History, and received a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Mass.

John is married to the former Catherine Sellers of Charlotte, NC. John and Catherine met and married in Augusta, where Catherine's family still lives. They have three children: Will, Katie, and Jack. Will lives in Boston with his wife, Meghan. He works for Merrill Lynch. Katie lives in Augusta and is a small business consultant and riding instructor. Jack is a rising tenth grader who loves baseball, basketball and tennis.

John Frank Barnes, IV- an elder in full connection-  
Is appointed to serve as the  
senior pastor at Thomson First.



James Elson Hanna- an elder in full connection- is appointed to serve as the pastor of Warrenton First.



Jim Hanna has been a member of the North Georgia Conference since 1977. He and his wife, Lynn, have two adult children, both living in Asheville, North Carolina. Jim has specialized in fundraising ministries for the past 25 years, having served as the chief development officer for the Murphy-Harpst Children's Home in Cedartown, Oxford College of Emory University, and most recently, The Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council at Lake Junaluska.

Jim has led several capital campaigns for local churches and publishes a quarterly newsletter called "Funding the Church," which is designed to help pastors and lay leadership develop fundraising and stewardship programs for their churches. You may access back issues by contacting Jim or by going to his website at [umchurchfunding.com](http://umchurchfunding.com).

Ben and his wife, the former Mary Beth Northcutt of Mt. Pleasant, SC, have been married for 36 years and live in Thomson, GA. They have 4 children and 10 grand children. After working as an Engineer for many years, Ben answered the call to ministry in 2003. He was licensed as a Local Pastor in May, 2004. He served as Pastor of Liberty Hill UMC, in Fannin County, from July, 2004-June 2005. He served from July 2005-June 2009 as Pastor of Allens UMC in Martin, Georgia.

Ben was a Certified Lay Speaker, Stephen Minister, and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference for several years before becoming a Pastor. He attended a Walk to Emmaus in September of 1996, and attributes most of his spiritual growth to that experience.

Ben has served on numerous Kairos, Chrysalis, and Emmaus Ministry Teams

Ben's passion for prison ministry and pastoral care continues to grow as he tries to answer God's call.



Benford Eugene Walker- a local pastor- is appointed to serve as the pastor of Young Memorial.

