

This image shows a blank, lined notebook page. The page is white with horizontal ruling lines. A teal-colored cover is visible around the edges. In the top left corner, the word "notes" is written in a large, teal, lowercase font. In the top right corner, there is a teal rectangular box containing the text "Date:" in white. On the left side of the page, there are three circular binder holes, each with a teal-colored ring. The page is otherwise empty, with no writing or markings.

CHAPEL • 9:45am

Rev. Richard Soper

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Rev. Tom Jones



The Way Forward in the South Georgia Conference

As we continue to live into the tension of challenging times within the United Methodist Church, we give God the glory for what is happening at St. Simons UMC! Our lay leadership, including our church council, decided early on that we would focus our energies less on division and more on the mission of the church. Following the General Conference in April 2024, we as a church family will give further consideration to the future of our church.

This Sunday, May 21, the South Georgia Annual Conference will convene to vote on the churches that have chosen to disaffiliate. What follows are excerpts of a letter from Bishop David Graves. The full body of the letter may be found at sgaumc.org along with other information about the direction of the South Georgia Conference.

Excerpt of Letter from Bishop Graves:

"When I first began my time here with you in South Georgia, I said that I wanted to help people get to where they wanted to go. That is exactly what your conference leadership has done - and has done so in an exceedingly gracious process. We have released a list of the churches who feel they need to now move in a direction other than The United Methodist Church. My heart breaks over this decision. I know that you may share similar feelings realizing that churches that have been a part of your life are now choosing to separate from our connection.

I have great hope for the future of the South Georgia Conference. While we may be smaller, numbers do not tell the full story or define our ability to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. I believe we will be stronger as we focus on reaching new people with the gospel.

Friends, it is now time to turn the page and lean into the ways that God is moving so powerfully among us. People ask exactly what that means and what that looks like. Here's what I know.

We have 275 vibrant, Wesleyan, orthodox churches rooted in scripture. Our churches are welcoming new people each and every week. We are celebrating baptisms and life-altering decisions to follow Jesus. It's an exciting time to be a part of what God is doing!

I have been so encouraged by the clergy and laity who have stepped up to provide leadership in this season. This conference needs leaders who are guided by the Holy Spirit, who will serve with integrity, and who are committed to seeking God's future for the conference. I call on all who are serving to be people of prayer, making decisions for our future here so that together we can build up the Kingdom of God.

Friends, there will always be denominational issues that may distract or disappoint us. The same will be true with any new denomination or church because people are always involved, and people aren't perfect. When we are focused on mission and ministry, it moves us to experience the power of God's Holy Spirit changing lives and transforming our families and communities.

It is time to put the word disaffiliation behind us and begin to write the next chapter in the story of this great conference. We are Easter people! I'm so thankful to be your bishop and to serve alongside you, and I'm looking forward to turning the page with you. "

Welcome to our Newest Members

Welcome to our newest members who joined Sunday, May 14:

Maria and Mark Greppin

Join us in welcoming these new members to our church family!

Financial Report

For your convenience you may give online at www.stimonsumc.com

May 14, 2023

Tithes & Offerings Received | \$19,496.28

Received YTD | \$483,245.84

Expenses YTD | \$405,193.59

Difference YTD | \$78,052.25

Budgeted Amount YTD \$454,678.30

Building Maintenance Fund YTD | \$6,244.00

Maintaining the Mission GTD (given to date) | \$240,392.15

thank you

Attendance- May 14, 2023

8:30 Worship Service: **115** Sunday School/Small Groups: **128**

9:45 Worship Service: **79** Online Worship Views: **419**

11:00 Worship Service: **330**

In Person Worship Total: **524**

Members in Ministry- May 21, 2023

Ushers:

8:30 John Goodrich, Bill Foster, Tom McConnell, Steve Stahl

11:00 Jamie Wiles, Mike Suthard, John Rentz, Zdenek Kuja, Dona Colglazier

Greeters:

8:30 Susan Watkins, Helen Baker

9:45 Ava White, Toni Metz

11:00 Madge McKenzie, Gayle Disque, Sherry Pickett

Projection:

8:30 Elizabeth Daniel **9:45** Neva Kaye

11:00 Carol Conner

Acolytes:

8:30 CJ Stahl, Scarlett Kirby

11:00 Stiles Robinson, Harlow Robinson

Welcome Desk:

9:30 Barbara Foster **10:30** Laura Weldy

12:00 Betty Sharp

Prayer Requests

Please take time this week and pray for these individuals:

New Prayer Concerns:

Janie Alexander and Family, Sam Bodine, **Mary Beth Coats, Ryan Comer, Lesley Gonzalez, Stephanie Jones**, Millie Moore, **Eileen Morgan**, Denise Ogeltree, Family & friends of Adam Paone, **Caryn Riggs**, Mel Rozier, Nancy Rozier, Family & friends of Robert Smullen, **Richard Soper, Sheila Soper and family**, Charles Taylor, Asher Thorpe, **Tim Vinson**

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Betsy Alexander, Diana Bailey, Lauren Belt, Jim Bennett, III, Tilman Blakely, Ranny Blount, Linda Blount, Marcia Boney, Billy June Boyd, Don Brewer, Beth Carey, Ed Clark, Vicki Certain, Sandy Fitzgerald, Annette Flagella, Karen Flagella, Sam Friedman, **Dotsy & Jim Fuller**, Dianna Giannotti, Chris Gonzalez, Kristin Gonzalez, Savannah Gonzalez, Connie Hallows, Elwanda Hopkins, Barbara & Jim Jensen, Ellie Leroux, Sandee Lukitsch, Mike Martin, Ken McCauley, Mike McMillan, Barbara Meadows, Nathan Meadows, Carol Meeks, Sharon Mitchell, Louise Mofield, Spence Mullis, Kirk Nowery, Ann Pickard, Dick Pipe, Mable Proctor, Mary Rentz, Bob Rewis, Irene Rohan, Bob Scherer, Dave Vandersall, Bo & Mary Vice, Judy Whelan, Bobbié Wooldridge, Hollis Youngner, Beverly Zeller, Emmie Zwack

Assisted Living Prayer:

Magnolia Manor: JoAnne Alford, Marjorie Lawrence, Norma Mock, Joyce Parry, Larry Varnadoe

Marsh's Edge Assisted: Judy Clifton, Nancy Reynolds

When a name is added to the New Prayer Concerns they will remain for TWO weeks unless the office is notified of an ongoing prayer concern. Names that are BOLD indicate a new addition or current concern.

Worship Location Switch

Beginning Sunday, June 4, the worship locations for the 8:30 traditional service and the 9:45 contemporary worship service will switch. The traditional service will be held in the Chapel and the contemporary service will be held in the Sanctuary. The contemporary worship service has excellent potential for growth. Holding the service in the Sanctuary will provide the room needed to grow as well as adequate space in the chancel area for our Worship Team to lead worship. It will also give us the capability of more creative lighting and enhanced audio/visual opportunities that are important elements of contemporary worship. The 8:30 traditional service will be relocated to the Chapel, which is the original Sanctuary of our church. This beautiful space is adequate to comfortably accommodate our 8:30 worshippers and will help bring us closer together. May God's blessings be with us in this season of change.



Stellar Vacation Bible School

CALLING ALL KIDS AND VOLUNTEERS— NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER!



Shine a light on Jesus' love!

Take off on a cosmic quest where you'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. Stellar rockets you off on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun. Each day at Stellar VBS, kids launch to rotating stations that reinforce amazing Bible Points and immerse kids in new adventures. Register kids and leaders at www.stsimonsumc.com/childrens-ministry

UMW/UMF General Meeting

Join us this Sunday, May 21 after the 11:00 service. Rev. Lynn Meadows White will be our speaker. Lynn grew up in this church and served as a pastor for 30 years and is now working with the Methodist Home in Columbus, GA. All women of the church are invited to join us!

Help our Teacher— Amanda White!

Our preschool teacher Amanda White lost her home and all of her families belongings in a house fire recently. Amanda and her husband and daughter are now moving into a new house and they are expecting a little boy soon! They need our help and would be so appreciative of gift cards to Amazon, Visa, Target, Walmart, or Academy Sports. They are also in need of kitchen supplies. Amanda's email is aspradley96@gmail.com if you would like to message her directly. Gift cards can be emailed, dropped off at the church of preschool offices or in the black box on the back of the church.

Memorials & Honorariums

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN HONOR OF MARY BRITAIN TO THE PRESCHOOL BY:

Gerry Egger

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN IN MEMORY OF FRED ALEXANDER BY:

Melanie A. Hairston, Donnell & Ernest Ricks,
Brooke & Rees Sumerford, Mary Margaret & Jeff Shiver
Connie & Richard Williams, Mildred Barbie & Nancy Brooks,
Betty & James Daher

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations 2023 Graduates !

This Sunday, May 21 is Graduation Sunday. We are pleased to acknowledge and announce our graduates for 2023! We know how hard you worked and celebrate your accomplishments. Congrats! May the Lord bless you as you follow Him.

High School Graduates:

Durham Daniel

John Porter Robinson

College Graduate: *Laura Anne Lewis*

Doctorate Degree Graduate: *Jennifer E. Jenkins*

When They Prayed~ Register for Prayer Time

In the weeks leading up to the South Georgia Annual Conference, laity and clergy from each district are gathering over Zoom and spending time praying through scripture, liturgy, response, and silent individual prayer. The date for the Coastal District is Thursday, June 1, at 6:30pm. Simply go to sgaumc.org, click on "District Prayer Days" found on the left side of the webpage, click on the link for the Coastal District, and fill out the registration form.

Happy 15 Year Anniversary to Kevin Lamb!



Join us as we honor Kevin with a Love Offering to celebrate his 15 years of Ministry at SSUMC on Sunday, June 18! If you would like to express your love and appreciation, please mail or bring your gift by the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sundays between now and June 18! Thank you for being a part of this special celebration in gratitude for Kevin's ministry and service at St. Simons UMC!

Baby Bottle Campaign



You may help support the Skylark Baby Bottle Campaign by picking up a bottle in the Gholson room and/or in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and Chapel. Fill these bottles with spare change, cash or check and return the bottle by Father's Day, June 18.

Guest Information

- **First time guests** please fill out the yellow, "Welcome Card" located in your pew. Please drop in the offering plate or bring to the Welcome Desk to receive a gift!
- Restrooms are located through the exit doors nearest the altar to your right or left.
- Sunday School for children & adults meets at 9:45am.
- A nursery is available for children **4 years old and under**, located through the exit door to the right of the altar, 1st floor in the Stubbs Bldg.
- Children's Church (**5 years old - 5th grade**), leave together after the Children's Message (except on the 1st Sunday of the month— Communion Sundays) for lessons, crafts, and games, and may be picked up on the 2nd floor in the Stubbs Building.

Join the Church

If you would like to join St. Simons United Methodist Church you may do so by one of three ways:

- (1) Profession of Faith in Jesus Christ
- (2) Transfer from another United Methodist congregation
- (3) Transfer from another denomination

If you are interested in more information about becoming a member contact Rev. Tom Jones. **678.343.3767 | tom@stsimonsumc.com**

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 21– Graduate Sunday!

- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary***
8:30 AM "The Class" New Sunday School, **Room 202**
9:45 AM Sunday School & Small Group Classes, **Various Locations***
9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service, **Chapel***
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, **Sanctuary***
***Nursery Available: Newborn- 4 yrs. for above worship services**
All Services Streamed Live
12:00 PM UMW/UWF General Meeting, **Thorpe Building**
5:00 PM New Member Gathering, **Thorpe Building**
5:30 PM Youth Group, **Youth Room**

Monday, May 22

- 9:00 AM Prayer Team, **Parlor**
11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**

Tuesday, May 23

- 8:00 AM Biscuit Eaters Reunion Group, **Parlor**
10:00 AM Men's Life Group, **Room 203**
1:00 PM Women's Life, **Room 204**
4:00 PM Handbells, **Handbell Room**
6:00 PM PAL Meeting, **Room 207**
6:30 PM Boy Scouts, **Thorpe Building**

Wednesday, May 24

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**
1:15 PM Lightkeepers Al-Anon, **Room 203**
6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, **Choir Room**

Friday, May 26

- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga, **Thorpe Building**

FOR ALL CALENDAR DATES

Check out our **Online Calendar of Events** on our website at
<https://www.stsimonsumc.com/calendar/>



Join Our Email List or Update Your Contact Info:
info@stsimonsumc.com | 912.638.3317



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ST. SIMONS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*Where Love is Unconditional,
Service is Celebrated Enthusiastically,
&
The Mission of Christ is Advanced Consistently.*

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This is a Stephen Ministry Church