

THE STARKVILLE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Friday | April 26, 2019

CONFERENCE MISSION SHARES DISTRICT MISSION SHARES 2019

We are so excited to announce that the following churches have made significant contributions to the work of the Starkville District through their Mission Fair Shares offerings through MARCH 31, 2019.

CONFERENCE SHARES 100%

- ST PETER
- LONGVIEW
- PINEY GROVE (LOUISVILLE)
- STURGIS
- BETHEL
- FLINT HILL
- COOKSVILLE
- McADAMS

CONFERENCE SHARES 90%

CONFERENCE SHARES 80%

DISTRICT SHARES 100%

- CALADONIA
- MATHISTON
- LOUISVILLE: MAPLE SPRINGS
- CAMP GROUND
- BELLEFONTINE
- ST. PETER
- FIRST UNITY (WEIR)
- LOUISVILLE: HOPEWELL
- WEST POINT: CHRIST
- STARKVILLE: ALDERS-GATE
- MACON: ST. PAUL
- LONGVIEW
- PINEY GROVE (LOUISVILLE)
- BETHEL

- ACKERMAN: MT. HERMON
- PINEY GROVE (COLUMBUS)
- SHUQUALAK
- PIERCE CHAPEL
- STURGIS
- ACKERMAN: FIRST
- CRAWFORD
- STARKVILLE: GRIFFEN
- MARVIN CHAPEL
- MT. LEBANON
- LINDSEY CHAPEL
- McADAMS
- SALEM (SALLIS)
- DRAKE HILL
- PALESTINE
- SALEM (WEIR-SALEM)
- MT. SALEM (WEIR CIRCUIT)
- COLUMBUS: ST. STEPHENS
- ETHEL
- NEW ZION
- TABERNACLE
- FLINT HILL
- BROOKSVILLE
- COOKSVILLE
- BROOKSVILLE

DISTRICT SHARES 90%

- ROCK HILL

DISTRICT SHARES 80%

Items to collect for health kits

Listed below are the items to bring for assembling Health Kits--also referred to as Hygiene kits-- during Mission Service Thursday evening, June 6 at the 2019 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference:

- One (1) hand towel (15 x 25 - 17 x 27 inches) no kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- One (1) washcloth
- One (1) comb
- One (1) toenail/finger-

- nail clipper
- Bath soap (3 oz. bar or larger) Do not remove from packaging
- One (1) adult toothbrush Do not remove from packaging
- Ten (10) adhesive bandages
- One (1) gallon-size resealable bag

We are asking each church to bring a minimum of enough items to complete 10 kits. Our overall goal is 10,000 kits.



Members of Caladonia UMC and the community come together for Project SOUL - Senior Outreach Unity Luncheons. The project recently won a 2018 Connectional Ministries Mission Grant from the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. (Photos submitted)

Caladonia UMC wins grant for special luncheons

By Gwen Sisson

This project is a labor of love that has been embraced by the entire church and community of Caladonia, according to volunteer Betty Darnell.

"The community is thankful we offer the lunch to them and their friends," Darnell said. "For some, it is a social outing where they are free to visit friends, eat, relax, and even carry home their dinner."

Darnell said they have had numerous comments from guests at each meal. She said they are always very complimentary and thankful for the food and fellowship offered at the Senior Outreach Unity Luncheon (SOUL) at Caladonia United Methodist Church in Caladonia.

"We try to offer a variety of foods at each luncheon prepared by our church members," Darnell said. "We are blessed to have this opportunity to share with our friends and neighbors."

Volunteer Lisa Elgin said what she loves most about this project is seeing the senior citizens laughing and having a good time.

"I love that they are always smiling and that they are inviting friends," Elgin said. "Our only feedback from participants is about how good the food is and questioning the next luncheon dates. However, we have had family members tell us that their parent(s) enjoy the luncheons so much that they talk about it for days afterward."

Elgin said she has been told that those participating in the SOUL event immediate-



ly start making transportation arrangements as soon as they get the invitation/reminder in the mail prior to the next luncheon.

Project SOUL is special mission project designed to provide local seniors an opportunity for food and fellowship on a regular basis. And the efforts of this small church have not gone unnoticed. The project was recently given a mission grant of \$1,785 by the 2018 Connectional Ministries from the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Money received from this grant will be used to purchase food, drinks, paper products, invitations,

LUNCHEONS
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LUNCHEONS

Continued from page 1...

postage, gas for transportation as needed, and small inspirational gifts that may be given, such as bookmarks, pocket prayers, and devotional booklets.

Caladonia UMC started SOUL in 2016 with a Connectional Ministries Mission grant, and senior citizen participants have more than doubled since they began. Elgin said at a recent event, 61 senior citizens stopped by to join the fun!

"We are a small church and we have 100 percent participation (in Project SOUL)," Elgin said. "I couldn't ask for a more loving church family."

Rev. Charity Gordon, pastor at Caladonia UMC, said they have been blessed to be able to continue having the luncheon every other month with donations from the congregation as well as anonymous sources.

For those with transportation needs, Caladonia UMC offers a safe driver to bring the senior to the luncheon and take them home afterward. In addition to serving a home-cooked meal, the church will have different activities planned for each luncheon that bring about lots of laughter and good times, according to Gordon. Some seniors will come early to play Dominoes, Checkers, or Jenga.

"We have had a couple of speakers share stories of old, and we have good, old-fashioned singing at every luncheon as well," Gordon said. "In our two

years, we have forged new relationships, reestablished old friendships, and we have mourned the loss of a few we came to love."

Gordon said the church and volunteers are humbled to be able to provide this for the seniors in their community.

"If we, as a church family, can be a ray of sunshine and give seniors a gathering in which to look forward and show them a good time, then we will have provided not only emotional, physical, and social needs, but we will have fed the spirit as well," Gordon said.

Gordon said this project is also an opportunity to get to know one another as community members. She said there are many elderly people who live in a nearby apartment complex, and they do not have much social interaction.

"They really look forward to this meal," Gordon said. "And usually we pack them up a meal for the next day." And during the summer months, youth from Caladonia UMC are invited to attend and help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Gordon says this gives the youth an opportunity to learn to communicate with, assist, and support the seniors.

The next Project SOUL luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. June 11 at Caladonia UMC. Bring a friend!

For more information about Project SOUL, contact Rev. Charity Gordon at (662) 825-0949 or e-mail her at cgor-don71@aol.com.



CALENDAR

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

• Piney Jordan UMC in Eupora is need of hymnals. If anyone has used hymnals that they no longer are using, the congregation at Piney Jordan would greatly appreciate them.

MAY 4

• Conference-Wide Day of Missions is fast approaching! Just a reminder to complete the Day of Missions Registration Form at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dayofmission> so that we can share and promote your event on the website. Also, please make sure someone at each project takes plenty of videos and pictures. The mission projects from across the state will be highlighted in a video during the Annual Conference Missions Service on Thursday, June 6, 2016.

JUNE 5-8

• The 2019 Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference will began Wednesday, June 5 and conclude Saturday, June 8 in Jackson. This year's format has changed from previous years. We will begin after lunch on Wednesday afternoon with opening worship and the clergy and laity executive sessions. The Glory Sightings Banquet will again be held on Wednesday night. This early start is needed because 2019 is an election year, and we anticipate the need for more time to discuss the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference which met in February.

** Some dates may change at any time. Check the Mississippi Annual Conference website for more details.

UNITE MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION PRESENTS

SATURDAY **A NIGHT OF UNITY** APRIL 27

MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM

GATES OPEN AT 3PM
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:30PM
MAIN EVENT STARTS AT 6PM

TICKETS ARE FREE
CHECK UNITEMISSISSIPPI.COM FOR TICKET INFO

ARTISTS & SPEAKERS

Unite Worship Band | Demario Davis | Israel Houghton | Dr. Tony Evans | Chip Henderson | Missisippi Mass Choir

WWW.UNITEMISSISSIPPI.COM OR CALL US 601.398.2346

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS. TODAY'S YARE

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SEASHORE UNITED METHODIST ASSEMBLY AND THE CAMPUS MINISTRIES FROM ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PRESENT

WESLEY GETAWAY: TAKE YOUR FAITH WITH YOU

Get your registration packet at seashoreassembly.org/events
Questions?
Call Michael Hedgepeth at 228-436-6767

9-12 Grade, July 14-16, 2019
Seashore United Methodist Assembly
1410 Leggett Dr.
Biloxi, MS 39530

Prepare your teens to take their faith to college.
Spend time with campus ministers.
Have crazy fun and make new friends.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
-- Galatians 6:9

CONNECTIONS

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Find us on TWITTER @StarkvilleUMC
Find the FACEBOOK group at www.facebook.com/Groups/StarkvilleDistrictUMC/



Mission Service at the 2019 Session of The Mississippi Annual Conference

We are hoping to pack 10,000 hygiene kits at this year's mission worship service on the evening of Thursday, June 6. These kits will be a perfect complement to our mission offering designated for disaster recovery in MS. The kits packed will be used for disaster recovery, community centers, foster care ministries, and other areas of need.

We're asking every church to bring supplies for a minimum of 10 kits. Items for the kits should be **new**.

Items should be brought to the session of Annual Conference before noon on Thursday, June 6. There will be bins available at Annual Conference for depositing items.

The list of items is as followed:

- One (1) hand towel (15x25 - 17x27 inches)
 - No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels
- One (1) Washcloth
- One (1) Comb
- One (1) toenail/fingernail clipper
- Bath Soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - Do not remove from packaging
- One (1) Adult Toothbrush
 - Do not remove from packaging
- Ten (10) Adhesive Bandages
- One (1) Gallon Size Resealable Bag



Living Out
The **POWER** of We