Passing the Baton of Faith

We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done. – Psalm 78:4
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just as our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, and neighbors and church friends passed on their faith to us, we have a responsibility to pass on our faith to the next generation (Psalm 78:4).

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation’s vision is that every United Methodist church and ministry in the State of Georgia will have the financial foundation to develop and sustain the programs necessary to make disciples of Jesus Christ!

Sharing God’s story through inspiring music and worship, small groups, mission outreach, and transforming ministry costs money. The GUMF offers loans, investment resources, consulting services, training programs, and planned giving strategies that stretch your church’s ministry dollars while helping you leave a legacy of faith, hope, and love.

This year’s Annual Report shares how investments are funding scholarships for Methodist students, providing care for Methodist cemeteries, and expanding Christ’s ministries – in perpetuity! Read how one family is investing in eternity while earning higher returns than similar instruments. Find out how a low-interest loan is helping to lovingly preserve a church for future generations. Discover how the GUMF teamed up with a church to help build a family’s first home.

Whether you are a new disciple or a lifelong follower of Jesus Christ, the GUMF wants to help you pass on your faith to the next generation. Call 770-449-6726 or 877-220-5664, email info@gumf.org, or visit gumf.org today. Let’s share in God’s mission together!

In Christ,

Zoe M. Hicks  
William T. Daniel Jr.  
Charles W. Savage II  
Keith E. Lawder

Chair  
Incoming Chair  
President/CEO  
Incoming President/CEO

Front row: Zoe M. Hicks  

The GUMF would like to thank The RUMC Foundation, Inc. for allowing us to use their photo on the cover of our 2015 Annual Report.
Strengthening Churches & Ministries

Endowments and Legacy Ministry Training to establish a permanent source of income to support a church’s ministry programs.

Wills Clinic to help churches assist their members in preparing wills and other health care documents.

Investment Services to manage and grow funds in a socially responsible manner.

Certificate Program to provide higher investment returns than similar instruments and provide funding for loans to churches and ministries.

Loans (at favorable rates) to churches and ministries wishing to refinance debt, or build, expand, or renovate facilities.

Grants to support vital ministries of the Church.

Helping United Methodists

Planned Giving Strategies to provide education that allows individuals to develop planned giving strategies to benefit their families, as well as United Methodist churches and ministries.

Free Consulting to meet with United Methodist members who wish to discuss charitable gift ideas such as charitable funds, donor advised funds, life income gifts, and planned giving.

Certificate Program to provide higher investment returns than similar instruments and provide funding for loans to churches and ministries.

Scholarships to educate and develop future lay and clergy leaders of the Church.

Our Staff

President/CEO
Rev. Charles W. Savage II

Incoming President/CEO
Rev. Keith E. Lawder

Vice President
Rev. Stephen A. Waldorf

Vice President/CFO
Russell Jones, MBA

Director of Planned Giving
Nancy Young, MSW, MPA

Director of Lending Services
Kent Canipe

Controller
Carol Johnston

Accounting Assistant
Misty Kush

Administrative Assistant
Louise Hintze

Communications Manager
Diana Durie

Front row, left to right: Nancy Young, Carol Johnston, Misty Kush, Diana Durie, and Louise Hintze

Our Board of Trustees

Chair: Zoe M. Hicks
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Resident Bishop of The North Georgia Conference

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Elijah F. Moore
Trustee Emeritus

Our Mission
Sowing seeds of faith for future generations

3
Hall-Knox Scholarship Endowment Honors Family’s Passion for Education

GUMF CEO Rev. Chuck Savage II to Retire

By Zoe M. Hicks, GUMF Board Chair

Rev. Charles W. (“Chuck”) Savage, II will retire as CEO of The Georgia United Methodist Foundation (“GUMF”) effective July 1, 2016.

Chuck joined the GUMF Board in 1992 and has served in leadership positions since July of 2006 when he became Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Soon after the merger with the South Georgia United Methodist Foundation in 2010, he became CEO in early 2011. Under Chuck’s leadership the staff has doubled in size from four full time staff and one part time employee in 2006 to eight full time and two part time employees in 2016. Foundation assets have increased from 58.7 million dollars in 2006 to 125 million dollars in 2016. During Chuck’s tenure, the GUMF has strategically and creatively structured, sold, and closed tailored borrowing arrangements for churches and para-church ministries, provided education and guidance on planned giving for individuals through webinars offered to churches, opened doors to serve African American churches and cemetery funds, provided guidance as the two Georgia United Methodist foundations merged into one, and implemented a customer care software program designed to provide better communication with new and existing church relationships.

Chuck has been passionate about Georgia United Methodist churches capturing part of the largest generational transfer of wealth in history, which will occur in the United States over the next thirty to forty years as The Greatest Generation and Baby Boomers pass over forty trillion dollars to their heirs and favorite charities. He has worked tirelessly to provide information, financial assistance, and inspiration to Methodist pastors and churches throughout the State. “Because Chuck is willing to work weekends and evenings visiting churches,” says GUMF Director of Planned Giving, Nancy Young, “People see his authenticity and passion for helping them and respond positively.”

Inside and outside GUMF doors, Chuck is seen as a “marketing visionary with a pastor’s heart,” says GUMF Communications Manager, Diana Durie. He is further credited by his staff with being a supportive supervisor, a compassionate and caring servant leader, and a “10+ boss if I had to rank him.”

Chuck’s marketing experience began with his thirty two year career at IBM. Chuck brought a successful sales background to the GUMF table as he encouraged the staff to get out and make contacts, feeding them the IBM mantra, “Calls plus demos equal sales.” After leaving IBM and training for ministry, Chuck served as senior pastor of several United Methodist churches in the North Georgia Conference, with his most recent appointment being Kingswood UMC in Dunwoody, GA.

Chuck’s successor, Rev. Keith Lawder, notes, “Chuck has put in place the building blocks for continued strong growth and has pave the way for the GUMF to realize the vision of enabling all Methodist churches in Georgia to develop and sustain programs to make disciples.”

Chuck serves as a Board member of The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation and on the Advisory Committees of Action Ministries and The Atlanta Roswell District of the UMC. He has been elected three times as a clergy delegate from the North Georgia Conference to the quadrennial General Conference.

Chuck is a 1967 graduate of Savannah State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and mathematics. He received his Masters of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta in 2001 and was ordained as an elder in the Methodist Church in 2004.

Chuck and his lovely wife of forty nine years, Mary, have two children, Charles, III and Kirsten, and four grandchildren, Caleb (17), Charles, IV (15), Jacqueline (13) and Marianne (9). When he is not working on GUMF matters or attending an event in which his grandchildren are participating, Chuck enjoys watching basketball and playing golf.
Hall-Knox Scholarship Endowment Honors Family’s Passion for Education

Lifelong Methodist and President of Wesleyan College, Ruth A. Knox, established the Hall-Knox Scholarship Endowment Fund with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation in honor of the people she loves and admires. We caught up with President Knox to find out why this endowment is so important to her.

Q. Could you please explain your family ties to Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga.?
A. Both my Hall and Knox families have deep connections with Wesleyan College. My grandfather, Clarence A. Hall, was a Methodist minister in the North Georgia Conference from 1914-1951, which made a Wesleyan education possible for his four daughters. All of them, including my mother, Ruth Hall Knox, graduated. Two of my father’s brothers married Wesleyan graduates. My sister, Mary Knox McNeill, attended for two years, and several cousins also are Wesleyan alumnae. My father, Robert E. Knox, and my older brother, Bob Jr., served on the Board of Trustees. With all those ties, I grew up wanting to attend Wesleyan College. This amazing array of women served as powerful examples to me of what a Wesleyan Woman can accomplish.

Q. What inspired you to establish the Hall-Knox Scholarship Endowment Fund?
A. My mother’s example often inspires me, and I do try to emulate the generous spirit that led her to create two scholarships at Wesleyan. Several members of my family have contributed to them over the years, including my brothers Bob and Andy; my sister Mary and her husband and children; and other Knox and Hall cousins. Members of my Hall family also created a scholarship at Wesleyan to honor our grandmother, Virginia Middleton Hall, who herself was a major force in our family and in the United Methodist Church for all of her 101 years. Education was exceedingly important to her, and she was so proud that all her daughters and three of her granddaughters graduated from Wesleyan College. This new scholarship is inspired by all these people I love, admire, and appreciate.

Q. Why did you choose the GUMF to manage this fund?
A. As a Board member of the GUMF, I have been quite touched by the generosity of my fellow trustees and by their commitment to building more significant endowed funding to ensure that every United Methodist student can have the means to attend one of our outstanding United Methodist colleges or universities. I have seen firsthand how these scholarships can make the difference in a student’s ability to cover her costs. My family and I are delighted to be in a position to add another fund to this collective group of life changing scholarships.

I have absolute faith in the GUMF as a fiduciary of the fund and trust the foundation completely to invest and manage the assets well to achieve the purposes of the scholarship program. Establishing the fund with the GUMF also strengthens the partnerships that are essential for the success of the United Methodist Dollars for Scholars program. With the combined efforts and resources of local churches, United Methodist related colleges or universities, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, and the GUMF, we can make a superior college experience available for many more students. That’s exciting!

Q. Would you encourage other United Methodists to consider establishing a scholarship fund with the GUMF?
A. Certainly! Establishing a scholarship fund with the GUMF helps both United Methodist students and the United Methodist colleges and universities they attend. With the kind of educational experience one enjoys on a campus like Wesleyan’s, these young people are more likely to become principled leaders in their communities, churches, and professions. Everyone benefits. In addition, the GUMF is trustworthy, professional, and sound in every respect, serving our church and the world by “sowing seeds of faith for future generations.”

President Ruth A. Knox
Wesleyan College

Robert E. Knox

Ruth Hall Knox
Caring for the Saints of Historic Hancock County

In 1995, a core group of former and current residents of Sparta, Ga. had the foresight to form a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide for the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of Sparta Cemetery.

“We have been able to accumulate gifts from a capital campaign and annual gifts from concerned persons and family members and are well on our way to providing for the perpetual care of this 10-acre cemetery founded in 1806,” said Jim Alfriend, Chairman of the Sparta Cemetery Association. “Twenty years ago, we engaged the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to manage the money for us. The GUMF has credibility so when we receive gifts, and gifts are given, the donors know where the money is going. How can you argue with the United Methodist Foundation being the fund manager?”

Annually, around 30 to 35 people gather together for a work day at Sparta Cemetery and enjoy the fellowship. Casting aside their collective aches and pains, these committed Christians rake leaves, trim shrubs, and pull weeds because they believe it is their generation’s responsibility to preserve the final resting places of the saints of historic Hancock County.

“At the end of the day, there is just a sense of tremendous gratification that so many people come to participate and make the cemetery look like someone cares,” said Alfriend.

Sparta Cemetery Association has also received community support in the form of grants from the Bank of Hancock County, the Plum Creek Foundation, and the Watson-Brown Foundation.

The cemetery, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the final resting place of veterans of the American Revolution, as well as Alfriend’s great-great-grandfather, Methodist Bishop George Foster Pierce.

After becoming a Methodist preacher in 1831, Bishop Pierce spent the next seven years as a circuit rider. In 1838, Bishop Pierce was chosen as the first President of Georgia Female College, now Wesleyan College, in Macon. He also served as President of Emory University in Oxford from 1849 to 1854, when he was chosen Bishop at the Methodist Conference in Columbus. He held that office for 30 years. When the original Sparta Methodist Church was destroyed by fire in 1905 to 1910, the replacement church was named Pierce Memorial Methodist Church in his honor.
A Trustworthy Referral
A referral from an active church leader followed by a request for proposals and period of due diligence resulted in Thomson First UMC of Thomson, Ga. selecting the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to manage its endowment fund.

“My experience with the GUMF over the past 20 years managing money for the Sparta Cemetery Association gave me the confidence that the GUMF would do the same for Thomson First UMC’s endowment fund,” said Jim Alfriend, Chairman of the Endowment Trustees at Thomson First UMC.

Impactful Legacy Gifts
“In 2006, our church received two legacy or estate gifts from longtime, faithful, and committed church members. This was a very generous gesture on their part and a great example of their commitment not only to the Church, but to Christ,” Alfriend explained. “When we received the gifts, Rev. Tom Kerr was our pastor, and I was Chairman of our Finance Committee. Tom suggested we set up an endowment trust that would perpetually protect the money for the benefit of the mission of our church.”

Expanding Christ-Centered Ministries
“The purpose of the endowment is to give us additional funding to expand our Christ-centered ministries beyond the boundaries of our church’s present operating budget. In the bylaws, the principal is protected. Twenty percent of our earnings annually are returned to principal; 20 percent are designated for a capital account that will build and accrue seed money needed for future major capital projects; and the remaining 60 percent of earnings are designated for missions, ministry enhancement, and capital projects within our church,” Alfriend said. “Since our endowment has been in existence, it has continued to grow through lifetime gifts given by church members, as well as memorial gifts given in memory of deceased church members.”

Thomson First UMC Partners with the GUMF
“In 2015, our trustees decided it was our fiduciary responsibility to obtain the services of a professional financial manager. We did a request for proposals, and, for several reasons, it was a unanimous decision to place our funds with the GUMF,” Alfriend explained. “The GUMF is connected with The United Methodist Church and provides capital to churches to build and improve facilities. The GUMF is a nonprofit organization. Any fees we pay to manage our funds are not paid out to shareholders, but are used to support United Methodists in the form of grants and scholarships.

“The GUMF is a proven, successful entity that has been around a long time and has a great reputation. We know the Board and have access to its members. Finally, Rev. Chuck Savage II (GUMF President/CEO) has been so accommodating. We are looking forward to getting to know the GUMF’s new President/CEO, Rev. Keith Lawder, after Chuck retires.”
When Buck and Theresa Taylor of Fort Gaines, Ga. used proceeds from the sale of their 500-acre farm to purchase certificates from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, they not only received higher returns than similar instruments, they were also invested in eternity.

Collectively, United Methodist churches, ministries, and members in Georgia have invested $33 million in the GUMF’s Certificate Program. This truly connectional program has enabled the GUMF to extend $28 million in loans to churches and ministries for the refinancing of debt, land acquisition, new construction, and expansion and renovation of facilities.

“It’s comforting to know that our money is being used to do God’s work,” Mr. Taylor said.

The Taylors first learned about the GUMF’s Certificate Program through Fort Gaines UMC in Fort Gaines, Ga. where Mr. Taylor serves as Treasurer.

“I discovered through our Finance Director that our church had purchased some certificates. I spent two months doing research on CDs. While the certificates are not insured by the FDIC, the GUMF offers better interest rates,” he explained. “We read the information the GUMF sent to us. We also went to different financial counselors who said that the GUMF was very solid, and there was no reason to be concerned. After that, we jumped on it and took advantage of the excellent rates.”

Fort Gaines UMC has been the Taylors’ church home for almost nine years. “We love our church,” Mrs. Taylor said. “It’s one big family of people who love the Lord and love their neighbors wherever those neighbors might be.”

“We also love the outdoors, and the countless variety of flora and fauna God created. I have been looking at the world through a camera lens for over 40 years. For over 25 years, I wrote and illustrated magazine features for sporting publications, all the while polishing my camera craft,” Mr. Taylor said. “In late 2007, I launched my company, Imagemaker Photography. Theresa is my “spotter.” Many of the most difficult shots you see of wary birds on my website, countrycameraman.com, I would have missed had she not been there to point them out for me.”

It comes as no surprise that Mr. Taylor uses his gifts to glorify God while enriching the lives of shut-ins. “Buck has placed his prints in the hallways of seven assisted living centers located within a 100-mile radius of our home,” Mrs. Taylor said. “Every two months we rotate those 14 prints so the residents have something new to look at, and they genuinely seem to appreciate it.”

“I like sharing with other people who don’t get to see all these things,” Mr. Taylor said. “Having a photo helps them understand more about nature and more about God.”

Buck Taylor’s photos pictured on this page can also be viewed on his website at countrycameraman.com.
Chubb Chapel UMC has served the Chubbtown, Ga. community since 1870. The Church has used low-interest loans provided by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation twice to help to finance improvements.

Listen while member Clemmie Whatley, PhD., who served as project coordinator for the most recent loan, shares how Chubb Chapel UMC is being lovingly preserved for future generations.

The History of Chubb Chapel UMC
In the 1860s, Isaac Chubb and his 10 children (eight brothers and two sisters) built Chubbtown, a self-sufficient Black community. In 1870, the Church trustees bought property from Henry Chubb, my great grandfather, and his brothers. Chubb Chapel became a drawing point for other Black families moving into the area because Black families were seeking safe and secure places of worship. In 1916, a major flood occurred and destroyed many of the businesses. Even though the many businesses were gone, the Church still remains today as a viable place of worship.

A Place of Refuge
From its origination in the 1870s, through the 1900s with all the prejudice around the world, through the Civil Rights movement, and up until today, the Church has been a place of refuge for Black families. There’s a strong connection that has been passed on through the generations. Chubb Chapel serves to bring families of the Chubbtown community together. The strong spiritual and family bond continues today.

Expansion of the Annex
Even though we are a small church with 15 to 20 members, a huge gathering of relatives and friends come to our events. In the Annex, there was not enough room to sit everyone for meals. The church members agreed to expand the Annex if we could get a $10,000 grant from The Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, which we did. Our next step was to obtain a commitment from our members to pay off the loan from the GUMF within five years.

The funds enabled us to expand the Annex from 800-square-feet to 1,600-square-feet, renovate the kitchen, and add new walls, flooring, cabinets, fixtures, and lighting, as well as a bathroom and air conditioning system.

God’s Timing is Perfect
When ESPN came to town to film a special about Chubbtown and my cousin, Nick Chubb, a University of Georgia tailback who attended our church when he was a toddler, the facilities were complete. Nick reflects the values of his ancestors who built this community. It’s like Nick said, “When you come back to Chubbtown, you feel the warm, caring spirits that are a part of the Church and community.”

The Church Turns to the GUMF
When we needed a loan to put new pews in the Church 10 years ago, we received a good rate from the GUMF. We turned to the GUMF again because of the ties to The United Methodist Church, the low interest rates, and the fact that the organization is very pleasant to work with.

Dreams for Tomorrow
We want the Church to reach out and serve the new Chubbtown community as it exists today. The community has changed. Before, it was African-American. Now, it is a more diverse community. Also, we now have a place for Chubbtown family members to come and share the story of Chubbtown. We will be able to continue to tell the history of Chubb Chapel and Chubbtown for generations to come.
On a sunny day in April, the Georgia United Methodist Foundation teamed up with Dunwoody UMC in Dunwoody, Ga. to help build an Atlanta Habitat for Humanity home for a family of four.

“Although this is Dunwoody UMC’s 26th time to partner with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, it’s our first Blitz Build where volunteers and the homeowner built the house in seven consecutive days, excluding Sunday, rather than the traditional model of seven consecutive Saturdays,” explained Jack Whitley, who coordinates the Atlanta Habitat builds on behalf of his congregation.

Dunwoody UMC provided the funds needed to build this four-bedroom, two-bath home located in southeast Atlanta. Construction began on April 16, 2016, and ended on April 23, the same day the dedication ceremony took place.

“Our family would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts,” said Amber Welch, the new homeowner. “We are so blessed to have people take time out of their busy day to build our dream home.”

Welch and her husband, Arsenia Lane Sr., 3-year-old son, Arsenia Jr., and 2-year-old daughter, Ava, plan to move into what will be their first home in late May. Welch, who is employed in the nutrition department for Clayton County Public Schools, will graduate with a bachelor’s degree from Shorter University this December.

“God has been with us through this entire journey. We thank Him every day and every night,” Welch said. “He knew we were adamant about trying to leave the apartment so that our kids could have a safe place to live. Now they will have their own rooms and a front yard and a back yard where they can run around and play. I am thrilled!”

“The GUMF is all about helping others build solid foundations. What better way to get in on the ground floor of an enduring legacy than for our team to help the DUMC team and Amber’s family with their new home,” said Rev. Keith Lawder, incoming President/CEO of the GUMF.

Since 1983, the Atlanta Habitat chapter has served families by building or renovating more than 1,400 homes for over 5,500 family members.

“Beginning in 1995, Dunwoody UMC has been an essential pillar of our faith-based house sponsorship. We are grateful for their partnership, generous volunteer support, and prayers throughout the years,” said Haley Hart, Sponsorship Associate at Atlanta Habitat for Humanity. “We would not be able to provide affordable homeownership without their support.”

Lisa Y. Gordon, President and CEO of Atlanta Habitat, thanked Dunwoody UMC and the GUMF. “The experience of working with Dunwoody UMC on this build allows us to share our passion for transforming lives together,” she said. “We are so thankful for their service with us on many homes. We salute our new partner the GUMF for joining us on this Blitz Build.”
## Summary of Accounts by Value

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## Assets as of 12/31/15

![Bar chart showing assets from 2009 to 2015](chart.png)

To receive a copy of the annual audited financial statements, please contact the GUMF at 770-449-6726 or 877-220-5664 or visit gumf.org.
GUMF funds were not used in the preparation of this literature. All costs were paid by a sponsor.