

Faith & Money

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO CHANGE LIVES!

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Honoring Rev. Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge

By Nancy Young, GUMF Vice President of Development

I am privileged to know generous and faithful Methodists who work diligently to establish scholarship endowments to help Georgia Methodist students attend college. Recently Rev. Dr. Julie Boone, The North Georgia Annual Conference Board of Ministry Chair, spearheaded an effort to establish a scholarship in honor of Rev. Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge with amazing results!

Julie said, "The Board of Ordained Ministry is grateful for the leadership and many years that Dr. Glenn Ethridge served as the Chairperson for the Board. The Board of Ordained Ministry wanted to celebrate and honor Dr. Ethridge's time on the Board with a gift that would be reflective of Glenn's heart for ministry. It seemed natural that it would be a scholarship that would support and encourage new ministers as they traverse the financial landscape of seminary. The Georgia United Methodist Foundation has a strong track record of helping individuals and churches in ministry, so when inquiring about a scholarship, the Foundation was very supportive. The Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge Scholarship Endowment is a way of saying 'thank you' to Glenn and a way of supporting the next generation of church leaders."

One of Glenn's friends, Zoe Hicks, who also has a scholarship endowment at GUMF, responded generously. Zoe stated, "When my husband and I first heard about the scholarship being established in Glenn's honor, we knew immediately we wanted to be a part of it. Glenn was our pastor for 13 years at Oak Grove UMC, and he and Cathy are dear friends today. While Glenn was at Oak Grove, he mentored young people and established a new Bible study group for young adults, which was very well attended and attracted a demographic previously unreachable."



From left, Charles "Smoky" and Zoe Hicks are close friends with Rev. Dr. Glenn and Cathy Ethridge.

Glenn has a heart for seminary students and recent graduates. We felt this scholarship was the perfect way to honor Glenn. The scholarship will help equip our next generation of pastors. Investing in these young men and women gives us a tremendous return on our charitable contribution. We do not know how many will benefit from the Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge Scholarship Endowment over the years, but to think that we could help educate so many who will do so much good for the Kingdom of God on earth is a great feeling."

To date, 77 individuals, eight churches, and two foundations have contributed over \$55,000. The income from the endowment will fund two annual scholarships of \$1,000 each for two Georgia Methodist students with preference being given to students attending Candler School of Theology and Gammon Theological Seminary.

If you too would like to express your appreciation, please give online at www.gumf.org or mail a check to the Georgia United Methodist Foundation at PO Box 922087, Peachtree Corners, GA 30010-2087. (Include the "Dr. Glenn L. Ethridge Scholarship Endowment" in the memo line).

Stay Trustworthy, Keep Good Credit



**Charles W.
Buffington Jr.**

**Charles W.
Buffington III**

In their book *"He Said It! I Did It!"* Charles W. Buffington Jr. and his son, Charles W. Buffington III, take readers on a journey to financial freedom that results in a life of abundance that honors God. In Lesson 7 of this 10-part series, the Buffingtons encourage readers to stay trustworthy and to keep good credit, which is a measure of how well you repay money. They also note that credit is a measure of your integrity and that it is both biblical and honorable to live up to your commitments. The following takeaways will help you attain and keep good credit in order to achieve your financial goals.

1. Credit worthiness is a moral obligation.
2. Being credit worthy will help you reach your financial goals faster.
3. Having bad credit will hurt you financially. Good credit will substantially improve your financial scorecard. (The formula to determine your score is Net Worth = Assets – Debt).
4. Know your credit score, and take decisive action to improve it.
5. Work with your lenders if you are having difficulty making payments. A little communication can save you from being labeled a credit risk.
6. Bankruptcy should be an absolute last resort!
7. Having access to cash enables you to leverage other people's money to acquire appreciating assets and increase your financial scorecard.

GUMF Ministries to Churches

Investments

We help churches manage and grow invested funds through socially responsible and sustainable investing.

Investment Funds	Quarter	1 Year	3-Year Average	5-Year Average
U.S. Equity Fund*	8.19%	15.42%	11.42%	12.99%
International Equity Fund*	9.62%	12.95%	5.10%	9.29%
Multiple Asset Fund	6.55%	12.12%	7.60%	9.40%
Fixed Income Fund**	1.80%	6.23%	4.95%	5.17%

Returns as of 9/30/20. Past performance is not an indication of future results.

*On 10/10/17, GUMF's Equity Fund was split into the U.S. Equity Fund and the International Equity Fund.

**On 11/1/17, GUMF's Fixed Income Fund Manager changed from Merrill Lynch/BlackRock to Wespath.

Certificate Program

We offer 4-, 3-, 2- and 1-year fixed-rate investments, which in turn provide funds for loans to churches and ministries.

Certificate Terms and Rates: 4 Year: 1.90% 3 Year: 1.60% 2 Year: 1.40% 1 Year: 1.20%

Rates as of November 2020. Rates are subject to change without notice. For current rates, contact GUMF.

Loans

We offer loans to churches and ministries wishing to refinance debt, to build, to expand, or to renovate facilities for sustaining ministry.

Construction Loan Terms and Rates Less Than 1 Year: 4.90% Fixed
Permanent Loan Terms and Rates Up to 20 Years: 4.25%*

*Fixed rate for five years. Interest rate is adjusted at the end of each fifth year of the permanent loan.

Rates as of November 2020. Rates are subject to change without notice. For current rates, contact GUMF.

Endowments and Legacy Ministry Training

We teach church leaders how to establish and cultivate permanent sources of income to support and sustain church ministry programs.

Wills Clinics

We help churches by assisting their members in preparing their wills and other health care and estate planning documents.

GUMF Ministries to Individuals

Planned Giving Strategies

We offer free individual and group meetings to discuss effective strategies for creating a legacy for ministry that also benefits your family.

Certificate Program

We offer 4-, 3-, 2- and 1-year fixed-rate investments, which in turn provide funds for loans to churches and ministries.

Certificate Terms and Rates: 4 Year: 1.90% 3 Year: 1.60% 2 Year: 1.40% 1 Year: 1.20%

Rates as of November 2020. Rates are subject to change without notice. For current rates, contact GUMF.

Scholarships

We partner with donors and the UMHEF to offer scholarships to Georgia United Methodist students who attend Methodist colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Clergy Financial Literacy Academy

We train pastors in personal and church financial literacy.

Generous Faithful Project Assures God's Kingdom Now and Forever!



Tracy Crump,
GUMF Development
Committee Chair



Nancy Young,
GUMF Vice President
of Development

Tracy Crump, Georgia United Methodist Foundation Development Committee Chair, and Nancy Young, GUMF Vice President of Development, have teamed up to answer questions about our newest ministry, the Generous Faithful Project.

GUMF: What is the Generous Faithful Project?

CRUMP: The Generous Faithful Project is a movement that recognizes our call, as people of faith, to be generous and our call as disciples of Christ, to grow God's Kingdom through our giving and service. Through this initiative, GUMF promotes, educates, and provides the resources needed for United Methodists, who wish to join together in building God's Kingdom now and forever, to do so through legacy giving as well as gifts made during their lifetime.

GUMF: What are the goals of the Generous Faithful Project?

CRUMP: First, GUMF wishes to identify the many different ways you can leave a legacy. Second, our goal is to share how our generous donors have been blessed by empowering others. Third, we wish to serve as a trusted resource to United Methodists to fulfill their vision and plan their legacy.

GUMF: Why is GUMF committed to the Generous Faithful Project and the perfect partner for you?

YOUNG: The mission of GUMF is "Empowering People to Change Lives!" We are perfectly positioned to help empower your church or favorite charity to change lives and as the people of The United Methodist Church, make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. GUMF is a trusted partner who can provide the solutions and resources you need to help you make a gift. You can rest assured that your wishes will be fulfilled. We offer lower fees which yield greater impact. And our investments are also socially aligned with our faith.

GUMF: Why would I want to start this conversation?

CRUMP: We hear from so many generous and faithful United Methodists just how much they care deeply for their church and other UMC ministries and want to assure their continued impact in transforming lives. Unfortunately, though, many United Methodists remain unaware of, or are never asked to, leave a legacy. GUMF is an excellent resource for our Church in

facilitating these conversations—and does so with no pressure to make a commitment. We just want to help you clarify what God is calling you to do, and if we can, help you fulfill the vision that God has placed on your heart.

GUMF: What is a legacy gift?

YOUNG: Leaving a legacy is as simple as establishing an endowment, making a gift in your will, or adding your church or favorite charity as a beneficiary to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). We will work with you, your financial advisor, and your attorney to help you determine the way to give that is most beneficial to you and your family. Here are nine easy ways to leave a legacy gift.

- 1) **Cash:** Give with a check.
- 2) **Stock/Investment Assets:** Transfer ownership to your church or charity.
- 3) **Charitable IRA Distribution:** Transfer distribution to your church or charity.
- 4)a **Real Estate:** Transfer title to your church or charity.
- 4)b **Real Estate with Retained Life Interest:** Give to your church or charity.
- 5) **Donor-Advised Fund:** Set up a fund with GUMF. Give cash/investments, etc. to the fund.
- 6) **Life Insurance:** Change beneficiary designation to include your church or charity for all or part of the proceeds.
- 7) **Retirement Plan Assets:** Designate your church or charity as beneficiary for all or part of the proceeds.
- 8) **Will or Estate Plan:** Leave gifts to your church or charity in your will or estate plan.
- 9) **Trusts, Etc.:** Set up a trust and put assets into it.
- 9)a **Charitable Gift Annuity:** Donor purchases an annuity contract which obligates GUMF to make payments for a specific period. Any remainder is given to GUMF or designated charity.
- 9)b **Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust:** Donor sets up an annuity trust which provides regular payments to donor/designee for a specific time. Remainder is given to charity.
- 9)c **Charitable Remainder Unitrust:** Donor creates a trust where a percentage of the value of the trust is distributed annually based upon the market value of the fund. Remainder is given to charity.
- 9)d **Charitable Lead Unitrust:** Donor creates a trust that pays a fixed or variable payment to church or charity. Remainder goes to heirs.

GUMF: What is the Generous Faithful Society?

CRUMP: The Generous Faithful Society is a way for GUMF to recognize donors who have made a lasting contribution that impacts Georgia United Methodist churches and ministries. One of the greatest benefits of joining is that through your example you will be encouraging others to leave a legacy gift as well.

GUMF: How do I get started?

YOUNG: To learn more, please contact me (Nancy Young, GUMF Vice President of Development) at 678-708-6601 or nyoung@gumf.org. I will arrange a time that is convenient for you to meet either in-person or via Zoom.

Clergy Financial Literacy Academy Empowers Pastors

The Clergy Financial Literacy Academy pioneered by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation equips and empowers pastors to make better financial decisions. The 20-hour online and Zoom course priced at \$50 consists of modules for both personal and church finance. Read on to learn what five recent graduates have to say about their experience! For more information, please call 770-449-6726, 877-220-5664, or 478-256-7130 or visit www.gumf.org/training/clergy-financial-literacy-academy-training.

Rev. Shari Rates, Metropolitan UMC Senior Pastor, Rome

1. Why did you enroll? I have been frustrated for years with the two areas CFLA addresses: personal and ecclesiastical.

2. What did you like the most?

We all come to the table with both similar and different needs as pastors; but the schematic of how to navigate the world of personal and church finances through the Academy, peers, and leadership is helping to set the groundwork for a better future with churches and the pastors who serve them.

3. What were the biggest benefits? You cannot overcome circumstances without taking the first step. This process requires commitment and consistency. The Academy is giving me the tools and support I wish I had at the beginning of my ministry. It provides resources, formulas, motivation, and support, which is key to the success of longevity and change.

4. Would you recommend this course? Yes, all pastors, provisionals, finance chairs, secretaries, and treasurers need to participate. In some instances, it should be a requirement.



Rev. Debbie Cone, Avalon UMC Senior Pastor, Albany

1. Why did you enroll? I wanted to make sure I was handling finances the right way. I also wanted the Church to be all that we could be in the community as far as missions were concerned.

2. What did you like the most? This was all about God, and it always related back to Scripture!

3. What were the biggest benefits?

This was one of the best courses I have ever done because you get to share experiences with other pastors. It was very well prepared. You not only get the information you need, but you also learn how to use it. The follow-up was excellent. You can call back at any time if you have questions. Doing it on Zoom was also cool because it saves you time and money.

4. Would you recommend this course? Yes, this course not only helps with individual finances, but it helps you be a better pastor with church finances. I wish I had this course before I ever started my first year in ministry because I lacked knowledge about deductions a pastor could withhold for tax purposes.



Rev. Karon Compton, Tallapoosa First UMC Pastor, Tallapoosa, and Rev. Tom Compton, Old Camp UMC Pastor, Carrollton

1. Why did you enroll? Honestly, we needed the Continuing Education Units and thought the course would be helpful to better manage our personal and church finances.

2. What did you like the most? We liked the structure and the guidance through some difficult material. We bought the book *"He Said It! I Did It!"* written by Charles W. Buffington Jr. and his son to supplement coursework.

3. What were the biggest benefits? We should have done this 30 years ago! The course provided us with a better financial foundation for personal and church budgeting and planning. There are also resources available through CFLA to help our trustees and finance and building committees.

4. Would you recommend this course? Yes, we would for two reasons. You need the CEUs, and you will have a resource that will help your growth as a Christian, family, and pastor. Pastors ought to embrace this opportunity while they are young.



Rev. Mike Broome, Hiram First UMC Pastor, Hiram

1. Why did you enroll? This was a good opportunity to do a fiscal financial checkup on both a personal and church level.

2. What did you like the most? I liked having colleagues come together from a variety of backgrounds and opinions. It was good to see the unity in the Church.

3. What were the biggest benefits?

As a father or a parent, you always want to provide for your kids. And as a pastor, you want to provide for the financial soundness of your church. The CFLA provided the tools to evaluate current and future financial needs, to set goals, and to measure success on both a personal and churchwide basis. Having my finances organized along with the Church's helps direct that vision and goal setting in a healthy direction.

4. Would you recommend this course? Yes, the passion and teamwork between GUMF staff and Charles W. Buffington Jr. really made the experience. They are all working together to make pastors and the Church financially healthy.



Kea Family Shares Faith and Values on Saving, Giving, and Spending

During his 41 years in ministry, Rev. Dr. Donald Kea, retired elder with The South Georgia Conference, has faithfully served as an associate pastor, senior pastor, and district superintendent with Mary Dale, his loving wife of 60 years, by his side. He also served for several years as president of the South Georgia United Methodist Foundation, which later became the Georgia United Methodist Foundation following the 2010 merger between the South and North Georgia Foundations.

Stewardship is a vital part of their lives. “Even as children and youth, we tithed our allowance,” said Mary Dale Kea. “We have always said that the first check you write each month is to your church.”

The Keas have been intentional about sharing their faith and values with their family. “Whenever we

“We couldn’t think of a better place to put our money than with the Foundation. This investment not only helps us, but we love that it helps other people and The United Methodist Church.”

– Rev. Dr. Donald Kea, retired elder with The South Georgia Conference



give money to our daughter and our grandchildren, we always say, ‘Save some, give some, and spend some.’ That has always been their philosophy as well,” said Rev. Dr. Kea.

GUMF’s Certificate Program, which offers 4-, 3-, 2- and 1-year fixed-rate investments, provides a way for the Keas to invest their hard-earned savings in a vehicle that, in turn, provides funds for loans to Georgia United Methodist churches and ministries.

“It is sort of like a savings account so we can look after ourselves and not be a burden to our family,” said Mary Dale Kea. Rev. Dr. Kea agrees, “We couldn’t think of a better place to put our money than with the Foundation. This investment not only helps us, but we love that it helps other people and The United Methodist Church.”

Epworth UMC Stores Up Treasures in Heaven

Since its founding in 1960, 15 pastors, including Rev. Dr. Donald Kea featured in the article above, have served at Epworth UMC in Columbus. Rev. Earnestine Campbell was appointed pastor in June 2020.

“It is a joy to serve Epworth and this congregation. The Church and the parishioners continue to be the fruitful hands and feet of God during this COVID-19 pandemic,” Campbell said. “We have engaged in creative ways in worship, small group studies, mission work, and care for one another and our community—in our holistic stewardship unto God.”

By taking care of God’s people here on earth, Epworth UMC is storing up treasures in heaven. Each month, the Church partners with Rose Hill UMC’s Feeding Our Neighbors ministry to provide meals to people in need. Epworth UMC donates funds to support Open Door Community House. Through its partnership with



Left: Rev. Earnestine Campbell serves as pastor of Epworth UMC in Columbus. Right: Church members provide meals for people in need through Rose Hill UMC’s Feeding Our Neighbors ministry.

the Wynnton Neighborhood Network, the Church impacts 1,000 lives annually by providing groceries and utility assistance.

Epworth UMC supports the Walk Out of Darkness event to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. “Our church has been present at this event over the last three years as a sign of God’s presence and hope in the midst of such heart-wrenching loss,” Campbell said.

In addition to investing in its community, Epworth UMC has

developed a key connectional partnership with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation.

“Investing through the Certificate Program allows us to help churches and organizations that may be underserved by banking institutions because of their financial situation,” Campbell said. “This is not only a great way to help people who are doing ministry, but the Church also receives a great rate and return on our investment.”

Bethel UMC to Build a Community Center That Ministers to God's People



Under the leadership of Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker, Bethel UMC has offered COVID-19 testing to the community.

Like kids on Christmas morning, members of Bethel UMC in Atlanta are eager to break ground on their brand-new community center. From securing a loan from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to finalizing architectural plans, Building Committee Chair John Lawrence had checked all the boxes. What the Church could not anticipate was a delay in obtaining a building permit due to COVID-19. If the Church can begin construction no later than November 1, 2020, The Bethel Community Center should be ready March 31, 2021.

The 4,000-square-foot community center is key to helping this mission-minded family of faith carry on its transformative work. "Bethel is known for its care for a broken and hurting world. We feed families and provide COVID-19 testing, blood drives, online worship services, and a small group Bible Institute, which includes Disciple Bible Study, Wednesday Noon, and GriefShare for our community and beyond," said Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Jacqui Rose-Tucker. "As with most Methodist churches, we do have an aging congregation with one caveat, young at heart, with a desire to reach our community and reclaim our place as a community church. We are creating a legacy of faith to children, youth, and young adults in this community. We are open to inviting people of all ages, races, sexes, and gender identities. We love Christ and therefore love whom Christ loves."

Lawrence adds, "We have missed opportunities to be in ministry to our community due to lack of space. We will use the new space to minister to children and youth who need a place of refuge after school. We will offer after school tutoring and a place where grandparents providing day-to-day care for their grandchildren can receive needed resources."

When complete, the community center, which doubles as a fellowship hall, will feature a fully-equipped kitchen, coffee house, classrooms, storage spaces, and seating for 300. The Church plans to offer exercise classes, dinner



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theaters, musical concerts, and spiritual, physical, and mental health wellness programs and resources. Members and visitors alike will have a place to hold church and community events such as weddings, receptions, and meetings.

"The community center will usher Bethel into becoming a more intricate cornerstone in the community. Small group participation will increase through Bible study, the coffee house, tutoring, and after school activities," Lawrence said. "We will be able to help our young people thrive as some do not have internet in their homes. We will also be able to remedy some of the barriers to quality education existing in our community and beyond."

Bethel UMC considered several factors before committing to this building project. The Church has no debt, is in sound financial condition, and is located in a desirable and growing area. Leadership surveyed its church family and friends. MissionInsite performed a demographic analysis to help Bethel UMC better understand its membership and the community at large. The data revealed that The Bethel Community Center would help to meet needs in the community, particularly when it comes to ministering to the younger demographic.

Church leadership also did their homework when it came to choosing a lender. Lawrence explains, "We partnered with GUMF because we wanted to support our United Methodist institutions. We were looking for a financial partner with competitive rates who understands the internal workings of a church and for a spiritual partner like GUMF who has a goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ."