

Faith & Money

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO CHANGE LIVES!

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LaGrange College Alumni Lead Scholarship Endowment Drive to Honor Retired Professor

A new scholarship endowment, named in honor of Dr. C. Frank McCook, has been established with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation (GUMF). McCook spent 33 years serving as a professor and Department of Religion head at LaGrange College until his retirement in 1994.

Kathy McCollum, LaGrange College and GUMF board of trustee, and Rev. John Haney, pastor of Pitts Chapel UMC in Macon, are jointly leading this endowment drive on behalf of other LaGrange College alumni. Once fully funded, the \$20,000 endowment will generate a \$1,000 scholarship each year in perpetuity to benefit LaGrange College students.

"I was shocked. I was humbled, and I did not feel that I was worthy of this honor," McCook said. "My passion has been improving Christian education. I'm humbled to know that I will be assisting students in their educational process."

McCook's wife Elaine adds, "Frank is a firm believer in the Wesleyan ideology and philosophy and that educating yourself is important so that you never stop questioning and growing your faith and trying to reach a higher level."

A retired ordained minister with The South Georgia Conference, McCook holds a doctorate in Christian education. In 2016, he was named an honorary alumnus of LaGrange College. During his career, McCook helped to prepare students for ministry, led several groups of students on study abroad programs in Israel, and created the "Yes Project" to train students.



Left to right: Elaine McCook; Kathy McCollum, LaGrange College and GUMF board of trustee; Dr. C. Frank McCook, retired LaGrange College professor; and Rev. John Haney, pastor of Pitts Chapel UMC.

McCook also served as a supply pastor to several United Methodist churches and as chaplain to both Clan Donald USA and the Stone Mountain Highland Games. "I felt that the Word of God was an essential part of the human experience," he said. "I wanted these organizations that I was involved in to realize that they had a higher calling."

Haney has stayed in touch with McCook for over 40 years. He believes the scholarship endowment is a fitting tribute to a professor who impacted so many students' lives.

"Dr. McCook believed in me. He encouraged me, and he affirmed me. He helped me to reach my potential," Haney said. "Dr. McCook also gave me a wonderful love for Israel. When I went there with him for the first time, I got sick. He took care of me throughout the night. I'll never forget that for as long as I live."

To date, McCollum and Haney have raised nearly \$7,000 of the \$20,000 needed to endow this scholarship. Grants of \$1,000

Cover Story continued on page 3

Sign Up to Receive the Do Good! 2020 Calendars



Jesus practiced radical hospitality. And you can too! In 2020, GUMF will publish a monthly calendar with ideas on how you can "Do Good!" To receive the monthly e-newsletters, email ddurie@gumf.org. You may also visit www.gumf.org/newsletters or view daily posts at www.facebook.com/gumf.org.

1. Take treats to your local police department.
2. Support Vashti Day to help children and youth.
3. Forgive yourself just as God has forgiven you.
4. Send your pastor a thank you note.
5. Offer to babysit for someone.
6. Tell a funny joke.
7. Teach an elderly person how to shop online.
8. Take out someone's trash.
9. Support Andrew College Sunday.
10. Compliment a parent on their well-behaved children.
11. Leave extra quarters at the Laundromat.
12. Be gracious when something doesn't go your way.
13. Make someone smile.
14. Honor a loved one on Valentine's Day.
15. Visit someone in a nursing home.
16. Support Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday.
17. Pray for our nation and leaders.
18. Make a prayer blanket for someone in need.
19. Learn CPR.
20. Conserve water.
21. Teach your kids about money.
22. Support the North Georgia Housing and Homeless Offering.
23. Support the South Georgia Kingdom Builders Promotion Sunday.
24. Update your estate plan.
25. Prepare a meal for someone who is sick.
26. Confess your sins.
27. Send a care package to someone in the military.
28. Give a BIG tip to your server.
29. Find a way to help the least, the last, and the lost.

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*	8.60%	30.18%	13.84%	10.49%
International Equity Fund*	11.00%	25.91%	12.33%	7.05%
Multiple Asset Fund	6.62%	21.44%	10.38%	7.27%
Fixed Income Fund**	0.95%	10.37%	5.17%	3.81%

Returns as of 12/31/19 net of fund fees. 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: 2.95% 3 Year: 2.55% 2 Year: 2.35% 1 Year: 2.25%

Rates as of February 2020. 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: 5.15% Fixed
Permanent Loan Terms and Rates Up to 20 Years: 4.50%*

*Fixed rate for five years. Interest rate is adjusted at the end of each fifth year of the permanent loan. Rates as of February 2020. 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.

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Rates as of February 2020. 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.

LaGrange Alumni Lead Endowment Drive to Honor Retired Professor

Continued from page 1



Dr. C. Frank McCook (left) received an honorary alumnus award from LaGrange College President Dan McAlexander in 2016.

from the GUMF scholarship endowment are matched by the student's church, the student's school, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation to generate a \$4,000 annual scholarship for a LaGrange student.

McCollum noted that a scholarship honoring McCook's first wife, Louise, was created in the 1980s. On several occasions, McCook and his wife Elaine had the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients. She also noted that the cost of a private college education is high and that these scholarships help present and future LaGrange students meet some of these costs while honoring the legacy of Dr. McCook.

McCollum and Haney invite all LaGrange alumni, former students, and friends to contribute to the Dr. C. Frank McCook Scholarship Endowment Fund. To learn more, please contact Kathy McCollum at 478-731-3048 or kathymcc@bellsouth.net or Nancy Young, GUMF vice president of development, at 678-708-6601 or nyoung@gumf.org.

To make a donation, please mail your check made payable to the Georgia United Methodist Foundation to: PO Box 922087, Peachtree Corners, GA 30010-2087. Please note Dr. McCook Scholarship in the memo line.

Seminary Student Does Not Have to Postpone Call to Ministry

Rev. Pamela Johnston is serving as pastor of Ebenezer UMC in Forsyth as she pursues her Master of Divinity degree at Candler School of Theology and ordination in The United Methodist Church.

Johnston shares how the United Methodist Dollars for Scholars Program, which involves matching support from Georgia United Methodist Foundation donors, Candler School of Theology, Mulberry Street UMC in Macon, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, has impacted her call to ministry.

"Without the scholarship funds provided by the United Methodist Dollars for Scholars Program and the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, I would be unable to attend seminary because my family contains three people pursuing higher education simultaneously,"



Rev. Pamela Johnston is a United Methodist Dollars for Scholars scholarship recipient. She will graduate with a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology in 2021.

she said. "My call to ministry does not have to be put on the back burner until later thanks to your vision and generosity. I can't wait to apply all that I'm learning to a parish setting as an ordained deacon. I can't thank you enough!"

Apply Now for the United Methodist Dollars for Scholars Scholarship!



Do you know a Georgia United Methodist student who attends a United Methodist college, university or seminary? If so, please let them know that the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF)

is now accepting applications for the United Methodist Dollars for Scholars (UMDFS) Program for the 2020-2021 school year. The UMDFS Program involves matching scholarship support and has the potential to save each student up to \$4,000 each year!

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2020. To learn more, visit www.umhef.org/scholarships/umdfs or contact the UMHEF at 800-811-8110 or umhef@umhef.org.

Action Ministries Launches End Hunger Period Initiative to Feed 10,000 Kids in Georgia Year-Round by 2024



Left: Shakura Conoly serves as chief community engagement officer for Action Ministries.

Center: A young girl is served a meal at an Action Ministries Smart Lunch, Smart Kid site.

Right: Children volunteered with hundreds of other volunteers at Action Ministries annual 'We Serve Service Bowl!'

The Georgia United Methodist Foundation always gets excited whenever a donor establishes a charitable gift to benefit Action Ministries. Since 1963, Action Ministries has been mobilizing communities to address the challenges of poverty by focusing on hunger relief, housing, and education.

In the Fall of 2019 a new initiative, End Hunger Period, was kicked off under the leadership of Kelley Henderson, former chief executive officer of Action Ministries. In this Q&A, Shakura Conoly, chief community engagement officer for Action Ministries, talks about End Hunger Period, which will positively impact thousands of children's lives.

Please tell me about this new initiative.

End Hunger Period is designed to close the meal gap for thousands of children across Georgia. Currently, our summer feeding program—Smart Lunch, Smart Kid—feeds 7,000 kids Monday through Friday. Our weekend meal program—

SuperPacks—feeds 2,500 kids every weekend during the school year. Our goal is to bridge the gap of these two programs and expand our footprint in high-need areas to ensure access to food and to feed 10,000 kids year-round by 2024.

Why is End Hunger Period so imperative?

One in five children in Georgia suffers from food insecurity. This rises to one in three children in rural communities. Georgia has the 10th highest food insecurity rate nationally. Hunger negatively effects the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of children.

Do you ever encounter stories that break your heart?

Yes. We provide our Smart Kid! After School programming and food supplies to students at Green Acres Elementary in Smyrna. In one of our partner stories, Principal Ashley Mize shared how a student came up to her with tears in his eyes. When she asked what he needed, he said that he was hungry and that

it was not his turn to eat last night. Apparently, he came from a family of six or seven children, and they often didn't have enough food to feed all of their kids at night so they took turns.

How can we partner with Action Ministries to End Hunger Period?

This initiative relies on community partners and volunteers from all sectors to ensure our local kids get fed. Whether a group wants to do a peanut butter drive at work or at church, prepare and deliver meals to students in the communities where they live, or work with our team to host a fun volunteer event such as packing meal kits for kids, we have a place for you. You can also sponsor a child for \$400 to help end hunger throughout the entire year. There are numerous opportunities for our faith partners, corporate teams, families, and individuals to serve and give! Learn how at

www.actionministries.net/ehp/.

Interview by Diana Durie, GUMF Communications Manager.

11 Reasons Why Rev. Doreen Smalls Invests in GUMF Certificates



In this article, Rev. Doreen Smalls, Southwest District Superintendent with The South Georgia Conference, explains why she invests in

the Georgia United Methodist Foundation (GUMF) Certificate Program.

1. GUMF is a ministry of The United Methodist Church whose purpose is to empower the lives of individuals and offer support to churches and other ministries.
2. GUMF provides a safe place with fixed interest rates and easy accessibility if needed.
3. It meets my spiritual goal of having the ability to take care of family and give to others.
4. I received higher returns than other financial institutions at the time of the initial investment.
5. It gives peace of mind. I trust the integrity and ability of GUMF.
6. It is low risk. GUMF has a successful history of managing and investing funds.
7. It is another way to help churches and ministries in need, which fosters the connectional system.
8. It is socially responsible.
9. It gives back to churches.
10. It is helping others while helping self.
11. It is a win-win situation.

Refinance Accomplished! Sugarloaf UMC Moves from Maintenance to Mission!

Dr. Steven Usry serves as lead pastor of Sugarloaf UMC in Duluth. In this communique written on January 9, 2020, he identifies the impact debt restructuring with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation (GUMF) has had on the life of the church.

Usry also expresses his gratitude to God, GUMF ministry partners Rev. Keith Lawder, Jim Pope, and Nancy Young, as well as leadership at The North Georgia Conference which includes Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Keith Cox, Rev. Dr. Phil Schroeder, Rev. Dr. Mike Long, and Rev. Jane Newman Brooks.

Yesterday was a momentous day in the life of Sugarloaf United Methodist. We met with the wonderful folks at GUMF and were able to refinance the church with a conventional mortgage. This is a HALLELUJAH moment for the Kingdom that will secure the church's future and closes a long chapter of past struggle. I'm excited for the church! I've only been serving in this part of God's vineyard for a short while, but these folks have been through a lot and now get to celebrate a new day of hope and



Row 1, left to right: Jim Pope, GUMF director of lending; Phillip Williams, Sugarloaf UMC member; Brian Justice, Sugarloaf UMC board of trustees chair; and Nancy Burns, Sugarloaf UMC director of finance and operations. Row 2, left to right: John Clough, Sugarloaf UMC executive director; Dr. Steven Usry, Sugarloaf UMC lead pastor; Dennis Pruett, Sugarloaf UMC lay leader; and Al Essen, Sugarloaf UMC finance team chair.

vitality for the future.

So we began the week with a 2020 Vision Night and surprised the folks who showed up with the news that we would be closing on Wednesday. We flung open the doors to roaring fire pits, went out and burned the old forbearance agreement, then had s'mores and cocoa to celebrate. This Sunday we will share the news with the church that Sugarloaf has officially moved from Maintenance to MISSION. They already know it. They feel it. They see it every day. The church is booming. But you see, many said it couldn't be done. It's going to be a BIG DEAL when they hear and see that it has happened. **And we give ALL the glory to God!** We

have said that from the beginning!

Each of you share a portion of this work and celebration! Keith, Jim and Nancy: You continue to be longtime good friends to me in ministry, and I am excited that now Sugarloaf has a tie with GUMF. Thanks to each of you for your Kingdom ministry and how you have come alongside me personally.

Bishop Sue, Keith, Phil, Mike and Jane: You guys got it right in sending me here. We found good hearts. We found high capacity. They just needed health and leadership. The house is now in order. Refinanced. Restaffed. Cooking. Go God!

Thank you to each of you for your friendship and prayers. I know you have prayed for us.

Upon My Death Checklist



Rev. Grady Mosley, who is an ordained elder and has served as a pastor in The North Georgia Conference for 37 years, has written an excellent booklet on planning your end-of-life decisions. He emphasizes that leaving your wishes in writing is a faithful and loving gift to those whom you leave behind. What follows is a checklist based on Mosley's text.

- 1.** Make sure you have recently completed advance directives and health care power of attorney forms. These let your loved ones and your doctors know your wishes in the event you cannot tell them.
- 2.** Leave written instructions for what to do with your body after you pass. Do you wish to be buried or cremated? Do you wish to donate your organs? Have you made financial provisions to take care of your wishes? Do you have a cemetery plot or a place in a mausoleum?
- 3.** Have you selected and met with a funeral director? Have you made provisions for the services you wish for them to perform? What sort of vessel do you desire for your remains or cremains? Have you prepaid or left provision for these services?
- 4.** Have you written down your wishes for a service? Where do you wish for your service to take place? Who would you like to preside and/or speak? What are your desires for hymns and music? Do you wish for there to be an



PO Box 922087
Peachtree Corners, GA 30010-2087
770-449-6726 • 877-220-5664
www.gumf.org • info@gumf.org

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open casket, a closed casket, an urn, or pictures? Are you a veteran or first responder, and do you wish for your service to be recognized?

- 5.** People may wish to honor you with flowers or a gift. Have you made your wishes known with regard to your favored charities?
- 6.** Have you let your loved ones know what sort of visitation and/or fellowship event you would like?
- 7.** Have you spoken to those who you wish to execute and represent your wishes in making these decisions? Have you told them exactly where your wishes are written down and how to access them when they need to? Have you notified the individuals you have appointed as executor(s) of your will and let those who will implement your final wishes know who the executor is?

Please refer to Rev. Mosley's booklet, which can be found at: www.gumf.org/upon-my-death-checklist. Your loved ones will greatly appreciate this gift to them.