

White Bluff United Methodist Church
www.wbumc.org

Dear Members of White Bluff UMC:

White Bluff UMC has been a beacon of light for many in the Southside area of Savannah for more than 50 years. During the past ten years, White Bluff members have worked toward a Vision Statement that reads: 'We will Embrace Our Salvation, Transform Ourselves into the Likeness of Christ, Equip Ourselves for Ministry and Impact the World.' We have opened our doors to Community Groups, AA meetings, Choral Societies and a large Home School network.

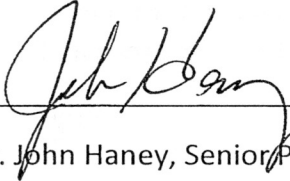
One year ago, White Bluff UMC received a call to consider finding a way to open our doors for a "New Church" to begin meeting on this Campus. In December 2015, our Congregation heard the call to action and voted for a Task Force of Members to consider the possibilities and bring information to the Membership of White Bluff. On March 20, 2016, the Task Force responded with a presentation of more detailed information on how the church would be developed, and the proposal was approved including partnering with the specially trained staff of Gateway Pooler UMC, The Coastal District and Congregational Development to help make the New Church a reality. The new church would utilize our campus (Gym for worship, SS rooms for Children's Church) at White Bluff but would be a separate entity, operating under a lease agreement. This new church would target and reach out to the unchurched and de-churched in this area, focusing on the 20 to 40-year old persons within a 10-mile radius of our White Bluff Road Campus.

The White Bluff Church Council appointed a Transition Team to begin work under their authorization, to design the legal and lease documents to make this new church happen. Twenty-Two members of White Bluff, its Clergy, and the Staff and the Clergy of Gateway Pooler UMC began work in June 2016. Completed documents were approved unanimously by Church Council on September 15, 2016, and have now been signed and approved by all parties. The Bishop of the South Georgia Annual Conference appointed Damon Hubert, Youth Pastor at Gateway Pooler UMC, as Pastor of the new church, now called Gateway Savannah. Rev. Hubert will work under the supervision and guidance of Gateway Senior Pastor, Rev. Matt Hearn. The Gateway Southside church will lease the gym and classrooms – Each church will operate separately, and White Bluff Trustees will continue to own and manage our premises. The Transition Team has begun Implementation planning and development of the details to share the Campus of White Bluff UMC on Sunday mornings with this new congregation that begins meeting in September 2017.

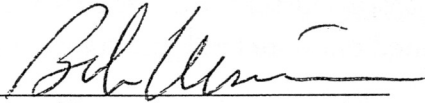
In mid- January, the Transition Team will begin implementing the changes required to rooms in the White Bluff Sunday School Wing (former 'Children's Wing') updating and refreshing floors, walls and cabinetry, bringing these rooms up to adult standards, beginning with Room 15. During the Winter and Spring of 2017, we'll continue sharing and updating information and asking for your feedback and assistance as we move forward. We are excited to begin sharing plans for the Worship Services, Parking, Sunday School classrooms and how you can help as we seek to Impact Southside Savannah for Jesus Christ in the coming months and years. A new 'R and R Fund' has been created by the Finance Committee and Trustees to accept donations to make these updates happen. (Note: the donations and renovations will be for the Sunday School Rooms to be utilized by our White Bluff Congregation.) The first donation to this fund was received last Sunday! Our Finance Administrator will update the Congregation monthly in the Newsletter, on our Website at WBUMC.org and in the Sunday Worship bulletin, on the status of the donations for these exciting updates.

The completed sheets can be left in boxes marked "Feedback" found in the Narthex of the main Sanctuary and outside the Administrative Offices.

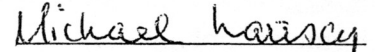
The Purpose of the United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World." Our members have been making a difference in Southside Savannah for more than 50 years and will now further Impact this area in a ministry to bring approximately 200-350 new disciples into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Please be in prayer this Christmas for the lives that will be changed in the coming months and years as we Impact Southside Savannah for Jesus Christ!



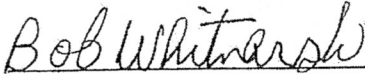
Rev. John Haney, Senior Pastor



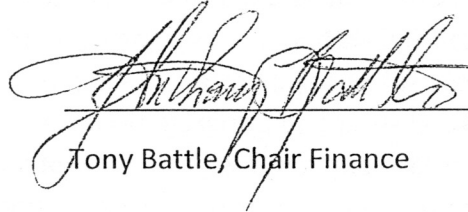
Bob Wisener, Chair Trustees



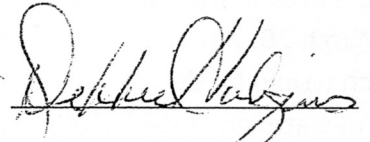
Michael Lariscy, Lay Leader



Bob Whitmarsh, Chair Church Council



Tony Battle, Chair Finance



Debbie Hudgins, Transition
Team Facilitator

Suggestions and Information for the Transition Team: (Check all that apply)

I am OK with the Plans to date and look forward to receiving more information in the future.

I have the following suggestions/feedback or ideas for the Transition Team:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

I would be interested in serving on the Transition Team or other Work Team for this project.

Name _____

Contact Number _____