

## **Confirmation Retreat 2010 - Speakers**

### **Lane Gilbert (Youth Director at Fort Payne UMC)**

My name is Lane Gilbert and I have been at Fort Payne FUMC since June 2006, and have been a Youth Pastor for 6 years. I have a wonderful wife and a beautiful new baby daughter, i also have two dogs one who has actually eaten the whole book of Psalms out of a Bible. I enjoy rock climbing and kayaking even though Im not very good at either one.

During my first week as a PAID part time youth pastor, we had a dinner at our church and were going to deliver a few plates to the shut ins. A parent of one of my new youth said we could take her car. So we went out and he climbed in the drivers seat and i went over to the passenger side and climbed in. After delivering the plates as we headed back to the church....

i asked " so what kind of car do you have?"

he replied " Oh I don't have a car, I just turned 15, I don't have a drivers license...."

ooops.

### **Jeff Moore (Youth Director Cullman UMC)**

I have been at Cullman FUMC since August of 2007. My wifes name is Elizabeth and she is the definition of an awesome wife! I graduated from The University of Alabama so...Roll Tide! I have several hobbies which include but are not limited to playing X-Box, watching tv, and hanging out with my wife. I also play golf and soccer. I fully believe that chicken wings and cheese fries are some of Gods finest creations. I dont really have an embarassing story but I will tell you that I have a strange obsession with SPAM, the food, not the email. Last summer I actually travelled to Austin, Minnesota to visit the SPAM Museum. Yep...900 miles (one way) for a museum dedicated to everyones favorite spiced ham in a can. America rocks!

### **Wannell Scott (Florence First UMC)**

I have served as Director of Christian Education and Youth minister for over 20 years in the North Alabama Conference, I have served at FUMC Florence since March 2004, prior to this I served at FUMC Tuscaloosa and at FUMC Moulton. I have two children, my daughter serves Madison United Methodist church as Youth Director, my son lives in Birmingham. I have taught Deaf Blind children in Birmingham prior to coming back to the church to serve as Youth Minister. I truly enjoy what I do and love all aspects of working with youth. I love college football and enjoy cooking but I have been in ministry so long I no longer will eat pizza.

Embarrassing thing: I drove race cars for 5 years to supplement my income while working as a youth director; therefore my reputation for speed has followed me. Once on a youth trip I was pulled over by the police and all the kids in the van were loving the fact

that we were pulled over in the church van, but the problem was not my speed but we had an expired tag on the van. We took care of the problem and all was well.

### **Beth Green (Youth Director at Decatur FUMC)**

I have been at Decatur FUMC since July of 2003. I'm married to Jonathan, have one step son, Jackson, who is 8 and a son, Carter who will be 1 in January. I'm a graduate of Auburn University and taught first grade in Birmingham for 7 years prior to becoming a youth minister. I love to travel. New York City and Walt Disney World are my favorites! I enjoy most sports. Auburn football and Red Sox baseball are my favorites, but I'll usually watch anything on ESPN. Cold Stone Cake Batter Remix is my favorite ice cream and The Little Mermaid is my favorite movie. I hate cheese.

Embarrassing thing: On the Senior High mission trip in 2006 the police in Slidell, LA had to hunt me down after leaving without paying for our gas in the church vans. Once they found me, I paid and all was well!!

### **Marcus Singleton (Pastor at Saint Paul UMC, Birmingham)**

I am married to Rosslyn Byrd Singleton; we have 2 little guys, Marcus Jr. 2+ years old and Joshua a year old. St. Paul UMC, Birmingham is my second appointment, I previously served as a pastor in the North Carolina Conference. Having briefly considered, "professional student", as my calling, I earned a Master of Divinity from Howard University in Washington, DC, a Master of Arts, Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Science, English Education both from Bowie State University in Bowie, MD. Formerly, I loved basketball and football, but our compatibility has been strained, our seasons generally conflict, thus, I have learned to like them a lot from afar. Nevertheless, I still celebrate the Philadelphia Eagles and remain in continuous prayer for the New York Knicks. In case you did not know, *children* change EVERYTHING, Roz and I were once avid movie goers but that all changed on February 4, 2007, affectionately referred to as "*the MJ Effect*".

An embarrassing moment in ministry - well this is ongoing, it is a shame when everyone comments on how well I clap and sway to my own beat. I thought I hid it well, but my youth in NC, said Pastor, we pay attention to you every Sunday, not so much because I am interesting but they wait for the moment I get off beat and laugh when I try to recover. It's really not that funny to me, yes I am rhythmically challenged.

## **Team members and Special Guest**

### **Melody T aylor, Director of Discovery Ministries for Middle School Students**

Melody works with middle school students through Discovery weekend. She has a huge heart for middle school students and loves the way they think! She has an amazing ability to pray and believes that prayer does not change God but changes us and those around us to a more Christ centered life.

Her embarrassing fact is she had a speech impediment until the 6th grade.

**Diane Wood** is the Director of Children's Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Anniston, Alabama.

I have been the Children's Director at First Methodist in Anniston for three years. I have been married to my husband, Bill, for thirty-four years. Our daughter, Elisha, just got married (finally) in June.

I taught Special Education in southern Mississippi for over 20 years. I received my certification in Christian Education from Perkins School of Theology (SMU).

I enjoy reading, cooking, and sitting out by the swimming pool. My favorite place to visit is Gulf Shores!

My embarrassing confession is that I cannot open the locking gas cap on the church van. I found this out on a trip to the Birmingham Zoo. We stopped to refill the tank before returning to the church, and it took three adults to figure out how to work it! I still can't do it by myself!

### **Rick Owen, Stewardship Resources**

Thirty four years ago I showed up at my first church with hair down to my shoulders, a fu manchu mustache, a yellow leisure suit, red silk shirt and a gold chain. (It was the 70's) I still miss the leisure suit. After thirty two years of serving churches, I now help church leaders both clergy and laity find ways to be who God called them to be. Along the way I found I was as comfortable with a mic at a comedy club as I was in the pulpit. I just have to be careful not to confuse the two. I still love blues music and never miss a chance to travel to the crossroads.

### **Nick Jones, Contemporary Worship Leader at Vestavia Hills UMC**

Nick Jones, I've been in music ministry for about six years, leading worship full time for four. The most embarrassing thing that has happened in my ministry was, in the middle of a worship song, in front of 180 attendees, my voice cracked and totally went out. I had to stop and take a drink of water in the MIDDLE of the song! Thankfully the band kept playing and it went off pretty smoothly.