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Washington Youth Tour Delegates

Young Leaders Share a Passion to Serve



President/CEO
Chip Jakins

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JEMCO news

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On the Cover: Delegates selected to represent Jackson EMC on the 2014 Washington Youth Tour are, from left, **Ian McGaughey** of Jackson County Comprehensive High School, **Zac Adams** of Peachtree Ridge High School, **Michael Smith** of Mountain View High School and **Betsy Barrett** of North Hall High School. See article on pages 4-5.

Photos by Robb Maag

Information at Your Fingertips

If you're like me, you've come to rely on instant communication, 24/7.

If I need something in a hurry, I'm likely to shop online and have it shipped. If I need directions, I turn to my computer. When I need information, I search the Internet. If the weather looks bad, I'll check my tablet. Away from the office, I check my emails, retrieve text messages and make business calls on my smartphone. I even find myself using my smartphone while I'm at the office.

Never before have there been so many ways to connect. The methods in which our world communicates continue to multiply dramatically every year.

I'm sure you're no different than me – always on the go, juggling meetings, appointments or kids' ball games. It's because we are busy and life's pace is hectic that we've come to expect immediate information, immediate service.

In this fast-paced world, with so much information available to us, one thing is still true: Good communication is essential to customer satisfaction.

I'm proud that Jackson EMC has kept pace with technological advances in communications and offers you a variety of ways to access information when and how you need it – because we know everyone's lives are busy and everyone's communications requirements vary. For instance, you can read this newsletter on paper or online.

When you have time to sit down and want more information, our interactive website is packed with

services, programs, products and even how-to videos. The site offers 24/7 self-service where you can apply for or disconnect electric service, report a power outage, check your account history, view and pay your power bill, request services and even discover where your home may be using too much power.

Most exciting to me is our new mobile website, which provides immediate access to your account, outage reporting and other information for you Jackson EMC members who rely on smartphones and tablets for info on-the-go. This convenient app takes self-service to a higher level. It allows you to access your account, check the balance, make payments, report outages and even learn of breaking severe weather reports – all at the simple tap of a mobile app. Download it on your smartphone or tablet, and you're rarely more than an arm's length away from the information and services you need from your cooperative.

The ways we connect have certainly changed, and they all have their place. Jackson EMC works to provide you with all the co-op services and energy information you need, through a variety of resources – whether it's on our website, in our member newsletter, through bill inserts and even social media – because we know everyone's needs are different.

We appreciate the evolving needs of those we serve and will continue to find new ways to meet those needs. Like today's ever-present modes of communication, we're here for you, 24/7.

online@cts

Take the HOME ENERGY FITNESS CHALLENGE

If you're on the verge of telling your house to "shape up or I'm shipping out," don't start packing yet. Instead, take our Home Energy Fitness Challenge and get your home energy fit.

Simply create a plan at www.jacksonemc.com/challenge to reduce your home energy use this summer, and you'll be entered for the chance to win an iPad. In the short run, you may win a cool piece of technology. In the long run, if you follow through on your plan, you'll reduce your home's energy use and save bucks on your power bill.

The Challenge runs from June 1 through August 31 with iPads to be awarded to seven eligible members whose names are randomly drawn on or after September 1.

Enter today at www.jacksonemc.com/challenge where you'll find full details on the Home Energy Fitness Challenge.





For Home Improvements with Purpose

Get Your Personal Home Fitness Evaluation

Your home, like you, is unique. It has its own character and appeal that separates it from the pack.

Since no two homes are created equal, Jackson EMC offers the Right Choice™ Personal Home Fitness Evaluation designed to diagnose your home's energy weak spots and suggest remedies to fix them.

Energy efficient improvements to your home can save you as much as 20-30 percent on annual heating and cooling costs. That's reason enough to get energy fit.

Your Right Choice Personal Home Fitness Evaluation begins with an inspection performed by a Right Choice-certified technician who uses state-of-the-art equipment to determine if your insulation and air sealing meet energy standards. This personalized analysis of your home's energy performance will measure air infiltration, test supply and return air flows, check humidity/temperature and examine your heating and cooling system's efficiency.

If the evaluation determines a need for energy upgrades or repairs, we'll connect you with a contractor in the Participating Contractor Network. After your home energy fitness improvements are made, we'll follow up with another inspection to verify that the work we recommended improved your home's energy efficiency.

When all is said and done, you'll use less energy and save more money in your energy fit home.

To learn more about the Right Choice Personal Home Fitness Evaluation, visit jacksonemc.com/energyfit. To schedule your evaluation today, call 770-822-3211. ▲

Save Cash with Jackson EMC Rebates

Depending on the improvements you make, you may receive valuable Jackson EMC rebates* when you follow recommendations from your personalized evaluation:

- You'll receive a **\$200 rebate** just for completing the evaluation.
- If you add recommended insulation and/or air sealing, you'll receive a **rebate of up to 50 percent of the cost, to a maximum of \$400.**
- Add recommended ductwork sealing and/or complete replacement work, and you'll get a **rebate of up to 50 percent of the cost, to a maximum of \$400.**
- If your evaluation determines that you need a new heat pump, we offer a heat pump replacement **rebate of up to \$200.**

Along with these generous rebates, we offer **special financing through our strategic partners.**

*Rebate program requirements must be followed. Rebates may be discontinued at any time.



Youth Leaders Share Their

Passion to Serve

The four high school students chosen to serve as this year's Jackson EMC delegates on the Washington Youth Tour obviously share the ability to lead as they embark on this weeklong adventure, Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens. But this team of four has more in common; each student leader exudes a passion to mentor friends, fellow students and even strangers.

As delegates on the June 12-19 leadership tour of Washington D.C., **Zac Adams, Betsy Barrett, Ian McGaughey** and **Michael Smith** will have the opportunity to meet members of Congress as they learn about U.S. history and government, the role of democracy and the need for public service. Along with 105 more Georgia delegates, they will join 1,600 Youth Tour participants from electric co-ops across the country as they explore the Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Capitol, Washington Monument and the FDR, Jefferson, World War II and Lincoln memorials.

"With tours of museums, memorials and monuments, the trip provides a history lesson that can't be learned from any textbook or classroom," says Jackson EMC President/CEO Chip Jakins.

Meet the team captains and peer mentors who make up this year's Jackson EMC delegation on the Washington Youth Tour.

IAN MCGAUGHEY (left, with Tripp Halstead)

"It takes courage to be a leader – to speak in front of people, be a listener and be a people pleaser without conforming."

When Ian McGaughey learned last year that Stacy, Bill and Tripp Halstead were moving to Jefferson, he knew there was only one thing to do: Welcome them home.

Then a sophomore at Jackson County Comprehensive High School, McGaughey gathered fellow football players and Fellowship of Christian Athletes members to prepare the Halsteads' home for renovations to make it wheelchair-accessible for Tripp, 3, who sustained traumatic brain injuries in 2012.

"They were moving into our community and I wanted them to feel welcome," says McGaughey, son of Kenneth and Margaret McGaughey of Jefferson. Volunteering through a local nonprofit, McGaughey and friends swarmed the Halstead home in March 2013 and removed interior walls, floors, sinks and tubs. "Those boys worked so hard," Stacy recalls, adding, "The community was awesome in the way they embraced us."

A member of Boy Scout Troop 534 in Flowery Branch, McGaughey recently completed his Eagle Scout project by building a 300-foot split rail fence at his church. At school, he's on the Student Athlete Leadership Team, Peer Mentors and varsity golf team. He plans to pursue a civil engineering degree at the U.S. Air Force Academy to become an Air Force pilot.



**BETSY BARRETT** (above)

“To be a leader takes patience and understanding, to realize everyone doesn’t come from the same walk of life.”

A rising senior at North Hall High School in Gainesville, Betsy Barrett exudes a passion for missions and compassion for children. While some teens spend spring break at the beach, Barrett joins youth from Gainesville’s Lakewood Baptist Church on mission trips to Guatemala where families live in shacks and have little to eat.

“Seeing their poverty was completely eye opening for me,” says Barrett. “My passion is to help people who can’t do for themselves.”

After learning of a young Guatemalan sold into slavery, Barrett began organizing a 24-Hour Justice Mission to create awareness about human trafficking and raise funds for the International Justice Mission this fall.

At school, Barrett serves on Student Council and Peer Leaders and has organized school rallies. The daughter of Jeff and Theresa Barrett of Gainesville, she plans to pursue a business management degree at North Georgia College and envisions a career combining event planning with mission work.

“God tells us to go make disciples in every nation,” she says. “I feel like I’m called, not just in Gainesville but around the world. Sometimes it’s scary to think of where I’ll end up next.”

MICHAEL SMITH (below)

“A person of strong integrity can be well respected, but a leader of strong integrity can change the world.”

As captain of the varsity lacrosse team at Mountain View High School in Lawrenceville, Michael Smith encourages his teammates to build each other up.

“To come together as a team, you have to accept that challenges are going to arise, push through them and know you’ll lift each other up,” says Smith, a junior. This same philosophy of encouragement follows him off the field and into the school hallways where Smith takes part in an informal prayer ministry he helped organize his freshman year.

“We pair up like the disciples did and ask people if we can pray for them,” says Smith. “Some say yes, some say no; it’s completely voluntary . . . It’s easy to go through the busy day at school without noticing the kid in the back of the classroom. We just want that kid to know someone cares about him.”

The son of Ben and Linda Sawyer of Lawrenceville, Smith serves on the Student Leadership Team at 12 Stone Church and is considering a career in pastoral ministry. At school, he has leadership roles in Student Council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

**ZAC ADAMS** (above)

“I am trustworthy and honest. These are two of the most important leadership skills because they build a foundation of trust.”

Zac Adams knows about teamwork. He trains with SwimAtlanta, competes on his school’s varsity swim team and coaches a neighborhood summer swim team. Drawing from that background, Adams helped pull together another team, Suwanee Youth Leaders, teens who meet monthly at Suwanee City Hall to learn about leadership, government and politics.

“Zac helped formulate the program,” says Suwanee Economic and Community Development Director Denise Brinson. “He serves as an ambassador for it and is one of the most conscientious students I’ve worked with.”

A rising senior at Peachtree Ridge High School in Suwanee, Adams is on the Junior Leadership Team and Student Athlete Leadership Team. His career goal is to become an oncologist. “My dad is a 26-year cancer survivor and my granddad passed away with cancer,” says Adams, the son of Eric and Melissa Adams of Duluth, adding that his ultimate goal would be to cure cancer.

“Zac isn’t just the type of student we want all students to be,” says his calculus teacher, Chrissie Bolt. “He’s the type of person we want our children to be.” ▲



Extra Special People

Special needs and seriously ill children have the opportunity to cultivate skills and self-confidence through recreational therapy, community involvement and the arts, thanks to Extra Special People (ESP), a Watkinsville nonprofit organization dedicated to these children and their families.

The Jackson EMC Foundation recently granted \$13,500 to Extra Special People for its summer camp, an eight-week program geared to serve about 200 children from low-income or financially distressed families this summer.

“Extra Special People’s main goal is to increase the confidence of children who are typically treated and labeled by their disabilities,” says Executive Director Laura Whitaker. “We focus on the abilities of each individual and helping them to identify their strengths while nurturing their self-confidence, building skills, experiencing new things and growing friendships.”

During the school year, ESP serves children through afterschool enrichment programs, family support groups and weekend family camps.

The summer camp is essential, according to Whitaker, to help special needs children keep pace. “Children with disabilities have a much higher regression rate than other children,” she says. “In order for them to progress and maintain skills during the summer, three or more weeks of camp are needed.”

At ESP summer camp, the child-to-counselor ratio is 2-to-1 to provide dedicated attention and support to campers. Camp activities are designed to help participants build confidence and independence while supplying families with much-needed respite, according to Whitaker. Activities range from swimming and bowling to tubing down the Chattahoochee River.

The Jackson EMC Foundation grant monies are used to offset costs for camp for children in Clarke, Madison, Jackson, Banks and Gwinnett counties.

“Our partnership with Jackson EMC is a perfect example of a neighbor supporting a neighbor,” says Whitaker. “We are so thankful.” ▲

operationroundup

Jackson EMC Foundation awards \$110,000 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$110,000 in grants during their April meeting, including \$106,500 to organizations and \$3,500 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to **Camp Koinonia** in Homer to provide 62 Banks County underprivileged students in grades third through sixth referred by Family Connection and DFACS with a five-day camping experience that provides positive learning experiences to establish strong character, leadership and teambuilding skills and build personal relationships.

\$15,000 to **Exodus Outreach**, a Buford nonprofit organization serving people in all walks of life who are hurting and in need of support, for a summer program that offers at-risk students in kindergarten through eighth grade with a summer learning and development curriculum that provides supervision and readies the students to succeed in school in the fall.

\$15,000 to the **Gwinnett Student Leadership Team** for its student leadership program, a two-year program serving high school juniors and seniors in 22 public schools, providing practical leadership skills

and training to return to their home high school to facilitate the core leadership principles with groups there to increase the capacity to develop student leaders.

\$13,500 to **Extra Special People** in Watkinsville to provide an opportunity for special needs or seriously ill children from low-income or financially distressed families to attend a camp where they can explore nature, discover their own abilities, master new skills and make new friends.

\$10,000 to **Camp Twin Lakes**, a not-for-profit organization which offers year-round recreational, therapeutic and educational programs for children facing serious illness and other challenges, to help children in Jackson EMC’s 10-county service area attend its state-of-the-art, fully accessible campsites.

\$10,000 to the **Spectrum Autism Support Group**, a parent-run, nonprofit group in Suwanee that provides support, education and resources for the entire spectrum

of autism disorders, to enable disadvantaged autistic individuals ages 4 to 22 to attend the organization’s weeklong summer camp program where daily activities are used to teach social skills lessons.

\$7,000 to the **Young Women’s Christian Organization (YWCO)** in Athens to help girls from low-income families attend the Girls Club, a structured recreational and educational summer program targeting young girls ages 5-14 from low-to-moderate income families, and to help defray bus transportation expenses.

\$6,000 to the **Gwinnett Public Library** to purchase books for its Summer Reading Book Giveaway, which provides a free book to every child, from toddler to teenager, who completes their summer reading goal.

\$5,000 to **Camp Kudzu**, a year-round camping program for children with diabetes and their families to teach diabetes management skills that will reduce their risk

of diabetes-related complications, as well as improve their attitude about living with the disease.

\$5,000 to the **Side by Side Brain Injury Club**, a Gwinnett nonprofit organization that helps individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury to regain living skills and employment, to provide 12 months of rehabilitation program fees for brain-injured adults in the counties served by Jackson EMC.

\$2,500 to the **Gainesville First United Methodist Church Urban Ministry** to help fund a summer soccer camp for at-risk elementary school-aged children in the Baker and Glover neighborhood.

\$2,500 to the **Cross Pointe Church Food Pantry** to purchase food.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,500 to purchase a swivel seat to safely transfer a disabled young woman from her wheelchair to an automobile.



Partnering with Builders to Provide Energy Efficient Construction

Everybody needs a partner, a trusted friend they can go the distance with. Jackson EMC offers this type of partnership to builders and developers through an array of services designed to assist in the construction of energy efficient homes, from design planning all the way to open house.

Our Right Choice™ new home program provides builders with energy efficient construction measures that meet ENERGY STAR® guidelines in order to build homes that are typically 20-30 percent more efficient than standard homes.

Following our guidelines, builders can provide their customers with homes that boast guaranteed energy savings and comfort by ensuring that a home's design, heating and cooling system, air sealing and duct installation all meet top energy efficiency standards. Builders who choose to construct Right Choice homes receive rebates and support from Jackson EMC.

We partner to provide lighting packages with maintenance for subdivisions and

apartments. Also, builders may purchase single-phase and three-phase meter bases and pedestals from Jackson EMC, which offers a variety of each, along with installation instructions.

Another valuable partnership for builders is available through EMC Security, which fits homes with advanced wiring, whole-house audio systems, whole-house central vacuum systems and custom-designed, state-of-the-art security systems that provide local monitoring 24 hours a day.

For online assistance, visit the homepage at www.jacksonemc.com and click on **For Builders & Contractors**. There you'll find information on these programs and services, along with details on how to request temporary service and permanent underground service and how to get power connected.

For more information, contact a residential marketing representative at your local Jackson EMC office. ▲

smartconnections

Reward Yourself with a Jackson EMC VISA Card

Many credit cards offer rewards programs, some with access to coupons you'll never need or points you seldom use.

But the Jackson EMC VISA credit card provides a reward that's a real no-brainer: **It credits one percent of each purchase you make to your power bill. That's a reward everyone can use!**

The Jackson EMC VISA card is just one of many products and services available through Associated Credit Union (ACU), one of the nation's top 125 credit unions. As a member of Jackson EMC, you are eligible for membership in ACU, which offers a wide range of financial products and services, including savings and checking accounts, an extensive line of loan packages, and credit cards, like the Jackson EMC VISA.

Founded in 1930, Associated Credit Union (ACU) is a strong financial institution with assets of more than half a billion dollars. Employees of some of the area's leading companies are ACU members, including The Home Depot, Avon Products, and WSB Radio and Television.

Associated Credit Union offices within Jackson EMC territory are located at Jackson EMC's Gainesville District office at 1000 Dawsonville Highway in Gainesville, at both 395 Grayson Highway and 867 Buford Drive in Lawrenceville, and at 1470 Beaver Ruin Road, 6251 Crooked Creek Road and 4895 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Norcross.

For more, visit www.jacksonemc.com or ACU's website at www.acuonline.org. ▲



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what's cookin'?

Cooperative **Cooking**

Each month *Jemco News* features recipes which represent the people and products of Jackson EMC.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Jackson EMC area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to:

Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549

Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Jemco News* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.



No-Bake Banana Pudding

Ingredients:

3 small boxes instant vanilla pudding	½ cup sour cream
5 cups milk	5 bananas, sliced
12-oz container Cool Whip®, divided	1 box vanilla wafers

Instructions:

Mix instant pudding with milk. Beat until slightly thickened. Mix ½ of Cool Whip and sour cream with pudding mixture. Set aside.

Place half of the bananas in bottom of large bowl. Top with half of the vanilla wafers. Pour half of pudding mixture over bananas and wafers.

Add a second layer of bananas, wafers and pudding. Top with remaining Cool Whip.

Refrigerate at least two hours before serving.