

# Jan Durham

*Author, speaker, United Methodist clergy*

*By so many roots as the marsh-grass sends in  
the sod*

*I will heartily lay me a-hold on the  
greatness of God.*

*Sidney Lanier*

## *Searching for:*

- *a speaker for an older adult fellowship group*
- *an author for a book discussion*
- *a presenter for a women's event*
- *a Wednesday night program*
- *a facilitator for a Bible study*
- *a retreat leader?*



Jan Durham, an experienced speaker and event leader for more than fifteen years, spent most of her adult life in Atlanta, but the Savannah native never lost her love for her roots in the marshes of coastal Georgia, the setting of her new historical novel *Fastened to the Marsh*. In addition to discussing her novel and her adventures in the publishing world, she speaks about a multitude of issues explored in her writing including family relationships, caregiving, aging with meaning, finding the source of our strength, and the will of God in our lives.

A clergy member of the United Methodist Church, her ministry focuses on women's studies, issues of aging, and congregational care. After starting an adult day center for families coping with Alzheimer's disease, she co-authored a manual on congregational respite care with the Georgia Department of Aging and the Georgia Alzheimer's Association. She is also the author of *After the Example of Christ*, a model for servant ministry by and for older adults, published through the General Board of Discipleship and used in congregations throughout the UMC.

An advocate for small groups within congregations, Jan has taught all of the *Disciple* programs and enjoys facilitating discussion groups on biblical and contemporary topics. She has been selected to participate in the preparation of a new ecumenical Bible translation for use in small groups sponsored by the Christian Resources Development Corp, a subsidiary funded by the United Methodist Publishing House.

Jan has served several congregations in both the North and South Georgia Conferences and was the director of program at Simpsonwood Conference Center. She now lives on Skidaway Island on the coast of Georgia where she continues her involvement with the Alzheimer's Association and hospice. She is currently working on a second novel set near Sapelo Island.

Cokesbury, Atlanta

Available from:

amazon.com

barnesandnoble.com

**To schedule an event with Jan, please contact her directly at**

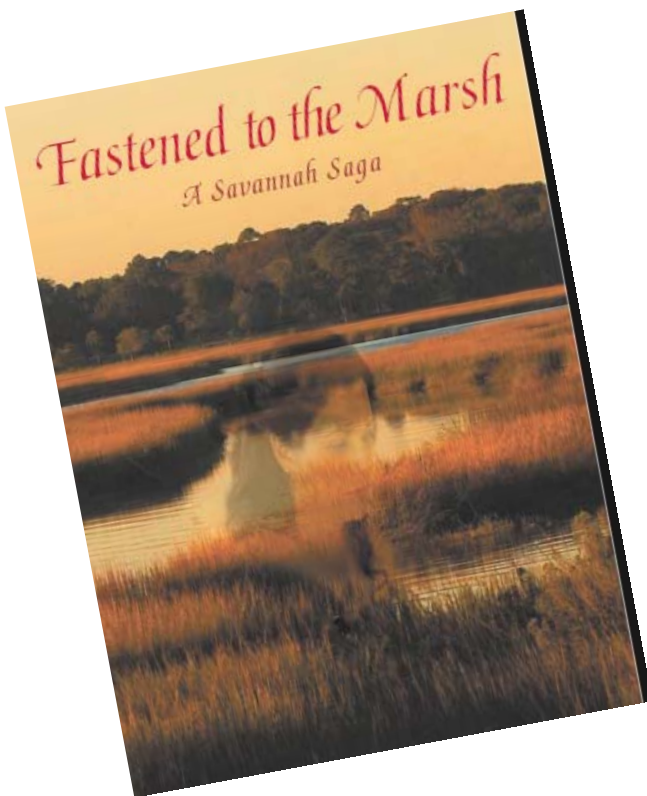
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# *Fastened to the Marsh*

## *A Savannah Saga*

By  
*Jan Durham*

*Two ancient graves on Skidaway Island inspired a novel which traces a family's legacy from the arrival of an 18<sup>th</sup> century indentured servant to the begrudging return of her last legitimate descendant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

*The story of a woman approaching retirement yet still searching for a sense of belonging that has eluded her since childhood, *Fastened to the Marsh* explores a multitude of issues including family relationships, caregiving, aging with meaning, finding the source of our strength, and the will of God in our lives.*

If thoughts were letters, you would have a thousand from me. Your book *Fastened to the Marsh* is awesome.

Dr. Evelyn Laycock, Conference speaker and Bible study leader and author of *Echoes of Faith*, *Hope for the Future: A Study of Revelation*, and others

*Fastened to the Marsh* is spell-binding; I never wanted to stop reading. Among the aspects I deeply appreciated were your sound Methodist theology (particularly as it related to aging, death, and dying), your clear portrayal of the worth of persons regardless of their race or gender, your knowledge of Wesley history so subtly woven into the story, your psychological understanding of the various stages in life, and your understanding and knowledge of Alzheimer's disease. I encourage you to continue writing novels. God has blessed you with a great gift of creative imagination and excellent writing skills.

Reverend Hazel Bennett, Chair, United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries

You've put together a great story and shared so much of faith through it. The strongest message for me is how wrong we can be about perceptions, and yet, let them affect our living so greatly. Strong message.

Reverend Grady Mills, Christian Educator, SC Conference

In Jan Durham's first novel, we are drawn into a lush, poignant world that spans centuries of life on the coast near Savannah. Her gift for integrating a rich story from the past with a very modern woman's quest for self-knowledge makes this a novel that will magnetize readers. Indeed, this delicious read will leave Durham's fans waiting impatiently for her next book.

Rosemary Daniell, author of *Secrets of the Zona Rosa: How Writing (and Sisterhood Can Change Women's Lives*

Durham gives us a peek into the intrigue and mystery of the Georgia Low Country at the turn of the century. This first novel has all the elements of a great motion picture: interesting characters, early American history, adventure, and romance.

Larry Larance, author of *Miss Myrtle's Boy*; *We Count Trees*; and *A Better Looking Corpse*

Durham takes her reader on a journey back to plantation life where generations of courageous women gathered their strength from the marsh land on as they struggled to retain one family's roots.

Lisbeth Thom, author of *Row Away From the Rocks*