



The Daily Digest

Arkansas

Annual Conference 2014

#arumc14 Saturday, June 21

IN MEMORIAM

Today at 4 p.m. we will remember clergy and clergy spouses who have died within the past year:

- Eloise Anderson Albright
- Katherine Bell
- Barbara Block
- Clint Burleson
- Billy Howard Cox
- Elizabeth Ann "Libby" Culpepper
- Tina Mae Davis
- Ester Dennis
- Dale Diffie
- Katherine Eggenesperger
- Rose Ann English
- Gerald Fincher
- Julia Fincher
- Barbara Gilbert
- Dick Haltom
- Geraldine Howerton
- Robert Howerton
- Laura Hutto
- Thomas K. Jones
- Jimmie Kirkwood
- Patricia Lifts
- Thomas E. Lukas
- Darleen Lyons
- Lois McDonald
- R. Lynn McSpadden
- Lexie L. Millard
- Martha O. Miser
- Jason Molitor
- Eva Moore
- V. Jeanette Parr
- Brenda K. Rainey
- James T. Randle, Jr.
- Robert "Bob" Reynolds
- Jimmie Robison
- Rena Scott
- James Shaddox
- John Soward
- Harold Spence
- Carl Strayhorn
- Owen Talley, Sr.
- Robert A. Terry
- Wynona Wagner
- Nellie E. Wingo
- C. Stephen Wiseman
- John Workman

Hamilton encourages Arkansas leaders



Effective leadership doesn't have to be complicated, according to Adam Hamilton. But it does require diligence in both planning and living out our mission.

During two sessions on Friday of Annual Conference, Hamilton shared his essentials of effective leadership, from maintaining integrity to brushing your teeth. These basics are true for any leader.

Christian leaders have much more to consider, however. They have to be not only deeply committed to Christ and his teaching, but also to working with real people.

"Leadership is all about people and relationships," he said. "And great leaders initiate conversations."

[See HAMILTON, page 2]

Well on the way to striking out malaria

The Rev. David Freeman announced Friday morning that United Methodists of Arkansas have raised more than \$890,000 with just two years of effort in a planned three-year emphasis on helping end deaths from malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

During the Imagine No Malaria report, Bishop Thomas Bickerton appeared via video to thank United Methodists in Arkansas for their part in the progress toward the UMC's commitment in the fight against malaria. He shared that the UMC is the only faith-based group taking such a large role in the effort, and the other organizations at the table have great respect for our part in the work.

Freeman thanked the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas for their generous

matching grant, as well as the churches and individuals who have given to what truly is a grassroots effort. Churches and individuals have found numerous creative ways to support Imagine No Malaria.

While the people of the Arkansas Conference have made great progress toward our commitment to raise \$1 million for the cause, Freeman reminded the members of the Conference that "our goal is not a dollar amount. Our goal is to eradicate malaria."

The report featured an appearance by Strike the Sasquatch, mascot for the Northwest Arkansas Naturals. Tonight's UMC Night at the Naturals Game is a celebration of our progress toward the Imagine No Malaria goal. The first pitch is at 6:05 p.m.



PHOTOS BY MARCIA DUNBAR

Hamilton (from page 1)

In this swirl of relationships, leaders must also clarify and communicate a vision for their organizations. Hamilton presented an “MVP” approach: clearly state the *mission* in a way that moves people toward action, cast a *vision* to that end, implement a *plan* for follow-through.

During his second session, Hamilton tackled preaching and worship. He walked through a typical Church of the Resurrection service, explaining how simple changes such as highlighting lines of hymns can increase a congregation’s involvement.

As for sermons, they should engage head, hands, and heart. Hamilton used a sermon series about current events to show how a sermon that is rooted in both Scripture and the world can call people to action. When the Kansas City school district imploded, Resurrection members committed to praying individually for the 5,000 employees of the district. Three teachers even quit their more stable jobs to work in the city.

Hamilton also encouraged leaders to not give up, regardless of the obstacles they face.

“It may very well be that God is calling you to do what Jesus did and press through,” he said.

“We will have to be willing to examine ourselves and look at how we behave inside the church walls and outside the church walls.”

“Isn’t it a sin to just be good when God calls us to be great?”

—Karon Mann, Laity Address

“Whether you’re lay or clergy, being a Christian is a privilege, being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a privilege and being in ministry is a privilege. And we need to start acting like it. We need to spend far less time on ourselves and far more time moving into the community to share Jesus.”

—Bishop Gary Mueller, Episcopal Address

We have a winner!

Rev. Michael Mattox, First UMC Hot Springs, won the trivia contest in yesterday’s Daily Digest and received a Wesley Study Bible (CEB translation). Thanks to Cokesbury and our community resource consultant, Julie Hill, for sponsoring our contest!

Answers to yesterday’s questions:

1. Who was the first Methodist preacher to hold regular services on an official circuit in Arkansas? Sources reference both Eli Lindsey (Spring River Circuit, 1815-16) and William Stephenson (Hot Springs Circuit, 1816), so both answers were accepted.

2. What church, first constructed in 1853, was home to the first Black Methodist congregation in Arkansas? Wesley Chapel

3. What clergywoman, still active as a local church pastor, was the first female DS in the old North Arkansas Conference? Bonda Moyer (appointed in 1993)



CELEBRATING A FIRST: Ruth Jones of Theresa Hoover UMC is the first African-American in the Arkansas Conference to receive Professional Certification in Youth Ministry.

PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Denman Evangelism Awards

At the beginning of Friday afternoon’s session, the Rev. Carlton Cross presented the Arkansas Conference Denman Evangelism awards recognizing one youth, one layperson and one clergyman who are practicing evangelism in their daily lives in their community and their local church.

Youth—Miller Wilbourn
Layperson—Melissa Yandell
Clergy—Brad Elrod

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