



United Methodist Arkansas

June 6, 2008

Native son Max Whitfield to serve as Arkansas Conference preacher

■ Hot Springs to host 2008 Annual Conference session

The Arkansas Conference will welcome home native son Bishop D. Max Whitfield as guest preacher for the 2008 Annual Conference.

The four-day gathering focusing on church business and fellowship will be held June 8-11 at the Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center's Summit Arena in Hot Springs. Whitfield, who serves as episcopal leader of the Northwest Texas



Max Whitfield

and New Mexico Annual Conferences, will preach during worship services at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 8, and 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 9.

Elected a United Methodist bishop in 2000, Whitfield was the first Arkansas-born clergy to be elected a denominational episcopal leader while serving in the Arkansas Conference. He was born in Pineville in IZARD County. He earned a bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University, a master of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology and with a doctor of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

He was licensed to preach in 1965 in the former North Arkansas Conference and ordained an elder in

See WHITFIELD, page 9

5K Fun Run/Walk newest addition to conference agenda

Get in a healthy state of mind if you're planning to attend the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference session June 8-11 in Hot Springs.

The conference's Holy Healthy UMC initiative is inspiring clergy, laity and entire congregations to focus on lifestyle changes and innovative ministries designed to improve the health of the conference. With that in

mind, a 5K Fun Run/Walk is planned for 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, beginning in front of Summit Arena, site of the conference. Refreshments will await participants at the finish line.

The 5K Fun Run/Walk is sponsored by Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare and the conference's Health Ministry Task Force. The aim is to raise

See HEALTH, page 13



Bishop Charles Crutchfield and members of his Cabinet are prepared to welcome clergy and laity to the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference in Hot Springs this week. The Cabinet includes district superintendents (from left) Phil Hathcock, Bobby Bell, Kurt Boggan, Chester Jones, Mackey Yokem, Sara Bainbridge, Rodney Steele, David Prothro and Dennis Spence.

Jurisdictional conferences to elect, assign bishops

■ Arkansan Rodney Steele among endorsed candidates

United Methodist News Service

With the 2008 United Methodist General Conference now adjourned, denominational attention shifts to July gatherings of jurisdictional conferences at which nine new U.S. bishops are expected to be elected.

Like the worldwide legislative meeting held April 23-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas, jurisdictional conferences meet once every four years. However, while General Conference handles denominational matters across the globe, each jurisdictional gathering covers business

related to one of the church's five regional jurisdictions in the United States.

The primary business of jurisdictional conferences is the election and assignment of bishops. Up to 11 spots for new episcopal leaders could be open due to 10 possible retirements and the resignation of Seattle Area Bishop Edward Paup, who has been elected chief executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

However, it appears likely that the Northeastern Jurisdiction will elect only two bishops instead of three. And since General Conference extended the

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INSIDE HEADLINES

■ A Pine Bluff industry reaps benefits from its connection with United Methodist chaplains, page 6.

■ Additional photos from General Conference capture Arkansas' clergy and lay delegates at work, page 8.

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Hendrix trustees: proposal enriches college/church relation

We, the current clergy members of the Hendrix College Board of Trustees, write to respond to the Viewpoint article by Andrew Thompson that appears in the May 16 edition of the *Arkansas United Methodist*.

With reference to the title of the essay, the future of the connection between Hendrix and the United Methodist Church is in no way uncertain. Since we, as members of the Trustees and Administration, have worked to strengthen the relationship between Hendrix College and the United Methodist Church, it saddens us to think that others believe the future relationship is uncertain. Hendrix will most certainly remain rooted in the United Methodist Church, the fertile soil that nurtured and sustained the College as it grew into one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges. Let us share with you why we are encouraged about our future together.

As clergy trustees, we take seriously our role to pay close attention to Hendrix's relationship with our church and work diligently to enhance it. In fact, the relationship between Hendrix and the Arkansas Conference has grown in strength and vitality. For example, we are deeply grateful for the steps taken by President Timothy Cloyd (the son of a United Methodist missionary) to strengthen the ministries of the United Methodist Church on the Hendrix campus. For the first time in its history, Hendrix has two full-time ordained United Methodist clergy in the chaplain's office. Rev. Wayne Clark and Rev. J.J. Whitney provide strong leadership and a faithful witness on the Hendrix campus. We are particularly grateful for the fact that the College has committed an additional \$250,000 per year to programs devoted to the theological exploration of vocation. The vast majority of Hendrix students and faculty participate in one or more programs associated with this initiative each year.

Furthermore, in the past six years alone, 20 persons from Hendrix College have entered United Methodist seminaries, more than 250 college students have been on mission trips to churches and ministries related to United Methodism around the world, and over 60 high school students have, at no cost to the Annual Conference, participated in a discernment institute for called ministry. In recent years, Hendrix has launched a United Methodist Youth Leadership Scholars Program that provides schol-

Viewpoint

arship funding and leadership training to 60 United Methodist students at Hendrix each year. In addition, Hendrix provides half tuition scholarships to all dependents of United Methodist clergy, from any conference, who attend Hendrix. We strongly affirm that Hendrix is being faithful to blessing the tie that binds us to the United Methodist Church. Indeed, Hendrix has been a leader in our Annual Conference strategic initiative No. 2, "To identify, enlist, and retain gifted young pastors who are passionate about making disciples for Christ." None of us can recall a time in our years of active ministry when Hendrix demonstrated a greater commitment to its relationship to the United Methodist Church.

As the current clergy representatives of the United Methodist Church on the Hendrix Board, we believe the proposal for changes in the Board's composition will broaden the participation of United Methodists by drawing in lay leaders and by making space on the board for clergy representation from beyond the Arkansas Conference. The proposed changes will not weaken the college's relationship with the church. Rather, it will strengthen it by including United Methodist clergy and laity from beyond the Arkansas Conference. How so?

Hendrix is currently required by its charter to have 10 Trustees who must be ordained clergy in full connection with the Arkansas Conference of the UMC (in addition to the Bishop and the Director of Ministries who are ex-officio members with full voice and vote). The Board of Trustees voted to alter the requirement to include:

- Five trustees who are ordained clergy in full connection with the Arkansas Conference of the UMC.
- Five trustees who are either clergy or lay members of the United Methodist Church without regard to conference affiliation.

The Bishop and the Director of Ministries also will continue to serve in their ex-officio capacity. Therefore, Hendrix will have the same number of designated United Methodists but broadened to include laity and clergy from different conferences. (In addition, 18 of the 30 current lay trustees are United Methodists.)

Why did we propose this change now?

The College originally proposed

this change when the two Arkansas conferences combined, but was asked by the leadership to delay the request to smooth the transition. Over the years, Hendrix has evolved from a small college serving mostly Arkansas students to an institution of national stature, enrolling about half its current students from other states and nations.

As an institution of higher learning with a national reputation for excellence, Hendrix serves UMC clergy and laity from around the world. The College wishes to draw on the expertise of lay members and clergy that represent the diversity of students we serve. The move to involve laity reflects the growing movement in the denomination to empower everyone in ministry. United Methodist clergy and laity from across the world could serve on the Board, globally strengthening the connection to the church.

Because current Trustees and Administration have worked so hard to build up the relationship between Hendrix and the United Methodist Church, because so many students, faculty and staff are involved with ministry and mission, because we have a unique historical moment to broaden the United Methodist relationship with Hendrix, we encourage you to support the changes to the Hendrix charter at this year's Conference.

If you have questions about the change or simply wish to discuss it further, we would welcome the opportunity to provide you with the facts.

Dr. Kurt Boggan
District Superintendent, Northeast District

Rev. Rex A. Dickey
First United Methodist Church, Bentonville

Rev. Pamela J. Estes
Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, Hot Springs

Rev. Michael C. Morey
Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church, Hot Springs Village

Rev. Charles F. Murry
First United Methodist Church, Conway

Rev. Victor H. Nixon
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. William O. Reeves
First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs

Rev. Britt Skarda
First United Methodist Church, Springdale

Rev. Roy P. Smith
Director of Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop
Arkansas Annual Conference

Rev. Rodney G. Steele
District Superintendent, North Central District

Rev. Beth A. Waldrup
Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Jonesboro



Volume 127 • No. 11 June 6, 2008

Jane Dennis • Editor
Martha S. Taylor • Director of Communications
Karen A. Wilson • Administrative Assistant
www.arumc.org

The *Arkansas United Methodist* is the newspaper of record for the United Methodist Church in Arkansas. It is published twice monthly — on the first and third Fridays of each month, for a total of 24 issues per year.

Offices are located on the campus of Philander Smith College, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, Ark. 72202.

Telephone: (501) 324-8000 or (877) 646-1816 toll free.

Fax: (501) 325-1911.

E-mail: jdennis@arumc.org

Correspondence should be addressed to: Arkansas United Methodist, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202, or jdennis@arumc.org

Change of address notification should be sent to *Arkansas United Methodist*, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202, or e-mailed to Karen Wilson at kwilson@arumc.org

Subscription price is \$15 per year (24 issues) or \$25 for 2 years (48 issues) for the print version and \$10 (1 year) and \$17 (2 years) for the online digital edition. Special rates offered to retired

clergy and surviving spouses of clergy. Send name, address, church name and payment to: *Arkansas United Methodist*, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202, or email kwilson@arumc.org.

Individuals may subscribe and pay for subscriptions online at www.arumc.org/aum. Both print and digital editions of the publication are available. For details, go to www.arumc.org/aum.

Signed letters and opinion articles reflect the views of the author and not necessarily those of the *Arkansas United Methodist* or The United Methodist Church.

Advertising is welcomed. For a rate sheet or more information, contact Martha Taylor at mtaylor@arumc.org or (501) 324-8005. While all advertising is reviewed before acceptance, it should not be considered endorsed by this newspaper or the Church.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Arkansas United Methodist*, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202.

Periodical Class Postage Paid at Little Rock, Ark. USPS 012-236 ISSN 1080-2819

Phone



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2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72202

Fax



(501) 325-1911

Email



jdennis@arumc.org

Viewpoint

Dear Friends:

There is a new activity scheduled for Annual Conference this year — the first annual Holy Healthy UMC Walk/Run. The event begins at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10. The full course is 5 kilometers (why “kilometers”?). The course is in the form of a “figure eight,” so it will be easy for those who wish to do only half to arrive at the beginning after 2.5 kilometers (why “kilometers”?).

One of our conference strategic initiatives is about creating a healthy lifestyle. I know that some are prevented by health from participating in this kind of activity. HOWEVER, if I can get my act together at that hour, I expect



An Occasional Word from the Bishop

many of the preachers and many of the lay delegates to do the same. This is not a race, just a simple little walk that will awaken our bodies and freshen our spirits for the new day.

The 5K Walk/Run (why “kilometers”?) is not the only Holy Healthy Activity at Annual Conference. Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare will be providing a free health screening during Annual Conference on Monday and Tuesday. They will



Charles Crutchfield

provide cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure checks for free. Their booth will be in the display area. Let me strongly encourage you to take advantage of this service.

We are also privileged to have with us Bishop Max Whitfield, resident bishop of the Northwest Texas/ New Mexico Episcopal Area as our conference preacher. Bishop Whitfield is a native to Arkansas and

really needs no introduction to the laity and clergy of this Annual Conference. I can say from personal experience that he and Valerie have provided exemplary, challenging and courageous leadership to and for the Northwest Texas/New Mexico Area. I am personally pleased to have him here for the entire conference. He and Valerie are special friends to Karen and me and to all of us in Arkansas.

We are going to have great preaching, healthy bodies and wonderful fellowship at Conference. I look forward to seeing you there.

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield 



Letters to the Editor

A life saved

I am writing this letter in regards to the goodness of God. I would like to tell you about what Rev. Chester Jones has done for me.

I was living in Hot Springs and searching for a place to go to church. The first one I came to wasn't for me. Then I came to Haven United Methodist Church. I was sitting on the steps and reading my Bible when a man opened the door and asked me to join Sunday School. About halfway through, a man came in. After Sunday School was over, I went to church and he sat next to me. After church was over we talked a little and he slipped me a few dollars to get something to eat. I knew I was in the right spot.

I started coming to church every Sunday. I thought I was out of place, but then I met Ms. Wright, the Sunday School teacher. I couldn't wait for Sunday to come. They really made me feel welcome. The bond was getting stronger. I didn't realize God was moving inside me.

Then I was told I had to move from the place I was living. Go and see what those people will do for you, I thought. Rev. Jones let me stay next door to the church.

My faith started to take a big turn. I started to pray and hang around the

church every day. The church really opened its doors to me. I worked in the food pantry and joined the choir. I worked on the church every chance I got. I became close to Belinda Johnson as we shared the Bible together. Sometimes we prayed together and tried to help other people to come to church. The church wanted to have an outreach center. I was really excited about that.

I finally realized that I was caught up in my addiction. I thought that people didn't know, and I was too ashamed and had too much pride to ask for help. To make a long story short, Rev. Jones saved my life. He sent me to Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church in Little Rock, where there are special programs to overcome addictions. He picked up the tab. I wish we could do something special for him. I've been here since February. After 30 days I went to work at IHOP and moved to a chemical free house. Now I'm working at St. Vincnet Infirmary. I've never been happier in my life. The best thing I learned is to trust and obey in the Lord. And that I will never be alone again.

Kevin Gollnick
Little Rock



Editor's Corner

By Jane Dennis

Ride the wind

Tiny, light and airy puffs of cotton floated down on us in such large numbers that it seemed an entire feather pillow had been unleashed in the wind. The day was brilliant and sunny. The morning's coolness belied the heat that was promised for the afternoon. It was a great day to be outdoors, to cheer on a team (in this instance, it was our oldest daughter's soccer team) and be among the glory of nature.

The cotton puffs kept raining down. Actually, they floated through the air horizontally, making it easy to track the invisible wind. With spring in full force, the mighty cottonwoods with their bright yellow leaves felt it was time to send their seeds off on an adventure. So the shower of cotton puffs continued.

Cottonwood seeds are carried in these white puffs of cotton which are so light that they can be blown long distances in the air before settling to the ground. But when the dispersed seeds do land, it's often near water, at the edge of rivers and streams, where cottonwoods thrive and grow. And what do you know? The soccer fields at North Little Rock's legendary



Jane Dennis

Burns Park are situated right along the Arkansas River. Cottonwoods and water go hand in hand.

While the seeds are very tiny, they can grow into trees that sometimes reach a height of 100 feet high, with massive trunks more than five feet in diameter. Hearty cottonwoods can live to be more

than 100 years old.

The cottonwood seeds blow in the wind, just looking for a place to land, take root and grow into an amazing specimen of God's handiwork.

And in God's mysterious and majestic way, the cottonwood takes root in the right place every time, even though the seed floats and flies through the air with great abandon and no apparent direction.

God has his hand on the cottonwood seed, just as God keeps his children close and guides them to the right place at the right time. May you be reminded of God's great love and guiding hand the next time a puff of a cottonwood seed takes a ride on the wind in your corner of the world.

[Jane Dennis has served as editor of the Arkansas United Methodist since 1988. She can be reached at jdennis@arumc.org.]

Viewpoint

Hendrix College & the UMC: a certain connection

By the time you read this column, the vote at Annual Conference on the proposed changes in the composition of the Hendrix Board of Trustees may have happened. I hope it is affirmative, but it is the larger issues raised by Andrew Thompson ("Hendrix College and the UMC: an uncertain future," *Arkansas United Methodist*, May 16) that I would like to address.



Bud Reeves

Ironies abound. Rev. Thompson wrote his essay prior to a mission trip sponsored by the Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative, a prime example of the strength of the church connection. While purporting to be protective of the college's future, the tenor of the questions he raises is negative and reactionary; the facts are much more positive. And in making the case for the importance of clergy trustees, he failed to consider that the 10 of us who are currently clergy trustees had given this matter some thought and study.

I believe that clergy trustees serve a vital function on the Hendrix board and that the connection between the church and the college is extremely important. We would not support the change in the charter unless we felt it was in the best interests of both parties. Clergy trustees are servants of the

church first. As the accompanying letter explains, the proposed charter change will strengthen the United Methodist connection by allowing for broader clergy and lay representation. It will expand our regional and national influence, which is important for the college's future vitality. Yet the Arkansas Conference will have the same authority to ratify those nominated to be United Methodist representatives as they always have. The change is a good move, well-considered by the Trustees, both lay and clergy.

This change is in no way a "punitive action" caused by the equalization of funding between Hendrix and Philander Smith. The administration at Hendrix has worked closely with the conference in working out a plan that encourages and supports our sister United Methodist college while allowing apportionment dollars to support scholarship funding for students at Hendrix. Both schools deserve our equal support.

Neither is this change "one step closer to the ultimate ending of the relationship" between Hendrix and

the United Methodist Church. I have been associated with Hendrix for over 30 years, and I have never seen the connection stronger. Dr. Rock Jones, Rev. Wayne Clark, Rev. J.J. Whitney, and college President Tim Cloyd have intentionally and intensively built up the religious life of the school. The UMYF Scholar program, the Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative, the healthy number of Hendrix grads going to seminary (as reported on page 10 of the May 16 issue), and week-by-week spiritual opportunities evidence the strength of the connection. Further information is available in the trustees' letter, the pre-conference journal, or on the Hendrix website.

Hendrix College is one of the jewels in the crown of Arkansas United Methodism. Consistently rated near the top of any list of regional and national liberal arts colleges, the recent addition of the Odyssey program has made it a national leader in wholistic higher education. The campus is constantly being improved, with the construction of a Wellness and Athletic Center last year and a new Student Life and Technology Center

on the way. Small colleges will have an increasingly tough challenge for survival in the years ahead, but Hendrix College is positioning itself in strategic ways to thrive for years to come. In my one year on the Board of Trustees I have been impressed with the depth and breadth of study and discussion that goes into every decision.

Rev. Thompson offers a counter-proposal to the proposed change in the charter. Except for opposing the change, I agree with him 100 percent. Continuing to engage in discussions about the church/college relationship, facilitated by the clergy trustees with the various constituencies, with the aim that the relationship will "grow in new and exciting ways" — it's what we have been and will continue supporting. It's what brought us to this measure we propose to the Annual Conference.

Hendrix College and Philander Smith College deserve the support of our Arkansas United Methodist connection. Our United Methodist roots in education are deep and important. Since the days of Charles Wesley, we have tried to "unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety." (Hendrix webpage, "United Methodist Connections") I pray that this relationship will only grow more certain in the future.

[William O. "Bud" Reeves is senior pastor of First UMC, Hot Springs. He can be reached at brobud@fumchs.com.]

Welcoming a new pastor begins with attitude

By BOB CROSSMAN

Is your church welcoming a new pastor or associate this coming June 25? A number of our churches across the state have a wonderful history of warmly welcoming their new pastors into the church family.

Let me share with you a list of ways you can welcome your pastor and perhaps begin to build a healthy and vital relationship with your new pastor.

Three or four of these ideas may fit the personality of your church and you may want to add these to what you have done in the past to welcome a new pastor.

❑ Open your hearts to love the

new pastor! Decide, before she or he arrives, that you are going to love your new pastor.

❑ If you can, have a large group of volunteers clean the parsonage (and office) during those few hours before the new pastor arrives.

❑ Meet the moving van to help unload. (However, don't unpack the family personal items. I remember finding out that while the men were helping me unload my boxes at the office that United Methodist Women had unpacked my socks and underwear. I really didn't intend to get that close so fast!)

❑ Remember the children of the pastor. Members of the church youth group might stop by to welcome the

pastor's youth to town. After helping to unload the truck, perhaps take them out and drive them around.

Younger children might be invited to come over and play with the pastor's young children while the unpacking is being done. Offer to provide childcare

while moving is happening .

❑ Wear nametags on moving day while you help unload the truck. Or better yet, also wear nametags to worship for the summer to help the pastor and family to learn names. Introduce

See WELCOME, page 5

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE By Mike Morgan



Risk of disease multiplies Myanmar disaster

NEW YORK — A prolonged lack of access to relief supplies has created a “second wave of disaster” that is poised to strike the people of Myanmar, according to Church World Service. CWS staff and partners are concerned that many survivors of Cyclone Nargis are at risk of disease because of contaminated drinking water.

The United Nations estimates that 2.4 million people have been impacted by the May 3 cyclone, which left 134,000 people dead or missing.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has given \$60,000 to CWS for that work, which includes providing clean water, water containers and water purification supplies, along with emergency shelter and food to survivors. UMCOR also allocated \$35,000 through the Methodist Church in Singapore to Bishop Zothan Mawia, leader of the Methodist Church of the Union of Myanmar (Lower Myanmar).

Donations to UMCOR Advance No. 3019674, Myanmar Emergency, can be made online at www.givetomis-



News Digest

sion.org. Checks also can be dropped into church offering plates or mailed directly to UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, N.Y. 10087-9068. Write the Advance number and name on the memo line of the check. Credit-card donations are accepted by phone at (800) 554-8583.

Michigan United Methodists offer hope to refugees

WYOMING, Mich. — Members of Wesley Park United Methodist Church are walking in the footsteps of Jesus as they “welcome the stranger” by co-sponsoring families that arrive in the United States as refugees. Through PARA, a Church World Service affiliate, the church, the church is assisting Saif and Safaa and their 2-year-old son, Fahed, natives of Iraq, and have assisted other refugee families as well.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief works with the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program on refugee resettlement. World Refugee

Day will be observed June 20.

“While the United States has agreed to resettle thousands of Iraqi refugees, the process often moves slowly,” explains Naomi Madsen, UMCOR’s staff executive for refugee ministries. “Having people like those in the Wesley Park community who are willing to co-sponsor a family in need is a true blessing.”

UMCOR improves water access in Indonesia

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Committee on Relief has helped nearly 20,000 people over the last three years to have better access to clean water and sanitation through its

office in Indonesia and anticipates helping 75,000 more with this basic need.

Nusret Osmanspahic, UMCOR Indonesia’s head of mission emphasized the importance of these programs, stating that “80 million Indonesians live without proper sanitation facilities, which contributes to the diarrhea-related deaths of over 100,000 Indonesian children each year.”



Fadwa (center) and her daughter enjoy an outing to a park in Wyoming, Mich., with Liz Montcastle (left) and Kathy Carruthers, members of Wesley Park United Methodist Church. The congregation helped resettle the Iraqi family in 2005.

UMNS photo courtesy of Wesley Park United Methodist Church

WELCOME, continued from page 4

yourself over and over.

❑ Take food over the first few days until the parsonage family can get their kitchen stocked, or give gift certificates to several of your favorite restaurants in the community. You could also have the refrigerator and pantry fully stocked with the staples we all need.

❑ Give the pastor and family a “welcome” reception within the first 10 days.

❑ Mow the pastor’s yard for a couple of weeks (or better yet, for the rest of the year).

❑ Each adult Sunday school class might have a welcome party some time during the first month or two.

❑ Hold a welcome coffee or dinner for the family. Several small groups are better than one large gathering.

❑ Provide a current pictorial directory of all the church families.

❑ Create a “church yellow pages” (a list of people in the church who have specific skills that a newcomer may find beneficial, such as auto mechanic, doctor, dentist, dry cleaners, book store, office supply, etc.)

❑ Provide the new pastor with a tour of where things are kept and hidden inside the church and a floor plan of the facilities.

❑ Appoint a liaison, perhaps the Lay Leader, to help the pastor with the transition. This person could be on call during the first month to answer questions, etc.

❑ Provide the new pastor with community information — such as how to get to the grocery store, movies, restaurants, parks, etc. — and show them around the area. Have a map with directions to local dry cleaners, grocery store, drug store, veterinarian, etc.

❑ Invite the spouse to attend the different adult Sunday School classes to meet people.

❑ Have the Lay Leader take the pastor around to show where church people live. (If you have one, bring the pictorial directory along to match faces.)

❑ Provide the pastor with a list of home bound or nursing home members, a list of those struggling with long-term illness, a list of those still in grief over recent deaths in the family. Better yet, take the pastor and introduce them to each of these households.

❑ Take the new pastor to a town meeting (i.e. chamber of commerce, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Junior Auxiliary) and introduce to other people in town.

❑ Remember your new pastor and family in your daily prayers.

Most importantly, open your hearts to love your new pastor. Decide, before he or she arrives, that you are going to love your new pastor.

[Bob Crossman is Minister of New Church Starts and Congregational Advancement for the Arkansas Conference.]

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Chaplains assist local industry, offer care and concern to many

■ Pine Bluff manufacturer sings praises of its UM chaplains

By LUANN HENSLEY

PINE BLUFF — The opportunity and need to minister to people today can be found in some very non-traditional places. It is familiar and customary to see the comforting faces of chaplains and ministers at events, hospitals and in every branch of our military. Yet, another question is, how do you provide spiritual healing to people in a place where they spend eight, 10 or even 12 hours a day and perform the work that constitutes their livelihood?

This is the exact question that was posed by senior leadership at Pine Bluff's Central Moloney Inc. Central Moloney Inc. has been a fixture in the Pine Bluff business landscape and the electrical distribution transformer and component parts industry for more than 50 years. With two plants in town and nearly 700 employees, management realized that there was a "spiritual" element of their workday that was not being nurtured.

A brainstorming session produced a plan where the local pastors would come in once or twice a week to serve as volunteer chaplains. The company decided to speak first with David Moseley, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff.

Moseley agreed to serve as a volun-

teer chaplain, but realized that he too would need help. He turned to Rev. David Morgan. Morgan was raised in this community and, after retiring from the U.S. Navy, returned to Pine Bluff along with his wife, Edna, to establish Healing Place Ministries. Healing Place focuses primarily on crime victims' advocacy.

After prayerful consideration and brainstorming sessions, the Central Moloney Inc. Faith and Work program was established in 2007. This non-denominational program allows Moseley and Morgan, who serve on a voluntary basis, the opportunity to have personal contact and freedom to reach out to any employee of Central Moloney Inc. who has a need for guidance and a refuge in some of their darkest hours.

Transformers are manufactured using materials such as steel, copper, aluminum and oil. Just as transformers are complex, so are our lives. With our chaplaincy program in place, Moseley and Morgan have the privilege of walking with employees through those daily challenges and complexities.

To date, the program has been extremely successful. While every employee understands that this program is completely optional, many have chosen to utilize the God-given skills of these men to comfort and encourage them. In fact, the program



United Methodist chaplains David Moseley (left) and David Morgan learn a little about transformers from an employee of Central Moloney Inc., a manufacturer of transformers in Pine Bluff.

has been such a success that new construction has begun on an office area just for this program and will be located in the heart of the manufacturing facility.

While Morgan and Moseley continue to fulfill their daily duties elsewhere, countless hours have already been

spent in one of Arkansas' most established manufacturers. It is thrilling to know each one of our employees is being cared for through the heart and hands of our Central Maloney chaplains.

[LuAnn Hensley is marketing manager for Central Moloney Inc. in Pine Bluff.]

Conference youth choir announces touring dates

The 2008 Youth Choir Tour, sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries, is slated for June 16-22.

With the theme "Learn to Fly," youth choir performances are slated in United Methodist churches in six Arkansas towns, including:

- June 16, St. Paul UMC, Searcy
- June 17, First UMC, Harrisburg
- June 18, First UMC, Marianna
- June 19, First UMC, El Dorado
- June 21, First UMC, Charleston
- June 22, First UMC, Benton

All performances begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

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JURISDICTION, *continued from page 1*

retirement age from 66 to 68, at least one of the three bishops now eligible to continue in office has indicated a desire to do so.

The South Central Jurisdictional Conferences, which includes the Arkansas Conference, will meet July 16-19 in Dallas.

Here is a primer on some of the issues and changes related to this year's jurisdictional meetings:

Fewer U.S. bishops

General Conference approved a plan that will result in one less bishop in four of the five U.S. jurisdictions, beginning in 2012.

Under the new U.S. formula, all but the Southeastern Jurisdiction will have one less bishop. The Southeastern Jurisdiction already has one less than the current formula allows, and it is not requesting an additional episcopal leader.

The new formula will take effect Jan. 1, 2009, however, so it will not affect the number of bishops elected in the United States in July.

A Task Force to Study the Episcopacy, mandated by the 2004 General Conference, proposed the reduc-

tion to save money. The proposal was approved 457-401, and delegates also agreed by a vote of 435-394 that the \$4.8 million anticipated savings will be used to fund new episcopal areas outside the United States. Those new areas — each to be led by a bishop — will not be created until the 2012 General Conference.

The current formula entitles each jurisdiction with 500,000 church members or fewer to have six bishops. Jurisdictions with more than 500,000 members are entitled to one additional bishop for each 320,000 members.

The task force noted that the current formula results in inequities in the number of churches per bishop (ranging from 256 to 928) and the number of members per bishop (ranging from 58,970 to 225,814).

The new formula provides for one bishop for every 150,000 members, or one bishop for 100,000 members in jurisdictions where episcopal areas average more than 55,000 square miles.

Retirement age and limits

The assembly also voted to raise the retirement age of bishops from 66 to 68. A bishop must retire Aug. 31 following the regular session of the juris-

dictional conference if the bishop reaches his or her 68th birthday on or before July 1 of the year in which the jurisdictional conference is held.

The change, which took effect when General Conference adjourned, gives Louisiana Area Bishop William Hutchinson, Harrisburg (Pa.) Area Bishop Jane Middleton, and Charlotte (N.C.) Area Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey the option of proceeding with retirement or serving for another four years. Middleton told United Methodist News Service she probably will continue for another term. Hutchinson and McCleskey have not made public announcements.

Before the 2008 General Conference, a bishop was required to move to a new episcopal area after serving two four-year terms unless a two-thirds majority of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy and a two-thirds majority of the jurisdictional conference approved the bishop remaining in that appointment an additional four years. General Conference deleted the two-thirds vote requirement, so

bishops may remain in an episcopal area for a third term without special action.

Assigning bishops

Twice as many U.S. delegates participate in jurisdictional conferences as in General Conference. Equal numbers of lay and clergy members are elected by their respective annual conferences.

Within each jurisdiction, a committee on episcopacy consists of one clergy and one lay person from each annual conference. The committee is responsible for reviewing the work and character of the bishops, and the committee assigns the bishops to their areas. The jurisdictional conference has the authority to affirm or reject the assignments. If the conference rejects the assignments, the committee must make new assignments.

The assignment for bishops elected at the 2008 jurisdictional conferences becomes effective Sept. 1, 2008.

Electing new bishops

People considered for the episcopacy are generally nominated by an annual conference or endorsed by jurisdictional conference delegates from the various annual conferences. Delegates from those annual conferences are not



The campus of Southern Methodist University has been chosen as the site of the George W. Bush presidential library, museum and policy institute. When the United Methodist South Central Jurisdiction convenes in July, the body is expected to address a 2007 decision by its Mission Council to lease property on the campus for the project. UMNS photo courtesy of Southern Methodist University

required to vote for the candidate from their conferences, and balloting is not limited to nominees.

The Arkansas Conference has endorsed Rodney Steele, currently North Central District Superintendent, for the episcopacy.

Each jurisdiction devises its own means of providing information about the candidates. In the Western Jurisdiction, for example, nominees are invited to give speeches and later answer delegates' questions during "fishbowl" meetings prior to the first ballot. In other jurisdictions, candidates go from one small group to the next answering questions posed by delegates.

Each jurisdiction can establish the percentage of votes needed for election. The church's Book of Discipline recommends 60 percent.

The number of required ballots varies from year to year. Voting by ballot continues until someone reaches the required number of votes.

In 2004, the Northeastern Jurisdiction elected two bishops on the first two ballots. However, it took 34 ballots for the Southeastern Jurisdiction to elect Mary Virginia Taylor as its sixth and final bishop.

Candidates for bishop do not have to live within the jurisdiction where they are elected. In 1984, Leontine T.C. Kelly was serving as pastor of a church in Richmond, Va. — part of the Southeastern Jurisdiction — when she was elected bishop in the Western Jurisdiction.

A consecration service is held at the conclusion of the jurisdictional conferences in which bishops are consecrated (not ordained) to the office, and bishops are assigned to their episcopal areas.

South Central: Bush library

The conferences also handle jurisdictional business.

The South Central Jurisdiction is expected to address a 2007 decision by its Mission Council to lease property

on the campus of Southern Methodist University to build the George W. Bush presidential library, museum and policy institute.

The 21-member Mission Council serves as the executive committee of the conference to oversee ministry during the four years between jurisdictional meetings. The extent of the council's power became a central issue when SMU, which is owned by the jurisdiction, asked to give the Bush Foundation a 99-year lease for the project and make the lease renewable up to 249 years. United Methodists opposing the plan, citing the Iraq war and many Bush policies, questioned the appropriateness of linking the Bush presidency with SMU and argued that the school would have no control over the complex.

The opponents said only the jurisdictional conference can give final approval for the lease. However, university officials and 10 bishops in the South Central Jurisdiction disagreed (one abstained). They said jurisdictional rules permit the Mission Council to make decisions between sessions every four years.

Kansas Area Bishop Scott Jones, president of the South Central College of Bishops, said the bishops considered convening a special session of the jurisdictional conference. "The proposal was rejected because that is not the normal way we make decisions," Jones said.

The outcome is uncertain. David Severe, jurisdictional secretary, told UMNS that it is not clear whether the decision needs to be ratified or just reported. "It's a matter of interpretation," he said, "and I'm only the secretary."

A resolution to General Conference called for the denomination to prevent the "leasing, selling or otherwise participating in or supporting the presidential library for George W. Bush at Southern Methodist University." The assembly referred the resolution to the jurisdictional conference.

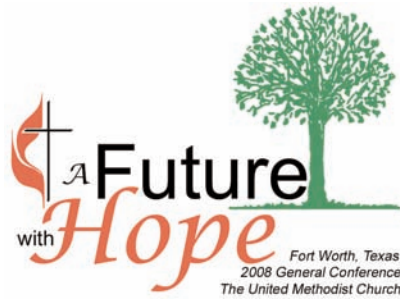


Fort Worth Area Bishop Benjamin Chamness is retiring at the end of this term. South Central Jurisdictional delegates will elect a new episcopal leader this July to replace Chamness.

UMNS photo by Mike DuBose



Rodney Steele (center), Arkansas Conference head clergy delegate, listens to conversation of fellow delegates and siblings Rebekah Miles and John Miles II.



Dedication and stamina. That's what was required of members of the Arkansas Conference Delegation and others attending the 2008 General Conference. The 10-day legislative session set the course for the denomination for the next four years. These photos are an addendum to the full report of the conference included in the May 16 issue of the Arkansas United Methodist.



General Conference marshal Maxine Allen greets a friend at her post at the Fort Worth Convention Center.



Stark Ligon, reserve lay delegate from Little Rock, follows General Conference legislation.



Dining together at the Arkansas Lunch during General Conference are (from left) Pam Estes, Tom Hazelwood, Karen and Bishop Charles Crutchfield.



Following along in a plenary session are Arkansas Conference reserve delegates (from right) Mike Morey, J. Harris Moore and John Miles II.



Neva and W.T. Sheumaker of Paragould volunteered as marshalls throughout the 10-day General Conference.



Head lay delegate Asa Whitaker studies a question related to the current Book of Discipline.



With voting pads in hand, Arkansas delegates (from right) J.J. Derden, Carole Teague, Roy Smith and Stark Ligon prepare to cast a vote.

The Arkansas Conference Board of Church & Society encourages you to make a considerable gift to the

Global AIDS Fund

during the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference.

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund seeks to raise \$8 million for AIDS relief and research.

This goal is simply \$1 per member. Make your membership count.

Conference delegates and guests may place their gifts in offering baskets at any of the Conference worship services.

Please use the red lettered envelopes provided in the Pre-Conference Journal packets. Others may send a gift for the Global AIDS Fund to the Conference Treasurer.



Assembly sets guidelines on clergy effectiveness

United Methodist News Service

FORT WORTH, Texas — Delegates to the 2008 United Methodist General Conference approved a petition dealing with clergy effectiveness and annual appointment, and also outlined conditions under which a pastor's appointment may be terminated.

The petition was one of many measures approved April 30 on the General Conference's consent calendar. The denomination's top lawmaking body, which meets every four years, gathered April 23-May 2 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

The delegates, following the recommendations of the ministry and higher education legislative committee, voted 696-24 to amend and approve a petition related to Paragraph 334 of the denomination's Book of Discipline to

WHITFIELD, continued from page 1 —

full connection in 1970. He served local churches, a rural parish, a new church start and several large membership churches in Arkansas. He went on to serve as superintendent of the Batesville and Fayetteville districts prior to his election as bishop and assignment to the Northwest Texas and New Mexico Annual Conferences.

Whitfield, 62, has served as a trustee of several institutions, on the National Shalom Committee and on the Board of Directors of the General Board of Global Ministries and the General Commission on Religion and Race. In 1992, 1996 and 2000 he was a General Conference delegate.

He presently serves on the General Board of Discipleship and as chairperson of the Mount Sequoyah Board of Trustees. He also serves on the Board of Trustees at Lydia Patterson Institute, McMurry University and Southwestern University.

In 2007 he was one of six United Methodist bishops to participate in the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological Studies. He presented a paper on "The Application of Wesley's Approach for Methodism in the United States."

He and his wife, Valerie, have five children and seven grandchildren.

In addition to sermons by Whitfield, conference attendees will hear from Bishop Charles Crutchfield, who will bring the message for the Service of Ordination and Commissioning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Other worship services will include a Service of Holy Communion and Commemoration at 6 p.m. Sunday; a service honoring retiring clergy at 10:35 a.m. Monday; and a service celebrating appointments at approximately 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

give bishops procedures for terminating an ineffective pastor's appointment.

The Book of Discipline specifies responsibilities that an elder in The United Methodist Church must fulfill. Those responsibilities, outlined in Paragraph 340, are derived from authority given by ordination, according to the book. Elders are responsible for the "ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order and Service" within the church and serve in the church and the world.

The delegates voted on the process

for a guaranteed or annual appointment and what would occur if an elder does not fulfill his or her responsibilities. The basis for an elder's continued eligibility for appointment includes availability; annual participation in an evaluation process with a pastor-parish relations committee or comparable authority; annual evaluation with a district superintendent; evidence of continuing effectiveness reflected in annual evaluations by the pastor-parish relations committee, the district

superintendent or comparable authority; professional growth through continuing education and formation; and willingness to supervise or mentor.

After evaluation, if an elder has not increased competency or effectiveness as defined by the conference board of ordained ministry or cabinet "and/or does not accept the appointment determined by the bishop, then an appointment may be forfeited and the provisions of Paragraph 362 (of the Book of Discipline) may be invoked."

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General Conference shortens candidacy process

United Methodist News Service

The candidacy process for ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church will be shortened by two years beginning in January 2009, under legislation approved by the 2008 General Conference.

“Steps were taken to shorten and expedite the process and make it more accessible,” said Sharon Rubey, director of Candidacy and Conference Relations at the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

“The effect of these changes reduces the possible years from entry into candidacy to ordination by two years, plus makes the process less prescriptive, therefore making it more accessible to more possible candidates.”

General Conference, meeting this spring in Fort Worth, Texas, affirmed legislation allowing a candidate to begin the ordination process with a minimum one-year membership in a church, campus ministry or other United Methodist ministry setting. The previous requirement was two years.

Other legislation made changes in probationary membership, including reducing the requirement from a minimum of three years to a minimum of two and changing the name to provisional instead of probationary membership.

Provisional members still will be required to follow a residency curriculum of theological education, take part in covenant groups and undergo mentoring with evaluation by their district

superintendent and Board of Ordained Ministry.

The result will be more intense work for the candidates and the annual conferences, said Anita Wood, the board’s director of professional ministry development.

However, since the legislation requires a minimum of two years, Wood said annual conferences still have the option of a longer provisional period.

Complaints

Efforts to streamline and shorten the process without weakening it were in response to complaints from young adults that the process takes too long, according to Rodney Steele. He was part of a group of delegates from the South Central Jurisdiction who drafted the legislation out of concern that the process is discouraging young ministry candidates.

“By the time people articulate that they are feeling called to ordained ministry, they’ve answered a lot of the questions that are part of the current process,” said Steele, a member of board’s elected directors.

The addition of campus ministry and mission churches as fulfilling that two-year membership requirement is

particularly important, he said.

“We are seeing college students who get involved in campus ministry and decide to seek ordination. This legislation will let that time in campus ministry count as church membership,” he said.

Approved legislation also provides new language to be more accessible to other cultural, racial/ethnic and non-English-speaking candidates. The petition passed by a sizeable majority in the legislative committee, and was approved by the entire assembly on the consent calendar.

In addition to campus ministry, membership in a United Methodist faith community or mission church that is not yet an established church will fulfill the one-year requirement.

The candidate, along with a candidacy mentor, will study resources determined by the conference Board of Ordained Ministry based on the candidate’s statement of call, Wesley’s historic questions found in Paragraph 310 of The Book of Discipline, and questions about formative experiences, the role of the church, Christian beliefs and personal gifts for ministry, which are listed in Paragraph 311.3.b and c.



The ordination process for clergy, such as this pastor ordained last year by Arkansas Conference Bishop Charles Cruitchfield, was streamlined and shortened by the 2008 General Conference.

This means there is no prescribed Candidacy Guidebook. However, the petition states that candidates are “encouraged to use resources recommended by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.” Rubey said recommendations will be offered as the process is implemented in January 2009.

Cultural and racial/ethnic realities

The required completion and release of psychological assessment reports, criminal background and credit checks remain in the process. However, the new paragraph states that district committees “shall seek ways to consider cultural and ethnic/racial realities in meeting these requirements.”

The language was changed to state that provisional members will be appointed by a bishop to serve a minimum of two years (reduced from three) following the completion of all educational requirements. Language also was added to make it clear that those in provisional membership “may be appointed to attend school, to extension ministry, or in appointments beyond the local church.”

Steele noted that this is permissive legislation and believes some conferences, including his own, will keep the three-year provisional requirement. “It’s working well for us, so I think the shortening for us will come on the front end,” said Steele, a district superintendent in the Arkansas Annual Conference.

School of Christian Mission kicks off July 31

“Living the Sacred” is the theme of the 2008 Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission. The four-day school will be held at Hendrix College in Conway July 31-Aug. 3.

The studies for this year are “I Believe in Jesus,” “Israel/Palestine” and “Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival.” Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available.

Study leaders for “I Believe in Jesus” will be: Maxine Allen, Sue Barnes, Pam Estes, and Michael Roberts. Ronnie Miller-Yow will lead a session designed for participants 25 and younger.

Study leaders for “Giving our Hearts Away: Native American Survival” will be Josephine Chalakee Allen-Deere, David M. Wilson, George Odell and Vicki Flemming.

Raouf J. Halaby will lead the study on Israel/Palestine, which is being offered for the second year.

Susanne Darter and Jackie Davis will lead the children’s sessions and Hillary Jo Stine and Millie Goins will be youth leaders. Melody Wyatt is the assisted dean for children and youth.

Those registering before June 30

may take advantage of early-bird special prices: \$145 adults and youth and \$100 for children 6-11. After June 30, the cost of adults and youth will be \$155. Children 6-11 will pay \$105 and children 5 and under \$25. Commuter

prices are \$60 for adults and youth; \$45 for children 6-11; and \$25 for children 5 and under.

For this year’s special project, attendees are asked to bring school supplies for the children and youth of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. A special offering will be taken for mission.

The School of Christian Mission is sponsored jointly by United Methodist Women and the conference Board of Global Ministries. Marleene Calvin is dean of the school and Steve Copley is assistant dean. Registrars are Carolyn and Nicole Cessna, (501) 258-1604 or (501) 834-4887 or mywrenchtravels@yahoo.com. For scholarship information contact Diana Hendrix at dianah1954@hotmail.com or (870) 448-5991.

More details and registration information is available online at www.arumc.org. Click on “Forms.”

Clergy invited to special event

Once again, a special clergy event will be held in connection with the Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission. Scheduled for July 31-Aug. 1 at Hendrix College in Conway, this event is designed specifically for clergy under appointment who are unable to attend the full four-day school.

Roy P. Smith will lead the study “I Believe in Jesus.” Participants will have their class on Thursday and Friday and will attend Friday’s plenary and wor-

ship with the full school. Those requesting continuing education credits for the study will receive one CEU credit.

Early-bird registration for those registering before June 30 is \$80 for those staying overnight at Hendrix and \$40 for commuters. After June 30 registration will be \$85 and \$45 for commuters.

More details and registration information is available online at www.arumc.org. Click on “Forms.”

People of Faith



The new addition to Elm Springs UMC was opened and consecrated April 6.

Elm Springs UMC buildings and ministries continue growing

ELM SPRINGS — Members of Elm Springs United Methodist Church celebrated the opening of their new 18,000-square-foot addition April 6.

Northwest District Superintendent Mackey Yokem joined pastor Carl Palmer in the service in which the new building and various elements of the sanctuary were consecrated. A special message was presented via video by Bishop Charles Crutchfield.

In addition to the new facility, ministries at Elm Springs continue to grow. Celebrate Recovery, a ministry serving persons with hurts, hang-ups and

habits, continues to meet on Friday evenings for dinner, worship, groups and fellowship. Beginning in June participants will begin new step study groups. "It is amazing to see how quickly God works through this program," said Celebrate Recovery director Debbie Chandler.

The congregation helps in the community and beyond by donating monthly mission items; supporting Operation Endeavor of Hope, which provides assistance through area shelters; and disaster relief. Members of the church delivered flood buckets to storm-damaged and flood-affected areas of Central and Northeast Arkansas, as well as helped with rebuilding efforts in the Clinton area. Members are continuing to gather supplies to help neighbors around the state. For information on what to put in a flood bucket, go to umcor.org and click on "Relief Supplies" under "How to Give."

This summer will be action packed with a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in June, Vacation Bible School in July and a Back to School Bash in August.



Children at Elm Springs UMC are commissioned as the church's New Generation of Christian Leaders.

Youth Tour sets sights on NYC

Youth Tour 2008 is headed to New York City Nov. 23-28.

Sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries, the annual excursion includes visits to Central Park, Rockefeller Center, Trump Towers, the Statue of Liberty, Chinatown, Little Italy, South Street Seaport and the World Trade Center Memorial. Two Broadway plays and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade are

also on the itinerary. Participants will also participate in a learning/service project at the Church Centre for the United Nations.

Space is reserved with a \$300 deposit due June 15, with the \$600 balance required by Sept. 1. Youth in 10th grade through in their first year of college are eligible to join Youth Tour. For more information, contact Jay Clark at (501) 978-0538 or jclark@phumc.com.

Lynn Staten of Little Rock has been named to the Methodist Family Health Foundation Board. Staten brings her love and passion for the well being of children and families to the board.

"I have been blessed with so much and I want to give back to this wonderful group," Staten said.



Lynn Staten

"I have known Lynn for years. Her love for children is second to none," said Andy Altom, president and Chief Executive Officer, Methodist Family Health. "We are very pleased to have her on our team."

Staten spends her time volunteering for her children's activities, including Junior Deputy baseball and Episcopal Collegiate School, and at her church, St. James UMC, Little Rock.

Methodist Family Health also offers the only comprehensive behav-

ioral healthcare service for children and adolescents available in Arkansas, with levels of care ranging from the most intensive (acute hospitalization) to the least restrictive service (outpatient counseling), while simultaneously providing all intermediate residential levels of care.

Congratulations are in order for Jim Argue, president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and a member of Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock. At the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, he was elected to a four-year term on the General Council on Finance and Administration.

If your church or church-related organization has a newsmaker, don't keep it to yourself! Share the good news. Send announcements to: Arkansas United Methodist, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, Ark. 72202; or email jdennis@arumc.org.



Herschel Richardson, Danny Partlow, & Stephen Dickinson

Congratulations,
2008 Arkansas Conference
Graduates!

Memphis Theological
Seminary



www.MemphisSeminary.edu

It Happened

Members of the City Heights UMC, Van Buren, celebrated Debt Independence Sunday April 27. Members of the church recently concluded a successful campaign to pay off the mortgage on the Family Life Center. They celebrated with a note burning and dedication and potluck dinner after Sunday services.

“Despite a change in appointment coming, we are not coasting at Southside UMC and Moorefield UMC in Batesville,” reports pastor Harry J. “Buddy” Hamner.

The Southside congregation has recently completed a parking lot expansion, made possible with a gift of a long-time member. The kitchen is soon to be remodeled, a gift given as a memorial to the late Harold Martin.

June will bring Vacation Bible School to Southside, where membership is up by four persons since Jan. 1. The congregation is planning an outing to see the Travelers play at Dickey-Stephens Field ballpark in North Little Rock later this month.

At Moorefield, the 88-year-old church building has recently been completely rewired and a new heat and air conditioning unit installed. Exterior work this summer will include a new roof and exterior paint. A church picnic was held June 1. Moorefield’s membership is up by one member since Jan. 1.

Dardanelle First UMC hosted an art show and reception April 27 in honor of local artist and church member J.R. Gray. Many paintings and other art pieces by the well-known 90-year-old artist were displayed. He was joined by his wife Doris, son Bob Gray of Washington and daughter Joanna



Artist J.R. Gray (seated) was recently honored by his church family at First UMC, Dardanelle, along with his wife Doris, son Bob and daughter Joanna.



Debt Independence Day is celebrated by members of City Heights UMC, Van Buren.



Attendees judge decorated tables at the Greenwood UMW “Making Memories” dinner.

Lange of Maryland.

Gray is an award-winning Arkansas graphic and wildlife artist whose work has been featured one-man shows and recognized in numerous competitions, as well as in newspapers, wildlife publications and national magazines. Previously owner of an art and advertising business, he has worked extensively with the National Wildlife Federation. He has also created special drawings during children’s time at morning worship services at the Dardanelle church. Now retired, he stays busy drawing and painting and enjoying various outdoor activities.

Greenwood UMC concluded its weekly Wednesday Night Live church family meal night and after school Team Christ activities for children May 7 and celebrated with a hamburger and hotdog picnic. Both activities parallel the school calendar and will resume in the fall. Summer months will offer Wednesday potluck meals and bingo, with the weekly Prayer Group meeting prior to the meal. Vacation Bible



Confirmands at First UMC, Rogers, are (from left) Justin Urich, Thad Standifer, Brian Talley, Jennie Thompson and Ben Lind.



At Fairview UMC, Camden, visitors from the Democratic Republic of the Congo learn about the Good Samaritan Food Pantry from church member Bonnie Bullock.

School and other children’s activities and field trips will be offered throughout the summertime.

In other news from Greenwood, United Methodist Women celebrated all women with its inaugural “Making Memories” fund-raising dinner May 10. Guest speaker Maggie Beeler, director of special programs at Methodist Family Health, was presented a check for \$934 for the Arkansas Methodist Children’s Home. The event featured 17 special

tabletops decorated by UMW members and judged in five categories. Church members Mindy James, Debby Brown, Ariel Pate, Jenni Hunt and Beth Hawkins presented a humorous skit. The meal was served to a crowd of 115 by United Methodist Men.

Also, the Greenwood Family Ministries Council honored military personnel May 21 with a special “Patriots Tribute” and potluck meal. All church and community members who have served their country were invited for the recognition service.

The 2008 confirmation class at First UMC, Rogers, was among the first anywhere to take the newly expanded vows for membership in the United Methodist Church. Since the recent action by the General Conference, those who join United Methodist churches henceforth will promise to be faithful in “their witness” as well as in their prayers, presence, gifts and service. The conference voted to add the phrase to the liturgy used by the church when a person makes a profession of faith.

The sermon for the day was taken from the Great Commission and focused on the denomination’s newly formulated Mission Statement: “The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” The confirmands were reminded that this is their call to mission and service in the world.

While in the United States attending the 2008 United Methodist General Conference in Fort Worth last month, six delegates from the Democratic Republic of the Congo visited Arkansas. They were part of a total of 84 delegates from their country attending the denomination’s top legislative session.

Two of the delegates — Ivan

IT HAPPENED *continued from page 12*

Mulongo Ntambo and Llunga Kandolo Kasowai — visited First UMC, El Dorado, where their hosts were Denver and Robin Thornton and First UMC associate pastor Pam Brulé. Ntambo is a Congressman representing Kamina. He received his doctorate from Kinshasa University and is a teacher in the United Methodist Church Medical School. Kasowai is president of the Teacher's School (sem-

inary) in Kamina. He holds a master's degree in library and information science from Montreal, Canada, is licensed in theology and teaches Hebrew.

Fairview UMC, Camden, also welcomed Ivan Mulongo Ntambo and Llunga Kandolo Kasowai of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a recent visit. The visitors hail from the



Members of the Waldron Bulldog football team, along with coach Larry Klatt, recently volunteered at the Angel Food Ministry distribution day at Waldron UMC. They helped distribute 5 tons of food in less than three hours.

HEALTH, *continued from page 1*

awareness of a healthy lifestyle for pastors and congregations.

In a similar good-health vein, Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare will provide free health screenings for cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure June 9-10.

This year's Arkansas Annual Conference will offer a host of special events that are not to be missed. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Young Adult Coffee House, 9 p.m. Sunday, June 8, Convention Center.

- Mission Fair, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 9, Summit Arena Lobby, celebrating the 60th anniversary of The Advance, with displays highlighting mission opportunities.

- "Walking the Methodist Way" break-out groups exploring the means of grace, 4 p.m. Monday, June 9, Convention Center.

- Volunteers in Mission luncheon, noon Tuesday, June 10, Oaklawn UMC, with Debbie Vest of Austin, Texas, director of VIM Ministries for the South Central Jurisdiction, speaker.

- Laity Dinner, 5:15 p.m. Monday, June 9, Austin Hotel.

- Clergy Women's Luncheon, noon Monday, June 9, Oaklawn UMC, Bonda Deere Moyer, host.

- Black Methodists for Church Renewal Dinner, Sunday, June 8, Visitors Chapel AME.

- Clergy Spouse Gathering, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 8, Embassy Suites, Salon A & B.

- United Methodist Women's Luncheon, noon Monday, June 9, First UMC.

- Gen-X/Y Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 9, First UMC.

- Church and Society Breakfast, 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 10, Oaklawn UMC.

- Partners in Ministry Luncheon, noon, Tuesday, June 10, First UMC.

- Confessing Movement Breakfast, 6:45 a.m. Monday, June 9, Union Baptist Church Life Center, with Bill Bouknight, retired UM pastor, speaker.

- Church Awards Banquet, 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, First UMC.

- Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors Breakfast, 7 a.m., Wednesday, June 11, Grand Avenue UMC.

In addition, donations of old cell phones are sought by the Conference Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries. In exchange for the recycled phones, AT&T will provide free long-distance phone service cards to members of the military.

Attendees are also invited to bring cans of soup for a conference mission project. The canned goods will be donated to the Delta Dream, a food and outreach ministry of the Marianna Larger Parish.

North Katanga Annual Conference, which has a ministry partnership with the Arkansas Conference.

United Methodist Women from Camden area churches sponsored a reception for the special guests May 12. The visitors were hosted by pastors Mike Wilkie of Fairview UMC and Buddy Ratliff of First UMC.

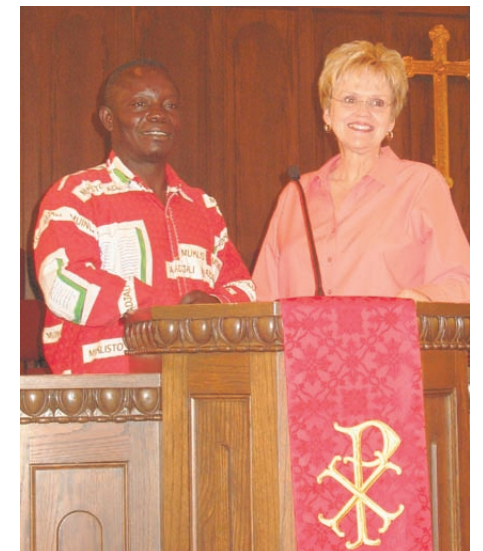
United Methodist Women of Jacksonville First UMC hosted the sixth annual Silver Belle Tea June 1. Guests were entertained with live music performances by pianist Alan Storeygard and vocalist Wes Davis and a fashion show from Dillard's. Each table featured unique tabletop decorations. All proceeds went to church missions.



As part of the National Day of Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Osceola Ministerial Alliance May 1, Allen Rainey (left), pastor of First UMC, Osceola, receives a plaque in recognition of his dedication to the community for the past nine years. The presentation was made by Todd Vinson (right), pastor of Keiser First Baptist Church.



Fairview UMC pastor Mike Wilkie, costumed as the Cardinal Mascot, and church trustee Tommy Deaton visited Ivory and Camden Fairview Elementary schools May 5. The guests presented teachers and staff with mini blackboards for Teacher Appreciation Week.



Llunga Kandolo Kasowai of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is greeted at First UMC, El Dorado, by associate pastor Pam Brulé.

www.arumc.org

Your web connection to the Arkansas Conference

Mission to Moscow

FALL MISSION TO MOSCOW

Sept. 19-28, 2008

Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church and Peacework are sponsoring a mission trip to an orphanage in Moscow, Russia, Sept. 19-28, 2008.

Interested persons or church mission groups should contact Rev. John T. Dill at (870) 833-2678 or jdpickle@sbcglobal.net for preliminary details.



Coming Up

Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, will offer a Going Green Conference at 5:30 p.m. June 23 for all faith organizations interested in "green faith" and starting a "green team." Admission is free. Participants are asked to bring brief statements from their faith traditions that reflect their interests in environmental preservation.

A 15-minute video segment on "Going Green" will provide examples from houses of worship using electricity from renewable energy sources, such as solar power. Information will be presented on conducting a waste audit and recycling.

To make a reservation, call (501) 664-3600. Leo Hauser is chairman of the Pulaski Heights UMC Green Team.

"Back to Basics with Wesley" is the theme for the Lay Speaking Ministries Conference July 11-13 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center at Fayetteville. Studies led by Jim and Molly Davis Scott of Eureka Springs will examine the Wesleyan heritage and what allowed the Methodist movement to be a powerful influence in America.

The Scotts, elders in the Arkansas Conference, are founders of the Christian Connexion, a ministry of renewal and transformation for Christian churches and organizations. Their most recent book is "Restoring the Wesleyan Class-Meeting."

Other sessions will include a Friday training session for conference and district directors and a Liberia Volunteer in Mission report from the

Oklahoma Conference.

More information is available online at www.mountsequoyah.org or by calling (800) 760-8126.

Music evangelist Charles Graham will present a concert at First UMC, Searcy, at 7 p.m. June 22. He will also sing at both the 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. morning worship services.

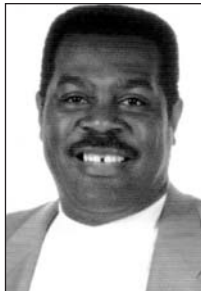
Graham's ministry in song has included performances at venues around the world. He was born and reared in southeast Arkansas, the fifth of 13 brothers and sisters. He attended Southwest Baptist University and Central Missouri State University before graduating in 1984 from the Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, Okla. He has recorded six gospel albums, including his most recent release, "You Amaze Me."

A freewill love offering will be taken. For more information, call (501) 268-5896.

"Rekindling the Flame of Faith" is the theme for the 2008 Annual Church Revival at Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock. The revival begins June 22 and will feature as guest evangelists:

■ Paul Holyfield, senior pastor, Friendly Chapel Church of the Nazarene, North Little Rock, June 22;

■ Michael Barker, senior pastor, Fairview Christian Church,



Charles Graham

McAlmont, June 23; and

■ J.B. Minix, senior pastor, Gaines Street Baptist Church, Little Rock, June 24.

Services begin at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Other guest preachers and choirs will provide inspirational messages and music. Wesley Chapel is located at 1109 S. State St. Ronnie Miller-Yow is senior pastor and Clare Alale is chair of Evangelism and Witnessing Ministries.

As a part of its celebration of the "First 100 Days" in their new building, First UMC, Conway, will sponsor a special event featuring Frank Jones, a well-known retired minister from Conway. He will be speaking in the new Great Hall at 6 p.m. June 8 on "How to Understand the Bible — Better." All are welcome. A short tour of the new facility will be provided after the presentation. For further information, contact Ann Poindexter at dapoin@cyberback.com.

Contemporary films will provide the inspiration for a three-part sermon series, "Three Fairy Tales and a Nightmare," beginning June 8 at Quapaw Quarter UMC, Little Rock. Presented by senior pastor Betsy Singleton at the 11 a.m. worship service, the series is based on the popular movies "High School Musical," "Hairspray," "Enchanted" and



Food angels

State Representative Shirley Walters (left) of Greenwood presents Paige Bethel of Waldron with a legislative commendation recognizing her efforts in addressing hunger in Scott County. Bethel is director of Angel Food Ministries at Waldron UMC. Angel Food Ministries is a national non-profit, non-denominational organization that distributes food to those in need through local host sites across the United States. The monthly food distribution program at the Waldron church began in March and is currently the fourth largest Angel Food distribution site in the state, serving more than 280 families.

"Sweeney Todd." The themes found in these recent films — alienation, jealousy, revenge, love, forgiveness, and redemption, for example — are present throughout the Bible. For more information, go to www.qqumc.org.

Francis Browning, former chief executive officer for Qualchoice, will be guest speaker for the United Methodist Men's breakfast at 7:30 a.m. June 8 at Winfield UMC, Little Rock. His topic will be the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Calendar

JUNE

- June 8-11: Arkansas Annual Conference, Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs.
- June 14: Intro to Tying Flies Camp, Shoal Creek.
- June 16-18: Golf Camp, Tanako.
- June 16-18: Y.E.E. (Younger Elementary Extravaganza) Camp, Tanako.
- June 16-22: Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries Youth Choir Tour.
- June 17-20: Beginner's Canoe Camp 101, Wayland Spring.
- June 17-21: Bishops' Week, "Ministering in the Hard Places," Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
- June 23-27: Upper Elementary Camp, Shoal Creek.
- June 30: Day Camp, Shoal Creek.
- June 30-July 3: Middle Elementary I Camp, Tanako.
- June 30-July 3: Junior High Camp, Shoal Creek.

JULY

- July 7-10: Advanced Canoe Camp, Wayland Spring.
- July 7-11: Junior High I Camp, Tanako.
- July 7-11: Music Camp, Shoal Creek.
- July 11-13: Jurisdiction Lay Speaking Ministries Conference, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
- July 14-18: Older Elementary I Camp, Tanako.
- July 15-19: South Central Jurisdictional Conference,

Dallas, Texas.

- July 18-20: Middle Elementary II Camp, Tanako.
- July 19-22: Arkansas Conference Junior High Assembly, Philander Smith College, Little Rock.
- July 21-25: Junior High II Camp, Tanako.
- July 22-26: Arkansas Conference Senior High Assembly, Philander Smith College, Little Rock.
- July 24-26: Hands in Motion ASL (American Sign Language) Camp, Shoal Creek.
- July 27-30: Middle Elementary Camp, Shoal Creek.
- July 28-Aug. 1: Older Elementary II Camp, Tanako.
- July 28-30: Hunter Education Camp, Wayland Spring.
- July 31: Day Camp, Shoal Creek.
- July 31-Aug. 2: Junior High Camp II, Wayland Spring.

AUGUST

- Aug. 1-2: Big Dam Bridge Walk for Children/Methodist Family Health and Youth Service Fund Lock-in, Wild River Country, North Little Rock.
- Aug. 5: Day Camp, Shoal Creek.
- Aug. 8-9: Worship Fair, "Linking Word and Worship," First UMC, North Little Rock.
- Aug. 14-17: Mount Sequoyah Unplugged, South Central Jurisdiction Singer/songwriter Retreat, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
- Aug. 15-16: UMYF Planning Retreat Camp, Shoal Creek.

Volunteers in Mission

This Volunteer in Mission listing includes mission opportunities offered by local churches and districts. Often there are openings on these mission trips and room for additional volunteers from elsewhere to join the team. For more information on any of these projects, contact the individuals listed or Don Weeks, Arkansas Area Volunteers in Mission coordinator, 18 Montagne Court, Little Rock, AR 72223; (501) 868-9193 or 681-2909; dweeks@arumc.org.

Arkansas: VIM Teams needed for tornado and flooding clean up.

Tornado Clean up:

- **Bryant/Benton.** Contact Kay Parda, (501) 944-2390.
- **Little Rock.** Contact Don Weeks (501) 681-2909.

Flooding Clean up:

- **Norfolk.** Contact Fire Chief Frank Baker — (870) 499-5527 office, (870) 499-5610 home, (870)405-0775 cell or Debbie Stanick — (870) 499-5954 home, (312) 972-0095 cell.
- **Oil Trough.** Contact Jackie Gregory, (879) 799-3231, (501) 412-7019 cell.
- **Calico Rock.** Contact Paul Seay, (870) 297-8878.
- **Augusta.** Judy Clark, (870) 347-5066, (870) 347-2216 home.

July 25-28: Sharp County, Ark., Ash Flat area. Northwest District Tornado Recovery Mission. Home repairs. Marilyn Davis, (479) 442-0901 or (479) 575-3288 or mddavis@uark.edu



Immediate: Van Buren County, Ark., tornado recovery & rebuilding. Particularly need persons with carpentry and roofing skills. Don Weeks, (501) 681-2909 or dweeks@arumc.org.

Immediate: Urban restoration project in downtown Little Rock. Help expand the local mission of Quapaw Quarter UMC. Showers, kitchen & accommodation available. Betsy Singleton, (501) 375-1600 or revbsb@aol.com

Ongoing: Meru, Kenya, construction of two chicken houses. Sponsored by Heritage UMC, Van Buren. John Boster, (479) 474-1977 or bosterpools@aol.com, or the church, (479) 474-6424 or office@heritagevb.org.

VIM Team Leader Training: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 12, Sylvan Hills UMC, Sherwood. Don Weeks, (501) 681-2909 pr Jim Rowland, (501) 835-3410.

Deaths

Fayetteville

G. ROBERT "ROB" BAILEY, 61, of Fayetteville died May 16, 2008, at Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville. He was born Sept. 11, 1946, to Robert Dixon and Doris Gertrude Newman Bailey.

He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Air Force after 21 years of service and was veteran of the Vietnam War. After leaving the military, he received his master's degree in theology from Fuller Seminary.

He joined the former North Arkansas Conference as a probationary member in 1994 and was ordained and received as an elder in full connection in 1996. He served as pastor of Christ United/Pruett Chapel, Kibler, St. Andrew-Fort Smith (associate) and Trinity-Fayetteville prior to taking disability leave.

Survivors include his wife, Claudia Bailey; two sons, Gordon Bailey of Valparaiso, Ind., and Aaron Bailey of Cleveland, Ohio; one daughter, Tessa Bailey of the home; one sister, Doris Megonigal of Wichita Falls, Texas; and two grandchildren.

Services were held May 21 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Memorials may be made to Trinity UMC, 1021 W. Sycamore St., Fayetteville, Ark. 72703, or to a church of your choice.



Rob Bailey

Texarkana

CARL S. LENGFELD, 67, of Texarkana, a former full-time local pastor in the Arkansas Conference, passed away May 3, 2008, in Tyler, Texas. He was born Aug. 27, 1940, in Round Rock, Texas, the son of Karl and Lorene Mercer Lengfeld. He graduated from Round Rock High School, received a B.A. degree in social studies from the University of Texas at El Paso and a master's degree in theology from the seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, where he received Jesus as his personal savior and began a ministry that would last for 35 years, pastoring churches and preaching to the homeless. As a local pastor serving United Methodist churches from 1994 until 2002, he served Doddridge, Hatfield, Rondo and Hickory Ridge. He was a chaplain for the Salvation Army at the time of his death.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his stepfather, C.E. "Pop" Wheatly. Survivors are his wife, Margaret Beall Lengfeld of Texarkana; son, David Lengfeld and wife Emily of Poyen; daughter, Mary Peter and husband Preston of Fayetteville; brother, Bobby Lengfeld of Florida; sisters, Dorothy Ayers of Fayetteville and Mae Hartzell and husband Bob of Pennsylvania; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 10 at the Poyen Assembly of God Church, with interment at Lindsey-Poyen Cemetery.



Children at Mountainside United Methodist Church, Hot Springs Village, prepare to present a check for \$1,750 to the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Hot Springs Village children support Cancer Institute

By giving of their time, youngsters from Hot Springs Village have turned a simple act into a generous contribution benefiting cancer research.

On April 19, members of the Kids for Christ youth group at Mountainside United Methodist Church, Hot Springs Village, held a car wash for church members and others in the community. Proceeds were designated for the building expansion project at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock.

After learning about the children's effort, church members stepped forward to match the money that was raised at the event, resulting in a \$1,750 donation.

The check was presented by the children to Peter Emanuel, M.D.,

Cancer Institute director; Rachele Sanders, director of development for cancer initiatives; and Gloria Redman, community affairs director.

"These children set an example for us all with their generosity and willingness to help others," Emanuel said. "We are so proud of them, and we're honored to receive this donation."

The money raised by the children will result in a total donation of \$3,500 thanks to a dollar-for-dollar match by the state of Arkansas. In April 2007, Gov. Mike Beebe signed a bill allowing the state to provide up to \$46 million in matching funds to build a 12-story expansion to the Cancer Institute. Gifts to the building or endowment given between Jan. 1, 2007, and June 30, 2009, qualify for the matching funds. The expansion is expected to open in 2010.

Classifieds

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 50 cents per word, no limit. Call (501) 324-8031, or mail to: *Arkansas United Methodist*, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202; or e-mail: kwilson@arumc.org.

MINISTER TO FAMILIES WITH YOUTH is wanted to serve growing youth group at 780-member First United Methodist Church, Rogers. He or she must have previous youth ministry experience with excellent organizational skills and a passion for discipling and leading youth. The ability to recruit adult volunteers and work with adult leaders is a must. He or she should have adequate computer skills to perform job duties and communicate electronically with youth and their parents. A full job description can be obtained from the church office. This position is full time, estimated at 40 hours per week or more, in accordance with program needs. Salary is competitive and will be commensurate based on experience. Contact: Mr. Alan Harris or Larry Wright or Dan Brown c/o First United Methodist Church, 307 W. Elm St., Rogers, Ark. 72756.

YOUTH MINISTER: Fordyce First UMC is seeking a Christ-committed, fun-loving youth minister for the summer. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resumés to Rev. Hammett N. Evans, 104 E. 4th St., Fordyce, AR 71742; fax (870) 352-2962; call (870) 352-3767; or e-mail brohammett@alltel.net.

YOUTH DIRECTOR. Central United Methodist Church, Rogers, Ark., a 1,700-member church, is seeking a full-time Youth Director to serve our growing youth group. He or she must have previous youth ministry experience, with excellent organizational skills. The following requirements listed are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required: Christian committed to student ministry; desire to see the youth grow as worshipers and disciples of Christ; ability to organize thoughts and tasks and communicate to students, peers, staff, parents and volunteers; creative, enthusiastic, flexible, dedicated and highly motivated personality; a college degree is preferred; musical skills are helpful. Our competitive salary will be commensurate based on experience. Contact: Rev. Louis "Biff" Averitt c/o Central United Methodist Church, 2535 W. New Hope Road, Rogers, Ark. 72758; phone (479) 636-1630; email Biff@cumcrogers.com.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of West Memphis has an opening for Education/Children's Ministry Director. Salary is very competitive. Please call Senior Pastor Bob Burnham at (870) 735-1805 or email revburnham@sbcglobal.net for job description.

COLLEGE DEGREE/Home Study. Save \$\$\$ Christian Bible College, P.O. Box 8968, Rocky Mt., N.C. 27804; phone (252) 451-1031; www.christianbiblecollege.org



Remember When

100 Years Ago

June 4, 1908: The Galloway commencement was a successful, most creditable and very joyous occasion. We heard echoes of Dr. DuBose, in his sermons, and of the speech of Rev. M.N. Waldrip before the alumnae. The board of trustees found the business affairs of the college and the general administration of President Williams quite satisfactory in every way.

50 Years Ago

June 5, 1958: Rev. J.M. Hamilton, pastor of First Methodist Church, Arkadelphia, has announced that he will retire from the active ministry at the Little Rock Conference now in session in Hot Springs. The Reverend will have served the Methodist

Church 44 years and 6 months.

20 Years Ago

June 3, 1988: A clergy couple, Robert E. Hollis Jr. and Lou Ann Hollis were named Town and Country Pastors of the Year by the United Methodist Rural Fellowship of Arkansas. The achievement and recognition awards were presented at a banquet during the 1988 Little Rock Annual Conference, held in Hot Springs May 29-June 1.

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Philander Smith faculty and staff set precedent for giving

In its ongoing efforts to increase private, unrestricted giving Philander Smith College's first campus-wide giving campaign in recent history has concluded with 63 percent participation from faculty and staff.

According to Shannon Fleming, vice president for institutional advancement, the private, historically black college affiliated with the United Methodist Church received gifts from 78 of its 124 full-time employees, and six departments had 100 percent participation.

"This kind of support from the Philander Smith community signals the faculty and staff's commitment to the renaissance of this college," said Fleming. "The high level of participation is even more significant considering the college is not currently involved in a capital campaign when this kind of giving is most expected."

In March, Philander Smith was

awarded a \$942,410 United Negro College Fund grant to help strengthen the college's development infrastructure and to increase private giving. Among the benchmarks set within the grant was the implementation of an annual fund campaign for faculty and staff.

"Though their giving, our faculty and staff have really demonstrated that they believe in the mission of the college, so much so that our participation rate is one that most colleges and universities would envy — especially after going without a coordinated campaign for years," said PSC President Walter M. Kimbrough.

Fleming said the college will now conduct a faculty/staff annual fund campaign each spring.

"Now that we have a precedent set, I look forward to next year's campaign to see how our faculty and staff will respond to reach even higher," Kimbrough said.



Welcoming Arkansas United Methodist pastor Hank Wilkins IV (second from right) of Pine Bluff to the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., are (from left) Rep. Mike Ross of Arkansas, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California and Daniel P. Coughlin, chaplain for the House.

Wilkins welcomed as guest chaplain at U.S. House of Representatives

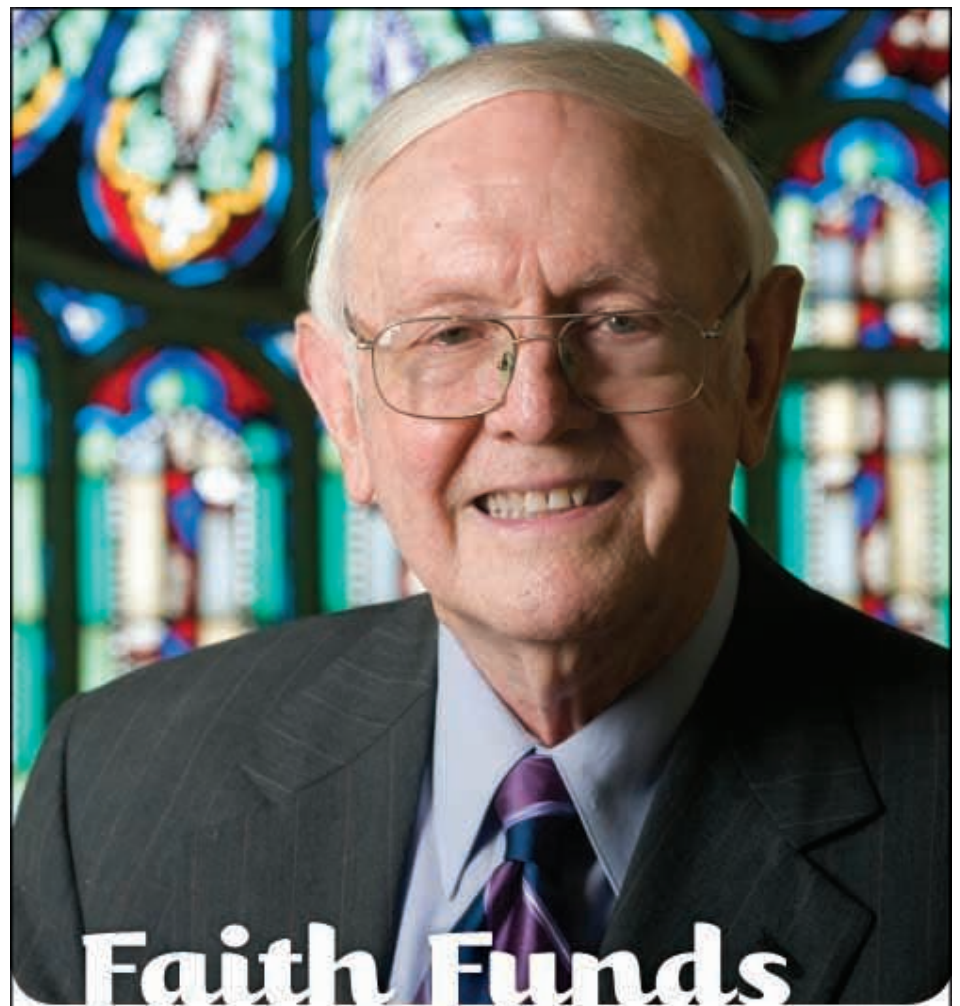
WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Representative Mike Ross of Arkansas hosted Henry "Hank" Wilkins IV of Pine Bluff as the guest chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives on May 14. The role allowed Wilkins, pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff, to open up the day's legislative proceedings with a prayer on the House floor.

"Rev. Wilkins' deep faith and dedication to his community is an inspiration to all of us who know and have the opportunity to work alongside him," Ross said at the conclusion of Wilkins' opening prayer.

"Throughout his 31 years in the

ministry, Rev. Dr. Wilkins has emphasized the need for faith in our daily lives," Ross said at the conclusion of Smith's opening prayer Tuesday," Ross said. "It has been a blessing for me to know Rev. Wilkins and his wife, Phyllis, and I pray that his message of compassion and respect for others will be one that we can all strive to achieve. As we go about doing the work of the people, let us remember the prayer Rev. Dr. Hank Wilkins delivered on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives this day."

In addition to his church service, Wilkins serves as a member of Arkansas Senate.



Not Retired from God's Work

Rev. Hershel H. McClurkin, Jr., may be designated as a retired United Methodist Minister, but his current service belies that title. He's the pastor at Kibler United Methodist Church in Alma, and he and his wife, Mardell, lead the Pacesetters at First UMC-Fort Smith and serve as camp directors for Shoal Creek Camp.

A long-time member of the UMFA Board of Directors, Rev. McClurkin believes United Methodists in Arkansas need to be conscientious in how we use the resources God has entrusted to us. "The Foundation is a direct, easy way for people to see that their funds designated for United Methodist causes are appropriately used to advance the Kingdom of God in keeping with His will," he said.

He said the Foundation helps local churches with endowments for special needs like building maintenance, an increasing burden for many congregations. "Some elderly individuals with trust funds at UMFA are taken care of by staff members," Rev. McClurkin said. "There is tremendous dedication to these individuals; The Foundation's staff has a Christian spirit as well as professional expertise."



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501-664-8632 • Toll free 866-281-8914 • Fax 501-664-6792
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