



# United Methodist Arkansas

June 20, 2008

## Conference focuses on 'walking the Methodist way'

■ *Emphasis on healthy lifestyle choices emphasized during 4-day session*

By **JANE DENNIS**  
*Arkansas United Methodist Editor*

HOT SPRINGS —“Holy Healthy” living habits were emphasized throughout the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference session June 8-11. The gathering drew more than 1,500 people to Hot Springs Convention Center’s Summit Arena for business sessions, worship services and special events.

The conference’s first-ever 5K Fun Run/Walk drew more than 200 participants for a 6:30 a.m. trek through the hills of Hot Springs. Bishop Charles

Crutchfield and his wife, Karen, were among the walkers. Other participants ranged from 1-year-old Storm Wilson of Jacksonville, who was pushed in a stroller along the route by his mother, Rebel, to retired pastor Herschel McClurkin of Alma, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday.

While the event was all fun and non-competitive, Arkansas Methodists do have some in-shape running enthusiasts among them. The first three runners to complete the course were Ron Feeser, Michael Newton and John Miles II, with 12-year-old Hugh Benfer not far behind.

A Health Fair hosted by Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare offered screenings for cholesterol, blood sugar and



Among those walking in the first Arkansas Conference 5K Fun Run/Walk are (from left) Tom Letchworth, Bud Reeves and Karen and Bishop Charles Crutchfield.

blood pressure. Clergy and laity alike were encouraged to make healthy lifestyle changes and become better educated about health issues. These efforts are supported by the conference’s HolyHealthyUMC.com web site.

“Walk the United Methodist Way” was the theme of the Conference. Seven breakout sessions held Monday afternoon explored John Wesley’s seven “means of grace,” including

*See CONFERENCE, page 4*

## Arkansas pastor helps give Bonhoeffer martyr status

■ *General Conference resolution from Newport’s Charles Sigman approved*

*United Methodist News Service*

Although Dietrich Bonhoeffer has been dead for more than 60 years, the well-known German theologian has been a role model of faith for many Christians, including the Rev. Charles

Sigman.

That’s why Sigman, the 42-year-old pastor of First United Methodist Church of Newport, Ark., about an hour and a half north of Little Rock, has helped make Bonhoeffer the first martyr officially recognized by The United Methodist Church.

A Lutheran pastor,



*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Bonhoeffer was a member of the resistance against dictator Adolph Hitler and was executed by the Nazis in 1945, during the final months of World War II. “I always find myself quoting him because of the way he lived his faith and because he really teaches us all that

there are things in this world worth dying for,” Sigman told United Methodist News Service.

As a seminary student, he was shelving books one day in the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University when he happened to glance at a book from 1956 written by a Lutheran pastor. The pastor was lamenting the

*See BONHOEFFER, page 18*

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## Letters to the Editor

### Defending 'my' college

I read Andrew Thompson's Viewpoint (May 16, 2008) with dismay. First, let me say that I am not a Hendrix alumna but I am a cradle Arkansas United Methodist. As such, I have always been taught that Hendrix College is "my" college. Although I graduated from a different university, I believe that Hendrix has arguably the very best undergraduate education in the state. In the interest of full disclosure, I was employed by Hendrix several years ago and enjoyed my professional association with the college. I have a few points to make regarding Rev. Thompson's view.

Why does Rev. Thompson assume that reducing the number of ordained clergy from 10 to five will weaken the church's relationship with the college? I would rather have five strong and active members of the board than 10 just because it has always been that way. Is quantity of Methodist clergy on the Hendrix Board the only defining factor of a strong relationship with the church?

The very implication that this proposal is a punitive action due to reduction of apportionment dollars is offensive. Does Rev. Thompson have any proof of this or is this just a highly inflammatory statement issued just to upset people?

If Rev. Thompson is going to talk about the tension between Hendrix and the church, perhaps he should tell us what he is talking about. What tension?

I contend that Hendrix has done a wonderful job of encouraging students to pursue their religious faith as a profession through Rev. Wayne Clark and the Lilly program to which Rev. Thompson referred to in his opening paragraph. I think that shows high commitment to the church's mission.

Finally, and most importantly, I am personally highly offended that Rev. Thompson would say that clergy board members "represent the continued presence of Christ within the institution." Is he suggesting that only clergy can represent the presence of Christ at Hendrix? Where else does he believe this to be true — at my church or yours? If that is the case, then lay leaders across the state should just go home as we now know that only the clergy can "represent the presence of Christ." This kind of attitude makes me sad. I hope there are very few United Methodists who would believe something like this.

Cathy Oldham Sanders  
Little Rock

### The right thing to do

I am in total agreement with Mr. Goodner (Letters, Jan. 18). I, too, do not like my denomination taking stands against my beliefs. I am a seventh-generation Methodist and a soldier currently serving in Iraq. As part of the Arkansas National Guard, I have many United Methodists here with me, including two great Arkansas Methodist chaplains who understand exactly what this is all about. Thank goodness there are some Methodist ministers who have not bought in to the liberal leanings of our denomination.

It is evident the Methodist Church is against the war, as are many Americans. If you ask any of my fellow soldiers here, we would tell you we hate war. I don't want to be here, away from my wife and kids, but I feel it is my duty to serve and defend.

Why are we here? For me, first, it is to defend the United States. The terrorists attacked us. Most of the people over here who are running the show and duping Iraqis into assisting them are not from Iraq but from known terrorist organizations. We are here and they can get to Iraq much easier than the U.S. They want to kill Americans, so they come here to have their chance.

But the main reason we are here is because it is the right thing to do. It brings to mind the verse "Am I my brother's keeper?" I say yes. There is a small population of Christians in Iraq. Only through our presence are they able to openly enjoy their beliefs. But even the Muslim population of poor, uneducated people deserve the option to live in freedom. True, eventually they will have to carry the load themselves, but for now they cannot comprehend freedom. It is up to us and others like us to ensure they have that opportunity.

It is amazing how no more than 1 percent of the U.S. population serves in the military and provides the protection and freedom for so many. What amazes me more is how so many Americans, groups and yes, churches, despise and attempt to thwart our military at every turn.

There are many issues the United Methodist Church is taking a wrong and unBiblical stand on. I feel like the church is leaving me. If and when I feel I cannot belong to the UMC, it will be because the UMC left me. Like Mr. Goodner, I have always felt the Methodist denomination really under-

See LETTER, page 20



By Jane Dennis

## Editor's Corner

### That'll preach

Forgive me, Lord, I was going to skip the Monday night praise service at Annual Conference. Honestly, I was. My head was hurting, my feet were aching and I was tired all over after a long day of conferencing. But I didn't move from my seat — except to stand and clap and praise the Lord!

Thank you, BMCR Gospel Choir. Thank you, Danita Waller Paige and Ronnie Miller-Yow. Thank you, dry bones liturgical dancers from Benton First UMC. Thank you, Highland Valley praise groups Awakening and Go Fish. Thank you, pianist extraordinaire Les Oliver. What an inspiring testimony of unity and faith you are!

Even some of the backstage crew came out front to see what was going on. I suspect it was the Holy Spirit, because something mighty powerful was rocking and filling up that big convention center.

Next year, whatever you do, don't miss the Monday night praise service. I promise you'll be rejuvenated and recharged the way I always am.

And why am I surprised?



Jane Dennis

\* \* \*  
Those creative and amazingly beautiful worship settings and altar displays at Annual Conference are the result of many hours of planning and work on the part of some talented people who work behind the scenes. Late Tuesday night, in an empty auditorium with the stage

lights dimmed, one Les Oliver was readying the altar display for the next day. He was standing on the lower level of the two-tiered platform that served as the altar, positioning crosses and candles and such. Without really thinking, Les stepped down into a folding chair. In a blink he crashed to the floor, along with a few shattered candle holders, while gingerly holding onto the heavy gilded cross in his hand. He was OK but sore the next day.

Certainly there were few on Wednesday who knew that holding onto the cross was a literal feat for one who tumbled from God's altar while doing God's work. A good reminder for us all.

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# Viewpoint

Dear Friends:

There was a time gone by when summer was a slow time for the church. Not so now. We do not slow down. A time of Sabbath is difficult to find.

The activity leading up to and surrounding annual conference is always exhausting. Still, once again, our annual conference sessions were marked by graciousness and a sweet spirit. Worship was inspiring, thanks to our musicians and Bishop Whitfield. The 5K Walk/Run was fun and invigorating — and healthy! The commissioning and ordination of such a wonderful group of men and women was challenging and moving. The hard work and tireless effort of the planning team and the sweat and expertise of our stage and technical crew made it seem so easy. And then, there was the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit. I came away with a renewed



## An Occasional Word from the Bishop

sense of hope and confidence in our future. We really can grow. We really can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Indeed, we can do anything we set our minds to doing. No rest at conference!

Karen and I go to Bishops' Week June 16-21 at Mount Sequoyah. A week full of activity and training and worship. Then later, in July, we will attend the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Dallas. The jurisdictional conference is the place where new bishops are elected. We will elect three bishops this summer to replace retiring Bishop Ben Chamness and Bishop Joel Martinez, and a bishop to fill the position left

by the tragic death of Bishop Rhymes Moncure. I hope the three elected will have the privilege of enjoying their service in the episcopacy as much as Karen and I have been enjoying Arkansas. The jurisdictional conference is draining and emotional and exhausting. The pace stays at a fever pitch. No rest at conference.

Busy summer.

Important meetings.

Work that never ends.

It is important for our physical, emotional and spiritual health to take time for re-creation.

Karen and I will be taking some



Charles Crutchfield

time off later in the summer to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary with a trip to the opera in Santa Fe, NM. Weather permitting we might "tail gate" in the opera parking lot, though I doubt we will be setting the table with crystal and sterling silver and candelabra as some do. Still, it will be fun and rejuvenating to hear those great voices and wonderful orchestra in that magnificent setting. Then later we will take a few days at our old family cabin in northern Colorado. Re-creation. Renewal. Sabbath.

I hope you will find the time and the space for some re-creation this summer. It is my prayer that you will find some Sabbath time to connect with God and to renew your spirit. God suggested it was a good thing to do!

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield



## Letters to the Editor

### A strong relationship

Thank you to the Arkansas Conference for approving changes to the Hendrix College charter that will allow us to broaden the participation of United Methodists in the college's leadership. We know that having the opportunity to add laity and clergy from outside Arkansas to our Board of Trustees will strengthen our ties with the church over time.

It is important that we reach beyond Arkansas to draw clergy leadership for our board because Hendrix draws its students from across the nation and around the world. As the Odyssey Program, which encourages students to put critical thought into action, and other innovative ideas focus national attention on the quality of our academic program, the college is attracting more students from beyond Arkansas' borders. This fall our entering students will come from 33 states and 60 percent of them will be from outside Arkansas. Many of them will be United Methodists who will benefit from the generous scholarships and financial aid that Hendrix offers.

For example, in the 2007-08 academic year, Hendrix awarded \$212,601 in scholarships to United Methodist clergy dependents. Our clergy dependent scholarships — equal to one-half of tuition — are among the most generous offered by a United Methodist institution and are given to the dependents of United Methodist clergy anywhere in the world. We intend to continue this program which has benefited so many young people through the years. In addition to this support of United Methodist clergy, we also provided last year \$62,000 in United Methodist Youth Leadership Scholarships and awarded a total of \$2.15 million in scholarships and financial aid to United Methodist students attending Hendrix.

I want to assure those who opposed the charter change that our ties to the United Methodist Church have never been stronger. Our relationship with United Methodism is a key part of who we are as an institution; it is woven into the very fabric of our being. Our commitment shows in the dedicated work of the Rev. J.

Wayne Clark, Chaplain, and the Rev. J.J. Whitney, Associate Chaplain. They work together to provide more than 20 weekly religious life activities, lead Fellowship Teams that have visited more than 350 United Methodist churches in the last decade, and sponsor mission trips like the five taken in the past year. By their example they encourage and inspire Hendrix students to consider a life in the ministry. More than 40 Hendrix students have answered that call in the last decade and seven recent graduates will enter seminary in the fall.

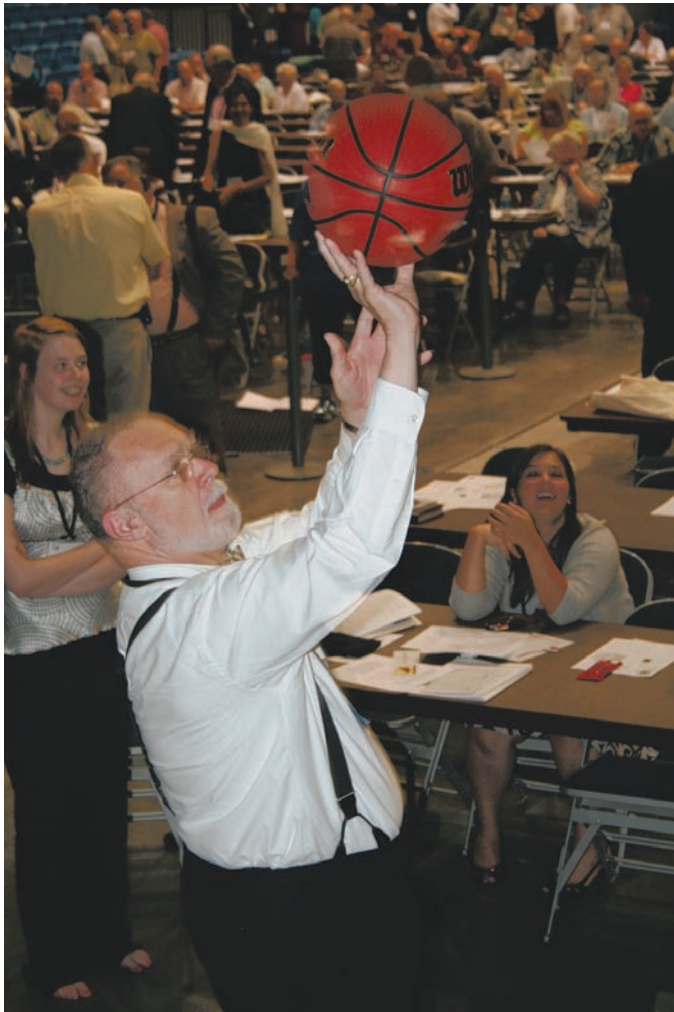
I cite these numbers to assure you that the relationship between Hendrix and the United Methodist Church has been — and will continue to be — a productive one. With your decision to approve our request to add United Methodists from beyond Arkansas to our Board, you help us establish Hendrix as a national leader in engaged liberal arts and sciences education. Thank you for supporting Hendrix today, for the past 132 years, and — most of all — tomorrow.

J. Timothy Cloyd, Ph.D.  
President, Hendrix College  
Conway



### FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE By Mike Morgan





*Central District Superintendent Phil Hathcock steadies his basketball aim during a break in the conference session. He was successful and sunk three consecutive tosses from the free throw line. The basketball goal set up as a reminder of the church-wide Nothing But Nets anti-malaria and bed net campaign.*

## **CONFERENCE,** *continued from page 1*

prayer, searching scriptures, worship, sacraments, Christian conferencing, disciplines of fasting and abstinence, and acts of mercy.

Arkansas native son D. Max Whitfield, resident bishop of the Northwest Texas/New Mexico Area, was welcomed home as conference preacher. He preached for the Sunday and Monday night worship service and participated in the Tuesday Service of Ordination and Commissioning. Whitfield, a native of Pineville, was elected bishop in 2000 after serving churches and districts in Arkansas for more than 30 years.

With a basketball goal positioned in front of the stage on the plenary floor, Bishop Charles Crutchfield contemplated requiring persons wishing to address the conference to make a free throw or donate \$10 to Nothing But Nets for a missed shot, but he opted for a more lenient approval process. Instead, conference members shot basketballs during breaks for fun.

Horizon Stewardship Co., the Cabot-based firm that helps local churches with capital campaign fund drives, tossed its weight behind Nothing But Nets and made a \$2,500 contribution to the program, adding to its previous gifts totaling \$3,000.

And speaking of weight, Crutchfield challenged United Methodists at the 2007 annual conference to take seriously Leviticus 3:16b, "All fat is the Lord's." He reported that the result of his weight-loss chal-

lenge to conference members was a combined loss of 3,412 pounds.

Special offerings during the conference supported Nothing But Nets, the Global AIDS Fund, and water wells and student scholarships for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Members also donated canned goods for the Delta Dream food pantry at Marianna and gave old cell phones that were exchanged for calling cards for members of the U.S. military.

A proposal from Hendrix College to reduce the number of United Methodist clergy representatives on the college's Board of Trustees from 10 to 5 was approved by a vote of 338-253. The measure changed a tenet of the college's charter that dates to 1903 and prompted the most spirited debate of the conference. Opponents of the proposal contended the change would weaken the connection between the college and the church. Supporters said the change would strengthen the college by drawing in lay leaders and by making space on the 42-member board for clergy representation from beyond the Arkansas Conference.

The body approved resolutions which: 1) reiterated the conference's opposition to the expansion of legalized gambling in Arkansas; 2) established a minimum quadrennium Advance Special goal of raising an average of \$1 per member for the Global AIDS Fund; and 3) expressed the conference's support of the Moratorium Campaign Committee

which is urging Gov. Mike Beebe to place a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in Arkansas.

The conference endorsed Rodney Steele, currently superintendent of the North Central District, as a candidate for bishop. Steele has also received the endorsement of the Arkansas Conference Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and the caucus group Black Methodists for Church Renewal in the South Central Jurisdiction.

The Board of Pensions opted to give the conference's share of proceeds from Cokesbury Bookstores — nearly \$10,000 — to the Central Conference Pension Initiative, in support of pastors who give their life to the church and retire with little or no pension income.

"Youthification" was introduced as a new watchword for the church. Clergy and lay speakers celebrated the role of Wesley Foundation campus ministries in impacting youth for Christ; a new "point of entry" for youth in the Connected in Christ church development effort; new developments in electronic communication, including improvements to the conference web site, an online version of the *Arkansas United Methodist* and an online and electronic version of the 2008 Journal; and the addition of a young adult coffee house offered during Annual Conference.

The conference received a report detailing actions of the 2008 General Conference from its delegation, led by Rodney Steele and Asa Whitaker. The 60th anniversary of The Advance — and the \$250,000 Arkansas United Methodists gave to Advance Special funds in 2007 — was celebrated with a Mission Fair. The body applauded the \$90,000 Arkansas church members have given to Nothing But Nets and the generous and unflinching responses of churches and individuals to the series of weather-related disasters to hit the state this year caused by a spate of tornadoes, an ice storm, flooding and straight-line winds.

A report on the conference's 10-year plan for starting 30 new churches was shared. At the five-year midpoint,

pastors have been appointed to start 13 new churches in locations across the state.

Conference minister for new church starts Bob Crossman also shared some amazing statistics about the conference's new churches. He reported that 49 new churches have been started in the Arkansas Area in the past 40 years, and 40 of these churches are still in existence. These congregations represent 9,000 attendees, 7,000 professions of faith, and 15 percent of last year's professions of faith. In 2007, these churches paid \$1.6 million in apportionments, with all but four paying 100 percent of their apportionments.

In the Laity Address, Lay Leader Asa Whitaker called on United Methodists to make their voices heard and work in tandem with clergy to lift up the Gospel and guide the future of the denomination. He commended the General Conference for adding "witness" to the membership vows as a way to support the ministries of the church.

The body heard from a host of church-related ministries and institutional representatives, including Socorro deAnda, president of Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas; Lina McCord Scholar and Black College Fund representative Toni Witherspoon, a student at Philander Smith College; Adam Neal of the General Board of Global Ministries; Jim Argue, president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas; and Gary Gunderson, senior vice president with Methodist LeBonheur Health Care

The 2009 budget of \$2.05 million was approved. It represents a 2.8 percent increase over the previous year.

Arkansas Conference membership stands at 138,729, down 89 from the previous year. Worship attendance stands at 56,127, down 483. Church school attendance stands at 85,311, down 3,381.

The 2009 session will be held in Rogers at Central UMC and the Hammons Convention Center. The 2010 and 2011 sessions are set to return to Hot Springs.



*Lay Leader Asa Whitaker calls United Methodist laity to use their voices to spread the Gospel and lift up the church's ministries to make disciples of Jesus Christ..*

# Conference welcomes elders, deacons and probationary members

**HOT SPRINGS** — Arkansas United Methodists celebrated the ordination and commissioning of the newest pastors and church leaders in the conference.

Ordained as elders and received as members in full connection are: Kay Brewer Burton, Carlton Noel Cross, Carolyn Carla Doering, Tammy Sue Garrison, Iva Carol Smith Goddard, Edna Morgan, Ryan Allen Rush and Julia Beth Turner.

Persons commissioned and received into Probationary membership in the elder track



*Bobby C. Clark is received into associate membership.*

are: Paul Coy, Danyelle Trexler Ditmer, Kirk Doering, Jason Ferguson, Claire Melissa Hoffman, Danny Redding-Rhodes, Herschel Richardson, Reginald Russell, Ismail Malik Saafir, Troy Lynn Thomas Jr., and Vida Rhee Williams.

Persons commissioned and received into Probationary membership in the deacon track are: Mary Jane Cole, Pat Henry, Amanda E. Moore, Cindy Henry Russell and Peter M. Weber.

Donnie Jeanette “Donna” Vincent-Huie was ordained as a deacon, and Bobby C. Clark was received as an associate member.

Kandi Mount, recently commissioned as a deaconess by the General Board of Global Ministries, was recognized. She is appointed to Mercy



*Ordained as elders in full connection at the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference are (from left) Kay Burton, Carlton Cross, Carolyn Doering, Carol Goddard, Ryan Rush, Tammy Garrison, Edna Morgan and Beth Turner.*

Health System in Rogers.

In addition, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry recognized the

professional certification of Pat Henry, music ministry, and Cindy Henry Russell, Christian education.



*Donna Huie (right) is joined by Craig Russell, pastor at Sequoyah UMC, Fayetteville, for the Service of Ordination. Huie, who was ordained as a deacon and received into full membership in the Arkansas Conference, is appointed to Sequoyah UMC.*



*The 16 probationary members commissioned at the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference are (from left) Cindy Russell, Herschel Richardson, Claire Hoffman, Reginald Russell, Paul Coy, Amanda Moore, Mary Jane Cole, Danny Redding-Rhodes, Danyelle Trexler Ditmer, Ismail Malik Saafir, Kirk Doering, Peter Weber, Jason Ferguson, Pat Henry, Vida Rhee Williams and Troy Thomas.*



*John Fleming, pastor of St. Paul UMC, Little Rock, congratulates Carol Goddard of North Little Rock on her ordination as elder.*



*The Service of Ordination and Commissioning, led by Bishop Charles Crutchfield, included a Service of Holy Baptism for Sadie Joy Ledbetter. Sadie's parents are Justin and Susan Ledbetter, both elders in the conference, who serve churches in Fayetteville and Farmington in northwest Arkansas.*

# Abundance of special awards presented



Chris Hemund, pastor of Mountainside UMC, Hot Springs Village, is presented the Harry Denman Award for Laity by last year's recipient, Tony Holifield.

HOT SPRINGS — Exemplary ministries and individuals who take many different approaches to make disciples of Jesus Christ were lauded during the 2008 Annual Conference. The following honors and recognitions were celebrated by the conference:

- Horizons Stewardship Award, presented by Horizons Stewardship Inc. for outstanding leadership in Christian stewardship: Gary B. Lunsford, pastor, St. James UMC, Fayetteville.

- Interfaith Awards, presented by

the Conference Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns for outstanding interfaith ministry and cooperation:

- Gloria Thompson Rankin, member, First UMC, Morrilton, individual award;

- Perryville UMC, David Baker, pastor, church award.

- Commission on Status and Role of Women recognized Monteene McCoy of Monticello and Virginia Owen of Magnolia for their "ministry of inclusiveness."

- Widow's Mite Award, presented by the Arkansas Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors for outstanding and effective ministry by a small-membership congregation: Atkins UMC, Joe Kitchens, pastor.

- Jay Lawhon Volunteer in Mission Award, presented by the Conference VIM program: Linda and Doug Weatherford of First UMC, Dumas.

- Denman Evangelism Award, presented by the Conference Committee on Evangelism:

See AWARDS, page 7



The Harry Denman Award for laity was presented posthumously to Abram "J.R." Rodriguez Jr., a member of Journey UMC, Fort Smith. Accepting the honor are his widow, Rebecca, and children Kayla and Jacob.



Jack Phillips IV (center) of Cherokee Village UMC, receives the Harry Denman Evangelism Award for youth from Daniel Kirkpatrick (right) and Bishop Charles Crutchfield.



Nicki Spencer of Theresa Hoover UMC, Little Rock, is recognized as Youth Minister of the Year by Hendrix College. She is joined by Hendrix chaplain Wayne Clark and Bishop Charles Crutchfield.



Gloria Thompson Rankin of Morrilton receives the individual Interfaith Award from Fred Martin on behalf of the Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns



The first graduates of the eChristianEd.com education program (from left) Karen Wilson, Jeremy Carter and Terri Harcrow receive certificates from Cecilia Kelly.



Fred Martin (right) of the Conference Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns presents the church Interfaith Award to members of Perryville UMC and pastor David Baker.



## Our 2007 Growing Churches

The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church wishes to recognize the top churches in the following four categories who are leading the way in worship attendance growth in 2007.

### CATEGORY 1: CHURCHES WITH 4-24 IN ATTENDANCE

District	Church Name	Pastor	2006	2007	Growth
North	Wild Cherry	Marty Sanders	11	25	14
North	Emory Chapel	Herbert Wilson	7	25	18
North	Pleasant Plains	Rommie Cheshier	22	40	18

### CATEGORY 2: CHURCHES WITH 25-49 IN ATTENDANCE

District	Church Name	Pastor	2006	2007	Growth
Southeast	Kingsland	Mark Rivers	26	41	15
Northeast	Monette	Jerry W. Reed	30	45	15
Southwest	St. John Hope	W. Joe Miller	35	52	17
North	Oxford	Bobby Coleman	40	60	20

### CATEGORY 3: CHURCHES WITH 50-299 IN ATTENDANCE

District	Church Name	Pastor	2006	2007	Growth
North Central	Ebenezer Conway	Reginald Russell	50	80	30
South Central	Mountainside HSV	Chris Hemund	179	215	36
Central	Mabelvale	Robert Marble	130	173	43
West	Clarksville First	David Hanshaw	172	223	51

### CATEGORY 4: CHURCHES WITH 300-1,400 IN ATTENDANCE

District	Church Name	Pastor	2006	2007	Growth
North	Mountain Home First	Siegfried Johnson	480	538	58
West	Heritage Van Buren	Wes Hilliard	603	696	93
West	Goddard Fort Smith	Wade Shownes	348	453	105

"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" — Psalm 122:1



Joe Kitchens (right), pastor of Atkins UMC, accepts recognition for doing a lot with a little — also called the Widow's Mite Award. Presenters are Mike Jennings and Bishop Charles Crutchfield.



Gary Lunsford (right), pastor of St. James UMC, Fayetteville, receives the Horizon Stewardship Award and is congratulated by (from left) by Clif Christopher and Joe Park of Horizon Stewardship Co. and Bishop Charles Crutchfield.

**AWARDS,** continued from page 6

— John “Jack” Field Phillips IV, Cherokee Village UMC, Youth Award;

— Abram “J.R.” Rodriguez Jr. (posthumous award), member of Journey UMC, Fort Smith, Laity Award; and

— Chris Hemund, pastor of Mountainside UMC, Hot Springs Village, Clergy Award.

● Hendrix College Youth Ministry Award, presented by Hendrix College: Nicki Spencer of Theresa Hoover UMC, Little Rock.

● Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Scholarships:

— Hood Scholarship, Heather Spencer, Perkins School of Theology;

— Conference Merit Scholarships, Charlie Bruce, Philander Smith College, and Lynn Cross, Duke Divinity School student and intern at First UMC, Hot Springs.

● Professional certifications awarded to Libby Gray and Fonda Kirkman from the United Methodist Association of Professional Church Secretaries.

● Micah Award, presented by the Conference Sending Team, for out-



Doug and Linda Weatherford of Dumas, recipients of the Jay Lawhon Volunteers in Mission Award, are congratulated by VIM coordinator Don Weeks.

standing leadership and support of second-mile giving, awarded to:

— all pastors and churches in communities affected by this year's floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters;

— all churches that sent teams of volunteers to assist in recovery efforts following the natural disasters in the state; and

— all churches that contributed to the special offering to assist congregations and individuals affected by the disasters.

● Peace with Justice grants, awarded by the Conference Board of Church and Society:

— Montgomery County Food Pantry;

— Arkansas Tech Wesley Foundation Age to Age student partnership program;

— McCabe Chapel UMC, North Little Rock Pass Plus school tutoring program;

— Shepherd Center of Beebe program for senior adults;

— Wiggins Memorial UMC/Seven Hills free lunch program;

— Heritage UMC, Van Buren, food pantry;



Olin Cook presents Hood Scholarship recipient Heather Spencer, a student at Perkins School of Theology, to the conference.

— Arkansas Death Penalty Moratorium Campaign;

— Elm Springs UMC Celebrate Recovery program.

● Jim Beal Barnabas Award, presented by the Board of Ordained Ministry, recognizing an individual who has encouraged persons in ministry: Tom Abney of Star City, retired clergy.

● eChristianEd.com certificates of completion of studies and recognition

as paraprofessionals in Christian education to: Jeremy Carter, St. Paul UMC, El Dorado; Terry Harcrow, Harmony Grove UMC; and Karen Wilson, St. Paul UMC, Maumelle.

● And from a caucus group related to the denomination, the Defender of the Faith Award, presented by the Confessing Movement of Arkansas, was awarded to Frank Warden of Searcy, retired clergy, author of Trinity Bible Studies.

## DEFENDER OF THE FAITH



Norman Carter presents the Defender of the Faith Award to Rev. Frank Warden (center) while Dorothy Warden looks on.

Each year the Confessing Movement of Arkansas gives a Defender of the Faith award to someone who has stood up for Biblical Orthodoxy, Wesleyan Theology, and the Discipline of The United Methodist Church. This year, that award is proudly presented to the Reverend Frank Warden.

Frank was active in the church as a child and a layman before answering the call to preach. Frank is a graduate of Hendrix College '53, Vanderbilt School of Law '56, and Perkins School of Theology, '70.

Frank served in the Air Force as a Judge Advocate, 50-56. In 1960 he became an Owning Partner in the state's largest law firm (now known as the Friday, Eldridge, and Clark firm).

In 1969, at the age of 35 Frank entered the ministry of The UMC from the Lakewood UMC, North Little Rock.

Frank's achievements as a UM minister are commendable:

● Minister of Evangelism, Highland Park UMC, Dallas, 1971-85 — which was the

fastest growing UMC at that time with a 1,000 new members being added annually.

● Founding Director of Good News.

● Wrote Trinity Bible Studies in 1972, now published in seven languages.

● Taught 88 seminars in U.S., England, Korea, Mexico and Singapore.

● Helped establish A Foundation for Theological Education (AFTE), a scholarship program for promising evangelical seminarians, with Dr. Edmund Robb and Dr. Albert Outler.

● Served Ward-16th Section UMCs for eight years while developing and leading Trinity Bible Studies.

● Served First UMC Searcy as an associate, 1998-2004.

# Churches of the Year

■ *Congregations across the state lauded for ministry, outreach, service and discipleship*

HOT SPRINGS — Whether a handful or a bevy of members, United Methodist churches throughout Arkansas are engaged in vital ministries. A number of these outstanding churches were spotlighted at the annual Church Awards Banquet June 10.

The recognition event is sponsored annually by the Conference Committee on Parish and Community Development. This year's gathering drew a crowd of more than 400 to Cupp Hall at First United Methodist Church.

District superintendents nominate churches for district Church of the Year honors in four categories — Category 1, churches with 1-50 members; Category 2, churches with 51-150 members; Category 3, churches with 151-300 members; and Category 4, churches with membership of 301 or more.

A selection committee from Parish and Community Development then reviews the nominations and selects the Conference Church of the Year honorees in each category.

Earning recognition as Conference Churches of the Year for 2008 are:

**Category 1:** Hollywood UMC (South Central District), Debbie Perry, pastor.

**Category 2:** Griffin Memorial UMC, Paragould (North East District), Michael Sutton, pastor.

**Category 3:** First UMC, Mountain View (North District), Steve Johnson, pastor.

**Category 4:** First UMC, Mountain Home (North District), Siegfried Johnson, senior pastor.

The following churches were selected for District Church of the Year honors in each category:

**Category 1 (1-50 members):**

Wesley UMC, Cotter (North District), Blake Langston, pastor  
Hollywood UMC (South Central District), Debbie Perry, pastor  
Shiloh UMC, Dry Fork (North West District), J. Michael Callahan, pastor,  
Bell Chapel UMC, (South West District), Larry Goza, pastor  
Kingsland UMC (South East District), Mark Rivers, pastor



Pastor Micabel Sutton (center) and members of Griffin Memorial UMC, Paragould, accept Church of the Year honors in Category 2, churches with 51-150 members.



Mountain View First UMC was lauded as Church of the Year in Category 3, congregations with 151-300 members. Pastor Steve Johnson (center) and members of the church accept the honor.

Hughes UMC (North East District), Patricia Litts, pastor  
Prairie View UMC, New Blaine (West District), Judy Hall, pastor  
Atkins UMC (North Central District), Joe Kitchens, pastor,

**Category 2 (51-150 members):**

Griffin Memorial UMC, Paragould (North East District), Michael Sutton, pastor  
St. Luke UMC, Pine Bluff (South East District), James E. Conn, pastor  
First UMC, Clinton (North District), Vaughan Marsden, pastor  
Joplin UMC (South Central District), Ted DeWeese, pastor  
Booneville UMC (West District),

Mark McDonald, pastor  
Betel/Wesley UMC, Springdale, (North West District), Ramiro Lizcano, pastor  
St. John UMC, Hope (South West District), Joe Miller, pastor

**Category 3 (151-300 members):**

Theresa Hoover UMC, Little Rock (Central District), Bill Robinson, pastor  
First UMC, Blytheville (North East District), Chris Cooper, pastor  
First UMC, Mountain View (North District), Steve Johnson, pastor  
First UMC, Magnolia (South West District), Walter L. "Bubba" Smith, pastor  
First UMC, Mena (West District), Gary F.

Harrison, pastor  
Oakley Chapel UMC, Rogers (North West District), Carlton Cross, pastor

**Category 4 (301 or more members):**

Central UMC, Rogers (North West District), Louis L. "Biff" Averitt, pastor  
First UMC, Jonesboro (North East District), John Miles II, pastor  
First UMC, Mountain Home (North District), Siegfried Johnson, pastor  
Goddard UMC, Fort Smith (West District), Wade Shownes, pastor  
First UMC, Hot Springs (South Central District), William O. "Bud" Reeves, pastor



Mountain Home First UMC — led by senior pastor Siegfried Johnson (back right) — is recognized as Church of the Year among congregations with more than 301 members.



Members of Hollywood UMC and pastor Debbie Perry (center, middle row) are joined by South Central District Superintendent Chester Jones (left, middle row) in celebrating their Church of the Year honor in Category 1, less than 50 mem-

## In remembrance

These Arkansas Conference clergy and spouses who have died in the past year were remembered at the June 8 Service of Commemoration and Holy Communion:

Roy Poyner  
Frances Stokes  
Jack Blume  
James Harris  
Dorothy Lightfoot  
Donald E. West

Betty Fox  
Mary Ellen Yates  
Robert Regnier  
Elmo Thomason  
Dorsie Caldwell  
Paul Barrington

Edith Bain  
Helen R. Arnold  
Nellie L. Callicott  
Joe Arnold  
Dorothy Williams  
Michael Gordon

Othella Peters  
Robert J. Wilson  
William Hightower  
Gladys Kearney  
Bonnie Bumpers  
Donald F. Armstrong

James Bennett  
Bobby Reynolds  
Jack Jackson  
Grady May  
King Collier  
Floella Gaither Broadwater



## 2008 Episcopal Address

# Answer the world's spiritual need, bishop urges

**Editor's Note: Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield presented the following Episcopal Address June 9 before the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference in Hot Springs.**

You are special. You care about people. People are precious to you. You have taken training as VIM and disaster relief volunteers. You have been in the field as disaster relief volunteers in Arkansas and on the gulf coast. You have housed your friends and neighbors as they have sought to rebuild their lives after our recent floods and tornadoes. You care about people.

You have been a partner in Nothing But Nets. This basketball was part of the bidding at General Conference that raised almost one-half million dollars. It represents the gift of life to 300 children. The \$3,000 of Arkansas United Methodist money that bought this basketball, joined with dollars already given, brings to over \$5 million the United Methodist share of the \$20 million plus raised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Nations Foundation, *Sports Illustrated* magazine, the National Basketball Association and others for Nothing But Nets. That means you have bought enough malaria nets to save the lives of 500,000 children in the malaria belt across the world. By giving funds to UMCOR you have responded to domestic disaster relief both in and outside Arkansas. In addition, you have been in Kenya helping to rebuild lives after the tragic political upheaval earlier this year. You are in South Africa responding to needs and challenges faced by refugees from Zimbabwe. In spite of monumental difficulties, you have been on the ground working through partner agencies Church World Service and Action by Churches Together (ACT), and our sister church, the Methodist Church of Lower Myanmar in Burma cyclone relief. You are in China earthquake relief through Amity, our Chinese Christian partner. You might also be interested to know that the Amity Foundation prints hundreds of thousands Bibles in Chinese for Chinese use. You are there.

In areas like these, we work through partners and cooperative ventures to respond to human need. We may not always get headlines, but we, you and I, are there until the need is met. You have been exercising leadership in responding to human spiritual and physical and emotional need. You care about people. People are precious to you. You are special. When the bell rings, you answer the call.

You are special because in the face of challenging economic circumstances, in 2007 you raised in your local churches \$236,072,840, an increase of over \$14 million over what you reported in 2006. And though you actually paid less in percentage and less in raw dollars to the conference apportionments in 2007 than in 2006 (we can do better), we still paid over 94 percent of our shared mission and ministry budget. We can pay 100 percent with a little more effort.



Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield holds a basketball autographed by United Methodist bishops during a portion of his Episcopal Address, while urging continued support of the Nothing But Nets anti-malaria campaign.

On any given weekend in Arkansas, there are 56,000+ United Methodists in worship. Quietly, and without great fanfare, we have discovered that the Arkansas Annual Conference leads the denomination in percentage of clergy under 35.

You have decided that if the body really is the "Temple of the Holy Spirit" it ought to matter to the annual conference. I received a note from one of our pastors who said he took the Holy Healthy Initiative seriously, followed its suggestions on the website, and has lost over 85 pounds this year. He feels better, has more energy, and is more excited than ever before (as is his congregation) about ministry. Now, friends, we are having a 5K walk run tomorrow morning at 6:30 a.m. I will be there and *I am taking names*.

You will have noticed that, unlike Elvis, Spiderman is *not* in the building. I have been asked about whether I would honor my (silly) offer of last year to give this address in a Spiderman outfit. The answer was/is "yes" but only if we showed an increase of 1000 members across the conference for 2007, and only if we showed an increase of 246 professions of faith for 2007. We lost 100 members for the year — not good. We had 2,031 professions of faith, good but not good enough. Three hundred and six (306) of our churches had professions of faith. Four hundred (400) did not. We did not meet the challenge. It's sad. Not only would we have had an increase, but I was offered an additional incentive of \$2,000 for missions if I actually appeared as Spiderman. On the other hand, I was offered \$3,000 if I did not appear as Spidey. I'm still checking on the latter offer ... I will say this, if we increase by 1,000 in membership in 2008 over 2007 and if we show an increase of 250 professions of faith over 2007, Spiderman will show up in 2009.

I want to be serious now. Just as there is human physical need in our world, there

is an even greater spiritual need. People need Jesus, the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Our task, our mission, as the church, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let me put this in context. Using the figures, on ratio, from our nine districts this simply means that to meet the challenge, the districts would need to show these net increases:

	Prof. of faith	Members
Central	45	181
North	24	97
North Central	22	90
North East	29	117
North West	32	124
South Central	27	106
South East	23	92
South West	23	92
West	25	101

Suppose we did this for baptisms and growth in church attendance. In simple math, the membership growth figures out to just over a one and one-third person increase for each of our 700 Arkansas churches. I am no fool. Some churches will need to show much greater increase to care for those who do not grow; and those who

do not grow numerically can show concrete evidence of growth spiritually. But friends, this is nothing more than doing the work Jesus requires of us. Please, no more excuses. I want to say to you that every church can grow by one and one-third, and those that can't do the fraction, well, God will be happy with the one.

I am passionate about all this, because it is all about building the Kingdom of God. It is about the church being the church. What is our mission? MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD. It is not about bragging rights in the Council of Bishops, or making some report to Evanston or Little Rock, it is about being honest with ourselves about who we are as the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is about taking our mission seriously.

Recently, we had the privilege of hosting a delegation of United Methodist clergy and laity from the North Katanga Annual Conference located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — "Congo." We have

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## WORSHIP FAIR 2008



"Linking Word and Worship"

### August 8-9

First United Methodist Church  
6701 JFK Blvd/Hwy. 107  
North Little Rock, Ark.

#### Clinicians:

Safiyah Fosua, director, Invitational Preaching Ministries, General Board of Discipleship  
John Yarrington, director, School of Music, and chair, Choral Studies, Houston Baptist University, Houston, Texas  
Neal Andrews, youth minister, Central United Methodist Church, Rogers, Ark.

#### — Schedule —

#### Friday, August 8

6:00-7:00 p.m. Registration & Browsing Displays

7:00-9:00 p.m. **Classes \***

- "Messenger Before Message," Safiyah Fosua
- "Choral Rehearsal, Vocal Techniques" (choir sings at worship Saturday a.m.), John Yarrington
- "Jam Session 101" (vocalists and instrumentalists learning new music, working on Saturday's closing worship), Neal Andrews

#### Saturday, August 9

8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration & Browsing  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Opening Worship/Holy Communion  
9:30-9:45 a.m. Business Meeting  
9:45-10:00 a.m. Break  
10:00-11:30 a.m. **Class Session One**

- "Preaching for Transformation," Fosua

- "Vocal Techniques," Yarrington
- "Everything You Wanted to Know About Contemporary Worship But Were Afraid to Ask," Andrews

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch & Browsing

12:30-2:00 p.m. **Class Session Two**

- "Holy Imagination," Fosua
- "Choral Music Reading Session," Yarrington
- "Putting It All Together" (rehearsal for closing worship), Andrews

2:00-2:30 p.m. Break & Browsing

2:30-3:15 p.m. Closing Worship

3:15-4:00 p.m. Final Browsing

4:00 p.m. Vendors close

\* No classes are repeated. It is recommended, though not required, that participants stay with one clinician for the entire event.

#### REGISTRATION

Worship Fair 2008: "Linking Word and Worship"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost:

\_\_\_ \$50 before July 15 (Fellowship Members, \$45)

\_\_\_ \$65 after July 15 (Fellowship Members, \$60)

\_\_\_ \$25 for Friday night choir and reception only

\_\_\_ \$10 for Choral Packet (required for Yarrington Saturday classes)

\_\_\_ I am applying for .5 CEU (available only to those who attend entire Worship Fair)

Make checks payable to "Arkansas Chapter, The Fellowship" and send to:  
**Carol Goddard, 27 DeSoto Circle,  
North Little Rock, AR 72116**

Sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter, Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts and the Arkansas Conference

[www.arkansasfumwa.org](http://www.arkansasfumwa.org)

# SNAPSHOTS

## 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference



Andrew Thompson presents rationale for his opposition to the Hendrix charter change proposal, which was adopted by the body.



Bishop Charles Crutchfield and Conference Director of Ministries Roy Smith display an insecticide-treated bed net which is the centerpiece of the churchwide Nothing But Nets effort.



Danita Waller Paige (left), director of the Black Methodists for Church Renewal gospel choir, takes a solo turn during the Monday night praise service.



One-year-old Storm Wilson of Jacksonville and 80-year-old Herschel McClurkin of Alma represent the spectrum of ages of participants in the 5K Fun Run/Walk.



District superintendents (from right) Chester Jones, Sara Bainbridge and Bobby Bell applaud the class of persons being of ordained and commissioned.



Kurt Boggan congratulates Karen Crutchfield and Bishop Crutchfield for completing the course.



Participants in a breakout group on prayer try out hand-to-hand connections for group prayer.



Britt Skarda and his daughter, Natalie Staley, hit the halfway point at the Convention Center in the 5K Fun Run/Walk.



Walkers and runners hit the pavement at the start of the 5K Fun Run/Walk.



Mackey Yokem cools off at a water station at the halfway point of the 5K Fun Run/Walk.



## Retirees honored for years of service

Sixteen clergy members of the Arkansas Conference took retired status at the 2008 Annual Conference. They included (from left) Allen E. and Kay Rainey (30 years), Powell G. "Bill" and Donna Williams (40 years), Louis L. "Biff" and Ann Averitt (40 years), J. David and Peggy Crooks (20 years), Robert M. and Dianne Jeffery (22 years), Glen D. and Sandra Harris (25 years), John S. and Sue Polk (13 years), Jimmy Dale Sr. and Sandra Thresher (26 years). Not pictured are: Elizabeth M. Armstrong, Bruce Cook, Milton Glass, Thomas E. Lukas, Larry Pat Millard, Robert L. Moore, Robert Arthur Terry Jr. and Charles L. Wiggins. The 2008 retirees represent a combined total of 380 years of service to the church.

### EPISCOPAL, continued from page 9

a formal relationship with the conference to dig wells at \$6,000 per well (we have provided 12); to build churches and parsonages at a combined cost of \$14,000 (we've provided one); to provide bicycles \$100 each and Bibles at \$10 per Bible (you have provided thousands); and to support the Abandoned Children's Home in Kamina, at any level your heart can bear. When Roy Smith asked MPanga NGekele, a DS from Congo, if all his churches were growing, MPanga looked at Roy Smith like Roy had two heads, or maybe three. Of course all the churches are growing. He was mystified at such a question. That is what the church does. We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

There are always those in our communities who need Jesus, regardless of the size or demographic situation of the church. These folk may not look like the last 50 new members of the church. Their spiritual, physical, and social needs may be different, but just suppose we all did what Midland Heights in Fort Smith did. Midland Heights was a declining church. They are across from a school, but had no children in the church. They saw the school children giving their parents the leftovers from free school lunches. The church realized there was a very real hunger issue on their block, in their neighborhood. They started a feeding program. Then, they began a healthcare check-up program. Then, they got involved with head-start and after school child care. Then, in a demographically changing area they opened their doors to a group of Hispanic Christians seeking a place of worship. Midland Heights did this on faith and vision and prayer and sweat, not on dollars. They were so busy taking the opportunity for ministry in and to the neighborhood, and in transforming lives that the membership grew, professions of faith grew, and the attendance quadrupled. Spirit in the church has soared. It is a church vital and alive. Precious people are encountering the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Lives are being transformed.

This is a significant gathering of many of the leaders of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas. We and our colleagues are accountable, ultimately to God for what we, laity and clergy alike, do about the mission

of the church.

Bishop Max Whitfield has eloquently lifted for us the central tenets of the United Methodist Way – reminded us of the general rules: do no harm, do good, stay in love with God through following the means of grace – prayer, meditation, searching the scriptures, public worship, the sacraments, fasting, Holy Conferencing. These are at our core as sons and daughters of John Wesley and as followers of Jesus Christ. There has been a wonderful rebirth of emphasis on this Wesleyan theme in the past two years. I have an expectation that every pastor and every church lay leader will read and share the insights of this book. I have the high hope that every adult Sunday School class in the conference will read and study this book by Rueben Job, "Three Simple Rules, a Wesleyan Way of Living."

I also have the expectation that, all the Spiderman silliness aside, we together are going to be the church. We together are going to grow the Kingdom of God. After some initial conversation with the Conference Vision Team, I am asking that the Conference Vision Team engage in a serious evaluation of the seven strategic initiatives that you adopted five years ago. This will involve a discussion *with you*, in a variety of ways, about how we can better achieve our mission as a church. We will ask the questions, "How can the conference better serve the Kingdom of God? How can your churches better serve the kingdom of God?" The strategic initiatives have pointed us in the right direction. Now, mid-course, how do we better refine, simplify, clarify, and most importantly, how do we better absorb and build on these initiatives to achieve our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Those of you who attended Vital Signs this year know that Asa Whitaker, our conference lay leader, and his team worked long and hard to make this an outstanding event. Asa invited Bishop Robert Schnase to bring our keynote address and to lead one of the workshops on the "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." This is his book and an accompanying resource manual. It is literally transforming the language and focusing in a helpful manner the way we can do ministry

across the United Methodist Church. My expectation is that every pastor and lay leader and conference delegate will read and study this book. My hope is that every adult Sunday school class will do the same. The size or demographic situation of your church is not at issue. The question is: in your particular and unique context for ministry, how are you engaging in radical hospitality, in passionate worship, in intentional faith development, in risk-taking mission and service, and in extravagant generosity? When churches act on these core practices, they become fruitful for the Kingdom. At the end of the day, I expect us to grow because I do not believe Jesus wants us to downsize for the sake of efficiency; Jesus wants us to grow in the midst of some chaos! We make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We have strong and competent lay leadership. We have the tools, Connected in Christ, New Church Development, a commitment to recruit and retain young pastors. We are serious about Holy Healthy.

We have committed and faithful clergy. We have the potential — we are positioned — to do great things for Jesus Christ and his Kingdom.

I am happy to be your partner in a church, in an annual conference that knows what we do and say and believe is not "all about me" or "all about us." Our faith journey is not about our comfort levels and the ease with which we live out our commitment to Jesus Christ. There is nothing about our future which is easy, or maybe even safe. I rejoice to be a partner in a church with its face turned not inward toward self, but outward toward God's precious people and the world God has created. This is uncomfortable, risky, occasionally unsettling business in which we are engaged. I, we — Karen and I — are overjoyed to be partners with you, you who are determined in spite of economic, social, and historic challenges to build the Kingdom of God in Arkansas by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. What a journey we shall share!

## 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

**Sept. 26-Oct. 4:** Shiprock, N.M., St. James UMC, Little Rock. Glen Duncan, (501) 551-1951.

**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. Showers, kitchen & accommodation available at Quapaw Quarter UMC. Betsy Singleton, (501) 375-1600 or revbsb@aol.com

**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.

# 2008 Arkansas Conference Ministerial Appointments

Names in bold indicate new appointments.  
TBS: To Be Supplied.

## CENTRAL DISTRICT

Philip L. Hathcock, Superintendent

New Haven ..... Norma Gillerson

Jacksonville:

First ..... **Mark McDonald**

Associate ..... **Charles P. McDonald**

Hope Korean ..... Ohyeoun Kim

Associate ..... **Howard Cox**

Little Rock:

Asbury ..... **Bryan Fink**

Associate ..... David M. Moore

Associate ..... Regina Holtman

Faith ..... Susan Howe

First ..... Michael Mattox

Associate ..... Linda Singh

Associate ..... Mary Jane Cole

Deacon ..... Adam Kirby

Geyer Springs ..... Deanna McCormack

Henderson ..... Kevin Lyon

Highland Valley ..... Daniel Kirkpatrick

Associate ..... Brock Patterson

Hoover ..... **C.J. Duvall**

Associate ..... **Ismail Malik Saafir**

Hunter ..... Melvin Moss

Mabelvale ..... Robert K. Marble

Mount Pleasant ..... Anne Holcomb

Oak Forest ..... Russ Breshears

Associate ..... **Amanda Moore**

Primrose ..... Clayton Bulice

Pulaski Heights ..... Victor H. Nixon

Associate ..... Jeffery B. Hampton

Associate ..... **Andrea Allen**

Associate ..... Harriett Akins-Banman

Deacon ..... Scott Moor

Deacon ..... Gail Hocott

PHUMC Foundation ..... Lynn W. Lindsey

Quapaw Quarter ..... Betsy Singleton

Associate ..... Betty Scull

St. Andrew/Duncan ..... Kelyv Matthews

Associate ..... Carol-Ann Blow

St. James ..... Fred Haustein

Associate ..... John Embrey

Associate ..... Greg Schick

Deacon ..... Jenni Duncan

St. Luke ..... Ann Harrison

St. Paul ..... John A. Fleming

St. Paul Maumelle ..... **Reginald Russell**

Sweet Home ..... Barbara A. Douglas

Trinity ..... Robin Moore

Associate ..... **Candace Barron**

Wesley Chapel ..... Ronnie Miller-Yow

Associate ..... Jimmy Mosby

Western Hills ..... Sylvia Nasic

White Memorial/Marks Chapel ..... James L. Scruggs

Winfield ..... Jan Edwards

Maumelle ..... William D. "Luke" Conway

Associate ..... Wayne Jarvis

Associate ..... **Pete Weber**

North Little Rock:

Amboy ..... David Ashcroft

First ..... Guy Whitney

Associate/Satellite: Argenta ..... Will Choate

Associate ..... **Leon Gray**

Deacon ..... **Mary Hoey**

Gardner Memorial ..... **Richard Mitchell**

Associate ..... John O. Alston

Lakewood ..... Richard Lancaster

Associate ..... Marcia Dodd

Deacon ..... **Cindy Russell**

Levy ..... **John Wedaman**

McCabe Chapel ..... **Deena Hamilton**

Trinity ..... Gerald Meeks

Sherwood:

Bethel ..... **Thomas Babington**

North Pulaski ..... **Carol Goddard**

Sylvan Hills ..... Jim Rowland

## NORTH DISTRICT

Sara Bainbridge, Superintendent

Alpena/Bergman ..... Les Bailey

Antioch/Harmony ..... Michael Bolin

Asbury ..... Kay Owen

Bald Knob/Russell ..... Treva Mills

Batesville:

Central Avenue ..... Carl Ownby

First ..... David Steele

Beebe ..... **Roger Hook**

Bradford ..... William Mills

Bull Shoals/Yellville ..... Nicholas C. Lascaro

Calico Rock/Spring Creek ..... Paul Seay

Cave City/Bear Creek ..... **L. Blake Langston**

Cherokee Village ..... Bob & Kay Burton

Associate ..... Jimmy Anderson

Clinton ..... Vaughn Marsden

Damascus ..... **William Grothe** (Lay Speaker TBS)

Diamond City/Omaha ..... Mace Straubel

Evening Shade/Ash Flat ..... Larry L. Morris

Everton/Valley Springs ..... David M. Smith

Fairfield Bay ..... John Walls

Fairview ..... Jimmie Snow

First Parish (Desha, Concord, Jamestown, Cornerstone) ..... Steve Long

Forrest Chapel ..... Loye Vern Mason

Griffithville/Dogwood/Ellis Chapel ..... Bill & Sally Wise

Guion ..... Matthew Sullivan

Gum Springs ..... Jim Bradberry

Hardy/Liberty Hill ..... **Brian Hall**

Harrison:

First ..... John D. Darnall

St. Paul/Bellefonte/Valley View ..... **Mark Donald**

Heber Springs ..... David Smith

Associate ..... Philip D. Smith

Associate ..... Kathy DeBusk

Higginson ..... Elton Hughes

Holiday Hills ..... Dan Brand

Horseshoe Bend ..... Gary Goldman

Associate ..... **Nancy Cameron**

Jasper ..... Larry M. Acton

Judsonia/Kensett ..... Paul Draper

Leslie/Marshall ..... James Lann

Mammoth Spring/Camp ..... Paul Skinner

McRae/Garner ..... Paul Hill

Melbourne/Bethesda/Cushman ..... Terry Sager

Mountain Home ..... Siegfried Johnson

Associate ..... Randy D. Ludwig

Mountain View/St. James ..... Steven D. Johnson

Mount Pleasant ..... Harold "Bo" Moore

Newark-Hazel Edwards Memorial/Oil Trough ..... Jackie Ann Gregory

Newport:

Emory Chapel ..... Herbert Wilson

First ..... Charles Sigman

Umsted Memorial/Oak Ridge ..... Celia Sykes

Oak Ridge ..... Lavon Bloodworth

Oxford ..... Bobby Coleman

Pangburn/Oak Grove/Mount Pisgah ..... David Doyle

Pleasant Plains ..... Rommie Cheshier



Four generations attending Annual Conference included Maxine Allen, Rubye Wilkerson, Danita Waller Paige and Leah Paige (front).

Pleasant Ridge/Cedar Grove (North) ..... **Don Cramer** (Lay Speaker TBS)

Powell's Chapel/Corinth ..... TBS

Quitman ..... Dave Caswell

Rosebud ..... Kathy DeBusk

Salem/Viola ..... **Garry Wiles**

Searcy:

First ..... Davis Thompson

Associate ..... Charles "Dee" Harper

St. Paul ..... Rocky Starnes

Sharp ..... TBS

Shirley ..... Ruth Ann Landon-Mueller (Lay Speaker TBS)

Southside/Moorefield ..... **Gerald "Dave" Pierce**

Stoney Point/Floyd ..... Mark Quick

Tuckerman/Swifton ..... **William "Bill" Steele**

Wesley/Norfolk ..... **Sara Gotschall**

Wild Cherry ..... Marty Sanders

Wiseman ..... **Nancy Cameron**

## NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Rodney Steele, Superintendent

Adona ..... Frankie Reynolds

Atkins/Bell's Chapel ..... Joe Kitchens

Belleville/Havana ..... Joe Gramling

Bethlehem/Providence ..... **Toby Austin** (Lay Speaker TBS)

Cabot ..... Stephen Coburn

Associate ..... Rick Meadows

Associate ..... Ray Vining

Cabot New Church Start: Christ ..... Jeff Warrick & Aubrietta Lynn Jones

Carlisle ..... Jay Culpepper

Centerville ..... Lana Gartner (Lay Speaker TBS)

Chickalah/Oak Grove ..... Larry Johnson (Lay Speaker TBS)

Cleveland/Overcup ..... Will Green (Lay Speaker TBS)

Concord ..... **Julia Beth Turner**

Deacon ..... Cecilia Kelly

Conway:

Ebenezer ..... TBS

First ..... Charles Murry

Associate ..... Deidre J. Roberts

Grace ..... **Shane & Sara Pair**

Associate ..... Greg Comer

Salem ..... William V. Buchanan Jr.

Daughter Church: Crosspoint ..... Tammy Garrison

Wesley ..... Edward Warren

Associate ..... Linda Horton

Danville/Trinity ..... Thomas G. Sullinger

Dardanelle/Liberty Hill ..... Roger Glover

Des Arc ..... **Michael Topham**

Dover ..... **Josh Ditmer**

England ..... **Ryan Rush**

Gravel Hill-St. Paul/Briggsville ..... Steve Lawrence

Gravelly/Bluffton ..... Joy Carmean (Lay Speaker TBS)

Greenbrier ..... John Farthing

Hamilton ..... Eugene "Gene" Parker Jr.

Hazen/DeVall's Bluff ..... **Everett Isom**

Hebron ..... Roger Crouch (Lay Speaker TBS)

Hickory Plains ..... Deborah Harrison (Lay Speaker TBS)

Keo ..... David D. Hoffman

Lonoke:

First ..... Steve Brizzi

St. James ..... David Scruggs

Mayflower ..... Ron Grigsb

Moreland ..... James Shinn (Lay Speaker TBS)

Morrilton ..... Jerry Collins

Mount Carmel/Graham Chapel ..... **Tom Lukas**

Mount Tabor ..... **Donna Alberts**

Mount Zion ..... W. Paul Woolley

Naylor ..... **Luke Parker**

New Zion/Mount Zion ..... Johnnie Davis

Oakland ..... Mark Matthews

Ola/Plainview ..... Eddy Howell

Old Austin ..... Brian Pruett

Perryville ..... David Baker

Plumerville ..... Von Dell Mooney

Pottsville ..... Millie Bryant

Russellville:

First ..... Thomas Frase

Associate ..... Danyelle Trexler

Associate ..... Robert Woody

Deacon ..... Lu Harding

Wesley ..... Blake Bradford

South Bend ..... Garren E. Hagemeyer

Springfield/Mallettown ..... Charles Watt

Vilonia ..... Belinda Price

Ward/Sixteenth Section ..... Wes Howard Jr.

Wye ..... **LaNita Daniels**

## NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Kurt Boggan, Superintendent

Augusta/Tupelo ..... Judy Wilson-Clark

Bay ..... Angela Gage

Black Rock/Lynn/Powhatan ..... **Mark Massey**

Blytheville:

First ..... Chris Cooper

Promised Land ..... TBS

Brookland/Union Grove ..... John Snyder

Campground ..... G. Eddie Harris

Cherry Valley/Vannsdale ..... Jim West

Colt/Forrest Chapel/Madison ..... Melvin Mann

Corning ..... Kelly Craft

Dell/Aldersgate ..... Marilyn Webb

Earle/Crawfordsville ..... **Jim Wilson**

Eli Lindsey/Friendship ..... John Stoll

Ellis Chapel/Central/Hunter ..... Jerry Hall

Fakes Chapel/Whitehall ..... Stephen Anderson

Farm Hill ..... TBS

Fisher Street/Bono ..... **Nancy Rainwater**

Forrest City ..... Keith Goza

Harrisburg/Pleasant Valley ..... Charles Thompson

Hickory Ridge/Tilton ..... Robert G. DeBaun

Hoxie ..... Michael Winberry

Hughes/Widener ..... Patricia Litts

Imboden/Smithville/Wayland Spring Camp ..... Bob McMillon

Jonesboro:

Christ Way (New Church Start — St. Paul, First, Cornerstone) ..... Herschel Richardson

Cornerstone ..... Tommy Toombs

Deacon ..... Rebecca Boggan

First ..... John Miles II

Associate ..... Scott Gallimore

Associate ..... Patty S. Soward

Pleasant Grove ..... Larry Hunt

Mount Carmel ..... C. Edward Pruett

Nettleton ..... Harmon Whitehurst

New Haven ..... Kit Carson

St. Paul ..... Beth Waldrup



Karen Wilson, Martha Altom and Stephen Copley donned wild west dress for the Mission Fair.

Leachville/Caraway ..... Beverly Watkins

Lepanto/Joiner ..... Jan Williams

Manila/Community ..... **Jerry Pentecost**

Marion ..... N. Wayne Clark

Marked Tree ..... Ron Williams

Marmaduke ..... Lynn McClure

Mars Hill ..... Don Hewett

Maynard ..... Tom Dellinger

McCrotry/Cotton Plant ..... **Charlotte Staggs**

Monette/Lake City ..... Jerry Reed

Osceola ..... **Bill Fish**

Paragould:

First ..... Tom Letchworth

Associate ..... **Allen Crum**

Griffin Memorial/Christ United ..... Michael Sutton

Pruett's Chapel/Beech Grove ..... **F. Glenn Hicks**

Shiloh-Paragould/Shiloh-Jonesboro ..... Larry Hughes

Parkin/McElroy ..... **Joe Head**

Piggott ..... **John Sandine**

Pocahontas ..... Fred Hunter

Ravenden/Ravenden Springs ..... Danny Roark

(Lay Speaker TBS)

Rector ..... **Velda Bell**

Rock Springs/Ramer's Chapel ..... Mark Trout

Schugtown/Pine Log ..... Matt Horton (Lay Speaker TBS)

Sedgwick/Pleasant Hill ..... **Marilyn Neal**

(Lay Speaker TBS)

Trumann/Tyronza ..... **Charles Cooper**

Walnut Ridge ..... **Steve Cook**

Warren's Chapel/Wood's Chapel ..... **Dan Morrison**

(Lay Speaker TBS)

Weiner/Fisher ..... **Dan Walker**

West Memphis:

First ..... Robert Burnham

Associate ..... Jason Suttin

Rosewood ..... David N. Moose

Wheatley/Salem ..... Terry Mann

Wilson/Keiser ..... **Gary Yarbrough**

Wright's Chapel ..... TBS

Wynne ..... Ed Wyers

## NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Mackey Yokem, Superintendent

Bella Vista:

First ..... David Fleming

Highlands ..... Rex Darling

Associate/Westside ..... Michael Callahan

Bentonville:

First ..... Rex Dickey

Associate ..... Brian K. Timmons

Associate ..... Don Bortell

Living Waters ..... Blake Lasater

Associate/Centerton ..... **Lee Myane**

Berryville ..... James L. French

Bland Chapel ..... David Mack

Decatur ..... Frank Cook

Elkins/Tuck's Chapel ..... Lon Hudson

Elm Springs ..... Carl D. Palmer

Eureka Springs ..... Stan Adams

Farmington ..... Justin Ledbetter

# 2008 Arkansas Conference Ministerial Appointments

Fayetteville:  
 Central . . . . . J. Anthony Holifield  
 Associate . . . . . **Cleifton Vaughan**  
 Associate . . . . . Steve K. Pulliam  
 St. James/Winslow/  
 Associate-Central Fayetteville . . . Gary B. Lunsford  
 Sequoyah . . . . . R. Craig Russell  
 Associate . . . . . James D. Johnson  
 Deacon . . . . . Donna Huie  
 Trinity . . . . . Terry Gosnell  
 Wiggins . . . . . Susan Ledbetter  
 Gentry . . . . . **Charles Ashcraft**  
 Goshen . . . . . John Humphries  
 Gravette/Sulphur Springs . . . . . TBS  
 Green Forest . . . . . Donnie Hudson  
 Highfill/Springtown . . . . . Dewey Dykes  
 Huntsville/Presley Chapel . . . . . **Heath Bradley**  
 Lincoln/Cincinnati . . . . . Andy L. Newbill  
 Morrow . . . . . John Moore  
 Pea Ridge/Brightwater . . . . . Matthew Daniels  
 Prairie Grove . . . . . Matthew Johnson  
 Rogers:  
 Central . . . . . **Carness Vaughan**  
 Associate . . . . . Jaimie J. Alexander  
 Associate . . . . . Jim Keith  
 Deacon . . . . . J. Les Oliver  
 First . . . . . David Bentley  
 Deacon . . . . . Sandra Wanasek  
 Deacon . . . . . H. Cathy Caudle  
 Grace . . . . . **Harry Cross**  
 Oakley Chapel . . . . . Carlton Cross  
 Shiloh . . . . . **Jerry Nichols**  
 Siloam Springs . . . . . Randy Rowland  
 Springdale:  
 Arkansas Korean Mission . . . . . Young Jin Kim  
 Betel/Wesley . . . . . Ramiro Lizzano  
 Associate . . . . . **Kenny Lee**  
 First . . . . . Britt A. Skarda  
 Associate . . . . . David C. Freeman  
 Associate/Satellite: Pontiac . . . . . Mike I. Felder  
 Deacon . . . . . Judy S. Van Hoese  
 Viney Grove . . . . . Randy Nix  
 Wedington . . . . . Joe W. Hall

## SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Chester Jones, Superintendent

Amity . . . . . James Lybrand  
 Arkadelphia:  
 First . . . . . Carroll D. Jackson  
 Associate . . . . . Carla Thompson  
 St. Andrew . . . . . Jessica Durand  
 Benton:  
 Congo . . . . . Polly Burton (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 First . . . . . George W. McCoy  
 Associate . . . . . William Cato  
 Associate . . . . . Garry Teeter  
 Deacon . . . . . Gregory R. Taylor  
 Parkview/New Hope . . . . . Douglas Edwards  
 Salem . . . . . **Denman Gillett**  
 Bethel . . . . . Albert Marlar (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Bismarck . . . . . Gail Cole Baldwin  
 Bryant . . . . . **Todd-Paul Taulbee**  
 Associate . . . . . **Merle Johnson**  
 Center Grove (Grant County) . . . . . **James Bacon**  
 Gurdon . . . . . **Gregory Burks**  
 Hollywood . . . . . Debbie Perry  
 Hot Springs:  
 Diamondhead . . . . . Michael S. Fikes  
 Faith/Morning Star . . . . . Mark Williams  
 First . . . . . William O. "Bud" Reeves  
 Associate . . . . . James A. Benfer  
 Associate . . . . . John P. Miles  
 Associate . . . . . John S. Polk  
 Associate . . . . . Teresa Holt  
 Gardner . . . . . Bruce T. Howard  
 Grand Avenue . . . . . Pamela Estes  
 Haven . . . . . Clyde E. Hughley  
 New Salem . . . . . Thomas R. Jarrell  
 Oaklawn . . . . . Bonda Moyer  
 Piney Grove . . . . . R. David Jones  
 Associate . . . . . Dennis Horvath  
 Associate . . . . . Rose Poag  
 Associate . . . . . Cathy Staton  
 Pullman Heights/Gum Springs . . . . . Donald Robinson  
 Hot Springs Village:  
 Christ of the Hills . . . . . Mike Morey  
 Associate . . . . . Paul Coy  
 Deacon . . . . . Helen Stegall  
 Mountinside . . . . . Chris B. Hemund  
 Village . . . . . C.E. McAdoo  
 Associate . . . . . Norman Carter  
 Associate . . . . . Linda C. Fox  
 Leola/Moore's Chapel . . . . . Beth Stegall

Malvern:  
 First . . . . . Steve Wingo  
 Keith Memorial/L'Eau Fraiz . . . . . Dale Diffe  
 St. Paul/Adkins Memorial . . . . . Clarence "Dooley" Fowler  
 Manchester/Friendship . . . . . Bob Sanders  
 Mount Carmel . . . . . Bob Warford  
 Mount Ida/Joplin . . . . . Thomas "Ted" DeWeese  
 Associate . . . . . Terry Scott  
 Mount Zion . . . . . **Carla Thompson**  
 Norman . . . . . Charles Eudy (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Okolona Charge (Okolona, Center Grove,  
 Trinity) . . . . . Rick Wilkins  
 Pleasant Hill . . . . . Vince Crawford  
 Sardis/Satellite: East End . . . . . J. Jeff Jones  
 Sheridan . . . . . Bruce W. Bennett  
 Shorewood Hills Charge (Shorewood Hills,  
 Magnet Cove, Rockport) . . . . . Bob C. Clark  
 Traskwood/Ebenezer . . . . . Robert E. Turner

## SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Dennis Spence, Superintendent

Almyra/Hunter's Chapel . . . . . Floyd Ray  
 Altheimer . . . . . Fred Arnold  
 Bailey Chapel . . . . . Travis E. Jackson  
 Bayou Meto/Lodges Corner . . . . . Judyth Ross  
 Brinkley/Brasfield . . . . . David Swift  
 Carthage Charge (Carthage, New Hope, Tulip,  
 Hunter's Chapel, Waverly) . . . . . **Richard Stegall**  
 Clarendon/Holly Grove . . . . . Donald Lewert  
 Crossett . . . . . **Russell Moore**  
 DeWitt/St. Charles . . . . . Larry Martineau  
 Dumas Parish (Dumas First, Tillar) . . . . . Glenn Pettus  
 Eudora/Parkdale . . . . . Chyrl Savage Slocum  
 Extra . . . . . **Carol Moore**  
 Fordyce . . . . . Hammett Evans  
 Gillett/DeLuca . . . . . Charles Coffelt  
 Good Hope/New Edinburg . . . . . John H. Kidwell  
 Grady/Trinity . . . . . Lee Zuehlke  
 Greenhill/Lacey . . . . . J. Donald Johnson  
 Hamburg . . . . . David A. Moore  
 Associate . . . . . **Carol Moore**



Josh and Danyelle Dittmer, who were married May 17, celebrate her commissioning and his appointment following the June 12 Service of Ordination and Commissioning.

Hampton Circuit (Hampton, Harrell,  
 Faustina) . . . . . **Buddy Hamner**  
 Hebron . . . . . Maurice Caldwell (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Helena . . . . . Carolyn Doering  
 Hermitage/Wagon . . . . . Marty Reep  
 Humphrey . . . . . George E. Crumbley Jr.  
 Kingsland/Chambersville . . . . . Mark Rivers  
 Lake Village-Lakeside/Montrose . . . . . **Tony Hill**  
 Marianna/Bear Creek Camp . . . . . **Ike Mohr**  
 Marianna Larger Parish:  
 Kynette . . . . . Kennis Key  
 Livingston Chapel . . . . . Lawrence O. Taylor  
 Scruggs Chapel . . . . . John W. Love  
 Wesley Chapel/Taylor Chapel . . . . . Bill Thompson  
 Martin's Chapel . . . . . **Melissa Maskell**  
 Marvell/Lexa . . . . . Kirk Doering  
 McGehee/Arkansas City . . . . . Cornelia DeLee  
 McGehee-Wesley . . . . . Barton Bynum  
 Monticello . . . . . Bill Eason  
 Mount Olive/Bethel/Wilson Chapel . . . . . L.T. Marks  
 Palestine/Trinity-Warren . . . . . Charles W. Cauley  
 Pine Bluff:  
 First . . . . . David Moseley  
 Good Faith-Carr . . . . . George Odell  
 Hawley Memorial/Wesley . . . . . Jason Ferguson  
 Lakeside . . . . . Jim Brooks  
 St. James . . . . . Henry "Hank" Wilkins IV  
 St. Luke . . . . . James Conn  
 St. Mark . . . . . James R. Bell  
 Sulphur Springs . . . . . **Roger Armstrong**  
 White Hall . . . . . Love Loftis  
 Pleasant Grove . . . . . **Gene White** (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Portland/Dermott/Wilmoth . . . . . Terrie Bunnell

Redfield . . . . . Mary Welch  
 Rison/Mount Carmel . . . . . Jim Stone  
 Roe . . . . . Joe Glover  
 Rowell Circuit (Mount Olivet,  
 Prosperity, Union) . . . . . Beth Perdue  
 Sherrill . . . . . Bill Ferguson  
 Sparkman Charge (Sparkman, Dalark,  
 Bethlehem) . . . . . S. Royce Savage  
 St. Francis . . . . . J. Wayne Smith  
 Star City . . . . . Doug Criss  
 Stuttgart:  
 First . . . . . Larry E. Kelso  
 Grand Avenue . . . . . George Rook  
 Wabbaseka . . . . . George Mitchell  
 Waller's Chapel Circuit (Waller's Chapel,  
 Fountain Hill, Zion) . . . . . **Boyd Savage Jr.**  
 Warren . . . . . **Gary Maskell**  
 Watson Circuit (Watson,  
 Mount Tabor) . . . . . Walt Lowe (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 West Helena/Elaine . . . . . **Richard Rogers**  
 Wilmar Circuit (Wilmar, Andrews Chapel, Mount  
 Pleasant, Rock Springs) . . . . . **Hardy Peacock**  
 (Lay Speaker TBS)

## SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

David Prothro, Superintendent

Ashdown/Richmond . . . . . James Cross  
 Bearden/Thornton . . . . . Andy Hughes  
 Bell Chapel Charge (Bell Chapel,  
 Red Hill) . . . . . Larry Goza  
 Blevins Charge (Avery's Chapel, Bruce  
 Memorial, Midway) . . . . . Jim K. Teeter  
 Bradley . . . . . TBS  
 Buena Vista/Stephens . . . . . Cedric Walters  
 (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Camden:  
 Fairview . . . . . Mike Wilkie  
 First . . . . . Henry A. "Buddy" Ratliff  
 Timothy/St. Mark . . . . . Bryan Diffe  
 Westside Charge (Westside, Missouri) . . . . . Phil Worley  
 Centennial . . . . . TBS  
 Center/Center Point . . . . . Bob France (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Chidester-Mount Moriah/Valley Grove . . . . . James Fort  
 Chidester-Rushing Memorial . . . . . Harold Rogers  
 Columbia Charge (Harmony,  
 Philadelphia, Unity) . . . . . J. Wayne Edwards  
 Delight Charge (Delight, Antoine,  
 Smyrna) . . . . . Jim T. Henderson  
 DeQueen/Gillham . . . . . David S. Williams  
 Dierks Charge (Dierks, Green's  
 Chapel) . . . . . **Robert D. Partlow**  
 Doddridge Charge (Doddridge,  
 Olive Branch) . . . . . Walter L. Burnett  
 El Dorado:  
 Dumas Memorial/Marysville . . . . . Stephen Wiseman  
 First . . . . . Jim P. Polk  
 Associate . . . . . Pamela Brule  
 Lisbon . . . . . Ralph Gary Riley  
 Parker's Chapel/Pleasant Grove . . . . . **Troy Thomas**  
 Rhodes Chapel . . . . . James Rawls  
 St. Mark . . . . . Rebecca Wiseman  
 St. Paul . . . . . LaVon Post  
 Emerson/Mount Pisgah . . . . . Barbara Lewis  
 Emmet/Harmony/Willisville/  
 Oak Grove . . . . . Jerry Westmoreland  
 Foreman/Wade's Chapel . . . . . Ken Golden  
 Friendship/Sweet Home . . . . . Gene Ross  
 Glenwood/Daisy . . . . . Will Bradford  
 Harmony Grove/Lakeside/Holly Springs . . . . . James Harris  
 Hope:  
 First . . . . . Tandy Hanson  
 St. John . . . . . Joe Miller  
 Hinton/Deann . . . . . Byron Mann  
 Horatio/Winthrop . . . . . Fred R. Smith  
 Horatio Mount Zion . . . . . Curtis Smith  
 Huttig . . . . . **Robert Ballard** (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Junction City . . . . . Mike Proctor  
 Lewisville . . . . . Donald Holt  
 Lockesburg Charge (Lockesburg First,  
 Ben Lomond) . . . . . Mike Jennings  
 Macedonia Charge (Macedonia, Mount  
 Carmel) . . . . . **Tommy Halsell**  
 Magnolia:  
 Asbury . . . . . **Michael Daniel**  
 First . . . . . Walter L. Smith  
 Wesley Charge (Greer's Chapel,  
 Lydesdale) . . . . . J. Mark Lasater  
 McNeil . . . . . Jennifer Rowsam (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Mineral Springs/Wakefield . . . . . **Spencer Plumley**  
 Murfreesboro:  
 First . . . . . **Brad Elrod**  
 Sweet Home . . . . . Al Terrell (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Nashville:  
 Ebenezer/Scott's Memorial . . . . . Ella Harris

First/Bingen . . . . . Russell Hull  
 New Era . . . . . TBS  
 Norphlet . . . . . **W. Zack Roberts**  
 Prescott . . . . . J. David Kassos  
 Silver Springs . . . . . **Tony Huffman** (Lay Speaker)  
 Smackover/Silver Hill . . . . . Leon Dixon



Carlton Cross, representing the incoming class of ordinands, receives the mantle of service from retiree Louis L. "Biff" Averitt.

Spring Hill . . . . . Ron K. Eldridge  
 Stamps . . . . . **Gill Sills**  
 Taylor . . . . . Jerry Pulliam  
 Texarkana:  
 Christ . . . . . Floyd Ervin  
 Fairview/Ogden . . . . . Barbara B. Gilbert  
 First . . . . . Charles T. Settle  
 Associate . . . . . **Vicky Stephens**  
 Hall's Memorial . . . . . Joyce Watson  
 Holly Springs . . . . . Doug Rhodes (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Rondo/Pleasant Hill . . . . . Robert Armstrong  
 Sugar Hill . . . . . Rob Walker  
 Associate . . . . . **Terri Morgan**  
 Emeritus . . . . . Herbert Wren  
 Village/Ebenezer . . . . . Robert A. Terry Jr.  
 Washington Charge (Sardis,  
 Washington) . . . . . Keenan Williams  
 Wiley Chapel/Valley Grove . . . . . Shirley White-Souder

## WEST DISTRICT

Robert C. Bell, Superintendent

Alma . . . . . **Ron Newberry**  
 Altus/Grenades Chapel . . . . . Alex Flores  
 Barling . . . . . Steve Holyfield  
 Bonanza . . . . . Jeff Blessingame  
 Booneville . . . . . **Don Hall**  
 Cecil/Branch . . . . . Vern Wilson  
 Charleston . . . . . Mary Susan Hilliard  
 Cherry Hill . . . . . Daryl Hines  
 Clarksville . . . . . David Hanshaw  
 Cole's Chapel . . . . . Arlene Pickett  
 Dyer . . . . . Phillip & Cheryl Costner (Lay Speakers TBS)  
 Fort Smith:  
 Cavanaugh/Hackett . . . . . **Troy Conrad**  
 Faith . . . . . Charles Armour  
 Associate . . . . . Jeff Blessingame  
 First . . . . . David Orr  
 Associate . . . . . Steve Dickinson  
 Associate . . . . . **Claire Hoffman**  
 Associate . . . . . Janice Sudbrink  
 Goddard . . . . . Wade Shownes  
 Associate . . . . . Kim Cloninger  
 Grace Community . . . . . Bill Leslie  
 Associate . . . . . DeeDee Autry  
 Associate . . . . . Sue Kelly  
 Journey . . . . . Rob Williams  
 Mission . . . . . Ulysses Washington  
 Midland Heights . . . . . **Dan Williams**  
 North Fort Smith Hispanic Ministry . . . . . Mario Garcia  
 St. Paul . . . . . **Steve Porach**  
 Deacon . . . . . Mark Waynick  
 Associate . . . . . Geral Holloway  
 New Church Start: Church at  
 the Oaks . . . . . **Ben Anderson**  
 Vietnamese Mission . . . . . Thang Nguyen  
 Wesley . . . . . Paul Strang  
 Greenwood . . . . . David Hawkins  
 Associate . . . . . Zach Underwood  
 Hartford/Midland . . . . . Larry Pat Millard  
 Hartman/Spadra/Hays Chapel . . . . . **Regina Turner**  
 Hatfield/Wickes . . . . . **J. Michael Thurman**  
 Huntington . . . . . Frank Grubbs  
 Kibler . . . . . Herschel McClurkin  
 Lamar/Mount Olive . . . . . **Robert Cloninger II**  
 Langley . . . . . Lindsey Saenz (Lay Speaker TBS)

# Wilke returns to Arkansas with new book in hand

Bishop Richard B. Wilke, who served as resident bishop of the Arkansas Area from 1984-1996, will return this month to his old stomping grounds to introduce his new book, "The Tie That Binds: Connecting with God, the Church, and the World," to Arkansas.



Richard B. Wilke

He will be special guest for a book-signing from 2-4 p.m. June 26 at

Cokesbury Bookstore, 701 Center St. in downtown Little Rock.

Wilke is currently bishop in resident at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan. "The Tie That Binds," published by Abingdon Press, is his sixth book. One of his most well-known works is Disciple Bible Study which he co-wrote with his wife, Julia. The four-year Disciple course has graduated more than 2 million students and is now available in several languages.

In "The Tie That Binds," Wilke's aim is to inspire United Methodists to revitalize their denomination. Chapters identify ways local churches can grow

stronger by responding to spiritual need in their congregations, communities and the world.

The book contains numerous stories and anecdotes from his 12 years of leading the church in Arkansas. An online workshop based on the book will be taught June 16-20 at [www.BeADisciple.com](http://www.BeADisciple.com).

In the book, Wilke explores where the church has become disconnected and how it can connect once again:

- In a spiritually confused and hungry world, how to connect with the Lord, how to connect with a revitalized church;

- In a mobile, fragmented and isolated population, how to connect with a community of faithful friends;

- In a cynical, suspicious society, how to find a spot to stand, a place to trust;

- In denominations populated by increasingly isolated congregations, how to communicate; and

- In a world of deadly disease, famine, and poverty, how to link arms as Christians to work together in caring ministries.

For more details about the Little Rock book signing, contact Sam Albright at (501) 372-4901.

## APPOINTMENTS, continued from page 13

Lavaca/Mountain View (Crawford County) . . . . . **Lynn Strang**  
 Magazine/Moore's Chapel/Waveland . . . . . Phil Sturdy  
 Mansfield . . . . . J.J. Galloway  
 Mensa . . . . . Gary Harrison  
 Associate . . . . . Terry Chapman  
 Mountain View . . . . . Bryan Richardson  
 (Lay Speaker TBS)  
 Milltown . . . . . Louise Finney  
 Mount Pleasant/Parks . . . . . Diane Miller  
 Mulberry . . . . . Pete Beevers  
 New Bethel . . . . . Jeannette Wazelle  
 New Hope/Newberry Chapel . . . . . Bob M. Jeffery  
 Ozark . . . . . **Keith Dodson**  
 Paris . . . . . Don Eubanks  
 Prairie View/Pioneer Memorial . . . . . Judy Hall  
 Square Rock/Cauthron/Birdsview . . . . . Steve Hance  
 Van Buren:  
 City Heights . . . . . Randy Miller  
 Heritage . . . . . George Williams  
 Associate, Satellite: Mount Olive . . . . . Barry Morton  
 Associate . . . . . Bill Kelton  
 Vesta . . . . . Jonathan Payne  
 Waldron . . . . . Robert Lyons  
 Washburn . . . . . Gaylon Cope

### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Conference Director of Ministries, Assistant to the Bishop . . . . . Roy P. Smith  
 Conference Minister to Children and Their Families . . . . . Cecilia Kelly  
 Conference Minister of Mission and Ethnic Ministries . . . . . Maxine Y. Allen  
 Conference Minister of New Church Starts and Congregational Advancement . . . . . Robert Crossman  
 Director, Connected in Christ of Arkansas . . . . . Michael Roberts  
 Executive Secretary, Disaster Network, Emergency Ministries, UM Committee on Relief, Washington, D.C. . . . . F. Thomas Hazelwood  
 Justice for Our Neighbors, General Board of Global Ministries, North Little Rock . . . . . Stephen Copley  
 Director, Arkansas Course of Study School, Conway . . . . . Sam Teague  
 President, Ohio Wesleyan College, Delaware, Ohio . . . . . **Rock Jones**  
 Faculty, Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Ind. . . . . Christopher Bounds  
 Manager, Cokesbury, Little Rock . . . . . Sam Albright  
 Chaplain, Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio . . . . . Martha Dean CashBurless  
 Chaplain, Hendrix College, Conway . . . . . J. Wayne Clark  
 Director, Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative, Hendrix College, Conway . . . . . J.J. Whitney  
 Chaplain, Philander Smith College, Little Rock . . . . . Ronnie Miller-Yow  
 Associate Chaplain, Philander Smith College, Little Rock . . . . . Jimmy Mosby  
 Director, Hendrix College Library, Conway . . . . . **Amanda Moore**  
 Professor, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas . . . . . Rebekah Miles  
 Director of Community Life Operations & Special Projects, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky. . . . . Robert J. Holifield  
 Chaplain, Methodist Nursing Home and Village, Fort Smith . . . . . J.M. Rogers

Associate Pastor, Duke Chapel, Durham, N.C. Duke Chapel . . . . . **McKennon Shea**  
 Director of Pastoral Care, Wesley Enhanced Living, Doylestown, Penn. . . . . J. Michael Campbell  
 Director, Turner Center for Church Leadership, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tenn. . . . . **Danny Redding-Rhodes**  
 Chaplain, U.S. Army . . . . . Clint Black  
 Chaplain, Crime Victims Advocacy Council, Atlanta, Ga. . . . . B. Bruce Cook  
 Chaplain, Regional NEA Hospital, Jonesboro . . . . . C. Edward Pruett  
 Director, Clergy & Conference Ministries, Methodist Healthcare, Memphis, Tenn. . . . . John A. Wilcher  
 Chaplain, Crime Victims, Pine Bluff . . . . . Edna Morgan  
 Chaplain, U.S. Navy . . . . . Scott J. Shafer  
 Chaplain, U.S. Air Force . . . . . Ron Feeser  
 Chaplain, U.S. Army Reserve . . . . . David Eaton  
 Chaplain, U.S. Army . . . . . **John Fimple**  
 Chaplain, U.S. Army National Guard . . . . . Wes Hilliard  
 Chaplain, U.S. Army Reserve . . . . . James Wainscott  
 General Board of Global Ministries, Individual Mission Volunteer, Methodist Seminary, Methodist Church of Chile, Santiago, Chile . . . . . Jack Schaible  
 Horizon Stewardship Co., Cabot . . . . . Clif Christopher  
 Therapist/Executive Director, The Counseling Centers, Little Rock . . . . . Bob Edwards  
 Provident Ministry Services . . . . . Molly Davis  
 Scott Dayspring Behavioral Health Services . . . . . **Dana A. Thomason**  
 St. Vincent Health System, Little Rock . . . . . Jeanie Burton  
 State Tax Outreach Director, Advocates for Children & Families, Little Rock . . . . . **Pat Bodenhamer**  
 Chaplain, VA HealthSystems, Fayetteville . . . . . Audie Long  
 Chaplain, Lake Regional Health System, Osage Baech, Mo. . . . . Aric O. Bokker  
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### Diaconal Ministers

Teacher, Keller High School, Keller, Texas . . . . . David Clemmons  
 Director of Christian Education, Piney Grove UMC, Hot Springs . . . . . Donna Flenniken  
 Director of Music, Oak Forest UMC, Little Rock . . . . . David L. French  
 Director of Music, Trinity UMC, Little Rock . . . . . David A. Glaze

Teacher, Memphis City Schools, Memphis, Tenn. . . . . Jim Walsmith  
 Teacher, Houston Baptist University, Houston, Texas . . . . . John Yarrington  
 Christian Education Director, Elm Springs UMC . . . . . Denise E. Palmer

### Beyond the Local Church

Chaplain, St. Mary's Hospital, Rogers, and Central UMC, Rogers . . . . . Pamela Knapp Cicioni  
 Director, Mount Eagle Christian Center . . . . . Lu Harding  
 Teacher, Central High School, Little Rock . . . . . Adam Kirby  
 Chaplain, Methodist Family Health . . . . . **Scott Moore**  
 Butterfly Community Ministries, North Little Rock . . . . . **Mary Hoey**  
 Teacher, Adventure in Arts, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock . . . . . Gail Hocott  
 Appointed to attend school  
 Duke Divinity School . . . . . Andrew Thompson

### Missionaries, General Board of Global Ministries

Marianna Larger Parish, Church & Community Worker . . . . . Evelyn Banks Shackelford  
 Black Community Developers, Hoover UMC, Little Rock, Missionary . . . . . Deborah Bell  
 Missionaries to Bolivia . . . . . David & Lidia Jensen  
 Lower Delta Parish Community Outreach . . . . . Allyne Solomon

### Serving in Other Annual Conferences

Virginia Annual Conference . . . . . Linda Driver Ray  
 Kansas East Annual Conference . . . . . Mark Norman  
 Mississippi Conference . . . . . Ron Kitchens  
 North Texas Conference . . . . . Rodney Whitfield  
 New Mexico Conference . . . . . **Robert Hunt**  
 Oklahoma Conference . . . . . **Jim Lenderman**  
 Texas Conference . . . . . **Gregg Taylor**

### Leave

Family Leave . . . . . Len Delony  
 Sabbatical Leave . . . . . **Thomas Rhoades, Bob Hager**  
 Voluntary Leave of Absence . . . . . Mary Jane Pearce, Kay Wiggins, Cheryl Cook Baker, Polly Shafer, Ed Kerr, Stephen Waggoner, Sheila Jones, David O'Dell, Larry Don Ott, **Mark Ashcraft**

Incapacity Leave . . . . . Kay Hammett Evans, Sam Long, Leslee Phillips, Lewis T. See Jr., Gregory Webb, Virginia Sue Trexler, Louann Murphy, Billy Jean Tate, Ronald W. Durham, Doyle Berckefeldt, V. Wayne Johnson, Marion Fleming, Rodney Patterson, John Soward, Billie Jean Tate.

Honorable Location . . . . . Thomas Winborn Barnett, William S. Briant Jr., Jerry K. Cookus, C. Marcus Cooper, Marcia Gail Swain Crossman, Cynthia Lee Davis, Kenneth Dodd, Paul Colbert Draper, Susan E. Gladin, Don Lanier, Rhonda Kay Crow Monroe, Norm Moyer, Larry Wesley Pearce, Darrell Van Smith, Constance D. Steele, C.D. Womack, Charles B. Davis, Peter Kimball, Jon Mac Taylor.

### Transfers In

Joshua M. Ditmer, Herschel Richardson

### Transfers Out

Rodney Aist

### Attending Seminary

Asbury Theological Seminary . . . . . Carter Ferguson, Todd Vick  
 Duke Divinity School . . . . . Benjamin Johnson, Lynn Cross  
 Perkins School of Theology . . . . . Michelle Morris, Heather Spencer, Heath Williams  
 Saint Paul School of Theology . . . . . Vida Huens, Natasha Murray-Norman, Bryce Hansen

## 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](mailto:jdpickle@sbcglobal.net) for preliminary details.

**Registration deadline: August 1, 2008**

## Iowa UMs respond to storms and floods

Severe storms and rising floodwaters in Iowa have forced thousands of residents from their homes and shut down numerous roads as United Methodist disaster recovery leaders provide support amid potentially staggering long-term needs.

The emergency situation was changing nearly as quickly as the waters flowing in the Des Moines, Skunk, Raccoon, Iowa, Cedar and other rivers across the state. Nine rivers were at or above historic flood levels.

Eighty-three of Iowa's 99 counties were declared disaster areas by Gov. Chet Culver as of June 13. National disaster designation by the Federal Emergency Management Association covered four counties.

United Methodist leaders were working with the United Methodist Committee on Relief to monitor and respond to the state's emergency needs.

"Pray and faint not," Bishop Gregory Palmer said in a message of encouragement from the church's Iowa Area. "Remember when you pass through the waters, God will be with you."

The 188,000 United Methodists in Iowa have struggled right along with their neighbors. Even the Hilton Coliseum on the Iowa State campus in Ames, the site of the just-concluded 2008 session of the United Methodist Iowa Annual Conference, had flood barriers in place during the four-day gathering.

## Africa University awards degrees to 354 students

MUTARE, Zimbabwe — Africa University presented degree certificates to 354 students from 16 African countries on June 7 at the United Methodist-related school's 14th graduation ceremony. All seven of the university's academic units presented candidates for graduation.

Of the 272 young people who received bachelor's degrees, 134 were from the faculty of humanities and social sciences. Master's degrees were awarded to 81 graduate students in six academic units. This year's graduating class increased the number of Africa University alumni to more than 2,600. Founded by The United Methodist Church in 1992, Africa University was the first private university to open in Zimbabwe. It has an annual full-time student population of 1,300.

## United Methodists in Texas raise \$1 million for nets

THE WOODLANDS, Texas — The groundbreaking covenant partnership between the Texas and Côte d'Ivoire annual conferences of The

# News Digest

United Methodist Church has yielded its first fruits — more than \$1 million in donations from Texans to fight malaria in West Africa.

At \$10 a net, the gift will buy more than 100,000 nets planned for distribution in Côte d'Ivoire in November as part of a national vaccination campaign. The distribution will include another 400,000 nets authorized by the United Nations Foundation through the Nothing But Nets fundraising campaign.

The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries will play a key role in helping with the logistics of the distribution through its Health and Welfare unit and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The Texas Annual Conference has commissioned a team of 35 clergy and laity, representing all nine districts of the conference, to help distribute the nets.

The Texas funding was generated sooner than expected. Members of the Texas conference pledged at its 2007 legislative meeting to raise \$1 million in two years to cover Côte d'Ivoire with insecticide-treated mosquito nets. During its 2008 meeting held May 25-28 near Houston, a 60-member Ivorian choir led the celebration that the goal had been surpassed in a single year.

"Our goal is to still cover the country of Côte d'Ivoire," Bishop Janice Riggle Huie told the Texas assembly. "We're not there yet, but friends, God is good ... and with God all things are possible."

## Student Forum explores social concerns in D.C.

WASHINGTON — More than 400 United Methodist students, campus ministers and young adult seminarians scattered across the U.S. capital May 22-25 during Student Forum 2008 to learn how they could use their voices to fight for just public policies.

From a panel on the racism of mascots held at the National Museum of the American Indian to an Anacostia River boat tour focusing on the environment, the students met with lobbyists, legislative aides, United Methodist agency officials and a tenants' group that works for equitable housing.

The May 22-25 forum is an annual leadership development event for United Methodist college students and is sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry and organized by the United Methodist Student Movement.



Volunteers in Cedar Falls, Iowa, stack sandbags June 10 as the Cedar River rises to a record-high 102 feet and forces residents to evacuate. UMNS photo by Patsy Lynch, FEMA

Church's South Indiana and North Indiana annual conferences approved a plan to merge the two regions into one new Indiana Annual Conference.

Bishop Mike Coyner of Indianapolis announced the results of votes by each annual conference during the closing session of the South Indiana legislative gathering June 7 at the Indiana University Auditorium in Bloomington. South Indiana members voted 616-185 on June 6 to unite with the North Indiana Conference. North Indiana members, meeting May 30 in West Lafayette, voted 730-192 for the merger. The first combined Indiana Annual Conference session is scheduled for June 25-28, 2009, at Ball State University in Muncie.

The merger is designed to streamline administration of the Indiana Area to bring resources closer to congregations for their support.

## Indiana United Methodists approve unity plan

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — With shouts of joy and prayers of thanksgiving, members of The United Methodist

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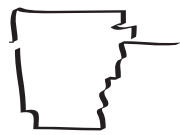
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## It Happened

In an effort to help members of First UMC, Siloam Springs, learn about the ministries funded through apportionments, the church communications team created a special promotional/education campaign. An oversized "thermometer" was designed to chart giving amounts. The thermometer starts off at 5 percent and continues, first in increments of 5 percent, then later by 10 percent, until the goal is reached.

Arrows detailing the various apportionment ministries and the amount of the church's funding surround the thermometer. The arrows are color-coded, to help distinguish between Arkansas Conference ministries (red); jurisdictional ministries (green) and General conference ministries (blue). Ultimately, church officials hope the display will help members understand the role the local church community plays in ministries within the state of Arkansas and beyond.

The Youth Singers, Chorale and Celebration Ringers of First UMC, Colorado Springs, Colo., made a stop in Wynne in early June on their five-state tour. The group of 40 youth and seven adults presented a concert and stayed in First UMC members' homes before continuing their trip into Tennessee. The group makes an annual Choir Tour, and Wynne First UMC was blessed to have them this year.

The first Mother-Daughter Banquet at Desha UMC was held May 10. Church members and their daughters enjoyed fellowship and a home-cooked meal. The program was a spring fashion show.

A ground-breaking ceremony on Memorial Day Weekend marked the beginning of construction for a new activity building at Hermitage UMC in the South East District. The structure will be built adjacent to the present

church and will house a kitchen, dining and meeting areas and athletic facilities. It will be used by both the church and community. Hermitage UMC recently celebrated its centennial and has been blessed with steady growth for the past several years.

Farmington UMC United Methodist Women held its annual rummage and bake sale May 2-3. A wide variety of items were donated to be sold. The total profit was more than \$1,440. The money will be used for local, state and international missions.

Five youth from the Desha UMC recently completed confirmation studies and received certificates of completion from pastor James Wheeler. The confirmands are Dalton Dale, Emalee Marlin, Blake Sherrill, Blaire Lively and Sydney Stubbs.

In other news from Desha, Moses (aka pastor James Wheeler) made a guest appearance recently. He recounted his mission from God, the building of the Ark and what he learned along the way. Some of the passengers on the ark even made special guest appearances. Wheeler's turn as Moses resulted from a challenge he issued to the



Recent confirmation students at Desha UMC include (from left) Dalton Dale, Emalee Marlin, Blake Sherrill and Blaire Lively, pictured with pastor James Wheeler.



Hermitage UMC pastor Marty Reep (right front, with shovel) is joined by members of the congregation on Memorial Day weekend in a ground-breaking ceremony for a new activity building.

church youth: if 30 youth were to attend Sunday worship service, Wheeler promised to dress as the venerable Moses. The youth met the challenge and enjoyed the special visit by Moses.

United Methodist Women of Mount Olive UMC, Fordyce, sponsored the dedication ceremony May 18 for a new church sign, the first such sign for the church, located at 618 Brown St. The project was financed through special fundraising led by the UMW organization. Tammie Allen is UMW president

First UMC, Pocahontas, recently received into membership by Profession of Faith six new members — Ashley Hamilton, Cody Grant, Chance Barnett,

Brittany Franklin, Marcus Hamilton and Justise Weisenbach. They were members of the 2008 Confirmation Class, the first confirmation class organized at the church in several years. Fred W. Hunter, pastor, taught the class.



First UMC, Arkadelphia, sponsored a Power Lab Vacation Bible School recently. The event drew 180 children and 80 helpers. Members of the church created a giant laboratory beaker that was set up on the church grounds to advertise the event.



## Milestones

Bayou Meto UMC celebrated its 127th anniversary and homecoming May 25. Guest speaker was Don Nolley of Sherwood, a retired United Methodist pastor, and his wife, Carol Ann. They served the Bayou Meto church as their first appointment from 1963-65.

One highlight was the presentation of a bronze United Methodist Clergy gravestone medallion which honors the memory of Columbus McDonald Thompson, who served as pastor of the church from 1921-25. He is the only Methodist minister buried at Bayou Meto Cemetery. The medallion was



Columbus McDonald Thompson, 1863-1955

given in memory of C.M. and Sarah E. Thompson by Carol J. Roberson. The presentation and recognition was led by members of United Methodist Women.

Church historian Ellen West was assisted by archivist Marcia Crossman of the Arkansas United Methodist Archives at Hendrix College in preparing a booklet about Rev.

Thompson's life and ministry in Arkansas.

A fellowship meal followed the morning worship service. Judyth Ross currently serves as pastor of Bayou Meto UMC.

Members of Mount Olive UMC, Fordyce, celebrate the addition of a new church sign on the grounds of the church.





## Nothing But Nets for all ages

Lydia Schallenberg and Anne Marie De Luca, kindergarten children at Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, rock a baby doll beneath a mosquito net in Rotation Sunday School. Children at Pulaski Heights UMC learned last month that 3,000 children in Africa die each day from malaria that could be prevented if bed nets were available to protect them from disease-carrying mosquitoes. The children collected more than \$270 to buy 27 nets and save at least 27 lives. 2008 is "The Year of the Net" at Pulaski Heights UMC.



## Coming Up

UM youth are invited to a Luau Block Party from 5-8 p.m. July 13 at First UMC, Jacksonville. Hosted by the Jacksonville church, youth from throughout the Central District and other districts are welcome. Cost is \$5 per person. For details, contact Cody Bauman at (501) 982-8176 or codyb@jacksonvilleumc.com.

Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., from 10 a.m. to 12 noon July 12. Kalas joined the Asbury faculty in 1993 after 38 years as a United Methodist pastor and five years of evangelism leadership with the World Methodist Council. He has been a presenter on Disciple Bible Study videos and is the author of more than 30 books, including the popular "Back Side" series, as well as the Christian Believer Bible study.

First UMC, Little Rock, will hold its annual Ice Cream Social from 5-7 p.m. June 22 at the church gymnasium, Eighth and Center streets. There'll be a hot dog dinner, homemade ice cream and great fellowship. All are welcome.

Get our your calendar and circle Sept. 27! That's the date of the 25th annual benefit fish fry at Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock. Festivities are planned for 4-7 p.m., including live entertainment, silent auction, bake sale, children's area and great food. Don't miss it.

First UMC, Heber Springs, will host a two-hour Bible Conference led by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, president of

## People of Faith

Michelle Dobson of Little Rock is the recipient of the \$2,250 Martha Lynn and Felix Thompson Scholarship at St. James UMC, Little Rock. The announcement was made June 8 at the annual home concert of the St. James Ringers.

Michelle, the daughter of Andrea and Bruce Dobson, plans to attend Hendrix College in Conway this fall.

Since the establishment of the scholarship program in 1989, a total of \$27,750 has been awarded to 21 graduating high school seniors who have participated in music ministries at St. James.

Jennifer McDowell was named the recipient of the Gary Schultz Award. This award is given each year to the young person who most personifies the spirit of the St. James Ringers. Jennifer is the daughter of Janet and Joe McDowell.

At the close of the concert, music



Anselmy and Nancy Fleming were recently honored at First UMC, Little Rock.

director Robert Lindley presented appreciation plaques to the eight graduating seniors in the senior high handbell choir: Dylan Frost, Christine Harpool, Jennifer McDowell, Anne-Marie Moore, Charli Moore, Zach Parham, Jillian Petersen and Katie Rose.

Anselmy Fleming, director of music ministries and organist at First UMC, Little Rock, was honored at a reception May 25 at the church. In honor of Fleming's 22 years of service to First Church, the congregation established the Anselmy and Nancy Fleming Music Scholarship at Hendrix College. The scholarship will be used to help train young musicians for many years to come. Pamela Owen from Hendrix College was on hand to receive the award from the senior pastor Michael L. Mattox.

## Stop Hunger Now marks 10 years of giving

United Methodist News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. — Ray Buchanan had spent years working to banish hunger in the United States when an experience in Sierra Leone made him re-think his focus. In 1997, during the height of the African country's civil war, he visited with a number of United Methodist pastors in the city of Bo who told him "they wore their clerical collars when they begged in the streets because people would be more generous."

Returning home "in a self-righteous fit," Buchanan raised \$65,000 in six weeks, enough to provide rice for every pastor's family in Sierra Leone for a year.

That experience in Africa helped propel Buchanan to found Stop Hunger Now in 1998. During its 10-year existence, the Raleigh-based organization has provided more than \$44 million in direct aid to more than 60 countries, including more than 5 million meals for the poor.

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# 'Safe sanctuary' policy smart move for congregations

## ■ Siloam Springs church endorses preventative steps to make church safe for all

SILOAM SPRINGS — Members of First United Methodist Church here recently took additional steps to improve safety features for their youngest members.

The first step, completed this spring, was adding windows to all classroom doors in the church. The windows were added to provide a way for volunteers to observe classrooms, without interrupting the lessons.

The windows also provide teachers and students alike with an extra layer of security — as all areas of the classroom can be observed from the doorway.

The second measure involved adding a computer usage agreement for both students and adults taking part in the ministries of First UMC. Students will sign the form as part of the yearly student participation packet. Adults will sign it when fulfilling the requirements of the original Safe Sanctuary policy, approved by the administrative council in July 2007.

The usage agreement, modeled after the local school district's policy, outlines acceptable use of the church's computers, including, but not limited to, the Internet. The policy was created at the urging of First UMC member Karl Mounger, who serves on the Arkansas Conference Safe Sanctuary Task Force.

"I cannot stress the importance of having a Safe Sanctuary Policy in your church," explained Mounger. "Do this now as prevention instead of an 'after the incident happens' reaction," he added.

"As all or most of our churches have computers, which can be accessed by students or volunteers, it's vital that congregations add a computer safety paragraph to their policies," he said.

"The administrative council added the policy in order to let both students and volunteers know what church officials expect in terms of computer usage," explained Kaylea Hutson, minister to families with children. "While we have not expanded the use of computers in our children's and youth ministries, the policy lays the foundation for future growth."

## BONHOEFFER, continued from page 1

fact that children were holding up athletes as their role models and that the church itself had failed to lift up role models of faith. "Ever since then, I've been thinking about it," Sigman added.

The musicians, actors and athletes that today's youth idolize are all going to fail in some way, he reasoned, but Bonhoeffer "rose above our basic human instinct to proclaim a love that is worth dying for."

The resolution he submitted to the 2008 United Methodist General Conference, the denomination's top legislative body, was simple: "In keeping in line with the Church of England and the Church of Wales, we, as United Methodists, should also recognize Dietrich Bonhoeffer as a modern day martyr for the cause of Christ."

It was approved when the conference met April 23-May 2 in Fort Worth, Texas. During the same General Conference, United Methodists approved a full communion agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

### Rebellion against Nazis

Born in Breslau, Germany, in 1906, Bonhoeffer received his doctorate from Berlin University in 1927, where he lectured as part of the theology faculty in the early 1930s and was ordained a Lutheran pastor in 1931.

In rebellion against the Nazi-controlled state church, some 2,000 Lutheran pastors organized the Pastors' Emergency League in 1934, which later became the Confessing Church. Bonhoeffer was head of the independent church's seminary at Finkenwalde. It was one of five seminaries closed by the Nazis in 1937.

A member of the resistance, he communicated with the British government and also worked on his book, "Ethics," from 1940 until his arrest in 1943. As Simon & Schuster points out in a description of the book on its Web

site, "The Christian does not live in a vacuum, says the author, but in a world of government, politics, labor and marriage. Hence, Christian ethics cannot exist in a vacuum; what the Christian needs, claims Dietrich Bonhoeffer, is concrete instruction in a concrete situation. Although the author died before completing his work, this book is recognized as a major contribution to Christian ethics."

Bonhoeffer's fellow resisters tried to kill Hitler but were unsuccessful. Executed with him on April 9, 1945, were Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, head of German Military Intelligence, General Hans Oster and Hans von Dohnanyi, who was married to Bonhoeffer's sister, Christine. On April 23, two other members of the conspiracy, Bonhoeffer's brother, Klaus, and a second brother-in-law, Rudiger Schleicher, were executed, seven days before Hitler committed suicide.

In his rationale for the General Conference resolution, Sigman wrote: "During a time of grave darkness in Nazi Germany, Bonhoeffer shined the light of Christ all the way to a hangman's noose. Nearly every clergy has studied him and used him in sermons and theological discourse. It is time we recognize his accomplishments and martyrdom of the highest calling."

Sigman believes it is important for the church to show how people sometimes die for their faith. "I hope it will start a precedent," he said. "I personally think we, as a denomination, need to start recognizing these people."

### Recognizing saints

Alan Combs, a 25-year-old provisional elder with the Virginia Annual

Conference, said he was excited by the resolution on Bonhoeffer. He has been working on his master's thesis at Duke University, which focuses on how The United Methodist Church looks at the issue of recognizing saints.



Charles Sigman

*"I hope it will start a precedent. I personally think we, as a denomination, need to start recognizing these people."*

— Charles Sigman, pastor  
First UMC, Newport

"I think the writer of the resolution was smart to use martyr because we don't have any formal recognition of saints," he said.

A martyr can be a saint, but the reverse might not necessarily apply, Combs pointed out. Christianity's early heroes were martyrs because the church was under persecution. Saints lived lives of holiness but weren't always subject to persecution.



### JUNE

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.

John Wesley "liked the community of saints," he said, but the idea may not have universal appeal among church members. "We're fairly willing to call biblical heroes 'saints,' but beyond that, we start getting uncomfortable about it," he explained.

Combs — who will become the associate pastor at Heritage United Methodist Church in Lynchburg, Va., on July 1 — applauds taking a look at people who lived holy lives as a way of influencing Christians today. Such recognition could include biblical heroes, founders of the church and leaders of early American Methodism.

As a director of the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns for the past four years, Combs also appreciates the recognition of ecumenical leaders such as Bonhoeffer. "We're recognizing the martyr of another church," he said. "That's a way of us affirming the holiness we see in them."

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.

### SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1-3: South Central Jurisdictional Senior/Middle Adult Leadership Training, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.  
Sept. 2-9: United Methodist School of Studies, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.  
Sept. 26-27: Hiking/Backpacking Camp, Wayland Spring.  
Sept. 27: Camp Aldersgate 25th Annual Fish Fry, Camp Aldersgate, Little Rock.



## In a healthy state of mind

Dorinda Crews of Hamburg and Tom Hazelwood of Washington, D.C., receive health screenings from representatives of the Memphis, Tenn.-based Methodist LeBonheur Health Care. The Health Fair was part of the Arkansas Conference emphasis on good health and "Holy Healthy" ministries impacting churches and communities.

## Deaths

### Maumelle

**MELISSA NICOLE GROTHE**, 22, of Maumelle, daughter of William G. Grothe, pastor of Damascus UMC, went to be with her Lord and Savior on June 10, 2008. She was born in Little Rock on Sept. 2, 1985, to William G. Grothe and Debbie Heidt.

She was preceded in death by her stepgrandfather, Willie Cox; uncle, Bob Grothe; and cousin, Angeline Grothe. She is survived by her mother, Debbie Weidl, and her husband, Scott, of Maumelle; father, Bill Grothe, of Mayflower; brother, Joey Grothe and his wife, Sarah, of Maumelle; two step-sisters, Samantha Weidl of Maumelle and Shanna Weidl of Little Rock; step-brother, Toby Harper of Little Rock; paternal grandmother, Virginia Grothe of California; maternal grandmother, Mary Cox of Little Rock; maternal grandfather, Gary Heidt and his wife, Susanne, of Roland; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Melissa was a lover of life. She liked to cook and enjoyed animals, drawing, music and playing softball. She also loved tattoos. She loved her family and "kickin' it" with her friends. Melissa was a free spirit and loved being who she was.

Funeral services were held June 13 at First United Methodist Church, Maumelle, with interment at Riverwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Maumelle Humane Society 425C Hyman Dr., Maumelle, Ark. 72113, or Locks of Love, 2925 10th Ave. N., Suite 102, Lake Worth, Fla., 33461-3099.

## Remember When

### 100 Years Ago

**June 19, 1908:** We were pleased to have a call from Rev. W.R. McKay, presiding elder of the Camden district, on Wednesday. He was passing through the city and decided to spend a while with his many friends and acquaintances. It will be remembered that Bro. McKay was pastor at Winfield Memorial last year.

### 50 Years Ago

**June 19, 1958:** Father and Son night was held by the Men's Club of the Mena Methodist Church on Thursday evening, June 5. Dinner was served at 7 p.m. under the direction of "Chef" Ralph Edwards. Following the meal a devotional and program was presented for the men and their guests.

### 20 Years Ago

**June 17, 1988:** Members of the North Arkansas Annual Conference did some celebrating and advance planning as a part of their yearly meeting, held June 5-8 at Hendrix College. The celebrating had to do with the prospect of a bishop being elected from Arkansas and growth in membership, among other things, while the looking ahead focused on outdoor ministries and conference redistricting.

# Mount Sequoyah retreat to draw aspiring songwriters

FAYETTEVILLE — Mount Sequoyah Unplugged, a singer/songwriter retreat sponsored by Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, is scheduled for Aug. 14-17 at the Conference Center in Fayetteville.

The weekend event will feature a workshop and showcase concert by Grammy-nominated songwriter and 2007 Folkwax Artist of the Year Gretchen Peters of Nashville, Tenn.

A free guitar masters concert will feature Jack Williams, Shane Adkins and Kelly Mulhollan. Song Circles will give everyone a chance to share their songs with other songwriters in the supportive and peaceful environment of the Mountain.

The event will also include workshops featuring:

- Shane Adkins, 2005 International Fingerstyle Guitar champion;
- Jack Williams, considered one of the best guitar players in America;
- Charles Gaby, musician, songwriter and director of the Center for Creative Transformation at First UMC, Fort Worth, Texas;
- Effron White, 2006 and 2007



Grammy-nominated songwriter Gretchen Peters will headline a singer/songwriter event in Fayetteville.

Northwest Arkansas' Best Singer/Songwriter of the year;

■ Emily Kaitz, Northwest Arkansas Music Hall of Fame inductee;

■ Kelly Mulhollan, voted "Best Guitarist" in Northwest Arkansas;

■ Donna Stjerna, prolific songwriter with more than 400 songs to her credit; and

■ Steve Smith, award-winning songwriter for Hannah Blaylock and Eden's Edge.

The retreat is open to artists of all ages and skill levels. More details and registration information are available online at [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org), or call (800) 760-8126.

Mount Sequoyah is owned and operated by the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

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**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.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Primrose UMC, Little Rock, is seeking a part-time Director of Music Ministries. Responsibilities include Wednesday night rehearsals, leading the choir and congregation in singing during Sunday worship, leading Vacation Bible School music program and leading the choir in at least one cantata each year. Send resumé to: Pastor, Primrose United Methodist Church, 30006 W. Dixon Road, Little Rock, AR 72206.

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Fordyce First UMC is seeking a Christ-committed, fun-loving youth minister for the summer. Salary commensurate with experience. Please send resúmes 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](mailto:brohammett@alltel.net).

**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](mailto:revburnham@sbcglobal.net) for job description.

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

# United Methodists declare victory for farm workers

United Methodist News Service

United Methodists are celebrating a victory for farm workers following an agreement by Burger King Corp. to pay more for tomatoes picked by workers in Florida.

The second largest fast-food chain in the United States agreed to pay an extra 1.5 cents per pound for tomatoes picked in Florida. One penny of the increase will go for wages, and a half cent will fund incremental payroll taxes and administrative costs to encourage grower participation in the pact.

The May 23 agreement with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers roughly doubles the earnings of the Florida workers. It also offers protection to farm workers who have been subjected to abuse from growers, according to Brigitte Gynther, Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida.

United Methodists in Florida have worked with both the coalition and Interfaith Action to bring about change for farm workers laboring in harsh conditions for as little as \$50 a day.

The coalition already has similar agreements with McDonald's Corp. and Taco Bell owner Yum Brands Inc. The United Methodist Church supported a boycott against Taco Bell that ended in March 2005 when the fast-food chain agreed to the one-cent increase.

United Methodist leaders lauded the pact with Burger King.

Bishop Timothy Whitaker, episcopal leader of the church's Florida Area, commended Burger King for its pledge to be a leader in improving the work-

ing conditions of farm laborers.

"Many United Methodists have been praying for this outcome, and we shall share with others our appreciation for the leadership Burger King is demonstrating," Whitaker said.

Melinda Trotti, director of justice and spirituality ministries for the church's Florida Annual Conference, called the agreement a "huge victory."

"I started crying when I heard the

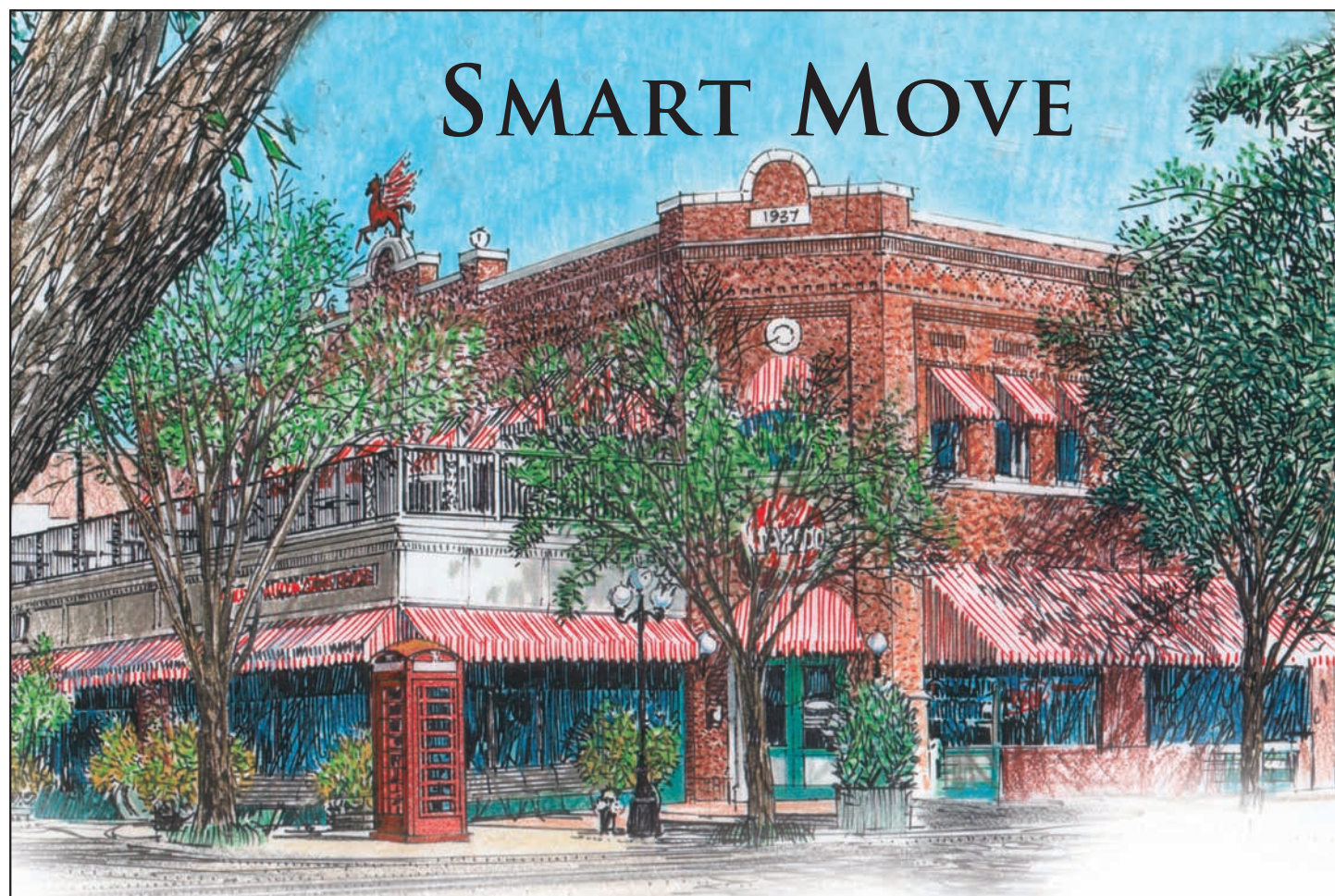
news," she said. "You work hard and you don't always get good news, but this is really good, big news."

John Hill, an executive with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, said the agreement "marks another step in the march to justice for all workers."

"Today, we celebrate the great work of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in securing better working

conditions and wages for the workers of Immokalee, Fla., and recommit our efforts to live into The United Methodist Church's vision of a living wage in every industry," Hill said.

The denomination's social action agency signed a letter sent to Burger King's corporate office in Miami calling for the penny increase, a code of conduct and a voice for farm workers in uncovering farm labor abuses.



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**LETTER,** continued from page 2

stood and had the best grasp on the teachings of Jesus. But I think secular humanism and society are clouding the minds of our leadership and many of my fellow Methodists. This whole generation of those who believe in total toleration are missing the point in my understanding of the Bible. I will never buy into this way of thinking.

So, I will continue to monitor the stands taken by the UMC, and as long as my local church remains strong in the teachings of the Bible, as put forth in the Bible, without humans changing the interpretations so they can "feel good," I will stay a Methodist. However, if it gets out of hand and the church abandons me, "As for me and my house, we will follow the Lord."

Anthony Rushing  
Benton