



United Methodist Arkansas

July 18, 2008

UM group says lottery amendment a bad bet

The United Methodist Church in Arkansas has gone on record opposing a state lottery and is working to defeat a lottery measure being touted by Lt. Gov. Bill Halter.

“It’s a bad bet and can not be reconciled with the values and church law of the United Methodist Church,” said Roger Glover, co-chair of United Methodists Against Gambling

(UMAG) and pastor of Dardanelle United Methodist Church, in advance of a July 14 press conference.

Not only does the United Methodist Book of Discipline denounce lotteries but Arkansas United Methodists, at their annual conference in June, approved a resolution opposing a state lottery.

Halter is the main proponent and

sponsor of a lottery proposal that is currently being reviewed by the secretary of state’s office. If the measure makes it to the Nov. 4 ballot and if voters adopt it, it would authorize the legislature to set up a state lottery to finance college scholarships. Currently the Arkansas constitution bans lotteries.

The amendment contains “severe

flaws,” said Scott Trotter, a Little Rock attorney and United Methodist who co-chairs UMAG, coalition of church members which has the support of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. He pointed to vague terminology and language that could be misconstrued and interpreted in different ways and the lack of a clear

See LOTTERY, page 10

Arkansans provide medical care in Guatemala

By GWEN EFIRD

For the seventh time, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock sent a medical mission team to Salud Y Paz, located in the southwest region of Guatemala.

Five doctors, four nurses and 11 willing people comprised the team of 20 that conducted the clinics. The volunteers spent two days in San Francisco, a small village located a short distance out of Quetzaltenango. Clinics in rural areas are set up in any facility that may be available. The team brought all the medications with them and were prepared to start seeing patients soon after arriving.

The missionaries have learned to be creative in order to accomplish their goals. The Pulaski Heights teams have held clinics in homes, a school, church-



A large number of Guatemalan children and adults wait to get into a medical clinic staffed by a visiting mission team from Arkansas.

es and even a barber shop.

On this mission, in San Francisco, they were in a home, which like many homes in Guatemala has a courtyard, with rooms entering directly into the courtyard. The family was pleased to share their home with the team. It had been two years since this community

had had a visiting medical clinic.

For the next two days the mission team worked from a school. They found the faculty to be very gracious and appreciative, and the children delightful and full of fun. The doctors played soccer with the children before

See MISSION, page 4

UMs share in events of Holy Conferencing

By JANE DENNIS

Arkansas United Methodist Editor

Peace. Justice. Reconciliation.

United Methodist clergy and laity gathered on a Sabbath, July 13, simultaneously, at 14 sites across the state for an hour of careful, deliberate Holy Conferencing. Participants were asked to consider ways they can be conduits of peace, justice and reconciliation for the church and the world.

Organizers of the gatherings were mostly United Methodist laity from across the state. Retired clergy Ed Matthews wrote the common worship liturgy used at all of the gatherings, borrowing heavily from the “Holy Conversation” materials and guidelines developed by the Central Texas Host Committee for the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth. Arkansas clergy member Len Delony was instru-

See HOLY CONFERENCE, page 7

INSIDE HEADLINES

■ Supplement to civil rights compilation to feature additional stories of United Methodists, page 4.

■ A Sunday School class golfing event raises money for water wells in Africa, page 6.

■ Mount Sequoyah’s new Friendship Plaza a symbol of gratitude from Louisiana UMs, page 10.

■ Berryville church welcomes helpful and handy Central Texas youth volunteers, page 11.



Editor's Corner

By Jane Dennis

Family ties

In the most common sense of the word, family is those to whom we are most closely related and often share a name. There are moms and dads who form a family and are related by marriage. Then there are children and grandchildren and other sorts of "blood relatives," connected by lineage and birth. In the classic Norman Rockwell image, the people who gather around the table for Thanksgiving dinner and exchange gifts at Christmas are family.

But that's not all family is.

Hallelujah for church family. I hope you are part of a good, supportive, loving local church family. Small church or large church, there's no better feeling in the world to be part of this family, to share and learn and grow in a common love of Christ, to serve others and to strive to live as Christ showed us. Some of the most important and influential people in our lives are often members of our church family.

I have mentioned before that I have a photograph that illustrates church family. When Sidney was about 3 years old, it was a challenge to get her to last through an hourlong church service without dissolving into a major let-me-out-of-here squirming



Jane Dennis

fit. One Sunday she had to be taken out into the vestibule but was still an unhappy little girl. Our friend and favorite usher, grandfatherly Ted Fotioo, gathered her up in his arms, talked to and rocked her. The photograph shows Ted sitting on the vestibule pew, with Sidney in his lap, leaning into his comforting arms, calm and serene. That simple photograph symbolizes to me the special gift of church family. What a blessing.

Family can enter our lives in other ways. While attending summer camp, my girls enjoy being part of the family that surrounds them there.

When participating in a sport or school activity, those who share that common thread become family.

Work, play, recreation, education, online, off line, face to face or around the world ... family is a connecting bond, a treasured gift.

As United Methodists, we are part of a church family that stretches around the world, that feeds the hungry, cares for orphans, builds homes and schools, tends the sick and lonely. We may not be there in person, but, praise the Lord, a member of our family is.

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

Watch for complete coverage of the 2008 South Central Jurisdictional Conference and the election of bishops in the Aug. 1 Arkansas United Methodist!

Mission to Moscow

FALL MISSION TO MOSCOW Sept. 19-28, 2008

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

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

Registration deadline: August 1, 2008



Letters to the Editor

Healthy advice

Almost everyone will agree that walking is very beneficial to a healthy life. And "Walk the United Methodist Way" could also be soul saving, if we walk God's way.

However, walking is only a beginning. A person needs a healthy body to get the full benefit of walking or any other exercise.

And when looking at our society today, people are "largely" out of shape. Why is this?

Could it be that people are not following God's health advice? For most "overweights," the answer is a definite YES!

Why is this? Is it because they have not been taught or do not need God's eating laws.

God made our flesh bodies (Genesis 1:26-27), so He should know what is best for them, right? God told

us what we should eat and what not to eat (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14:3-21).

There are some people who will tell you that God changed His mind about food instructions. God never changes, now or ever. The naysayers cite Act 10:10-16 and I Timothy 4:33 as changes in God's food instructions.

In Acts 10, Peter ate none of the unclean food and in verse 28 Peter realized that what God was telling him was not about food, but that he "... should not call any man (or woman) common or unclean."

And as to the I Timothy reference, verse 3 reads in part "... which God hath created to be received ..."

So, have a good walk, but fortify with God's health food suggestions. Bon appetit!

James A. Miner
Prescott

Submission guidelines

The Arkansas United Methodist welcomes contributions of stories and photographs related to the denomination and submitted in a timely manner by local churches, groups and individuals. Information may be edited for brevity and clarity. Always include information on a contact person who may be reached in case of questions.

Photographs may be submitted in print or digital format. We cannot use instant developing (Poloroid) photos or digital photographs printed on plain or photographic paper. Digital photos must have a minimum resolution of 200 and must be submitted electronically. We cannot guarantee that all photos submitted will be used.

Send stories, ideas and photos to: Arkansas United Methodist, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202, or e-mail to jdennis@arumc.org. For information, call (501) 324-8031.



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Jane Dennis • Editor
Martha S. Taylor • Director of Communications
Patrick Shownes • Communications Coordinator

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

Fax: (501) 325-1911.

E-mail: jdennis@arumc.org

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

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

Mail



2 Trudie Kibbe Reed Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72202

Fax



(501) 325-1911

Email



jdennis@arumc.org

Viewpoint

Dear Friends:

I have a great love of poetry. Words married in rhythm, in sound, in passion, in feeling, words that sing, that soar — simply lift my soul. I love the poet who can use a word, maybe two, to strum the strings of my heart. I love the poet who can ring out a challenge, or capture the pain of loss, or transport me to a place I've never been, but a place I know is home.

I guess that is why I love the Psalms and the poetry of the prophets. It is why I love the powerful yet simple cadences of Jesus.

When I was a child and visited with my Grandparents Crutchfield, we always had evening prayer. We



An Occasional Word from the Bishop

would gather back in my grandfather's study and we would read the scripture and have family prayers. When it was my turn to read, I always read Psalm 121: "*I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My health comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth ...*"

Maybe it was because I was a child of the great plains and there were not too many hills in western Oklahoma, or maybe it was because at the age of 2 years I first went to

the high mountains with my parents, but that passage of poetry, Psalm 121, somehow captured the awe and wonder I have always associated with God. The psalmists of old seemed just to have the "right word" to make the awesomeness and majesty and mystery of God palpable and present.

We don't go in for awe and majesty and wonder and mystery much anymore. There is a tendency



Charles Crutchfield

to so humanize and sanitize God that we think of God as a kindly gentleman, white beard and cane looking out over a troubled world with sad and longing eyes. We don't like mystery and things we can't explain, and more importantly things we can't control.

I would invite you into the Psalms this summer. Why not read three or four a night? You might re-discover the powerful passionate, wondrous God who is so concerned about you that "*(The Lord) will keep your life, The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*"

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield 

Earn your M.B.A. at church; giving heart and soul required

Recently I ran across an anecdote from Dr. Leonard Sweet, a professor at one of our United Methodist seminaries. He overheard a soon-to-be-graduating student complaining about the appointment he had received from his bishop. The student did not feel the placement exactly suited his gifts. A fellow student who was listening to the complaint responded, "You know, the world's a better place because Michelangelo did not say, 'I don't do ceilings.'"



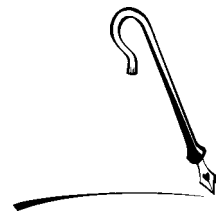
Bud Reeves

Dr. Sweet said, "Her comment stopped me dead in my tracks. I had to admit she was right. If you and I are going to be faithful to the ministry God is calling us to, then we had better understand that. I reflected on the attitudes of key people throughout the Scriptures and the history of the church." He then offered some examples:

The world's a better place because a German monk named Martin Luther did not say, "I don't do doors."

The world's a better place because an Oxford don named John Wesley didn't say, "I don't do field preaching."

The world's a better place because Moses didn't say, "I don't do Pharaohs."



The Shepherd's Staff

By William O. "Bud" Reeves

The world's a better place because Noah didn't say, "I don't do animals."

The world's a better place because Rahab didn't say, "I don't do enemy spies."

The world's a better place because Ruth didn't say, "I don't do mothers-in-law."

The world's a better place because David didn't say, "I don't do giants."

The world's a better place because Peter didn't say, "I don't do Gentiles."

The world's a better place because John didn't say, "I don't do baptisms."

The world's a better place because Mary didn't say, "I don't do virgin births."

The world's a better place because Paul didn't say, "I don't do correspondence."

The world's a better place because Jesus didn't say, "I don't do crosses."¹

Sometimes after annual conference, there is a "post-conference depression." For pastors and churches who are not particularly happy with their situation, it can be a deflating proposition to realize, "We have to be here another whole year." It can be depressing to be sent to what you feel is the "back 40" of Methodism to labor in the Lord's field. Sometimes

God calls us to serve in places we don't want to go in ways we don't want to do at a time that is inconvenient for our schedule. But still we go and do and serve.

Dave Thomas, the founder of the Wendy's restaurant chain, used to award M.B.A.'s to his managers. Except for Thomas, M.B.A. stood for "Mop Bucket Attitude." It was awarded to managers who got the concept that no type of work or service was beneath their dignity if it was what needed to be done at the time to make the restaurant the best it could be. Much of the ministry that goes on in the church is "mop bucket" ministry — people who give what they have in terms of time, energy, and money to bring us a little closer to the

Kingdom. It's good to discover and work within your spiritual giftedness when you can, but sometimes you just have to grab the mop and serve. You see M.B.A.'s among pastors who serve appointments that will never get them on the cover of *Leadership Journal*, yet they give their heart and soul to their church and their people week by week, year by year. You see M.B.A.'s in dedicated lay people who teach three kids in Sunday School, endure the controlled chaos of Vacation Bible School, chaperone the teenagers, sing in the choir, or spend a week doing mission work with the needy. Basically everywhere anything is getting done in the church, somebody is using their M.B.A. If you're one of them, lay or clergy, I salute you. I honor your contribution. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your reward will be great ... some day ... if not sooner then later.

In the movie "Pearl Harbor," Doolittle's Raiders are preparing for

See REEVES, page 12

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE By Mike Morgan





Arkansas youth hit the road

The Arkansas Conference Youth Choir recently completed an eight-day tour of Arkansas, performing in six churches across the state and bringing to life the theme "Learn to Fly." Stops included churches at Searcy, Harrisburg, Marianna, El Dorado, Charleston and Benton. Rachel Davis and Andy Sexton were the tour's adult chairpersons; Britney Andrews and Greg Gibson were youth chairpersons. Judd Burns, Camille Gele, Randy Sexton and Emily Johnson were also on the task force. The 59-member touring group included singers and musicians who traveled by bus (expertly driven by Ken Frazier) and slept on the floors of churches along the way. "The kids were inspirational in their performances," Johnson said, "... and the audiences were most appreciative."

MISSION, continued from page 1

they started seeing patients. Health Kits containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, health education coloring books and crayons were very much enjoyed by the children.

The last day, the Arkansas group served schoolchildren who were attending school very close to the one of the two main Salud Y Paz clinics. The total number of patients served during the week was 919.

Although the mission team encountered torrential rain every day they were in Guatemala, and it was colder than expected, and some luggage with medications didn't arrive until the next to the last day of the mission, the mission was considered a great success.

"Throughout the week, I felt the presence of God with us," said one mission team member. "We know that the people we served were blessed, their physical needs were met and hopefully they felt better because we came. But what I am equally sure of is that we were also blessed by being there and given the opportunity to serve and come into the presence of God's children in Guatemala."



Little Rock physician Bob McGowan pauses with a young charge at one of the clinics.

In addition to Pulaski Heights UMC, a number of other churches supported and were involved with the medical mission, including Morrilton First UMC; the Magazine Charge, which includes the Magazine, Waveland and Morris Chapel churches; and Prairie Grove UMC.

This year's team included physicians Carlos Araoz, Stephen Carter,

Book's supplement to feature more stories of Arkansas Methodists and civil rights

The impact of the civil rights struggle that began in earnest in the 1940s in Arkansas is seared in the minds of persons who experienced those turbulent times. Many such experiences were documented for the first time in "Crisis of Conscience: Arkansas Methodists and the Civil Rights Struggle," a collection of stories edited by James T. Clemons, a retired clergy member of the Arkansas Conference, and Arkansas native Kelly Farr. The experiences of 32 United Methodists are included in the book.

By the time the volume was completed and released in April 2007, "people were reporting other stories that needed to be added," said Clemons. "There was no question as to the need" for a supplement to "Crisis of Conscience."

"I knew within a few weeks we had to go forward," he said.

Clemons, a native of Wynne and professor emeritus at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., is now working on the supplement. He has recruited Natasha Murray-Norman, a former member of the faculty at Philander Smith College, to assist and serve as co-editor. Murray-Norman is currently a student at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., and campus minister at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan.

Clemons would like to hear from United Methodists who wish to submit their stories — or stories about other Methodists involved in the civil rights struggle between 1940 and 1965. Persons are urged to contact Clemons by writing him at 211 Russell Ave. Apt. 71, Gaithersburg, Md. 20877-2886, calling (240) 361-3171, or sending an email to jamestclemons@aol.com.

Foundation names professors of evangelism

The Foundation for Evangelism has selected Stephen Gunter and Mark R. Teasdale as the two new E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism. They assumed positions July 1 at Duke Divinity School and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Gunter, who already serves as asso-

ciate dean of Methodist Studies at Duke, will work directly with students in the Th.D. in Evangelism program and with the Duke Evangelism Fellowship recipients. Teasdale is a Denman Fellow studying at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.



Several members of the Pulaski Heights UMC medical mission team — (from left) John Jones, Drew Kumpuris, Marianne Welch, Bob McGowan and Steve Carter — pose with a Guatemalan child whom they saw in one of the clinics at Salud Y Paz.

John Jones, Drew Kumpuris and Bob McGowan; nurses Adrianna Alston, Lavelle Rollins, Norma McCaghren and Marianne Welch; and Cindy Burns, Paul Bash, Gwen Efird, Emily Erkel, Megan Gregg, Sara Harrison,

Beverly Harrison, Jamie Jones, Grace Ellen Rice, Bob Rollins and Lyndal York.

[Gwen Efird, a veteran of medical missions, is a member of Pulaski Height UMC, Little Rock.]

UMCOR presence is 'sign of hope' in Midwest floods

NEW HARTFORD, Iowa — Marcia Young looked left, then right, at piles of household debris as her minivan crept down Main Street in this small farming community. "You can smell flood," said Young, disaster relief coordinator in Iowa for The United Methodist Church. She was referring to the smell of dirty water, even though the latest floodwaters had mostly drained away. Left behind were piles of musty-smelling sheetrock, insulation, couches, refrigerators and sludge.

UMCOR has provided two \$10,000 emergency grants for mobilization, and this week 1,500 flood buckets were to be distributed in Iowa to help with cleanup. Long-term recovery work lies ahead.

"People on the staff of UMCOR have been available to us at every turn," said Bishop Gregory Palmer. He called UMCOR's presence a "sign of hope" in the Midwest.

Pa. treasurer to oversee United Methodist finances

The agency overseeing the finances of The United Methodist Church has elected church treasurer Moses Kumar of Jeffersonville, Pa., as its new chief executive. Kumar, 54, was elected general secretary of the General Council on Finance and Administration on July 8 during a special session of its board in Nashville, Tenn. He officially begins Sept. 1. He replaces Sandra Lackore, who retired at the close of 2007 after heading the council for 12 years. With more than 32 years of ministry experience, Kumar has served the past eight years as treasurer and executive director of administrative ministries for the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference.



Moses Kumar

Faith leaders call for end to U.S. 'poverty train'

Faith leaders say it is time to stop the "poverty train" in the United States and rescue its 37 million citizens living below the poverty line. The Democratic Faith Working Group and the Out-of-Poverty Caucus held a panel discussion June 12 aimed at bringing awareness to the worsening problem of U.S. poverty, as well as exploring solutions.

Faith leaders from eight denominations and organizations participated in the discussion, held in a legislative office building in Washington.

"The poverty train should stop by 2009," said Jim Wallis, president of



News Digest



Debris from a flood-damaged home is piled along a street in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where more than 4,000 homes were flooded in June.

UMNS photo by Marta W. Aldrich

Sojourners. United Methodists are emphasizing ministry with the poor as one of Four Areas of Focus.

Hiwassee College loses accreditation, continues fight

MADISONVILLE, Tenn. — Hiwassee College leaders say they will not close the Tennessee school's doors but will work to regain accreditation after losing a long legal battle with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The college's board of trustees voted unanimously to "move forward" after learning of an April 14 court decision that allowed SACS to terminate the United Methodist-related school's accreditation.

Now, as faculty members greet students and parents during routine orientation meetings, they are assuring them that Hiwassee still has a strong academic program and is building its financial standing as the college reapplies for accreditation.

Hiwassee's legal action started in 2004 when SACS voted to remove the school's accreditation over concerns about its financial resources. Hiwassee leaders said the college was financially sound, and a process of appeals and other legal moves followed. Hiwassee will begin to reapply for SACS accreditation this summer, according to Noseworthy.

Church agencies voice dismay at ruling on gun control

WASHINGTON — Two United Methodist agencies, disappointed with a U.S. Supreme Court decision on handgun ownership, are urging church members to advocate for legislation that would tighten federal laws on gun control. In a joint statement July 1, the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and the Commission on Religion and Race said they were

"deeply disappointed by the U.S. Supreme Court decision to strip local municipalities of the right to enact sensible and necessary gun restriction laws."

A week earlier, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 that a Washington, D.C., ban on handgun ownership was unconstitutional. The decision "stands in direct contrast to the stance of our denomination," the church agencies said. The denomination's top legislative assembly, the General Conference, condemned gun violence in a resolution last spring.

Mississippi actor portrays 'The Man from Aldersgate'

JACKSON, Miss. — John Wesley's statement that the world was his parish has been a way of life for B.J. Johnston. The actor has spent most of his life working as a missionary using theater and music to spread the Gospel, just as Wesley did. Recently, Johnston has been doing it as John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement.

Johnston has performed the one-man play "The Man from Aldersgate" across the United States. While most of his performances have been in Mississippi, he's traveled as far as Oregon, California and Canada. The Jackson resident recently retired from the faculty at Belhaven College to begin sharing the life of Wesley with others.

"I'm really getting back to my love of teaching through the arts," Johnston said. "It's teaching Christian history. So often we don't tend to know Christian history. This does it in a way personified."

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Golf event supports water wells in Africa

By LINDA GREEN
United Methodist News Service

Proceeds from a golf tournament sponsored by a Sunday school class in Arkansas will provide a well with clean water for a village in Africa.

The June 21 golf classic, hosted by the Stepping Stone class of St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock, netted \$10,000.

The money will go to build at least one well in Kamina, a village in the North Katanga region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Rick Layton, a golf enthusiast who proposed the tournament, said the event was a way to respond "to God's tugging at my heart to do some type of activity" that involved the entire 3,700-member St. James congregation in a mission that would "make a life-long impact to save lives."

The tourney included 19 four-person teams from area churches and community and business organizations. "We had participation that we were not anticipating, and we were very pleased," said Paige James, who helped organize the fundraiser.

The winning team, shooting 12 under par, was comprised of Bob Fotioo, Don Bacon, Jim Womble and Marty Fiser, members of the Genesis Sunday School Class at St. James.

The 25-member Sunday school class learned about water needs in Kamina from a delegation from the church's Arkansas Annual Conference that visited the village last July. James said church members have witnessed poverty through mission projects in Mexico and other Third World countries "but it is nothing like Kamina," which is made up of "people who just have nothing ... but they have spirit."

James said it quickly became clear that the \$6,000 cost to construct a well "seemed like nothing when it would make a huge difference in the lives of so many people."

Water is a life-source

Kamina's 300,000 people now have only five wells to provide clean water. A river is the nearest and easiest source of water but is contaminated and filled with harmful bacteria. In North Katanga, women and children walk miles daily in search of water, even



Golfers line up their carts for the St. James Golf Classic to raise money for a new water well in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The June 21 tournament was hosted by the Stepping Stone Sunday school class at the Little Rock church. The event drew 68 golfers and raised \$10,000.

dirty water. Water is a life-source and, without it, disease and death run rampant, according to the North Katanga Conference Web site.

Led by Bishop Nkulu Ntanda Ntambo, United Methodists in North Katanga are working to dig additional wells for clean water.

"To be able to provide this one little well and increase the total from five to six is huge," James said.

Since the class exceeded its fundraising goal of \$6,000, members are considering raising additional money for a second well and other needs.

"Members of the Stepping Stone Sunday school class feel passionate about the call to do what they can to save lives by providing something many of us take for granted: good, clean, safe drinking water," said Jane Dennis, a class member and editor of the *Arkansas United Methodist*, the newspaper of Arkansas United Methodists.

The idea of tapping into a fresh and accessible water source right there in the village was appealing to the 24-year-old class. "We couldn't imagine not having water readily available, or children getting diseases or even dying for lack of clean water, as they do in places like the Congo," Dennis said.

The Arkansas Conference has a mission partnership with the church's North Katanga episcopal area that includes developing relationships, mission efforts and educational scholarships, as well as supporting clergy and laity in ways such as purchasing Bibles or bicycles.

The well project supports one of four areas of focus approved for the denomination at the 2008 General Conference: to improve global health and fight killer diseases of poverty.

The conference's goal is to involve at least 10 congregations in supporting ministries in the Congo by 2013. Money already had been raised to build 12 wells, and the St. James' effort increases the number to 13.

UMCOR project

Providing clean water is one of 11 projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, annual conferences and churchwide agencies. UMCOR states that the water project (Advance Special No. 127730) is an answer to "prayer for those women and children who must carry water for miles so their families can drink, bathe, and cook with clean water." The relief agency recently opened an office in Kamina and is seeking funds for additional wells.

[Linda Green is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.]



Golfers warm up June 21 for a tournament hosted by the Stepping Stone Sunday school class of St. James UMC, Little Rock. The event raised more than \$10,000 in order to install a water well in a village in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Camp meeting offers summer treat close to home

Gas money running low? Enjoy a new experience close to home by spending one or more days at Ben Few Campground during the yearly old-fashioned 10-day revival meeting Aug. 1-10.

Scott Gallimore, associate pastor of First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, will be preaching daily at

11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Musical groups and guests will perform at 6:30 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, including morning devotion, classes, Bible Study and fun trips for children.

Meals are available each day. There will be special events each night, including serving watermelon one

night, ice cream another, a hayride and weiner roast and more. All denominations are welcome.

Ben Few Campground is located off Highway 8, between Arkadelphia and Fordyce, just west of Princeton.

For more information, contact Bill Shirron, (501) 794-3522 or Charlotte Harrison, (501) 455-0318.

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Dog therapy team grows

Twelve dogs recently graduated from Quapaw Quarter UMC's Therapy Dog class, becoming members of the church's QuaPAW Healing Angels. The six-week class — taught by Gayle Fiser, Kay Russell and Sarah Mueller — certifies dogs to visit nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals and other places missing their unconditional love. In addition, a dog and handler are now invited to serve as Greeters each Sunday as part of Quapaw Quarter UMC's "radical hospitality" program. The therapy dog team at the Little Rock church now includes: (front, from left) Elizabeth and Gene Scesniak with Carmel, Linda Tullos with Chloe, pastor Betsy Singleton, Gayle Fiser with Angel, Paul Fiser with Allee, Amy Tate with Coco; (middle) Jeri Haynie with Brandy, Amy Ballard with Bucci, Kelly Hitt with Mila, Heather Wilson with Sadie; and (back) Rene Julian (standing in for Terri Julian) with Stella, Kay Russell with Molly, Sherry Clements with Gracie, Kris Walters with Zena and Val Bryles with Gabbi. (Not pictured: Vicki Atkins with Lola).

HOLY CONFERRING, continued from page 1

mental in the development of those materials, and was consulted on the Arkansas liturgy as well, Matthews said.

Holy Conferencing sites on July 13 included churches at Batesville, Camden, Fort Smith, Hope, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Mountain Home, Pine Bluff, Russellville, West Memphis, Monticello and Mena, as well as Mount Sequoyah conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville. Attendance ranged from a few at some locations, to about 35 in Little Rock and around 70 in Fort Smith.

Methodism's founder John Wesley "was insistent that the early church engage in 'religious conferencing,' what we're now calling Holy Conferencing," Matthews said. "No vote is taken; it's the Holy Spirit at work. It's a beautiful thing, a very positive thing for the church."

At the Little Rock event, for example, those gathered discussed the power of words and how words can be helpful and uplifting or cruel and hurtful. The discussion stemmed from a reading of Ephesians 4:29, "Do not use harmful words but only helpful words, the kind that build up and



Retired United Methodist clergy Ed Matthews, creator of the Holy Conferencing litany used in gatherings across the state June 13, emphasized at the event at First UMC, Little Rock that Wesley believed holy conferencing was "a means of grace" for followers of Jesus Christ.

provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you."

The recent gatherings were held in advance of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference, held July 16-19 in Dallas. Delegates to the conference, including 28 Arkansans, will be electing three bishops to serve in the jurisdiction's top leadership positions. Bishops are elected for life.

"I would hope that future Holy Conferencing events can succeed these," Matthews said, "and, now that we understand the importance of speaking with love and kindness in all things, maybe turn attention more to issues facing the church."

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It Happened

Corning First UMC's float won "Most Original" in the city's annual Fourth of July Parade. The float, the first by the church in several decades, depicted the yearlong celebration the congregation recently embarked on in recognition of being in ministry for 130 years.

First UMC, Crossett, recently held its "Beach Party: Surfin' Through the Scriptures" Vacation Bible School. The event culminated in a churchwide social where the children performed some of the songs they learned in VBS. The group also raised more than \$375 for their mission project, the Society of St. Andrew Potato Project.

Members of Oakley Chapel UMC, Rogers, had a great time with Bible School this year as they went "Surfin' Through the Scriptures" during a Beach Party VBS. More than 30 students and 20 volunteers helped make the event a huge success. The week's offering went to the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter.

Carol-Ann Blow, associate pastor and director of music ministries at St. Andrew UMC, Little Rock, sang the National Anthem at the Arkansas Travelers baseball game July 21 at Dickey-Stephens Park in North Little



Water games were plentiful at the Greenwood UMC Independence Day celebration.

Rock. She was supported in the effort by a group from St. Andrew that attended the game.

On July 10, Bay UMC launched a new worship experience, called 7-40-7 Worship. The 40-minute weekly service is held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and is designed to prepare participants for the next seven days of Christian service. The non-traditional service reaches out in a new way to the community through music, Word and worship.

Independence Day was celebrated July 2 at Greenwood UMC with a potluck picnic, games and water activities. A Kiss-the-Pig contest fundraiser was won by church organist/pianist Joicie Gilbreath, with a serious challenge from choir director Charles Eford for the honor.

In other news from Greenwood, the church celebrated a summer evening family event June 27 at the Alma Water Park. A picnic preceded the water activities.



Corning First UMC sponsored this award-winning float in the Corning Fourth of July parade.



Oakley Chapel UMC, Rogers, has a number of participants in its Vacation Bible School.



Children at Crossett First UMC enjoy a Beach Party Vacation Bible School.



Members of the North East District Council on Youth Ministries gear up for "noisy offerings."

'Noisy offerings' benefit YSF

During Lent, the North East District Council on Youth ministries sponsored a "noisy offering" for Youth Service Fund (YSF). Two members and an adult representing NEDCYM visited different churches throughout the district to speak about the Youth Service Fund and promote other district youth activities. The "noisy offering" came as paint cans were passed around for church members to drop their money as noisily as possible. This was a big hit with the younger children in many churches and some were even

given penny rolls to empty into the cans.

More than \$2,314 was received through the "noisy offering" and from various YSF activities during the fall and spring rallies and the Scholarship Event.

In addition, NEDCYM congratulates Anna Horton, 2007-2008 Conference Youth president, for being No. 1 in the Jurisdiction and No. 5 in the nation for YSF collections. The "noisy offering" was one of Anna's creative ideas for promoting YSF.

Sequoyah UMC, Fayetteville, held a Pastor Appreciation Dinner June 22 in honor of senior pastor Craig Russell and associate pastors Donna Huie and Jim Johnson and their families. The Care Ministry Committee sponsored the potluck dinner. Fresh flowers and prepaid Visa gift cards were presented to the honorees. A "How well do you know your pastor?" trivia game was played during the dinner and helped everyone feel a little closer to the church's pastoral leaders.

To show continued support and appreciation for the clergy and their families, the Care Ministry team has



Hughes First UMC hosted a "Surfin' in the Scriptures" VBS.

begun a once-a-month weeknight delivery of a hot meal to each pastor's family.

A "Surfin' in the Scriptures" Vacation Bible School at Hughes First UMC was a big success. Pastor Pat Litts kicked off the festivities each morning. Cynthia Gadberry led storytelling, while Sally Streeter and Eva Jo Pouncey led crafts. Rae Anne Collins led songs and games. As a mission project, participants brought food items for the Hughes Food Pantry.

Pleasant Grove UMC, Jonesboro, and the appointment of its first full-time pastor, Larry Hunt, were the subjects of a recent feature story in the



The second annual Children's Ministry Conference at First UMC, Springdale, is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 13. The realities of children's ministries in today's world will be explored: competing with busy schedules and a family's time and energy, limited budgets and more. It will be a time to meet others who share a passion for children's ministries in the local church and to share tried and true, low- or no-cost ideas and resources that really work.

The \$20 registration fee includes handouts, all materials, lots of freebies, and a catered lunch. Online registration and details are available at fmcwired.com. Or contact Karen Swales at (479) 751-4610 ext. 308.

St. Paul UMC, Little Rock, recently launched a summer concert series that will continue in August and September. The first concert, "Old Wine in New Skins — Favorite Hymns in New Settings by Contemporary Composers," was performed July 13

by St. Paul director of music and organist Bob Bidewell. Upcoming event are "Music from Stage and Screen," Aug. 10, and "Duets for Piano and Organ," Sept. 7. Performances begin at 6 p.m. at the church, 2223 Durwood Road. Donations will be accepted to help fund the purchase of additional handbells for the church.

The annual Ice Cream Social of Holiday Hills UMC will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. July 18, at the church. Homemade ice cream and goodies will be served. All are welcome.

In addition, Holiday Hills United Methodist Men will have their annual all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner the evening of Aug. 8. Tickets are \$5 for

adults and \$2 for children. Call (501) 825-7301 for ticket information.

St. James UMC, Little Rock, will begin a series of divorce recovery sessions, "Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends," at 6 p.m. Sept. 8 at the church, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive. Sessions are led by professionals in the field, assisted by facilitators from the St. James singles ministry. Childcare is available upon request. Sessions last about 75 minutes and will run through Dec. 8. For more information, contact Jenni Duncan at (501) 217-6708 or jenni@stjames-umc.org

Mayflower UMC will host an afternoon of games, fun and food for the whole family July 19, beginning at 4 p.m. There will be games in the sand and water (so dress accordingly) and plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers and watermelon for everyone. All are invited to worship July 20, followed by the monthly fellowship potluck.

The Outreach Team of Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock, will hold its Fourth Annual Great Give-Away from 8 a.m. until 12 noon Aug. 9 at the church, 1109 S. State St. The Great Giveaway provides school supplies and uniforms for more than 100 school-aged children. This year the event will be combined with a free community Family Fun Day featuring carnival-style games, activities and foods. Jo Webber is Outreach Ministries chair.

HAPPENED, continued from page 8

Religion Section of the *Jonesboro Sun*. Pleasant Grove became a station church at the 2008 Arkansas Annual Conference last month after being on a circuit and sharing a pastor with other congregations for its entire 134-year history. For the last 10 years Hunt has served as pastor of both the Pleasant Grove and Fisher Street United Methodist churches.



Peggy Blaylock (right), a member of the Outreach Committee at Brightwater UMC, makes a presentation on behalf of the church to Lisa Lane of the Family Readiness Group, Bravo Company 217-BSB.

original church.

Brightwater Memorial UMC recently completed its June special project benefiting military personnel stationed in Iraq. In addition to corporate donations of items valued at more than \$5,000, church members donated items and \$350 to defray the cost of shipping the items to soldiers. During a ceremony at the Rogers National Guard Armory,

Peggy Blaylock, a member of the Outreach Committee, presented a check to Lisa Lane of the Family Readiness Group, Bravo Company 217-BSB.

Perryville UMC's new "Connection Center" was consecrated June 29. Bishop Charles Crutchfield and North Central District Superintendent Rodney Steele led the Service of Consecration. Others participating included pastor David Baker, Pastor, Trustees Chair Darlene Spinks, Lay Leader Greg Spinks and Building Committee Chair Steve Collins.

A large Cross and Flame etched into the floor is one special feature of the Connection Center. The design was given by Collins and his family in memory of his father.

The story by Karin Hill points out that the change to a station church is due to Pleasant Grove's steady membership growth which reflects the continued development of surrounding neighborhoods.

Also featured were long-time members Mary and Elvis Coble. Mary Coble's great-grandfather Peter Murray helped establish the



Perryville UMC Building Committee Chair Steve Collins (right) takes part in the consecration service for the church's new Connection Center.

Certificate of Recognition

On behalf of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, your congregation is duly recognized as one of the 601 out of 704 congregations that gave at least 100% of all connectional funds requested in 2007.
"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9: 6-7

| SOUTHWEST DISTRICT | | SOUTHEAST DISTRICT | | NORTH DISTRICT | | NORTHEAST DISTRICT | |
|-----------------------|------|---------------------------|------|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Greer's Chapel..... | 113% | Montrose..... | 112% | Mount Pleasant.... | 101% | Batesville First.... | 101% |
| Mt Carmel, Lockesburg | 103% | Hunter's Chapel, Ark. CO. | 103% | Wilmar..... | 101% | Beebe..... | 107% |
| | | Rock Springs..... | 101% | | | | |

| THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES PAID 100% OF THEIR APPORTIONMENTS: | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| CENTRAL DISTRICT Amboy Asbury, LR Duncan, LR Faulk, LR Gardner Memorial Henderson Highland Valley Hoover Hunter Lakewood Little Rock First Mabehale Marks Chapel Maumelle First McCabe Chapel Mount Pleasant New Haven, Henley NLR First North Putaski Oak Forest Pimrose Pelask Heights Saint James, LR Saint Lake Saint Paul, Maumelle Saint Paul, LR Sweet Home Wesley Chapel, LR Winfield | NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT Mount Pisgah Mount Pleasant Mountain Home Mountain View Newport First Norfolk Oak Grove Oak Ridge Oil Trough Omaha Oxford Pangburn Pleasant Plains Pleasant Ridge Powell's Chapel Quinlan Rose Bud Russell Saint James Saint Paul - Harrison Saint Paul, Searcy Searcy First Sharp Shirley Sidney Southside Spring Creek Stoney Point Swifton Tackeman Valley Springs Valley View Viola Wild Cherry Wiseman Yellville | NORTHEAST DISTRICT Augusta Beech Grove Black Rock Bytchville First Bono Brookland Campground Caraway Central Cherry Valley Christi United Community Cornerstone, Jonesboro Crawfordville Earl Eli Lindsey Fakes Chapel Fisher Forrest Chapel Forrest City First Swifton Friendship Griffin Memorial Harrisburg First Hoxie Hughes Hunter Imboden Joiner Jonesboro First Keiser Leachville Lepanto Lynn Madison Manila Marietta Marked Tree First Marmaduke Mas Hill Maynard McCrary McElroy Monette Nettleton-PP New Haven Osceola Paragould First Parkin Pleasant Grove Osceola Paragould First Parkin Pleasant Grove Pleasant Hill Pleasant Valley Pocahontas Ramey's Chapel Reamer Rock Springs Rosewood Saint Paul, Jonesboro Salem, N.E. Sedgewick KEO Shiloh Jonesboro Shiloh-Paragould Smithville Tilton Mount Tabor, Cabot Mount Zion, NC - East Naylor Union Grove Vanhook Warren's Chapel Weiner West Memphis First Wheatley Overcup Painesville Wumerville Wynne Wright's Chapel | SOUTHEAST DISTRICT Central Lincoln Central, Fayetteville Central, Rogers Cincinnati Decatur Elkins Wesley McGehee Elm Springs Bayona Mission Gentry Goshen Grace-Rogers Granite Green Forest Highfill Highlands Huntsville Cudley Chapel Pea Ridge Prairie Grove First Rogers Chapel Rogers First Saint James Fisher Fayetteville Sequoyah Shiloh, Fayetteville Gilpin Memorial Springdale First Springtown Trinity Fayetteville Tucks Chapel Hope Vine Grove Wedington Wesley, Springdale Westside Leachville Lepanto Lynn Adkins Memorial Anny Marietta, First Marked Tree Benton First Bethel - SC Bismarck Center Grove, Clark CO Center Grove, Grant CO Christ Of The Hills Congo Elmore, Tull Faith, Hot Springs Friendship Gardner Grand Avenue, Hot Springs Gum Springs Gurdin Haven, Hot Springs Hollywood Hot Springs, First Joplin Keith Memorial L'vas Franz Leola Magnet Cove Malvern, First Manchester Moore's Chapel Morning Star Mount Carmel, Benton Mount Ida Mount Zion Mountsides New Hope, Benton New Salem Norman Oaklawn Okolona Piney Grove Pleasant Hill Pullman Heights Rockport Saint Paul, Malvern Salem, Benton Sardin, Baxter Tulp Union Shorewood Hills Traskwood Trinity, Gurdin Village-Hot Springs | SOUTH DISTRICT Almyra Altheimer Arkansas City Bailey Chapel, Foydcoy Bayona Mission Bethel, New Edenburg Bethlehem Brasfield Brinkley Carthage Chambersville Clarendon Crossett Dabok Deface Dermott Dewitt Dumas First Elaine Eudora Extra Faustina Foydcoy First Fountain Hill Gillett Good Faith-Curr Good Hope Grad Grand Ave- Stuttgart Greenhill Hamburg First Hampton Harrell Hawley Memorial Hebron Helena First Hermitage Holly Grove Humphrey Hunter's Chapel, Dal. CO Kingsland Kynette, Forrest City Lacey Lakeside-Pine Bluff Lakeside, Lake Village Leru Livingston Chapel Marianna Lodges Corner Maria's Chapel Marvell McGehee First Monticello First Mount Carmel Mount Olive, Rison Mount Olivet New Edenburg New Hope, Sheridan Parkdale Pine Bluff First Pleasant Grove Portland Prosperity Redfield Rison Roe Saint Charles Saint Francis, New Edenburg Saint Luke Saint Mark, Pine Bluff Scruggs Chapel, Moro Sheridan Spunkman Star City First Stuttgart First Sulphur Springs Taylor's Chapel, Cotton Plant Tiller Trinity Tulp Union Wabbeseka Wagon Walkers Chapel | WEST DISTRICT Warren First Watson Waverly Wesley Chapel Brinkley Wesley McGehee Wesley, Pine Bluff Wilson Chapel Zion Antione Ashdown First Avery's Chapel Bearden Bell Chapel Ben Lomond Hingen Bradley Bruce Memorial Buena Vista Cunden First Centennial Center Center Point Daisy Fountain Hill De Ann Delight DeQueen First Dierke Dockridge Dumas Memorial Ebenezer Ebenezer, Nashville El Donado First Emerson Emmet Fairview Foreman Friendship Garland City Gillham Greenwood Green's Chapel Hall's Memorial Charleston Harmony (Columbia) Harmony (Darnett) Dyer Hinton Holly Springs Holy Springs (Texarkana) Hope First Hontio First Huntig Junction City Lakeside-Camden Lewisville Libson Lockesburg Lovelace Macodonia Magazine Mansfield Marysville McNeil Milltown Moore's Chapel Mount Olive Missouri Mount Pisgah Mt. Moriah, Chester Murfreesboro Nashville First New Bethel Nashville First Norphlet Oak Grove (Hope) Ozen Parkin Olive Branch Parker's Chapel Philadelphia Pleasant Grove, El Donado Pleasant Hill (Texarkana) Prescott First Malbury Rhodes Chapel Rhodes First Richmond Wesley- Ft. Smith Wickes | | |

At Mount Sequoyah

Friendship Plaza, gift from Louisiana, dedicated

FAYETTEVILLE — Bishop William Hutchinson, his wife Kay and members of the Louisiana Conference were among those helping dedicate the Louisiana Friendship Plaza at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center here during Bishops' Week



Bishop William Hutchinson (left) and Bishop Max Whitfield participate in the dedication of Friendship Plaza.

June 18-21.

The plaza is a gift to Mount Sequoyah from the United Methodist Louisiana Conference. It is presented as a “thank you” for the many disaster relief teams and hundreds of volunteers who have traveled to Louisiana to help with relief efforts since hurricanes Rita and Katrina just over two and a half years ago.

Lined with native stone and surrounded by a low wall of stone, the new plaza has a water feature, sculptures, wooden benches and iron tables and chairs for seating.

Friendship Plaza represents a “thank you” to Mount Sequoyah for its ministry to the many New Orleans' citizens who found a home there in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2006. Two groups of the city's residents arrived by bus in those first difficult days and were greeted with encouragement and support as well as a place to live, meals, job consultations



The Louisiana Friendship Plaza is the newest addition to the South Central Jurisdiction's Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville.

and many other kinds of help and assistance.

The welcoming and caring ministry offered by Mount Sequoyah is “the kind of ministry that our Christian faith is all about,” said Marilyn Braswell, director of programs for Mount Sequoyah.

Friendship Plaza is a tribute to Mount Sequoyah's “holy hospitality to our New Orleans residents,” she said.

Friendship Plaza is designed as a gathering place set in the natural landscape of the mountain. It is a “wonderful way for Louisiana to say thank you to all of the Methodists in the South Central Jurisdiction who weathered the storm with you in prayer and in service,” Braswell said.

The service of dedication was led by Bishop Max Whitfield, chairman of the Mount Sequoyah Board of Trustees.

LOTTERY, continued from page 1

definition for a lottery.

Glover said the proposal represented “government conning people into thinking they're going to get a good deal ... when we know that two-thirds of the money collected will go to prizes, vendors and advertising.

“It's a bad deal,” Glover said, “and poor public policy” that will prey on the poor.

“It's going to hurt the poorest people the quickest,” Glover said, “and the folks who will benefit from the revenue for scholarship will probably be the more affluent people who won't get caught in this sucker's bet.”

United Methodist churches in Arkansas have been asked to support the work of UMAG by collecting a special offering on Aug. 3. Contributions may be placed in the offering plate of any United Methodist church, with checks made payable to the Arkansas Conference, designating “UMAG #725” in the memo line. Donations may also be mailed to: Arkansas Conference Treasurer, P.O. Box 2941, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

United Methodists look to the Book of Discipline, which contains the denomination's doctrine and law, for a response to lotteries and other forms of gambling. The Discipline states, “Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, destructive of good government and

good stewardship. As an act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice. The Church's prophetic call is to promote standards of justice and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial gambling — including public lotteries, casinos, raffles, Internet gambling, gambling with emerging wireless technology and other games of chance — as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or governments.”

“Our church law is clear on this matter,” said Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield in a press release. “Lotteries and other forms of gambling often adversely affect those with limited means. As United Methodists, our mission is to care for those who are hurting in our society. A state lottery would be counter to that mission.”

Glover and Trotter also pointed to research conducted by the nonprofit Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families that shows lotteries threaten the economic security of low-income people who spend a higher proportion of their income on gambling than do wealthier people.

United Methodists Against Gambling has initiated a web site — www.votenoarkansaslottery.com — and will conduct a campaign to pro-

vide United Methodist congregations, the media, elected officials and the public reasons to oppose the proposal, Glover said.

Trotter expressed concerns that the lottery proposal may open the door for casino gambling.

Halter “was advised by Attorney General Dustin McDaniel in two opinions that without defining the term ‘state lotteries’ the proposal may be interpreted to permit the legislature to approve casino-style gambling in addition to other lottery forms,” Trotter said.

“History teaches that the General Assembly has acted to expand gambling in the past, and Mr. Halter's proposal will offer another opportunity,” Trotter said. “Mr. Halter's proposal could have excluded casino-style and other games of chance from the term ‘state lotteries,’” Trotter emphasized. Instead, the proposal provides that “the General Assembly may enact laws to establish, operate, and regulate State lotteries,” but it fails to define state lotteries at all.

“The Arkansas Constitution, Section 14 of Article 19, currently prohibits lotteries, which the Arkansas Supreme Court has interpreted to include other games of chance,” Trotter said, pointing to McDaniel's opinions dated Oct. 4 and Nov. 1, 2007. “By repealing this current prohibition and authorizing the legislature



Scott Trotter (left) of Little Rock and Roger Glover of Dardanelle, leaders of United Methodists Against Gambling in Arkansas, address a July 14 press conference.

to approve lotteries, without excluding casino-style and other games of chance, Halter's proposal leaves to the legislature how to define a lottery,” Trotter said. Under Halter's proposal, “the only constitutional prohibition that survives is on lotteries and other games of chance not approved by the legislature,” Trotter noted.

“Voters across Arkansas should ask Mr. Halter why his proposal does not restrict the lottery solely to the state selling lottery tickets, especially because he is leading voters to believe it is so restricted,” Trotter concluded.

Texas youth reach out to Berryville

BERRYVILLE — A group of youth and adult missionaries from the United Methodist Central Texas Conference visited and worked in this Northwest Arkansas town in July 15-21.

The mission team members slept, ate, played and worshiped at Berryville First United Methodist Church as they worked daily serving persons in the community. The group was one of many Volunteer in Mission teams from the Central Texas Conference scattered throughout Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri serving those in need. The workers amassed a total of 2,000 volunteer hours.

Each evening, after tackling jobs ranging from painting to repairs to yard work, the youth lead an enthusiastic worship service, with praise music, prayer and a message. Several Berryville church members participated by helping to run sound and video services and joining in the service.

Team members reported a positive

response from the community and how they were touched by how grateful and appreciative clients were for the work they did on their homes and yards. One client made pumpkin pie for the work team and another fed her team lunch each day.

Seven work teams went out daily. On their blog, goingforthgnumc.blogspot.com, one team reported: "19 tubes of caulk, 6 gallons of white paint, a gallon of primer, a great amount of yard work and other tasks accomplished and our team finished with our client in Green Forest, Arkansas. The exterior of her home has been transformed and ready for her grandkids to visit next week. She joined us each day for lunch in her yard and our on-site devotional. Today's theme is on Perseverance. Our group persevered and finished their work an hour before showers."

The next day they worked hard to get all their projects finished and clean

up construction debris. There was this report on Friday: "Tricia's team spent the day painting black trim on a house. This was a new Friday project. Bob and Maren's team finished painting their mobile home and everyone else converged on a 100-year-old farmhouse where we built a ramp, painted trim, took down a tree, replaced an attic vent, built a handrail system to the basement, painted the furnace, and much more."

The group's stay in Berryville was "an uplifting experience" and a "blessing," said one church member. "We were glad that we were able to help by providing them with a place to stay,



A youth from the Central Texas Conference paints the eaves of a home in Berryville during a recent mission work week.

some snacks and some work equipment."

One of the Central Texas youth commented that he "saw Christ" in a client's face. Berryville church members are certain they saw Christ in the youth workers as well.

Remember When

100 Years Ago
July 23, 1908: We regret very much to see the announcement that a game of baseball was played last Sunday between an Arkansas regiment and a Louisiana battalion. If the commanding officers of these boys had authority to forbid it, they should have forbidden it; if they have not such authority, it ought to be given.



50 Years Ago
July 17, 1958: Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Educational Building and Chapel of the First Methodist Church Helena, were conducted by the Rev. Alf A. Eason, pastor, at the morning worship service June 28, with the Rev. Raymond Franks, district superintendent, bringing the message. ... The new building, with an approximate cost of \$101,000, will include a chapel, a church parlor, the church office, the pastor's study and complete facilities for the Nursery, Primary and Kindergarten departments of the Church School.

20 Years Ago
July 15, 1988: Lennie Hache, who will be commissioned a missionary this fall then go to Sierra Leone for her assignment, had all her personal belongings stolen from her home in Fayetteville while she attended the recent North Arkansas Annual Conference in Conway. Sequoyah UMC in Fayetteville is receiving an offering to assist Ms. Hache.

Calendar

- JULY**
 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 28-Aug. 1: Older Elementary II Camp, Tanako.
- 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. 2: Northwest District Child Care and Safety workshop, First UMC, Springdale.
 Aug. 8-9: Worship Fair, "Linking Word and Worship," First UMC, North Little Rock.
 Aug. 9: Volunteers in Mission Leader and Disaster Training, Cornerstone UMC, Jonesboro.
 Aug. 14-17: Mount Sequoyah Unplugged, South Central Jurisdiction Singer/songwriter Retreat, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
 Aug. 16: Volunteers in Mission Leader and Disaster Training, First UMC, Fort Smith.
- SEPTEMBER**
 Sept. 1-3: South Central Jurisdiction 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. 13: Children's Ministry Conference, First UMC, Springdale.

Worship Fair links word and worship

Worship Fair 2008 is coming up Aug. 8-9 at North Little Rock's First UMC, 6701 John F. Kennedy Blvd.

Sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts and the Arkansas Conference, this year's theme is "Linking Word and Worship."

Clinicians and workshop topics are: Safiyah Fosua, director of invitational preaching ministries, General Board of

Discipleship (preaching); John Yarrington, director of the School of Music and chair of choral studies at Houston Baptist University (vocal techniques and choral music reading); and Neal Andrews, youth minister at Central United Methodist Church, Rogers (contemporary worship).

Online registration, along with lodging and fee informaton, is available at www.arkansasfumwa.org.

Classifieds

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GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH in Stuttgart is seeking a part-time (25 hours per week) Director of Children's, Tweens and Youth Ministry. A background in education and previous work with volunteers is a plus. A background check with a drug test is required. A copy of the complete job description may be obtained by contacting the church office at (870) 673-6317 or email at gaumc@centurytel.net. Resumes may be submitted to: Staff-Parish, Grand Avenue United Methodist Church, 803 S. Grand Avenue, Stuttgart, AR 72160.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY opening, First UMC, 215 N. Missouri St., West Memphis, AR 72301. This full-time position will develop and maintain, with the help of the Youth Team (Each One in Ministry), a full ranging program for the youth and their family. Candidates should have experience in leading a youth program. General responsibilities include weekly Sunday evening meetings, monthly activities for fellowship and fun, midweek fellowship and Bible study, significant mission project or participation. Participate in District and Conference programs and events. Recruit and train parents and other adults to serve as counselors, chaperones and other leaders. Develop a ministry for post-high school young adults. Organize, develop and participate in, with the help of the Youth Team, activities for the spiritual growth and well being of young adults. Provide for Christian education classes (Sunday school and at other times) for Junior High through age 25. Recruit teachers, supply literature and supplies, plan and organize activities and events for classes. Lead a program of outreach, care and support for youth and young adults. Develop other ministries as opportunities arise. Participate faithfully in the life of the Church, especially in worship. Contact Dr. Bob Burnham, Senior Pastor, revburnham@sbcglobal.net or (870) 735-1805.

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 resume to: Pastor, Primrose United Methodist Church, 3006 W. Dixon Road, Little Rock, AR 72206.

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

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Angel Food is tops in Waldron

WALDRON — Since its launch in April, the Angel Food Ministries hosted by Waldron United Methodist Church has grown steadily and is currently the largest food distribution center of its kind in Arkansas.

The ministry — part of a national, nonprofit food distribution network — provides healthy, nutritious foods at a low cost to the working class poor in Scott County, where the average household income is approximately \$10,000 less per year than other counties in Arkansas. Recipients must place orders in advance of the food distribution day. Orders may be placed for “basic” units, each about 28 pounds, and for special orders of about eight pounds each. A basic order costs about \$30 and generally includes meat, vegetables and fruit.

The ministry’s impact has “far exceeded” its expectations, according to Rob Lyons, pastor of the Waldron church. In addition to providing food to those who need it, the program has brought the community together with a common goal of helping neighbors.

The food distribution days, held once a month, are “something akin to a celebration,” Lyons said. Volunteers come from local Baptist, Catholic, Nazarene and nondenominational churches, he said.

“For at least a few hours a month, any petty differences they may have can be gladly cast aside,” Lyons said. “The volunteers are working together for the common good of the community.”

REEVES, *continued from page 3* —

the first air strike against Japan after the devastation of Pearl Harbor. Col. James Doolittle is watching the men who have volunteered for this suicidal mission prepare for battle, and he remarks to his aide, “We may lose the battle, but we will win this war.” His aide asks how he knows that, and Doolittle replies, “Just look at them. There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.”ⁱ Whether you are a professional minister or a volunteer in ministry, the principle is the same: it’s all about the heart. If your heart is in the United Methodist Church, God bless you. Because of you, we will continue to do ministry, making an impact on our churches, our communities, and on the world — for the good of the Kingdom of God!

ⁱ Leonard Sweet, *Leadership*, Vol. 15, no. 2. Some are my paraphrases.

ⁱⁱ *Pearl Harbor*, Touchstone Films, Jerry Bruckheimer, producer, 2001.

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

The pastor added, “Everyone looks forward to the continued growth of Angel Food in Waldron and the resulting sense of community it brings.”

Lyons said he would be happy to visit with other congregations about Angel Food Ministries and how the ministry has impacted members of the Waldron church and community. He can be contacted at (479) 637-3734 or roblyons1@yahoo.com.



Food is distributed monthly through Angel Food Ministries at Waldron UMC.

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