



United Methodist Arkansas

October 3, 2008

Chaplains serve where called, at home or in war zone

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series on United Methodist pastors from Arkansas called away from their churches to military duty.

By **JANE DENNIS**
Arkansas United Methodist Editor

Far from home, two United Methodist pastors from Arkansas continue to do the work of the Lord in a hot, dusty, dangerous war zone.

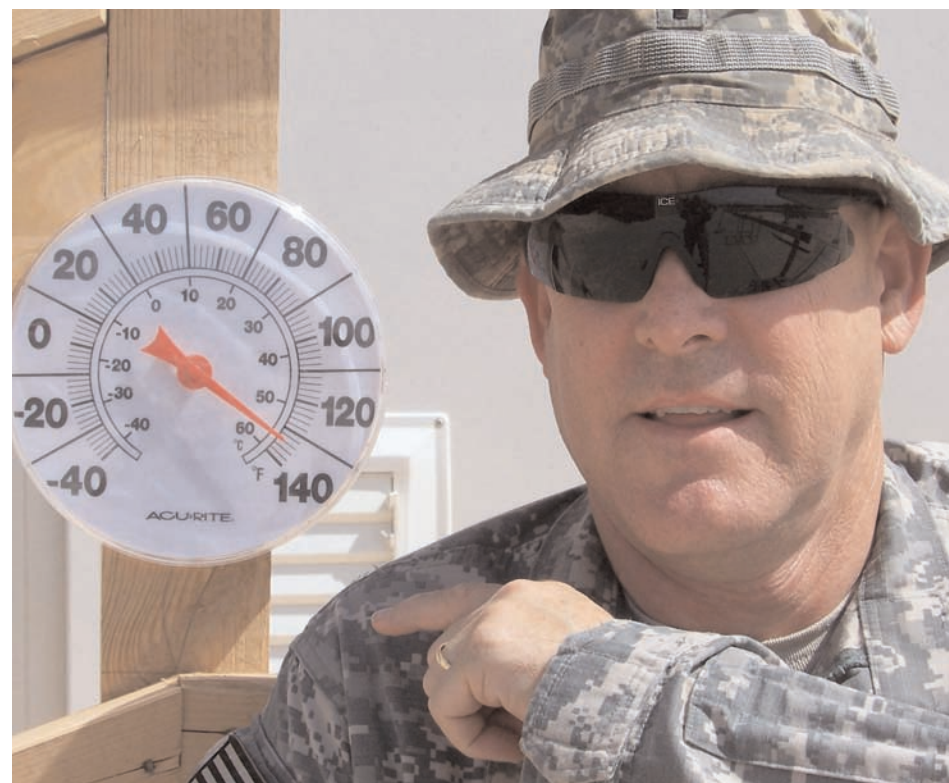
Wes Hilliard, pastor of Heritage United Methodist Church in Van Buren, and James Wainscott, pastor of Brookland and Union Grove United Methodist churches near Jonesboro,

are both chaplains deployed in Iraq with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry BDE.

As garrison chaplain for Contingency Operations Base (COB) Adder and Ali Air Base, Hilliard provide religious support for all military units without a chaplain and for all civilians on the post.

"I cover the Troop Medical Clinic and its support staff, and I am the senior pastor for the Protestant Liturgical Congregation, which is mostly Episcopal and Lutheran, and for the Tallil Gospel Congregation, a large, multi-cultural and multi-national

See *CHAPLAINS*, page 7



United Methodist chaplain James Wainscott stands near a thermometer at his base in Iraq, where the midday temperature this summer frequently exceeded 130 degrees.

UMs examine church's role in 'welcoming the sojourner'

By **JANE DENNIS**
Arkansas United Methodist Editor

The phenomenon of globalization is impacting the church in Arkansas and steering it toward new ministries that touch the state's growing immigration population.

Today's instantaneous communication, global economy and technological advances are opening new doors and opportunities for the church to be the church.

"There have been rapid and radical

changes that have opened up the world," said Steve Copley, addressing a gathering of church leaders from across the South Central Jurisdiction who met Sept. 11-13 at Hendrix College in Conway.

"Welcoming the Sojourner: Finding the Church's Voice on Immigration" was hosted by the Arkansas Conference in conjunction with the General Board of Church and Society, the conference Board of Church and Society, Justice for Our Neighbors,

See *SOJOURNER*, page 9



Discussing immigration issues are (from left) Cynthia Picardo of Dover; Twila Gibbens-Rickman of Tulsa, Okla.; Wendi Neal of Elk City, Okla.; and Marleen Cothorn of North Little Rock.

INSIDE HEADLINES

■ Recent changes in Arkansas Conference ministerial appointments are announced, page 2.

■ Erin Hawkins, top exec with the Commission on Religion and Race, plans a visit to Arkansas, page 6.

■ NOMADS have room for more active retired volunteers who are ready hit the road in service, page 11.

■ Music Mission Camp created by Central UMC, Rogers, reaches out to communities in need, page 12.



By Jane Dennis

Editor's Corner

No time to waste

Hurry up and wait! That's an apt way to describe a day in my life.

As the master scheduler and keeper of the family calendar, it's my job to make sure everyone gets where they're supposed to be at the designated hour and are then not forgotten at pickup time. I live and breathe by the scribbles on my date book.

As we dash out the door, I say a prayer that we have the correct paraphernalia for where we're headed, such as backpack with lunch and school assignments plus any special projects; soccer cleats, shin guards and related soccer gear; volleyball uniform and kneepads; script for Junior High play; cheerleading uniform along with special shoes and that all-important matching hair ribbon; or a song in our head for youth choir.

Often when we arrive at our destination and appropriate daughter dashes off to run, jump, twirl or tumble, I get to wait. Usually there's not enough time to go anywhere or do anything else, so I wait. I hurry up and make sure we get there, then I wait.

I don't like to waste time. I have



Jane Dennis

way too much to do — and dreams of actually one day checking off *everything* on my To Do list — to while away my precious time.

But lately I've promised myself to use that waiting time to open my eyes and take in all the amazing parts of God's world that surround me. And wow — there's

plenty that's not to be missed! Like the low-flying formation of geese that swooped down over the soccer fields today. Like the teetering, giggling toddler taking tentative, shaky steps toward a mom with outstretched arms. Like the sense of freedom from driving with the windows all the way down, warm sun and a luscious breeze streaming in. Like the laughter of kids playing a game and having so much fun sharing in it.

Look out the window and drink it all in. Don't let that hurry-up-and-wait time go to waste. Make the most of it. Be hopeful. Be thankful. Anticipate the unexpected. Snatch a glimpse of God and be blessed.

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

Journals reveal more about Charles Wesley than hymns

United Methodist News Service

MANCHESTER, England — Journals written by Charles Wesley almost 300 years ago have been newly transcribed and are revealing new insights into a man best known for his prolific hymn-writing and for being the younger brother of Methodism founder John Wesley.

For instance, he was occasionally critical of his older brother, was frequently discouraged and sometimes worried about what awaits him on "the other side of the grave."

Sections of the journals, written in an obscure 18th-century shorthand and deemed "sensitive in nature," had been omitted from previously published editions. News that the shorthand sections have been decoded and published has been reported in many of Britain's national newspapers and resulted in an Aug. 29 report on the BBC's major morning radio news pro-

gram. The original journals are held at the Methodist Archives and Research Centre in the John Rylands Library in Manchester, some 200 miles north of London.

Charles also uses shorthand in journal entries when reflecting on the disappointment of his failed ministry in Georgia and his strained relationship with John over the issue of marriage. Charles records that he is "thunderstruck" to hear of John's plans to marry in 1771. On a different occasion, he is deeply annoyed when John deems a \$200 annual stipend to help Charles support his new wife, Sarah Gwen, as unaffordable for Methodism.

The work, which is more akin to transcription than decoding, has been carried out by a group of scholars on both sides of the Atlantic under the auspices of the Charles Wesley Society.

The journals are being published by Abingdon Press Kingswood Imprint.

Changes in appointments announced by bishop, Cabinet

Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield and the Arkansas Conference Cabinet announce the following changes in ministerial appointments:

■ **Steve Cook** (full elder), from Gravette/Sulphur Springs, to Walnut Ridge First; *effective July 1.*

■ **Larry Hunt** (full-time local pastor), from Fisher Street/Pleasant Grove, Jonesboro, to Pleasant Grove, Jonesboro; *effective July 1.*

■ **Allen Rainey** (full elder), from Osceola First, to retirement; *effective July 1.*

■ **Bill Fish** (full elder), from Salem, Benton, to Osceola First; *effective July 1.*

■ **Phillip Dean Smith** (supply local pastor), stepped down as associate pastor Heber Springs First; *effective July 8.*

■ **James Lybrand** (part-time local pastor), from Amity, to Gravette/Sulphur Springs (full-time local pastor); *effective July 15.*

■ **Clark Atkins** (part-time local pastor), to St James, Little Rock, as associate; *effective Aug. 1.*

■ **Bill Sardin** (full-time local pastor), to St James, Little Rock, as associate; *effective Aug. 1.*

■ **Zeke Allen** (full-time local pastor), to Maumelle First, as associate; *effective Aug. 1.*

■ **Anne Holcomb** (part-time local pastor), to Quapaw Quarter, Little Rock, as associate; *effective Aug. 1.*

■ **David Kassos** (full elder), from Prescott First, to Christ, Texarkana; *effective Aug. 31.*

■ **Floyd Ervin** (full elder), from Christ, Texarkana, to incapacity leave; *effective Sept. 1.*

■ **Charles White** (lay speaker), to St James, Fayetteville; *effective Aug. 12.*

■ **Carlton Cross** (full elder), from Oakley Chapel, Rogers, to Prescott First; *effective Aug. 15.*

■ **Brian Timmons** (probationary elder), from Bentonville First, to Oakley Chapel, Rogers; *effective Aug. 15.*

■ **Susan Ledbetter** (full elder), from Wiggins, Fayetteville, to Bentonville First as associate; *effective Aug. 15.*

■ **Gary Lunsford** (local pastor), from St. James, Fayetteville/Winslow, to Wiggins/Winslow (new Charge); *effective Aug. 15.*



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Viewpoint

Sharing prayer and song

By CHARLES COOPER

Thompson Murray (Viewpoint, Sept. 5) and Bud Reeves ("The Shepherd Staff," Aug. 15) called homosexuality in the church "the issue that will not go away" and "the issue that will go away." Perhaps such shared language is what we need. The Book of Common Prayer was able to bring together contentious factions hundreds of years ago. The English people found that where reasoned theology had failed them prayer and song could better succeed. We may need a tune for "An Issue That Will Not Go Away Until It Goes Away."



Charles Cooper

I appreciate that Murray and Reeves did not forget that we are talking about human beings — acquaintances, friends, family and people we admire. I like the poems of W. H. Auden, particularly "In Praise of Limestone" and "Musée des Beaux Arts." I believe Plato's Symposium to be both great art and philosophy. I think I would enjoy having a cup of coffee with either of these fellows, far more than I would with the political junkies who I have met on both sides of this immortal conundrum.

Personally I do not witch hunt in my church, nor do I approve of witch hunting. I embrace the position in the Discipline. All people are created in the image of God and so have sacred worth. My tradition has taught me this, a tradition that directs me to Scripture as the primary source of truth.

I am happy that Murray used Paul in his piece, though I do not agree with my old friend. First one can argue convincingly that Paul was for women in ministry in general and in Corinth in particular. The list of those who are to be received in Rome (Romans 16:3-16) includes women, and the passage from 1 Corinthians prohibiting women speaking in the church is contradicted by a nearby passage that speaks of women preaching and praying (1 Corinthians 14:34-36, 1 Corinthians 11:4-5). This contradiction has led the New Testament scholar C.K. Barrett to speculate that the silencing of women may not be

authentic, and if authentic, then strange.

The first chapter of Romans is not so easy. The passage is part of a broader argument. Paul wants to level the ground for Gentile and Jew. In order to do this he must show that pagans who did not have the law were "without excuse" for their disobedience. He says that while they did not have the law they had a witness to the Creator in the creation, yet rather than worship the Creator they turned to creatures. Their perverse worship led them into perverse behaviors, which included (not limited to) homosexuality.

Murray has said that he does not think Paul meant all homosexual behaviors. I am a reader of the text, not a mind reader, much less one at the distance of two thousand years. I cannot say what Paul meant to say.

In regards to life in our civil society, I am no lawyer, but I find nothing in the Constitution to prevent gays and lesbians from enjoying full rights of citizenship, and that would include the right to a domestic contract — though I would find objectionable and unconstitutional any attempt on the part of civil authority to thrust the recognition or celebration of such a contract on a religious body. This is a fear that many social conservatives have, and I sympathize. Great causes (no matter the cause or its greatness) can be masks for hubris and selfish ambition, and the righteous (regardless of their creed or rightness) have done terrible wrongs.

As for my life in the church, I must work under a different code than civil laws I am pleased that our denomination struggles to be responsible to the witness of Scripture and tradition. I hope in our conversations we continue to be responsible to these standards, and I hope we remember that we are talking about human beings; and we are talking about a natural force far stronger than frail flesh and blood; and we are talking about God. No one need be too presumptuous.

While I hope that the lyric "the issue that will not go away until it goes away" not make it into our next hymnal (nor any change of language on this matter in our next Discipline), I do hope we will continue to sing and pray together.

[Charles Cooper is pastor of the Trumann and Tyrnza United Methodist churches in the North East District.]



An Occasional Word from the Bishop



Charles Crutchfield

Thankfully, Hurricane "Ike" did not bring great devastation to Arkansas. The power outages, water and wind damage have been manageable. By contrast, the destruction on the Texas Gulf Coast has been horrific. The immensity of the damage is still being evaluated. And yet the devastation has all but disappeared from the national media.

People are hurting and the United Methodist Church is responding through the ministry of the Texas Annual Conference and through United Methodist Committee on Relief, but we need your help. UMCOR is providing relief services to hundreds of people, but there is a major need for additional funding. Put it down to "Katrina/Rita" fatigue or to bad

economic news, there has simply not been the kind of financial response needed to deal with what has been called the greatest national disaster to hit the Texas Gulf Coast.

We will send Volunteer in Mission teams from Arkansas when appropriate. Right now we need to send our money to UMCOR to go where we cannot go, to do what we cannot do.

The need is great. Please make a contribution through your local church to UMCOR for "Ike" relief. I repeat, the need is great. Some of God's precious people are counting on you!

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield



Letters to the Editor

Horror and dismay

When I first read of the possibility of the Bush Library being located at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, I was amused. Surely this was some sort of Rovian right-wing trick. However, much to my horror and dismay, it is sadly true.

Greed has overcome many a soul, and the powers-that-be at SMU are no different than other Judases.

My thoughts were to flee the Church of which I have been a mem-

ber all my 73 years of life. However, doing so would be an admission of weakness and submission. An ancestor of mine was Bishop William McKendree of the Church. He, as well as the founding fathers of this country, are rolling over in their graves realizing that our Church has destroyed the separation of church and state.

May God have mercy on all of us.
Allison O. Gentry
Jonesboro



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE By Mike Morgan



Viewpoint

'Inward generation' seeks courage to engage surroundings

Most people would say that Generation X received its name from the 1991 publication of Douglas Coupland's novel, "Generation X: Tales for an

Accelerated Culture." The media picked up on Mr. Coupland's name for the generation of seekers the book describes, and the label stuck.

The popular definition of Generation X evolved into something like the following: the rising generation of young adults, characterized by a deep sarcasm and sense of irony, who are frustrated by the rampant materialism and lack of meaning they see in the world and yet see no clear alternative.

However, Mr. Coupland never claimed to coin the term. He borrowed the "X" from an earlier novel, Paul Fussell's "Class" (1983).

Moving further back in history, Generation X was also the name of a punk band formed by Billy Idol in 1976. And even earlier than that, "Generation X" was a cult novel written in 1963 by Charles Hamblett and Jane Deverson, both Britons. The Generation Xers that they described were actually Baby Boomers, but ... well, let's not get that complicated.



Andrew Thompson



Gen-X Rising

By Andrew Thompson

As a descriptive term, "Generation X" has an interesting history. The complexity of that history is fitting, because the generation of people it labels — those born between 1965 and 1981 — is complex as well. And if the popular definition that has evolved is, in some sense, correct, then Generation X is a generation that desperately wants to find its way home. We Gen-Xers find ourselves in a fog, and we strain to see the light emanating from the lighthouse. We know there must be a safe harbor somewhere, but the path from stormy sea to solid ground is not clear.

The great spiritual writer Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) never wrote specifically about Generation X by name. However, he was concerned with the youths he saw growing up around him in the 1970s and 1980s. Nouwen's classic, *The Wounded Healer*, took a hard look at the generation of youths contemporary with the time of its publication in 1979. He called these kids "the inward generation," and he said that they were "the generation which gives absolute priority to the personal and which tends in a remarkable way to withdraw into the self."

Nouwen saw something character-

istic about Gen-Xers long before they were ever called Gen-Xers. Namely, they see a lack of value in the world around them. Things seem to exist on surface levels only, and so the deep hunger that we all have for meaning gets turned inward in a search for something real.

"Everywhere we see restless and nervous people, unable to concentrate and often suffering from a growing sense of depression," Nouwen wrote. "They know that what is shouldn't be the way it is, but they see no workable alternative."

The search for a relief from anxiety takes on many forms, which are often unhealthy. Even people of faith have a difficult time.

Seekers after success come to embrace a worldly version of it that is related solely to salary level and hoarding material possessions.

Seekers after salvation come to privatize it in such a way that it is relegated to the salvation of individual souls, disconnected from the rest of the creation.

Seekers after discipleship come to understand a version of it that disconnects religious life in the church from secular life in the world.

Privatization, personalization, indi-

vidualization. Call it what you want to. This is the tendency in Gen-X youths that distressed Nouwen. It smacks of a cynicism about the world so great that an "inward turn" is the almost compulsive reaction by a generation that hungers for something the world is not offering.

Nouwen believed that the cynicism of the youths he encountered was based on the ultimate danger to life posed by nuclear weapons. He wrote "The Wounded Healer" in the midst of the Cold War, when "the nuclear option" was something other than a tactic for dismantling the filibuster in the U.S. Senate.

Today, I suspect that the deep unhappiness of Generation X is based less on unconscious fears of nuclear holocaust and more on the pace of life — driven by developments in technology that race along faster than the human mind and human heart can keep up.

If we are indeed "the inward generation," then it is time that we gathered the courage to turn around and begin to engage a world that, admittedly, can seem huge and threatening. Truthfully, the world needs us. And fog or no fog, the ship that we steer must find its way home.

[Andrew C. Thompson, an elder in the Arkansas Conference, is a doctoral student at Duke Divinity School. He can be reached at andrew@mandatum.org.]

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Parable of the hike: a child shall lead us

By RICK JONES

I've sometimes found it difficult to explain why Christians do the things they do, until a 12-year-old brought everything into focus.

I wasn't even supposed to be there. The Boy Scout troop was doing a 20-mile hike as part of the hiking merit badge and I was just dropping off snacks at the 10-mile break. But one of the adult leaders was called away and they needed someone to go with the scouts for the second half. So there I was on a beautiful afternoon strolling with 11 young men and another adult.

At 12 years old, Douglas was the youngest, smallest and maybe the least athletic Scout there. Around mile 16

he started lagging behind. After 17 miles I learned his feet were hurting. I hung back and walked with him at his pace and did a lot of talking to try to keep his mind off the pain. Maybe you've had to walk on sore feet. They hurt. They throb. They tell you each step not to do that again. After a while all most people want is to stop and sit. The scouts took a five-minute break and we caught up just as they were starting again. How discouraging. With 2 miles to go, we sat and rested a bit. I told Douglas he had done great and was a real trooper, but if he wanted to stop we could call a car to pick him up. In a matter-of-fact way Douglas answered, "No, I want to make my father proud of me." Huh? I was a bit dumbstruck

and touched at the same time.

He didn't say there was a reward waiting for him if he finished.

He didn't say he would be punished if he came up short.

He didn't take a guilt trip about what he ought to do.

The young man was just more concerned with pleasing his father later than with the very immediate pain in his feet — and proved it by hiking the final two miles.

This happened over a year ago and has stayed in my mind like a personal parable. I needed to get my thoughts on paper to collect and organize them. Here are some observations. Feel free to add your own. Really, what does this story say to you?

My own father passed away years

ago, and I had nearly forgotten that wonderful warm feeling I would get when I knew he was proud of me. At work, a good compliment will keep me going a week, but that doesn't compare with when Daddy's chest puffed out. And yet, I seldom did something just to fish for a compliment. Just as I now hurt when my kids are hurting, I also felt great when Daddy was proud. How wonderful if my heavenly father would look at me with pride.

Simply, I was given a glimpse of the Holy Spirit at work. Douglas' father loves him unconditionally and forgives him when he comes up short. That's part of why Douglas loves him back and wants to make him proud.

See HIKE, page 12

'It's like Katrina all over again,' survivors say of Ike

DULAC, La. — Just one year ago, Mathilda and Glen Verret worked side by side with volunteers who were installing cabinets for a new kitchen in their home. Their house, like so many others in the small Native American town, had been destroyed by Hurricane Rita in 2005.

Today, Glen Verret looks at those same cabinets, checking to see which can be salvaged and which will need replacing. Verret's home was flooded during Hurricane Ike, which slammed into the Texas-Louisiana coastline as a Category 2 storm on Sept. 13.

"It's like Rita and Katrina all over again," said Verret. Ahead of Ike's landfall, low-lying areas such as Dulac felt the brunt of the storm surge, which re-flooded areas affected by Hurricane Gustav just two weeks prior.

"It's heartbreaking," said John Paul McGuire, a volunteer for the disaster response ministry of Louisiana United Methodists.



Chuck Allen and his wife, Rebecca, attend New Hope United Methodist Church from the comfort of their car. Norman Markle started the drive-in worship service as a way of attracting new people to the small, gray church in Marietta, Ga. UMNS photo by Reed Galin

Drive-in worshipers opt for bucket seats over pews

MARIETTA, Ga. — Chuck Allen and his wife, Rebecca, pull into the parking lot of New Hope United Methodist Church in their green convertible, top down. The small, picturesque white church is framed in their windshield, with tall old pine trees on either side.

It's Sunday morning but, as Allen shuts off the engine, he doesn't reach for the door handle to head inside for worship. In shorts and sandals, he doesn't have to.

"Hey, glad ya' could make it this morning!" says Norman Markle as he walks to the Allens' car and leans down to chat awhile. Surrounded by other cars and SUVs, the Allens are among those who had never attended New Hope before Markle added an outdoor drive-in service prior to its traditional indoor service.

And they are among the reasons for the unique worship approach. While



News Digest

New Hope is old enough to have survived General Sherman's march on Atlanta during the Civil War, its gray-ing members worried the congregation might not be viable much longer.

"We have to change," Markle declares, citing a need to be less formal. "We're a wonderful little church; we're just in a bad location."

Texas United Methodists need help to rebuild after Ike

HIGH ISLAND, Texas — Jerry Harrington has lived on the Gulf Coast of Texas all of his life, but Hurricane Ike finally convinced him to leave.

"This is the worst I have ever seen, I'm not going to build it back," he said as he walked around the rubble of his home. "I'm all right without my house, but I just can't stand losing all my mementos."

Harrington is one of about 500 residents of this scenic coastal town who have returned to find their communities wrecked and their lives changed forever. The monster storm damaged more than 100 United Methodist churches and parsonages in the denomination's Texas Annual Conference.

"Some officials are saying Ike will be the largest natural disaster in Texas history, and most of it occurred within the bounds of the Texas Annual Conference," said Bishop Janice Riggle Huie, who oversees more than 700 United Methodist churches in southeast Texas. The bishop issued a church-wide call for help, asking that a special offering be collected on Sept. 28 for hurricane recovery work in Texas, Louisiana, Haiti and other parts of the United States.

Exec to Congress: remember families in crisis

NEW YORK — U.S. legislators have a duty to represent families and children as they address the global financial crisis spurred by the collapse of several Wall Street giants, says a leader representing United Methodist Women.

In a Sept. 19 letter, Harriett Jane Olson called on congressional leaders "to keep before you the faces of families and children whose future will be determined by the decisions you make." Olson is the top executive of the Women's Division, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. She wrote to Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, and Rep. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs,

after reports of a government plan to rescue banks and other financial institutions failing under the home mortgage meltdown.

"We pray that you will look out for the future of families and children even if it requires action that is not in the interest of the powerful corporations." She also called for bipartisan, short-term and long-term action to help families facing foreclosure and bankruptcy to retain ownership of their homes.

United Methodists organize for new ecumenical efforts

DAYTON, Ohio — The United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is not quite re-inventing itself. But with



District Superintendent Richard Burnham walks through the parsonage home of the Rev. Jeff and Sandy Craft at Bayvue United Methodist Church in Crystal Beach, Texas, following Hurricane Ike. UMNS photo by Mike DuBose

new leadership at its helm, 26 new members on its 43-person board and an expanded agenda of both a global and interfaith nature, the church's ecumenical agency is moving forward in a new way. During its Sept. 17-21 meeting, the commission officially elected its new chief executive, Stephen Sidorak Jr., and heard from the new ecumenical officer of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, Bishop Sharon Rader.

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Coming Up

Thomas G. Long, professor of preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, will be special guest for the Williams Preaching Series Oct. 19-21 at First UMC, Benton. Previously Long has served as director of congregational resources, director of Geneva Press, Presbyterian Publishing Corp.; Francis Landey Patton Professor of Preaching and Worship, Princeton Theological Seminary; and professor of preaching and worship, Columbia Theological Seminary. He is the author of numerous books, including the 2008 release "Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice," with Nora Tisdale.

Services will be held at 8:15 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Oct. 19, and 12 noon and 7 p.m. Oct. 20-21. A light luncheon will be served on Monday and Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. For details, call (501) 778-3601.

Mount Eagle Christian Center near Clinton will host the Fall Folk Lore Camp Oct. 27-31. The event includes two days at the Ozark Mountain Folk Center in Mountain View, lodging and meals at Mount Eagle, craft sessions, entertainment and more. Cost is \$175 per person. Wensil and David Smith will serve as hosts. For more details, contact the Smiths at (501) 337-4749 or wensil@arkansas.net, or Lu Harding, director of Mount Eagle Christian Center, at (501) 723-4580 or lu@mounteagle.org.

The Southeast District Council on Youth Ministries will host a Youth Rally, "Going for the Gold," Nov. 8-9 at the Marvell Civic Center in Marvell. Howard Sublett will be guest speaker, with Leyden as musical guests. Youth in grades 7-12 welcome. Cost is \$48. For more information, contact Emily Johnson, adult chairperson, (501) 940-6577 or emily4oaks@aol.com, or Erin Petty, youth chairperson, (870) 816-8820 or erinmpetty@hotmail.com

The annual Country Fair at Osceola First UMC will be held Oct. 11 at the church, 303 S. Pecan. Exhibits in the courtyard open at 9 a.m. The Bakery and Attic Treasures shop open at 10 a.m. A soup lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$4 and may be purchased at the door.

Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville will host a Great Day of Singing beginning at 2 p.m. Oct. 12 in Clapp Auditorium. The gospel program features choirs from five Fayetteville congregations plus lively congregational singing. A reception will follow. A love offering will be

accepted to benefit the renovation of historic St. James UMC, Fayetteville. For more information, contact John Manning at (479) 200-6021 or jfmanni@gmail.com, or Fenner Russell at (479) 442-1824 or frussell@centralto-life.com.

United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women at Geyer Springs UMC, Little Rock, will sponsor their annual Chili Supper Nov. 1 at the church, 5500 Geyer Springs Road. The menu will be chili, slaw and homemade desserts. A silent auction, bake sale and displays by UM Kids and UM Youth are planned as well. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with dinner from 5:30-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and children 11 and up, and \$3 for children 3-10. All proceeds will benefit local missions. Tickets will be available at the door.

Quapaw Quarter UMC, Little Rock, will host the fifth annual Christmas in the Quarter tour of homes from 2-5 p.m. Dec. 7. Held in the historic Quapaw Quarter district of Little Rock, the event is a unique opportunity to see the interiors of beautifully restored historic homes and



Members of First UMC, North Little Rock, unload pumpkins in preparation for the church's 2007 pumpkin patch youth fundraiser.

interesting new construction, all exquisitely decorated for the holidays. The tour is a fundraiser for Quapaw Quarter UMC's ministries for the hungry. Guests drive from home to home at their convenience, with tour hosts at each location. For more information, call (501) 375-1601, or go online to www.qqumc.org. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for children, and free for those 5 and under free.

First UMC, Little Rock, in partnership with the American Cancer Society, will offer a "Life After Loss" five-week seminar and support group

Oct. 7-Nov. 4. The group will meet 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at the church, Eighth and Center streets. For more information, contact Mary Jane Cole at mcole@fumcl.org or (501) 372-2256. To register for the group, contact the American Cancer Society at (501) 603-5202.

Two Marriage Encounter marriage retreat weekends are on the calendar — Nov. 7-9 at Mount Eagle Christian Center near Clinton, and Feb. 13-15 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Bentonville. Topics will include marriage in today's world, God's desire for marriage, spousal communications, listening and expressing and accepting feelings.

Marriage Encounter is recognized by the General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. There is still space available at the

November retreat, however, reservations are needed by Oct. 18. To register online, go to www.encounter.org. Contact Phil or Karen Gier at (479) 876-5371 or plgier@yahoo.com for information and/or application forms.

Thousands of pounds of pumpkins are waiting to be selected for holiday enjoyment at First UMC, 6701 JFK Blvd., North Little Rock. The Pumpkin Patch is now open seven days a week until Oct. 31 for pumpkin shopping and photo opportunities. The church will host story time at the patch for children from area day care centers.

Proceeds from Pumpkin Patch sales support the youth program at the church. In the past, those funds have supported mission trips, community service programs and activities for the youth.

Jonathan's Child, a Christian-based support group for children with special needs and their families, will host its second annual Funky Fall Festival from noon to 2 p.m. Oct. 25 at St Paul UMC, 2509 W. Beebe-Capps Expressway in Searcy. The free festival is planned for handicapped children and their families. Hot dogs, carnival games, prizes, jump castle, train rides and more will be offered.

October is National Disabilities Awareness Month. As a ministry of St. Paul UMC, Jonathan's Child invites others to join them in celebrating God's gifts. Jonathan's Child is a group of parents with special needs children. They understand how important that it is for families with special needs children to come together and show their support. The organization gives them

Agency exec to address conference

"Crossing the Jordan on to Dry Land: An Arkansas Conference Gathering of Black Clergy and Laity" is slated for Nov. 1 at the Harry R. Kendall Center on the campus of Philander Smith College in Little Rock. The event is open to all interested persons.

Erin Hawkins, General Secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race, will be guest speaker. Bishop Felton E. May will lead worship.

The event, hosted by the Arkansas Conference, will focus on the question, "How is the Black Church in Arkansas going to respond to the 2008 General Conference

initiatives?"

Leaders will include representatives from the Arkansas Conference and South Central Jurisdiction's Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the conference Commission on Religion and Race and Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee, including Ronnie Miller Yow, William "Bill" Robinson, Melvin Moss, Sandra Mitchell, Chester Jones, Deborah Bell and Maxine Allen.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m., with Hawkins' keynote address at 10:30. Closing worship will be at 3 p.m. Lunch is included. Churches are encouraged to register as a group. Churches with five or more registrations before Oct. 10 may attend at no cost. Churches with 1-4 registrations by Oct. 10 pay \$10 per person. Cost after Oct. 10 is \$25. Online registration is available at www.arumc.org, or by calling (501) 324-8045.



Erin Hawkins

CHAPLAINS, *continued from page 1*

family of very enthusiastic believers," Hilliard said. "So, I cover a wide spectrum of the Christian family."

Wainscott is chaplain for approximately 600 soldiers in an infantry battalion. He is currently stationed at Al Asad.

"My job is to provide for the well being of the soldiers," Wainscott said. "We do convoy security missions, so I go outside the wire. I have been to Jordan border six or seven times. ... I go where the soldiers are, and that means traveling with the different companies of the battalion. I do that part for the ministry of presence. If they see the chaplain doing the mission then it may give them hope — hope in the fact that chaplain is walking in faith, and maybe there is something to it."

He also leads a weekly worship service and a Sunday night Bible study.

Wainscott admits that he hasn't told his wife that his work involves leaving the base. "I didn't want her to worry."

Hilliard and Wainscott has been on active duty since last October and, as Hilliard said, "If all Arkansas United Methodists will pray for us, maybe we'll make it home by Christmas!"

The hardest part of being deployed, Hilliard said, is being away from his family and finding time for rest or "down time." Yet, the long days are filled with plenty of spiritual fulfillment.

"The most fulfilling thing is what has always been the most exciting part of ministry for me — seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ and watching God set people free from hurts, habits and hang-ups. Just getting to be a part of that makes the time here worthwhile," he said. "The multi-cultural and multi-national experiences with other believers have been very enriching."

Wainscott said he gets up around 6 a.m. and often doesn't stop until 11 p.m. "I stay busy in my work. I do counseling, I provide coffee in the mornings to soldiers and I have what I call a ministry of presence."

Wainscott views the hardest part of his assignment as also the most fulfilling. "I counsel soldier that may be having difficulties back home or in their lives. They may be having stressors placed on them to the point of having difficulty coping," he said. "It's not like back home at church were a



The chaplains of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry BDE include (from left) United Methodists Wes Hilliard (left) of Van Buren; Patrick Moore (second from left), who is currently serving a church in Missouri after completing his deployment; and James Wainscott (right) of Brookland.

parishioner comes to see me as pastor. These guys and gals see me as someone to talk with who may be able to help them as an individual, not necessarily

as a clergy."

[Part 2: How congregations cope with temporarily "losing" their pastor to military deployment.]

Election guide compares party platforms with UMC principles

A 2008 election guide that compares the platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties with the United Methodist "Social Principles" and Book of Resolutions is available. The guide was prepared by the Washington, D.C.-based General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), one of the denomination's four international program agencies.

The guide can be downloaded from GBCS's Web page at www.umc-gbcs.org. It is available in a comprehensive 14-page version and six bulletin inserts that address specific subject areas: "Economic and

Environmental Justice," "Civil and Human Rights," "Health and Wholeness," "Peace with Justice," "Women and Children" and "United Nations and International Affairs."r both versions of the election guide.

The guide is intended as a discernment tool. "As United Methodists, we are called to transform the world," the election guide's introduction states. "Part of that transformation is made through faithful advocacy, community involvement and leadership."

The introduction suggests reading through the guide and asking yourself how these party platforms align with

the denomination's priorities for addressing human need and the integrity of God's creation?

Web links are included in the guide to the platforms of both the Democratic and Republican parties and three others with candidates in this fall's U.S. presidential election.

The United Methodist Church does not advocate a strictly two-party system. As a consequence anyone accessing the election guide is encouraged to seek out details on other political parties and candidates, too.

The 2009-2012 Social Principles and Book of Resolutions, approved

this spring by the denomination's highest policy-making body, are the source of United Methodist positions in the guide.

The GBCS Web site, www.umc-gbcs.org, contains more information, including articles, statements and resources, on the issues covered in the election guide. The General Board of Church and Society's primary areas of ministry are advocacy, education and leadership formation, United Nations and international affairs, and resourcing these areas for the denomination. It has offices on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and at the Church Center at the United Nations.

COMING UP, *continued from page 6*

an opportunity to do something together as a family. There will be activities for all children, regardless of age or disability. For details, contact Jennifer Pike at (501) 268-5159.

Singles at St. James UMC, Little Rock, will host two seminars focusing on life skills. A retirement planning seminar led by Melissa Kohler is set for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 12. Harold Bernd will lead a "Basic Investing" course at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 9. Both events will be held at the church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr. For details, call Jenni Duncan at (501) 217-6708.

First UMC, North Little Rock, will host its annual County Fair from 5-8:30 p.m. Oct. 11. The evening of family entertainment will include games, giant inflatables and hayrides for children. The night culminates with the popular "Trunk or Treat," where church members hand out candy from their vehicles, which are decorated for Halloween. The church's pumpkin patch also will be open during the fair. Costume contests will be held for the kids and family pets. Live music will be provided by local band BLU 82. Refreshments will be available. Activities for all ages include a cake-

walk and dunking booth. Admission is \$5 per person. The event is free to children aged 2 and under.

Oaklawn UMC, Hot Springs, welcomes one and all to its first Mission Fair from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. October 19. The event will introduce avenues and opportunities for mission service on local, state, national and international levels. Maxine Allen, Arkansas Conference minister for missions and ethnic ministries, will be guest preacher. Fair booths will feature information on Camp Aldersgate, Heifer International, Ozark Mission Project,

Volunteers in Mission, United Methodist Committee on Relief and many local mission and outreach programs.

United Methodist Women of Beebe First UMC will sponsor their annual Holiday Bazaar and soup luncheon from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 25 at the church, 302 N. Main St. Fried pies, cinnamon rolls and coffee will be available from 7-10 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The gathering will feature holiday crafts, baked and canned goods and an indoor flea market. All proceeds will benefit missions.



It Happened

The Shape-Up Challenge group at Bald Knob UMC spent many hours planning and hosting a bazaar to raise money for the church food pantry. With the help of some other churches in the community, the group raised more than \$2,700.

The Shape-Up Challenge group was organized about three years ago and has members ranging in age from 70 to 96.

The food pantry supplies food to more than 70 people each week. It is in the process of being approved by the Arkansas Rice Depot. Other churches in the area supporting this outreach ministry are Community of Christ Church in Bald Knob, Trinity Full Gospel Church in Bradford, and the Bradford and Russell United Methodist churches.

Efforts are under way to acquire a building and operate a community food bank that will serve the needs of even more people.

St. Paul UMC, El Dorado, recently organized the JW Club, which stands for “Jesus’ Work.” This is a group of people from the church and other local churches who are willing to

give their time to do Jesus’ work, helping those in the community who need help.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, 24 members of the JW Club worked at the home of a homebound resident in El Dorado. They mowed, cleared brush, trim trees and shrubbery, planted flowers, trimmed the grass, tore down an old fence, erected a new fence and repaired a drain on the air conditioner unit.

Members of the JW Club expect to adopt a project every six weeks. Members also pay \$10 for the privilege of doing hard work for Jesus. The money is used to buy supplies for each project.

The JW Club is open to any person with a servant’s heart, said St. Paul Pastor LaVon Post, “and each project has been declared a No Whine Zone.” To learn how this ministry can be replicated in other local churches, call Post at (870) 862-4242.

Gardner Memorial UMC, North Little Rock, has held an annual fish fry for many years. The profits have been used for many causes, beginning with the pledge of salary support for United Methodist missionaries in Africa. These missionaries have since retired and our support shifted to local mission work. The next few years the money was used to help families with down payment assistance needed to acquire newly built or renovated homes within the neighborhood surrounding our church.

This year’s fish fry was the church’s most profitable to date, and the entire proceeds were donated to the “Nothing But Nets” program, which provides insecticide-treated bed nets to families in Africa.



Member of the JW Club at St. Paul UMC, El Dorado, celebrate the completion of an afternoon of yard and home-repair work for a neighbor.

“We were able to purchase just over 310 nets with our fish fry and bake sale proceeds,” said church member Joy Cameron. “Gardner Memorial UMC is a church with a BIG heart and we thank all those who helped make our fish fry a success.”

Highland Valley UMC, Little Rock, faced a common dilemma: lots of children but not enough Sunday School teachers. So a churchwide plea for assistance was issued, and church members who had never before taught Sunday School were encouraged to consider serving. Two first-timers, Jon Cartwright and Ken Peatross, answered the call and are now teaching the second- and third-grade Sunday School class. Both are somewhat non-traditional teachers — Ken is an agent for the FBI and Jon is an investment research director. The children’s department is pleased to welcome them and celebrates their service to others.



Members of Gardner Memorial UMC, North Little Rock, enjoy the recent fish fry, which benefited Nothing But Nets.

Pocahontas First UMC hosted a successful Vacation Bible School that drew more than 60 children and 36 adult and youth helpers. Participants on the “Way To Go Good Neighbor Tour” visited Jericho with the Good Samaritan, Emmaus with two disciples and Jesus, and Gaza with Philip and the Ethiopian. Members of the congregation supported the event by providing VBS supplies, including health kits and school kits.



Children in the second and third grade Sunday School Class at Highland Valley UMC, are happy to welcome new teachers Ken Peatross and Jon Cartwright.

Campus ministry celebrated at district conference

JONESBORO — The Northeast District Conference of the United Methodist Church was recently held in the Student Union on the campus of Arkansas State University. As part of a celebration of 50 years of campus ministry, the event was hosted by the ASU Wesley Foundation. A highlight of the program was the District Youth Choir, which led the closing worship service.

Earlier this year, each local church was invited to submit a list of specific needs for training and information to the District Leadership Team. Topics for workshops for the District Conference were chosen from these

needs. This is the fifth year this format for training, business and worship has been used for the District Conference.

Eleven sessions were offered, with the opportunity to choose to attend two of the sessions prior to the business meeting and worship service. Sessions were led by clergy and laity from within the district, with the exception of the two groups concerning the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church, which were led by Clayton Childers, director of annual conference relations, General Board of Church and Society, Washington, D.C.

Topics and leaders included “Sing

for Joy” District Youth Choir, Rebecca Boggan; “Worship and Music,” Sean Pollock; “Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee,” Kurt Boggan; “The Social Principles: What Are They?” and “Teaching the Social Principles,” Clayton Childers; “Extravagant Giving (Tithing and Stewardship: A Faith Thing),” Doug Bush; “I Love the Outdoors,” Bob McMillon; “Is Your Church Into Mission?” Charles Thompson; “Risk-taking (Don’t be Afraid to Fail),” Beth Waldrup; “United Methodist: Rediscovering Who We Are,” Tom Machen; and “I’m the Youth Leader! Now What?” Judith Hicks.



Clayton Childers, director for annual conference relations with the General Board of Church and Society, leaves the registration area at the Arkansas State University Student Union prior to leading two workshops for the Northeast District Conference.

SOJOURNER, continued from page 1

Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative and Hendrix Project Pericles.

Developments that have fostered globalization, and thus fueled greater population immigration, include media deregulation, post-World War II economic treaties, creation of the computer chip, and advances in computer and fiber optics, among others, Copley said. The contemporary boon in use of the Internet has been a great influence as well.

“Now we have access to people all over the world in ways and manners that no one would have dreamed of 20 years ago, and certainly not 100 years ago,” Copley said in presenting a plenary address titled “Globalization: Root Causes of Immigration.” “And that’s had an impact on our world, and that begins to get at the root cause of immigration and why we have so much immigration.”

Push and pull of migration

Immigration has become “a real fact of life in the modern world,” Copley said.

Three factors tend to “push migration,” Copley pointed out. “First, people are pushed out by poverty. There are parts of the world where people literally live on a dollar a day. So in the search of a better life or for survival, folks are pushed out to migrate, to find another place to live that offers that ability to survive and then to offer security. ... So the first factor to push migration is poverty.”

The second factor that tends to “push” migration is violence. “If you happen to live in a country where there’s some sort of conflict, people migrate out, again for survival,” Copley said.



Steve Copley discusses the root causes of immigration to the United States and the church’s response to it.

The third factor is natural disasters. “We have certainly witnessed this now in our own country, at the time of Katrina but even in the recent hurricanes,” Copley said. “Folks move again to survive. And even in the recent hurricane, you read in the newspaper about people who were evacuated, and they say, ‘We’re going to stay. We can’t keep going through this process of year after year leaving home.’”

Seeking a better life

Copley cited four factors that “pull” migration — “the magnet effect,” he said, “that draws people to an area.” These factors are a shrinking labor pool, international competitive pressures on wages, natural disasters which require reconstruction, and fam-

ily reunification.

“In the United States the pull factors are very, very strong,” Copley said. “What’s pulling migrants is a chance to live and a chance to make some money and to care for their families, so they’re pulled toward the U.S.”

Armed with this kind of information and corroborating statistics, and witnessing the swelling immigrant population in Arkansas, Copley is leading the church in ministering to immigrant populations across the state by directing the Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) program. JFON is a network in mission of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, along with the denomination’s annual conferences, local congregations and ecumenical partners. The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries launched JFON in 1999 as a response to increasingly complex immigration regulations stemming from the U.S. immigration law of 1996, which brought harsher policies for illegal immigrants.

“The church’s voice is so important on issues of immigration,” said Clayton Childers of the General Board of Church and Society.

Copley is the director of JFON in Arkansas. He has a law degree and works in conjunction with the national organization’s attorney.

More than dollars and cents

In Arkansas, JFON works with local churches in Monticello, Dover and Little Rock to host monthly free clinics that assist persons with immigration law issues. The clinics are operated by volunteers who focus on hospitality, while attorneys who are paid deal with legal issues faced by clients.

Immigration is “a lot more than dollars and cents” and a bevy of statistics, said Sergio Picado, a member of Dover United Methodist Church who helps with the JFON clinic there. “These people are no different from you and I. They have the same fears, the same desires, the same goals. They are hard working, they are religious people, and they’re family oriented. They’re the kind of people you want to have as your neighbor.”

But they also “live in fear,” Picado said, because “they are persecuted. And as Christians, we are called to stand up for the persecuted.”

During a round-table discussion, participants in the Sojourner conference noted various ways churches, groups and individuals are ministering to immigrants. Some churches provide space for worship services in Spanish and other language. Others have volunteers who serve as translators or teach English as Second Language classes.

“Immigration is a human issue

Justice For Our Neighbors

Justice For Our Neighbors is a network of church-based legal clinics reaching out to the immigrant population in the United States. JFON was established in 1999 by the United Methodist Committee on Relief as a response to increasingly complex immigration regulations stemming from the U.S. immigration law of 1996, which brought harsher policies for illegal immigrants.

JFON works with low-income immigrants who have legal issues. “These are mostly family-based issues,” said director Steve Copley, a clergy member of the Arkansas Conference. “Maybe the individual is here on legal permanent resident status and wants to bring his family here, or he is undocumented and wants to become a citizen.” JFON’s attorneys help clients work through the legal maze of immigration law to find solution to problems.

Hospitality is another important aspect of the JFON ministry. While clients are checked in and wait for assistance, they are warmly welcomed by clinic volunteers and offered a meal.

“It can be frightening to be in a place where you don’t know anyone, or speak a different language,” Copley said. “Sharing a meal together is a powerful thing, and a way of displaying love toward others.”

Currently, JFON and local churches in Monticello, Dover and Little Rock sponsor free legal clinics once a month.

In addition to Arkansas, JFON ministries are offered in New York, Maryland, Florida, Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan and Texas.

rather than political,” one participant said. “We’ve got to get beyond our own anxiety about the language differences” and minister to people in need.

The conference included worship, workshops and discussion of issues related to welcoming and ministering to immigrants. Threatening weather prevented keynote speaker Bishop Minerva Carcano, leader of the denomination’s Desert Southwest Conference, from attending. However, about 60 persons from eight different annual conferences were in attendance, along with General agency representatives and local church leaders including Bishops Charles Crutchfield and Kenneth Hicks.



Piney Grove UMC, Hot Springs, held a special called Charge Conference Sept. 16 and church member Jacob Lynn was approved as a declared candidate for elders orders in the United Methodist Church. This step officially begins his path for ministry in the United Methodist Church.

Lynn received his bachelor of arts degree in speech communications from Arkansas State University and a master of arts degree in



David Jones (left), senior pastor of Piney Grove UMC, Hot Springs, congratulates Jacob Lynn upon his approval as a candidate for elders orders.

speech communications, also from Arkansas State. He is currently employed as the senior district executive for the Boy Scouts of America in Hot Springs.

While he preaches regularly at Piney Grove UMC, Lynn also teaches Sunday School and serves as an intern there. He plans to attend Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He is married to Mindy Lynn, a schoolteacher, and they are the parents of one son, Jackson Thomas Lynn.

Deaths

Conway

PAUL MCCONNELL BUMPERS, 86, of Conway, a retired clergy member of the Arkansas Conference, died Sept. 22, 2008. He was born Aug. 15, 1922, in Charleston, Ark., the son of Harold H. and Carrie Bumpers.



Paul M. Bumpers

He was a 1944 graduate of Hendrix College and a 1946 graduate of SMU Perkins School of

Theology. He was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity from both the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville and Hendrix College in Conway.

He was married to the late Bonnie Lewis Bumpers for 64 years.

Bumpers began his ministry at Wiggins Memorial in Fayetteville. Other pastoral assignments were Marked Tree, Clarksville First, Jonesboro First, Lubbock (Texas) First, Fort Smith First, Blytheville First, Mountain Home First and Pulaski Heights, Little Rock.

He was a former district superintendent of the Batesville, Fort Smith and Conway districts. He was a delegate to the World Methodist Conferences in Oslo, Norway, 1961; in 1971 in Denver, 1971, and in Honolulu, 1981. He retired in 1987.

Known as a leader across a broad spectrum of Methodism, Bumpers served on the General Conference Boards on Education and Family Life; as secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference Board; and as a member of the Annual Conference Boards of Discipleship, Higher Education, Evangelism and Communications. He also served as a trustee of McMurry College, Hendrix College, Philander Smith College, the Lydia Patterson Institute, Methodist Hospitals in Lubbock and Memphis and Methodist Children's Homes in Little Rock and Waco, Texas.

Bumpers is survived by daughter, Bonnie C. Bumpers of Conway; son, Paul M. Bumpers Jr. of Springdale; a brother, Phil Bumpers, and his wife, Polly, of Conway; a sister, Carolyn Dow, and her husband, Bob, of Collinsville, Ill.; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sept. 26 at First United Methodist Church, Conway.

Memorials may be made to either Hendrix College or First United Methodist Church of Conway.

Benton

JOHN MICHAEL CLAYTON, 34, son of Rev. Michael R. and Ann Parham Jones Clayton of Benton, died Sept. 12, 2008, in Little Rock.

Born Dec. 20, 1973, he was a member of First United Methodist Church, Malvern, where his father had served as minister for some years. John's heart was at a place that he and family members called "the farm," near the Fairplay community in Saline County. There he loved to spend time and fish, mainly for catfish but also for bass. Around Fairplay, and elsewhere, he had good friends whom he visited as he made rounds in his pick-up. John was a strong person and had a wry sense of humor and tough disposition. He had a big heart and admiration for his niece and nephew and he kept a soft spot for animals, especially his cat, Fishie. He was a loyal, insightful and sensitive friend and family member and he will be greatly missed.

John is survived by his parents; two sisters, Shelley Clayton Gentry and her husband, W. Brooks Gentry, of Little Rock, and Beth Clayton and her partner, Patricia Racette, of New York, N.Y.; his grandmother, Lois Clayton; a niece and nephew, and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Woodrow W. and Anne H. Jones and J. Ralph Clayton.

A private interment was held Sept. 16 at New Rosemont Cemetery in Benton, followed by a memorial serv-

ice at First United Methodist Church, Malvern. Memorials may be directed to a favorite charity.

Parsons, Kan.

MILDRED LAURA STEVENSON MCKELVEY, 95, of Parsons, Kan., surviving spouse of Arkansas United Methodist pastor Gaither A. McKelvey, died Sept. 12, 2008, at the Good Samaritan Center in Parsons.

She was born June 18, 1913, at Camp Ground, in Greene County, Ark., one of eight children born to U.B. and Maude Reynolds Stevenson, and grew up in that area. She and Rev. McKelvey were married on Nov. 29, 1933. They lived in various communities across Arkansas during Rev. McKelvey's years as a pastor. They moved to Parsons in April 1989 and Rev. McKelvey died on August 14, 1989, after 54 years of marriage.

She was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church, the Round Table Club and the China Painting Club. She had been a member of the Order of Eastern Star and served as Worthy Matron. She was very supportive of the Alzheimer's Association and the Methodist Church as minister of music for many years. Mildred described her life as "a musical journey and a rich tapestry" and most important she considered her family as her greatest treasure.

Survivors include three children, Jane Robertson and her husband, Roland B. Robertson, M.D., of Madison, Miss., K. David McKelvey, M.D., and his wife, Cheri, of Little Rock, and Jackie Ray and her husband, Steve, of Parsons; eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 15 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Parsons, with burial at Linwood Cemetery in Paragould.

Memorials may be directed to Wesley United Methodist Church, c/o Carson-Wall Funeral Home, Box 942, Parsons, Kan. 67357.

Remember When

100 Years Ago Oct. 8, 1908:



Spending a few hours in Arkadelphia last week, Rev. A.C. Millar visited Henderson College, found a fine body of 223 students and everything running satisfactorily. The military drill before chapel service is excellent, and brings the boys into chapel prepared to appreciate the service. ... President Hinemon is doing a great work.

50 Years Ago

Oct. 9, 1958: Jack Singleton is the new president of the Older Youth Fellowship of Pulaski Heights Methodist Church, Little Rock. Marilyn Barfield was named vice president and Ralph Erwin, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Wesley Freemyer is director of Youth Work at the church, and Dr. J. Kenneth Shamblin is pastor.

20 Years Ago

Oct. 7, 1988: With study, fellowship, praise in song and the Word proclaimed in worship, United Methodists from throughout the three-county Jonesboro District joined together Sept. 25 to participate in the historic final regular conference of the district. ...

In his sermon, Rev. Charles Ramsay, district superintendent, reminded those in attendance of the "cloud of witnesses" of the past who brought the church forward. He said each person present was and must continue to be part of that "cloud of witnesses" for today and for the future.

Abingdon best-selling author special guest at Village UMC

Jim Moore, noted author and minister, will be the guest speaker for "A Time for Renewal" at Village UMC, Hot Springs Village, Oct. 26-28.

Moore is making a return to the Village UMC pulpit, having been guest speaker at the renewal weekend in 2006. He will preach during services at 9:25 a.m., 10:55 a.m. 5 p.m. Oct. 26 and at 5 p.m. Oct. 27-28. He will also speak at 10 a.m. on Oct. 27. This service will be followed by a book signing

social.

Moore is Abingdon Press's top-selling author, with more than 40 books in print. A few of his titles are: "God Was Here and I Was Out to Lunch," "When You're a Christian, the Whole World is from Missouri," "If God Has a Refrigerator, Your Picture Is on It" and "You Can Get Bitter or Better."

Moore currently serves as Minister in Residence at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas. He

accepted this "retirement" position following 50 years of active service in Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas. Prior to his retirement, Moore was senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston, from 1984-2006.

Special music will be presented by soloist Dan Utter, the Village UMC combined choirs, the Hot Springs Village Chorale and the Christ of the Hills UMC choir.

For details, call (501) 922-1030.

United Methodist ARCHIVES



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NOMADS has room for more volunteers

NOMADS, a United Methodist ministry involving retired persons in mission service to others, is 20 years old. Established in 1988 through the Volunteers in Mission program in the North Central Jurisdiction, the organization now has more than 1,000 members who work at 149 locations in 33 states and Mexico.

But there's room for more!

NOMADS is seeking other retired persons who are interested in helping United Methodist community agencies churches, camps and schools, and in disaster response.

Most NOMADS are retired and travel in RVs. Host agencies provide a place to park RVs, along with water and electricity. Some agencies provide housing for those without RVs.

NOMADS do whatever the agency asks, which may be maintenance, repairs, office work, painting, sewing, landscaping or light construction. Most projects are three weeks long, but there are opportunities to work longer or shorter periods.

Work weeks are four days a week, six hours a day. Each workday begins with devotions and a time for sharing the events of the previous day. The three-day weekends are an opportunity to rest and to discover the special sights and events in the surrounding area.

Texarkana resident elected board member

Carol Stoner of Texarkana, Ark., was elected a member of the Board of Directors of NOMADS at the organization's reunion and business meeting last month in Shawnee, Okla.

A member of Eylau United Methodist Church in Texarkana, Texas, Stoner has been a member of NOMADS since 1999. She and her husband, Howard, have participated in more than 32 projects with the NOMADS. In 2005 they were hosts for the annual NOMADS reunion held in Hope.

An important part of the NOMADS experience is the fellowship shared with other NOMADS, the agencies and the people served.

In 2000, NOMADS became a national organization in affiliation with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) and a full-time administrator was hired. A national Board of Directors includes five appointed jurisdictional representatives and five elected NOMADS, plus a representative from GBGM and the director.

The demand for the exceptional volunteer service of NOMADS across the country has continued to grow. More NOMAD members are always needed. To learn more, call (866) 466-6237 or visit the NOMADS website at www.nomadsumc.org.

UMs express opposition to lottery measure

United Methodists Against Gambling representative Scott Trotter of Little Rock recently gave a presentation at the Pocahontas Kiwanis Club. He shared information detailing the concerns United Methodists have about the upcoming proposed change in the Arkansas Constitution.

At issue in the general election Nov. 4 is a change that would establish a lottery in Arkansas. He said his main concern is no definition of the term lottery in the proposal, which could lead to the state legislature being allowed in the future to interpret lottery to include casino style gambling.

United Methodist Social Principles state the church's official stand against gambling in Paragraph 163, G., in part, "Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, and destructive of good government. As an act of faith and concern, Christians



United Methodist Scott Trotter of Little Rock, an attorney and spokesperson for United Methodists Against Gambling, addresses the Pocahontas Kiwanis Club.

should abstain from gambling ..."

Trotter, a member of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, Little Rock, and others are available to present programs at churches, civic organizations or community gatherings to disseminate important reasons to oppose the measure. Trotter may be reached at (501) 603-9000 or strotter@perkinstrotter.com

Calendar

OCTOBER

- Oct. 10-12: Junior High "Refuge" retreat, Camp Paron, Paron, Ark.
- Oct. 17: Arkansas Conference Evangelism Conference, with seminars relating to evangelism in small, medium and large congregations, First UMC, Heber Springs.
- Oct. 19-22: "Let Your Life Speak" retreat for clergy and laity, Mount Eagle Christian Center.
- Oct. 20-23: Leaves of Gold senior adult event, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
- Oct. 23: "What Are They Saying About the Soul?" lecture by Joel Green of Fuller Theological Seminary, Hendrix College, Conway.
- Oct. 27-30: Autumn Time senior adult event, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
- Oct. 27-31: Fall Folk Lore Camp, Mount Eagle.

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 8: Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women annual meeting, Benton First UMC.
- Nov. 8-9: Southeast District Youth Rally, Marvell Civic Center.

Center.

- Nov. 14-16: South Central Jurisdictional Singles Retreat, Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center, Fayetteville.
- Nov. 15: Arkansas Conference Ingathering, Arkansas Rice Depot, Little Rock.
- Nov. 15: "Unleashing the Possibilities of Your 20- and 30-somethings Ministry," simulcast presentations at St. James UMC, Little Rock, and First UMC, Hot Springs.

Classifieds

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Camp hits the road to combine music education and service

ROGERS — Music Mission Camp offered by Central United Methodist Church of Rogers has recently been featured in both *Interpreter* and *Worship Arts* magazines.

The magazines explained that the innovative camp involves youth in helping children at churches around the world learn music, while adult volunteers provide service work.

Sites for the camp are churches

without a budget for children's music. Since 1991, the camp has served churches in Mississippi; Arkansas, Chicago, London, Belize and Washington, D.C. All the expenses are covered by Central Church through fund raising.

Before each camp, Les Oliver, minister of music and worship, teaches a children's musical to the youth choir at Central Church. Then he sends copies of the musical and

listening cassettes or CDs to the host church.

The camp meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon. Members of Central's youth choir help the children learn the musical and build sets. Each day's schedule includes time for youth to get to know children on a one-on-one basis.

During rehearsals, adults from Central do service work such as painting, pouring concrete, working in a

soup kitchen or installing donated computers.

Afternoons and evenings are filled with recreational activities, ending with devotional time. At the end of the week, the children and youth perform the musical for the congregation and parents.

Oliver says Music Mission Camp provides "an opportunity for us to be servants, and that is the most fulfilling part of the experience."

HIKE, continued from page 4

The Holy Spirit helps both of them keep that attitude when it would be easier to put it aside for the moment. Paul said suffering builds endurance, character, hope — because the Holy Spirit fills our heart with love. Love Drives Christians.

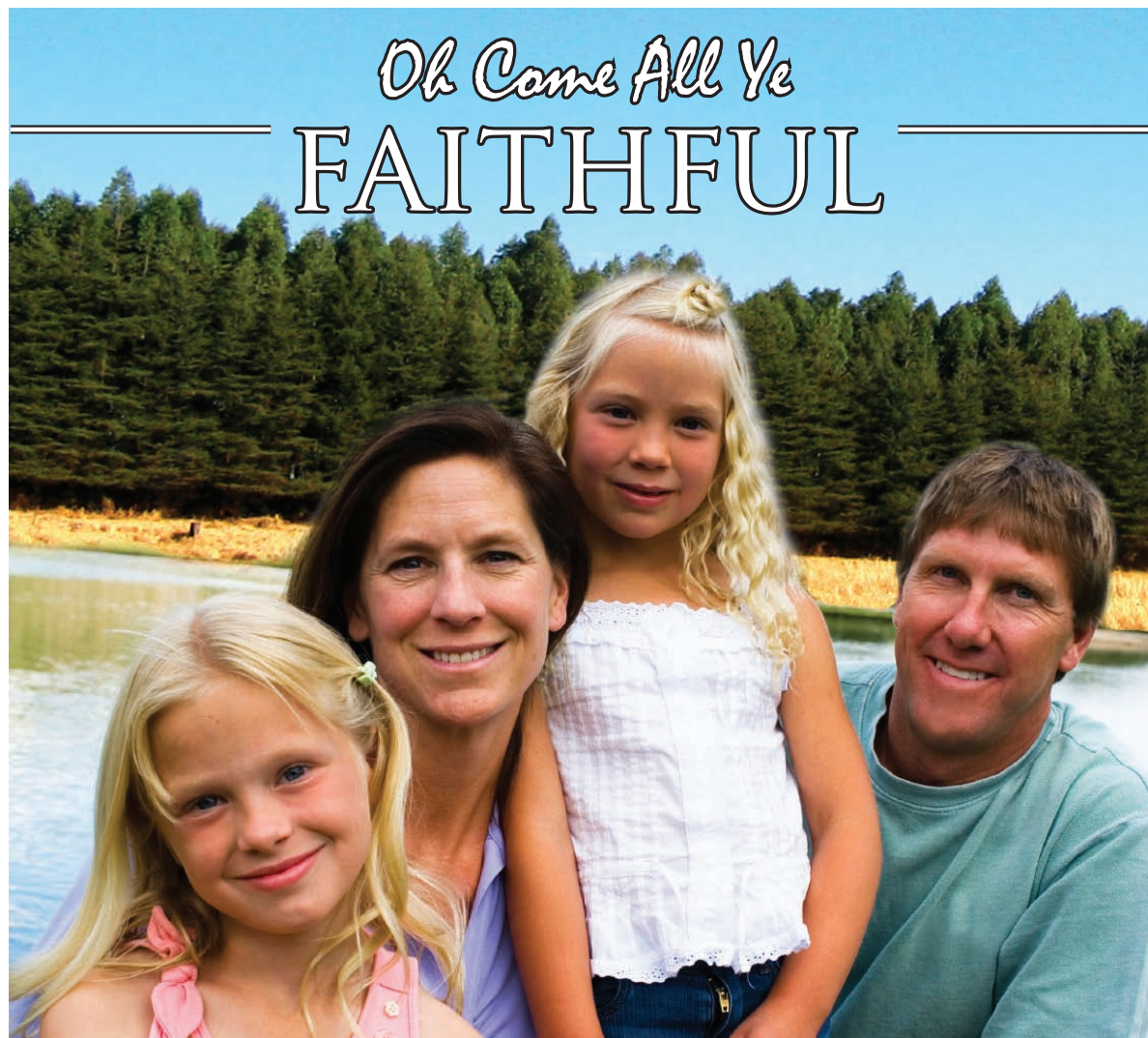
So why walk on sore feet when your father will still love you if you get in the car? Why love God? Why love my neighbor? Why forgive? Why tithe? Why attend? Why serve? Why pray? Why care? *I've been shown why.* For that matter, I've been shown what Jesus meant when He said those who are like children are part of the kingdom of God. I want Douglas' attitude.

It occurs to me the point of some religions is to honor your ancestors and do nothing that would shame the family name — so at the end they will be proud of you. All people, at their best, want to hear "well done" from the one they respect the most. Jesus did his Father's will in all things and we are supposed to follow His example. He told us to spread his word to all. How proud he would be if that's what we did.

Finally, I get tired of hearing preaching about my reward in heaven, or my punishment in hell, or how badly I should feel if I don't do "my duty." Did Jesus preach like that? (Well, maybe sometimes but I don't get the feeling it was the main focus.) To me, those sermons are commercials aimed at people who are looking out for No. 1. I would rather be like Douglas.

I would rather be like that young man who gave me an example of the right relationship to have with my Father, or with His Son. I've said before that I know a lot about Jesus, but do I simply know Jesus? I'm working on it, and it helps that I got a good introduction from a young man with sore feet.

[Rick Jones lives in Fort Smith and is a member of Wesley UMC.]



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