



# United Methodist Arkansas

October 17, 2008

## \$1 million boosts vocations, ethics program at Hendrix

CONWAY — Hendrix College has received a \$1 million gift from the Fort Smith-based Miller Foundation to establish an on-campus center that will focus on “enhancing students’ future career decisions and spiritual callings.” The gift was announced Oct. 7.

The Miller Center for Vocation, Calling and Ethics, created through the foundation organized by Bob and Nadine Miller of Fort Smith, will provide programming, staffing and leadership to assist Hendrix students through challenging life decisions.

The Miller Center will continue and enhance traditions of the college’s Hendrix-Lilly Initiative, a program designed with similar intentions at Hendrix seven years ago and sustained through a five-year implementation



Hendrix president J. Timothy Cloyd (left) joins with Bob and Nadine Miller of Fort Smith in announcing the Miller’s \$1 million gift to the college.

grant and a subsequent three-year sustainability grant from the Lilly Foundation. The Miller Center will officially replace the Lilly Initiative in the fall of 2009.

“The Miller Center purpose will be

See HENDRIX, page 11

## Church-related legal issues topic of conference for lawyers

A conference for attorneys who assist local United Methodist churches with legal issues is slated for Nov. 11 on the campus of Philander Smith College in Little Rock.

The 2008 United Methodist Lawyers Conference is hosted by the Arkansas Conference and coordinated by Conference Chancellor William A.

“Bill” Waddell. With the theme of “Choosing Five Stones from the Stream: Our Preparation as United Methodist Lawyers,” the program begins at 8 a.m.

Topics and leaders for presentations will include:

- “Legal Relationships and

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## A Message from the Bishop

### ■ Lottery’s get-rich-quick scheme not a wise investment

Dear Friends in Christ,

The historic position of the United Methodist Church of opposing gambling in all its forms is founded on the fundamental principle that we should never do anything that causes harm to people or that preys on any human weakness. Gambling is based on a human weakness: greed. God is replaced with a desire to get rich quick. Wealth becomes more important than God. In that sense, gambling violates the first of the Ten Commandments.

In a day when we rightly speak of concern for “traditional values” and “family values,” Christians should not support any proposal that insures that government will sponsor, tolerate and encourage practices or programs that promote greed. We need look no further than our current economic crisis to see the fruit of human and institutional greed. Tragically, those who are greedy are not the only ones who suffer.

I strongly support more funds for education and scholarships. New revenues available from increased severance taxes on the oil and gas industries — remember this is “new” money — could be set aside for scholarships. A state budget surplus was predicted. Any surplus could be set aside for scholarships. The state legislature can revise spending priorities to provide more state funds for scholarships without increasing taxes. There are viable options to a



Charles Crutchfield

lottery to find more funding for scholarships.

The end simply does not justify the means. A lottery will prey on those least able to tolerate the loss of money. It becomes a regressive tax on the poor. Millions of dollars will be spent promoting the lottery, providing prizes, and paying administrative costs, before any

educational value is realized. Only a small percentage of the funds will be used for scholarships. As you are aware, there is also the significant possibility that the adoption of this lottery proposal would actually open the door to casino gambling in Arkansas.

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-32) Gambling violates the words of Jesus, replacing God with greed and placing stumbling blocks in front of the neighbor. Gambling is morally and ethically bankrupt.

I encourage you to vote to defeat the lottery in Arkansas.

May God bless you.

Faithfully,  
Charles Crutchfield  
Bishop  
Arkansas Annual Conference  
The United Methodist Church

## INSIDE HEADLINES

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# Viewpoint

## UM gets off the fence

By TONY HILLIARD

Roger Glover and Scott Trotter, I apologize. I, like many Methodists, have sat on the sidelines of the Lottery Amendment debate watching you carry the fight for us, letting you do all the heavy lifting and taking all the shots without my ever lifting a finger. I didn't pay attention or take a stand. I didn't really look at the proposed amendment or the issues you've already raised.



Tony Hilliard

Part of me felt a lottery to fund college scholarships might not be such a bad thing, so I sat on the fence when others around me spoke up in favor of the lottery proposal. Then last week Lt. Gov. Halter came and spoke to my Rotary Club on his lottery proposal. To prepare for the meeting I took 10 minutes to read the Ballot Title and research what the Arkansas Supreme Court said about lotteries. I was stunned. In that short period of research the obvious flaw in the ballot screamed out at me. Even if you generally supported lotteries, this proposal has the very real potential to put the most addictive forms of gambling in every convenience store in Arkansas.

Roger, you called this proposal a "sucker bet." Now I understand. The Arkansas Constitution currently prohibits "Lotteries." The Arkansas Supreme Court was asked to determine if slot machines and other gambling devices were legal. The Court defined "lottery" in our state constitution as any game of chance whereby consideration is given for the chance to win a prize of some value. In other words, slot machines, by the Supreme Court's very broad definition, are a form of lottery. Scott, you pointed out

that Attorney General Dustin McDaniel warned Lt. Gov. Halter that just because the lottery proposal eliminated the prohibition on lotteries, it would not change the court's definition of lottery. The legislature would not be limited to make the lottery consist of just a pretty girl pulling numbers from a machine following the Monday evening news to see who won that week's contest.

I asked Bill Halter if he had a response to your observation about the lack of definition of the term "Lottery." He shot back that no state is going to get into the casino business. I pointed out New Hampshire, for example, owns all the liquor stores in that state, so a state having a monopoly on all the slot machines was not out of the question. He retorted that the argument was just being made by people who would oppose a lottery in any form and that no one has shown any of the state lotteries have the same type of detrimental effect as the casinos. That is not true and did not address the question or the problem.

When I co-chaired the United Methodist Against Gambling Expansion with Scott in 1996, we saw the horrible price for gambling with slot machines representing the most notorious and addictive mode of gambling. At least, the casino proposals limited the slot machines to a few casinos. This proposal does not.

Here is my prophecy if the Lottery Amendment passes based on the experiences of other states: The lottery program will initially operate with a pretty girl pulling numbers out of a machine every Monday night and bring in several million dollars to fund scholarships. However, like all other states with lotteries, the lottery revenues will slow down but the demand for the scholarships will not shrink. To encourage more betting, the lottery commission, as other states have

See LOTTERY, page 4



By Jane Dennis

## Editor's Corner

### New chapters and doors

It was inevitable, I guess, and bound to happen. But I'm not sure I'm ready for it.

Colleges. My high school sophomore daughter has begun to think about, read about and talk about colleges.

Wasn't it just yesterday that she was clutching her beloved blankie ... wheeling down the driveway on a tricycle ... starting kindergarten ... learning to read?

I want to just say, "No more birthdays! No more growing up. I want my baby back!" But those days are long gone. At 16, we're now all about friends (yes, even boys!), phones, Facebook, driving (independence!), when do these braces come off, what to do on the weekend, and now, where will I go to college, followed by what do I want to be when I grow up?

I vividly remember my first day of college, when my parents caravanned with me, headed to a good ol' Southern college town in another state, vehicles loaded to the hilt, and



Jane Dennis

even with my best friend from high school who was a year younger in tow — a painful reminder that my life was changing but she got to go back to the comfortable, familiar confines of high school.

After everything was moved in and I was sufficiently settled in my dorm

room, we stood around and talked for as long as we possibly could, delaying the inevitable farewells. To this day I can remember that feeling, that aching in the pit of my stomach as I watched them drive away and disappear. It was a combination of scary sadness and excitement. I was truly sad that one chapter of my life had closed. Yet, I was excited to be facing a whole new world of unknown and limitless possibilities.

God opens doors with each new chapter of our lives. The challenge is what we do and how we respond to the opportunities that lie on the other side of that door.

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



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# Viewpoint

## It's time to vote; apply faith guidelines to choices

It's hard to believe that we're near the end of the longest campaign season ever. It seems like we've been talking about this election since the last one happened! To paraphrase the Scripture, "Where two or three are gathered together, there will be a political discussion." Politics — electoral, congregational, or denominational — is a very interesting game. My dad used to tell me, "If you want to keep your friends, don't talk about politics or religion." I blow the religion part on a daily basis; now here I go on politics! As I did just four short years ago, I have some political advice.



Bud Reeves

Christianity itself has been a political force since the Roman Emperor Constantine was converted in the fourth century. In the New Testament, there are admonitions to honor those who are in positions of authority. (Romans 13:1-7) Jesus said, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mark 12:17) Although the early Christians were mostly apolitical, the seeds of many major sociopolitical movements are grounded in Scripture and the tradition of the church. Can you imagine the abolition

of slavery, the suffrage of women, or civil rights without the Christian witnesses who populated those efforts? Today there are many Christian organizations pushing a political agenda. Isn't it fascinating?

If you are confused by all the current political rhetoric, let me relieve any anxiety or confusion on your part by telling you how to vote. Of course, I am not self-destructive enough to endorse any particular candidates, but I will give you my guidelines on how to make intelligent choices at the polling booth. These should work for any Christian — conservative, liberal, moderate, or muddled.

Beware the single-issue candidate. People with an axe to grind seldom make good representatives of the whole people. Every issue is clouded by their cause, which is always more complicated than it first appears. So the single-issue candidate is often forced to change course, thus angering his or her constituents, or stays on track for a train wreck.

Ask the right questions. The right question is not, "What's in it for me?" Yet that is the way most of us

approach politics. Which candidate is going to make me more secure, more wealthy, more happy, etc.? More appropriate questions should be asked about a candidate's stand on moral issues, the environment, war and peace, education, or the economy. How about, "What's in the long-term best interests of the city/state/nation?" Admittedly, this line of questioning is harder than deciding who sounds or looks better. But in asking the right questions, we might just find some intriguing answers.

Vote for people who have a positive vision of the future. Nostalgia ain't what it used to be. Politicians who promise a return to an idyllic past are counting on fuzzy memories to forget what the past was really like. A good leader will take timeless values and combine them with the current reality to produce a vision of a transformed future. Unfortunately, much of American politics, even down to the local level, has degenerated into negative rhetoric that leaves voters disgusted with the whole process. If you find a leader with a positive vision, give him or her your vote.

Choose people of faith. Almost any political office, from the City Council to the White House, is too big a job for a human being to do alone. I look for candidates that honestly (since before their campaign) seem to depend on God for guidance and strength. They do not necessarily have to be similar in denomination or theology. But I believe that a public servant who has a strong relationship with God will more likely be just that — a servant.

Pray for guidance. When all your research is done, when you have studied the positions of the candidates and assessed the possibilities, then pray about it. Ask God to direct your hand in the voting booth. These are important decisions; they need to be undergirded with prayer.

Exercise your privilege. Above all else, do make the effort to go out and vote. Having a voice in our government is a sacred responsibility enjoyed by few people to the extent we do in America. Yet, we are constantly plagued with low voter turnout. Every vote does count! Democracy is a trust that was given by God and ensured by the founders of our nation. I know it's flawed, as every human system is, but it's the best option I've seen. Exercise is healthy — get out and vote!

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



## Letters to the Editor

### Timeless Scripture

I find Thompson Murray's rationale for Christian acceptance of the practice of homosexuality troubling (Viewpoint, Sept. 5). While acknowledging that Scripture makes acceptance of homosexual practice difficult and that maintaining church tradition supporting such prohibitions is not our highest calling, he goes on to say, "we have found our way around other verses of scripture that violate our corporate reason."

While Methodists put value on corporate reason, church tradition, and personal experience, we place the highest value on Scripture. We affirm as a denomination that "all Scripture is inspired by God." We affirm as a denomination that "Scripture is the

only and sufficient rule of both Christian faith and practice." These are not affirmations appropriate for human reason, tradition or experience. Thompson's approach for dealing with difficult Scriptural concepts elevates human reason above Scripture in determining Christian faith and practice. He seeks to justify doing so in the case of Scriptural prohibitions against the practice or homosexuality by using an example where our "corporate reason" has trumped a Scriptural concept.

Thompson uses our acceptance of women in ministry as an example of how we use "corporate reason" to get around an uncomfortable and/or unacceptable prohibition in Scripture. He cites Paul's opposition to women

speaking and leading in the church and claims we, as a denomination, have "found our way around" such a belief. Instead of "finding our way around" Scripture that offends or challenges us, I suggest we spend more time valuing and understanding what is there. The key is in understanding the difference between timeless Scriptural principles and cultural applications of those prin-

ciples.

What makes the "women in ministry" issue referred to by Thompson different from the homosexuality issue? Unlike the homosexual issue where the Scriptural revelation is consistent and clear, acceptance of women in ministry has Scriptural support. There are clear examples of women

See LETTER, page 4

### FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE By Mike Morgan



# Chaplains have supportive congregations back home

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

By **JANE DENNIS**  
Arkansas United Methodist

Arkansas congregations that have watched their pastor go off to war continue serving their communities and offering vital ministries, while tracking the months, weeks and days until his return.

"My two congregations stay in touch by sending cards, letters and emails," said James Wainscott, a chaplain in the Army Reserves and pastor of the Brookland and Union Grove churches in the North East District. "It is always nice to receive mail from home. I also got to web cam some of the children from Brookland. It is nice to hear their voices."

Wainscott is deployed in Iraq with the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade and stationed at Al Asad. John Snyder, a retired local pastor, is serving Wainscott's two-point charge in his absence.

The Brookland congregation also reminds the community that their pastor is serving in harm's way. They placed a large sign in front of the church that reads, "Always in our thoughts and prayers. Chaplain Major James F. Wainscott."

"The sign was erected in his honor," said church member Gretchen Hunt. "We are ever mindful of his sacrifice."

United Methodist pastor Wes Hilliard, who is also a chaplain with

the 39th, is attached to Camp Adder at Tallil. He left the Heritage United Methodist congregation at Van Buren in the hands of interim pastor George Williams, a retired elder. Hilliard and Wainscott went on active military duty Oct. 1, 2007. They anticipate completing their tours of duty by the end of the year, hopefully in time to be home by Christmas.

"The Heritage congregation has been wonderful," Hilliard said. "For my birthday, they sent me so many cards it literally took me a month to read them. I receive letters and cards from them almost daily. In fact, I receive more mail than anyone in my unit! People ask me why I get so much mail. I just tell them I have a very large family that loves me very much."

The Heritage church family sends Hilliard monthly care packages and items to support his ministry to the troops.

Other congregations in Arkansas have also supplied the chaplains with items on their "wish lists," ranging from marriage counseling books and supplies for a Christian coffeehouse which gives soldiers a place of rest and relaxation, to toiletries and other basic necessities offered in a "free room" Hilliard stocks. Donations of children's books and DVD-R's for a special "United Through Reading" program have also been appreciated, Hilliard said.

The congregations also take care of the pastors' families back home.

"Before I left, the congregation gave my family a coupon book to 'redeem' whenever they had a need," Hilliard said. "One person, a professional photographer, gave a free photo



Young members of Brookland UMC remind friends and neighbors that their pastor, James Wainscott, is not forgotten while serving as an Army chaplain in Iraq.

session and lots of great prints of my wife and daughters to send me. Another family gives my wife and daughters free movie tickets each month."

Another church member comes by regularly to trim hedges and groom flowerbeds at the parsonage. The congregation has also supplied calling cards to allow Hilliard to call his family frequently.

Staying "connected" to their congregations has been a great source of comfort for the two pastors and chaplains who are far from home.

"Two of the biggest things that I miss are the rain and the greenery" of Arkansas, Wainscott said "It has sprinkled a very few times here and each time it was mud. The dust and dirt gets sucked up into the air and if it happens to rain the dirt comes with it."

Wainscott misses the rich colors of Arkansas, too. "Imagine every house

being painted a beige color. The ground is beige. And there are no trees. The sun is so intense that you squint your eyes all the time," he said.

Hilliard said he misses "flowers, walking through the woods, taking a long bike ride, and having grass to mow!" He said he most looks forward to being with his family and "resting, watching my daughters pursue their passions in sports and music, and being with the Heritage Church family."

Amid the daily stress of life as an Army chaplain in a war zone, Hilliard and Wainscott rely on their faith to carry them through what could be considered "a great wilderness experience," Hilliard said.

"Spending lots of time with Jesus is what helps me cope," Hilliard said. "I look to Him as my Comforter, Companion and Completer. I seek Him daily as my Lord and the Source of my power, peace and contentment."

## LOTTERY, continued from page 2

done, will authorize the company operating the lottery to drop the percentage of the revenues going to scholarships and begin using more "creative" forms of a lottery such as the "instant win" games used in other states. Soon, however, as other states have experienced, the convenience stores will begin complaining they are losing other sales because of the lines to buy the lottery tickets. To help the convenience store owners, the lottery company will purchase machines that allow the player to put in his money, pull the handle and see instantly if he won, just like a slot machine, in every convenience store in Arkansas. The lottery machines will be as addictive as any slot machine and even more dangerous because the lottery machine will be staring right at the gambling addict every time he buys gas for his car.

As seen by the "games of skill" operating in Hot Springs and West Memphis, the legislature will expand

gambling if given a chance, so my prophecy above, based on the experiences of other states, seems very likely. We already know the United Methodist stand against gambling and why. When families lose their homes or can't eat because Dad spent all their money on the lottery slot machines, we are the ones that must help, not Lt. Gov. Bill Halter.

Roger Glover has warned us, this amendment is a sucker bet. I'm off the fence and taking a vocal stand in my community. Obviously, the only way we will defeat this proposal is if more people become informed and take a stand, explaining why they oppose this amendment to their neighbors and friends. We must stand united, United Methodists!

Roger, Scott, I'm sorry it took me so long to get off the fence.

[Tony Hilliard, an attorney from Pine Bluff, is the spouse, brother and son of United Methodist pastors.]

## LETTER, continued from page 3

speaking and leading in the Scriptures. There are clear Biblical principles providing justification for women speaking and leading alongside men. For example, see Galatians 3:28. There is prophecy pointing to women speaking and leading in the future of the Christian Church. For example, see Acts 2:17-18.

Paul understood how the revelation of God in Jesus fundamentally challenged the foundations of fallen human culture. Paul recognized that "in Christ" women and men were equal in God's eyes in stark contrast to cultural values of the time. Yet, he also valued the Gospel so much that he gave up exercising personal rights that would hinder it, and he expected all Christians to do likewise. This includ-

ed women of the first century who, because of cultural oppression, were ill prepared for leadership and would find great resistance to their efforts to lead, resulting in stumbling blocks in the way of the Gospel message.

I celebrate women in ministry and I don't have to "get around" Paul and the Scriptural revelation to be able to do so. On the other hand, to use "corporate reason" to condone homosexual behavior is an elevation of human reason above the authority of Scripture. Our current position on homosexuality is the correct one and to change it either way will result in divisive and destructive consequences to our church.

David Kassos  
Texarkana







# News Digest

## Hoosier United Methodists establish new conference

INDIANAPOLIS — Clusters and cooperation are the touchstones for a new streamlined Indiana Annual Conference approved by more than 2,000 United Methodist Hoosiers in a special session on Oct. 4. The uniting of the South and North Indiana conferences comes at the conclusion of more than two years of work by task forces and a team made of clergy and lay members from both conferences. Their goal was to streamline the region's administrative structure and place resources closer to local churches.

## Local church kids find no mission impossible

PLANO, Texas — They're kids on a mission, packing flood buckets for victims of recent hurricanes and making blankets for wounded soldiers.

"It's really fun because you get to help people," says Zoe Pitts, 7. Mission Possible Kids are proving children can make a difference, addressing problems in their own neighborhoods and around the world. The program started at Christ United Methodist Church in the Dallas suburb of Plano and now includes chapters in 17 states.

"There are so many different spy things and movies, and the kids just all love to pretend that they're spies. The concept with this is they get to be special agents doing God's work," explains Kathy Meadows, executive director of Mission Possible Kids. Meadows, a member of Christ United Methodist Church, started the program in 2003 as a hands-on experience for kids — and was surprised when 160 showed up for the first meeting.

"We knew, immediately, we had struck a nerve, for something that parents and kids alike were looking for," she says. Meadows started a nonprofit organization to help other churches and organizations set up Mission Possible Kids programs.



Members of Mission Possible Kids at Custer Road United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas, collect items for flood buckets as part of the program that provides hands-on local and global service projects for children, kindergarten through the sixth grade.

A UMNS photo by John Gordon

## Path 1 focuses on 'biggest mission field': the U.S.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The United Methodist Church in the United States loses 1,500 members each week, a decline that steadily adds to the country's designation as "the biggest mission field." The denominational decline is contributing to the estimated 195 million "unchurched" people in the country, now considered the third-largest mission field in the English-speaking world and the fifth largest globally, according to the United Methodist Board of Discipleship in Nashville.

"Not one county in the United States has a greater church population than it did 10 years ago," said Tom Butcher, coordinator of Path 1, the denomination's new church growth emphasis for creating faith communities. "The biggest mission field is in the United States."

The United Methodist Church wants to stop that decrease and reconnect with its past by planting churches that reach more people, younger people and diverse people. "We want to regain our Methodist DNA of starting a church a day," Butcher said. That

daily church planting has not occurred for 40 to 50 years, he added.

## Youth, young adults are church of today, not tomorrow

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Young people want to send a message to United Methodists: They are not the church of tomorrow but are the church today.

Youth and young adults decry the "youth are the church of tomorrow" mantra because they say that it gives adults permission to discount their voices.

Christopher Dorr, 20, of Clay, Ala., is a member of the denomination's Division on Ministries with Young People. He is thankful that the church created the division four years ago to allow the voices and passion of youth and young people to be heard. The division's governing directors consist of 50 youth and young adults, ages 12-

20, from around the world.

"We are not to be forgotten. We have just as strong a voice as anyone else, and we have nothing to stop us from going after everything we want," Dorr said.

## New commission aligns with areas of focus

LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, Md. — The agency charged with helping The United Methodist Church be more racially inclusive will increase its monitoring, advocacy and education efforts. At the same time, the agency will integrate that work into the churchwide focus on developing new congregations, new leaders and new ministries to fight poverty and disease.

The United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race, meeting Sept. 25-28 to organize its new board of directors for 2009-2012, adjusted its year-old strategic plan to encompass the new emphases adopted by the denomination's legislative assembly in May.

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Liabilities Related to Use of Church Premises by Outside Groups," Bill Waddell;

■ "Understanding the Doctrine of Charitable Immunity," Brian Brooks;

■ "Endowment Development and the Local Church," Jim Argue and Roger Bryles;

■ "Employment Issues in Local Churches," Irene Howard;

■ "Update on Tax Law and Nonprofit Corporation Law," Tony Hilliard;

■ "Local Church Insurance

Issues," Irene Howard;

■ "Update on Real Estate Law," Robin Wynne; and

■ "Anatomy of a Local Church Embezzlement: Law, Recovery and Prevention," Brian Ratliff.

Lunch will be provided by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

The conference is offered at no cost, and attendees receive continuing legal education credits. For more information, contact Waddell at (501) 370-1510 or [waddell@fec.net](mailto:waddell@fec.net).

# Pages from the past being preserved

## ■ Newspapers dating to 1884 find new home at Philander Smith library

Efforts are under way to restore and preserve more than 120 years of history printed on the pages of the *Arkansas United Methodist* and its predecessor publications, the *Arkansas Methodist* and the *Western Methodist*.

Bound volumes of the papers date to 1884. Arkansas Conference archivist Marcia Crossman is overseeing the project, which includes the careful repair of the most fragile books and their binding and the preservation of the often brittle paper by applying a special liquid preservation agent. The work is being done at the United Methodist Archives at Bailey Library on the campus of Hendrix College in Conway.

The set of papers Crossman is working on was formerly housed at the Conference offices in Little Rock. Due

to space limitations, however, the bound volumes “were on top of some cabinets,” Crossman said, offering limiting accessibility. Plus, “this did not seem like a worthy or safe place for such a valuable, historical collection.”

Martha Taylor, Arkansas Conference director of communications, contacted Crossman in November to discuss the best option for the safe keeping and preservation of the collection.

“Even though microfilm of the *Arkansas United Methodist* newspaper is available in several places,” Crossman said, including the archives at Hendrix College, “reading, touching and turning the original newspaper pages give us a link to the Methodist people who came before us. This printed history is a valuable part of who we are and how we got where we are. We never want to lose that.”

Once the project is complete, the bound volumes will be at home in the

archives section of the Donald W. Reynolds Library on the campus of Philander Smith College in Little Rock — a building that is next door to the Kendall Center, which houses the Arkansas Conference ministry offices.

“Gracie Carter, who is the Philander Smith College archivist, graciously offered us space in their new state-of-the-art archives facility,” Crossman said. “We knew this would be a fabulous place ... The archives are both light- and temperature-controlled. The bookshelves are even on tracks that move with the turn of a wheel.”

The conference Commission of Archives and History has been consulted and involved in the preservation project and is providing some funding as well.

Once they become part of the library’s archive collection, the newspapers may not be checked out



*Marcia Crossman, Arkansas Conference archivist, carefully turns the brittle pages of an Arkansas Methodist newspaper from the 1880s.*

but can be studied and viewed onsite at the library.



The annual Soup and Cornbread Luncheon and Bake Sale at First UMC, Searcy, is coming up 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 24, at the church, 304 N. Main St. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. UMW members will be taking Thanksgiving holiday orders for Sweet Potato Casserole, Cornbread Dressing, Hash Brown Casserole and Green Beans. All proceeds will be donated to CASA, Hope Cottage and K-Life.

Midnight Oil Productions will lead a two-day Creative Worship conference on the use of media in worship Nov. 14-15 at First UMC, Springdale. Presenters will be Len Wilson and Jason Moore, founders of Midnight Oil and the authors of three books on worship media. The duo began the media ministry at Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio and were part of the team that began Lumicon, a digital media ministry launched by United Methodist Reporter.

The first day of the workshop will be geared for those who are just beginning their media ministry or would like to fine-tune the essentials of creative worship. The second day will be a hands-on workshop for designing media for congregational worship. Participants on the second day are encouraged to bring a laptop in order to design media onsite. Participants can sign up for one or two days of seminars.



*At First UMC, Searcy, United Methodist Women (from left) Nancy Froman, Peggy Burkett and Sharon Carder finalize details for the upcoming Soup and Cornbread Luncheon and Bake Sale.*

For more details call (870) 236-2346. Online registration is available at [www.midnightoilproductions.com](http://www.midnightoilproductions.com).

First UMC, Little Rock, will host its annual Halloween Carnival from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 26, at the church, Eighth and Center streets. There will be games, bounce house, big slide, food, costume contest, face painting, a haunted house sponsored by First Youth and more. Admission: \$4 per person or \$15 per family of four or more. Admission includes food and drinks. All ages may join in the fun. For more information call the church office (501) 327-2256 or visit the church website, [www.fumclr.org](http://www.fumclr.org).

The North East District Council on Youth Ministries will hold its Fall Rally for youth in grades 7-9 Oct. 25-26 at Wayland Springs Camp near Imboden. The theme will be “Trust.”

Registration begins at 1 p.m. Oct. 25 and the event concluded at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 26. Cost is \$35.

Caroline Damron and Rebecca Maddox will be guest speaker, with Ten Grams Shy musical guests. District superintendent Kurt Boggan will lead the closing Service of Holy Communion. Brooke Warner, Josh Conley and Caroline Nimocks are in charge of student devotions. For details contact Kaye Gann at (870) 623-2657 or Kathy Finch at (870) 633-6273.

The 2008 Confirmation Class of Mayflower UMC will host a community-wide beans and cornbread supper, followed by a showing of the movie “The Wager,” with Randy Travis. The meal and the movie are free to the public and are offered as a service to the community by the confirmation class. The church is located at the corner of Grove and Highway 89 in Mayflower. For more information call (501) 470-0983.

Lakewood UMC, North Little Rock, will host a Community Fall Festival from 5-7 p.m. Oct 26 at the church, 1922 Topf Road. The event will feature a hayride, carnival games, space jump, prizes and refreshments. Tickets are five for \$1, with most activities requiring only one ticket. Children and adults in costume earn

five free tickets. There will also be a Ministry Fair with booths explaining various volunteer opportunities Lakewood UMC offers to serve the community. All proceeds go to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which offers humanitarian aid to people suffering from disasters.

For more information, call (501) 753-6186 or go online to [www.expandingthelight.org](http://www.expandingthelight.org).

A Dayspring Revival with evangelist Wesley Putnam is slated for Oct. 26-29 at First UMC, 1100 Central Avenue, Hot Springs. BibleQuest activities for children begin at 6 p.m., with services at 7 p.m. nightly. Putnam weaves together preaching, storytelling and music to create a fresh approach to spiritual revival. For more information, call (501) 623-6668.

Henderson UMC, Little Rock, will present its 55th annual turkey dinner Nov. 5, with serving times 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at the church, 13000 W. Baseline Road. Turkey and dressing and all the trimmings will be available at a cost of \$8 adults and \$4 children under 12. The event includes door prizes and take-out orders. For details, call (501) 455-2209.

Oak Forest UMC, Little Rock, will hold its annual bazaar and turkey din-



# FUNDS RAISED WITH FISH, FUN, FELLOWSHIP



Volunteers fill plates with fried catfish and all the trimmings prepared by members of Rotary Clubs of Pulaski County.



Phyllis Brown (left), president of the Camp Aldersgate Board of Directors, and executive director Sarah Wacaster, greet visitors.



A bake sale and silent auction helped raise more than \$35,000 proceeds at the annual event benefiting programs that serve children with disabilities and medical conditions and senior citizens.

About 1,400 folks hungry for catfish and a yearning to support the programs and mission of Little Rock's Camp Aldersgate turned out Sept. 27 for the camp's annual Fish Fry fund raiser Sept. 27.

Volunteers from Rotary Clubs of Pulaski County prepared the food and a host of additional volunteers helped with serving duties. The event brought in about \$35,000 to support the programs that serve children with disabilities and medical conditions and senior citizens.

The afternoon affair included a bake sale, silent auction, music, children's activities and tours of the facility.



Guests enjoy catfish and a beautiful fall day while dining on the deck at Camp Aldersgate.

## COMING UP, continued from page 6


ner Nov. 7 at the church, 2415 Fair Park Blvd. The bazaar is slated for 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will include crafts, white elephant items, baked goods and a food sale. A light lunch will be served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the turkey dinner available 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$8 adults and \$3 children 12 and under. For more information or tickets, call (501) 663-9407.

Pleasant Grove UMC, Jonesboro, will welcome the Full Circle Trio for a concert at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 2. The Full Circle Trio was named a regional Group of the Year and nominated for a Gold Cross Award by

the International Country Gospel Music Association.

First UMC, Jonesboro, will welcome noted theologian Leonard Sweet for a revival series, "By His Design," with services at 6 p.m. Oct. 19 and 7 p.m. Oct. 20-21. Based on his upcoming book, "So Beautiful — God's Design," Sweet will explore the spiritual DNA of the missional and relational aspects of Christian life. Sweet is the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew Theological School, Madison, N.J., and has been named "one of the 50 most influential Christians in America."


First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs & St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock invites you to be a part of




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8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Little Rock)

Tickets are available for \$49.00 and include lunch and Mission Village  
[www.ccn.tv/leadnow](http://www.ccn.tv/leadnow)

Free Childcare is available, but must be requested by November 10th

For more information or tickets, contact:  
Hot Springs - Teresa Holt - 501-623-6668  
Little Rock - Jenni Duncan - 501-217-6708





## It Happened

Village UMC, Hot Springs Village, sent a team of 33 members to Baldwin, La., to work at the United Methodist Committee on Relief Sager Brown Depot Sept. 28-Oct. 3. The team, along with volunteers from Texas and Virginia, produced 1,536 flood buckets, 120 layettes, 135 book bags, 2,550 health kits, 815 school kits, and repaired local homes affected by the hurricanes. Team members from the Arkansas group delivered four truckloads of emergency supplies to the south Texas area.

In addition, the team made a donation of \$1,375 to the depot. The money was donated by various church groups at Village UMC to be used for kits, supplies and repairs at the facility.



Jim Fox, leader of the Volunteer in Mission team from Village UMC, Hot Springs Village, presents a \$1,375 check to Kathy Kraiza, executive director of UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot.

McElroy UMC recently celebrated its annual Octoberfest party, with participants of all ages enjoying the fun. There was "pickin' and grinnin'" with a full gospel band, a fishing booth, egg toss, horseshoes, balloon bust relay, pumpkin decorating and a cakewalk. A bonfire with a weenie roast and s'mores followed by a hayride concluded the fun. All proceeds went to the community needy fund.



An adventuresome participant in the Crosstraining event at Camp Ozark takes off on a zip line.

Elevate your mind, your heart and your life! That was the focus of the recent Crosstraining youth retreat at Camp Ozark that drew 258 campers and more than 70 adult leaders. Participating churches included First UMC, Russellville; First UMC, Maumelle; Central UMC, Fayetteville; and First UMC, Little Rock.

Ronnie Miller-Yow, pastor of Wesley UMC, Little Rock, was guest speaker. Youth were engaged in small group discussion about how they could elevate their lives for Christ. In addition to worship times, the retreat was filled with group games, the strategy game Planet Demtar and the Black Hole and a mountaintop worship experience.

United Methodist Women at First UMC, Little Rock, recently hosted a back-to-school project in conjunction with the Arkansas Foodbank Network. New backpacks, easy-to-prepare food and money were collected in August. The gifts, with an approximate value of \$1,500, were designated for the Foodbank's school backpack program, which provides "weekend" food for children who might not otherwise have enough to eat. The project is one of the UMW unit's local mission efforts.

Children of First UMC, West Memphis, recently raised more than \$400 for Operation Kid-to-Kid, a program that sends soccer balls to African children so deep in poverty they can't afford one of their own. These soccer balls are called GO (Gospel Outreach) Balls, and they have special colors that are related to sharing the Gospel. Children who receive the balls also receive a guide called "Coaching for Sport ... Coaching for Life" translated into their native language. More information about the program is available online at [www.ok2k.org](http://www.ok2k.org).

More than 120 people gathered Oct. 5 at Oak Forest UMC, Little Rock, for a Blessing of the Animals Service. The morning service was held on the front lawn to accommodate two horses that attended. Docents from the Little Rock Zoo brought a king snake, hissing cockroaches from Madagascar, a ferret and a screech owl named Acorn. The children were treated to



Children at West Memphis First UMC show off soccer balls that will soon be in the hands of children in Africa.

horseback rides.

Oak Forest has taken in 15 new members and three children since last year's charge conference. The Little Rock landmark church is focusing on reaching out to the community, prompting one longtime member to comment, "There's a new breeze blowing at Oak Forest!"

In other news from Oak Forest, the congregation recently celebrated the year 1928 and honored four longtime members who turned 80 this year. The octogenarians are Christine Gentry, Jean Woods, Melba Yancey and Gloria Minor. The birthday girls dressed as flappers for the 1928-themed birthday party.

Greenwood UMC hosted a retreat for women Sept. 19-21 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville. The weekend included a relaxed schedule of spiritual renewal, food and laughter.

In other news from Greenwood, the church family gathered Oct. 4 for a cook-out complete with campfire at member Margaret Hall's farm.

First UMC, Monticello, hosted an interfaith, communitywide "See You at the Pole" youth event Sept. 28 that drew a crowd of 150 persons. Rejoice, First UMC's youth choir that was organized about two years ago, performed.

Salem UMC, Benton, held its second annual communitywide back-to-school block party in August. Members of the congregation invited friends and neighbors to attend and enjoy the free games, food and fun. The year-round community program has expanded to

include a free Thanksgiving dinner, Super Bowl Sunday activities and the late summer block party. The goal is to reach unchurched persons and acquainted them with the services, faith, support and fellowship the Salem church offers.

First UMC, Fort Smith, recently dedicated a special Prayer Room featuring an altar with a cross and Bible, prayer rail, seating and a table displaying the Lord's Prayer.

"The room was designed for the glory of the Lord and for anyone to come pray and meditate," said church member Linda Bradley. The room is open when the church is open.

See IT HAPPENED, page 9



Hazen UMC recently sponsored a trip to Branson, Mo., where the United Methodist travelers enjoyed "Noah, the Musical." The group included (from left) David Jula, David Hoover, Charley Isom, Cody Snider, Sarah Snider and Judy Jula.



Sorting donations from "Undie Sunday" at Keo UMC are (from left) Chris Nichols, Terri Collins, Ila Chaney and Peggy Morton.



**IT HAPPENED,** *continued from page 8*

Keo UMC has designated 2008 as a year to emphasize and celebrate mission activities. The congregation has provided financial aid and emotional support during several tornado disasters earlier this year. The community of Keo was heavily damaged, including several members' homes and property.

Food is collected and donated monthly to Chris Corner in England or other deserving charities. "Undie Sunday" is celebrated the fourth Sunday of each quarter to benefit Methodist Behavioral Hospital. Members of the church bring new underwear and socks for children at the hospital in Maumelle.

Supplies to complete medical kits are being collected and will be donated to the Ingathering next month. Members plan to volunteer at the United Methodist Committee on Relief's Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., in December.

The year of mission emphasis is a precursor to Keo UMC's centennial celebration in 2009.

Smackover UMC hosted a Wild Game Night potluck supper Sept. 28, with guests enjoying crawfish pie, duck kabobs, possum grape dip and barbecue deer brisket. Members wearing hunting garb were awarded prizes for the best camo outfits as well as prizes for the tastiest dishes. Pastor Leon Dixon held a drawing for door prizes and proclaimed the event a rousing success, ending Rally Day, which began with a breakfast and honored the children during worship with promotion certificates.

Winners in the food division were: dessert, Shannon Carroll, Wild



*Amanda Moore, associate pastor at Oak Forest UMC, blesses Carol Schaffner's horse at the a Blessing of the Animals service.*

Game Camo Cake; main dish, Tommy Pearson, deer steak; and grand prize, Tommy Taylor, bacon-wrapped duck kabobs.

Winners in the costume contest were: Coa Langley, infant; Jewell Carroll, toddler; Anna Dixon, preschool; Sydnee Thomasson and Colby Pearson, elementary; and Jenann Pearson and Jim Carroll, adult.

The fellowship hall was decorated in a hunting theme, complete with a tent and campfire, deer antlers, duck decoys, wild flowers and a beautiful outdoor photography.

Primrose UMC, Little Rock, sponsored its seventh annual Bar-B-Que and Country Cupboard Sept. 13. The Salem UMC Praise Singers performed, while the crowd enjoyed a barbecue dinner and shopping for homemade pies, cakes, jams and jellies. More than \$1,500 was raised for mission projects supported by United Methodist Women.

In other news from Primrose, a "Surfin' the Scriptures" Vacation Bible School in late July involved nearly 80 children and 45 leaders. As a mission project, the children donated kid-friendly food items for the church's food pantry.



*Oak Forest UMC, Little Rock, recently helped members Christine Gentry, Jean Woods, Melba Yancey and Gloria Minor celebrate their 80th birthdays.*



*A wild game dinner, complete with cooking and camo contests, was a special occasion at Smackover UMC.*



**Ecumenical cooperation**

*United Methodist Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield (left) hosted a meeting Sept. 29 of members of the executive committee of the Arkansas Interfaith Conference, including Bishop Floyd Schoenhals of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, chairman; the Right Rev. Larry Benfield of the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas; and the Rev. Barbara Jones of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arkansas. They were also joined by Rev. Steve Copley, vice president of the Interfaith Conference; and Mimi Dortch, executive director. Judicatories of the Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal and Roman Catholic denominations were unable to attend. The leaders discussed future plans for ecumenical cooperation and took steps to focus on environmental concerns.*

**Milestones**

Patty Cleaver, the oldest member of First UMC, Wynne, celebrated her 100th birthday Sept. 10 with a reception at her home, Magnolia Pines. She has been an active member of the Wynne congregation since 1946.



*Primrose UMC recently honored siblings Mary Fiser, Sam Page and Peg Daniels.*

Primrose UMC, Little Rock, held a homecoming event Aug. 13 that marked the church's 141 years of ministry. Former pastor Jim Polk, now pastor of First UMC, El Dorado, was guest speaker. Other former pastors and their families were honored guests. Special recognition was given to longtime members and siblings Mary Fiser, 91, Peg Daniel, 86, and Sam Page, 84. Their combined membership represents 150 years.



*Patty Cleaver*

First UMC, Benton, celebrated its 150th anniversary Sept. 21. Following

morning worship services, a churchwide potluck picnic was held at Mary Kennally State Park in Haskell.

The congregation dates to 1858, when Methodists in Saline County built a church building and shared it with the Odd Fellows. Prior to 1858, worship services in Benton were conducted on the banks of the Saline River, in homes, in the courthouse and schoolhouse.

**Does your local church have some good news to share? A special event coming up? A member who has reached a significant milestone? Share it with other United Methodists by sending information to: Arkansas United Methodist, 2 Trudie Kibbe Reed, Little Rock, Ark. 72202, or email [jdennis@arumc.org](mailto:jdennis@arumc.org).**





Thirty-eight Hendrix College students took part in the recent United Methodist Youth Fellowship Leadership Scholars retreat at Camp Mitchell.

## Spiritual development, worship planning part of Hendrix leadership retreat

CONWAY — Participating in activities involving spiritual development and worship planning, 38 Hendrix students recently participated in the Hendrix College United Methodist Youth Fellowship Leadership Scholars retreat at Camp Mitchell on Petit Jean Mountain.

During one worship time, students invited hurricane evacuees staying at Camp Mitchell to join the worship. The evacuees were from a halfway house in Baton Rouge, La.

While at Camp Mitchell, students engaged in a farm experience where they herded sheep, visited a pig farm and cooked their lunch using ingredients from the farm. The farming experience connected the biblical passages of being stewards of the earth and focused on earth and spirituality.

“We really learned how to be good active stewards of the physical earth which should reflect and mirror how we should be good stewards of everything God has placed in our lives,” said Kristi Vo, a sophomore from Van Buren. “The sheep herding is an experience that I will never forget.”

“Making our own food with fresh, farm-raised meat and vegetables was a neat experi-

ence. It really made me more aware of my ignorance in what I eat,” said Eva Englert, a freshman from Dallas.

Student participants included Kaley Waldrip and Zachary Waldrip of Batesville; Emily Harris of Benton; Katie Robinson of Bentonville; Drew Ritchey of Camden; Hannah Norman of Conway; Amy Ulmer of El Dorado; Patty Hill and Hannah Jackson of Fort Smith; Kat Marsh of Hensley; Gabe Breshears, Christine Faubel and John Meredith of Little Rock; Emily Jones of North Little Rock; Will Green of Magnolia; Rachel Kincannon and Stephanie Trevino of Maumelle; Cayce Guy of Monticello; Travis Kauffman of Mountain Home; Megan Crabtree of Paragould; Jake Mitchael and Sarah Rhoads of Rogers; Colin Bagby of Russellville; Chase Green of Searcy; Rebecca Flynn of Sherwood; Kristi Vo of Van Buren; Leslie Till of Champaign, Ill.; Conner McCutchen of Wynne; Alana Buie of Lee’s Summit, Mo.; Hannah Allee of Manchester, Mo.; Nathan Jeffries of Rock Port, Mo; Emily Lenard of St. Louis; Winn Haynes of Warrensburg, Mo.; Philip Brooks of Memphis, Tenn.; Whitney Lovell of Franklin, Tenn.; Hannah Brown, Eva Englert and Xochitl Garcia of Dallas; Paul Richards of Houston; Collin Sittler of Pearland, Texas; Luke Schaffner of Richardson, Texas; Joshua Hooper-Shaffer of San Antonio; and Rebecca Boone of Sulphur, Texas. Wayne Clark, Hendrix College chaplain, led the retreat.

## Mt. Sequoyah to host retreat for singles across jurisdiction

FAYETTEVILLE — “Extreme Makeover: God Edition,” a jurisdictional singles retreat, is coming up Nov. 14-16 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center here.

Nationally recognized author and keynote speaker Brennan Manning will explore images of God and self. Celia Whitler will be musical guest.

Breakout sessions will cover topics relevant to today’s single Christian adults. The agenda includes social activities, coffee houses, dances, bonfires and more.

For details, call (800) 760-8126 or go online to [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org).



Brennan Manning

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16. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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*Martha S. Taylor* Date: Oct. 9, 2008

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

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## Calendar

### OCTOBER

- 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 Christian Center.

### NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1: “Crossing the Jordan on to Dry Land: An Arkansas Conference Gathering of Black Clergy & Laity,” Philander

Smith College, Little Rock.

- Nov. 6: Faith & Health Conference, featuring Philip Yancey, Methodist Health System Hope & Healing Center, 1115 Union Ave., Memphis, Tenn.
- Nov. 8: Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women annual meeting, Benton First UMC.
- Nov. 8-9: Southeast District Youth Rally, Marvell Civic 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.





## Remember When

100 Years Ago

**Oct. 21, 1988:** Magnolia's Stewpot is 5 years old and enjoying great success as a much-needed service in this southern Arkansas community, organizers report. Sponsored by First United Methodist Church, the Stewpot provides a nutritious take-out meal to the needy three days a week. The first meal was served Oct. 24, 1983, to 47 guests.

50 Years Ago

**Oct. 6, 1958:** Eighteen older youth and adults from the Little Rock Conference are home again after a seven-day Colorado Trail Hike. Participants included Rev. Bob Trieschmann, Little Rock; Joan Davis, Texarkana; Lynette Cook, Little Rock; Johnny Lamb, Little Rock; Harrell Jones, Pine Bluff; Mary Ann Lee, Little Rock; Gary Frederick, Little

Rock; Carrie Holland, Arkadelphia; Ronnie Baldwin, Des Arc; Rev. John Hassler, Little Rock, Bill Scurlock, Waldo; Martha Sample, Benton; Kathy Kemp, Texarkana; Bill Payne, Magnolia; Sue Pettyjohn, Little Rock; Freda Dial, Bearden; Virginia Jarvis, Texarkana; and Rev. Woodrow Smith, Little Rock.

20 Years Ago

**Oct. 15, 1908:** Junction City, Ark. — Last night there closed a peculiar but powerful revival in our city on the Louisiana side under the big gospel tent we recently used in our part of Junction City. It was peculiar in that it was conducted by a woman preacher, Rev. Mrs. Bartlett of the Methodist Protestant Church. She lives in Louisiana and has been an evangelist for seven years. She is the best and most effective woman preacher we ever heard.

### HENDRIX, continued from page 1

to help students discern the connection between faith and vocation," Hendrix President J. Timothy Cloyd said. "The work of the Miller Center will touch the lives of hundreds of Hendrix students every year, encouraging them to think more deeply and fully about their vocational choices and their faith."

Bishop Charles Crutchfield called the gift "an extraordinary act of stewardship" that will help Hendrix "plant the seeds of future harvests" and "train citizens that will understand that the world is their parish regardless of what their profession may be."

Bob and Nadine Miller are pillars in the United Methodist Church, serving as lay leaders in both local and national Methodist organizations, and have been responsible for numerous philanthropic actions within their Fort Smith community. They have been active supporters of the First United Methodist Church of Fort Smith for decades as well as advocates of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith, a new emergency room and center at a local hospital, and other organizations.

Hendrix College has been affiliated with the United Methodist Church for more than a century.

"Hendrix has always had a special place in our hearts," Bob Miller said, addressing about 30 persons assembled at the college for the announcement of the gift. "If you have faith while going through college, it helps you make the right decisions."

A good education is important, but it's "only half of what you need," he said. "You need the faith that goes with it. Faith, modesty and integrity go with good education to make the whole person."

The Center will continue to provide programming to guide the spiritual callings and vocational inclinations of Hendrix students — from service-based internships, personal growth retreats, mission trips, and academic exploration of vocation — while providing opportunities for the expansion of these programs, according to Dr. Peg Falls-Corbitt, the current director of the Hendrix-Lilly Initiative who will also direct the Miller Center.

"The Millers' generosity allows Hendrix to continue, and to build upon, the best of the programs for theological exploration of vocation originally seeded by the grant from the Lilly Endowment," Falls-Corbitt said. "That's great news for our students, over 50 percent of whom already participate in a Vocations Initiative program before graduating."

Recognizing the diversity of the Hendrix Community, the Miller Center will continue to provide programming appropriate for students of any religious heritage and those with no religious tradition at all. In honor of the religious tradition of the college, however, many elements of the Miller Center are designed specifically to assist those students exploring a Christian vocation, whether through professional ministry or lay leadership.

"We honor Bob and Nadine Miller not only as wonderful stewards of their church and community, but for their loving commitment to the lives of our future generation of community, church and lay leaders," said Ellis Arnold, Hendrix's executive vice president and dean of institutional advancement. "Their gifts will be seen through the lives of so many future Hendrix graduates."

## Seminarians receive UMFA scholarships

Four seminary students are the latest to receive scholarships from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas Seminary Scholarship Fund. In return for scholarship assistance, the recipients each pledge to begin their ministries in the Arkansas Conference.

"With a large percentage of Arkansas pastors retiring in the next 10 years, this initiative offers the potential of strengthening every United Methodist local church in Arkansas, said Jim Argue Jr., UMFA president and CEO. "Ensuring strong pastoral leadership for the future strengthens the church and its ministry."

Recipients Ben Crismon of Little Rock and Adam Watkins of Jonesboro are in their first few months of study at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Jeanne Williams of Dallas is in her last academic year at Perkins and plans to return to Arkansas for an internship in May. Brittany Richardson of Little Rock is a third-year student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., on the campus of Northwestern University. She plans to begin her ministry in Arkansas in May.



Jeanne Williams and Adam Watkins are among the most recent recipients of United Methodist Foundation Seminary Scholarships.

The United Methodist Foundation Seminary Scholarship program exists to provide financial support for selected seminary students who attend a United Methodist seminary and make a commitment to return to the state for their ministry. UMFA donors fund the scholarships, and recipients are chosen by the Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Scholarship Committee.

Established in 2000, the UMFA Seminary Scholarship Fund has as its goal to provide nine full scholarships for Arkansas students in three-year seminary programs. To learn more about the Seminary Scholarship Fund or to make a contribution, contact Janet Marshall, UMFA Vice President of Development, at (501) 664-8632 or toll-free at (866) 281-8914.

UMFA ranks fifth in total assets among the 52 United Methodist Foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, the Foundation is responsible for more than 500 trust accounts that have combined assets in excess of \$110 million.

## Deaths

### Maumelle

**ALLIDEL STEELE WHITWELL**, 61, of Maumelle, died Oct. 4, 2008. She was the daughter of Virginia and retired United Methodist pastor Norris Steele of Little Rock.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her husband, John Whitwell; children, Matt Whitwell and Misty Heck and her husband Doug Heck; three brothers, Rev. Bill Steele of Tuckerman, Rev. David Steele of Batesville, and Rev. Rodney Steele of Conway; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Oct. 7 at First United Methodist Church, Maumelle. Memorials may be made to the church, P.O. Box 13984, Maumelle, Ark. 72113.

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### Correction

Rick Jones, author of a Viewpoint article, "Parable of the Hike," in the Oct. 3 issue, is a member of St. Paul UMC, Fort Smith. He was incorrectly listed as a member of another church.

## Classifieds

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

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## Benton First to host UMW annual meeting

United Methodist Women of the Arkansas Conference will gather for their annual meeting Nov. 8 at Benton's First United Methodist Church, 200 N. Market St. Registration opens at 8:45 a.m., with the morning session at 9:30.

Joanne Kurklin of Norman, Okla., a member of the Women's Division Green Team, will be guest speaker. The theme of the meeting is "For Christ's Sake Turn the World Upside Down With Purpose."

Cost is \$14, which includes morning snacks and coffee, lunch and program book. Registration deadline is Oct. 31. Registration information is available on the Arkansas Conference Web site, [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org).

The meeting concludes at 2:30 p.m.

## Interfaith group calls for study, moratorium on death penalty

The Arkansas Interfaith Alliance is calling on Gov. Mike Beebe to declare a moratorium on the use of capital punishment while a study is conducted of all laws related to the death penalty.

Faith groups that are part of the Alliance have been working over the past year to collect signatures on petitions urging the governor to appoint a blue ribbon study commission on the death penalty and capital punishment, according to Alliance leader Steve Copley, a United Methodist pastor.

The Alliance is also asking the governor to declare a moratorium on the death penalty while the commission does its work and while the General Assembly considers laws relating to the study commission's recommendation, Copley said.

The statewide Alliance and its member organizations — United Methodists, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Unitarians and Buddhists — will be observing Faith in Action Week Oct. 20-26. Congregations are urged to conduct activities and focus on issues related to the death penalty.

More information about the petition campaign is available online at [www.deathpenaltystudyar.org](http://www.deathpenaltystudyar.org).

## Author Yancey to headline Faith & Health event

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Best-selling author and *Christianity Today* editor Philip Yancey will be the featured speaker at "Faith & Health: Making the Connection" at 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1207 Peabody Ave.

Yancey will speak as part of an evening service sponsored by Methodist Healthcare, St.



Philip Yancey

John's UMC, Memphis Theological Seminary and the Church Health Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Yancey will also be the keynote luncheon speaker at the seventh annual Faith & Health Clergy Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Hope and Healing Center, 1115 Union Ave.,

Memphis. The event will include workshops in topics ranging from pastoral care for domestic violence to community trauma and faith-filled response. Faculty from the World Council of Churches' International Consortium on Mental Health and Faith Communities will be among the workshop leaders.

Registration deadline is Oct. 29. For more information, call (901) 272-7170 or visit [www.churchhealthcenter.org](http://www.churchhealthcenter.org).

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