



# Arkansas

## United Methodist

November 7, 2008



### Hard fought battle

On the first leg of a barnstorming tour of the state Oct. 30, United Methodist Church leaders — (from left) Scott Trotter, Jim Argue and Roger Glover — voice opposition in Little Rock to a proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution that would establish a state-run lottery. Church representatives also held anti-lottery press conferences the same day in West Memphis, Jonesboro, Fayetteville and El Dorado. On Election Day Nov. 4, however, the lottery amendment, which was championed by Lt. Gov. Bill Halter, was approved by a majority of voters.

## Church court says legislation needed for structure changes

United Methodist News Service

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — The top court of The United Methodist Church has ruled that the denomination's legislative body would need to enact enabling legislation in 2012 to change the church's structure in the United States.

The Judicial Council, meeting Oct. 22-25 in its first session since the election of five new members last spring, also remanded two cases on key issues — church membership and same-gender marriages — back to their respective conferences, citing an absence of

official documentation needed to decide the cases.

The denomination has been studying its structure to reflect the increasing global nature of the church, and it brought proposed constitutional changes before its top legislative body last spring. The 2008 General Conference mandated creation of a regional conference in the United States as part of its efforts to make the denomination less U.S.-centric in structure and has sent the amendment to annual conferences for a vote in 2009

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## Voters OK state-run lottery; UMs pledge vigilance

By JANE DENNIS  
Arkansas United Methodist Editor

While the 2008 presidential race and a number of state and national races and ballot issues in the General Election were of concern to United Methodists in Arkansas, a proposed amendment to the state constitution to create a state-run lottery drew the most organized opposition within the church.

Leaders of United Methodists Against Gambling (UMAG) and the Arkansas

Conference of the United Methodist Church, on Election Night, Nov. 4, expressed regret that approval was given to the lottery amendment.

Church leaders said they “deeply regret that Amendment 3 has passed,” according to a statement from UMAG and the conference. “We felt, and continue to feel, that a state-run lottery is not in the best interest of the people of

Arkansas. We will monitor the planning and implementation of the lottery should it be authorized by the legis-

See LOTTERY, page 5

Printing deadlines for this issue of the Arkansas United Methodist limited coverage of the 2008 Election and related issues. Watch for more Election news in the next issue.

## 2-year communications plan being implemented by UM team

[Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series on the communications ministry of the Arkansas Conference.]

By JANE DENNIS  
Arkansas United Methodist Editor

A brand new logo for the Arkansas Conference is but one facet of a new comprehensive communications plan that has been developed by the conference ministry team.

Over the next few months and into 2009, Arkansas United Methodists will

also be introduced to new tools and resources focusing on the key messages that describe what it means to be a United Methodist. A new conference Web site will be launched and a communications “tool kit” brimming with ideas, helps and how-tos will be delivered to local churches. Plus, congregations will be encouraged to share stories about mission and ministry that reflect ways they live out the church's mission of

“making disciples of Jesus Christ.”

These are all aspects of a new

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### INSIDE HEADLINES

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■ Rock Jones, who honed leadership skills at Hendrix College, is installed as Ohio Wesleyan president, page 7.

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# Viewpoint

## Connecting with youth adults

By JENNI DUNCAN

Yes, young adults are out there!  
Where do you connect with young adults in faith?

I'm old enough that people ages 18 to mid-30s are "young people." And, if I'm honest, anyone in their 30s is significantly younger than me. When you look around Sunday morning, do you see those 18- to 40-year-olds? Some churches do, but often our churches see mostly graying heads.



Jenni Duncan

Are young adults interested in church? In faith? In Christ? I certainly want them to connect with the hope and grace of Christ, and so I went to LeadNow 2007, taking a young adult staff member, Marcia Dunbar, with me. We were blown away by how fantastic the conference was! Young adults organized it, spoke eloquently, inspired us, put together hands-on displays of ways to make a difference for Christ in the world ...

poured into the worship center. Wow!

When the chance came to simulcast 2008's LeadNow, we jumped on the chance. At the 2007 event, Marcia and I ran into Teresa Holt from First UMC, Hot Springs. Lo and behold, Teresa also grabbed the chance this year to bring LeadNow to Arkansas, even by satellite. Both of our churches are offering a live worship time, simulcast workshops (which were stellar last year!), lunch, a Mission Village where you can browse all kind of ways to live faith 24/7 and help others, lunch discussion groups, and, we believe, a huge excitement about young believers who can change the world in Christ's name. All of this happens Nov. 15.

Tickets are \$49 for the whole thing, and there are some discounts available. If money is the impediment, call us! We want to offer this to lift up young adult ministry in Arkansas. If you want to come, we will find a way. Contact Teresa Holt, (501) 623-6668, for First UMC, Hot Springs, and Marcia Dunbar, (501) 217-6708, for St. James, Little Rock.

[Jenni Duncan is pastor of spiritual formation and singles at St. James UMC, Little Rock.]

## SCJ bishops seek feedback on episcopal area boundaries

An online survey is available for clergy and laity of the South Central Jurisdiction to give feedback to the SCJ College of Bishops as they plan for new episcopal area boundaries in 2012.

To participate in the survey, go online to [www.churchleadership.com/scj.html](http://www.churchleadership.com/scj.html).

By action of the 2008 General Conference, the South Central Jurisdiction is one of the jurisdictions that will have one fewer bishop effective in 2012. A reduction in the number of bishops is expected to necessitate new episcopal area bound-

aries.

It is the responsibility of the South Central College of Bishops to carry out the wishes of the church "in the most sensitive and missional way possible," according to a statement from the College of Bishops. "We cannot do this alone. We need your help," the bishops say. One way to help, according to the bishops, is by completing the online survey.

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary is conducting the survey on behalf of the bishops.

### Submission guidelines

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

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

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



By Jane Dennis

## Editor's Corner

### Peace within

The monumental election of 2008 is now history. Whether we were in the majority or the minority on particular races or ballot issues, what we now have in common is the future.

With this thought in mind, I am yielding my column space to a college friend who articulated the day-after election feelings of so many so well:

*Today is a glorious day for many, but a sad day for many others. When we find ourselves at such divides, I think it's more important than ever to focus on the things that we share, the things we have in common, the things we all love, trust and believe in.*

*[Among our group of college friends] we know that we are varied in our political affiliations, in our faith affiliations, in our approach to conflict, to praise, to rhetoric, to science & medicine, to daily life — and yet we're joined through our dedication to a common cause and we've found ways to bridge those divides and foster mutual love, concern, and respect. May we employ this knowledge and skill that we've gained into other areas of our lives and may we*



Jane Dennis

*share it with others so they too will benefit from the strength that comes from unity.*

*Saint Theresa is known as the Saint of the Little Ways, meaning she believed in doing the little things in life well and with great love. Remember, prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.*

#### St. Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

*[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

By the time you read this a new president will have been chosen. The pundits and “talking heads” will have had a chance to tell us why we did as we did. Our reasons for selecting the new president will have been analyzed *ad nauseam*. Our hopes will have soared if our team has won, or will be depressed if our team has lost. The stock market will have reacted. Foreign heads of state will have sent greetings and congratulations to the new president. Speculation will have begun in earnest regarding who the new cabinet members will be. (Please note that neither of the candidates has contacted me about being Secretary of State!) The world press will hang on every word the newly elected president speaks.

Every time we go through this, I am reminded of the 1968 presi-



## An Occasional Word from the Bishop

dential election. Karen and I were in Edinburgh, Scotland, attending the University of Edinburgh. I had to go to the U.S. consulate to get my absentee ballot certified. On election night the BBC, British Broadcasting Company, had an “Election Central” all set up to look just like something from NBC. It was Nixon, Humphrey and Wallace contending. The poor British commentator kept trying to explain the electoral college system, but he never got it right. The returns started coming in about midnight Edinburgh time. We stayed up all night watching.

Somewhat bleary-eyed the next

day, I went to a “Boots” (drug store) for some soap. As I approached the checkout counter the store clerk said to me, “I think he’ll be alright.” Puzzled, I asked “Who?” She responded, “Why Mr. Nixon, of course. I’m willing to give him a chance.”

I learned three things. First, Americans stick out like a sore thumb. I was dressed in clothes bought in Scotland, had a haircut by a Scottish barber, and had not spoken a word. She recognized me.

Second, the world cares more




Charles Crutchfield

deeply about what we do in the USA than we can even begin to imagine. What we do matters. We are far more interconnected than we realize.

Third, the Scottish store clerk reminded me that, regardless of the person for whom our vote is cast, those who aspire to leadership, and particularly those who attain high office, need our support and goodwill, and, most profoundly, our prayer.

I hope you will join me each day in praying for our nation’s leaders. And while you are in conversation with God, don’t forget to remember your pastors, church staff, the conference office and me.

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield 

# Minority women needed in the Spit for the Cure

By DEENA MARIE HAMILTON

What started out as a promise to Nancy G. Brinker’s dying sister, Susan G. Komen, 25 years ago has become a monumental event in lives of women across this nation. Each year tens of thousands of women gather downtown in Little Rock to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.



Deena Hamilton

The Arkansas Race for the Cure, with 45,000 participants, is one of the largest turnouts of women united in their fight against breast cancer in the United States.

In the area of biomedical research, women are underrepresented. What’s more shocking is, on a whole, African-American women are more underrepresented in research. According to *Science News Daily*, African-American women have a higher mortality rate and a larger reoccurrence of breast cancer after treatment.

As an African-American woman with formal biomedical research training from Philander Smith College, a former research assistant in the Department of Surgical Oncology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), and a current nursing student in the College of

Nursing at UAMS, I recognize the urgency for African-American women to participate in the study.

As a United Methodist pastor, I feel that participation in the research study is appropriate because it provides public health education and helps supply pertinent information for disease prevention and treatment for breast cancer. One of the strategic initiatives of the Arkansas Conference is “to emphasize the importance of self-care for clergy, staff, and laity and to facilitate intentional health ministries for body, mind, and spirit in and through our churches.”

The research study, called Spit for the Cure, is conducted at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health at UAMS. The study was launched by Susan Kadlubar, Ph.D, and Suzanne Klimberg, M.D., during the events associated with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in 2007.

Spit for the Cure involves the collection of saliva samples from thousands of women age 18 and older and is being conducted with the support of the Arkansas Chapter of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The saliva samples will be used to create a DNA database for future studies related to breast cancer risk and treatment. Participants also will be asked to answer a short questionnaire and indicate if they would be willing to partic-

ipate in follow-up studies. All information will be kept confidential.

“It has become clear that an individual’s inherited profile and environmental exposures will decide, to a large degree, that individual’s risk of developing breast cancer,” Klimberg said. “We are working to obtain DNA samples from a representative group of Arkansas women to use to advance breast cancer research in a variety of areas.”

“Because the study is noninvasive, it is easy to participate,” Kadlubar said. “By collecting samples at various sites, we hope to quickly assemble a large, representative DNA database that will benefit numerous research studies.”

Over the next five years the goal of the study is to get 40,000 women to participate in the study. Because African-Americans make up about 20 percent of the population, 8,000 African-American women are needed.

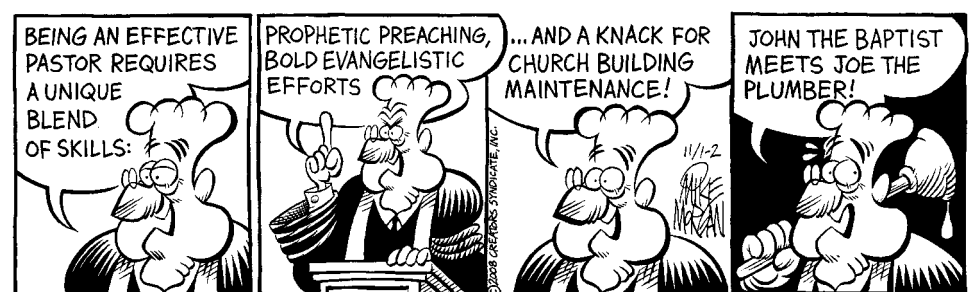
I had the opportunity to volunteer

as a recruiter for the study at the Women’s Health Symposium Sept. 13 at Philander Smith College. The event was a success, but they are a long way from the much needed 8,000 participants. They are willing to come to community-sponsored events and businesses in Arkansas. Recruiters are also willing to come to churches for health fairs or make presentations at United Methodist Women’s meetings.

I believe that a little spit goes a long way. We can make a difference and show the nation that the women of Arkansas are on the forefront in the fight against breast cancer. For more information about the study, contact Kristina Bondurant, Ph.D, at UAMS College of Public Health at [BoundurantKristinaL@uams.edu](mailto:BoundurantKristinaL@uams.edu) or (501) 686-8326, or check out their website at [www.uams.edu/breastteam](http://www.uams.edu/breastteam).

[Deena Marie Hamilton is pastor of McCabe Chapel United Methodist Church, North Little Rock.]

## FOR HEAVEN’S SAKE By Mike Morgan



# Viewpoint

## Every Christian needs community to sustain discipleship

Anyone who has ever tried to get serious about discipleship knows how tough it can be.

Some of us have even experienced the revolving door of repentance. We confess a sin and promise to God that we'll do better, only to find ourselves right back where we started after a few days.



Andrew Thompson

The truth is that sin has a powerful hold over our lives. Whether it is through greed, selfishness, pride, anger or gluttony, we always seem to be trying to make the world conform to our own desires.

In Romans, Paul talks about the difficulty in overcoming the sinful tendencies of life in the flesh. "I do not understand my own actions," he says. "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15).

Trying to really love God and love our neighbor can be so difficult we are tempted to throw up our hands and give up.

And truth be told, that's about all we can do — so long as we are trying



### Gen-X Rising

By Andrew Thompson

to be disciples by ourselves.

The Lone Ranger makes a great TV show, but it won't get us very far when it comes to following Jesus. The world is just too big and we're just too small. There is nothing quite as humbling as trying to go it on your own in the Christian faith and missing the mark again and again.

So what hope do we have?

Our forefather in the faith John Wesley found that bands and class meetings — small groups of Christians meeting together regularly — were great tools for building disciples of Jesus.

It seems that early Methodists who met regularly in a community found that they possessed shared resources that far outweighed what any of them had alone. By sharing "genuine mutual love," they found that they could truly "love one another deeply from the heart" (1 Peter 1:22).

The pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer learned about the value of Christian community as he taught and ministered under the oppression of Nazi Germany. In the 1930s,

Bonhoeffer led a clandestine seminary at Finkenwalde to train pastors in the Confessing Church, a church body that stood against the Nazi-supporting state church of Germany.

When Bonhoeffer reflected on his time at the seminary in his book "Life Together," he wrote, "The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we do have one another, wholly and for all eternity."

He points out something very important there. When our time and attention are directed toward our own good, we will always end up with a kind of morbid self-preoccupation. But when our focus is directed toward the good of our brother or sister, we learn how to love as Christ loves us. Slowly, what becomes important is Christ and Christ alone.

Much about contemporary American culture is oriented around

satisfying individual wants and desires. We've constructed an entire economy based on buying and consuming stuff that we think will make us happy.

But it's all a sham. Love doesn't come in shrink-wrapped packages. It only comes in flesh and blood. It comes in the flesh and blood of the Incarnate Christ, and it comes in the flesh and blood of his followers in the church.

If we want to find true happiness, we'll set ourselves to following Jesus' great command to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:34-35).

Without a community around us to help us sustain our discipleship, we will fail. Without some means of accountability, the default mode of discipleship is no discipleship at all.

But with a community, we get the church. And that means we get Christ. In Life Together, Bonhoeffer writes, "When the morning mists of dreams vanish, then dawns the bright day of Christian fellowship."

Is anything else really worth pursuing?

[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](mailto:andrew@mandatum.org).]

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## Letters to the Editor

### 1st Amendment

Allison Gentry's complaint (Letters, Oct. 3) that our church is destroying the separation of church and state begs a reply. Let's first review our First Amendment, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Surely there is more to the amendment than this! How could the Supreme Court use this simple verbiage to prohibit the display of the Ten Commandments in public; prohibit prayer in public schools functions; removal of the Nativity scene at Christmas; or take Christ out of Christmas by referring to his birth date as "Holiday Season"?

Gentry further tells us that our founding fathers called for complete separation between church and state.

If this was true, why does the cap on the top of our Washington Monument display two Latin words, *Laus Deo* ("Praise be to God")? Why do the doors into the Supreme Court have the Ten Commandments engraved on them? Why did President James Madison, the father of our Constitution, tell us to "sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God"? Why would Patrick Henry say, "This great nation was founded not by religion but by Christians ... not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ"?

Most logical-thinking individuals know that the First Amendment was intended to ban an official national or state church. Gentry should know that no part of a Christian's life can be void of Christ. I am afraid she was letting politics cloud her rationale.

I do agree with one point that Gentry made. She said her ancestor Bishop William McKendree would roll over in his grave. I think he probably would have if he knew that Gentry was advocating the handling of the affairs of state separately and outside the influence of Jesus Christ.

Louis Burgess  
Little Rock



### What's important?

In reading the recent letters from Thompson Murray (Viewpoints, Sept. 5) and David Kassos (Viewpoints, Oct. 17), I am reminded that our church as an organization needs to decide which is more important, being scripturally correct or being politically correct.

If scripture is mute and/or vague

on something that was common practice when it was written, but our view in the present century is different, then I cannot say that we are bound by what was done when that scripture was written. However, if it says that we should or should not specifically do something, then who am I to say that my personal views trump those of scripture?

I have nothing personal against gay and lesbian people and hope that they find happiness in their lives. However, I am not at all comfortable with those who advocate that we pick and chose which scriptures we observe and which we do not for political correctness sake. Once you start that, where does it end?

Joe Whalen  
North Little Rock





## New mission head makes poverty fight a priority

STAMFORD, Conn. — Edward Paup is convinced poverty can be eliminated. As the new top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, he expects the mission agency to provide denominational leadership toward that goal through networking with other organizations both inside and outside the church.

“We have the responsibility to work toward the kind of world where poverty can be eliminated,” he said. During the board’s Oct. 13-17 annual meeting, Paup told directors that the three issues of concern “that burn passionately within me” are the perils of planet earth, peace among all people and eradication of poverty.

“I believe what our world is in desperate need of is a missional extreme makeover,” he said.

## Mission agency announces staff realignments

NEW YORK — Four staff executives of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries have new responsibilities related to four denominational ministry priorities, according to an Oct. 28 announcement by Edward W. Paup, the mission agency’s new leader.

Sam Dixon, the deputy assigned to the focus on global health, will continue leading the United Methodist Committee on Relief and its related health unit. Edith Gleaves, deputy for leadership development, has oversight for mission personnel, which

## LOTTERY, continued from page 1

lature and will consider future actions accordingly.”

In the future, the church leaders said they will urge the legislature to: 1) reject a state lottery; 2) enact alternative methods for funding college scholarships; 3) refer to the 2010 general election ballot a constitutional amendment that restricts the definition of state lotteries to exclude all games of chance except the sale of lottery tickets; and 4) if a lottery is authorized, to enact restrictions on targeting low- and middle-income citizens and the elderly when the state promotes and advertises the lottery.

“Our next step must be to persuade

# News Digest

now will include mission volunteers. Rachel Lieder Simeon, interim deputy assigned to ministry with the poor, also will lead units on mission contexts and relationships and mission education. Jorge Domingues, interim deputy assigned to new church development, oversees evangelization and church growth and will have general oversight of community and institutional ministries, with Jerald McKie continuing as a staff executive in that unit.

Paup himself is assuming the full duties of administration, eliminating the post of deputy for administration. Deborah Bass, who held that position, has left the agency.

## Global Ministries launches effort to start 400 churches

STAMFORD, Conn. — United Methodists can become evangelists and church planters around the world through a fund launched with an initial gift from an Atlanta businesswoman.

Mary Watson pledged \$400,000 to the 400 Fund — \$1,000 per new congregation outside the United States — in a church development effort by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Watson and her husband, Ralph Watson, a retired United Methodist pastor, are engaged in mission around the world and have notable involvements in Russia, Estonia and Brazil.

A mission board goal of 400 new congregations outside of the United States during the next four years is part of the denomination’s commitment to create “new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones.” Another initiative aims at starting 650 new congregations in the United States.

the legislature to reject lotteries or, at the least, severely restrict them, while finding other revenue to fund college scholarships,” said Scott Trotter, who co-chaired UMAG along with Roger Glover.

United Methodists Against Gambling is a coalition of United Methodists opposed to the State Lottery Amendment. The group has the support of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church represents 138,000 members in 715 United Methodist congregations throughout the state



Edward Paup is the top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries.

UMNS photo by Cassandra Heller

people’s emotional and spiritual needs.

## Church World Service responds to earthquake in Pakistan

NEW YORK — The Pakistan staff of Church World Service is on the ground and assisting survivors of a powerful 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck the southwestern province of Balochistan on Oct. 29. More than 170 people were killed and hundreds were injured by the quake, according to *The New York Times*.

With offices in Quetta, about 37 miles from the area hit, Church World Service has significant operational presence in the region and has been able to mount immediate response. Six CWS team members and six staff from one of the agency’s local implementing partners are on the ground conducting needs assessments in the hard-hit mountainous region. From Islamabad, CWS communications officer Shama Mall said the agency had relief supplies pre-positioned in its Karachi warehouse and that initial aid items are en route.

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# Jonesboro pastor steps away from pulpit to swim, bike and run

## ■ John Miles II takes part in 140-mile physical challenge

*[Editor's Note: John Miles II, a 53-year-old United Methodist pastor from Jonesboro, recently swam, biked and ran in a 140-mile Ironman Triathlon in Oklahoma City. Here, he describes the experience.]*

By JOHN MILES II

I got interested in triathlons around the year 2000. I had taken up running a few years before, and I had been a swimmer in college. I felt the combination of swimming, biking and running might be fun and challenging.

I competed in my first half Ironman distance race in 2002. We had just purchased a modular medical center for our Christian health facility at Heber Springs First United Methodist, where I was pastor. In August 2002, my contributors and I raised nearly \$22,000 to pay off the entire debt on the health center. It was a wonderful day. I was not just racing for myself but also for the health center and all those who had contributed.

I have had a desire to compete in an Ironman distance race since then. The Ironman Triathlon is the most difficult. It includes a 2.4-mile swim, a

112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. Even though I wanted to do the race, I found the 140-mile distance daunting, to say the least. I just had not been able to get motivated to do the training it would take to complete the race.

When I moved to Jonesboro and was appointed pastor of First United Methodist, I quickly became impressed with the work of City Youth, an interdenominational ministry that reaches out to low-income and at-risk children from grade school to high school. I realized here was my perfect motivation. I could collect money to help pay off the debt for the City Youth facility as the incentive to do the training required for the Ironman race.

I began training in March and gradually began to work up my mileage in both the bike and the run. Over the next few months I spent from 15-20 hours a week in training. The training became difficult when the temperature rose over 100 degrees this summer, and I had to work through back and leg injuries. The race itself was a relief because it meant the end of the constant training I was doing.

Over the months I kept a narrative

of my workouts on our church website. On the day of the race, Sept. 20 in Oklahoma City, many people kept up with my progress with a link for our website to the triathlon website. The site kept track of my progress electronically.

By race day we had collected more than \$16,000 in cash and pledges for City Youth.

There were approximately 140 athletes who participated in the Ironman race. We started with a 2.4-mile swim at 7:15 a.m. The swim started out in chaos as 140 people all tried to swim in one small area. For about 500 yards we swam over each other as we struggled to find our own place and pace. I finished the swim in an hour and 16 minutes, which was faster than the average. Getting out so quickly inspired me to go faster on the bike to begin with than I should have. By mile 100, I was shot. At that point I quit racing and began surviving.

When I got to the transition site at 2:45, my family told me I was 38th overall and first in my age group. I calmly told them it would not last because I was exhausted. Sure enough, the five-hour marathon I had hoped for turned into a six-hour one. I finished at 8:45 in the evening running in



*John Miles II, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, prepares for the cycling leg of the Ironman Triathlon in Oklahoma City.*

the dark. I was fifth out of 13 in my age group and 64th over all. I was happy with my time and with the day.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, I presented a check to Renell Wood, director of City Youth, for \$20,000 to help low-income children. I have finished my Ironman and I am done with training. It was a great experience that I cannot imagine doing again.

*[John Miles II is senior pastor of First UMC, Jonesboro.]*

## Magnolia church cares for Alzheimer's patients, families

### ■ Ministry concept adapted from successful Hot Springs church model

MAGNOLIA — An adult day care and respite program serving persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and their caregivers has been launched by First United Methodist Church here.

The Caring Place of Magnolia opened last month and is housed at First UMC. The weekly ministry of elder care was patterned after The Caring Place developed by Hot Springs' First United Methodist Church.

The goal of The Caring Place is to provide a safe and caring environment for respite care. The ministry provides social interaction and a host of activities each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$30 per day.

The Magnolia program received a \$7,500 grant from the Brookdale Foundation to assist with staff training and the first year's operating expenses. In addition, The Caring Place has part-



*Volunteers for The Caring Place at First United Methodist Church, Magnolia, exercise with Marie Tosh (left). The adult day care and respite program serves persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and their caregivers.*

nered with the Area Agency on Aging.

Barbara Lewis, pastor of the Emerson Charge near Magnolia, is the program coordinator. Volunteers are also being recruited and trained to care for the adult day-care participants.

Lewis explained that The Caring Place provides participants ways to reduce their isolation and increase

mental and social stimulation through conversation and memory exercises. A fitness program includes exercises, walks and games. There is also plenty of music, crafts and special entertainment. Meals are also provided.

For more information about The Caring Place of Magnolia, contact Lewis at (870) 234-4530.

## Summer OMP staffers sought

Ozark Mission Project is currently accepting applications for its 2009 summer college staff. OMP brings together youth and adults for service in the spirit of Christ to neighbors who are in need of some handiwork and friendly visiting. OMP participants take on clean-up, fix-up and painting jobs. All camps take place in Arkansas.

A job description, expectations and policies, along with an application, can be found online at [www.ozarkmissionproject.org](http://www.ozarkmissionproject.org) under the download tab. Deadline for submitting applications is Dec. 10.

Founded in 1986 by United Methodist clergy and laity, OMP is affiliated with the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Carness Vaughan, chairperson, Personnel Committee, at (479) 636-1630, or Nancy Mulhearn, executive director, at (501) 339-4500.





Rock Jones, clergy member of the Arkansas Conference, is congratulated during his inauguration as president of Ohio Wesleyan University. photo courtesy of Ohio Wesleyan University

## Rock Jones installed as president of Ohio Wesleyan

DELAWARE, Ohio – Declaring “this is our time,” Rock Jones, Ph.D., a clergy member of the Arkansas Conference, was installed Oct. 10 as the 16th president of Ohio Wesleyan University, one of the nation’s leading liberal arts colleges.

“The mission statement of Ohio Wesleyan University indicates that we fulfill our mission when we are successful at three things: imparting knowledge, developing and enhancing certain important capabilities with our students, and placing education in the context of values,” Jones told the standing-room-only crowd gathered for his inauguration. “Never before has our world stood in greater need of an institution with this mission.”

Jones comes to Ohio Wesleyan from Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., where he served most recently as executive vice president and dean of advancement. He succeeds Mark W. Huddleston, Ph.D., now president of the University of New Hampshire.

Jones said the world “needs individuals who possess capacities of the intellect refined by a liberal arts education and sharpened by experiences in the world.” He continued, “We must prepare graduates empowered with the capacity to think critically and to communicate with clarity and depth; prepared to interact across the boundaries

of culture and history; gifted with powers of empathy and discernment; and grounded with moral foundations and a keen understanding that there are better and worse ways to order one’s life and to order the life of one’s world.”

During his address, Jones also challenged the campus community and others to look for ways to enhance the rigorous educational opportunities already offered to Ohio Wesleyan’s 1,850 undergraduate students.

Jones, who took office July 1, has initiated a review of the university’s programming and will lead discussions to explore what he described as “even more opportunities for our students to test the theories of the classroom through engagement with the world.”

Enhancements to be studied include additional summer research and internship opportunities, increased opportunities in the fine arts, and expanded mission trips to increase service-learning opportunities for students.

Jones plans to take this message to an even larger audience. From October through July, he will embark on a national “In Concert with Rock” tour. During the 30-city tour, he will meet with Ohio Wesleyan graduates, parents and friends to discuss their thoughts about the university and its future.

## Free Advent devotional materials available

An Advent devotional program is being offered by the Society of St. Andrew to help individuals and families navigate the secular maze that often distracts from a holy holiday centered on Christ. Using perspectives of contributing clergy and laity, this year’s theme is “Finding CHRISTmas.”

This Advent, the society asks par-

ticipants to prayerfully reflect on Scripture and devotions and then to make a financial donation to help feed America’s hungry.

All materials are free. For a church sample kit or a personal packet, order online at [www.endhunger.org/advent.htm](http://www.endhunger.org/advent.htm), by phone at (800) 333-4597 or e-mail [church@endhunger.org](mailto:church@endhunger.org).



## Faith Funds

### *Called to God’s Service*

A warm smile and enthusiasm for her calling characterize Natasha Murray-Norman, the newest recipient of a UMFA Seminary Scholarship. She relocated with her family to Rossville, Kansas, and attends Saint Paul School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary in Kansas City.

For a long time Natasha was committed to God’s work, but unsure exactly what form it would take. In 2006 she felt God’s call not only to preach, not only to pastor, but to serve Arkansas United Methodists.

Natasha has two children in elementary school and commutes 90 miles to seminary on Mondays and Tuesdays. The other days of the week she is the student pastor of Campus Ministry at Washburn University, about 16 miles from home. This hectic schedule would be very difficult to manage without financial help from the United Methodist Foundation.

“Through the United Methodist Foundation, God has provided me a way to pursue my calling to ministry.”



### **The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas**

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**St. Paul UMC, Little Rock**, will sponsor an Alternative Christmas Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 22 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 23 at the church, 2223 Durwood Road. Gift items will be available from numerous ministries and programs, including Arkansas Rice Depot, Arkansas Children's Hospital, CARE for Animals, Heifer Project International, Boy Scouts and others.

The St. Paul Samaritan Fund will receive proceeds from the sale of some items, as well as those offered at a silent auction that will feature stained glass, artwork and other handcrafted items.

A bake sale will benefit La Esperanza, a sheltered workshop for adults with learning disabilities in Santiago, Chile. United Methodist missionary Shana Harrison of Arkansas serves as director.

A children's book sale area will be available, as well as a craft area. St. Paul youth will sell chili as a lunchtime treat.

**Several United Methodist churches**, choirs and pastoral leaders in the North Little Rock area will participate in an Ecumenical Thanksgiving service planned for 7 p.m. Nov. 24 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 7000 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Participating UM congregations include North Little Rock First, Lakewood, Amboy, Trinity and Gardner Memorial.

**United Methodist Women** of Cherokee Village UMC will sponsor their annual Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 8. There will be holiday craft items and a variety of baked goods and candies for sale. A silent auction with numerous special



## Coming Up

items will be featured. Personalized, hand-painted Christmas ornaments also will be available. Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit mission ministries.

**Pleasant Grove UMC**, Jonesboro, will present "Gospel Celebration" at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 23 at the Jonesboro High School Gymnasium. David and Tamela Mann of Tyler Perry's "Meet the Browns" will be special guests. Tickets are on sale at LifeWay Christian Stores and TK's Beauty and More. For details, contact pastor Larry G. Hunt at tabbey48@suddenlink.net.



David and Tamela Mann

**Levy UMC**, North Little Rock, will host the 2008 Annual Quilt Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 8. A fundraising event for UMW mission projects, the festival will feature both antique and new quilts, crafts and a bake sale. Lunch will be provided from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person.

**Sardis UMC** United Methodist Women will hold their annual Turkey

Dinner Nov. 21 at the church, 10715 W. Sardis Road. Serving time will be from 4:30-7 p.m. The traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey and dressing with the trimmings and homemade dessert will be served. Prices are \$9 for adults and children 12 and older in age, \$5 for children 6-11 years of age, and \$2 for children under 6 years of age. Proceeds will go to support the organizations upcoming local and abroad mission and service projects.

**Pulaski Heights UMC**, Little Rock, will sponsor a four-week grief support group for parents and grandparents who have experienced losing a child. Leader will be Nancy Milbourn, LCSW, BCD. Sessions are planned for 5:30-7 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 11, at the church, 4823 Woodlawn. Call (501) 664-3600 to register.

**Kensett UMC** will host a three-night singles seminar from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 12-14. Registration begins at 6 p.m. Nov. 12. Refreshments will be served each night, and child care for children ages 3-8 will be available.

Seminar topics and leaders will include:

- "Single Parenting and Children of Divorce," Rebecca Ely, LCSW, family therapist;
- "Divorce, The Law and Jesus: Grace for Those Who Feel Lost" and "A Truce Between Mars and Venus: Gender Stereotypes and Communication," Paul C. Draper, pas-

tor, Kensett UMC;

- "Budgeting and Financial Goal-Setting," Caroline Burns, financial advisor, Modern Woodmen of America;

- "Pressing Forward: Coping with Change and Growing Through Grief," Don Birmingham, marriage and family counselor;

- "Emotional Fingerprints: Personality Types and Relationships," Draper.

For details, contact Draper at bookman28@centurytel.net or (501) 742-1062.

**Little Rock's First UMC's** annual Alternative Christmas Market will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 15 and Nov. 23 at the church's Fellowship Hall, Eighth and Center streets. The market offers shoppers creative ways of celebrating Christmas that are consistent with Christian tradition, including gifts of love, friendship and service.

Among the gifts offered will be UMCOR's Equal Exchange coffee, shea butter from the Burkina Faso orphanage, cookies baked by the First UMC Confirmation Class, and much more. Agencies and ministries represented will include Arkansas Rice Depot, Heifer International, Humane Society of Pulaski County, and numerous church outreach programs.

For more information, call (501) 372-2256.

**United Methodist Women** of Highland Valley UMC, Little Rock, will sponsor their annual Arts and Crafts sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 8 at the church, 15524 Chenal Parkway. A light lunch will be available for purchase from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free.

**The Joyful Noise** praise band from Salem UMC, Benton, will present a special musical program at 6 p.m. Nov. 23 at Western Hills UMC, 4601 Western Hills Ave., Little Rock. All are welcome.

**Benton First UMC** will host its second annual Alternative Christmas Market from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 16 and Nov. 23 at the church. The event gives shoppers a chance to celebrate the season while finding gifts to honor family and friends in the true spirit of the holidays.

Among the organizations and ministries represented will be Arkansas Rice Depot, Nothing But Nets, Heifer International, UMCOR Fair Trade coffee and tea, Saline County Safe Haven, Christian Community Care Clinic and First UMC's Go Green Bags, canvas reusable environmentally friendly bags.



## People of Faith

**Maxine Allen**, Arkansas Conference minister of mission and ethnic ministries, was honored with the Distinguished Alumnae Award from Gammon Theological Seminary during its Founders' Day celebration Oct. 6-8 in Atlanta.

Allen holds the distinction of being the first African-American woman in Arkansas to be ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church. A native of Little Rock, he holds



Maxine Allen

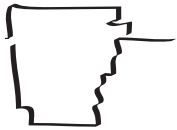
degrees in philosophy and religion from Philander Smith College and a master of divinity degree from Gammon.

She entered the ministry as a second career, first becoming a licensed local pastor and serving churches part time before becoming an ordained elder. She retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. and has served churches in Arkansas, Maryland, Georgia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and May Pen, Jamaica. She has been a member of several mission teams traveling, working and preaching in Haiti, Russia and Jamaica, and been a delegate to General and Jurisdictional conferences. She has served in several

capacities at Philander Smith College, including chaplain and dean of the Kendall Science Health and Mission Center, and on numerous boards and committees of the Arkansas Annual Conference.

She has served on the National Advisory Committee on campus ministry for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and was appointed by Gov. Mike Beebe to the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Committee. She is chairperson of Black Clergywomen of the UMC in the South Central Jurisdiction and on the Jurisdictional Executive Committee of Black Methodists for Church Renewal.





## It Happened

**England First UMC** sponsored a fun and profitable Pumpkin Patch Oct. 14-31. The project was not only successful as a fundraiser but also as a great opportunity to interact with the community. Several school groups, England Child Development Center, Scouts and other church groups participated in special activities provided by church members. Also, art classes from the England school held a pumpkin painting contest. In conjunction with the pumpkin patch, church women held a bake sale with total proceeds of \$1,800 benefiting the youth program.



Members of First UMC, England, help set up the church's fall Pumpkin Patch.

**St. Paul UMC, El Dorado**, celebrated Children's Sabbath Oct. 19. The children were in charge of every aspect of the morning worship service. One highlight was the recognition of all St. Paul Kids' volunteers, including all Sunday School teachers in the children's department. Teachers were also nominated for a national award. Angelia Sewell received notification

that she had been named as one of the top 100 Sunday School teachers in America. She was presented with a certificate and gift.

**First UMC, Jonesboro**, held a churchwide celebration event at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center Oct. 12. This was the culmination of a 40-day, churchwide study of "Treasures of the Transformed Life" by John Ed Mathison, and a sermon series called "Transformed Living." The study examines the commitments Christians make when they join the church, dedicating their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness to Christ and the church.

At the end of the 40-day study, one service was held symbolizing coming together as One in the body of Christ. With five different worship services offered each Sunday morning, the Convocation Center was the only space in the area that could hold the entire congregation.

Music featured Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, Adult Mass Choir, the Praise Band and special guest Derrick Burt from

Jackson Miss. Senior pastor John P Miles II delivered the message to a crowd of more than 1,400.

**Greenwood UMC** Family Life Center was full of ghosts and goblins Oct. 26 as the annual Fall Festival provided fun, games and food for the entire church family. Costume contests, pumpkin decorating and a chili cook-off were part of the fun.



Retired UM pastor Maurice Webb walks across the Big Dam Bridge to celebrate his 95th birthday and is joined by First UMC associate pastor Mary Jane Cole; his sister, Lorene Hamilton; and great-grandson, Jonathan Coulter.

## Brisk walk marks 95th birthday

Retired United Methodist pastor Maurice C. Webb Sr. of Little Rock celebrated his 95th birthday by walking across the Big Dam Bridge that spans the Arkansas River at Murray Lock and Dam with family and friends.

Webb, now blind, walked the length of the bridge Sept. 24 guided by the handrail and family members, including his three children, Maurice Webb Jr., Kathy Webb and Marcia Webb Caplinger. The celebration continued with lunch at Lilly's Dim Sum Then Some.

The achievement exemplifies the "wonderful spirit and strength that continues to inspire those around him," one friend said.

Webb was born Sept. 25, 1913, in Kansas City, Mo. During infancy and early childhood his family lived in Alicia and Egypt, Ark. He graduated from Hoxie High School in 1932. He played on the basketball and football teams and ran track. From 1933-1934 he attended Jonesboro Baptist College where he played left end on the football team. Because he played football, he got one semester's tuition paid.

He married Atha Mae Williams in

1935. The college closed, money was tight, and he returned home to work with his father in the family's general store in Egypt, Ark. Later, he bought the store from his father. He volunteered for the Navy and was assigned to the Seabees. He spent his war years on Guam as a crane operator. His wife ran the store while he was gone. After returning home, he moved his family to Blytheville so his children would have better educational opportunities.

Webb answered the call to ministry in 1949. He enrolled in Hendrix College in 1950 and had the distinction of being the oldest student there. He probably was the only student who also had three children and served a church in Vilonia.

After graduation from Hendrix he moved to Dallas in 1953 to attend Perkins School of Theology. He also served as a pastor's assistant during his time in Dallas. He returned to Arkansas in 1956 and began his ministry, which included serving Asbury, Trinity and First churches in Little Rock and First Church in Springdale. He also participated in a ministerial exchange and spent a summer in

### JUDICIAL, continued from page 1

as part of the ratification process.

The Judicial Council, however, said the amendment does nothing to "harmonize its content" with the rest of the Book of Discipline, and that enabling legislation is necessary. The court clarified that the structural changes could not take effect before 2012, even if ratified at the annual conference level in 2009.

The council also rejected two changes to the Book of Discipline approved by General Conference when the assembly met last spring in Fort Worth, Texas. The first was designed to make it easier for laity to distribute Holy Communion in remote areas. The second offered local pastors the option of choosing their status as lay or clergy if they have completed the Course of Study but are no longer under appointment.

Responding to questions of constitutionality from the Western North Carolina Conference, the council said that amendments made to Paragraph 1117.9 create a doctrine of "reserved sacrament" and alters the Discipline without proper authority. The church's Articles of Religion explicitly say that the sacraments are not to be "reserved" or "carried about."

In Decision 1109, the council said it would "not become the arbiter of theological debates" and that the amendments create "a fundamental shift in the way that the Church talks about the elements of the Sacrament of Holy Communion."

"It is quite permissible for The United Methodist Church to change its doctrine regarding Holy Communion,"

states Decision 1109. "But the means for doing so is not to act on a petition by a simple majority of the General Conference. Rather, the proper procedure is akin to that for amending the Constitution, except for the provision that a larger aggregate vote of the annual conferences — three-fourths — must be achieved. An argument from expediency, to make it easier for laity in remote areas to receive the sacrament, does not abrogate the Church's methods for changing its doctrine."

The second General Conference change rejected by the council offered local pastors the option of choosing their status as lay or clergy if they have completed the Course of Study but are no longer under appointment. In Decision 1101, the council said the leg-

islation is in direct violation of the Discipline, including Paragraph 32 of the Constitution, which lists the criteria for being a pastor.

"Retired local pastors are not clergy and may not vote as clergy during annual conference," the decision states. "Nowhere in the Book of Discipline does the local pastor have the opportunity to determine his or her status."

That status, the council said, is determined by the district committee on ordained ministry and the conference board of ordained ministry. The court said the original petition was "fatally flawed" because a local pastor is only considered clergy when under appointment and resumes lay status when not appointed.



# Deaths

## Quitman GERALD DAVID "DAVE"

**PIERCE**, 61, of Quitman, pastor to Southside United Methodist Church in Batesville and Moorefield United Methodist Church in Moorefield, died Oct. 10, 2008, following a motorcycle accident in Heber Springs.

Born Oct. 14, 1946, in Nebraska City, Neb., he was the son of Lila Geraldine Housh Pierce and Carl Pierce. As a member of the U.S. Air Force, he was trained in heavy ground radar and served at many NORAD Air Force Stations along the Canadian border, as well as bases at Labrador, Colorado, Utah and Arkansas, before retiring in 1985. After retiring from a business venture, Pierce answered the call to ministry in 2007, received his license to preach in the United Methodist Church and was appointed to the two-point charge in 2008. He was the Walk to Emmaus lay director of Walk 118 for Noahs of Ark, as well as Walk 7 for the Near the Cross Emmaus community. He loved his family and the churches he served and will be missed by all.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Julie Wittmayer Pierce, of Quitman; three daughters, Charlene Hendricks and husband John Ed of Drasco; Nikki Pierce of Quitman; Daylean Mooney and husband Jamey of Heber Springs; his mother, Lila Geraldine Pierce of Mediapolis, Iowa; one brother, William "Bill" Pierce of Wapello, Iowa; one sister, Ann Heitmeier of Mediapolis, Iowa; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father and two brothers, Michael and John Pierce.

Memorial services were held Oct. 15 at First UMC, Heber Springs, with military honors by Little Rock Air Force Base Military Honor Guard.

Memorials may be directed to the Dave Pierce Emmaus Scholarship Fund, c/o First UMC, 1009 W. Pine St., Heber Springs, Ark. 72543.

## North Little Rock

**BARBARA BUSH DORMAN**, wife of retired United Methodist pastor Wendell Dorman, passed away Oct. 11, 2008, at her home in North Little Rock after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

She was born Aug. 25, 1938, in Bonifay, Fla., the daughter of Hazel Womble Bush and Rufus C. Bush. She attended Emory University in Atlanta, where she met Wendell R. Dorman Sr. They were married in Valdosta, Ga., on Feb. 26, 1959, and later returned to Arkansas where she and her husband served 15 United Methodist congrega-

tions over the span of their 43-year ministry.

During this time Barbara returned to college and received a bachelor's and a masters of education degree from Arkansas State University. She taught in several Arkansas school districts over her 29-year professional career, serving as an elementary classroom teacher, a reading specialist helping children with reading disabilities and as a school administrator. She was able to touch the lives of many children in her role as teacher, which she considered one of her greatest accomplishments. She was a loving and supportive wife and a proud and caring mother.

She was a member of Jacksonville First United Methodist Church and the George Wayne Martin Sunday School Class of Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock.

She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Wendell Dorman Sr.; a son, Wendell Dorman Jr. and his wife, Marolyn, of North Little Rock; a daughter, Margaret Dorman of Houston, Texas; a sister, Sara Kathryn Comander and her husband, Ron, of DeFuniak Springs, Fla.; her father-in-law, retired UM pastor Raymond A. Dorman of North Little Rock; nieces Robin Comander Wilson and Heather Comander Rast and numerous friends and loved ones.

A service to celebrate her life was held Oct. 14 at First UMC, Jacksonville, with burial at Rest Hills Cemetery, North Little Rock. For memorials, the family request donations to the National Brain Tumor

## Calendar

### NOVEMBER

- 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. 14-15: Midnight Oil media in worship seminar, First UMC, Springdale.
- Nov. 15: Arkansas Conference Ingathering, Arkansas Rice Depot, 3801 W. 65<sup>th</sup> St., Little Rock.
- Nov. 15: "Lead Now: Unleashing the Possibilities of Your 20- and 30-somethings Ministry," simulcast presentations at St. James UMC, Little Rock, and First UMC, Hot Springs.
- Nov. 30: United Methodist Student Sunday, churchwide special Sunday with offering.

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Society, 124 Watertown St., Watertown, Mass. 02472, or the North Little Rock Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 5757, North Little Rock, Ark. 72119.

## Eureka Springs

### PENNY LOUISE O'HARA

**SHERMAN**, 53, of Eureka Springs, surviving spouse of United Methodist pastor Joseph Morrow Sherman, died Oct. 8, 2008, at Eureka Springs. She was born Aug. 26, 1954, at Great Lakes Naval Station to Donald E. Francisco Jr. and Barbara Ott Francisco.

She was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp, serving during the Vietnam era. She was united in marriage to Joseph Morrow Sherman on Feb. 7, 1996. He died July 31 2004.

Survivors include her mother, Barbara M. Maple of Rogers; her father, Donald E. Francisco Jr. of Stewart, Fla.; one son, Houston O'Hara, serving with the Marine Corps; one daughter, Tara O'Hara of Rogers; her siblings, Don Francisco of Aurora, Mo., Barbara Lynn of Rogers, David Francisco of Boca Raton, Fla., and Jo Crandall of Eureka Springs; three stepsons, Wesley Sherman of Conway, Timothy Sherman and Stephen Sherman, both of Fayetteville; and one grandchild.

A memorial service was held Oct. 25 at First UMC, Eureka Springs, with

burial at Eureka Springs Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Nature Conservancy at (501) 663-6699 or the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 4002018, Des Moines, Iowa 50340-2018.

## Murfreesboro

### DENA ROBERTS RICHARDSON

86, of Murfreesboro, surviving spouse of United Methodist pastor James F. Richardson, died Oct. 20, 2008, in a local hospital.

She was born Oct. 20, 1922, in Philadelphia, Miss. She was a member of the Cheermakers Sunday School Class and First United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro.

She was preceded in death by her husband, who died in 1980. Survivors include one son, Buddy Richardson of Murfreesboro; three daughters, Diane Carroll and Susan O'Neal of Murfreesboro and Jean Floyd of Niceville, Fla.; two brothers, Eddie Frank Roberts and Paul Roberts; one sister, Jamie Hall; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a number of other relatives.

Services were held Oct. 22 at First United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro, with burial at Fletcher's Chapel Cemetery, Yazoo City, Miss. Memorials may be made to First UMC Memorial Fund, 404 Second Ave., Murfreesboro, Ark. 71958.

## Volunteers in Mission

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

**Feb. 7-15:** Costa Rica, a VIM experience sponsored by First UMC, Bryant. Kay Parda, (501) 847-026 or 944-2390 or kay@fumcbryant.org.

**Jan. 24-Feb.1:** Costa Rica, construction, sponsored by Rogers Central UMC. Les Oliver, les@cumcrogers.com.

**Feb. 1-7:** Rio Bravo, Mexico, construction, sponsored by Jasper UMC. Larry Acton, (870) 420-3969.

**Feb. 7 -15:** Costa Rica, construction, sponsored by Bryant First UMC, Heber Springs First UMC and Jonesboro First UMC. Kay Parda, (501) 366-1828.

**Feb. 8-15:** Rio Bravo, Mexico, construction, sponsored by Northwest District United Methodist Women. Larry Acton, (870) 420-3969.

**Feb. 21-March 1:** Costa Rica, construction. Larry Acton, (870) 420-3969.

**March 1-9:** Costa Rica, construction. Larry Acton (870) 420-3969.



**March 21-28:** Shiprock, N.M., working with the Navajo Indians, sponsored by Calico Rock UMC. Paul Seay, (479) 970-0696.

**May 23-31:** Salud Y Paz, Guatemala, medical mission, sponsored by

Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock. Doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, anesthesiologists and other willing helpers needed. Gwen Efird, gwenefird@comcast.net.

**New and ongoing:** "This Ole Church" VIM mission project. Help restore and repair churches in the Arkansas Conference. Teams will be painting, weather proofing, general repairs, landscaping and other jobs. Teams DO NOT do roofing, plumbing or electrical. The church that asks for teams will provide housing, help prepare meals and provide showers. The teams will supply their food, the materials, tools and labor. Any church can apply for help through their District Superintendent. Teams can sign up by contacting Don Weeks at dweeks@arumc.org.

*Churches that have asked for teams:* First UMC De Queen. David Williams, pastor; St. James UMC, Lonoke, David Scruggs, pastor.



## What does it mean to be United Methodist?

The following statement of belief was developed as part of the new Arkansas Conference communication effort:

We accept God's love as a gift that is meant to be shared; so the mission of United Methodists in Arkansas is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world — one person at a time.

We are an inclusive church — everyone is welcome at our Communion table. We have a place for you, and your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness are needed. As members of a worldwide connectional church, we have a human connection of fellowship, a theological connection of belief, a purposeful connection of mission, and a structural connection of practice. Through our worldwide connection, United Methodists are often first responders to disasters and human need.

Thinking for yourself is encouraged through founder John Wesley's practice that incorporates scripture, experience, reason and tradition. Living the United Methodist way includes Wesley's general rules: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God through following the means of grace — prayer, meditation, searching the scriptures, public worship, the sacraments, and Holy Conferencing.

Four areas of focus for United Methodists are developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world, creating new places for new people by starting congregations and renewing existing ones, engaging in ministry with the poor, and stamping out killer diseases by improving health globally.

## COMMUNICATIONS, continued from page 1

two-year communications plan for the conference. The first step in developing the plan was a wide-ranging survey of conference communications conducted about 18 months ago. "We got a lot of good information pointing the direction of where we needed to go," said Martha Taylor, conference director of communications.



Martha Taylor

"One thing we wanted to find out was who our audience really is, how much people use the web site, the Internet, read emails, read the *Arkansas Methodist* — which vehicles of communication they use," said Roy Smith, conference director of ministries. For instance, there is often an assumption that younger people are the only ones who utilize the Internet, or that older persons don't use e-mail.

"We discovered we have a number of senior members of churches who are very Internet savvy," Smith said. "So we were trying to get beyond those stereotypes and assumptions and make decisions based on the real live people we are serving."

With the survey results in hand, the next step was a communications audit, conducted by consultant Jessica Szenher, a United Methodist with more than two decades of experience in the communication field.

"We gave her every brochure we could put our hands on," Taylor said. "We gave her the Journal, copies of the *Arkansas Methodist*, any kind of printed piece of communication. She reviewed our web site and looked

everything we had been doing as far as communications."

Szenher also conducted interviews with a representative group of key stakeholders, both clergy and lay.

And what were the findings? "We were all over the board," Taylor said. "There was no umbrella under which all of these pieces are identified as being a) from the Conference, and b) being United Methodist. And that's a key piece of raising awareness among those who are maybe not so familiar with who we are as Methodists."

One of the things Szenher found to be "extraordinary," Smith said, was that "every single one of the persons she interviewed, when she asked 'What is the mission of the church?' said 'to make disciples of Jesus Christ.' People knew it! One hundred percent. That was incredible."

Taylor said their work showed that church members know what the church's mission is, "but they just aren't always clear on how to articulate that and how to share that with one another, internally within the church, and with others."

When asked, "What does it mean to be a United Methodist," Taylor said church members — both those new to the church and long-time members — often find it difficult to come up with an answer.

As a result, the conference ministry team, guided by the communications professionals, identified and articulated the key messages of the

church. (See sidebar this page.)

"We worked over a couple of months on just who are we as United Methodists," Taylor said. A short "elevator speech" that provides a capsule of the key tenets of Methodism was printed on a handy pocket-size card. A simple bookmark features key questions-and-answers about Methodism. These messages will not only be emphasized by conference staff and church leaders, but these resources are available to all church members and will be distributed to local churches in coming months.

Taylor described the elevator speech and the key messages as "tactics" to help accomplish the goals of the communications plan, which are "to identify and to clarify the work of the Conference and to equip local churches."

"One of the things we realized in talking about key messages is there's some common practice among United Methodists that are important — things like a communion table that's open, we baptize infants, we ordain women ... These are givens, common practice," Smith said.

"Then there's a kind of theological understanding when we talk about grace — and grace is really at the center of where we are and what we offer," he said. "So we began to make a way to begin to share that deeper, wider sense of how we're connected in practice as United Methodists."

[Part 2: The ultimate goal of conference communications.]

## 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: mtaylor@arumc.org.

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

**SYLVAN HILLS UMC, SHERWOOD,** has immediate opening for part-time (20 hours per week) staff position as Director of Youth Ministries. Responsibilities include working with Pastor and Staff of growing congregation, maintaining Youth ministries calendar, scheduling Youth events, mission trips, district and conference events, and attendance at weekly staff meetings. To set up an initial interview and to get a full copy of the job description, contact the church office as soon as possible at (501) 835-33410. Rev. Jim Rowland is senior pastor.

**FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES** at Asbury United Methodist Church in West Little Rock. Responsible for implementation of a full program that provides the youth and their families the opportunities for spiritual growth in worship, fellowship and service. Prefer bachelor degree with background in Christian Education or equivalent work experience. Direct all inquiries to Dr. Bryan Fink, Senior Pastor, 1700 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212, or email to bryan@asbury-lr.org. Closes Nov. 20, 2008.

**TWO OAK PEWS** for sale. Asking price for the 18-foot is \$200 and 24-foot is \$300. Please contact geyersprings.umc@comcast.net or call (501) 565-3175 if interested.

**DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES** at Greenbrier First United Methodist Church. Vital, growing, dynamic church needs an enthusiastic person/couple to direct youth program. Must have a heart for ministry with young people. Must be at least 21 years of age. Prefer experience with church youth ministry. Applicants will undergo a criminal background check. Part-time position with salary of \$20,000. Please send resumé and 3 references to Greenbrier First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 126, Greenbrier, AR 72058.

**EL DORADO FIRST** United Methodist Church has an immediate opening for a full-time Director of Youth Ministries. Salary commensurate with experience. Health insurance and vacation provided. Contact Rev. Jim Polk at (870) 862-1341 for more information.

**NOW HIRING:** Executive Director, Central Arkansas Ministry for Homeless Families. Requires degree in social sciences, experience in case management, fund raising, 501(c)(3) administration, coordination of community services. Send resumé and salary requirements: homelessministryinfo@yahoo.com.

**ASBURY UNITED METHODIST** Church, 1700 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212, is seeking a part-time organist to accompany Chancel Choir for traditional Sunday morning worship services, Wednesday evening choir rehearsals, funerals, weddings and other special worship services throughout the year. Please send resumé to Dr. Bryan Fink, Asbury United Methodist Church, 1700 Napa Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212, or email bryan@asbury-lr.org. Applications accepted through Nov. 15, 2008.



## Remember When

### 100 Years Ago

**Nov. 5, 1908:** Rev. Y.A. Gilmore is finishing his third year on the Elm Springs circuit, Arkansas Conference. There have been eighteen preachers licensed to preach from this circuit and four of them were licensed this year. Rather a remarkable piece of history. Bro. Gilmore is serving his second term and is deservedly popular.

### 50 Years Ago

**Nov. 13, 1958:** On Sunday afternoon, November 23, at four o'clock in the Sanctuary of the First Methodist Church at 8th and Center Street in Little Rock, The Chancel Choir, directed by John H. Summers,

Organist and Choirmaster, will present a program of contemporary music. This program is in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Mr. Summers as organist and choirmaster.

### 20 Years Ago

**Nov. 4, 1988:** Hendrix College has received a Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation grant of \$168,975, to be paid over a three-year period, to fund a local foods project, according to Gary L. Valen, dean of students at the Methodist-affiliated school. The project is designed to provide healthy, nutritious food in the college dining hall as part of a comprehensive wellness program for the students, faculty and staff.



## Milestones

**Mount Ida UMC** celebrated the completion of its new Family Life Center Oct. 19. Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield was guest preacher for the morning worship service and dedication service.

A slide show of the construction process compiled by Richard Ray was presented. Ground was broken for the new building on Sept. 14, 2003. Due to the sacrificial giving and hard work of the congregation, the facility was completed debt free. Construction was completed in phases, and parts of the building were utilized while others were being built.

South Central District Superintendent Chester Jones and Mount Ida pastors Ted DeWeese and Terry Scott assisted in the dedication service. Music was provided by the combined Mount Ida and Joplin choirs, directed by Tami Scott, with special numbers by Kathy Smith, Anna Yanta and Charles Eudy. Becky Gaston prepared a comprehensive scrapbook of the building process featuring photographs by Alvin Black. The event was coordinated by Glenna Lybrand.

**First UMC, Charleston,** will celebrate its 150th anniversary Nov. 16, beginning with the 11 a.m. worship service. The day will also mark the first anniversary of the congregation's new contemporary worship service, *The Journey*, which is held at 9 a.m. Sundays in the church fellowship hall.

West District Superintendent Robert C. Bell will be guest preacher. Special music will be provided by the *Journey Praise* team and Praise Band, David Burton and the First UMC

### Methodist agency hosts national conference

Methodist Family Health hosted the National Teaching Family Association conference Oct. 8-11 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock.

More than 200 program administrators and practitioners gathered to network and learn from those who actively work with children and families of sexually abused children, delinquent youths, emotionally disturbed and autistic children and adults, medically fragile children and adults with disabilities, medically fragile children, and adults with disabilities.

Methodist Family Health is the umbrella organization for the Methodist Children's Home and Methodist Behavioral Hospital, in Maumelle, which use the Teaching Family Model of Care.

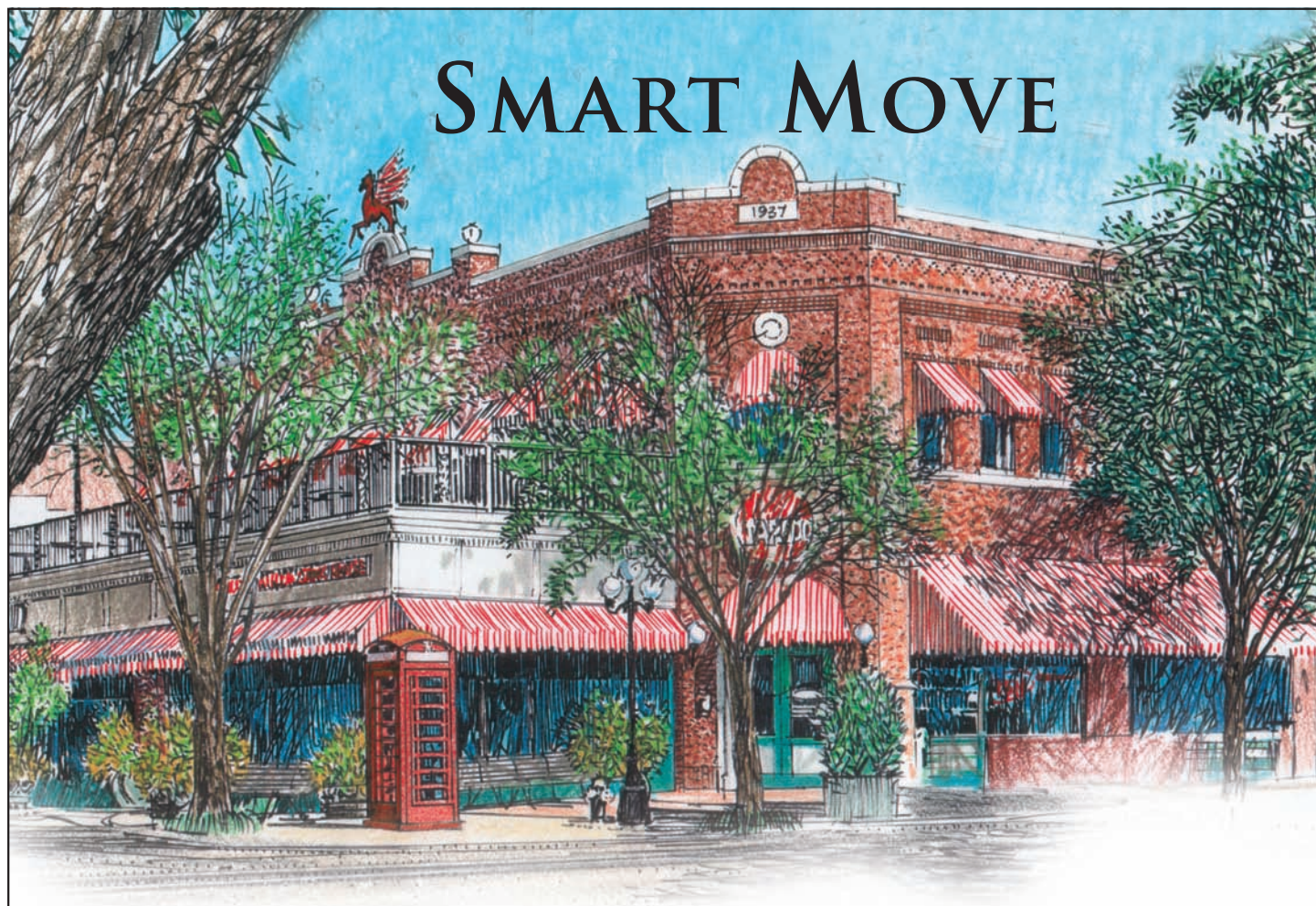
Children's and Chancel choirs, under the direction of Jeanne Wells. Special historical displays have been arranged by Helen Wells, church historian.

Former pastors will be special guests. A special banner designed and created by Donna Kengla and Paula Dozier, inspired by the art of Duncan Dozier, will be featured in the opening processional.

A potluck dinner will be held following the morning services. A video presentation featuring pictures from the past will be shown. Commemorative plates will be available for purchase. For details, call (470) 965-7130.



At the dedication of the new Family Life Center at Mount Ida UMC are (from left) lay leader Richard Ray; South Central District Superintendent Chester Jones; Bishop Charles Crutchfield; pastor Ted DeWeese; and associate pastor Rev. Terry Scott.



## SMART MOVE

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