

IN THIS ISSUE

Erasing our
comfort zones
3A

Church saves lives
in freezing temps
7A

Arkansas UM in
Upper Room
10A

A 'vital' event
for you to attend
12A



Volunteers begin to unload the Arkansas Conference Northwest District's disaster relief trailer in front of Cincinnati United Methodist Church on Saturday, Jan. 1.

PHOTO BY KAYLEA HUTSON

Small church serves as disaster relief hub

BY KAYLEA HUTSON
Special Contributor

When the Rev. Andy and DeNese Newbill went to bed on Dec. 30, 2010, they were simply looking forward to "ringing out" the year with a family dinner the next evening.

Instead, the couple found themselves at Cincinnati United Methodist Church, where Andy serves as pastor, preparing to aid a community devastated by a New Year's Eve tornado.

At approximately 6 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 31, an EF3 tornado struck the small town of Cincinnati, Ark., leaving four people dead, at least seven injured, and more than 21 miles of devastation trailing from Cincinnati to Tontitown.

Mid-day on Dec. 31, the small congregation (the previous week's worship attendance was 17) opened the doors of its building to provide a staging area for volunteer agencies like the American Red Cross and Lions Club, as well as a depository for donations of food, water and supplies.

DeNese Newbill said the decision to reach out to those impacted by the tornado was

simple—it was the church's way to serve their neighbors in need.

"People just started showing up," she said. "It wasn't just a decision; it was what we had to do."

Andy Newbill agreed. He said it was a good chance for the church to live out Jesus' command in Matthew 25:35 to feed, clothe and take care of people in need.

"This was a mighty way for the church to be used in a disaster—even as small as it is," DeNese Newbill said.

Part of a larger picture

Cincinnati UMC soon found it was not alone. Others throughout the district and state began to mobilize to provide financial and physical assistance to the congregation.

"God's church is more than the people in my tiny community," Andy Newbill said. "It's people [who contacted me] in New York City, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Virginia and more."

Denni Palmer, disaster response coordinator for the Northwest District, began to work with Andy Newbill—first by phone, then in person—to spread the word about the immediate needs.

Palmer, who trains early

response teams in the district, also served as Newbill's liaison, helping the pastor field questions and donations from people throughout Arkansas and the country.

A page on the district website (nwdist.org/2010/12/tornado) provided a place to post accurate timely updates. Newbill also used Cincinnati UMC's Facebook account to update friends and ministry colleagues throughout the state with his personal experiences.

He said phone calls from ministers throughout the conference and from Bishop Charles Crutchfield helped sustain them as they, in turn, ministered to those around them.

"We knew our connection in the conference, but our connection in the United Methodist Church goes even beyond our conference," he said.

In addition to help from other United Methodist churches, various ministries and governmental organizations, including the American Red Cross, Washington County Emergency Management and Rebuilding Northwest Arkansas, set up at the church to provide resources to people in need.

The Prairie Grove Telephone Company even set up a temporary [See SMALL CHURCH, page 6A]

Teacher, author, minister, friend: James T. Clemons, 1929-2011

The Rev. Dr. James T. (Jim) Clemons, 81, passed away on Friday, Jan. 14, 2011. He died at the scene after being accidentally struck by a morning commuter train in Gaithersburg, Md.

Clemons was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Barbara Pettingill Clemons, a native of Plumerville, Ark. He is survived by a daughter, the Rev. Margaret E. Clemons of Severn, Md., a son, J. Thomas Clemons of Port Clinton, Ohio, a daughter-in-law, Karen Yassky Clemons and grandchildren Rebecca Perkins, Benjamin Clemons and Jonathan Clemons.

Born Oct. 17, 1929, to Mildred and Russell Clemons, he was raised in Wynne, Ark. He received his undergraduate degree at Hendrix College in 1951, his Divinity degree from SMU Perkins School of Theology in 1954 and a Ph.D. from Duke University in 1963. He was an ordained Elder in the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

He served churches in Texas and Arkansas, on staff at Hendrix College, as chaplain and associate professor at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, and for twenty-eight years taught biblical studies at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Upon his retirement from Wesley in 1995, he was named Professor Emeritus of New Testament and continued to teach there occasionally. In addition, he continued his ministry into his 81st year by serving Severn

[See CLEMONS, page 11A]



On a recent Sunday at Severn UMC, Jim Clemons and Eva Mouroug, age 5, discuss an art project Eva had done in Sunday school as part of a lesson on Jonah.

PHOTO BY KEN PARCHER



EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

Michael. Red. Patrick. Robert.

His name is Michael. He struggles with alcohol addiction, but when I met him, he had been clean 24 days. His Gideon-printed New Testament has "I AM GOD'S SON" written down the side in magic marker.

Michael wants to make some friends who don't hassle him for reading his Bible all the time. He wants my husband to be his spiritual "sponsor," the same way someone would sponsor him in Alcoholics Anonymous. He wants to know if he is worthy to receive Holy Communion. He didn't go forward because he's a smoker.

He goes by "Red." He is one of the most polite men I have ever met. His fire-colored hair curls out from beneath a ball cap. He radiates a certain earnestness, a desire to help.

Red wants to know his real name. Or maybe he doesn't. He was hit by a car and can't remember anything from before then. What if the self he doesn't remember is a horrible person? All he knows is that he wound up in the hospital with no identification. No ID means no social services, and no admission to a shelter. Red can't get lost in the system, because he can't get into it.

Patrick wears a boys' size 12 pair of jeans. His age is evident from his wrinkles rather than from his size. He describes himself as a drunk, and confesses that he's illiterate.

But Patrick isn't drinking now. Someone is going to help him fill out a McDonald's job application. And someone else wants to help him learn how to read.

Robert knows God is real. He has come through too much in his life to think otherwise. Life isn't easy, but he knows he can lean on God, because he's been doing so for years.

These men are some of the people behind the story on page 7A of this issue. I met all four of them at the temporary warming center organized by canvascommunity, a one-year-old United Methodist congregation in downtown Little

Rock—two blocks from my office.

My husband and I shared a table with Michael and Robert during worship one recent Monday evening. Sometimes, I can't resist jumping into a story. I quit trying to report on it and surrender to becoming part of it.

The "sanctuary" at canvascommunity doesn't get called by that name very often. It's the only large room they have in their rented storefront on 7th Street, so they use it for worship, for concerts, for art gallery openings and as a sanctuary—in whatever sense of the word they need.

I sat in that room one midnight during the second cold snap of January. It truly served as a sanctuary—a refuge—for the people on the 80 or so Army cots lined up on the floor.

People from all kinds of churches and backgrounds came to help. I heard about atheists who gave of their time, and I spoke briefly with one Muslim woman who was called by her faith to serve, just as I was by mine.

I sat next to a medical student who studied for his pharmacology class while we both served as overnight staff. (A quick comparison of his energy level to mine, and I knew I wouldn't last until morning.)

The sounds of snoring and coughing and even less desirable noises meant the room would never get quiet. The presence of people who struggled with mental health issues meant I never knew when I would need to stand up to keep a closer watch on a situation, to decide whether to call the police, or when I would look to a trusted man I know only as "Bear" to walk over and diffuse it.

Earlier in the evening, I donned some food service gloves and added bread to the plates of people going through the line for supper. More than two hundred people came through canvascommunity for that meal. As they thanked me, I looked them in the eye and responded, "My

pleasure." And I meant it.

About an hour after supper, we began to distribute clothing—some of it new, most of it gently used by people who, like me, still have more than one coat at home.

We handed out new socks by the pair until they were gone. We found ourselves with lots of brand-new underwear that was too big for everyone who needed some. We went digging in our personal items when we heard that one woman staying there that night had begun to menstruate.

It was the kind of ministry where you literally get your hands dirty—though having heard about a warming center worker who had caught the H1N1 flu virus the week before, I lost count of the number of times I grabbed another blob of hand sanitizer.

It was the kind of ministry I think most of us could use a little more of in our sanitized lives.

Working at the warming center, we answered the call Jesus gave us in Matthew 25. We also fell short of it. We hit the mark he set before us. And I have no doubt that at some points, we missed it, too. But we kept going, figuring out what it meant to be the church in that spot, at that time.

And our brothers and sisters who have no homes felt welcomed, cared for, maybe even loved.

To contact me, send an e-mail to aforbus@arumc.org, or write me at 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

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Reuse
Replenish**



**Be sure to recycle
your *Arkansas United
Methodist* when you're
through reading it
(or give it to a friend).**

The contemporary tradition

BY MARY FAITH "ZOE" MILES
Special Contributor

Editor's note: This column concludes Miles' series on *Generation Y and the church*. The previous two installments appeared in the Sept. 17 and Nov. 5, 2010 issues.

Sunday morning worship is one of the most fundamental traditions in the United Methodist Church. In today's church, we typically observe two different genres of morning worship, often called "traditional" and "contemporary."

However, to think of contemporary worship as nontraditional is a misconception.

Both genres of worship are steeped in the traditions of our church.

Our "traditional" worship service allows us to come together as the clean, pure Bride of Christ, glimpsing the day to come when we will stand complete before Jesus.

Just as in the Jewish tradition of presenting a pure lamb for slaughter to take on the sins of the Israelites, Jesus, the final, spotless Lamb (Hebrews 9:12), has made us all clean through His atoning death on the cross. Now pure, we can enter into communion with God. The essence of "traditional" worship is an outward representation of the cleansing grace of God.

The approach of many "contemporary" services can be viewed through the lens of Isaiah 6. The prophet beholds the Glory of God and is horrified. In that moment, he knows himself as "a man of unclean lips."

The contemporary worship style develops out of the tradition of knowing ourselves as a people of unclean



Zoe Miles

lips. But as we come as we are to our "blue jean services" we are presenting ourselves before a holy God and saying, "Here am I. Send me!"

Often, this type of service is more comfortable to my demographic because, as young people who are trying to find their place in society, we can come just as we are—spiritually and physically. We can walk in late. We can be noisy. We can be messy. We can be unclean.

As I've discussed in previous articles, United Methodist traditions build the frame supporting spiritual movement. Both traditional and contemporary styles maintain essentially the same skeletal structure—an order of worship, readings, liturgy, clergy-led prayer—but instead of the traditional choir, there's a rock band. Instead of pews, there are stackable chairs.

We must realize that the difference between these styles is the way by which they support the Body as it approaches the throne.

When surveyed, my peers said that what made them come alive in church was not a question of genre, but simply "worship and prayer." The argument of traditional versus contemporary worship is moot for us. Though there is a different comfort level in the contemporary worship service, if a Christian of my generation walked into a "traditional" worship service and saw the Body moving toward Christ, they would join in.

May our services be such that our dry bones come alive and move into a posture of prayer and worship, in the tradition of all God's children before us.

Miles is a senior at Oklahoma City University, a United Methodist-related institution. She can be reached at mmiles.stu1@my.okcu.edu.



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March 4	Feb. 17
April 1	March 17
May 6	April 14



AN OCCASIONAL WORD from the Bishop

BY CHARLES CRUTCHFIELD

Dear Friends:

I am sitting in the international terminal in the Newark airport, waiting to board a flight to the Holy Land. There are 60 of us, a group of recent ordinands and others, all anticipating seeing and experiencing the Holy Land.

This will be my fifth trip. The first time I was privileged to visit the Land of the Bible was in 1958. It was quite a trip for a fifteen-year-old. Things have changed dramatically since those days.

Israel is a regional power. The population of the land has increased tremendously. There is a very different feel wherever you go. The problems of security and national identity and justice and fairness seem almost insurmountable.

The one thing I know is that there are no simple or easy solutions to resolve the conflict. One remembers Jesus weeping over

Jerusalem.

However, I do know one thing. There will be no real progress until there is forgiveness.

The lack of forgiveness not only blocks international relationships, it also can destroy our personal relationships. Our anger, no matter the justification, turns in on us and eats at our soul. When we treat each other with dignity and grace and find the capacity to truly forgive, we are acting as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The one positive thing to come out of the tragedy in Tucson is an awareness in the body politic that dehumanizing and uncivil language has no place in our lives.

Whether the language and political atmosphere had anything to do with the mind of the gunman is something we may never know. But responsible people know that civil discourse is important no matter the arena of discussion.

Too often, those who are

“different” from us—different in politics, in economic status, in religious beliefs and perspective—are the objects of our ire for no other reason than they are “different.”

And for some reason, we won’t forgive them for being “different.” You and I have heard dehumanizing language used to denigrate others in civic clubs, at political rallies, in the grocery store, and yes, sadly, in the church.

The capacity to forgive is a divine gift. There is a passage of Scripture that suggests how many times we need to forgive. Christ is the epitome of one who forgives.

We who follow Jesus should do no less, and live a life replete with this divine capacity—to forgive.

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield



When Celebrating Jesus Is Not Easy

BY THOMAS KEMPER

Special Contributor

Editor’s Note: Thomas Kemper, general secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, shared on Jan. 7 the following call to prayer. In turn, we share it with you.

Public celebration of Christmas—public testament of faith in Jesus Christ—is not always easy, or even safe. As we move into a new year, my prayer list includes persons and situations in which Christian brothers and sisters lost their lives in recent days because of their faith, or where a public official was killed for trying to protect religious rights of Christians.

In Iraq, two Christians were killed and 14 wounded in attacks in their Baghdad homes, a grim reminder of the slaughter of some 50 Christians in their Baghdad cathedral last Oct. 30.

In Alexandria, Egypt, 21 Coptic Christians were killed as they worshiped in All Saints Church on New Year’s Eve.

In Pakistan, Governor Salman Taseer of the state of Punjab was killed on January 4 by a bodyguard, reportedly for working to overturn laws making it difficult for Christians and other minorities to practice their faiths.

I invite United Methodists worldwide to join me in prayers for the ancient Oriental Orthodox Churches and their communities in the Middle East, especially at this time for the Chaldean Church in Iraq and the Coptic Church in Egypt. May we remember the families of those recently killed, the church leaders, and those women, men, and children who daily face oppression because of their response to God’s love in Jesus Christ.

Join me also in prayers for the family of Governor Tasser in Pakistan, for the Christians in that land, for our mission partner the United Church of Pakistan, and for all the people of that country.

Let us join the voices of Christians and Muslims who have decried these events and pledged to work harder for peace and justice.

Let us pray for the persecuted and the persecutors. Let us pray for peace and goodwill among all religions and ethnic groups, among neighbors and nations.

To the Glory of God.

Trust and self-sacrifice will move us forward

BY WILLIAM O. (BUD) REEVES
Special Contributor

I don’t trust institutions.

I was a senior in high school when Watergate rocked my faith in the government.

I can understand why many people believe in God, yet they avoid “organized religion.”

We have questioned every institution in our society—government, schools, banks, corporations and churches. Whom can we trust? The generations younger than us Baby Boomers are even less trustful than we are.

Yet I have spent my adult life working in an institution, an organized (more or less!) church, a historical denomination. I don’t consider that I have ever worked “for” the United Methodist Church; my ultimate call and authority come from beyond the church. God is still my Boss!

But the dialectic between my cultural ambivalence about institutions and my role as a representative

of one has been a constant tension—sometimes creative and sometimes disturbing.

A new reality is emerging in the church. We want to become a movement rather than remain an institution. We have read in Phyllis Tickle’s book *The Great Emergence* that the church is in a 500-year shift that will change the nature of the community of faith. We have called it a journey in the wilderness. We are trying to feel our way into the future.

Every local church that is aware of its condition is experiencing the change. Our Conference is trying to address the new reality through Imagine Ministry. The Council of Bishops has issued a Call to Action to deal with it on the national level.

We have the brains to confront the future. We can design the structures, programs and procedures to perpetuate the institution, at least for a while. But if we are truly going to live into the emerging reality of the church, the changes in the way we operate must be more fundamental.

Engaging the future will require an act of the will and a movement of

the spirit. Specifically, two things will need to happen.

Trust

We will have to trust one another and our leaders.

Contrary to our inherent skepticism about those in authority, we need to follow where we are led.

‘To live into God’s future

for the church, we will

have to erase our comfort

zones.’

Scripture is full of admonitions to accept authority and examples of authoritative leadership.

But authority is not automatic; it must be earned. Our leaders, from the clergy and lay leaders of the local church to the upper echelons of the denomination, must exhibit godly leadership in order to gain authority. This includes integrity, transparency

(open to input and about process), and fruitfulness (making decisions that bring positive results).

And leaders, according to Jesus, must be servants (Mark 10:42-45). Growing trust may start slowly, like the flywheel of Jim Collins’ analogy in the book *Good to Great*. The more revolutions the flywheel makes, the more momentum it builds, until it is virtually unstoppable. The alternative, to continue the analogy, is the downward spiral (the “doom loop”) of slow death.

On the other hand, leaders must also trust their constituencies. A well-led organization is permission-giving—welcoming innovation, new ideas and approaches, initiated at any level. The days of hierarchy are gone in our culture, and in the church they are numbered.

Self-sacrifice

The second move that will engage the emerging reality is to act against self-interest for the common good. We may have to sacrifice our own preferred future for the health of the church. This was one of the keys to the success of the early church (Acts 2:44-45). They pooled

their resources and, led by the apostles, they transformed the world.

To live into God’s future for the church, we will have to erase our comfort zones. We can no longer protect our turf of ministry. We cannot defend the status quo at the expense of progress.

We follow the Son of Man, who said he “came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Jesus made the sacrifice so we could enjoy the victory.

That’s why we trust and follow him.

Before we make deep changes to our beloved church, there must be a more fundamental shift. We have to be willing to trust one another and to act against our self-interest for the good of the body. In the history of the church, whenever God’s people have done this, miracles have happened.

What is emerging is not yet clear. We are walking into the wilderness together.

We had better hold hands.

The Rev. Dr. Reeves serves as pastor of First UMC Hot Springs. He can be reached at brobud@fumchs.com.



Bud Reeves

Thompson to join MTS faculty



PHOTO COURTESY MARK MANRING/MANRING.NET

The Rev. Andrew C. Thompson in August 2011 will join the faculty of Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS) as Assistant Professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies.

A Paragould native, Thompson graduated from Hendrix College in Conway and received his Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

He has served as the associate chaplain at Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn., as associate pastor of First United Methodist Church of Searcy and as pastor of Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church in Henderson, N.C. Most recently, Thompson has been a ministry coordinator of the Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation.

"Our search committee met with several outstanding candidates for this position before selecting Rev. Thompson, who is currently completing his Doctor of Theology program at Duke Divinity School," said Jay Earheart-Brown, president of MTS. "We welcome Andrew and his family to Memphis and look forward to his association with us."

Thompson is a contributing columnist for the *United Methodist Reporter*, of which the *Arkansas United Methodist* is a monthly

edition. His "Gen-X Rising" column appears bi-weekly and has won the Award of Excellence from the Associated Church Press. Thompson also edited the forthcoming *Generation Rising: A Future with Hope for the United Methodist Church*, to be published in April 2011 by Abingdon Press.

"It has been my hope that somehow a way would open up for me to take the additional training I've received... and serve not only the UMC as a whole, but also my own annual conference that has nurtured and supported me throughout the early years of my ministry," Thompson said. "The teaching position at Memphis will allow me to do just this kind of work, due to the considerable number of Arkansas Conference students who receive their M.Div. training at MTS."

Memphis Theological Seminary is a graduate school with a mission to educate and sustain men and women for ordained and lay Christian ministry in the church and the world. Of the 312 students enrolled for the fall 2010 semester, 81—more than 25 percent—were United Methodist.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Elias receives Robb Award from Good News

Arkansas laywoman Carolyn Elias received in November the eighth annual Edmund W. Robb Jr. United Methodist Renewal Award. Elias, a leader in the Good News evangelical renewal movement, is involved in the leadership of the Arkansas Confessing Movement.

The award is given annually to a United Methodist who has made a significant contribution to renewal within the United Methodist

Church. Elias worked for evangelical renewal in Central Illinois before moving to Hot Springs and continuing her efforts in the Little Rock and Arkansas Conferences.

Good News president and



Carolyn Elias

publisher emeritus James V. Heidinger II presented the award to Elias at the Good News fall 2010 board meeting banquet, held in November on the campus of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.

"She is highly respected by all who have worked with her," Heidinger said. "She has a warm, kind spirit, but Carolyn can also be firm when firmness is needed."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks, 'snow angels'

On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 9, an inch of snow had fallen in southern Lincoln County.

Needing to get ahead of the storm for a medical appointment the next day, I set out for Little Rock.

The storm intensified. Vehicles slid on the icy road. Ten miles from Little Rock, after a near-collision, my car slipped off the road into a pine thicket.

A man named John Webb stopped his SUV, left his friend, Nicole, and her daughter, Mikayla, inside its warmth, and climbed down the icy right-of-way to check on me. John insisted I keep warm in his vehicle while calling for help. Then, with the storm worsening, these good people delivered me to my friend's home in west Little Rock.

Nicole's happy nature made me feel welcome and cared for. Nine-year-old Mikayla regaled me with comments and questions as we journeyed to Little Rock.

We shared my friend's hospitality, and I expressed my deep gratitude. Just before they left for Conway, I said to Mikayla, "It was so nice of you to help me." She responded, "We're Christians. It's what we do."

John, Nicole, and Mikayla: Thank you for being snow angels. You make our world a better place.

Tom Abney
Rock Springs UMC

Pronoun trouble

Somehow I feel that I am not the only one who has trouble with

publications like the "Adult Bible Studies" and their prohibition against the use any personal pronouns when referring to God. By this standard both the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed would not be publishable since they are obviously politically incorrect.

Awkward sentences that beg for pronouns blunt the effectiveness of these publications and give credence to the statement that given the choice of doing something that is politically correct or scripturally correct, the Methodist Church as an organization would opt for political correctness in a heartbeat.

I have no question that God is neither male nor female. However, proper use of the English language has you default to the male form when gender is not known and, unlike in some languages, "it" is only used with inanimate objects.

Respectfully,
Joe Whalen
North Little Rock

Letters to the Editor policy:

All letters must be signed (name and city/church) and include the writer's telephone number or e-mail address.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Letters longer than 200 words will not be considered for publication.

The Arkansas United Methodist will not print letters containing personal attacks.

The Arkansas United Methodist reserves the right to publish Letters to the Editor in print, on the web, or both.

Methodist Le Bonheur launches 'No One Dies Alone'

New program seeks volunteers to sit with, comfort dying patients

"No one should die alone..... Each human should die with the sight of a loving face."

—Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Some people find themselves without close friends or family as they near the end of their lives. They may have outlived all their relatives or be separated from them, either geographically or emotionally.

No One Dies Alone (NODA) trains volunteers to sit with patients who are actively dying and have no

family or friends to be with them. Begun in Eugene, Oregon at Sacred Heart Hospital in November 2001, NODA has since become available in around 35 hospital systems in the United States.

In October, Methodist Le Bonheur Germantown Hospital launched NODA, and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare now offers it at all hospitals throughout its system.

"It is a sacred time to be with someone at their time of death," said Methodist Le Bonheur chaplain the

Rev. Jack Conrad. "There is incredible mutuality with this program because in addition to providing a needed service to patients, the volunteers tell me they feel as if they have received a phenomenal gift from the experience."

Nurses and chaplains play a key role in helping to identify patients whom they think could benefit from the program.

Kay Fleming, special events coordinator for the Methodist

Healthcare Foundation, said she feels blessed to be able to participate in NODA.

"I come from a very supportive, loving family, so I can't imagine someone not having that," she said.

The patient Fleming sat with was unresponsive, but still she read, prayed and sang with her and put a cool cloth on her fevered head.

"I like to think she benefitted from my touch and presence," said Fleming.

Each volunteer goes through a

two-hour training session and receives a kit complete with a NODA button, a blanket, poetry book, a Bible, a journal and a book entitled, *How to be a Perfect Stranger*. The kit also contains a book with prayers from various religions.

Methodist Le Bonheur has trained 32 volunteers to participate in NODA, and seeks more to serve in an on-call capacity as needs arise. To volunteer, contact Conrad at conradj@methodisthealth.org or 901-516-6165.

Arkansas Access to Recovery seeks faith-based partners

Program gives clients choices for addiction treatment and support for moving forward

Persons struggling with drug or alcohol addiction often lack support that would help them stay on track. They may face multiple issues that complicate recovery. And less than one-third of clients in treatment for drug or alcohol abuse get help dealing with those other complicating factors.

A program just launching within Arkansas seeks to change that

situation by linking organizations offering support to those who need it.

Arkansas is one of 30 states selected for a publicly funded grant to support Access to Recovery (ATR). ATR is a choice-based plan designed to help individuals transition from addiction to long-term healthful living.

Carol Roddy, a member of First

UMC Little Rock, serves as project director for Arkansas Access to Recovery. She is encouraging faith groups to step forward with options to help those with substance use disorders follow a path to healing.

"The most important difference in ATR from other prior programs is the component of choice," Roddy said. "This program must work

side-by-side with clients to give them the opportunity to design their recovery plan... persons in recovery need to be active in making decisions for their future."

Studies show that the long-term recovery success rate improves when a client has choices for care and support. Options can include parenting classes, life skills classes, childcare, peer support and spiritual counseling.

As long as clients have a non-faith-based alternative, faith-based recovery support can include time in worship and spiritual development as part of their plans. For example, the popular ministry Celebrate Recovery would be an option for ATR participants.

ATR focuses on serving three distinct groups of people:

- Arkansas National Guard/Reserve members, veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan or their family members;
- Pregnant women or adult family members of children with Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Youth Services (DYS) involvement;
- Adults with DUI/DWI court involvement, with an emphasis on repeat offenders.

ATR is open to residents of 13 Arkansas counties: Benton, Craighead, Crawford, Faulkner, Garland, Independence, Jefferson, Lonoke, Pulaski, Saline, Sebastian, Washington and White.

Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center



Carol Roddy of Arkansas Access to Recovery provides an overview on Jan. 19 to the first group of providers and care coordinators.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

for Substance Abuse Treatment, ATR provides vouchers for substance use disorder clinical treatment and recovery support services.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Partners for Inclusive Communities will collaborate with DHS and community providers in program implementation and management.

Churches interested in offering support programs should visit arkansas.gov/dhs/dmhs and click on the "Arkansas Access to Recovery Provider Manual" link in the sidebar. The application and instructions begin on page 59 of that document.

For additional information, call Partners for Inclusive Communities at 501-682-9900 and ask for Access to Recovery.

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TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

Des Arc church gives Congo water well

In the photo at right, Bishop Charles Crutchfield helps Walker McCaig, Chandler Ford and Walker Harris collect loose change gathered from worshipers at First UMC Des Arc on Dec. 19.

During Bishop Crutchfield's visit to Des Arc, the congregation presented a check for \$8,460 to benefit the Congo Well Project. Of that total, \$306 came through Children's Coin Ministry offerings like the one pictured.

The amount the Des Arc church gave is enough to completely cover the cost of building a well, providing clean drinking water for residents of a Congo village. Each well costs approximately \$8,000.

The Arkansas Conference partners with the North Katanga Conference to make the Congo Well Project possible. Churches and individuals can contribute to the Congo Well Project at arumc.org/donate_now.php.



Not your typical 'Sweet 16' celebration

Birthday bash raises \$1,700 for Mercy Breast Center



Morgan Raymond (center, giving thumbs-up) used her 16th birthday party to raise cash for breast cancer research.

COURTESY PHOTO

Morgan Raymond, a member of First UMC Springdale, didn't want a "Sweet 16" party for her birthday.

Instead, she decided she wanted to raise money and awareness in memory of her Aunt Missie, who died in December 2009 of undiagnosed breast cancer.

Morgan's Jan. 2 party at First UMC's Pontiac campus (also known as The Hub) was a huge success, with more than 60 teens attending for an evening of food, dancing, face painting and more. In lieu of gifts, each guest was asked to bring at least \$16 to donate toward the cause.

The party raised more than \$1,700, which Morgan donated to the Mercy Breast Center at Mercy Health Center of Northwest Arkansas.

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Small church serves as disaster relief hub (continued from page 1A)

RIGHT: Stacy Smith, a cameraman with KNWA, shoots video footage as Janet McElroy sorts food donations.

BELOW: Andy and DeNese Newbill sit among donations that arrived at Cincinnati UMC following the Dec. 31 tornado.

PHOTOS BY KAYLEA HUTSON



phone at the church for use during the disaster.

Janet McElroy of Fort Smith grew up in the Cincinnati community. After learning of the tornado and efforts to turn the church into a community resource, she decided to lend a hand.

She spent much of the first weekend after the tornado sorting the donated items flooding into the church.

"I think this is wonderful," McElroy said. "You can see the love of Christ."

She said watching people work together to support their neighbors helped reinforce that people still care about others.

"I have never seen such devastation," she said. "But I love how the community came together [to help]."

Looking ahead

As the immediate needs of the community were met, Newbill turned from recovery to rebuilding efforts.

Now, with the help of community leaders, he is helping to raise and distribute funds to those impacted by the storm.

UMCOR training made the difference

Andy Newbill said one thing helped him successfully care for his congregation and community in the aftermath of the Dec. 31 tornado: his decision to become certified as an UMCOR early response team (ERT) member, through training provided in 2010 by the Northwest District.

"It gives you an idea of what a disaster involves and what you should not do—which is probably more important than what you should do," Newbill said.

Since Northwest District disaster coordinator Denni Palmer began leading the training in 2009, approximately 40 lay members and clergy have completed the one-day course to become certified ERT personnel, deployed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) after the emergency phase of a disaster has ended.

Palmer and other district disaster coordinators are working to schedule more ERT training events.

"[We] hope more people will make it a priority to attend," she said. "You might never be deployed to help in a disaster, but you will gain an understanding of how to better help."

For information about upcoming training events, or to volunteer in Cincinnati, contact Palmer at umteach@hotmail.com or 479-248-1218.

In addition to using \$10,000 provided by the Arkansas Conference Disaster Fund, the church established a Cincinnati Disaster Fund through Arvest Bank to help streamline donations pouring into the community. By mid-January, the Arvest fund totaled more than \$40,000.

Newbill said he hopes to distribute funds to people in need, especially those without adequate insurance or financial resources.

Online donations can be made

to the Arkansas Conference Disaster Fund at arumc.org/donate_now.php. These funds are distributed through the Bishop's office to help meet the needs presented by the disaster. One hundred percent of all donations made through the Conference fund are used for disaster relief.

Hutson serves as minister to families with children at First UMC Siloam Springs, and maintains the Northwest District website, NWDist.org.



Once upon a time, a 3-year-old girl and her brothers and sisters were scared because they didn't have a home. When Cherresa was 8, she arrived at Methodist Family Health's Children's Home. For the first time in her life, she felt safe. Cherresa loved her new home and all the nice people, but when she grew up, she moved away. The emotional struggles she had escaped were now a fading memory. But, sadly, they found her again.

For more information, please call us today at 501.661.0720 or visit us online at www.MethodistFamily.org.

Methodist Family Health provides treatment and support to children and families in Arkansas who suffer from emotional, behavioral and addiction issues.

"One day my 7-year-old son, Tyler, said, 'Mom, why do I have to go to school looking so bad?'" Cherresa remembers. "I had given up on myself, and on life. But even though I was hooked on drugs and alcohol, I wanted a better life for my son." Cherresa and Tyler went to Arkansas CARES, the family treatment program that focuses on breaking the cycle of maternal addiction. "I honestly believe Arkansas CARES saved my life," Cherresa says, "and my son got his mom back. We're both doing great now. I've been given the greatest gift of all — a new start on life."

Methodist
FAMILY HEALTH

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Church uses social networking to bring warmth to homeless

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

On Saturday, Jan. 8, Robby Matthews received a message from a television reporter via Twitter, one of the social media sites he frequents.

The reporter, who knew Matthews had experience in ministry with the homeless, asked if any churches would be providing shelter for homeless individuals during the approaching winter storm. He gave her the names of a few people who might know, then called one of them—his pastor—to tell him that a reporter might be in touch.

Jamey Bentley, pastor of canvascommunity, a one-year-old new United Methodist church in downtown Little Rock, recalls telling Matthews, “With the exception of our blankets and sleeping bags we’ve been collecting, we really don’t have a whole lot we could do at this point.”

But it wasn’t long after he hung up the phone that he looked at his wife, Sheri, and said, “We’ve got 5,000 square-feet. There’s no reason we can’t see if we can get this together.”

So Bentley sent a text message to Matthews: “We’re going to open up canvas.”

Harnessing social media

Both men jumped onto Twitter, Facebook and text messaging to tell anyone who might be paying attention: “tomorrow night we will be opening our space as a warming center. Food, place to sleep warm. We need volunteers - message me!”

They soon learned that SOAR Network (soarnetwork.org), a central Arkansas coalition focused on ending homelessness, had more than 100 Army surplus cots, which arrived on Sunday afternoon at canvascommunity’s 7th Street storefront just as snow began to fall.

Aaron Reddin of St. Francis House (on Twitter as @HomelessHeretic and @HelpingArkansas), a friend of both men, began to help rally resources. Matthews knew Jeff Spry of City Connections (cityconnections inc.org) from working alongside him in last winter’s city-run warming shelter; Spry put the word out, too.

The list of contacts goes on. Countless people with online relationships based on common interests, geography or seemingly random connections, worked the network. Groups and individuals formed a convoluted yet effective team that quickly began to get things done.

“In about four hours, we had put the troops together and were in line

to have everything like cots and food taken care of, so that on Sunday we could get people bedded down,” Bentley said. Churches—both United Methodist and not—and individuals helped spread the word on Facebook and sent helpers and supplies.

“We didn’t know who was doing what,” said Bentley. “We just knew we needed to be doing something.” Churches offered meals, transportation and even the showers in their facilities.

But it wasn’t just church people. Several canvascommunity members alerted their friends in the media. All major networks’ Little Rock television stations aired at least one story on the warming center during the two separate weeks it operated.

“It drew a lot of people to the website, and to Facebook to begin following us, so that they could help out,” Bentley said.

In for the long haul

Knowing that road conditions would likely turn hazardous, Matthews and his dog, Maggie, moved into the church’s building on Sunday. Maggie received training toward certification as a therapy dog as one of the original dogs in the Healing Angels ministry at Quapaw Quarter UMC. While Matthews could’ve sent Maggie elsewhere, he brought her because she offered a calming presence.

Road conditions also led John Ripa to bed down in a back room. A member of canvascommunity and founder of the Alliance of Revolutionary Love, the church’s ministry with its homeless neighbors, Ripa wanted to be available for the night shift regardless of snow or ice.

Matthews grabbed short naps over the course of three days (he left only when called to the bedside of his father, who passed away in hospice care on Jan. 18). Others worked shifts ranging from a couple of hours to entire days or nights.

Matthews and Bentley singled out Eikon Church, a nondenominational community of about 50 people that meets in the Stiff Station area of town, as a particularly involved group. Before the winter storm, Matthews and Bentley knew them only through Twitter.

“They were more than ready to help and they’d already spread the word,” Matthews said. “They brought breakfast Wednesday and then they came back with another meal Friday.” Eikon also worked night shifts.

On Sunday and Monday, the atmosphere in the warming center was one of cabin fever and worry—



which was understandable. It had been set up quickly, and was operating much like a disaster recovery station.

But by Friday, Jan. 14, when the temperatures warmed enough for the center to close down, the mood had shifted. People shared tearful moments while saying goodbye.

Connections made through the warming center helped people get needed medications, jobs, social services and more. “Things that they didn’t know they were eligible for... anything from disability to unemployment to food stamps,” Bentley said. Some even obtained housing.

Making room for worship

Bentley believes holding the church’s Monday night worship as scheduled provided the turning point that took the center from crisis station to homelike community.

Church members made it clear that they weren’t requiring people to attend worship before receiving a meal or a cot; they were simply going about their weekly spiritual practice. They served supper first, and most warming center residents chose to stay for the service. Many even helped convert the room from bunking area to gathering space.

Nine regular attendees of canvascommunity were present, including their resident audiovisual expert. So they added their first-ever live video stream as a way to include worshipers snowed in at their homes.

The in-person crowd was the size of average weekly attendance at canvascommunity. The difference was that most of the people present had never worshiped there before. Counting those logged in to the video stream, worship attendance hit an all-time high of 200.

Six people received Holy Communion for the first time that night. And during prayer time at the close of worship, one person professed his faith in Jesus Christ, and two more reaffirmed theirs.

Back at it

During the Jan. 19 interview for this story, another winter weather forecast emerged. Bentley and Matthews began receiving text messages: Would the warming center reopen for the Jan. 20 winter storm?

MORE PHOTOS: To see more of the warming center, visit the photo gallery at arumc.org/aum.

It took less than one minute to decide. The result, seen on Matthews’ Twitter and Facebook feeds: ATTN EVERYONE!!! canvascommunity will open its doors again Thurs as a warming ctr during the expected winter storm, if you’d like to help call me...
January 19 at 1:43pm via BlackBerry

A true community effort

The people of canvascommunity UMC did not open or operate the warming center on their own. The names below offer a window into the work and resources required to run the center. In addition to those listed, more than 30 people active in canvascommunity (approximately one-third of the church’s average weekly worship attendance) gave of their time and resources to care for their neighbors.

Churches, organizations and businesses:
Argenta UMC • Arkansas Department of Human Services • The Broadway Bridge Project • Burger Kings of Central Arkansas • Cabot UMC • Chenal Valley Baptist Church • The Church Alive, Conway • The Church at Rock Creek • City Connections • Cupcakes on Kavanaugh • Daddy’s Deli • Eikon Church • Immanuel Baptist Church • FaithSpring UMC • Fatsam’s Louisiana Cafe • First UMC Little Rock • Gellattes • KARK • KATV • KTHV • Lakewood UMC • Little Rock Fire Department • Little Rock Police Department • Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) • New Life Church • Pleasant Valley Church of Christ • Potluck Food Rescue for Arkansas • Pulaski Heights UMC • Quapaw Quarter UMC • Rivercity Ministries • Saddlecreek Church • SOAR Network • St. Francis House • St. James UMC’s Under the Bridge Ministry • St. Vincent’s

Hospital • Theresa Hoover UMC’s Divine Transitional Living program • UAMS School of Nursing
Individuals: Pam Adcock • Andrea Allen • Jennifer Bellott • Cindy Bemis • Pat Blackstone • Sarah Brillhart • Garrick Boyd • Kelsey Caddy • Austin Callazo • Kathy Capuson • Kerri Case • Katie Clifton • Elizabeth Dowell • Jonathon Graham • Dennis Greene • Corey Griesemer • Shelley Griesemer • Josue Gutierrez • John Hardin • Thomas Hudson • Donny “Strawhat” Johnson • Rose Johnson • Steven Johnson • Earsie “Bear” Jordan • Corey Key • Samantha Lambert • Mary Kay Lieblong • Tammy Love • Ed Matthews • Rachel McAdams • Luke Morris • Al Morton • Leon Morton • Caleb Olsen • Terry Pulliam • Aaron Reddin • Laney Reddin • Dot Robbins • Cotton Rohrscheib • Donna Rohrscheib • Clay Saunders • Chris Saunders • Jeff Spry • Hannah Watson • Johnny Wynn • Craig Wynn

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

This Volunteers in Mission listing for the Arkansas Conference also includes mission opportunities offered by local churches and districts. Often there is room for additional volunteers to join a team. For more information on any such projects, contact the individuals listed or Don Weeks, Arkansas Area Volunteers in Mission coordinator, 501-868-9193 or 681-2909; dweeks@arumc.org.

Disaster Response Training March 12

Jeff Baker, disaster coordinator for Missouri Conference, will lead the next Volunteers in Mission disaster response training session for the Arkansas Conference. The session will be held Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Kendall Center at Philander Smith College.

Cost for training is \$20 per person, which includes the training manual and lunch. To reserve your seat, contact Libby Gray, lgray@arumc.org or 501-324-8000.

Hunt to lead workshop on cultural intelligence March 26

Those who are self aware, cognizant of cultural differences, motivated to cross cultural boundaries and sensitive to differences in cultural behavior are the most effective servants of God in mission.

Dr. Robert Hunt, director of Global Theological Education at SMU Perkins School of Theology and a former missionary in Malaysia, Singapore and Austria, will present a Volunteers in Mission seminar, "Cultivating Cultural Intelligence," on Saturday, March 26 in the Kendall Center at Philander Smith College.

While no seminar can fully prepare a person for their first encounter with a different culture, this introduction to cultural intelligence will guide participants into richer and fuller partnerships in ministry across cultures. Missioners will become more comfortable in their first encounter with a new culture, more sensitive in their ministry to people in that culture, and more likely to return having received as much as they have given.

Participants will gain awareness of how culture shapes expectations, become more culturally aware, learn basic behavioral patterns for engaging new cultures and receive resources for learning about specific cultures. It's a "don't miss" training for any individual serving in culturally diverse settings. To reserve your seat, contact Libby Gray, lgray@arumc.org or 501-324-8000.



Robert Hunt

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 50 cents per word, no limit. To schedule your ad, call 501-324-8005 or mail to: *Arkansas United Methodist*, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202; or e-mail mtaylor@arumc.org.

-Director of Preschool Learning Center position available-

Full-time position of director for nationally accredited preschool program available. Person must have at least a master's degree in child development, early childhood, elementary education or related field, plus five years experience, preferably two of those in administration. Resumes, along with references and compensation expectations, may be sent to Rev. Fred Haustein, St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212 or fredh@stjames-umc.org.

-Coordinator of Youth Ministry-
Position available at vibrant,

growing congregation. Leader will coordinate programming and ministry for all youth in mission outreach, fellowship, recreation and discipleship, and personally direct senior high ministry. College degree required, and two years of experience in youth ministry preferred. Send resume, with references and compensation expectations to Rev. Fred Haustein, St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212, or to fredh@stjames-umc.org.

Home Study:

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Phone (252) 451-1031;
www.christianbiblecollege.org

Dollars for Scholars program applications due March 1

UM students at Hendrix, Philander Smith eligible

Applications are due March 1 for the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Dollars for Scholars (UMDFS) program to benefit students attending United Methodist-related colleges.

"Students planning to attend Philander Smith and Hendrix Colleges in Arkansas should definitely take a look at this application," said Chester Jones, board member for the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and district superintendent for the

South Central district.

"We previously have had only Hendrix students apply, and we are especially interested in encouraging Philander Smith students to participate."

Dollars for Scholars recipients benefit from funding provided by four institutions. Each \$4,000 award consists of \$1,000 each given by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation, the college that the student attends and

the student's local church.

UMDFS applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, with the exception of applications from students planning to enroll in a two-year school, which may be postmarked no later than June 1. A total of 475 scholarships nationwide will be available to eligible applicants through the UMDFS program. To download the application, visit umhcf.org/pdf_library/2010_UMDFS_Application.pdf.

Philander Smith and Hendrix faculty receive Exemplary Teacher Awards

Two Arkansas faculty are among fourteen professors at United Methodist-related schools, colleges and universities selected to receive the Exemplary Teacher Award from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) for fall 2010.

Joyce Hardin, professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Chair at Hendrix College, and Lawrence Hamilton, director of Cultural Affairs at Philander Smith College, received the honor, which includes a certificate of appreciation and a cash award.

The program, a partnership between GBHEM and United Methodist-related educational institutions, expresses the church's support of and appreciation for outstanding teaching on church-affiliated campuses.

"While the amount of this award is modest, it does manifest in a tangible way the profound respect that the United Methodist Church

has for the teaching-learning process and it does, therefore, recognize particularly talented professors," said Gerald D. Lord, associate general secretary of GBHEM's Division of Higher Education.

"Since joining the Hendrix faculty in 1989, Dr. Hardin has been exemplary in the fullest possible meaning of the word," said Dr. Robert L. Entzminger, provost of Hendrix College. "A beloved teacher

with a wide range of course assignments in the Department of Biology, she has been honored both for her teaching and research and has held a number of prestigious



Joyce Hardin

positions, including the presidency of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences."

Serving dual roles as Cultural

Director and drama professor, Hamilton has devoted his professional and personal life to serving students, staff and faculty, says Dr. Lia A. Steele, associate professor of English at Philander Smith College and past chair of the humanities department.

"I am thrilled that Mr. Hamilton has been recognized yet again for his extraordinary excellence as an educator," she said. "Mr.

Hamilton is one of those rare teachers who practices what he preaches... he is the most generous, compassionate, and loving teacher I know, who epitomizes the excellence he asks for from his students."

To learn more about United Methodist-related educational institutions, visit gbhem.org/education.



Lawrence Hamilton

Twenty students and two faculty members from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock volunteered at Oak Forest UMC on Monday, Jan. 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The effort was organized by Dr. John Miller, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. Students mopped floors in the food pantry, cleaned the Sunday school room that will become the new Vision Clinic and cleaned Shepherd's Hope, the medical and dental clinic. Also pictured are Oak Forest members Don and Nancy Patten, who hosted the group, and Oak Forest pastor Dr. Russ Breshears.



COURTESY PHOTO

COMING UP

February

Arkansas Interfaith Conference Legislative Day Feb. 16

The Arkansas Interfaith Conference Legislative Day will be Wednesday, Feb. 16. The event is co-sponsored with the Arkansas Conference Board of Church and Society and the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the event begins at 10 a.m. A number of prominent elected officials have been invited to speak. Lunch will be served and is part of the registration fee. For further information, please contact the Rev. Stephen Copley at 501-626-9220.

Worship Fair Feb. 18-19

The Arkansas chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts has scheduled Worship Fair for Feb. 18-19, 2011, at St. Paul UMC in Little Rock. The theme is “Making the Ordinary Extraordinary.” Participants will learn to plan and perform meaningful worship and preaching during the “Ordinary Time” that stretches between Epiphany and Lent and between Pentecost and Advent.

Clinicians include John Thornburg, Anna Laura Page and Gail Wells. For information, visit arkansasfumwa.org and view the latest newsletter. To register, submit the form provided on this page.

Parenting seminar Feb. 19

On Saturday, Feb. 19, Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN will present a parenting seminar at Asbury United Methodist Church, 1700 Napa Valley Drive in Little Rock. “Everyday Parents CAN Raise Extraordinary Kids” runs from 8:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Receive practical, biblical advice for parenting in a fun and uplifting environment, with ideas you can put into practice right away. This particular seminar helps parents help their children be internally motivated to do the right thing. It also teaches parents how to develop a specific plan for addressing problems their children may face.

The \$25 registration fee includes a box lunch. Register online at fumcl.org or call Pam Snider, 501-225-9231. A children’s program relates to what the parents are learning. Please bring a lunch for each child.

This event is sponsored by Asbury, Highland Valley, Little Rock First, Pulaski Heights and Winfield UMCs. CEUs and Clock Hour Training certificates are available for teachers who attend.

March

Confirmation Day with the Bishop March 12

Confirmation Day with the Bishop, an annual event for any and all youth presently in a confirmation class, who have just finished a confirmation class, or are getting ready to begin a confirmation class, will be held March 12, 2011, at Pulaski Heights UMC in Little Rock.

One of the most popular youth events in the Conference, Confirmation Day offers youth an opportunity to learn about the connectional system of the United Methodist Church.

Besides spending time with our own Bishop Charles Crutchfield, attendees will get to know recording artist and song writer Celia Whitler, as well as have the chance to test their knowledge in a game loaded with all kinds of information about what it means to be Christian and United Methodist.

Cost is \$10 for students and adults, and includes lunch. Register online at arumc.org/register. Questions? Contact Rod Hocott at rhocott@arumc.org or 501-324-8008, or toll free at 877-646-1816.

North Central District’s Spring Youth Rally March 12

All students in grades 7 through 12 and living in the North Central District are invited to “Are You Going Through the Motions?” the district’s Spring Youth Rally, March 12 at Cabot UMC. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and the day ends with closing worship at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$16 per student, \$1 of which goes to the Youth Service Fund (YSF). It’s a day of small groups, games, special worship and a guest speaker. Lunch and dinner provided; bring extra cash to purchase additional items from the snack bar, the proceeds of which benefit YSF.

VIM Disaster Response Training March 12

Jeff Baker, disaster coordinator for Missouri Conference, will lead the next disaster response training session for the Arkansas Conference on Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Kendall Center at Philander Smith College. Cost for training is \$20 per person, which includes the training manual and lunch. To reserve your seat, contact Libby Gray, lgray@arumc.org or 501-324-8000.

Jurisdictional Clergywomen’s Consultation March 22-25

The next quadrennial Clergywomen’s Consultation for the South Central Jurisdiction of the UMC will be hosted in New Orleans, La., March 22-25. Clergywomen from Arkansas and all other Conferences in our Jurisdiction are invited to celebrate, envision and live into the leadership God is calling forth and equipping. A pre-conference mission opportunity in various locations around New Orleans is scheduled for March 21. For more information or to register, visit wadeinthewater.org.

VIM workshop on cultural intelligence March 26

Those who are self aware, cognizant of cultural differences, motivated to cross cultural boundaries and sensitive to differences in cultural behavior are the most effective servants of God in mission.

Dr. Robert Hunt, director of Global Theological Education at SMU Perkins School of Theology and a former missionary in Malaysia, Singapore and Austria, will present a Volunteers in Mission seminar, “Cultivating Cultural Intelligence,” on Saturday, March 26 in the Kendall Center at Philander Smith College. Participants will gain awareness of how culture shapes expectations, become more culturally aware, learn basic behavioral patterns for engaging new cultures and receive resources for learning about specific cultures. It’s a “don’t miss” training for any individual serving in culturally diverse settings. To reserve your seat, contact Libby Gray, lgray@arumc.org or 501-324-8000.

Native American Ministries requests
Trail of Tears stories from AR churches

The Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) is currently compiling a list of churches that provided aid to Native Americans who came through Arkansas on the Trail of Tears. These churches will be recognized at Annual Conference this June.

If your local church was a part of the Trail of Tears, send information to J. Harris Moore, chair of CONAM, at jhmoore@nwacc.edu. The deadline for submitting this information is March 14. To learn more about CONAM’s work, visit the Native American Ministry booth at Annual Conference.

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

Worship Fair 2011

February 18-19

“Making the Ordinary Extraordinary”

St. Paul

United Methodist Church

2223 Durwood Road

Little Rock, AR 72207

CLINICIANS

John Thornburg—Preacher, song leader, and worship consultant; head of “A Ministry of Congregational Singing,” from Dallas, Texas

Anna Laura Page—Composer, musician, clinician, handbell music editor; from Sherman, Texas

Gail Wells—Stained glass artist from St. Paul United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas

SCHEDULE:

Friday , February 18

6:00 p.m.—Registration

7:00 p.m.—“Singing the Church’s Song Across the Centuries, Across the Styles, Across the Globe” with John Thornburg (free and open to the public; a freewill offering will be taken)

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Saturday, February 19

8:30 a.m.—Registration

9:00 a.m.—Opening Worship (John Thornburg preaching)

9:45 a.m.—Break

10:00-11:30 a.m.—Class Session I

Thornburg— “Beyond Filling in the Blanks: Restoring Joy to Worship Planning” (Part One)

Page—Reading Session (including Children’s Choir Festival Anthems

Wells—Introduction to Stained Glass

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Business meeting, lunch and browsing

12:30-2:00 p.m.—Class Session II

Thornburg— “Beyond Filling in the Blanks: Restoring Joy to Worship Planning” (Part Two)

Page—Keyboard Reading Session

Wells—Introduction to Stained Glass (repeat of morning class)

2:00-2:45 p.m.—Closing worship with Communion

2:45 p.m.—Browsing

(exhibits close at 3:30 p.m.)

Exhibits include Cokesbury Bookstore and Saied Music

REGISTRATION — “Making the Ordinary Extraordinary” (Worship Fair 2011)

Name

Address

City, State

Church

Zip

Preferred E-Mail

☐ I am a Fellowship member. (All registered members will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Cokesbury Bookstore.)

☐ I am not a Fellowship member. Please send me information about how to join.

Registration Fees

☐ \$45 for Worship Fair

☐ \$10 for reading session music packet

☐ I am applying for .5 CEU (available only to those who attend the entire event)

Make checks payable to “Arkansas Chapter, The Fellowship” and mail to:

Pat Henry

9017 Weatherbee Circle

Sherwood, AR 72120

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

For more information contact Amy Law at music@stuttgartfumc.org

For event updates, go to www.arkansasfumwa.org

www.arumc.org

Arkansas United Methodist

Member of Leslie UMC featured in Upper Room devotional guide

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

About six years ago, George McIntosh had a tomato-plant epiphany.

The 25-year member of Leslie UMC (Searcy County) decided to quit his practice of discarding the smaller tomato plants in his garden. Instead, he relocated them, and discovered that the spindly little plants often ended up growing bigger and producing more fruit than those that seemed harder at the outset.

The experience reminded him that just as plants can grow at different rates, so can faith. And that God, the Gardener, doesn't give up on anyone.

McIntosh turned his personal reflection into a submission to *The Upper Room*, the pocket-sized daily devotional guide that has been published for more than 75 years. And then he forgot about it.

So it was a pleasant surprise when late in 2010 he received a letter from *The Upper Room*, letting him know that his meditation would be

used in the January/February 2011 issue of the publication.

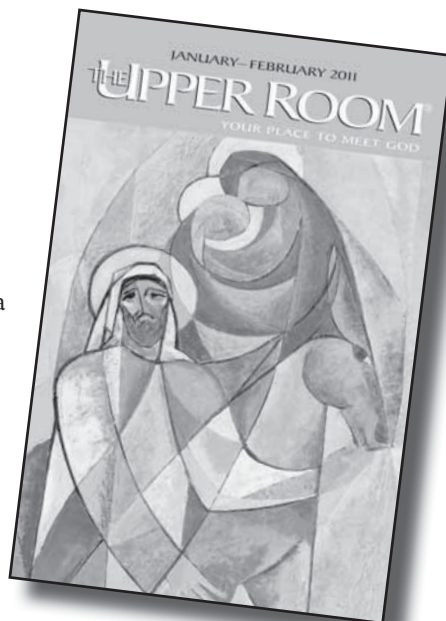
"Waiting on the January/February issue to come out, I really took a good look at my November/December issue," McIntosh said. "I noticed that this little book is translated in over 40 languages."

McIntosh realized that if even a fraction of those who read his meditation have a practice similar to his, a great many people will be praying for him on Feb. 27, the day his name appears in the author's blank in the lower corner of the page.

"I have a habit of reading my devotional and at the end reading the name of the person who submitted it," he said. "I have always said a quick prayer on their behalf."

Valued since childhood

Like many United Methodists, McIntosh has known about *The Upper Room* for most of his life. Beginning around age 6, he had a special mission from his mother each time a new issue arrived at his childhood



church in Ellisville, Miss.

"Mother would give me a quarter to go up before the service and place it on the altar and bring her *The Upper Room*," he said. "As a 6-year-old, I thought I was a 'big shot' being able to walk all the way up front and successfully complete the task."

He began reading it himself because his mother, a young widow raising four children, kept it in the

place where she had the most privacy: the bathroom.

"It was easy to see that the pages were folded back day by day as she never missed reading it," he said. "We had no magazine rack in our bathroom and the only reading material was *The Upper Room*.... It didn't take me long to pick it up and read it myself."

A special gift

McIntosh didn't remain a steady devotional reader through his college years, but his mother never stopped.



George McIntosh

Always one to save money and resources, she would wrap packages using as little tape as possible. But for

And once when he came home for a visit, she gave him a page taken from her copy of *The Upper Room*.

Part of what struck him about that gift was the obvious value she placed upon it.

this gift to her son, she had used long strips of tape to fasten it to a card as a way of laminating it for him.

"I said, 'Mom, this must be very important to you for you to waste so much tape on,'" he recalled. "She was quick to say that she didn't waste the tape, as the devotional spoke to her and she thought it would help me in my daily walk. To this day I still carry that 'laminated' copy of *The Upper Room* in my Bible."

The title of that devotional, dated Aug. 3, 1973, is "God Looks Inside... at the Real Us."

Since joining Leslie UMC, McIntosh has served in many leadership roles there. But he particularly enjoys the time he spends with the senior adults, "Listening, and laughing with them—mostly at ourselves," he says.

And he still purchases his copy of that little pocket-sized devotional book that over the years has contributed to his spiritual growth. The difference now is that on Feb. 27, his writing will be used by God to speak to others in the same way that he has heard those messages of faith.

BOOK REVIEW: Time to rearrange the future

*Missional Renaissance:
Changing the Scorecard
of the Church*

By Reggie McNeal

Jossey-Bass, 2009

BY JOHN CRAWFORD
Special Contributor

Church should not be a part of life. It should be a way of life.

That key concept forms the basis for the path Reggie McNeal outlines in his book *Missional Renaissance: Changing the Scorecard for the Church*.

The Kingdom of God is bigger than any church. So what does that knowledge mean for the part of the Kingdom known as United Methodism in Arkansas?

It may mean that we can become more deeply engaged in bringing the Kingdom to where we live and serve.

McNeal suggests that the current confluence of three cultural phenomena fuels a spirit of collaboration and creativity: the emergence of the altruism economy,

where people are willing to give and share (for example, free material on the Internet); the search for personal growth; and the hunger for spiritual vitality.

Essential shifts

How can the church respond to these trends? McNeal has some ideas:

The church must shift from an internal to an external ministry focus. Church groups and committees should not focus on what is the church doing for them and their group. That mindset runs counter to our calling to serve. We must focus outward on what can we do for others and how to bring others to Christ.

One internal component to consider is a move from age segregation to age integration. How many of our children and youth have meaningful relationships with anyone over age 50?

The church must shift from program development to people development. People make programs a success; yet we spend more time looking for the perfect program than developing the people. If we develop people, they can adapt to the program as needs and circumstances change.

McNeal argues that the church has veered away from God's mission and instead has wrapped itself around three mistaken identities:

1. *The church is the place where things happen.* For many members, the church is just the building—and that's a shame.
2. *The church is a vendor of religious goods and services.* As consumers, people just wait for things to be brought to them. They feel no responsibility or accountability to be a citizen of the Kingdom. A citizen has responsibility in the Kingdom; a consumer only takes and does not give.
3. *The church is a body of people sent on a mission.* Most people in a church are not sure what the mission of the church is. It is hard to accomplish something if you aren't sure what you are trying to achieve.

The chapter on "missional shift" deals with how a church must move from an internal to an external focus. It must stop being church-centric and instead become Kingdom-centric.

New views needed

A key concept in this shift is that the church ceases being a

destination and instead works as a connector. We must stop thinking we are the point and begin pointing to the point—the Kingdom of God.

We must go from proclamation to demonstration; from institutional to organic behavior; from reaching and assimilating to connecting and deploying; from worship services to services of worship.

The idea of "changing the scorecard," introduced in the book's subtitle, deals with not viewing church the way we have in the past.

McNeal presents ten new measurements of ministry, ranging from those we in United Methodism already measure well, such as financial resources, to those we may not be tracking at all, such as how much we refocus existing resources and develop partnerships with our communities.

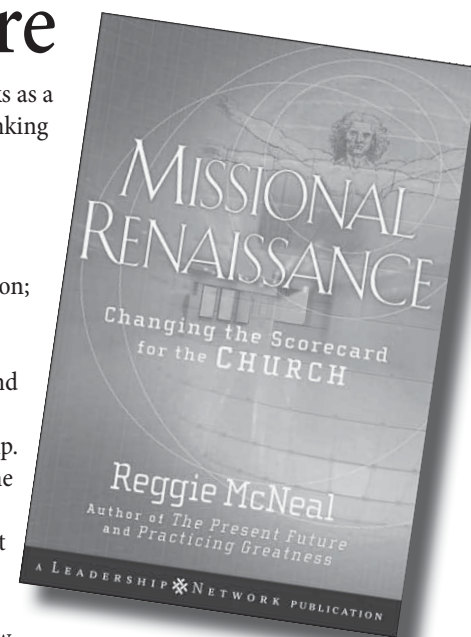
Changing the scorecard also demands moving away from program development and working instead on people development. Potential shifts include moving from participation to maturation; from delivering to debriefing; from curriculum-centered to life-centered; and from growing into

service to growing through service.

The challenge, says McNeal, is for pastors to stop reliving the past and instead begin rearranging the future. As a layperson, I believe that shift must occur not only in the minds of the clergy, but that laity must make the shift, too.

Missional Renaissance lays out a challenge. Imagine the possibilities before us if we willingly accept it.

Crawford is director of lay leadership for *Connected in Christ*, the Arkansas Conference's comprehensive plan for church revitalization, and a member of St. James UMC in Little Rock.



OBITUARIES

CONWAY

Hermea Sue Lewis

Hermea Sue Lewis, 95, of Conway, died Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011.

Born on Aug. 2, 1915, in the Holland community, she was a daughter of the late DeWitt Heygoode and Lillie Myrtle (Watkins) Parsons.

She was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Charles Wesley Lewis; her granddaughter, Jamie Sue Burton; and a brother, Shafford Parsons.

She graduated from Holland High School and attended Arkansas State Teachers College. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Conway.

Survivors include her daughter, Carolyn Sue Hightower; a grandson-in-law, James Burton; a step-grandson, David Mahar; great-grandchildren Erik and Ryan Taylor; a brother, Gary Parsons; and two sisters, Iris Connell and Lotis Grisham.

A service was held Thursday, Jan. 13, at Oakland United Methodist Church in Holland, with interment following at Oakland Cemetery.

SHERWOOD

James William Lane

Jim Lane, 74, passed away Jan. 3, 2011.

Born Aug. 4, 1936, in Floyd (White County) to Nancy Adeline Reedy Lane and James Rammel Lane, he was baptized into the Christian faith and joined the Methodist Church in 1962 at the age of 26.

He was predeceased by his parents, his brother James Kenneth Lane, his sister Allene Lane Westnedge and his wife of 47 years, Nell Lane.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1954 and served until retirement on Aug. 4, 1996, at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer-4. He served as a Military Personnel Officer and was awarded the Legion of Merit upon retirement.

Employed by the U.S. Government Civil Service for 29 years, he retired in 1993 while serving as the Command Executive Officer of the 95th Training Support Brigade at Camp Pike Armed Forces Reserve Center, North Little Rock.

Lane was elected as a part of the North Arkansas Conference delegation to five General Conferences and five South Central Jurisdictional Conferences. He was the first-elected North Arkansas Conference lay member of the 1996 General Conference in Denver, Colo., where he delivered the Laity Address. He served as the Conference Lay Leader of the North Arkansas Conference from 1993 to 2000, and was president of the National Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders from 1996 to 1998.

He is survived by his sister-in-law, Mildred D. Lane; his nephews, Richard Westnedge, James R. Lane II, Robert O. Anderson and wife Linda, and James E. Anderson and his wife Faye; his nieces, Patricia Mann and her husband Mark, Nancy Lane Hall, Karen Lane Peyton, and Lee Nell Brewer and her husband Eddie.

Funeral services were held Jan. 6 at First UMC North Little Rock. Memorials may be made to First UMC North Little Rock, 6701 John F. Kennedy Blvd., North Little Rock, AR 72116.



David O'Dell

TEXARKANA, Texas

David Michael O'Dell

The Rev. David O'Dell, 50, of Texarkana, Texas, died Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in a Texarkana hospital.

He was born June 7, 1960, in Camden. A United Methodist minister, he pastored numerous United Methodist congregations, including Sugar Hill UMC in Texarkana and Smackover UMC.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Paulette O'Dell; his father, Myron O'Dell; a brother, Clyde O'Dell; and a sister, Linda Garner.

Survivors include his wife, Lenna Wilson O'Dell of Texarkana, Texas; his mother, Wanda Slaton O'Dell of Harmony Grove; and one brother, Raymond O'Dell of Harmony Grove.



Jim Lane

Clemons (from page 1A)

UMC in Severn, Md., as the youth minister for middle and senior high school students.

Clemons was respected as a ground-breaking leader in suicide prevention, a topic he researched extensively for more than a quarter-century.

He published more than 25 articles on suicide prevention and four books: *What does the Bible say about Suicide?*, *Perspectives on Suicide*, *Sermons on Suicide*, and *Children of Jonah: Personal Stories by Survivors of Suicide Attempts*, with a forward by Judy Collins. He advised four Protestant denominations on writing compassionate policies about suicide.

He founded the Organization for Attempters and Survivors of Suicide in Interfaith Services (OASSIS) in 1997, and served as President until it dissolved in 2006. OASSIS' mission was to raise awareness in all faiths of the problem of suicide and to "To enrich the lives of those who have been, and will be, touched by suicide." OASSIS initiated and co-sponsored several national conferences in the field of suicide prevention, as well as sponsoring several state-wide conferences.

Clemons' work via OASSIS was highly commended by former U. S. Surgeons General Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders and Dr. David M. Satcher, the National Council of Suicide Prevention and CrisisLink of Arlington, Va. He helped to initiate "It Takes a Community: A Summit on Opportunities for Mental Health

Promotion and Suicide Prevention in Senior Living Communities," the first national summit of its kind, held at Asbury Methodist Village in 2008.

A life-long advocate and activist for civil rights, Clemons preached against segregation in the 1950s and continued his advocacy by editing the 2007 book *Crisis of Conscience: Arkansas Methodists and the Civil Rights Struggle*. *Crisis of Conscience* contains personal stories by Arkansas pastors, laypersons and community leaders whose faith led them to oppose and resist racial segregation in the mid-20th century South.

Hendrix College awarded Clemons an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree, named him their 2005 Humanitarian of the Year and in 2009 honored him with the Mary and Ira Brumley Award for Religious Education from the college's Marshall T. Steel Center for the Study of Religion and Philosophy—the same year in which he received a Medal of Commendation from the U.S. Public Health Service.

A strong supporter of education at all levels, he arranged for his body to be donated for medical training and research upon his death.

Arkansas friends remember Clemons fondly. He and the Rev. Charles McDonald became friends in the mid-1950s.

"I was amazed at how smart he was," McDonald says. "He was a real scholar." And though his gifts for teaching, writing and advocacy took him far, "he always kept his ties to Arkansas." McDonald knew to expect a visit any time Clemons returned to

the central Arkansas area.

"I had just gotten to know Jim though our short time working together, but considered him one of Methodism's senior statesmen," said the Rev. Maxine Allen, who was collaborating with Clemons on the forthcoming supplement to *Crisis of Conscience*. "His passion to enhance racial relations was undaunted as he searched to preserve historical accuracy by finding truth within personal stories."

Those who knew Clemons can testify that he lived a full life with both passion and compassion: as activist and author; teacher and mentor; minister and counselor; loving friend, husband, father and grandfather; and, as he believed about everyone, a child of God.

Celebration of Life services for Clemons have been held at Severn UMC and Asbury Methodist Village. Additional services will be held at Metropolitan Memorial UMC, Washington, D.C., Feb. 26 at 2 p.m., and Hendrix College, Conway, Ark., at a date and time to be announced.

Cards may be sent to the Rev. Margaret Clemons and Tom Clemons, c/o Asbury Care Management, 417 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to any of the following: Severn UMC, 1215 Old Camp Meade Rd., Severn, MD 21144-1138; Asbury Foundation, to benefit Asbury Methodist Village, 201 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877; Wesley Theological Seminary, 4500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016.

Currey A. and Charlene L. Bishop Permanent Endowment Fund established

After the December 2010 death of Winfield United Methodist Church member Charlene Bishop, the Currey A. and Charlene L. Bishop Permanent Endowment Fund was established at the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA).

Bishop was 97 years old, and held the distinction of being Winfield UMC's oldest living member. The new fund will use the assets of the Bishops' estate to benefit Winfield UMC, as well as Camp Aldersgate and UMFA.

"After her husband's death in 2000, the Foundation cared for Charlene as she dealt with numerous health issues," said James B. Argue Jr., president of UMFA. "She was very devoted to her church and her friends, and we will miss her. But we are glad that she has been liberated from her declining quality of life, and grateful that the plan she shared with her husband to continue supporting their church beyond their lifetimes has been realized."

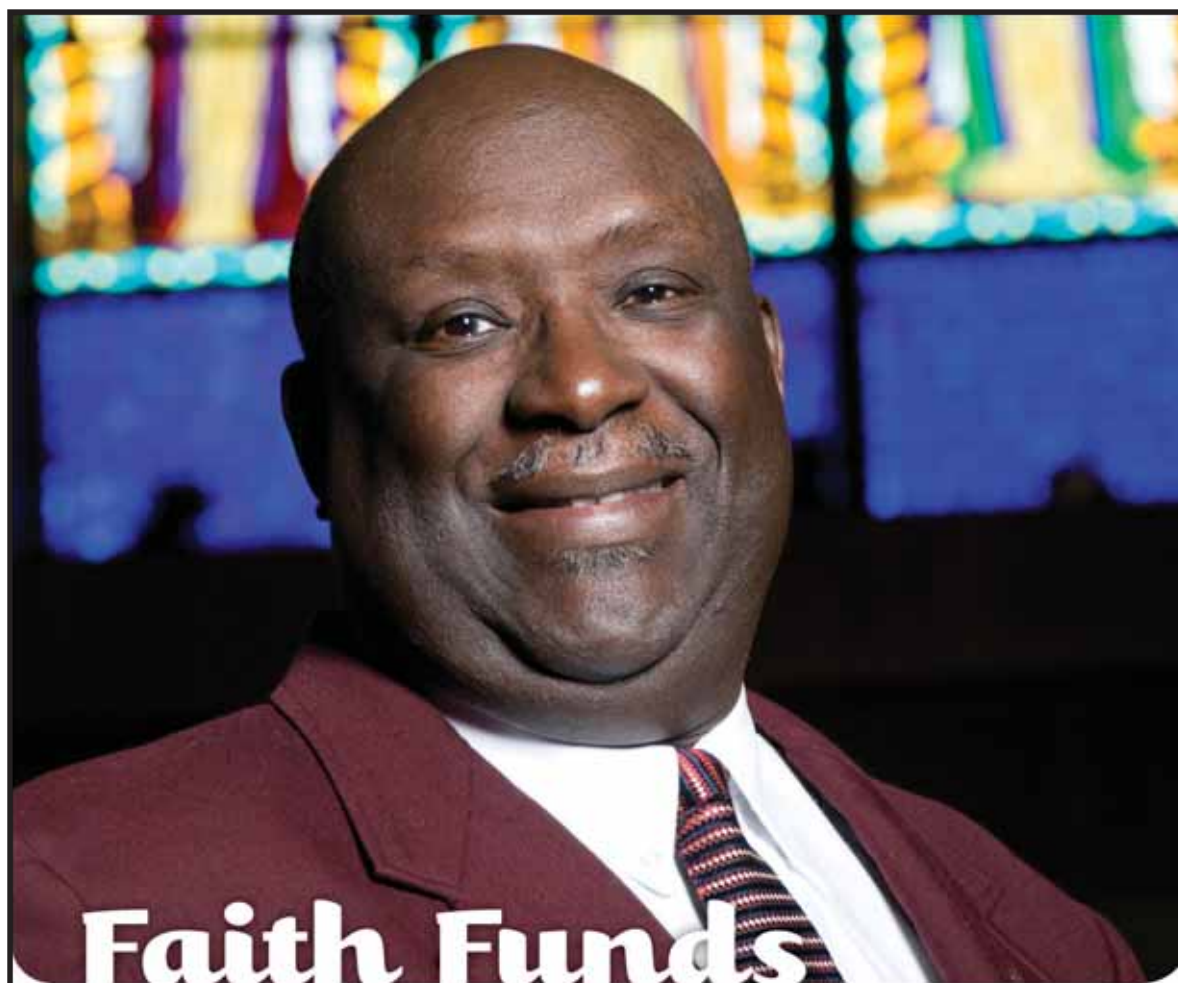
A North Little Rock native, Bishop graduated from Little Rock Junior College and Little Rock University, and taught in the Little Rock and Pulaski County Special school districts. In her 85 years at Winfield UMC, she served on and chaired numerous committees.

Twenty-five percent of the investment earnings from the \$650,000 fund will be invested to grow the fund; 37.5 percent will be distributed to Winfield UMC; 18.75 percent will be directed to Camp Aldersgate; and 18.75 percent will be retained by the Foundation.

United Methodists in Arkansas interested in creating an endowment fund to benefit United Methodist ministries may contact UMFA Vice President of Development Janet Marshall at 501-664-8632 or toll-free at 877-712-1107.



Charlene Bishop



A Wise Steward of Resources

Local church endowment funds can be a powerful way to expand the church's ministry," said C. E. McAdoo, senior pastor of Village United Methodist Church in Hot Springs Village. "Churches with successful endowment programs have educated their members about creative giving alternatives, and they've been wise managers of the funds entrusted to them."

Rev. McAdoo, who has served on the Foundation's board for almost 10 years, says UMFA helps local churches with both of these key ingredients for success. The Foundation is a great source for expertise in charitable giving, and the Foundation has a great track record in providing investment management services to local churches and institutions.

"Thanks to the expertise and experience housed at our United Methodist Foundation, local churches can focus on educating and encouraging their members to support their church's endowment. The Foundation handles investments and reporting for over 100 local churches."

"Make or plan an endowment gift today, and know it will support the church you love forever. That's a story that needs to be told. And then told again."



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501-664-8632 • Toll free 877-712-1107 • Fax 501-664-6792 • www.umfa.org

2011 Vital Signs to focus on Imagine Ministry

Register online before April 12

Nine workshops, a presentation from the Imagine Ministry team and a keynote address from church leadership consultant Dr. Gil Rendle make this year's Vital Signs event a unique opportunity for Arkansas United Methodist laity and clergy to learn new approaches to ministry.

First UMC North Little Rock, 6701 John F. Kennedy Blvd., serves as the host church for this day of worship, training and discussion centered around the vitality and effectiveness of our congregations.

On-site registration opens at 8:30 a.m., and worship begins at 9:00 a.m. Workshops conclude at 3:45 p.m.

Rendle, author of six books including *Journey in the Wilderness: New Life for Mainline Churches* (Abingdon Press, 2010), has served as a consultant to our Conference's Imagine Ministry team during their discernment process. He will present key concepts that have driven the team's work up to this point.

Following Rendle's keynote, the Imagine Ministry team will present the results of its most recent work, including a preview of proposals to be made at Annual Conference in June. The team has spent more than a year discerning how United Methodists in Arkansas can be the church in a new, more fruitful way.

The Imagine Ministry team's presentation will contain the same information provided at three other regional gatherings: Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m., First UMC Camden; Saturday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m., First UMC Wynne; and Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 p.m., First UMC Springdale.

Clergy and laity from across the state who are unable to attend the

meetings near them are especially encouraged to attend Vital Signs.

Vital Signs participants will have opportunities to become engaged in the Imagine Ministry process through five different workshops, each led by a different Imagine Ministry team member.

Four additional workshops relate to grant writing, demographics research, older adult ministry and sound financial practices in the local church.

For complete descriptions of the workshops, see the second page of the Vital Signs online registration form at arumc.org/register.

The registration fee is \$15 per person and includes lunch.

Visit arumc.org/register to reserve your spot for Vital Signs. Online registration remains open until April 12.

Walk-up registrations will also be accepted the morning of the event, but the event planners encourage pre-registration to guarantee adequate seating and meals.

If your church is not already participating in *A New Way to Do Church*, the Bible study developed by the Imagine Ministry team, consider studying the material with others preparing to attend Vital Signs. Based on the development of the early church in the book of Acts, the reading and video components of the study are available online at learn.arumc.org.



Gil Rendle