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Annual Conference 2012 brings change, focus on mission

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

FORT SMITH—The Arkansas Annual Conference met from June 10-13, 2012, with Bishop Charles Crutchfield presiding over his final annual conference session before his retirement. The gathering also marked the shift from nine districts to five, and the beginning of what many hope is an annual focus on mission.

The Rev. Andrew Thompson, Wesley scholar for the Arkansas Conference and instructor of historical theology and Wesleyan studies at Memphis Theological Seminary, served as the preacher for the Sunday and Monday night worship services. His sermons carried forward the Wesleyan theme of the gathering, "Holiness of Heart and Life."

The Tuesday evening worship service brought the ordination of twelve individuals, two as deacons and 10 as elders. As part of the same service, two individuals were



Conference staff, laity, clergy and visitors donned hair nets and joined the assembly line to package nutritious meals for Stop Hunger Now during the afternoon of mission work at Annual Conference.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

commissioned as provisional deacons, and four as provisional elders. During a service on the previous day, the Conference honored 29 retiring clergy who held a combined total of more than 708 years of service.

Finances, structure

In business sessions, the Conference addressed several issues

with financial implications.

A task force formed last year to study alternatives to the current apportionment formula offered a report at this session. They will continue to meet this fall, and plan to hold regional meetings next spring in the lead-up to the 2013 Annual Conference. The group's current focus is on moving from an expense-based formula to an income-based formula, a method

used by several other conferences.

Conference members voted by a wide margin to begin the process of billing churches directly for the cost of their pastors' pension funding, rather than having the cost built into apportionments. The plan will increase direct billing by 25 percent per year until churches pay their pastors' full pension beginning in 2016. While this move will lower

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Fire claims church building in Hickory Plains

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

Members of Hickory Plains UMC, a rural community church north of Carlisle, on the afternoon of May 30 watched their church building burn to the ground.

Likely sparked by electrical wiring or a lightning strike from a passing storm, the fire spread swiftly. Efforts of multiple volunteer fire departments brought the blaze under control, but the structure is a total loss.

The congregation, which has an average worship attendance of about 30, met that evening for prayer in a park pavilion next door to the church property, and continued to use the pavilion for Sunday morning worship until summer temperatures interfered. They received offers of meeting space from multiple

churches in the area, and currently worship at Crossroads Baptist Church.

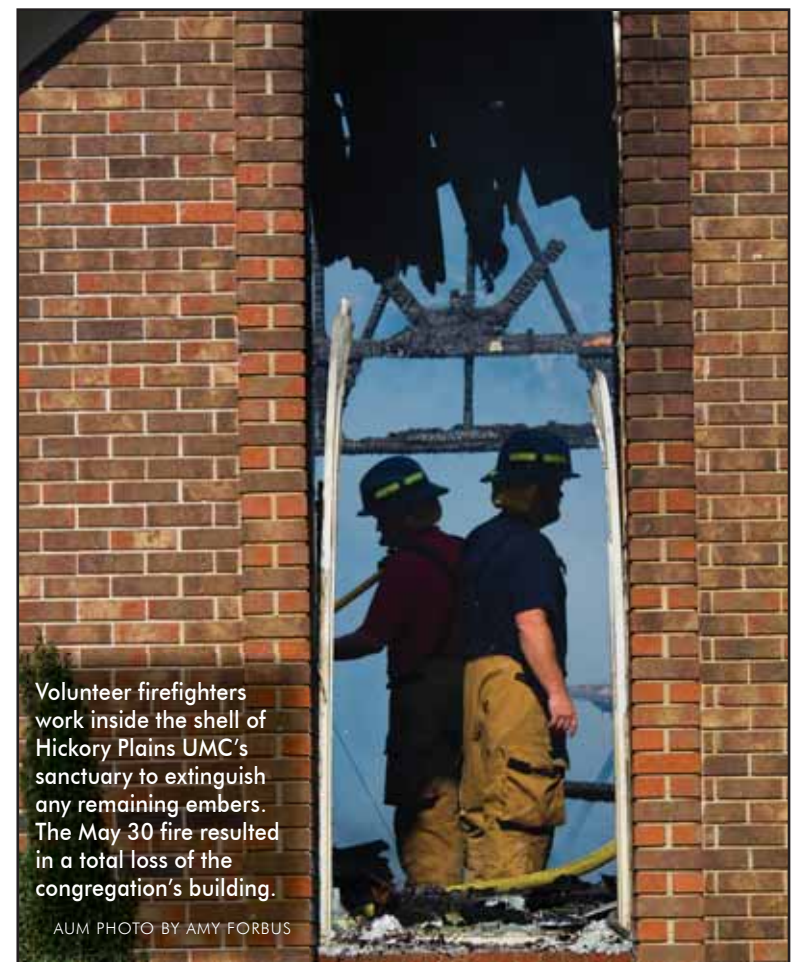
"Right now we're working through our grief, and when we finish grieving over the sentimental part of the church, we will start anew," said Pastor Debbye Harrison on the day after the fire.

"We lost the building, but we didn't lose the church," she added. "We have a loving and giving congregation, and we've been blessed with so many people calling and supporting us from around the state."

Looking back, moving forward

Betty Covington, an active member of the church for the past four decades, stood in the park the afternoon of the fire and reminisced

[See FIRE, page 9A]



Volunteer firefighters work inside the shell of Hickory Plains UMC's sanctuary to extinguish any remaining embers. The May 30 fire resulted in a total loss of the congregation's building.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Accepting challenges, building partnerships

Thoughts from the new Conference Lay Leader

BY KARON MANN
Special Contributor

I was honored and humbled to be elected Arkansas Conference Lay Leader at the 2012 Annual Conference in Fort Smith. Along with many congratulations and words of encouragement, "You certainly have big shoes to fill!" was the other commonly offered exhortation.

Of course, this comment refers to our outgoing Arkansas Conference Lay Leader, Asa Whitaker. Asa served in this role for eight years, and was the North Arkansas Conference Lay Leader for four years prior.

I want to thank Asa for his godly example, strong voice and exceptional representation for the laity of Arkansas. He has worked diligently to increase the laity's involvement in our Conference. In no way can I fill his shoes, but I promise that I will do my best to walk with the laity of the Arkansas Annual Conference as we implement the Imagine Ministry plan and move into our new structure.

In the days since Annual Conference, I've been rereading the Imagine Ministry report from 2011, and contemplating its challenges to laity. The report states that effective lay leaders will be faithful to God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and will demonstrate their Christian faith by honoring the membership vows of the United Methodist Church, which include supporting it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

This challenge is directed to all laity, not just those elected to the office of lay leader in a local congregation.

The report also states that effective lay leaders will practice a commitment to the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ through *taking an active role in growing local churches*, and will be accountable for leading the church and greater community *by partnering with clergy in kingdom building* (italics mine).

I believe the concept of shared responsibility between clergy and laity is key to the future growth of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas. A partnership between pastors and laity can provide each with a perspective of the needs and strengths of both the

congregation and the surrounding community.

In a *United Methodist Reporter* commentary last fall, Sandy Jackson, director of connectional laity development for the General Board of Discipleship, invented a new word when she asked, "What if the congregation and pastor were partners in ministry, and we had not clergy and not laity, but CLAITTY—'holy partners in a heavenly calling'? (Hebrews 3:1)"

How can we, here in the Arkansas Conference, encourage the formation of partnerships worthy of the term *claitty*?

Our new Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence in Leadership will provide groundwork for leadership development of both clergy and laity, creating an environment for the development of *claitty*. The center will connect and equip congregations with tools and resources for congregational revitalization, transformation and vitality in the communities we serve.



Karon Mann

The Network for Holiness of Heart and Life will "foster places in the lives of Christians where individuals can reach for deeper spiritual growth, whether clergy or lay." It also will be a place where Arkansas United Methodists can exchange ideas and share successes.

The Center for Technology will be the engine that moves us forward, creating and expanding ways of communicating the story of our identity, purpose and mission.

Over the next few months, the Arkansas Conference will begin living into the Imagine Ministry plan, working out the final details of how our new organizational structure will function. I look forward to our journey together and am excited about the future of our church in Arkansas.

An old African proverb comes to mind: "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." I pray that Arkansas Conference clergy and laity go far, and go together.

Let's call ourselves *claitty*.

Mann is a member of Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock.



EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

Letting go of consistency, comfort

During my childhood and adolescence, I had a luxury I didn't realize was a luxury. The church I attended didn't change a lot.

I'm sure there are people who were active in that church during the 1980s and 1990s who could tell me otherwise, but in my memory, that congregation is a remarkably consistent presence. True, we had three different senior pastors and even more associate pastors from my preschool through high school years, but many of the other people and traditions in my faith community held steady over the course of my upbringing.

At some point in my early childhood, I internalized the idea that United Methodist laity simply did not move. Clergy did, of course, but not laity. My Baptist relatives would change churches on occasion, in reaction to some sort of disagreement; for me, their upheaval merely served as another reminder of our consistency.

That perception of mine began to crumble in the late 1990s. As newlyweds, John and I visited several churches in the Dallas area and decided to join one. A very large one—perhaps larger than we realized.

We began to learn what it felt like to not quite fit into the puzzle, despite our efforts. For the first (and, we hope, the only) time, we walked away from a congregation.

Ultimately, we found a place to belong, one that helped us grow in our faith and learn to reach out to others. It wasn't always comfortable, because it was always changing.

People came and went; ministries and traditions flourished and faded. Yet we felt such a strong sense of belonging in that place that leaving it became the most difficult part of our return to Arkansas.

Within months of our move, though, we began to notice changes that wouldn't seem like change if we still lived and worshiped among that community. New ministries blossomed. New people's names began showing up in the communications we receive.

These changes gave deeper meaning to the phrase, "You can't go home again." The reason we can't go home again is because "home" didn't stay where we left it.

Those changes to our spiritual home aren't negative. They are signs of new life.

Now, in the Arkansas Conference of the UMC and in Christianity as a whole, we are experiencing change on a grand scale. It comes with different labels: reorganization, renewal, transition, transformation. In essence, they all mean that "home" won't stay where we left it.

Perhaps we would do well to remember that Christ himself professed to have no place to lay his head. That God is in the business of renewal and transformation. That the wind of the Holy Spirit pushes against the very idea of standing still. And that belonging—especially belonging to God—isn't all about staying comfortable.

To reach me, send an email to aforbus@arumc.org.



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Martha S. Taylor • Director of Communications
Amy Forbus • Editor
Patrick W. Shownes • Communications Coordinator
www.arumc.org

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|------------|---------------------|
| Aug. 3 | July 17 |
| Sept. 7 | Aug. 22 |
| Oct. 5 | Sept. 18 |

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Be sure to recycle your copy of the *Arkansas United Methodist* when you're finished reading it (or share it with a friend).



BY CHARLES CRUTCHFIELD

AN OCCASIONAL WORD from the Bishop

Dear Friends:

The worship at Annual Conference was just out of this world. Dr. Andrew Thompson preached with power. The choirs were magnificent. The hospitality of the people and staff of First United Methodist Church Fort Smith was outstanding.

We had a great group of ministry candidates commissioned, and a great group of ordinands ordained and received into the Conference. The Conference will expect much of these men and women, for they have much to give through their gifts of spiritual and temporal leadership.

The conference sessions were a model of decorum and civility. You were very kind to me—you even laughed at a few of my attempts at humor. And you really laughed at Asa Whitaker's description of me in his Laity Address. You graced us with your love and thoughtfulness and gentle humor.

The 2012 Arkansas Annual Conference came up with a very big surprise for Karen and me. A note to the delegates indicated that gifts to be given in the Imagine No Malaria campaign were to honor us, our tenure here in Arkansas, and our deep concern for eradicating this disease. You have been so gracious.

After the Imagine No Malaria presentation was made, I was deeply moved by the challenge of the Revs. Jeanne and Heath Williams and their daughter, Natalie. These young pastors along with many of their colleagues have caught the vision of a world transformed.

After the close of Annual Conference, a young woman, Maddie McDonald, caught me and gave me a check for \$150. She had made the comment to a lay delegate from her church that the Williams' challenge was "awesome." The lay delegate wrote out a check for \$150, ten dollars for each of Maddie's 15 years, saying she wanted Maddie to be able to look back on this moment and say she had a role in the eradication of malaria.

The gift touched Maddie deeply and touched me as well. She was so excited when she gave me the check with the words, "I will donate regularly to Imagine No Malaria until the goal is reached." Lives will be saved—lives of those who will never be able to thank her or the one who honored her. She is now inspired to save the life of someone who will never be able to pay her back. I was frankly moved to tears by the gift.

Several days ago, I was privileged to speak with a very successful businessman about Imagine No Malaria. A pledge for

\$30,000 shortly came in the mail.

When I preached at Pulaski Heights UMC the following Sunday, Karen and I received notification of a \$4,000 donation from the church for Imagine No Malaria, with the promise of more coming.

I must tell you I have been moved to tears a lot lately as I have experienced your personal graciousness and kindness and love. And, I have been humbled, yet bursting with pride by your generosity and commitment to lead the United Methodist Church in helping to wipe out malaria.

There is no need for a child to die every minute. You are ensuring that it will not long happen.

You are the greatest!
Thank you!

Faithfully,

Charles Crutchfield

Excerpts from Bishop Crutchfield's June 11 episcopal address

The United Methodist churches of Arkansas have had the courage and the vision and the will to cross the Red Sea, journey into the wilderness and launch into a new and yet uncharted future. You are setting aside the "we've always done it this way" rubric and are replacing it with a vision for the future. You have been willing to step out in faith with a new, emerging, evolving conference structure, and you are willing to embrace a new model.

This takes courage, a willingness to dare and to risk for the sake of claiming God's promised future. I admire your courage, and will miss being associated with it daily.

Are we finished? No. Are there yet questions? Certainly. It will not be perfect. We will recognize the need for continuing change and adaptation as we engage the future that God has prepared for us. We are the daughters and sons of John Wesley who believe we are going on to perfection. The conversation is beginning, not ending. There will be course corrections and changes as needed. That is the way of a living, breathing, adapting, evolving organism. That is the way of a movement, a Wesleyan, Methodist movement.

Through the core values you have adopted, you have made it clear that you are not willing to be self-satisfied observers of the status quo in this kingdom building business. It takes a disciple to make a disciple.

Now, we must look deep within

our hearts to see if there is a disciple inside, who will make disciples outside for the Kingdom.

The emphasis is on the mission field locally and around the world. This is not about insiders who know the secret words, but about outsiders who need to hear the word and see it made flesh. Jesus reminds us that there are others who must hear the Gospel. John Wesley has said the world is our parish.

On our work around the world

There are two official fields of mission endeavor beyond the annual conference. The Russia Initiative focuses on support for several local churches and on support of Moscow Seminary. The seminary needs our support. We have the opportunity to provide scholarships for young men and women who have been called to the tremendous, yet daunting challenge of proclaiming the Good News in a difficult and often hostile environment.

Water wells for Congo is the other major emphasis. You have responded gloriously. Wells are being dug. Five new wells are anticipated during this drilling season. The funds are held at the Advance Special office in New York until the sites are selected and plans for drilling are completed. We are fortunate to have a financial cushion right now.

This gives us an opportunity to

temporarily shift our focus, with the blessing of the North Katanga Annual Conference, to "Imagine No Malaria." We have been asked to be a vanguard conference, leading the rest of the church in our response to a \$75 million pledge made in 2008 by the General Conference. Our United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas has provided us with a matching grant of \$333,000.

There is no apportionment, no grand campaign plan, just an invitation and an opportunity for your church and your church organizations to help match the challenge grant. The first \$100,000 we raise will go toward acquisition of a new aircraft for Wings of the Morning. This new aircraft is an integral part of the delivery system that has the potential to wipe out malaria by 2015. If we raise \$500,000, it is like saving 50,000 lives. If we raise \$2 million, we will save 200,000 lives. You want to transform the world? Here is your chance.

Being the face of God's love, grace, compassion

Her name was Hazel. I first saw her sanding tip-toe on top of a small step ladder trying to balance her 72-year-old, five-foot frame as she put up wallpaper in the bathroom of our first parsonage.

When the stewardship campaign came in October and individuals reluctantly accepted the names of

those to go see about pledges, with a smile she took the names of the toughest calls and went out the door proclaiming, "It is a privilege to ask for money for the Lord." She always returned with pledges, solid pledges that were always paid.

The heart of her call to ministry was to children. She made a promise to God that she would teach the kindergarten Sunday school class in that small local church until one of her little ones would become an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. For almost 50 years in that rural New Mexico mountain church, she taught that class. Whether there was one child or 10, Hazel was present, patient, prepared, with arms opened wide. She taught that class with love, and persistence, and grace and expectation. Her ministry was all about those little children, never about her.

Hazel kept her promise to God to teach, until death finally prevented her return to the classroom. She never saw the hope of an ordained pastor realized. But she persisted until the day she died believing that she could, indeed, would, make a difference in the life of one child, in and through the ministry of that little church, and that child would make a difference for many.

What Hazel did not realize was that in the grace of God, through her persistent faithfulness, she was the difference maker. She had been the face of God's love and grace and

compassion for the many.

We all need to be Hazels, I think—on our knees praying, in our homes preparing, in our seats worshiping, out on the street in the name of Jesus without embarrassment, persistently living out our chosen ministry. Always hopeful, always expectant, always anticipating that the next child to walk through the door will be the one. Yet knowing, always knowing that the work of ministry in the fullness of God's grace will be sufficient, and is, finally, our reward.

Let us live the faith—for all else we may say or do, it is Hazel, Jeff, Dede, Ronnie, Pam, Michael, Andrew, Edna, Susan, Karen, Eric, Bill and thousands of other individuals working through the life of a local church who are going to make a difference.

They—you—will make a difference because you have purpose, and a heart for ministry in a mission field that is only constrained by the limitations of your imaginations. Ministry will not be about "me" and my needs, but about the needs and purposes of the Kingdom of God. This is the ministry and mission to which Jesus invites us.

You are the difference-makers—and it has been our privilege to share for a season this faith journey with you. You will always be in our prayers. We covet from you that same precious gift. And, yes, we will miss you very much. God bless you all.



PRACTICAL DIVINITY

BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

Forming habits and forming faith

My wife, Emily, and I started teaching our young daughter, Alice, to pray when she was about 18 months old. At suppertime we would put her in her high chair, set the table with food, and then begin the meal by saying grace.

Little children like to imitate what they see their parents doing. So getting Alice to fold her hands together and bow her head wasn't hard. The only difference with the way she did it was that she would keep her eyes open, peeking up at us.

I think she just wanted to make sure she was "doing it right" like Mommy and Daddy.

Our routine goes like this: After we are all seated at the table, I lead the family in a prayer that thanks God for the day, for our home and family and for the meal we are about to enjoy. Then we all finish the prayer by saying "Amen" together.

Since we started this routine, Alice has particularly liked the final part. She says "A-men!" with gusto, and it always brings a smile to her face.

But then there was the evening that both Emily and I came home after a somewhat rough day. We got supper ready while complaining to each other about how hard things had been for us over the previous nine hours. One of us set the table, and the other one put Alice in her high chair. Then we plopped down in our own seats and picked up our forks and knives. We were ready to be thinking about the food we were about to eat and not much else.

About the time I had the first forkful of food in my mouth, I heard a little voice yell out, "Pray!"

Emily and both looked up to find Alice looking at us with something like shock on her face. Her hands did not hold fork, spoon or food. They were folded together exactly as they should have been. Ready for prayer.

Emily and I realized what was happening at the same time. We were forgetting what should have been the most important thing at that moment: pausing to remember and thank God for our lives and for love and for the bounty in front of us.

Alice, on the other hand, had not forgotten at all. And she was calling us to account on it!

What I'm describing here

sounds like a pretty familiar domestic scene to many of you, no doubt. But I want us to pause and really think about what this very true story can tell us about the importance of habits in forming Christian faith.

Alice Elizabeth Thompson has only recently discovered the power of putting nouns together with verbs. She's still learning what it means to speak in sentences as the way we communicate from person to person. (And this, too, is a gift of God.)

As her parents, Emily and I made a decision at one point to be intentional about what it meant to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over the evening meal. And in the course of a couple of weeks, Alice began to understand that. She wasn't necessarily "reflective" about it. But that was okay. Kids much older than Alice aren't necessarily reflective about a lot of what their parents tell them to do.

The important point is that parents get them to do the right things. Holy things. Faithful things. The kinds of things that will begin molding them into disciples of Jesus.

The kinds of practices I am talking about are often called "family religion." It's true that the Christian faith must ultimately be practiced in a setting larger than the home. But the home is where it starts, if fathers and mothers are faithful to the baptismal vows they made on their children's behalf: "Will you nurture these children in Christ's holy church, that *by your teaching and example* they may be guided to accept God's grace for themselves, to profess their faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?"

Eventually, we need to make things explicit to our kids. We need to explain why we do what we do. It is a step that helps to ground young people into the Christian faith in a rational way. But it all starts with forming the right habits.

The period from the ages of 18 to 30 is often called the "lost decade" because so many young adults drift away from the church after they leave home and begin life on their own. We're always going to have a challenge in ministering to young adults, because they have so many other challenges and pressures during that time in their lives. We can help them out, though, if we

ingrain faithful practices in their lives while they are still children.

One of the greatest ministry needs in the church is to accentuate the importance of Christian formation. And formation should begin early, in the home.

That means that Christian formation from the church's point of view is not just about forming children. It is about forming parents, too. We need to be stressing the importance of family religion so that Moms and Dads realize the deep significance of how their kids are coming to know God from the earliest points in their lives.

It's a strange world we live in. There are a lot of influences out there that are downright hostile to the idea of the Christian faith.

We'll equip young people with the skills they need to face that world when we show them firsthand that faith is something embraced with heart, and mind, and body and soul.

Starting at home.

And sometimes, when we forget, they might just surprise us by showing us the same thing.

The Rev. Thompson serves as Wesley scholar for the Arkansas Conference, and teaches at Memphis Theological Seminary. He may be reached at athompson@memphisseminary.edu.

Bagby, Lovell named 2012 United Methodist Foundation Seminary Scholars

Colin Bagby of Russellville and Todd Lovell of Sherwood recently were named 2012 United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas Seminary Scholarship recipients.

For the next three years, Lovell will attend Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C., and Bagby will attend Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Both schools are United Methodist seminaries.

"These young men have made a commitment to return to the Arkansas Conference as Elders when their seminary educations are completed," said Jim Argue Jr., President of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA). "Presently we have 15 UMFA Seminary Scholars serving congregations in Arkansas."

Bagby is a Hendrix College graduate who has been employed at the

Hendrix College Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics and Calling. He cites his experiences as an undergraduate and one of his pastors in Russellville, the Rev. Mackey Yokem, as helping in the discovery of his call to pastoral ministry.

Bagby has served as an intern at his home church, First UMC Russellville, and spent a summer working with the Rev. Thompson Murray at Quapaw Quarter UMC Little Rock, where he found a connection to urban and justice-oriented ministry.

"The most exciting thing about my calling to vocational ministry is realizing that God did not just call me one time," Bagby said. "God has been calling me and continues to call me to this day."



Colin Bagby

Lovell, a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, serves as youth director at his home church, First UMC North Little Rock. He has been involved in church leadership since his sophomore year of high school, and has served in many areas of youth and campus ministry.

Lovell believes that a quality theological education will further enhance his ability to minister in the setting of a local church.

"My relationship with Jesus Christ has challenged me every day as I try to live out God's call for my life," Lovell said. "I have grown to understand the necessity of a Christian community. Because of this, I feel that God is calling me to the order of Elder."



Todd Lovell

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gender and sex not black-and-white issues

It would be nice if all issues were either black or white, but truth be told almost none are ever so simple.

For example: If you define marriage as between a man and woman only, you exclude people who are born of neither sex. Due to multiple X and Y combinations, even doctors cannot determine the gender of some individuals. There are also people born with a self-identity opposite of their physical sexual identity. These people are not mentally impaired, and are referred to as transgendered.

Second, if people are born "gay," as it appears many are, how then can we deny them their God-given right to love the person of their choice? How masculine or feminine we are is determined by many factors, including chromosomes, hormones and environment. Humanity encompasses a wide spectrum of complex individuals with a broad range of personalities, with a great many likes and dislikes. No

two of us are exactly alike, and we should accept this reality.

I've always wondered: What would we think of an individual who traveled and lived in the company of 12 other men, had long hair and a beard, and wore long robes and sandals while out in public?

L.D. Bintliff
Clinton UMC

Letters to the Editor policy:

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

Bishop's retirement reversal creates uncertainty

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe's reversal of his decision to retire voluntarily, announced June 5 in the last minutes of the North Texas Annual Conference session, has left many in the connection wondering what happens next.

Bledsoe had announced in a June 1 video that he would retire at the conclusion of his four-year term, but in the June 5 session he reversed himself, citing a time of discernment and prayer. He said that the South Central Jurisdiction (SCJ) episcopacy committee had given him the option to retire voluntarily, or they would vote on whether to retire him involuntarily.

Church leaders cannot recall any similar situation in the 44-year history of the United Methodist Church.

The *Book of Discipline* states that a bishop can be placed in involuntary retirement by a two-thirds vote of the jurisdictional episcopacy committee. The SCJ episcopacy committee is scheduled to meet July 16 in Oklahoma City, one day before the beginning of the SCJ quadrennial gathering. The SCJ Conference will elect three new bishops to replace those already scheduled to retire. Arkansas is part of the SCJ, and Bishop Charles Crutchfield is among those retiring this year.

If the episcopacy committee votes to retire Bledsoe involuntarily, he can appeal their decision to the Judicial Council (the Supreme Court of the UMC). The Judicial Council is not scheduled to meet until October.

In a June 26 blog post on the North Texas Conference website, Bledsoe defends his effectiveness, noting increases in the conference's church attendance and membership, higher apportionment payout in a time of economic distress and 16 new church starts.

In response to inquiries about his reasons for his actions, Bledsoe writes, "For me, the single issue is about fairness and due process in assessing leadership and procedures that lead to more effective ministry at all levels of the church."

If the SCJ episcopacy committee votes on July 16 to compel Bledsoe to retire and he appeals, he would remain an active bishop until the Judicial Council renders a ruling.

If the Judicial Council upholds an involuntary retirement, it would create a vacancy in the episcopacy. The Council of Bishops, in consultation with the episcopacy committee and cabinet, could appoint a retired bishop, or the SCJ College of Bishops could call a special session of the jurisdictional conference to elect and appoint a new bishop.

Trinity UMC Little Rock launches unemployment support group

In mid-2011, Trinity UMC Little Rock saw an opportunity to minister to a segment of its members and neighbors coping with unemployment. The church's "Miracle Team" (its name for its mission committee) noticed that individuals within the congregation were struggling with this challenge during an undeniably difficult economic time. The Miracle Team formed a small group to explore developing of an unemployment support group.

The group decided to support unemployed individuals as only a church can—by focusing primarily on matters of faith. They recruited the Revs. David Deere and Stephen Copley as facilitators. The book *You Are More Than a Paycheck* by Scott Franks and Kim Thompson also serves as a guide, shedding light on the intense grief and myriad emotions that often accompany unemployment.

As a pilot effort, Trinity UMC sponsored a brief series of 90-minute sessions. The group expected a low number of participants because many people find unemployment difficult to discuss. But those first few participants' experiences helped the church begin forming a long-term outreach plan.

The next five-week support group begins Sunday, July 15, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., with the Rev. David Deere facilitating. Participation is free.

Because the ministry seeks to connect with those who may not be comfortable in a faith community, the group will meet in the upstairs area at The House, a restaurant at 722 North Palm in Little Rock.

Trinity UMC encourages congregations in central Arkansas to recommend this group to individuals struggling with unemployment, as well as recently unemployed persons who might be willing to share their experiences. For details, call the church at 501-666-2813.

PEOPLE OF FAITH



Che Dolan

Dolan joins Conference staff as office assistant, receptionist

Che Dolan has joined the Arkansas Conference in the role of office assistant and receptionist. She succeeds Karen Wilson, who left in March to take a position with a state agency.

Dolan's career has included work in the fields of graphic design, photography, interior design, non-profit and education. She has volunteered as a leader and trainer with Boy Scouts of America for 31 years, and has served three years as a committee chair for Riverfest.

A member of Asbury UMC Little Rock, Dolan plays in the handbell choirs of both Asbury and Pulaski Heights UMCs and also leads the Cub Scouting Program at Asbury by serving as Cub Master. She has two adult sons.

Meredith named Board of Ordained Ministry secretary

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) has named Nancy Alagood Meredith as its new full-time secretary. She began work June 18, succeeding Rose Kuonen, who now serves as executive assistant to the bishop.

In her 25 years working for a major telecommunications company, Meredith gained experience in program and project management, problem solving and working with diverse teams of people. "She will bring a lot of good ideas and expertise to the job," said the Rev. Biff Averitt, who chaired the BOM.

An active member of St. James UMC Little Rock, Meredith is a graduate of Hendrix College, where she earned a degree in mathematics with an emphasis on theatre arts and religion. She and her husband, Dennis, have three children.



Nancy Meredith

Teeter endorsed by GBHEM as pastoral counselor



Garry Teeter

The Rev. Garry D. Teeter has been endorsed by the United Methodist Endorsing Agency to serve as a pastoral counselor.

Endorsement provides recognition that Teeter has met the Endorsing Agency's requirements and has completed the process to serve in extension ministry. A provisional deacon, Teeter also serves as an associate pastor at First UMC Benton.

As a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Teeter in 1997 started Daily Bread Counseling, an outpatient Christ-centered counseling ministry. Daily Bread Counseling has offices at First UMC Benton; Faith UMC Hot Springs; Highland Valley UMC Little Rock and First UMC Dardanelle. Learn more about Daily Bread Counseling at dailybreadcounseling.org or by calling 501-847-2229 or toll-free 1-877-847-2229.

The United Methodist Endorsing Agency each year endorses about 170 chaplains and pastoral counselors in more than 16 different civilian settings—including hospitals, hospices, prisons and counseling centers—and in all branches of the military.

Foster selected as new CEO of Mount Sequoyah

The trustees of Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville have hired a chief executive officer to lead the 90-year-old non-profit into an era of renewal, expansion and community engagement.

Abby Foster, whose background is in corporate finance, human resources and business development, was selected from a deep pool of job candidates. A native Arkansan and a graduate of Southern Arkansas University, she holds a degree in accounting.

Board chair Dewitt Smith said Foster's background and aspirations make her an ideal match for Mount Sequoyah.

"Her extensive experience in management and finance in the corporate world, much of it in the Houston area, coupled with her desire to make a lasting contribution to the broader community through the non-profit platform, will allow us to implement our plans to revitalize our facilities and to strengthen and expand the services the Mountain provides to the local community and the eight-state area it has served since 1922," he said.

While the bulk of Foster's career was spent in the corporate sector, she also has experience in the non-profit world. She understands that Mount Sequoyah, a facility of the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, depends on contributions from individuals, businesses, foundations and government agencies. But she also understands that Mount Sequoyah must earn the support it receives from the community. For Foster, it's all about accountability, sustainability and customer service.

"Generosity is typically granted as a result of the value the organization demonstrates," said Foster. "The Mountain will be able to present a compelling, well-reasoned proposition for current and potential benefactors."

Foster succeeds former executive directors John and Sheri Altland, who resigned in November. Lamar Pettus, who has served as interim executive director while the search committee looked for a permanent replacement, will remain on the Board of Trustees.



Abby Foster



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BOOK REVIEWS

Author provides guidance for living with the wounds of grief

When the One You Love Is Gone

Rebekah L. Miles

Abingdon Press, 2012

BY MARCIA DUNBAR
Special Contributor

One of the most difficult times in a person's life is the death of a loved one. Dealing with death is a struggle that is different for each person, and there is no right way to grieve. An online search for "grief" yields millions of books on the topic, and with good reason.

When the One You Love Is Gone brings a needed offering in this genre: a view of death and grief that breaks the mold of the standard process of grieving and humanizes the act.

Most readers of this publication have heard of the five stages of

grief—denial, guilt, bargaining, depression and acceptance—and may or may not know that it is normal to float in and out of these stages at times. But what is normal? Who is to say that there is a time limit on any of the stages of grief?

Throughout our lives, the circumstances we go through help us prepare for the struggles we face in life. The Rev. Dr. Rebekah Miles, Associate Professor of Ethics and Practical Theology at Perkins School of Theology (and member of the Arkansas Conference), writes of her mother's illness and death and the struggles that her family encountered in that journey.

With honesty and humor, Miles describes the way in which her family honors and continues to grieve the death of her mother, JoAnn Miles. She explains that our faith "does not save us from death, from grief, from loss," but that God is with us when we encounter those circumstances. She beautifully writes that our task isn't "getting

over" the loss of someone, but learning to live with the wounds.

Within death and grief there is a desire for those who remain here to live life to the fullest. This instruction was clearly taught in Miles' family, as her mother's motto was "Use it up. Wear it out. Make do. Do without." These seem such simple words, but they leave a lasting impression, especially in an era of overconsumption. JoAnn even requested that Rebekah use her time in the hospital and her death as the impetus to write a book that would teach others.

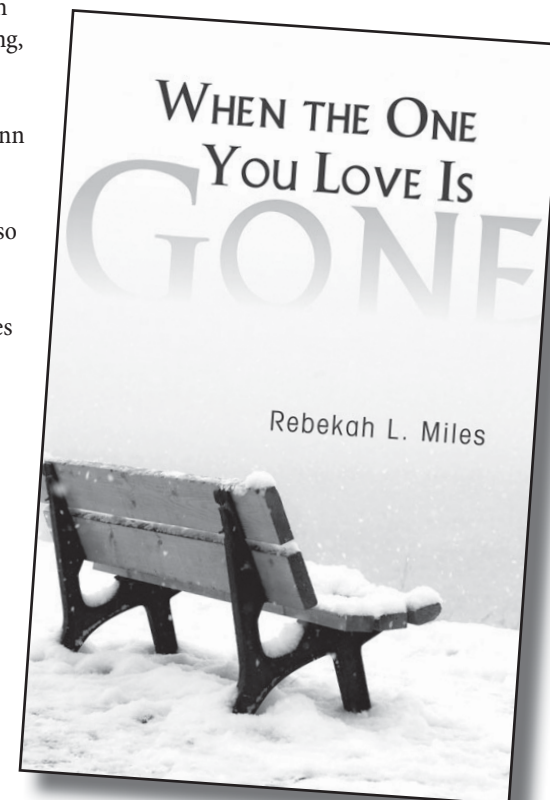
Rebekah writes that both her parents, JoAnn and the Rev. John Miles, "saw most any occasion in life as an opportunity for ministry; that was the stained glass lens through which they viewed the world." The process of losing a loved one was no exception, but rather an opportunity to teach.

Sometimes it is painful and heart-wrenching, as grief can be, and I found myself hurting for the

world's loss of such an amazingly giving, smart and strong person. After reading about JoAnn Miles' life, my strongest thought was that I wished so badly that I had known her.

Rebekah Miles writes the book as an invitation, or perhaps a call to attention, for those needing to sort out their own grief. Reading it provides personal insight, as well as a peek into a life well-lived and full of love.

Dunbar serves as director of evangelism for St. James UMC Little Rock.



Clear, thorough resource for teaching local church stewardship

BY ERIC VAN METER
Special Contributor

With *Committed to Christ*, the Rev. Dr. Bob Crossman and his co-authors provide a stewardship program to guide churches beyond the yearly financial campaigns and into a

lifestyle of giving.

Crossman, a longtime pastor and director of the Arkansas Conference New Church Leadership Institute, begins his program with a question of basic commitment to Christ. He then outlines six steps to growth, five of which are based on the membership vows of the United Methodist Church: prayer, worship attendance, witness, financial giving and service. He also includes regular Bible reading as part of a discipleship commitment.

Each week of the campaign focuses on one of the six steps to a generous life. The small group guide, written by Frank Ramirez, provides resources for discussion, while the program guide offers suggestions for worship, including video introductions and sermon lead-ins. The packet also includes a 40-day personal devotion book, written by Ben Simpson.

The curriculum can't do it all, though. Crossman insists that the work done behind the scenes is even more critical to the campaign's success. The program guide outlines the volunteers needed to make it work (10 to 20 percent of the active congregation). It details the necessary teams and individual leadership positions, complete with a month-by-month outline of essential tasks.

The goal of *Committed to Christ* is to move the congregation forward in their offerings to God by inviting them into honest reflection on their next discipleship step. Each week, an individual may choose from several levels of commitment, from the most basic to the most devoted. The hope is that every person will use that commitment as a stepping stone toward a fuller, more generous Christian life in the years to come.

Crossman's effort to put financial stewardship in a fuller context is commendable. In the Adult Readings and Study Book included with the kit, he brings together the wisdom of several church leaders from a variety of backgrounds in an effort to keep the focus on overall discipleship.

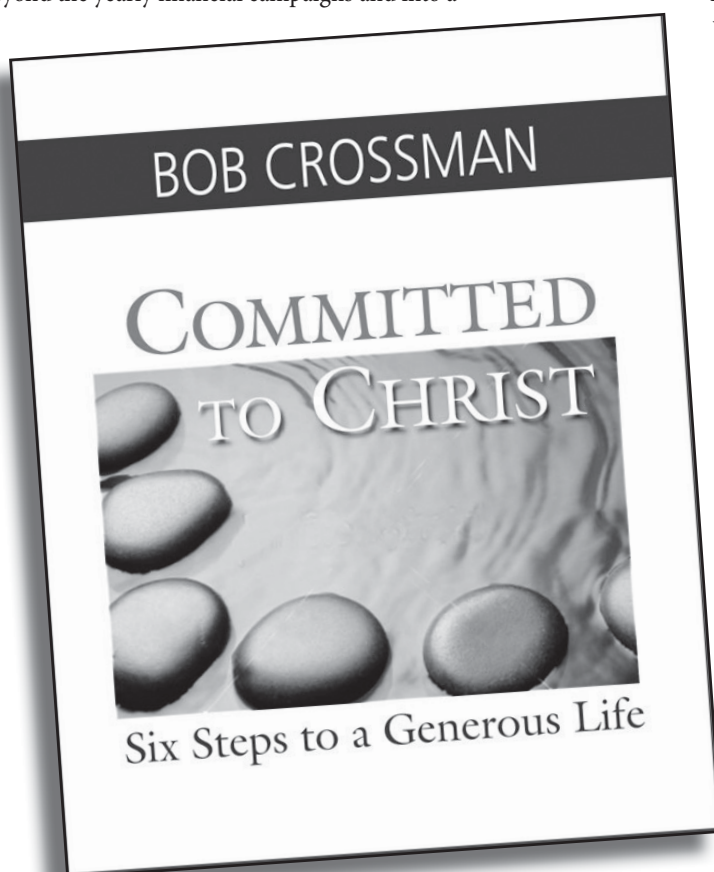
He has little to say, though, about the responsibility of the church to be good stewards of the congregants' offerings.

Perhaps it is implied in the overall content, but the package seems to lack tools for self-reflection on the part of church leaders and for communicating the practices of church-level stewardship to individual members.

Committed to Christ is both clear and thorough in its approach, providing church leaders with an easy-to-use resource that can be put into practice right out of the box. However, it allows for little flexibility and creativity; such a programmatic approach could lead to some disconnect between the campaign and the unique congregations that employ it.

Churches looking for a stewardship platform specific to their congregations may not find what they seek in *Committed to Christ*. But the program may prove quite helpful for busy churches looking for a fresh approach to stewardship, and for those with little time to invest in planning their stewardship campaign.

The Rev. Van Meter serves as campus minister for the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas State University.



*Committed to Christ:
Six Steps to a Generous Life*

Bob Crossman

Abingdon Press, 2012

AC2012 (continued from page 1A)

apportionments for all churches, some churches will see an overall increase in expenses when billed for the full amount of their pastor's pension.

The Conference also voted to change how healthcare premiums are calculated for retired clergy. Beginning in January 2013, all retirees will pay an additional 10 percent of the cost for their own healthcare premiums. Currently, the Conference covers the entire premium for many retired clergy.

In structural changes, two financially interrelated concerns, pension and healthcare, joined to form a single committee to handle decisions on benefits and the ways to fund those benefits.

Other changes included the adoption of a new Conference staffing model, a new configuration of the extended cabinet and the naming of an executive team for personnel oversight—all results of the three-year Imagine Ministry re-visioning process.

The Conference budget shifted to reflect the new structure. Connectional ministries budgeted amounts now list the expected apportionment payout, rather than a higher number with the caveat that ministries should expect to receive about 84 percent of the total. If payouts exceed the estimates, committees relating to the various ministry areas will allocate the additional funding.

Hands-on mission

The Conference spent Monday afternoon with about 200 participants engaged in mission projects. On-site, Stop Hunger Now facilitated the packaging of more than 40,000 meals, and a group learned how knitting can provide for meaningful and much-needed ministry. Off-site projects sent attendees out into Fort Smith for tasks such as removing graffiti, visiting assisted living facilities and helping local outreach organizations.

For the statewide mission project, local churches sent 93 tornado tubs to Annual Conference. These kits contain items that help households sort through and clean up belongings following a tornado or other disaster.

Shirley McClain, who manages the clothes closet at Midland Heights UMC, called the mission team sent to her work site “a marvelous group.”

“An hour and a half of hard work done in unrelenting heat—my regular group will be amazed,” she told Becky Neighbors, the Northwest District administrator and coordinator of the local mission projects.

“Overall, I thought the day went very well,” Neighbors said. “There was something for everyone who wanted to be involved, and I tried to be deliberate in the planning to think of those who might have mobility issues, and again of those who wanted to go out and get their hands dirty.”

“We talk about reaching the mission field. Annual Conference should model that,” said the Rev. Rodney Steele, who worked on a graffiti removal team. “Obviously, many others share that dream, and the timing seemed to be guided by the Holy Spirit. It was a great first step and it was exciting to see hundreds of people involved.”

Many who shared their impressions of the mission day expressed a desire to carry the idea forward into future years of Annual Conference.

“I hope that future mission opportunities conclude with everyone meeting back at conference at that afternoon to share their experiences,” said Denni Palmer, a diaconal minister.

“I would hope that the people who experienced it would share their experiences so others would want to participate,” Neighbors added.

Imagine No Malaria

The official launch of a Conference-wide Imagine No Malaria fundraising initiative included an invitation to text “malaria” to 27722 to make \$10 gifts from the floor of Annual Conference; a challenge grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) that will match individuals' donations, up to \$333,000; and the first official gifts, given by eight-month-old Natalie Williams, who gave \$10 for each month of her age, and Black Methodists for Church Renewal, which gave \$500.

The exhibit area at the back of the plenary hall included an Imagine No Malaria display where attendees could pick up fly swatters and cinch packs bearing the campaign's logo. The cinch packs, used as thank-you gifts for donors, also carried the

tagline, “We're kicking bugs and taking names.”

Gifts made to Imagine No Malaria in honor of the Crutchfields have proven a popular retirement gift for the bishop. Since the opening gavel of Annual Conference, nearly \$11,000 has been given toward the effort, not including large gifts such as the matching grant from UMFA.

Resolutions approved

Five resolutions came before the Conference, and all five received approval, some with no changes, and others as amended. Resolution topics included:

- the importance of creating and enhancing a culture of stewardship and generosity in local churches—submitted by the Conference Committee on Stewardship;
- a commitment to approach with respect and humility the differences faithful United Methodists have concerning the issue of homosexuality—submitted by the Revs. Michael Roberts and John Miles II and signed by 21 additional lay and clergy members of the Conference;
- encouraging a series of sacred conversations about human sexuality, with a theologically diverse task force to be named by the bishop to develop a curriculum to guide these conversations—submitted by the Arkansas chapters of the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) and Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), with the task force element introduced by the Rev. Roger Glover and accepted as a friendly amendment;
- deploring and condemning acts of bullying—submitted by the Arkansas chapters of MFSA and BMCR; and
- imploring United Methodists to decline signing petitions that would bring more forms of legalized gambling up for a vote in Arkansas, and requesting that United Methodists support the efforts of the Stop Casinos Now Committee—submitted by the Conference Board of Church and Society.

For Annual Conference photos, see page 8A.

Excerpts from Asa Whitaker's June 12 laity address

It has been an honor and privilege to serve this conference as Lay Leader and to work with Bishop Crutchfield during these past eight years. He arrived at a time of change for us. We had just formed a new conference, were working with a new structure, and had a new strategic plan in place. I recall vividly his arrival and early conversations where he was asked to tell us what plans he had in mind for our conference. He replied that he had no plan for our conference at that time but to hold us accountable for the plans we already had in place.

As I was putting these thoughts together, I couldn't help but think of the analogy of Bishop Crutchfield as being our modern-day Moses. Just as the children of Israel were struggling to move on to a new life, so was the Arkansas Conference. No, he didn't find a conference beaten down and without hope; we were fresh and new, but with our own struggle to move on to a new life as the United

Methodist Church in Arkansas. As we worked together in the years to follow, it became apparent that we needed to have a “wilderness experience” if we were to become the effective witness for Jesus Christ and his church that we desired to be.

Our recent years together have been spent in the wilderness searching for a path forward to the promised land of a new future. This annual conference will make the final decisions to facilitate moving forward into this new future. Like Moses, Bishop Crutchfield has brought us to the mountain top where we can see that new future, but for some of us the view is a little unclear and the promised land is a long distance away. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see.

Moving into our future requires something of us, clergy and laity alike. To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, we must “Ask not what our church can do for us, ask what we can do for our church. I am afraid

we have been consumers of our faith rather than doers of our faith. Bishop Crutchfield has given us a plan, has set a new direction, and has painted a picture of the potential we have in this promised land. When Moses sent out his scouts into the promise land they came back with mixed reports. As I recall, only two of the scouts believed the children of Israel could take the land and enjoy the fruits of this land of “milk and honey.” The 10 other scouts believed the task was hopeless. The inhabitants of the land were too big and the cities too well fortified, and the resistance would be much too severe.

A church alive in the grace of God is the “milk and honey” we seek. We will have our own giants, fortified traditions and resistance to change to overcome if we are to inhabit this new land.

Dwight L. Moody once said, “It is observable that God has often called men to places of dignity and

honor when they have busy and honest employment of their vocation. Saul was seeking his father's donkeys and David his father's sheep when called to the Kingdom. The shepherds were feeding their flocks when they had their glorious revelation. God called the apostles from their fishing and Matthew from collecting taxes. Amos from the horsemen of Tecoaah, Moses from keeping Jethro's sheep, Gideon from the threshing floor, Elisha from the plows. God never called a lazy man.”

Jesus seemed to have a sense of urgency when he called his disciples from the seashore. Now is the time. The Greeks had two words for time. The first was *chronos* or time as we might use it when we look at our clock. It is bound by minutes, hours, days. The second word for time is *kairos*. Time as we might use it when we refer to the time in which we live. We might hear Jesus say, “Come, the time in which we live calls for us to

begin. Come follow me.”

What might be our response? “Sorry Lord, I know it is time but I am too involved with other things. Maybe another time.” Or will it be, “Lord, I don't know how I can find the time, but I know the time is now.”

The sense of urgency in Jesus' voice when he called the fishermen is the sense of urgency I feel for the United Methodist Church. Our numbers are declining because we are not making new disciples. Some say numbers are not important, but I believe they are, because they represent those folks around us who do not know Jesus in their hearts or have a relationship with God.

Jesus invited the disciples to become fishers of men, and that invitation is urgent today. My prayer is that we will enter the promised land and take time to go fishing.

Asa Whitaker

Lay Leader, Arkansas Conference

Scenes from Annual Conference

Across the United Methodist connection, Annual Conferences are packed full of activity. These images capture just a sampling of the action at our 2012 Annual Conference in Fort Smith. Find more photos at facebook.com/arkansasumc.



ABOVE: The Rev. Jimmy Mosby is ordained as an Elder in Full Connection.



RIGHT: As part of the Naming of the Saints at Sunday night's service of Commemoration and Holy Communion, the Rev. Brittany Richardson Watson lights a candle for each clergy and spouse who has died during the past year.



The Revs. Heath and Jeanne Williams, along with their daughter Natalie, respond to the Imagine No Malaria presentation by announcing a gift in the amount of \$10 for each month of Natalie's life and \$10 for each year of Heath and Jeanne's lives.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Members of Cavanaugh UMC Fort Smith were on hand to load tornado tubs into one of the district disaster response trailers. Tornado tubs, designed by Denni Palmer to aid in sorting and recovery of personal items following destructive storms, were collected at Annual Conference as part of the array of available mission opportunities.



LEFT: Arkansas clergywomen observe a tradition of wearing red shoes on ordination night. PHOTO BY BETH WALDRUP

BELOW: The Revs. Pat Henry and Melissa Thomas were ordained as Deacons in Full Connection on June 12.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Ten people were ordained as Elders in Full Connection at the Service of Ordination and Commissioning on June 12. Pictured, from left: Bishop Charles Crutchfield, the Revs. Joe Head, Jeanne Williams, Heath Williams, Greg Comer, Heath Bradley, Jimmy Mosby, Allen Crum, Paul Coy, Carter Ferguson and Heather Clawitter.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS



BELOW: An Annual Conference mission team removes graffiti from a fence in Fort Smith. The city matches volunteers with people who are physically or financially unable to remove such damage done to their property.

PHOTO BY RODNEY STEELE



The Rev. Andrew Thompson, in his sermon "The Power to Become Children of God," speaks of the unnecessary hand-wringing and worrying we do in the church.



Newly commissioned provisional members of the Arkansas Conference, from left: Katherine Goss Pearce, Donna Dee Hendricks, David Andrew Ruehr, Karl Dixon Platt, Elizabeth Smith Larkin and Sara Jane Gotschall.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

RIGHT: The Rev. Debbye Harrison (center), pastor of Hickory Plains UMC, along with her son, Bryce (left), grandson, Christian, and close friend, Ann Brumbelow, examines what remains of the sanctuary after firefighters extinguish the blaze.



FAR RIGHT: A firefighter works as the building continues to smoke.



AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

Fire (continued from page 1A)

about the memories the building held. “We raised all four of our children in there,” she said. She spoke of sentimental items, such as a scrapbook that chronicled the last half-century of the congregation’s history, and of a special quilt made by people in the community. “It had all of our parents’ names on it. It was a friendship quilt.

“There were a lot of memorials in there from losing our members. It’s just very emotional for me,” she

said, holding back tears.

Ronnie Ashmore, 42, has attended Hickory Plains UMC his entire life. As he watched the firefighters work, he voiced the determination shared by many members who know the congregation’s vital presence in the small community: “We just rebuild,” he said. “You just have to start over.”

A June 2 status update on the congregation’s Facebook page gave thanks for the offers of assistance, announced the 9 a.m. worship time and reminded readers that the most important part of the church is still standing: “Our faith still endures

and will continue to grow, this isn’t a step backwards for our church, but a step forward in showing how strong our faith is.”

Harrison said that because the building that burned was surrounded on two sides by graves and the Hickory Plains Cemetery may need room to expand, the church is researching potential new locations.

“There is a renewed spirit in our congregation,” she said nearly a month after the fire. “It’s as though a fire has been lit *in us* now that wasn’t there before. I never would have believed that would have been the

result when I was watching it burn.”

Fundraiser planned

While insurance will cover a substantial amount of the rebuilding cost, the congregation also will hold a fundraising dinner Saturday, July 14, at Hickory Plains Park on Highway 13 North, at 5:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy catfish and chicken from a catering business owned by Harrison’s family, and music by Arkansas Edition, a Searcy-based bluegrass gospel band. For details, visit facebook.com/HickoryPlainsUMC.



The Rev. Dede Roberts, superintendent of the Central District, speaks to the people of Hickory Plains UMC on the Sunday after the fire.

AUM PHOTO BY PHIL HATHCOCK

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2012-13 Conference Appointments

Central District

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT | Deidre Jo Roberts |
| ADONA | Frankie Reynolds |
| AMBOY | Roger Armstrong |
| ARGENTA | James W. Choate |
| ASBURY - LITTLE ROCK | Mary Hilliard |
| <i>Associates</i> | Nathan Kilbourne |
| | David M. Moore |
| BENTON FIRST | Robert David Jones |
| <i>Associates</i> | Mark Norman |
| | Garry Teeter |
| BETHEL - JACKSONVILLE | Thomas Babington |
| BETHLEHEM / PROVIDENCE | Debbie Robbins |
| BRYANT FIRST | Hammett Evans |
| <i>Associate</i> | Peter Weber |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Rebecca Boggan |
| CABOT | Beth Ann Waldrup |
| <i>Associates</i> | Benjamin W. Crismon |
| | John Shirron |
| CANVAS COMMUNITY | Carter Ferguson |
| CARLISLE FIRST | Ryan Allen Rush |
| CENTERVILLE | Lana Gartner |
| CHRIST - CABOT | Jeffery Trent Warrick |
| CLEVELAND / OVERCUP..... | Mitch Burgess |
| CONCORD - LONOKE | Larry D. Hughes |
| CONGO..... | Polly Burton |
| CONWAY FIRST | Michael Roberts |
| <i>Associate</i> | E. Lynn Kilbourne |
| DES ARC FIRST | Charles Dee Harper |
| EBENEZER - CONWAY | Luther Williams |
| EBENEZER - TULL | Randy Dale Reed |
| ENGLAND..... | LaNita Anne Daniels |
| FAITH - LITTLE ROCK..... | Harriett Akins-Banman |
| FAITHSPRING | Brock Patterson |
| <i>Deacons</i> | Jenni L. Duncan |
| | Martha S. Taylor |
| GARDNER MEMORIAL | Richard S. Mitchell |
| GRACE - CONWAY | David Ray Hawkins |
| <i>Associate</i> | Reginald Russell |
| GRAHAM CHAPEL | Marty Bowie |
| GREENBRIER FIRST..... | Kevin Lyon |
| <i>Associate</i> | Donna Bennett |
| HAMILTON / HUMNOKE..... | Roger E. Glover |
| HAZEN / DEVALLS BLUFF | Carolyn Doering |
| HEBRON - CARLISLE..... | Roger Crouch |
| HENDERSON..... | Thomas Frase |
| HICKORY PLAINS..... | Deborah D. Harrison |
| HIGHLAND VALLEY | W. Wade Shownes |
| <i>Associate</i> | Brittany R. Watson |
| HOOVER..... | Ismail M. A. Saafir |
| HOPE KOREAN | Ohyeoun Kim |
| <i>Associate</i> | Billy Howard Cox |
| HUNTER - LITTLE ROCK..... | Melvin Moss |
| JACKSONVILLE FIRST | John Mark McDonald |
| <i>Associates</i> | Walter Garrett |
| | Brad Moore |
| KEO..... | Chanda Adams |
| LAKEWOOD | Richard Lancaster |
| <i>Associates</i> | Andrea E. Allen |
| | Hazel M. Clark |
| | Cynthia Shaw Henry |
| LEVY / WHITE MEMORIAL..... | Jimmy J. Mosby |
| LITTLE ROCK FIRST | W. Christopher Cooper |
| <i>Associates</i> | Mary Jane Cole |
| | Donna Hankins-Hull |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Sun Ug Choh |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| LONOKE FIRST | Larry Martineau |
| <i>Associate</i> | Patricia Litts |
| MABELVALE..... | Robert Marble |
| MARKS CHAPEL..... | Clyde Hughley |
| MAUMELLE FIRST | Luke Conway |
| <i>Associates</i> | Zeke Allen |
| | Wayne Jarvis |
| MAYFLOWER..... | Richard Wilkins |
| MCCABE CHAPEL | Johnnie Davis |
| MORRILTON FIRST | Todd-Paul Taulbee |
| MOUNT CARMEL - BENTON | Bob Warford |
| MOUNT CARMEL - VILONIA | Thomas E. Lukas |
| MOUNT PLEASANT | Mary N. Jones |
| MOUNT TABOR - CABOT | Regina Holtman Gideon |
| MOUNT ZION - LONOKE | Wesley Howard, Jr. |
| NAYLOR | TBS |
| NEW HAVEN - LITTLE ROCK..... | Norma Gillerson |
| NEW ZION / MOUNT ZION | James Lee Scruggs |
| NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRST | Davis E. Thompson |
| <i>Associates</i> | James W. Choate |
| | Brent Higdem |
| NORTH PULASKI | Carol S. Goddard |
| OAK FOREST | Russell D. Breshears |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Amanda Moore |
| OAKLAND | TBS |
| OLD AUSTIN | Von Dell Mooney |
| PARKVIEW / NEW HOPE | Natasha Murray-Norman |
| PERRYVILLE | Terrie Lynn Bunnell |
| PLEASANT HILL - ALEXANDER..... | Vince Crawford |
| PLUMERVILLE..... | Keith Coker |
| PRIMROSE..... | Clayton Bulice |
| PULASKI HEIGHTS | Britt Skarda |
| <i>Associates</i> | Heath R Bradley |
| | Jeffery Bernard Hampton |
| | Aubrietta Lynn Jones |
| | Lynn W. Lindsey |
| <i>Deacon</i> | James Scott Moore |
| QUAPAW QUARTER | Thompson Murray |
| <i>Associate</i> | E. Anne Holcomb |
| SAINT ANDREW - LITTLE ROCK..... | Tammy Garrison |
| SAINT JAMES - LITTLE ROCK | Siegfried Johnson |
| <i>Associates</i> | Gary Clark Atkins |
| | Blake Russell Bradford |
| | Gregory Schick |
| SAINT JAMES - LONOKE..... | David Scruggs |
| SAINT LUKE / GEYER SPRINGS | Candace Barron |
| SAINT PAUL - LITTLE ROCK..... | Gerald Collins |
| SAINT PAUL - MAUMELLE | TBS |
| SALEM - CONWAY | R. Leon Gray |
| SALEM - BENTON | Carlton N. Cross |
| SARDIS / GRACE - EAST END..... | Stephen P. Dickinson |
| <i>Associate</i> | George Thomas Jones |
| SOUTHBEND..... | Garren Earle Hagemeier |
| SPRINGFIELD / MALLETTOWN | Austin W. Coleman |
| SWEET HOME - LITTLE ROCK | Barbara A. Douglas |
| SYLVAN HILLS | Jim Alex Workman, Jr. |
| TRASKWOOD..... | Danny Dunlap |
| TRINITY - LITTLE ROCK | Betsy Singleton Snyder |
| TRINITY - NORTH LITTLE ROCK | Gerald Meeks |
| VILONIA | Belinda Price |
| WARD / SIXTEENTH SECTION..... | Richmond P. Meadows |
| WESLEY - CONWAY | David E. Baker |
| WESLEY CHAPEL / DUNCAN..... | Ronnie L. Miller-Yow |
| WESTERN HILLS..... | Sylvia Nosc |
| WINFIELD | David D. Hoffman |
| WYE MOUNTAIN | Naomi Rogers |

Northeast District

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT | William O. Reeves |
| ANTIOCH / HARMONY | Jim Gilliam |
| ASH FLAT / EVENING SHADE..... | Larry Morris |
| AUGUSTA / TUPELO | Robert DeBaun |
| BALD KNOB / RUSSELL..... | Treva Mills |
| BATESVILLE FIRST | Robert Burton |
| <i>Associate</i> | Kay Burton |
| BAY | Heath Williams |
| BEEBE..... | Russell Edward Hull |
| BETHESDA CAMPGROUND | Doyle E. Berckefeldt |
| BLACK ROCK / LYNN / POWHATAN..... | Michael Bolin |
| BLYTHEVILLE FIRST | N. Robin Moore |
| BONO | Thomas Dellinger |
| BRADFORD / PLEASANT PLAINS..... | William P. Mills |
| BROOKLAND / UNION GROVE..... | William J Sardin |
| CALICO ROCK / SPRING CREEK..... | Michael Andrew Smith |
| CAMPGROUND | George Edward Harris |
| CAVE CITY / BEAR CREEK | Roger B Hook |
| CEDAR GROVE - FLORAL | Nikki Pierce |
| CENTRAL AVENUE - BATESVILLE..... | Paul E Seay, Sr. |
| CHEROKEE VILLAGE | Thomas DeWeese |
| <i>Associate</i> | Jimmy W. Anderson |
| CHRIST UNITED | John Snyder |
| CHRIST WAY | Herschel L. Richardson, Jr. |
| CLINTON | George Edwin Odell |
| CORINTH / POWELL'S CHAPEL | Robert Kegerize |
| CORNERSTONE - JONESBORO..... | Chris Hemund |
| <i>Associate</i> | Jeanne Williams |
| CORNING..... | Pauleen Ann Ferris |
| DAMASCUS..... | Vaughn Marsden |
| DELL / ALDERSGATE..... | Marilyn Webb |
| DESHA / CONCORD / CORNERSTONE / JAMESTOWN | Steve Long |
| | James D. Wheeler |
| ELI LINDSEY / FRIENDSHIP - RAVENDEN .. | John Stoll |
| FAIRFIELD BAY..... | Paul Strang |
| FAIRVIEW - MOUNTAIN HOME..... | James Jimmie F Snow |
| FARM HILL..... | TBS |
| FISHER STREET / SEDGWICK | Nancy M. Rainwater |
| FORREST CHAPEL - BROCKWELL | Loye Vern Mason |
| GARNER..... | Ron Barrentine |
| GRIFFIN MEMORIAL..... | Jason Sutfin |
| GRIFFITHVILLE / DOGWOOD | Terry Kai Haley |
| GUION..... | John Adams |
| GUM SPRINGS - SEARCY | Jim Bradberry |
| HARDY | Brien Nix Hall |
| HARRISBURG FIRST / PLEASANT VALLEY..J. | Beth Perdue |
| HAZEL EDWARDS MEMORIAL / OIL TROUGH | Robert Stanley Ernest |
| | Thomas Toombs |
| | Kathy DeBusk |
| HOLIDAY HILLS | C. Daniel Brand |
| HORSESHOE BEND / WISEMAN | Nancy Cameron |
| <i>Associate</i> | Kenneth R. Anderson |
| HOXIE | Bonda Deere Moyer |
| IMBODEN / SMITHVILLE | Bob J. McMillon |
| JONESBORO FIRST | John P. Miles, II |
| <i>Associates</i> | Lloyd Blake Langston |
| | Patty Sue Soward |
| JUDSONIA / KENSETT | James Robert Wilson |
| LEACHVILLE / CARAWAY..... | Douglas Criss |
| MAMMOTH SPRING / CAMP | James McElhannon |
| MANILA / COMMUNITY | Jerry Pentecost |
| MARKED TREE / JOINER | Edward Wyers |

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|---|------------------------|
| MARMADUKE | James Kjorlaug |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Sarah Mullins |
| MARS HILL..... | Milburn Teasley |
| MAYNARD..... | Alma Hastings |
| MCCRORY / COTTON PLANT | Carla Ray Thompson |
| MCRAE..... | Keith Goza |
| MELBOURNE / CUSHMAN..... | William Grothe |
| MONETTE / LAKE CITY..... | Jerry W. Reed |
| MOOREFIELD / OAK RIDGE..... | Lavon Bloodworth |
| MOUNT CARMEL - JONESBORO | Clarence Edward Pruett |
| MOUNT PLEASANT - QUITMAN | Harold Moore |
| MOUNTAIN HOME..... | Rodney G. Steele |
| <i>Associate</i> | Randall D. Ludwig |
| MOUNTAIN VIEW / SAINT JAMES..... | Ronnie Newberry |
| NETTLETON | Harmon B Whitehurst |
| NEWPORT FIRST..... | John Bradley Elrod |
| OAK GROVE - SEARCY | TBS |
| OSCEOLA | Tyrone Hill |
| OXFORD..... | Bobby Coleman |
| PANGBURN / MOUNT PISGAH..... | David Doyle |
| PARAGOULD FIRST | William B. Leslie |
| <i>Associate</i> | Angela Gage |
| PIGGOTT / WRIGHT'S CHAPEL..... | Andy Newbill |
| PLEASANT GROVE - JONESBORO..... | Rex G. Darling |
| PLEASANT HILL / PINE LOG..... | John Michael |
| POCAHONTAS | Rockey Earl Starnes |
| PRUETT'S CHAPEL / BEECH GROVE..... | TBS |
| QUITMAN | David Caswell |
| RAVENDEN / RAVENDEN SPRINGS..... | Danny Roark |
| RECTOR..... | Mace P. Straubel |
| ROCK SPRINGS / RAMER'S CHAPEL..... | Howard Mark Trout |
| ROSE BUD..... | Kathy DeBusk |
| SAINT PAUL - JONESBORO..... | Charles Sigman |
| SAINT PAUL - SEARCY | Donald L Hall, Jr. |
| SALEM / VIOLA | Robert Daniel Partlow |
| SEARCY FIRST | David Paul Orr |
| <i>Associate</i> | Ruben Anthony Griffin |
| SHARP..... | Jerry Lumpkin |
| SHILOH - PARAGOULD / SHILOH - JONESBORO | David A. Moore |
| SHIRLEY | John Hiegel |
| SIDNEY | TBS |
| SOUTHSIDE..... | James T. Pierce |
| STONEY POINT / FLOYD..... | Robert Mark Quick |
| TRUMANN / LEPANTO..... | Jeff Weaver |
| TUCKERMAN / SWIFTON | Donald Lewert |
| UMSTED MEMORIAL / EMORY CHAPEL..... | Gilliam Sills |
| WALNUT RIDGE..... | Steve Cook |
| WARREN'S CHAPEL / WOOD'S CHAPEL | Bonnie Carol Moore |
| WEINER / FISHER..... | Dan L Walker |
| WESLEY - COTTER / NORFORK..... | Terrance A. Moser |
| WHITE HALL / FAKES CHAPEL | Stephen Anderson |
| WILD CHERRY..... | Marty Sanders |
| WILSON / KEISER..... | Gary Yarbrough |

Northwest District

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT | George Mackey Yokem |
| ALMA | Velda Bell |
| ALPENA / BERGMAN..... | Lyn Poplin |
| ALTUS / GRENADES CHAPEL..... | Mark Cloninger |
| ARKANSAS KOREAN MISSION..... | Kwangmin Shin |
| ATKINS / BELL'S CHAPEL | Rebecca Searcy Wiseman |
| BARLING | Steve Holyfield |
| BELLA VISTA FIRST..... | Jaimie Jack Alexander |
| <i>Associates</i> | Janice M. Lowe |
| | Lee Benjamin Myane |
| BENTONVILLE FIRST..... | Rex Dickey |
| <i>Associates</i> | Don Bortell |
| | Benjamin Gee Hines |
| | David Ruehr |

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|---|------------------------|
| BERRYVILLE..... | Floyd Ray |
| BETEL..... | Ramiro Lizcano |
| BLAND CHAPEL | David E. Mack |
| BOONEVILLE..... | Geral Holloway |
| BULL SHOALS / YELLVILLE..... | Donnie Hudson |
| CAVANAUGH / HACKETT..... | Michael W. Topham |
| CECIL | Jerry Eubanks |
| CEDAR GROVE / PLEASANT RIDGE..... | Donald M. Cremer |
| CENTRAL - FAYETTEVILLE | J. Anthony Holifield |
| <i>Associates</i> | Carl D. Palmer |
| | Steven K. Pulliam |
| CENTRAL - LINCOLN / CINCINNATI..... | Gary B. Lunsford |
| CENTRAL - ROGERS..... | Carness Vaughan |
| <i>Associate</i> | James Dell Keith |
| <i>Deacons</i> | J. Lester Oliver |
| | Dawn Spragg |
| CHARLESTON | William V. Buchanan |
| CHERRY HILL | Daryl E. Hines |
| CHICKALAH | Bud Choate |
| CITY HEIGHTS | Randy L. Miller |
| CLARKSVILLE..... | David R. Hanshaw |
| COLES CHAPEL / BRANCH..... | Jim Brooks |
| DANVILLE / TRINITY..... | Thomas Sullinger |
| DARDANELLE FIRST / LIBERTY HALL..... | James A. Benfer |
| DECATUR | Russ Hall |
| DIAMOND CITY / OMAHA | Patricia Bodenhamer |
| DOVER..... | Roy Beth Kelley |
| DYER | Philip Costner |
| | Cheryle Costner |
| ELKINS..... | Charles Gary Ashcraft |
| ELM SPRINGS | Karl Dixon Platt |
| EUREKA SPRINGS..... | Stanley Wade Adams |
| EVERTON / VALLEY SPRINGS..... | Sandra Garrett |
| FAITH - FORT SMITH | Charles W. Armour |
| FARMINGTON | Troy Conrad |
| FORT SMITH FIRST | Charles Murry |
| <i>Associates</i> | Claire M. Caldwell |
| | Robert B. Cloninger |
| | Janice Sudbrink |
| GENTRY | George Adkins |
| GODDARD | James Steve Wingo |
| <i>Associate</i> | Kim Cloninger |
| GOSHEN..... | Denise E. Palmer |
| GRACE - ROGERS | W. Zachary Underwood |
| GRACE COMMUNITY | John Jeffrey Jones |
| GRAVELLY / BLUFFTON | Joy Carmean |
| GRAVETTE / SULPHUR SPRINGS..... | Phil Sturdy |
| GREEN FOREST | Stephen Brizzi |
| GREENWOOD | Robert Craig Russell |
| HARMON..... | J. Michael Callahan |
| HARRISON FIRST..... | John D. Darnall |
| HARTFORD / MIDLAND | Chris Rink |
| HARTMAN / SPADRA | Regina Turner |
| HATFIELD..... | Sidney Simpson |
| HAVANA..... | Paul Ed Seay, Jr. |
| HAYS CHAPEL..... | Grover Andrew Perkins |
| HERITAGE | James Wesley Hilliard |
| <i>Associate</i> | Mark Sullivan |
| HIGHLANDS | Bryan Fink |
| <i>Associate</i> | J. Michael Callahan |
| HUNTINGTON..... | Frank Grubbs |
| HUNTSVILLE / PRESLEY CHAPEL | Roger Allen Crum |
| JASPER | Larry M. Acton |
| JOURNEY HISPANIC MISSION | Julio Ibarra |
| KIBLER..... | Deanna L. McCormack |
| LAMAR / MOUNT OLIVE | Tammy Jo Teltow |
| LAVACA / MOUNTAIN VIEW | Lynn David Strang |
| LESLIE / MARSHALL..... | Cheryl Jean Cook Baker |
| LIVING WATERS AT CENTERTON | Blake A. Lasater |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Liz Larkin |
| MAGAZINE / MOORE'S CHAPEL / WAVELAND / PIONEER MEMORIAL | Judy Hall |

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|--|------------------------|
| MANSFIELD | John J. Noggle |
| MENA FIRST | Gary Frank Harrison |
| MIDLAND HEIGHTS..... | Daniel Lane Williams |
| MILLTOWN | Louise Finney |
| MISSION | Ulysses C Washington |
| MOUNT OLIVE - VAN BUREN..... | Barry D. Morton |
| MULBERRY | Charles B. Beevers |
| NEW BETHEL | Charles Jordan |
| NEW HOPE / NEWBERRY | Robert M. Jeffery |
| OAKLEY CHAPEL | Shane Pair |
| OLA / PLAINVIEW | Rollie Thomas Mullins |
| OZARK | Royal Keith Dodson |
| PARIS..... | James Michael Smith |
| PARKS..... | Peggy Catron |
| PEA RIDGE / BRIGHTWATER..... | Brian Timmons |
| POTTSVILLE | Mildred Faith Bryant |
| PRAIRIE GROVE FIRST | Matthew H. Johnson |
| PRAIRIE VIEW..... | Jeffery L. Blassingame |
| ROGERS FIRST..... | David Bentley |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Sandra Wanasek |
| RUSSELLVILLE FIRST | Roy Patterson Smith |
| <i>Associates</i> | Gail Cole Brooks |
| | Patricia Butler |
| SAINT JAMES - FAYETTEVILLE..... | Charles White |
| SAINT PAUL - FORT SMITH | Steven M. Poarch |
| <i>Associate</i> | Todd Vick |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Mark L. Waynick |
| SAINT PAUL - GRAVEL HILL / BRIGGSVILLE | Steve Lawrence |
| SAINT PAUL'S - HARRISON / BELLEFONTE / VALLEY VIEW | Mark Donald |
| SEQUOYAH..... | Sara Cole Pair |
| SHILOH | Lon N. Hudson, III |
| SILOAM SPRINGS FIRST | Randy H. Rowlan |
| SPRINGDALE FIRST | Stephen Coburn |
| <i>Associates</i> | David C. Freeman |
| | Kenneth R. Lee |
| | Ramiro Lizcano |
| | Rob Williams |
| <i>Deacon</i> | Judith S. Van Hoose |
| SPRINGTOWN / HIGHFILL..... | Russ Hall |
| SQUARE ROCK / MT. PLEASANT..... | Suzanne Wilson |
| TRINITY - FAYETTEVILLE | Terry M. Gosnell |
| TUCKS CHAPEL..... | Brian Youngs |
| VESTA | Jonathan Payne |
| VIETNAMESE - FORT SMITH..... | Terry Gallamore |
| VIETNAMESE - VAN BUREN | Thang Nguyen |
| VINEY GROVE | G Randall Nix |
| WALDRON / BIRDSVIEW..... | Patricia Diane Miller |
| WALTREAK | Larry Pat Millard |
| WASHBURN..... | Marilyn Springer |
| WEDINGTON | Joseph W. Hall |
| WESLEY - FORT SMITH | Matthew I. Daniels |
| WESLEY - RUSSELLVILLE..... | David Autry |
| WICKES / MOUNTAIN VIEW | Bryan Richardson |
| WIGGINS | Nan Nelson |
| WINSLOW / MORROW | John M. Moore |
| WOODLANDS | Ben Hampton Anderson |

Southeast District

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT | Susan Ledbetter |
| ALMYRA / HUNTER'S CHAPEL- ROE | Ted Edmondson |
| ALTHEIMER / WABBASEKA | George Mitchell |
| BAILEY CHAPEL..... | Travis Earl Jackson |
| BAYOU METO / LODGES CORNER | Mary F. Welch |
| BETHEL - SHERIDAN | Albert Marlar |
| BRINKLEY / BRASFIELD | James T. Rowland |
| CENTER GROVE - SHERIDAN | Troy Lee Cate |
| CHERRY VALLEY / VANNDALE | Ron C. Williams |
| <i>Associate</i> | Janice Williams |

CLARENDON / HOLLY GROVEJudy Wilson Clark
 COLT / FORREST CHAPELEverett Blakely
 CROSSETTRussell R. Moore
 DEWITT / ST. CHARLESDaniel R. Kirkpatrick
 DUMAS / TILLARTandy Curtis Hanson
 EARLE / CRAWFORDSVILLE.....Paul L. Horner
 ELLIS CHAPEL / CENTRAL / HUNTERMelvin Dwight Mann
 EUDORA / PARKDALE.....Chyrl Savage Slocum
 EXTRA.....Allyne Solomon
 FORREST CITY FIRSTJanet T. Edwards
 GILLETT / DELUCECharles Coffelt
 GOOD FAITH CARRWalter Michael Wilkie
 GOOD HOPE / NEW EDINBURGJohn H. Kidwell
 GRADY / TRINITY - STAR CITYTimothy Rushing
 GRAND AVENUE - STUTTGARTCleifton Samuel Vaughan
 GREENHILL / LACEYJ. Donald Johnson
 HAMBURG FIRSTCletus Gregory Comer
 HAWLEY MEMORIAL / WESLEYJackie Ann Gregory
 HEBRON - NEW EDINBURG.....Maurice Caldwell
 HELENA FIRSTMark B. Massey
 HERMITAGE / WAGNON.....Marty Reep
 HICKORY RIDGE / TILTON.....Michael Utley
 HUGHES / MADISON.....R. Marilyn Neal
 HUMPHREYGeorge Edward Crumbly, Jr.
 KINGSLAND / CHAMBERSVILLEMelissa Maskell
 KYNETTEKennis Key
 LAKESIDE - LAKE VILLAGE / MONTROSE..John Embrey
 LAKESIDE - PINE BLUFF.....Pamela Jean Estes
 Associate.....Alicia Bobo Frye
 LEOLA / MOORE'S CHAPEL - SHERIDAN ...Lindsey Saenz
 LIVINGSTON CHAPEL.....Lawrence O. Taylor
 MARIANNA / BEAR CREEK CAMP.....Gordon Mohr
 MARIONTom M. Letchworth
 MARTIN'S CHAPEL.....William Paul Woolley
 MARVELL / LEXA.....Kirk Doering
 MCGEHEE FIRST / ARKANSAS CITYWilliam Joe Head
 MONTICELLO FIRST.....Dennis Spence
 MOUNT OLIVET / PROSPERITY / UNION...Garry E. Wiles
 NEW HOPE - SHERIDANAl Harrell
 PARKIN / MCELROYStephen Wayne Baldwin
 PINE BLUFF FIRSTDavid Fleming
 PLEASANT GROVE - DEWITTGene White
 PORTLAND / DERMOTT / WILMOTJohn Sandine
 REDFIELD.....Robin Wynne
 RISON / MOUNT CARMEL - RISON.....Richard P. Rogers
 ROCK SPRINGS / WILMAR / MT PLEASANT / ANDREWS CHAPEL
 Hardy Peacock
 ROE.....Joe E. Glover
 SAINT FRANCISJonah Wayne Smith
 SAINT JAMES - PINE BLUFF.....Henry Wilkins
 SAINT LUKE - PINE BLUFF.....James Edward Conn
 SAINT MARK - PINE BLUFFDavid Morgan
 SCRUGGS CHAPEL.....John W. Love
 SHERIDAN.....John Andrew Fleming
 SHERRILLWilliam Ferguson
 STAR CITY FIRSTBryan R. Diffie
 STUTTGART FIRSTDavid W. Bush
 SULPHUR SPRINGS - PINE BLUFF.....Willis Findley
 TRINITY - WARRENTBS
 VICTORY - FORREST CITYMoses Green
 WALLER'S CHPL / FOUNTAIN HILL / ZION...Boyd F. Savage, Jr.
 WARREN FIRSTGary Maskell
 WATSON / MOUNT TABORWalt Lowe
 WESLEY CHAPEL / TAYLOR CHAPELWilliam J. Thompson
 WESLEY - MCGEHEE.....Barton Bynum
 WEST HELENA / ELAINE.....Everett Isom
 WEST MEMPHIS FIRSTDavid F. Moseley
 Associate.....Sheila M. Jones
 WHEATLEY / SALEM - WHEATLEYWilliam F. Cato
 WHITE HALLJustin Ledbetter
 WYNNE.....Lester Glenn Pettus

Southwest District

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTMichael Morey
 AMITY.....Glen Dale Harris
 ARKADELPHIA FIRSTCarroll D. Jackson
 ASBURY - MAGNOLIA.....Michael P. Daniel
 ASHDOWN FIRST / RICHMOND.....James H. Cross
 AVERY'S CHPL / BRUCE MEM / MIDWAY...Jimmy Keith Teeter
 BEARDEN / THORNTONAndrew Wayne Hughes
 BELL CHAPEL / RED HILLLarry E. Goza
 BISMARCKKatherine Pearce
 BRADLEY.....John Braden
 BUENA VISTA - STEPHENSCedric R. Walters
 CAMDEN FIRSTHenry Andrew Ratliff
 CARTHAGE / HUNTER'S CHAPEL / TULIP / WAVERLY
 Al Harrell
 CENTER / CENTER POINT.....Robert B. McCoy
 CHRIST - TEXARKANAJ. David Kassos
 CHRIST OF THE HILLS.....Walter L. Smith
 AssociatesPatrick O. Henry
 Andrew Kjolraug
 Helen Stegall
 DELIGHT / ANTOINE / SMYRNAJames Taylor Henderson
 DEQUEEN FIRST / GILLHAMDavid S. Williams
 DIAMONDHEADMichael S. Fikes
 DIERKS / GREEN'S CHAPELRobert L. Lyons
 DODDRIDGE / OLIVE BRANCH.....Walter L. Burnett
 DUMAS MEMORIAL / MARYSVILLE.....Patricia Daugherty
 EBENEZER - NASHVILLE.....Shirley F. White-Souder
 EL DORADO FIRSTJames P. Polk
 Associate.....Michael Blanchard
 EMERSON - MT. PISGAH.....Barbara Lewis
 EMMET / HARMONY / WILLISVILLEJerry G. Westmoreland
 FAIRVIEW - CAMDENPamela K. Brule
 FAIRVIEW - TEXARKANA / OGDENBarbara B. Gilbert
 FAITH / MORNING STARWanda L. Murray
 John Franklin Walker
 FORDYCE FIRSTJohn Charles Fimple
 FOREMAN / WADE'S CHAPEL.....Lynn Ann Lewis McClure
 FRIENDSHIP - FRIENDSHIPJeff Ladd
 FRIENDSHIP - PRESCOTT / SWEET HOME / UNION
 Gene M. Ross
 GARDNER.....Mark R. Williams
 GLENWOOD / DAISYElizabeth Stegall
 GRAND AVENUE - HOT SPRINGSGeorge Edward Rook
 Associate.....Deborah Perry
 GREER'S CHAPEL / LYDESDALE.....James Mark Lasater
 GUM SPRINGS - MOUNTAIN PINEGeorge T. Hilliker
 GURDON / HOLLYWOODCarl A. Ownbey
 HALL'S MEMORIAL.....Joyce Watson
 HAMPTON / HARREL / FAUSTINAHarry J. Hamner
 HARMONY - COLUMBIA / PHILADELPHIA / UNITY
 John Wayne Edwards
 HARMONY GROVE / HOLLY SPRINGS / LAKESIDE
 James E. Harris
 HAVENHarold Eichelberger
 HINTON / DE ANN.....Byron Wesley Mann
 HOLLY SPRINGS - TEXARKANA.....Doug Rhodes
 HOPE FIRST.....Steven Johnson
 HORATIO / WINTROPPhil Smith
 HOT SPRINGS FIRST.....Michael Mattox
 AssociatesTeresa Holt
 John P. Miles
 John S. Polk
 William Zachary Roberts
 HUTTIGRobert Earl Ballard
 JUNCTION CITYEugene Stiel
 KEITH MEMORIAL / L'EAU FRAIZDale L. Diffie
 Associate.....Sidney Carol Clark
 LEWISVILLERonnie K. Eldridge
 LISBON.....Charles Perry
 LOCKESBURGTeresa Egan Chapman

MACEDONIA / MOUNT CARMELTommy Halsell
 MAGNOLIA FIRSTLarry Eugene Kelso
 MALVERN FIRSTLaVon Post
 MANCHESTER.....George T. Whitney
 MINERAL SPRINGS / WAKEFIELDFrankie Glenn Hicks
 MOUNT IDA / JOPLINDavid Steele
 MOUNT MORIAH / VALLEY GROVE.....James J. Fort
 MOUNT OLIVE / BETHEL / WILSON CHPL...L.T. Marks
 MOUNT ZION / CENTER GROVE / TRINITY... Travis Langley
 MOUNTAINSIDEJohnna J. Galloway
 MURFREESBOROJames Waincott
 NASHVILLE FIRST / BINGENPaul B. Coy
 NEW ERA.....Charles Payne
 NEW SALEMDennis E. Horvath
 NORMAN / LANGLEY.....William Charles Bradford
 NORPHLET / CENTENNIAL.....Heather Spencer Clawitter
 OAKLAWN.....Fred W. Hunter
 OKOLONA.....Kathryn Burchfield
 PARKER'S CHAPEL / PLEASANT GROVEGilbert Philmore Worley
 PINEY GROVE.....R. Scott Gallimore
 AssociatesJacob Steven Lynn
 Rose A. Poag
 PRESCOTT FIRSTBill Lindsey Fish
 PULLMAN HEIGHTSRonald G. Grigsby
 RHODES CHAPEL.....James Carroll Rawls
 ROCKPORT.....Robert S. Reid
 RONDO / PLEASANT HILLSara J. Gotschall
 RUSHING MEMORIAL.....TBS
 SAINT ANDREW - ARKADELPHIABob W. Sanders
 SAINT JOHN.....Willie Joe Miller
 SAINT MARK - EL DORADOMichael L. Proctor
 SAINT PAUL - EL DORADORobert Henry Walker
 SAINT PAUL - MAL / ADKINS MEMORIAL.... Clarence Fowler
 SCOTT'S MEMORIAL.....Ella Harris
 SHOREWOOD HILLS / MAGNET COVE.....Bob C. Clark
 SILVER SPRINGS.....Wayne Chambers
 SMACKOVER / SILVER HILLLeon Thomas Dixon, Jr.
 SPARKMAN / DALARK / BETHLEHEM.....Sidney Royce Savage
 SPRING HILL / OAK GROVERevel Kidd
 STAMPS.....Mark Rivers
 SUGAR HILL.....Gregory A. Burks
 SWEET HOME - MURFREESBOROAl Terrell
 TAYLOR.....Spencer Glendas Plumley
 TEXARKANA FIRSTBruce Wayne Bennett
 Associate.....Vida R. Williams
 TIMOTHY / McNEIL.....Michael Gene Jennings
 VILLAGE / EBENEZER - STEPHENSKenneth Hipp
 VILLAGE - HOT SPRINGSGeorge W. McCoy
 Associate.....Thomas R. Jarrell
 WASHINGTONKeenan C. Williams
 WESTSIDE / ST. MARK / MISSOURIDonald R. Nicholson
 WILEY CHAPEL.....Dwight Burks

Other Appointments

Extension Ministries

ARKANSAS CONFERENCEWilliam Kurt Boggan
 ARKANSAS CONFERENCERobert Owen Crossman
 ARKANSAS CONFERENCEPhilip L. Hathcock
 ARKANSAS HOSPICE.....Helen Jean Burton
 ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARYRobert Holifield
 BRITISH METHODISMSusan Howe
 CASA de DIOSMary Olson
 CIRCLE OF LIFE HOSPICE.....Audie D. Long
 CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY.....David Morgan
 EVANGELICAL SERVICES FOR AGINGJoe Michael Campbell
 FLO AND PHIL JONES HOSPICE HOUSEClarence Edward Pruett
 GBGM METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTIAGO...Jacob F. Schaible
 HENDRIX COLLEGEJ. Wayne Clark
 HENDRIX COLLEGEJudith J. Whitney
 HORIZONS STEWARDSHIPJ. Clifton Christopher

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITYChristopher T. Bounds
 JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORSStephen Jean Copley
 JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORSMelissa Thomas
 MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARYAndrew C. Thompson
 METHODIST HEALTHCARE.....John A. Wilcher
 METHODIST NURSING HOME & VILLAGE....J. M. Rogers
 OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITYRockwell Jones
 PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.....Rebekah Linn Miles
 PHILANDER SMITH CHAPLAIN.....Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
 PROVIDENT MINISTRY SERVICEMolly Davis Scott
 TEXAS DEPT OF CORRECTIONSCatherine Estes
 TYSON FOODSRichard D. McKinnie
 UMCOR DISASTER RESPONSE.....F. Thomas Hazelwood
 UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNIONMartha D. CashBurless
 US AIR FORCERonald L. Feeser, Jr.
 US ARMYWilliam Clint Black
 US ARMY RESERVELeonard Higgins
 US NAT GUARD CHAPLAIN RECRUITER....David Carl Eaton
 US NAVYScott J. Shafer
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - ASUWilliam Eric Van Meter
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - ATUJason A. Molitor
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - HSU / OBU.....Jessica Lee Durand
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - PINE BLUFFHenry Wilkins
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - SAU.....James Mark Lasater
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - U of AOmar H. Al-Rikabi
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UALR.....Maxine Yvonne Allen
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UAM.....Edward Kavan Dodson
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UCA.....John David Palmer

Appointed in Other Annual Conference

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE.....Lawson Leonard Delony
 NEW MEXICO CONFERENCERobert Hunt
 OKLAHOMA CONFERENCEJames H. Lenderman

Deacon Appointments Beyond the Local Church

ARKANSAS CONFERENCEMartha S. Taylor
 CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.....Adam Kirby
 DAILY BREAD COUNSELINGGarry Teeter
 HENDRIX COLLEGE LIBRARYAmanda Moore
 HIGHLANDS ONCOLOGY GROUP.....Pamela Cicioni
 METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH.....James Scott Moore
 MOUNT EAGLE RETREAT CENTER.....Louise Thurman Harding
 OASIS CENTER OF NORTHWEST AR.....Donnie J. Huie
 PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICTH. Cathy Caudle
 WASHINGTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, CPE PROGRAM
Liz Larkin

Honorable Location

William S. Briant, Jr., Charles Marcus Cooper, Marcia Crossman, Cynthia Lee Davis, Charles Berlon Davis, Susan Elizabeth Gladin, Peter H. Kimball, Donald W. Lanier, Rhonda K. Crow Monroe, Norman C. Moyer, Darrell Van Smith, Constance Steele, Jon Mac Taylor, Carey Don Womack

Diaconal Ministry

David Clemmons, David L. French, Jim Walsmith, John C. Yarrington

Appointed to Attend School

Edna Morgan

Leave of Absence

Thomas Mark Ashcraft, James L. French, Mary Love Loftis, Larry D. Ott, Mary Jane Pearce, Thomas Rhoades, Polly C. Shafer, Stephen Waggoner

Inccapacity Leave

Robert Bell, Cornelia DeLee, Marcia Dodd, Dee Edwards, Floyd Ervin, R. Kaye Hammett Evans, Marion Fleming, Larry Hunt, Vernon Wayne Johnson, Louann Averitt Murphy, Leslee Lynn Phillips, Lewis See, John R. Soward, William N. Steele, Gregory Webb, Cloyd Stephen Wiseman

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

Grace UMC provides footwear for school kids

Grace UMC Conway has developed a supportive relationship with Anne Watson Elementary School in Bigelow. The church has entered into this role because unfortunately, at times, caregivers are simply unable to provide essentials to their children for financial reasons. On May 15, Grace UMC's Mission Possible Team delivered 40 pairs of shoes with accompanying packs of socks to children of the school.

Several children showed the blisters on their feet and commented on how soft the socks were. They hoped that with these socks, the blisters would go away. One child explained how she had been wearing her cousin's shoes and socks. The new socks and shoes felt good and didn't squeeze her toes. Others were wearing winter boots in May. Some of the children expressed surprise, others pleasure, but the majority expressed thankfulness.



Hoxie UMC 'Change the World' walk raises more than \$1,000 for Liberia academy

Members of Hoxie UMC participated in the denomination's "Change the World" weekend through a fundraising walk held Sunday, May 20 at the Hoxie City Park. Twenty-four youth and adults participated, raising \$1,056 for of the New Hope Academy in Liberia.

The academy, currently under construction, will be located in the native village of Bennie Warner, a former bishop in the United Methodist Church and vice president of Liberia. In 1980, while Bishop Warner was in the U.S. at a church meeting, a military coup toppled the Liberian government. Bishop Warner, unable to return, has spent most of his time since then pastoring and teaching in the Arkansas Conference. After years of civil unrest, Bishop Warner in 2009 was invited back to his homeland. He visited his native village and the idea of an academy was born.

A documentary is currently in production which tells the story of Bishop Warner. The director of the documentary is the Rev. Bob Hager, a retired United Methodist minister and former pastor of the Hoxie church.

Emerson and Mt. Pisgah UMCs bless Friendship Garden crops



The Emerson/Mt. Pisgah UMC hosted the ninth annual "Blessing of the Crops" beside the Emerson Friendship Garden on the grounds of the Emerson UMC. This event is patterned after the Episcopalian rogation ritual and kicked off the Purple Hull Pea Festival held June 29-30 in Emerson.

The Friendship Garden was created as a community endeavor. The church has provided the garden space and utilities, the Emerson FFA furnished the plants and church members planted some seeds. Others in the community have helped plant and work the garden. Some of the crops will be sold at the Emerson Farmers Market to benefit the Emerson Food Pantry. The balance of the crops will be given to the food pantry for distribution to families in need.

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 60 cents per word, no limit. Call 501-324-8005 or mail to: *Arkansas United Methodist*, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202; or email mtaylor@arumc.org.

Holy Land 2013 - Rev. Siegfried Johnson, Senior Pastor of St. James UMC of Little Rock, will lead a Holy Land tour departing on May 3, 2013. Rev. Johnson, whose graduate degrees in seminary and the University of Michigan centered in Hebrew/Semitic literature, is an experienced leader of Holy Land tours, having led over 400 people in biblical/educational travel opportunities while teaming with Educational Opportunities Tours on 16 Holy Land and other faith-based trips since 1997. During these 11 breathtaking days we will visit the Galilee (including Tel Dan and Caesarea Philippi), Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the City of David excavations with Hezekiah's tunnel, Masada, and much more. For information or brochures describing the trip in detail, please e-mail sieg@stjames-umc.org or 501-650-0439.

First United Methodist Church in Mtn. View has an opening for a choir director. This position will be responsible for two services on Sunday and special programs. The Sunday services are contemporary and traditional services. Preferred applicant needs to have the expertise in directing choir plus knowledge of contemporary and praise music. Use of a keyboard would be desired. Salary is negotiable. Send cover letter and resume to First United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 74, Mtn. View, AR 72560. Questions may be directed to 870-269-3252.

North Little Rock First United Methodist Church is accepting applications for a Full Time Minister to Children and Families with Children through July 15th or until the position is filled. We are looking for an enthusiastic, passionate minister to provide children and their families with foundational worship, Christian education, fellowship and service opportunities that promote the spiritual growth of the whole family. A more complete job description is available on request. Interested applicants can send resumes to Rev. Davis Thompson, at pastordavis@nrlfumc.org or mail to 6701 John F. Kennedy Blvd., North Little Rock, AR 72116. Questions, please call Rev. Thompson at 501-835-2201.

Home Study: Save \$\$\$ Christian Bible College, P.O. Box 8968 Rocky Mt., NC 27804 Phone (252) 451-1031; www.christianbiblecollege.org.

Dollars for Scholars awards go to 22 Arkansas students

Twenty-two United Methodist Higher Education Foundation Dollars for Scholars scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year have been awarded to students from Arkansas United Methodist churches attending United Methodist colleges and universities.

“For each recipient, the students’ local churches give \$1,000 and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation matches that contribution, then the United Methodist Foundation in their Conference gives \$1,000 and the college contributes \$1,000 for a significant \$4,000 award,” said Jim Argue, Jr., president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

The 2012 United Methodist Dollars for Scholars recipients are: Philander Smith College students Sarah Connor, April Cotton, Ebony Cotton, Andranee Porter, Brandon Sweeney and Mariah Williams, all from Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock;

Hendrix College students Mary Breshears and Benjamin Fish, Oak Forest UMC Little Rock; Katherine Emery, First UMC Batesville; Lindsay Lloyd, First UMC Booneville; Meredith McKinney, First UMC Batesville; Michael McMurray and Madison Schallhorn, First UMC Little Rock; Steven Ragsdale, First UMC Bryant; and Jonathan Spradley, Pulaski Heights

UMC Little Rock; Oklahoma City University students Hunter Doohan, Woodlands UMC Fort Smith; Blakeley Knox and Byron Knox, First UMC Fort Smith; High Point University student Madelyn R. Bagwell, Central UMC Fayetteville;

Central Methodist University student Archer Tribett of Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock; Wofford College student Natalie Clark, First UMC Conway; and Perkins School of Theology student Brenda Wideman, Sequoyah UMC Fayetteville.

UMFA is among the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country.

Ten local churches receive VBS mini-grant awards

The Arkansas Conference Children’s Ministry Network this spring awarded 10 Vacation Bible School mini-grants to local churches for use during the summer of 2012—twice as many as last year.

Churches applied online at kidz.arumc.org, responding to questions about worship attendance, collaboration with other churches, budget and how they would spend the grant money. Then the children’s ministry district coordinators ranked the applicants on the basis of need. The top five churches received a \$250 grant, and the next five churches received a \$150 grant. The

group hopes to further expand the grant program in future years.

Recipients of the \$250 VBS mini-grants are Dover UMC (North Central District), Traskwood UMC (Central District), St. Luke UMC Little Rock (Central District), Redfield UMC (Southeast District) and Kynette UMC Marianna (Southeast District). Recipients of the \$150 grants are Betel Iglesia Metodista Unida Springdale (Northwest District), Cushman UMC (North District), Melbourne UMC (North District), Wesley UMC Russellville (North Central District) and Grace and Sardis UMCs (South Central District).

COMING UP

July

Ben Few Camp Meeting begins July 13

Ben Few Campground in Dallas County, Ark., will host its 114th annual Camp Meeting beginning Friday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. The event includes 10 days of preaching, singing, Bible study and activities for all age groups. The Rev. Carlton Cross of Salem UMC Benton will serve as evangelist. RV hookups are available, and the camp cafeteria serves three meals a day.

The daily schedule includes morning devotion at 7:15 a.m., programs and studies for children, youth and adults at 9 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m. and an evening service at 7:30 p.m. In addition, Sunday school will meet at 10 a.m. on July 15. A memorial service is planned for Sunday, July 22. Watermelon night is July 17 and ice cream night is July 19.

The cost for the 10-day camp meeting is \$90 for adults and \$45 for children. For more information, contact Bill Shirron at 501-794-3522 or Charlotte Harrison at 501-455-0138.

Hickory Plains UMC fundraiser for rebuilding July 14

Hickory Plains UMC on Saturday, July 14 will host a dinner at Hickory Plains Park on Hwy 13 North, next to the remains of the church building that burned on May 30.

The all-you-can-eat catfish and chicken dinner, catered by King Kat Inc., will be served from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. Music by Arkansas Edition, a bluegrass/gospel band out of Searcy, begins at 6 p.m. Enjoy good food, music and fellowship. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and plan on having a good time.

Tickets for this event are \$12 for adults, \$7 for kids ages 5 to 12 and free for pre-kindergarten and younger. To purchase tickets, call 870-830-3961 or send an email to sdhchile2003@yahoo.com. Money raised will be used to help rebuild the church building.

Unemployment support group in Little Rock begins July 15

Trinity UMC Little Rock is offering a support group for persons dealing with unemployment. Facilitated by the Rev. David Deere and using the book *You Are More Than a Paycheck* as a guide, the group will focus on matters of faith as they relate to unemployment.

The next five-week support group begins Sunday, July 15, and meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Participation is free. Trinity UMC encourages congregations in central Arkansas to recommend this group to individuals struggling with unemployment, as well as recently unemployed persons who might be willing to share their experiences. The group will meet at in the upstairs area at The House, a restaurant at 722 North Palm in Little Rock. For

details, call Trinity UMC at 501-666-2813.

Campmeeting at Davidson Campground July 27 to Aug. 5

Davidson Campground will hold its 128th annual encampment July 27 through Aug. 5, 2012. The 10-day revival includes daily services at 11 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. Attire is casual. An opening prayer service will be held on Thursday July 26, 2012 at 8 p.m., and the memorial and closing service will be on Aug. 5 at 11 a.m. Singing groups will perform each night starting at 6:30 p.m.

The campground is located on Campground Road, 12 miles west of Arkadelphia off Arkansas Highway 26. Davidson is one of the oldest campmeetings in the nation, and the largest in Arkansas. For more details, visit davidsoncampground.com.

Encampment at Ebenezer Camp Ground July 27-Aug. 2

Ebenezer Camp Ground near Center Point (Howard County) will begin its annual week-long encampment with an 8 p.m. service on Friday, July 27. Daily services will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., with an afternoon service at 3 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

The Rev. James Waynescoat of First UMC Murfreesboro will be the evangelist. Brent Goff with Wycliffe Bible Translators of Terrell, Texas, will lead singing, and Carolyn Carter of Junction City returns as pianist. Thomas Lee of Butterfield will speak at the lay service on Sunday afternoon. Rusty Jones of Gurdon serves as host pastor.

The Harmony Band will play at 7:30 on Saturday night. The Testimonies return for a musical service on Monday night, and attendees will enjoy camp-made ice cream following that service.

The camp ground is located off Highway 278, three miles North of Center Point. Services will end Thursday, Aug. 2. Ebenezer has occupied its current site since 1857. Campers and guests will enjoy more comfortable seating this year as a result of Jerry Kennedy’s design, fabrication and assembly of new benches with his “pew crew.”

For information, contact Bob Lee, at 501-922-3958 or blee_72104@yahoo.com.

August

School of Christian Mission Aug. 1-4

The 2012 Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission slated for August 1-4 at Hendrix College in Conway will focus on the issues of immigration, poverty and Haiti. Participants will receive in-depth instruction about each of the topics through study, Scripture reading and the leadership of clergy and laity who are deeply involved in these issues.

The school is open to adults and children pre-kindergarten through senior high school students. Meals and housing are included in the registration fee and commuters are welcome to attend. A detailed brochure and registration forms may be found on the Arkansas Conference calendar, arumc.org/calendar. Once there, go to Aug. 1 for information.

Walk for Children and Families at the Big Dam Bridge Aug. 3

The 6th annual Methodist Family Health Walk for Children and Families will be held Friday, Aug. 3, on the North Little Rock side of the Big Dam Bridge. Proceeds will be used to purchase new bed and dresser sets for rooms at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle.

Registration opens at 6 p.m., and the walk begins at 7 p.m. The fee is \$20 for individuals and \$50 for families. Registration forms are online at methodistfamily.org. Parking is available at Crystal Hill Elementary School, and a free shuttle to the Big Dam Bridge will be provided.

A special guest at this year’s Walk will be Clint Stoerner, honorary chairperson and former Arkansas Razorback and Dallas Cowboy quarterback. The event will feature live music and free pizza and Frosty Treats ice cream. All participants who pre-register will receive a free T-shirt.

For information about the walk or sponsorships, contact Annie Davis at Methodist Family Health, 501-661-0720, ext. 7301 or adavis@methodistfamily.org.

Methodist Family Health provides comprehensive behavioral healthcare services to more than 1,400 children and families each day in Arkansas through an acute psychiatric hospital, residential treatment centers, therapeutic group homes, therapeutic foster care, emergency shelters, counseling clinics and more.

‘Come Together’ event for youth ministers Aug. 24-25

Arkansas Conference Ministries and the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries (ACCYM) invite all full-time, part-time and volunteer youth ministers to attend Come Together, a fellowship and continuing education event. Held at Ferncliff Camp in Ferndale, from 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, the event includes one night’s lodging, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, snacks and programming.

Workshops will deal with cyber-bullying; helping youth develop a faith that “sticks” after high school graduation; and “the mysterious maze of the teenage brain.” Cost is \$30, but increases to \$40 after Aug. 1. Visit arumc.org/register to download a registration form.

OBITUARIES

CONWAY

Homer "Eddy" Howell

The Rev. Homer Edward "Eddy" Howell, 65, passed away Monday, May 21, at the Veterans Hospital in Little Rock. He had undergone treatment recently for recurring lymphoma.

He grew up on a small farm at Toltec with his parents, Homer (Billie) Howell, who preceded him in death, and Flossie Howell Thornton. He graduated from England High School in 1964. He attended the England (Ark.) schools for 12 years, where his mother taught home economics. He was baptized into the Toltec Baptist Church as a teen. His preaching career began in the 1960s while he was still in high school, when he also worked at the England Democrat newspaper office.



Eddy Howell

After serving his country in the Navy during the Vietnam War, he received a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in music from the University of Central Arkansas. While serving as a minister of music, he managed the campus bookstore at Conway. He eventually became a Baptist preacher. Late in life, he switched from the Baptist ministry and became a Methodist local pastor. He retired in 2009.

He almost earned his doctorate in religion; he was ABD, all but dissertation. He tuned pianos everywhere he went, even on his way to classes in Kansas City where he worked on his doctorate.

His life consisted of service and hobbies that reflected his dedication to others as well as reflecting his own moral character. He had a beautiful voice and sang in the choir. Whether he was singing, playing the piano or just tuning one, music was a basic part of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie Brown Howell; two sons, Matthew and Phillip; and his mother, all of Conway.

A 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Mason, a York Rite Mason, a Post Grand Chaplin of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas, and a past Worshipful Master of the England Lodge #507, he frequently volunteered his carpentry skills to help build or repair things at civic organizations and churches.

He was not only a good man and loving husband and father, but he was also a good son. For the last 20 years, he spent every Tuesday with his aging mother. He was a religious man who read his Bible every night.

His funeral was held Thursday, May 24, at the Harris Funeral Home in Morrilton, with the Rev. David Hoffman officiating. Burial followed at Elmwood Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to 32 Pebble Brook Dr, Conway, AR 72034-2974.

LITTLE ROCK

Bob Edwards

The Rev. Dr. Bob Shields Edwards, 79, of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on June 11, 2012.

He was born August 15, 1932, in Blytheville, a son of the late Marvin Edwards and Grace Emboden Edwards. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Bill Edwards.

Bob was an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church. He received his doctorate at the Perkins School of Theology, and his M.Div. at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His undergraduate work was at Hendrix College. He served as pastor of numerous United Methodist congregations in the central Arkansas area, and as chaplain for the Arkansas State Senate and Arkansas Children's Hospital. He taught at Hendrix College and trained chaplains at UAMS. He founded the Counseling Centers of Arkansas.



Bob Edwards

He is survived by his wife, Darlene Edwards of Little Rock; four children, Bob Edwards Jr. and his wife, Julie, of Susanville, Calif., Dennis Edwards of Dallas, Texas, Rick Edwards and his wife, Sally, of Dallas, Texas, and Suzanne Webb and her husband, Joe, of Conway; 11 beloved grandchildren, Lauren, Russ, Shields, Kendra, Keith, Caitlin, Garrett, Walker, Taylor, Emmalee and Allison; brother, Jerry Edwards of Kissimmee, Fla.; and sister, Mary Lou White of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Drs. Brad Baltz and Rhonda Gentry, and all the staff at Hematology-Oncology Services of Arkansas. Bob could not have made it through his last journey of life without the help of Audrey Stephens and Rhonda Sanders.

Memorial services were held Saturday, June 16, at Amboy United Methodist Church North Little Rock, with the Revs. Wayne Jarvis, Charles Watts, and Roger Armstrong officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Amboy United Methodist Church, General Fund, 311 E. Military Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118, or to Meals on Wheels, Carelink, P.O. Box 5988, North Little Rock, AR 72119.

Helen Turner

Helen Marie Richardson Turner, 71, of Little Rock, passed away June 23, 2012.

She was born in Big Flat, Ark., on Aug. 2, 1941, to Ray and Esther Richardson. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, and a brother

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. O.D. Turner, a



Helen Turner

retired Elder in the Arkansas Conference; three daughters, Lisa Hunke and her husband, Bernie, of West Point, Neb., Shauna Prince of Denton, Texas, and Misty Thornton and her husband, Terry, of Bauxite; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

God, family and church were the primary foci of her life. Before retiring she was a high school business education teacher. Helen was strong in her Christian faith and never failed to be involved in church and Christian fellowship.

A celebration of life was held Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at Life Unlimited Christian Fellowship in Little Rock. Burial followed at Riverwood Memorial Gardens in Maumelle.

The family asks, in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to Life Unlimited Christian Fellowship, 7001 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, AR 72204; Arkansas Hospice, 14 Parkstone Circle, North Little Rock, AR 72116; or Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202.

WEST MEMPHIS

Jerry Hall

The Rev. Jerry Alvin Hall, 69, died Tuesday, May 22, 2012, in Memphis.

He was born on October 27, 1942, in Blytheville, the son of Hassell and Bessie Ledbetter Hall. The family moved to Osceola where Jerry attended school.



Jerry Hall

He was a retired riverboat pilot captain and a part-time local pastor appointed to Farm Hill United Methodist Church. He had been active in ministry at First United Methodist Church West Memphis, and had previously served as pastor of the Keiser/Wilson Charge.

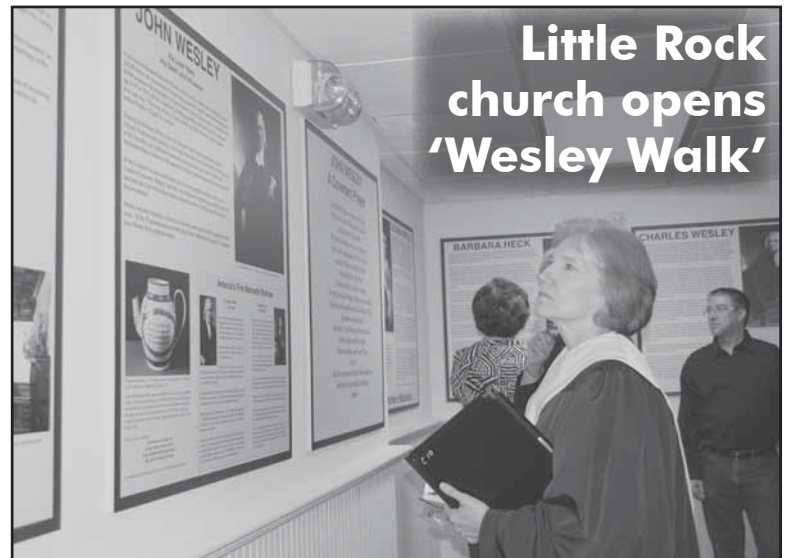
He is survived by his wife, Geneva Hall; three sons, Benji Hall and Joey Hall of Marion, and Tommy Hall of West Memphis; one daughter, Lynn Dawson of Southaven, Miss.; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

His funeral service was held Thursday, May 24 at First United Methodist Church West Memphis, with the Revs. David Moseley, Bob Burnham and David Moose officiating. Interment followed at Crittenden Memorial Park in Marion.

The family requests that all memorials be made to the American Cancer Society.

RIGHT: June 3 marked the dedication and opening of the new "John Wesley Walk" at First UMC Little Rock, a new permanent exhibit covering the life of John Wesley across 18th-century England. It is located on the third floor of that church's building, just outside the John Wesley Prayer Room. The congregation emphasizes Methodist history through displays in its own History Hall, as well as through its role as host to the United Methodist Museum of Arkansas.

PHOTO BY LESLEY ANDREWS



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Teen leaders bring new life to church choir



Rees Roberts and Maryssa Barron lead choir rehearsal on a recent Wednesday night at Geyer Springs UMC Little Rock. AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

Maryssa Barron is a busy teen. She plays oboe in the Arkansas Symphony Youth Orchestra, and she's an honor student at Little Rock Central High. She works typical teenage part-time jobs—babysitting and mowing lawns. Oh, and she's a music minister.

Earlier this year, Maryssa's mother, the Rev. Dr. Candace Barron, learned that the choir director at one of the churches she pastors, Geyer Springs UMC Little Rock, would be retiring after more than a decade of service.

After a few evenings of hearing her mom fret over the challenge of finding a replacement, Maryssa had an idea.

"I really wanted to [apply] because, hey, I work, and I have to pay my own car insurance and all that, and I know music," she said. "And this is an excellent way to build on my musical skills, and to share them."

But she doesn't play keyboard. So she approached a fellow high school band member, Rees Roberts, who has eight years of experience playing piano. She pitched the idea that they apply for the part-time job as a team.

"I knew he was an excellent musician and someone I could work with," Maryssa said. "I think the church absolutely loves him." Thanks to four years of lessons from Craig Chotard, the organist and choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Rees can play the organ, which had gone unused in Geyer Springs' worship for about a decade because no one in the church had the necessary training.

Candace Barron says her daughter surprised her with the idea.

"I told her, 'I'm not going to pull any strings for you!'" she said. But

when Maryssa and Rees met with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, they had no trouble landing the job on their own merits.

Maryssa admits that at the beginning, she was concerned about their age.

"Two 17-year-olds going in in front of an over-50 crowd—that was very intimidating," she said. "I tried very hard [to be professional]. I called my mom 'pastor...' [But] they've been very receptive and welcoming and excited, and it's been amazing."

"I'm very proud of them," Barron says of Rees and Maryssa. "They do a professional job, and they have started leading new music for the congregation. You're just hearing a whole bunch of energy come out of here now."

The choir has grown since the pair began, now including two younger teens among its members. They have had to add chairs to the choir loft.

"I think the church is an excellent community where people can be supported and have outlets for things like music or whatever they feel called to do," Maryssa said. "I enjoy helping in that ministry."

And Rees enjoys accompanying the Geyer Springs choir, which is a change of pace from his training. "Naturally, we never sang any Fanny Crosby or played in D-flat [in the high Anglican tradition]," he said. "It's a good learning experience."

Choir members say they did not see the teens' age as a negative factor. They give the pair rave reviews.

"We welcome what I call the 'new blood,' the new direction," said Jim Washburn. "I think they have a positive impact on the congregation, that's for sure."

"We love their enthusiasm," said Ann Howell. "They're here to motivate us."

Lillian Shelton agrees with Howell. "I think the angels sent them to us," she added.



Faith Funds

Called to God's Service

A warm smile and enthusiasm for her calling characterize Natasha Murray-Norman, one of the many United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas Seminary scholars who now serve local congregations in the Arkansas Conference. Natasha is appointed to Parkview and New Hope-Benton United Methodist Churches.

During seminary, she relocated with her family to Rossville, Kansas, and attended St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. Natasha had two children in elementary school and commuted 90 miles to seminary, along with an appointment as student pastor for Campus Ministry at Washburn University. Her hectic schedule would have been very difficult to manage without financial help from the United Methodist Foundation.

"Knowing I would not have a large debt upon graduation allowed me to give more energy to my schoolwork and student appointment," she said. "And knowing I would soon serve a congregation in Arkansas kept me connected to home."



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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