

ARKANSAS UNITED METHODIST

News from The Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church

May 17, 2013

Two Sections, Section A

Volume 160 Issue 03

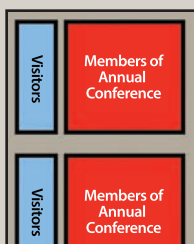
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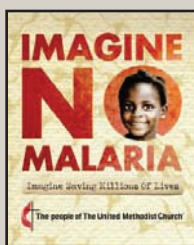
SPECIAL ISSUE



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3A



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Brothers and Sisters,

There's an old saying, "If you don't care where you end up, any ol' way will get you there."

Well, I've discovered something about Arkansan United Methodists. We do care where we end up, and that's why we're working so hard to address the Imagine Ministry challenge of making sure everything we do helps create and develop vital local congregations that reach out into the mission field to share Jesus' love. It's also why we're planning the June 9-12, 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference as an opportunity to help local churches make disciples of Jesus Christ who are committed to sharing Jesus' love with excellence and passion so that lives, communities and the world are transformed.

Here's how we developed our plan. We assembled a larger planning team than ever before—24 people. We met more often than ever before—five times as a planning team and numerous times as task groups. We developed a mission statement to guide our work:

"Plan the 2013 Annual Conference so it inspires, motivates and equips Arkansan United Methodists to return to their local churches to reach out into their mission field with excellence and passion to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are so transformed they transform the world."

And we created a theme that will embolden us in the Imagine Ministry challenge—3D Faith: Discerning, Discipling, Daring!

So what can you expect when you come to Little Rock June 9-12?

- You will be spiritually prepared to be renewed and inspired as you participate in the time of praying and fasting in the three weeks leading up to Annual Conference.
- You will experience the new way we are in ministry through a joint Laity-Episcopal Address, "Imagining 3D Faith," presented by Conference lay leader Karon Mann and me.
- You will be inspired, motivated and challenged by outstanding

Arkansas Annual Conference 2013



Discerning-Discipling-Daring

preachers and teachers—including Dr. Alyce McKenzie, Dr. Billy Abraham, Bishop Tom Bickerton and Dr. Grace Imathiu—several times every day.

- You will participate in a time of holy conferencing on Monday afternoon as you dig more deeply into the four core measures of Imagine Ministry.
- You will be part of a learning group on Tuesday afternoon so you can go back home prepared to more faithfully and effectively reach your mission field.
- You will hear fewer reports, shorter reports and less emphasis on institutional concerns.
- You will have the privilege of helping raise more than \$30,000 for Imagine No Malaria.

I believe the Arkansas Conference is uniquely positioned to lead the United Methodist Church where God intends us to be—right in the middle of the mission field that begins outside of the doors of every congregation—doing what God is calling us to do: sharing Jesus' real love right in the middle of real life. I can't wait to see you in Little Rock when the Holy Spirit will inspire, motivate and equip us to do more than we ever imagined.

God bless you!

Grace and peace,



Gary E. Mueller
Resident Bishop, Arkansas Area



Ways to keep up with Arkansas Annual Conference, June 9-12, 2013

- Attend in person at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock
- View the live webcast: www.arumc.org/live
- Follow Annual Conference on Twitter: #arumc13
- Like the Arkansas Conference at facebook.com/arkansasumc
- Visit ac2013.arumc.org for details on this year's gathering



More than just business as usual

Afternoon breakout sessions to focus on contextual, vital ministry

Annual Conference afternoons this year likely will show a marked decrease in the need for Robert's Rules of Order. Some of the time normally spent sitting in business sessions will instead provide chances to learn more about what the Core Measures of the Imagine Ministry process mean, and what local churches can do to reach out to their own mission fields.

The afternoon of Monday, June 10, Annual Conference members will break out into 120 circles of 10 people each to talk about all four Core Measures and how they can boost congregational vitality.

"Monday's conversation will have to do with each church's mission field," said the Rev. Dr. Kurt Boggan, director of the Center for Clergy and Lay Excellence in Leadership. "It will help local churches answer the question, 'How

do we do our part in our unique corner of God's Kingdom?'"

Each table will include a scribe and facilitator, both to help start the discussion on the Core Measures, and to gather information that will help direct the next steps of the Annual Conference in resourcing local congregations for making disciples.

The conversation won't end around those circles. Circuit elders, district superintendents and congregational coaches will continue this conversation with local churches for years to come. "The hope is that it will help us all stay engaged with each other and our mission fields as we seek the way forward," Boggan said, "strengthening our connection in the process."

Strengthening the connection is a priority gleaned from similar discussions at the 2010 Annual

Conference. The level of value placed on the connection United Methodist churches share ultimately led to some major adjustments in the Imagine Ministry plan, including the development of the roles of circuit elder and congregational coach as ways to embody and improve the sense of connection.

Tuesday afternoon sessions revolve around Four Drivers of Vitality identified by the Call to Action report, which was released in 2010 and included findings of a denomination-wide study. Boggan hopes that the Annual Conference finds more opportunities for this type of learning in the future.

"Perhaps we will eventually get to a point where we spend more hours of each Annual Conference on practical training that benefits local churches, and fewer hours on 'business as usual,'" he said.

Tuesday breakout sessions: Developing Vital Congregations that Engage the Mission Field

The denomination's Call to Action Report, released in 2010, identifies several ministries and strategies some 5,000 vital churches had in common with one another. These growing churches across the U.S. shared four primary areas of effectiveness, which are reflected in the breakout session choices for Tuesday, June 11, from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. Attendees may choose one session.

Breakout session 1: Small Groups

Engagement of Christ followers in small groups for effective disciple making produces vital congregations.

Leader: Dr. Craig Finnestad, senior pastor of Water's Edge UMC, Omaha, Neb.

Dedication to a small-group ministry model helped grow weekly worship attendance at Water's Edge UMC to more than 600, with more than two-thirds of the congregation participating in small groups that meet regularly.

Breakout session 2: Lay Leadership

A high percentage of congregation members who serve as lay leaders who are effective, demonstrate personal faith, and rotate leadership produce vital congregations.

Leader: Kay Kotan, St. Louis, Mo.

Kotan serves as coordinator and executive team member for the Small Church Initiative (SCI), and acts as a coach and consultant for churches in the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) process. She is a certified coach, trainer, speaker and author. Among the books to her credit is *Renovate or Die: Ten Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission*, which she co-authored with the Rev. Bob Farr of the Missouri Conference UMC.

Breakout session 3: Clergy Leadership Development

Lead pastors who focus on developing, coaching and mentoring lay leaders are influential goal setters that inspire congregations through preaching and have longer tenure produce vital congregations.

Leader: Rev. David Hyatt, Leadership 4 Transformation, St. Louis, Mo.

Hyatt is the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) coach coordinator, and helped develop the HCI process with the Rev. Bob Farr. He serves on the executive team for HCI and the Small Church Initiative (SCI). He spent six years as an associate in an inner-city church in St. Louis, and 20 years in Manchester, Mo., as a Disciples of Christ pastor. He now serves as a full-time coach and consultant for pastors and churches in a number of denominations.

Breakout session 4: Worship

Worship that is contextual, mixed and relevant produces vital congregations.

Resource leaders from Arkansas will address the importance of worship that is mixed (providing alternative worship experiences) and contextual for the size of the congregation and its mission field. Discussion will explore the importance of relevant worship in shaping and forming the spiritual life of the worshipper.

Annual Conference members will engage in conversation dealing with how the four Core Measures can help churches stay focused on reaching the mission field beyond their doors. Are we willing to think and act in new ways for the sake of the Kingdom of God? Questions for discussion include:

- Instead of being connected merely by appointments, apportionments, and benefits, how can we create missional connections that revitalize our ministry?
- Instead of giving priority to the maintenance of congregations and clergy, how can we direct our attention and resources to the mission field?
- Instead of directing resources toward congregational preservation and satisfaction of current members, how can we fulfill our purpose to make disciples and transform our community?
- Instead of depending on standardized programs and structures, how can we pay attention to the unique context of the mission field?

Monday breakout sessions: What do the Core Measures mean for us?

Core Measure 1	We will be enriched by our Wesleyan heritage of Scriptural holiness so that we are connected by our mission of making disciples instead of being connected by our apportionments, appointments, and benefits.
Core Measure 2	We will establish the mission field as the primary focus of our attention and resources instead of directing the majority of our attention and resources to mere maintenance of congregations and clergy.
Core Measure 3	We will equip laity and clergy to transform individuals, communities and the world instead of trying to satisfy the personal preferences of current members and ensure congregational preservation.
Core Measure 4	We will address the unique context of each mission field instead of depending on standardized programs and structures.



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www.arumc.org

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Submission Deadlines

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
June 7	May 22
July 5	June 20
Aug. 2	July 18

Worship gets more attention at 2013 Annual Conference

'You know it's going to be unique when John Wesley himself is the liturgist...'

—The Rev. Jeanne Williams

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

In most cases, a day at Annual Conference begins and ends with some form of worship, whether it's the simple form of Scripture, devotional, and prayer, or a more ritually complex service such as ordination. But this year, there's more: In an effort to create a more worshipful atmosphere throughout the gathering, this year's Arkansas Annual Conference will include no fewer than 10 worship services.

"This year, we are having at least two full services during the day, plus the traditional evening services," said the Rev. Jeanne Williams, worship coordinator for Annual Conference. "Each service—all 10 of them—will offer slightly different types of music and liturgy to help members of our Conference take home new worship ideas."

Anticipated highlights

Opening worship on the evening of Sunday, June 9, will include the celebration of Holy Communion, as well as a sermon by the first of six featured preachers and teachers: the Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie, professor of homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Williams also hinted at a surprise opening to the service.

In recent years, the opening worship service incorporated the remembrance of clergy and clergy spouses who have died since the previous Annual Conference. This year, the memorial service will stand on its own, and is set for 2 p.m. on Monday, June 10. The Rev. Philip Hathcock will preach.

The evening service on Monday, June 10, is entitled "John and Jazz: Celebrating the People Called Methodists"—so worshippers can expect a musical approach different from all the other services.

"You know it's going to be unique when John Wesley himself is the liturgist, and we have the Central High School Jazz Band and friends providing the service music," Williams said. The John and Jazz service also includes preaching by another Perkins/SMU faculty member, the Rev. Dr. William "Billy" Abraham.

The last night of Annual Conference typically brings ordination, and that custom will carry into this year's schedule. Tuesday evening's traditional Commissioning and Ordination Service promises holy moments for those being called into the set-apart ministry of the clergy, and for those who have been and will be influenced by their ministries.

And although Bishop Mueller has preached to congregations far and wide during his first months in Arkansas, the Tuesday night service marks the first time he will deliver a sermon to the gathered members of the Annual Conference.

Location

All worship services will take place in the Statehouse Convention Center, Governor's Hall I and II. One major advantage to the space: It will hold hundreds of worship attendees in addition to the members of Annual Conference. And while it may not seem like a "sanctuary" to some, the worship planning team has worked to create an inviting space for worship.

"This task is not new to the worship team," Williams said, noting that Summit Arena at the Hot Springs Convention Center presented similar challenges in years past. "A very talented team, especially the Rev. Ted DeWeese and the Rev. Les Oliver, are creating the visual design elements of most of the services."

The hall will include a permanent altar throughout Conference that will change slightly

for each service. The team also will employ theatrical lighting and media screens to help create an invitation to experience the sacred.

"I believe that creating sacred space comes partly from the attitude of the worshiper," Williams added. "If you come to worship creating sacred space in your head and heart, expecting to meet the Holy One, the physical building around you tends to diminish, and *where* we worship is less important than *how* we worship."

Annual Conference worship schedule Statehouse Convention Center, Governors Hall I and II

Sunday, June 9

- **Opening Worship and Celebration of Holy Communion**, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, June 10

- **Morning Worship**, 8:15 a.m. (will include the joint Episcopal-Laity Address from Bishop Mueller and Conference lay leader Karon Mann)
- **Recognition of Retiring Clergy**, 12 p.m.
- **Service of Memorial and Commemoration**, 2 p.m.
- **John and Jazz: Celebrating the People Called Methodists**, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11

- **Morning Worship** with Bishop Thomas Bickerton preaching, 8:15 a.m.
- **Afternoon Worship** with the Rev. Grace Imathiu preaching, 2 p.m.
- **Service of Ordination and Commissioning** with Bishop Gary Mueller preaching, 7:30 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments, effective June 30 unless otherwise noted, have been announced as of press time on May 10, 2013:

- Alma/Kibler UMCs (charge realignment)—Larry Martineau
- Brinkley/Brasfield UMCs—Mike Smith
- Brookland/Union Grove UMCs—Naomi Rogers
- Calico Rock/Spring Creek UMCs—Bill Sardin
- Gillett/Deluce UMCs—Jan Edwards
- Hazel Edwards/Oil Trough UMCs—Jim Rowland

- Helena/West Helena/Elaine UMCs (charge realignment)—Mike Wilkie
- Huntsville/Presley Chapel UMCs—Rob Ernest
- First UMC Lonoke—Aubrietta Jones
- First UMC Nashville/Bingen UMC—James Harris
- St. Mark/Timothy UMCs Camden (charge realignment)—Deanna McCormack

To see clergy appointment changes as they become official, visit arumc.org/appointments.

To learn more about this year's preachers, see page 7A.

Wednesday, June 12

- **Morning Worship** with the Rev. Grace Imathiu preaching, 8:15 a.m.
- **Closing Worship with the Reading of Appointments**, 11:55 a.m.

Sacred Space from morning to night

Throughout Annual Conference, Sacred Space will be available in the Fulton Room of the Statehouse Convention Center. During this time of holy conferencing, use this space to pray for one another and the ministry and mission of the Arkansas Conference.

Sacred Space will open on Sunday from 6 to 10 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Look for Sacred Space signs and directions posted in the Convention Center.



At the Service of Reconciliation and Anointing during the 2012 Annual Conference, worshippers helped to tear down a wall of cinder blocks. The action symbolized a willingness to reconcile with God and neighbor.

AUM FILE PHOTO

Seven provisional elders to be ordained in full connection June 11

Pending approval during the June 9 clergy session of the Arkansas Annual Conference, the following provisional clergy will be ordained as elders in full connection to the Arkansas Conference. The service of Ordination and Commissioning is set for Tuesday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock. All are invited to attend.



Robert Lyons

Robert Lyons
Hometown: El Dorado, Ark.
Education: BSE, Ouachita Baptist University; M. Div., Southern Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.
Appointment: Dierks/Green's Chapel UMCs



Terry Chapman

Terry Chapman
Hometown: Mena, Ark.
Education: Bachelor of General Studies, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio; M.Div., Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla.
Appointment: First UMC Lockesburg



Natasha Murray-Norman

Natasha Murray-Norman
Hometown: Forrest City, Ark.
Education: BA in Political Science, Harding University; MA in Political Science, Arkansas State University; M.Div. with specialization in evangelism, St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo.
Current appointment: Parkview/New Hope UMCs
New appointment (July): To be announced



Robert Cloninger II

Robert Blackwell Cloninger II
Hometown: Fort Smith, Ark.
Education: BA in History, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; M.Div., Phillips Theological Seminary
Appointment: First UMC Fort Smith (executive pastor)



Lee Myane

Lee Myane
Hometown: Lockesburg, Ark.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; M.Div. with specialization in evangelism, St. Paul School of Theology
Appointment: First UMC Bella Vista



Ben Crismon

Benjamin Crismon
Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.
Education: BA in Religious Studies with a minor in History, Centenary College of Louisiana; M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, SMU
Current appointment: Cabot UMC (assoc. pastor)
New appointment (July): White Hall UMC



Mike Smith

Mike Smith
Hometown: Walnut Ridge, Ark.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Religious Education and Business, Ouachita Baptist University; M.Div., Memphis Theological Seminary
Current appointment: Calico Rock/Spring Creek UMCs
New appointment (July): Brinkley/Brasfield UMCs

Ministry candidates to be commissioned as provisional members June 11

Pending approval of the June 9 clergy session of the Annual Conference, the following persons will be commissioned as provisional members of the Arkansas Conference, one of the final steps in the journey to ordination. The service is set for Tuesday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock. All are invited to attend.



Sonna Blue

Sonnyiah "Sonna" Blue, elder track
Hometown: Fort Smith, Ark.
Education: BA in History, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, SMU
Current assignment: Intern at Goddard UMC Fort Smith
New appointment: To be announced



Mark Cloninger

Mark Cloninger, elder track
Hometown: Fort Smith, Ark.
Education: BA in Spanish, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith; M.Div., Phillips Theological Seminary
Current appointment: Altus/Grenades Chapel UMCs
New appointment (July): Cornerstone UMC (assoc. pastor)



Paul Atkins

Paul Atkins, deacon track
Hometown: Benton, Ark.
Education: B.Mus. in Bassoon Performance/Music Education, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia; Master of Music, Univ. of Arkansas; MA in Religion, Memphis Theological Seminary
Appointments: Rock of Hope; CanvasCommunity UMC (assoc. pastor)



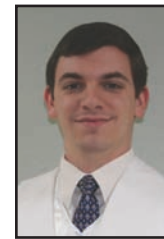
Chase Green

Charles "Chase" Green, elder track
Hometown: Searcy, Ark.
Education: BA in Religious Studies, Hendrix College; M.Div., Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.
Current assignment: Pastoral Intern at Church of the Good Shepherd UMC, Vienna, Va.
New appointment (July): Asbury UMC Little Rock (assoc. pastor)



Wayne Baldwin

Wayne Baldwin, elder track
Hometown: Paragould, Ark.
Education: BA in Christian Ministries and BS in Business Administration, Williams Baptist College; M.Div., Southwestern Seminary
Appointment: Parkin/McElroy UMCs



Andrew C. Kjorlaug

Andrew C. Kjorlaug, elder track
Hometown: Paragould, Ark.
Education: BA in Vocal Performance, Arkansas State University; M.Div., Boston University School of Theology
Current appointment: Christ of the Hills UMC (assoc. pastor)
New appointment (July): Cabot UMC (assoc. pastor)



Jacob Lynn

Jacob Steven Lynn, elder track
Hometown: Paragould, Ark.
Education: BA and MA in Speech Communications, Arkansas State University; M. Div., St. Paul School of Theology
Current appointment: Piney Grove UMC (assoc. pastor)
New appointment (July): Pulaski Heights UMC (assoc. pastor)



Samantha Meadors

Samantha Meadors, deacon track
Hometown: Benton, Ark.
Education: BS in Mathematics, University of Arkansas; M.Div., Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo.
Appointment: To be announced



Michelle J. Morris

Michelle J. Morris, elder track
Hometown: Benton, Ark.
Education: BA in English/French, MA in Comparative Literature, Univ. of Arkansas; M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, SMU; Ph.D. in Religious Studies (pending), SMU
Appointment (July): First UMC West Memphis (assoc. pastor)



Nan Nelson

Nan Nelson, elder track
Hometown: Ozark, Ark.
Education: BS in Bus. Ed., University of Arkansas at Little Rock; MBA, Nova Southeastern University; M.Div., Phillips Theological Seminary
Current appointment: Wiggins Memorial UMC Fayetteville
New appointment (July): Clarendon/Holly Grove UMCs



Naomi Punamchung Rogers

Naomi Punamchung Rogers, elder track
Hometown: Jeon-ju City, South Korea
Education: BS in Health Education, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; M.Div., Memphis Theological Seminary
Current appointment: Wye Mountain UMC
New appointment (July): Brookland/Union Grove UMCs



Daniel V. Thueson

Daniel V. Thueson, elder track
Hometown: Broken Arrow, Okla.
Education: Bachelor of Arts in Theology, Life Christian University; M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, SMU
Current appointment: Lovers Lane UMC, Dallas, Texas
New appointment (July): First UMC Benton (assoc. pastor)



Michael Darryl Utley

Michael Darryl Utley, elder track
Hometown: Harrisburg, Ark.
Education: BA in History, Arkansas State University; MA in History, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College; M.Div., Memphis Theological Seminary
Appointment: Hickory Ridge and Tilton UMCs



Jessie Waddell

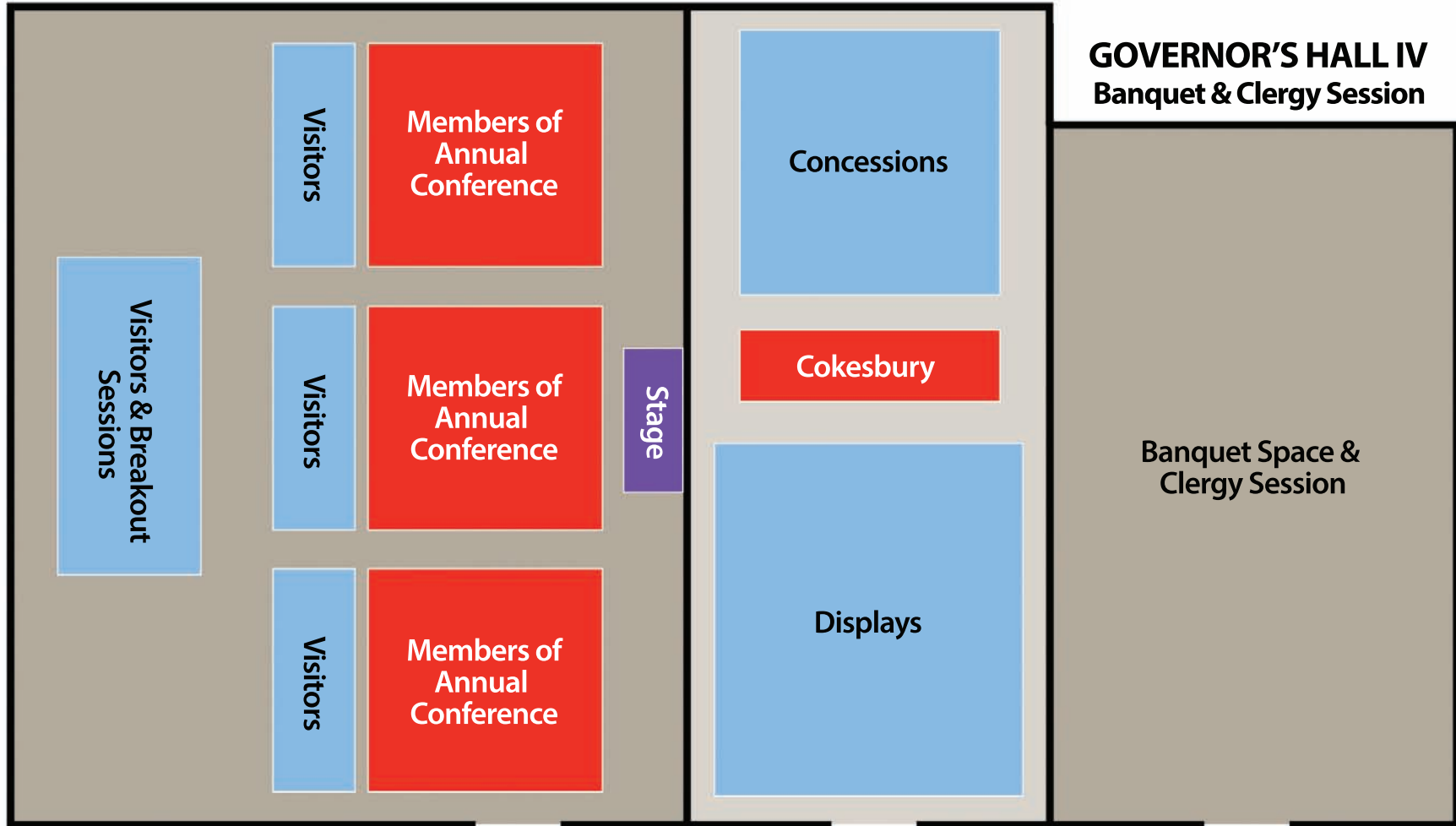
Jessie Waddell, deacon track
Hometown: Little Rock, Ark.
Education: Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a Christian Studies minor, Ouachita Baptist University; M.Div., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Appointment: To be announced

The lay of the land at 2013 Annual Conference

GOVERNOR'S HALL I & II
Worship & Business Sessions

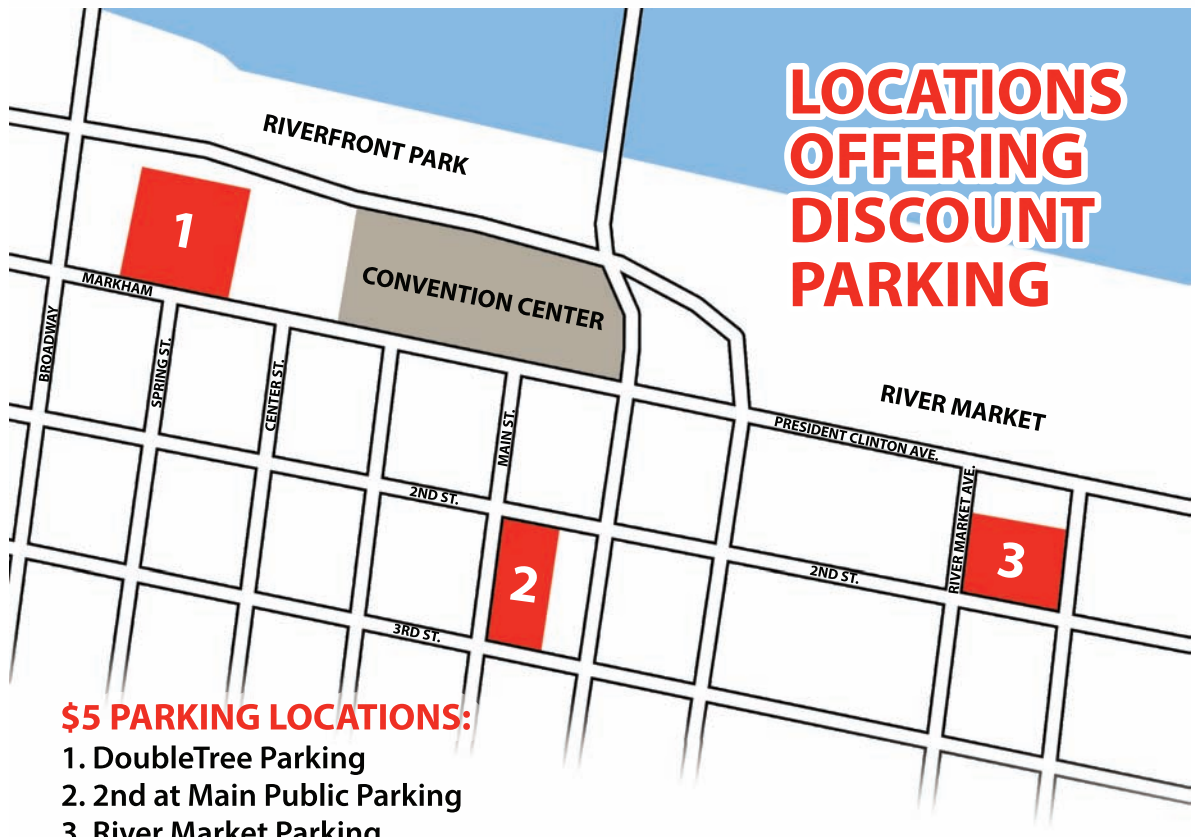
GOVERNOR'S HALL III
Displays, Cokesbury & Concessions

GOVERNOR'S HALL IV
Banquet & Clergy Session



HOSPITALITY

REGISTRATION



LOCATIONS OFFERING DISCOUNT PARKING

The Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock is a new venue for the Arkansas Annual Conference. In an effort to help attendees adjust more quickly to less familiar territory, the *Arkansas United Methodist* offers the maps on this page, as well as the following points of information:

- **Landmark name change:** The hotel listed in the Pre-Conference Journal as The Peabody has since become a Marriott.
- **Parking pointers:** Street parking is available throughout downtown Little Rock, but hours are sometimes limited and open spaces may be difficult to find. The lots highlighted at left have been recommended as preferred options, and a discount is available for those who have their parking stub stamped at either the Hospitality table or the Registration table indicated on the map above.
- Remember to visit ac2013.arumc.org for detailed information on Annual Conference. The agenda, institutional reports and more are available under the Pre-Conference Journal tab.
- With the exception of portions of the Sunday afternoon Clergy Session, **observers are welcome to attend** any of the business or breakout sessions of Annual Conference, as well as the worship services.
- **Retiring clergy will receive recognition at noon on Monday, June 10, and the Annual Conference will show videos of retiree interviews at intervals throughout the business sessions.** The agenda, found in the Pre-Conference Journal at ac2013.arumc.org, lists a tentative schedule for these videos. The videos also will be posted online after Annual Conference adjourns.

\$5 PARKING LOCATIONS:
 1. DoubleTree Parking
 2. 2nd at Main Public Parking
 3. River Market Parking

PLEASE NOTE:
 These parking locations have agreed to a \$5 rate specifically for Arkansas Conference attendees. To receive the \$5 parking rate at each of these locations, you **MUST** have your parking stub stamped by someone at the Hospitality Table or Registration Table, located in the main hallway outside Governor's Hall III.

Retiring clergy video schedule

Last year marked the first time the Annual Conference produced videos of retiring clergy reflecting upon their years in ministry. This year, instead of showing all videos as part of the worship service honoring retirees, the videos will play at intervals during the Annual Conference session. Like other proceedings of the Conference, they will be available on the live webcast at www.arumc.org/live.

Monday, June 10

10 a.m.

- Kay B. Burton
- Judy Wilson Clark
- James Edward Conn
- John David Darnall

11:40 a.m.

- William "Bill" Ferguson
- Michael S. Fikes
- Marion E. Fleming

Tuesday, June 11

9:25 a.m.

- James J. Fort
- Jackie Ann Gregory
- Ella M. Harris
- Philip L. Hathcock

11:05 a.m.

- John Anthony Holifield
- Susan "Sue" D. May Howe
- Donnie Vincent Huie
- Everett P. Isom

11:55 a.m.

- Carroll D. Jackson
- John Howe Kidwell

- Barbara G. Lewis
- Jerry Lumpkin Sr.

Wednesday, June 12

9:15 a.m.

- Bobby J. McMillon
- Richard D. McKinnie
- Andy L. Newbill
- Charles A. Perry

10:30 a.m.

- John Soward
- Jim Keith Teeter

Following Annual Conference, all videos will be archived at www.youtube.com/arkansasumc. Retiring clergy also will receive a DVD of their video.

Barnabas Award nominations open until May 24

The Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry will present the 2013 Barnabas Award at the Clergy Session of Annual Conference.

The Barnabas Award is presented to a person, lay or clergy, known to have "a heart for pastors." Established in honor of The Rev. Jim Beal, the award goes to persons who, as Beal did, show special interest in aiding pastors in the entry process, as well as in the work of ministry.

Nominations for this year's recipient are now being sought from among Arkansas United Methodists. If you would like to submit a nominee, email your nomination to the Rev. Tom Sullinger at tsullinger@arkwest.com no later than Friday, May 24. Please include the name of the person you wish to nominate and an explanation of why you feel this person should receive the 2013 Barnabas Award.

ADDRESSING THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH The Confessing Movement of Arkansas Annual Breakfast

Monday, June 10, 2013 at 6:45 a.m.

Governor's Hall IV of the Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

"Doctrine: Its Role and Future in the UMC"

The Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Thompson, guest speaker

Thompson, an ordained elder, received his Th.D. from Duke Divinity School, where he focused on the thought of John Wesley, the history of early Methodism, and contemporary Wesleyan theology. As an associate professor at Memphis Theological Seminary, he currently teaches Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies. He also serves as pastor of discipleship at Marion United Methodist Church and is the appointed Wesleyan Scholar for the Arkansas Conference.

Thompson writes a regular column for the *United Methodist Reporter* as well as a personal blog. His writing has appeared in *Methodist History*, the *Wesleyan Theological Journal*, and *Methodist Review*. He is the editor of *Generation Rising: A Future with Hope for the United Methodist Church*.



Tickets are \$15. Purchase tickets as part of your registration for the Arkansas Annual Conference; or by contacting Carolyn Elias, 501-525-2944 or carolyneli@msn.com; or Karen Millar, 501-268-4859 or karenmillar@hotmail.com, by Friday, June 7.

Spiritual Formation Task Force seeks prayer vigil participants during Annual Conference

This year the theme of Annual Conference is *3D: Discerning, Discipling, Daring*. The Arkansas Conference Spiritual Formation Task Force invites individuals and congregations into a time of prayer and discernment during Annual Conference; to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in all the tasks of the Conference; and to blanket the Conference in prayer.

To sign up to pray for Annual Conference, contact the Rev. Dee Harper, cdharper1979@yahoo.com. He will compile a list of those who have signed up for half-hour prayer shifts, and he also can supply a Prayer Point Guide to help pray-ers seek guidance in specific ways for this Annual Conference.

Those who will be attending Annual Conference are invited to make use of the Sacred Space Prayer Room. The hours it will be open appear on page 3A.

Donation request: Prayer shawls needed for memorial service

The Conference requests donations of crocheted and knitted prayer shawls from our Arkansas churches. These shawls will be given to the families of deceased clergy and clergy spouses, whom we will recognize at Annual Conference June 10.

Shawls may be brought to the Hospitality Table during check-in at the Statehouse Convention Center June 9. Contact Sandy Watson, swatson@arumc.org or 501-352-4279, for more information.

Presenting at Annual Conference? Mind your media deadline!

A committee chair steps forward to present a report at Annual Conference. Related images, data, video and more appear on the projection screens, helping the speaker tell the story of ministry.

How does it happen? Successful presentation visuals require a lot advance coordination and planning.

Anyone giving a presentation at the 2013 Annual Conference who intends to use slides or any other material from a DVD or CD must submit all files to Mark Epperson, director of the Center for Technology, by Saturday, June 1.

No materials will be accepted after the June 1 deadline. Setting up multimedia support for an event the size of our Annual Conference is a monumental task. After June 1, the Center for Technology team will be focused on that setup process, working with the materials that have been submitted.

If you have questions about submitting your materials, contact Epperson at 501-324-8013 or mepperson@arumc.org. If your presentation materials cannot be emailed, send to Epperson's attention at Arkansas Conference UMC, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202-3770, in time for arrival before June 1.

Welcome to Annual Conference!

Olive Wood Carvings from the Holy Land

All of our items are hand-carved by Christian craftsmen in Bethlehem, using olive wood grown in the Holy Land. They make wonderful gifts and will be enjoyed for years by those receiving them.

Please visit our display at Annual Conference, June 9-12. We are also available to come to your church for a showing.

George Khamou ♦ 501.612.7880

Homiletical highlights At Bishop's invitation, five to preach during Annual Conference

In addition to Arkansas' own Bishop Gary E. Mueller, who will preach for the Service of Commissioning and Ordination on Tuesday, June 11, the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference will feature five preachers invited by the bishop:

The Rev. Dr. William J. Abraham will preach Monday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Born in Northern Ireland, Abraham currently teaches at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen and Queen's University, Belfast, he went on to receive a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in Philosophy of Religion from the University of Oxford, England.

From 1985 to 1995 he was the McCress Professor of Evangelism and Professor of Philosophy of Religion at Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He was



William J. Abraham

appointed the Albert Cook Outler Professor of Theology and Wesley Studies at Perkins in 1995. In the spring of 2000, he was the McDonald Visiting Professor of Evangelical Theology at Harvard Divinity School. In 2003, he was named an Altshuler Distinguished University Teacher at Southern Methodist University, a lifetime appointment.

Abraham has authored numerous books and articles in philosophy and theology. His work on mission is widely recognized as igniting a new era of scholarship devoted to critical reflection on this vital ministry of the church.

In the early 1990s he received a Pew Evangelical Scholarship Award, a research award of \$100,000, to work on two books on canon and authority, *Canon and Criterion in Christian Theology: From the Fathers to Feminism*, and *Waking From Doctrinal Amnesia*. In March 2008, he published (along with a group of former graduate students from Southern Methodist University) *Canonical Theism: A Proposal for Theology and Church*.

His latest books, released in early 2013, are *Key United Methodist Beliefs* (co-authored by David F. Watson) and *Shaking Hands with the Devil: The Intersection of Terrorism and Theology*.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton will preach on Tuesday, June 11, at 8:15 a.m.

A graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, he earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School, and his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary. He is assigned to the Pittsburgh Area of the United Methodist Church (Western Pennsylvania Conference).



Thomas J. Bickerton

He was ordained elder in the West Virginia Annual Conference in 1985. Following seminary, he served the Perry Memorial UMC in Shady Spring, W. Va., for six years. During his time there, the congregation grew from an average worship attendance of 15 to 150. He spent the next nine years serving as the senior pastor of Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC in Hurricane, W. Va. During his tenure there the congregation grew from 575 members to nearly 1,400. He became a district superintendent in 1998, and had just begun his seventh year as a DS when the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference elected him to the episcopacy in 2004.

He has served on the General Commission on United Methodist Communications (UMCom) since 2000, and as that agency's president from 2004 to 2008. Since 2006, he has been the lead spokesperson for the United Methodist Global Health Initiative, which includes the Imagine No Malaria campaign.

Bishop Bickerton enjoys golf, photography, professional baseball/football, college basketball, and travel opportunities with his family. He is married to Sally Forbes Bickerton; they have two adult children, Elizabeth and T.J., and two teenage sons, Ian and Nick.

The Rev. Philip L. Hathcock will preach for the service of memorial and commemoration, set for June 10 at 2 p.m. The service provides a time to remember those clergy and clergy spouses who have died since the previous Annual Conference gathering.



Philip L. Hathcock

Hathcock has served as Director of Connectional

Ministries and Assistant to the Bishop since 2010. He had previously served as superintendent of the Central District, following pastorates in Conway, Siloam Springs, Cherokee Village, Eureka Springs, and Jasper. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the Divinity School at Duke University.

He has served as chair of the Order of Elders for the Arkansas Conference, and chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry for the former North Arkansas Conference. He was a delegate to the General Conferences of 1996 and 2000. He currently serves as a board member of the Arkansas Educational Television Network Foundation. He and Gwen have two children and three grandchildren.

The Rev. Grace Imathiu will preach on Tuesday, June 11, at 2:00 p.m. and Wednesday, June 12, at 8:15 a.m.

Imathiu was born in Kenya and raised in the town of Meru, Nairobi. She received her theological



Grace Imathiu

education in Kenya, at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, the University of Cambridge, and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She was ordained in the United Methodist Church in Kenya in 1988 and served six years in Kenya. Since coming to the United States, she has served congregations in Washington, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Illinois.

She currently serves as the lead pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Naperville, Ill., and is in demand worldwide for her preaching and Bible study teaching. She has been a regular preacher at the International Christian Youth Conference in Germany, the U.S. and Ireland, and at the National Christian Youth Conference in Victoria and Sydney, Australia. Her ministry has taken her to Kenya, Togo, Germany, Denmark, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, England, Ireland and locations throughout the United States, including at United Methodist annual conferences. She has published a collection of sermons, *Words of Fire, Spirit of Grace*.

She and her husband, landscape and nature photographer David Hay

Jones, have a son, Erik.

The Rev. Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie, Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, will preach at opening worship on Sunday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Ordained as a United Methodist elder 1981, McKenzie is a member of the North Texas Annual Conference. She received her B.A. in the History of Religions from Bryn Mawr College, her Master of Divinity degree from the Divinity School of Duke University, and her Ph.D. in Homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary.



Alyce M. McKenzie

McKenzie served several local congregations in Central and Eastern Pennsylvania, and from 1994 to 1998 she served as Visiting Lecturer in Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary, and as Consultant in Preaching and Worship to pastors of the Central and Eastern Pennsylvania Conferences.

McKenzie's special interests

include preaching on biblical wisdom, on the sayings and parables of Jesus, on public, often controversial issues; and the role of imagination in crafting sermons. Her articles have appeared in a wide spectrum of periodicals, and her sermons in a number of anthologies. She enjoys writing books about preaching for pastors. She is the author of *Preaching Proverbs: Wisdom for the Pulpit*; *Preaching Biblical Wisdom in a Self-Help Society*; *Hear and Be Wise: Becoming a Teacher and Preacher of Wisdom*; and *Novel Preaching: Fiction Writing Strategies for Sermons*. Her latest book, co-authored with colleague Dr. John Holbert, is entitled *What Not to Say: Practical Advice for Provocative Preaching*. She also enjoys writing small group Bible studies for youth and adults.

She is a frequently featured preacher, Bible study leader and teacher at workshops, conferences, and worship services throughout the country. She and her husband Murry have three grown children, Melissa, Rebecca, and Matt. They live in Allen, Texas, where they are active in the life of First United Methodist Church.

The Arkansas Conference Board of Church and Society

invites you to its breakfast featuring

The Rev. Patrick Moore

Pastor, Trinity UMC Kansas City, Mo.
and Brigade Chaplain, U.S. Army National Guard

"LGBT: When 'Issues' Become Pastoral and Personal"

7 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, 2013

First United Methodist Church

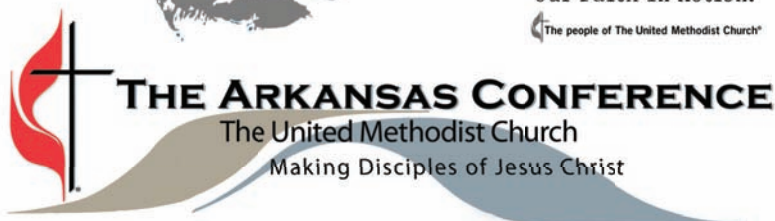
723 Center Street, Little Rock

To reserve tickets (\$15 each),
contact the Rev. Mark Norman:
mark.norman@arumc.org

or 501.303.0600, by Friday, June 7

Skeeter Beater

Run/Walk



Participating in the Skeeter Beater Run/Walk is one way you can help contribute to the total funds raised for Imagine No Malaria at Annual Conference. It begins at 6 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, and the course is 2.92 miles along the River Trail, just behind the Statehouse Convention Center.

3,000 minutes. 3,000 lives. 100% participation.

Help raise \$30,000 for Imagine No Malaria during Annual Conference

All churches in the Arkansas Conference are invited to participate in the "3,000 Minutes. 3,000 Lives. 100% Participation" Imagine No Malaria (INM) Challenge at Annual Conference.

Churches may bring with them their gift, or a pledge to support INM in the coming year, and leave it at the INM display, where it will be counted toward the \$30,000 goal. An INM offering is also planned and will count toward the total gifts, as will \$10 of each Skeeter Beater Fun Run/Walk registration fee.

The name "Skeeter Beater" comes from the need to eliminate mosquitos and their breeding grounds as part of the fight against malaria. The female anopheles mosquito transmits the malaria

parasite, infecting millions each year. Malaria is 100 percent preventable, treatable and beatable with access to insectide-treated bednets, education and treatment medications. Providing these necessities is at the center of the INM effort in Africa.

Periodic updates will be provided throughout the gathering about the total number of lives saved as compared to the number of minutes the Conference has been in session. Ideally, a minimum of one life will be saved for each minute the Conference is in session. All gifts will be eligible for the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas' matching grant, which offers a dollar-for-dollar match of the funds raised.

The Rev. David Freeman, chair of the Imagine No Malaria Steering Committee, will provide a celebratory report on how much the Conference has raised toward the \$1 million total commitment.

Participants may register for the Skeeter Beater run/walk online through the Annual Conference registration process at **ac2013.arumc.org**, or download a Skeeter Beater run/walk application at **arumc.org/inm**. There will be an opportunity to register for the run/walk at the INM display at Annual Conference. Copies of the Affirmation of Goal form (used by churches to document their commitment to INM) will be available at the INM display.



The United Methodist Church and Heifer International have teamed up to put an end to hunger and poverty. Come by the Heifer booth to learn about our **FREE resources** for Vacation Bible School and mission giving.

Learn more about this exciting partnership and how you can get involved in ending hunger and poverty today.



You are invited to an Exclusive Screening of

Killer in the Dark

Updated in May 2013 and hosted by NCIS star, Pauley Perrette, this one hour documentary vividly tells the story of malaria and its devastating effects on the people of Africa.



The film goes on to show how Imagine No Malaria, an extraordinary effort by The United Methodist Church and its global partners is bringing hope, life, and an end to malaria in Africa.

Killer in the Dark

Monday, June 10
Convention Center Governor's Hall I & II
immediately following evening worship

