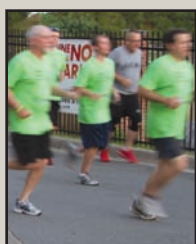


## IN THIS ISSUE



Excerpts from the  
Laity-Episcopal  
Address

**3**



Imagine No Malaria  
gains ground at  
Annual Conference

**6**



Pastoral  
appointments for  
2013-2014

**11**

# Annual Conference 2013 discerns, disciples, dares



Bishop Gary Mueller on June 11 preaches to those being ordained and commissioned for ministry in the United Methodist Church.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

BY AMY FORBUS  
*Editor*

LITTLE ROCK—The Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock served as the site of the 11th session of the Arkansas Annual Conference, held June 9-12, 2013. It marked the first time to preside over an annual conference for Bishop Gary E. Mueller, who was elected to the episcopacy last July.

The Arkansas Conference increased its emphasis on worship

and learning during the gathering, and also spent significant time focusing on the Imagine No Malaria initiative, which resulted in gifts that surpassed the task force's goal. (See page 6 for details.)

### '3D Faith'

The conference theme, "3D Faith: Discerning, Discipling, Daring," came to the forefront in the joint laity-episcopal address, which was structured around how local churches can discern, disciple and dare in their

own mission fields. Bishop Mueller and Conference Lay Leader Karon Mann decided on presenting together to emphasize the importance of partnership in ministry.

"To reach all the people we need to reach in the mission field and make disciples of Jesus Christ, we have to join together," Mueller said.

"Partnership in mission and ministry is a privilege—one that I hope you don't take for granted," said Mann, who was raised in a denomination that wouldn't permit her to lead because she is female.

"We should embrace our opportunity to help shape the future of the United Methodist Church." The pair painted a picture of the next steps in the Imagine Ministry process, which was approved by the 2011 Annual Conference gathering and has continued to shape the conference's priorities for ministry.

Guest preachers included the Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie; the Rev. Dr. Billy Abraham; Bishop Thomas Bickerton; and the Rev. Dr. Grace Imathiu. From within Arkansas, the

[See AC2013, page 7]

## Following Baptist resolution, Scouts find steady support in Arkansas UMCs

BY JEANNIE SMITH  
*Special Contributor*

Following a June 12 resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention that voiced strong opposition to the the Boy Scouts of America's policy allowing gay scouts, United Methodist churches across Arkansas have responded by opening church doors to troops in need of a home.

The policy, which takes effect in

2014, states, "No youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone."

Since the new policy was made public, the issue of Boy Scout charters may have been a topic of discussion or contemplation in United Methodist congregations across Arkansas, but by and large, reaction to troop displacement from other churches has focused

primarily on making sure troops have a home.

### Strong backing

According to Terry Sharp, assistant Scout executive of the Quapaw Council, which serves central Arkansas, United Methodist churches reacted swiftly to the news by contacting the office to offer assistance.

"We have had support from a number of denominations," he said. "The immediate response from the Methodist Church when the news hit the press was, 'What can we do? How can we help? Do any of the troops need us?'"

Sharp said that to date, not one church from the 39 counties the Quapaw Area Council serves has dropped its charter. He went on to

[See SCOUTS, page 5]



## PRACTICAL DIVINITY

BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

# Revival? We can expect it

John Wesley had a long career in ministry—stretching from the mid-1720s to his death in 1791. During that time, he personally experienced many ups and downs. The movement he led also waxed and waned during that time. But there is one thing that always strikes me about Wesley's attitude: He always expected revival to occur.

Take this example from Wesley's *Journal*, where he describes a visit to Tewkesbury in March of 1775:

"Many here have been lately convinced of sin, and many converted to God. Some have been made partakers of the great salvation, and their love and zeal have stirred up others. So that the flame now spreads wider and wider. O let none be able to quench it!"

Reading that passage, you can't escape the great sense of both optimism and expectation that is bound up in Wesley's report. It is an attitude that is tied to Wesley's great confidence in the Holy Spirit—which is not named in this *Journal* entry but is certainly in the background.

### Work of the Spirit

When Wesley speaks of the conviction of sin and conversion to God, he is alluding to the Spirit's work in drawing us toward God. And when he refers to the possibility of partaking in "the great salvation," it is a hopeful statement of the great possibility we all have for life in the Spirit, even in this present life. Wesley's words about the love and zeal of believers stirring up others and the flame of revival spreading outward are his way of describing how the Holy Spirit works within a local community.

In all of this, there is in Wesley

the belief that God's work will proceed and will expand continuously—in other words, that revival will happen!

But we should note also that Wesley is suggesting that there is a particular way the Spirit works for revival. The Spirit doesn't work without people, and the Spirit doesn't work with people against their will. Instead, the Spirit works in and through people as they experience the salvation of Jesus Christ. That should say something to the people called Methodists today, who are hungering for revival.

Our recent Annual Conference in Little Rock emphasized a three-part theme: Discerning, Discipling, Daring. In their joint laity-episcopal address, Bishop Gary Mueller and Conference lay leader Karon Mann provided wonderful context for what such an approach to ministry ought to look like.

We have in many ways already discerned our path forward through Imagine Ministry, although what Imagine Ministry will look like must continually be discerned as it evolves. We must now get serious about disciplining, that all-encompassing process of forming men and women into mature disciples. And we need to be willing to take risks—approaching our ministry and mission with a certain amount of daring, based on the confidence that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

### 'In this together'

I also think one very important component to this work of the Annual Conference is its connectional nature. We are all in this together. And only by sticking together can we faithfully work to renew the church in our day.

But if we do stick together—

and if we devote ourselves fully to the calling God has given us—then we have every bit as much reason to expect revival as John Wesley did at Tewkesbury.

The sheer sense of expectation was one of the things that struck me about the vision Bishop Mueller and Karon Mann gave us a few weeks ago in Little Rock. As they closed their address to the members of the Annual Conference, Bishop Mueller said, "It's time for us to experience spiritual revival." His comments relating to this point appear on page 3 of this issue, but I believe they bear repeating here, as well:

*We can only share what we have experienced, been transformed by and committed ourselves to. We need to experience Jesus' love that is so powerful it accepts us just the way we are. Experience Jesus' love that is so powerful it is unwilling to leave us just the way we are. Experience Jesus' love that is so powerful it gives us what we absolutely need but can never get on our own—reconciliation with God, healing, wholeness, second chances, the Jesus way of living, joy, generosity, compassion, and hope that is eternal in every sense of the word.*

Those are hopeful and hope-filled words. The hope bound up within them is a hope well founded. It is grounded in the scriptural promise that we will receive the Holy Spirit, who will teach us and guide us in every way.

Because God's promises can always be trusted, the gift of the Holy Spirit also means that revival is coming. We can downright expect it!

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



## EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

# The church of Eeyore?

This year's Annual Conference featured impressive preachers, both from within Arkansas and from other parts of our United Methodist connection. I still can recall pieces of each sermon—which some would say simply proves what a serious church nerd I am, but which I contend points to the relevance and impact of the preaching.

The most convicting moment of Annual Conference for me came when Bishop Tom Bickerton called out United Methodists on our negative mentality. He said that he thinks some of our churches should take down the UMC cross and flame logo and replace it with a picture of Eeyore, the dejected donkey from A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* stories.

His words remain with me weeks later because too often, I'm an Eeyore. If I haven't outright said these things in relation to either a local church or Conference-level ministry, I've certainly thought them: "I don't think it'll work." "Nobody will want to dedicate the time it would take." "It doesn't matter. There's no money for it, anyway."

These responses do not come from a place of hope and faith in the living God. Bishop Bickerton is right—it's easy for us to get mired in negativity. Yet as Christ's people, we have every reason to do otherwise,

and so I'm working to reform my negative ways.

I've noticed that people usually speak positively about their own local churches. But bring the ministry of the Conference into the conversation, and talk can turn negative in an instant. It's often difficult to stay with helpful critique and avoid moving into pointless complaining.

One clergy friend of mine has backed out of most social media groups that discuss the UMC because, as he puts it, "It's bad for my soul." He found that topics relating to fruitful ministry seldom get the high number of responses as those that bring up theological divides or complain about administrative structure.

Recognizing those things that do harm, and refraining from doing them, keeps us in compliance with the first General Rule that John Wesley set for the Methodist movement. It's a simple, yet often more difficult, route to choose.

As a step on the path of hope, I'll look to another friend's response to Bishop Bickerton's sermon, which she posted on Twitter.

@RevMurrayNorman: "Stand against the Eeyores of the world. I choose to be a Tigger."

To reach me, send an email to [aforbus@arumc.org](mailto:aforbus@arumc.org).

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.**



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Aug. 2	July 18
Sept. 6	Aug. 21
Oct. 4	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).

# Imagining in 3D

Excerpts from the Laity-Episcopal Address delivered at the Arkansas Annual Conference, June 10, 2013

BY CONFERENCE LAY LEADER KARON MANN  
AND BISHOP GARY MUELLER

There is only one way we can share Jesus' love with the world, reach people in the mission field, and make disciples of Jesus Christ who truly are equipped to transform lives, communities and the world with excellence and passion. We have to join together—not just talk about it, but really do it—as laity and clergy in partnership. Each doing what we uniquely can do. Each fully respecting the work of the other. Each knowing we need the other. And each giving thanks for the opportunity to be in ministry in the name, spirit and power of Jesus Christ.

We are going to talk about what's next so we keep moving from Imagining Ministry to Doing Ministry, to being the church Jesus is calling us to be: discerning, discipling and daring. That's why we are going to talk about things that we think are the next steps in Imagine Ministry as we focus on the primary place that can make disciples of Jesus Christ: local churches.

We are just beginning to paint a picture. It's going to take a significant amount of work to get it done. It's going to take a long time, but we are in this for the long haul. And here's the most important thing of all: You're the ones who will have to get it done.

**1. We need to tell the Imagine Ministry story so clearly people understand what's at stake and embrace what we're doing.** When we join the United Methodist Church we are asked to support it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. Our witness is our *story*. It's the story of our personal relationship with Christ, but it's also the corporate story of how our church is making disciples and transforming the world. The Imagine Ministry story defines the mission field as our primary focus, and tells the world how we, as United Methodists, want to live out our calling to mission and ministry in our community and the world.

**2. It's time for us to get serious about having every church look like its neighborhood.** A church that looks like its neighborhood has taken the time to develop a presence there. This means we have developed relationships with people in our surrounding community and are in ministry *with* our neighbors, not just looking for mission projects that provide services.

**3. We have to become experts at developing District Mission Plans that increase the number of vital congregations reaching out into the mission field, aided by support, resources and training from the Center for Clergy and Lay Excellence, the Center for Technology and the Network for Holiness of Heart and Life.** This is a major new role for the district superintendent. Sometimes it will involve existing churches and ministries. Sometimes it will mean creating new ways of reaching people. But it will enable churches to impact the mission field with maximum faithfulness and effectiveness.

**4. We can't back away from making mission-field appointments.** This may be one of the hardest things we are trying to do, because it's so new and because we have spent a lot of energy over a lot of years keeping—or at least trying to keep—churches and pastors happy. We will work harder, smarter and more faithfully in getting the right pastor with the right gifts in the right mission field. And we will pay special attention to those pastors and churches that are ready to boldly face the mission field.

**5. We must get serious about creating vital, self-sustaining and growing African-American churches.** It's not pleasant to talk about, but the Arkansas Annual Conference has not done a good job with African-American churches. There are nearly 450,000 African-Americans in our state and only a handful of vital, self-sustaining and growing United Methodist

congregations. We desperately need strong African American churches if we are going to reach the mission field for which God has given us responsibility.

**6. We should expect every new pastor to demonstrate competency in preaching, spiritual leadership, mission-field engagement and evangelism.** You have heard it said many times that insanity is expecting different results while doing the same old thing. It's time to prepare new clergy with these basic tools to provide the leadership churches need to be vital and ready to face the mission field.

**7. We must equip every new disciple to demonstrate competency in servant ministry, faith-sharing, employing his or her spiritual gifts and stewardship.** Disciples will be equipped to live out Jesus' great commandment to love the Lord with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

**8. We want to see every church grow every year by at least one new adult profession of faith, at least one more person in worship, at least one additional small group and at least one additional outreach into the mission field.** Only 310 of our 683 churches had a profession of faith last year. That means 373 did not. Every single church can be part of reaching out to the mission field—regardless of size. Think what will happen when “at least one” becomes a reality in Arkansas.

**9. We must make an effort to connect with the “nones,”**

**'We want to see every church grow every year by at least one new adult profession of faith, at least one more person in worship, at least one additional small group and at least one additional outreach into the mission field.'**

**that 20 percent of adults in America (one-third of those under age 30) who identify themselves as religiously unaffiliated.** Many “nones” consider themselves religious or spiritual in some way, and they believe the church strengthens community bonds and plays an important role in helping the poor and needy. They are concerned about others in the world, sometimes passionate about justice, and look for ways they can meaningfully help. Laity can issue invitations to service and mission that can build relationships and show the love of God through the Church in a meaningful way.

It is an understatement to say that this is an ambitious list. So, how are we going to do it? We think the answer is clear.

There's too much at stake in our world not to be daring. There's too much hope Jesus provides not to be daring. There's too much the Holy Spirit has given us through our Wesleyan heritage not to be daring.

And that's exactly why we need some passion. Serious passion. And we need it right now. Because it's passion that fuels us to be daring, go where we've never gone and take risks even when we're scared to death.

And that's why the very last thing we're going to talk about is actually the most important thing we could ever talk about.

**10. It's time for us to experience spiritual revival.** We can only share what we have experienced, been transformed by and committed ourselves to. We need to experience Jesus' love that is so powerful it accepts us just the way we are. Experience Jesus' love that is so powerful it is unwilling to leave us just the way we are. Experience Jesus' love that is so powerful it gives us what we absolutely need but can never get on our own—reconciliation with God, healing, wholeness, second chances, the Jesus way of living, joy, generosity, compassion, and hope that is eternal in every sense of the word.

It's time to be passionate. It's time to be bold. It's time to be daring. My sisters and brothers, the time is here. The time is now. We can wait no longer. And we are ready to join hands with you to do it.

Are you ready? Will you join hands with us? Will you work with us? Together, we can be the living, breathing, and serving Body of Christ, sharing Jesus' love.



AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

# I am human, you are human: an Arkansan's notes from an Ubuntu Journey

BY DOTTIE NOYCE  
Special Contributor

"Ubuntu" is an African word meaning, "I am human because you are human."

Ubuntu Journeys, presented by United Methodist Women, provide opportunities to make friendships around the world and learn through mission experiences with other countries and cultures. In April, I was one of eight women who left the United States and joined five women in Chile for an Ubuntu Journey.

Six of us met at the Dallas airport and the rest joined us in Santiago. In addition to five Chilean women, our group members came from California, New York, Washington, various parts of Texas—and Subiaco, Ark.

After ten hours in the plane, we got our first look at the majestic Andes Mountains. The Chilean members of our team met us at the airport and took us by van to a cozy little hotel, Posada El Salvador. After a short rest, we had our first team meeting and finalized our itinerary. Our theme was "Weaving our Lives Together in Love." It is customary in Chile to greet each other with a hug and a kiss on the cheek, and we soon grew comfortable with this custom.

We spent 10 days there touring programs, visiting craft workshops, sharing crafts, conducting dialogs, planting a flower garden and sightseeing. While in Santiago, we learned what the United Methodist Church is doing in Chile. We toured the Sweet Compound, which fills a block in a poor neighborhood. It contains the episcopal offices, Second Methodist Church, a preschool, and a twelve-grade public school.

We saw the humanitarian programs of the church, such as EMAH Chile: Equipo Metodista de Ayuda Humanitaria, which works closely with UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief). Chile has many geographic faults and much geothermal activity, which means disasters are common.

On Sunday, we traveled seven hours to southern Chile, to the town of Coronel. Here we spent three nights as guests in people's homes. Our home hosts were delightful, and women of the church in Coronel prepared our meals. Several of us counted these stays as a highlight of the trip.

On the second day, we traveled by public bus to the town of Lota. Both Coronel and Lota experienced a recent earthquake and tsunami. To help families with their financial recovery from these disasters, the churches in each town sponsored workshops

in which women could learn new crafts and have them for sale. One of the crafts is intricate ribbon embroidery. Each church has two weaving looms, and the women make beautiful woven garments. Other crafts include knitting and crocheting. We purchased pieces of their beautiful handiwork. The women keep half of the proceeds, and the other half goes to buy more supplies.

We had prepared discussion sessions on topics such as overcoming a natural disaster; domestic violence; sexism and sexual discrimination; and widowhood. All of the women were eager participants, and we had a translator in each group to help everyone share in the discussion. The Chilean women were encouraged to have more meetings with dialogues in the future. The atmosphere was much like United Methodist Women meetings in the United States, right down to refreshments after the meeting.

One of our stops in Lota was at a home for abused girls. While there, we planted a flower garden to beautify the yard, and had a "beauty day" for the girls. Members of our team had brought a variety of cosmetic products. It was a joy to work with the girls. We also took pleasure in making greeting cards and frilly scarves using yarn that I had brought.

Part of the trip consisted of visiting typical Chilean sights. We visited La Moneda Palace, the seat of the government of Chile; a new museum remembering the Disappeared under the regime of General Pinochet; took a walk up San Cristobal Hill to see the statue of the Immaculate Concepcion; saw the Bellavista neighborhood where lapis lazuli jewelry is made (lapis, a blue semi-precious stone, is found only in a few parts of the world, such as Chile and Afghanistan); and several street fairs.

Chile is a land of extremes. The northern desert has never had any rainfall. The central valley produces food of all kinds,



United Methodist Women from the United States and Chile share in discussion as part of an Ubuntu Journey held this spring.

PHOTO COURTESY DOTTIE NOYCE

and the southern region is covered in beautiful lakes, volcanoes and forests. Fishing and agriculture are the main commerce. The width of Chile does not exceed 160 miles, and there are 50 active volcanoes.

The journey included an extra layer of significance for me, as I was born in Chile. My mother was a missionary and married my father there. We immigrated to the United States when I was 13 years old, and I have 30 cousins in Chile. They and their families had a reunion for me while I was there—a memorable experience!

An Ubuntu journey is a marvelous opportunity. There are two more Ubuntu trips this year: South Korea in September and Zimbabwe in October.

A lasting impression I brought back from this Ubuntu Journey is that the problems Chile has are similar to problems we have here in the United States—and the churches in both countries provide programs to alleviate the same issues. We are more similar than we are different. I am human; you are human.

*Noyce is a member of First UMC Paris, Ark. To learn more about her Ubuntu Journey, including the application process, contact her at dotnoyce34@gmail.com. In addition to the 2013 journeys Noyce mentions above, next year's Ubuntu Journeys will take participants to Zimbabwe, Liberia and Lithuania.*



## Videos share stories of new Arkansas churches

The Catch the Vision initiative supports the launch of new churches in Arkansas through a special offering taken at Annual Conference, other gifts, and the willingness of established churches to be "mother churches." Catch the Vision makes it possible for new churches to reach into underserved and diverse mission fields.

A new series of short videos shows the transforming effects new churches can have on lives and communities. The videos feature interviews of pastors and laypersons at five Arkansas churches: Argenta UMC, North Little Rock; Grace UMC, East End; Canvas Community, Little Rock; Christ Way UMC, Jonesboro; and Journey Hispanic Mission, Fort Smith.

The videos may be viewed or downloaded at [arumc.org/catchthevision](http://arumc.org/catchthevision). In addition, congregations interested in helping launch a new church may contact the Rev. Dr. Bob Crossman at [bcrossman@arumc.org](mailto:bcrossman@arumc.org) or 501-908-8177.

At left, musicians help lead worship at Christ Way UMC Jonesboro, one of the churches that exists because Catch the Vision funds helped start a new congregation. Visit [arumc.org/catchthevision](http://arumc.org/catchthevision) to view this video and more.

## VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION & DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATES

For information on any Volunteers In Mission (VIM) project below, contact the individual listed or Byron Mann, Conference VIM coordinator, at [vim@arumc.org](mailto:vim@arumc.org) or 870-703-8361. For Disaster Response (DR) projects, contact Byron or Janice Mann, DR co-coordinators, at [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org). To connect with these ministries on Facebook, search for "Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response - Serving Arkansas & Beyond," and join the group for updates.

### VIM, ERT training in Little Rock July 13; register by July 8

Two separate mission-related training sessions are scheduled for Saturday, July 13 at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock. There will be a Disaster Early Response Team (ERT) training and a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team Leader training.

Gather at 8:30 a.m. for registration and to have your badge photo made. Classes begin promptly at 9 a.m. For more information or to register for either session, contact Janice Mann at [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org) or 870-703-8359. The registration deadline is Monday, July 8.

### Disaster Response training retreat in Little Rock Sept. 21

Arkansas Conference Disaster Response will sponsor a day-long training in the Kendall Center on the campus of Philander Smith College (downstairs from the Arkansas Conference office) on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Byron and Janice Mann, Conference disaster response coordinators, will provide training on the Incident Coordination System (ICS) functions, along with briefings on the roles of district and conference operations/coordination teams in preparedness and response. District-based small groups will spend time together to develop procedures and structures for District Disaster Operations Teams, and the schedule will allow time for questions and discussion. This training is geared toward those who wish to serve on a disaster operations team during a disaster response on a district or Conference level. To register or for more information, contact Janice Mann at [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org) or 870-703-8359.

### Help replenish Disaster Response Fund

The Arkansas Conference UMC Disaster Response fund has replaced two mobile homes destroyed by the April 10

tornado in Van Buren County, in addition to funds and labor to repair a third mobile home. Donations to replenish the Disaster Response fund are appreciated. Send gifts to the Arkansas Conference, P.O. Box 3611, Little Rock, AR 72203-3611; or visit [arumc.org/donate](http://arumc.org/donate) and click on the link under "Arkansas Conference Disaster Fund."

### Update on stock of relief supplies

The Conference Disaster Response Team wishes to thank everyone for contributing tornado tubs and other relief supplies in the wake of this spring's storms. Additional cleaning buckets are needed to replenish the stock that was used in the May 30 flooding in Scott County. For a list of relief supply kits, visit [umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies](http://umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies). Email [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org) to coordinate delivery of cleaning buckets.

### Jurisdiction's Disaster Response Academy Oct. 7-10

The South Central Jurisdiction's Disaster Response Academy will be held Oct. 7-10 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville. Courses are \$30, and range from basic to advanced—including Connecting Neighbors training, which helps local churches prepare *before* a disaster strikes. Housing and meals are available at Mount Sequoyah for an additional fee. For details or to register, visit <http://scjademy2013.eventbrite.com>.

### Making a mission journey in 2013? Let VIM know!

VIM wants to know if your church has made a mission journey this year, or is planning one for the future. Please send information on 1) your destination site, 2) the number of volunteers participating and 3) the estimated cost of the journey to Byron Mann at [vim@arumc.org](mailto:vim@arumc.org). Mann also can

provide information on putting together mission journeys in Arkansas, the U.S. and internationally.

### Parks UMC becomes community hub following Scott County disasters

With an average worship attendance of 20, not everyone would expect Parks UMC to become a primary source of help in a time of disaster. But the small, 176-year-old church, along with extended family and friends, logged over 2,800 volunteer hours in the aftermath of June storms and flooding in Scott County. They provided meals to between 50 and 100 people per day, including delivering meals to those who couldn't come to the church building; coordinated volunteer labor from the community and other churches; and delivered relief and repair supplies to homes. In the immediate aftermath of the storms, some church members worked more than 12 hours a day.

"It has been truly satisfying, if exhausting, for all involved to do something for no other reason except that it meets a real need of our neighbors," said the Rev. Peggy Catron, the church's pastor.



Parks UMC members and friends work to prepare meals for flood victims and relief workers following early June storms and flooding.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Scouts (continued from page 1)

praise North Pulaski United Methodist Church for giving a Scout troop a new home just two weeks after it lost its charter as a result of opposition to the new policy.

"We're glad to have them," the Rev. Carol Goddard, pastor of North Pulaski United Methodist Church, told a reporter from the Arkansas Leader, a Jacksonville-area newspaper. "The Methodist church is a very open church, open hearts, open doors. It was a very normal thing [to do]."

Sharp notes that Scout values often align with those of churches, and chartering a troop can present a great outreach opportunity. "Churches hold 70 percent of the Boy Scouts' charters, and 12 percent of all Scouts walk through the door of a church for the first time because they chose to participate in the

values-based organization that builds character in youths through outdoor service and community service projects."

The General Commission on United Methodist Men oversees Boy Scout troops within UMCs, and in a June 12 statement, the commission encouraged United Methodist congregations to welcome any Scout unit dropped by a Southern Baptist Church. The UMC's *Book of Discipline* declares the practice of homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching," but also calls all people "individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God," and affirms the rights and liberties of all persons.

### New charter

First UMC Omaha got the news its charter was approved just as the Southern Baptist Convention's resolution passed.

Nestled in the Ozarks, First UMC Omaha is a small congregation in a town that boasts a population of 176. The Rev. Patricia Bodenhamer says the call to charter a troop has brought new life to the congregation.

"We truly believe that God is at work all around us, and he invited us to be a part of this wonderful ministry to help boys grow into men with morals, servant attitudes and integrity," she said. "Excitement about serving God swept over our tiny congregation like a wildfire."

As of 2012, United Methodist congregations served 363,876 young people through 10,868 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews—second only to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons).

So when Omaha UMC church council chair Ted Potts was contacted May by the Ozark District of the Boy Scouts about chartering a

new troop, he met with council members and they chose to charter with little opposition.

"I believe each congregation needs to make their own choice; for our congregation, that meant making the choice to support these Scouts," he said. "We feel that the Boy Scouts are a positive organization that teaches not only practical knowledge, but also discipline, respect and reverence. We simply welcome the opportunity to reach out in the community and have some influence in these boys' lives."

Potts, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout and whose father was a Scout leader, hopes that in light of the controversy, the experience is only positive for the new troop and that they can do their part to make sure no young man is denied the opportunity to participate.

"We want to be there for our community," Bodenhamer agreed.

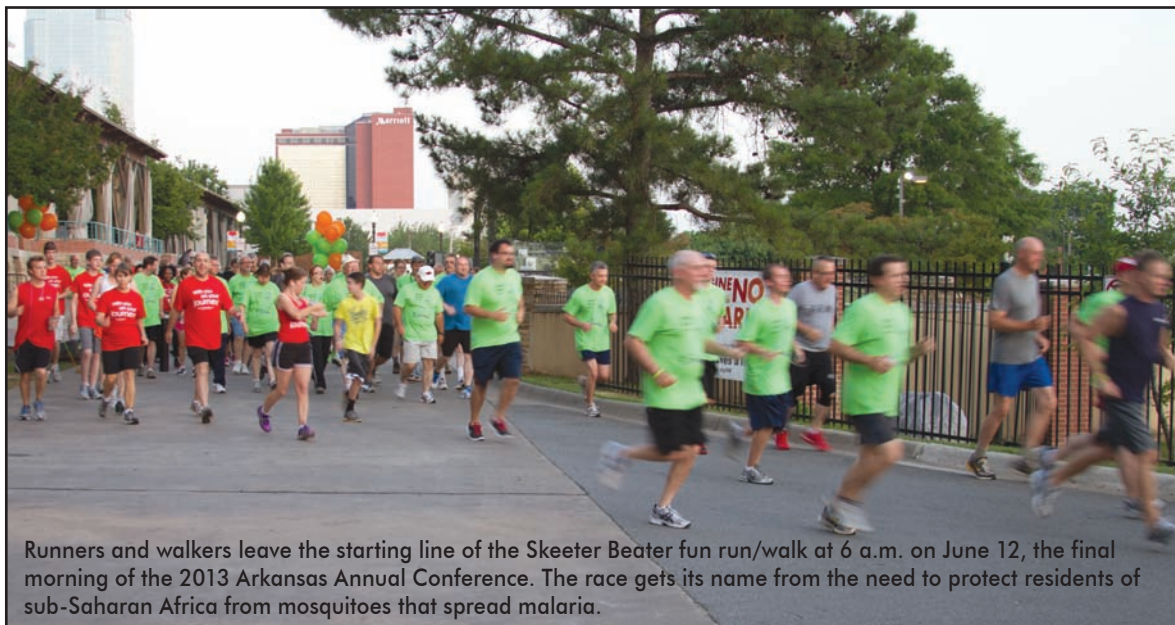
"We take to heart that God is working all around us, and this opportunity to be a part of a young person's life is beyond our wildest dreams. New life is being breathed into our church and our community, and we want to be a part of the redeeming power of God."

She also finds joy in knowing many congregations are stepping up efforts to charter with the Boy Scouts in light of the controversy.

"In anything we do, we need to step up our efforts for the Kingdom. Young boys learning to be responsible, learning how to be men of integrity, learning how to build a campfire is not a political issue.... We are the church. If we shy away from an issue, shame on us. How are we supposed to make disciples of Jesus Christ if we slam the door on a lost soul?"

*Smith is a member of First UMC Springdale.*

# Annual Conference 2013 nets more than \$77k to fight malaria



Runners and walkers leave the starting line of the Skeeter Beater fun run/walk at 6 a.m. on June 12, the final morning of the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference. The race gets its name from the need to protect residents of sub-Saharan Africa from mosquitoes that spread malaria.

The Arkansas Conference continues to make progress toward its goal of raising \$1 million to fight malaria in sub-Saharan Africa through the denomination-wide Imagine No Malaria initiative.

Before Annual Conference began, the Imagine No Malaria task force challenged United Methodists in Arkansas to save a life for each minute Annual Conference was in session. With a life represented by the \$10 cost of an insecticide-treated anti-malarial bed net, and an estimated 3,000 minutes in session June 9-12, the goal came to \$30,000.

As Annual Conference drew to a close, task force chair the Rev.

David Freeman announced that Arkansas churches had surpassed that goal, saving 3,878 lives—a total of \$38,780.

What's more, the funds raised at Annual Conference will be doubled by a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. So, in just four days' time, Arkansans gave \$77,560 toward one of the four focus areas of the United Methodist Church: combating the diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

To learn more about Imagine No Malaria in Arkansas, visit [arumc.org/inm](http://arumc.org/inm). In addition to information on the website, the Rev. Martha Taylor is available to speak to

churches and groups about Imagine No Malaria, highlighting the impact individuals and churches can make in the fight to eliminate deaths from this preventable and treatable disease. To schedule a presentation, contact her at 501-324-8035 or [mtaylor@arumc.org](mailto:mtaylor@arumc.org).



The Rev. David Freeman, left, and Bishop Gary Mueller celebrate the announcement of the \$38,780 raised for Imagine No Malaria during the course of the 2013 Annual Conference.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

### Waddell honored for commitment to justice for the poor

Bill Waddell has been named the 2013 recipient of the Arkansas Bar Foundation's Equal Justice Distinguished Service Award. The award, which was presented to Waddell at a June 12, 2013 banquet, is given each year in recognition of commitment to and participation in equal justice programs for the poor, including pro bono efforts through legal services programs.

Waddell is a partner with Friday, Eldredge & Clark, where he leads the firm's Commercial Litigation and Regulation Practice Group. Drawing from his leadership and experience with the practice group and his dedication to pro bono service, he has committed to providing two attorneys from his practice group to lend their legal expertise twice monthly in the town of Clarendon, where the Mid-Delta Medical-Legal Partnership holds a free legal clinic for area residents seeking legal assistance.

He is also a member of the Volunteer Organization for the Center for Arkansas Legal Services (VOCALS) and the Equal Access to Justice Panel (EAJP). In the past year alone, he has performed over 120 hours of pro bono service for individual clients—in addition to the outreach work he has put into the Clarendon MLP.

Over the course of his career, Waddell has handled more than 300 pro bono adoption cases for Bethany Christian Services of Arkansas, which last year honored him with a service award during the 10th Annual Bethany Golf Classic. He has also assisted with several private pro bono adoptions, charging only court costs. In February 2013, he received the Living Legend Award from Philander Smith College for his social justice work.

Deeply committed to his faith and his church, Waddell serves as legal counsel to the Arkansas United Methodist Church's clergy and is presently the national legal advisor to the United Methodist Church's Council of

Bishops. He has further served his church as chancellor to the Arkansas Conference of UMC and as the Volunteers in Mission Coordinator, and currently teaches a young adults class at St. James UMC Little Rock.

Since his appointment to the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission in 2008, Waddell has led a number of statewide efforts to expand access to justice. He took a leadership role in developing and implementing the first statewide campaign to raise significant private funds for legal aid. His devoted work on this project made it a major success—including, for the first time, major corporate gifts of over \$100,000 to legal aid.

Waddell's efforts to aid the administration of justice did not stop with the fund development campaign alone. He recognized the need to have an organization which could accept and distribute the funds raised to the two legal aid organizations in Arkansas, as the commission itself, being a creature of the Arkansas Supreme Court, could not function in that capacity. He set about preparing organizational documents to create the nonprofit Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation, Inc. He and other members of his firm donated many hours pro bono to this effort, with the end result of positively impacting the access to justice for all Arkansans.

Waddell is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and has served as chair of the Financial Services Committee and the Legal Services Committee of the Arkansas Bar Association. He is currently a commissioner of the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, chairing its Pro Bono Committee. He is also the president of the Arkansas Access to Justice Foundation.



Bill Waddell

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**Swamp Angel Ministries is traveling Arkansas!** Donations go to the Annual Arkansas Retired Ministers Day. For info: contact David Bush at [thepastor@stuttgartumc.org](mailto:thepastor@stuttgartumc.org).

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

# AC2013 (continued from page 1)

Rev. Phil Hathcock preached at the service memorializing deceased clergy and clergy spouses, and Bishop Mueller preached the service of ordination and commissioning.

McKenzie, in her sermon during opening worship, suggested adding “dogged determination” to the list of d’s in the Annual Conference theme. John Wesley, she said, practiced dogged determination.

“What we have to do before us calls for digging deeper than human duty, and standing on a strength that is more stable than human stamina,” she said. “We are called to be doggedly determined agents of a doggedly determined God, who go into situations where only the power of God can heal, only the power of God can comfort.”

In addition to those invited to preach, the conference featured guest leaders of Tuesday afternoon breakout sessions: the Rev. Dr. Craig Finnestad covering small group ministry; Kay Kotan speaking on lay leadership; the Rev. David Hyatt on clergy leadership development; and a team of Arkansas-based worship planners presenting on approaches to worship design. Monday afternoon breakout sessions provided time for Conference members to discuss how well their congregations are living up to four “core measures” of ministry adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference.

Bishop Thomas Bickerton of the Western Pennsylvania Conference preached Tuesday, challenging the church in Arkansas to “lighten up, loosen up and have a little fun.”

“We’ve got to unleash this church of ours,” he said. “We’ve got to throw it in motion forcefully and oppose the opposition that causes us to want to hold back, because we are in a denomination, friends, that is tempted with being leashed. Too many hold back, and they’re not free enough.”

As the head of the Imagine No Malaria campaign, he also shared of the church’s world-transforming work through the fight to end deaths from malaria, a preventable and treatable disease that currently kills one child every minute. The special offering that followed yielded \$14,300 for the cause.

## Other actions

The Conference on Monday honored 28 retiring clergy, representing a combined total of more than 606 years of service.

During Tuesday night worship,

seven persons were ordained, all as elders; and 14 commissioned, three as provisional deacons and 11 as provisional elders. The average age of those ordained this year is 44; the average age of those commissioned is 37.6.

The Conference accomplished necessary business related to pensions and other financial matters, as well as several other actions, including:

- Approving a resolution addressing gun violence, sponsored by the Arkansas chapters of Black Methodists for Church Renewal and Methodist Federation for Social Action. High school student Kyle Forehand presented the resolution, sharing the story of a schoolmate who was killed in a drive-by shooting.
- Approving changes to its structure and standing rules, as well as adding procedures for dealing with salary arrearage to its equitable compensation policy.
- Voting overwhelmingly in favor of ratifying the amendments sent by the 2012 General Conference.
- Voting to elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences at the same time as it has done in previous quadrennia. Legislation approved at the 2012 General Conference gave annual conferences the option to elect delegates either the year before or two years before General Conference. Some conferences have moved delegation elections to two years before to allow more time for preparation, but after outlining the pros and cons of each option, the Arkansas Conference delegation recommended against the change.

## Statistics

Membership in the Arkansas Conference stands at 134,863 for 2012, down 0.53 percent from the previous year’s figure of 135,579.

Worship attendance stands at 51,986 for 2012, down 1.28 percent from the previous year, when it stood at 52,658.

Sunday school attendance stands

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at 22,948 for 2012, down 0.65 percent from 2011, when it stood at 23,098.

Attendance in other spiritual formation groups is on the rise, though, with an average attendance of 49,966—a 1.98 percent increase from the previous year—as is apportionment payout, which is up 1.6 percent.

## Impressions

“I really think the United Methodist Church is headed for revival,” said lay member Lea Brown of Junction City UMC, on the final morning of Annual Conference. She sees growth happening in her own congregation and others, as well. “It’s fun to be a Methodist again. It hadn’t been that way for a while.”

Brown particularly enjoyed Monday afternoon’s breakout sessions that centered on the Core Measures of the Imagine Ministry process.

“A lot of people didn’t stay, but that first day, when we sat together and just talked about things, that was wonderful,” she said. Her table included people from churches of all sizes, bringing different perspectives to the conversation.

Charleen Nordsell Glasgow, a lay member from Grace UMC Rogers, left Annual Conference with “many, many wonderful lessons learned and applicable to our home churches.”

“I can’t thank you enough for the host of excellent speakers,” she wrote in an email message to the Conference staff. “We must be bold, and we must get on our knees and pray for our church. We must ask ourselves, ‘Is the Holy Spirit alive in our Church?’”

“This is a whole different flavor for Annual Conference this year,” said the Rev. Hawk Coleman, pastor of Springfield and Mallettown UMCs, as he looked around the convention hall on the morning of June 12. “It’s not a business meeting anymore; it’s Holy Conferencing.”

For photos from Annual Conference, see pages 8 and 9.

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.

# Survey says...

## Answers affirm need for greater diversity among laypersons at Annual Conference

Of the 675 laity who registered for the 2013 Annual Conference, 215 responded to the brief survey distributed at the Sunday afternoon Laity Session. While the results may not give a completely accurate picture of the demographics of the Conference’s laity, they do provide some insight into what many believe to be true: that the Annual Conference has work to do regarding diversity in age and ethnicity.

Of the respondents:

- 72 percent were over age 55;
- 40 percent were over 65;
- 61 percent were female;
- 96 percent were Caucasian.

Once people begin attending Annual Conference, they tend to return:

- 22 percent were first-timers;
- 40 percent had attended between two and five times;
- 19 percent had attended Annual Conference six to 10 times;
- 19 percent have attended 11 times or more.

The survey may not have captured a representative sample for several reasons, including low attendance at the Laity Session, which typically lasts about 30 minutes. Attendance typically rises in election years, when delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences are selected; there was no election this year.

Next year’s Annual Conference will take place in Rogers on a Friday through Sunday, June 20-22. The Annual Conference Planning Committee made this change in an effort to encourage greater diversity in the age of its lay members. In many cases, the new schedule will require those who work 40-hour weeks to take only one vacation day to attend Annual Conference, rather than three. In previous years, retirees have had an advantage because they often have more flexible schedules, and no need to tap into limited vacation time.

Another factor affecting diversity is income. Registration, travel and lodging expenses may prevent some from even considering serving as a lay member of Annual Conference. Among survey respondents, only half had their expenses reimbursed by their local churches; 21 percent received partial reimbursement; and 29 percent received no reimbursement. Encouraging more diverse people to attend must include greater sensitivity to the need to cover attendee expenses.

The Annual Conference Planning Committee invites churches to consider these factors when nominating lay members of the 2014 Annual Conference.

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Clergy ordained as elders in full connection at the 2013 Annual Conference. Front row, from left: Robert Cloninger II, Terry Chapman, Robert Lyons. Back row, from left: Natasha Murray-Norman, Mike Smith, Bishop Gary Mueller, Ben Crismon, Lee Myane.



The Rev. Tony Holifield, left, who retired at Annual Conference, carries out the symbolic Passing of the Mantle to a newly ordained clergyperson, the Rev. Natasha Murray-Norman, as Bishop Gary Mueller looks on.



ABOVE: Bishop Gary Mueller ordains the Rev. Lee Myane as an elder in full connection with the Arkansas Conference.



The Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie of SMU's Perkins School of Theology, upper right, and the Rev. Dr. Grace Imathiu of Community United Methodist Church in Naperville, Ill., lower right, were among the guest preachers for the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference.



AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

## Scenes from Annual Conference 2013



Provisional clergy commissioned at the 2013 Annual Conference. Front row, from left: Naomi Rogers, Soniyah "Sonna" Blue, Michelle Morris, Samantha Meadors, Nan Nelson, Jessie Waddell. Back row, from left: Mark Cloninger, Michael Utle, Wayne Baldwin, Chase Green, Bishop Gary Mueller, Andrew Kjørlaug, Daniel Thueson, Jacob Lynn, Paul Atkins.

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The Rev. John Wilcher, left, congratulates Kathy and the Rev. James Fort as James moves to retired clergy status with the Arkansas Conference.



Danita Waller-Paige sings Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday" as part of the worship service "John and Jazz: Celebrating the People Called Methodists."



Dressed for the mission, Janice Mann delivers a report on Disaster Response ministries.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS



The Rev. Phil Hathcock speaks at the memorial service for clergy and clergy spouses who have died in the past year.



The Revs. Naomi Rogers and Ben Crismon serve Holy Communion following the reading of the appointments.



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## COMING UP

### VIM, ERT Disaster Response training at Pulaski Heights UMC set for July 13; register by July 8

Two separate mission-related training sessions are scheduled for Saturday, July 13 at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock. There will be a Disaster Early Response Team (ERT) training and a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Team Leader training.

Gather at 8:30 a.m. for registration and to have your badge photo made. Classes begin promptly at 9 a.m. For more information or to register for either session, contact Janice Mann at [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org) or 870-703-8359. The registration deadline is Monday, July 8.

### Ebenezer Camp Ground's 191st annual encampment; services held July 19-25

Ebenezer Camp Ground, near Center Point in Howard County, will begin its 191st annual encampment with an 8 p.m. service on Friday, July 19. Daily services will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., with an afternoon service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

The Rev. Carlton Cross of Salem UMC Benton will be the evangelist. Young campers will be under the direction of Jeremy Carter, children's minister at First UMC Magnolia. Brent Goff with Wycliffe Bible Translators of Berkley, Calif., will be the song leader, and Carolyn Carter of Junction City will return as pianist. Thomas Lee of Butterfield will speak at the lay service on Sunday afternoon. Rusty Jones of Gurdon will serve as host pastor.

The Harmony Band will begin singing at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The Testimonies will return for a musical service on Monday night. Gallons of camp-made ice cream will be served after the service.

The camp ground is located off Highway 278, three miles north of Center Point. Services will end Thursday, July 25.

Ebenezer was first mentioned in available church records in 1822. In 1837, the Rev. John H. Propps donated land for the camp ground near the Center Point Cemetery. John Henry, one of the founders of the original camp ground near Old Washington, sent his son John Henry Jr. to handle moving arrangements. John Henry is buried in the Center Point Cemetery. After moving two more times, seeking more space and spring water, Ebenezer trustees in 1857 purchased the present 40-acre site.

For more information, contact Bob Lee at 501-922-3958 or [blee\\_72104@yahoo.com](mailto:blee_72104@yahoo.com).

### Free webinars include 'Spiritual, But Not Religious - Adult Faith in a Post-Christendom World' July 23

The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) is offering a series of free webinars for both lay and clergy participants. In one of the upcoming sessions, "Spiritual, But Not Religious," participants will explore characteristics of our current social context, its impact on the church, and implications for adult faith formation in the emerging religious paradigm. This one-hour exploration will include ideas for helping adults grow in faith and live as disciples of Jesus Christ. It begins at 6:30 p.m. Central time.

To sign up for this and other webinars, visit [www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/webinars](http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/webinars).

Questions? Contact Carol Krau at 615-340-7171.

### Stewardship: Free webinar opportunities July 25, Aug. 22

Two upcoming free webinars from the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship (GBOD) focus on different aspects of financial stewardship:

The July 25 webinar, "Is Your Church Ready for a Capital Funds Campaign?" will be led by GBOD's executive director of fund development, Scott Gilpin. It offers key indicators for churches to determine whether they are ready to conduct a campaign for funds beyond the regular operating income.

The Aug. 22 webinar, "Generosity in Emerging

Generations," will look at how members of emerging generations make decisions about generosity, how they share their ideas about generosity with each other and explore whether God has anything to do with it. Ken Sloane, GBOD's director of stewardship, will lead the session.

Both webinars begin at 6:30 Central time. To sign up for these and other free learning opportunities, visit [www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/webinars](http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/webinars).

Questions about either webinar? Contact Ken Sloane, [ksloane@gbod.org](mailto:ksloane@gbod.org) or 615-340-7165.

### Camp Aldersgate announces openings for Camp Hope, July 28-Aug. 2

Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock has a few openings remaining for Camp Hope, the ultimate summer camp experience for kids ages 6-16 having a cancer diagnosis, as well as their sibling(s). Camp Hope is set for Sunday, July 28 through Friday, Aug. 2, 2013. During camp, the campers' medical needs are well supervised by licensed nurses and doctors. There is no charge to the families of campers attending. Camp Aldersgate, the American Cancer Society and Med Camps of Arkansas, Inc. provide all funding.

If someone you know is interested in applying for Camp Hope, visit [www.campaldersgate.net](http://www.campaldersgate.net) and download an application for each camper and camper's sibling(s). The application deadline is Wednesday, July 17 at 5 p.m.

### Register now for Mission U: July 31-Aug. 3

Mission U is set for July 31-Aug. 3, 2013, at Hendrix College in Conway.

Sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries, Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, the annual event, formerly known as the Arkansas Conference School of Christian Mission, provides mission education for all ages—including special activities for children and youth—in a spiritually enriching setting.

The spiritual growth study, *The Call: Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly*, will offer tools to deepen spiritual identity, as well as encourage engagement in community and involvement in mission. The geographic study will examine the culture, lifestyle and spirituality of the Roma, with *The Roma of Europe* as its curriculum.

The social issue study on poverty will examine the connections between Scripture, church tradition, compassion for the poor, social outreach and social justice. In keeping with this study's theme, Mission U will collect child-friendly, ready-to-eat foods to benefit the Arkansas Rice Depot's Food For Kids program.

Mission U is open to children pre-kindergarten through senior high school, as well as adults. Meals and housing are included in the registration fee, and commuters are welcome to attend.

For a detailed brochure, registration form and scholarship application, visit [www.arumc.org/2013\\_mission\\_u.php](http://www.arumc.org/2013_mission_u.php).

### Methodist Family Health 'Walk for Children and Families' set for Aug. 2

For a family-friendly fun event that is keenly mission oriented, don't miss Methodist Family Health's 7th Annual Walk for Children and Families. The Walk will be held Friday, Aug. 2, at the Big Dam Bridge over the Arkansas River. Headquartered at Cooks Landing Park on the North Little Rock side of the bridge, registration opens at 6 p.m., with the Walk at 7.

All ages, groups and individuals are invited to participate. Traditionally, many church youth groups from around the state have participated in the MFH Walk as a precursor to the lock-in later that same evening at Wild River Country water park, hosted by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (ACCYM).

Walkers set their own pace and walk any distance they choose; most go over the bridge to the Little Rock side and back. There will be free ice cream and pizza, live music by the Gable Bradley Band and water games. Everyone receives a Walk T-shirt.

Special guests will be former Arkansas Razorback athletes,

including Clint Stoerner, Pat Bradley and others.

Proceeds from the 2013 Walk will be used for recreational activities and items that will improve the health and fitness of the children and youth in the care of Methodist Family Health. Past Walks have raised funds for a security fence, playground equipment and an "extreme makeover" of buildings at the Methodist Children's Home Fillmore campus in Little Rock, plus an outdoor therapeutic play area and new beds and dresser sets for children's rooms at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle.

Cost is \$20 per individual or \$50 per family. Register online at [www.methodistfamily.org](http://www.methodistfamily.org), or contact Annie Davis at 501-661-0720 ext. 7301 or [adavis@methodistfamily.org](mailto:adavis@methodistfamily.org). Participants also may register at the event.

### Human Relations Day grant application deadline Aug. 10

Aug. 10 is the deadline to apply for a 2014 Human Relations Day Grant from the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS). The grants are to support ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through education, advocacy or leadership training and development.

To qualify for a Human Relations Day grant, the applicant must be either:

- a United Methodist local church, district, annual conference or other affiliated group/organization; or
- an ecumenical group/organization working with and through at least one United Methodist agency or organization, whose program affects at least one United Methodist local church.

To be considered for funding, a project must be initiated by or developed in partnership with a United Methodist church. The project must focus on needs of non-violent juvenile youth offenders as they address one or more chronic social problems or concerns, such as housing, employment, health care, human rights, education, the environment and racism. Applicants must have a supervisory board consisting of a majority of members of the UMC that shall make all policy decisions.

All funding from GBCS must be used for programmatic components. The intent of the grant is to provide start-up money.

For a grant application, contact Marvlyn Scott in the office of Education & Leadership Formation, 202-488-5643 or [msscott@umc-gbcs.org](mailto:msscott@umc-gbcs.org). For more information, contact the Rev. Neal Christie, assistant general secretary, Education & Leadership Formation, at [nchristie@umc-gbcs.org](mailto:nchristie@umc-gbcs.org) or 202-488-5611.



Walk for Children and Families

# 2013-14 Conference Appointments

Persons changing appointments in 2013 are listed in **bold type**.

## Central District

District Superintendent.....	Deidre Jo Roberts
ADONA.....	Frankie Reynolds
AMBOY.....	Roger Armstrong
ARGENTA.....	James W. Choate
ASBURY - LITTLE ROCK.....	Mary Hilliard
Associates.....	<b>Charles Green</b>
.....	David M. Moore
BENTON FIRST.....	Robert David Jones
Associate.....	<b>Daniel Thueson</b>
Deacon.....	Garry Dean Teeter
BETHEL - JACKSONVILLE.....	Thomas Babington
BETHLEHEM - LONOKE / PROVIDENCE.....	Debbie Robbins
BRYANT FIRST.....	Hammett Nichols Evans
Deacons.....	Rebecca Boggan
.....	Peter Weber
CABOT.....	Beth Ann Waldrup
Associate.....	<b>Andrew C. Kjorlaug</b>
CANVAS COMMUNITY.....	Carter Ferguson
Associate (Deacon).....	<b>Edward Paul Atkins</b>
CARLISLE FIRST.....	<b>Kirk Doering</b>
CENTERVILLE.....	Lana Gartner
CHRIST - CABOT / MOUNT TABOR - CABOT.....	<b>Jeffery Trent Warrick</b>
CLEVELAND / OVERCUP.....	Mitch Burgess
CONCORD - LONOKE.....	Larry D. Hughes
CONGO.....	Polly Burton
CONWAY FIRST.....	Michael Roberts
Associate.....	Elizabeth Lynn Kilbourne
DES ARC FIRST.....	Charles Dee Harper
EBENEZER - CONWAY.....	Luther Glenn Williams
EBENEZER - TULL.....	Randy Dale Reed
ENGLAND.....	LaNita Anne Daniels
FAITH - LITTLE ROCK.....	Harriett Akins-Banman
Deacon.....	<b>Martha S. Taylor</b>
FAITHSPRING.....	Brock Patterson
Deacon.....	Jenni L. Duncan
GARDNER MEMORIAL.....	Richard S. Mitchell
GRACE - CONWAY.....	David Ray Hawkins
Associate.....	Reginald Russell
GRACE - EAST END.....	George Thomas Jones
GRAHAM CHAPEL/OAKLAND.....	<b>Tammy Garrison</b>
GREENBRIER FIRST.....	Kevin Lyon
Associate.....	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.....	Wade Shownes
Associate.....	Brittany Richardson Watson
HOOVER / SWEET HOME.....	<b>Felton May</b>
Associate.....	<b>Ismail M. A. Saafir</b>
HOPE KOREAN.....	<b>Isaac Choh</b>
HUNTER - LITTLE ROCK.....	Melvin Moss
JACKSONVILLE FIRST.....	John Mark McDonald
Associate.....	Bradley Keith Moore
KEO.....	Chanda Adams
LAKEWOOD.....	Richard Lancaster
Associates.....	Andrea E. Allen
.....	<b>Carol Jean Grace</b>
Deacon.....	Cynthia Shaw Henry
LEVY - WHITE MEMORIAL.....	Jimmy J. Mosby

LITTLE ROCK FIRST.....	William Christopher Cooper
Associate.....	Donna Hankins-Hull
LONOKE FIRST.....	<b>Aubrietta Lynn Jones</b>
MABELVALE.....	Robert K. Marble
MARKS CHAPEL.....	Clyde Hughley
MAUMELLE FIRST.....	Luke Conway
Associates.....	Zeke Allen
.....	Wayne Jarvis
MAYFLOWER.....	Richard Wilkins
MCCABE CHAPEL.....	Johnnie Davis
MORRILTON FIRST.....	Todd-Paul R. Taulbee
MOUNT CARMEL - BENTON.....	Bob Warford
MOUNT CARMEL - VILONIA.....	Thomas E. Lukas
MOUNT PLEASANT - LITTLE ROCK.....	Mary N. Jones
MOUNT ZION - LONOKE.....	Wesley Howard Jr.
NAYLOR.....	Luke Parker
NEW HAVEN - LITTLE ROCK.....	Norma Gillerson
NEW ZION / MOUNT ZION - CENTER RIDGE.....	James Lee Scruggs
.....	Davis E. Thompson
NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRST.....	Davis E. Thompson
Associates.....	James W. Choate
.....	Brent Higdem
Deacon.....	Donna Hendricks
NORTH PULASKI.....	Carol S. Goddard
OAK FOREST.....	Russell D. Breshears
OLD AUSTIN.....	Von Dell Mooney
PARKVIEW / NEW HOPE - BENTON.....	<b>Walter J. Garrett</b>
PERRYVILLE.....	Terrie Lynn Bunnell
PLEASANT HILL - ALEXANDER.....	Vince Crawford
PLUMERVILLE.....	Keith Duane Coker
PRIMROSE.....	Clayton Bulice
PULASKI HEIGHTS.....	Britt Skarda
Associates.....	<b>Philip Jayphen Clark</b>
.....	Jeffery Bernard Hampton
.....	<b>Jacob S. Lynn</b>
.....	<b>Belinda Price</b>
Deacons.....	Lynn W. Lindsey
.....	James Scott Moore
QUAPAW QUARTER.....	Thompson Murray
Associate.....	Elizabeth Anne Holcomb
SAINT ANDREW - LITTLE ROCK.....	To be supplied
SAINT JAMES - LITTLE ROCK.....	Siegfried Johnson
Associates.....	Gary Clark Atkins
.....	<b>Soniyah Blue</b>
.....	Blake Russell Bradford
.....	Gregory Schick
SAINT JAMES - LONOKE.....	David Scruggs
SAINT LUKE / GEYER SPRINGS.....	<b>Ronald Jeremy Pressgrove</b>
SAINT PAUL - LITTLE ROCK.....	Gerald Collins
SAINT PAUL - MAUMELLE.....	Nathaniel Thomas Grady Sr.
SALEM - CONWAY.....	R. Leon Gray
SALEM - BENTON.....	Carlton N. Cross
SARDIS.....	Stephen P. Dickinson
Associate.....	<b>Judy Baker</b>
SOUTHBEND.....	Garren Earle Hagemeyer
SPRINGFIELD / MALLETTOWN.....	Austin W. Coleman
SYLVAN HILLS.....	Jim Alex Workman Jr.
TRASKWOOD.....	Danny Dunlap
TRINITY - LITTLE ROCK.....	Betsy Singleton Snyder
TRINITY - NORTH LITTLE ROCK.....	Gerald Meeks
VILONIA.....	<b>Nathan Kilbourne</b>
WARD / SIXTEENTH SECTION.....	Richmond P. Meadows
WESLEY - CONWAY.....	David E. Baker
WESLEY CHAPEL - LITTLE ROCK / DUNCAN.....	Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
.....	Sylvia Nosis
WESTERN HILLS.....	David D. Hoffman

WYE MOUNTAIN.....**Wayne Allen Bell**

## Extension ministries

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE.....	Lawson Leonard Delony
NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE.....	Robert Hunt
OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE.....	James H. Lenderman
TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.....	<b>Heath R. Bradley</b>
BAPTIST HEALTH SCHOOLS OF LITTLE ROCK.....	Melissa Thomas
.....	Adam Kirby
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.....	Adam Kirby
DAILY BREAD COUNSELING - BRYANT AR.....	Garry Dean Teeter
.....	James Clifton Christopher
HORIZONS STEWARDSHIP COMPANY.....	James Clifton Christopher
SEIS PUENTES HISPANIC OUTREACH CENTER.....	Jenni L. Duncan
.....	William Kurt Boggan
ARKANSAS CONFERENCE.....	<b>George Mackey Yokem</b>
Executive Director of Mission & Ministry.....	Robert Owen Crossman
Minister of New Church Starts.....	Martha S. Taylor
Director of Communications.....	Martha S. Taylor
ARKANSAS CONFERENCE CENTER FOR CLERGY AND LAITY EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP.....	William Kurt Boggan
.....	<b>Candace Barron</b>
METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH.....	James Scott Moore
DEACONESS - Appt Non-UM Agency.....	Colleen Caldwell
DIACONAL MINISTRY.....	David W. Clemmons
.....	David L. French
.....	Jim Walsmith
.....	John C. Yarrington
HENDRIX COLLEGE.....	J. Wayne Clark
.....	Judith J. Whitney
JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS.....	Stephen Jean Copley
OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.....	Rockwell F. Jones
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.....	Rebekah Linn Miles
PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE CHAPLAIN.....	Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
.....	Martha D. CashBurless
UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION.....	Martha D. CashBurless
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UALR / CONFERENCE STAFF.....	Maxine Allen
.....	John David Palmer
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UCA.....	John David Palmer
ARKANSAS HOSPICE.....	Helen J. Burton
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, STATE OF TEXAS.....	Catherine Estes
.....	Joe Michael Campbell
EVANGELICAL SERVICES FOR AGING, HATBORO, PA.....	Leonard Higgins
.....	William S. Briant Jr.
U.S. ARMY RESERVE.....	William S. Briant Jr.
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Marcia Crossman
.....	Susan Elizabeth Gladin
.....	Jon Mac Taylor
FAMILY LEAVE.....	Regina Holtman Gideon
INCAPACITY LEAVE.....	Marcia Dodd
.....	Leslee Lynn Phillips
.....	Lewis See
.....	William N. Steele
TRANSITIONAL LEAVE.....	Mary Jane Cole
.....	<b>Samantha Meadors</b>
.....	<b>Jessica Waddell</b>

## Northeast District

District Superintendent.....	<b>Susan Ledbetter</b>
ANTIOCH / HARMONY - SEARCY.....	Jim Foster Gilliam
ASH FLAT / EVENING SHADE.....	Larry Morris
AUGUSTA / TUPELO.....	Robert Garfield DeBaun

BALD KNOB / RUSSELL.....Trevia Mills	Associates.....Randall D. Ludwig	ALPENA / BERGMAN..... <b>H. Franklin Cook</b>
BATESVILLE FIRST..... <b>Justin Ledbetter</b>	..... <b>James F. Snow</b>	ALTUS / GRENADES CHAPEL..... <b>Patricia Butler</b>
BAY..... <b>Donald Lewert</b>	MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRST / SAINT JAMES - MOUNTAIN VIEW	ARKANSAS KOREAN MISSION.....Kwangmin Shin
BEEBE.....Russell Edward Hull	..... <b>Robert Burton</b>	ATKINS / BELL'S CHAPEL.....Rebecca Searcy Wiseman
BETHESDA CAMPGROUND.....Carl Hudson	NEWPORT FIRST.....John Bradley Elrod	BARLING.....Steve Holyfield
BLACK ROCK / LYNN / POWHATAN.....Jim West	OAK GROVE - SEARCY.....To be supplied	BELLA VISTA FIRST.....Jaimie Jack Alexander
BLYTHEVILLE FIRST.....N. Robin Moore	OSCEOLA.....Tyrone Hill	Associate.....Lee Benjamin Myane
BONO.....Thomas Dellinger	OXFORD.....Bobby Coleman	BENTONVILLE FIRST.....Rex Dickey
BRADFORD / PLEASANT PLAINS.....William P. Mills	PANGBURN / MOUNT PISGAH – SEARCY...Donna Harvey	Associates.....Benjamin Gee Hines
BROOKLAND / UNION GROVE..... <b>Naomi P. Rogers</b>	PARAGOULD FIRST..... <b>John Andrew Fleming</b>	.....David Andrew Ruehr
CALICO ROCK / SPRING CREEK..... <b>William J. Sardin</b>	Associate..... <b>Heath Williams</b>	BERRYVILLE.....Kenneth R. Lee
CAMPGROUND.....George Edward Harris	PIGGOTT / WRIGHT'S CHAPEL.....Andy Newbill	BETEL.....Ramiro Lizcano
CAVE CITY / BEAR CREEK.....Roger B. Hook	PLEASANT GROVE - JONESBORO.....Rex G. Darling	BLAND CHAPEL.....David E. Mack
CEDAR GROVE - FLORAL.....Nikki Suzanne Pierce	PLEASANT HILL / PINE LOG..... <b>James McElhannon</b>	BOONEVILLE / WASHBURN.....Gerald Lynn Holloway
CENTRAL AVENUE - BATESVILLE.....Paul E. Seay Sr.	POCAHONTAS.....Rockey Earl Starnes	BULL SHOALS / YELLVILLE.....Donnie Hudson
CHEROKEE VILLAGE..... <b>Angela Gage</b>	PRUETT'S CHAPEL / BEECH GROVE.....Michael Blanchard	CAVANAUGH / HACKETT.....Michael Wayne Topham
Associate.....Jimmy W. Anderson	QUITMAN.....David Caswell	CECIL.....Jerry L. Eubanks
CHRIST UNITED.....John Snyder	RAVENDEN /RAVENDEN SPRINGS.....Danny Roark	CEDAR GROVE - YELLVILLE / PLEASANT RIDGE
CHRIST WAY.....Herschel Lee Richardson Jr.	RECTOR.....Mace P. Straubel	.....Donald M. Cremer
CLINTON.....George Edwin Odell	ROCK SPRINGS - LAFE / RAMER'S CHAPEL	CENTRAL - FAYETTEVILLE..... <b>John C. Robbins</b>
CORINTH / POWELL'S CHAPEL.....Robert Kegerize	.....Howard Mark Trout	Associates.....Carl D. Palmer
CORNERSTONE - JONESBORO.....Chris Hemund	ROSE BUD.....Kathy N. DeBusk	.....Steven K. Pulliam
Associate..... <b>Mark Cloninger</b>	SAINT PAUL - JONESBORO.....Charles Sigman	CENTRAL - LINCOLN / CINCINNATI.....Gary B. Lunsford
CORNING.....Pauleen Ann Ferris	SAINT PAUL - SEARCY.....Donald L. Hall Jr.	CENTRAL - ROGERS.....Carness Vaughan
DAMASCUS.....Vaughn Marsden	SALEM - SALEM / VIOLA..... <b>Cheryl Jean Cook Baker</b>	Associate.....James Dell Keith
DELL.....Marilyn Webb	SEARCY FIRST.....David Paul Orr	Deacons.....J. Lester Oliver
DESHA / CONCORD / CORNERSTONE / JAMESTOWN	Associate.....Ruben Anthony Griffin	.....Dawn Spragg
Co-pastors.....Steve Long	SHARP.....Jerry Lumpkin	CHARLESTON..... <b>Charles Coffelt</b>
.....James D. Wheeler	SHILOH - JONESBORO..... <b>Patrick Gillespie</b>	CHERRY HILL.....Daryl E. Hines
ELI LINDSEY / FRIENDSHIP - RAVENDEN	SHILOH - PARAGOULD / MARMADUKE..... <b>David A. Moore</b>	CHICKALAH.....Bud Choate
.....John Stoll	Associate..... <b>Bonnie Carol Moore</b>	CITY HEIGHTS.....Randy L. Miller
FAIRFIELD BAY.....Paul Strang	Deacon..... <b>Sarah Mullins</b>	CLARKSVILLE.....David R. Hanshaw
FAIRVIEW - MOUNTAIN HOME..... <b>Thomas Yoder</b>	SHIRLEY.....John Hiegel	COLES CHAPEL / BRANCH.....Jim Brooks
FARM HILL.....Kevin Barron	SIDNEY.....To be supplied	DANVILLE / TRINITY - DANVILLE.....Thomas Sullinger
FISHER STREET / SEDGWICK.....Nancy M. Rainwater	SOUTHSIDE.....James T. Pierce	DARDANELLE FIRST / LIBERTY HALL.....James A. Benfer
FORREST CHAPEL - BROCKWELL.....Loye Vern Mason	STONE POINT / FLOYD.....Robert Mark Quick	DECATUR.....Russ Hall
GARNER..... <b>Paul Hill</b>	TRUMANN / LEPANTO.....Jeff Weaver	DIAMOND CITY / OMAHA.....Patricia Bodenhamer
GRIFFIN MEMORIAL.....Jason Sutfin	TUCKERMAN / SWIFTON..... <b>Diane Wimberley</b>	DOVER.....Roy Beth Kelley
GRIFFITHVILLE / DOGWOOD.....Terry Kai Haley	UMSTED MEMORIAL / EMORY CHAPEL.....Gilliam Sills	DYER.....Philip Costner
GUION.....John Adams	WALNUT RIDGE..... <b>Jeanne Williams</b>	.....Cheryle Costner
GUM SPRINGS - SEARCY.....Jim Bradberry	WARREN'S CHAPEL / WOOD'S CHAPEL..... <b>Everett Isom</b>	ELKINS.....Charles Gary Ashcraft
HARDY.....To be supplied	WEINER / FISHER.....Dan L. Walker	ELM SPRINGS.....Karl Dixon Platt
HARRISBURG FIRST / PLEASANT VALLEY	WESLEY - COTTER / NORFORK.....Terrance A. Moser	EUREKA SPRINGS.....Stanley Wade Adams
.....J. Beth Perdue	WHITEHALL / FAKES CHAPEL.....Stephen Anderson	EVERTON..... <b>David M. Smith</b>
HAZEL EDWARDS MEMORIAL / OIL TROUGH	WILD CHERRY.....Marty Sanders	FAITH - FORT SMITH.....Charles W. Armour
..... <b>James T. Rowland</b>	WILSON / KEISER.....Gary Yarbrough	FARMINGTON.....Phillip Troy Conrad
HEBER SPRINGS.....Thomas Toombs		FORT SMITH FIRST.....Charles F. Murry
Associate.....Kathy N. DeBusk	<b>Extension ministries</b>	Associates.....Claire M. Caldwell
HOLIDAY HILLS.....C. Daniel Brand	ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, COMMUNITY LIFE	.....Robert Blackwell Cloninger
HORSESHOE BEND / WISEMAN.....Kenneth R. Anderson	.....Robert Holifield	GENTRY.....George Adkins
HOXIE.....Bonda Deere Moyer	INDIANA CONFERENCE..... <b>David Carl Eaton</b>	GODDARD.....James Steve Wingo
HUNTER..... <b>Cory Pfeifer</b>	MOUNT EAGLE RETREAT CENTER.....Louise Thurman Harding	Associate.....Kim Cloninger
IMBODEN / SMITHVILLE..... <b>Joe Kaiser</b>	WESLEY FOUNDATION - ASU.....William Eric Van Meter	GOSHEN.....Denise E. Palmer
JONESBORO FIRST.....John P. Miles II	FLO AND PHIL JONES HOSPICE HOUSE, JONESBORO	GRACE - ROGERS.....William Zachary Underwood
Associates.....Lloyd Blake Langston	.....Clarence Edward Pruett	GRACE COMMUNITY.....John Jeffrey Jones
..... <b>John R. Soward</b>	METHODIST HEALTHCARE.....John A. Wilcher	GRAVELLY / BLUFFTON.....Joy Carmean
.....Patty Sue Soward	U.S. ARMY.....William Clint Black	GRAVETTE / SULPHUR SPRINGS - SULPHUR SPRINGS
JUDSONIA / KENSETT.....James Robert Wilson	HONORABLE LOCATION.....Charles Marcus Cooper	.....Phil Sturdy
LEACHVILLE / CARAWAY.....Douglas Criss	.....Donald W. Lanier	GREEN FOREST..... <b>Steve Cook</b>
MAMMOTH SPRING / CAMP..... <b>John Franklin Michael</b>	.....Norman C. Moyer	GREENWOOD.....Robert Craig Russell
MANILA / COMMUNITY.....Jerry Pentecost	INCAPACITY LEAVE.....Floyd Ervin	HARMON.....J. Michael Callahan
MARKED TREE / JOINER.....Edward Wyers	.....Larry Hunt	HARRISON FIRST..... <b>David S. Williams</b>
MARS HILL.....Milburn Teasley	.....Gregory A. Webb	HARTFORD / MIDLAND.....Chris Rink
MAYNARD.....Alma Rita Hastings	LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....Thomas Rhoades	HARTMAN / SPADRA.....Regina Turner
MCCRORY / COTTON PLANT.....Carla Ray Thompson	.....Stephen Ellis Waggoner	HATFIELD.....Sidney Simpson
MCRAE.....Keith Goza		HAVANA.....Paul Ed Seay Jr.
MELBOURNE / CUSHMAN.....William Grothe		HAYS CHAPEL..... <b>Beth Latham</b>
MONETTE / LAKE CITY.....Jerry W. Reed		HERITAGE.....James Wesley Hilliard
MOOREFIELD / OAK RIDGE.....Lavon Bloodworth		Associate.....Mark Sullivan
MOUNT CARMEL - JONESBORO.....Clarence Edward Pruett		HIGHFILL.....Russ Hall
MOUNT PLEASANT – QUITMAN.....Harold Moore		HIGHLANDS.....Bryan Fink
MOUNTAIN HOME.....Rodney G. Steele		Associate.....J. Michael Callahan
	District Superintendent..... <b>William O. Reeves</b>	
	ALMA / KIBLER..... <b>Larry W. Martineau</b>	

## Northwest District

HUNTINGTON.....	Frank L. Grubbs
HUNTSVILLE / PRESLEY CHAPEL.....	<b>Robert Stanley Ernest</b>
JASPER.....	Larry M. Acton
JOURNEY HISPANIC MISSION.....	Julio Ibarra
LAMAR / MOUNT OLIVE - CLARKSVILLE.....	Tammy Jo Teltow
LAVACA / MOUNTAIN VIEW - ALMA.....	Lynn David Strang
LESLIE / MARSHALL.....	<b>Michael L. Proctor</b>
LIVING WATERS AT CENTERTON.....	Blake A. Lasater
MAGAZINE / MOORE'S CHAPEL - HAVANA / WAVELAND / PIONEER MEMORIAL.....	Judy Hall
MANSFIELD.....	John J. Noggle
MENA FIRST.....	Gary Frank Harrison
MIDLAND HEIGHTS / MOUNT OLIVE - VAN BUREN.....	Daniel Lane Williams
MILLTOWN.....	Louise Finney
MISSION.....	Ulysses C. Washington
MULBERRY.....	Charles B. Beevers
NEW HOPE - VAN BUREN / NEWBERRY.....	Robert M. Jeffery
OAKLEY CHAPEL.....	Shane D. Pair
OLA / PLAINVIEW.....	Rollie Thomas Mullins
OZARK.....	<b>Paul B. Coy</b>
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. Blessingame
ROGERS FIRST.....	David Bruce Bentley
Deacon.....	Sandra Wanasek
RUSSELLVILLE FIRST.....	Roy Patterson Smith
Associate.....	Gail Cole Brooks
SAINT JAMES - FAYETTEVILLE.....	Rashim Merriwether
SAINT PAUL - FORT SMITH.....	Steven M. Poarch
Associate.....	William Todd Vick
Deacon.....	Mark L. Waynick
SAINT PAUL - GRAVEL HILL / BRIGGSVILLE.....	Steve Lawrence
SAINT PAUL'S - HARRISON / BELLEFONTE / VALLEY VIEW.....	Mark Donald
SEQUOYAH.....	Sara Cole Pair
SHILOH - BERRYVILLE.....	Lon N. Hudson III
SILOAM SPRINGS FIRST.....	Randy H. Rowlan
SPRINGDALE FIRST.....	Stephen Coburn
Associates.....	David C. Freeman
.....	Ramiro Lizcano
.....	Judith S. Van Hoose
.....	Rob Williams
SQUARE ROCK / MT. PLEASANT-WALDRON.....	Suzanne Wilson
TRINITY - FAYETTEVILLE.....	Terry M. Gosnell
TUCKS CHAPEL.....	Brian Youngs
VALLEY SPRINGS.....	Sandra Garrett
VESTA.....	<b>William Todd Vick</b>
VIETNAMESE - FORT SMITH.....	Terry Gallamore
VIETNAMESE - VAN BUREN.....	Thang Nguyen
VINEY GROVE.....	G. Randall Nix
WALDRON / BIRDSVIEW.....	Patricia Diane Miller
WALTREAK.....	Larry Pat Millard
WEDINGTON.....	Joseph W. Hall
WESLEY - FORT SMITH.....	Matthew I. Daniels
WESLEY - RUSSELLVILLE.....	David Autry
WICKES / MOUNTAIN VIEW - MENA.....	Bryan Richardson
WIGGINS.....	<b>Lyn Poplin</b>
WINSLOW / MORROW.....	John M. Moore
WOODLANDS.....	Ben Hampton Anderson

### Extension ministries

PROVIDENT MINISTRY SERVICE.....	Molly Davis Scott
ATTEND SCHOOL.....	Janice Sudbrink
HIGHLANDS ONCOLOGY GROUP.....	Pamela Cicioni

PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT - COUNSELOR.....	Helena Cathy Caudle
DEACONESS APPT NON-UM AGENCY.....	Kandi L. Mount
GBGM METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTIAGO CHILE.....	Jacob F. Schaible
METHODIST NURSING HOME & VILLAGE.....	J. M. Rogers
WESLEY FOUNDATION - ATU.....	Jason A. Molitor
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS.....	Omar H. Al-Rikabi
CIRCLE OF LIFE HOSPICE, SPRINGDALE, AR.....	Audie D. Long
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Cynthia Lee Davis
.....	Peter H. Kimball
.....	Rhonda K. Crow Monroe
INCAPACITY LEAVE.....	Robert Bell
.....	Stephen Brizzi
.....	Louann Averitt Murphy
.....	Cloyd Stephen Wiseman
PERSONAL LEAVE.....	Thomas Mark Ashcraft
.....	Larry D. Ott
.....	Mary Jane Pearce

## Southeast District

District Superintendent.....	<b>Mark K. Norman</b>
ALMYRA / HUNTER'S CHAPEL - ROE.....	Ted Edmondson
ALTHEIMER / WABBASEKA.....	George R. Mitchell
BAILEY CHAPEL.....	Travis Earl Jackson
BAYOU METO / LODGES CORNER.....	Mary F. Welch
BETHEL – SHERIDAN.....	Albert Marlar
BRINKLEY / BRASFIELD.....	<b>Michael Andrew Smith</b>
CENTER GROVE - SHERIDAN.....	<b>James Edward Conn</b>
CHERRY VALLEY / VANNDALE.....	Ron C. Williams
Associate.....	Janice Williams
CLARENDON / HOLLY GROVE.....	<b>Nan Nelson</b>
COLT / FORREST CHAPEL - FORREST CITY.....	Everett Blakely
CROSSETT.....	Russell R. Moore
DEWITT / ST. CHARLES.....	Daniel R. Kirkpatrick
DUMAS / TILLAR.....	Tandy Curtis Hanson
EARLE / CRAWFORDSVILLE.....	<b>Ryan Spurlock</b>
EXTRA.....	<b>Jesse James</b>
FORREST CITY FIRST.....	<b>William V. Buchanan</b>
FOUNTAIN HILL.....	<b>Chyrl Savage Slocum</b>
GILLETT / DELUCE.....	<b>Janet T. Edwards</b>
GOOD FAITH CARR / REDFIELD.....	<b>Ryan Allen Rush</b>
GOOD HOPE / NEW EDINBURG.....	John H. Kidwell
GRADY / TRINITY - STAR CITY.....	Timothy Edward Rushing
GRAND AVENUE - STUTTGART.....	Cleifton Samuel Vaughan
GREENHILL / LACEY.....	J. Donald Johnson
HAMBURG FIRST.....	Cletus Gregory Comer
HAWLEY MEMORIAL / WESLEY - PINE BLUFF.....	Jackie Ann Gregory
HEBRON - NEW EDINBURG.....	<b>Boyd F. Savage Jr.</b>
HELENA / WEST HELENA / ELAINE (EAST PHILLIPS COUNTY PARISH).....	<b>Walter Michael Wilkie</b>
Associate.....	<b>Michael C. Dodson</b>
HERMITAGE / WAGNON.....	Marty Reep
HICKORY RIDGE / TILTON.....	Michael Darryl Utley
HUGHES / MADISON.....	<b>Mark B. Massey</b>
HUMPHREY.....	George Edward Crumbly Jr.
KINGSLAND / CHAMBERSVILLE.....	Melissa Maskell
KYNETTE.....	Kennis Key
LAKESIDE - LAKE VILLAGE.....	<b>Thomas DeWeese</b>
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
MARION.....	Tom M. Letchworth

Associate.....	Andrew C. Thompson
MARTIN'S CHAPEL / TRINITY-WARREN.....	William Paul Woolley
MARVELL / LEXA.....	<b>Robert Daniel Partlow</b>
MCELROY / ELLIS CHAPEL / CENTRAL-WYNNE.....	<b>Stephen Wayne Baldwin</b>
MCGEHEE FIRST / ARKANSAS CITY.....	William Joe Head
MONTICELLO FIRST.....	Dennis Spence
MOUNT OLIVET / PROSPERITY / UNION.....	Garry E. Wiles
NEW HOPE – SHERIDAN.....	Jim Harris
PARKDALE / EUDORA / MONTROSE.....	<b>Debbie L. Head</b>
PARKIN.....	<b>Melvin Dwight Mann</b>
PINE BLUFF FIRST.....	David Fleming
PLEASANT GROVE - DEWITT.....	Gene White
PORTLAND / DERMOTT / WILMOT.....	Gilbert Philmore Worley
RISON / MOUNT CARMEL – RISON.....	Richard P. Rogers
ROCK SPRINGS / WILMAR / MOUNT PLEASANT - MONTICELLO / ANDREWS CHAPEL.....	Hardy P. Peacock
ROE.....	Joe E. Glover
SAINT FRANCIS.....	Jonah Wayne Smith
SAINT JAMES - PINE BLUFF.....	Henry Wilkins
SAINT LUKE - PINE BLUFF.....	<b>Barbara A. Douglas</b>
SAINT MARK - PINE BLUFF.....	David Morgan
SCRUGGS CHAPEL.....	John W. Love
SHERIDAN.....	<b>John Embrey</b>
SHERRILL.....	William Ferguson
STAR CITY FIRST.....	Bryan R. Diffe
STUTTGART FIRST.....	David W. Bush
SULPHUR SPRINGS - PINE BLUFF.....	Willis Winn Findley
VICTORY - FORREST CITY.....	Moses Eliot Green
WARREN FIRST.....	Gary Lawrence Maskell
WATSON / MOUNT TABOR – MONTICELLO.....	Walt Lowe
WESLEY CHAPEL -BRINKLEY / TAYLOR CHAPEL.....	William J. Thompson
WESLEY - MCGEHEE.....	Barton Alan Bynum
WEST MEMPHIS FIRST.....	David F. Moseley
Associate.....	<b>Michelle Morris</b>
WHEATLEY / SALEM – WHEATLEY.....	Michael Bolin
WHITE HALL.....	<b>Benjamin William Crismon</b>
WYNNE.....	Lester Glenn Pettus
ZION / WALLER'S CHAPEL.....	<b>Toby Austin</b>

### Extension ministries

CASA de DIOS.....	Mary Olson
CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY, PINE BLUFF, AR.....	David Morgan
MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.....	Andrew C. Thompson
Attend School.....	Edna Mae Morgan
SE DISTRICT REGIONAL MISSION COORDINATOR.....	<b>Natasha J. Murray-Norman</b>
WESLEY FOUNDATION - PINE BLUFF.....	Henry Wilkins
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UAM.....	Edward Kavan Dodson
U.S. AIR FORCE.....	Ronald Lewis Feeser, Jr.
U.S. NAVY.....	Scott Jackson Shafer
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Charles Berlon Davis
.....	Constance Steele
INCAPACITY LEAVE.....	Rufus Robert Burnham Jr.
.....	Douglas Edwards
.....	John Clifton Sandine
LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	Polly C. Shafer

## Southwest District

District Superintendent.....	Michael Cuning Morey
AMITY.....	Glen Dale Harris
ARKADELPHIA FIRST.....	<b>James P. Polk</b>
ASBURY - MAGNOLIA / McNEIL.....	Michael P. Daniel
ASHDOWN FIRST / RICHMOND.....	James H. Cross
AVERY'S CHAPEL / BRUCE MEMORIAL / MIDWAY.....	<b>Pamela K. Brule</b>

BEARDEN / THORNTON.....	Andrew Wayne Hughes
BELL CHAPEL / RED HILL.....	Larry E. Goza
BISMARCK.....	Katherine G. Pearce
BRADLEY.....	John Braden
BUENA VISTA / STEPHENS.....	Cedric R. Walters
CAMDEN FIRST.....	Henry Andrew Ratliff
CARTHAGE / HUNTER'S CHAPEL - LEOLA / TULIP / WAVERLY.....	Tammy Harrell
CENTER / CENTER POINT.....	Robert B. McCoy
CHRIST - TEXARKANA.....	J. David Kassos
CHRIST OF THE HILLS - HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE.....	Walter L. Smith
Associates.....	Patrick O. Henry
.....	<b>Sheila M. Jones</b>
.....	Helen Stegall
DELIGHT / ANTOINE / SMYRNA.....	James Taylor Henderson
DEQUEEN FIRST / GILLHAM.....	<b>Ronnie Newberry</b>
DIERKS / GREEN'S CHAPEL.....	Robert L. Lyons
DODDRIDGE / OLIVE BRANCH.....	Walter L. Burnett
DUMAS MEMORIAL / MARYSVILLE.....	Patricia Daugherty
EBENEZER - NASHVILLE.....	Shirley F. White-Souder
EL DORADO FIRST.....	<b>Royal Keith Dodson</b>
EMERSON - MT. PISGAH.....	Barbara Grimes Lewis
EMMET / HARMONY - HOPE / WILLISVILLE.....	Jerry G. Westmoreland
FAIRVIEW - CAMDEN.....	<b>Roger Allen Crum</b>
FAIRVIEW - TEXARKANA / OGDEN.....	Barbara B. Gilbert
FAITH - HOT SPRINGS / MORNING STAR.....	
Co-pastors.....	Wanda L. Murray
.....	John Franklin Walker
FORDYCE FIRST.....	William F. Cato
FOREMAN / WADE'S CHAPEL.....	Lynn Ann Lewis McClure
FRIENDSHIP - FRIENDSHIP.....	Jeff Ladd
FRIENDSHIP - PRESCOTT / SWEET HOME UNION.....	
.....	Gene M. Ross
GARDNER / DIAMONDHEAD.....	Mark R. Williams
GLENWOOD / DAISY.....	<b>Lonnie M. Landers</b>
GRAND AVENUE - HOT SPRINGS.....	George Edward Rook
Associate.....	Deborah Perry
GREER'S CHAPEL / LYDESDALE.....	James Mark Lasater
GUM SPRINGS - MOUNTAIN PINE.....	TBS by Christ of the Hills - Hot Springs Village
GURDON / HOLLYWOOD.....	Carl A. Ownbey
HALI'S MEMORIAL.....	Joyce Watson
HAMPTON / HARRELL / FAUSTINA.....	<b>Charles A. Perry</b>
HARMONY - COLUMBIA / PHILADELPHIA / UNITY.....	John Wayne Edwards
HARMONY GROVE - CAMDEN / HOLLY SPRINGS / LAKESIDE.....	<b>Velda Bell</b>
HAVEN.....	Harold Eichelberger
HINTON / DE ANN.....	Ralph Gary Riley
HOLLY SPRINGS - TEXARKANA.....	Doug Rhodes
HOPE FIRST.....	Steven Johnson
HORATIO / WINTHROP.....	Phil Smith
HOT SPRINGS FIRST.....	Michael Mattox
Associates.....	Teresa L. Holt
.....	John P. Miles
.....	John S. Polk
.....	William Zachary Roberts
HUTTIG.....	Robert Earl Ballard
JUNCTION CITY.....	Mary Depper
KEITH MEMORIAL / LEAU FRAIZ.....	Dale L. Diffe
Associate.....	Sidney Carol Clark
LEWISVILLE.....	Ronnie K. Eldridge
LISBON.....	<b>Darrell W. Donaldson Jr.</b>
LOCKESBURG.....	Teresa Egan Chapman
MAGNOLIA FIRST.....	Larry Eugene Kelso
MALVERN FIRST.....	Lavon Post
MANCHESTER.....	George T. Whitney
MINERAL SPRINGS / WAKEFIELD.....	Frankie Glenn Hicks
MOUNT CARMEL - LOCKESBURG.....	Tommy Halsell
MOUNT IDA / JOPLIN.....	David Randle Steele

MOUNT MORIAH.....	<b>Tommy Howard</b>
MOUNT OLIVE - FORDYCE / BETHEL - NEW EDINBURG / WILSON CHAPEL.....	L.T. Marks
MOUNT ZION - ARKADELPHIA / CENTER GROVE - GURDON / TRINITY - GURDON.....	Travis Langley
MOUNTAINSIDE.....	Johnna J. Galloway
MURFREESBORO.....	James Waincott
NASHVILLE FIRST / BINGEN.....	<b>James E. Harris</b>
NEW ERA.....	Charles Payne
NEW SALEM.....	Dennis E. Horvath
NORMAN / LANGLEY.....	William Charles Bradford
NORPHLET / CENTENNIAL.....	Heather Spencer Clawitter
OAKLAWN.....	Fred W. Hunter
OKOLONA.....	Kathryn Burchfield
PARKER'S CHAPEL / PLEASANT GROVE.....	To be supplied
PINEY GROVE.....	R. Scott Gallimore
Associate.....	Rose A. Poag
PRESCOTT FIRST.....	Bill Lindsey Fish
PULLMAN HEIGHTS.....	Ronald G. Grigsby
RHODES CHAPEL.....	James Carroll Rawls
ROCKPORT.....	Troy Lee Cate
RONDO / PLEASANT HILL - TEXARKANA.....	Harry J. Hamner
RUSHING MEMORIAL.....	Benny Morgan
SAINT ANDREW - ARKADELPHIA.....	Bobby W. Sanders
SAINT JOHN.....	Willie Joe Miller
SAINT MARK - EL DORADO.....	<b>Winston D. Roden</b>
SAINT PAUL - EL DORADO.....	Robert Henry Walker
SAINT PAUL - MALVERN / ADKINS MEMORIAL.....	
.....	Clarence Fowler
SCOTT'S MEMORIAL.....	Ella Harris
SHOREWOOD HILLS / MAGNET COVE.....	Donald H. Robinson
SILVER SPRINGS.....	Wayne Chambers
SMACKOVER / SILVER HILL.....	Leon Thomas Dixon Jr.
SPARKMAN / DALARK / BETHLEHEM.....	<b>Elizabeth Stegall</b>
SPRING HILL / OAK GROVE.....	Revel Kidd
STAMPS.....	Mark Rivers
SUGAR HILL.....	Gregory A. Burks
SWEET HOME - MURFREESBORO.....	Al Terrell
TAYLOR.....	Spencer Glendas Plumley
TEXARKANA FIRST.....	Bruce Wayne Bennett
Associate.....	Vida R. Williams
TIMOTHY / SAINT MARK-CAMDEN.....	<b>Deanna L. McCormack</b>
VALLEY GROVE.....	<b>Ivory Joe Williams</b>
VILLAGE / EBENEZER - MAGNOLIA.....	Kenneth Hipp
VILLAGE - HOT SPRINGS.....	George W. McCoy
Associate.....	Alfred C. Loya
WASHINGTON.....	Keenan C. Williams
WESTSIDE / MISSOURI.....	<b>Donald R. Nicholson</b>
WILEY CHAPEL.....	Dwight Burks

### Extension ministries

MT. CARMEL COMMUNITY OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE.....	<b>Carol Stewart</b>
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.....	Christopher T. Bounds
WESLEY FOUNDATION - HSU/OBU.....	Jessica Lee Durand
WESLEY FOUNDATION - SAU.....	James Mark Lasater
U.S. ARMY.....	John Charles Fimple
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Carey Don Womack
INCAPACITY LEAVE.....	Cornelia DeLee

Would you  Like to receive daily reflections from Bishop Mueller?

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## Vilonia breaks ground to expand children's ministry, hospitality capabilities



Vilonia UMC on Sunday, June 16 broke ground for a new addition to their facility. The new construction will include a nursery and children's rooms, as well as an expansion of the kitchen. The children of the church participated in the groundbreaking ceremony, using child-sized shovels turn the dirt.

"This expansion is part of an overall building program that will eventually culminate with the building of a new sanctuary," said the Rev. Belinda Price, who presided over the groundbreaking even as she prepared to move to her new appointment at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock. "Vilonia is a growing mission field, and the church welcomes Rev. Nathan Kilbourne to continue what has been started here today."

COURTESY PHOTO

## Shopping online? Use UMCmarket to support your congregation!

The UMC's General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) Office of Corporate Partnership has launched UMCmarket, a new program that gives parishioners the opportunity to generate a donation to their local church as they shop online.



UMCmarket provides a portal to access popular retailers. With each purchase, a percentage of the sale can go to the church the shopper chooses. Membership is free. To learn how a church can add the link to its website, email [info@umcmarket.org](mailto:info@umcmarket.org).

Members can immediately begin supporting their church ministries by signing up at [www.umcmarket.org](http://www.umcmarket.org).

For details about UMCmarket or other programs, contact Bobby Lee Smith at 615-369-2407 or [blsmith@gcfa.org](mailto:blsmith@gcfa.org).



SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH TORNADO VICTIMS: Students in pre-school at First UMC Jonesboro made cards and crosses to send to people recovering from the EF5 tornado that hit Moore, Okla., on May 20. "They're aware that children like them were involved in this tragedy, and they wanted to show they care," said Connie Thomas, Northeast District administrator. "They were just trying to show their love and support. Since they're too young to participate in the recovery effort, this is their way to help."

COURTESY PHOTO

## OBITUARIES

### FAYETTEVILLE

#### Blanche Elizabeth Holifield

Blanche Elizabeth Holifield, 97, of Fayetteville, Ark., passed away Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at Katherine's Place in Fayetteville.

She was born July 2, 1915, in Elk Garden, W.Va., to the late William and Grace Schwinabart. She was a registered nurse and received her training at Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Cumberland, Md. She worked at her profession



**Blanche Holifield**

primarily in the area of labor and delivery. Over the years she assisted in numerous births, and at times did the actual delivery when the doctor could not get to the hospital in time. Her most memorable delivery came in the middle of an ice storm in the back seat of a new father and mother's car. The doctor was iced in at home, but both mother and baby did well.

She graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., where she met the love of her life, Pharis Holifield. They were married on

Dec. 16, 1944. Pharis was studying at Asbury Theological Seminary to become a Methodist minister, and after he obtained his degree in 1947, they moved to his home state of Arkansas. Here they served Christ in ministry together in numerous United Methodist churches across the years until his death in 1978.

Blanche loved gardening and specialized in growing roses, which were her favorite flowers. She was a faithful pastor's wife, a diligent homemaker, a loving mother and grandmother, a devoted follower of Jesus Christ and a committed member of Central UMC Fayetteville. She was beloved by her family and looked up to as a spiritual mentor and exemplary model of a Christ-like life.

Blanche was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 34 years, the Rev. Pharis Jerome Holifield; her parents; and two brothers, Albert Lynn and John Howard.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter: the Rev. Tony Holifield and his wife, Sarah, of Fayetteville; Jim Holifield and his wife, Theresa, of Lexington, Ky.; and Carol Ringold and her husband, Scott, of Carmel, Ind.; five grandchildren: Rob Holifield and his wife, Julie, of Wilmore, Ky.; Julie Carpenter and her husband, Chris, of Winchester, Ky.; Mary Beth Bomar and her husband, Austin, of Lexington, Ky.; Stephanie Ringold of Carmel, Ind.; and Mark Ringold of Carmel, Ind.; five great-grandchildren: Wes and Siah Holifield of Wilmore, Ky.; Ben and Makayla Carpenter of Winchester, Ky.; and Sean Bomar of Lexington, Ky.; and a number of nephews and nieces.

A Celebration of Life service was held Wednesday, June 5, in the sanctuary of Central UMC Fayetteville, with the Rev. Dr. Steve Pulliam and the Rev. Carl Palmer officiating. Burial followed on June 6 in Piggott Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Arkansas Asbury Scholarship Fund or Central UMC's Count Me In! Program, c/o Central United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1106, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

### William "Bill" Whitfield

William "Bill" Henry Whitfield, 71, passed away Monday, June 17, 2013.

The youngest child of William H. Whitfield and Rose Strong Whitfield, he was born Nov. 14, 1941 in Little Rock. Bill gave his life to Christ at Union A.M.E. Church in Little Rock, and after retiring from his mission works in Africa, he joined St. James UMC Fayetteville.



**Bill Whitfield**

Bill graduated from Townsend Park High School in Pine Bluff in 1959, having transferred from Horace Mann High School in Little Rock as a result of Governor Orval Faubus closing the Little Rock School District in an effort to retain segregated schools. He went on to attend Arkansas AM&N College in Pine Bluff, where he and his brother Bob were active in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. There he joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, earning a Bachelor of Science in Social Economics and a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics.

While attending the University of Arkansas, Bill met the love of his life, Jimmye Dean Deffebaugh. On June 6, 1965, they committed to love, cherish and honor one another and did so faithfully for 48 years. From their union came two children, Timberly Noe and Azandé William. Shortly after their marriage, Bill and Jimmye relocated to Kansas City, Mo., where they unwaveringly worked with the Free Breakfast for School Children Program sponsored by the Black Panther Party.

In 1971, Bill and his family took a pilgrimage to Tanzania, East Africa. After realizing a higher calling, Bill and Jimmye were commissioned to serve as missionaries representing the United Methodist Church in Africa. While there, they served in Tanzania, Nigeria, Liberia, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Bill's motto was "anything that might create a permanent state of dependency should be avoided at all cost." His commitment to nurturing self-reliance and love for physical activity led him to gardening, micro-farming and teaching and training in martial arts. He earned a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do from his Master Instructor, Judge Victor Hill.

Survivors include his wife, Jimmye Deffebaugh Whitfield; his children, Timberly (Bobby Allen) Whitfield and Azandé (Denise Hoy) Whitfield; grandchildren, Raina Allen, Alise Whitfield and Gabriel Allen; siblings, George (Shirley) Whitfield, Billie (Ernest) Jacobs, John Whitfield, Robert (Constance) Whitfield and Roberta (Hamlet) Kelley; sisters-in-love, Sharon Deffebaugh and Lillie Deffebaugh; brother-in-love Phil Deffebaugh; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of family and extended family.

Bill's journey with Parkinson's Disease was not taken alone. He was lifted by his extended stay in Israel with the Black Hebrew Israelites in Dimona. He was surrounded by earthly angels including his devoted wife, sister in love, Sharon, niece Gigi Holder, nephew Henry Lee Holder, smallest angel (in size) his granddaughter, Alise, Amelia Smith and family, therapists from Alliance Home Health, the Black

Hebrew Israelites, Andrea Fournet's Arkansas Yoga Center Community and all who called, wrote, visited, smiled, laughed, prayed and encouraged him.

A celebration of his life was held Saturday, June 22, in Fayetteville, in the Bailey Center at Mount Sequoyah. Memorial gifts may be made to St. James United Methodist Church, 5 North Willow Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701 in honor of Bill Whitfield for the Musoma, Tanzania Fund.

### FOREMAN

#### Irene Shaddox

Willie "Irene" Shaddox, 95, of Foreman, passed away Sunday, June 2, 2013, in a Texarkana hospital.



**Irene Shaddox**

She was born Jan. 15, 1918, in Tokio, Ark. She was a homemaker and a member of First United Methodist Church Foreman.

She is survived by her husband of 72 years, the Rev. James Shaddox of Foreman, a retired elder who served in the Little Rock Conference; a brother-in-law, Bill Shaddox and his wife, Judy, of Greenville, Texas; two nieces, Patsy Crawford of Duncanville, Texas, and Angela Shaddox of Greenville, Texas; a great-niece, Courtney Crawford of Burbank, Calif.; and two nephews, David Shaddox of San Antonio, Texas, and John Shaddox of Gun Barrel City, Texas.

Services were held Wednesday, June 5, at First United Methodist Church Foreman, with the Rev. Lavon Post officiating. Burial followed in Dollarhide Cemetery.

### NORTH LITTLE ROCK

#### Owen Talley Sr.

The Rev. Owen Talley Sr., 88, passed away Sunday, June 16, 2013.

He was born March 12, 1925, in North Little Rock, to Howard and Ethel Talley.



**Owen Talley**

A retired elder, Talley served churches throughout the Little Rock Conference from 1976 to 1990, including Murfreesboro, Macedonia, Hall's Memorial, Haven, White Memorial, St. James UMC Lonoke and Theresa Hoover UMC.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Bertha Talley; a daughter, Doris Bryant; and a grandson, Marcus White. He is survived by seven sons: Owen

Talley and his wife, Peggy, of Tucson, Ariz.; Paul Talley, Donnie Talley and Kenneth Talley, all of North Little Rock; Darryl Talley and his wife, Kimble, of Hagerstown, Md.; Bruce Talley of Wichita, Kan.; and Fred Jones and his wife, Daisy, of Little Rock; six daughters: Peggy Tate of Memphis, Tenn.; Wanda Key and her husband, Louis, of Pine Bluff; Lavieta Watkins of Sherwood; Valerie Talley of North Little Rock; and Alicia Martin and Crystal Talley of Little Rock.

A funeral service was held at Levy United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 22.



## Some scholarship assistance available to attend Black Clergy Women Conference, Aug. 5-8

With the theme of "Celebrating our Past...Stepping into Our Future," the 25th Anniversary Black Clergy Women Conference will meet Aug. 5-8, 2013, at the Westin Hotel Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

The Rev. Maxine Allen, Coordinator of Ethnic and Language Ministries for

the Arkansas Conference, is seeking women in ministry (local pastors, elders, deacons, seminary students or candidates for ministry) who would like to attend. Some scholarship funding is available. Visit [blackclergywomenumc.com](http://blackclergywomenumc.com) for more information, then contact Allen at 501-539-0280 or [mallen@arumc.org](mailto:mallen@arumc.org).

# UMFA matching grant helps update Mount Sequoyah facilities, programs, operations

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas awarded recently a \$300,000 matching grant to Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville. The grant will support repairs, maintenance and upgrades of current facilities, processes and programs.

Mount Sequoyah is a nonprofit spiritual reserve owned by the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, which includes Arkansas and seven other states. It accommodates both secular and faith-based individuals and organizations. Its purpose is to serve as a spiritual environment to support and enable the church's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

"The supporters of Mount Sequoyah will raise \$300,000 to be matched one-to-one with our grant," said Jim Argue Jr., UMFA president. "We are excited to be a part of this revitalization of an essential United Methodist resource."

"Mount Sequoyah has been a pivotal part of the church's history, but over the past 30 years the facilities have been underutilized and fallen victim to economic pressures that left it in a state of disrepair," said Abby Foster, CEO of Mount Sequoyah. "With the help of the UMFA grant, Mount Sequoyah can become the nucleus of lay and clergy meeting, training, networking and conference events across the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church, as well as to the secular community."

The lodging facilities will be remodeled and amenities updated, including infrastructure, electrical and HVAC repairs and replacement. The grant also will be used to acquire technologies that improve guest experiences and create operational efficiencies. Recreational areas, roadways, parking and irrigation will also be enhanced to position Mount Sequoyah for environmental sustainability.

In addition to facility upgrades, Mount Sequoyah will implement new programs to target all ages and increase the center's use by the community and the church.

Founded in 1922, Mount Sequoyah sits in the hills just above the city of Fayetteville. The 32-acre campus features historic buildings, lodges, cottages, landscaped grounds, walking paths, trails, recreational facilities, pool, pavilions, gazebos, wide open spaces, indoor and outdoor chapels, an auditorium, meeting spaces, a lighted labyrinth and hiking trails. Guests travel to Mount Sequoyah for family reunions, gatherings, overnight stays, getaways, conferences, training, networking, collaborating and game day weekends.

UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country, and is responsible for over 650 funds that have combined assets in excess of \$119 million.



The Cokesbury Apartment, which includes a kitchenette, is one of the recently renovated lodging options at Mount Sequoyah. Thanks to the grant from UMFA, more improvements to the campus will follow.

COURTESY PHOTO



## Faith Funds

### *Legacy of Commitment*

The late Winfred Polk of Corning believed in the United Methodist Foundation in its infancy. He made significant gifts of resources, time and talent with a steadfast commitment to a Foundation that could eventually support United Methodist ministries throughout the state. Peggy Polk of Paragould took up that commitment, and she has continued as a board member since 1989.

Mr. Polk was a Chevrolet dealer and long-time leader in the Corning United Methodist Church. He had a great interest in Methodist history and traveled to England to witness key places in the history of the Church for himself. In fact, he brought Rev. John Tudor back from England to preach in many Arkansas pulpits as a gift to United Methodists in the state.

Mrs. Polk has a special place in her heart for causes like the Seminary Scholarship program. She honored her husband through the construction of the Winfred Polk Conference Room used every day at the United Methodist Foundation office.

The Polks helped enhance the vision of the Foundation and have been great advocates, according to UMFA President and CEO Jim Argue, Jr. Their ideas, their board service and their creation of endowment funds at the Foundation all contribute to a continuing legacy for the Arkansas Conference.



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