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Living, loving, leading



Arkansas Annual Conference 2014

The Rev. Maxine Allen, UALR Wesley Foundation director and ethnic ministries coordinator for the Arkansas Conference, served as the preacher for the Saturday afternoon memorial service at the 2014 Annual Conference.

AUM PHOTO BY MARCIA DUNBAR

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

ROGERS, Ark.—The principles of living for God, loving as Christ and leading with excellence shaped the 12th session of the Arkansas Annual Conference, which took place June 19-22, 2014 in Rogers at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center. Bishop Gary E. Mueller presided.

The gathering featured two guest speakers: The Rev. Jorge Acevedo of Grace Church, a multi-campus United Methodist congregation in southwest Florida, and the Rev. Adam Hamilton of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. Both speakers addressed the conference's theme, "Live for God, Love as Christ, Lead with Excellence."

Acevedo on love, faithfulness

Acevedo preached the Thursday and Friday evening worship services. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10, Acevedo on Thursday night shared three ways congregations can love as Christ loves: by giving immediate aid ("Around our church we call it 'stopping the bleeding,'" he said), showing a lasting commitment to people and advocating for the powerless and marginalized.

His stories from Grace Church reinforced each of these points. They have served 40,000 neighbors through their community center; prayed with over 3,000 of them; and seen 110 of them say "yes" to Jesus. And this work wasn't done by pastors—Acevedo says people were led to Jesus by "t-shirt wearing lay folk who love the Lord."

Any church can show a lasting commitment to people by developing a ministry that helps those who need ways to improve their lives, whether through helping them get a GED, job training, a job or some other life-changing opportunity. "There isn't the smallest church in this annual conference that can't do something," he said.

He encouraged churches to think of what they can do to give voice to the voiceless, hope to the addicted or empower the powerless.

"Every church that stands alongside the poor has God standing with them," he said.

He also posed a difficult question: whether most UMCs are failing "simply because we aren't loving our neighbors?"

In his Friday night sermon, he named the church's need for fruitfulness, saying we must be faithful to God before we can produce fruit as Christ's disciples.

"We don't have time to sit around and play church," he said. Our job is to change the world, even create a different world in Jesus' name.

Teaching by Hamilton

Hamilton led three teaching sessions, focusing on effective leadership; preaching and worship; and the importance of outreach.

Effective leadership doesn't have to be complicated, he said. But it does require diligence in both planning and living out our mission. Hamilton also encouraged leaders to not give up, regardless of the obstacles they face.

"It may very well be that God is calling you to do what Jesus did and press through," he said.

As a resource for further learning, each attendee received a copy of Hamilton's book *Leading Beyond the Walls: Developing Congregations with a Heart for the Unchurched*.

In addition to the plenary sessions, Hamilton met Friday night with the young clergy of the Arkansas Conference.

"He called us to dream 'God-sized' dreams for the Conference and our local places of service," said the Rev. Dane Womack, who was commissioned as a provisional elder at this year's Annual Conference. "He also challenged us to be one another's biggest supporters. We briefly touched on pressing denominational

[See CONFERENCE, page 8]

July 4: Celebrate, but remember the sacrifice

BY WILLIAM O. "BUD" REEVES
Special Contributor

**Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.**

—Psalm 33:12

My generation is not the most patriotic in our nation's history. We came of age in the era of the Vietnam War and Watergate. We were inspired by protest songs and freedom marches. We learned to mistrust our government and institutions, a cynicism that is bearing bitter fruit today across our culture. It was not cool to love your country.



Bud Reeves

Now that I am older, perhaps more mature, I find myself more patriotic than I was in my younger years. Or at least I am more appreciative of the blessings of being born and living in the United States of America. Part of that appreciation comes from a more intimate acquaintance with how things are in other countries; part of it is because despite all we have been through, we are still holding together.

July 4 is a big deal. We should pull out the fireworks and the food and celebrate the birthday of our country. But for me, in the last few years, Memorial Day has become the more significant national holiday.

I like to watch the Memorial Day concert from our nation's capital aired on PBS. Invariably, my throat gets tight and tears roll down my cheeks as I see the stories of brave soldiers who gave their lives for our country. Standing at the graveside of a veteran, my eyes well up when "Taps" is played.

We live in a broken, sinful, violent world. While I do not glorify war or violence, I honor those who put their lives in danger, some to the point of death, for the cause of freedom. I glorify those who have thought and talked and written to create and preserve the democratic ideal that is America.

Likewise, in my spiritual journey, I realize Easter is a big deal. We should celebrate the resurrection. It is the victory of God in Christ over evil, sin and death. But for me, as my faith has matured, Good Friday has become equally important in the story of God's salvation. It is on the cross that we see the depth and power of God's love

and grace.

It's all about the sacrifice.

The indifference and even disdain with which I viewed the military back in the Vietnam years has given way to gratitude for those who have died, been wounded or disrupted their lives to serve. The indifference and disdain that accompanied Jesus to his crucifixion gave way to wonder at what God was willing to do to save us poor sinners: "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

I love America, my country, my home. We are far from perfect, but I think sometimes we focus far too much on our imperfections. The rancor of our social and political discourse is disheartening. But we are still the "land of the free and the home of the brave." America is still the grand experiment in democracy and human potential, exploring a new way to be a society for 238 years. No other nation comes close.

Tom Brokaw, in his book *The Greatest Generation*, closes with a touching scene. In exquisite prose, he describes his uncle and a friend placing small American flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day. He writes, "It was a ceremony of honor, remembrance, and renewal played out in countless other cemeteries across the land by members of a generation that gave so much and asked so little in return."

On this July 4 across our land, we will play out a celebration remembering and honoring the spirit of America. I hope it is more than fireworks and cookouts and a three-day weekend. I hope it helps renew the commitment we share to the ideals of freedom, equality and democracy. It could happen.

I never served in the military; I've been in a different army my entire adult life. I have been engaged in spiritual warfare, but it is a gentler kind of combat. I hope it has been a force for peace. I wonder if in generations to come, will anyone get a lump in their throat or a tear in their eye when they remember and honor the sacrifices this generation made for the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Will our service in this time be a source of renewal for the church in future generations?

That, too, could happen.

The Rev. Dr. Reeves serves as superintendent of the Northwest District. Email: breeves@arumc.org.

**'I hope it is more
than fireworks
and cookouts
and a three-day
weekend.'**

Prayer shawls provide the warmth of love

BY JEANNE WILLIAMS
Special Contributor

Every year, the Annual Conference Worship Team sends out the request, and you respond. We need prayer shawls for the Memorial Service to give to family members of those clergy and clergy spouses who have moved their membership to the Church Triumphant. I have no idea when the tradition started, but it is an important one.

Every year, I stand when my friends and mentors are named. Every year, I watch as the families come forward and choose just the right shawl that helps them remember their loved one. Yet, by the time I go home, I have forgotten how important that moment truly is.

We received almost 100 prayer shawls this year, and for the most part, we have no idea who made them or which church donated them. They are gifts of love by lay members to these families.

In the long list of worship needs for Annual Conference, prayer shawls are only one item; however, after this year's Conference I realized the long and needed impact they have on the receiver. Through a photo showing the joy of a clergyman who only laid to rest his love a week prior, I saw that having a tangible reminder of the Conference's love for him and his wife is more important than many other things that happened this last week in worship.

When I received this picture of the Rev. Joel Cooper on the Monday morning after Conference, it touched my heart deeply. These prayer shawls are handmade with love and prayers for those who would receive them. The makers



The Rev. Joel Cooper with the prayer shawl he received in memory of his wife, Bill.

PHOTO COURTESY THE REV. CHRIS COOPER

have no idea who will receive their gift, which only makes it all the more special.

Thank you, United Methodists of Arkansas, for your gifts of warm love that will wrap not just around physical bodies, but spiritual bodies, too.

The Rev. Williams serves as worship team leader for the Arkansas Annual Conference, and as pastor of First UMC Walnut Ridge.

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Aug. 1	July 16
Sept. 5	Aug. 20
Oct. 3	Sept. 18

**Recycle
Reuse
Replenish**



Show your care for God's creation... Recycle your copy of the *Arkansas United Methodist* when you're finished reading it (or share it with a friend).

Highlights from Bishop Mueller's 2014 episcopal address

In his June 20, 2014 episcopal address, Bishop Gary E. Mueller called the United Methodists of Arkansas to do four things when they returned home: get real, be different, move into the community and experience revival now.

Get real

United Methodists must face some realities, he said: it's tough in our world and tough to be part of a mainline denomination in decline.

But he listed far more positives that the people of the United Methodist Church need to get real about: our Wesleyan heritage, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a biblically grounded mission, the great clergy and laity of the Arkansas Conference and God's plan for the future.

"Remember, Jesus is leading us," he said. "And when Jesus is leading us, we don't need



to know where he's taking us. We don't have to be comfortable. And we don't have to agree with everything he does. We just have to do it. More than anything let's get real about Jesus and the real difference he makes in our lives."

Be different

In his call to be different, he spoke about the controversy and

differences of opinion and belief surrounding same-gender marriages.

"I've got news for you: Sex is not the only thing we talk about in the United Methodist Church," he said, prompting applause from the floor of the Conference. "We begin with Jesus. We continue with Jesus. And it's in the spirit of Jesus that we deal with real life issues in real life ways.

"And if we begin with Jesus and

continue with Jesus, let me tell you, we're not going to divide just because we disagree. If we begin with Jesus and continue with Jesus, we're not going to let identities of left or right, red or blue and progressive or traditional determine what we do. We're not going to have winners and losers."

Move into the community

As Mueller urged congregations to get involved in their communities, he pointed out the danger of churches and their leaders, lay and clergy alike, becoming too self-absorbed instead of following Jesus into actions that show love to our neighbors.

"Whether you're lay or clergy, being a Christian is a privilege, being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a privilege and being in ministry is a privilege. And we need to start acting like it," he said. "We need to spend far less time on ourselves and far more time moving into the community to share Jesus."

He admitted he is tired of the UMC being "stuck, stuffy and slowly dying," and believes it can become a movement again.

"If we are moved by Jesus and follow him into the community, we will be sharing his life, his love, his joy, his hope, and his transforming power that will make a difference for all eternity," he said.

Experience revival now

The importance of experiencing revival forms the basis for Mueller's 10-step mission plan, which he and lay leader Karon Mann began introducing at last year's annual conference and debuted in its full form last September (see arumc.org/missionplan for details). He reminded those gathered that getting self out of the way allows room for the Holy Spirit to work.

"I know whose you are. I know who you are. I know what's in your heart. I you're your dreams," he said. "And I know the incredible faith in what you are going to do when you get back home. You're going to choose to move full speed ahead."

For the complete text of this address and other AC2014 resources, visit www.arumc.org/ac2014.



BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

PRACTICAL DIVINITY

The need for a culture of call in the church

Our recent annual conference in Rogers featured a persistent theme that needs to be transmitted to every congregation in Arkansas.

The call. Specifically, God's call upon the lives of women and men into ministry.

We're all called, of course. Every one of us. Every baptized Christian is meant to be a minister of the gospel in one way or another.

I'm mostly interested in talking about the call into ordained ministry here, though.

That was the theme I kept hearing in Rogers. Our bishop emphasized it many times. It was there in the great preaching we experienced. The Rev. Adam Hamilton spoke at length about its prominence in the way his church teaches confirmation. And it popped up in video after video of our retiring clergy.

Each time, the speaker in question would comment about how important it is to recognize the call—either in yourself or in someone you know. Oftentimes a call into ministry is persistent-yet-subtle. The right kind of

environment is needed so the person called can really sense what is happening. Mentors and friends are crucial in helping those who are called to discern the nature of their calling.

I don't think the frequency of people speaking about the importance of the call into ministry at our annual conference was any accident. I believe there is a Spirit-led energy in the church in Arkansas to focus on this work. For revival to happen, raising up the best leadership will be essential.

We need strong clergy leadership for the church to thrive in any age.

The Apostle Paul teaches us that "the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him."

Yet in order for anybody to call on Christ Jesus, we have to know him first. So Paul goes on: "But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14, RSV)

The church must have

preachers to proclaim the word of God, priests to celebrate the sacraments, and pastors to care for God's flock. For those people to get where they need to be, they've got to hear God's call and respond to it.

The Rev. Cornelia DeLee gave a humorous slant on God's call when she shared her own attempts to avoid it during her retirement video: "You can run like Jonah," she said. "But eventually you're gonna come out dripping and puking seaweed to preach a 7-word sermon."

Better not to run at all, of course! (If only it were that simple.)

Actually, Jonah's story is a pretty good window into how difficult responding to a call from God can be. Because God's call often interrupts our lives—and sometimes directs us to go places we'd never have dreamed about otherwise—it can be intimidating to say the least.

So many of those called in the Bible didn't think they had the stuff to serve. Many of them saw themselves as people "with unclean lips," in the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Sometimes it isn't that responding to the call is the most

difficult part. It may be hearing the call in the first place that is the challenge. This was my story, in some ways. I had many people urging me toward ministry from an early age. They saw what I could not. I also received some direct signs from the Holy Spirit, but for a long time I misinterpreted or just plain disregarded them.

The difficulty in hearing or responding to God's call (or sometimes, both!) means that young men and women need a church around them that can support and nurture them. The right type of youth ministry is crucial. But youth group alone is not enough. The church has got to be invested in youth at every level.

Of course, some people get called at a later point in their lives. So the culture of call in the church needs to be present everywhere: in worship, in small groups, even in church administration.

We also have to do what people in our day sometimes tend to shy away from: direct engagement and prompting. If you know someone in your congregation that you believe is

'For revival to happen, raising up the best leadership will be essential.'

called into ministry—whether it's a youth or someone older—you should start praying for that person daily. Then you should start figuring out a way to engage that person in conversation to let him or her know what you've seen.

Think about it: The Holy Spirit could be trying to use you to convey Jesus' deep desire to bring another servant of the gospel into ministry. If you suspect that may be the case, then don't delay. The Spirit and the church are counting on you.

The Rev. Dr. 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@arumc.org.

Service through OMP reaches neighbors, transforms communities



Frankie Harshaw-Whyte shows Ozark Mission Project staff members Alyssa Burlinson, a freshman at Arkansas State University, and Michael McMurray, a junior at Hendrix College, her meticulous records detailing where Ozark Mission Project has helped people in her community.

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

It's June 11, and Ozark Mission Project's 2014 camps are in the middle of their first week. Founded in 1986, the United Methodist-related, Arkansas-based mission experience for youth has grown from a single camp per summer to a dozen week-long experiences hosted by churches and camping facilities across the state.

On this sunny afternoon, Alyssa Burlinson and Michael McMurray, two of OMP's college-age staff for the camp based at Lakewood UMC North Little Rock, are making the rounds to check on the teams, called family groups, to see how they're doing at their work sites—the homes of those they call their Neighbors. But first, they make a stop at the home of Frankie Harshaw-Whyte, whom everyone within OMP knows as “Ms. Frankie.”

In 2006, Ms. Frankie, who lives in the Dark Hollow neighborhood of North Little Rock, hosted a meeting in her home so she and her

neighbors could discuss how they might work with the city to help improve the area. When she contacted the City of North Little Rock following that meeting, a city staffer referred her to Mandy Stanton, a board member with OMP.

That referral began a relationship that lasts to this day, and is transforming neighborhoods.

OMP painted Harshaw-Whyte's house that summer, and served a total of five families in that same neighborhood. In 2007, Ms. Frankie began receiving leads from other people concerning those who might need help. For example, a cousin-in-law who is a beautician referred several of her customers who were unable to make home repairs on their own. And as a retired social worker who worked in the public school system, Ms. Frankie herself remains well connected within the community and able to get in touch with those who may have a need OMP can meet.

OMP is different from any organization she's seen, she says.

“It has made a great, great, great difference,” she said. “A ray of

sunshine and blessings. It's a picture of love.... To see this—no fees, no charges, young people, integrated—it's wonderful.”

During a week-long session, the average OMP camp tackles about two dozen jobs for Neighbors. In recent years, they've used the connections Ms. Frankie provides to source projects for the camps based at Lakewood and First UMC Maumelle. She even prioritizes the list to help them plan.

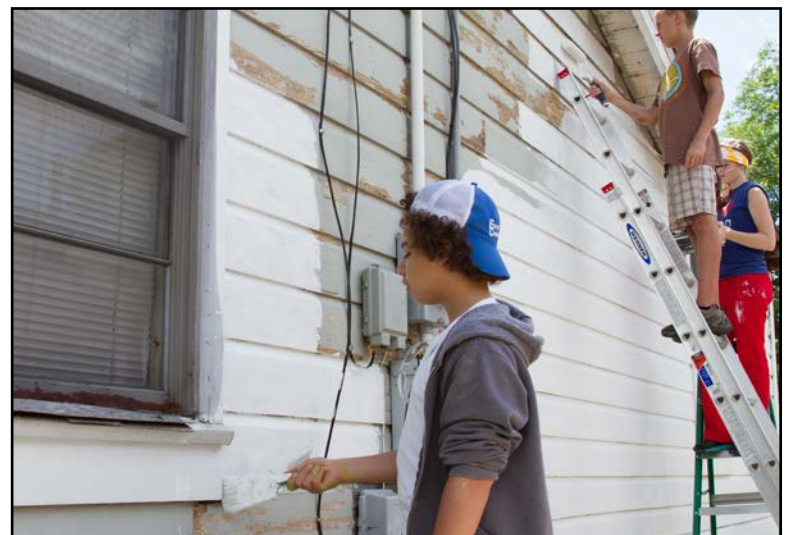
Harshaw-Whyte's neighborhood includes many single women, and she also knows quite a few retired folks on fixed incomes. OMP doesn't have requirements about income, though; it simply assesses and meets the need. “OMP does a lot with the time they spend in a neighborhood,” she says.

After partnering with OMP and churches to help neighbors in her immediate area, Harshaw-White began to expand her reach.

“What I've been doing now is to try to work neighborhood by neighborhood,” she says. The newest neighborhood on her list is the Dixie



Austin Phillips of Grand Avenue UMC Hot Springs and Bethany Gallimore of Piney Grove UMC Hot Springs paint a house as part of their Ozark Mission Project experience. This summer marks Phillips' fifth time to attend an OMP camp, and Gallimore's fourth time.



OMP campers Michael Brown of Little Rock, Ike Irvin of Mountain View UMC and Katelyn Bondhus of Piney Grove UMC Hot Springs paint a house in the Dixie Addition area of North Little Rock.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

Addition area of North Little Rock.

“It seemed the Lord just put it on my heart to go there,” she said. “I started on I Street.”

Once there, she found three frame houses with peeling paint. She knocked on the door of the first one, told the resident about OMP, and that neighbor was enthusiastic. As a result, several OMP family groups went to work on those homes.

People who have received help from OMP in the past now give Harshaw-Whyte referrals of others who might benefit from the

organization's work. In fact, the morning of June 11, she had received a call, so she shared the information with McMurray and Burlinson at the end of their visit. Before they left, the staffers invited her to Neighbor Night, a community dinner held at the host church on the Friday evening of camp.

OMP isn't just about fixing homes, it's also about building relationships. And the work Ms. Frankie does alongside the staff and board of OMP shows that the relationships make a difference.

A reminder from the editor

Around the worldwide United Methodist connection, news travels more quickly than ever before. At Annual Conference, we heard several references to current conversations within the church, particularly those surrounding the topic of homosexuality.

The official source for news that affects the entire denomination is United Methodist News Service (UMNS), based in Nashville. You can find their stories on umc.org, and a more detailed, searchable listing at <http://umns.umc.org>.

And, in the words of Bishop Mueller in his episcopal address, “Sex is not the only thing we talk about in the United Methodist Church.” You'll find UMNS stories on United Methodists in mission: working to improve global health; bringing justice to the oppressed; providing education that

improves lives and teaches faith; and saving lives in the name of Christ. These themes never go away. I could fill this entire newspaper with stories from around the globe, but with everything happening in our Conference, the priority of this publication remains focused on telling stories that emphasize the “Arkansas” in *Arkansas United Methodist*.

But we are indeed connected to the world outside of Arkansas, as you often see from some of the items within these pages. To learn even more, you can choose to receive a Daily Digest email from UMNS, as I do. I encourage you to subscribe to the UMNS email in addition to reading the *Arkansas United Methodist*, as it provides a valuable way to stay connected and informed regarding the immense, diverse, meaningful, Christ-filled work of the people called Methodist.

Blessings,
Amy Forbus

Childhood hunger becomes three-year focus of Arkansas UMs

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

Among the resolutions approved at the 2014 Annual Conference on June 22 was one that should have a lasting impact on the people of Arkansas.

With the approval Resolution 4, the Extended Cabinet received the go-ahead for a three-year initiative to address childhood hunger in Arkansas. Recognizing that many United Methodist churches are already deeply involved in feeding the hungry in their communities, they now hope to extend that involvement to every UMC in the Arkansas Conference, for both immediate hunger relief and long-term comprehensive efforts.

An excerpt from the resolution provides some details:

“The initiative would utilize current partnerships and develop new partnerships in order to: a) develop baseline statistics; b) develop measurable outcomes for the initiative (i.e., reduce childhood hunger by X percent; increase UMC local church involvement in hunger relief efforts by X percent); c) assessment of and dissemination of current local church hunger relief involvement; d) provide an online resource clearinghouse for information sharing, ideas, stories of success and transformation through the Network for Discipleship and Mission; e) provide online, print and in-person resources to local church that provide the opportunity to understand the issues surrounding childhood hunger, the Wesleyan understanding of works of mercy, how we respond as disciples of Christ, and engage the entire Conference in a fund-raising effort to help end childhood hunger in Arkansas.”

During discussion, the Rev. Ann Ferris of Corning UMC emphasized that poverty is not the only root cause of hunger; some parents have addictions that lead to their children not being fed. “We see a lot of hungry kids in Corning, and it’s not just because of money,” she said. The Rev. Carl Palmer of Central UMC Fayetteville and a state



The Rev. J.J. Whitney presents Resolution 4 on behalf of the Extended Cabinet of the Arkansas Conference. Members of the 2014 Annual Conference unanimously approved Resolution 4’s proposed three-year initiative to combat childhood hunger within Arkansas.

AUM PHOTO
BY AMY FORBUS

representative for Celebrate Recovery, said he would be glad to work with any churches who might wish to use Celebrate Recovery as a resource to help tackle situations where addiction problems in families contribute to child hunger.

The Revs. Stephen Copley and Martha Taylor, co-chairs of the Conference Hunger Task Force, believe churches of the Arkansas Conference have made significant headway on this effort, and that the three-year focus will help transform lives, communities and the world, in keeping with the stated trajectory of the Conference.

“So many United Methodists are already working to live out Matthew 25 by serving those in need,” Taylor said. “We believe with a coordinated effort, we can multiply the good we’re doing and bring about some long-term change.” The task force is working with the Arkansas Foodbank, Arkansas Rice Depot and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to develop programs that provide ways for local churches to connect with those who need help.

To learn how you can report your church’s existing missions to the initiative and receive guidance in starting something new, look for information in future issues of the *Arkansas United Methodist*, and at www.arumc.org.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Godwin honored by Ozark Mission Project

As recognition for more than 20 years of service revitalizing neighborhoods and building relationships, North Little Rock resident and Lakewood United Methodist Church member Hank Godwin on June 11 was presented with Ozark Mission Project’s “Community Builder Award.”

The award, a small handmade glass house by local artist James Hayes, is given to volunteers who exhibit true love for God and neighbor. An inspiring, gentle and popular leader, Godwin has led camps, managed renovations and painted walls while building diverse relationships and giving campers a glimpse into the lives of fellow Arkansans who live in situations unfamiliar to most participating youth.

“Hank is an outstanding example to our campers of what it means to truly put others before yourself,” said OMP Executive Director Bailey Faulkner. “North Little Rock is lucky to have such a community-minded person with such a heart to serve. Working with Hank has taught me that no dream is too large and that anything is possible.”

“Hank’s enthusiasm and love for his community fuels his service in NLR,” said OMP college staff member Michael McMurry. “I admire him greatly, and wish I had the type of leadership and love for neighbor that Hank exhibits every day... not just one week during the summer, but every day.”

Ozark Mission Project is a series of United Methodist Church summer camps in which teenagers help local residents who need assistance maintaining their own homes. OMP campers build wheelchair ramps, repair roofs, paint houses, clear brush and more. Five thousand repaired homes and 20 years after a single camp started at Lakewood UMC North Little Rock, OMP has blossomed into a dozen camps across the state, with over 1,000 teens and adult leaders living in churches each summer, eating donated food and borrowing homes each evening to take showers.

—submitted by Joe Roitz



Ozark Mission Project executive director Bailey Faulkner, right, presents United Methodist layman Hank Godwin with the OMP Community Builder Award.

COURTESY PHOTO

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION AND DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATES

For information on any Volunteers In Mission (VIM) project below, contact the individual listed or Byron Mann, Conference VIM coordinator: vim@arumc.org or 870-826-0268. For Disaster Response (DR) projects, contact Byron or Janice Mann, DR co-coordinators: disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359 (Janice). To connect on Facebook, search for “Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response - Serving Arkansas & Beyond,” and join the group for updates.

Early Response Team (ERT) Training in Searcy July 19

The next Arkansas Conference Disaster Early Response Team training opportunity is Saturday, July 19, 2014 at First UMC Searcy, co-hosted by St. Paul UMC Searcy. The purpose of an Early Response Team is to offer the caring presence of the church while assisting those affected by disaster with debris removal, tarping roofs and other actions to prevent further damage to property and belongings.

Gathering begins at 8:30 a.m., with class starting promptly at 9 a.m. Participants should be available to stay until 5 p.m. The \$25 registration fee covers training materials, lunch and background checks. To register, visit <http://goo.gl/Ub6tDo>. If you have questions, contact Janice or Byron Mann, disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359.

Disaster Response Academy Sept. 7-11

The UMC South Central Jurisdiction’s 2014 Disaster Response Academy is set for Sept. 7-11 at Canyon Camp and Conference Center in Hinton, Okla. This academy offers workshops for everyone, from persons just getting interested in disaster response to the person who is the defined leader at the Conference level.

Annual conference and district disaster response coordinators should receive training at least once every four years, and the Academy provides an excellent opportunity.

The Academy offers a choice of 15 workshops targeted to different levels of experience with

disaster response. Scheduling allows participants to select up to six of these workshops:

- Overview of UMCOR Programs
- UMCOR Basic Disaster Ministry (“Disaster 101”)
- Connecting Neighbors Leadership Training Program (local church readiness training)
- Spiritual and Emotional Care: “Calming After the Storm”
- Volunteer Coordination: On-site Management for Early Response Teams (ERTs)
- ERT Team Leader
- ERT Site Assessment
- Cleaning Out Flooded Homes
- Managing Unsolicited Donated Goods - The Secondary Disaster
- Everyone’s Role in Disaster
- Transitioning to Long-Term Recovery and UMCOR Grants
- Crisis Planning and Response: Communicating Under Pressure
- Communicating with Team Leaders
- Overview of Missouri Conference Disaster Response Coordinator Impact Ideas
- DRC & UMVIM Close-Out Meeting (Mandatory for DRC and UMVIM leaders)

To view all workshop descriptions, or to register, visit <http://goo.gl/l2sfbC>. The early bird discount registration deadline is Aug. 17; final registration date Sept. 3.

Questions? Contact Audrey Phelps, VIM and Disaster Response director for the South Central Jurisdiction, at vimp Phelps@gmail.com or 636-344-0389.

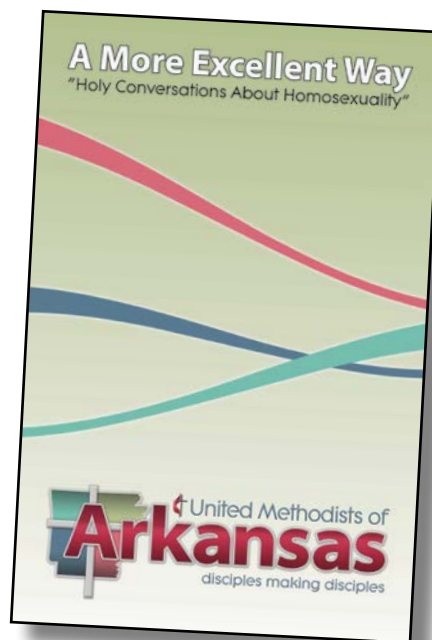
Holy conversation, older adult resources available

Two studies, one new and one revised, may be ordered through the Conference office and the online Learning Management System.

“A More Excellent Way: Holy Conversations about Homosexuality,” includes readings, a video about holy conversations, a three-session small group discussion guide and a bibliography for further study.

The bibliography includes papers written by members of the Human Sexuality Task Force and other scholars. Dr. Andrew Thompson, the Conference’s Wesley Scholar, is the presenter in the 20-minute holy conversations video. The task force, composed of clergy and laity, was convened in 2012 by Bishop Crutchfield to “develop a curriculum to guide holy conversations.” As a result, the task force has released 16 different resources.

All of the resources, including the discussion guide, may be viewed or downloaded from the Conference’s Learning Management System, accessible through arumc.org; or you may order a copy of the discussion guide by emailing communications@arumc.org.

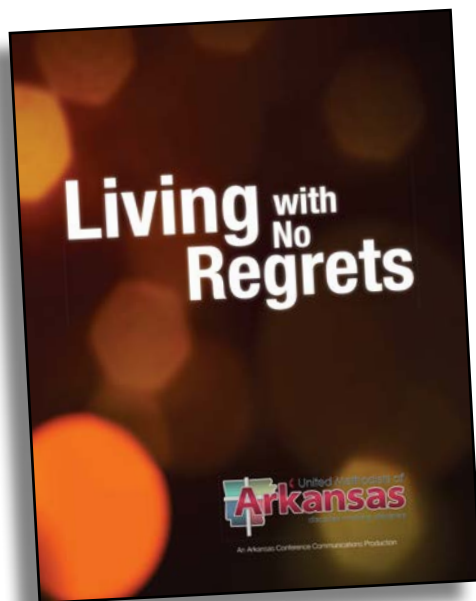


The new revision of the five-week study “Living with No Regrets,” is now available, as well. The small group study focuses on issues and challenges facing older adults and their families, and offers ideas for how local churches and communities might minister to them.

The 2014 revised study features a facilitator’s help video with Jenni Smith, the director of congregational care and Living with No Regrets study leader at St. James UMC Little Rock. Updated statistics are included about what growing older in Arkansas looks like for many individuals and their families.

Living with No Regrets was created by the Arkansas Conference Older Adult Ministry Council and funded by a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. It was the recipient of a 2012 national Telly Award.

Arkansas local churches and ministries may order the study at no charge by emailing communications@arumc.org. Those outside the Conference may order the study for \$25 at www.arumc.org/LWNR.



Leaders from six Arkansas congregations attend Large Church Initiative Conference

Clergy and lay people from six Arkansas congregations attended the Large Church Initiative (LCI) Conference, held April 28-30 at Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church in Atlanta. Representatives from First UMC Conway, First UMC Russellville, Central UMC Fayetteville, Trinity UMC Little Rock, First UMC Springdale and First UMC Jonesboro participated. The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) provided funding for teams from each of the churches to attend.

The Rev. Roy Smith, senior pastor at First UMC Russellville, said

his biggest takeaways from the meeting were messages about extraordinary hospitality exemplified by the host church. He thought the conference speakers, some United Methodist and some from other faith traditions, showed a real desire to help participants use the gifts they are given to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

“Our meals were in a tent in the church parking lot, and it was wonderful to sit with leaders from large congregations throughout Arkansas to interact and discuss what we learned at the plenary sessions and workshops,” he said in a news release. “We talked about how to integrate what we learned there into our local churches. I appreciate that the United Methodist Foundation made it possible for all of us to attend.”

The United Methodist LCI serves churches with 1,000 or more members and/or with an average attendance of 350 or more in worship. It provides opportunities for pastors, staff and congregational leaders to exchange ideas, learn new leadership skills and develop ideas through discussion, study and networking. LCI is a partnership between the General Board of Discipleship of the UMC and the Large Church Initiative Committee.

UMFA manages \$130 million in endowment funds and other charitable assets that benefit local churches and other United Methodist ministries. UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, it is responsible for over 650 funds that support United Methodist ministries.

Free retreat opportunity for clergy and spouses

Clergy invest a lot of time in relationships—first with God, but also with parishioners and people they encounter in the mission field.

But what about caring for their relationship with their spouse, and with others who are closest to them?

The Rev. Scott Gallimore, senior pastor of Piney Grove UMC Hot Springs, says that he and his wife, Rita, have been able to invest in their relationship through a special opportunity called Renew, a three-day retreat. It is open to married clergy and their spouses, and to single clergy, as well.

Offered by the Soderquist Center of Northwest Arkansas, Renew retreats are paid in full by a United Methodist couple that prefers to remain anonymous. The only cost to participants is travel to and from one of the several locations where retreats are held.

Renew participants spend time discussing leadership practices and

principles, and how they relate to growing in ministry. For married clergy, the experience involves spending one morning with an experienced marriage counselor to focus on growing your marriage; single clergy receive the same amount of time to focus on enhancing relationships.

“During 20 years in ministry, I have realized that my spouse is truly a fellow disciple in Jesus Christ with whom I desire to grow together in life and love,” Gallimore says. “Investing in that relationship has made me a better disciple and a better pastor. One of the most powerful investments we have made together is attending the Renew retreat.”

To learn more, visit www.soderquist.org/renew, or contact the Gallimores to learn about their experiences through Renew at 870-370-1163 or pastorscott@cablelynx.com.

Interested in technology and missions? Register by Aug. 23 for Game Changers Summit, Sept. 3-5, 2014

United Methodist Communications in Nashville is sponsoring the Game Changers Summit, Sept. 3-5 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. Featuring speakers on communication technology and missions, this international conference will provide opportunities for learning from globally renowned leaders, and building plans that will impact generations to come.

The Game Changers Summit will demonstrate how information and communications technology (ICT) can be used to improve all facets of life. The focus? Helping parts of the world left behind by the technological revolution solve problems in education, wellness and community development with cutting edge communications tools.

“I’ve signed up to attend the conference because as a deacon, I am eager to learn how I can help lead the church to be good news to the poor,” said the Rev. Victoria Rebeck of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. “This event will teach us about a forward-looking ministry that can bring hope and self-determination to people whom many have forgotten.”

“I believe that the power of communications technology can deliver the message of God’s grace through lifesaving learning and hope,” says Maria Ward, a United Methodist from Alexandria, Va. “Education and love destroy ignorance and fear. I am looking forward to beginning to learn what my part is in this work.”

Visit www.umcom.org/gamechangers for details on speakers or to register. The registration deadline is Aug. 23.

Free webinars from the General Board of Discipleship

Did you know that your church’s support of the World Service Fund through apportionments provides you with opportunities for learning? Here are a few of the upcoming webinars offered:

- Creating a Culture of Innovation (a two-part series), July 17 and 24
- Congregations as Discipling Communities, July 22
- Starting a Worship Planning Team, Aug. 5
- Stewardship: Show Me the Mission!, Sept. 25

Visit www.gbod.org/webinars to see more options or to register.

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Tornado clean-up nearing finish; long-term recovery next



Cornerstone UMC Jonesboro sustained tornado damage to its sign (above) the same day that First UMC Jonesboro's roof was damaged, affecting music, classroom and office areas in addition to the sanctuary. Both churches are thankful there were no injuries, and repairs are in progress.

COURTESY PHOTO

BY MARTHA TAYLOR
Special Contributor

Rebuilding and clean-up across central and northeast Arkansas

continues following the April and May tornadoes that left a trail of debris in their wake.

While life for those in the hardest hit communities of

Mayflower and Vilonia continues to be a challenge, Jonesboro residents were able to recover quickly since the damage was less severe.

Two United Methodist churches in Jonesboro, First UMC and Cornerstone UMC, sustained damage.

First UMC Jonesboro's business manager Scot Woodruff said the church is well on the way to repairing the wind and water damage that affected their music, classroom and office areas, as well as their sanctuary.

"We have a temporary roof on the northwest corner of the building where the most wind and water damage occurred," he said. "Water damage repair is close to complete and ceiling tiles, insulation and paint are happening now."

A similar scenario is playing out at Cornerstone, where the church's large brick sign on the main

thoroughfare was blown over.

"We were lucky that the church didn't have any damage, especially since we sit on a hill where we get a lot of wind," said associate pastor the Rev. Mark Cloninger. "While it was unfortunate to lose the sign, we are grateful that no one was hurt."

Both Cloninger and Woodruff agree that if there is a silver lining to the storm, it is that they witnessed people coming together to help. Members and non-members alike joined in to pick up bricks blocking the Cornerstone driveway, and at First UMC Jonesboro, members showed up almost immediately to remove equipment and furnishings to prevent their being damaged.

"There was a lot of great cooperation that took place following the storm," Woodruff said. "It was good to see people just show up and offer to help."

In central Arkansas, disaster response co-coordinator Janice Mann said that the emergency relief effort is winding down, but that doesn't mean the UMC's work is complete.

"We will soon be entering the long-term relief phase of this disaster," Mann said. "This is where United Methodists are unique from some response groups. We stick with the communities for the long haul."

Mann added that there will be additional needs for Mayflower and Vilonia. More information will be shared in future issues of the *Arkansas United Methodist*.

The Rev. Taylor serves as communications officer for the Arkansas Conference Disaster Response Team.

International speakers, United Methodist bishops to keynote UM Global AIDS Fund conference

Four United Methodist bishops, an international medical AIDS specialist, seminary professors from Zimbabwe and Kenya, United Methodist pastors, a director of a non-profit addressing health disparities and persons living with HIV will be among featured speakers at an equipping conference for HIV and AIDS ministries set for Sept. 11-13 in Denver.

The conference, "Countdown to Zero: Just Save One," will emphasize preventing HIV infections and deaths from AIDS. Sponsored by the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMGAF) Committee, it builds on the motto of UNAIDS: "Getting to Zero: No new HIV infections, no discrimination, and no new AIDS deaths."

"Just as Jesus pointed out in his parables the importance of saving just one sheep, finding one coin or welcoming home one son, so in AIDS ministries we reach out to help persons one by one by one," the UMGAF Committee said in a statement.

Countdown to Zero will include not only plenary speakers and panelists, but also workshops along four tracks:

- Latina for Life
- Native American Youths and Sexuality
- Annual Conference Training

the Trainer

- General Information.

Attendees will hear about UMGAF's new initiative, Just Save One, which for the next year is focusing on funding projects to eliminate the transmission of HIV from pregnant moms to their newborn babies.

"United Methodists are at a critical tipping point," said Donald Messer, co-chair of UMGAF, in a June 9 news release. "Are we going to help eliminate AIDS in the world or simply pretend that we can't do anything to stop children from getting infected and mothers from dying?"

Featured speakers

Bishop Cynthia Harvey of the Louisiana Area will preach the opening service. Three other bishops also will speak, emphasizing the importance of addressing the global AIDS crisis: Bishop Elaine J. W. Stanovsky of the Mountain Sky Area; retired Bishop Ann Brookshire Sherer-Simpson of Lincoln, Neb.; and Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr. of the San Francisco Area.

As president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, Brown will also speak on the United Methodist Global Health Initiative

and the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund. He will be joined by two of the denomination's general secretaries: Susan Henry-Crowe of the General Board of Church and Society and Thomas Kemper of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Benjamin Young, M.D., chief medical officer for the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care and adjunct professor at the University of Denver School of International Studies, will provide the latest medical information, statistics and research. Two seminary professors, Zimbabwe native Edward P. Antonio of The Iliff School of Theology and Kenya native Anne K. Gatobu of Asbury Theological Seminary, will offer biblical and theological insights. Other keynote speakers include the Revs. Joan Carter-Rimbach of Hyattsville, Md., and Kent Millard of Indianapolis, Ind.

Imani Latif, executive director of It Takes a Village, Aurora, Colo., will chair a panel of persons living with HIV. They will speak about identifying and mitigating stigma and discrimination.

Registration information

To register for the event, visit www.umglobalaidsfund.com. The

"Are we going to help eliminate AIDS in the world or simply pretend that we can't do anything to stop children from getting infected and mothers from dying?"



—Donald E. Messer, co-chair, United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee

registration deadline is Aug. 15.

Partial scholarships are available for three of the tracks. For information and deadlines about scholarships, contact Linda Bales Todd, joylab47@yahoo.com. For

general questions, email countdown@rncumc.com.

Countdown to Zero is supported by the United Methodist Connectional Table and various church boards and agencies.

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 60 cents per word, no limit. Call 501-324-8037, email aforus@arumc.org or mail to: *Arkansas United Methodist*, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

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



“We will have to be willing to examine ourselves and look at how we behave, inside the church walls and outside the church walls.”

“Isn’t it a sin to just be good when God calls us to be great?”

—Karon Mann, Conference lay leader, in her June 20 laity address



ABOVE: Bishop Gary E. Mueller, center, commissions Dane Womack as a provisional elder in the Arkansas Conference, as Madison Akins-Banman holds the order of the liturgy.

TOP LEFT: The Rev. Jorge Acevedo of the multi-campus Grace Church in southwest Florida preaches at the Friday night worship service of Annual Conference.

LOWER LEFT: The Rev. Adam Hamilton during one of his three teaching sessions at the Arkansas Annual Conference.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

Conference (continued from page 1)

issues, mostly sharing ideas and concerns. He sought to be supportive and encouraging, stressing the impact of our leadership over the next 20 to 40 years.”

“Adam spoke to us the most about the importance of sexual integrity, and how to keep yourself from making stupid choices that can ruin your life, your family and your ministry,” said the Rev. Heath Bradley. “I was very impressed and thankful for his willingness to share so transparently and honestly about this issue.”

Conference actions

Conference business included approving a significant change to health benefits for retirees, and a potential change for all those insured through the active clergy plan.

The Conference approved a proposal from its Board of Pension and Health Benefits to remove retired Medicare-eligible clergy from the Conference plan by the end of 2014. By enrolling retirees in Medicare Plan F and providing a premium gift, the Conference—and, by extension, local churches—will save about \$400,000 in premium liabilities next year, while retirees will receive similar coverage at a lower cost.

“We consider this a win-win-win for all involved,” said the Rev. Dennis Spence, board chair. “Medicare Plan F is ideal as a supplement for the medical portion of Medicare Part A and B.”

The Conference also approved plans for the board to explore eliminating the Conference insurance plan altogether at the end of 2015, because comparable and more reasonable coverage options are becoming available through the state’s new health insurance exchange.

All four resolutions that came before the body received approval. Resolution 1, prompted by recent events in other conferences, encourages bishops and other involved parties to pursue a process of just resolution before calling for church trials. Resolution 2 encourages the state legislature to continue funding the Medicaid expansion known as the “private option” to provide health care for disabled and economically disadvantaged Arkansans.

With Resolution 3, the body gave its encouragement to the youth of the Arkansas Conference regarding legislation they will present at the Global Young People’s Convocation and Legislative Assembly. While the Conference did not by its action endorse making any changes to church law or the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, the legislative item the youth will carry to the Convocation does propose striking the sentence that declares the practice of homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching” from Paragraph 161F of the *Discipline*.

The approval of Resolution 4 gave the go-ahead to a three-year Conference-wide initiative to combat

childhood hunger in Arkansas. See page 5 of this issue for details.

Arkansas’ ongoing Imagine No Malaria initiative has nearly reached its three-year goal at the two-year mark. United Methodists of Arkansas have raised more than \$890,000 toward their target of \$1 million, positioning them to surpass it. The Rev. David Freeman, chair of the Imagine No Malaria task force, reminded the members of the Conference that “our goal is not a dollar amount. Our goal is to eradicate malaria.”

Celebrations

Sunday’s ordination and commissioning service welcomed eight new provisional members of the Arkansas Conference: one deacon and seven elders, with an average age of 38. Bishop Mueller ordained three deacons and three elders, with a combined average age of 48. Nine newly licensed local pastors, with an average age of 50, were recognized earlier in the conference.

Twenty-seven pastors retired at the 2014 annual conference, with a combined total of more than 570 years of service in ministry.

The Annual Conference memorial service remembered more than 45 clergy and clergy spouses who have died within the past year. The Rev. Maxine Allen, UALR Wesley Foundation director and ethnic ministries coordinator for the Arkansas Conference, served as the preacher.

“We are content to die so long as Jesus lives and the Kingdom

grows,” she said. “Since the Lord abides forever with us, we are no longer the same. It is far more God’s work than our work, God’s will than our will.... And God has work for each of us to do.”

She shared the story of Thomas Dorsey, who wrote “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” in 1932, noting that his work endures today. Betty Brutus sang Dorsey’s song following the sermon.

“The work of these individuals that we celebrate today matters,” Allen said. “The works of their hands matter. What we do across this great Conference, whatever decisions we make, it matters. It matters.” She led the congregation in the prayer found in Psalm 90:17, “God, establish the

work of our hands.”

Saturday night included a different kind of celebration: Arkansas UMC Night at the Northwest Arkansas Naturals, a minor-league baseball game that featured a United Methodist pastor throwing out the first pitch, a United Methodist laywoman singing the national anthem, costumed clergy racing around the infield between innings and plenty of fun and fellowship for everyone who attended. Night at the Naturals was a celebration of the progress toward the Conference’s Imagine No Malaria goal.


The Rev. Eric Van Meter contributed to this report.

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TOP LEFT: Bishop Gary E. Mueller addresses those being ordained and commissioned during his sermon on Sunday afternoon of Annual Conference 2014.
 TOP RIGHT: The band from Friday night's worship service, which was planned around the theme, "Live for God."
 BOTTOM LEFT: Bishop Gary E. Mueller ordains the Rev. Donna Hendricks as a deacon in full connection.
 BOTTOM RIGHT: The Rev. John Wilcher, left, and Bishop Gary Mueller, right, congratulate the Rev. Edna Morgan upon her retirement.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS



For more photos from Annual Conference 2014, see page 16. For multiple photo albums, visit facebook.com/arkansasumc. For downloadable photos in multiple sizes, visit the Arkansas UMC photo albums on Flickr at <http://goo.gl/zQ5cnZ>.

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COMING UP

Mission u July 23-26; registration deadline July 10

The 2014 Arkansas Annual Conference Mission u will be held Wednesday, July 23 through Saturday, July 26, at Hendrix College in Conway. The registration deadline is July 10.

A cooperative school supported by the Arkansas Conference Board of Global Ministries, the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, Mission u includes classes for all ages, and a nursery for children aged 6 months to 2 years. Adults will have two classes—everyone will attend the Spiritual Growth study, “How Is It with Your Soul?” and will choose either “The Church and People with Disabilities: Awareness, Accessibility and Advocacy” or “The Roma of Europe.” Mission u includes daily plenaries, as well as a morning praise service to start each day.

A Resource Room will be available at Mission u for attendees to purchase study books, as well as other books from the Mission Resource Center.

The special mission project this year will be the Arkansas Rice Depot’s Food for Kids Program. The Arkansas Rice Depot provides new backpacks and “kid-friendly” ready-to-eat food to participating schools at no cost to the school. For a list of requested donation items, as well as general information and forms, visit <http://bethcobb.wix.com/2014acmissionu>.

Webcast with Fr. Richard Rohr at Lakewood UMC NLR July 15

The Lakewood Center for Spiritual Wholeness will host “Are You Eager to Love?” a live webcast and dialog with noted author and teacher Father Richard Rohr, at Lakewood UMC North Little Rock on Tuesday, July 15, at 6 p.m.

Rohr will teach how St. Francis and St. Clare show us our true identity as one with God, freeing us from the fear of death and allowing us to live more fully as embodied love. The teaching session will be followed by a question-and-response session with Fr. Richard. The webcast is free and open to the public. For questions or more information, contact Ken Pearson, Lakewood UMC Lay Leader, at (501) 837-4268 or ken.pearson@sbcglobal.net.

Ben Few Campmeeting July 18-27

Ben Few Campground was established in 1898 near Princeton, Ark. (Dallas County). Each year it hosts Campmeeting, a “back-in-time” worship experience recalling a special part of our Methodist heritage.

This year’s Ben Few Campmeeting is set for July 18-27, with daily services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Travis Langley will serve as evangelist for the week, along with Kathleen Dockery as pianist, John Moore as song leader, and Brad Moore as youth director.

Various musical groups will perform at 6:30 p.m. on several nights:

Saturday, July 19—The Haley Creek Boys

Sunday, July 20—Oaklawn UMC Praise Team

Tuesday, July 22—The Easterling Family

Thursday, July 24—Bismarck Gospel Tones

For information, call Jane Knickerbocker at 501-865-4540 or Linda Clark at 870-725-2025.

Ebenezer Camp Ground encampment July 18-24

Ebenezer Camp Ground, near Center Point in Howard County, will begin its 192nd annual encampment with an 8 p.m. service on Friday, July 18. Daily services will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., with an afternoon service at 3 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday. Services will end Thursday,

July 24.

The Rev. Carlton Cross of Salem United Methodist Church Benton will be the evangelist. Young campers will be under the direction of Jeremy Carter, children’s minister at First UMC Magnolia. Seth Cash, Worship Leader of the Horatio (Ark.) Assembly of God will be 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 sing at 7:30 on Saturday night, July 19, and The Testimonies will return for a musical service on Monday night, July 21. 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.

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. After moving two more times, seeking more space and spring water, Ebenezer trustees purchased the present 40-acre site in 1837.

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

Walk for Children and Families set for Aug. 1

The 8th Annual Walk for Children and Families benefiting Methodist Family Health is coming up Friday, Aug. 1, at the Big Dam Bridge, 4000 Cooks Landing Road, North Little Rock. Check-in begins at 5:30 p.m., with the walk at 6:30 p.m. Individuals, groups and all ages are welcome at this family-friendly event.

The fun will include live music by the Gable Bradley Band, free Frosty Treats ice cream, free pizza, games and walking for a great cause. All participants will receive a free T-shirt. Parking will be at the Crystal Hill Elementary School, with a free shuttle to the Big Dam Bridge.

Cost is \$20 per individual or \$50 for a family. Advanced online registration is encouraged to guarantee T-shirts for everyone!

Proceeds from the Walk for Children and Families will be used for an “extreme makeover” of the Methodist Children’s Home Residential Treatment Center school in Little Rock, and completion of the playground at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle.

Online registration is now open at www.methodistfamily.org. For more information, contact Annie Davis at 501-906-4201 or adavis@methodistfamily.org.

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Arkansas Conference Appointments, 2014-15

Persons changing appointments as of July 1, 2014 are listed in **bold type**.

Central District

District Superintendent.....**Richard Lancaster**
 ADONA.....Bob Musser
 AMBOY.....Roger Armstrong
 ARGENTA.....James W. Choate
 ASBURY - LITTLE ROCK.....Mary Hilliard
 Associates.....Charles H. Green
David M. Moore
 BENTON FIRST.....Robert David Jones
 Associate.....Daniel Thueson
 Deacon.....Garry Dean Teeter
 BETHEL - JACKSONVILLE.....**Gerald Collins**
 BETHLEHEM - LONOKE.....To be supplied
 BRYANT FIRST.....Hammett Nichols Evans
 Deacon.....Peter Weber
 CABOT.....**Darrell Coats**
 Associate.....Andrew C. Kjorlaug
 CANVASCOMMUNITY.....Carter Ferguson
 Associate (Deacon).....Edward Paul Atkins
 CARLISLE FIRST.....Kirk Doering
 CENTERVILLE.....Lana Gartner
 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
 ENGLAND.....LaNita Anne Daniels
 FAITH - LITTLE ROCK.....Harriett Akins-Banman
 Deacon.....Martha S. Taylor
 GARDNER MEMORIAL.....Richard S. Mitchell
 GRACE - CONWAY.....**John Mark McDonald**
 Associate.....**Kathleen McMurray**
 GRACE - EAST END.....George Thomas Jones
 GRAHAM CHAPEL/OAKLAND.....Tammy Garrison
 GREENBRIER FIRST.....Kevin Lyon
 Associate.....Donna Bennett
 HAMILTON / HUMNOKE.....**Jerry Martin Bowie Jr.**
 HAZEN / DEVALLS BLUFF.....Carolyn Doering
 HEBRON - CARLISLE.....Roger Crouch
 HENDERSON.....**Michael Darryl Utley**
 HICKORY PLAINS.....Deborah D. Harrison
 HIGHLAND VALLEY.....Wade Shownes
 Associate.....**Katherine G. Pearce**
 HOPE KOREAN.....Isaac Choh
 HUNTER - LITTLE ROCK.....**Soniyah Blue Key**
 JACKSONVILLE FIRST.....**Scott Jackson Shafer**
 Associate.....Bradley Keith Moore
 KEO.....Chanda Adams
 LAKEWOOD.....**Luke Conway**
 Associates.....Andrea E. Allen
Carol Jean Grace
 Deacon.....Cynthia Shaw Henry
 LEVY.....Jimmy J. Mosby
 LITTLE ROCK FIRST.....William Christopher Cooper
 Associate.....Donna Hankins-Hull
 LONOKE FIRST.....Aubrietta Lynn Jones
 MABELVALE.....Robert K. Marble
 MARKS CHAPEL.....Clyde Hughley
 MAUMELLE FIRST.....**Beth Ann Waldrup**
 Associate.....Zeke Allen

Deacon.....Patrick O. Henry
 MAYFLOWER.....Richard Wilkins
 MCCABE CHAPEL.....Johnnie Davis
 MORRILTON FIRST.....Todd-Paul R. Taulbee
 MOUNT CARMEL - BENTON.....**Roger E. Glover**
 MOUNT CARMEL - VILONIA.....To be supplied
 MOUNT PLEASANT - LITTLE ROCK.....Mary N. Jones
 MOUNT ZION - LONOKE.....Robbin Dale Haley
 NAYLOR.....Luke Parker
 NEW HAVEN - LITTLE ROCK.....Norma Gillerson
 NEW ZION / MOUNT ZION - CENTER RIDGE
James Lee Scruggs
 NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRST.....Davis E. Thompson
 Associates.....James W. Choate
Brent Higdem
 Deacon.....Donna Hendricks
 NORTH PULASKI.....Carol S. Goddard
 OAK FOREST / UNIVERSITY PARISH.....**Michael Blanchard**
 OLD AUSTIN.....Von Dell Mooney
 PARKVIEW / NEW HOPE - BENTON.....Walter J. Garrett
 PERRYVILLE.....Terrie Lynn Bunnell
 PLEASANT HILL - ALEXANDER.....Vince Crawford
 PLUMERVILLE.....Keith Duane Coker
 PRIMROSE.....**Melvin Moss**
 PULASKI HEIGHTS.....Britt Skarda
 Associates.....Jay Clark
Jeffery Bernard Hampton
Jacob Steven Lynn
Belinda Price
 Deacons.....Lynn W. Lindsey
James Scott Moore
 QUAPAW QUARTER.....Thompson Murray
 Associate.....Elizabeth Anne Holcomb
 SAINT ANDREW - LITTLE ROCK.....**Charlie E. McAdoo**
 Associate (Deacon).....Jenni L. Duncan
 SAINT JAMES - LITTLE ROCK.....Siegfried Johnson
 Associates.....Blake Russell Bradford
**Claire M. Caldwell**
Gregory Schick
 SAINT JAMES - LONOKE.....David Scruggs
 SAINT LUKE / GEYER SPRINGS.....Ronald Jeremy Pressgrove
 SAINT PAUL - LITTLE ROCK.....**Russell D. Breshears**
 SAINT PAUL - MAUMELLE.....Nathaniel Thomas Grady Sr.
 SALEM - CONWAY.....**William Todd Vick**
 SALEM - BENTON.....Carlton N. Cross
 SARDIS.....Stephen P. Dickinson
 Associate.....Judy Baker
 SOUTHBEND.....Garren Earle Hagemeyer
 SPRINGFIELD / MALLETTOWN.....Austin W. Coleman
 SWEET HOME.....To be supplied
 SYLVAN HILLS.....Brittany S. Richardson Watson
 THE JOURNEY - CABOT / MOUNT TABOR - CABOT
Jeffery Trent Warrick
 Deaconess.....Colleen Caldwell
 THERESSA HOOVER.....Felton May
 TRASKWOOD.....To be supplied
 TRINITY - LITTLE ROCK.....Betsy Singleton Snyder
 TRINITY - NORTH LITTLE ROCK.....Gerald Meeks
 VILONIA.....Nathan Kilbourne
 WARD / SIXTEENTH SECTION.....To be supplied
 WESLEY - CONWAY.....David E. Baker
 WESLEY CHAPEL - LITTLE ROCK / DUNCAN
Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
 WESTERN HILLS.....Sylvia Nosc
 WHITE MEMORIAL.....To be supplied
 WINFIELD.....David D. Hoffman
 WYE MOUNTAIN.....**Richard Gifford**

Extension ministries

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE.....Lawson Leonard Delony
 NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE.....Robert Hunt
 OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE.....James H. Lenderman
 TENNESSEE CONFERENCE.....Jessica Waddell Teegarden
 BAPTIST HEALTH SCHOOLS OF LITTLE ROCK
Melissa Thomas
 CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.....Adam Kirby
 DAILY BREAD COUNSELING - BRYANT, AR
Garry Dean Teeter
 HORIZONS STEWARDSHIP COMPANY.....James Clifton Christopher
 SEIS PUENTES HISPANIC OUTREACH CENTER
Jenni L. Duncan
 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE
 Executive Director of Mission & Ministry.....George Mackey Yokem
 Ministries for Mission Field Engagement.....**Maxine Allen**
 Director of Communications.....Martha S. Taylor
 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE CENTER FOR CLERGY AND
 LAITY EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP
 Director.....**Deidre Jo Roberts**
 Associate Director.....Candace Barron
 DIACONAL MINISTRY.....David W. Clemmons
David L. French
David Glaze
Jim Walsmith
John C. Yarrington
 HENDRIX COLLEGE.....J. Wayne Clark
Judith J. Whitney
 JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS.....Stephen Jean Copley
 METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH.....James Scott Moore
 OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.....Rockwell F. Jones
 PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.....Rebekah Linn Miles
 PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE CHAPLAIN
Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
 UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION.....Martha D. CashBurless
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UALR / UNIVERSITY PARISH
**Jana Hogg Green**
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UCA.....**Lloyd Blake Langston**
 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY.....Heath R. Bradley
 ARKANSAS HOSPICE.....Helen J. Burton
 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, STATE OF TEXAS
Catherine Estes
 U.S. ARMY RESERVE.....Leonard Higgins
 HONORABLE LOCATION.....William S. Briant Jr.
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
 PERSONAL LEAVE.....Mary Jane Cole
**David Ray Hawkins**

Northeast District

District Superintendent.....Susan Ledbetter
 ANTIOCH / HARMONY - SEARCY.....Jim Foster Gilliam
 ASH FLAT / EVENING SHADE.....Larry Morris
 AUGUSTA / BALD KNOB / TUPELO.....**Bonda Deere Moyer**
 BATESVILLE FIRST.....Justin Ledbetter
 BAY.....Donald Lewert
 BEEBE.....Russell Edward Hull

[continued]

BEECH GROVE	Robert Hager	NEWPORT FIRST.....	John Bradley Elrod	ALTUS / GRENADES CHAPEL.....	Patricia Butler
BETHESDA CAMPGROUND	Carl Hudson	NORFORK.....	Terrance A. Moser	ARKANSAS KOREAN MISSION	Kwangmin Shin
BLACK ROCK / LYNN / POWHATAN.....	Jim West	OAK GROVE - SEARCY.....	Stephen Ellis Waggoner	ATKINS / BELL'S CHAPEL	Naomi P. Rogers
BLYTHEVILLE FIRST.....	N. Robin Moore	OSCEOLA.....	Tyrone Hill	BARLING	Steve Holyfield
BONO	Thomas Dellinger	OXFORD.....	Bobby Coleman	BELLA VISTA FIRST.....	Jaimie Jack Alexander
BRADFORD / PLEASANT PLAINS.....	William P. Mills	PANGBURN	Fleming O.D. Turner	Associate.....	William Zachary Underwood
BROOKLAND / UNION GROVE.....	Joe Kaiser	PARAGOULD FIRST	John Andrew Fleming	BENTONVILLE FIRST.....	William Kurt Boggan
CALICO ROCK / SPRING CREEK.....	William J. Sardin	Associate.....	Heath Williams	Associates	Benjamin Gee Hines
CAMPGROUND	George Edward Harris	PIGGOTT / WRIGHT'S CHAPEL.....	Andy Newbill	.....	David Andrew Ruehr
CAVE CITY / BEAR CREEK	Richard P. Rogers	PLEASANT GROVE - JONESBORO.....	Rex G. Darling	BERGMAN	Kenneth Beard
CEDAR GROVE - FLORAL	Nikki Suzanne Pierce	PLEASANT HILL / PINE LOG.....	James McElhannon	BERRYVILLE	Kenneth R. Lee
CENTRAL AVENUE - BATESVILLE.....	Paul E. Seay Sr.	POCAHONTAS	Rockey Earl Starnes	BLAND CHAPEL	Judy Rudd Platt
CHEROKEE VILLAGE	Angela Gage	QUITMAN	David Caswell	BOONEVILLE / WASHBURN.....	Geral Lynn Holloway
Associate.....	Jimmy W. Anderson	RAVENDEN /RAVENDEN SPRINGS.....	Danny Roark	BULL SHOALS / YELLVILLE.....	Donnie Hudson
CHRIST WAY - 2ND CAMPUS, 1ST JONESBORO		RECTOR	Mace P. Straubel	CAVANAUGH / HACKETT	Michael Wayne Topham
.....	Herschel Lee Richardson Jr.	ROCK SPRINGS - LAFE / RAMER'S CHAPEL		CECIL / VESTA	Paul Ed Seay Jr.
CLINTON	George Edwin Odell	.....	Howard Mark Trout	CEDAR GROVE - YELLVILLE / PLEASANT RIDGE / VALLEY SPRINGS	
CONCORD / JAMESTOWN	Steve Long	ROSE BUD.....	Kathy N. DeBusk	.....	Donald M. Cremer
CORINTH / POWELL'S CHAPEL	To be supplied	RUSSELL	Treva Mills	CENTRAL - FAYETTEVILLE	John C. Robbins
CORNERSTONE - JONESBORO.....	Chris Hemund	SAINT PAUL - JONESBORO.....	Charles Sigman	Associates	Carl D. Palmer
Associate.....	Mark Cloninger	SAINT PAUL - SEARCY	Matthew H. Johnson	.....	Steven K. Pulliam
CORNERSTONE -PLEASANT PLAINS / CUSHMAN		SALEM - SALEM / VIOLA.....	Cheryl Jean Cook Baker	.....	Jody Lynn Farrell
.....	James D. Wheeler	SEARCY FIRST	David Paul Orr	.....	Emily L. Burch
CORNING.....	Pauleen Ann Ferris	Associate.....	Ruben "Tony" Anthony Griffin	.....	Lyn Poplin
DAMASCUS.....	Vaughn Marsden	SEDGWICK.....	Cory Pfeifer	CENTRAL - LINCOLN / MORROW	Gary B. Lunsford
DELL.....	Marilyn Webb	SHARP	Jerry Lumpkin	CENTRAL - ROGERS.....	Carness Vaughan
DESHA.....	Tonya Hancock Russell	SHILOH - JONESBORO.....	Everett Herman Blakely	Associates	James Dell Keith
ELI LINDSEY / FRIENDSHIP - RAVENDEN ..	John Stoll	SHILOH - PARAGOULD / PRUETT'S CHAPEL		.....	Brian Youngs
FAIRFIELD BAY.....	Paul Strang	.....	David A. Moore	Deacon.....	Dawn Spragg
FAIRVIEW - MOUNTAIN HOME.....	Thomas Yoder	Associate	Bonnie Carol Moore	CHARLESTON.....	Charles Coffelt
FARM HILL.....	Kevin Barron	SHIRLEY	John Hiegel	CHERRY HILL	Daryl E. Hines
FISHER STREET.....	Paul L. Horner	SIDNEY	To be supplied	CHICKALAH	Bud Choate
FORREST CHAPEL - BROCKWELL	Loye Vern Mason	SOUTHSIDE.....	Roger B. Hook	CITY HEIGHTS	Randy L. Miller
GARNER.....	James Turner	STONE POINT / FLOYD.....	Robert Mark Quick	CLARKSVILLE.....	John David Palmer
GRIFFIN MEMORIAL.....	Jason Sutfin	TRUMANN / LEPANTO.....	Jeff Weaver	COLES CHAPEL / BRANCH.....	Jim Brooks
GRIFFITHVILLE / DOGWOOD.....	Gilliam Sills	TUCKERMAN / SWIFTON	Diane Wimberley	DANVILLE / TRINITY - DANVILLE	Thomas Sullinger
GUM SPRINGS - SEARCY	Jim Bradberry	UMSTED MEMORIAL / EMORY CHAPEL.....	Terry Kai Haley	DARDANELLE FIRST / LIBERTY HALL.....	James A. Benfer
HARDY	Kay Brogdon	WALNUT RIDGE FIRST	Jeanne Williams	Associate.....	Vitalino Mendez
HARRISBURG FIRST	Gary Clark Atkins	WARREN'S CHAPEL / WOOD'S CHAPEL	Everett Isom	DECATUR	Russ Hall
HAZEL EDWARDS MEMORIAL / OIL TROUGH		WEINER / FISHER	Dan L. Walker	DIAMOND CITY / OMAHA	Patricia Bodenhamer
.....	Clayton Bulice	WESLEY - COTTER	To be supplied	DOVER.....	Roy Beth Kelley
HEBER SPRINGS.....	Thomas Toombs	WHITEHALL / FAKES CHAPEL	Stephen Anderson	DYER	Philip Costner
Associate.....	Kathy N. DeBusk	WILD CHERRY.....	Marty Sanders	.....	Cheryle Costner
HOLIDAY HILLS	C. Daniel Brand	WILSON / KEISER.....	Gary Yarbrough	ELKINS.....	Charles Gary Ashcraft
HORSESHOE BEND	Kenneth R. Anderson	WISEMAN	To be supplied	ELM SPRINGS	Karl Dixon Platt
HOXIE	Garry E. Wiles			EUREKA SPRINGS.....	Stanley Wade Adams
HUNTER.....	To be supplied			EVERTON	David M. Smith
IMBODEN / SMITHVILLE.....	Nancy M. Rainwater			FAITH - FORT SMITH	Charles W. Armour
JONESBORO FIRST.....	John P. Miles II			FARMINGTON	Phillip Troy Conrad
.....	Herschel Lee Richardson Jr.			FORT SMITH FIRST	Charles F. Murry
.....	Patty Sue Soward			Associates	Robert Blackwell Cloninger
JUDSONIA / KENSETT.....	James Robert Wilson			.....	William Dane Womack
LEACHVILLE / CARAWAY.....	Douglas Criss			GENTRY	George Adkins
MAMMOTH SPRING / CAMP.....	John Franklin Michael			GODDARD	James Steve Wingo
MANILA / COMMUNITY	Jerry Pentecost			Associate.....	Kim Cloninger
MARKED TREE / JOINER.....	Robert Daniel Partlow			GOSHEN.....	Donald W. Lanier
MARMADUKE / CHRIST UNITED	Billy Vanderbilt			GRACE COMMUNITY	John Jeffrey Jones
Deacon.....	Sarah Mullins			GRAVELLY / BLUFFTON	Joy Carmean
MARS HILL.....	Milburn Teasley			GRAVETTE / SULPHUR SPRINGS - SULPHUR SPRINGS	
MAYNARD.....	Alma Rita Hastings			.....	Eric Meyer
MCCRORY / COTTON PLANT	Carla Ray Thompson			GREEN FOREST	Steve Cook
MCRAE / MOUNT PISGAH - SEARCY	Donna Harvey			GREENWOOD.....	Robert Craig Russell
MELBOURNE / GUION	William Grothe			HARMON.....	J. Michael Callahan
MONETTE / LAKE CITY	Jerry W. Reed			HARRISON FIRST	David S. Williams
MOOREFIELD / OAK RIDGE.....	Lavon Long			HARTFORD / MIDLAND	Chris Rink
MOUNT CARMEL - JONESBORO.....	N. Wayne Clark			HARTMAN / SPADRA	Regina Turner
MOUNT PLEASANT - QUITMAN	Donna Alberts			HATFIELD.....	Sidney Simpson
MOUNTAIN HOME	Rodney G. Steele			HAVANA.....	To be supplied
Associates	Randall D. Ludwig			HAYS CHAPEL.....	Beth Latham
.....	James F. Snow			HERITAGE	James Wesley Hilliard
MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRST / SAINT JAMES - MOUNTAIN VIEW				Associates	Mark Sullivan
.....	Robert Burton			.....	Brian Seewald

Northwest District

District Superintendent.....	William O. Reeves
ALMA / KIBLER.....	Larry W. Martineau
ALPENA	H. Franklin Cook

HIGHFILL	Russ Hall
HIGHLANDS	Bryan Fink
Associate.....	J. Michael Callahan
HUNTINGTON.....	Frank L. Grubbs
HUNTSVILLE / PRESLEY CHAPEL	Robert Stanley Ernest
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.....	Micheal L. Proctor
LIVING WATERS AT CENTERTON	Blake A. Lasater
MAGAZINE / MOORE'S CHAPEL - HAVANA / WAVELAND / PIONEER MEMORIAL	Judy Hall
MANSFIELD	John J. Noggle
MENA FIRST	Thomas Frase
MIDLAND HEIGHTS / MOUNT OLIVE - VAN BUREN	Daniel Lane Williams
Associate.....	Aaron Madden
MILLTOWN	Louise Finney
MISSION	Ulysses C. Washington
MOUNTAIN VIEW - MENA.....	Bryan Richardson
MULBERRY	Charles B. Beevers
NEW HOPE - VAN BUREN / NEWBERRY.....	Robert M. Jeffery
OAKLEY CHAPEL / GRACE - ROGERS	Shane D. Pair
OLA / PLAINVIEW	Melanie Lauren Tubbs
OZARK	Paul B. Coy
PARIS.....	James Michael Smith
PARKS.....	Roger Simon
PEA RIDGE / BRIGHTWATER.....	Brian Timmons
POTTSVILLE	Mildred Faith Bryant
PRAIRIE GROVE FIRST	Lee Benjamin Myane
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
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
.....	Rob Williams
Deacons	Judith S. Van Hoose
.....	Rebecca Boggan
SQUARE ROCK / MT. PLEASANT-WALDRON	Maranda Leeper
TRINITY - FAYETTEVILLE	Terry M. Gosnell
TUCKS CHAPEL.....	To be supplied
VALLEY SPRINGS	Sandra Garrett
VIETNAMESE - FORT SMITH.....	Terry Gallamore
VIETNAMESE - VAN BUREN	Daniel Joseph 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.....	Davida Autry
WICKES.....	Teresa Egan Chapman
WINSLOW	John Mark Moore
WOODLANDS	Ben Hampton Anderson

Extension ministries

ATTEND SCHOOL	Janice Sudbrink
CIRCLE OF LIFE HOSPICE, SPRINGDALE	Audie D. Long
DEACONESS APPT NON-UM AGENCY.....	Kandi L. Mount
GBGM: METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTIAGO, CHILE	Jacob F. Schaible
HIGHLANDS ONCOLOGY GROUP.....	Pamela Cicioni
METHODIST NURSING HOME & VILLAGE	J. M. Rogers
PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Helena Cathy Caudle
Counselor	Jonathon Michael Bevil
WESLEY FOUNDATION - ATU	Emily L. Burch
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS	Cynthia Lee Davis
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Peter H. Kimball
INCAPACITY LEAVE.....	Robert Bell
.....	Stephen Brizzi
.....	Louann Averitt Murphy
PERSONAL LEAVE.....	Thomas Mark Ashcraft
.....	Larry D. Ott
.....	Mary Jane Pearce
.....	Rex Dickey

Southeast District

District Superintendent.....	Mark K. Norman
ALMYRA / HUNTER'S CHAPEL - ROE	Ted Edmondson
ALTHEIMER.....	Fred Arnold
BAILEY CHAPEL.....	Travis Earl Jackson
BAYOU METO / LODGES CORNER	Mary F. Welch
BETHEL - SHERIDAN / EBENEZER - TULL	Albert C. Marlar
BRINKLEY / BRASFIELD	Michael Andrew Smith
CENTER GROVE - SHERIDAN.....	James Edward Conn
CHERRY VALLEY / VANNDALE	Ron C. Williams
Associate.....	Janice Williams
CLARENDON / HOLLY GROVE	Nan Nelson
COLT / FORREST CHAPEL - FORREST CITY	Jesse James
CROSSETT	Russell R. Moore
DEWITT / ST. CHARLES	Daniel R. Kirkpatrick
DUMAS / TILLAR	Tandy Curtis Hanson
EARLE / CRAWFORDSVILLE.....	Ryan Spurlock
EXTRA.....	Royal S. Dodson
FORREST CITY FIRST	William V. Buchanan
FOUNTAIN HILL	Chyrl Savage Slocum
GILLETT / DELUCE.....	Janet T. Edwards
GOOD FAITH CARR / REDFIELD	Ryan Allen Rush
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	Reginald Russell
HEBRON - NEW EDINBURG.....	Boyd F. Savage Jr.
HELENA / WEST HELENA / ELAINE (EAST PHILLIPS COUNTY PARISH)	Walter Michael Wilkie
Associate.....	Melissa Maskell
HERMITAGE / WAGNON.....	Marty Reep
HICKORY RIDGE / TILTON	Robert Garfield DeBaun
HUGHES / MADISON.....	Jay Stephen Simpson
HUMPHREY	George Edward Crumbly Jr.
KINGSLAND / CHAMBERSVILLE	Michael C. Dodson
KYNETTE / LIVINGSTON CHAPEL	Edna Hargraves
LAKESIDE - LAKE VILLAGE.....	J. Beth Perdue
LAKESIDE - PINE BLUFF.....	Pamela Jean Estes
Associate.....	Alicia Bobo Frye
LEOLA / MOORE'S CHAPEL - SHERIDAN	Lindsey Saenz
MARIANNA / BEAR CREEK CAMP.....	Frankie Glenn Hicks
MARION	Tom M. Letchworth

MARTIN'S CHAPEL / TRINITY-WARREN.....	William Paul Woolley
MARVELL / LEXA.....	Gary Lawrence Maskell
MCELROY / ELLIS CHAPEL / CENTRAL-WYNNE	Stephen Wayne Baldwin
MCGEHEE FIRST / ARKANSAS CITY	William Joe Head
MONTICELLO FIRST.....	Dennis Spence
MOUNT OLIVET / PROSPERITY / UNION.....	Robert L. Lyons
NEW HOPE - SHERIDAN	To be supplied
PARKDALE / EUDORA / MONTROSE.....	Debbie L. Head
PARKIN	Melvin Dwight Mann
PINE BLUFF FIRST	David Fleming
PLEASANT GROVE - DEWITT	Gene White
PORTLAND / DERMOTT / WILMOT	Gilbert Philmore Worley
RISON / MOUNT CARMEL - RISON.....	Gordon Mohr
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.....	Barbara A. Douglas
SAINT MARK - PINE BLUFF	David Morgan
SCRUGGS CHAPEL.....	John W. Love
SHERIDAN.....	John Embrey
SHERRILL	William Ferguson
STAR CITY FIRST	Bryan R. Diffee
STUTTGART FIRST.....	David W. Bush
SULPHUR SPRINGS - PINE BLUFF.....	Willis Winn Findley
WABBASEKA	Tom Smithwick
WARREN FIRST	Gary Frank Harrison
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.....	Michelle Morris
WHEATLEY / SALEM - WHEATLEY	Michael Bolin
WHITE HALL	Benjamin William Crismon
WYNNE.....	Lester Glenn Pettus
ZION / WALLER'S CHAPEL	Toby Austin

Extension ministries

CASA de DIOS	Mary Olson
CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY, PINE BLUFF, AR	David Morgan
MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.....	Andrew C. Thompson
SE DISTRICT REGIONAL MISSION COORDINATOR	Natasha J. Murray-Norman
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	James P. Polk
ASBURY - MAGNOLIA / McNEIL.....	Michael P. Daniel
ASHDOWN FIRST / RICHMOND.....	James H. Cross
AVERY'S CHAPEL / BRUCE MEMORIAL / MIDWAY	Pamela K. Brule
BEARDEN / THORNTON	Andrew Wayne Hughes

[continued]

BELL CHAPEL / RED HILL	Wayne Allen Bell
BISMARCK	Lynn Ann Lewis McClure
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.....	Winston Dossett
CHRIST - TEXARKANA / OGDEN	J. David Kassos
CHRIST OF THE HILLS - HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE	Walter L. Smith
Associates	Sheila M. Jones
.....	Margaret Sue Kelly
DELIGHT / ANTOINE / SMYRNA.....	James Taylor Henderson
DEQUEEN FIRST / GILLHAM	Ronnie Newberry
DIERKS / GREEN'S CHAPEL	Carroll D. Jackson
DODDRIDGE / OLIVE BRANCH.....	Walter L. Burnett
DUMAS MEMORIAL	Patricia Daugherty
EBENEZER - NASHVILLE.....	Shirley F. White-Souder
EL DORADO FIRST	Royal Keith Dodson
EMERSON - MT. PISGAH.....	Barbara Grimes Lewis
EMMET / HARMONY - HOPE / WILLISVILLE	Jerry G. Westmoreland
FAIRVIEW - CAMDEN / WESTSIDE.....	Roger Allen Crum
FAIRVIEW - TEXARKANA	Willie Joe Miller
FAITH - HOT SPRINGS	Carol Stewart
FORDYCE FIRST	William F. Cato
FOREMAN / WADE'S CHAPEL.....	Kathryn Burchfield
FRIENDSHIP - FRIENDSHIP / KEITH MEMORIAL	Jeff Ladd
FRIENDSHIP - PRESCOTT / SWEET HOME UNION	Gene M. Ross
GARDNER / DIAMONDHEAD	Mark R. Williams
GLENWOOD / DAISY	Lonnie M. Landers
GRAND AVENUE - HOT SPRINGS	George Edward Rook
Associate.....	Deborah Perry
GREER'S CHAPEL / LYDESDALE	James Mark Lasater
GUM SPRINGS - MOUNTAIN PINE	To be supplied
GURDON / CENTER GROVE - GURDON	Travis Langley
HALL	Joyce Watson
HAMPTON / HARRELL / FAUSTINA.....	Charles A. Perry
HARMONY - COLUMBIA / PHILADELPHIA / UNITY	John Wayne Edwards

HARMONY GROVE - CAMDEN / HOLLY SPRINGS / LAKESIDE	Velda Bell
HAVEN	Chester Ray Jones
HINTON / DE ANN.....	Ralph Gary Riley
HOLLY SPRINGS - TEXARKANA.....	Doug Rhodes
HOLLYWOOD	Danny Dunlap
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
LEWISVILLE	Ronnie K. Eldridge
LISBON / MARYSVILLE	Floyd Ray
LOCKESBURG	Teresa Egan Chapman
MAGNOLIA FIRST.....	Larry Eugene Kelso
MALVERN FIRST	Lavon Post
MANCHESTER.....	Mike Meeks
MINERAL SPRINGS / WAKEFIELD	Phillip Salmon
MISSOURI.....	To be supplied
MORNING STAR.....	John Franklin Walker
MOUNT CARMEL - LOCKESBURG / SCOTT'S MEMORIAL	Tommy Halsell
.....	David Randle Steele
MOUNT IDA / JOPLIN	Tommy Howard
MOUNT MORIAH.....	L.T. Marks
MOUNT OLIVE - FORDYCE / BETHEL - NEW EDINBURG / WILSON CHAPEL	Johnna J. Galloway
MOUNTAINSIDE	James Wainscott
MURFREESBORO	James E. Harris
NASHVILLE FIRST / BINGEN	Charles Payne
NEW ERA.....	George T. Whitney
NEW SALEM	William Charles Bradford
NORMAN / LANGLEY.....	Heather Spencer Clawitter
NORPHLET / CENTENNIAL.....	Fred W. Hunter
OAKLAWN.....	Jeffery L. Jackson
PARKER'S CHAPEL / PLEASANT GROVE	R. Scott Gallimore
PINEY GROVE.....	Rose A. Poag
Associate.....	Bill Lindsey Fish
PRESCOTT FIRST	

PULLMAN HEIGHTS	Ronald G. Grigsby
RHODES CHAPEL.....	James Carroll Rawls
ROCKPORT / L'EAU FRAIZ.....	Troy Lee Cate
RONDO / PLEASANT HILL - TEXARKANA	Harry J. Hamner
RUSHING MEMORIAL.....	Benny Morgan
SAINT ANDREW - ARKADELPHIA	Bobby W. Sanders
SAINT JOHN.....	Tracy Roden
SAINT MARK - EL DORADO	Winston D. Roden
SAINT PAUL - EL DORADO	Robert Henry Walker
SAINT PAUL - MALVERN / ADKINS MEMORIAL	Clarence Fowler
SHOREWOOD HILLS / MAGNET COVE	Donald H. Robinson
SILVER SPRINGS.....	Wayne Chambers
SMACKOVER / SILVER HILL	Leon Thomas Dixon Jr.
SPARKMAN / DALARK / BETHLEHEM.....	Sidney Carol Clark
SPRING HILL / OAK GROVE	Revel Kidd
STAMPS.....	Terry 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.....	Deanna L. McCormack
TRINITY - GURDON / OKOLONA / MOUNT ZION - ARKADELPHIA	Andrew Orr
.....	Ivory Joe Williams
VALLEY GROVE.....	Kenneth Hipp
VILLAGE / EBENEZER - MAGNOLIA.....	George W. McCoy
VILLAGE - HOT SPRINGS	Alfred C. Loya
Associate.....	Keenan C. Williams
WASHINGTON	To be supplied
WILEY CHAPEL.....	

Extension ministries

MT. CARMEL COMMUNITY OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE	Carol Stewart
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
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Carl A. Ownbey
.....	Helen Stegall

OBITUARIES

CABOT

Richmond P. "Rick" Meadows

Richmond Pearson "Rick" Meadows, 63, of Cabot passed away June 16, 2014, at his home after a brief illness.

Born in Tupelo, Miss., on June 22, 1950, Rick was the son of the late Elizabeth Pearson and William Holmes Meadows. He was a graduate of Central High School in Memphis, Tenn., and received a B.A. from the University of Tennessee in 1978. Rick married Harriet Norris of Batesville in 1978, and they have resided in Cabot since 1984.

Rick was the first entrepreneurial insurance agent for AAA in the state of Arkansas, and ran that business for over 20 years. In recent years, in addition to continuing his relationship with AAA, he served as a part-time local United Methodist pastor, first at Cabot United Methodist Church, and later at Ward United Methodist Church and Sixteenth Section United Methodist Church.

In addition to being an avid runner and an enthusiastic fan of the Cabot Panthers, the Arkansas Razorbacks and the Atlanta Braves, he coached 3rd through 6th grade girls



Rick Meadows

basketball through the Cabot Parks and Recreation Program for a number of years. He also was an active member of the Lions Club of Cabot and the Civil War Roundtable.

In addition to his wife, Harriet, he is survived by his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Cowart and her husband, David, of Shreveport, La.; and his brother, William H. Meadows and his wife, Sally, of Washington, D.C.

Rick was a gregarious and caring friend to many people. His caring spirit also extended to the earth and its creatures, as exemplified by his committed recycling and his rescue, adoption and faithful oversight of their pets, from their Arabian show horses to strays who happened by.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 18, at Cabot United Methodist Church with the Rev. Andrew Kjolraug presiding, assisted by the Rev. Ray Vining. Burial followed at Old Austin Cemetery in Ward. Pallbearers were Ken Bextermueller, John Call, David Fredricks, John Mark Goings, Mark Goings, Brad Hill, Holbert Hill, Greg Logan, Zac Norman, Joe Pruett and Matt Webber.

FORT SMITH

Katherine Bell

Katherine Murray Monroe Bell, 94, passed away May 27, 2014, in Fort Smith.

She was born and raised in Nashville, Tenn., and attended Peabody Business School. She was a lifelong member of United Methodist Church, where she shared her love of music and playing the piano for worship. This led to her meeting the pastor of Matthews Memorial Methodist Church, Virgil Chipman Bell, the love of her life. On the day of their wedding, Virgil preached, and after the benediction, invited all those present who would like to share in their wedding to please be seated. This was a surprise to all, including Katherine's 7-year-old daughter, Sharon.

Following Virgil's graduation from Vanderbilt Divinity School, they moved to Arkansas, where she and Virgil shared in ministry for 60-plus years throughout the state. She not only supported Virgil in his ministry, but also ministered to a multitude of others in many ways, especially women. God's Daughters was a prayer ministry for women that she led in her home wherever they lived.

Her day started by her praying for her husband, children, grandchildren and other family members. She was a prayer warrior for all, including her pastor at St. Paul UMC Fort

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Katherine Bell

OBITUARIES

Smith, Steve Poarch. After Virgil's death, Katherine moved in with Bobby and Londie Bell as well as Jo Anna Harrison, caregiver and now family member. Even when Katherine's days were spent at home, her day began with her hair styled, makeup on, including her ruby red lipstick and her "Babel style" bling. Her morning routine was complete with her daily devotions. Katherine met each day with a love for God, her family and others, ready for whatever God had in store for her that day. She will be loved and missed and her memory will always be celebrated.

Katherine Murray Monroe Bell is survived by three children, Sharon Smith of Florida; Bobby Bell and his wife, Londie, of Arkansas; and Susan Hampton and her husband, Steve, of Texas; nine grandchildren, Pat, Scott and Brian Smith; Maiga Bishop and her husband, Jason; Jonathan Bell and his wife, Shelly; Alec Bell; and Ryan, Chad and Trey Hampton; and four great-grandchildren, Michael Smith, Addy Bishop and Conner and Noah Bell.

A funeral service was held Saturday, May 31 at St. Paul United Methodist Church with burial to following at Witherspoon Cemetery in Vandervoort.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul UMC Building Fund, 4100 Grand Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72904.

HOT SPRINGS

Richard C. Preston

The Rev. Richard Clark Preston, 80, of Hot Springs, passed away Friday, May 30, 2014. He was born Aug. 19, 1933, to Clark and Alice Luberta Preston.

He played an important role in the lives of many people during his 60 years of ministry. His unselfish love for all God's children was a gift to all who knew him. He was more than just a United Methodist minister and educator; he was a motivator, a friend, a loving husband and devoted father who inspired the lives of many.

A retired United Methodist minister, he ministered faithfully to many throughout Arkansas and Kansas. He was an Arkansas pioneer and activist for human and social rights, but his greatest passion was the Lord.

During his early education he attended Preston Elementary School in Murfreesboro, Ark., and then proceeded to high school in Nashville, Ark. He went on to obtain a higher education at Philander Smith College, Little Rock; Henderson State University, Arkadelphia; and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga.

His pastorates are as follows: the Lonoke Circuit; the Lockesburg Circuit; Mallaliaea Circuit and St. Mark UMC (Wichita, Kan.); and Haven UMC Hot Springs.

In 1985 he moved back home from Kansas to Arkansas and continued his ministry at Haven UMC. He retired from Haven in 1998, but not from serving the Master.

Survivors include his wife, Hazel Preston; his children, Belinda Preston Johnson; Ulysses Preston and his wife, Darcell; Felecia Preston Templeton and her husband, Stanley; and Antonio Preston and his wife, Tijuana; grandchildren, Emeral Templeton, Angelica Preston, Spencer (Sabrina) Templeton, Sage Johnson, Preston (Kari) Johnson, Quentin Preston, Raven Preston, and Sharra (Remnell) Litzsey; and great-grandchildren, Gabrielle Johnson and Gavin Litzsey.

A memorial service was held Monday, June 2, at Haven United Methodist Church, 107 Burroughs Street, Hot Springs.

JONESBORO

William C. "Dick" Haltom

The Rev. William C. "Dick" Haltom, 81, passed away on

Saturday, May 24, 2014 at the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House in Jonesboro.

He was born Jan. 29, 1933, to Clyde and Jessie (Findley) Haltom. After graduation from Jonesboro High School, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy, minor in Speech and Psychology from Bethany Nazarene College in Oklahoma. While in college he served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1952 to 1954. In college he met Barbara Barrett, who became his wife the summer after graduation. The couple moved to Kansas City, Mo., where he attended seminary at Nazarene Theological Seminary, graduating in 1961 with a Master of Divinity in English Bible. He continued studies at SMU's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas, and postgraduate studies at University of London.

After serving a number of years as a minister in the Church of the Nazarene, he became an associate minister of First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, Texas. He was ordained Deacon in the Texas Conference, then an Elder in Conway, Ark., in 1963. His ministry continued in Arkansas as organizing minister of Hendricks Hills Methodist Church Fort Smith, and organizing minister of Indian Hills Methodist Church, now First UMC North Little Rock. He served Wilson, West Helena, Walnut Ridge, Grace UMC Searcy, First UMC Van Buren, Winfield UMC Little Rock, Oaklawn UMC Hot Springs, Marion, Huntington Avenue UMC, Mount Carmel UMC and as minister of visitation at First UMC Jonesboro.

He was known as an outspoken peace advocate and advocate for racial and economic justice in Arkansas, having helped organize black voter registration in the mid-1960s in Mississippi. He was passionate about the church and its ministries and served in numerous positions in the Arkansas Conference, including chair of the Board of Church and Society; chair of Camps and Conferences; chair of Conference Committee on Worship; chair of Partnership in Mission for Arkansas and Oklahoma; and a member of the Committee on Planning and Research for the Wesley Foundation.

He was chair of the Community Forum in West Helena, Arkansas, a bi-racial committee assisting public school integration. (This cooperative venture was recognized as a model plan in 1973 by the New York Times).

He developed "Urban Family Outreach," a program featuring activities for central Little Rock youth and families. The project "Summer Celebration" enrolled 250 youth in arts, crafts, drama, music and outdoor camping activities featuring swimming, canoeing, hiking and nature study. Thursday evenings became designated as "Summer Night Out" and included the central city families and youth in concerts, games and other activities.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two sisters, Naomi Catherine Haltom and Virginia Ruth Haltom Griffin. His greatest passions in life were serving Christ, His church and family. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Barbara Ann Barrett Haltom; two daughters, Ronda Ann Haltom Walker and her husband, Gary, of Cypress, Texas, and Jennifer Lee Haltom; a son, Jeffrey William Haltom and his wife Janet of Memphis; grandchildren, David and Mark Walker, Matthew, Amanda and Kristen Haltom, Danielle Hardin, and Mitchell Dulaney; and two sisters, Roberta (Boots) Haltom Stallings and Martha Haltom Heady.

The service of celebration of his life was held Saturday, May 31 at First UMC Jonesboro.

For lasting memorials, the family requests donations to the following: The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, 5300 Evergreen Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205; or Keller's Chapel Cemetery Association, c/o Russell Hendrix, 63304 Southwest



Dick Haltom

Drive, Jonesboro, AR 72404 (where donations will be applied to the purchase and installation of a columbarium and continued maintenance of the cemetery).

LITTLE ROCK

Billie "Bill" Cooper

Billie "Bill" Charlene Thacker Cooper, 89, of Little Rock, passed away Sunday, June 15, 2014.

She was born on May 12, 1924, to the late Charlie and Bevie Thacker. She was a member of First United Methodist Church Little Rock.

Bill is survived by her husband, the Rev. Joel Aubrey Cooper, a retired United Methodist elder who served in the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences; three sons: the Rev. Chris Cooper and his wife, Kathy, of Little Rock; Marc Cooper and his wife, Donna, of Johnson City, Tenn.; and Clay Cooper and his wife, Cindi, of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; and a daughter-in-law, Anita Ladensack and her husband, Joe, of Phoenix, Ariz. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Emily Hortman, Matthew Cooper, Josh Cooper, Charlie Cooper, Casy Brian and Andee Parks; and her great-granddaughters: Lillian Cooper, Caraline Brian, Catherine Mac Hortman, Ruby Cooper and Cadence Cooper. She was preceded in death by a son, Paul Cooper, and two grandsons, John Cooper and Wesley Cooper.

A celebration of Bill's life was held Wednesday, June 18, 2014, in the Cokesbury Center at First United Methodist Church, 723 Center Street in Little Rock.

The family requests that memorials be made to the Bill and Joel Cooper Duke Divinity School Seminary Scholarship Fund at the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, 5300 Evergreen, Little Rock, AR 72205.

DUBACH, La.

Glenda Roberson Nesbit Lanier

Glenda Roberson Nesbit Lanier, 75 of Dubach, La., passed away Saturday, May 10, 2014, at St Francis Medical Center in Monroe, La., following a brief illness.

Born on Feb. 2, 1939, in El Dorado, Ark., she was the daughter of Elvis and Opal Jennings Roberson. While residing in El Dorado, Glenda was a school teacher in Norphlet and started South Arkansas School Supply. She was a former member of Immanuel Baptist Church. At her death, she was a member of First United Methodist Church Dubach, La., where her husband serves as pastor. Glenda loved reading Christian novels, sewing and music.

Glenda was preceded in death by her parents, a son Billy Nesbit, her first husband Charles Nesbit, and a sister Connie Roberson.

Survivors are her husband of 27 years, the Rev. Don W. Lanier, on honorable location in Louisiana from the Arkansas Conference; a daughter, Melissa Nesbit Whitlow and her husband, Stuart, of Jacksonville, Fla., a brother, Roy Roberson of El Dorado; and grandchildren Connor and Jenna Whitlow.

A funeral service was held in the chapel of Young's Funeral Directors Tuesday, May 13, with the Revs. Stuart Whitlow and Ellen Alston officiating.

Memorials may be made to Ouachita Baptist University, Music Department, 410 Ouachita St, Arkadelphia, AR 71998; or Immanuel Baptist Church, 701 S. West Ave, El Dorado, AR 71730.



Bill Cooper



Richard Preston



Glenda Lanier

More photos from Annual Conference 2014

(continued from page 9)

The Rev. Will Choate of Argenta UMC shares information about a task force that will focus on how to discuss controversial issues, particularly resolutions at Annual Conference, in ways that honor our unity in Christ.

"We might begin to recognize that before Jew or Gentile, that before slave or freed, that before male or female, that before gay or straight, that before pro-choice or pro-life, that before death penalty supporters or being against the death penalty, that before laity and clergy, and before Democrat and Republican—see, the point is that before we are all of those things, we are people, and that we are people made in the image of God," he said. "And as the church we are standing in the oneness of Christ. See, I don't think there's a better way to demonstrate that than how we talk to one another about the things we care about the most."

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS



ABOVE: Bishop Mueller meets Strike the Sasquatch, mascot for the Northwest Arkansas Naturals baseball team. Strike visited the Friday morning business session of Annual Conference to congratulate United Methodists on the progress they have made toward eradicating malaria, and to invite them to UMC Night at the Naturals, June 21.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

UPPER RIGHT: Karen James of First UMC Clarendon sings the national anthem to kick off UMC Night at the Naturals.

AUM PHOTO BY TODD BURRIS

LOWER RIGHT: The Revs. Paul Seay, Ed Seay & Larry Hughes dressed as a fried pickle, a meatball and a cheese stick for a race around the bases at the Naturals game.

PHOTO COURTESY NW ARKANSAS NATURALS



Faith Funds

Common Ground for Extraordinary People

Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock enriches the lives of hundreds of children and youth who have special medical needs through summer camps and year-round respite weekends. One-on-one helpers allow campers to enjoy activities like a ropes course, accessible swimming, fishing, archery and a tree house.

"A series of United Methodist Foundation grants has meant a change of life for our camp," said Executive Director Sarah Wacaster. "The first grant in 2000 funded a master plan which helped us develop new ways of thinking about our facilities and allowed us to expand our potential."

Since then, the Foundation has provided funds for a challenge grant for the Restricted Fund for Programs mandated by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation's construction of facilities for the camp. UMFA has helped fund strategic planning and recently assisted efforts to restore and modify a carousel so that all campers could enjoy the ride.

"As grant recipients, we have a family relationship with the staff at the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. They make it easy to maintain communication and explain our needs," said Wacaster. "Because of UMFA donors, Camp Aldersgate is more fully prepared to meet the needs of our campers and their families."



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

501-664-8632 • Toll free 877-712-1107 • Fax 501-664-6792 • www.umfa.org