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Sewing class reaches church's neighbors

BY MARTHA TAYLOR
Special Contributor

As we walk down the hall toward the classroom, the snip-snip

of scissors, whirring of machines and the quiet murmuring and laughter of women can be heard.

It's a Monday morning, and the second session of St. Andrew's

Hispanic women's sewing group is busy working. While the weekly gathering is one the women have come to look forward to, this day is special. It is "graduation day" for two

of their members who have completed their four required projects. These graduates will receive a certificate of completion and a new Singer sewing machine in celebration of their accomplishments.



Barbara Wise, center, leads weekly sewing classes for Hispanic ESL (English as a Second Language) students at St. Andrew UMC Little Rock. Wise, a member of First UMC Little Rock, is a retired Spanish teacher and an accomplished seamstress.

AUM PHOTO BY MARTHA TAYLOR

Social media sourcing

The group came together through social media and the willingness of others to share their passion for sewing with others.

The Rev. Jenni Duncan, a deacon appointed to St. Andrew, had been facilitating ministries with the Latino community in Little Rock for several years. In one of her English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, she asked the group what else they would like to learn. To her surprise, learning to sew was the response.

With no sewing skills in her toolkit, Duncan took to Facebook, posting a request for anyone who enjoyed sewing and had a grasp of Spanish to contact her. The first response came from Nechi Fullerton, a member of First UMC Little Rock. The retired home economics teacher and Individual Volunteer in Mission (IVIM) told Duncan she had been

[See SEWING CLASS, page 11]

Leadership Institute energizes Arkansas clergy and laity

BY CANDACE BARRON
Special Contributor

On Sept. 23, 2014, two large charter buses carried 100 United Methodists from Philander Smith College in Little Rock to the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan.

Twenty churches—four from each of the five districts—were selected by their mission strategists (district superintendents) to attend;

each church sent a pastor and four laity. The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) sponsored these 100 people from across the Conference. Leadership training for clergy and lay members is a priority focus of the Foundation's grant making.

"I know it is a good investment," said Janet Marshall, UMFA vice president for development, who attended the conference. "Everyone came back renewed, revived, excited and ready



The Leadership Institute at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection included times of worship, keynote speakers and numerous workshops. The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas covered the cost for 100 Arkansas churches to send representatives to this year's event.

COURTESY PHOTO

to hit the ground."

In addition, 200 other United Methodist Arkansans attended on their own, making Arkansas the

most represented state at the event, which included 700 churches, 17 denominations and three countries

[See LEADERSHIP, page 12]

God cares for us in many ways

BY PAMELA LIGON HARRIS
Special Contributor

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” —1 Peter 5:7 (NRSV)

The choir of the church my family joined when I was 11 years old sang a song called “God Cares.” The lyrics emphasized that God cares for everyone: “In a mansion, made of stone, in a shanty, all alone/Whether black or white, all are precious in His sight/To the rich, to the poor, to the one in need, To the beggar man, and to the thief...”



Pam Ligon Harris

In the decades that have passed since I was 11, I have learned that God not only cares for all of us, he cares for us in many different ways. God’s care is evident in Psalm 23, which describes

forms of care we all need, such as rest, restoration, guidance, confidence and companionship. And because he knows each of us intimately, God provides for our individual needs as well.

My father passed away a few months ago. At the age of 88, he succumbed to the effects of Alzheimer’s Disease, leaving my family with that mix of grief and relief that one only truly knows through experience. Our family was “holding up pretty well,” but we were concerned about my 84-year-old mother, Daddy’s wife of more than 63 years. When, because of his condition, they could no longer share a room in the facility where they lived, Mom managed to maneuver her wheelchair down the hall to visit Daddy almost every day for a year. That was the closest to living apart they had ever been since they were married. We feared she would be overcome with loneliness, as often happens to the surviving spouse of a long-term marriage.

At my father’s wake, a woman named Brenda introduced herself as a friend of a woman who “thought she knew” my mother. Brenda’s friend, Georgia, had planned to attend the wake, but was unable to come. We didn’t recognize Georgia’s name, but we thanked Brenda for coming on behalf of her friend.

Eleven days after we buried my father, I received a call from Brenda. She told me that Georgia wanted to meet with me. I was baffled because we had already indicated we didn’t know her. Brenda assured me I would understand once I talked to Georgia (who, she mentioned, was 82 years old), but the conversation needed to take place in person. I began to feel uneasy about this insistence that we meet, but I agreed to meet them at a safe place: my church.

Driving to the church, I tried to think what this meeting could be about. I imagined several scenarios, all unpleasant, so I was anxious when I arrived. I was unprepared when Georgia asked me, “Do you know if your mother was adopted?”

When I was about 16, I learned that my mother had good reason to believe she had been adopted. But because my grandparents wouldn’t discuss it, the subject was painful for my mother.

With trepidation, I answered Georgia, “Yes, she was.” Georgia told me that her mother, Hattie, had confided in her almost 60 years ago that she had given birth to another daughter whom she had given up for

adoption. Hattie knew that the adoptive couple was named Dale, that they lived in the McAlmont area and that they had named the baby Marguerite. While skimming the newspaper obituaries, Georgia found herself reading my father’s notice: “...he and classmate Margaret Dale were married at her parents’ home in the McAlmont area.” Mom had changed her name from Marguerite to Margaret when she became of legal age.

My sister and I talked with Georgia, and two days later we took her to meet Mom, introducing her as “someone who knows something about the circumstances of your birth.” Georgia repeated the story she had told me. Mom asked some questions about her birth mother, and declared, “I believe it’s true!”

Aunt Georgia now visits Mom at least once each week; we have visited her church and her home, and she has visited ours. In a few short months, we have become family. Of course, Mom still misses Daddy, but she is thriving in the attention of the sister she didn’t know she had.

We believe God knew our mother needed to have some peace about the mystery of her birth, and she needed someone else in her life after losing our dad. God gave her that peace, and provided that someone. What a comfort and a joy to personally witness the truth of Psalm 139:1-6...

*O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.*

To God be the glory!

Harris is a member of Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock.



Harris’s mother, Margaret (left), discovered recently that she has a sister, Georgia (right). The two octogenarians now visit at least weekly.

COURTESY PHOTO



Show your care for God’s creation!

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



EDITOR’S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

Waiting and happening

It’s not yet Advent, but it feels a little bit like it. My family and I are waiting on a baby.

At this writing, my oldest niece is, as the King James translation puts it, great with child. (She’s pretty great all the time, actually—with child or not.) Her official due date falls between my deadline and the publication date of this issue.

Granted, we are a large family. There will be another baby to wait for during Advent who isn’t Jesus. And another baby in the spring. A quick look at my 2015 calendar reveals that I’ll be a great-aunt five times over before I know it.

Life is full of waiting. Yet it’s also full of happening.

It’s even full of things happening in the middle of waiting.

My niece continues to go to work, run errands, tie up various loose ends... all while she waits. And because she knows her own body and how it has changed over the course of her pregnancy, she probably does a better job of waiting than the rest of us.

As full of waiting as life can be, our culture isn’t into the idea. The latest innovation in retail appears to have arrived in the form of encouraging folks avoid waiting for midnight on Black Friday to go shopping, and instead start making their holiday purchases on Thanksgiving Day. (If you’re considering your shopping strategy, I invite you to take a look at the related story on page 4 of this issue. It highlights a distinctively United Methodist way to participate in the #GivingTuesday movement.)

I admit that I’m best at waiting when I’m pushing up against a deadline—but at that point it’s actually called procrastinating, isn’t it? That’s a matter for another column.

What’s going on while we wait? In short, all kinds of things. Waiting doesn’t mean that nothing’s happening. While we wait for my third great-nephew’s arrival, he and his mom make small but helpful physiological changes so they’ll be ready for the process of birth.

While we wait until the right moment to harvest food, it gains time to ripen.

While I wait to complete another issue of this newspaper, stories keep developing.

The common question “What are you waiting for?” usually implies that there’s no reason to wait. But sometimes there is good reason to hold on for a bit, to observe, to allow more time for things to unfold.

Waiting is a big deal to humans, but we’d do well to remember that God doesn’t see things the same way we do. And that there’s nothing wrong—and sometimes there’s everything right—with waiting.

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

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Submission Deadlines

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
Dec. 5	Nov. 14
Jan. 2	Dec. 12
Feb. 6	Jan. 20



GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

BY GARY E. MUELLER

Survival or revival?

It may only be early November, but I feel it coming. The world may be in the midst of incredible turmoil, but that's not going to stop it from taking place. You may not be ready, but it's still going to happen.

I'm talking about the holidays.

Even more to the point, I'm really talking about the craziness of the holiday season. It's a time filled with joy, great traditions and wonderful family times. Joy. It's also a time when so many experience the pain of loneliness, brokenness and unrealized dreams. And, as if all of this were not enough, it's also a time of too much to do, exhaustion and stress. No wonder the most wonderful time of the year often degenerates into a matter of survival.

But guess what? It doesn't have to be this way. Which is why I want to issue you an invitation to go deeper during the upcoming holidays.

Go deeper at Thanksgiving—truly be thankful to God for God's love and abundant blessings. Go deeper during Advent—prepare your heart, mind and spirit for what God has, is and will do in Jesus Christ. Go deeper on Christmas—experience the Good News of a great joy that changes everything about everything forever.

More than any time since I've been in ministry, I am convinced we must

be serious about seeking Jesus, experiencing his love and following him. I believe the Holy Spirit is primed to turn the craziness of the holidays into a time of deep spiritual revival that will change your life, the lives of your sisters and brothers in faith, the life of your church and especially the lives of those who don't yet know what God's about to do in their lives.

What an awesome season to experience the true joy of God. What a great time to fall deeper in love with God, grow deeper as Jesus' disciple and go deeper in your relationship with the Holy Spirit. And what an awesome opportunity to go from focusing on survival of the holidays to experiencing revival during the holidays.

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller

You can't have revival with casual worship

BY WILLIAM O. "BUD" REEVES
Special Contributor

As I itinerate around the Northwest District presiding over charge conferences, I am speaking about the keys to spiritual revival. All the keys are important, but the one that is lighting my fire these days is the necessity for passionate worship.

Bishop Robert Schnase, in his book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, wrote, "Vibrant, fruitful growing churches offer



Bud Reeves

Passionate Worship that connects people to God and one another. People gather consciously as the Body of Christ with eagerness and expectancy; encounter Christ through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching, and Holy Communion; and respond by allowing God's Spirit to shape their lives.... People are

searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative, and comprehensible, where they experience the life-changing presence of God in the presence of others."

We won't have spiritual revival without passionate worship.

About approach, not appearance

I drove by a church recently with a sign out front that said, "Casual Worship, 10 a.m." I thought, *No! There should be no casual worship!* I know what they meant, and it's fine with me if people dress casually and prefer a less formal style of worship. The problem is that we *worship* casually and don't take seriously our corporate

encounter with the living God.

It's not a question of style. However you categorize your worship service—traditional, contemporary, blended—it can still be passionate.

I visit traditional services, in which we usually recite the Apostles' Creed. Sometimes I get tickled at the catatonic expressions of the worshippers as perform this rote exercise. But then I get irritated, and I have often thought about stopping worship to say, "This is the second most historic expression of our Christian faith! Christians have been saying these words for almost two thousand years! This is a big deal! Smile when you say these words, or at least look like you're interested!" I haven't yet been so bold.

On the other hand, I've been in contemporary services with the lights down low, the band up loud and video in high-definition... but the congregation was so disengaged they might as well have been doing Gregorian chants, for all the passion they were generating.

Encountering God in worship on a weekly basis should at least be intense, if not dangerous. In *Teaching a Stone to Talk*, Annie Dillard wrote, "Why do we people in churches seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute? ...On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the

sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return."

That sounds like passionate worship!

'Swing for the fence'

A few years ago, I gave my staff little baseball trophies. Under the statue of the batter, the words were engraved, "Swing for the fence." My point was that whatever ministry you are involved in, try to hit a home run. Sometimes you strike out; sometimes your best effort goes foul; but always swing for the fence.

In every worship service, the pastor, liturgists, musicians, and congregation should swing for the fence. Every week is a little Easter, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life he gives us. Every week we need grace to cover the past and strength to handle the future. Such a holy enterprise should not be approached casually.

Worship is not the "front door" of the church that it once was. Now many people, especially younger people, first engage the congregation through a weekday program, a home group or a mission project. Worship is something they experience as they get more involved. Nevertheless, it is still a critical piece for every disciple's faith formation. Worship is, as Schnase writes, "the church's optimum environment for conversion."

If we want to make disciples of Jesus Christ, deepen the discipleship of the faithful and empower disciples to be in transforming mission, we have to do worship well. If we expect revival to break out, we will worship with passion!

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

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointment changes have been announced since the deadline for the Oct. 3 issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist*:

- David Fleming (elder)—Grand Avenue UMC Hot Springs, effective Jan. 1, 2015
- Clint Black (elder)—U.S. Army Chaplain on Leave of Absence; effective Oct. 8
- Carol Grace (part-time local pastor)—Sixteenth Section/Ward UMCs; effective Nov. 1
- Lavon Long (part-time local pastor)—Moorefield UMC; effective Nov. 1
- Jerry Lumpkin (part-time local pastor)—Oak Ridge/Sharp UMCs, new charge alignment; effective Nov. 1
- Janet Barrow (supply pastor)—Coles Chapel/Branch UMCs; effective Oct. 12, 2014 to June 30, 2015
- Brian Youngs—Central UMC Rogers (associate); transition from part-time to full-time appointment effective Oct. 6
- Wanda Murry (elder, Oklahoma Conference)—Faith UMC Hot Springs (interim); effective Oct. 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015
- John Love (retired part-time local pastor)—Scruggs Chapel/Livingston Chapel UMCs; effective Aug. 1
- Tom Crawford (lay supply pastor)—Traskwood UMC; effective Aug. 3
- Danita Waller-Paige (lay supply pastor)—White Memorial UMC; effective Aug. 1
- Carolyn Staley (lay supply pastor)—Bethlehem UMC Lonoke; effective July 13
- Danny Simpson (lay supply pastor)—Sweet Home UMC; effective July 13
- Carey Chrisco (part-time local pastor)—Mount Carmel UMC Vilonia; effective July 1
- Dan Walker (part-time local pastor)—retired; effective July 31

For the most recent appointment changes, as well as a full list of the appointments announced at the 2014 Annual Conference, visit www.arumc.org/appointments.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION & DISASTER RESPONSE NEEDS

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.

Tornado recovery workers needed for day-long projects

Long-term recovery from the April 27 tornado is expected to continue for up to 18 months. The Interfaith and Partners Disaster Recovery office in Mayflower, staffed by Janice Mann, is still receiving requests for help, as is the Vilonia Disaster Recovery Alliance (VDRA). Many of these projects could be accomplished by one team dedicating a single day of work.

United Methodist teams wishing to assist with long-term recovery, repair and rebuilding may still use the online registration form at www.arumc.org/arkansas_disaster_response (click on the "Volunteer Form" tab) to get connected with this effort. Teams should have a designated leader who has had VIM Team Leader Training or equivalent experience leading teams. All team members must have medical insurance coverage. Additional trip insurance is available if desired.

Projects in central Arkansas ready for VIM teams

Several Volunteers In Mission assignments are open to teams that are available to begin work. Here are just a few options.

Malvern: Our teams repaired the roof of this house some time back—the new damage is a delayed effect from the winter storm that dropped a tree on the house. This project includes building a storage shed; moving belongings out of the house into the storage shed; and making interior ceiling repairs.

Leola: One of our VIM teams recently built a porch and wheelchair ramp at this residence. Now, we need a team to build a roof over the porch to finish the project.

Little Rock: Flooring and bathroom repairs are needed after a tree fell on a home's roof. Some of the damage comes from other problems with plumbing, etc. Our teams have completed the roof, ceiling and fascia repair. Three dead trees also need to be removed; seeking professionals for that task, as the trees are in precarious locations.

VIM journey to Sager Brown set for March 2015

Arkansas Volunteers In Mission is sponsoring a journey March 23-27, 2015, to serve at the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La. We still have nine spots available. Registration and fees are due by Dec. 10, 2014. Contact Byron Mann for additional information.

What are you doing after Thanksgiving?

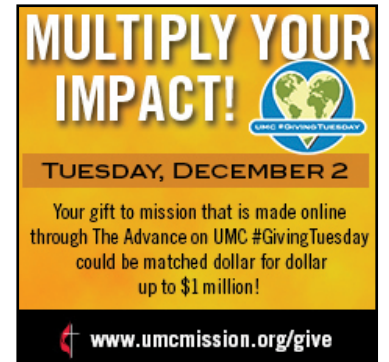
Help UMC ministries earn a \$1 million match on #GivingTuesday

You've heard of Black Friday—the day after Thanksgiving, filled with retail deals. There's Small Business Saturday, which encourages shoppers to spend their dollars locally. And Cyber Monday—the online follow-up act to all that in-person shopping.

But what about the next day? Why not start off the Advent season by giving instead of getting?

Tuesday, Dec. 2 is #GivingTuesday, part of an international movement to extend the spirit of giving thanks. Last year, #GivingTuesday online donations through the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) totaled \$6.5 million from more than 11,000 United Methodist individuals and churches. With your help, we can top that total this year.

Through The Advance, United Methodists can give to more than 850 United Methodist-related projects and more than 300 missionaries worldwide. The projects meet a range of needs, from helping survivors cope with disasters to helping communities build churches, feed and educate children, and equip hospitals and clinics.



MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT!
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
Your gift to mission that is made online through The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday could be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1 million!
www.umcmmission.org/give

The first \$1 million in gifts received online on Dec. 2, 2014, between 12 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. Eastern time will be match dollar for dollar. To stretch the matching funds, a maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds and a project may receive up to \$25,000 in matching funds.

Visit www.umcmmission.org/give on #GivingTuesday and donate to any of the projects and missionaries listed there. Remember to use the #GivingTuesday hashtag on social media to remind others to give (and while you're at it, recommend your favorite mission or cause)!

Hickory Ridge UMC hosts motorcycle ministry gathering

Members of three churches hear Jesus' call to reach out



COURTESY PHOTO

On Sept. 21, 2014, the Hickory Ridge and Tilton UMCs, along with the Hickory Ridge Assembly of God, came together to hear a presentation from the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) at Hickory Ridge UMC.

Chaplain Don Stairs of the CMA's Thundering Grace Chapter gave the message, centering on how open Jesus Christ was to those who were considered outcasts by the Jewish tradition. We are commissioned by Christ to go out to those who may not be like us, the very ones to whom Jesus is sending us to carry his message. The chaplain's message challenged listeners to reach out to those who may not fit into our present church culture, following the example that Jesus Christ set.

—submitted by the Rev. Robert DeBaun

Thank you for caring and sharing.

Congratulations to these congregations for their amazing, ongoing support of Methodist Family Health programs and services. We appreciate you!

Methodist Family Health Generosity Award

- Northwest: Fayetteville Central UMC
- Southwest: Magnolia First UMC
- Southeast: Star City First UMC
- Central: Little Rock Trinity UMC
- Northeast: McCrory UMC & Paragould First UMC

Methodist Family Health Outstanding Volunteer Church

- Northwest: Farmington UMC
- Southwest: Texarkana First UMC
- Southeast: Marvell UMC
- Central: Little Rock Asbury UMC & Hot Springs First UMC
- Northeast: Hoxie UMC & Batesville First UMC

To learn more about Methodist Family Health volunteer opportunities and charitable giving, call 501.906.4209 or email jgriffith@methodistfamily.org today.

MethodistFamily.org

Methodist
FAMILY HEALTH
Rebuilding the Lives of Children and Families Since 1899

Smothers named next president of Philander Smith College

The Philander Smith College Board of Trustees announced on Oct. 1 that it has selected Roderick L. Smothers, Ph.D., as the 14th president of the college, effective Jan. 1, 2015.

Smothers comes to Philander Smith College, a United Methodist-related college in Little Rock, from Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas, where he currently serves as vice president of advancement.

“Over the last few months, Philander Smith College has had a mantra of ‘Moving Forward.’ Dr. Roderick Smothers is the right choice to continue the institution’s forward movement, to build upon its rich heritage and to sustain its esteemed legacy,” said Artee Williams, chair of the college’s board of trustees, in a news release. “With a stellar 20-year career in higher education—a majority of which has been at historically black colleges and universities—the board believes Dr. Smothers is ideally suited to lead



Dr. Roderick Smothers speaks to alumni and friends of Philander Smith College during a Sept. 9 presidential candidate forum.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

national search. He will succeed interim president Lloyd Hervey, Ph.D., who has served

Philander Smith College into a preeminent future.”

Smothers earned his bachelor of science in psychology from Louisiana State University. In addition, he holds a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in higher education administration from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in educational leadership, research and counseling from Louisiana State University.

The naming of Smothers as president follows an extensive

since February.

Founded in 1877, Philander Smith College is one of the oldest private, historically Black institutions of higher learning in Arkansas. A four-year liberal arts college, the institution is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is the only United Negro College Fund member school in the state. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

Mount Eagle selects Leonard as exec director

The board of trustees for Mount Eagle Retreat Center, the United Methodist ministry near Clinton, Ark., has named Mike “Sarge” Leonard as the center’s new executive director.

Leonard will succeed the Rev. Lu Harding, who is retiring at the end of 2014.

Leonard has worked in camping and retreat ministries for 10 years, and is currently pursuing certification in Camping and Retreat Ministry from Methodist-related Drew Theological School. He also is a certified Lay Servant in the UMC. He has served on staff at two Missouri

Conference camps, including more than seven years as site director of Camp Jo-Ota in northeast Missouri. Jo-Ota provided summer camps as well as year-round retreats for youth and adults. Leonard’s wife, Marietha, retired early from her teaching career to work alongside him in camping ministry.

“We look forward to our next chapter that God has placed before us,” Leonard said. “Ecclesiastes 3 talks about a time for everything, and our time at Camp Jo-Ota is complete. We look forward to our time in Arkansas as it begins at Mount Eagle.”

The Rev. David Fleming chaired the search committee, which began its work in February. Their process included a focused retreat in April, as well as in-depth interview time with top candidates, all held on-site at Mount Eagle. The search committee included Mount Eagle board members and others added to broaden diversity and perspective.

“We talked about what has gone well during Lu Harding’s tenure that we want to preserve, as well as what our needs might be in the future,” Fleming said. “This is an excellent opportunity for us to move forward by faith.”

The Leonards are preparing to move to Mount Eagle in early December to begin a time of orientation and training led by Lu and John Harding before Lu’s retirement.



Mike ‘Sarge’ Leonard



Share the light!

Methodist Family Health Christmas Offering

December 14 & 21, 2014

Your donations help us minister to children and families close to home.

Children all around us are hurting. But you can let the joy of your life shine into theirs! Methodist Family Health is a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive psychiatric and behavioral health care to Arkansas children and families. We can help restore a happy home. Sometimes we even become the home. And with support from local churches like yours, we bring healing and hope all year long.

A packet of Christmas offering materials will arrive at your church by December 5. For more information or to request a Sunday speaker, contact Maggie Beeler at 501.906.4220.



Rebuilding the Lives of Children and Families Since 1899

MethodistFamily.org

Methodist Family Health is the management company of: Methodist Children’s Home, Methodist Counseling Clinic, Methodist Behavioral Hospital and Arkansas CARES.

Make your plans for Ingathering • Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ingathering is a supply drive to benefit United Methodist relief efforts, and is sponsored by the Conference Board of Global Ministries. This year's Ingathering includes a brief devotional, a mid-day fellowship meal and lots of organizing donations for storage and transport. United Methodists will deliver, sort and pack relief supplies to help to those affected by disaster here at home and around the globe.

Take note: new details

Now is the time to visit www.arumc.org/ingathering2014 to download, print and complete a consent and release form for each volunteer in your group. Mail completed forms to the Arkansas Rice Depot, 381 W. 65th Street,

Little Rock, AR 72209.

This year, the Arkansas Rice Depot has new volunteer requirements:

- Children under age 10 are not allowed to volunteer; and
- To provide adequate supervision, groups must bring at least one adult for every five persons under age 18.

In addition to sorting Ingathering supplies, our volunteer tasks for the day will be:

- Boxing up sweet potatoes
- Packaging frozen rice
- Weeding and painting outside (weather permitting)
- A limited number of sit-down rice labeling jobs, for those who are not able to stand or move for long periods of time.

Arkansas Rice Depot, 381 W. 65th Street, Little Rock

New this year at Ingathering: free fellowship meal!

Visit www.arumc.org/ingathering2014 to RSVP.

Early drop-off sites

Not everyone who wishes to contribute to Ingathering can attend the Little Rock event on Nov. 22. Drop-off sites throughout the Conference are listed below. The relief supplies given through these sites will be delivered to Ingathering.

Central District

Central District churches are encouraged to deliver their Ingathering items directly to the Rice Depot on Nov. 22.

Northeast District

Batesville office
1655 Neeley St., Batesville
Phone: 870-793-5247

Jonesboro satellite office

1910 Disciple Dr., Jonesboro
Phone: 870-268-4012
Drop-off times: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 17-20

Northwest District

First UMC Harrison

1100 W. Bower Ave., Harrison
Phone: 870-741-2351
Drop-off times: Tuesday, Nov. 18 through Thursday, Nov. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

First UMC Springdale

206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale
Phone: 479-751-4610
Drop-off times: Tuesday, Nov. 18 through Thursday, Nov. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the north entrance.

Goddard UMC

1922 Dodson Ave., Fort Smith
Phone: 479-785-1415
Drop-off times: Tuesday, Nov. 18 through Thursday, Nov. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

First UMC Russellville

304 S Commerce Ave., Russellville
Phone: 479-968-1232
Drop-off times: Tuesday, Nov. 18 through Thursday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Southeast District

First UMC Monticello

317 S. Main St., Monticello
Phone: 870-367-2471
Drop-off times: Nov. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:30 to 4 p.m.

First UMC Pine Bluff

200 West 6th St., Pine Bluff
Phone: 870-535-0935
Drop-off times: Nov. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First UMC Brinkley

404 West Ash St., Brinkley
Phone: 870-734-2632
Drop-off times: Nov. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First UMC Stuttgart

307 East 4th St., Stuttgart
Phone: 870-673-1131
Drop-off times: Nov. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Southwest District

Prescott UMC

125 West 2nd St. North, Prescott
Phone: 870-887-2441
Drop-off times: Monday, Nov. 17 through Thursday, Nov. 20 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

St. Mark UMC Camden

1315 West Washington SW, Camden
Phone: 870-836-8301
Drop-off instructions: Come around to the back during these hours: Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule a different time, call the Rev. Deanna McCormack: 870-833-6121.

First UMC Hot Springs

1100 Central Ave., Hot Springs
Phone: 501-623-6668
Drop-off time: Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon

Sugar Hill UMC Texarkana

1621 Sugar Hill Rd., Texarkana
Phone: 870-779-1805
Drop-off time: Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Copley honored with Marie Award

The Rev. Stephen Copley was honored Oct. 20 with the 2014 Marie Interfaith Civic Leadership Award for his work within the public service community. The Marie Award recognizes outstanding Arkansans who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the public interest through interfaith engagement and civic service over a number of years.

Copley received a B.A. in history at the University of Central Arkansas, and a Master of Divinity degree at SMU's Perkins School of Theology. He went on to receive a law degree from the William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Among his many public service roles, Copley has served as director of Justice for our Neighbors in Arkansas, which addresses issues arising from immigration regulations. He is chair of the Arkansas Energy Network, which operates a statewide fuel fund and has distributed over \$254 million to help low income, elderly and/or disabled households pay utility bills.

Copley is an ordained elder in the Arkansas Conference. He currently serves as the executive director of Interfaith Arkansas and with the General Board of Global Ministries as a church and community worker.



Stephen Copley



Whitney Edwards,
Diva in the Making,
Kidney Recipient

It takes less than a
MINUTE
to give someone in need a lifetime.

Join Arkansas's new online organ and tissue donor registry, and you can save a life with the click of a button.

Currently, there are more than 117,000 people like Whitney waiting for organ transplants.

So, register as an organ and tissue donor, and give someone the gift of life.

Log on and register today!

YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE WITH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON. ONLINE OR ON THE GO.



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AND INSTANTLY
VISIT THE NEW
ONLINE REGISTRY

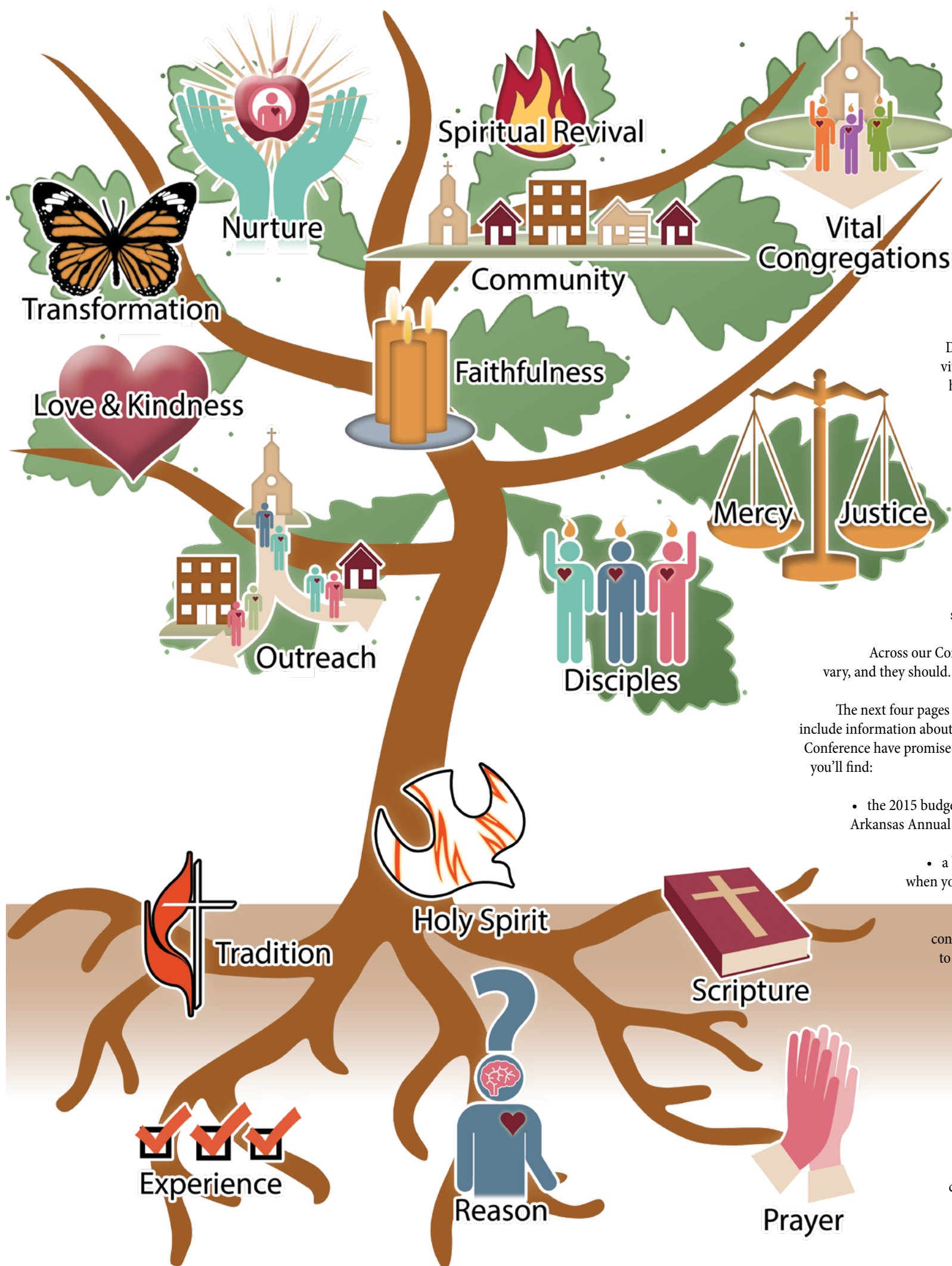
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Arora
Arkansas Regional
Organ Recovery Agency

WEB | MOBILE

Roots and fruit: The benevolences of the Arkansas Conference

Presented by the Arkansas Conference Center for Administrative Services



In our churches and in our individual faith stories, our roots matter.

We learn from those who go before us, who nourish our faith, who help us grow into disciples ourselves. Deep roots provide strength. They play a vital role in nurturing new ministries and helping faith to flourish.

The fruit we produce matters, too. We use the resources at our disposal—spiritual, financial, educational and more—for transformation. When lives, communities and the world improve because of our work in the name of Christ, we see more vital ministry not just in our churches, but in the mission fields surrounding them.

Across our Conference, the roots and the fruit may vary, and they should. But the results benefit everyone.

The next four pages of the *Arkansas United Methodist* include information about what the United Methodists of this Conference have promised to support for the coming year. Inside, you'll find:

- the 2015 budget approved in June by this year's Arkansas Annual Conference
- a breakdown of where your money goes when you give through your local church
- the formula that determines each congregation's share of apportioned giving to ministries beyond the local church.

Through this benevolence guide, which continues through page 10 of this issue, the Arkansas Conference Office of Administrative Services seeks to share why your giving matters, and how and where it makes a difference. Thank you for your part in growing fruit that will last: disciples of Jesus Christ who make more disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHEN GIDEON

Seeing the forest among the trees

Last Sunday I had the privilege of serving as a lay leader at my church, helping to welcome several new members to our congregation. Ten new faces joined our church on Sunday. But they aren't just members of my local church; they are members of your church as well.

Each week, more than 50,000 people worship in United Methodist congregations across the state; one church—653 locations. Of course, it doesn't stop at the state line, either. In all, there are nearly 13 million United Methodists in 136 countries worldwide.

We all want to see our efforts make a difference. Whether it is through service or monetary donations, we want to know our gifts are making a difference.

'In 2013, the United Methodists of Arkansas—that's 132,719 of us—contributed more than \$120 million for mission and ministry in our own communities and beyond.'

In 2013, the United Methodists of Arkansas—that's 132,719 of us—contributed more than \$120 million for mission and ministry in our own communities and beyond. Often we overlook the impact our church has on its community. Whether

This desire to make a difference became evident after the April 27, 2014 tornadoes. In the months that followed, the Arkansas Conference received more than \$350,000 in aid for tornado victims. Thousands of United Methodist volunteers from all across the country have assisted in cleanup and recovery efforts, with many more yet to come. And while these efforts are to be celebrated, they are a mere drop in the bucket compared to what happens every week in United Methodist congregations across this state.

it is through worship, Bible study, youth or children's ministry, we should celebrate all the work we are doing for the Kingdom. It is impossible to admire the expanse of a forest by focusing on the beauty of a single tree.

Pages 7 through 10 of this issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist* are an attempt to celebrate our work together. For more information on the ministries of the United Methodist Church around the world, please visit www.umcsgiving.org.

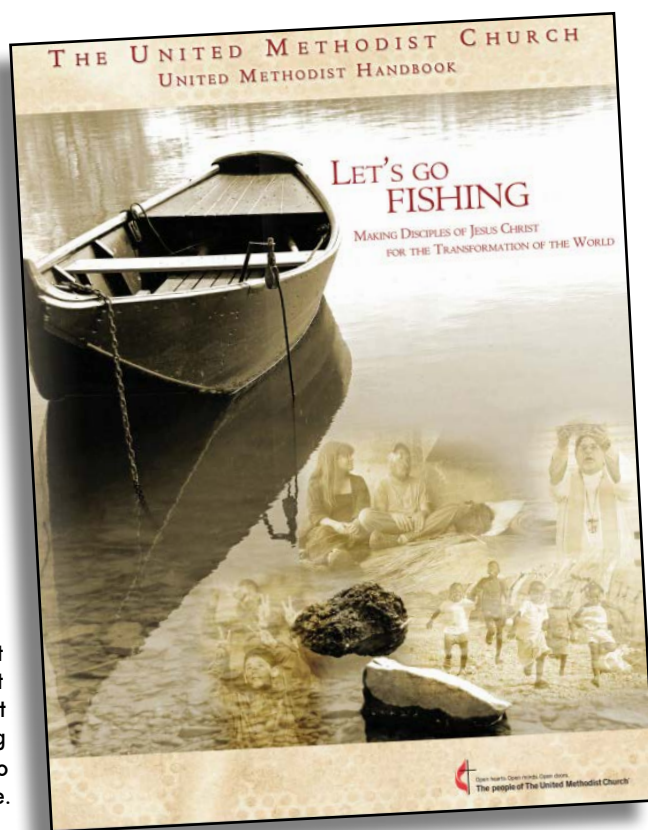
I hope you will take time to share this information with others in your church, so that you all may know you are part of a ministry that makes disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

Blessings,

Todd Burris
Director of Administrative Services



Todd Burris



Educational resources about denominational giving, such as The United Methodist Handbook pictured at right, are available at shop.umc.org/giving – most of them at no charge.

Resources for developing generous disciples

There are many stewardship, generosity and giving resources available for local church finance leaders and pastors, both in print and online. Below is a selection of some of the top United Methodist-related material and information.

- **General Board of Discipleship, www.gbod.org/stewardship** – includes digital downloads, self- and leader-guided online webinars, DVDs and videos, guides for budget building, capital campaigns and planned giving.
- **National Association of United Methodist Foundations, www.naumf.org** – includes links to training, publishers and professional organizations.
- **UMC Giving, www.umcsgiving.org** – includes many free resources related to connectional giving, such as The Advance and Special Sundays. Digital downloads and DVDs available.
- **General Council on Finance and Administration, www.gcfa.org** – local church resources including audits, real property matters and legal services.
- **Vital Congregations, www.umvitalcongregations.org**.
- **Lewis Center for Church Leadership, www.churchleadership.com** – resources such as the Theology of Stewardship and Biblical Generosity, Fostering a Culture of Generosity and Funding Ministry in Changing Times.
- **United Methodist Church of the Resurrection stewardship resource page, www.cor.org/stewardship**.

Here are a few of the print resources available through Cokesbury, the retail division of the United Methodist Publishing House. Contact Arkansas' Cokesbury Community Resource Consultant, Julie Hill, at 501-553-8614 or jhill@cokebury.com; or purchase resources online at www.cokesbury.com. This listing includes church-wide programs as well as individual studies and books.

- *Earn. Save. Give.: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money* by James A. Harnish
- *Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life* by Bob Crossman
- *The Church Money Manual* by J. Clif Christopher
- *Treasure* by Jacob Armstrong
- *Practicing Extravagant Generosity* by Robert Schnase
- *The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose* by Christian Smith & Hilary Davidson
- *Propel: Good Stewardship, Greater Generosity* by Clayton L. Smith

—compiled by the Rev. Martha Taylor

How apportionments for Arkansas churches are calculated for 2015

Section I: Gather Information from 2013

The following information can be found on Table II of the "End of the Year Report" in the 2014 Conference Journal.

Health insurance paid to Conference (Line 47)	_____
Pastor's salary (Line 48)	_____
Associates' salaries (Line 49)	_____
Utilities and allowances (Line 50)	_____
Accountable reimbursements paid to pastors (Line 51)	_____
Other cash allowances (Line 52)	_____
Deacon ministry compensation (Line 53)	_____
Diaconal ministry compensation (Line 54)	_____
Other staff compensation (Line 55)	_____
Current program expenses (Line 56)	_____
Current operating expenses (Line 57)	_____
Church Total Financial Consideration	_____

Section II: Calculate the Decimal

Divide the Church Total Financial Considerations by the Financial Considerations of all 653 apportioned churches in the Conference = Church Decimal (0.00000000).

$$\text{Church Total Financial Consideration (from Section I)} \div \text{Conference Total} = \text{Church Decimal}$$

_____ 73,727,831 = _____

Section III: Figure the Apportionment

Multiply the "Church Decimal" by the amount of each line in the Conference budget. Total all lines for your 2015 Conference Apportionment.

	<i>Conference Budget</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Church Decimal</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Church Apportionment</i>
Clergy and Retiree Benefits	3,322,104		_____		_____
General Apportionments	2,561,164		_____		_____
Jurisdictional Apportionments	91,839		_____		_____
Conference Administration	1,967,073		_____		_____
Resourcing Local Congregations	3,351,073		_____		_____
Institutional Ministries	722,000		_____		_____
TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS	12,015,253		_____		_____

How pensions for full-time clergy will be billed in 2015

As we continue the transition to a model in which churches pay their own pastors' pension costs, the Conference will continue to bill a portion of pension costs directly to local churches based on the compensation of the full-time pastor or pastors appointed there. (For details on contributions for part-time pastors, contact the Office of Administrative Services.) Each church is billed on a monthly basis.

In 2015, 75% of the total costs will be billed to local churches, and the remaining 25% will be included in the Conference budget and covered through apportionments. For 2016, churches will pay 100% of their pastors' pension costs.

Pastor's Gross Salary*	\$ _____
Housing**	\$ _____
Total of above compensation	\$ _____
Annual Pension Billing Amount (Compensation x 0.16)	\$ _____
2015 Pension Billing Amount (Previous line x 0.75)	\$ _____
Monthly Billing Amount (Previous line ÷ 12)	\$ _____

* Does not include professional expense accounts

** Either housing allowance amount or 25% of salary for parsonage

Example: John Wesley UMC, Anytown, Ark.

Pastor's Gross Salary*	\$ 50,000
Housing**	\$ 12,500
Annual Pension Billing Amount (Compensation x 0.16)	\$ 10,000
2015 Pension Billing Amount (Previous line x 0.75)	\$ 7,500
Monthly Billing Amount (Previous line ÷ 12)	\$ 625

Example: John Wesley UMC, Anytown, Ark.

Section I: Gather Information from 2013

The following information can be found on Table II of the "End of the Year Report" in the 2014 Conference Journal.

Health insurance paid to Conference (Line 47)	18,696
Pastor's salary (Line 48)	75,000
Associates' salaries (Line 49)	35,000
Utilities and allowances (Line 50)	10,000
Accountable reimbursements paid to pastors (Line 51)	4,000
Other cash allowances (Line 52)	4,000
Deacon ministry compensation (Line 53)	25,000
Diaconal ministry compensation (Line 54)	25,000
Other staff compensation (Line 55)	40,000
Current program expenses (Line 56)	20,000
Current operating expenses (Line 57)	35,000
Church Total Financial Consideration	291,696

Section II: Calculate the Decimal

Divide the Church Total Financial Consideration by the Financial Considerations of all 653 apportioned churches in the Conference = Church Decimal (0.00000000).

$$\text{Church Total Financial Consideration} \div \text{Conference Total} = \text{Church Decimal}$$

291,696 73,727,831 = 0.00395639

Section III: Figure the Apportionment

Multiply the "Church Decimal" by the amount of each line in the Conference budget. Total all lines for your 2015 Conference Apportionment.

	<i>Conference Budget</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Church Decimal</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>Church Apportionment</i>
Clergy and Retiree Benefits	3,322,104		0.00395639		13,144
General Apportionments	2,561,164		0.00395639		10,133
Jurisdictional Apportionments	91,839		0.00395639		363
Conference Administration	1,967,073		0.00395639		7,783
Resourcing Local Congregations	3,351,073		0.00395639		13,258
Institutional Ministries	722,000		0.00395639		2,857
TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS	12,015,253		0.00395639		47,538

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Sewing class

(continued from page 1)

praying that God would help her find a way to use her background to be in service to others.

Fullerton recruited a second volunteer, fellow church member and recently retired Spanish teacher Barbara Wise. Sally Saunders, a self-taught seamstress and quilter, joined as an instructor for the fall session after hearing about the program through her son, a First UMC Little Rock member.

"I really didn't do anything other than ask, and make a place available for the group to meet," said Duncan. "It was because the Holy Spirit moved these ladies to share their love of sewing that this group became a reality."

Getting started

The first session of the sewing group took place in January of this year, with the enthusiastic blessing of St. Andrew's pastor at the time, the Rev. Chester Jones. Located on Baseline Road in southwest Little Rock, St. Andrew had already gained a foothold in the

community. Through its successful partnership with the city of Little Rock, the church houses a neighborhood alert center and community resource coordinator (for more information about this partnership, see page 11 of the Jan. 3, 2014 issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist* at www.arumc.org/aum-archives.)

The funding to start the group and to provide patterns, fabric and the machines given to the graduates came from grants provided by the Arkansas Conference Ethnic and Language Concerns Committee, private donations from some of the members of First UMC Little Rock, the Central District, and the General Board of Global Ministries. Donated machines, fabric and notions also helped get the class up and running; and the church provides childcare during the class sessions.

In about three weeks' time, the new students learned the basics: parts of the sewing machine, measuring and cutting fabric, sewing straight seams and the like. After that, the women began to perfect their new skills.

Over the next few months, each woman progressed from simple to more complex designs: pillow, skirt, pajama pants, a purse and a mission project: organizer pouches designed

to hang on the bars of walkers used by senior adults. That first class had four graduates.

Following a summer break, a new group formed that included some graduates from the previous group who were excited to share their new-found skills with others. The church's current pastor, the Rev. C.E. McAadoo, welcomed them with open arms.

Sew what: How does this make a difference?

It was clear after speaking to some of the group that they were excited about what they had learned and proud that they would be able to help provide clothing for their families—and for some, a source of additional income.

"I'm excited to be able to make clothes for my child and myself, to be able to make gifts for my family and friends," said one class member. "I'll be able to sell some of the things I've made, too."

Another participant said she felt a sense of accomplishment in achieving her goal of being able to sew for her family and to be able to sell her work.

"What I love about this is that we are investing in the women, and therefore are

investing in their homes and families," Duncan said.

Saunders agreed that spending time with the women each week has grown into much more than a student-teacher relationship.

"Being part of this group is so rewarding," Saunders said. "We've become friends. We talk about things going on in our lives and families."

The group is looking for places to sell their handiwork in the months leading up to Christmas. Their first showing: the Saint James UMC Shopping Spree on Nov. 5.

Duncan plans to continue the class through the fall, and hopes that a third session will start in January. While funding is always an issue, she hopes that additional support will emerge as others learn about the program.

Gently-used simple sewing machines without complicated electronics are best suited for these young designers. Fabric and notions, such as thread, buttons, zippers and scissors, are needed, as well. For more information, contact Duncan at jenni.duncan@arumc.org or call 501-551-2141.

The Rev. Taylor handles marketing and training for the Arkansas Conference.

Clergy directory for 2014-15 now available; 2014 Conference Journal arriving this month

A PDF of the 2014-15 Clergy Directory is now available for download from the Conference website, www.arumc.org. In addition, each district office has a limited supply of complimentary print copies. Printed directories may be ordered by printing and completing the order form found at www.arumc.org/conference-directory and enclosing \$5 payment to Arkansas Conference, Attn: Clergy Directory, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

In addition, a PDF of the 2014 Conference Journal will soon be available for free on the Conference website. Online ordering for print copies will be through amazon.com and the CreateSpace estore. The web addresses for those two online stores will be announced by the end of November. Those wishing to order a Journal by mail for \$25 may use the same order form as for the directory, which is available at the above link.

Hot Springs travelers join in worship as part of Historic Washington visit



Washington United Methodist Church, the church that is so traditional that it is untraditional, on Sept. 14 welcomed 41 members of First UMC Hot Springs for worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper. Four retired ministers and Southwest District superintendent the Rev. Mike Morey were among the visitors. After worship, the group ate at the Williams Tavern Restaurant and visited Historic Washington State Park.

The oldest Arkansas Methodist church under continuous appointment since 1821, Washington UMC welcomes church groups from around the four states area to worship with them and hear the story of 19th-century Methodism.

—submitted by the Rev. Keenan Williams

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Leadership

(continued from page 1)

for a total of more than 2,000 attendees.

Participants could choose from a multitude of workshops at the Leadership Institute. The keynote speaker was scholar, preacher and author the Rev. Len Sweet; he asked those gathered to reconsider the way they try to work at being followers of Christ, asking them to “live in the joy of the Spirit, reveling in God’s blessings, and hearing the voice of Christ in our lives saying, ‘With you I am well pleased.’”

Attendees also heard from the Rev. Christine Chakoian, an author and pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, Ill. She encouraged churches to move forward into the future by learning from their past, pointing out that “embedded patterns, lessons learned, external shifts and common memory can draw the church together—into the faith future Christ has in store.”

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the host church and author of multiple books and studies, taught on the nature of Scripture, including its questions

and challenges.

Having so many Arkansas participants means greater potential to energize congregations from across the state, giving them new and exciting ideas about different ways to do ministry in their local context. The Arkansas Conference Center for Clergy and Laity Excellence in Leadership (CCELEL) encourages attendees to share what they learned not only with their own local congregations, but also for clergy to share it in their circuit elder groups. In this way, the information can multiply as people take it back to their mission fields.

Judging from comments gathered by UMFA and the CCELEL, the experience planted seeds that will make a positive difference for Arkansas congregations.

“The information, ideas, resources that I have gained from these few days will be taken back and put into action—I just know it!” wrote Kim Felker, a member of First UMC West Memphis, in a message to UMFA.

“If our church is to be a transformative agent of God, more of us must experience this moment,” said one of Felker’s pastors, the Rev. Michelle Morris. “So I will pay forward my gift by sponsoring

another West Memphian next year.”

“I, for one, was inspired and equipped for ministry as we return home,” wrote the Rev. Russell Hull of First UMC Beebe. “This generous gift is truly an investment, not only in the lives and ministries of those you sent, but in the Kingdom of God.”

Gina Garrett of First UMC Batesville appreciated the opportunity for her church’s vision team to grow closer and share the learning experience. “We will be able to deliver a better plan because of the trust developed in one another, made stronger by the ideas garnered in the Institute workshops,” she said.

Several groups of local church members met into the late night and early morning, inspired by what they heard. “We are planning and strategizing because we think God can use us to lead his church into new venues of service and more effective service,” said the Rev. Bruce Bennett of First UMC Texarkana.

“I have learned so many new ideas and concepts to help grow our church,” said Jonathan Storrs of St. Paul UMC Jonesboro. “Our group cannot wait to get home, share what we have learned, turn our church inside out and bring new members into the family of God.”

The CCELEL plans to track the

churches that attended the Leadership Institute and see how they are applying what they learned in their local mission fields. Participating churches will receive surveys asking them how their experience is helping them

implement ministries aligned with the “next steps” of the Bishop’s Mission Plan (see www.arumc.org/missionplan to learn more).

The Rev. Dr. Barron serves as assistant director of the CCELEL.

Memphis Theological Seminary offering Wesleyan Studies certificate

Though it is a Cumberland Presbyterian institution, Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS) provides an ecumenical educational environment for a variety of students. More than 35 percent of the student body comes from a Methodist or Wesleyan tradition. The seminary’s Methodist House of Studies now offers specialized theological formation and education under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Thompson, assistant professor of historical theology and Wesleyan studies at MTS.

The Methodist House of Studies is designed to provide robust Wesleyan curriculum, in addition to on-campus fellowship and extracurricular activities for those enrolled. To earn a certificate in Wesleyan Studies, students must complete 15 hours in coursework chosen from among classes that carry the “Wesleyan Studies” designation. The designated courses cover an array of disciplines, including theology, church history, pastoral care and parish ministry.

Designed as a component of a degree program, the certificate also is available to non-degree-seeking students. For details on the program, visit www.methodisthouse.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Date change for Jr. and Sr. High Assembly 2015

The task force for Junior and Senior High Assembly, the summer youth events for grades 7 through 12, has announced a date change for this summer. Assemblies will be held concurrently July 25-29, 2015, at Hendrix College in Conway.

Through small groups and worship, youth attending Assembly have opportunities to grow in relationships with each other and in relationship with God. Youth leaders interested in bringing a group should contact Conference youth and young adult ministries coordinator Michelle Moore, michelle.moore@arumc.org, to get connected. For general information on youth ministry events for the Arkansas Conference, visit www.accym.org.

Perkins School of Youth Ministry, January 12-15

The Perkins School of Youth Ministry is a dynamic training and networking conference for youth ministry pastors, practitioners and volunteers who are passionate about youth ministry. During PSYM, youth ministry workers can study with respected scholars and leaders in youth ministry and Christian education, build relationships with their peers, refine their vision for youth ministry and refuel and renew their calling through worship, prayer and fellowship. Check out www.psym.org for more information and to register.

Arkansas travel plans forming for YOUTH 2015

YOUTH 2015 is a national gathering open to all United Methodist Youth and their leaders. The YOUTH event happens every four years, and moves around the U.S. For 2015, it will take place in Orlando, Fla., from June 24-28.

The Arkansas Conference has booked 2 charter buses to help provide transportation for Arkansas Conference churches to Youth 2015. One bus will stay longer than the other for extra sightseeing and mission work. For information on costs and reserving spaces, contact youth and young adult ministries coordinator Michelle Moore, michelle.moore@arumc.org. Deposits are due by Jan. 15.

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas has generously provided scholarship money for 10 youth to attend Youth 2015. Two scholarships, each for \$200, will go to two youth from each district. Applications are due on Dec. 31. To download a form, visit <http://goo.gl/7MH25Z>.

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Thank you to all of the churches that made the 2014 dividend possible!

Bickerton in Little Rock Nov. 9-10 for Imagine No Malaria

Through a relentless layering of efforts—including communication, case management and grassroots education supported by Arkansans' fundraising—the United Methodist Church is making tremendous headway in its Imagine No Malaria campaign. But the work is not finished.

We have a lifesaving opportunity coming up Nov. 9-10, when Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton will be the inaugural guest speaker of the Fiser-Christie Endowed Lectureship at St. James UMC Little Rock.

Many Arkansans will remember Bickerton from his preaching at the 2013 Arkansas Annual Conference. Since 2006, he has been the lead spokesperson for the United Methodist Global Health Initiative, which includes the Imagine No Malaria campaign.

Bickerton will share the groundbreaking results of the efforts of the United Methodist Church in leading the charge to end malaria in Africa, and issue a call to action that we must continue in the fight against malaria until it is eradicated. Each event will include a special offering for Imagine No Malaria.

In addition to preaching at St. James' three worship services Nov. 9, Bickerton also will speak at a youth rally Sunday night, and at a community luncheon and evening lecture on Monday, Nov. 10. Pre-registration is required for the youth rally and the luncheon; see instructions below.



**Bishop
Thomas
Bickerton**

Events with Bishop Thomas Bickerton, Nov. 9-10 in Little Rock

(all events held at St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock)

Sunday, Nov. 9: Worship at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:55 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 9: Imagine No Malaria Youth Rally, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free concert featuring Thin Margins – all church youth groups welcome! Free pizza and drink, games and fun. Contact Brandon Bates to register your group: brandon@stjames-umc.org or 501-217-6729.

Monday, Nov. 10: Mid-Day Lunch & Presentation, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Box lunch (\$10); advance registration required at www.stjameslr.org.

Monday, Nov. 10: Evening Lecture, 6:30 p.m.

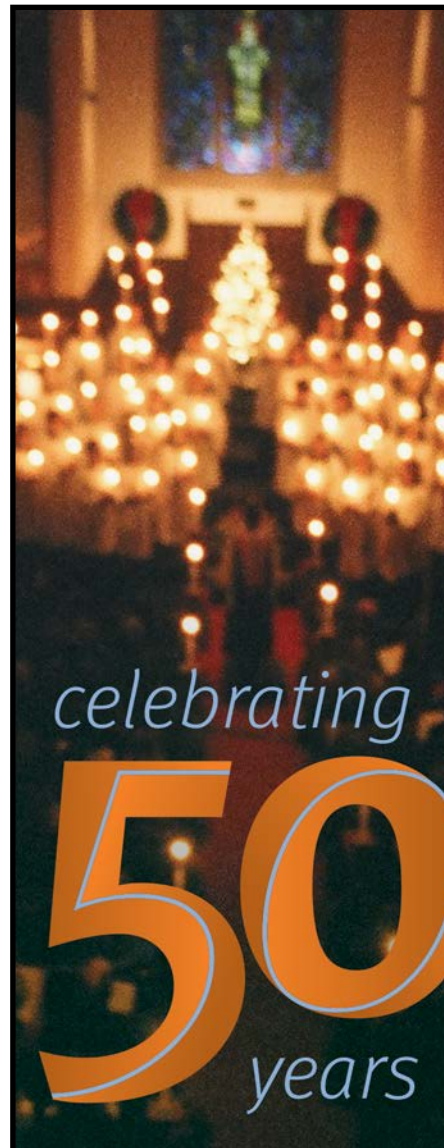
A special offering for Imagine No Malaria will be taken at each event.

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TOUR SERVICES

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FAYETTEVILLE
DECEMBER 18, 7:30 P.M.

SAINT JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LITTLE ROCK
DECEMBER 19, 7:30 P.M.

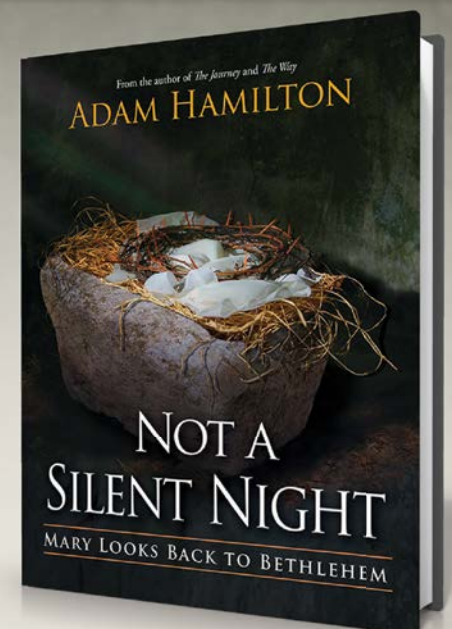
Witness the life & ministry of Jesus Christ through the eyes of Mary

Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem By Adam Hamilton

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point-of-view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

Components of the study include:

- Book • Leader Guide • DVD (with 5 video segments)



Adam Hamilton is the best-selling author of *The Way, 24 Hours That Changed the World*, *The Journey*, *When Christians Get It Wrong* and *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*.

Learn more at AdamHamilton.org

COMING UP

November

Oak Forest United Methodist Women hosting gift shop/flea market/bake sale Nov. 14

The United Methodist Women of Oak Forest UMC, 2415 Fair Park Blvd. in Little Rock, invite the public to their mission fundraising event Friday, Nov., 14, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Items for sale include baked goods, homemade jams and jellies, home-canned foods, a United Methodist Youth cookbook, a log cabin queen-size quilt and more. For information, call 501-663-9407.

U of A Wesley Alumni & Friends Breakfast Nov. 15

The University of Arkansas Wesley Foundation campus ministry will be holding an alumni and friends breakfast at Central United Methodist Church Fayetteville, Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the student ministries building. Game day parking for all attendees will be provided in Central UMC's parking garage.

Join U of A Wesley as they host alumni and friends for a time of pre-game food and fellowship. Catch up on the action and learn about Wesley's plans for the future—these are exciting times and you will not be disappointed! Leave your car and enjoy a beautiful walk to the stadium. This is a drop-in event; no RSVP is needed. For information, contact the Rev. Emily Burch, 479-442-1820 or eburch@centraltolife.com.

Donor Sabbath observances at Trinity, Quapaw Quarter UMCs Nov. 16

The congregations of Trinity United Methodist Church and Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church, both in Little Rock, will observe National Donor Sabbath on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Trinity UMC is located at 1101 North Mississippi, and Quapaw Quarter UMC at 1601 Louisiana Street in Little Rock. The churches are participating in conjunction with Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA). ARORA's mission is to provide lifesaving organs and tissue for transplant and to register Arkansans to become organ, tissue and eye donors.

National Donor Sabbath Weekend (Nov. 14-16) is a time for faith leaders of all denominations and faiths across the U.S. to alert their congregations to the pressing need for organ and tissue donations to save lives. Currently there are more than 123,400 on the transplant waiting list.

Donor Sabbath is viewed by the United Methodist Church as a time to come together around the issues of life and thanksgiving. Congregations are encouraged to support National Donor Sabbath Weekend by including the topic in their worship services. To receive information on National Donor Sabbath Weekend and how you can participate, contact Stacy Robinson, ARORA workplace partnership specialist, at srobinson@arora.org or 501-749-3938.

Conference healthcare seminars in Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Monticello Nov. 17 and 18

Full-time clergy, lay members of the Annual Conference, chairs of local church Staff-Parish Relations Committees (SPRCs) and local church treasurers are invited to attend one of the upcoming Arkansas Conference healthcare seminars:

- Monday, Nov. 17 at 1 p.m., Central UMC Fayetteville (Wesley Room 310), 6 West Dickson Street
- Monday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., First UMC Fort Smith (Fireside Room), 200 North 15th Street
- Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m., First UMC Monticello (Family Life Center), 317 South Main Street.

Led by the Rev. Dennis Spence, chair of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and Mona Williams, Conference benefits officer, these meetings provide information on the changing landscape of clergy health benefits. The meetings are the last in a series held around the state to educate clergy and laity on the options likely to be presented at the 2015 Annual Conference.

UMC free online training on inclusive language Nov. 18

In 2013, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) surveyed United Methodists about their attitudes on inclusive language, and 3,700 United Methodists responded. Almost 20 percent of the responses included a firm belief that the Bible exclusively uses "masculine"

language for God.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Central time, GCSRW is offering free online training to strengthen United Methodist knowledge about names for God in Scripture. This training will reexamine the "inclusive" language in relationship to gender and humanity for planning worship, sermons, liturgy, song and prayer. All members, participants, leaders and clergy are invited to attend and learn more about the implications and technicalities of introducing lesser-known biblical and orthodox images of God to congregations and communities.

Participants will examine biblical names and descriptions for God; understand existing United Methodist attitudes about language; preview a new related Bible study for classes and small groups; craft intentionally inclusive language while using proper grammar; and write and share short examples of orthodox but nontraditional prayers and liturgies.

Have questions or want more information? Email Audrey Krumbach, director of gender justice and education for GCSRW, at akrumbach@gcsr.org. To register, visit <http://goo.gl/z9L7w4>.

A-State Wesley Foundation fall banquet at Cornerstone UMC Nov. 20

Join Arkansas State University Wesley Foundation on Thursday, November 20th at Cornerstone United Methodist Church Jonesboro for a night of food and fellowship. Chef Susan Jett will be providing an unforgettable culinary experience for all in attendance. Proceeds will benefit the ministry of the Wesley Foundation: reaching out to ASU students with the love of Christ to provide opportunities for worship, service, fellowship and connection. To learn more and to purchase tickets, contact the Rev. Sam Meadors at director@astatewesley.org.

Faith & Health "Sacred Leadership" workshop in Memphis Nov. 20

The Clergy Coaching Network & the Center of Excellence in Faith & Health invite UMC clergy to "Sacred Leadership," a one-day workshop on Thursday, Nov. 20. Leaders will be Bishop Bill McAlilly; Gary Shorb, CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare; and Lynn Taylor, coordinator of emerging ministries for the Nashville Area of the United Methodist Church. The event will be held at the Center of Excellence in Faith & Health, Methodist University Hospital, 1265 Union Avenue in Memphis, Tenn.

This day of shared learning will explore leadership in form and philosophy, in technique and theology. Registration ends Nov. 17; to register, visit <http://goo.gl/2RX5em>.

December - January

Mrs. Santa's Kitchen at Sequoyah UMC Fayetteville Dec. 13

Visit "Mrs. Santa's Kitchen" at Sequoyah United Methodist Church, 1910 Old Wire Road in Fayetteville on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9 a.m. to noon to shop for homemade cookies, candy, bread and gifts. All proceeds go to local missions. For more information, contact Sequoyah UMC at 479-442-8677.

Beyond! Children's ministry conference set for Jan. 30-31, 2015; register by Dec. 15

The Arkansas Conference Council on Children's Ministries presents Beyond! 2015 Children's Ministry Conference, to be held Jan. 30-31, 2015, at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville. Early check-in is available Jan. 29, with some pre-conference programming the morning of Jan. 30.

The keynote speaker will be Mark Burrows, director of Children's and Family Ministries at First UMC Fort Worth, Texas. He has gained national recognition for his books and recordings for and about children and children's ministry, and has a special passion for engaging children in meaningful worship experiences. Other featured presenters include the Rev. Mackey Yokem, executive director of mission and ministry for the Arkansas Conference; Karen Anderson, director of Christian education at Central UMC Rogers and a certified instructor for the Created By God human sexuality curriculum; and Jena Barber of Elm Springs, presenting on "FaithYoga" meditation.

Breakout session options will include: Bible Boot Camp, Created by God. Finding and Keeping Volunteers, Equipping Families for Faith Formation at Home, Children's Ministry 101, Parenting in the Pew, Early Childhood Education, Puppets, Worshiping with the Family of God, Safe Sanctuaries and more. For registration information, including a scholarship option, visit <http://kidz.arumc.org>.

Music or dance ensembles sought for General Conference 2016; apply by Jan. 12

United Methodist choirs and worship ensemble groups from around the world may now audition online for an invitation to perform at the 2016 General Conference, the United Methodist Church's top legislative assembly, which meets in Portland, Ore., from May 10-20, 2016.

To apply for an invitation to General Conference, groups should submit a letter of application that includes: 1) name of group; 2) name of primary contact person with email address and phone number; 3) brief history/bio of the group including number of members, general age range, group's location, and any unique characteristics; and 4) a link to a private YouTube video of the group performing. The application should be emailed to gc2016worshipdirector@gmail.com by Jan. 12, 2015.

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Celebrate Adoption - November is National Adoption Awareness Month. Families Are Special, Inc. has been making adoption possible and affordable for Arkansas families for 22 years. For more information: 2200 Main, North Little Rock, AR 72114, (501) 758-9184. Email: familiarespecial@comcast.net.

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

OBITUARIES

LONOKE

Betty Laverne Moore

Betty LaVerne Moore, 84, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, at her home.

She was born on Nov. 23, 1929, in North Little Rock, the first child of Aaron Andrew and Myrtis Virginia (nee Hamilton) Moore. From the earliest age, she showed unusual brightness and scholastic ability. She skipped three grades in elementary school, eventually graduating as valedictorian of the Fuller High School Class of 1944 at age 15. She enrolled in what is now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she earned a two-year teaching degree in 1946 and immediately began teaching first grade in the public school system.

In early June of 1948, Betty attended a continuing education course for teachers in Arkadelphia. The members of her class were seated in alphabetical order, by last name. She was seated beside Withers M. Moore. The two began dating and were married less than three months later, on Aug. 18, at Asbury Methodist Church, where the groom's father served as pastor.

Betty and Withers taught school briefly in Warren before Withers enrolled in seminary at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. Their first child, Catherine Elizabeth, was born during that period. Following graduation in 1952, the young family moved to Sherrill-Tomberlin, where they served until 1953 when Withers was admitted to Navy Chaplain School. Their second child, Russell Renneau, was born shortly thereafter, and the family began their 27-year career in the Chaplain Corps. Their third child, Nancy Robin, was born when Withers served at the Naval Air Station El Centro, Calif.

**Betty Moore**

Through their Navy years, Betty served as homemaker, mother and a devoted "chaplain's wife." She expertly and lovingly managed the family home during Withers' many absences which ranged from a few days or weeks, to six months, or an entire year at a time. She met every challenge with courage and grace.

Betty was always an avid reader, for many years finishing a stack of several library books each week. When her children were young, she became a talented seamstress and enjoyed making beautiful dresses for her daughters and granddaughters.

Her laughter was infectious; her gracious presence and precocious wit warmed and inspired family and friends alike.

Withers and Betty lived what they would both always consider to be a great and wonderful adventure. They established their home in such places as Cherry Point, N.C.; Atsugi, Japan; San Francisco, Calif.; New Haven, Conn.; Norfolk, Va.; Arlington, Va.; Millington, Tenn.; London, England; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and Washington, D.C. They traveled extensively through Europe, Asia and the South Pacific.

Upon Withers' retirement from the Navy on July 1, 1980, they returned home to Arkansas, where they served First UMC Des Arc from 1982 to 1988, then retired to Lonoke.

Betty and Withers were given 23 years together in full retirement, culminating their 62 blessed years of very happy and fruitful marriage. They were able to pursue their interests and enjoy quality time and offer devoted care to their parents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

After Withers' death in March 2011, Betty convalesced in her home at Lonoke, attended closely by her children. Since early 2013, she has been greatly served by Michele Rettig, whose expert and loving care will always be remembered and deeply appreciated by Betty's family.

She is survived by two daughters, Caryn Reynolds of El Dorado and the Rev. Robin Moore of Blytheville; one son, the Rev. Russell Moore and daughter-in-law Joan of Crossett; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service was held at Pine Crest Cemetery on Friday, Sept. 12. Memorials may be given to First UMC Des Arc or St. Luke UMC Little Rock.

TEXARKANA, Texas

Fred Smith

Fred R. Smith, 84, of Texarkana, Texas, passed away Oct. 18, 2014, in a local hospital.

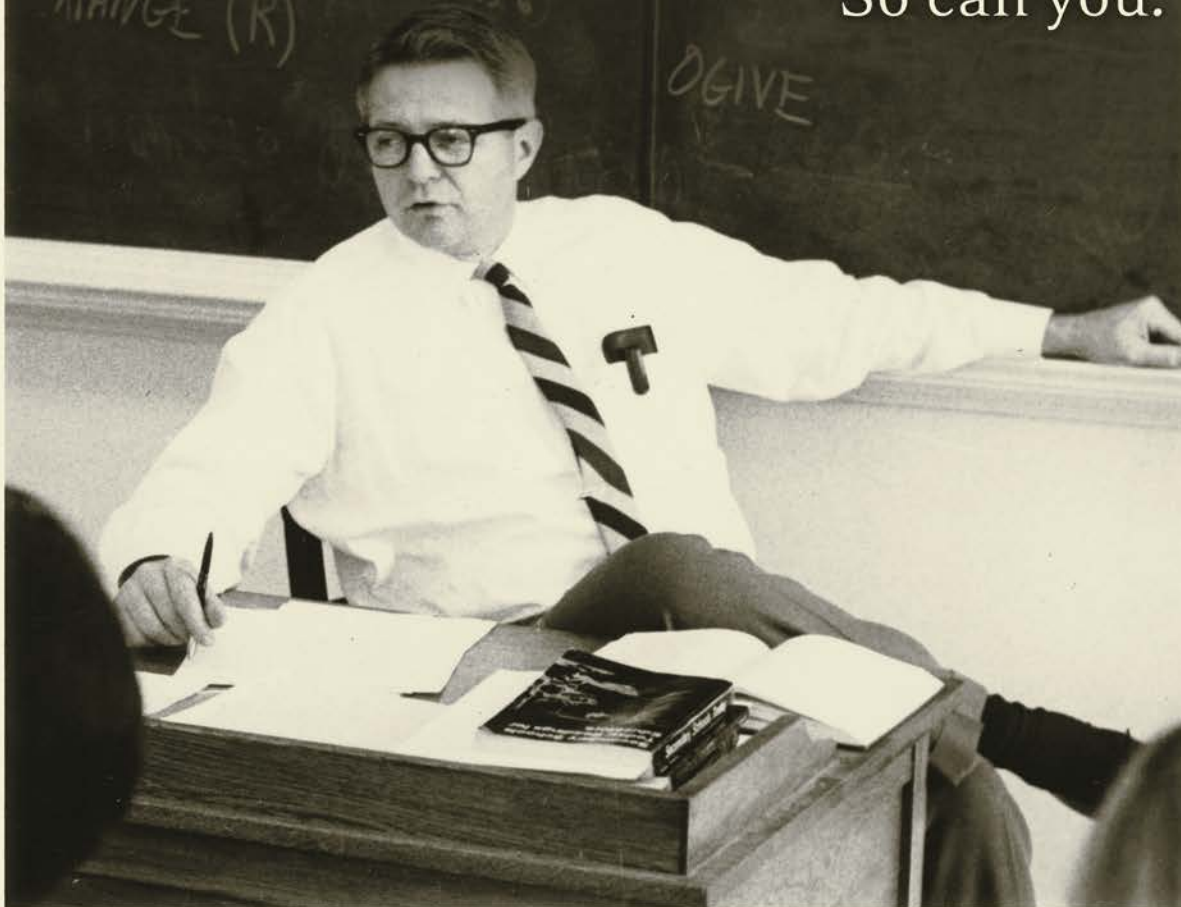
He was born October 4, 1930, in DeKalb, Texas. He served first as a full-time local pastor, then as an associate member of the Little Rock Conference, serving appointments in Dalark, Glenwood, Texarkana, Stamps, Crossett, Hamburg, Carlisle, Mount Ida and Gillett. Over a 63-year period, he served 20 different congregations in Arkansas and Texas.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ruth Smith; a son and daughter-in-law, Phil and Cindy Smith of Texarkana, Arkansas; a daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Keith Baker of Dallas, Texas; a brother, Leonard Olds of Mount Pleasant, Texas; a sister, Doris Thomas of Oklahoma; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Monday, Oct. 20, at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church Texarkana, Texas, with the Rev. Brad Morgan officiating. Private inurnment was held at Chapelwood Memorial Gardens.

**Fred Smith**

He made memories that last a lifetime.
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Conference staff members receive honors from UMAC

Two members of the Arkansas Conference staff received awards from the United Methodist Association of Communicators (UMAC) for their work in 2014. The honors were announced at an awards gala Oct. 24, part of the UMAC Annual Meeting held this year in Savannah, Ga.

Stephen Gideon earned a first place award in logo design and branding for his work developing the new Arkansas Conference logo. Judges praised Gideon's design for its legibility and "beautiful, unique color palette."



The logo is used across Conference communications and publications, with variations for each of the five districts as well as for the banner of the *Arkansas United Methodist*. The themes for the 2014 and 2015 Arkansas Annual Conferences are influenced by the new logo and its colors.

Amy Forbus, editor of the *Arkansas United Methodist*, received a first place award in photojournalism and a third place award in opinion/editorial writing.

The winning photo, "Comfort after the Storm," was taken April 28 during a ride-along with the Arkansas Conference Disaster Response Team co-coordinator Byron Mann and Spiritual and Emotional Care Team supervisor Sheri Mathews. In the River Plantation neighborhood of Maumelle, they found Ida Rose helping at the tornado-damaged home of her son and his family. Rose, normally an Early Response Team (ERT) member with Arkansas Conference Disaster Response, found herself on the receiving side of spiritual care as Mann and Mathews stopped to check on her.



AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Forbus captured the moment, contrasted with the storm debris in the background. The photo was first distributed by United Methodist News Service, then used by the denomination in a Rethink Church advertisement that ran in print and online in tornado-affected areas. It later appeared in the June 6 issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist*.

Opinion/editorial honors went to "An insider mentality," an Editor's Corner column by Forbus published in the Oct. 4, 2013 issue of this newspaper (available at www.arumc.org/aum-archives). Judges called her writing strong, energetic and precise, adding that her sentences "carry great power in terms of clarity and directness."



Laying the Groundwork

Every organization needs people who can be counted on to provide ongoing support. For the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, that group is the Bishops' Club. More than 100 Bishops' Club members give \$1,000 each year, or a one-time gift of \$15,000, to support United Methodist ministries in our state.

Karon and Bill Mann recently joined the Bishops' Club because they believe UMFA is a resource for the entire Arkansas Conference. Karon, who is lay leader for the Conference and active in United Methodist Women on a national level, said, "One of the UMFA grants that is important to me is annual support of Mission u, formerly known as the School of Christian Mission."

The Manns have two children and are expecting a fourth grandchild. They've been members of Pulaski Heights UMC in Little Rock since Palm Sunday of 1980. Bill is head usher there, and he serves as an operational board member for Methodist Family Health.

"In addition to helping the Conference as a whole, the Foundation makes a big difference for local churches," said Bill. "Congregations all over the state who participate in programs like leadership education at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City or have a pastor who was a UMFA Seminary Scholar feel the impact of UMFA grants."



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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