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## Youth involvement on the rise at Brookland UMC

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

BROOKLAND, Ark.—Music drifts from the sanctuary of Brookland UMC, where the praise band rehearses with its new horn section. Children and adults move about the fellowship hall as the meal lands on the serving table. The sounds of a basketball game can be heard outside the window of the pastor's office.

The Rev. Joe Kaiser smiles at all these joyful noises to the Lord, as do the church's members. Wednesday night activities bring an average attendance of around 55 people of all ages. Children and youth from the neighborhood walk to the church to

spend time there after school, and they bring their friends. There's no budget line item for the meal or programming, but somehow there's always more than enough.

"The key to our Wednesday night success, I believe, first of all, is not me, and it's not our lay directors, and it's not the people in the church, it's God," Kaiser said. "It is strictly a God thing. And the kids, when they come here, they know they're loved."

Larry Heyl is one of those who shows the love of God through his involvement. Retired from a career in computer science, he's gone back to Arkansas State University for a second bachelor's degree—as a music composition major. He writes



AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

some of the music for the Ignite Praise Band, which he leads each Wednesday. Open to all ages, it rehearses between 5 and 6 p.m. and shares a song or two during the worship time that follows supper. Some participants are just learning

to play an instrument, and others play the same one they play in the school band.

Between supper and worship, attendees break into small groups for 30-minute classes, a relatively new [See YOUTH, page 6]

## Stem cell donor gives life and hope to a stranger

Barbara Kirkpatrick shows off her stem cells and platelets following her donation in February 2014. The cells were immediately transported via courier from the transplant center in Washington D.C. to a waiting transplant recipient in another state.

COURTESY PHOTO



BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

Barbara Kirkpatrick doesn't do needles. She can't stand the sight of blood, either.

But near the end of 2013, she began a months-long process that involved plenty of both—all to save the life of someone she has yet to meet.

The seed for this experience was planted 14 years ago, when Barbara accompanied her husband, the Rev. Daniel Kirkpatrick, to a

days, a swab of cells from inside the potential donor's cheek is also accepted as a sample—no needles or blood involved.)

While their friend did not find a bone marrow match at that donor drive, some new treatments for his condition soon became available, and he is currently in remission.

### Uneventful years

As time passed, Kirkpatrick received mail from Be the Match, the donor registry organization operated by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP). As she and Daniel moved to serve at different churches, the communications followed her—to Hot Springs, then to Arkadelphia. After they left Arkadelphia, though, the magazines and letters stopped coming, and she didn't give it much thought.

Until November 2013, that is, when a letter from Be the Match arrived in her mailbox in DeWitt, where they had moved in 2011. The letter requested that she call to update her contact information, and she complied.

About a week later, she heard from a Be the Match representative, notifying her that she was a possible donor for someone who needed a

stem cell transplant. She verified that she was still willing to donate and answered a number of questions. The representative told her to not expect to hear anything more for about three months.

Kirkpatrick couldn't shake the sense that something significant had just happened. "When I got off the phone I told my husband, 'I have a feeling that this is it,'" she said.

### A chance to help

Sure enough, the next week, a donor contact representative informed her that she was one of three potential donors for a 28-year-old woman with blood cancer. Once again, she verified that she was still willing to donate, and agreed to go to a clinic in Stuttgart to give several vials of blood for testing.

Just a week later, Kirkpatrick learned that she was the patient's best match. The process that she had been told would unfold over several months had only taken a few weeks. In answer to her questions about the timing, the transplant counselor instructed her to go online to read about the type of blood cancer her potential recipient had.

She learned that for this

[See DONOR, page 4]

# Looking back, looking forward

BY WILLIAM O. "BUD" REEVES  
Special Contributor



**Bud Reeves**

The month of January gets its name from the Roman god Janus, who was distinctive in that he had two faces, one looking backward and one looking forward. At the turning of the calendar, we naturally look back at the past and look forward to the New Year. For many United Methodist preachers, the month of June brings that occasion to look both directions, as we anticipate receiving new appointments at annual conference.

Beginning July 1, I will be appointed to First United Methodist Church Fort Smith. That means I will be leaving the bishop's cabinet and the role of district superintendent. I am excited about what the future holds, but I have also been reflecting on three years of superintendency, a unique appointment in my 35 years of ministry.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity, and I—mostly—have enjoyed it. It has been interesting and educational, and I think it will benefit me as I return to my first love and calling to be a pastor.

## Reflections, realizations

I have met many good people, visited many good churches and had some holy moments in both the Northeast and Northwest districts. From the smallest to the largest churches, I have seen the Holy Spirit at work: people reaching outside the walls of the church to touch those outside with the love of Christ. I have seen God in action!

Being a district superintendent is hard work. The sheer size of our districts makes it difficult, and I am thankful for my circuit elders who have been a great help. Beyond that, we have been trying to change the way we think about ministry, and shifting paradigms is tough. As much as we try to live in the new, the old persists, and often it feels like we are living in two churches at the same time, trying to build a bridge while we are also walking on it.

But being a superintendent is also important work. We see the

larger playing field of the statewide annual conference, at the same time being involved in the local churches. Somebody has to lead the conversation about deep change in the churches, and often the pastor of a given church is not in a position to tackle that conversation. Deep change can only happen in the local church, but the superintendent can help people connect the dots, facilitate new ministry and even sometimes exert the force of authority to overcome resistance to change.

I did not realize until I became a superintendent what a deeply spiritual work it is. I used to think the hierarchy was primarily administrative and bureaucratic, but I have experienced events on the cabinet that can only be described as divine intervention. We pray early and often every time we meet. I have seen the cabinet agonize to the point of tears over difficult situations faced by pastors and churches. I know I will never minimize the work of a superintendent again.

## Concerns and hope

I do not leave the cabinet without some serious concerns. On the large end, I am anxious about the ability of our church on the General (global) level to effectively lead our denomination. We have a stalemate over the issue of homosexuality. The Council of Bishops is so divided they can't lead. The Judicial Council stymies efforts at reform. Can we afford for the General church to become irrelevant? I'll be praying hard and long for our delegates and our General Conference of 2016.

On the small end, I am heartbroken over the many small membership churches that will likely close in the next few years. Our culture and demographics have changed, and the small, rural churches that once formed the backbone of our denomination will soon be a rarity. Half of our churches in Arkansas average less than 35 attendees on Sunday morning. They are the last institutions standing in

communities that have withered. The young people, if they attend church, drive miles to attend churches with programs for children and youth. Churches with rich histories that are still doing vital ministry will ultimately age out and close. And that hurts my heart.

But I am not without hope. In fact, I am full of hope! I believe we can experience spiritual revival in many of our churches, and we can impact more lives for Jesus Christ than we ever have. The revival will come in strong local churches. It will not be the way it used to be, but it can be great.

The annual conference and districts can help in setting the stage for the revival. But ultimately, revival will come and congregations will be vital when we all—clergy and laity together—get passionate about Jesus Christ and his Gospel for a lost, broken and hurting world. We comfortable American Methodists will have to be as enthusiastic as those disciples in developing countries where the Wesleyan movement is still growing.

Enthusiasm comes from two Greek words that mean "God in" someone. That is ultimately our promise: "Christ in us, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). The Christ-power within us is what will redeem, revitalize and renew our beloved church, and my prayer as I leave one chapter and enter a new one is that "light will flood your hearts and that you will understand the hope that was given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all of God's people. I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven" (Ephesians 1:18-20 CEV).

I look forward to that!

*The Rev. Dr. Reeves serves as superintendent of the Northwest District until the end of this month. Email: breeves@arumc.org.*



**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

# Less 'me,' more 'we'

"Community is not one of our American ideals."

The statement came from a fellow Conference staff member during a retreat day discussion. I certainly didn't argue with it.

In fact, I remembered a similar statement from a spiritual gifts assessment curriculum I used to teach in my local church work. To drive home the point that our God-given gifts are different for valuable reasons, the lesson writer pointed out that we lend too much credence in our culture to the idea of "rugged individualism." The curriculum suggested that we move to a less independent mindset and claim "rugged interdependence" as our new standard.

Rugged interdependence sounds great. But what does it even look like?

For starters, it probably looks like a lot less of "me" and a lot more of "we." Not the insular "we" that widens the gap between "us" and "them"; instead, it looks like the "we" that closes the gap—or that never created a gap to begin with.

The phrase may bring to mind team-building exercises on some wilderness trail or ropes course. But rugged interdependence can have implications in the day-to-day world, too.

The small group I'm part of through church provides a real-world example of rugged interdependence for me. We may not fit the typical ladies' church group mold (in one of last year's favorite studies, the spiritual memoir we used as our guide opened with an expletive), but we are learning rugged interdependence alongside each other, as a community.

Group members don't pretend to have perfect lives. We admit our struggles and support each other through them. We acknowledge disagreement, then focus on what unites us. Ask any regular attendee, and she will testify that being part of this group—this "we" that seeks ongoing relationship with each other and growth in Christ—makes a positive difference in her life.

Granted, human beings cannot ignore "me." Denying the need for self-care, even for a supposed good reason like caring for others, leads to ungratefulness, poor health, burnout and other negative outcomes. I hear the reminder often from those with more introspective, contemplative expressions of faith than mine: Even Jesus spent time apart from others for his own well-being.

We must not confuse self-care, that time apart that fills our spirits, with selfish "me time" that does little more than distract us from relationships with others and with God's world. Whether we acknowledge it or not, we remain connected... interdependent.

Truly, isn't life more abundant—in the sense shared by Jesus in John 10:10—when we recognize our need for each other?

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**Submission Deadlines**

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
July 3	June 18
Aug. 7	July 20
Sept. 4	Aug. 14





## GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

BY GARY E. MUELLER

# Getting serious

*It's time to get serious about spiritual revival. Not by trying to make it happen, which we can never do. But by longing passionately for the Holy Spirit to do what we can never do—draw each of us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, bind us together into a passionate movement of disciples making disciples, and enable us to share in Jesus' work of transforming lives, communities and the world.*

I am grateful for the laity and clergy of the Arkansas Conference who have been working to reverse our extended decline of recent decades. Sadly, however, things are not changing as much or as quickly as anyone would like, in spite of all their efforts. And so our Conference continues to become smaller and

grow older, struggles to reach the young and fails to see lives, communities and the world transformed.

There are many reasons for this decline. Some we have little control over, like the rapidly growing secular culture in which we live. Others are fully our responsibility, like when we are so concerned with being comfortable that we fail to look beyond the walls of our churches to see those God is calling us to serve. But ultimately, the one that matters most is the fact that we are deeply mired in a spiritual crisis that is the result of our disconnectedness with Jesus Christ.

This is why I believe God is calling all United Methodist Christians in Arkansas—regardless of geographical location, theological conviction, church size, ethnicity or

age—to get serious about spiritual revival like we've never been serious before.

It won't be easy. The phrase itself conjures up all sorts of negative connotations for too many people. We'll be tempted to try engineering a revival instead of receiving it from the Holy Spirit. And we may embrace spiritual revival as a way of saving an institution instead of giving God the chance to revive us as individuals, an annual conference and the people called United Methodists.

But revival is real, it matters and it results in serious transformation as you experience God's unconditional, transformational and invitational love in brand new ways; embrace a life of deep life of discipleship; and discover revival's fruit of service, compassion, joy and hope.

So I hope you're ready to join me in getting serious about spiritual revival. First, because you're going to be hearing a whole lot more about it

in the coming months. Second, because it's going to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. And

third, because the Holy Spirit is about to bring it on!

*Gary E. Mueller* 

## APPOINTMENTS & RETIREMENTS

The following appointment changes have been announced since the deadline for the previous issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist*. Changes take effect July 1 unless otherwise noted.

- Susan Jett (supply preacher)—Norfolk UMC
- Gil Sills (part-time local pastor)—Rose Bud UMC
- Kathy DeBusk (part-time local pastor)—Griffithville/Dogwood UMCs
- Judy Wilson Clark (retired elder)—Judsonia/Kensett UMCs
- Larry Olson (part-time local pastor)—Alpena/Bellefonte/Valley View UMCs
- Pat Bodenhamer (elder)—Gravette/Decatur UMCs (new charge alignment)
- Wayne Chambers (part-time local pastor)—Marysville/Lisbon UMCs
- Walt Garrett (part-time local pastor)—Magnet Cove/Shorewood Hills UMCs
- Cory Pfeifer (lay supply pastor/certified candidate)—Black Rock/Lynn UMCs
- Ryan Spurlock (part-time local pastor)—Mammoth Spring/Camp UMCs
- Patrick Gillespie (lay supply/certified candidate)—Sedgwick UMC
- Bill Ferguson (part-time local pastor)—Plumerville UMC
- Keith Coker (part-time local pastor)—England UMC
- Terrie Lynn Bunnell (full-time local pastor)—Harmony Grove UMC Camden/Holly Springs UMC Sparkman/Lakeside UMC Camden
- Ron Newberry (elder)—Norphlet/Centennial UMCs
- Larry Martineau (elder)—Prescott/St. John UMCs (new charge alignment)
- J. Wayne Clark (elder)—Associate Vice President for Development and Dean of the Chapel, Hendrix College; effective June 1
- J.J. Whitney (elder)—Interim Chaplain, Hendrix College; effective June 1
- Mark Rivers (full-time local pastor)—Calico Rock/Spring Creek UMCs
- Ray Bachman (other denomination, appointed part-time)—Wesley UMC Cotter
- Tracy Roden (part-time local pastor)—Parker's Chapel/Pleasant Grove UMCs
- Dale Chance (elder, Texas Conference)—St. Paul UMC Malvern/Adkins Chapel UMC
- George McCoy (retired elder as of 7/1/15)—Diamondhead UMC Hot Springs
- James Conn (retired part-time local pastor)—Sulphur Springs UMC
- Candace Barron (elder)—Gardner Memorial/Amboy UMCs (new charge alignment)
- Velda Bell (elder)—Living Waters UMC Centerton
- Jeff Jackson (full-time local pastor)—First UMC Ozark
- Heather Spencer Clawitter (elder)—First UMC Mountain Home (associate pastor)
- John Noggle (full-time local pastor)—Stamps UMC
- Carissa Rodgers (provisional elder)—Quapaw Quarter UMC (second listing; pastor's name misspelled in previous issue)

**Retirements effective July 1:**

- Bart Bynum (part-time local pastor)—Wesley UMC McGehee
- Jimmie Snow (part-time local pastor)—First UMC Mountain Home

**For the most recent changes, see [www.arumc.org/appointments](http://www.arumc.org/appointments).**

# Whose turn is it?

BY BRITTANY RICHARDSON WATSON  
*Special Contributor*

A couple of weeks ago I watched my two-year-old son try to put on his shoes by himself while mumbling "Joseph's turn" under his breath. "Joseph's turn" is a phrase that echoes through the halls of our parsonage as this little human begins to assert his new, independent lifestyle.



**Brittany Richardson Watson**

On this day, "Joseph's turn" meant that he was putting his shoes on backwards, sideways, on the wrong foot, pretty much any way but the right way. It was driving me crazy, and I was using every ounce of self-restraint to stay on the couch and let him try to figure it out. I sat on my hands and looked the other way as he patiently made his 23rd attempt at sliding his foot into the shoe. Patience is not my gift; neither is relinquishing control.

However, trust, which was absent for so long in my life and ministry, has become a crucial spiritual discipline. So I sat and watched.

## Learning to trust

The power of trust has been revealed to me primarily by the people of Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church. In the last 14 months, these faithful men and women have gently guided me (read: shoved me) into a ministry that

is bigger than me. I imagine that this was not an easy task, but their willingness to build trust where little had been before has been an incredible gift.

In my two previous appointments, I didn't need to trust the congregations because I was the super associate pastor who could single-handedly plan a Bible study, make a brochure, update the website and cook a fine spinach casserole for the Sunday potluck. I didn't need help. I didn't even need congregation members, because I had it all under control. It was always "Brittany's turn."

Or so I thought. It never occurred to me that by having it all under control, what I was actually doing was denying the members of my church community an opportunity to do ministry.

I figured I was doing everyone a favor by taking care of every minute detail of ministry for them. I truly thought I was helping, that I was doing the work of my ministry, the work that God called me to do. That is, until I got to Sylvan Hills UMC, where "Brittany's turn" would no longer be tolerated.

In my first meeting with our lay leader, she mentioned that this was a congregation that insisted on being a part of the day-to-day ministry of the church. I nodded, not completely comprehending what she was telling me. It was in the coming months that I understood what she meant.

## Laity unleashed

As I reminded them of my black thumb, a community garden ministry organized and planted raised beds filled with vegetables. As I worried about finding support for those who were grieving, a woman in my congregation

[See WHOSE TURN?, page 9]

## Donor (continued from page 1)

patient's diagnosis, life expectancy without a transplant was just months. Every week mattered.

The question and answer that began every conversation with Be the Match seemed all the more important:

"Are you still willing to donate?"  
"Yes."

### Transplant time

By December, the patient's medical team had targeted the transplant for the second week in February 2014. Kirkpatrick would make her peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation through a process called apheresis—similar to blood platelet donation, with no anesthesia or hospital stay required.

Kirkpatrick answered still more questions, completed more tests and took a physical exam. She was able to do most of the testing in DeWitt, with some trips to nearby Stuttgart. One week before the donation, she started receiving two injections per day to boost stem cell production.

Side effects of the injections included mild, flu-like symptoms: "Mainly just a dull headache, and a few achy joints, but that was really all," she said. "I kept teaching during the whole thing."

The night before President's Day 2014, the Kirkpatricks, with Barbara's sister along for moral support, arrived in Washington D.C. Both Barbara's and Daniel's expenses were covered by NMDP—from the airfare and the car service that ferried them from airport to hotel to hospital, all the way down to each bottle of water they would drink.

They reported the next morning to the transplant center at Georgetown University Medical Center. Kirkpatrick received her last two injections, provided more blood samples and then started the donation. PBSC donation time is calculated based on the rate of harvesting stem cells compared with the number of cells the recipient needs. Her donation took five hours.

And Kirkpatrick will testify that she didn't experience any pain during donation. "The only discomfort is that both arms have to be immobilized," she said. "That was a little tricky." But with a nurse dedicated solely to her care, and both her husband and her sister helping with things she couldn't do, such as scratching her nose, the process went smoothly.

One way they passed the time was by reviewing Kirkpatrick's spiritual support system. Her Bible study group and friends from her

school had sent cards of inspiration and encouragement, and her sister held them up so she could see them all. "I felt like they were all there with me," she said.

The doctor who oversaw the process came in to visit several times over the course of the donation.

"I said, 'I really hope the patient does well with this,' and she said, 'Well, you know, Barbara, I'll tell you this: All the patient and her family want is a little hope, and that's what you've given them.' And that's what just stuck with me."

### Post-donation

When the donation was complete, a courier took it straight to the recipient's location. The next morning, the counselor gave Kirkpatrick information about the transplant's completion, with details withheld to maintain the recipient's privacy.

Kirkpatrick received a letter written before the transplant by the recipient. The still-anonymous woman thanked her for her sacrifice, and let her know she would be thinking of her donor during the process.

"I don't know your beliefs, but I just know that God brought us together and I'll be eternally grateful," the recipient wrote.

Kirkpatrick had sent her own anonymous letter through Be the Match to the transplant recipient, letting her know that she would be glad to donate again, as a second round of donor cells sometimes is needed.

After her flight home, Kirkpatrick spent the rest of the week recovering from the anemia caused by the donation. She returned to teaching the following Monday.

By six months following the transplant, the recipient had begun producing all of her own stem cells from Kirkpatrick's donation.

"The counselor told me, 'Barbara, you've given her six months of life that she would not have had,'" she said.

The anonymity surrounding the process does not have to last forever. One year after the procedure the donor and recipient may have direct contact, if both of them wish. And they did.

Kirkpatrick has exchanged cards and email messages with the recipient of her stem cells, who lives in New York state. They've learned that in addition to both being people of faith, they share teaching as their common career. The recipient's health has improved, and she

## Record number of Arkansas students named 2015 Dollars for Scholars recipients

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation recently named 41 Arkansas students as recipients of Dollars for Scholars scholarship awards. These awards go to students attending United Methodist-related institutions.

For each recipient, the students' local churches give \$1,000, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation matches that contribution. Then the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas gives \$1,000, and the student's selected college contributes \$1,000 for a significant \$4,000 award.

"More Arkansas students than ever before received Dollars for Scholars awards this year," said Jim Argue Jr., president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, in a May 13 news release. "We are proud to announce that a total of \$41,000 in grants will be presented from UMFA to Arkansas students who will attend United Methodist colleges and universities."

Hendrix College students receiving the scholarships include Katherine Q. Emery of First UMC Batesville; Ava Z. Graves and Steven R. Ragsdale of First UMC Bryant; Madeline J. McDonald and Malachi J. McDonald of Grace UMC Conway; Samuel M. Coker and Michala J. Roberts of First UMC Conway; Emmett A. Hill of First UMC Hot Springs; Andrew D. Fleming of Grand Avenue UMC Hot Springs; Hannah E. Shelton of Asbury UMC Little Rock; Liam R. Hankins-Hull, Caitlyn B. Hendrickson and Michael R. McMurray of First UMC Little Rock; Jonathan T. Spradley and Victoria L. Spradley of Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock; Lance A. Dunbar of St. James UMC Little Rock; Ethny M. Ashcraft and Margaret A. Young of

Lakeside UMC Pine Bluff; and Daniel K. Reece of First UMC West Memphis.

Philander Smith College scholarship recipients include Arthur Bright, Adonika S. Bullard, Kishon Delancy, Tierra A. Holland, Toria A. Holland, Trevor A. Ivy, Julius C. Keith, Titus N. Manning, Kaelin K. McNeal, Candace L. Parchman, Kingsley G. Pinder, Carvon Smith, Shaborn Vail, Jordan A. Walker, Sara I. Walker and Chet R. Young, all of Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock.

Recipients attending United Methodist colleges outside of Arkansas are Lawrence E. Knox of First UMC Fort Smith, attending Boston University; and Alexander M. Shannon of Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock, attending Centenary College in Shreveport, La.

Seminary students receiving Dollars for Scholars awards include Taylor W. Loy of Central UMC Fayetteville, attending Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.; Laura Jo Prange of First UMC Dewitt, attending Iliff School of Theology in Denver; Deena M. Hamilton of St. Andrew UMC Little Rock, attending SMU Perkins School of Theology in Dallas; and Ronald J. Pressgrove of St. Luke UMC Little Rock, attending United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation is dedicated to helping students achieve their dreams by providing scholarship aid for United Methodist students attending United Methodist-related institutions. UMFA, one of the largest United Methodist foundations in the country, is responsible for more than 750 funds with combined assets in excess of \$135 million.

returned to the classroom in January.

### Reflections on donating

Kirkpatrick says she's "still terrible" with needles, but her ability to withstand them improved over the course of her experience as a donor. She adds that she could not have done it without the support of family and church members, who added her and the transplant recipient to prayer lists all over Arkansas. The church had a special time of prayer for her the Sunday before she left for Washington D.C.

"I felt like when I was lying in that bed, they were all there with me," she said. "I could feel their support, and I felt like we were all doing this; it wasn't just me."

She finds it amazing to think back to the day she signed up for the registry. The eventual recipient of her stem cells was only a child at the time.

"When my husband pushed me forward to sign up for our friend, we were both hoping to save his life," she said. "It turned out it wasn't his life we were saving, it was this little girl's."

She credits faith in God and prayerful support as the keys to the relatively easy time she had with her donation. While she used to faint at

## United Methodist views on organ and tissue donation

Since 1984, the *Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church* has addressed organ and tissue donation, citing the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22:37-39 as theological support for such acts. It encourages congregations to observe National Donor Sabbath each November.

Church law also supports organ and tissue donation. Paragraph 162W of the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church – 2012* states, in part, "We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need."

Visit [www.umc.org/what-we-believe/organ-and-tissue-donation](http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/organ-and-tissue-donation) to learn more.

the sight of needles or blood, that didn't happen at any point during this process. "I never felt weak, never felt bad, never felt anything but great," she says. "That's why I say, 'It sure wasn't me doing this!'"

Some people have expressed surprise that she donated for a complete stranger. But Kirkpatrick sees it differently.

"That stranger could've been my daughter, it could've been my sister, it could've been a friend," she says. "And it is someone's daughter, and it's someone's friend, and it's someone's sister... I just felt so honored and blessed to be chosen to do this for her."

Kirkpatrick now encourages others to sign up for the donor registry at every opportunity. As the process unfolded, she kept her middle-school students in the loop.

"One of them told me, 'You're my hero,'" she said. She was quick to remind the students that they can be heroes, too, by joining the registry when they're old enough. Eligibility begins at age 18; for details, visit [www.BeTheMatch.org](http://www.BeTheMatch.org).

"How can you say no? I mean, they're asking you to save someone's life," she says. "No matter what pain you go through, someone else's life is at stake."



## Keo UMC hosts 'Little Free Library' for its mission field

With a grand opening ceremony following Sunday worship, Keo United Methodist Church on April 5 became the official steward for the first Little Free Library in that central Arkansas community.

According to [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org), the Little Free Library concept began in 2009 when a craftsman built a model of a one-room schoolhouse to honor his mother, a former teacher. He then mounted it on a post in his front yard and filled it with books.

Today, Little Free Libraries are "take a book, return a book" spots where communities can share their favorite literature and stories.

Keo UMC's Little Free Library, built by local craftsman Hank Fort II, is stocked with a variety of books that church members hope will interest their neighbors. As library stewards who are Christian, Keo UMC's members will be sure a Bible is always available, said the Rev. Chanda Adams, the church's pastor.

"Beyond that, we are hopeful that our mission field benefits from sharing books they enjoy," she said.

"Especially this summer when school is out, it will be fun to see how it unfolds."

Adams said that the church considers the library an addition to their mission and outreach ministries, which already included members working at the Christ Corner food pantry, volunteering with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), taking care of individual neighbors and serving on a number of community boards and committees. This particular action of offering free books to the community expresses United Methodists' Wesleyan heritage of valuing education and literacy for all.

"We have been praying that God would lead us in being good stewards of the blessings, gifts and graces we have received," Adams said, "and being a steward of the library seems to be an answer."

The library is so new that it isn't yet included on the map at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org), but it is officially registered and should appear there soon, Adams says.

The Little Free Library sits in front of the church's building at 294 Highway 232 West in Keo. For more information, call 501-285-2109.



The Rev. Chanda Adams, library builder Hank Fort II and his son, Les, surround Keo UMC's Little Free Library on its opening day.

COURTESY PHOTO

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

### Hendrix names Clark associate VP for development, dean of the chapel

Hendrix College chaplain the Rev. J. Wayne Clark has been named the college's associate vice president for development and dean of the chapel. The change, effective June 1, was announced in an April 29 news release.

"Wayne has served the college well as our chaplain for 18 years, and has developed great relations not only with our campus community but also our alumni and friends across the state and nation," said W. Ellis Arnold III, senior executive vice president, general counsel and dean of advancement for Hendrix.

A 1984 Hendrix alumnus, Clark earned his master's degree in 1989 from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Before his tenure as Hendrix chaplain, he served as chaplain for Children's Medical Center's hematology, oncology and neurology departments in Dallas; as minister of the Halifax Methodist Circuit in Halifax, England; and as associate minister of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas. Within Arkansas, he has served United Methodist congregations in Magnolia and Pine Bluff.

At Hendrix, Clark successfully directed the planning grant that led to a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Foundation to develop programs to assist students in the "theological exploration of vocation." During the five-year grant, he helped secure an additional \$1.5 million to extend the original grant by three years. Clark successfully worked to secure a \$1 million gift to continue the work and programming of the Lilly Foundation to be named the Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics and Calling. He was instrumental in writing and receiving a \$500,000 five-year grant from The Lilly Foundation to establish a program for Clergy and Civic Engagement, and in securing a \$50,000 gift to endow the John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop.

Clark also started and supervised a United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) Leadership Scholarship program. More than 250 Hendrix students have participated in the program, which has motivated and mobilized students to lead worship services and preach in more than 400 United Methodist congregations throughout Arkansas.

In his new role, Clark will

oversee the Hendrix Annual Fund, planned giving and major gifts, as well as provide leadership for Advancement Services.

"As a member of the Advancement Leadership Team since 2008, he has worked collaboratively with our overall advancement efforts, and we are thrilled that he will now focus his efforts on development as we prepare for our next comprehensive campaign," Arnold said.



Wayne Clark

"I am honored to be given this opportunity to serve my alma mater in this new capacity and hope that I can continue to build

strong relations with the United Methodist Church and alumni," Clark said. "I have been enriched through my work with students, faculty, and staff and know this will continue in my new role. The students have truly been a blessing to me, and I look forward to reconnecting with many of them."

Associate chaplain and associate director of the Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics and Calling the Rev. J.J. Whitney will serve as interim Hendrix chaplain. She joined the Hendrix staff in 2002 as program coordinator for the Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative. In 2005, she was awarded the Francis Asbury Award for Fostering United Methodist Ministries in Higher Education from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. Whitney and Clark have helped more than 45 Hendrix students attend seminary.

Founded in 1876 and affiliated with the United Methodist Church since 1884, Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., is a national leader in engaged liberal arts and sciences education. Hendrix is featured in a number of guides to higher education, including *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think about Colleges*. For more information, visit [www.hendrix.edu](http://www.hendrix.edu).

## Sylvan Hills UMC opens community wellness clinic



Sylvan Hills UMC member Amanda Thompson, left, checks Sherwood mayor Virginia Young's blood pressure on the opening day of the Sylvan Hills UMC community wellness clinic. The clinic will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month.

COURTESY PHOTO

On Thursday, May 7, Sylvan Hills UMC Sherwood opened a wellness clinic for the surrounding community. This longtime dream for the congregation became a reality through hard work by a team of nurses and other interested congregation members, led by Audrey Burks.

This free clinic is offered the first Thursday of every month, and is open to the entire community. Hours are from 4 to 7 p.m., and a light meal is available during that time.

With a "Know Your Numbers" emphasis for the clinic's first session, volunteers checked patients' weight, blood pressure and blood sugar. In the months to come, the clinic plans to offer hearing checks, cholesterol tests, vaccinations and a healthy eating seminar (featuring food from the church's community garden). The Sylvan Hills UMC clinic also offers an onsite doctor and a resource assistance desk, where patients have access to a database of available assistance resources all around central Arkansas.

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## Youth

(continued from page 1)

addition to the evening schedule.

"It's crunched our time a bit, but the kids are really learning," Kaiser said, noting that they're currently studying Old Testament stories.

Adults have begun to ask for study opportunities, too. This spring, they worked through "24 Hours that Changed the World" by the Rev. Adam Hamilton.

"We've had not just growth in numbers, but also growth in individuals," said church member Megan Heyl.

Beyond Wednesday nights, they're seeing some crossover into Sundays and other activities. "We're building lifetime Methodists," Kaiser says. Eighteen youth and 11 adults attended Veritas, the Conference-wide youth event held in March.

The trip to Veritas began with Union Grove UMC, the other church in Kaiser's two-point charge. One youth from there planned to attend. Kaiser knew that others connected with Brookland were interested, but needed financial support to go. He made an appeal to the Union Grove members, asking that they sponsor some of the youth becoming more involved with their sister congregation.

Union Grove stepped up, offering seven sponsorships almost immediately. Likewise, Brookland responded, and in just three hours, the charge had enough money to pay

expenses for every youth who wanted to attend Veritas.

Transportation presented the next hurdle, but the ASU Wesley Foundation—where several Brookland members attended and were formed in the faith as college students—loaned its van, as did Cornerstone UMC Jonesboro.

Following their experience at Veritas, more youth now want to help in worship with roles such as reading Scripture or acolyting. Two even stepped up to preach on Youth Sunday.

Kaiser noted that Cherokee Village UMC has provided help for Wednesdays, as well, which shows the United Methodist connection at work.

"It's been my prayer that the youth know who we are as United Methodists," he says.

A few months ago, four young men began attending on Wednesday nights. One evening they approached Kaiser about how to become Christians. He explained the process of making a profession of faith, and all four of them wanted to be baptized the following Sunday. This group has since shared with their families and friends the invitation to connect with Brookland UMC.

"This has really blown up in the last six months," said Billy Whitted, chair of the church's staff-parish relations committee, who drives 35 miles from home to be a part of Brookland. "We're chasing our tails trying to keep up with them. We're just along for the ride."

# Put the 'V' in VIM

## Are you called to this ministry? Worker base needs expansion

Several recovery and other projects around the state are ready for **Volunteers in Mission** teams. In addition, our "This Old Church" program that helps smaller congregations make needed repairs is swamped with requests for labor. **Contact Byron Mann for details: vim@arumc.org or 870-826-0268.**

Likewise, new and returning **Disaster Response workers** are welcome and needed. Our Conference Disaster Response ministry needs *people who can arrive on short notice* following storms or other types of disasters. Early Response Team (ERT) training is available for those wishing to become part of Arkansas Conference Disaster Response. For details and a schedule of upcoming training events, **contact Janice Mann: disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359.**

**To stay connected** with VIM and DR requests, join the Facebook group "Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response - Serving Arkansas & Beyond," and be sure to check it when severe weather strikes.

### Ongoing recovery projects around the state

- If you have or know of resources for new or gently used furniture and household goods for new and rebuilt homes, contact Janice Mann. Donations or significant discounts are appreciated.
- VIM and Disaster Response teams still need workers for skilled repairs and rebuilds, clean-up duty (ranging from picking up and sorting debris to operating chainsaws and heavy equipment), clerical help, phone staffing and case management. Contact Janice Mann to schedule a work shift.
- Nashville update: The recent Nashville, Ark., area tornado did create damage, but not on the same scale as the 2014 storms. Assessments are being done for unmet needs, which are expected to be relatively low in number for this particular event.

## United Methodists respond to Methodist Family Health's Get Up & Give challenge

A mountain of backpacks, socks, underwear, notebooks, bath towels and more was donated to Methodist Family Health (MFH) by generous United Methodists across Arkansas during Lent 2015.

The contributions—including an assortment of recreational items like basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, hula hoops and board games—came in response to the sixth annual "Get Up & Give" drive. In addition, cash contributions totaling nearly \$15,000 will be used for similar items needed by the children and families served by MFH. United Methodist congregations and church groups were the primary donors.

All the donations will benefit those who turn to MFH for psychiatric and behavioral healthcare.

The drive was held during the 40 days of Lent, Feb. 18 to April 2. Rather than giving up something for Lent, supporters are urged to "get up and give" something to children and families who need an extra measure of care and support. MFH distributes a wish list of requested items each year.

Donors dropped off items at one of the nine MFH counseling clinics around the state, located in Alma, Batesville, Cherokee Village, Fayetteville, Heber Springs, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock and Magnolia.

"Arkansans are big-hearted, generous folks," says Jane Dennis, MFH's director of communications, who coordinated the Get Up & Give effort. "We have proof of it every year when the items the kids need and can use come flooding in. We appreciate each and every donation to Get Up & Give."

Methodist Family Health provides care for children and families through a statewide network of inpatient, residential and outpatient programs that includes a hospital, group homes, residential treatment centers, therapeutic day treatment programs and community- and school-based counseling clinics. Founded in 1899 by Methodists in Arkansas to care for children in need, today's MFH continues to broaden its program base and currently serves approximately 2,400 clients daily.

To learn more about MFH or how to give year-round, visit [www.methodistfamily.org](http://www.methodistfamily.org) or call 501-906-4209.



Ruth Hunter, a member of Mount Carmel UMC Benton, with just a few of the donations collected during this year's Get Up & Give drive.

COURTESY PHOTO

### VIDEO:

To watch 'Brookland UMC: Bless Me Indeed,' visit <http://goo.gl/4ErN1G>.

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# Details to remember as #arumc15 approaches

Please keep in mind:

- **Online registration for Annual Conference is now closed.** To have voting rights and be assigned an electronic keypad for voting, you must be a registered attendee. The cost to register on-site is \$125.
- Regardless of whether you have registered to attend the full Conference gathering, **you are welcome to attend Annual Conference worship.**
- Visit <http://ac2015.arumc.org> for information on our guest preachers.
- For those unable to be present at the Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs, **live streaming of business sessions and worship will be available at <http://ac2015.arumc.org>.**
- The social media hashtag for this year's Annual Conference will be **#arumc15.**
- **Attention clergy:** LifeTouch will be at Annual Conference this year to take photos of elders, deacons, provisional members, local pastors and retired pastors for the 2015-2016 Arkansas Conference Directory. **Photos from previous years will not be used in the 2015-2016 directory.** If you wish to appear in the new directory, you must stop at the LifeTouch display to have your portrait taken.
- Look for the *Daily Digest* and other updates during Annual Conference at <http://ac2015.arumc.org>; the Conference Facebook page, <http://facebook.com/ArkansasUMC>; or on Twitter: @ar\_umc.

Worship services at Annual Conference 2015:

**Sunday, June 14**

**Awake:** Opening Worship and Holy Communion, 7:30 p.m.  
The Rev. Paul Rasmussen, preaching

**Monday, June 15**

**Call to Prayer:** A Time of Reflection and Contemplation, 8 a.m.  
Bishop Young Jin Cho, leading

**Memorial:** Service of Commemoration, 1:15 p.m.  
The Rev. Dr. Walter E. Smith, preaching

**Repent:** A Service of Healing and Anointing 7 p.m.: Conference Youth Choir  
7:30 p.m.: The Rev. Paul Rasmussen, preaching

**Tuesday, June 16**

**Act of Repentance** Toward Indigenous People, 1:15 p.m.  
The Rev. Dr. David M. Wilson, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, leading  
**Ask:** Ordination and Commissioning Service, 7:30 p.m.  
Bishop Gary Mueller, preaching

**Wednesday, June 17**

**Watch:** Closing Worship and Holy Communion, 11:30 am  
The Rev. Lisa Yebuah, preaching



Annual Conference 2015  
**Arkansas**  
Hot Springs, June 14 - 17

## Church makes gifts to five nonprofits

*Mac 'N' Cheez Mania nets \$16k to help others*



Trinity UMC Little Rock children's minister Paul Owen, left, prepares to present checks to representatives from five different nonprofit organizations as the Rev. Betsy Singleton Snyder speaks about the reasons the church chose those five beneficiaries.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Trinity United Methodist Church Little Rock during a May 12 ceremony presented checks for \$4,000 each to Arkansas Foodbank, CanvasCommunity UMC, Harmony Health Clinic, Pfeifer Kiwanis Camp and Our House Shelter. The bulk of the funds—\$16,000 of the \$20,000 given—came from the inaugural Mac 'N' Cheez Mania festival, sponsored by Trinity and held April 11, 2015, at War Memorial AT&T Stadium.

"We had planned for approximately three to four hundred people, and by our estimates, between 1,500 and 2,000 showed up," said the Rev. Betsy Singleton Snyder, the church's pastor. "It really increased our ability to provide resources into the community."

While the action at Mac 'N' Cheez Mania centered on macaroni and cheese made by local restaurants as well as amateur teams, its proceeds had a broader focus: the church's support of missions that serve children, fight hunger and promote health and education.

"All these organizations we're thrilled to be partners with, and hope to partner with in the future," Snyder said. "We can't say enough about their good work."

The second annual Mac 'N' Cheez Mania will take place Saturday, April 9, 2016. For information, visit [www.LittleRockMacAndCheese.com](http://www.LittleRockMacAndCheese.com).

## WALK BESIDE THE GREAT APOSTLE

With Adam Hamilton, we have traced the life of Jesus from his birth in *The Journey*, through his ministry in *The Way*, to his death and resurrection in *24 Hours That Changed the World*. What happened next?

Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians.

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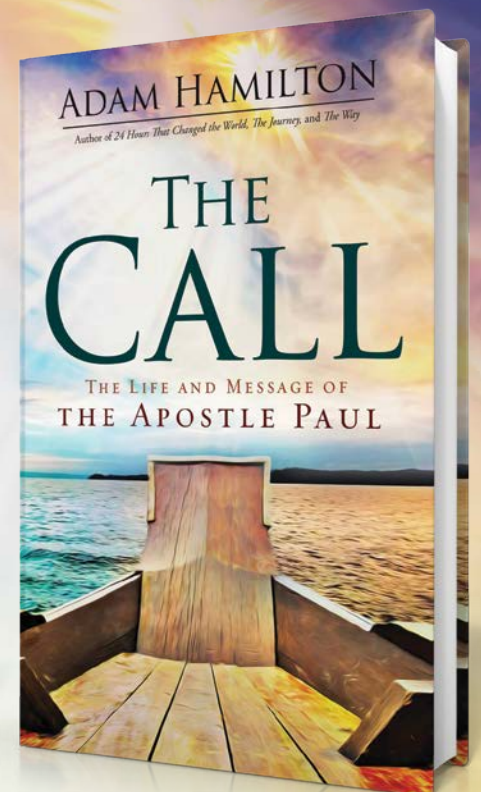
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Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, named by The Church Report as the most influential mainline church in America. Hamilton is the best-selling author of *Revival*, *The Way*, *24 Hours That Changed the World*, *The Journey*, *When Christians Get It Wrong* and *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*.



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## New background check service available for local churches

The Arkansas Conference has entered into an agreement that will help local churches more affordably and efficiently complete the required Safe Sanctuary background checks for employees and volunteers.

Trak-1 Technology, a premier provider of nationwide employment screening, resident screening and volunteer screening data and related background software since 1996, provides screening solutions for more than 20 United Methodist Church Conferences throughout the country. While local churches may continue to use any background check service they choose, the Conference recommends Trak-1 based on price and overall quality of service.

Each individual church may set up an account and elect to have volunteers and staff members register online for the background check themselves. Or the church may serve as the administrator of that process, entering information for each individual needing a background check.

The Arkansas Conference is absorbing the set-up, monthly maintenance and invoice fees. The only expense to churches is the cost of each background check. Churches may elect to pay that fee themselves or have each person undergoing a background check pay for their own.

The names of all individuals checked by the Conference or any local church that has chosen to use Trak-1 will be kept in a single database by Trak-1. If a background check has already been performed for an individual and is recent enough, a new check will not have to be done, eliminating duplication of effort and associated fees.

### How local churches register for Trak-1:

- Visit the Trak-1 new client page at <https://goo.gl/yjJTPj>.
- Enter our Conference password when prompted: arkconf123.
- After your church account has been set, you will create a separate password for your church account.
- A Trak-1 representative will contact you to complete the registration process and explain the screening process.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact our Trak-1 representative, Kyle Hendricks, at [kyle.hendricks@trak-1.com](mailto:kyle.hendricks@trak-1.com) or 981-779-7000, extension 3406.

## First UMC Fordyce reaches out during festival



Arky the Clown (First UMC Fordyce member John Lockwood, left) visits with community members April 25 during the Fordyce on the Cotton Belt festival. COURTESY PHOTO

The city of Fordyce on the weekend of April 25 hosted the Fordyce on the Cotton Belt festival, and First UMC members used the opportunity to distribute more than 200 bottles of water and 60 “God Loves You” children’s books. The bottles and books were all labeled with an invitation to worship. Church member John Lockwood dressed as Arky the Clown and gave away the books and candy. The church also hosted the classic car show in its parking lot.

—submitted by Rev. Bill Cato

## St. Mark UM Women teach life skills workshop

The St. Mark UMC Pine Bluff United Methodist Women have had the privilege of blessing families by providing a fellowship meal and Life Skills Bible Study at the local housing authority residential area on the first Monday of each month. The evening starts with a Bible study that teaches holy living, builds resiliency and raises self-esteem. Some of the study topics include courage, determination, decision making, forgiveness and faith.

After the study, groups divide by age level for discussion and activities. Each group has a United Methodist Women facilitator who reinforces the topic for the evening with a related activity.

The workshops seek to inspire families to become

more resilient and self-motivating during challenging times; to teach a biblical life skill in a community setting; to build relationships with the families and offer them Jesus; and to reinforce learning with the use of music, arts, crafts and other hands-on activities.

During the meal, leaders and participants continue to share ways to apply the lesson to their daily lives. They bless and enjoy each other while working to become a unified community, ready for challenges and new experiences.

The St. Mark United Methodist Women enjoy this time and love their new friends. Building community and spreading love enables them to offer Jesus to their neighbors.

—submitted by Dorminita Frazier

## RENEWAL IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### The Confessing Movement of Arkansas Annual Breakfast

Monday, June 15, at 6:30 a.m.

Union Missionary Baptist Church  
(behind the Convention Center)

### “Come Holy Spirit: The Power of God Today for United Methodist Renewal”

David F. Watson, Guest Speaker

David Watson is the Academic Dean and Associate Professor of New Testament at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. During his time in administration he has helped to oversee one of the fastest growing and most dynamic seminaries in the U.S. As an ordained elder in the West Ohio Conference, David serves on his Conference Board of Ordained Ministries, the board of Evangelical Fellowship of West Ohio, as well as the University Senate of the United Methodist Church. He has written *Honor Among Christians: The Cultural Key to the Messianic Secret* and *Key United Methodist Beliefs* (with William J. Abraham) and numerous articles and essays. David has preached and lectured in a diverse array of settings, from Dayton to Dallas, Cuba to Vietnam. His blog is [www.davidwatson.me](http://www.davidwatson.me)



David F. Watson

Tickets are \$15.00. Purchase tickets as part of your registration for the Arkansas Annual Conference, or by contacting Karen Millar, 501-268-4859 or [karenmillar@hotmail.com](mailto:karenmillar@hotmail.com) by June 10.

## The Arkansas Conference Board of Church and Society

Breakfast - Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 a.m.

Emma Escobar, Grassroot Organizer for Immigration, General Board of Church and Society, is the speaker.

A former Ethnic Young Adult Summer Intern at the General Board of Church & Society, has joined the agency's Civil & Human Rights program area to help build a movement to defend and support the rights of immigrants. Emma is originally from El Salvador and recently graduated from Boston University School of Theology, where she did research focused on issues such as immigration, health and contextual theologies.



Grand Avenue UMC, 841 Quapaw Avenue, Hot Springs

RSVP to Melissa Thomas,  
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# Pastor credits miracle for recovery

BY CHRISTI CRAWFORD  
Special Contributor

JONESBORO—As the Rev. Patty Soward danced through the halls of her church singing the Motown classic, “Can I Get a Witness,” she was a woman on a mission: to share the news of her medical miracle with everyone, giving God all the glory.

“They thought I was going to die,” she said.

“I got symptomatic two years ago—I thought I was just not feeling good,” she said. “It started with little things. I wasn’t thinking clearly and I’d forget things.”

Soward chalked it up to the aging process and didn’t think too much about it, but the associate pastor of First United Methodist Church Jonesboro said one Sunday she knew something was wrong.

“I got up to read the scripture at the 8:30 service, and I missed some lines,” she said. “My husband asked if I was OK, and I told him I didn’t know, but I wasn’t going to miss church. At 11:00 in the sanctuary service, I did the same thing.”

The following Monday Soward went to work, but after missing an appointment she had forgotten, her late husband John Soward began to worry.

Later that night, things got serious. Soward was suffering from nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, commonly known as NASH—a serious condition of the liver.

“They didn’t think I was going to make it,” she said. “They told my family they didn’t know what to expect if I woke up.”

But Soward said the church kicked in and did what they do.

“People began to pray,” she said.

On the recommendation of a surgeon who was a member of Soward’s church, she saw Dr. Satheesh Nair at Methodist University Hospital’s Transplant Institute in Memphis.

“They told me what to expect, and it was the worst case scenario,” she said.

Soward said her husband spent the whole last year of his life researching and studying the liver, learning everything he could to cook

and take care of her.

“My doctor said I had a 2 percent chance of survival—and nothing he said I could do had above a 5 percent chance of survival,” she said.

But Soward had faith in something outside Nair’s prognosis.

“I told him, ‘Let’s see what my God can do—I’ve got the God factor,’” she said. “Then I prayed, ‘I know you don’t bless sarcasm, but God, give me a chance to sit across from him again and let him see your power through me.’”

She did everything by the book, and she started improving.

With NASH, numbers are based on creatine, bilirubin and INR, Soward said, and she started at a 15.

“I was on the transplant list for 13 months,” she said. “When you’re at a 15, you’re looking at a transplant. It would go down to 10, then back up to 13.”

She asked doctors how to get to an 8, and they told her to “give it up.”

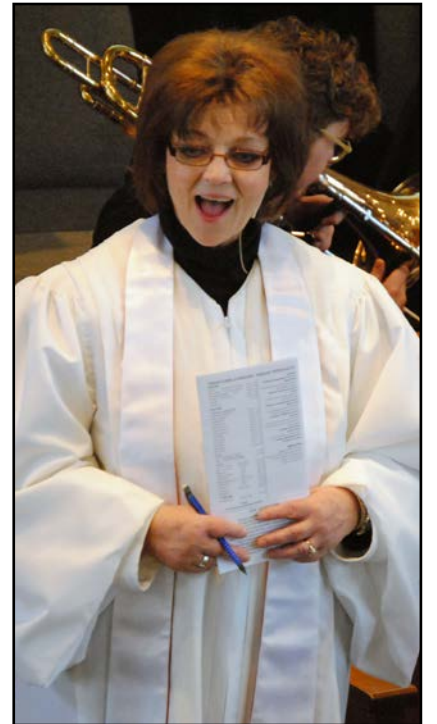
“The last time I went to the doctor, I was at an 8, and I was dancing and telling everyone with a set of ears,” Soward said. “Now I’m

not in the transplant side of the office, and it means a lot just to be able to sign in on a different sheet.”

Soward goes back to the doctor every six months. She is still fighting, and she will continue to take medicines and vitamins for the rest of her life. There are still days when she needs to stay home.

“But my liver is doing something, and I know it’s because of the power of God,” she said. “If I wake up, I’m happy—and if I don’t wake up, I’m happier, because I’m with my savior.”

*Crawford is a member of First UMC Jonesboro and a reporter for the Jonesboro Sun, where a longer version of this story first appeared.*



The Rev. Patty Soward sings during worship on Easter 2015.

PHOTO BY CHRISTI CRAWFORD

## Lay Servant Academy provides training, gives back to students’ home Conferences

The Lay Servant Academy held May 13-16 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center included nearly 50 participants from Texas and Arkansas. The Academy began with a meeting of Lay Servant Ministry District and Conference Directors from around the South Central Jurisdiction along with Jodi Cataldo, director of laity in leadership for Discipleship Ministries (formerly known as the General Board of Discipleship). Those present worked to improve the process of becoming a lay servant.

Course offerings provided basic training as well as four advanced classes: Leading Worship, Transforming Evangelism, Preaching and United Methodist Heritage.

The academy included daily worship, and the offering from these services totaled more than \$500; it was shared among the Arkansas Conference and Texas Conference for disaster relief following the tornadoes that hit Nashville, Ark. and Van, Texas.

Mount Sequoyah is working with Lay Servant Ministries to host additional training events. The fall session of Lay Servant Academy at Mount Sequoyah is set for Oct. 16-18, 2015. Additional information will be posted at [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org) under the Programs tab when it is available. Call 479-443-4531 or email [denni.palmer@mountsequoyah.org](mailto:denni.palmer@mountsequoyah.org) with questions.

## Whose turn?

(continued from page 3)

approached me about her passion for helping those in the midst of loss and grief. As I talked about liabilities and volunteer recruitment, a group of nurses opened a monthly wellness clinic to promote health and provide care for our community. In effect, these faithful and loving people were simply saying, “our turn.”

In our mission plan, Bishop Mueller has called us to “unleash the laity.” To do this, we must first and

foremost trust the laity. We must realize that there are gifts, ideas and passions within their hearts that are not only important, but also world-changing. We clergy must recognize that God’s call on their life is just as real, just as substantial, just as transformational as our own.

The laity have been unleashed at Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church, not by my hands, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, who has been forcefully reminding all of us that it is “our turn” to transform the world.

By the way, Joseph finally got the shoe on his foot. It took about 10

minutes. This morning it only took seven minutes, and I expect that by next week he will get the hang of it and have his time down to a respectable three minutes. His way may not always be my way. His way may sometimes frustrate me to tears. However, his way is just that, his way. A way that will lead to places that I could never imagine. A way that is paved by trust, patience and a quiet reminder that it is not always “my turn.”

*The Rev. Watson serves as pastor of Sylvan Hills UMC Sherwood.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

**Mountain View United Methodist Church is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries.** This position offers a competitive salary with a generous vacation plan. Applicants should be dedicated Christians with a keen desire to bring Christ to youth and children through Bible study, creative activities, worship, and service. Preferred BA in Christian Education or equivalent with work experience and computer skills. UMC background preferred. Interested persons should send their resume to Search Committee, Mountain View UMC, P.O. Box 74, Mountain View, AR 72560.

**Last chance to register to join Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land** October 6-15, 2015 with a possible Egypt extension. For more information, contact Rev. Jay Clark at [jclark@phumc.com](mailto:jclark@phumc.com).

**Benton First United Methodist Church is opening up the opportunity to add a new Director of Music Ministries** to our continuously growing church family of 1,700 members. Our church rests in the beautiful setting of downtown Benton, Ark., and is constantly active in community-based missions, evangelistic activities and events open to the community such as children’s programs, special worship services, fundraisers, musical and theatrical treats and more. Qualifications: Must feel “called” by the Lord to do His work; have a passion for the job, and for growing disciples; a bachelor’s degree or higher in sacred music; ability to accompany others in musical settings; previous significant, successful experience in general knowledge of church music, both traditional and contemporary. Email resumes to Rev. David Jones, [david.jones@fumcbenton.org](mailto:david.jones@fumcbenton.org), no later than Tuesday, June 30. This position is expected to be filled no later than mid-August 2015.

**First United Methodist Church Jacksonville, AR, is looking for a part-time Youth Minister** working 25 hours per week with youth ranging from 6th–12th grades. We are seeking the right person who will bring energy and enthusiasm needed to reach out to our community. If interested, please send your resume to [info@jacksonvilleumc.com](mailto:info@jacksonvilleumc.com).

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



## COMING UP

### Western Hills UMC celebrates 100 years June 7

Western Hills United Methodist Church, 4601 Western Hill Avenue in Little Rock, will host a 100-year celebration on Sunday, June 7, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The congregation was founded in 1915 as Douglasville Methodist Church before moving to its current location in 1974. The church will offer lunch after worship and is inviting anyone with a connection to the congregation to attend. Contact the church office at 501-565-2384 if you plan to attend or would like to sing in the choir.

### ACCYM 2015 Choir Tour set for June 8-15

Each summer, the youth of the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries (ACCYM) Choir spend a week touring the state to lead worship through song. They seek to minister to local churches by leading worship that provides opportunity for connection and experiencing the love of God.

After a year of rehearsals, this year's group of 30 singers and five instrumentalists will present the service "Finding Home" at the following tour stops:

- June 9: First UMC Arkadelphia
- June 10: First UMC Hope
- June 11: Brinkley UMC
- June 12: Greenwood UMC
- June 14: Lakewood UMC North Little Rock
- June 15: Leading worship at Annual Conference in Hot Springs

The performances held at local churches begin at 7 p.m., and the Monday, June 15 worship service at Annual

Conference begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Bank of the Ozarks Arena.

The Choir Tour task force chose "Finding Home" as this year's theme with the intention of focusing on the three stages of our journey to find home: our past, our present and our future.

"As Christians, we know that this world is not our home, and as long as we are in this world we are going to be searching for our home," said Maggie Rogers, a member of White Hall UMC and chair of the 2015 Choir Tour task force. "When our time on earth is done, we will have finally found home."

This year's worship service will include more than a dozen songs, a skit, and a new twist on a traditional hymn.

"I don't want to give away the whole set list, but some of the Choir Tour songs this year include 'Come Home' by OneRepublic, 'Where I Belong' by Switchfoot and 'Fix You' by Coldplay," Rogers said. "The task force did a great job with the song selection. All the choir and band members love all of the songs, and we can't wait to share them with everyone."

All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Rosemarie Gagnon at 870-777-8816 or rgagnon50@outlook.com.

### Youth Lay Servant Academy at Mount Sequoyah June 21-24

The Lay Servant Academy for Youth, set for June 21-24, 2015, at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville, is designed for individual young people (6th through 12th grades) who have leadership potential in the local church. This event is not for entire youth groups, and not designed for college-age or young adult individuals.

Youth who attend will go through the Basic Lay Servant Course, as well as select an advanced

course in Spiritual Gifts, Leading Worship or Leading Prayer. The experience also will include mission projects both at Mount Sequoyah and in the surrounding community.

For registration details, visit [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org). If you have questions, or are an adult interested in chaperoning the event, contact Christian education and spiritual formation coordinator Denni Palmer at [denni.palmer@mountsequoyah.org](mailto:denni.palmer@mountsequoyah.org) or 479-443-4531.

### Salem Campmeeting in Benton June 21-27

Salem UMC Benton and the Rev. Carlton Cross, host pastor, invite all to this year's Salem Campmeeting, June 21-27, 2015.

Campmeeting services are held under the old arbor at 1647 Salem Road, about four miles northwest of Benton, Ark. All are welcome. The Rev. John "Brad" Elrod of Newport UMC will be this year's evangelist.

Salem Campmeeting gets off to an early start this year with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall on Sunday, June 21. Special music groups will begin performing each evening at 7 p.m., with congregational hymn singing and preaching to follow.

Saturday evening will feature the traditional memorial service for those who have passed on in the last year who had a connection with Salem Campmeeting. Submit the name of a loved one to Bill Shirron by calling 501-316-2282.

Refreshments are served in the church fellowship hall weekdays after services. Popcorn may be served come Saturday evening.

A nursery is provided for children up to six years of age. Programs for the children are under the direction of coordinator Valerie West and are held in the church's nursery and adjoining room. Youth directors Rachel and Russell Powell have activities planned throughout the week. Call Rachel at the church office, 501-316-2282 to learn more.

### 'Re-Firement' retreat at Mount Eagle for senior adults, Sept. 15-17

Looking for a great opportunity for worshipping God, enjoying food and fellowship and experiencing God's creation at a stunning location? Mount Eagle Retreat Center's Re-Firement event for senior adults promises great programming, small group Bible studies, passionate worship, games, great food, relaxation, guided walking or motorized tours, and opportunities just to spend time alone listening for God. The Rev. Dan Brand will serve as retreat leader.

The two-night stay includes six meals, and double or triple occupancy rooms with linens provided. ADA accessible rooms are available. For details or to register, contact Wanda Locke, 501-723-4580 or [info@mounteagle.org](mailto:info@mounteagle.org); or Sarge Leonard, 501-757-1875 or [director@mounteagle.org](mailto:director@mounteagle.org).

Mount Eagle, a ministry of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, is located at 935 Beal Road in Clinton.

### UM Lawyer Conference in Little Rock Sept. 17

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) will hold its annual United Methodist Lawyer Conference Thursday, Sept. 17 at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, 4823 Woodlawn Drive in Little Rock.

Registration opens at 7:45 a.m., and programming runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Topics on the agenda include:

- Copyright Compliance Matters
- Maintaining Tax Exempt Status
- Sensitivity to Potential Sexual Harassment
- Avoiding Ascending Liability
- Ethics: Access to Justice and the United Methodist Lawyer

CLE credit is available. Contact Janet Marshall, 501-664-8632 or [jmarshall@umfa.org](mailto:jmarshall@umfa.org), to ask questions or to register.



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## OBITUARIES

### ARKADELPHIA

#### Lois Hunter

Lois Marie McElhannon Hunter, 93, passed away on the morning of May 17, 2015.

Born March 22, 1922, to John B. McElhannon and Rosalena Childers McElhannon, she grew up in Clark County, graduated from Arkadelphia High School and remained a lifelong resident of Arkansas.



**Lois Hunter**

She married the Rev. Joseph Wiley Hunter, an ordained elder who served appointments throughout the Little Rock Conference of the United Methodist Church from 1941 to 1987.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, John and Rosalena; her husband, Joseph "Papa Joe"; her brother, James Boyce McElhannon; and her grandson, John Michael Pruett.

She is survived by three daughters: Janice Elizabeth Pruett, Rosalyn Gail Huss and Vicki Lynn Arrington and her husband, Jim; seven grandchildren: Dawn Hunter Guajardo and her husband, Anthony; Dr. Sean Thomas Huss; Kristen Nicole Williamson; Thomas Mercer Britt and his wife, Amanda Lea; Ashley Powell Roberson and her husband, Eric; Eric Arrington; and Lee-Ann Joy; 11 great-grandchildren: Diamond Alissa Mascorro, Jay Anthony Guajardo, Jacob Alexander Guajardo, Ethan Thomas Huss, Sydney Morgan McCauley, Hunter Ashton Britt, Kiya Rose Britt, Parker William Roberson, Cooper Powell Roberson, John Maxwell Arrington and Liam Michael Joy.

Lois enjoyed a lifelong passion for banana taffy and Snickers candy bars. She spent her life dedicated to the service of her family, to the people of every community in which she lived and to God. A celebration of her life was held in Arkadelphia on Thursday, May 21. Burial followed at Atchley Cemetery in Dalark, Ark.

### CAVE CITY

#### Cecilia B. Rogers

Cecilia Blanche Rogers, 64, of Cave City passed away Monday, May 4, 2015, at White River Medical Center in Batesville, Ark.

She was born Jan. 18, 1951, to William and Chelsea Still in Batesville, Miss. She graduated with an Associate's degree from Phillips County Community College. She married Richard Rogers on March 24, 1973, in Helena, Ark.



**Cecilia Rogers**

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harding University in 1997, she became a high school English teacher for 12 years. As a member of the United Methodist Church, she enjoyed serving with her husband, who is currently appointed as a full-time local pastor at Cave City and Bear Creek UMCs. She also served as a district officer for the United Methodist Women in the North District.

In addition to her husband, Cecilia is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Amanda and Billy Hamilton of Dawsonville, Ga., and Katie and Steven Newman of Cumming, Ga.; her son, Patrick Rogers of Little Rock; her grandchildren, Will and Drew Hamilton and Forrest and Charlotte Newman; and her siblings, Billie West of Roland, Bob Still of Fayetteville and Jane Andrews of Wynne. She was preceded in death by both of her parents.

She was employed by John Baker Photography Studio and J. C. Penney in Searcy, where she restarted the Searcy Christmas Parade in 1983. She enjoyed playing with her grandchildren, giving to others, cooking, teaching, reading,

crafting and interior decorating.

A Celebration of Life service was held Saturday, May 9, at Cave City United Methodist Church, with Northeast District superintendent the Rev. Susan Ledbetter officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Wayland Springs UMC Camp and may be sent to Cave City First United Methodist Church, 56 AR 115, Cave City, AR 72521; or to the camp in care of Linda Holt, 2605 SE Front St., Hoxie, AR 72433-3206.

### HELENA-WEST HELENA

#### Pat Freemyer

Patsy Ann Bennett Freemyer, 83, passed away Wednesday, April 22, 2015. She will best be remembered as a difference maker to her family, her students, the community of Helena-West Helena and her church.

She was married to Wesley Neal Freemyer for almost 62 years. They began their lifelong partnership together in 1953 after graduating from Hendrix College.

Pat approached every task, role, relationship or obstacle with dignity, grace and her ever-present smile. Her passion for teaching influenced decades of both students and educators.

She was a trailblazer for issues centering on equality, advocacy and mission, providing exemplary leadership for United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church



**Pat Freemyer**

locally in Helena and through service at the Conference, Jurisdictional and denominational levels. Perhaps Pat's greatest accomplishments centered around service, including Terrific Tuesday, an after-school tutoring program she founded and directed; Lenten Listening, a community-wide devotional series that she championed; and the countless students that she influenced to pursue higher education from Phillips County.

Pat instilled in her children and grandchildren a sense of wonder about the world, a love of reading, the importance of hospitality, kindness to all and generosity of spirit.

She was greeted in heaven by her two sons, Richard Wayne Freemyer and Kenneth Wesley Freemyer.

Her legacy in this world will be joyfully carried on by her daughters, Norma Edmonds Hargraves (Bev Hargraves and Simon Ortiz), Patti Freemyer Martin (John, Ellen and Bennett Martin), Emily Freemyer Atkins (Charlie Atkins; Mary Michael, Matthew, Joseph, Nicholas and Anne Henry Maggio), Wesley Ann Freemyer Thomas (Kelly; Easton, Beck and Rowan) and Virginia Jackson Freemyer.

A graveside service was held Saturday, April 25, 2015, at Sunset Memorial Park in West Helena, followed by a Celebration of Life service at First UMC Helena.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 502 Porter Street, Helena, AR 72342; or to Hendrix College, 1600 Washington Avenue, Conway, AR 72032.

### LITTLE ROCK

#### Amy Wadene Hilliard

Amy Wadene Foreman Hilliard, 86, of Little Rock, passed away May 12, 2015.

Born in Rosebud, Ark., to Wade Hampton Foreman and Octavia Clark Foreman on Aug. 6, 1928, she graduated from Quitman High School and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. She retired from a career of teaching high school English, speech and business at Fayetteville, Cabot, Wonderview and Salem Public Schools. She was a member of Highland Valley United Methodist Church and was active as a partner in ministry with her



**Wadene Hilliard**

husband, Allan, a United Methodist pastor.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, the Rev. Allan E. Hilliard; her brother, William James Foreman; and her sisters, Martha Lou Wood, Eunice Duncan and Bernie Robertson. She is survived by her daughter, Julia Frost of Clarksville and her husband, John; sons, Anthony Allan Hilliard and his wife, the Rev. Mary Hilliard, of Pine Bluff; Joe Hampton Hilliard and his wife, Nicki, of Little Rock; and the Rev. J. Wesley Hilliard and his wife, Allison, of Van Buren; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Services were held Friday, May 15 at Highland Valley UMC. Memorials may be made to Highland Valley United Methodist Church, 15524 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock AR 72211; Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock AR 72202; or to any church served by the Rev. and Mrs. Hilliard.

### Archie Moore Jr.

Archie Lee Moore Jr., 54, of Little Rock passed away Sunday, May 10, 2015.

He was born Aug. 1, 1960, to the late Archie and Gustavia Fort Moore Sr. He attended public schools and graduated from Hall High School with the class of 1978.

Archie loved life, his state and hometown of Little Rock. He was a collector, historian, community developer, philanthropist, church trustee and lifelong member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. He served on many boards of directors, including the United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference and the African American Methodist Heritage Center (an offspring of Black Methodists for Church Renewal).

He established the Archie Moore Jr. Collection of Black Americana, and often exhibited and lectured on his collection of artifacts at various genealogical, religious and historical conferences and institutions across the state.

He is survived by his sister, Tina Moore of Dallas, Texas; his three godchildren, Lauren Moore of Little Rock and twins Taylen and Tayler Lee of Dallas, Texas; a special friend, Kally Robinson of Little Rock; and a host of other relatives and friends.

A funeral service was held Saturday, May 16 at Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock, with the Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow officiating. Memorials may be made to Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4294, Little Rock, AR 72214, and to Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, 1109 South State Street, Little Rock, AR 72202.

### NORTH LITTLE ROCK

#### Barton L. Lackey

Barton L. Lackey, 86, of North Little Rock, passed away April 30, 2015, at home.

He was born on Feb. 17, 1929, in Bloomingdale Township, Mich.

Bart was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in Korea; and a government postal worker. A retired associate member of the Arkansas Conference, he served churches in the North Arkansas Conference from 1984 to 1996, including Oakland UMC, Parkin UMC, Trinity UMC North Little Rock, Mayflower UMC and Bethel UMC Jacksonville. In retirement, he was affiliated with First United Methodist Church North Little Rock.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary L. Lackey. Survivors include stepsons, Charles Toler and his wife, Susan, and granddaughter Jordon; James Toler and his wife, Pat, and grandson James; a nephew, Mike Gilchrest and his wife, Debbie, son William and daughter Sarah; and grandson Dax Toler.



**Archie Moore**



**Barton Lackey**



## Liberian UM videographer thankful for Ebola response



Joseph Zeogar, left, and the Rev. Bob Hager on April 24 met with members of the Arkansas Conference Center for Technology team. The Liberia Conference videographer visited United Methodists in Arkansas, Texas and Wisconsin during his time in the U.S.

AUM PHOTO BY MARK EPPERSON

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

Joseph Zeogar came to the United States this spring to thank the United Methodist Church and U.S. citizens for saving lives in his home country. But as the official videographer for the Liberia Conference of the United Methodist Church, he is a lifesaver himself, too.

The 2014 Ebola outbreak that affected the Republic of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia created widespread concern and confusion. Zeogar saw the effects of the deadly virus, as well as denial that it even existed, let alone had reached Liberia.

While the U.S. military built treatment centers to help deal with the crisis, Zeogar made videos about the precautions advised by the Liberian health minister and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He traveled by motorcycle across Liberia, sharing life-saving messages about preventing infection. He also stressed that Ebola victims could survive by going to a treatment center.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the CDC deployed testing equipment so workers could separate those who tested positive for Ebola from those who were sick for other reasons. That capability made a huge difference, Zeogar said.

The United Methodist hospital was the only one to remain open throughout the crisis, and the church's presence went beyond caring for the sick: The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) helped prevent exposure to the virus.

"Our church, [an] UMCOR response unit, came in," Zeogar said. "They brought a whole lot of food for our members and non-Methodists as well. Because having food into your home is one of the measures of preventing the virus. You don't go out."

Zeogar's videos gradually helped build trust and spread the word about the work of UMCOR, the CDC, WHO,

and the U.S. Army. Liberia on May 9 was declared Ebola-free.

After he documented the good being done, Zeogar wrote to the U.S. Ambassador requesting to come to the U.S. to tell the story of lives saved.

"The government did not send the troops on its own," he said. "It depended on your taxes to send them to West Africa to save lives. I just came to the States to let every American know that indeed, they have impacted somebody's life. They have saved lives in West Africa."

Zeogar also emphasized that United Methodists' generosity "gave UMCOR the power to move in rapidly into that country to save lives. So United Methodists across this country also saved lives in Liberia. That's the reason why I am here."

When Zeogar received approval to travel, he contacted his Arkansas friend the Rev. Bob Hager. The two filmmakers had a professional connection because Zeogar had helped Hager with footage for his 2013 documentary "Black Marks on White Paper." While in Arkansas, Zeogar helped Hager shoot video for the 2015 Arkansas Annual Conference. He also spoke at several local churches.

The Liberia Conference doesn't have a budget for video equipment; Zeogar has used his own aging videotape system rather than newer digital tools. Hager rallied financial support from a number of United Methodists in Arkansas to help change that situation.

"We are purchasing a Canon 7D camera, a Canon EF 50 MM 1.4 lens as well as a bag and a 32-gig memory card," Hager said on May 26. "I hope to order the equipment in the next day or two, so Joseph can take it with him when he returns to Liberia in June."

Zeogar wants to continue to help find ways that the world can come together not just to stop the outbreaks, but also to prevent Ebola from resurfacing in the future.

To watch a Zeogar video, visit [www.tinyseedfilms.com](http://www.tinyseedfilms.com).



## Faith Funds

Artist: Betty Ruth Dortch Russell McMath

### Investing for the Kingdom

Dick Butler spent many years helping the fledgling United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas become the strong ministry partner it is today. Dick and Gertie Butler are an appropriate beginning for the story of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. One of the original incorporators in 1963, he had a hands-on, day-to-day role in managing the investments of the Foundation from the start until his death in 1999.

Gertie and Dick Butler shared a great passion for philanthropy. Just a few examples of their great generosity include their support of Hendrix College, the Butler Center for Arkansas History, First United Methodist Church in Little Rock, the Gertrude Butler Child Development Center and Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts. A strong Foundation advocate in her own right, Gertie also looked to the Foundation to help her achieve her charitable goals. Their son Richard Jr. continues their great family tradition of service as an active UMFA board member.

The Butler legacy at UMFA is a series of endowment funds that have helped the Foundation to grow to its current status as one of the largest grant-making United Methodist foundations in the country. Today's ability to make transformational grants to United Methodist ministries throughout Arkansas rests in large part on the witness, generosity, vision and leadership of Dick Butler.



### The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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