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Focus on spiritual revival amid business of Annual Conference 2015



The Rev. David M. Wilson of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Bishop Gary Mueller preside over Holy Communion as part of the Annual Conference's Service of Repentance and Reconciliation Toward Indigenous People.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS



Roman Kresse of First UMC Little Rock sings a solo during opening worship of the 2015 Arkansas Annual Conference.

BY AMY FORBUS AND ERIC VAN METER
Editor and Special Contributor

With the theme "A Call to Spiritual Revival," the 2015 Arkansas Annual Conference focused on awakening to the work of the Holy Spirit in the churches and communities where United Methodists of Arkansas live and serve. The Annual Conference gathered June 14-17 at Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs, under the leadership of Bishop Gary E. Mueller.

Both Bishop Mueller and Conference lay leader Karon Mann addressed spiritual revival in their addresses to the body.

Mann shared stories from around the state that show spiritual revival is already beginning to happen through United Methodist individuals, local churches and ministries.

"The personal part of preparing for spiritual revival—the recognizing of our need for obedience to God, the personal willingness to listen for God's voice and live out his calling in our world—it begins right here, in our own hearts," Mann said.

Mueller encouraged members of the Annual Conference to look for signs [See ANNUAL CONFERENCE, page 7]

Arkansas UMs react to shooting of nine at AME church

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

The June 17 murders of nine Bible study attendees at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., brought responses from people of faith around the nation, including United Methodists of Arkansas.

At an interfaith vigil held Sunday evening, June 21, at North Little Rock's Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Betsy Singleton of Trinity UMC Little Rock gave the invocation. With Bishop Gary Mueller unable to attend due to his travel schedule, the Rev. Mackey Yokem, assistant to the bishop and executive director of mission and ministry for the Arkansas Conference, read a

statement from Mueller as part of the gathering. The crowd of approximately 1,000 attendees included a number of United Methodists from central Arkansas churches supporting their sister denomination.

The creation of the AME Church occurred in 1816, when black members of St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia formed a new congregation. As explained on the denomination's website, ame-church.com, "It was a time of slavery, oppression and the dehumanization of people of African descent and many of these un-Christian practices were brought into the church, forcing Richard Allen and a group of fellow worshippers of color to form a splinter denomination of the

Methodist Church."

In 2012, the United Methodist General Conference approved full communion with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and four other Pan-Methodist denominations. This step by the UMC's lawmaking body means the churches acknowledge each other as partners in the faith, commit to work together in ministry and may share clergy.

On the morning of June 21, prayers for the victims, their families, Emanuel AME Church, the city of Charleston, the first responders and the perpetrator of the crime echoed through congregations. The Rev. Dane Womack, associate pastor of First UMC Fort Smith, opened his sermon, entitled "American

Methodism's King: Racial Segregation," by naming the nine persons killed in Charleston and offering a silent prayer for each one. He used 1 Samuel 8:4-20 as his sermon text, drawing a parallel between Israel's exile and the racial exile created in the American church.

"We demanded we be segregated and we demanded God hear us. And God did," Womack preached. "While God has remained steadfast and faithful to American Methodism—black and white—we have been unable to live into God's hopes for us. We have been disobedient and largely apathetic with respect to issues of race.... We have been a participant and even benefactors of the divided, violent

[See SHOOTING, page 2]

After Charleston: What will we do?

BY RONNIE MILLER YOW AND MAXINE ALLEN
Special Contributors

“Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come...” –*Amazing Grace*

By the time you read this editorial, the horrific story of a 21-year-old, hate-filled domestic terrorist and the Charleston Nine will be beginning to fade in the news cycle. By that time most, if not all, of the funerals will be over. We hope the Confederate flag issue in South Carolina will be before the legislature, or at least the talk about talking will have resulted in some action.

While guns don't kill people, access to guns makes it easier for someone to take the lives of others. We must acknowledge that the violence in our society must cease. We have attended prayer vigils, marched and mourned in the public square with the President of our nation. It's time for action.

Everybody can do something; every congregation can do something. Our bishop is already leading the way. In his mission plan, he has asked each congregation to try to be in ministry with their mission field. The mission plan asks us to help improve the status of Black churches in Arkansas; and to focus on the “nones,” those without religious affiliation. In order to do these things, one must first experience spiritual revival.



Ronnie Miller Yow

If we individually and collectively experience spiritual revival, there will not be those who believe that they are outside of God's love. Those who see “the other” as an enemy who must be destroyed are missing a key component of the acceptance that grace provides. We must draw the circle wider instead of closing ourselves off from a hurtful culture. We must demonstrate acceptance and love, just like the folks did at Mother Emanuel AME Church. After all, “they will know we are Christians by our love.”

We must move from reacting to acting—making sustainable efforts which will last beyond the interment of the Charleston martyrs. This is a short list of things you can do:

1. Move beyond ideology of the post-racial society.
2. Move beyond mere tolerance to embracing other ethnic groups and cultures.
3. Host a community discussion about racism that includes city and school officials. The UALR Institute on Race and Ethnicity can assist; visit www.ualr.edu/race-ethnicity to learn more.

‘We must draw the circle wider instead of closing

ourselves off from a hurtful culture.’

4. Be intentional about developing genuine partnerships with other UMCs of different ethnic groups.
5. Contact the Pan-Methodist congregations in your community (such as African Methodist Episcopal, Christian Methodist Episcopal and African Methodist Episcopal Zion churches) to develop a collaborative worship experience, or youth program, or outreach ministry.
6. Complete a needs assessment in your community for opportunities to be in ministry *with* persons who are nones, those of different ethnic groups, and those whose first language is not English. This effort requires dialogue, because many times what we believe others need is not what they want at all.
7. Revisit the Arkansas Conference's guide on Holy Conferencing (published in 2014 and available for free by sending a request to communications@arumc.org with the subject line “Holy Conferencing Guide”). Though written by the Human Sexuality Task Force, the guide can be applied to any subject that people of faith may find difficult to discuss together.



Maxine Allen

The Revs. Yow and Allen serve as the senior pastor and associate pastor of Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock. Yow is a former national president of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. Allen also serves as the Arkansas Conference's assistant director of mission and ministry for mission field engagement.

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Shooting (continued from page 1)

culture of American racism.”

Womack also told his congregation of a significant moment at Annual Conference, in which the Rev. Mark Norman became the first-ever African-American elected to Arkansas' delegation to General Conference—and as leader of that delegation.

“We don't need to get ahead of ourselves,” he cautioned. “Rev. Norman's election... hardly undoes 250 years of failed racial reconciliation. But we do occasionally experience these glimmers of hope.”

In at least one case, two Arkansas churches joined together across their diversity: the mostly Caucasian congregation of Argenta UMC North Little Rock canceled its service to attend Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock, a predominantly African-American congregation.

“I was touched by their offer to cancel their service this Sunday to come share worship with Wesley Chapel,” said the Rev. Ronnie Miller Yow, senior pastor of the church that sits on the campus of historically black and United Methodist-related Philander Smith College. Yow welcomed Argenta's pastor the Rev. Will Choate to a seat in the chancel area, inviting him to speak early in the service and to give the closing benediction. During the offertory, musicians from Argenta UMC led the church in singing “Make Us One.”

“We wanted to be sure that our churches testified to the fact that [the Charleston mass murder] is not the end of the story,” Choate said, adding that people of faith know that hate does not get the last word.

Three hours by car from North Little Rock, Salem UMC in Fulton County held a service of prayer as an act of standing in love and solidarity with Bethel AME in North Little Rock.

“We informed Bethel's bishop of our intent, and received a kind response last week,” said the Rev. Cherie Baker, Salem's pastor.

Instead of a sermon, the 90-minute service included not only prayer, but also a time for those present to share what was on their hearts concerning the Church and race.

“The responses were powerful, as well as some of the statements of confession and commitment to action that emerged,” Baker said. “The group began to realize that there are no churches with any ethnic majority other than white within the five counties that surround us. And the question arose, why aren't we out in the highways and byways, intentionally engaging people, welcoming them and loving them where they are?”

Monday night in Fordyce saw about a dozen churches represented at a community prayer service co-sponsored by St. John AME Church and First UMC and led by the two churches' pastors, the Rev. Kent Broughton of St. John and the Rev. Bill Cato of First UMC.

“I delivered remarks and reminded the community that hate and prejudice has no place in God's kingdom or in the Christian's heart; rather, we trust God's perfect love which casts out fear, mistrust, and misunderstanding,” Cato said.

He added that in his Sunday morning sermon, he had confessed to his congregation a family history of racial prejudice, “because I believe truth telling is an important part of the healing process. I told the congregation that I determined early on that the mindset of prejudice would have no place in my life,” he said. “I've tried to make racial reconciliation a focus of my ministry.”

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Submission Deadlines

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
Aug. 7	July 20
Sept. 4	Aug. 14
Oct. 2	Sept. 15

Excerpts from Bishop Gary E. Mueller's episcopal address, June 15, 2015

I'm going to speak to you from my heart about what I believe is the most important of all the important issues facing us: "It."

You've seen "It" firsthand—too many of our congregations becoming smaller and growing older, too many of our congregations struggling to reach the young, and too many of our congregations failing to see lives, communities and the world transformed by Jesus Christ. And, like you, that hurts my heart.

The "It" is the crisis of the "Good News" becoming "No News" for a world so desperately in need of God's love. The "It" is knowing we have done our fair share to bring on this crisis because we have failed to embody Christ's love, failed to deal with the church's sins and failed to act as if we really do believe that Jesus Christ makes an eternal difference. The "It" is the fact that we live in a brand new reality we've never faced before—a rapidly and radically changing culture that just doesn't

seem to understand, need or want Jesus Christ or what his church offers.

And now, we have to decide what we're going to do about "It."

Well, I have a few ideas. We are going to refuse to panic and go into overdrive to "save" the United Methodist Church. We're going to confess we cannot fix "It" on our own. We're going to turn to God like we've never turned to God before. We're going to listen to God—I mean really listen to God. And we're going to hear God saying, "Hey, you! You! It's time to understand that 'It' is a spiritual crisis and you need a spiritual solution." And, then, because we have heard God and been moved by God, we're going to get serious about spiritual revival like never before.

You'll know you're experiencing spiritual revival when a group of people in your church—it doesn't have to be everyone—when people begin to fall deeply in love with Jesus.... When you change from being a group of individuals into a

movement committed to engage the mission field... when people start asking you, "What in heaven's name is going on in your church?"

I believe with everything I've got that God is calling all United Methodist Christians in Arkansas—regardless of geographical location, regardless of theological conviction, regardless of church size, regardless of ethnicity, regardless of age—to get serious about spiritual revival like never before.

And that's why I am inviting you—and I'll be honest, if necessary, I'll urge, prod, and cajole you (they teach you that in bishops' school)—to join with your sister United Methodist congregations in a conference-wide movement we're calling "Get Serious About Spiritual Revival...." And here's a brief overview of how we're going to do it.

We'll begin preparing this fall.

We'll begin seriously and intentionally praying for spiritual revival Jan. 1, 2016, New Year's Day, although you can start right this moment.

We'll be preaching about God's unconditional, transformational and invitational love the three Sundays before Lent.

And we'll get serious about discipling through small groups by getting as many people as possible involved in a group during the Lenten season.

And then, each of you, in each of your churches, will let God lead you as you begin discerning what's next in your congregation, and that begins in the days immediately following Easter.

I believe we truly are at one of those defining moments in history during which this church we love so much can become the church Jesus has created us to be: a church with an attitude.

Excited—because we know this is an amazing moment of opportunity to welcome Jesus again into our lives, our church and our world.

Humble—because we know we need Jesus just as much as those in



AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

the mission field around us.

Committed—because we are willing to give everything for the one who gave his all for us.

Passionate—because we've been touched by the Holy Spirit in a way that changes everything about everything.

Joyful—never forget joyful!—because we've been invited by Jesus himself to join in this movement.

Expectant—because we see it already beginning to happen.

Let's get serious about spiritual revival like never before. Let's yearn deeply for spiritual revival like never before. Let's experience spiritual revival like never before.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!



BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

PRACTICAL DIVINITY

The heart of spiritual revival: loving God and neighbor

Our theme at this year's annual conference was "A Call to Spiritual Revival." We should not overlook the boldness and the challenge in that statement.

The boldness comes in what we are claiming is possible in this day and age. It suggests that revival is truly possible—not just for an individual but for a whole church. And it summons us to prepare ourselves for it as well.

The challenge of that theme hides a little under the surface. But it is there. Because if the revival we are called to experience is a *spiritual* revival, then it isn't something we can conjure up ourselves. Spiritual revival can only come about through the work of the Holy Spirit. No amount of our own effort can make it a reality.

So the one thing we need is beyond our own capability! That might seem a tough pill to swallow. It isn't the case, though, that all we can do is sit on our thumbs and hope the Spirit strikes us like lightning. God's grace doesn't work in one-dimensional fashion. Instead, we receive grace in multiple ways and are called to respond to it according to how it is given.

When it comes to our desire to experience spiritual revival, it's important to realize that the desire itself is a result of God's grace. We only hunger for Christ when Christ makes us aware of our deep need for him. And not only does he give us the grace to know our own hunger, but he also gives us the grace to reach out to him.

In other words, spiritual revival has

already begun. Revival starts with a new awakening, but this is only the first step. For us to keep walking the path toward full fellowship with Christ Jesus, we must continue to receive his grace and respond to it in ever-greater ways.

Faith working by love

John Wesley was famous for claiming that the only real distinguishing marks of a Methodist were the love of God and love of neighbor. These are simply the two great commandments, of course. Or, as Wesley once put it, "the common, fundamental principles of Christianity" ("The Character of a Methodist," ¶17).

Truth be told, Wesley wasn't really interested in drawing a sharp line between Methodists and all other Christians. He was just interested in the love of God and neighbor becoming the ultimate, guiding forces in the Christian life.

Wesley did not see belief in Jesus Christ as a box one needs to check off and then forget about. That's why he was so fond of the Apostle Paul's phrase, "faith working by love" in Galatians 5:6. True faith, for Wesley, is something more than words. It is a life that has been transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Because love language can so easily be sentimentalized, Wesley was often at pains to describe in creative ways what Christian love means. He once notably described it using an

enigmatic phrase: "True religion is right tempers towards God and man" ("The Unity of the Divine Being," ¶16).

Tempers, in this instance, are like dispositions of the heart. They are really a synonym for the virtues. We can see that when Wesley goes on to describe true religion in more detail: "It is, in two words, gratitude and benevolence: gratitude to our Creator and supreme Benefactor, and benevolence to our fellow-creatures. In other words, it is the loving God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves" (¶16).

So when we truly experience the love of God, we become thankful people. And when we come to know the love of neighbor, we become benevolent toward others. It's not just that we *give* thanks and *act* benevolently at times. It's rather that we *become* people of gratitude and people of benevolence. True faith is transformative. It impresses certain holy character traits upon us.

That's not a bad measure for authentic spiritual revival. Are we being changed, transformed, and made new? Are our desires being altered from vice to virtue? Has our hunger for Christ been met through a filling of his Spirit?

Connecting loving God, neighbor

Two speakers on the final day of annual conference captured the heart of spiritual revival in a powerful way. One was the Rev. J.J.

Whitney, who spoke to us about the 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger initiative. She spoke about the deep need in the state of Arkansas to care for undernourished children, and she pointed out the great variety of ways that local churches can join in that effort. She challenged us to think about caring for hungry children as a deeply Wesleyan calling. In other words, she impressed upon us how we can love our neighbors in concrete ways.

The other speaker was the Rev. Lisa Yebuah, who preached our closing sermon. She spoke about the powerful ways God blesses us, and about how a deep sense of connection to God will move us to want to bless others. She preached as one who is intoxicated with the love of God. Her message about how God's blessing of us can move us to bless others provided a wonderful illustration of the way that the love of God and love of neighbor are connected.

Wesley once spoke of "that love of our neighbor which springs from the love of God" ("Upon Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, III," ¶I.1). There is a connection between the messages that Lisa Yebuah and J.J. Whitney were offering us on that last morning of annual conference. If we will take those messages to heart, we may well find the path to spiritual revival clear before us.

Dr. Andrew C. Thompson is the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church Springdale. He can be reached at www.andrewthompson.com.

Grace UMC East End consecrates first facility

A United Methodist congregation founded eight years ago now has its own space for full-time, all-week-long ministry.

Grace UMC East End on May 31, 2015, consecrated its building. Planted in 2007 by Sardis United Methodist Church, Grace Church's plan was to reach the community through the school where it met, East End Intermediate School.

"Sardis saw a need to reach more people and they sacrificed so that this could happen," said the Rev. Tommy Jones, Grace UMC's pastor.

Grace started out with worship in the school's cafeteria, meeting at 5 p.m. on Sunday nights. As the church grew, it moved into the school gym and eventually moved the worship time to 10 a.m.

As growth continued, the vision began to change. The school facilities were only available four hours a day, one day a week. People held church-related meetings in homes, but the leadership at Grace felt called to do more, and planning for a building began. For two years Grace prayed and prepared.

"We believed we needed to do more, more often in our community," Jones said. "And this would involve a central meeting area that could be



COURTESY PHOTO

used to service this area 24/7."

The building sits at 24300 Hwy 167, technically in Hensley. Demographic information indicates that in the next five years, the population of the East End area of Saline County should be around 10,000—plenty of new people to be reached in the name of Christ.

"Everything we have belongs to God, and we will use everything we have to go after the 10,000, and with God's blessing we will win some," Jones said.

Grace UMC plans to use its new space not just for worship, but also for prayer and programs to provide restoration, such as Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and other recovery and healing ministries. They already use the new space to facilitate

small groups, provide community gatherings and promote unifying activities for the community.

They use the building in service to others, as well, such as hosting the graduation ceremony for Dorcas House women's shelter.

"We are going to focus as one church, on one mission, and use all we have to push toward the goal of loving people in the same way God has loved us," Jones said.

When Grace UMC started in the school cafeteria there were 25 people; for the first three weeks in its new facility, worship attendance averaged 380.

"Our building is being used to create more space for people to be restored, connected and empowered to serve," Jones said. "That is what we do."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Regarding Resolution 3, withdrawn from consideration at Annual Conference

On Monday, I sat with my mother, uncle and aunt during the Memorial Service. My grandfather, Rev. Maurice Webb, a faithful Methodist minister, died this year at 101. My grandparents never believed their younger daughter lives a life that is incompatible with Christian teaching. Being a lesbian doesn't separate my aunt from the love that everyone receives as God's children. She has been a lay delegate, spoken from many pulpits, and has served as our church's lay leader. Being homosexual should not set her, or any gay person, apart from full inclusion in the life of our church, and that includes allowing pastors to perform all of their pastoral duties, where same-gender weddings are legal.

My husband and I are raising our 12-year-old son in the church. We, along with our pastors, are teaching him that God is love, Christ is love, and love is love is love. Like heterosexuals, homosexuals are our

brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, mothers, fathers, and sons and daughters. Tony Campolo, an Evangelical Christian leader, recently posted a statement saying that he's been wrong about excluding LGBTQ people from the life of the church. I hope that my beloved church will come to the same conclusion.

Laura Coulter
First UMC Little Rock

Letters to the Editor policy:

All letters must be signed (name and city/church) and include the writer's phone number or email address. Letters may be sent to editor@arumc.org, or to 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Letters longer than 200 words will not be considered for publication.

The Arkansas United Methodist will not print letters containing personal attacks.

The Arkansas United Methodist reserves the right to publish Letters to the Editor in print, on the web, or both.

Congregations rebuilding after fires

Two United Methodist congregations that lost their buildings to fire in the past year are making major progress toward rebuilding.

New Haven UMC Hensley, just south of Little Rock, lost its building to fire on July 20. They planned a groundbreaking for their new facility on May 31, but the ceremony was canceled because of heavy spring rains. Construction moves on, though, whenever the weather allows. The church expects to be in its new building by August.

Southside UMC Batesville lost its building to a Nov. 23 fire, but they are making progress toward rebuilding, as well. On June 7, members of the congregation, alongside their district superintendent, the Rev. Susan Ledbetter, right, turned the ceremonial first shovels of dirt for the construction of their new building.



PHOTO BY DELORIS HOOK

ARUMC partners with Disciple Bible Outreach for prison ministry



PHOTO BY JEFF HAMPTON

On the final morning of the 2015 Annual Conference, Bishop Gary Mueller, the Rev. Mark Hicks, president of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries National, and Steve Smith of First UMC Russellville, the chair of the Arkansas Conference prison ministry board of directors, celebrated the signing of a relationship statement that marks the Conference's entry into a new area of ministry. Disciple Bible Outreach will support United Methodist churches in Arkansas that are involved in ministries with those who are incarcerated. For information on becoming involved in prison ministry, or on connecting your existing ministry with this effort, contact Vicki Davis, vicki.davis@arumc.org or 501-324-8047.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Nicklas joins Cokesbury as community resource consultant



Rachel Nicklas

Cokesbury.com, the retail arm of United Methodist Publishing House, has named **Rachel Nicklas** as its community resource consultant for the Arkansas area.

Originally from Star City, Nicklas grew up as an active member of the First United Methodist Church there. She then attended Arkansas State University, where she connected with the Wesley Foundation campus ministry. She went on to serve in youth ministry at several churches across the state over the last 12 years, and is a current board member and camp director with Ozark Mission Project.

She and her husband, Justin, live in Hot Springs where they are raising three boys, nine-year-old Braden, and twin two-year-olds Carter and Cason. They all are very active members of First UMC Hot Springs.

Nicklas is available to assist with any curriculum or supply needs by phone at 501-553-8614; by email at rnicklas@cokebury.com; or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/CokesburyArkansas. Local churches also may schedule a personal visit from her to review relevant resources to support their ministries.

Board of Higher Education and Ministry names scholarship recipients

The Arkansas Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry has announced its scholarship recipients for the fall 2015 semester.

The three \$500 Conference Merit Award scholarships are funded by 50 percent of the annual United Methodist Student Day offering, and are for students attending a United Methodist college or university.

Conference Merit Award Scholarship recipients are:

- **Erin Farrah**, who will be a freshman at Drew University in New Jersey this fall. She is an active member of Central UMC Fayetteville;
- **Tom Mullins**, a student pastor in Kansas and a student at St. Paul School of Theology in the Kansas City area;
- **Michael McMurray**, a junior at Hendrix College. He is a candidate for ministry, a member of First UMC Little Rock and actively involved in First UMC Conway.

The Hood Scholarship is \$1,000 award presented to a person preparing for ministry. This year's scholarship is awarded to Andrea Cummings, who will be attending Candler School of Theology. A Philander Smith College graduate, she has been actively involved as a leader on campus and at Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock.

United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas elects new board members



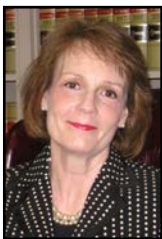
Wayne Clark

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) announced in a June 12 news release that **the Rev. J. Wayne Clark** of Conway, **Daryl Coker** of Little Rock, **the Honorable Beth Deere** of Little Rock, **the Rev. Dr. John Robbins** of Fayetteville and **Bill Wisener** of Monticello have been elected to the UMFA board of directors.

The Foundation builds endowments to enhance United Methodist ministries in the Arkansas Conference and manages endowment funds for local churches and United Methodist institutions.

"We are pleased to welcome Wayne, John and Bill as new members and Daryl and Beth as returning board members after leaving the board for a time," said Jim Argue, Jr., UMFA president and CEO.

Clark serves as the associate vice president of development and dean of the chapel for Hendrix College in Conway. Before this appointment, he served as the college's chaplain. He previously was pastor of Hawley Memorial UMC Pine Bluff and associate pastor of First UMC Magnolia.



Beth Deere

Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock has been the focus of Coker's religious life for more than 35 years, and he is member of the Newton Good News Class. He was National Sales Consultant for eDocAmerica, an organization that provides electronic access to healthcare for employees and corporations worldwide.

Deere is a United States Magistrate Judge and periodically teaches classes at the William H. Bowen School of Law. She is active in the Henry Woods Inn of Court and serves on the 8th Circuit Model Jury Instruction Committee. Deere is also a member of Pulaski Heights UMC.

Currently senior pastor of Central UMC Fayetteville, Robbins previously served as senior pastor of Marvin UMC in Tyler, Texas; Trinity UMC in Arlington, Texas, and other churches in the Central Texas Conference, where he was elected a Jurisdictional Conference delegate in 2000 and 2004.



Bill Wisener

Wisener is a CPA who retired as a community executive with Simmons First Bank in Monticello. He is a member of First UMC Monticello, where he teaches Dave Ramsey's biblical approach to financial peace. He is incoming chairman of the Committee on Finance and Administration for the Arkansas Conference of the UMC.

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas manages \$135 million in endowment funds and other charitable assets that benefit local churches and other United Methodist ministries. Founded in 1963, UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist foundations in the country and is responsible for more than 750 funds that support United Methodist ministries.

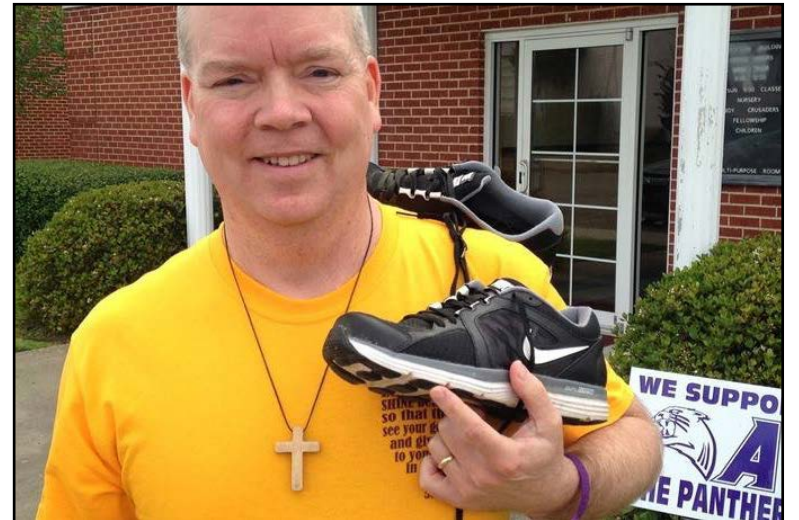


Daryl Coker



John Robbins

Pastor's 'Walk for Christ' three-year total tops \$50k



COURTESY PHOTO

The Rev. Jim Cross's third annual Walk for Christ raised \$21,510 for causes beyond the churches where he serves as pastor, Ashdown and Richmond in the Southwest District. His previous walks in 2013 and 2014 raised \$30,000, bringing the total to over \$50,000 in three years.

Cross walked 30 miles on April 11, with some church members, young and old, joining him for encouragement on portions of the route. Each year church members and people from the community gather at the Ashdown High School track and football field to greet him at the walk's end. Activities at the field, including games, bounce houses, a bake sale and a fish fry, help with the fundraising. Local businesses and the Ashdown fourth grade class also held fundraisers to add to the walk's total.

This year's total was divided equally among six organizations: Relay for Life (battle against cancer in memory of Garlene Cross, Pastor Jim's mother); scholarships for Ashdown High School Seniors who have struggled with medical issues, in memory of Jalen Lewis; UMCOR Sager Brown's new dorm for workers who travel there to help prepare relief supplies for distribution; Medical expenses for Brandon Cramer, a local teen recovering from a serious automobile accident; a new pavilion for Ashdown's LF Henderson School; and new turf for the Ashdown High School football field. Several of these charities are repeat recipients from the two previous years' efforts.

The walk is expressly for raising money for needs outside the church, and Cross hopes that it encourages people to become active in their local communities and shine a light on local needs. He receives inspiration from Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

The motto of the walk has become "Together, we can make an IMPACT!"

Mission teams still needed for Arkansas-based work projects

Both Volunteers in Mission (VIM) and Disaster Response ministries have projects available around the state that need teams: everything from This Old Church projects to home repairs to tornado and flood recovery.

To schedule your team to help, contact **Byron Mann** for VIM and This Old Church at vim@arumc.org or 870-826-0268; or **Janice Mann** for Disaster Response projects at disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359. Available tasks include 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.

UM churches among Arkansas Foodbank's summer feeding sites

In keeping with the current Conference emphasis on fighting childhood hunger known as 200,000 Reasons, two United Methodist churches are among the Arkansas Foodbank's seven summer feeding sites. All seven sites are a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program, which is designed to replace free- and reduced-price meals that children would normally receive at school during the school year.

This summer program includes two sites in Camden, one in Crossett and four in Little Rock. Geyer Springs UMC Little Rock will serve breakfast and lunch Monday through Thursday through July 23. Oak Forest UMC Little Rock will serve those same meals Monday through Friday through Aug. 14. Breakfast at both locations is from 9 to 9:30 a.m., and lunch is from noon to 1 p.m.

Meals are provided to all children without charge, and the same meals are served to all children, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

200,000 REASONS

to fight childhood hunger

United Methodist of Arkansas united against childhood hunger

The Arkansas Foodbank, the largest food bank in Arkansas, is a member of Feeding America and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. Its warehouses in Little Rock and Warren serve approximately 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools, colleges and other agencies that provide aid directly to hungry Arkansans. Last year, the Foodbank distributed more than 22

million pounds of food to agencies that help feed the hungry.

To connect with the Foodbank and other hunger relief organizations through the Arkansas Conference's three-year initiative to fight childhood hunger, visit <http://200kreasons.arumc.org> or contact Deaconess Colleen Caldwell at 200KReasons@arumc.org or 501-529-0604.

Camp Tanako scholarships for African-American churches still available

Camp Tanako has received a grant from the Arkansas Annual Conference Committee on Camping and Retreat Ministries for summer camp scholarships for children and youth from African-American congregations. These scholarships may be used by local churches to pay in full for one child's or youth's camping experience, or may be split to reduce the price for two children or youth attending camp. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, contact Kim Carter at 501-262-2600 or tanako@tanako.org.



Recommended reading from Bishop Gary Mueller

All of these books recommended by Bishop Mueller are currently available for purchase via Cokesbury.com:

- *Loving the World with God: Fourth Day Living* by Rebecca Dwight Bruff
- *Calvin vs Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice* by Don Thorsen
- *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It* by Adam Hamilton
- *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr
- *101 Ways to Reach Your Community* by Steve Sjogren

Mount Sequoyah celebrates renovated tennis courts

Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc. on June 12 marked the completion of its tennis court renovation with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The renovation project will provide the community with needed tennis programming at a safe, convenient and welcoming location.

The celebration included snacks prepared by the retreat center's new executive chef, Shannon French; tennis drills and games led by Fayetteville tennis coaches; and open swim time in the center's pool.

"Mount Sequoyah is dedicated not only spreading the game of tennis in Fayetteville, but to also enhance more wholesome, family programming on our campus," said program director Emily Gentry.

Improvements included resurfacing the courts, replacing the nets, installing a court valet, water

remover and courtside benches. Upgrades to the parking area and sidewalk leading to the courts allow better wheelchair access, as well.

Three separate grants supported the project. The United States Tennis Association and the Arkansas Patrons Foundation each awarded grants specifically designated to make needed facilities improvements to create and grow community tennis programming. Mount Sequoyah then doubled those funds with a matching grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. UMFA's four-year, \$300,000 matching grant began in 2013 and supports repairs, maintenance and upgrades of Mount Sequoyah's current facilities, processes and programs.

For information about Mount Sequoyah's programs and amenities, contact Emily Gentry at emily.gentry@mountsequoyah.org or 479-443-4531.

Mount Sequoyah Center, Inc. is a nonprofit founded by the South Central Jurisdiction of the United



Methodist Church in 1922. Overlooking downtown Fayetteville, the campus includes 32 acres of historic buildings, meeting spaces, hotel-like cottages and recreational

facilities. Both local and non-local guests visit Mount Sequoyah for church retreats, corporate training, family reunions, weddings and overnight lodging.

Attendees of the June 12 ribbon cutting at Mount Sequoyah's renovated tennis courts participate in drills led by area tennis coaches.

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Walk for Children and Families set for Aug. 7 at the Big Dam Bridge

Ninth annual event benefits Methodist Family Health

The ninth annual Walk for Children and Families benefiting Methodist Family Health will be held Friday, Aug. 7, at the Big Dam Bridge over the Arkansas River. Participants of all ages are encouraged to walk over the bridge and back, or any distance they wish. Registration opens at 5:30 p.m., with the Walk at 6:30 p.m.

Cook's Landing Park on the North Little Rock side of the bridge is the staging area for the event. Cost is

\$20 for individuals and \$50 for families. Participants are encouraged to register in advance at www.methodistfamily.org.

The festive, family-friendly event features live music, plus free pizza and Frosty Treats ice cream, and T-shirts for all participants. Parking will be available at Crystal Hill Elementary School, with a free shuttle to the Big Dam Bridge.

The annual event has in the past drawn more than 800



The Walk for Children and Families is a family-friendly event that supports Methodist Family Health's difference-making work in behavioral healthcare. COURTESY PHOTO

participants and raised tens of thousands of dollars to aid Methodist Family Health's work in providing comprehensive psychiatric and behavioral healthcare to children and families in Arkansas. Methodist Family Health cares for more than 2,400 children and their families daily through its 60-bed hospital, residential treatment centers, therapeutic group homes, community- and school-based counseling clinics, an emergency shelter and other specialized programs.

To learn more, contact Denise Luft, dluft@methodistfamily.org or 501-906-4201; or visit www.MethodistFamily.org.

Annual Conference

(continued from page 1)

of spiritual revival, and gave some tips for recognizing it.

"You'll know you're experiencing spiritual revival when a group of people in your church—it doesn't have to be everyone—when people begin to fall deeply in love with Jesus.... When you change from being a group of individuals into a movement committed to engage the mission field.... When people start asking you, 'What in heaven's name is going on in that church?'" he said.

Hope for revival appeared in the nine provisional members of the Annual Conference who were ordained at Tuesday night's Service of Ordination and Commissioning, two as deacons and seven as elders; and in the seven persons, all pursuing ordination as elders, who were commissioned as provisional members of the Annual Conference. The combined average age for these groups was 35.7 years.

Guest preachers

The Rev. Paul Rasmussen, senior pastor of Highland Park UMC Dallas, Texas, preached during Sunday night's opening worship as well as Monday night's service. At the Sunday night service, which carried the theme "Awake," he encouraged those gathered to persevere in the face of research that indicates the Church is dying.

"The message of God is not dying," he said. "We can be part of it, or we can sleep through it. But we need to wake up."

He reminded listeners that every church can do something with the gifts and resources it already has. "How do we wake up? By making the most of every opportunity.... Sometimes we like to sleep through the opportunity before us in order to dream about the one we don't even have yet."

Virginia Area Bishop Young Jin Cho opened the Monday morning session with a meditation on the process and power of prayer. Cho urged the church to go beyond mere knowledge of God or strategy for ministry. Instead, he said, we need to develop a close relationship with God rooted in a dialogue of prayer. "Prayer is the major thing in our life and ministry," he said. "Prayer should go first." He guided the body in prayer for revival using Tongsung Kido, a Korean tradition of individuals praying aloud simultaneously around a common theme; and then in intercessory prayer with a prayer partner.

The Rev. David M. Wilson, superintendent of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, led an Act of Repentance Service Toward Indigenous People. The Cherokee Choir of Tahlequah,

Okla., offered music and readings as part of the service.

"The Act of Repentance is truly all about relationship—our connection together as people of God," Wilson said. "We are called this day to remember our connectedness, to fellowship in justice and walk together in peace."

The service brought together traditional Native American languages and music alongside acts of worship in English, and included Holy Communion. The Act of Repentance was part of an ongoing process to improve relations with indigenous persons, as set forth by a resolution at the 2012 General Conference.

The Rev. Lisa Yebuah, pastor of inviting ministries at Edenton Street UMC Raleigh, N.C., preached the closing worship service, focusing on the belief that an act of blessing has power beyond the moment in which it is spoken. "They're words that can create new realities," she said.

She ended her sermon by offering blessings for different groups of people in the room: district superintendents, pastors, pastors' families and laity.

Insurance and apportionments

Other business included voting to end the Conference's self-insured healthcare plan for clergy and Conference employees, effective Dec. 31.

The action, which was proposed by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, includes a recommendation that any local church/charge with full-time clergy increase the salary for each of those positions by \$12,000. The net result should still be a savings to churches without a loss for the clergy, although actual premiums will vary.

Board chair the Rev. Dennis Spence said that the change makes the most sense of any option, given the shifting landscape of health insurance in the United States.

"We began [the insurance plan] because we could provide better coverage at lower cost," he said. "Now, we can't provide better coverage at even a reasonable cost."

Another major vote approved a new formula for calculating apportionments. The Arkansas Tithe Initiative marks a move away from expense-based budgeting in favor of a revenue-based approach. The Conference Council on Finance and Administration studied other annual conferences and General Conference data to before making the Tithe Initiative recommendation.

Beginning in 2017, Arkansas Conference apportionments will be figured as 10 percent of a church's adjusted gross income as reported monthly through clearly defined guidelines. According to projections set forth by the council, the

new formula should result in a net decrease of nearly \$800,000 in total apportionments and pension payments for 2016.

Resolutions

The Arkansas Annual Conference approved sending to General Conference 2016 a petition concerning juvenile justice. The Conference approved the resolution urging that federal, state and local governments adopt sentencing laws and procedures that eliminate life without parole sentences for juvenile offenders. It will be forwarded to the 2016 General Conference for consideration.

Two other resolutions came to the floor for debate, both dealing with human sexuality. The first, "Resolution Regarding Use of Language," which sought to send a petition to General Conference to "move the United Methodist Church to a more honest and complete statement about human sexuality," proposed amendments to Paragraph 161F of the 2012 United Methodist Book of Discipline, the church's law book.

Discussion of this resolution began with a new process developed over the past year by the petitions and resolutions task force. After the presentation of the resolution, members of the Annual Conference held conversation in small groups, followed by prayer with those same groups. Speeches for and against the resolution followed, guided by Robert's Rules of Order. The task force's process would have then included the vote, followed by passing of the peace, but the process was interrupted for lunch recess, and the Conference took up other business for the remainder of the day.

When the matter came back before the body, the Rev. Andrew Thompson made a motion to postpone indefinitely discussion of the resolution. Fifty-four percent of those present voted to table the resolution, ending the discussion and resulting in no vote being taken.

The remaining resolution, which came from a group of members of First UMC Little Rock, was withdrawn by its presenter, Carol Roddy, amid debate over whether the petition was properly before the annual conference. It was entitled "Option of Clergy Person to Perform Ceremonies of Same-Gender Marriage or Civil Unions if Legally Permitted in Jurisdiction Where the Clergy Person is Appointed."

Historic elections

Among those considering petitions and resolutions at the denomination's General Conference in 2016 will be the Arkansas delegation, elected by the members of the 2015 Annual

[continued on page 8]

(continued from previous page)
Conference.

As the first-elected clergy delegate, the Rev. Mark Norman made history as the first African-American to lead the delegation to General Conference in the history of the Arkansas Conference or its predecessor bodies. Other clergy delegates to General Conference, which meets May 10-20, 2016, in Portland, Ore., are the Revs. Dede Roberts, Rebekah Miles and John P. Miles II.

Conference lay leader Karon Mann became the first female elected to lead the Arkansas Conference lay delegation to General Conference since the 2003 unification of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences. Other lay delegates to the 2016 General Conference are Todd Burris, Karen Millar and Asa Whitaker.

The eight delegates to General Conference also serve as Jurisdictional Conference delegates, alongside eight additional persons elected to the delegation for that gathering. The South Central Jurisdictional Conference will gather July 13-16, 2016, in Wichita, Kan., to elect new bishops to succeed those who are retiring.

Clergy delegates to

Jurisdictional Conference are the Revs. Wes Hilliard, Brittany Richardson Watson, John Embrey and Maxine Allen—the first African-American clergywoman to be elected to the Arkansas delegation. The Revs. David Bush and Pam Estes were selected as clergy alternates. Lay delegates to Jurisdictional Conference are Elizabeth Fink, Miller Wilbourn, Brian Swain and Brandon Bates, with Makala Strang and Katy Dunn as alternates.

Statistical report

Membership in United Methodist churches of Arkansas at the end of 2014 stood at 132,250, a decrease of less than 1 percent from the previous year's membership total of 132,438.

Average worship attendance in 2014 stood at 50,216, a slight increase over the 2013 average of 50,169. Average Sunday school attendance stood at 20,792 attendees, down from 22,032 in 2013. Professions of faith across the Conference showed a 4 percent increase, from 1,943 to 2,031.

“At first glance these figures may be disappointing, but let's not lose sight of the fact that these numbers are only important because



LEFT: Nine persons were ordained into full connection at the 2015 Arkansas Annual Conference. Front row: Andrew Kjørlaug, Michelle Morris, Bishop Gary Mueller, Sam Meadors and Mark Cloning. Back row: Jacob Lynn, Dixon Platt, Chase Green, Paul Atkins and Daniel Thueson.

BELOW: Seven persons were commissioned as provisional clergy members at Annual Conference. Front row: Carissa Rodgers, Bishop Gary Mueller and Sara Bayles. Back Row: Jonathan Griesse, Eric Meyer, Todd Lovell, Colin Bagby and John Michael.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

of the lives they represent,” said Todd Burris, director of administrative services for the Conference, in the statistical report he delivered during the opening business session.

“Last year, over 28,000 of you were engaged in a mission project serving more than 1.3 million people—disciples making disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. Praise be to God.”

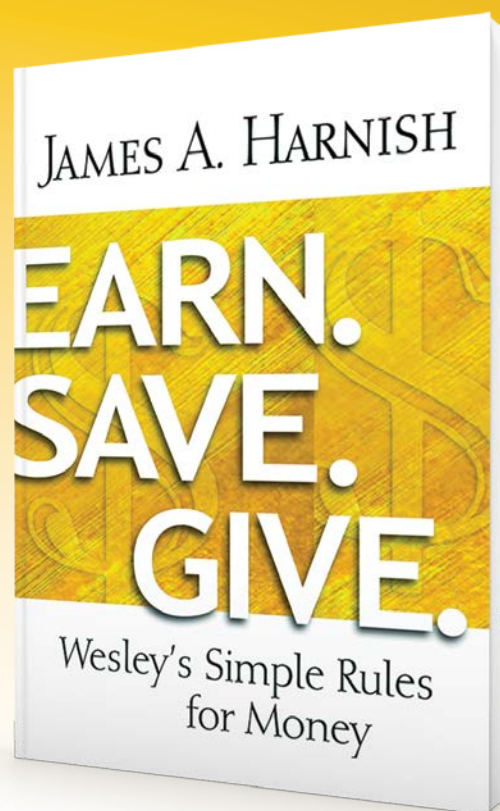


A 3-Step Stewardship Program from JOHN WESLEY

John Wesley believed money was important as a way of expressing and living out Christian faith. To Wesley, the task was simple: earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can. In this essential little book, pastor and author James A. Harnish presents Wesley's concepts and beliefs in plain, useful language, suitable for individuals to grapple with and groups to discuss and act upon.

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ABOVE: Bishop Gary Mueller ordains Michelle Morris as an elder in full connection. Also joining in the laying on of hands are the Revs. Todd-Paul Taulbee, Mark Norman, Susan Ledbetter and Bishop Felton May, with the Rev. Adam Kirby assisting.

BELOW: A group of Annual Conference members not eligible to vote for delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference supported the process by praying together during the completion of each ballot.



Guest preachers for the 2015 Arkansas Annual Conference were, from left, the Rev. Paul Rasmussen, Bishop Young Jin Cho and the Rev. Lisa Yebuah.



Members of the Arkansas Conference delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Front row (General and Jurisdictional Conference): Karen Millar, Todd Burris, Karon Mann, Mark Norman, Dede Roberts, Rebekah Miles and John Miles II. Back row (Jurisdictional Conference and alternates): Pam Estes, Makala Strang, Brian Swain, Brandon Bates, John Embrey, Wes Hilliard, Maxine Allen, Elizabeth Fink, Miller Wilbourn, Brittany Richardson Watson, David Bush and Katy Dunn. Not pictured: Asa Whitaker (General and Jurisdictional Conference).

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Online registration and additional information are available at www.methodistfamily.org.

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COMING UP

Small Church Youth Ministry Cohort applications due by July 15

Does your church have an average worship attendance below 150? Do its people have a desire to be in ministry with youth? If so, your church may want to apply for the 2015-2016 Arkansas Conference Small Church Youth Ministry Cohort.

Funded in part by a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, the six-month cohort will guide small churches in developing their unique vision and mission for ministry with young people, while also helping each team make a strategic plan for realizing that vision.

Churches participating in the Small Church Youth Ministry Cohort must:

- Form a team including the pastor, a lay leader, the youth ministry leaders, and at least one other person involved in the youth ministry, such as a volunteer or parent, to work together to prepare for training days and coaching calls, and to develop a vision and plan for ministry.
- Attend three on-site training days in central Arkansas for instruction and coaching in the best practices of small church youth ministry.
- Participate together in mentoring calls led by both Stephanie Caro of Ministry Architects and your church's assigned mentor (an ARUMC youth worker trained in mentoring) each month that there is not an onsite training day. These calls will be conference calls involving Stephanie, your church's mentor and all members of the church's team.

Church teams selected to participate must agree to the following time commitments:

- Participating in the duration of the program, from September 2015 to March 2016.
- Reading the four assigned books.
- Attending the three on-site training days.
- Setting aside approximately one hour a month, excluding the months that contain an onsite training day, to participate in a coaching call.
- Meeting as a team to continue working on a vision and plan for the church's youth ministry.

The estimated cost per church for this cohort experience is \$1,400, but the majority of the cost will be funded through a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. Participating churches will be asked to pay only \$300. Applications are due July 15; all church applicants will know by Aug. 1 if they have been selected for the 2015-2016 cohort. Dates for on-site sessions will be given at that time. For an application, visit www.arumcywn.org/small-church-youth-ministry-cohort or contact Michelle Moore, michelle.moore@arumc.org or 501-324-8048.

117th Annual Ben Few Campmeeting set for July 17-26

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come experience "campmeeting," a wonderful part of our Methodist heritage, at Ben Few Campground, near Princeton in Dallas County, Ark.

The 117th annual encampment begins Friday, July 17, with the Rev. Carlton Cross serving as

evangelist, Kathleen Dockery as pianist, John Moore as song leader and Brad Moore as youth director. Daily worship services will take place at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. through July 26.

Two musical groups are scheduled to perform: Oaklawn UMC Praise Team on Sunday, July 19, and Bismarck Gospel Tones on Thursday, July 23.

For more information, contact one of the campmeeting co-chairs, Jane Knickerbocker at 501-865-4540 or Linda Clark at 870-725-2025.

ACCYM Youth Service Fund Lock-In at Wild River Country Aug. 7

This event is held following Methodist Family Health's Walk for Children and Families. For details, visit www.accym.org or contact Michelle Moore, michelle.moore@arumc.org.

Bear Creek Camp holding Hunters' Education Weekend Aug. 7-9

For a registration form, contact Michelle Moore, michelle.moore@arumc.org. For questions about the weekend, contact Glenn Hicks at 870-295-3681 or 870-662-1279.

EQUIP training event for youth workers in Little Rock Aug. 29 - Registration now open

When goals for youth ministry can feel like moving targets and budgets are tight, how you as a leader define and measure success in ministry is an absolute necessity. EQUIP's keynote speaker, Chris Wilterdink, director of program development for Young People's Ministries at the UMC Discipleship Ministries (formerly GBOD), will address setting goals and measuring success in ministry at this day-long event for United Methodist youth workers of all kinds.

Afternoon sessions include a Volunteer Track for mentors, small group leaders, chaperons and any other person who provides support for a youth minister. The Discernment Track is geared toward youth workers who have a bit more experience in youth ministry but would still like help learning how to develop curriculum in a larger scope and sequence format. The Essentials Track is for those who are new to youth ministry or are trying to get a grasp on the basics of youth ministry. The Transitions Track addresses the specific areas of ministry that surround peak transition times for youth; from children's area to confirmation, confirmation to the youth area, youth area to beyond high school. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.arumcywn.org/equip>.

'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; or Sarge Leonard, 501-757-1875 or 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, to ask questions or to register.

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

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Arkansas Conference Appointments, 2015-16

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

Central District

District Superintendent.....Richard Lancaster
 ADONA**Richard Gifford**
 ARGENTAJames W. Choate
 ASBURY - LITTLE ROCKMary Hilliard
 AssociatesCharles H. Green
 BENTON FIRSTRobert David Jones
 Associate.....**Zeke Allen**
 Deacon.....Garry Dean Teeter
 BETHEL - JACKSONVILLEGerald Collins
 BETHLEHEM - LONOKECarolyn Staley
 BRYANT FIRSTHammett Nichols Evans
 Deacon.....Peter Weber
 CABOT**Stephen P. Dickinson**
 CANVASCOMMUNITYCarter Ferguson
 Deacon.....Edward Paul Atkins
 CARLISLE FIRSTKirk Doering
 CENTERVILLELana Gartner
 CLEVELAND / OVERCUP.....**Malachi McDonald**
 CONCORD - LONOKELarry D. Hughes
 CONGO.....Polly Burton
 CONWAY FIRSTMichael Roberts
 Associate.....Elizabeth Lynn Kilbourne
 Deacon.....**Melissa Thomas**
 DES ARC FIRSTCharles Dee Harper
 EBENEZER - CONWAYTo be supplied
 ENGLAND.....**Keith Duane Coker**
 FAITH - LITTLE ROCKHarriett Akins-Banman
 GARDNER MEMORIAL / AMBOY.....**Mary Candace Barron**
 GRACE - CONWAYJohn Mark McDonald
 Associate.....Kathleen McMurray
 GRACE - EAST END.....George Thomas Jones
 GRAHAM CHAPEL / OAKLAND.....Tammy Garrison
 GREENBRIER FIRST.....Kevin Lyon
 Associate.....Donna Bennett
 HAMILTON / HUMNOKE.....Jerry Martin Bowie Jr.
 HAZEN / DEVALLS BLUFFCarolyn Doering
 HEBRON - CARLISLE.....Roger Crouch
 HENDERSON.....Michael Darryl Utley
 HICKORY PLAINS.....Deborah D. Harrison
 HIGHLAND VALLEY**Anthony "Tony" Griffin**
 Associate.....Katherine G. Pearce
 HOPE KOREANIsaac Choh
 HUNTER - LITTLE ROCK.....Soniyah B. Key
 JACKSONVILLE FIRSTScott Jackson Shafer
 Associate.....Bradley Keith Moore
 KEO.....Chanda Adams
 LAKEWOODLuke Conway
 Associate.....Andrew C. Kjorlaug
 Deacon.....Cynthia Shaw Henry
 LEVY.....Jimmy J. Mosby
 LITTLE ROCK FIRST**David C. Freeman**
 Associate.....Donna Hankins-Hull
 DeaconsMary Jane Cole
Ann Michelle Whitfield
 LONOKE FIRSTAubrietta Lynn Jones
 MABELVALE.....Robert K. Marble
 MARKS CHAPEL.....**Anthony Maurice Watkins Jr.**
 MAUMELLE FIRSTBeth Ann Waldrup
 Associate.....**Colin Bagby**
 MAYFLOWER.....Richard Wilkins
 MCCABE CHAPELJohnnie Davis
 MORRILTON FIRSTTodd-Paul R. Taulbee
 MOUNT CARMEL - BENTONRoger E. Glover

MOUNT CARMEL - VILONIACarey Chrisco
 MOUNT PLEASANT - LITTLE ROCKMary N. Jones
 MOUNT ZION - LONOKERobbin Dale Haley
 NAYLORLuke Parker
 NEW HAVEN - LITTLE ROCK.....Norma Gillerson
 NEW ZION / MOUNT ZION - CENTER RIDGE
James Lee Scruggs
 NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRSTDavis E. Thompson
 AssociatesJames W. Choate
Brent Higdem
 NORTH PULASKI**LaNita Anne Daniels**
 OAK FOREST / UNIVERSITY PARISHMichael Blanchard
 OLD AUSTIN**Cathy Lynn Staton**
 PARKVIEW / NEW HOPE - BENTON.....**Clarence "Dooley" Fowler**
 PLEASANT HILL - ALEXANDER.....Vince Crawford
 PLUMERVILLE.....**William Ferguson**
 PRIMROSE.....Melvin Moss
 PULASKI HEIGHTSBritt Skarda
 AssociatesP. Jay Clark
Jeffery Bernard Hampton
Jacob Steven Lynn
Belinda Price
 DeaconsLynn W. Lindsey
James Scott Moore
 QUAPAW QUARTER**Carissa Rodgers**
 Associate.....Elizabeth Anne Holcomb
 SAINT ANDREW - LITTLE ROCKCharlie E. McAdoo
 Deacon.....Jenni L. Duncan
 SAINT JAMES - LITTLE ROCKSiegfried Johnson
 Associates**Randall D. Ludwig**
Claire M. Caldwell
Gregory Schick
 Deacon.....**Martha S. Taylor**
 SAINT JAMES - LONOKE.....David Scruggs
 SAINT LUKE / GEYER SPRINGSRonald Jeremy Pressgrove
 SAINT PAUL - LITTLE ROCK.....**Richard S. Mitchell**
 SAINT PAUL - MAUMELLE**Anthony Maurice Watkins Jr.**
 SALEM - CONWAYWilliam Todd Vick
 SALEM - BENTONCarlton N. Cross
 SARDIS.....**Bryan R. Diffie**
 Associate.....Judy Baker
 SOUTHBEND.....Garren Earle Hagemeyer
 SPRINGFIELD / MALLETTOWNAustin W. Coleman
 SWEET HOME.....Danny Simpson
 SYLVAN HILLSBrittany S. Richardson Watson
 THE JOURNEY - CABOT / MOUNT TABOR - CABOT
Jeffery Trent Warrick
 THERESSA HOOVER MEMORIALFelton Edwin May
 TRASKWOOD.....Thomas Crawford
 TRINITY - LITTLE ROCKBetsy Singleton Snyder
 Deacon.....Adam Kirby
 TRINITY - NORTH LITTLE ROCKGerald Meeks
 VILONIANathan Kilbourne
 WARD / SIXTEENTH SECTION.....Carol Jean Grace
 WESLEY - CONWAYDavid E. Baker
 WESLEY CHAPEL - LITTLE ROCK / DUNCAN - LITTLE ROCK
Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
 WESTERN HILLSSylvia Nasic
 WHITE MEMORIALDanita Waller-Paige
 WINFIELDDavid D. Hoffman
 WYE MOUNTAINRichard Gifford

Extension ministries

HORIZONS STEWARDSHIP COMPANYJames Clifton Christopher
 CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE.....Lawson Leonard Delony
 MEMPHIS CONFERENCE.....Jessica Waddell Teegarden
 NEW MEXICO CONFERENCERobert Hunt

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCEJames H. Lenderman
 BAPTIST HEALTH SCHOOLS OF LITTLE ROCK
Melissa Thomas
 CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOLAdam Kirby
 DAILY BREAD COUNSELING - BRYANT, AR
Garry Dean Teeter
 LONOKE COUNTY SAFE HAVEN.....**Donna Hendricks**
 SACRED PATH, INC.....Mary Jane Cole
 SEIS PUENTES HISPANIC OUTREACH CENTER
Jenni L. Duncan
 WELLSRING.....Ann Michelle Whitfield
 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE
 Executive Director of Mission & MinistryGeorge Mackey Yokem
 Ministries for Mission Field EngagementMaxine Allen
 Communications, Marketing & Training.....Martha S. Taylor
 ARKANSAS CONFERENCE CENTER FOR VITALITY
 DirectorDeidre Jo Roberts
 Associate Director.....**Blake Russell Bradford**
 GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIPRobert O. Crossman
 HENDRIX COLLEGEJ. Wayne Clark
Judith J. Whitney
 JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORSStephen Jean Copley
 METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH.....James Scott Moore
 OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITYRockwell F. Jones
 PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.....Rebekah Linn Miles
 PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE CHAPLAIN
Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
 UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNIONMartha D. CashBurless
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UALR / UNIVERSITY PARISH
Jana Hogg Green
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - UCA.....Lloyd Blake Langston
 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITYHeath R. Bradley
 ARKANSAS HOSPICE.....Helen J. Burton
 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Catherine Estes
 CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
Leonard Higgins
 DIACONAL MINISTRYDavid W. Clemmons
David L. French
David Glaze
Jim Walsmith
John C. Yarrington
 UM OF ARKANSAS UNITED AGAINST CHILDHOOD HUNGER
 Deaconess.....Colleen Caldwell
 HONORABLE LOCATIONWilliam S. Briant Jr.
Susan Elizabeth Gladin
Jon Mac Taylor
 INCAPACITY LEAVEAndrea E. Allen
Leslee Lynn Phillips
Lewis See
William N. Steele
 PERSONAL LEAVE.....**Regina Holtman Gideon**
David Ray Hawkins
Polly C. Shafer

Northeast District

District Superintendent.....Susan Ledbetter
 ANTIOCH / HARMONY - SEARCYJim Foster Gilliam
 ASH FLAT / EVENING SHADE.....Larry Morris
 AUGUSTA / BALD KNOB / TUPELO.....Bonda Deere Moyer
 BATESVILLE FIRSTJustin Ledbetter
 BAYDonald Lewert
 BEEBE.....Russell Edward Hull
 BEECH GROVERobert Hager
 BETHESDA CAMPGROUNDCarl Hudson

[continued]

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

Extension ministries

DAKOTAS CONFERENCE	William Eric Van Meter
INDIANA CONFERENCE	David Carl Eaton
ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, COMMUNITY LIFE	
.....	Robert Holifield
WESLEY FOUNDATION - ASU	Samantha Meadors
FLO AND PHIL JONES HOSPICE HOUSE, JONESBORO	
.....	Clarence Edward Pruett
METHODIST HEALTHCARE.....	John A. Wilcher
HONORABLE LOCATION	Charles Marcus Cooper
.....	Norman C. Moyer
INCAPACITY LEAVE	Floyd Ervin
.....	Larry Hunt
.....	Gregory A. Webb
PERSONAL LEAVE.....	William Clint Black
.....	Thomas Rhoades

Northwest District

District Superintendent.....	Stephen Coburn
ALMA / KIBLER.....	Daniel Thueson
ALPENA	H. Franklin Cook
ALTUS / GRENADES CHAPEL.....	Patricia Butler
ARKANSAS KOREAN MISSION	Kwangmin Shin
ATKINS / BELL'S CHAPEL	Naomi P. Rogers

JASPER	Larry M. Acton
JOURNEY HISPANIC MISSION	Julio Ibarra
LAMAR / MOUNT OLIVE - CLARKSVILLE	Tammy Jo Teltow
LAVACA / NEW HOPE - VAN BUREN	Lynn David Strang
LESLIE / MARSHALL	Micheel L. Proctor
LIVING WATERS AT CENTERTON	Velda Bell
MAGAZINE / MOORE'S CHAPEL - HAVANA / WAVELAND / PIONEER MEMORIAL	Judy Hall
MANSFIELD / HACKETT	Michael Wayne Topham
MENA FIRST	Pauleen Ann Ferris
MIDLAND HEIGHTS / MOUNT OLIVE - VAN BUREN	Daniel Lane Williams
Associate	Aaron Madden
MILLTOWN	Louise Finney
MISSION	Ulysses C. Washington
MOUNTAIN VIEW - ALMA / NEWBERRY CHAPEL	Robert M. Jeffery
MULBERRY	Charles B. Beevers
OAKLEY CHAPEL / GRACE - ROGERS	Shane D. Pair
OLA / PLAINVIEW	Melanie Lauren Tubbs
OMAHA	Kenneth Beard
OZARK	Jeffery L. Jackson
PARIS	James Michael Smith
PARKS	Roger Simon
PEA RIDGE / BRIGHTWATER	Brian Timmons
POTTSVILLE	Mildred Faith Bryant
PRAIRIE GROVE FIRST	Lee Benjamin Myane
PRAIRIE VIEW	Jeffery L. Blessingame
ROGERS FIRST	David Bruce Bentley
Deacons	Helena Cathy Caudle
.....	Sandra Wanasek
ROGERS LATINO MISSION	Ramiro Lizcano
RUSSELLVILLE FIRST	Roy Patterson Smith
Associate	Gail Cole Brooks
SAINT JAMES - FAYETTEVILLE	Rashim Merriwether
SAINT PAUL - FORT SMITH	Steven M. Poarch
Deacon	Mark L. Waynick
SAINT PAUL - GRAVEL HILL / BRIGGSVILLE	Steve Lawrence
SEQUOYAH	Sara Cole Pair
SHILOH - BERRYVILLE	Lon N. Hudson III
SILOAM SPRINGS FIRST	Randy H. Rowlan
SPRINGDALE FIRST	Andrew C. Thompson
Associates	Todd Martin Lovell
.....	Rob Williams
Deacons	Rebecca Boggan
.....	Judith S. Van Hoose
SQUARE ROCK / MT. PLEASANT-WALDRON	Maranda Leeper
SULPHUR SPRINGS	Dale Richardson
TRINITY - FAYETTEVILLE / VINEY GROVE	Terry M. Gosnell
VIETNAMESE - FORT SMITH	Terry Gallamore
VIETNAMESE - VAN BUREN	Daniel Joseph Nguyen
WALDRON / BIRDSVIEW	Patricia Diane Miller
WALTREAK	Larry Pat Millard
WEDINGTON	Joseph W. Hall
WESLEY - FORT SMITH / CAVANAUGH	Matthew I. Daniels
WESLEY - RUSSELLVILLE	David Andrew Ruehr
WICKES	Teresa Egan Chapman
WINSLOW	John Mark Moore
WOODLANDS	Ben Hampton Anderson

Extension ministries

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE	Charles F. Murry
ATTEND SCHOOL	Janice Sudbrink
CIRCLE OF LIFE HOSPICE, SPRINGDALE	Audie D. Long
DEACONESS APPT NON-UM AGENCY	Kandi L. Mount
HIGHLANDS ONCOLOGY GROUP	Pamela Cicioni
HOLISTIC PRODUCT GROUP, LLC	Rex Dickey

PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT	
Counselor	Helena Cathy Caudle
WESLEY FOUNDATION - ATU	Jonathon Michael Bevil
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS	Emily L. Burch
DIACONAL MINISTER - MOUNT SEQUOYAH	Denise E. Palmer
HONORABLE LOCATION	Cynthia Lee Davis
.....	Donald W. Lanier
INCAPACITY LEAVE	Robert Bell
.....	Louann Averitt Murphy
PERSONAL LEAVE	Stanley Wade Adams
.....	Thomas Mark Ashcraft
.....	Larry D. Ott
.....	Mary Jane Pearce
.....	William Zachary Underwood

Southeast District

District Superintendent	Mark K. Norman
ALMYRA / HUNTER'S CHAPEL - ROE	Ted Edmondson
ALTHEIMER	Fred Arnold
BAILEY CHAPEL	Travis Earl Jackson
BAYOU METO / LODGES CORNER	Mary F. Welch
BETHEL - SHERIDAN / CENTER GROVE - SHERIDAN	Willis Winn Findley
BRINKLEY / BRASFIELD	Michael Andrew Smith
CHERRY VALLEY / VANNDALE	Ronnie C. Williams
Associate	Janice Williams
CLARENDON / HOLLY GROVE	Nan Nelson
CROSSETT	Russell R. Moore
DEWITT / SAINT CHARLES	Daniel R. Kirkpatrick
DUMAS / TILLAR	Tandy Curtis Hanson
EARLE / CRAWFORDSVILLE	To be supplied
EBENEZER - TULL	Albert C. Marlar
EXTRA	Royal S. Dodson
FORREST CHAPEL	To be supplied
FORREST CITY FIRST	William V. Buchanan
FOUNTAIN HILL / MONTROSE / PARKDALE	Chyrl Savage Slocum
GILLETT / DELUCE	Janet T. Edwards
GOOD FAITH CARR / REDFIELD	Ryan Allen Rush
GOOD HOPE / NEW EDINBURG	John H. Kidwell
GRADY / TRINITY - STAR CITY	Timothy Edward Rushing
GRAND AVENUE - STUTTGART	Cleifton Samuel Vaughan
GREENHILL / LACEY	J. Donald Johnson
HAMBURG FIRST	Cletus Gregory Comer
HAWLEY MEMORIAL / WESLEY - PINE BLUFF	Reginald Russell
HEBRON - NEW EDINBURG	Boyd F. Savage Jr.
HELENA	Walter Michael Wilkie
HERMITAGE / WAGNON	Marty Reep
HICKORY RIDGE / TILTON	Robert Garfield DeBaun
HUGHES / MADISON	Jay Stephen Simpson
HUMPHREY	To be supplied
KINGSLAND / CHAMBERSVILLE	Michael C. Dodson
KYNETTE	Edna Hargraves
LAKESIDE - LAKE VILLAGE	Bill Lindsey Fish
LAKESIDE - PINE BLUFF	Pamela Jean Estes
Associate	Alicia Guerrero Frye
LEOLA / MOORE'S CHAPEL - SHERIDAN	Lindsey Saenz
MARIANNA / BEAR CREEK CAMP	Frankie Glenn Hicks
MARION	Robert Blackwell Cloninger
MARTIN'S CHAPEL / TRINITY-WARREN	To be supplied
MARVELL / LEXA	Gary Lawrence Maskell
MCELROY / ELLIS CHAPEL / CENTRAL-WYNNE	Stephen Wayne Baldwin
MCGEHEE FIRST / ARKANSAS CITY	William Joe Head
MONTICELLO FIRST	Dennis Spence
MOUNT OLIVET / PROSPERITY / UNION	Robert L. Lyons
NEW HOPE - SHERIDAN	To be supplied

PARKIN	Melvin Dwight Mann
PINE BLUFF FIRST	Michael Cuning Morey
Associate	Natasha J. Murray-Norman
PLEASANT GROVE - DEWITT	Gene White
PORTLAND / DERMOTT / WILMOT	Deborah L. Head
RISON / MOUNT CARMEL - RISON	Gordon Mohr
ROCK SPRINGS / WILMAR / MOUNT PLEASANT - MONTICELLO / ANDREWS CHAPEL	Hardy P. Peacock
ROE	Joe E. Glover
SAINT FRANCIS	Jonah Wayne Smith
SAINT JAMES - PINE BLUFF	Henry Wilkins
SAINT LUKE - PINE BLUFF	Barbara A. Douglas
SAINT MARK - PINE BLUFF	To be supplied
SCRUGGS CHAPEL / LIVINGSTON CHAPEL	John W. Love
SHERIDAN	John Embrey
SHERRILL	To be supplied
STAR CITY FIRST	John Bradley Elrod
STUTTGART FIRST	David W. Bush
SULPHUR SPRINGS - PINE BLUFF	James Edward Conn
WABBASEKA	Tom Smithwick
WARREN FIRST	Gary Frank Harrison
WATSON / MOUNT TABOR - MONTICELLO	Walt Lowe
WESLEY CHAPEL - BRINKLEY / TAYLOR CHAPEL	William J. Thompson
.....	To be supplied
WESLEY - MCGEHEE	To be supplied
WEST HELENA / ELAINE	Melissa Maskell
WEST MEMPHIS FIRST	David F. Moseley
Associate	Michelle Morris
WHEATLEY / SALEM - WHEATLEY	Michael Bolin
WHITE HALL	Benjamin William Crismon
WYNNE	Lester Glenn Pettus
ZION / WALLER'S CHAPEL	Toby Austin

Extension ministries

GENERAL EVANGELIST, GENERAL BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP	Tom Letchworth
WESLEY FOUNDATION - PINE BLUFF	Henry Wilkins
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UAM	Edward Kavan Dodson
U.S. AIR FORCE	Ronald Lewis Feeser Jr.
HONORABLE LOCATION	Constance Steele
INCAPACITY LEAVE	Rufus Robert Burnham Jr.
.....	Douglas Edwards
.....	John Clifton Sandine

Southwest District

District Superintendent	Rodney G. Steele
AMITY	Glen Dale Harris
ARKADELPHIA FIRST	James P. Polk
ASBURY - MAGNOLIA / McNEIL	Michael P. Daniel
ASHDOWN FIRST / RICHMOND	James H. Cross
AVERY'S CHAPEL / BRUCE MEMORIAL / MIDWAY	Willie Joe Miller
BEARDEN / THORNTON	Andrew Wayne Hughes
BELL CHAPEL / RED HILL	Wayne Allen Bell
BISMARCK	Lynn Ann Lewis McClure
BRADLEY	John Braden
BUENA VISTA / STEPHENS	Cedric R. Walters
CAMDEN FIRST	Henry Andrew Ratliff
CHRIST - TEXARKANA / OGDEN	J. David Kassos
CHRIST OF THE HILLS - HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE	Walter L. Smith
Associates	Fred W. Hunter
.....	Sheila M. Jones
.....	Margaret Sue Kelly
DELIGHT / ANTOINE / SMYRNA	James Taylor Henderson
DEQUEEN FIRST / GILLHAM	Mark Cloninger

[continued]

DIAMONDHEAD	George W. McCoy	Associates	William Zachary Roberts	ROCKPORT / L'EAU FRAIZ.....	Troy Lee Cate
DIERKS / GREEN'S CHAPEL	Carroll D. Jackson	.....	John P. Miles	RONDO / PLEASANT HILL - TEXARKANA..	Harry J. Hamner
DODDRIDGE / OLIVE BRANCH.....	Walter L. Burnett	.....	John S. Polk	RUSHING MEMORIAL.....	Benny Morgan
DUMAS MEMORIAL	Patricia Daugherty	Deacon.....	Teresa L. Holt	SAINT ANDREW - ARKADELPHIA	Bobby W. Sanders
EBENEZER - MAGNOLIA	Kenneth Hipp	HUNTER'S CHAPEL / TULIP / WAVERLY	Tammy Harrell	SAINT MARK - EL DORADO	Winston D. Roden
EBENEZER - NASHVILLE.....	Shirley F. White-Souder	HUTTIG	Robert Earl Ballard	SAINT PAUL - EL DORADO	Robert Henry Walker
EL DORADO FIRST	Royal Keith Dodson	JUNCTION CITY.....	Mary Depper	SAINT PAUL - MALVERN / ADKINS MEMORIAL	.....
EMERSON.....	Barbara Grimes Lewis	LANGLEY.....	To be supplied	.....	Ferman Dale Chance
EMMET / HARMONY - HOPE / WILLISVILLE	.....	LEWISVILLE	Ronnie K. Eldridge	SILVER SPRINGS.....	To be supplied
.....	Jerry G. Westmoreland	LISBON / MARYSVILLE	Wayne Chambers	SMACKOVER / SILVER HILL	Leon Thomas Dixon Jr.
FAIRVIEW - CAMDEN / WESTSIDE.....	Roger Allen Crum	LOCKESBURG	Teresa Egan Chapman	SPARKMAN / DALARK / BETHLEHEM.....	Peggy Abbott
FAIRVIEW - TEXARKANA	Philip McLarty	MAGNET COVE / SHOREWOOD HILLS.....	Walter J. Garrett	SPRING HILL / OAK GROVE	Revel Kidd
FAITH - HOT SPRINGS	Wanda L. Murray	MAGNOLIA FIRST.....	Larry Eugene Kelso	STAMPS.....	John J. Noggle
FORDYCE FIRST	William F. Cato	MALVERN FIRST	Lavon Post	SUGAR HILL.....	Gregory A. Burks
FOREMAN / WADE'S CHAPEL.....	Kathryn Burchfield	MANCHESTER.....	Michael Shawn Meeks	SWEET HOME - MURFREESBORO.....	Alton R. Terrell
FRIENDSHIP - FRIENDSHIP / KEITH MEMORIAL	.....	MINERAL SPRINGS / CENTER / CENTERPOINT	.....	TAYLOR.....	Spencer Glendas Plumley
.....	Jeff Ladd	.....	Phillip Salmon	TEXARKANA FIRST.....	Bruce Wayne Bennett
FRIENDSHIP - PRESCOTT / SWEET HOME UNION	.....	MISSOURI.....	Ryan Bachuss	Associate.....	Vida R. Williams
.....	Gene M. Ross	MORNING STAR.....	John Franklin Walker	TIMOTHY / SAINT MARK - CAMDEN.....	Deanna L. McCormack
GARDNER / GUM SPRINGS	Steven W. Bush	MOUNT CARMEL - LOCKESBURG / SCOTT'S MEMORIAL	.....	TRINITY - GURDON / OKOLONA / MOUNT ZION - ARKADELPHIA	.....
GLENWOOD / DAISY	Lonnie M. Landers	.....	Tommy Halsell	.....	Andrew Orr
GRAND AVENUE - HOT SPRINGS	David Fleming	MOUNT IDA / JOPLIN	Johnna J. Galloway	VALLEY GROVE.....	Ivory Joe Williams
GREER'S CHAPEL / LYDESDALE.....	James Mark Lasater	MOUNT MORIAH.....	Tommy Howard	VILLAGE - HOT SPRINGS	Wade Shownes
GUM SPRINGS - MOUNTAIN PINE	To be supplied	MOUNT OLIVE - FORDYCE / BETHEL - NEW EDINBURG / WILSON	.....	Associate.....	Alfred C. Loya
GURDON / CENTER GROVE - GURDON	Travis Langley	CHAPEL	L.T. Marks	WASHINGTON	Keenan C. Williams
HALL	Joyce Watson	MOUNTAINSIDE	David Autry	WILEY CHAPEL.....	To be supplied
HAMPTON / HARRELL / FAUSTINA.....	Charles A. Perry	MURFREESBORO	James Waincott		
HARMONY - COLUMBIA / PHILADELPHIA / UNITY	.....	NASHVILLE FIRST / BINGEN	James E. Harris		
.....	John Wayne Edwards	NEW ERA / MOUNT PISGAH	Charles Payne		
HARMONY GROVE - CAMDEN / HOLLY SPRINGS / LAKESIDE	.....	NEW SALEM	George T. Whitney		
.....	Terrie Lynn Bunnell	NORMAN.....	William Charles Bradford		
HAVEN	Chester Ray Jones	NORPHLET / CENTENNIAL.....	Ronnie Newberry		
HINTON / DE ANN.....	Ralph Gary Riley	OAKLAWN.....	Russell D. Breshears		
HOLLY SPRINGS - TEXARKANA.....	Doug Rhodes	PARKER'S CHAPEL / PLEASANT GROVE	Tracy Roden		
HOLLYWOOD	Danny Dunlap	PINEY GROVE.....	R. Scott Gallimore		
HOPE FIRST.....	Steven Johnson	PRESCOTT FIRST / SAINT JOHN	Larry W. Martineau		
HORATIO / WINTHROP	Phil Smith	PULLMAN HEIGHTS	Ronald G. Grigsby		
HOT SPRINGS FIRST.....	Michael Mattox	RHODES CHAPEL.....	James Carroll Rawls		

Extension ministries

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	Christopher T. Bounds
MT. CARMEL COMMUNITY OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE	.....
.....	Carol Stewart
ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL	Rose A. Poag
WESLEY FOUNDATION - HSU/OBU.....	Jessica Lee Durand
WESLEY FOUNDATION - SAU.....	James Mark Lasater
U.S. ARMY	John Charles Fimple
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Carey Don Womack
PERSONAL LEAVE.....	Carl A. Ownbey

Children's Ministry Forum comes to Little Rock in November



For the first time in the history of the event, Discipleship Ministries is presenting the biennial Children's Ministry Forum (CMF) leadership development conference in Arkansas. First UMC Little Rock will host the Nov. 17-19, 2015 event.

CMF is marketed for children's ministry leaders in large United Methodist churches, but classes will contain relevant information for children's ministry in all size congregations. Sponsored by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries (www.umcdiscipleship.org), the Large Church Initiative and the United Methodist Publishing House, CMF offers opportunities for worship, spiritual renewal, continuing education, fellowship,

networking and support.

This year's theme is Rock On: Renew. Discover. Respond. With more than 100 classes taught by nationally recognized leaders in the fields of spiritual formation, teaching, volunteer recruitment, technology, communication, administration and leadership development, it promises to be the most prestigious continuing education event in the country this year.

To learn more, or for a link to register, visit the event page on the Arkansas Conference Children's Ministry website, <http://kidz.arumc.org/rock-on-november-17-19-2015>, which includes information on pre-conference seminars and a list of the event's workshops. Early bird registration runs until Aug. 28.

Conference Churches of the Year named

District and Conference Churches of the Year are self-supporting churches that have paid apportionments in full and are top performers based on the following signs of vitality: growth in worship attendance, increase in church membership, professions of faith, number of small groups, attendance in small groups, giving per attendee, missional participation and missional giving.

Category I (below 50 in average attendance)

Central UMC Wynne, Southeast District; Rev. Stephen Wayne Baldwin, pastor

Category II (51-150 in average attendance)

Berryville UMC, Northwest District; Rev. Kenneth R. Lee, pastor

Category III (151-300 in average attendance)

Elm Springs UMC, Northwest District; Rev. Dixon Platt, pastor

Category IV (above 300 in average attendance)

Central UMC Fayetteville, Northwest District; Rev. John C. Robbins, senior pastor

OBITUARIES

BENTONVILLE

Maxine Hines

Marjorie Maxine Hines, 89, of Bentonville passed away Monday, June 22, 2015, at her residence, surrounded by her family. She was born May 14, 1926, in Nashville, Ark., to Virgil F. and Alta Rhea Hooks McCauley, who preceded her in death.

She married Benjamin Gee Hines on Aug. 31, 1947, and worked faithfully in each community where he pastored. She was an educator in every sense of the word, not only working side by side with her husband in the United Methodist Church but also teaching Home Economics in the public schools in each of the towns where they served. She was part of the group who created the "Challenged Children Curriculum" for the Little Rock School District, and is credited with starting the Dorcas Ministry in eight United Methodist churches. She was on the board of directors for the Bentonville Women's Shelter, instrumental in the development of the Women's Shelter Thrift Store, a Stephen Minister, a member of the PEO Chapter Cl, a mentor for Havenwood families and was always active in United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Gee Hines; a son, David Gee Hines and his wife, Susan, of Edmond, Okla.; a daughter, Susan Kennedy and her husband, Pat, of Bentonville; four grandchildren, Ben Bogle and his wife Sarah, Erin Easley and her husband Jason, Scott Hines, Megan Gaines and her husband Zac; five great-grandchildren; and many dear friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, June 26, at First UMC Bentonville with the Rev. Dr. Kurt Boggan and the Rev. Rex Dickey officiating. Burial followed in the Bentonville Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church Dorcas Ministry, 201 Northwest 2nd St., Bentonville, AR 72712; the Women's Shelter, 1622 South 8th St., Rogers, AR 72756; or Havenwood, 808 North Main St., Bentonville, AR 72712.

CONWAY

Frank Jones

The Rev. Frank Jones, 85, passed away at home in Conway on Monday, June 15, 2015, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Ironton, Mo., on Aug. 22, 1929, the son of Alfred and Mariette Jones. In 1956, he married Sue Osment of Jonesboro, and they shared 58 years together characterized by a deep commitment to each other, a shared love for the church and close relationships with a number of life-long friends, many of whom dated to their days as students at Hendrix College.

Frank graduated from Hendrix College and Perkins School of Theology, and was a Methodist minister for more than 50 years.

In his churches he was known as a strong and courageous preacher, a warm caring pastor, and a minister involved in the community. Across almost 20 states he shared his gifts as a Bible teacher who explained the Scriptures in simple language, applied them to everyday life and related them to vital issues of our time. His trademarks were his sense of humor, his smile and having everyone call him by his first name.

His early Arkansas Methodist pastorates were at Eureka Springs and St. John in Van Buren. He served as a campus minister in Fayetteville, Ark., and Springfield, Mo. His Missouri pastorates were Brookfield Trinity, Carthage, Springfield King's Way and Blue Springs First.

Frank was a born storyteller and used that gift in his preaching and teaching as well as in conversation, where he



Maxine Hines

enjoyed passing on the stories of his Ozark upbringing. In retirement he became a professional storyteller, appearing in schools, at the Ozark Folk Center and the Faulkner County Library, and in a variety of other settings, with stories of many kinds.

He lived 33 years as a survivor of bladder cancer, cheerfully accepting of its life-changing consequences, and he long ministered to others facing similar challenges.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Osment Jones; three children, Rock and Melissa Jones of Delaware, Ohio, with grandchildren Alissan, Christopher and Anna; Brick and Dana Jones of Austin, Texas, with grandchildren Sam and Johanna; and Pebble and David Sutherland of Conway, with grandchildren Susanna, Clay and Reid. He is also survived by his two sisters, Mariette Booker and Barbara Jones; and was preceded in death by his brother, Russell Jones.

His funeral was held Saturday, June 20, at First United Methodist Church Conway. Memorial gifts may be made to the Frank Jones and Sue Osment Jones Scholarship at Hendrix College, 1600 Washington Ave., Conway AR 72032 or to First UMC, 1610 Prince Street, Conway, AR 72034.

POCOHONTAS

Lucinda Starnes

Lucinda Nix Starnes, 58, of Pocahontas passed away Monday, May 25, 2015, at Baptist Hospital in Little Rock.

She was born March 20, 1957, in Rapid City, South Dakota. She was a graduate of Fairview High School in Camden, and an inspiration to many during her battle with breast cancer.



Cindy Starnes

Cindy was a faithful pastor's wife and member of First United Methodist Church Pocahontas, where she sang in the Chancel Choir and served as chaplain of the Randolph County Chapter of the PEO.

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Dr. Rockey Starnes; sons, Judson Adam Savacool of Little Rock and Michael Caleb Savacool and his wife, Sarah, of Pocahontas; a granddaughter, Abbey Kay Savacool of Pocahontas; her parents, Allen Nix and his wife, Delphia, of Piggott, and Ruth Nix of Camden; a sister, Cathy Reynolds of Camden; nephews, Aaron Reynolds and Micah Reynolds of Little Rock and niece Hannah Reynolds of Camden. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rickey Savacool of Camden.

Funeral services were held Thursday, May 28, at First United Methodist Church Pocahontas, with the Revs. Bob Hager, Susan Ledbetter and John Fleming officiating. Interment immediately followed the service at Randolph Memorial Gardens in Pocahontas.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Diane Wilder of Little Rock and her kind staff for their untiring and devoted care during these three years of Cindy's fight with breast cancer.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 400 Thomasville, Pocahontas, AR 72455.

RECTOR

Verna Stallcup

Verna Louisia Johnson Stallcup, 94, of Rector passed away Friday, May 29, 2015, at NHC Healthcare in Kennett, Mo.

She was born in Battles, Ark., to the late Sky Homer and Sarah Jane (Gaither) Johnson on Oct. 7, 1920.

A retired teacher and the devoted wife of a United Methodist minister, she taught in many school districts as she carried on her duties as a local pastor's wife in the former North Arkansas Conference. Some of the communities where they served included Mammoth Spring, Lake City, Blytheville, Lakeside, Newark, Joiner, Monette, Rector, Brinkley, Marion and Salem. Verna was a loving and generous woman, who

throughout her life sacrificed her own needs for those of her family, the United Methodist Church, her students and others.

In addition to her parents, Verna was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Burlus Wesley Stallcup, Sr.; a granddaughter, Jessica Kay Stallcup; a brother, Garland Johnson; and eight sisters, Anna Comer, Myrtle Compton, Alma Billingsley, Viola Johnson, Georgia Meeks, Selma Hockett, Jean Clark and Nadine Huddleston.

She is survived by a son, Wes Stallcup and his wife, Ann; a daughter, Lura Holifield and her husband, Danny, all of Rector; and a daughter, Sara Root and her husband, Chuck of Omak, Wash. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Nathan Stallcup and his wife, Kristin of Franklin, Tenn.; Amy Manchester of Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Alice Smith and her husband, Mike, of Conway; Joanna Heller and her husband, Jake, of Spokane, Wash.; and Jeremiah Root and his wife, Annie, of Aurora, Colo.; four great-grandchildren; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Services were held Sunday, May 31, at First UMC Rector, with the Rev. Mace Straubel officiating. Burial followed at Woodland Heights Cemetery. Memorials may be made to First UMC, 326 CR 429, Rector, AR 72461.

WARREN

Anna Kidwell

Anna Lee Wright Kidwell, 70, of Warren, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2015, at home, surrounded by her family.

She was born Aug. 28, 1944 in Alpena, a daughter of the late Orville Wright Sr. and Ethelyn Still Wright. She married her high school sweetheart, John Howe Kidwell, on May 19, 1962. She was a member of Good Hope United Methodist Church, where her husband currently serves as pastor.

Anna was a loving mother and grandmother, with an amazing God given ability to love all children as her own. After raising five of her children and one child still at home, she attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1996, at age 52.

She spent her lifetime investing in children and advocating for the rights and welfare of children and adolescents. She had a strong calling to serve others in need, whether as a DHS Family Service worker, youth director of First United Methodist Church, foster parent, soup kitchen volunteer, Human Development Center client advocate, and volunteer at Children's Mental Health Organization. She was a living testament to how one should love—unconditionally.

Anna valued all of God's creations. She found great joy in gardening, birds, deer, cats, rescuing animals and spending time with her grandchildren. She was infamous for her Saturday pinto beans and cornbread. She said her greatest treasure was her family. She loved her family and her church family.

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. John Howe Kidwell; two sons, John Kidwell II and his wife, Angie, of Warren, and Tony Kidwell and his wife, Brandy, of Searcy; five daughters, Kelly Rowell and her husband, Stewart, Kerry Gambill and her husband, Gary, Kandy Burt, Robin Pifer and her husband, Trey, all of Warren, and Mary Laura of Conway; a brother, Orville Wright; four sisters, Beth Bradford, Mary Thompson, Beck Grim and Kathy Wright; 17 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral was held Saturday, May 30, at Good Hope UMC. Burial followed in Williams Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Good Hope UMC, Old Camden Highway, Warren, AR 71671, or Fee Fee's Soup Kitchen.



Verna Stallcup



Anna Kidwell

Church creates mission HQ with donated space



OMP's Bailey Faulkner, left, greets visitors to the Baxley Building during its opening reception June 7.

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

St. Paul UMC Little Rock on June 7 celebrated the grand opening of a facility to house the headquarters of three distinct mission efforts.

Originally a residence adjoining the church's property, the Baxley Building was donated to the church by the Baxley estate in late 2013. The church's School Age Clothes Closet (SACC), a ministry that serves students in the Little Rock School District, began using the building about a year ago to store its stock of clothes. Now, two other nonprofits have joined SACC in placing their home bases there.

Ozark Mission Project (OMP), a United Methodist-related nonprofit, has room in the Baxley Building for its full-time executive director as well as for its part-time mission coordinator and an intern. OMP (www.ozarkmissionproject.org) offers summer camps and other experiences to transform lives through worship, fellowship and service. Campers serve neighbors by making home repairs, building relationships while they build wheelchair ramps, paint houses and make other improvements to homes.

OMP's previous office space had barely enough room for all three staff members to work at the same time. Executive director Bailey Faulkner shared her excitement about having a location big enough to host meetings and to hold interviews for each summer's college-aged staff members.

"This space will allow us to be able to meet with the families we serve, our volunteers and our board members, and to be able to work collaboratively together as a team," Faulkner said.

In addition to the new home, OMP recently received another piece of good news in the form of a \$26,000

grant from the Home Depot Foundation. This gift, the largest in OMP's 29-year history, will pay for replacement tools and duplicate tools to serve multiple work sites. With 800 campers helping about 500 neighbors per summer, OMP's equipment needs remain steady.

The grant also will help expand year-round opportunities to assist more neighbors, including military veterans.

"Ozark Mission Project helps veterans every summer," Faulkner said. "With the Home Depot's emphasis on caring for veterans, we will now start tracking how many veterans we help."

Ozark Water Projects (www.ozarkwaterprojects.org), a nonprofit focused on providing clean water in parts of the world where safe drinking water is scarce, is the third mission based in the Baxley Building. Churches can help this mission by holding a used shoe drive; Ozark Water Projects sells



Karla Allen of Ozark Water Projects demonstrates a water filtration backpack for visitors to the nonprofit's new office space.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

those shoes to an exporter and puts the money toward giving communities reliable access to clean water.

"The shoes are just a means to do this," said Karla Allen, executive director for Ozark Water Projects. "What we try to do is take something that everyone already has, and they don't want anymore, and we just ask them to give it to us.... As that adds up, that's how we pay for all of these projects."

Individuals or groups also may sponsor filtration equipment through Ozark Water Projects. A two-bucket household filtration system provides enough water for a family of four, and a backpack filtration system both transports and filters drinking water.



Faith Funds

Common Ground for Extraordinary People

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

"We are so grateful to the Foundation for its continued support of Camp," said CEO Sarah Wacaster. "The latest \$50,000 grant is a part of a fund that will support programming for a new Activity Center near our lake. This key facility will allow campers to play indoors when the weather is rainy or hot."

Through the years UMFA grants have maintained, strengthened and enhanced Camp Aldersgate programs. Starting in 2000, UMFA helped fund a master plan, a challenge grant for facilities support and strategic planning activities.

"As grant recipients and as fund holders, we have a family relationship with the staff at The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. They listen and determine our needs, then do what's best for Camp Aldersgate," Sarah said.



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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