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'Nuns on the Bus' stop at UMC in LR

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

NETWORK's "Nuns on the Bus" campaign on Sept. 13 made two stops in Arkansas for town hall meetings focused on identifying societal problems and finding ways to move forward for the common good.

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby (www.networklobby.org), is a more than 40-year-old organization centered on justice and peace. Its first "Nuns on the Bus" tour took place in the summer of 2012, when a group of nuns made stops in nine states to protest proposed cuts to federal safety-net spending, highlighting the potential effects on individuals and families. Subsequent tours have focused on immigration reform, participation in the electoral process and, this year, with the theme "Bridge the Divides, Transform Politics," listening to stories of everyday injustices with the hope of developing solutions.

[See NUNS, page 6]

Clinton visits Philander Smith on presidential campaign trail



Dr. Roderick Smothers Sr., president of Philander Smith College, introduces Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at a Sept. 21 campaign rally held in the college's Sherman E. Tate Recreation Center.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton on Sept. 21 made a campaign stop at United Methodist-related Philander Smith College in Little Rock. During her speech before an audience of more than 1,000, she highlighted the college's United Methodist affiliation and her own United Methodist identity. Fellow United Methodists in the crowd cheered during the moments she spoke of her faith.

"As a United Methodist, I really do think works matter," she said. "But we believe in grace, and we are saved by it, aren't we? I also believe we are called upon to demonstrate that grace. You know, one of my favorite quotes on this comes from Saint Francis of Assisi, who said, 'Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.'"

Clinton, a former First Lady, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State, attended First UMC Little Rock when she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, lived in Little Rock during his terms as as Governor of Arkansas.



LEFT: Jack Derden, age 10, of First UMC Conway, adds his signature to the side of the bus carrying a group of nuns representing NETWORK: A Catholic Social Justice Lobby. Jack's signature represented his commitment to reach out to elected representatives with his concerns as he learns to exercise his rights in the political process. NETWORK's "Nuns on the Bus" made stops in Fayetteville and Little Rock on Sept. 13.

RIGHT: Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of NETWORK, looks on as Bishop Gary Mueller greets those who attended the "Nuns on the Bus" gathering hosted by First UMC Little Rock.

PHOTOS BY J.J. WHITNEY



It's not really a SNAP

Thoughts on taking the SNAP Challenge

BY J.J. WHITNEY
Special Contributor

At the 2015 Annual Conference, I issued a SNAP Challenge to our Extended Cabinet, clergy and laity: Learn what it is like for those who are trying to feed their families on a tight budget. Prepare three nutritious meals a day on \$5 a day for five days—the amount of benefits allotted to an individual who qualifies for the USDA's



J.J. Whitney

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). My first stop was the grocery store. I focused on oatmeal, beans and rice, cans of tuna, bread and peanut butter, milk, spaghetti and then a few fruits and vegetables. I wanted to buy more fruit, but I didn't think I had enough money. I was right, as my receipt rang up as \$24.43. On Labor Day, I began my SNAP Challenge week.

Realizations

Here are five realizations I had during the five days of the challenge:

- 1. Holidays add anxiety.** My family and I always enjoy a day off from work and school. We look forward to fun activities, extra sleep and delicious meals. But Labor Day also means that kids who receive their breakfast and lunch at school won't get it that day, so an already tight budget needs to stretch a little further on school holidays. When most of our culture looks forward to a three-day weekend, a family who struggles may view it as an extra hardship.
- 2. The abundance of inaccessible food.** I found myself on a road

trip during one of my SNAP Challenge days, and I had my prepared beans and rice dinner waiting at home. A major traffic jam delayed my planned dinner schedule. And although food was all around me in gas stations and fast food restaurants—with even some healthy options in some of those places—I had already spent my money on buying groceries. I would have to wait until I got home in order to eat. It was a long drive home.

3. Lack of concentration.

Because I did not have the funds to buy much fruit, veggies or snacks, I only had money to focus on my three meals a day. Not being able to

grab a handful of crackers or an apple in between meals left me unable to

focus at times. I found that I was more tired and easily frustrated by day-to-day activities. I can't imagine how long-term food insecurity affects work performance or overall mental health.

- 4. Outside the circle.** I had to refuse a few invitations to lunch or coffee with folks around the office because I did not have the money to buy those meals (or that coffee!). I began to wonder about people in my work community who feel left out of social situations because they cannot pay. It is easier to say no to an invitation than it is to say you cannot afford to go. Sometimes eating lunch in my office left me feeling isolated from the community.
- 5. A time to cheat.** Speaking of

community, pastors have lots of "food engagements" during the course of a week. I'm a campus minister, and all of our programming offers food! During the challenge, I had to refuse all of the goodies that come with the privilege of working at an institution with those resources. As someone who relies on processed snacks to get through the long work day, I found it quite challenging to not give into temptation. I must confess, I cheated twice: during a lunch meeting with three other pastors that had been scheduled for quite a while, and in my role as the chef of our pancake supper for Mid-Youth at First UMC

For resources to begin these types of programs, visit

<http://200kReasons.arumc.org>.

Conway. I didn't want to "draw attention" to myself during the lunch meeting, and I felt that a meal at church is one that is available to all.

Ideas for action

These five realizations inevitably led me to find five ways that our local churches can provide for families:

- 1. Have a community-wide meal through your church on Monday holidays.** It could be an ecumenical gathering or a United Methodist Men's barbeque. It would be great outreach to your community and a wonderful way to help families who are hungry. Children and youth could invite friends from school. School

200,000 REASONS

to fight childhood hunger

counselors could put a flier in backpacks that are being sent home over the weekend.

- 2. Start a food pantry.** If you haven't already begun a food pantry in your church, consider providing staples like tuna, beans and rice, canned veggies, spaghetti and peanut butter. A few of these grocery items can go a long way so families can have money to buy fresh fruits, veggies, milk and nutritious snacks.

- 3. Grow a garden.** Fresh vegetables and fruits can be expensive, and when you are hungry, those are the last items to buy with the grocery budget. If you have a community garden (or better yet, partner with other churches to grow one), you can donate fresh items to your food pantry or a local pantry. And have some of your produce ready to give away at that Monday holiday community meal you are going to have.

- 4. Host weekly meals.** Parents with small children or those who work different hours may not be able to attend night activities at church, so consider offering a skills class or a small group study where you provide lunch. Or, families may need a nightly meal (like a pancake supper) to make it through the

week. Providing fellowship meals during the work week might be the kind of community that someone is searching for. Local school counselors can get information out to families about meals provided through your church.

- 5. Offer cooking classes.** One of the best ways to make a food budget stretch is to cook tasty, low-cost food. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that turns to fast food or processed items. That practice has left many in my generation without cooking skills. Studies show that cooking classes go a long way to stabilize food security in a community.

For resources to begin these types of programs, visit <http://200kReasons.arumc.org>.

Although the SNAP Challenge cannot encapsulate the struggles of many Arkansas families who face hunger, the exercise did make me more aware, and I found myself praying for specific hunger needs throughout the five days. If being prompted to pray is just the start of what this challenge can do, I pray that you will take it up too.

The Rev. Whitney, interim chaplain at Hendrix College, serves as project director for the Arkansas Conference's "200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger" initiative.

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Issue Date	Submission Deadline
Nov. 6	Oct. 20
Dec. 4	Nov. 13
Jan. 1	Dec. 11

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GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

BY GARY E. MUELLER

It's time to get serious about spiritual revival

There's a gut-wrenching reality we need to face as the people called United Methodists in Arkansas. Too many of our congregations continue to become smaller and grow older, we struggle to reach young people and we fail to see lives, communities and the world transformed by the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am extremely frustrated by this reality. And, like you, there are times I wonder why we just don't give up and lovingly care for a dying patient in a radically changing culture, an institution that only changes painfully and slowly—and with little success in spite of working harder and harder.

That is why we need to understand the true nature of the crisis we are experiencing. It's not cultural, institutional or managerial. Rather, it's spiritual.

While that is hard for me to admit as the spiritual leader of the Arkansas Conference, I also know it's true. And I think I know why. We have become disconnected from the one who has given birth to the Church: Jesus Christ. Sometimes this has been intentional and, at other times, it's just happened. But the result is the same. We don't allow Jesus Christ be our Savior and Lord, as individuals or as the Church.

A spiritual crisis requires a spiritual solution if we want things to change. And the only solution I know is spiritual revival—deeply rooted in Jesus' unconditional, transformational and invitational

love, and also rooted in our desire to get serious about our discipleship like we never have before.

Spiritual revival is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It's literally the resurrecting of a dry-bones church into the living Body of Christ, doing things of which we had only dreamed before. It's so powerful that it changes us from the inside out, binds us together into a passionate movement of disciples making disciples and enables us to share in Jesus' work of transforming lives, communities and the world.

This is exactly what we need, more than anything else in our church that is unconnected in so many ways... in a culture that scoffs at the Christian faith as increasingly irrelevant... and in a broken and battered world that desperately needs the Good News of Jesus Christ, even if it doesn't know it yet.

Beware: Getting serious about spiritual revival won't be easy. The phrase itself conjures up all sorts of negative connotations for too many people. We'll be tempted to try engineering a revival instead of receiving it from the Holy Spirit. And we may try to embrace spiritual revival as a way of saving an institution instead of becoming the kind of church God calls us to be.

And that's why it's time—in fact, way past time—to get serious about experiencing spiritual revival. It's why I've spent so much time talking about it since becoming your bishop. And it's why I

believe with all my heart that this is the time God is calling all United Methodist Christians in Arkansas—regardless of geographical location, theological conviction, church size, ethnicity or age—to join in a special emphasis called “Get Serious About Spiritual Revival” that will begin in January 2016 and continue through Easter.

Yes, it's time to get serious about experiencing spiritual revival by longing passionately for the Holy Spirit to do what we can never do on our own—draw each of us into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, bind us together into a passionate movement of disciples making disciples and shower those around us with Jesus' love.

So come, Holy Spirit, come. Bring the fire of spiritual revival. Allow us to be the living Body of Christ in our world that is hurting so deeply. And enable us to become vital congregations that truly make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

Grace and peace,



Gary E. Mueller

APPOINTMENTS

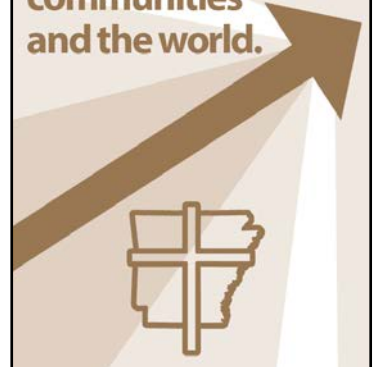
The following appointment changes have been announced:

- Greg Gibson (full-time local pastor)—Central UMC Fayetteville (associate); effective Aug. 24
- Holly Patton (full member of other denomination: Disciples of Christ)—Western Hills UMC Little Rock; effective Oct. 1
- Paul “Ed” Seay (full-time local pastor)—Shiloh/Pruett's Chapel UMCs; effective Oct. 15
- Harriett Akins-Banman (elder)—Centenary UMC New Albany, Indiana; effective Nov. 1

For the most recent appointment changes, visit www.arumc.org/appointments.

Our Trajectory

Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.



Are you on fire?

BY WILLIAM O. “BUD” REEVES
Special Contributor

Every year, there are wildfires out West. This year has been particularly bad: thousands of acres burned, hundreds of homes and businesses lost, multiple deaths. Fire can be so destructive.



Bud Reeves

Sometimes fire is a helpful thing. It can provide warmth on a cold night, cook your food, enable you to craft beautiful and creative objects. Even wildfires serve a constructive purpose: to clear out debris and enable the re-seeding of forests. Fire is good when it's under control.

In Scripture, fire is often a symbol of God's presence. Think of the burning bush of Moses; Elijah

summoning fire in name of the Lord on Mount Carmel; or the tongues of fire at Pentecost. When there's fire, something important is happening. Something significant is going on.

We often speak of the “fires of revival.” It was an image used for the Great Awakenings in early America. Pentecost, the first Christian revival, is symbolized by fire. And the video accompanying the bishop's call to spiritual revival is the slow-motion striking of a match (watch it at <http://spiritualrevival.arumc.org>). It's such a simple thing, but when you hear the sound and see the matchhead igniting in slow-mo, it's a powerful image.

We want the fires of revival to burn in our hearts, our churches and our communities. Like the unruly nature of an uncontrolled fire, we can't manage true spiritual revival. It's a Holy Spirit thing. We can't oversee it or elect a committee to plan it.

But we *can* prepare for it. Like

piling up tinder to start a campfire, there are some things we can do to make ourselves ready. Then maybe the spark will come that ignites us.

To prepare for revival, we can **pray**. The disciples prayed for 10 days following the Ascension of Jesus, until the Day of Pentecost. Peter preached for 10 minutes, and 3,000 were saved. Now we pray three minutes, preach three days and three people are saved (if that). Real revival starts with prayer for the fire to fall.

We can share the **theology of grace**. I believe that many people are “nones” or “dones” today because they are tired of narrow, fundamentalist, authoritarian, right-wing political religion. We Wesleyans have a theology of grace that can speak to the deep spiritual needs of our culture today. We have been too timid about sharing the good news of the grace of Christ.

We can develop **small group** ministries. The genius of the Wesleyan revival in England was the small groups—the class meetings and the bands—that Wesley organized to continue the spiritual revival after he left town. Our

non-denominational brothers and sisters have done a better job of using Wesley's model than we have. The support and accountability of a small group is crucial to sustained revival.

We must invade the **mission field**. Few people visit churches any more. In order to make disciples—our mission, remember?—the church has to go outside its walls, address the needs of the neighborhood and build relationships with those who would not normally darken the doors of a church. We Methodists are good at helping people; revival requires that we also offer them Christ.

None of these methods of preparation for revival is new to anyone who has not been living under a rock for the past decade. The question is, will we have the discipline and the passion to do it?

I have shared in several contexts this story from Bishop Richard Wilke's 1989 book, *Signs and Wonders*. At the 1988 General Conference, he was sitting beside Bishop Ki Chun Chang, president of the Korean Methodist Council of Bishops. South Korea at the time was

having a nationwide Pentecost-like revival. After the Conference prayed for the needs of the world, Bishop Chang said to Wilke, “I heard their prayers, but I did not see their tears.”

We will have revival when we are so passionate about our faith that we will weep for the lost, cry out for justice and shout for joy at what God has done for us. That sounds a little bit out of control, like a wildfire.

Actually, it is all under the control of God, not human plans, structures and resources. May we be brave enough to risk being in the controlled burn of God. May we become the Ignited Methodist Church!

The Rev. Dr. Reeves serves as senior pastor of First UMC Fort Smith. Email: breeves@arumc.org.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Local Pastors Licensing School recognizes 15 graduates

The Arkansas Conference Local Pastors Licensing School has announced that 15 students have completed the requirements necessary to be licensed as local pastors. Some already have received their licenses, which are issued by the bishop; others will be licensed when they receive a pastoral appointment.

The graduates are Ryan Bachuss of Camden; Janet Barrow of Russellville; Tom Crawford of Little Rock; Alicia Finch-McCastlain of Little Rock; Greg Gibson of Fayetteville; Patrick Gillespie of Paragould; Benny Morgan of Camden; Cory Pfeifer of Jonesboro; Dale Richardson of Bella Vista; Tracy Roden of El Dorado; Andrew Suite of North Little Rock; James Turner of Beebe; Billy Vanderbilt of Marmaduke; Danita Waller-Paige of Little Rock; and Anthony "BC" Watkins of Cabot.

Local pastors must be appointed either full-time or part-time to retain a license to preach. Both must participate in continuing education through the Arkansas Conference Course of Study School for part-time local pastors, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Course of Study School for full-time local pastors.

Thompson writes new book on means of grace

The Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Thompson, senior pastor of First UMC Springdale and Practical Divinity columnist for the *Arkansas United Methodist*, has written a new book, *The Means of Grace: Traditioned Practice in Today's World*.

In the book, Thompson presents the Wesleyan vision for spiritual practices that help individuals grow in discipleship. He draws on John Wesley's teaching on the means of grace that he developed over the course of his lifetime, and which served as the pattern of discipleship that Methodists embraced in their bands, class meetings and daily lives.

"It's a pretty incredible thing to think that God can meet us in a powerful way through normal activities like prayer, fasting, small group fellowship and ministry to the sick," Thompson says. "Yet that is exactly what the means of grace reveal to us. Through normal, everyday material means, we are offered an encounter with the Holy Spirit."

Designed for use by small groups, Sunday school classes and congregations, the book includes a study guide and emphasizes three foundational areas for the means of grace: their biblical context, their background in Wesleyan spirituality and their potential for daily discipleship. The book is available now at www.seedbed.com, and a video-based teaching guide will be available later this year.



Andrew C. Thompson

Crossett, Schieffler named recipients of Waddell Scholarship

Connor Crossett and Sydney Schieffler have been selected as the 2015-16 recipients of the William A. "Buddy" and Marilyn Locker Waddell Memorial Scholarship.

Crossett, the son of Susan and Jon Crossett, attends Mississippi State University, where he is majoring in kinesiology. Schieffler, the daughter of Bobbe and Eddie Schieffler, will be attending the University of Arkansas where she will be majoring in education.

In addition to their outstanding academic achievements, Crossett and Schieffler were selected based on their

impressive records of involvement in the community and in youth activities at West Helena United Methodist Church.

The Waddell Memorial Scholarship was established by the couple's children, Bill Waddell and his wife, Patty; Barbara Waddell Culver and her husband, Chuck; and Mike Waddell and his wife, Anne, in honor and memory of their parents who lived a life of grace and commitment to faith, church and community. Friends and family of the Waddells also have made memorial contributions to the scholarship fund.

Marilyn and Buddy Waddell, well-known long-time residents of West Helena until their deaths in 2002 and 2012, respectively, were



From left, Mike Waddell, Sydney Schieffler, Connor Crossett and Bill Waddell celebrate the awarding of two Waddell Scholarships for the 2015-16 academic year.

COURTESY PHOTO

very involved in the local community as well as in the West Helena United Methodist Church, where they were members for more than 50 years. Because of the importance the Waddells placed on their faith community, the donors have expressed a desire that special consideration be given to scholarship applicants who have been involved in the church, as well as those who are considering serving the church in a professional capacity such as the United Methodist ministry, United Methodist mission work, United Methodist youth ministry or United Methodist college ministry.

The scholarship is awarded annually to one or more recipients chosen by a selection committee that includes members of the Waddell family and the leadership of West Helena UMC.

Hendrix, Philander join for campus ministry retreat

Students from the two United Methodist-related colleges in Arkansas, Hendrix College in Conway and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, gathered Sept. 11 at Mount Eagle Retreat Center in Clinton for an overnight retreat. Led by the Rev. J.J.



COURTESY PHOTO

Whitney, interim chaplain at Hendrix, and the Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow, chaplain at Philander Smith, the 50 students spent Friday night in worship and sharing stories of their spiritual journeys. They also began to discover their spiritual gifts, a process which continued into the next day and included discussion of how they could use their gifts in their lives and work.

"Mount Eagle served as the perfect location for a reflective weekend that helped us discern our callings and find our vocation," said Ethny Ashcraft, a Hendrix sophomore. "The secluded camp helped all of us take a step back from the fast-paced lives we live at school and focus on ourselves, thinking about how we serve each other and the world as disciples of Christ."

The retreat concluded on Saturday after a meditation hike and a time of sharing in Holy Communion.

Three camping and retreat initiatives for 2016

Arkansas Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries in 2016 will launch three initiatives to provide programming for all ages, hosted at the five camps within the Arkansas Conference. Here's a sneak peek at what's coming soon.

Initiative #1: Confirmation Retreats

A six-session Confirmation Retreat curriculum has been developed. It is designed for churches to be able to either incorporate it into an extended confirmation class as a retreat, or to be used as the bulk of the confirmation experience (with an additional four sessions to be provided to the local church so the experience can be completed with a pastor or congregation leader). We will offer the retreat for the first time Feb. 26-28, 2016 at Camp Tanako, and will soon announce dates for fall retreats at other camps around the state.

Initiative #2: Young Adult Transition and Discernment

A pair of retreats has been designed to reach graduating high school seniors and young adults ages 18 to 25. The first retreat will be held in the spring and is geared toward high school seniors from around the Arkansas Conference. The goal is to provide participants with tools and support for the transition to a faithful life beyond high school, when they might be away from their youth group, local church and family. It will introduce Arkansas Conference campus ministries and Wesley Foundations for those going to schools in-state, and also will address those entering the work force or military service.

The second retreat is a discernment retreat for young adults called AR Next, aimed at 18- to 25-year-olds exploring a call to ministry. It's designed as a casual gathering of young adults and a variety of people who are both laity and clergy. Through conversation and storytelling, we hope to help young adults understand the many ways one can be in full-time ministry, and the variety of ways God calls each of us to a life in ministry.

Initiative #3: Partnership with 200,000 Reasons

In an effort to develop retreats for all age levels and church sizes, we plan to work with the 200,000 Reasons initiative to train local congregations in how to develop sustainable feeding programs in their local communities. To provide as many training opportunities for as many local churches as possible, these sessions will rotate through the camps around the Arkansas Conference.

—Michelle Moore, director of program and marketing for Arkansas Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries (michelle.moore@arumc.org)

Children's Ministry Forum scholarships awarded Spaces still available to attend Nov. 17-19 event in Little Rock

Twelve children's ministry workers have received United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) scholarships to attend the national Children's Ministry Forum, Nov. 17-19:

Jessica Butler, Sardis UMC; Shelly Coggin, Central UMC Rogers; Kristin Crider, First UMC Bella Vista; Samantha Erickson, First UMC Springdale; Tammy Felder, Highland Valley UMC Little Rock; Rosemarie Gagnon, First UMC Hope; Tiffany Jones, First UMC Beebe; Penny Lee, First UMC Berryville; Jennifer Pike, St. Paul UMC Searcy; Kathleen Spurlock, First UMC Springdale; Jamal Williams, Wesley Chapel UMC Little Rock; and Ashley Young, First UMC Dardanelle.

Sponsored by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries (formerly GBOD), the Large Church Initiative,



and the United Methodist Publishing House, the Children's Ministry Forum offers opportunities for worship, spiritual renewal, continuing education, fellowship, networking and support. The hope is that participants will leave feeling renewed, energized and equipped to be more effective leaders in ministry with children.

Registration is still open for this event. For details or to register, visit www.cmf2015.org.

Youth Choir seeks host churches for summer 2016 tour

The task force for the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries Choir Tour 2016 is now considering requests from potential host churches for this summer's tour.

The dates for Choir Tour 2016 are June 13-19. The choir will make stops to present a worship service at six churches, and would like to worship in as many districts as possible. Interested churches should prayerfully consider the following requirements for hosting the Conference Youth Choir:

- Sleeping space for roughly 60 people, most of whom have cots or air mattresses. Typically we have twice as many females as males.
- Dinner the evening of the worship and breakfast the morning after for the same number of people.
- A common space for youth and adults to enjoy fellowship with each other and host church members.
- Showers available for everyone, whether at the church, in private homes or at some other facility such as a school gym or fitness center. If showering is off-site, transportation will be needed to and from the shower location(s).
- Occasionally, host churches can wash the tour shirts—super great to have clean shirts for the next day!
- Space for the band with their equipment and the choir to hold a worship service that lasts for about an hour.
- There is a possibility that our sound team will have its own RV, so electric and water hook-ups would be greatly appreciated.

If your church is interested in hosting the Conference Youth Choir for an overnight tour stop, contact Rosemarie Gagnon by Nov. 1, 2015, at rgagnon50@outlook.com, 870-777-8816 or 214-704-8686 (email preferred).

The task force will make final decisions by Nov. 14 and will notify selected churches by Nov. 16.

Camp sets focus on music—and mission



COURTESY PHOTO

First United Methodist Church Fort Smith, held its 24th Annual Music/Mission Camp July 27-31, 2015. The church welcomed 44 campers, 53 adults and 16 youth assisting in the week's activities.

Campers learned and presented the musical "The Sailor's Bible," by Allen Pote and Thomas Long. Donations made at the performance attended by more than 200 persons resulted in an offering of more than \$2,500, which the camp gave to the Antioch Association for Youth and Children in Fort Smith. That organization was selected as the offering recipient because its work includes feeding hungry children, in keeping with the Arkansas Conference-wide initiative 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger.

—submitted by Nancy W. Vernon

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION & DISASTER RESPONSE NEEDS

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

Training sessions for VIM Team Leaders, Disaster Response ERT

Arkansas Conference Disaster Response will hold an Early Response Team training session **Saturday, Oct. 17**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at First UMC Conway. Contact Kathleen Caruthers, 501-944-9473, for more information.

Arkansas Conference Volunteers In Mission will hold a Team Leader training session **Saturday, Nov. 7**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sylvan Hills UMC Sherwood. The cost is \$20. Reserve your spot by sending an email to vim@arumc.org. This will be the only VIM Team Leader training offered until Spring 2016.

Manos Juntas seeking in-kind donations the week of Oct. 18

Manos Juntas, a Methodist ministry providing improved housing, healthcare and educational opportunities to the people in and around Rio Bravo, Mexico, has an in-kind donation opportunity coming to Arkansas this month.

Indiana-based Mission in Motion has partnered with Manos Juntas for the third year running to bring in-kind donations from Indiana and Illinois to Pharr UMC, near the Texas-Mexico border. They will make this year's trip during the week of Oct. 18. Manos Juntas director Willie Berman has asked that those who have items to donate to the ministry arrange to meet the truck at some point on its journey.

Manos Juntas accepts tables, chairs, tools, sewing machines and supplies, computers, furniture, medical supplies, wheelchairs, bicycles and food—almost anything in good condition, but **no clothing**. If anyone has items they would like to send to Manos Juntas on the truck, contact Byron Mann at vim@arumc.org and he will make the arrangements.

Openings for providing help at UMCOR Sager Brown in December

Are you interested in adding your name to an ever-growing list of missionaries dedicated to making a difference in this world? Then plan to join us at UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in December 2015! The Arkansas Conference has 14 open spots on a 20-person journey of mission that will take participants to Louisiana in December so their work can reach around the world.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has a long and rich history of serving others in times of distress. UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., welcomes more than 3,000 volunteers of all ages and skill levels each year. Our team will have a five-night mission experience beginning Sunday, Dec. 6 and ending Friday, Dec. 11—and it will be one of the best weeks of your year.

For more information, contact Cathy Hall Hughes at 501-324-8020 or chughes@arumc.org.

Recovery and VIM work in Arkansas

There are multiple Disaster Recovery and VIM projects around the state awaiting volunteer workers. Funding is becoming an issue in completion of projects, so donations are welcomed and much appreciated. To learn more or get involved, contact Janice Mann (disaster@arumc.org or 870-703-8359) or Byron Mann (vim@arumc.org or 870-826-0268).

Nuns

(continued from page 1)

Led by Sister Simone Campbell, the nuns planned a 33-event tour, including one town hall meeting in Fayetteville at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and another at First UMC Little Rock.

Bishop Gary E. Mueller was invited to address the Little Rock meeting, and a number of United Methodists—including some associated with Better Community Development (BCD) Inc., a non-profit that originated as a ministry of Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church—were on hand to discuss matters of injustice affecting the Little Rock area.

The nuns visited BCD's EmPowerment Center the following day, continuing the discussion with BCD staff members, with Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola and some members of the City Board of Directors present.

The nuns stopped in seven states, then made their way to Washington, D.C., to share with congressional officials some of the stories they've heard. Their time in the nation's capital overlapped with Pope Francis' first visit to the U.S.

Attorneys gather for training on church and law

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

Tax-exempt status. Sexual harassment. Employment law. Copyright compliance. Safety. Ethics. All kinds of liability.

These topics likely don't cross the mind of the average churchgoer during the average worship service. But when attorneys use their training in service to the church, either through their local congregation or a larger denominational body, they consider these matters and more.

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) sponsors its annual United Methodist Lawyers Conference for these very reasons. Attendees receive continuing legal education credit for their participation and come away with information on a variety of legal issues that can affect churches.

At this year's conference, held Sept. 17 at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock, participants learned from other Arkansas attorneys as well as Becky Williams and Dawn Hare, two experts from the denomination's Commission on the Status and Role of Women. Williams

and Hare covered topics related to sexual harassment in the church and employer liability.

Bill Waddell of Little Rock, who serves as legal counsel to the United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops, helps coordinate the event.

"Legal issues that arise in the context of a church often require a different approach, because our churches have a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," he said. "We help United Methodist lawyers know how to handle legal issues that commonly arise in local churches, not only to help them to protect the church under secular law, but to do so with a missional witness."

While all lawyers at the conference had connections with the United Methodist Church, some have closer ties than others. For example, Roy Beth Kelley, who works as an attorney in Russellville, also serves as a part-time local pastor appointed to Dover UMC.

"As a lawyer and a pastor, I am expected to know all about the legal issues that face the church even if they are not areas that I touch on in my practice," she said. "So, it is

extremely helpful to learn about issues that are unique to churches, and especially the United Methodist Church."

Kelley appreciated the new information presented by Conference associate chancellor Michelle Ator related to Safe Sanctuaries, the program that addresses protecting children, youth and vulnerable adults from abuse.

"The new Safe Sanctuaries guidelines will be very helpful in making sure our kids are safe," she said. "Our chancellors do a wonderful job keeping local lawyers current on important issues like this." (To obtain the Arkansas Conference's new Safe Sanctuaries guidebook prepared by Ator, see page 8 of this issue.)

Two attorneys, Harold Evans and Karen Hutchins, presented on churches and copyright law. Evans addressed various music licensing issues, as well as the legality of churches photocopying sheet music, which is only acceptable in certain situations.

"Will anybody find out about it? Probably not, but you're still exposed to the risk" of being sued if you make copies without permission, he said.

Hutchins, who chairs the task force that is developing copyright guidelines for Arkansas Conference congregations, said she's probably one of the few people who wakes up in the morning and asks God for help complying with copyright law.

Acknowledging that it can be challenging to comply, Hutchins insisted it's a challenge the church can and should meet. One way to



Karen Hutchins shares information regarding copyright compliance with attendees of the 2015 United Methodist Lawyers Conference, held Sept. 17 in Little Rock.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

prioritize the matter is to include a line item in the budget for licensing and other copyright-related expenses.

"It starts from the bottom up," she said.

While much of the material focused on local church matters, Amy Dunn Johnson, executive director of the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, encouraged those present to consider how they may be able to provide help beyond their congregations. She shared real-life examples of people she's met who had no access to basic information on legal issues, and encouraged her peers to help make legal representation in civil court available to more of the state's population who cannot afford attorneys' fees.

"Access to justice should be part of our DNA, as lawyers and as Methodists," she said.

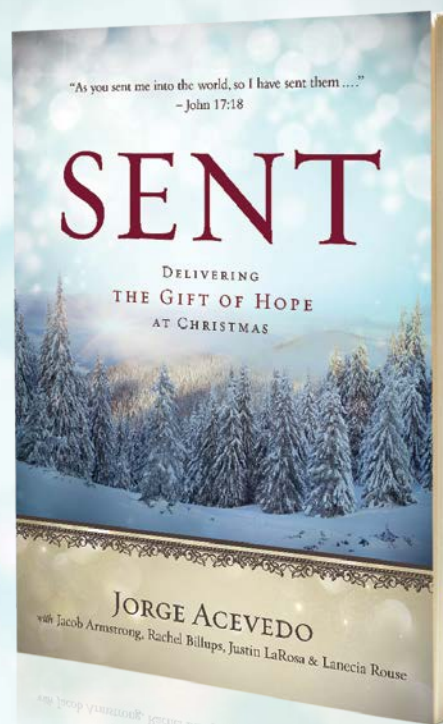
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 GLOBAL MINISTRIES
The United Methodist Church

Day-long training EQUIP all types of youth ministry workers

Youth workers from 36 Arkansas United Methodist congregations converged on St. James UMC Little Rock Aug. 29 for EQUIP 2015, a one-day training event sponsored by the Arkansas Conference. With 77 participants, EQUIP's attendance nearly doubled, and many of those were first-time attendees of the event, which is now in its third year.

EQUIP is open to those in full-time, part-time, volunteer and pastoral youth ministry roles. "It was a great opportunity for youth workers to learn, share, network, worship and gain resources to take back to use in their local churches," said Michelle Moore, coordinator of youth and young adult ministry for the Arkansas Conference.

Planning has already begun for the next EQUIP, which will be held in central Arkansas on Sept. 10, 2016.



Youth ministry workers Natalie Clark and Ellen Brown participate in the exercise of making an accountability chain. Each person around the table makes a commitment to carry out a work of piety and a work of mercy, adding a link to the paper chain with the work of piety written on the inside and the work of mercy written on the outside.



The group attending EQUIP forms a circle for a time of singing and prayer led by this year's keynote speaker, Chris Wilterdink, who serves as director of program development for Young People's Ministries, part of Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

COURTESY PHOTOS



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Health kits, school kits a priority for this year's Ingathering

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has announced that a greater number of health kits and school kits are needed for responses associated with the current refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East. With the Arkansas Conference's annual Ingathering at Arkansas Rice Depot coming up Nov. 21, now is the perfect time to assemble these kits. From Ingathering, they will be transported to UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana, and UMCOR will distribute the kits wherever they're most needed.

To learn how UMCOR is working with refugees, visit <http://goo.gl/OR7W1Z>.

For instructions on assembling the various types of relief supply kits to send to UMCOR, visit www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies.

Ingathering 2015 details

- Please do not bring Tornado Tubs this year. They are only distributed within Arkansas, and the Conference Disaster Response Team currently has a stock of hundreds.
- Pre-registration includes a free t-shirt, which can be picked up at the check-in table the morning of Ingathering.
- Pre-registration also includes the option to take home Pack Shack meals to stock your church's own food pantry. Advance notice through pre-registration is required.
- For pre-registration, Ingathering Remittance Forms, a soon-to-come list of early drop-off locations and dates, volunteer release forms and instructions for



To learn more, visit

www.arumc.org/Ingathering2015.

assembling disaster response kits, visit www.arumc.org/ingathering2015. Links to the forms appear in the right-hand sidebar.

Schedule for Ingathering, Nov. 21

- 9 a.m. – Registration and Check-in
- 9:30 a.m. – Worship; devotional by Bishop Gary Mueller
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Serve:
 - Unload relief supplies from arriving vehicles and sort them for transport to Louisiana
 - Box up sweet potatoes for distribution to area food pantries
 - Help provide 20,000 meals through The Pack Shack meal packaging event—and, if your church has a food pantry, take some meals home with you to stock those shelves! Jobs for all ages, including tasks for those who cannot stand or move for long periods of time, will be available through this option.

(Note: To ensure equitable distribution, churches must pre-register a team with at least three adults, and indicate on the form that they wish to take packaged meals home to their food pantries.)

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 60 cents per word, no limit. Call 501-324-8037 or email aforbus@arumc.org. See deadlines on page 2 of this publication.

MLP BENEFITS - Mike Proctor: 870-315-3931, mlproctor@sbcglobal.net. Sells Individual Major Medical and Life Insurance to Individuals, Families, and Groups. Sells Medicare Supplements to age 65 and over. Please call for a quote: 870-315-3931.

PART-TIME DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Grand Avenue United Methodist Church of Stuttgart is seeking a part-time Director of Music. The director should demonstrate a proficient skill in playing piano and in directing different age groups in vocal choir and bell choir. A working knowledge of Microsoft Office is required. Compensation will be based on education and experience. Send resumes to GAUMC, 803 S. Grand, Stuttgart, AR 72160 or grandavenue@live.com.

STEINWAY BABY GRAND FOR SALE. 1925 restored Steinway Model M. Original ivory and excellent condition. Appraised/insured at \$24,500, asking \$16,500. Contact mark.mcdonald@arumc.org for pictures and information.

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Q&A: What Cokesbury can do for you

Cokesbury, the retail arm of United Methodist Publishing House,

Cokesbury
Resources for the Christian Journey

has announced a new way of working that will dedicate its Arkansas-based community resource consultant solely to the ministries of this Conference's United Methodist pastors, lay leaders and congregations. The Cokesbury community resource consultant for Arkansas is Rachel Nicklas. She spoke recently with *Arkansas United Methodist* editor **Amy Forbus** to share more about how she can help local churches.

How did this new arrangement between Cokesbury and the Arkansas Conference come about?

The Little Rock area has had a Cokesbury community resource



Rachel Nicklas

consultant for several years now. Having experienced loyal support from our Methodist community in Arkansas, we looked at how we could serve our United Methodist churches in a more deliberate way to enhance our connectedness. This new model, dedicating a community resource consultant to all the churches in the Conference, enables us to better understand and support the programs and initiatives of the Conference, districts and local churches in Arkansas. Bishop Mueller and the Conference staff have been supportive of this new model and we are excited to work together.

For those who may not know, what is the United Methodist Publishing House's relationship to the church?

UMPH is the official publisher

and provider of resources for the UMC. As a fully self-supporting non-profit agency of the UMC, we exist to provide teaching, preaching and learning resources for church leaders and Christian educators. We operate under the direction and control of a 38-member board that includes members from all five U.S. jurisdictions of the church. One of our board members is Todd Burris, who works for the Arkansas Conference. Cokesbury is the sales, distribution and customer service division of UMPH.

Besides being a source for books and curriculum, in what other ways does Cokesbury serve the church?

Cokesbury has long provided a wide range of products such as sanctuary furnishings, clergy and choir apparel, altarware, communionware, paraments, church signs, preschool and classroom furniture, chimes and handbells, just to name few. Cokesbury also offers Cokesbury Cares, a program that provides free and discounted supplies to churches that have experienced a catastrophe such as a fire or weather-related damage.

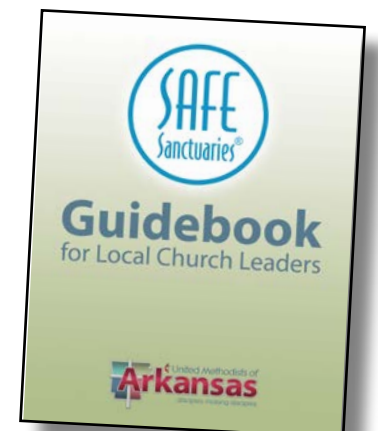
What do churches need to do to get connected with Cokesbury?

There are several ways to connect with Cokesbury: our website (www.cokesbury.com), our call center (800-672-1789) and now directly with me as your dedicated Cokesbury community resource consultant. I welcome your call at 501-553-8614, or email me at rnicklas@cokesbury.com. I look forward to partnering with all of our congregations.

Free abuse prevention guidebook now available

The Arkansas Conference has produced a Safe Sanctuaries Guidebook that is available free to local churches. The guidebook is designed to help congregations develop and follow procedures and policies that protect children, youth and vulnerable adults from abuse.

Each district office has received a supply of these guidebooks, and some are available at the Conference office, as well. To request a copy, contact your district administrator or Vicki Davis, vicki.davis@arumc.org.



BOOK REVIEW

Hamilton shows readers Methodism's back story

Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It

Adam Hamilton
Abingdon Press, 2014

BY RUSSELL POWELL
Special Contributor

When we hear the word “revival,” we may associate it with images of big tents, hot weather, fire-and-brimstone preachers baptizing people in a river or pond and everything seemingly thrown back into the 1800s. But in *Revival: Faith as Wesley Lived It*, Adam Hamilton encourages us to see a different picture.

“Revival” is derived from a Latin word which means to restore or reinvigorate; and, as Hamilton writes, “to become healthy after a long period of decline...” which is exactly what this book has the potential to do for United Methodists.

Our beliefs have to start somewhere. Hamilton, senior pastor of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., takes us on a trip through Methodist history for the sake of knowledge and understanding. He follows in the footsteps of John Wesley so we can learn exactly what shaped this religion we call Methodism. We learn what kind of influences Wesley had growing up with his parents and siblings. And we also learn about one of the most meaningful experiences he ever had: when he felt the love and grace of our Creator move in his own life.

Revival fires up readers by transporting them back in time for a look at John Wesley's life. Hamilton took a sabbatical leave from his church to retrace Wesley's upbringing, travels and ministry around England.

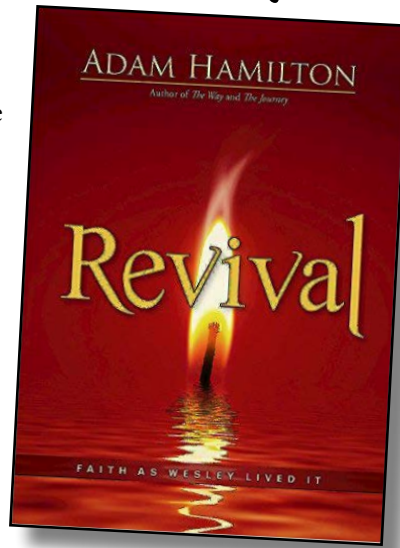
Wesley grew up in a Christian home. His father was a minister at the local church, where Wesley first got to hear and learn about the gospel. His path continues to Oxford University, the place where Wesley gathered with

others to create a new method to being a Christian and showing the love of Christ to the world. Hamilton gives us a view into some of the mission services that Wesley and his other fellows at Oxford provided to the local population. He also includes a few excerpts from Wesley's sermons.

Accompanying the sermon snippets are photographs that Hamilton and his film crew took during their travels. These images give readers a look at the buildings, locations and relevant events as John Wesley built the foundation for Methodism.

They provide a look inside the home, churches and other places where he spent time studying the Word and preaching, and even where he took his last breaths.

This book is a must-read for Methodists at any faith level—it can benefit anyone seeking to understand this denomination, whether they have been part of it since birth, have just joined or perhaps are thinking



about joining. The information in *Revival* is difficult to find elsewhere in such an organized, concise form. By following Wesley's path with Hamilton as your guide, you just may “feel your heart strangely warmed.”

Powell serves as co-director of youth and children's ministry at Salem United Methodist Church Benton.

The book review series that began in the Aug. 7 issue of the *Arkansas United Methodist* comes from a reading list recommended by Bishop Gary Mueller. The books are available for purchase via Cokesbury.com. Look for reviews of the remaining books in upcoming issues:

- *Loving the World with God: Fourth Day Living* by Rebecca Dwight Bruff
- *Calvin vs Wesley: Bringing Belief in Line with Practice* by Don Thorsen

Church celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



A mariachi band and dancing were featured at a previous Fiesta de Colores held at Lakeside UMC Pine Bluff. Their next fiesta is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 4.

COURTESY PHOTO

National Hispanic Heritage Month, observed in the United States from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, celebrates the culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans. The observance begins in mid-September because the 15th is the anniversary of the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; the 16th for Mexico; and the 18th for Chile.

One Arkansas congregation that celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month each year is Lakeside UMC Pine Bluff. To kick off this year's observance, church member Jairo Ledesma shared his experience of attending the MARCHA (Methodist Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic Americans) annual meeting, where he met with other Hispanic United Methodist youth and adult leaders from around the globe.

All month, their worship

services will include presentations that acknowledge the contributions of their own constituents and church members to the Hispanic community in Pine Bluff and the smaller surrounding towns.

“On October 4, we will again have our authentic Hispanic meal prepared by our Hispanic members and all the other Hispanics we serve with our translation services,” said the Rev. Alicia Frye, the church's associate pastor. “This is always a time of great fellowship and unity, and the entertainment is always a fun surprise!”

All United Methodist congregations are encouraged to spend time learning about or developing ministries with the Hispanic community. For Hispanic Heritage Month resources from the United Methodist Church, visit <http://goo.gl/EZtWVE>.

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COMING UP

Atkins church celebrates 175 years Oct. 11

First United Methodist Church Atkins will mark 175 years of service with a Homecoming celebration on Oct. 11, 2015. Former First UMC Atkins pastor the Rev. Jerry Nichols will deliver the message. Anyone who has attended First UMC Atkins at any time in the past, or has any connection with the church through family or friends, is invited to share in this celebration.

John Stroud is compiling a history of First United Methodist Church Atkins, which will be available as part of a church directory in October. Anyone with photos or stories relating to the church to contribute to this history may contact the church at 479-641-2504.

The 175 years takes into account the years the Galla Rock Methodist Church existed. It is believed that the core members of the Galla Rock Methodist Church moved to Atkins following the completion of the railroad, as Galla Rock ceased to be a trade center.

There will be a fellowship meal following the service. All are invited to visit and reminisce with friends connected to this congregation.

Hunger ministry grant applications due by Oct. 15

The 200,000 Reasons initiative is a three-year effort by the United Methodists of Arkansas to reduce childhood hunger in Arkansas. With 660 United Methodist churches in the state, we can make a difference by working together with other churches, hunger agencies, local food pantries and feeding programs, community gardens and gleaning projects.

The 200,000 Reasons initiative is now offering small grants to local church-related hunger ministries. A typical grant award through this program will range from \$250 to \$2,500. Grants will be given to ministries that demonstrate the following priorities:

1. New ministries designed to reduce hunger among children in the following underserved Arkansas counties: Izard, Sharp, Chicot, Montgomery, Prairie, Newton, Lafayette, Ashley, Searcy, Stone
2. Projects that partner with local United Methodist churches or ministries
3. Projects that engage the mission field of the local United Methodist Church
4. Projects that demonstrate cooperation and shared resources between partners within communities
5. Projects that sustain existing feeding ministries, public witness and education.

For a copy of the grant application, visit www.200KReasons.arumc.org, send an email to 200KReasons@arumc.org or call 501-529-0604.

To have your church's ministry considered for a grant, complete the application and return it by Oct. 15, 2015 to: J.J. Whitney, Hendrix College, Office of the Chaplain, 1600 Washington Ave., Conway, AR 72032 or email it to whitney@hendrix.edu.

Lay Servant Academy set for Oct. 15-16

The Lay Servant Academy is an opportunity to equip laity in areas of Scripture, doctrine, organization and ministries of the United Methodist Church. The next opportunity for this training is Oct. 15-16 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville.

Courses offered are in a wide range of areas of the ministry of the church. This event will offer the Basic Course as well as Advanced courses in several areas: Polity, Holy Communion, Leading Prayer and Spiritual Gifts.

For information or to register, visit www.mountsequoyah.org/portfolio/lay-servant-academy.

'At the Cross' senior adult retreat at Mount Sequoyah, Oct. 19-23

Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville invites senior adults to attend At the Cross, its autumn senior adult retreat. Open to older adults from across the eight states of the United Methodist Church's South Central Jurisdiction, this event will be great for individuals, a couple or a whole group to attend.

Activities will begin with dinner on Monday, Oct. 19 and end with breakfast on Friday, Oct. 23, 2015. The retreat will feature excursions to the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and Prairie Grove State Park. Attendees will also worship and socialize together, and a devotional book for each attendee is included in the registration fee.

To register online or download a paper form, visit <http://goo.gl/6N8rne>.

Tailgate with U of A Wesley Foundation Oct. 31

The Wesley Foundation campus ministry at the University of Arkansas invites alumni and friends to a tailgate event Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015, in "Victory Village" on the U of A campus (north of Maple Street and Razorback Stadium). Join in enjoying food, fun and fellowship before the Razorbacks' Homecoming game against the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawks.

Keep an eye on www.uawesley.com and the ministry's social media accounts for updates as the game time is announced. Questions? Contact special projects assistant Kristen Coppola Williams at kwilliams@centraltolife.com.

Shiloh UMC Dry Fork holds 175th Homecoming Nov. 15

Shiloh UMC, in the Dry Fork community of Northwest Arkansas, invites former pastors and anyone else with a connection to the church or community to attend its 175th Homecoming celebration, set for Nov. 15. Worship will begin at 11 a.m., and a potluck lunch will follow at noon. Those attending will have an opportunity to share their memories of Shiloh and Dry Fork.

For information, contact the Rev. Lon Hudson at 479-200-5347 or lnhudson111@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry Forum coming to Arkansas Nov. 17-19

After summer's excitement and the rush of back-to-school activities, children's ministry workers may find themselves weary and a little run down. But there's an opportunity to recharge coming soon!

For the first time in history, Discipleship Ministries is presenting the biennial Children's Ministry Forum (CMF) leadership development conference in Arkansas on Nov. 17-19, 2015. This conference will be hosted by First United Methodist Church Little Rock. While it is marketed for children's ministry leaders in large United Methodist churches, classes will contain relevant information for ministry in all size congregations.

CMF is sponsored by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, the Large Church Initiative and the United Methodist Publishing House, and offers opportunities for worship, spiritual renewal, continuing education, fellowship, networking and most importantly, support. There will be more than 100 classes taught by nationally recognized leaders in the fields of spiritual formation, teaching, volunteer recruitment, technology, communication, administration and leadership development.

To register, find answers to your questions or to learn more, visit the Arkansas Conference Children's Ministry website, <http://kidz.arumc.org>; or contact Laura Stinnett, 501-225-9231 or laura@asbury-lr.org.

OBITUARIES

BATESVILLE

Dorothy Anderson

Dorothy Mae Mount Anderson, 90, of Batesville, passed away Sunday, Aug. 30, 2015, at the Woodlawn Heights Nursing Home in Batesville.

She was born June 24, 1925, at Pfeiffer, Ark., to Warren and Birdie Mount, and was a 1948 graduate of Cave City High School. As the wife of a Methodist minister, she lived in various cities around Arkansas, including Batesville, Greenbrier, Russellville, Conway and Wright. She returned to Batesville upon the death of her husband in 1967. She retired from White Rodgers in Batesville. Her hobbies included working in her yard and sharing time with her family. She was a member of Central Avenue United Methodist Church Batesville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband,

the Rev. Vernon Anderson; her oldest son, James V. Anderson Jr.; two sisters, Virginia Hardin and Christine Ovella Mount; and one brother, John Robert Mount.

Survivors include two sons, Stephen Anderson and his wife, Gail, of Batesville; and David Anderson and his wife, Becky, of Augusta; one brother, Billy Mount and his wife, Patsy, of Batesville; eight grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 2 at Qualls Batesville Funeral Service Chapel in Batesville, with the Revs. Paul Doan and Aaron Doan officiating. Burial followed in the Oaklawn Cemetery at Batesville.

Pallbearers were Tyler Hooper, Jay Doan, Aaron Doan, Graham Doan, Brenden May, Gray Anderson, Will Anderson, Marc Anderson and John James Wintz.

BENTONVILLE

Benjamin Gee Hines

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Gee Hines, 88, of Bentonville, passed away Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, at Mercy Hospital in Rogers, surrounded by his family.

He was born Feb. 13, 1927, in Smackover, to Carl Benjamin Hines and Cleo Gee Hines.

Ben married Maxine McCauley on Aug. 31, 1947. They met in college at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, and he was immediately smitten. They were cheerleaders together before WWII took him overseas. Having survived being separated by the Army—and one "Dear John" letter—they married their senior year.

After a short career of teaching, coaching junior high football, and being appointed the youngest high school

[continued on page 11]

OBITUARIES

[continued from page 10]

principal in Camden, Ark., Ben ventured on to be on staff at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. It was there he discovered God had other plans for him. So he, Maxine, Susan (age 5) and David (age 2½) packed up the car and headed for Perkins School of Theology on the SMU campus in Dallas, Texas. In 1961, Ben received his second Master's degree—this one a Master of Divinity.



Ben Hines

In ministry, he served as senior pastor in United Methodist churches across Arkansas, including Camden, Little Rock, West Memphis, Bentonville, Fort Smith, Rogers and as superintendent of the Forrest City District. While living in Dallas, he was on staff at Highland Park United Methodist Church. He served more than 40 years in the ministry.

Ben served on the board of trustees for Methodist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and for Hendrix College in Conway. In the United Methodist Church, he was a board member for the Northwest Arkansas Council of Finance and Administration, and chaired the Northwest Arkansas Nominating Committee.

In 1992, Ben and Maxine retired to Bentonville in their first-ever home that was not a parsonage, but their ministry continued even in retirement. He served as the associate pastor at First UMC Bentonville, and later as pastor emeritus.

He was preceded in death by Maxine on June 22 of this year, after 68 years of marriage. As one friend wrote, "Their love affair now continues."

Ben is survived by one son, David Gee Hines and his wife, Susan, of Edmond, Okla.; one daughter, Susan Kennedy and her husband, Pat, of Bentonville; four grandchildren, Ben Bogle and his wife, Sarah, of Sandestin, Fla.; Erin Easley and her husband, Jason, of Gravette; Scott Hines of Oklahoma City, Okla.; Megan Gaines and her husband, Zac, of Edmond, Okla.; six great-grandchildren, Halie Easley, Brittney Easley, Lukas Easley, Harper Gaines, Tatum Gaines and Annie Gaines; and one sister, Carolyn Rix of Hot Springs.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2015, at First United Methodist Church Bentonville with the Rev. Dr. Kurt Boggan and the Rev. Rex Dickey officiating. Burial followed in Bentonville Cemetery.

Pallbearers were members of the Masculine Journey Sunday School Class: Tim Summers, Ted Viala, Bruce Safreed, Rodger Dickinson, Ed Adair, Garry Carroll, Mel Redman, David Torres, Jimmy Wright, Greg Fogle, David Hudgins, Brad Anderson, Johnny Haney, Doug Speight and Roger Thomas.

Memorials may be made to First UMC, 201 Northwest 2nd Street, Bentonville, AR 72712; or to Havenwood, 808 North Main Street, Bentonville, AR 72712.

CLINTON

Barbara Mann

Barbara Joan Mann, 79, of Clinton, passed away Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015.

She was born Sept. 17, 1935, in Camden, N.J., to William Melville and Natalie Ann (Cole) Frame.

Barbara and her husband, Harry Joseph Mann Jr., served for six years as lay pastors of Shirley UMC.

She was preceded in death by her husband and two of her children, Kathleen E. Mann and William Mann.

She is survived by her children,



Barbara Mann

Michael Mann and his wife, Donna; Kelly Ann Mann Hester; Scott Stewart Mann; Tracy Gamarra and her husband, Roberto; Colleen Bunch; Elizabeth Shell and her husband, Casey; Christopher Mann and his wife, Lynette; and H.J. Mann III; 26 grandchildren, Jennifer, April, Stacy, Andrew, William, Missy, Ben, Caitlin, Lucinda, Allison, Isabel, Nicholas, Erica, Kim, Scott, Sterling, Ian, Gaven, Parker, Darby Rae, Mathis, Ryan, John, Morgan, Eisley and Alex; and great-grandchildren Jayden Andrew, Korbin Alexander, Issac Matthew, Ashley McKenna, Alexis Anathesia, Nicole, Shae Noelle and Samantha.

A funeral service was held Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, at Clinton United Methodist Church, with the Rev. George Odell officiating. Burial followed in Quattlebaum Cemetery. Pallbearers were H.J. Mann III, Christopher Mann, Michael Mann, Jayden Liszewski, Scott Mann and Charles Shell.

FORT SMITH

J.M. Rogers

The Rev. J.M. Rogers, 83, of Fort Smith, passed away August 26, 2015. He was a retired United Methodist minister, having served 61 years in the ministry.

He began his ministry in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and pastored Magazine, Lucas, Hector and Caulksville. In 1960, he became a United Methodist minister and served Lavaca, Mulberry, Alma, Greenwood, Booneville, Harrisburg, Midland Heights in Fort Smith and Paris, where he retired from active ministry in 1997. He returned to the Greenwood United Methodist and served as visitation minister for seven years, and was given the honor of pastor emeritus and retired again. He was later appointed as chaplain at Methodist Health and Rehab, where he served for 10 years before retiring in 2015.



J.M. Rogers

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jane; two daughters, Debbie Cooper and her husband, Rick, of Cedarville, and Barbara Rogers of Fort Smith; two granddaughters, Kathi Conner of Jenny Lind and Emilee Barto of Groton, Conn.; one grandson, John Clark of Harrisonville, Mo.; two great-grandsons, Jacob Conner of Jenny Lind and Cooper Barto of Groton, Conn.; one great-granddaughter, Lauralie Barto of Groton, Conn.; two brothers, Paul Rogers and his wife, Karen, of Enid, Okla., and Ronnie Rogers and his wife, Amanda, of Fort Smith.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dennis and Irene Rogers, and his birth mother, who died soon after his birth, Zuma Gilliam Rogers.

The funeral was held Saturday, Aug. 29, at Greenwood United Methodist Church, with burial at Liberty Cemetery in Greenwood.

Memorial contributions may be made to Greenwood United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 548, Greenwood, AR 72936, or to an organization of your choice.

LITTLE ROCK

Linda Wyers

Linda Faye Noblett Wyers, 66, of Little Rock, passed away Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015.

She was born to James Arvil Noblett and Verdie Leora Madison Noblett on June 2, 1949, in Jasper, Ala.

Her hobbies included cooking and baking, singing, sewing, watching Alabama and New Orleans Saints football, Bon Jovi concerts and hanging out with her grandchildren every chance she got. One of her greatest joys was attending church every Sunday, as well as leading children's choirs and

helping with Vacation Bible School.

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Edward Wyers, a retired elder in the Arkansas Conference; her sons, J. Micah Wyers and his wife, Michelle, of North Little Rock, and Mark Wyers and his wife, Deidre, of Little Rock; grandchildren Benjamin, Madilyn, Max and Ethan; and four sisters, Betty Aaron, Mary Bradford, Juanita Davis and Willodean West. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Edward Noblett and Franklin Noblett; and four sisters, Nora Douglas, Christine Maddox, Pauline Smith and Hazel Hasford.



Linda Wyers

The funeral service was held Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015, at First United Methodist Church Monticello. Burial followed at Oakland Cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Box 850, 101 Sager Brown Rd., Baldwin, LA 70514.

BLACK FOREST, Colo.

J. Rudolph Woodruff

The Rev. James Rudolph Woodruff, 96, Colonel, Chaplain, United States Air Force (retired), passed away on Friday, Aug. 21, 2015, at his home in Black Forest, Colo.

He was born Nov. 16, 1918, in Fort Smith, Ark., to John Kelleam Woodruff, Sr. and Madge (Horton) Woodruff. He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Arkansas in 1940, and a master's degree in theology from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas in 1943. He did graduate studies at New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, New York City, and Nashotah House, Wis. He was an elder in full connection to the Arkansas Conference.



Rudolph Woodruff

He served as chaplain in the Army Air Corps during World War II and in the Air Force in Europe, Iceland and Turkey. Between World War II and the Korean War he taught philosophy at McMurry College in Abilene, Texas. He was recalled into the Air Force in 1951. He retired from the Air Force after 24 years of service. He had also been a youth counselor (Job Corps) with the Colorado Division of Employment and Training, and was an assistant at the Chapel of Our Saviour, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Colonel Woodruff was a life member of the Air Force Association, the Retired Officers Association (Pikes Peak Chapter) and the University of Arkansas Alumni Association.

He was married Aug. 24, 1940, to Myra Lee (Jones) Woodruff.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 75 years; three daughters, Myra Melinda Sobral and her husband, Daniel, of Branson, Mo.; Anna Lucia Pelletier and her husband, Charles, of Westbrook, Maine; and Celeste Woodruff Palmby and her husband, Keith, of Renton, Wash.; and a son, Matthew James Woodruff and his wife, Karen, of Boyd, Texas. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He had two brothers, Elbert Newton Woodruff and John Kelleam Woodruff, Jr., who preceded him in death.

A celebration of life is pending. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Scholarship Fund, Pikes Peak Chapter of the Retired Officers Association; or to Pikes Peak Hospice.

Attend a spiritual revival preview event this month



Mark your calendar now to attend one of this month's five special events that will provide a preview of resources and materials your local church can use to become ready for spiritual revival, the first step of the Bishop's Mission Plan. These preview events will guide attendees through options for worship, study, disciple formation and more.

All Arkansas United Methodist congregations are encouraged to participate in this intentional season of preparation beginning in January 2016. The information and resources available at these events will provide ways to help congregations get started.

One event will be held in each district. The experience is not specific to your district, so if you cannot make the date of the preview nearest you, feel free to attend one of the others.

- **Sunday, Oct. 4:** First UMC Arkadelphia, 3 p.m.
- **Sunday, Oct. 11:** Goddard UMC Fort Smith, 3:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, Oct. 17:** St. James UMC Little Rock, 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, Oct. 18:** First UMC Jonesboro, 3:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, Oct. 25:** First UMC Stuttgart, 4 p.m.

For details, visit <http://spiritualrevival.arumc.org>.



Faith Funds

Transforming Lives for Christ

Rev. Mark Norman, Southeast District Superintendent, sees the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas as moving beyond support of the ministries of United Methodism in our state and toward transformation that makes disciples for Jesus Christ.

“I see the Foundation connecting people and communities to transform the Body of Christ, a living organism, not an organization,” said Rev. Norman.

He said the Foundation helps churches in his district more efficiently manage their endowment funds, allowing the earnings to be used to better serve their mission fields. Rev. Norman also highlighted innovative regional programs like the partnership between Pine Bluff area congregations and UMFA to create mission opportunities for churches with different backgrounds to work together to address issues like crime and poverty.

“Through sponsorship of programs like Imagine Ministry, UMFA is helping us change — showing us the best is yet to come for the Arkansas Conference,” Rev. Norman said. “I shudder to think what the Conference would become without change.”



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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