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## A moment of blessing on Ash Wednesday

On Feb. 10, many United Methodist congregations held Ash Wednesday worship services to mark the beginning of Lent, the 40-day season leading up to Easter. The two churches of the Huntsville/Presley Chapel Charge in the Northwest District joined together to hold a youth-led service in the Huntsville church's sanctuary.

Members of the Fritts family, who attend Presley Chapel UMC, were sitting about halfway back in the Huntsville sanctuary, and five-year-old Aaron Fritts watched carefully as worshippers went forward for the imposition of ashes—the sign of the cross placed on their foreheads.

The Rev. Rob Ernest, pastor of the two-point charge, noticed the wide-eyed look on Aaron's face as he and his mother, Valerie, came down the center aisle.

"I had realized that I had not been imposed, and I thought, 'Well, let's see what happens here,'" Ernest said. "He's a very inquisitive and brave young man, so I knelt down to him and asked him if he would like to put the ashes on me."

Aaron did just as he had watched his pastor do, dipping his thumb into the ashes and making the sign of the cross on Ernest's forehead. Vanessa Burgess, the youth ministry intern for the two churches, captured the moment.

"It was nothing that we had planned, but it was one of those spontaneous blessings from God, with a child teaching us a little bit about how to spread God's love," Ernest said. "It's not that hard to do."

—Amy Forbus

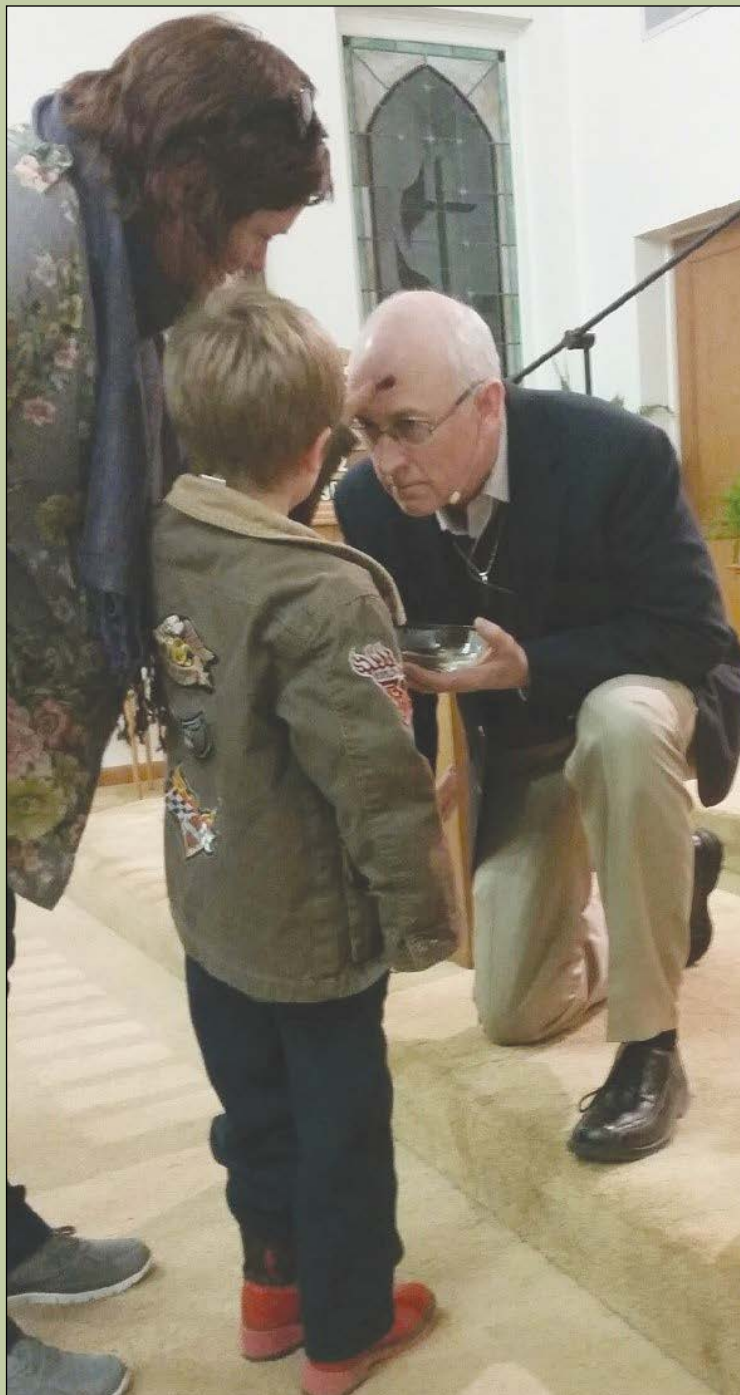


PHOTO BY VANESSA BURGESS

## Polk to serve as assistant to bishop; Galloway named DS for Northeast District



Jim Polk



J.J. Galloway

Arkansas Area Resident Bishop Gary E. Mueller announced Feb. 7 that he will appoint the Rev. James P. "Jim" Polk as assistant to the bishop for the Arkansas Conference, and the Rev. J.J. Galloway as superintendent of the Northeast District. Both appointments take effect July 1, 2016.

"Through his work in the local church and beyond, Jim has shown tremendous dedication to the trajectory of the Arkansas Conference, and I'm confident he will help align our efforts as we work to create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world," Mueller said. "And J.J. has a great track record as a seasoned and caring pastor. I'm certain she will serve the Northeast District with integrity and compassion for all the people of that mission field."

Polk, 58, has served as senior pastor of First UMC Arkadelphia [See POLK/GALLOWAY, page 9]

## Register now for the Grow By One Summit

*One-day event to center on faith sharing, innovative outreach*

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

Every single church, regardless of size, can be vital and reach its community. To equip and unleash

laypersons for this work, the Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality invites congregations to send teams—evangelism and discipleship committees, mission and outreach leaders, youth group leaders and

more—to the Grow By One Summit, set for Saturday, April 30 at St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock.

The Summit gets its name from [See SUMMIT, page 5]

# It's right in front of us

BY BILL BYRD  
Special Contributor

Churches are called to reach out to their neighbors, receive them as they are, help them relate to God, nurture and equip them, then send them back into the world to make it a more loving and just place in which to live. You probably can think of at least one way your church already answers this calling, and ideas for more.

Many United Methodist congregations have an already planted, but often untapped or under-developed resource for reaching out: the investment of the church in Scouting ministries.

Statistics indicate that of the youth who join United Methodist Scout troops, 25 percent are United Methodists, 25 percent are members of other denominations or faiths and—here's the fascinating part—50 percent come from unchurched families.

For half of our Scouts, then, their involvement offers the potential to have a positive experience with the church and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. It makes sense for us to connect more deeply to the Scout troops that already meet in our buildings and whose charters we hold.



Bill Byrd

## Crucial engagement

As I look around my office, I'm quickly reminded of the impact Scouting has had on my life and the life of my family. On the desk is a 2002 Cub Scout Day Camp token, and on the walls the true story of our family's Scouting experience: Cub Master Plaque, Silver Beaver Award, Benefactor Donor Plaque, our son's Eagle Rank announcement from 2010 and his Good Samaritan Award presented in 2015. The awards and plaques are all, every one of them, centered on Scouting activities held at a United Methodist Church.

My Boy Scouting adventure began at a United Methodist Church in Springfield, Mo. Our family didn't attend the church, but I was invited to participate in the troop. It was a great experience, although the church didn't embrace the troop—we merely met there without further support or involvement from the congregation.

Sadly, that church no longer exists. I truly believe if they had taken a different approach with the young people who spent time in their building, the fate of the church could have changed.

Fast forward to today: To grow, a church must not only keep current members, but also cultivate new disciples. Scouting can play a part in that cultivation, but from my experience, many clergy and church leaders either do not understand or appreciate the impact a Scouting program can have on a church. While many UMCs have embraced Scouting, a sizable number behave

more like that church in Missouri: missing out by not fully incorporating and supporting it.

The Christian share of the U.S. population is declining, while the number of adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing, according to an extensive survey by the Pew Research Center. More and more youth and young couples are disenchanted with organized religion, while others are simply trying to find a place to fit in. The future of the United Methodist Church depends on many factors, and I feel strongly that Scouting is one of those factors.

## Prime opportunity

We must embrace our Scouting programs and encourage Scouts and their families to experience all the church has to offer. Doing so can help us stay true to the church's mission of making disciples and transforming the world, starting with our own communities.

Typically, boys and men of a Scout troop do not all attend the same school, live in the same neighborhood or attend the same church, if they attend church at all. But for one reason or another, they have come together to participate, giving clergy and church members a prime opportunity to reach these families.

This reality recently hit home for me in a new way. As I mentioned earlier, one of the pieces of Scouting memorabilia on the wall in my office is my son's 2010 Eagle Scout announcement. He was in a group of boys that started their adventures together as Cub Scouts, and most earned their Eagle rank.

My son loved Scouting and took full advantage of its activities. In August 2015, he died unexpectedly. Following his death, my family realized the true impact Scouting had, and still has, on our family. Of the nearly 400 people who attended his funeral, more than half knew him through their connection to Scouting and came to support our family.

Many of these young men and their families were not members of the church when they started Scouting. Yet as their Scouting involvement grew, so did their involvement in the United Methodist Church.

The opportunities are there for us to grasp. A Scouting program can be a building block for the future of the UMC—if churches jump in with both feet. If we do our jobs correctly, youth of today become leaders of tomorrow, and they will want to be part of a church. What better place is there than where they've already experienced adventure and opportunity and God's grace in action?

*Through the General Commission on United Methodist Men, Byrd serves as Scouting ministries coordinator for the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. He is a member of Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock. He also serves as our Conference coordinator; for ideas on strengthening church/troop connections, contact him at billbyrd1@yahoo.com.*



## EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

# Celebration

It was the first funeral I'd been asked to sing since I moved back to Arkansas. Not a request to take lightly: singing the favorite hymn of a church musician at her own funeral. And when that musician brought one of your closest friends into this world, and you've known her since your college days, and she was a loyal reader of the newspaper you edit... well, it's a challenge to describe how much it means.

It would be a duet. Working from a framed page of an unknown hymnal, my college roommate Karen and I taught ourselves the words and music, which we'd never heard outside that family's farmhouse, where the shadowbox frame filled with that hymn and a spray of flowers had hung above the piano.

After the service, Karen shared with me her memory of us singing a hymn together with a different congregation nearly 20 years ago, while I wore my bridal gown and she stood beside me as my maid of honor. We were both moving away and our lives were changing, and she wondered at the time if it would be our last opportunity to sing together. Through the years, we've made sure that it wasn't. But this most recent song, sung in Dry Fork, Ark., at a celebration of the life and resurrection of one of the saints of Shiloh United Methodist Church, seemed to bring our singing together to a new, more meaningful place.

Sarah's is the first funeral procession I've been a part of that

has required four-wheel drive. A real carry-me-home moment for this woman of God, though, as her granddaughter cradled the box that held her ashes—the box Sarah's husband of 55 years handcrafted, with help from some of their descendants. As we forded the creek and bounced up the highest hill on the family farm, holding tightly to each other to keep anyone from falling out of the truck bed, someone declared that Sarah was helping to hold us in, and no doubt laughing with us.

Her son-in-law posted a photo album to Facebook with the title "Celebrating Sarah." We certainly did celebrate her, and his beautiful images captured it. But, as her pastor reminded us, we also celebrated much more: We celebrated the God who Sarah loved and served, the One who brought that final, eternal healing to her, who provided comfort to all of us as we mixed our grief with joy. We celebrated alongside a tight-knit community; amid a congregation that raised generations of this same family; and affirming our belief that Sarah was a beloved child of God, as are we.

Such a life well-lived—and such love shared across time and distance and all manner of differences—bears witness to Christ's boundless grace and mercy. What a gift to be able to celebrate so much with so many.

*To reach me, send an email to aforbus@arumc.org.*



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**Submission Deadlines**

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
April 1	March 14
May 6	April 18
June 3	May 11

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

BY GARY E. MUELLER

# He is risen

It's easy to show up on Easter morning in the midst of lilies, crowds and beautiful music to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

But be careful. You can't isolate Easter from Jesus' birth, where you experience how passionately God is in love with you. You certainly can't separate it from his life and teachings, where he shows you how to live the way God created you to live. And there's no way you can pry it from his sacrificial death on the cross, where you experience how far Jesus will go to save you by giving you what you absolutely need, but can never get on your own.

You need it all because you need all of Christ—his birth, his death and his teaching, as

well as his resurrection—so you can personally experience how Jesus loves you so much he willingly came for you, shared the fullness of God's love with you through word and deed, died to save you and was raised from the dead for you to have eternal life that begins right now.

When you do experience that love, it changes everything about everything. Jesus gives you freedom from your past and freedom for your future. He transforms you from what you were into what you can be. He moves you from a life of despair to a life of compassion, generosity, joy and hope. And it doesn't matter what you've done, what you think about yourself or what anyone else says about you. Jesus has come for you, died for you and been resurrected for you.

If this doesn't fill you with a hunger to follow Jesus, live as his disciple, help others experience his love and get on board with him to transform lives, communities and the world, I don't know what will.

He is risen.

He is risen, indeed.

Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller



# What makes a missionary?

BY AMBER FEEZOR  
Special Contributor

"Engage. Connect. Grow." These actions, combined with trust in God, form the essence of what it means to be a Global Mission Fellow with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. Global Mission Fellows are young adults between 20 and 30 years of age; they serve for two years either in the United States (where we are called US-2s) or internationally, and commit to connecting faith with justice.

I am seven months into my service as a US-2, but my assumptions about missionaries nearly kept me from applying at all. I am the most ordinary person in the world with far too many huge mistakes in my past. I fail more often than I succeed. And I am certainly an imperfect Christian who still harbors doubts much of the time. Yet, when I considered applying for the program, God's prompting proved stronger than my misgivings.

## Preconceptions

During US-2 training last summer, we were asked to visually define a missionary. I had a very clear image in my head and got to work drawing it. With visions of Mother Teresa and Katie Davis in mind, I created a depiction of a world saver: a strong individual out to bring peace to the far corners of the globe. It was an image I knew I could not live up to.

When I got to my placement site and discovered what I would be doing, I had to reconsider my preconceived ideas about missionary work. I serve with the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) on Capitol Hill in

Washington, D.C. Every day I put on dress clothes to fit in with the nation's elite, and I walk past beautiful and historic buildings on my way to the office. When I sit at my desk and see the Supreme Court building outside my window, I sometimes compare my work to the image of a missionary I had in my mind.

I do not bring healing and love to lepers in Calcutta. I do not provide orphans in Uganda with food, education and nurturing. I do not fit the mold I mentally created. My assignment does not demand that I save the world—a reality I am quite thankful for.



Amber Feezor

My work with the Seminar Program at GBCS is not exactly glamorous. I do a lot of paperwork, preparing to welcome groups and educate them on social justice issues that are prevalent in our country and world. I have an opportunity to speak to people

from all over the globe about the tragic injustices that plague so many. We partner with organizations like Bread for the World, National Coalition for the Homeless, Children's Defense Fund and Justice for Our Neighbors to educate Seminar Program participants, helping them gain a better understanding of the harsh realities of society.

## A single word

The truth is, the only thing about me that makes me a missionary is that I said yes. It has nothing to do with where I serve, what my work

involves or who I work with. I am a missionary because God offered me a task and I said yes. The work may not always be something I am passionate about at that particular moment, but I told God I would do it. Every day I say yes to God's call is a day I can claim the title of missionary.

But what about leaving home and living on a stipend? Those are details of particular callings, not requirements for missionary work. There are people all over this world who also have said yes to the task that God has given them. Their tasks simply look different from mine. They might have been asked to stay at home and be a nurse or a teacher, a lawyer or a pastor. It could be anything.

When I think about my church community in Dover, and even the Arkansas Conference at large, I see many opportunities for people to say yes to God and step up to be a missionary at home. With 200,000 food-insecure children in our state, we need missionaries. With a few thousand unhoused neighbors in our state, we need missionaries. With more than 30 Arkansans falling victim to human trafficking in 2015, we need missionaries.

The point—and the truth I try to help everyone I speak with understand—is that I am no different or more special than anyone else because my business card titles me as a "missionary." We can all be missionaries. All it takes is that three-letter word.

Yes.

*Feezor, a member of Dover UMC, lives in Washington, D.C. A version of this commentary first appeared on the Global Mission Fellows blog, <http://thebookoffellows.wordpress.com>. To learn more about Feezor's work, contact her at [afeezor@umcmmission.org](mailto:afeezor@umcmmission.org).*

## APPOINTMENTS & RETIREMENTS

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

- Rex Dickey (elder)—Berryville UMC (interim); effective March 1-June 30
- John Robbins (elder)—Memorial Drive UMC Houston, Texas (transferring to Texas Conference); effective July 1
- Don Hall (retired elder)—First UMC Clarksville (interim); effective Feb. 1-June 30
- Jim Polk (elder)—Arkansas Conference office, assistant to the bishop; effective July 1
- J.J. Galloway (elder)—Northeast District superintendent; effective July 1

**Retirements** (effective July 1, 2016, unless otherwise noted):

- Davis Thompson (elder)
- Stan Adams (elder)
- Jimmy Mosby (elder)

For the most recent appointment changes, visit [www.arumc.org/appointments](http://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.

## PEOPLE OF FAITH

### Yokem to join UMFA staff as grants administrator

The Rev. Mackey Yokem, executive director of mission and ministry for the Arkansas Conference, will retire this summer and join the staff of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) as grants administrator July 1. Last year UMFA awarded more than \$1 million in discretionary grants to enhance ministries in the Conference.

"We are pleased to have someone with Mackey's dedication and knowledge join our staff to assist the Grants Administration Committee in grant selection and help grant applicants move through the process," said Jim Argue Jr., UMFA president and CEO, in a Feb. 5 news release. "This part-time position of service is a perfect match for Mackey's abilities and the needs of the foundation."

Under episcopal appointment since 1976, Yokem has served extension appointments as the executive director of Camp Aldersgate and director of church relations at Hendrix College; and pastoral appointments to congregations in Gurdon, Lonoke, Warren, Russellville and at Primrose UMC Little Rock. He served as superintendent of the Northwest District of the Arkansas Conference before his current appointment, which has included responsibilities for the strategic alignment of the Imagine Ministry process across the Conference, connectional ministries duties and the role of assistant to the bishop.

Yokem has served as a member of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration; on the boards of directors for several ministries, including the University of Arkansas Wesley Foundation, Heart of the Ozarks Emmaus Community, UMFA and Methodist Health System of Arkansas; and on boards of trustees for Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center and Hendrix College. A native of Little Rock who grew up in St. Luke UMC, Yokem received his license to preach in 1968. After graduating from Hendrix College, he earned a Master of Theology degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He and Cindy Olmstead from Rison married in 1971. The Yokems have four children and four grandchildren.

UMFA manages \$131 million in endowment funds and other charitable assets that benefit local churches and other United Methodist ministries. UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country, responsible for more than 750 funds that support United Methodist ministries.



**Mackey Yokem**

### Wesleyan scholar to join Memphis Theological Seminary faculty



**Michael Turner**

Dr. Michael K. Turner has been appointed associate professor of Wesleyan studies at Memphis Theological Seminary (MTS). Turner, who arrives Aug. 1, will work closely with colleagues in the Methodist House of Studies. The Methodist House of Studies at MTS is an initiative within the seminary's distinctly ecumenical environment that is designed to form leaders, foster ministries and facilitate connections between the seminary and area-wide Methodist churches and annual conferences (UMC, CME and AME) through the framework of Wesleyan theological education.

Turner comes to MTS after having served as associate professor of the history of Christianity at Hood Theological Seminary of Salisbury, N.C. since 2012. In 2009, he received a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Vanderbilt University, where his dissertation focused on early American Methodism. Turner earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies degree from Vanderbilt in 2006 and a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2000. He is a certified

candidate for ordination as an elder in the Western North Carolina Conference.

In addition to teaching courses in Wesleyan Studies at MTS, Dr. Turner will teach courses in the History of Christianity. An active leader within the United Methodist Church and a prolific writer, his recent publications include six entries in the *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States* (ed. Mark Lamport; Rowan & Littlefield, 2015).

## CLASSIFIEDS

**PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD** in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 60 cents per word, no limit. Call 501-324-8037 or email aforbus@arumc.org. Deadlines on page 2 of this issue.

**Gardner Memorial UMC in North Little Rock is seeking to hire a part-time secretary.** Two days per week, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Basic computer skills, general office skills, and good communication skills. To request a more complete job description or to submit a resume with references, please contact Gardner Memorial UMC, 1723 Schaer Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114. Phone 501-374-9520.

**First United Methodist Church, Magnolia, Arkansas, is interviewing for a full time Director for our growing youth ministry.** Candidates should have significant experience with both junior and senior high school students and have strong leadership skills. They should be able to recruit, coordinate and empower volunteers. The person who fills this position will be highly organized, technologically savvy and have excellent communication/coordination skills. Appropriate use and knowledge of social media is a plus. The successful candidate will have a strong Christian and biblical background in order to provide spiritual leadership to our youth. Candidates must be committed to the United Methodist Church and Wesleyan theology. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Resumes may be sent to: Search Committee, First UMC, 320 W. Main St., Magnolia, AR 71753.

**Forrest City FUMC is seeking a Chancel Choir Director.** Send resume to: FUMC-SPR, P.O. Box 66, Forrest City, AR 72335.

# Fire in campus ministry's parsonage causes heavy damage, highlights necessary improvements

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

For 12 years, a wood-burning stove saved the Wesley Foundation at the University of Arkansas-Monticello the expense of replacing the central heating system at the campus ministry's parsonage.

But around 4 a.m. on Jan. 11, the stove's exhaust pipe sparked a fire in the wall surrounding it, causing severe damage to the den, kitchen and laundry room, and smoke damage throughout the house.

### God's presence

The Rev. Kavan Dodson's wife, Michelle, had a severe head cold on Jan. 10 and had decided to sleep in a spot where she could sit up: in the den, just a few feet from the stove.

"She woke up early and was able to alert us to what was going on," Dodson said.

In a post later that day on the ministry's Facebook page, Dodson recounted many ways he recognized God's presence amid the tragedy: in Michelle's cold that positioned her to help save their lives; in her blindness, which meant the thick smoke didn't impair her ability to navigate through the house to alert others; in the knowledge that even though two of their dogs perished in the fire, their cause of death was smoke inhalation rather than burning ("Small comfort, but comfort nonetheless," he wrote); and in the many ways others came to their aid and provided comfort in the hours following the fire.

### Support

Dodson expressed gratefulness for the outpouring of support his household and the ministry have received since the fire.

"I really don't know how folks outside of the church deal with crises such as this," he said. "It has been with the help of the Wesleyans, our church family at large in the Southeast District, and God that we are coping."

With all immediate needs cared for, the focus has turned to repairing the damage from the fire and, at the

same time, handling years of deferred maintenance. Insurance covers the fire and smoke damage, but not the long-standing issues like the broken heating unit and the need for assorted plumbing, carpentry and electrical repairs.

"The leadership team of the Southeast District feels that this is the time to effect much needed improvement, while the parsonage is 'guttled'... it will cost significantly less as change is already in process," Dodson says.

Within days of the fire, the student body at UA-Monticello gave \$5,000 toward the rebuilding effort. Numerous gifts have come in from students and local churches, as well, and the ministry is approaching the halfway mark toward its goal of raising \$35,000, a number recommended by the leadership team of the Southeast District. After the parsonage repairs are complete, any surplus funds will go toward upgrades and maintenance for the Wesley Foundation building.

As the repair work moves forward, so do the regular ministry activities of the UA Monticello Wesley, including:

- Soulfood, a free lunch and devotional open to the entire campus every Monday;
- lunchtime Bible studies on Thursdays;
- a martial arts ministry on Tuesday and Thursday evenings; and
- opening daily to provide students a place to study or socialize.

## How to give

To help the UA-Monticello Wesley Foundation in its recovery effort, send checks payable to the Wesley Foundation with "building fund" in the memo line. Gifts may be directed to either the Southeast District UMC, P.O. Box 6607, Pine Bluff, AR 71611; or directly to the UA-Monticello Wesley at P.O. Box 3071, Monticello, AR 71656.

# Summit

(continued from page 1)

Step 6 of the Bishop's Mission Plan: "More churches will continue to grow every year by at least one new adult profession of faith, at least one more person in worship, at least one additional small group and at least one more ministry that reaches into the mission field" (for plan details, see [www.arumc.org/missionplan](http://www.arumc.org/missionplan)).

The Center for Vitality sees addressing these areas as crucial to fueling spiritual revival—the first step of the Bishop's Mission Plan.

"We know that in today's changing culture, reaching our mission field with the message and love of Jesus Christ requires a new kind of evangelism," said the Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford, assistant director of the Center for Vitality. "That's why we've brought together so many resources for a single day of

learning. Teams from every size and kind of church will find something they can try when they get back home."

## Plenary sessions

United Methodist layperson Kay Kotan of Missouri will serve as keynote speaker for the Summit. She serves on the faculty of Coaching4Clergy, is a Certified Path 1 Coach for new United Methodist churches and a member of the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) executive team for the Missouri Conference. She is the co-author of *Get Their Name: Grow Your Church by Forming New Relationships; Renovate or Die: Ten Ways to Focus Your Church on Mission and Strategic Ministry Planning; 10 Prescriptions for a Healthy Church; and The Necessary Nine: Things Effective Pastors Do Differently*.

For the three plenary sessions, Kotan will be sharing from *Get Their Name*. The first session will center on faith sharing and being open to relational evangelism. The second will focus on congregational culture and preparing for guests. The final plenary session will help congregations imagine new ways to connect effectively and fruitfully to their neighborhoods and communities.

Worship will feature Bishop Gary Mueller as the Summit preacher, and musicians from the host church leading music.

## Learning groups

In addition to worship and plenary sessions, participants will choose from nine "core sessions," 80-minute workshops designed to inform, encourage, and equip congregational leaders and ministry teams.

"Our hope is that participants leave the core session with the first steps of an action plan for beginning a new ministry that reaches their mission field," said the Rev. Dede Roberts, director of the Center for Vitality. "We have a variety of core session choices so churches can send different team members to several of

them, or focus together on one potential new ministry."

Core session leaders from across the connection include Kotan, the Rev. Jasmine Smothers of the North Georgia Conference, Michelle Kirby from Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. and the Rev. Dr. Dawn Chesser of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries; Arkansas leaders include Mueller, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Thompson, the Rev. Betsy Singleton Snyder, Rod Hocott and the Rev. Maxine Allen.

Attendees also will have more than a dozen choices for a 45-minute "lunch and learn" discussion.

"Lunch and learn will be geared toward peer-to-peer learning," Bradford said. "And most of the presenters are from churches right

here in Arkansas who are trying some new, creative ministries."

Lunch and learn leaders include those who have started ministries that reach out to people beyond their congregations: different age groups or ethnicities, people who may not be interested in church or those who may want to learn about Christ, but don't know where to begin.

Each of the lunch and learn groups will discuss a particular ministry's goals, how it was formed, budgeted, launched, adjusted and resourced. They also will share dreams for the future of these ministries, and encourage participants to share and develop their own dreams and goals.

## VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION & DISASTER RESPONSE

For information on any **Volunteers In Mission (VIM) project**, contact the individual listed or Byron Mann, Conference VIM coordinator: [vim@arumc.org](mailto:vim@arumc.org) or 870-826-0268. For **Disaster Response (DR) projects**, contact Byron or Janice Mann, DR co-coordinators: [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org) or 870-703-8359 (Janice).

On **Facebook**, join the group "Volunteers in Mission & Disaster Response - Serving Arkansas & Beyond" for updates.

### Team forming now for March 20-25 project with Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

Arkansas Conference Volunteers in Mission coordinator Byron Mann will be leading a team on a refurbish/repair/rehab journey. The building in need of improvements is in Okmulgee, Okla., and is used by our sisters and brothers in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

The team will leave Arkansas March 20, 2016 and return March 25. Cost is \$150.00 per person, which covers lodging and material donations. Meals and transportation costs are in addition to this fee.

Tasks include replacing screen material on porches, windows and doors; painting; adjusting and replacing doors; and possibly replacing flooring. The team will provide and prepare its own meals, and will stay in the church youth center, which can accommodate 20 males and 20 females.

We will take one of the conference Disaster/VIM tool trailers, but team members may want to bring their own tools.

Those available and interested in going should contact Byron Mann: [vim@arumc.org](mailto:vim@arumc.org), home phone 870-861-5065 or mobile 870-826-0268.

### Spring Work Week at Mount Sequoyah April 4-8

Mount Sequoyah is hosting its Spring Work Week April 4-8, 2016. Projects range from painting and landscaping to roofing and tree limb removal. The only cost for this work week is meals; housing is free to participants! Register at <http://goo.gl/86lu1S>, and learn more about Mount Sequoyah at [www.mountsequoyah.org](http://www.mountsequoyah.org).

### Rio Texas Conference seeking recovery teams

Many teams are needed for a multi-site disaster recovery effort taking place following multiple disasters in 2015. To register a team, visit [www.riotexas.org/disaster-recovery-team-registration](http://www.riotexas.org/disaster-recovery-team-registration) or contact Gene Hileman, [ahileman@riotexas.org](mailto:ahileman@riotexas.org), for more information.

## Register today for the Grow By One Summit

For links to the registration form and workshop descriptions, visit <http://vitality.arumc.org/2016-grow-by-one-summit>.

Registration includes workshop materials, a copy of Kay Kotan's book *Get Their Name*, a box lunch and a gift from Cokesbury.

- Cokesbury will have an on-site store stocked with resources for local churches.
- Childcare will be available for those who register in advance.
- The early bird registration rate will be available until April 1.

Continue the Revival



# GROW

## by one\* summit

\*worship | profession of faith | small group | connecting with neighbors

## Saturday, April 30, 2016

St. James United Methodist Church - 321 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock

### Registration now open at [vitality.arumc.org](http://vitality.arumc.org)



**Bishop Gary Mueller**  
Resident Bishop of Arkansas  
Summit Preacher



**Kay Kotan, Keynote Speaker**  
Co-author of *Get Their Name*  
*Grow Your Church by Building New Relationships*





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Attend the Grow By One Summit to learn the hows -- and whys -- of faith-sharing and reaching the mission field.

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- Committees/teams centered on:
  - ✓ Evangelism
  - ✓ Discipleship
  - ✓ Mission
  - ✓ Outreach
  - ✓ Youth leaders

**\$15 Early Bird Rate**



## What more can we do about hunger? Learning retreat for young adults at Mount Eagle

Discover 200K Reasons, a retreat for young adults at Mount Eagle Retreat Center April 1 and 2, 2016, will focus on learning how to assess the needs of a community and how to engage congregations in a discussion about starting a feeding ministry that fits their neighbors' needs. All 19-35 year olds are welcome to come together to learn about how their church or college can make a difference in their community. This retreat is geared toward college students, individuals, Sunday school classes, missions committee representatives or anyone interested in taking action against hunger in our communities.

Learn more about the Discover 200K Reasons Young Adult Retreat at [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org), or contact Michelle Moore at [michelle.moore@arumc.org](mailto:michelle.moore@arumc.org).

200,000 Reasons is a three-year initiative of the United Methodists of Arkansas to reduce childhood hunger in Arkansas through feeding ministries, public witness and education for long-term stability. To learn more, visit <http://200kReasons.arumc.org>.



**200,000 REASONS**  
to fight childhood hunger

## Hendrix students use break time to explore calling through mission

Ten Hendrix College students spent part of winter break in California working with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) Hollywood, an organization that serves the homeless and food insecure.

Throughout the mission trip, sponsored by the Hendrix Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics, and Calling, the group also worked with various agencies such as Project Angel Food, which prepares and delivers healthy meals to people restricted to their homes due to life-threatening illnesses; the Los Angeles Food Bank; Lord's Lighthouse, a refuge for at-risk males of Los Angeles; and the Center at Blessed Sacrament, which provides fun and engaging group activities to people living homelessly in an effort to build community and foster relationships.

Participants included Cordell Campbell, Ty Glanville, Gabby James, Jennifer Kim, Marie Kressin, N.K. O'keke, Giorgy Sarishvili, Madison Schallhorn, Susannah Stubbs and Sarah Walker. The trip was co-led by religious studies professor Dr. Robert

Williamson and Jamie Fotioo Groat and Tonya Hale from the Office of Student Affairs.

"What I enjoyed most was the opportunity to think more analytically and critically about issues surrounding homelessness and food insecurity," said Schallhorn in a Jan. 25 news release. "Having been on many other service trips and one other Miller Center mission trip, this was not my first exposure to these types of issues.... In some sense, my favorite part of the trip was being able to combine my previous knowledge with the new ways of thinking about things, and from there looking at how I can try to create change after graduation."

"I cannot fully articulate how this mission trip has affected me," said Sarishvili. "But what I can say is, I now feel that a new door of opportunity has opened for me. I can see myself helping people in other ways besides scientific pursuits, just like I always thought I could."

Another group of Hendrix students spent part of the break volunteering at Camp C.A.M.P., a camp in Center Point, Texas, which serves children and adults with special needs. Hendrix alumnus Brandon Briery serves there as executive camping director.

Student participants included Jessica Amos, Marlee Bird, Parker



N.K. Okeke and Cordell Campbell were among the students who spent part of their winter break serving others through the Hendrix College's Miller Center for Vocation, Ethics, and Calling.

PHOTO COURTESY DR. ROBERT WILLIAMSON

Gitz, Joyce Lauritzen, Evan Mitchell, Alexis Taylor, Mari Thomeczek, Emily Waller, Susan Warren and Delaney Wells. The Rev. Wayne Clark, associate vice president of development and dean of the chapel, co-led the trip with Hanna French, program assistant for the Miller Center.

The group spent part of its time doing landscaping and construction work, and the rest of the time serving as counselors for a respite camp.

"The week was great," said Warren in a Jan. 20 news release. "It was challenging in every way—physically, mentally and emotionally. However, it was also very rewarding."

"C.A.M.P. provided an opportunity for me to see the world through a different lens," said Amos. "I am so much more grateful for the life I live and even more inspired to understand the lives of others."

These trips are two of the four offered through the Miller Center this year. For more information on the Miller Center, visit [www.hendrix.edu/millercenter](http://www.hendrix.edu/millercenter).

## Search for the Whole Truth by Comparing Common Christian Clichés

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

The clichés include:

- Everything happens for a reason.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- God won't give you more than you can handle.
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Join Adam Hamilton in this 6-week Bible study to search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture.

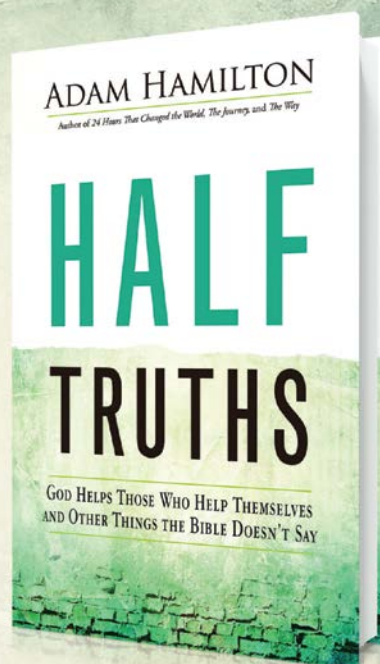
Resources Include:

- Book
- DVD
- Leader Guide
- Youth Study



Learn more at [AdamHamilton.org](http://AdamHamilton.org)

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



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GLOBAL MINISTRIES  
The United Methodist Church

# Clarksville to host Mission u in 2016

## Registration now open

Registration is open for Arkansas Conference Mission u 2016, which will be held on the University of the Ozarks campus in Clarksville, July 27-30. This United Methodist Women event is open to members and non-members alike.



- Studies this year include:
- Issue study—*Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action*
  - Spiritual growth study—*The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift*
  - Geographic study—*Latin America: People and Faith*
  - Children's study—*God's Extravagant Garden*
  - Youth study—*Joining Voices for Climate Justice*

Visit [www.armissionu.weebly.com](http://www.armissionu.weebly.com) for more information on the studies, this year's mission project, downloadable forms and a link to register online. To follow the latest updates, search for the Facebook group and the Facebook page "2016 Arkansas Conference Mission u."

A number of deadlines are associated with registration: special needs by June 20, scholarship applications due by June 27, childcare requests by June 30, T-shirt orders by July 7 and registration itself due by July 10.

For questions about registration, contact Beth Cobb at [bethcobb@att.net](mailto:bethcobb@att.net). For general questions, email the entire planning team using the contact form at <http://armissionu.weebly.com/contact.html>.

# Old church building becomes new home for Van Buren's Vietnamese Mission



Since January of 2009, the United Methodist Vietnamese Mission of Van Buren has met for worship at City Heights UMC. After seven years of that arrangement, they received the keys to the building that once was home to New Bethel United Methodist Church. They spent January cleaning and making repairs to the building, and on Feb. 7, they held their first worship service in their new location. "They are very excited to have a place to call home," said Becky Neighbors, administrator for the Northwest District office. "We can't wait to see what kind of ministry they are able to do in their new location."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHONG NGUYEN

## Methodist Family Health presents



40 DAYS OF COLLECTING  
**FEBRUARY 10**  
 THROUGH  
**MARCH 24**

THE 7TH ANNUAL

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 501.463.5003

**Cherokee Village**  
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 870.376.4502

**Jonesboro**  
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 Suite M  
 870.910.3757

**Fayetteville**  
 74 W. Sunbridge Dr.  
 479.582.5565

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[MethodistFamily.org](http://MethodistFamily.org)

For information: contact Jane Dennis at 501.906.4210 or [jdennis@methodistfamily.org](mailto:jdennis@methodistfamily.org).



# April 5: Arkansas UMs invited to join 24-hour prayer vigil for General Conference

The United Methodist Council of Bishops has called for a time of prayer in the days leading up to General Conference, the quadrennial gathering which will take place May 10-20 in Portland, Ore.

Each of the 131 annual conferences has been invited to host a 24-hour prayer vigil leading up to May 10. **The Arkansas Conference's day is April 5.**

"I am asking you to join me to fill April 5 with your sincere prayers for the delegates, bishops and church leaders as they prepare to serve during General Conference," Bishop Gary Mueller said. "I know the United Methodists of Arkansas as a people of prayer, and am confident that your words of encouragement and support will have a positive effect on your elected leaders."

United Methodists of Arkansas can **sign up for a time** they will commit to pray on April 5. Sunday school classes, United Methodist Women circles, United Methodist Men groups, youth groups, Bible studies, Emmaus groups, prayer teams and entire congregations are

asked to join in praying for our delegation to General Conference and for the work of holy conferencing that will take place.

## Prayer resources

Online resources are available at [www.arumc.org/GC2016](http://www.arumc.org/GC2016) to assist individuals, groups and churches praying the vigil:

- Sign-up form to ensure our entire 24-hour time frame is covered (as our 30-minute slots fill, more than one person or group may choose a time; the General Conference welcomes having abundant prayer!)
- One-Hour Prayer Experience (can be adapted to 30 minutes)
- The United Methodist Women's Prayer for General Conference
- A guide to praying for all the different entities that make up our connectional church.

Additional resources provided by the denomination also will be linked from our site, including:

- The 60 Days of Prayer resource



(daily email or text) from The Upper Room

(<http://60daysofprayer.org>); also available as a download or in print. Visit this website for additional resources for individuals, church groups and congregations.

- Sunday school classes, prayer teams, youth groups and other groups are invited to make a

2016 General Conference prayer strand. Bead kits are available to order in sets of 20 or 40 per pack from <https://goo.gl/McB60Q>. (Visit [www.prayerworksstudio.com](http://www.prayerworksstudio.com) for instructions on how to make a prayer strand; or watch a video tutorial at <https://goo.gl/8z8pks>.)

- Visit <http://GC2016.umc.org> to

learn more about General Conference, praying as you read about the important work in which the 864 delegates will be engaged.

- From May 10-20, follow General Conference through the live feed at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) or following #umcgc on social media, and praying for the proceedings as they happen.

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## Want to learn more about General Conference? Use these tools

Here are some ways to connect with General Conference 2016, both before and during the May 10-20 meeting:

### General Conference app:

Available for Android and Apple iOS, the General Conference 2016 Mobile App currently features stories, news releases, photos, information about legislative committees, access to the online edition of the Advance edition of the Daily Christian Advocate (DCA), maps and videos. When General Conference convenes, the app also will include regular updates to the DCA, as well as schedule and petition tracking.

### Free online course:

United Methodist Communications has developed a free five-module course to help United Methodists gain a better understanding of the history of General Conference; how delegates are elected and what they do; how petitions and the general church budget are acted upon; various social issues facing the UMC and the denomination's stance on them; and a review of the 2012 General Conference paired with a look at what's ahead in the 2016 gathering. To learn more or register, visit [www.umcom.org/learn/exploring-general-conference](http://www.umcom.org/learn/exploring-general-conference).

### Videos from the Pre-General Conference Briefing:

Choose from a collection of 19 videos documenting the Pre-General Conference Briefing held Jan. 20-22 in Portland. The videos include discussions relating to the denomination's budget, proposed legislative and structural changes, a panel conversation on human sexuality, a presentation on ethnic initiatives, a plan for a new United Methodist Hymnal and more. Visit [www.umc.org/who-we-are/pre-general-conference-video-archives](http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/pre-general-conference-video-archives).

### Website:

Not sure which of the above resources will work best for you? Visit <http://GC2016.umc.org> for a variety of news and feature stories relating to General Conference, plus links to tools for learning more.



# UMFA announces three grants to develop clergy and lay leadership

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) recently awarded a \$9,000 grant to send a group of clergy to the Academy of Faith and Money in April; a \$15,000 grant to send worship teams to FUSION: The Future of Worship in the United Methodist Church, held Feb. 4-6; and a \$15,000 grant to help Arkansas clergywomen attend the United Methodist Clergywomen Global Gathering in Houston in August. UMFA made each of these grants as a part of its commitment to strengthening leadership.

“UMFA continues to be committed to developing faithful and fruitful clergy leaders for the Arkansas Conference by supporting life-long learning for pastors in local churches,” said the Rev. Dede Roberts, director of the Center for Vitality of the Arkansas Conference. “The Center for Vitality is grateful for the generosity and innovative spirit of the foundation.”

## Faith and money

The grant for the Academy of Faith and Money will allow eight pastors in their first 10 years of ministry to receive expert training in raising and shepherding funds for mission and ministry. These skills are not often addressed in seminary training, but are increasingly important as pastors lead their congregations into the mission field and make new disciples who must be taught the spiritual practices of generosity and tithing, according to Roberts.

The pastors who attend the Academy will be expected to work with the laity of their churches to develop a financial plan for their congregation and will be eligible to receive coaching through the Center for Vitality as they implement their plan.

“We are pleased to help sharpen leadership skills among those who attend both these conferences, and we expect their newly acquired knowledge to be shared with their own congregations and beyond,”

said Jim Argue Jr., UMFA president and CEO.

## Worship innovation

The FUSION grant allowed worship teams from some of Arkansas’ larger congregations to attend the first ever United Methodist conversation on contemporary worship. FUSION, an experiment by United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, brought together scholars and practitioners to encourage United Methodists in new forms and practices of worship in the 21st century.

The Rev. Dane Womack, associate pastor of First UMC Fort Smith, was among the Arkansas attendees of FUSION. He found value in the networking opportunities, especially for lay members of teams like his own church’s contemporary worship leader, Trevor Hardcastle.

“Pastors have opportunities for sharing at Conference and district gatherings, but program staff rarely engage in the same manner,” Womack said. “Trevor is a long-time worship leader but fairly new to Methodism and our church. He greatly enjoyed meeting and sharing ideas with other worship leaders.... They were able to discuss songs and music at a technical level that Trevor and I do not share.”

Womack appreciated ideas for designing worship space shared by Kim Miller, who leads the worship design staff at Tipp City, Ohio-based Ginghamburg UMC, and has already begun to use some of the concepts she shared.

“Our contemporary worship service meets in our converted gym and multi-use room. We must be creative in making our space worshipful,” he said. “Kim’s presentations were very helpful in thinking through how to design simple, cost-effective worship sets that coordinate with sermon series to better call worshippers to a faithful and engaging worshipping experience. After Kim’s workshops, I am looking through our worship

schedule and sermons series for the upcoming year and planning for how design our space accordingly.”

Presentations at FUSION sought to go deeper than simply a discussion of worship style, and included the perspectives of a both a worship practitioner and a theologian.

“I believe I speak for many pastors when I say that much of contemporary worship design including the commercialization of worship is troubling and lacking in any significant theological reflection,” Womack said. “The FUSION Conference leaders intentionally avoided this temptation.”

## Clergywomen gathering

“Attending the global gathering is a once-in-lifetime opportunity to fellowship with our sisters in ministry around the world, learn from each other about making disciples of Jesus Christ in mission fields both close and far away, and support each other in the challenges women face in Christian ministry around the world,” said Roberts, the Center for Vitality director.

The grant to fund attendance of the United Methodist Clergywomen Global Gathering, administered by the Center for Vitality, will offset attendance costs for women pastors serving the Arkansas Conference, and will cover the full cost for a number of certified candidates for ministry who are currently attending seminary.

Clergywomen who gathered at Hendrix College Feb. 18 formed a task force to determine specifics of how the funds will be distributed.

“We expect the grant to be able to help send at least 24 women—16 clergywomen and eight students,” said task force member the Rev. Lynn Kilbourne. “More than 16 clergywomen have already expressed interest in attending, so we will look at how we can best distribute the funds to help the most people attend.”

The gathering will serve as the

## Polk/Galloway (continued from page 1)

since 2013. A native of Magnolia, he graduated from Hendrix College in 1979. He earned his Master of Divinity degree at Asbury Theological Seminary in 1985, and was ordained an elder in the Little Rock Conference in 1987. In addition to his tenure at First UMC Arkadelphia, he has served at First UMC El Dorado, First UMC Nashville, Primrose UMC, Dermott UMC and as associate pastor at First UMC Camden.

Polk has been a member of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) since 2007. While serving as CFA president from 2013 to 2015, he was instrumental in the development and launch of the Arkansas Tithe Initiative. He also has chaired the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and represented CFA on the Conference Vision Team.

“While I will deeply miss my role as pastor in a local church, I am trusting that God has prepared me for this moment,” Polk said. “I am honored by Bishop Mueller to have been asked to serve the Arkansas Conference in this way. I believe in the direction and focus of the Conference and look forward to working closely with our bishop in support of his ministry plan.”

Polk and his wife Patty have three children, one working in Madison, Wis., and the other two currently attending the University of Central Arkansas.

He will succeed the Rev. Mackey Yokem, who is retiring at the 2016 Annual Conference.

“Since my arrival in Arkansas, Mackey has provided invaluable assistance, insight and counsel,” said Mueller. “He has served so many so well over the years as a pastor, district superintendent and Conference staff. I know I join many others in wishing him well in his retirement.”

Galloway, 54, the new district superintendent, currently serves as senior pastor of Mount Ida and Joplin UMCs.

Born in Hope and raised in Scott County, she attended the University of Arkansas and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985. She earned her Master of Divinity degree in 2006 from Phillips Theological Seminary and was ordained an elder in the Arkansas Conference in 2009. She has served on a number of Conference boards and committees, including Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and Nominations, and currently serves on the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry and the Southwest District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

Before arriving at her current appointment, she served as pastor of Mountainside UMC Hot Springs Village; her previous appointments include White Hall UMC, Mansfield UMC and First UMC Fort Smith.

“I look forward to this exciting, humbling and challenging journey,” she said. “Much good work has already been done in the Northeast District, and much good work is to come as we join our hands, hearts and souls to keep working alongside God in transforming lives, communities and the world.”

Galloway succeeds the Rev. Susan Ledbetter, who is taking a leave of absence.

“Susan’s leadership throughout the Imagine Ministry process and as a member of the cabinet has been invaluable,” Mueller said. “Through her dedication to and love for the United Methodists of Arkansas, she has contributed so much to the mission of the Conference. Her presence will be missed.”

The Northeast District includes United Methodist congregations and ministries in 18 counties: Baxter, Clay, Cleburne, Craighead, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Icard, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White and Woodruff.

culmination of regional gatherings of United Methodist clergywomen that have taken place throughout the connection. Meeting in conjunction with the World Methodist Conference will strengthen the Methodist identity and understanding of the clergywomen, as well as provide them with additional leadership-building education and networking.

“We are delighted to have this opportunity to invest in our women pastors,” said Argue, UMFA president and CEO. “After the event, we’ll receive an assessment of the benefits this group of pastors received from attending the Global Gathering. This grant aligns nicely with the foundation’s strategic priority of developing leadership for the church in Arkansas.”

## COMING UP

### Methodist Federation for Social Action to meet March 5

The Arkansas Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action will meet Saturday, March 5, at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church Conway, 1610 Prince Street. Anyone interested in social justice is invited to attend.

The Bethlehem House in Conway, a residence for persons without homes, will be explained; attendees are invited to bring towels, washcloths and toiletries to donate to the house.

Some of the Arkansas Conference's delegates to General Conference will be guests at the meeting. The Rev. Bill Robinson and Carol Roddy, co-chairs, will preside.

### 'A Day with the Bishop' for grades 5-7 is March 12; register by March 9

A Day with the Bishop is a great opportunity for 5th- through 7th-graders to meet and spend time with our own Bishop Gary Mueller and to dive deeper into faith formation questions. This year we will ask ourselves, "Who Am I?" Our breakouts will include activities and discussions exploring the questions Who are you right now? Who are you as a part of the Body of Christ? and Who are you because of God's love? The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. James UMC, 321 Pleasant Valley in Little Rock.

Please join this exciting day of faith formation, fellowship and fun. Registration is available online at [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org). Questions? Contact Michelle Moore, [michelle.moore@arumc.org](mailto:michelle.moore@arumc.org) or 501-324-8048.

### Lay Servant Ministries courses March 11-12

Mabelvale UMC, 10500 Woodman Street in Mabelvale, on March 11-12 will host Lay Servant Ministries training. The courses are open to all laity and clergy. Participants may choose the Basic Lay Servant Course or one of three advanced courses. The required reading for each course is listed on the registration form, available at <http://goo.gl/cS1MNw>. You may mail a check with this registration form to the Central District Office, 2 Country Club Circle, Box 1, Maumelle, AR 72113. On-site registrations are also accepted, but books will not be available; it is each participant's responsibility to obtain the proper book(s) in advance.

Courses will begin Friday at 6:30 p.m. and continue to 9:30 p.m., then resume on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 2016 Denman Evangelism Award nominations due by March 14

The nomination deadline is March 14 for the Arkansas Conference Harry Denman Evangelism Awards. Nominated by individuals, churches or districts, and selected by the Annual Conference, recipients of these awards are recognized for living their call to offer Christ daily as modeled by Dr. Harry Denman, founder of The Foundation for Evangelism, which sponsors these awards. One clergy person, one layperson and one youth are selected each year to receive this honor.

Visit <http://ac2016.arumc.org/denman-award-forms> to learn more about the awards or to download nomination forms.

### Caring for Creation Conference April 8-9; discount until March 15

"Sowing Seeds: Where Food and Faith Meet" is the theme of this year's Caring for Creation

Conference, set for Friday-Saturday, April 8-9 at First United Methodist Church Decatur (Ga.). The focus will be on food and food systems. Keynote speakers include Norman Wirzba of Duke Divinity School, Jennifer Ayres of Emory University's Candler School of Theology and Alice Rolls of Georgia Organics. Register by March 15 to

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### Church admins: PAUMCS 'spring training' event March 17

All church administrative assistants are invited to attend the spring training event sponsored by the Arkansas Chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS). "A Peacock in the Land of Penguins," facilitated by Lee Ann Branch, is a high-energy, fast paced seminar that includes training on diversity, conflict management and teambuilding—all necessary skills in the work of church professionals.

The event is set for Thursday, March 17, 2016. Sign-in begins at 9 a.m. in the Kendall Center of Philander Smith College in Little Rock. The meeting runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The registration fee is \$5, to defray the cost of lunch. To register, contact Cindy Parker, administrator for the Southwest District, at 870-230-1118 or [cparker@arumc.org](mailto:cparker@arumc.org). The registration deadline is March 10.

### Hendrix Youth Institute is June 26-July 11; apply by March 31

The Hendrix Youth Institute (HYI) will help rising high school juniors and seniors discern their call for ministry and specifically introduce participants to ordained and professional ministry. The program uses a holistic approach to enable youth to understand God's call.

The first week of HYI will be spent on campus at Hendrix College. Students will take two morning classes relating to the Institute's yearly theme, either "Bible" and "Wesleyan History and Beliefs" or "Worship" and "Spiritual Formation," and spend afternoons engaged in service work or shadowing church professionals. The week will include worship, small group Bible study, spiritual gift/discernment exercises and time for fun and fellowship. Participants will also be part of an Orientation to Ministry event sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. The two-and-a-half-week program culminates in a mission trip to Guatemala in which participants will work together, building relationships with those they serve and learning from one another.

HYI participants also will attend three follow-up events, including virtual events in the fall and spring and a one-day winter retreat in Little Rock that includes a service project and time of reflection. For an application and additional details, visit [www.hendrix.edu/religiouslife](http://www.hendrix.edu/religiouslife) and click on Hendrix Youth Institute.

### Spanish class at St. Andrew UMC Little Rock April 6-May 4

Interested in learning how to speak Spanish? St. Andrew UMC, 4600 Baseline Road in Little Rock, is offering a five-week course on Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m., beginning April 6, 2016. The cost is \$25, which includes the curriculum, "Who is my Neighbor? Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality." Contact the Rev. Jenni Duncan, [jenni.duncan@arumc.org](mailto:jenni.duncan@arumc.org) or 501-551-2114 (call or text) to ask questions or to register. Registration must be received by March 15.

### Congregational care seminar at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. April 7-9

The Church of the Resurrection's Congregational Care Team invites you to join them April 7-9, 2016 for comprehensive training and networking with other local church leaders regarding congregational care best practices and standards. The seminar is designed to train volunteers to become partners in ministry with pastors and staff to provide care for a congregation.

Church of the Resurrection developed a program transforming the way care is provided for the congregation, equipping volunteers to be Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs) and deploying them to work alongside pastors and staff to minister to and holistically care for the congregation. This partnership between lay and clergy has brought about a more consistent and deeper level of care to the church family, deliberately connecting the church with people during difficult times.

Topics covered in the training include: Prayer, Theology of Care, Boundaries, Listening,

Visitation, Death and Grief and Organization. Early bird registration is available through March 16. Visit [www.cor.org/ccm-seminar](http://www.cor.org/ccm-seminar) or contact Kathy Carter: [kathy.carter@cor.org](mailto:kathy.carter@cor.org) or 913-544-0272.

### New retreat at Tanako for high school seniors, April 15-16

The new Senior Retreat from Arkansas Conference Camping Ministries provides an opportunity for graduating high school seniors to spend time learning what to expect on their post-high school journey, and how to navigate new challenges and situations. Topics will include sessions about college life, relationships, finances, and faith after high school. Camp Tanako will host this overnight retreat April 15-16. To register, visit [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org).

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[See COMING UP, page 11]

## OBITUARIES

### LITTLE ROCK

#### Carolyn Jones

Carolyn Jones, 98, of Little Rock, passed away Feb. 12, 2016. She was a member of St. James United Methodist Church Little Rock and the Agape Sunday School Class.

She was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Norwood Jones, who served as a full-time local pastor in the Little Rock Conference; daughters, Fernan Legner and Barbara Denton; a son, Charles Jones, and granddaughter, Christina Legner. She is survived by her adopted daughter, Nancy Rampey Biniamow; a son, Norwood Jones (Karol); a son-in-law, Michael Legner; seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Services were held Saturday, Feb. 20 at St. James UMC Little Rock. Burial followed on Monday, Feb. 22 at Roselawn Memorial Park.

### ROGERS

#### James Steven Wanasek

Steve Wanasek, 75, passed away Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016, at the Earlene Howard Hospice Home in Springdale.

He was born March 26, 1940, in Hutchinson, Kan., to Lora Isobel Stevens and James Key McGonigle. He was a retired pilot, having owned Wanasek Aerial Spraying in Caldwell, Kan., as well as flying corporately and charter.

He was predeceased by his parents and his stepfather, Carl Wanasek.

Survivors include his wife, the Rev. Sandra

Wanasek, a deacon in the Arkansas Conference appointed to First United Methodist Church Rogers; a son, Scott (Jill Brown) Wanasek of Rogers; a daughter, Aimee (Destry) Forcum of Kingman, Kan.; a daughter, Amy (Richard) Fourt of Rogers; and a son, Daniel (Ashley Stephens) Lawson of Warrensburg, Mo.; grandchildren Natalee and Alec Wanasek, Gunner and Gabriella Forcum, Drew Rogers, Madeline Fourt, Emma Lawson, Valarie and Brandon Fenton and Sarah Fourt; a sister, Carla (A.J.) Feldman of Topeka, Kan.; and a niece, Rachel (Seth) Katz of Kansas City.

He requested that there be no memorial service. Visitation was held Saturday, Feb. 13, at First UMC Rogers.

Memorial gifts may be made to Circle of Life Hospice ([www.nwacircleoflife.com](http://www.nwacircleoflife.com)).

### LAKELAND, Fla.

#### Kathleen Dewlen

Kathleen Dewlen, 99, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016.

She was born Sept. 14, 1916. In 1936, she married Gerald Dewlen, who became a full-time local pastor in Arkansas. He served in the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences from 1975 through 1982, including appointments to the Mountain View Circuit near Mena, the Pangburn Parish and Hazel Edwards Memorial UMC. They were married until the Rev. Dewlen's death in 2011.

Visitation and a memorial service were held Friday, Feb. 12, at Southside Assembly of God in Lakeland.

# UMC Scouting ministry workshop seeking Arkansas participants

## Course at Summit covers programs, outreach

Scout leaders are invited to attend "Scouting in the United Methodist Church," a six-day workshop scheduled for June 19-24 at The Summit Bechtel Reserve facilities (BSA permanent Jamboree site).

This Scouting ministry course will include information about new programs offered through Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters and other civic youth organizations.

The workshop is ideal for local church, district and conference Scouting coordinators, Scout leaders, clergy and youth leaders. The focus is on the role of Scouting ministry specialists and how the outreach ministry of Scouting can increase church membership. Topics such as award programs, youth protection and membership growth will be covered.

This is the first time the six-day United Methodist Church Scouters Training Course will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. In the past, this extremely popular United Methodist Workshop training/workshop course has rotated around at the other BSA National High Adventure Bases. The Summit features training facilities, camping and related activities including white-water rafting, zip-lining, an opportunity to tackle mountain bike trails and a chance to challenge yourself on a rock wall.

Bill Byrd, Scouting ministries coordinator for the South Central Jurisdiction, will serve as course director and Susan Lawyer, Scouting ministry specialist, will be the assistant director. To learn more, visit [www.summitbsa.org](http://www.summitbsa.org), or contact Byrd with questions: 501-680-3409 or [billbyrd1@yahoo.com](mailto:billbyrd1@yahoo.com).

## Coming Up (continued from page 10)

### 'Narrative Preaching' training in White Hall April 16

A team of Arkansas clergy affiliated with the Perkins School of Theology Center for Preaching Excellence are hosting a Narrative Preaching training for local pastors and lay servants. This event, held at White Hall United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will equip local pastors and lay servants/speakers with new tools to more effectively share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Open to all Arkansas local pastors and lay servants, the Southeast District-sponsored workshop will center on storytelling, preaching and overall communication.

The leaders of this event have gone through a two-year educational process on Narrative Preaching and Storytelling. The time together will include three breakout sessions in which participants can both learn and apply new skills in a small group setting.

Registration for the event is \$10, payable at the door. Pre-registration is required before April 11; to register, visit <http://sedist.arumc.org/2016/02/narrative-preacher-training-april-16th>. To learn more about the Center for Preaching Excellence, visit [www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms](http://www.smu.edu/Perkins/PublicPrograms).

### U of A Wesley to hold building consecration April 24

U of A Wesley, a United Methodist college ministry at the University of Arkansas, will celebrate the opening of its new 8,000-square-foot ministry facility with a

consecration service at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 24. With the opening of their new building, the Wesley ministry launches a new chapter in its more than 90 years of faithful ministry to students and staff at the University of Arkansas.

All are invited to the service, which will be held in the new facility at 520 Lindell Avenue in Fayetteville. The day will include a reception and open house for touring the facility and will celebrate the ministry's unique nature as a partnership of Central UMC Fayetteville and the Arkansas Conference. Alumni and friends are encouraged to join Bishop Gary Mueller and the Rev. Dr. John Robbins, senior pastor of Central UMC Fayetteville, as well as Wesley students and staff in marking this milestone in the ministry's work at the University of Arkansas.

For additional information, visit [www.uawesley.com](http://www.uawesley.com) or contact the Wesley office at 479-442-1820 or [wesleyoffice@centraltolife.com](mailto:wesleyoffice@centraltolife.com).

### Free retreat for pastors and spouses: openings in April, May sessions

Through the generosity of anonymous donors, Arkansas-based Soderquist Leadership offers free RENEW retreats for pastors and spouses from churches in the South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. Two upcoming dates have space for additional couples: April 4-7 at Sage Hill Inn Above Onion Creek in Kyle, Texas, and May 2-5 at Greystone Estate in Rogers, Ark.

To inquire about making a reservation to attend either retreat, contact Sue Axmark at 479-238-8755 or [saxmark@soderquist.org](mailto:saxmark@soderquist.org). Retreats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## CAMPING MINISTRIES UPDATES

### Kitchen renovation, other improvements prepare Shoal Creek Camp for summer use

Shoal Creek Camp volunteers are experiencing a surge of excitement as they prepare for the summer camping season.

“With the help of the Annual Conference staff, we were able to update our Facebook page and obtain a beautiful, huge new sign,” says the Rev. Judy Hall, who volunteers as program director. “And the trustees have been working on a new website where those who want to know more about camp can find group use policies, rates and contracts.”

Hall also highlighted recent volunteer fundraising and labor that made possible the renovation of the kitchen and restroom in Kelley Hall, and a volunteer inventory of supplies that resulted in donation of new kitchen equipment.

“Donors came forward and most of the work has now been completed using some of the memorial funds from one of the builders of Kelley Hall, and camp supporter Garland Cravens’ memorial donations,” she said.

Over \$1,000 in sports and art equipment has been purchased for campers to use. A Ga-ga pit (for a form of dodge ball) is being built, as well. Four United Methodist camps have been scheduled for summer 2016, and churches, campus ministries and a group wanting a place to train EMS workers are contacting Shoal Creek to reserve dates. Others are booking Shoal Creek for family reunions, church retreats, crafting groups and anniversary celebrations. Many dates are still available in the summer, as well as in spring and fall.

The facility still needs an air conditioner for the kitchen; sealant to keep the new kitchen floor shiny and easy to maintain; and swimming pool cleaning equipment. Other needs include scholarship funding so any non-profit group that serves the underprivileged can afford to use Shoal Creek Camp, and for summer campers that need assistance.

Like Shoal Creek Camp on Facebook or visit [www.shoalcreekcamp.com](http://www.shoalcreekcamp.com) for the latest information, including camp schedules soon to be announced. Gifts to Shoal Creek Camp may be sent to 571 Methodist Youth Camp Road, New Blaine, AR 72851; or contact Hall with questions at 479-438-1429.

### Wayland Spring Camp welcomes new director, sets open house for April 9

The Wayland Spring Camp Board of Directors announced in February that Carter Kaiser has accepted the position of camp director. He began his work already familiar with the camp, as his father, the Rev. Joe Kaiser, is a former director.

The Wayland Spring Camp board of directors invites all United Methodists of Arkansas to an open house on Saturday, April 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spend some time enjoying the spring scenery and take pleasure in inspecting the grounds, pavilion, cabins, gazebo, basketball court and new hiking trails. See if the spring is still cold, or just visit with some old friends.

Board members will cook ribs with all the fixings for lunch during the event. Plates will be \$10 and slabs of ribs for taking home will be \$20. The open house also includes a silent auction; to donate items, contact Linda Holt, 870-219-7273 or [holtlinda3@suddenlink.net](mailto:holtlinda3@suddenlink.net).

To ensure the camp has an adequate supply of food, send a head count for lunch and pre-order your take-home slabs of ribs by emailing Carter Kaiser at [waylandcampdirector@gmail.com](mailto:waylandcampdirector@gmail.com), or calling board chair Jimmy Green at 501-412-5821, by Monday, April 4.

The board encourages church groups, organizations and families to use this incredible natural resource for extended experiences in spiritual growth and discipleship. Use Wayland Spring Camp for a church-wide retreat for the week or weekend; a Sunday school class for the day; a United Methodist Women function; Lay Servant seminar; a youth group camp for the weekend; a family reunion; or your own idea—the opportunities are endless. Wayland Spring seeks to be a resource to the local church for all ages and persons.



Shoal Creek Camp



Wayland Spring Camp



## Faith Funds

### *Spirit of Collaboration*

UMFA Board and Grants Administration Committee member Dr. Sandy Smith of Russellville believes the spirit of collaboration between the Foundation and the Arkansas Conference is building community and strengthening the connection for United Methodists in Arkansas.

Dr. Smith feels the Foundation has gained clarity about where it makes grants. Strategic grants make a difference for the Conference as a whole — like the support of the Wesley Center in Fayetteville that serves students from throughout the state and annual grants that allow clergy and lay people from local churches to attend the Leadership Institute at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

“The Foundation is instilling a renewed spirit of giving for Arkansas Methodists,” she said. “People in local churches are excited that their gifts, along with the generosity of others, may be the reason their new pastor was able to graduate from a United Methodist seminary debt free.”

Her husband, Rev. Roy Smith, is senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Russellville, and they have been active at churches throughout Arkansas. She moved from her native North Carolina to Arkansas in 1981 after meeting Roy at Duke University. Sandy utilizes her doctorate in Nursing as Department Head of Emergency Management at Arkansas Tech University. They have two adult children.



### The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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