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Annual Conference 2016 emphasizes revival, discipleship

Clergywomen join in singing the opening hymn at the June 21 Service for the Ordering of Ministry, held in Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs.

AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

BY AMY FORBUS AND ERIC VAN METER
Editor and Special Contributor

HOT SPRINGS—"From Revival Flows Discipleship" may have been the official theme of the 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference, but following Bishop Gary E. Mueller's Monday morning episcopal address, the gathering gained a refrain: "Yay, God!"

The phrase found its way into reports, speeches, video updates and social media hashtags during the June 19-22 meeting, held at Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs.

Mueller's episcopal address celebrated the work that God has done and urged churches to

continue seeking spiritual revival. He outlined some things the Holy Spirit has made clear about spiritual revival during the past year.

"Spiritual revival is not a moment; it's a movement," he said. He encouraged those gathered to go back to their congregations and continue seeking revival, because it is "not another damn conference program. Amen? It's a gift of grace. There is so much I could say at this point, but I'm only gonna say one thing: Yay, God!"

He then offered three important decisions United Methodists need to make as they move forward: Are we ready to decide that joyful discipleship flows from spiritual revival? Are we ready to decide that making disciples of Jesus

Christ who make disciples flows from spiritual revival? Are we ready to decide that the discipleship Jesus calls us to flows from spiritual revival?

Mueller also addressed the events of General Conference 2016 that resulted in the delegates asking the Council of Bishops for leadership in the ongoing discussion on human sexuality.

"We responded by proposing a commission to discern a way forward. And the General Conference voted to follow it. Barely—but they voted," he said. "And this is an issue the church needs to address because there are people of good conscience and deep faith with differing opinions

[See AC2016, page 8]

Hope Korean UMC moves to Little Rock, consecrates building

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

LITTLE ROCK—On the afternoon of June 5, voices rose together, singing praises to Jesus in Korean from the top floor of a former insurance company building near the south bank of the Arkansas River. Worshippers of all ages swayed in their seats as they joined the song leader to prepare for the consecration of Hope Korean United Methodist Church's new home at 915 North Street.

The singing included praise songs as well as traditional hymn

tunes, all with Korean lyrics. Worship was conducted in Korean and English under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Isaac Choh; Central District superintendent the Rev. Richard Lancaster was among the guests who spoke in English, offering a prayer thanking God for "a new place, an oasis to bring new life in the wilderness, that this place might be a springboard for renewal and revival."

Formerly based in Jacksonville, the congregation made the move to Little Rock in response to the shifting Korean population in

[See CONSECRATION, page 7]



The Rev. Isaac Choh, left, Bishop Gary Mueller and the Rev. Maxine Allen, Arkansas Conference assistant director of connectional ministry for mission field engagement, guide Hope Korean UMC Little Rock through the consecration liturgy for the church's new building.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE M. CAIN

When a walking stick is more than just a walking stick

BY BECKY NEIGHBORS
Special Contributor

Some women are drawn to diamonds. I am not one of them. Evidently, I am drawn to walking sticks.

It started last October on my early morning walk, when three unfriendly dogs were running loose in my neighborhood. To this day, I am grateful for the rabbit that ran in front of me and distracted them until I could get in my house, as I had nothing to protect myself.



Becky Neighbors

It was not long after that I purchased my first walking stick. We found it at a car show in Wilburton, Oklahoma. It was a beauty—handmade with carvings on the handle. I have carried that walking stick with me on my morning walks since then.

Recently, Jimmie and I went on a trip to the Smoky Mountains to celebrate our 25th anniversary. I took my trusty walking stick with me, and together we hiked some beautiful mountains. It came in handy when Jimmie's knee started to act up, and for some reason I thought if the bear came down out of the tree over our trail, at least I could whack it with my stick.

It was on this trip that I realized I might have a thing for walking sticks. I bought three more over the course of our trip. Each time we went in a store, I would see the offering of walking sticks and would have to drag myself away. The three I bought were each unique in their own way. To me they were things of beauty.

This morning as I walked with my Heavenly Father, I pondered my walking stick. What was it that made me feel comforted as I carried it? It occurred to me there were several things:

- Normally, when I am carrying my walking stick, it is on my morning walks and it is on my morning walks that I start my day with God. So as I carry that stick it represents time with Him. It is how I prepare for the craziness of my day.
- Sometimes, I feel as if I am a warrior carrying my spear into battle. I know I will encounter life (or

stray dogs) as the day goes on and with a “warrior” attitude I am ready to face whatever comes my way.

- My walking stick represents a renewed sense of health. During my “dark days” it was all I could do to make myself walk. Yet, I feel that my walks with God sometimes were the only way I knew to fight the darkness. Now, I walk to keep the darkness at bay.
- My evening walks with my husband and my walking stick are also a renewed sense of health for both of us. We want to be around to watch our grandchildren grow up and we have big retirement dreams of visiting all the baseball parks in the U.S. while doing volunteer work along the way someday... so we walk.
- I have a great newspaper guy. He flies through our neighborhood before the sun comes up. He always stops, hands me my paper and tells me good morning. The other morning the crazy little rabbits would not stay out of the street, so I used my trusty walking stick to herd them back up in the neighbor's yard so the paper guy wouldn't squish one. I would no more get one of them back up in the yard before I would turn around and another would be playing in the street. If anyone had seen me

herding those four bunnies, I am sure they would have thought I was crazy. It made me think about what God must feel. He shepherds us one way and tries to protect us but we make poor decisions, just like those silly bunnies. I am grateful to say that all the bunnies made it that day.

This time last year if you had told me I would get up at

5:30 a.m. to walk, I would have thought you were crazy. Now, as I place my cup of coffee and my water bottle in the mailbox and I take up my walking stick, I immediately feel the peace of God. It is strange how something so simple can mean so much.

Neighbors, a member of Midland Heights UMC Fort Smith, serves as administrator for the Northwest District of the Arkansas Conference. She also is a district ambassador for the 200,000 Reasons hunger initiative (see page 4).

'...as I walked with my Heavenly Father, I pondered my walking stick. What was it that made me feel comforted as I carried it?'

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EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

Which 'we'?

I don't think I'm alone in sometimes using the word “we” in place of “I.” Perhaps I do so because it's easier for me to absorb change or criticism when I can convince myself I'm not the only one involved.

But in addition to talking about myself with “we,” I can think of plenty of times when my “we” actually means “you.” At work, for example:

“When we do this again next year, can we make sure we have bandwidth dedicated to this particular team of people?” (Though I may be part of the Arkansas Conference's Center for Technology team, I'm the last person you should look to for a robust wireless network. That request is definitely a “you” or “y'all” thinly disguised as “we.”)

And at church:

“We need to make sure we're following the procedures we set up.” (Yeah, what that means is that I have very little idea of how something works, but I sure hope someone else does.)

And of course, at home:

Asking “Should we feed the dogs their supper now?” from the living room while my husband is in the kitchen comes across as, “You're close to the food bin; feed the dogs, will you?” When I'm occupied with another task, it's best to avoid choosing words that imply I'm planning to help him.

What, then, is a better use of “we”?

John and I tend to take a team approach to a number of tasks. In addition to being efficient, it tends to make life more fun.

If we (there's that word!) work together to cook a dish for a potluck or dinner party, and someone asks, “Did you make this?” it's a pleasure to be able to answer that we did it as a team. In fact, “We make a great team” has been one of my favorite things to say and hear over the 20 years we've been married.

With a true cooperative effort, “we” makes all the difference in the world. When you stick with another person or team until something comes to fruition—whether that's a home-cooked meal, a ministry effort, a piece of music or an inning-ending double play. When you realize that whatever it is you're doing, you couldn't have done it without another person—or without leaning on Christ.

A similar thing happens each June behind the scenes of Annual Conference. Working among the vast “we” of the volunteers, staff, production and planning teams makes it obvious to me that some things—probably most things—simply are not meant to be done alone.

I'm thankful for the ministry of “we” the United Methodists of Arkansas, and for the knowledge that through us, the ultimate “we” of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit works within it all, too.

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



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Issue Date	Submission Deadline
Aug. 5	July 18
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Oct. 7	Sept. 19



GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

BY GARY E. MUELLER

Joyful disciples

I've been thinking about all the pain, brokenness and heartbreak that occur every hour of every day in the world. Things like a terminal illness that affects someone you love, the recent attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando or the 200,000 children in Arkansas who will go to bed hungry tonight. Much of it is so contrary to God's will that I am feeling more compelled to call it what it really is: sin.

As if all of this weren't enough, I often see almost as much bad news in the church. I'm not just talking about the decline we discuss in so many different ways. I'm talking about our own unwillingness to go all in, a lack of passion, a tendency to spend most of our time and energy on things that don't matter all that much while failing to focus on the fact that Jesus Christ is the vine and we are his branches in the world. It's so sad and, sometimes, I wonder whether it may actually be sinful.

The good news, however, is the Good News of the One who brings saving, healing, forgiving, transforming and freeing grace into the midst of the muck and messiness of the world, the church and our own lives. The One who promises that one day God's will is going to be as real on earth as it already is in heaven. The One who loves unconditionally, transformationally and invitationally.

While I thank God for this Good News, I've also got to admit that I often get so caught up in the bad news that I act as if it is more powerful than the Good News. And that haunts me deeply. The result is that I have reached an unexpected conclusion: One of the most important tasks for those of us who are Jesus' disciples is to let joyful discipleship flow from spiritual revival.

But this joy doesn't just happen. It's a choice that arises out of our desire to be so fully embraced by God's love that we see ourselves, our lives and our discipleship in a brand new way.

So I hope—and am praying—that you will join me in boldly affirming, “I'm no longer going to let anything rob me of my joy. Not what's going on in the world. Not what's going on in the United Methodist Church. And not what's going on in my own life.”

Sure, real life will happen, tragedies will occur and we will mess up. But I believe God's love in Jesus that we experience through the power of the Holy Spirit is so powerful it gives us the joy that flows directly from God's heart to ours.

And something is going to happen when we make it about the joy. You will change. I will change. The church will change. And all of this will be so compelling that others will want what God so graciously has shared with us.

Yay, God!

Gary E. Mueller

Our Trajectory

Creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples

equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.



BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

PRACTICAL DIVINITY

Moving from revival to discipleship

Spiritual revival is never an end in itself. It is, however, essential for deep discipleship becoming a reality.

Bishop Gary Mueller spoke those words as a part of his Episcopal Address at our recent Annual Conference session in Hot Springs. It was one of the main points that he shared as a part of his reflection on the relationship between revival and discipleship.

Understanding that relationship is critical for us if we want the fruits that come from spiritual revival to prove lasting in their effects.

Focusing on spiritual revival as an end in itself would be a big mistake for us. The word “revival” itself means new life. To be spiritually revived means to be given new life by the Holy Spirit. And when the Spirit gives life, it is always for some good purpose.

The good purpose for which the Spirit gives life is, of course, the purpose of following Jesus! It is discipleship. So when we find ourselves given the gift of spiritual renewal, we should always be asking how that renewal can lead us to grow in our discipleship to Christ.

One other aspect of the bishop's message shouldn't be lost on us: his strong conviction that revival is the fuel that brings discipleship to fruition. Trying to live the life of discipleship without the renewing presence of the Holy Spirit would be like trying to bake a loaf of bread with no yeast in the dough. The grace that the Spirit gives us serves as the ongoing power for the Christian life in every respect.

Revival and discipleship in the Gospel of John

The Gospel of John gives us a wonderful image to help us understand the spiritual rhythm of revival leading to discipleship. When the resurrected Jesus appears to disciples in the locked room on Easter day, he says, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Immediately thereafter, Jesus breathes on them and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

This scene in the Gospel of John is a perfect image for this year's Annual Conference theme: “From Revival Flows Discipleship.” Jesus

gives revival to the disciples by breathing out the Holy Spirit upon them. He restores them from the fear and failure that they experienced prior to Easter morning. By giving them the Spirit, he gives them new life.

In the midst of his gift of revival, Jesus also shares words with the disciples that point them to the purpose their revival should serve. The Father sent Jesus, and now Jesus sends them. He sends them into the world to witness to the salvation Jesus brings through their own faithful discipleship.

Discipleship in the Wesleyan class meeting

So what is our next step if we want the revival that God is offering to us to move us into a deeper discipleship in our own lives?

One of the highlights of our Annual Conference session was a resolution passed on Tuesday afternoon. Its stated purpose: “Encourage the Formation of Accountable Discipleship Groups in the Local Church.”

The text of the resolution affirms our Wesleyan tradition of small-group discipleship formation. It then encourages local congregations to form small groups for women and men based on the early Methodist class meeting.

The class meeting was the most widely used small group in the early Methodist movement. Originally it was a group of 10 to 12 people led by a class leader. Its chief activities were faith sharing and prayer, and the question that the leader asked each class member during the weekly meeting was, “How is it with your soul?” Class members had the opportunity to share their joys and their challenges with one another. They prayed together. The purpose of the gathering was, in Wesley's own words, “to watch over one another in love.”

Small groups based on the class meeting model are exactly what we need for revival to flow into the discipleship in the Arkansas Conference today. It is through the faith formation that happens in Wesleyan small groups that discipleship is given the rich soil in which to take root and grow.

There are aspects of discipleship that need to be carried out beyond the prayer and conversation of small groups, of course. There is evangelism and mission, worship

and study, education and pastoral care. Yet if small groups are done correctly—on the authentic Wesleyan model—they provide a foundation of faith formation that can serve as a springboard for all these other elements of discipleship.

Sometimes the work that we do debating and voting on resolutions during the Annual Conference session is much ado about nothing. Resolutions typically don't require concrete action by the Conference. They are statements of the Conference's opinion on this or that matter. But I believe the resolution passed in Hot Springs encouraging all local churches in Arkansas to embrace the class meeting model in a contemporary context is something much more.

If we want to be faithful to the Savior who gives us the reviving gift of the Holy Spirit, then we will heed his call to be sent out into the world to live as his disciples. And the foundation of that life of discipleship will be found in small groups committed to engaging in the serious work of faith formation. The Conference has endorsed such a path. Now let's follow it.

The Rev. Dr. Thompson serves as senior pastor of First UMC Springdale. He can be reached at www.andrewthompson.com.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Center for Vitality welcomes lay program coordinator



Cathy Hall Hughes

The Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality (CFV) has announced Cathy Hall Hughes as the new lay program coordinator for ministry with local churches across the state. She begins her work with the CFV July 7.

In her new role, Hall Hughes will take the lead in resourcing congregations to act on Step 7 of the Bishop's Mission Plan: Unleash Lay Leadership. She will lead in research, development and distribution of resources that support Step 6 of the Mission Plan for congregations: to grow by at least one in worship attendance, professions of faith, small groups and mission field outreach. She also will coordinate CFV programs and events; collaborate with the Conference Board of Laity; and coordinate networks for spiritual direction and congregational coaching.

"Cathy is a great addition to the team of the Center for Vitality," said the Rev. Dede Roberts, CFV director. "She loves God and God's people, and as a committed lay member of the United Methodist Church, she brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and enthusiasm for turning laity loose to minister in their mission fields across the state. We did a national search, and discovered we had the right candidate down the hall."

A lifelong United Methodist who has been a member of congregations large and small, urban and rural, Hall Hughes has spent many years in active lay ministry, including three years as chair of the Central District Board of Missions

and a term on the board of trustees for Mount Eagle Retreat Center. Her career has included numerous church-related roles, such as special projects coordinator for Mount Eagle, director of resource development for Camp Aldersgate and assistant to the office of development and college relations at Hendrix College. She has most recently served almost five years as church relations



liaison for the Arkansas Conference Center for Administrative Services (CAS). She lives in Little Rock and has two grown children and two grandchildren.

Child hunger initiative names district ambassadors to connect, encourage, share with local churches, groups

The 200,000 Reasons initiative to fight childhood hunger in Arkansas has designated an ambassador for each of the five districts in the state:

Central District: Elizabeth Mayfield-Hart, ekmhart@gmail.com; 501-590-9524

Northeast District: Rev. Jeff Weaver, jeff.weaver@arumc.org; 870-239-1768

Northwest District: Becky Neighbors, bneighbors@arumc.org; 479-783-0385

Southeast District: Evelyn Banks-Shackleford, mlpccw@aol.com; 870-662-0672

Southwest District: Rev. Lu Harding, lu.harding@arumc.org; 501-253-0852

These volunteers have a passion for reducing childhood hunger in Arkansas. They are available to make presentations at church meetings or small group gatherings such as Sunday school classes, and can assist local churches in making progress toward hunger relief in their communities.

The 200,000 Reasons district ambassadors are ready to help local churches succeed in being the hands and feet of Christ to our brothers and sisters who experience hunger and food insecurity. District ambassadors are prepared to engage their fellow United Methodists on a personal level, and bring a familiar face to the 200,000 Reasons Initiative. They will work with 200,000 Reasons project coordinator Mary Lewis Dassinger to promote education, advocacy, community events and fundraising within their respective districts.

Contact your district ambassador to brainstorm ideas for getting started on something new or improving an existing hunger relief ministry in your community.

200,000 REASONS
to fight childhood hunger

JOB POSTING

The Arkansas Conference Center for Administrative Services is seeking an administrative assistant. Applications will be accepted until July 15. To apply, send resume to Todd Burris, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202, or email to tburris@arumc.org.

Responsibilities:

- Greet callers and visitors and direct them appropriately
- Organize, schedule and host meetings and events
- Serve as registrar for various Conference events
- Develop and maintain electronic and physical filing system
- Sort and deliver mail
- Assist office manager in maintaining supplies, including coffee and water
- Assist Finance staff in accounting and data entry
- Manage newspaper advertisements and subscriptions
- Organize vendor displays for Annual Conference
- Other administrative support duties as assigned

Requirements:

- Prior administration or assistant experience
- Proficiency in MS Word and Excel
- Excellent time management skills
- Ability to multi-task and prioritize work
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Knowledge of United Methodist Church structure a plus

Compensation and Benefits

- Compensation commensurate with experience
- 403(b) pension plan
- The Arkansas Conference does not provide group health insurance.

Local churches applauded by Methodist Family Health

Churches in each district have been recognized by Methodist Family Health (MFH) for exceptional volunteerism and generosity toward the organization in the past year. Methodist Family Health programs include the Methodist Children's Home, Methodist Behavioral Hospital, Methodist Counseling Clinic and Arkansas CARES.

Generosity Awards, recognizing churches that have made significant financial contributions to MFH, have been made to:

- Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock (Central District)
- First UMC Searcy (Northeast District)
- Central UMC Fayetteville (Northwest District)
- First UMC Brinkley (Southeast District)
- Lake Village Lakeside UMC (Southeast District)
- Piney Grove UMC Hot Springs (Southwest District)
- First UMC El Dorado (Southwest District).

The Outstanding Volunteer Church Awards recognized the following churches:

- St. James UMC Little Rock (Central District)
- Winfield UMC Little Rock (Central District)
- First UMC Heber Springs (Northeast District)
- Farmington UMC (Northwest District)
- First UMC Forrest City (Southeast District)
- Christ of the Hills UMC Hot Springs Village (Southwest District).

"We very much appreciate the time, talent and resources that local churches all across Arkansas give to MFH," said Maggie Beeler, director of development for the MFH Foundation. "Such partnerships are a tremendous blessing to the children and families in our care."

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Ozark Mission Project celebrates 30 years, commissions summer staff



Worshippers extend a hand toward the summer 2016 college staff members of Ozark Mission Project during the commissioning litany at the May 31 worship service.

BY AMY FORBUS
Editor

Ozark Mission Project (OMP) on May 31 celebrated its 30th year of ministry with a worship service commissioning the members of its summer 2016 college staff. Bishop Gary Mueller and the Rev. Kathleen McMurray led the service, held at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock.

The college staff, together with OMP's year-round staff members, are making a dozen camps happen over the course of June and July. Youth and adults from around the state, and some from out of state, come together to serve neighbors and live the organization's mission, "transforming lives through worship, fellowship and hands-on mission."

Most tasks involve helping neighbors who, for financial or physical reasons, need assistance with home maintenance. Campers

may build porches and wheelchair ramps, paint houses or perform yard maintenance, all while building relationships that seek to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of those they serve.

A number of OMP college staffers have gone on to discern a call to ministry. For example, this year, three of the persons ordained or commissioned at the Arkansas Annual Conference once served as OMP college staffers.

"This is not just a summer job. This is about being in ministry and making a difference for Jesus Christ," Bishop Mueller told the staffers during his May 31 sermon.

"You are part of God's cosmic purpose," he said. "You are helping God's vision, God's future, become a reality."

To learn more about this ministry, visit the OMP website, www.ozarkmissionproject.org.



Members of the OMP summer 2016 college staff face the congregation for the hymn "Here I Am, Lord" near the close of the May 31 commissioning service.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS

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 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.

Seeking help, donations for Southeast Arkansas flood recovery

With recent flooding in McGehee, Lake Village, Crossett, Dermott and other locations in the southeast part of the state, Volunteers in Mission teams will soon be needed to repair flood-damaged homes. To sign up your church's team to help, contact Byron or Janice Mann at the phone numbers or email addresses above.

Funds are also needed to make these repairs possible. Send checks marked "Disaster Response" to Arkansas Conference UMC, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202; or give online at www.arumc.org/arkansas-disaster-response using the button on the right-hand sidebar.

Mission Academy at Mount Sequoyah to train individuals, teams for VIM, Disaster Response work

Registration will open soon for the South Central Jurisdiction's Mission Academy, set for Sept. 11-14 at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville. It will include instruction from United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, as well as disaster response training from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The Academy provides excellent opportunities for preparing individuals and teams to serve wherever they are needed. To learn more or to check for the opening of registration, visit www.mountsequoyah.org.

UMCOR responds to West Virginia flooding

Greg Forrester, who leads U.S. disaster response work for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), has indicated that the West Virginia Conference had taken significant steps in recent months to prepare to respond to disasters such as the flooding that began June 24. Earlier this year, UMCOR helped the conference set up a relief-supply depot, so there were already 1,400 cleaning buckets and 200 health kits on hand, ready to be distributed after torrential rains caused massive flooding and destruction.

The West Virginia Conference disaster response coordinator, the Rev. Dan Lowther, said that trained local United Methodist volunteers are responding well to the storm and resulting flooding, despite the challenges presented by the extensive damage.

In addition to the training and new relief-supply depot, the West Virginia Conference also recently had put a new communications system in place. "It all worked just as we'd planned," Lowther said.

Response teams from the South Central Jurisdiction, which includes the Arkansas Conference, have been asked to help with disaster response within their own areas until West Virginia makes a request for outside help. Visit <http://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2016/june/0628wvfloods> for a more complete update.

Cuba mission opportunities through traveling or giving

- The 2017 Arkansas UMVIM construction team will travel to Havana Jan. 19-20 to Jan. 30-31 to build housing for the Methodist Seminary. Only a few openings remain for this team.
- Sponsor a child for an August Bible School in the rapidly growing Methodist Church in Holguin, Cuba. For \$5, purchase a Bible School T-shirt for a child to wear over and over. For \$10, add a Bible that they will read and cherish. Gifts of \$15 would cover snacks for the six-session Bible School, as well. A \$20 gift includes a T-shirt, Bible, snacks and crafts for one child. Follow-up photos provided.

If your church or group would like to plan a mission to Cuba, contact Nechi Fullerton, 501-766-8151 or nfullerton@yahoo.com. Fullerton has made seven visits to the Methodist Church in Cuba over the past three years, leading three UMVIM teams and staying two months last fall in the Catedral de Holguin.

To keep up with these and future opportunities in Cuba, visit "Arkansas Methodist-Cuba Metodista Connection" and "Catedral Metodista de Holguin" on Facebook.

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Oldest living UM clergy in Arkansas celebrates century mark

The Rev. Jim Major and his wife, Lillie, seated, on June 10 received a visit from members of the Hendrix College staff to celebrate the retired United Methodist elder's 100th birthday, which was June 14. Major is the oldest living clergyperson in the Arkansas Conference.

In addition to pastoring local churches and serving as a missionary, Major spent two decades as a vice president of Hendrix, which is a United Methodist-related institution of higher education located in Conway. The annual James E. Major Service Award, given for meritorious service to the college, is named for him.

Those pictured in addition to the Rev. and Mrs. Major are Teresa Osam, Dr. Pat Osam, Ellis Arnold III, Jack Frost, Pamela Owen, Ginny McMurray, Barbara Horton, the Rev. J. Wayne Clark and Christa Davis.

COURTESY PHOTO



COMING UP

Ben Few Campmeeting set for July 15-24

The 2016 encampment at Ben Few Campground will be held July 15-24, with daily services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The campground, established in 1898, is located near Princeton, Arkansas, in Dallas County.

The Rev. John Moore will serve as the evangelist for the week. Other leaders include Kathleen Dockery, pianist; Dale and Rhonda Richards, song leaders; and Chase Burns, youth director. The Rev. Mike Proctor will be the speaker at the Saturday evening service, July 23, and also at the memorial service on the last Sunday, July 24, at 11 a.m.

Musical groups scheduled are the Oaklawn UMC Praise Team on Sunday evening, July 17, and the Bismarck Gospel Tones on Thursday evening, July 21. Classes for all ages are held daily at 9 a.m. and there are special activities throughout the week for children, youth and adults. RV hookups are available upon request.

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

Ebenezer Campmeeting to be held July 15-21

Ebenezer Camp Ground near Center Point in Howard County will begin its 194th annual encampment with an 8 p.m. service on Friday, July 15. Daily services will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. with an afternoon service at 3 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday.

The Rev. Carlton Cross of Salem United Methodist Church Benton will be the evangelist. Young campers will be under the direction of Jeremy Carter, children's minister at First United Methodist Church Magnolia. Carolyn Carter of Junction City will return as pianist and Morgan Lee of Butterfield will serve as song leader. Rusty Jones of Gurdon will serve as host pastor. Thomas Lee of Butterfield will speak at the lay service on Sunday afternoon.

Harmony will begin singing at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. Youth singers from Grace Point Mennonite Church will be with us beginning at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday evening.

The camp ground is located off Highway 278, three miles north of Center Point. Services will end Thursday evening, July 21.

The huge oak tree fronting the Gardener camp was destroyed by high winds in April causing major damage to several cabins. Repairs are essentially complete.

Central District Lay Servant Academy in Jacksonville July 21-23

The Connection Center of First UMC Jacksonville will be the setting for the Central District's Lay Servant/Lay Speaker Academy July 21-23, 2016. Lay Servant Ministries courses are open to all laity and clergy, regardless of home district. The structure for this particular Academy creates the option for participants to attend for one, two or three days. Course topics include Spiritual Gifts,

Worship, Heritage & Polity, Prayer and Preaching.

Books should be ordered and read in advance of the courses; because of this requirement, they will not be available for purchase at the event. Late or at-the-door registrations will not be accepted. The registration deadline is July 15. For a list of required reading or a

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registration form, contact Fonda Kirkman in the Central District office, fkirkman@arumc.org or 501-851-1433.

Mena church to celebrate 120 years Aug. 14

The Rev. Ann Ferris and the congregation of First UMC Mena are making preparations for its 120th birthday celebration on Sunday, Aug. 14. Northwest District superintendent the Rev. Stephen Coburn will bring the sermon for morning worship on that day. Other scheduled activities include game time for the children during the Sunday School hour; recognition of persons who have been members 50 years or longer; introduction of former ministers who are attending; special music and an old-time hymn sing. A photo booth and pictorial and memorabilia display are planned. During the hamburger meal at noon, our former pastors will be invited to share memories of their ministry with this community. First UMC Mena invites all former members, pastors and their families, and friends to join us on this special day. For information, contact Ferris at the church office, 479-394-3051, or Flora McChristian, 479-394-4478.

United Methodist Lawyers Conference Sept. 15

The 2016 United Methodist Lawyers Conference has been set for Thursday, Sept. 15, at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock. This time of fellowship and learning covers a variety of matters pertinent to lawyers who may assist United Methodist local congregations or other affiliated organizations, ranging from sexual harassment and misconduct to property dealings and the intersection of church and secular law.

Thanks to sponsorship by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, attorneys may attend and receive CLE credits at no charge. For more information, contact Janet Marshall, 501-664-8632 or jmarshall@umfa.org.

Mark your calendar for PAUMCS Arkansas chapter's annual meeting Sept. 22

All church administrative professionals are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Arkansas chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS), to be held Thursday, Sept. 22 on the campus of Philander Smith College in Little Rock. To request to receive communications about this and other PAUMCS events, contact Fonda Kirkman, Central District administrator, at fkirkman@arumc.org or 501-851-1433.

Save the date: Bethesda Campground UMC to celebrate 175 years in October

Bethesda Campground United Methodist Church, located 10 miles west of Batesville, will hold its 175th anniversary celebration the week of October 3-9, 2016. A schedule of activities will be announced later this summer.

The first deed written for the church and property is dated October of 1841. There is some belief the church existed before then, but the deed is the earliest written record available.

Consecration

(continued from page 7)

central Arkansas, which had been centered in the Jacksonville and Sherwood areas when the congregation began meeting in 1988.

“The Korean population has been growing in west and south of Little Rock,” Choh said. “So the church decided to relocate to the center of Little Rock which allows people to be able to come from all directions.”

Except for the tasks which had to be completed by a licensed electrician, all demolition and renovation work was performed by about 22 church members—17 of them women, says Choh—and a few additional workers.

The consecration service included a slideshow that chronicled the work church members did to turn a three-level office building into a space that includes a kitchen, fellowship area, offices, Sunday school area and a top-floor sanctuary space.

“Watching that, you know Resurrection is real,” said Bishop Gary Mueller following the slideshow. “From an old beat-up



Worshippers lift a hand toward the pulpit at Hope Korean UMC to participate in Bishop Mueller’s prayer consecrating it.

office building to a powerful place for worship.”

In his sermon, delivered in English with translation by Choh, Mueller compared the church’s sanctuary to the Upper Room where the disciples gathered for the Last Supper. “I cannot wait to see what happens in this Upper Room,” he said. “You have done a wonderful thing here.”

Mueller told the congregation that consecrating the new building is part of sharing in Jesus’ transformational love at work—the effort of making God’s love just as

real on earth as it is in heaven.

“We are consecrating this building because you want a deeper relationship with Jesus,” he said. “We’re consecrating this building because you want to share Jesus’ love. We’re consecrating this building because you want to give Jesus all honor and glory. But maybe most of all, we’re consecrating this building because we know Jesus’ love does not depend upon how good you are, or how spiritual you are, or how you fit someone else’s idea of what it means to be a Christian, or what style of worship you like to have or



Bishop Mueller, left, waits as the Rev. Isaac Choh translates a portion of his sermon for the congregation of Hope Korean UMC Little Rock.

PHOTOS BY CATHERINE M. CAIN

even what kind of politics you have. We are consecrating this building because Jesus’ love is so great, so wonderful, so amazing, it’s the only thing we can do.

“This Jesus is the cornerstone. He joins you together. He builds up this church. You can trust him forever. And you will change lives for Jesus. God bless you.”

Choh, who has been appointed as pastor of Hope Korean since 2011, expects the congregation to continue focusing on the love of Christ in its new home.

“Church programs can

enhance church life, but I believe our church members need to enhance everyday life by filling it with the Holy Spirit, along with church life. Our new space is our faith testimony that God led us to here, like the twelve stones at Gilgal,” he said, referring the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River in Joshua 4.

“I don’t know how God is going to lead our church from now on. But we follow God and follow what Jesus taught us to be. Then He will do His work through His people in His time.”

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Taking Steps to Provide Compassionate Care to Children and Families.



The Rev. Dr. Jan Davis preached at opening worship of the 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS



Bishop Gary E. Mueller delivers his 2016 Episcopal Address.



LEFT: The Rev. Sam Yun of Embrace Church in Los Altos, California, served as the teaching pastor for this year's Arkansas Annual Conference gathering.

RIGHT: Arkansas Conference lay leader Karon Mann delivers the Laity Address.



Clergywomen of the Arkansas Conference took a moment for a photo before processing into the Service for the Ordering of Ministry.

AC2016 (continued from page 1)

on human sexuality.”

He called on the church to use the opportunity to address more than just human sexuality, such as our theological identity as Wesleyan Christians.

“We need to discover how we form the culture in which we live, instead of being transformed by it,” he said.

Among the disciples he challenged to such work were those ordained and commissioned as part of Tuesday night's Service for the Ordering of Ministry: nine new elders ordained in full connection and one new deacon in full connection; one recognition of orders from another denomination, welcoming that pastor as an elder in full connection; and 12 provisional elders and two provisional deacons. The combined average age of these clergy members was 40.5.

Guest preachers

The preacher for opening worship was a guest preacher when Mueller invited her; neither of them knew at the time that she would soon become a member of the Arkansas Conference. The Rev. Dr.

Jan Davis is moving from her position as senior pastor of First UMC Rowlett, Texas, to the same role at Central UMC Fayetteville, making her the first woman to lead the largest congregation in the Conference.

In her sermon, based on the resurrection of Jairus's daughter in the eighth chapter of Luke, Davis encouraged people not to listen to those who proclaim the death of the institutional church.

“Just as Jairus would not accept the message that his daughter was dead, neither do we have to accept the message that the church is dead,” she said.

Instead, she contended that many disciples simply need to be awakened, because contemporary culture, even church culture, has lulled them into complacency.

“We need to go to the feet of Jesus, and ask Jesus to wake us up. We cannot wake ourselves.... We need Jesus Christ to wake us,” she said. “And you know, anything you want to revive, any revival starts at the feet of Jesus. Anything you want to revive starts with prayer.”

The Rev. Sam Yun, pastor of the new community of Embrace Church

in Los Altos, California, led two teaching sessions. He proclaimed that the vision of spiritual revival is no anomaly; rather, it's the standard of the church of Jesus Christ.

He said that Embrace Church began as a small group testing a hunch that life with God is better than life without God.

“A hunch,” he said, “became a home for this group of motley individuals who are now leaders in the church. God did it not through research, not through this very firm dogma, but with this hunch that seemed to be resonating with people.”

He challenged Arkansas churches to provide a view of the God who is love, who first loved us, who is greater than anyone else in this world.

“They are actually open to hearing about a God who loves them,” he said of people who are disconnected from church or religion. “Our purpose is not to bring people to church. It is to bring people to God.”

Yun said the church needs to remember that “ministry together is always better than ministry alone,” and that a sharp division between clergy and laity doesn't help.

“In the Cal-Pac Annual Conference, we no longer talk so

much about clergy and laity. We speak of the Body in one breath, in one word. We call that ‘claiity,’” he said.

Closing worship featured preaching from the Rev. Dr. Emanuel Cleaver III of St. James UMC Kansas City, Missouri. He spoke of the importance of a person's name, as emphasized in Scripture.

“There's an individual, a child of God, behind each and every name,” he said.

Cleaver pointed out that Jesus doesn't go in to Lazarus's tomb to raise him from the dead; he simply stands outside and calls his name.

“When the Lord calls your name, it will give you new life!” he said. “When the Lord calls your name, it will give you new purpose! When the Lord calls your name, it transforms you!”

And we should not discount the power of Jesus' name.

“The name of the Lord has strength, power, and love,” he said. “Therefore, we ought to go out and use the name of the Lord as much as we can.”

Laity, youth addresses

In the Laity Address, Conference lay leader Karon Mann challenged disciples of Jesus Christ to serve in the local and worldwide

community, rather than remaining within their church building's walls. She shared that at General Conference, she attended a Bible study that encouraged people to carry out the Great Commission in their own neighborhoods. “You don't need special equipment,” she said. “You are the equipment.”

“We can't be caught sitting in our pews, waiting for an encore of the church of yesterday,” Mann said. “We must be the church of today. As we are moving from revival to discipleship, the church has to leave the building.”

For the Youth Address, the immediate past president, current president and future president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries each spoke to the realities and the vision of young people as engaged disciples of Jesus Christ.

Madison Akins-Banman, Lauren Lovelady and Lexie Burleson encouraged the Conference and local churches to involve youth in new ways.

Lovelady named some problems youth see with current church structure.

“Youth are being placed on committees that do not match their gifts, talents or interests,” she said. “We have been given a seat at the



Bishop Gary Mueller ordains the Rev. Todd Vick as an elder in full connection.



Those who will be ordained Tuesday night receive stoles from retired clergy during Monday's "Passing of the Mantle" portion of the service recognizing new retirees.



Lauren Lovelady delivers a portion of the Youth Address. Madison Akins-Banman and Lexie Burleson, in background, shared with Lovelady the duty of addressing the Conference on behalf of young people.



Bishop Gary Mueller commissions the Rev. Corey Tyson Read as her husband, the Rev. Dan Read, prays beside them and awaits his turn.



The Rev. Naomi Rogers, the first Korean American woman ordained in the Arkansas Conference, receives her stole from her mentor, the Rev. Dede Roberts.



The Rev. Emanuel Cleaver III, pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, preached at the closing worship service June 22.

table, but we desperately want to eat the meal before us."

Burleson told the story of Refuge, a weekend youth retreat, coming close to being discontinued several years ago. However, with an infusion of new ideas and the Holy Spirit, it has grown so much that this year, two identical sessions of Refuge will take place to double the event's capacity.

"Youth don't want to be told about revival, we want to be a part of it," she said.

Burleson also shared the importance of building relationships with other generations, adding that she participates in a small group with two adult mentors. "These relationships shape youths' outlook on the world and hold more power than we give them credit," she said.

"You need us and we need you."

Hunger initiative extended

In keeping with the denominational focus on ministry with the poor, the Arkansas Conference voted to extend its three-year childhood hunger initiative for an additional three years. Called "200,000 Reasons" because approximately 200,000 children in Arkansas go to bed hungry each night, the effort

includes not just food pantries, but also educational programs such as Cooking Matters classes in partnership with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and the No Kid Hungry campaign, and advocacy work to provide a public witness to the problem of childhood hunger.

The Rev. J.J. Whitney, who leads the 200,000 Reasons initiative, reported that 34 percent of Arkansas Conference congregations have participated in some way, but the goal remains 100 percent. She highlighted the upcoming Paysinger Hunger Summit, set for Sept. 10 in Little Rock.

"Church, we're just getting started," she said, adding that with creativity, resources and the Holy Spirit, "we could be the reason that 200,000 kids don't go hungry in Arkansas."

Business decisions

Business sessions will be conducted differently when the Annual Conference next convenes. The Annual Conference approved changes to both session rules and standing rules. Under the new session rules, discussion of petitions and resolutions will be streamlined.

[See AC2016, page 14]

Avoid being pulled into the orbit of materialism!

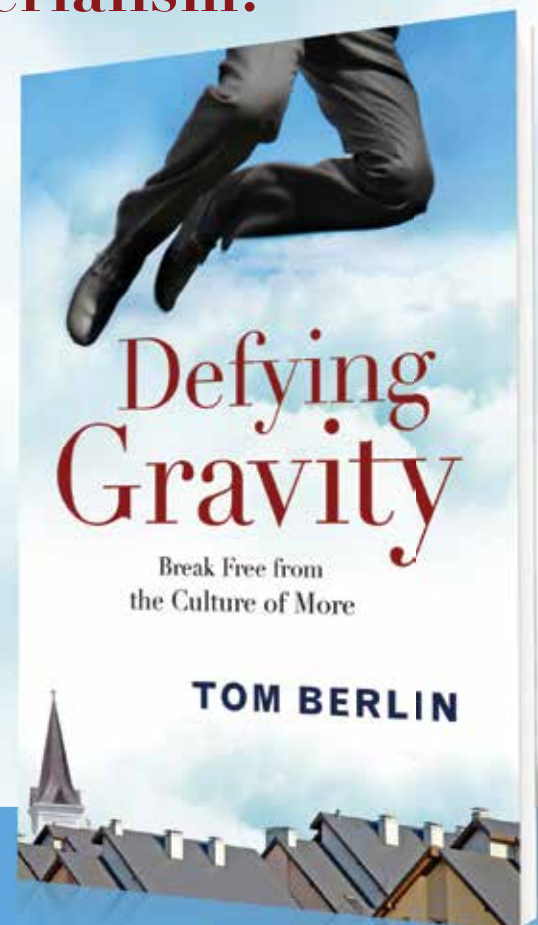
Stuff. And more stuff. And even more stuff. The next thing you know, we're pulled into the orbit of materialism! In *Defying Gravity*, Tom Berlin takes a look at the difference between "want" and "need" and illustrates how possessions can create an unbearable weight on our lives. He shows us how too much stuff affects our ability to serve and thrive, and then he helps us explore what is required to sustain a vibrant life.

Perfect for a four-week stewardship campaign and small-group study, *Defying Gravity* features the book, a Leader Guide with multiple format options; a DVD with videos for pastor mentoring and worship; a Program Flash Drive or download with campaign guide, handouts, and tools; and a Pastor Guide, *A Generous Church*.

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Hunger Summit to take 200,000 Reasons initiative to next level

BY MARTHA TAYLOR
Special Contributor

The Rev. J.J. Whitney issued more of a call to action than a report in her June 25 presentation to the Arkansas Annual Conference.

She told Annual Conference attendees about the progress the 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger initiative has made, but made it clear that the initiative would not be considered a success until 100 percent of the United Methodist congregations in Arkansas were engaged in ministries that reduced the number of hungry or food-insecure children in the state.

And then she extended an invitation to the

first Paysinger Hunger Summit, set for 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 10 at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock.

The Summit will include training and informational sessions designed to engage clergy and laity in three key areas of the 200,000 Reasons initiative: feeding ministries, public witness, and education for long-term sustainability and relationship-building with the mission field.

In addition to hearing a plenary speaker, attendees can select up to

200,000 REASONS
to fight childhood hunger

three workshops, co-led by UMC leaders and community experts.

Workshop topics include:

- Community Gardens
 - The Cooking Matters program from No Kid Hungry
 - SNAP: Fallacies, Facts and How Your Church Can Help
 - Food Pantries: Making Them Work in Every Context
 - Public Witness: Voices for Good
 - Come & Get It: Meals Beyond the School Day
 - Friends & Family Networks: Food Cooperatives
- “Attendees will receive practical

training and information that will enable them to start or enhance ministries around feeding, public witness and education,” said Mary Lewis Dassinger, project coordinator for 200,000 Reasons. “Everyone will be able to go back to their communities prepared to make a difference in the lives of hungry children in their neighborhoods.”

The Paysinger Summit is made possible by the late Rev. Vernon and Eva Lee Paysinger, who were lifelong advocates for programs designed to eradicate hunger in Arkansas. Their legacy of caring helped establish the

Vernon and Eva Lee Paysinger Endowment Fund, administered by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) with the purpose of supporting Arkansas ministries that work to eliminate hunger.

The cost of the Summit is \$15 per person and includes lunch and materials. Childcare is also available for an additional \$15. Online registration is open; visit <https://goo.gl/xD5bho> to register. You may also contact Deaconess Colleen Caldwell, 501-529-0604 or 200KReasons@arumc.org, for registration information.



PAYSINGER HUNGER SUMMIT

September 10, 2016

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

9:30 am - 4:00 pm

AC2016 videos on spiritual revival available for local church use



“Glory sightings” was the term used by Bishop Gary Mueller during the June 19-22 Arkansas Annual Conference gathering in Hot Springs to describe people and places where spiritual revival had been witnessed in Arkansas over the past year.

A series of six short videos, produced by the Center for Technology, were shown for the first time during the three-day event. Each highlighted a different glory sighting, from the community garden at Trumann UMC to a Sunday school class that realized they wanted to connect with one another and their neighbors in a more meaningful way.

The Trumann UMC video includes an interview with church’s pastor, the Rev. Jeff Weaver, who described the transformation adding a community garden has made in the life of the community as well as in the congregation. He shares that almost overnight, the city donated a plot of land, community and church members joined forces to till and plant the garden and that thousands of pounds of fresh produce has been donated to those in need. The garden has energized the church, brought inactive members back and added new faces to the congregation.

The entire series of videos is available at www.vimeo.com/arkansasumc.

The Rev. Jeff Weaver speaks about Trumann UMC’s experience with reaching out to its neighbors, starting with a community garden in partnership with the city.

Church makes available free garden space for neighbors



As part of its community outreach and involvement in the 200,000 Reasons childhood hunger initiative, Geyer Springs UMC Little Rock has started a community garden. Any community member or client of the church’s food pantry who wishes to use one of the raised beds in the garden to grow produce may do so at no charge.

Church members Kathy Kline and Kim Jones headed up the effort to make the plots available.

PHOTO COURTESY TERRI HAMMOND

Arkansas Conference Appointments, 2016-17

Names of those changing appointments as of July 1, 2016 are listed in **bold type**.

Central District

District Superintendent.....	Richard Lancaster
ADONA.....	Richard Gifford
ARGENTA.....	James W. Choate
Deacon.....	Jessica Waddell Teegarden
ASBURY - LITTLE ROCK.....	Mary Hilliard
Associates.....	Charles H. Green
BENTON FIRST.....	Benjamin William Crismon
Associate.....	Zeke Allen
Deacon.....	Garry Dean Teeter
BETHEL - JACKSONVILLE.....	Gerald Collins
BETHLEHEM - LONOKE.....	Larry Edward LeMasters
BRYANT FIRST.....	Hammett Nichols Evans
CABOT.....	Stephen P. Dickinson
CANVASCOMMUNITY.....	Carter Ferguson
Deacon.....	Edward Paul Atkins
CARLISLE FIRST.....	Kirk Doering
CENTERVILLE.....	Lana Gartner
CLEVELAND / OVERCUP.....	Malachi McDonald
CONCORD - LONOKE.....	William S. McMahon
CONGO.....	Polly Burton
CONWAY FIRST.....	Michael Roberts
Associate.....	Lauren DeLano
Deacon.....	Melissa Thomas
DES ARC FIRST.....	Charles Dee Harper
EBENEZER - CONWAY.....	To be supplied
ENGLAND.....	Keith Duane Coker
FAITH / GEYER SPRINGS - LITTLE ROCK.....	David D. Hoffman
GARDNER MEMORIAL / AMBOY.....	Mary Candace Barron
GRACE - CONWAY.....	John Mark McDonald
Associate.....	Kathleen McMurray
GRACE - EAST END.....	George Thomas Jones
GRAHAM CHAPEL / OAKLAND.....	Tammy Garrison
GREENBRIER FIRST.....	Kevin Lyon
HAMILTON / HUMNOKE.....	Jerry Martin Bowie Jr.
HAZEN / DEVALLS BLUFF.....	Carolyn Doering
HEBRON - CARLISLE.....	Roger Crouch
HENDERSON.....	Michael Darryl Utley
HICKORY PLAINS.....	Deborah D. Harrison
HIGHLAND VALLEY.....	R. Anthony "Tony" Griffin
Associate.....	Jennie Williams
HOPE KOREAN.....	Isaac Choh
HUNTER - LITTLE ROCK.....	Rashim Merriwether
JACKSONVILLE FIRST.....	Nathan Kilbourne
KEO.....	Chanda Adams
LAKESWOOD.....	Luke Conway
Associate.....	Jonathon Michael Bevil
Deacon.....	Cynthia Shaw Henry
LEVY.....	Holly Patton
LITTLE ROCK FIRST.....	David C. Freeman
Associate.....	Donna Hankins-Hull
Deacons.....	Mary Jane Cole
.....	Ann Michelle Whitfield
LONOKE FIRST.....	Aubrietta Lynn Jones
MABELVALE.....	Robert K. Marble
MARKS CHAPEL.....	To be supplied
MAUMELLE FIRST.....	Beth Ann Waldrup
Associate.....	Colin Bagby
MAYFLOWER.....	Richard Wilkins
MCCABE CHAPEL.....	Johnnie Davis
MORRILTON FIRST.....	Katherine G. Pearce
MOUNT CARMEL - BENTON.....	Roger E. Glover
MOUNT CARMEL - VILONIA.....	Carey Chrisco

MOUNT PLEASANT - LITTLE ROCK.....	Mary N. Jones
MOUNT ZION - LONOKE.....	Robbin Dale Haley
NAYLOR.....	Luke Parker
NEW HAVEN - LITTLE ROCK.....	Norma Gillerson
NEW ZION / MOUNT ZION - CENTER RIDGE.....	James Lee Scruggs
NORTH LITTLE ROCK FIRST.....	Elizabeth Lynn Kilbourne
Associates.....	James W. Choate
.....	Brent Higdem
NORTH PULASKI.....	LaNita Anne Daniels
OAK FOREST.....	Michael Blanchard
OLD AUSTIN.....	Cathy Lynn Staton
PARKVIEW / NEW HOPE - BENTON.....	Clarence "Dooley" Fowler
PERRYVILLE.....	J. Beth Perdue
PLEASANT HILL - ALEXANDER.....	Alicia I. Finch-McCastlain
PLUMMERVILLE.....	William Ferguson
PRIMROSE.....	Melvin Moss
PULASKI HEIGHTS.....	Britt Skarda
Associates.....	P. Jay Clark
.....	Jeffery Bernard Hampton
.....	Ronald Jeremy Pressgrove
.....	Belinda Price
.....	Betsy Singleton Snyder
Deacons.....	Katy Dunn
.....	James Scott Moore
QUAPAW QUARTER.....	Carissa Rodgers
SAINT ANDREW - LITTLE ROCK.....	Charlie E. McAdoo
Deacon.....	Jenni L. Duncan
SAINT JAMES - LITTLE ROCK.....	Siegfried Johnson
Associates.....	Claire M. Caldwell
.....	Matthew T. Carter
.....	Gregory Schick
Deacon.....	Martha S. Taylor
SAINT JAMES - LONOKE.....	David Scruggs
SAINT LUKE / GEYER SPRINGS.....	Ronald Jeremy Pressgrove
SAINT PAUL - LITTLE ROCK.....	Richard S. Mitchell
SAINT PAUL - MAUMELLE.....	Anthony Maurice Watkins Jr.
SALEM - BENTON.....	Carlton N. Cross
Associate.....	Randy Dale Reed
SALEM - CONWAY.....	William Todd Vick
SARDIS.....	Bryan R. Diffie
Associate.....	Judy Baker
SOUTHBEND.....	Garren Earle Hagemeyer
SPRINGFIELD / MALLETTOWN.....	Austin W. "Hawk" Coleman
SWEET HOME.....	Danny Simpson
SYLVAN HILLS.....	Brittany S. Richardson Watson
THE JOURNEY - CABOT / MOUNT TABOR - CABOT.....	Jeffery Trent Warrick
.....	Ulysses C. Washington
THERESSA HOOVER MEMORIAL.....	Thomas Crawford
TRASKWOOD.....	Donald L. Hall Jr.
Trinity - Little Rock.....	Adam Kirby
Deacon.....	Gerald Meeks
TRINITY - NORTH LITTLE ROCK.....	James Clark Kjorlaug
VILONIA.....	Carol Jean Grace
WARD / SIXTEENTH SECTION.....	David E. Baker
WESLEY - CONWAY.....	Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
WESLEY CHAPEL - LITTLE ROCK / DUNCAN - LITTLE ROCK.....	Elizabeth Anne Holcomb
.....	Danita Waller-Paige
WESTERN HILLS.....	Vida R. Williams
WHITE MEMORIAL.....	Richard Gifford
WINFIELD.....	
WYE MOUNTAIN.....	

Extension ministries

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE.....	Lawson Leonard Delony
NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE.....	Robert Hunt
OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE.....	James H. Lenderman

BAPTIST HEALTH SCHOOLS OF LITTLE ROCK.....	Melissa Thomas
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.....	Adam Kirby
DAILY BREAD COUNSELING - BRYANT, AR.....	Garry Dean Teeter
LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	Jessica Waddell Teegarden
SACRED PATH, INC.....	Mary Jane Cole
WELLSPRING.....	Ann Michelle Whitfield
ARKANSAS CONFERENCE	
Connectional Ministry / Assistant to the Bishop.....	James P. Polk
Connectional Ministry.....	Maxine Allen
Communications, Marketing & Training.....	Martha S. Taylor
ARKANSAS CONFERENCE CENTER FOR VITALITY	
Director.....	Deidre Jo Roberts
Assistant Director.....	Blake Russell Bradford
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES.....	Robert O. Crossman
HENDRIX COLLEGE.....	J. Wayne Clark
.....	Judith J. Whitney
HORIZONS STEWARDSHIP COMPANY.....	J. Clifton Christopher
JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS.....	Stephen Jean Copley
METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH.....	James Scott Moore
OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.....	Rockwell F. Jones
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY.....	Rebekah Linn Miles
PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE CHAPLAIN.....	Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
.....	Martha D. CashBurlless
UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION.....	Jana Dawn Green
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UALR.....	Lloyd Blake Langston
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UCA.....	Leonard Higgins
CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.....	Catherine Estes
.....	Scott Jackson Shafer
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.....	David W. Clemmons
.....	David L. French
.....	Jim Walsmith
UM OF ARKANSAS UNITED AGAINST CHILDHOOD HUNGER	
Deaconess.....	Colleen Caldwell
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	William S. Briant Jr.
.....	Susan Elizabeth Gladin
.....	Jon Mac Taylor
LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	Regina Holtman Gideon
.....	David Ray Hawkins
.....	Polly C. Shafer
TRANSITIONAL LEAVE.....	Donna Hendricks
MEDICAL LEAVE.....	Andrea E. Allen
.....	Leslee Lynn Phillips
.....	Lewis See
.....	William N. Steele

Northeast District

District Superintendent.....	Johnna J. Galloway
ANTIOCH / GARNER.....	James H. Turner
ASH FLAT / EVENING SHADE.....	Larry Morris
AUGUSTA / BALD KNOB.....	Bonda Deere Moyer
BATESVILLE FIRST.....	Justin Ledbetter
BAY.....	Donald Lewert
BEEBE.....	Matthew I. Daniels
BETHESDA CAMPGROUND.....	Carl Hudson
BLACK ROCK / LYNN.....	Dennis Calaway
BLYTHEVILLE FIRST.....	N. Robin Moore
BONO.....	Thomas Dellinger
BRADFORD / PLEASANT PLAINS.....	Donald Jerome Jolly
BROOKLAND / UNION GROVE.....	Cory Pfeifer

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CALICO ROCK / SPRING CREEK.....William Blake Schrepfer
 CAMPGROUNDGeorge Edward Harris
 CAVE CITY / BEAR CREEK**Joseph D. Kaiser**
 CENTRAL AVENUE - BATESVILLE.....Paul E. Seay Sr.
 CHEROKEE VILLAGEAngela Gage
 Associate.....Jimmy W. Anderson
 CHRIST WAYCharles Miller
 CLINTONGeorge Edwin Odell
 CONCORD / JAMESTOWNSteve Long
 CORINTH.....To be supplied
 CORNERSTONE - JONESBORO.....Chris Hemund
 Deacon.....Samantha Meadors
 CORNERSTONE -PLEASANT PLAINS / CUSHMAN
James D. Wheeler
 CORNING.....John Franklin Michael
 DAMASCUSVaughn Marsden
 DELL.....Marilyn Webb
 DESHA.....Tonya Hancock
 ELI LINDSEY / FRIENDSHIP - RAVENDEN
John Stoll
 FAIRFIELD BAY.....Paul Strang
 FAIRVIEW - MOUNTAIN HOME.....Thomas Yoder
 FARM HILL.....Kevin Barron
 FISHER STREET / SEDGWICK.....**Jason Sutfin**
 GRIFFIN MEMORIAL.....Kenneth R. Lee
 GRIFFITHVILLE / DOGWOOD.....**Kathy N. DeBusk**
 GUM SPRINGS - SEARCYTo be supplied
 HARDYKay Brogdon
Nancy Cameron
 HARRISBURG FIRSTGary Clark Atkins Jr.
 HAZEL EDWARDS MEMORIAL / OIL TROUGH
Clayton Bulice
 HEBER SPRINGSThomas Toombs
Jonathan Griesse
 HOLIDAY HILLSC. Daniel Brand
 HORSESHOE BENDKenneth R. Anderson
 HOXIEGarry E. Wiles
 HUNTER.....Linda S. Buchanan
Tom Machen
 IMBODEN / SMITHVILLEDan L. Walker
 JONESBORO FIRST.....John P. Miles II
Herschel Lee Richardson Jr.
Patty Sue Soward
**Casey Turner**
 JUDSONIA / KENSETT.....Judy Wilson Clark
 LEACHVILLE / CARAWAY.....Douglas Criss
 MAMMOTH SPRING / CAMP.....Ryan Spurlock
 MANILA / COMMUNITYJerry Pentecost
 MARKED TREE / JOINER.....Robert Daniel Partlow
 MARMADUKE / CHRIST UNITEDBilly Vanderbilt
 MARS HILL.....To be supplied
 MAYNARD.....Alma Ruth Hastings
 MCCRORY / COTTON PLANTCarla Ray Thompson
 MCRAE / MOUNT PISGAH - SEARCYDonna Harvey
 MELBOURNE / GUIONWilliam Grothe
 MONETTE / LAKE CITY.....Jerry W. Reed
 MOOREFIELD.....Lavon Long
 MOUNT CARMEL - JONESBORON. Wayne Clark
 MOUNT PLEASANT - QUITMANTo be supplied
 MOUNTAIN HOMEThomas Frase
 Associate.....Heather Spencer Clawitter
 MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRST / SAINT JAMES - MOUNTAIN VIEW
Paul B. Coy
 NEWPORT FIRST.....Thompson Murray
 NORFORK.....**Amanda Hickman Keller**
 OAK GROVE - SEARCYStephen Ellis Waggoner
 OSCEOLA.....**Jay Stephen Simpson**
 OXFORD.....Bobby Coleman
 PANGBURNFleming O.D. Turner
 PARAGOULD FIRSTJohn Andrew Fleming
 Associate.....Heath Williams
 PIGGOTT / WRIGHT'S CHAPEL.....**John Hiegel**

PLEASANT GROVE - JONESBORO.....Jim Stillwell
 PLEASANT HILL / PINE LOG.....James "J.R." McElhannon
 CEDAR GROVE - FLORALTo be supplied
 POCAHONTASRockey Earl Starnes
 POWELL'S CHAPELTo be supplied
 QUITMAN**Shawn Gustin**
**Paige Gustin**
 RAVENDEN /RAVENDEN SPRINGS.....Danny Roark
 RECTORMace P. Straubel
 ROCK SPRINGS - LAFE / RAMER'S CHAPEL
Howard Mark Trout
 ROSE BUD / HARMONY**Gilliam Sills**
 RUSSELLTrevia Mills
 SAINT PAUL - JONESBORO.....Charles Sigman
 SAINT PAUL - SEARCYMatthew H. Johnson
 SALEM - SALEM / VIOLA.....**Velda Bell**
 SEARCY FIRSTDavid Paul Orr
 Associate.....William J. Sardin
 SHARP / OAK RIDGE.....Jerry Lumpkin
 SHILOH - JONESBORO.....Everett Herman Blakely
 SHILOH - PARAGOULD / PRUETT'S CHAPEL
Paul Ed Seay Jr.
 SHIRLEYTo be supplied
 SIDNEYTo be supplied
 SOUTHSIDE.....Roger B. Hook
 STONEY POINT / FLOYD.....Robert Mark Quick
 TRUMANN / LEPANTO.....Jeff Weaver
 TUCKERMAN / SWIFTONDiane Wimberley
 UMSTED MEMORIAL / EMORY CHAPEL.....Terry Kai Haley
 WALNUT RIDGE.....Jeanne Williams
 WARREN'S CHAPEL.....Everett Isom
 WEINER / FISHERJesse James
 WESLEY - COTTERJames "Jimmie" F. Snow
 WHITEHALL / FAKES CHAPELStephen Anderson
 WILD CHERRY.....Marty Sanders
 WILSON / KEISER.....Gary Yarbrough
 WISEMANTo be supplied

Extension ministries

GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE.....**Cheryl Jean Cook Baker**
 INDIANA CONFERENCEDavid Carl Eaton
 WESLEY FOUNDATION - ASUSamantha Meadors
 GENERAL EVANGELISTTom Letchworth
 FLO AND PHIL JONES HOSPICE HOUSE, JONESBORO
Clarence Edward Pruett
 METHODIST HEALTHCARE.....John A. Wilcher
 HONORABLE LOCATIONNorman C. Moyer
 LEAVE OF ABSENCEWilliam Clint Black
**Susan Ledbetter**
Thomas Rhoades
 MEDICAL LEAVEGregory A. Webb

Northwest District

District Superintendent.....Stephen Coburn
 ALMA / KIBLER.....Daniel Thueson
 ALPENATo be supplied
 ALTUS / GRENADES CHAPEL.....Yvonne Case
 ARKANSAS KOREAN MISSIONKwangmin Shin
 ATKINS / BELL'S CHAPELNaomi P. Rogers
 BARLINGSteve Holyfield
 BELLA VISTA FIRST.....Jaimie Jack Alexander
 Associate.....Judy Rudd Platt
 Deacon.....**Brenda Dianne Wideman**
 BELLEFONTE / VALLEY VIEWBeverly Bailey
 BENTONVILLE FIRSTWilliam Kurt Boggan
 Associate.....Eric Meyer
 Deacon.....Rebecca Boggan
 BERRYVILLE.....**Andrew Wayne Hughes**
 BLAND CHAPELLyn Poplin

BOONEVILLE / WASHBURN.....Gerald Lynn Holloway
 BRIGGSVILLESusan May Fisher
 BULL SHOALS / YELLVILLE.....Donnie Hudson
 CECIL / VESTAAndy Newbill
 CEDAR GROVE - YELLVILLE / PLEASANT RIDGE
Kem Reeder
 CENTRAL - FAYETTEVILLE**Mary Jan Davis**
 AssociatesEmily L. Burch
Jody Lynn Farrell
Gregory Gibson
Carl D. Palmer
Steven K. Pulliam
 CENTRAL - LINCOLN / MORROWGary B. Lunsford
 CENTRAL - ROGERS.....Carness Vaughan
 Associate.....Brian Youngs
 DeaconsPamela Cicioni
J. Lester Oliver
Dawn Spragg
 CHARLESTON.....Andrew C. Kjolraug
 CHERRY HILL.....**Mark Lyle**
 CHICKALAHBud Choate
 CITY HEIGHTSRandy L. Miller
 CLARKSVILLE.....**Larry Eugene Kelso**
 COLES CHAPEL / BRANCH.....Janet Barrow
 DANVILLE / TRINITY - DANVILLE / HAVANA
Thomas Sullinger
 DARDANELLE FIRST / LIBERTY HALL.....James A. Benfer
 Associate.....Vitalino Mendez
 DIAMOND CITY / SAINT PAUL'S - HARRISON / OMAHA
Mark Donald
 DOVER.....Roy Beth Kelley
 DYERPhilip Costner
Cheryle Costner
 ELKINS.....**Tom Gordon Conner**
 ELM SPRINGSKarl Dixon Platt
 EUREKA SPRINGSBlake A. Lasater
 EVERTON / BERGMAN.....David M. Smith
 FAITH - FORT SMITHCharles W. Armour
 FARMINGTONPhillip Troy Conrad
 FORT SMITH FIRSTWilliam O. "Bud" Reeves
 AssociatesSara Darlene Bayles
William Dane Womack
 Deacon.....Janice Sudbrink
 GENTRYGeorge Adkins
 GODDARD.....**Kim Cloninger**
 GOSHEN.....John Humphries
 GRACE - ROGERS.....Ramiro Lizcano
 GRACE COMMUNITYJohn Jeffrey Jones
 GRAVELLY / BLUFFTONJoy Carmean
 GRAVETTE / DECATUR.....Patricia Bodenhamer
 GREEN FORESTSteve Cook
 GREENWOOD.....**John Embrey**
 Associate.....**Douglas Phillips**
 HARMON.....J. Michael Callahan
 HARRISON FIRST.....David S. Williams
 HARTFORD / MIDLANDChris Rink
 HARTMAN / SPADRAThomas Russell Laile
 HATFIELD / MOUNTAIN VIEW - MENABryan Richardson
 HAYS CHAPEL.....**Paul Marshall**
 HERITAGEJames Wesley Hilliard
 Associate.....Brian Seewald
 HIGHFILLRuss Hall
 HIGHLANDSBryan Fink
 Associate.....J. Michael Callahan
 HUNTINGTON.....Frank L. Grubbs
 HUNTSVILLE / PRESLEY CHAPEL**Bradley Keith Moore**
 JASPERLarry M. Acton
 JOURNEY HISPANIC MISSIONJulio Ibarra
 LAMAR / MOUNT OLIVE - CLARKSVILLE
**Beth Latham**
 LAVACA / NEW HOPE - VAN BURENLynn David Strang
 LESLIE / MARSHALL.....Micheal L. Proctor

Southeast District

LIVING WATERS AT CENTERTON	Heath R. Bradley
MANSFIELD / HACKETT.....	Richard P. Rogers
MENA FIRST	Pauleen Ann Ferris
MIDLAND HEIGHTS.....	Daniel Lane Williams
MILLTOWN	Louise Finney
MISSION	LaToya Shepherd
MOUNT OLIVE - VAN BUREN.....	David Bassham
MOUNT PLEASANT.....	To be supplied
MOUNTAIN VIEW - ALMA / NEWBERRY CHAPEL	
.....	Robert M. Jeffery
MULBERRY	Charles B. Beever
OAKLEY CHAPEL	Shane D. Pair
OLA / PLAINVIEW / WAVELAND	Melanie Lauren Tubbs
OZARK	Jeffery L. Jackson
PARIS / MAGAZINE.....	Judy Hall
PARKS / SQUARE ROCK	To be supplied
PEA RIDGE / BRIGHTWATER.....	Brian Timmons
POTTSVILLE	Mildred Faith Bryant
PRAIRIE GROVE FIRST	Lee Benjamin Myane
PRAIRIE VIEW / PIONEER MEMORIAL	Aaron Madden
ROGERS FIRST.....	Michael Mattox
Deacons	Helena Cathy Caudle
.....	Sandra Wanasek
RUSSELLVILLE FIRST	Roy Patterson Smith
Associate.....	Gail Cole Brooks
SAINT JAMES - FAYETTEVILLE	Jeffery L. Blessingame
SAINT PAUL - FORT SMITH	Steven M. Poarch
Deacon.....	Mark L. Waynick
SAINT PAUL - GRAVEL HILL.....	Jon Scheible
SEQUOYAH.....	Sara Cole Pair
SHILOH	Lon N. Hudson III
SILOAM SPRINGS FIRST	Randy H. Rowlan
SPRINGDALE FIRST.....	Andrew C. Thompson
Associates	Todd Martin Lovell
.....	Rob Williams
Deacon.....	Judith S. Van Hoose
SQUARE ROCK / MT. PLEASANT-WALDRON	
.....	Maranda Leeper
SULPHUR SPRINGS.....	Dale Richardson
TRINITY - FAYETTEVILLE / VINEY GROVE	
.....	Terry M. Gosnell
VALLEY SPRINGS	To be supplied
VIETNAMESE - FORT SMITH.....	Terry Gallamore
VIETNAMESE - VAN BUREN	Daniel Joseph Nguyen
WALDRON / BIRDSVIEW	Patricia Diane Miller
WALTREAK	Larry Pat Millard
WEDINGTON	Joseph W. Hall
WESLEY - FORT SMITH / CAVANAUGH.....	Michelle Morris
WESLEY - RUSSELLVILLE.....	David Andrew Ruehr
WINSLOW	Rick Broadway
WOODLANDS	Ben Hampton Anderson

Extension ministries

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE	Charles F. Murry
CIRCLE OF LIFE HOSPICE, SPRINGDALE ...	Audie D. Long
HIGHLANDS ONCOLOGY GROUP.....	Pamela Cicioni
YOUR BUSINESS CHAPLAINS, LLC.....	Rex Dickey
PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT - COUNSELOR	
.....	Helena Cathy Caudle
WESLEY FOUNDATION - ATU	John David Palmer
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS	
.....	Emily L. Burch
DIACONAL MINISTER - MOUNT SEQUOYAH	
.....	Denise E. Palmer
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Cynthia Lee Davis
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Thomas Mark Ashcraft
.....	Randall D. Ludwig
.....	Larry D. Ott
MEDICAL LEAVE.....	Robert Bell
.....	Louann Averitt Murphy

District Superintendent.....	Mark K. Norman
ALMYRA / HUNTER'S CHAPEL - ROE	Ted Edmondson
ALTHEIMER	Fred Arnold
BAILEY CHAPEL.....	Travis Earl Jackson
BAYOU METO / LODGES CORNER	Mary F. Welch
BETHEL - SHERIDAN / CENTER GROVE - SHERIDAN	
.....	Willis Winn Findley
BRINKLEY / BRASFIELD	Michael Andrew Smith
CHERRY VALLEY / VANNDALE	Cheyann Bolin
CLARENDON / HOLLY GROVE	Sara Nan Nelson
CROSSETT	Russell R. Moore
DEWITT / SAINT CHARLES.....	Tyrone "Tony" Hill
DUMAS / TILLAR	Tandy Curtis Hanson
EARLE / CRAWFORDSVILLE.....	Johnny Jenkins
EBENEZER - TULL	Albert C. Marlar
EXTRA.....	Royal S. Dodson
FORREST CHAPEL.....	Jeff Hogland
FORREST CITY FIRST	William V. Buchanan
FOUNTAIN HILL / MONTROSE / PARKDALE	
.....	Chyrl Savage Slocum
GILLETT / DELUCE	Janet T. Edwards
GOOD FAITH CARR / REDFIELD	Ryan A. Rush
GOOD HOPE / NEW EDINBURG	John H. Kidwell
GRADY / TRINITY - STAR CITY.....	Timothy Edward Rushing
GRAND AVENUE - STUTTGART	David A. Moore
Associate.....	Bonnie Carol Moore
GREENHILL / LACEY	J. Donald Johnson
HAMBURG FIRST	Cletus Gregory Comer
HAWLEY MEMORIAL / WESLEY - PINE BLUFF	
.....	To be supplied
HEBRON - NEW EDINBURG.....	Boyd F. Savage Jr.
HELENA	Walter Michael Wilkie
HERMITAGE / WAGNON.....	Marty Reep
HICKORY RIDGE / TILTON	John Mark Moore
HUGHES / MADISON.....	To be supplied
HUMPHREY	Spencer Branch
KINGSLAND / CHAMBERSVILLE	Michael C. Dodson
KYNETTE	Edna Hargraves
LAKESIDE - LAKE VILLAGE.....	Bill Lindsey Fish
LAKESIDE - PINE BLUFF.....	James Steve Wingo
LEOLA / MOORE'S CHAPEL - SHERIDAN	Lindsey Saenz
MARIANNA / BEAR CREEK CAMP	Frankie Glenn Hicks
MARION	Robert Blackwell Cloninger
MARTIN'S CHAPEL / TRINITY-WARREN.....	Timothy V. McClellan
MARVELL / LEXA.....	Gary Lawrence Maskell
MCELROY / ELLIS CHAPEL / CENTRAL-WYNNE	
.....	Stephen Wayne Baldwin
MCGEHEE FIRST / ARKANSAS CITY	Reginald Russell
MONTICELLO FIRST.....	Dennis Spence
MOUNT OLIVET / PROSPERITY / UNION.....	Robert L. Lyons
NEW HOPE - SHERIDAN.....	Jack LaVerne Gilbert
PARKIN	Melvin Dwight Mann
PINE BLUFF FIRST	Michael Cuning Morey
Associate.....	Natasha J. Murray-Norman
PLEASANT GROVE - DEWITT	Gene White
PORTLAND / DERMOTT	Deborah L. Head
RISON / MOUNT CARMEL - RISON.....	Gordon "Ike" Mohr
ROCK SPRINGS / WILMAR / MOUNT PLEASANT - MONTICELLO / ANDREWS CHAPEL	Hardy P. Peacock
ROE.....	Joe E. Glover
SAINT FRANCIS	Jonah Wayne Smith
SAINT JAMES - PINE BLUFF.....	Henry "Hank" Wilkins
SAINT LUKE - PINE BLUFF.....	Barbara A. Douglas
SAINT MARK - PINE BLUFF	To be supplied
SCRUGGS CHAPEL / LIVINGSTON CHAPEL	
.....	John W. Love
SHERIDAN.....	Daniel R. Kirkpatrick
SHERRILL	William Paul Woolley
STAR CITY FIRST	John Bradley Elrod

STUTTGART FIRST	David W. Bush
SULPHUR SPRINGS - PINE BLUFF.....	James Edward Conn
WABBASEKA	Tom Smithwick
WARREN FIRST	Gary Frank Harrison
WATSON / MOUNT TABOR - MONTICELLO....	Walt Lowe
WESLEY CHAPEL - BRINKLEY / TAYLOR CHAPEL	
.....	William J. Thompson
WESLEY - MCGEHEE.....	Tyler Rushing
WEST HELENA / ELAINE.....	Melissa Maskell
WEST MEMPHIS FIRST	Todd-Paul R. Taulbee
Associates	Corey Tyson Read
.....	Daniel Read
WHEATLEY / SALEM - WHEATLEY	Michael Bolin
WHITE HALL	Jacob Steven Lynn
WILMOT	To be supplied
WYNNE.....	Lester Glenn Pettus
ZION / WALLER'S CHAPEL	Toby Austin

Extension ministries

MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE.....	Mary Love Loftis
CASA DE DIOS / WAVE OF PRAYER	Mary Olson
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF BANGKOK	
.....	Cleifton Samuel Vaughan
WESLEY FOUNDATION - PINE BLUFF	Henry "Hank" Wilkins
WESLEY FOUNDATION - UAM.....	Edward Kavan Dodson
U.S. AIR FORCE	Ronald Lewis Feeser Jr.
HONORABLE LOCATION.....	Constance Steele
INCAPACITY LEAVE.....	Rufus Robert Burnham Jr.

Southwest District

District Superintendent.....	Rodney G. Steele
AMITY.....	Glen Dale Harris
ARKADELPHIA FIRST	William F. Cato
ASBURY - MAGNOLIA / McNEIL.....	Michael P. Daniel
ASHDOWN FIRST / RICHMOND.....	James H. Cross
AVERY'S CHAPEL / BRUCE MEMORIAL / MIDWAY	
.....	Willie Joe Miller
BEARDEN / THORNTON	Phillip Salmon
BELL CHAPEL / RED HILL	Wayne Allen Bell
BISMARCK	Deborah Perry
BRADLEY.....	John Braden
BUENA VISTA / STEPHENS	Cedric R. Walters
CAMDEN FIRST.....	Henry Andrew Ratliff
CENTER / CENTER POINT	To be supplied
CHRIST - TEXARKANA / OGDEN	J. David Kassos
CHRIST OF THE HILLS - HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE	
.....	Walter L. Smith
Associates	Patricia Butler
.....	Sheila M. Jones
DELIGHT / ANTOINE / SMYRNA.....	James Taylor Henderson
DEQUEEN FIRST / GILLHAM	Mark Cloninger
DIAMONDHEAD	George W. McCoy
DIERKS / GREEN'S CHAPEL	Carroll D. Jackson
DODDRIDGE / OLIVE BRANCH.....	Walter L. Burnett
DUMAS MEMORIAL	Patricia Daugherty
EBENEZER - NASHVILLE.....	Shirley F. White-Souder
EBENEZER - STEPHENS	Kenneth Hipp
EL DORADO FIRST	Royal Keith Dodson
EMERSON.....	Barbara Grimes Lewis
EMMET / HARMONY - HOPE / WILLISVILLE	
.....	Jerry G. Westmoreland
FAIRVIEW - CAMDEN / WESTSIDE.....	Roger Allen Crum
FAIRVIEW - TEXARKANA	Philip McLarty
FAITH - HOT SPRINGS	Wanda L. Murray
FORDYCE FIRST	Phil Smith
FOREMAN / WADE'S CHAPEL.....	Kathryn Burchfield
FRIENDSHIP - FRIENDSHIP / KEITH MEMORIAL	
.....	Jeff Ladd

[continued]

FRIENDSHIP - PRESCOTT / SWEET HOME UNION	Gene M. Ross
GARDNER / GUM SPRINGS	Regina Turner
GLENWOOD / DAISY	Lonnie M. Landers
GRAND AVENUE - HOT SPRINGS	David Fleming
GREER'S CHAPEL / LYDESDALE	James Mark Lasater
GURDON / CENTER GROVE - GURDON	Travis Langley
HALL	Joyce Watson
HAMPTON / HARRELL / FAUSTINA	Charles A. Perry
HARMONY - COLUMBIA / PHILADELPHIA / UNITY	John Wayne Edwards
HARMONY GROVE - CAMDEN / HOLLY SPRINGS / LAKESIDE	Terrie Lynn Bunnell
HAVEN	Chester Ray Jones
HINTON / DE ANN	Lincoln Combs
HOLLY SPRINGS - TEXARKANA	Doug Rhodes
HOPE FIRST	Steven Johnson
HORATIO / WINTHROP	Jay Mueller
HOT SPRINGS FIRST	David F. Moseley
Associates	William Zachary Roberts
	John P. Miles
Deacon	Teresa L. Holt
HUNTER'S CHAPEL / TULIP / WAVERLY	Tammy Harrell
HUTTIG	Robert Earl Ballard
JUNCTION CITY	Mary Depper
LANGLEY	Elias Nesar
LEWISVILLE	Ronnie K. Eldridge
LISBON / MARYSVILLE	Wayne Chambers
LOCKESBURG FIRST / WICKES	Teresa Egan Chapman
MAGNET COVE / SHOREWOOD HILLS	Walter J. Garrett
MAGNOLIA FIRST	Pamela Jean Estes
MALVERN FIRST	Lavon Post

MANCHESTER	Michael Shawn Meeks
MINERAL SPRINGS	Alfred C. Loya
MISSOURI	Ryan Bachuss
MORNING STAR	John Franklin Walker
MOUNT CARMEL - LOCKESBURG / SCOTT'S MEMORIAL	Tommy Halsell
	Tommy Halsell
MOUNT IDA / JOPLIN	Russell Edward Hull
MOUNT MORIAH	Tommy Howard
MOUNT OLIVE - FORDYCE / BETHEL - NEW EDINBURG / WILSON	L.T. Marks
CHAPEL	L.T. Marks
MOUNTAINSIDE	Davida Autry
Associate	Andrew Suite
MURFREESBORO	James Waincott
NASHVILLE FIRST / BINGEN	James E. Harris
NEW ERA / MOUNT PISGAH	Charles Payne
NEW SALEM	George T. Whitney
NORMAN	William Charles Bradford
NORPHLET / CENTENNIAL	Ronnie Newberry
OAKLAWN	Russell D. Breshears
PARKER'S CHAPEL / PLEASANT GROVE	Tracy Roden
PINEY GROVE	R. Scott Gallimore
PRESCOTT FIRST / HOLLYWOOD	Larry W. Martineau
PULLMAN HEIGHTS	Ronald G. Grigsby
RHODES CHAPEL	James Carroll Rawls
ROCKPORT / L'EAU FRAIZ	Troy Lee Cate
RONDO / PLEASANT HILL - TEXARKANA	Harry J. "Buddy" Hamner
	Harry J. "Buddy" Hamner
RUSHING MEMORIAL	Benny Morgan
SAINT ANDREW - ARKADELPHIA	Bobby W. Sanders
SAINT JOHN	Danny Dunlap
SAINT MARK - EL DORADO	Winston D. Roden
SAINT PAUL - EL DORADO	Lynn Ann Lewis McClure

SAINT PAUL - MALVERN / ADKINS MEMORIAL	Ferman Dale Chance
	Ferman Dale Chance
SILVER SPRINGS	Jannette Mosley
SMACKOVER / SILVER HILL	Leon Thomas Dixon Jr.
SPARKMAN / DALARK / BETHLEHEM	Peggy Abbott
SPRING HILL / OAK GROVE	Revel Kidd
STAMPS	John J. Noggle
SUGAR HILL	Gregory A. Burks
SWEET HOME - MURFREESBORO	Alton R. Terrell
TAYLOR	Spencer Glendas Plumley
TEXARKANA FIRST	Bruce Wayne Bennett
Associate	Robert Holifield
TIMOTHY / SAINT MARK - CAMDEN	Deanna L. McCormack
TRINITY - GURDON / OKOLONA / MOUNT ZION - ARKADELPHIA	Andrew Orr
	Andrew Orr
VALLEY GROVE	Ivory Joe Williams
VILLAGE - HOT SPRINGS	Wade Shownes
WASHINGTON	Keenan C. Williams
WILEY CHAPEL	Dwight Burke

Extension ministries

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

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The rules will still allow for debate, but will eliminate amendments and substitutions.

"Our goal is not that one side wins," said Conference secretary the Rev. Aubrietta Jones. "Our goal is that God wins in our hearts and minds and souls."

Robert's Rules of Order will still be used in a more limited role when not in conflict with the session rules or the Book of Discipline.

The Rev. Mackey Yokem presented changes to the standing rules which simplify that document. Among the changes: a two-thirds rather than three-quarters majority will be required to change or suspend the standing rules, and a 60 percent vote will now be required to change Conference structure.

Members also approved a proposal from the Episcopacy Committee and Trustees to sell the episcopal residence. Money from the sale will be invested with the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas so that it is available if needed for another residence. Interest from that investment will go toward a housing allowance for the bishop.

The Pension and Health Benefits report included a vote that the money remaining in the former

Conference insurance account will be used to fund existing pension liability, and to guard against future liability. The Council on Finance and Administration report included explanations of changes in the budget resulting from the new methods of apportionment, approved last year under the name Arkansas Tithe Initiative.

Mourning, celebration

Bishop Mueller asked Conference members to join him in praying for those affected by the June 12 mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. "It is a national tragedy on so many different fronts," he said before he began the prayer.

Another reason for mourning involved the death of an Annual Conference lay member. Nina Winningham from First UMC Harrisburg on Monday night passed away in her hotel room. She served as church secretary at First UMC Harrisburg, and as a Lay Servant.

"She believed she was doing God's work here at Annual Conference," said the Rev. Clark Atkins, her pastor, on Tuesday morning before he led the

Conference in a memorial prayer.

The Conference also celebrated two ministry milestones. The Rev. Victoria Rebeck, director of deacon ministry development and provisional membership with the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, spoke to mark the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Order of Deacons. The Rev. Adam Kirby, chair of the Arkansas Conference Order of Deacons, offered a prayer of thanksgiving as deacons stood to be recognized.

The Rev. Pam Estes, chair of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, reflected on the 60th anniversary of the denomination granting full clergy rights for women. She expressed appreciation to clergy brothers "who advocate for us by reminding their congregations that if they're lucky, they might get a woman."

Estes celebrated that women are "faithful, joyful, hope-filled partners with Jesus, the risen Lord and Savior," and wondered at what may come next.

"Who knows what barriers may disappear as we move into the future, remembering that we are all in Christ?" she asked. "Who knows what may happen in the future as we follow the commission to love as God loves us?"

The celebration of full clergy

rights for women took another form in the selection of the Rev. Bonda Moyer to preach at the Celebration of Life service. In 1993, she became the first female district superintendent in Arkansas. Clergywomen firsts at this Conference included the ordination of the Rev. Naomi Punamchong Rogers as an elder in full connection, the first Korean American female ordained in the history of Methodism in Arkansas; and the Rev. Aubrietta Jones serving as the first woman secretary of the Arkansas Annual Conference.

Resolutions

Two resolutions came before the Annual Conference for discussion and vote.

The first, a resolution to "Encourage the Formation of Accountable Discipleship Groups in the Local Church," passed overwhelmingly, with no speeches against it.

A second resolution, written in support of the Council of Bishops' proposal approved by General Conference regarding human sexuality and titled "A Resolution to Support the Council of Bishops' Proposal, A Way Forward," prompted more discussion, including time spent in small groups at the direction of the

bishop. Speeches against this resolution dealt less with the proposal approved by General Conference and more with the composition of the resolution itself, including that it called for haste when the Holy Spirit cannot be rushed, and that the language used may promote disunity. It failed on a written ballot by a vote of 310 to 356.

Statistics

Director of administrative services and Conference treasurer Todd Burris delivered the statistical report, which included a slight decline in attendance (3 percent) and membership (less than 1 percent).

However, reports from local churches indicate that in that same time frame, more than 1.4 million people were served by United Methodist community outreach efforts in Arkansas.

"That's a 7 percent increase from the previous year," Burris said.

For more photos from Annual Conference, visit the Photos section of the Arkansas Conference Facebook page: [facebook.com/arkansasumc/photos](https://www.facebook.com/arkansasumc/photos). Videos, including interviews with retirees, will be posted at www.vimeo.com/arkansasumc.

OBITUARIES

ATKINS

Jeaneane Markham

Jeaneane Markham, 74, of Atkins, passed away Saturday, May 21, 2016, at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock.

She was born Sept. 9, 1941, in Atkins, the daughter of the late Jesse and Orene Whitesides Henderson.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church Atkins, the United Methodist Women and NARFE. She served on the Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women Committee on Nominations, and as its chairperson in 2016. She also had served as treasurer in the former Conway District of the North Arkansas Conference, and in many different offices in the former North Central District of the North Arkansas Conference. In addition, she served as the treasurer for Arkansas Conference Mission in 2013-2014.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Earlene Peak; and a great-niece, Lauren Papasan.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Markham; sister, Linda Roper; two nieces: Kellie Van Es and Karen Cook; two nephews: Dave Peak and his wife, Nichole; and Jim Peak and his wife, Roxanne; four great-nieces: Haylee Peak, Jessie Van Es, Kaitlyn Peak and Kennedy Cook; three great-nephews: Cody Peak, Mitchell Cook and Aaron Van Es; and a great-great-niece, Layla Cochran.

Private burial was held May 24, with Kevin Van Es, Jim Peak, Cody Peak, Aaron Van Es, Seth Cochran, and Ed Newman serving as pallbearers. A family-conducted service of remembrance was held June 2 at First UMC Atkins.

FAYETTEVILLE

Claudia M. Bailey

Claudia M. Bailey, 62, of Fayetteville passed away Sunday, May 1, 2016, in Dallas, Texas. She was born Jan. 10, 1954, in Youngstown, Ohio, the daughter of Adolph and Patricia Natalie Lyons.

She was a homemaker and member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Fayetteville.

She was preceded in death by her mother, and by her husband, the Rev. Rob Bailey, who served in the North Arkansas and Arkansas Conferences, including appointments at Christ United UMC Paragould, Kibler UMC and Trinity

UMC Fayetteville.

Survivors include her father, Adolph Lyons of Topock, Arizona; her daughter, Tessa Bailey of Fayetteville, Arkansas; two step-sons, Gordon Bailey and his wife Meaghan of Valparaiso, Indiana and Aaron Bailey of Cleveland, Ohio; and three grandchildren, Dirk, Caden and Emily.

A memorial service was held Saturday, May 7, 2016, at Goshen United Methodist Church.

PARIS

Jim Brooks

The Rev. Jim F. Brooks, 73, who resided in Paris, Arkansas, passed away Thursday, June 16, 2016, in Paris.

He was born May 22, 1943, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, the son of the Rev. A.R. and Velma (Clem) Brooks, who preceded him in death.

A United Methodist minister for more than 52 years, he served dozens of churches in all parts of the state. A gifted preacher, but an even better shepherd to his congregations, he leaves behind multitudes of former parishioners for whom he modeled Christ by his compassion and grace. His entire life was a sermon.



Jim Brooks

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, Herman Brooks, J.R. Brooks, Eldon Brooks, and William Eugene Brooks; two sisters, Velma (Brooks) Smith and Nancy Brooks.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Anna (Mainer) Brooks, of Paris; three children, Jim F. (Meesa) Brooks Jr. of North Little Rock, Beth (Douglas) Cobb of Barling and Jeff Brooks of Fort Smith; a brother, Joe Brooks of Fort Smith; six grandchildren, Tashee Johnson, James Michael Brooks, Benjamin Cobb, Kaitlin Cobb, Emily Brooks and Nick Brooks; two great-grandchildren, Ryleigh and Calii; Sue Hutchison of Malvern, to whom he called his "adopted" daughter; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held at Monday, June 20, at Brotherton Funeral Home Chapel in Paris, with the Rev. Randy Ludwig officiating. Burial followed at Caulksville Cemetery in Caulksville.

Pallbearers were Douglas Cobb, Benjamin Cobb, Nick Brooks, Steve Smith, Joe Hurdle and Steve Ford.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 4300 Rogers Ave., Suite #24, Fort Smith, AR 72903, and to Shoal Creek Camp, c/o Renee Henson, 1102 Northview Drive, Van Buren, AR 72956.

ROGERS

Tommye Mae Sparks

Tommye Mae Sparks, 89, passed away Tuesday, May 24, 2016, in Rogers, Arkansas. Tommye Mae was born April 8, 1927 in Memphis, Tennessee, to Russell Everett and Tommye Gartrell Owen.

A devoted Christian and a longtime member of First United Methodist Church Marked Tree, as well as First United Methodist Church Bentonville, she was a member of the Methodist Guild, Progressive Club and Handbell Choir, as well as a Girl Scout leader. She worked alongside her husband, the Rev. Joe Sparks, a retired associate member of the Arkansas Conference, in his many endeavors. She was a loving homemaker, as well as a caregiver to many, an expert seamstress, a wonderful hostess and enjoyed water-skiing, square-dancing and playing bridge. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, great-granddaughters and many friends.



Tommye Mae Sparks

Tommye Mae was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Charles Russell; and her sister-in-law, Charlotte Owen. Tommye Mae is survived by her husband, Joe Sparks; her children: Linda Payne and her husband, Alan, of Lowell, Arkansas; Russell Sparks and his wife, Karen, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; and Tommye Baldwin and her husband, Jay, of Madison, Wisconsin; five grandchildren: Jennifer Duesterbeck, Sidney King, Rebecca Baldwin, Rachel Baldwin and Nathan Baldwin; and her great-granddaughters, Kayla Duesterbeck, Harper King and Riley King.

A service was held Saturday, May 28, at First UMC Marked Tree, with the Revs. Dany Partlow and Rex Dickey officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First UMC Marked Tree, P.O. Box 357, Marked Tree, AR 72365-0357.

High ropes course now open at Tanako for camps, groups

Camp Tanako, the United Methodist camping center near Hot Springs, has opened its high ropes challenge course, which was made possible through a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

This summer's campers can be among the first to take advantage of the climbing tower, rappelling wall, zip line, team-based challenges and more. The course is designed to move participants out of their comfort zones in a way that promotes spiritual growth and self-confidence.

The grant purchased ropes, harnesses, helmets, other hardware, and Association for Challenge Course Technology facilitator training.

The course is available for use during group retreats as well as summer camps. To schedule a time for your group, contact Kim Carter, the camp's executive director, at director@tanako.org.

COURTESY PHOTO



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Mount Eagle's Hermitage Cabin under construction

Helpers needed to reach mid-October completion goal



A number of volunteers from across Arkansas, including the RV-based NOMADS group (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service), have had a hand in the construction of the new Hermitage Cabin at Mount Eagle Retreat Center. Work began May 16 on this one- or two-person cabin, which will be ideal for personal retreats.

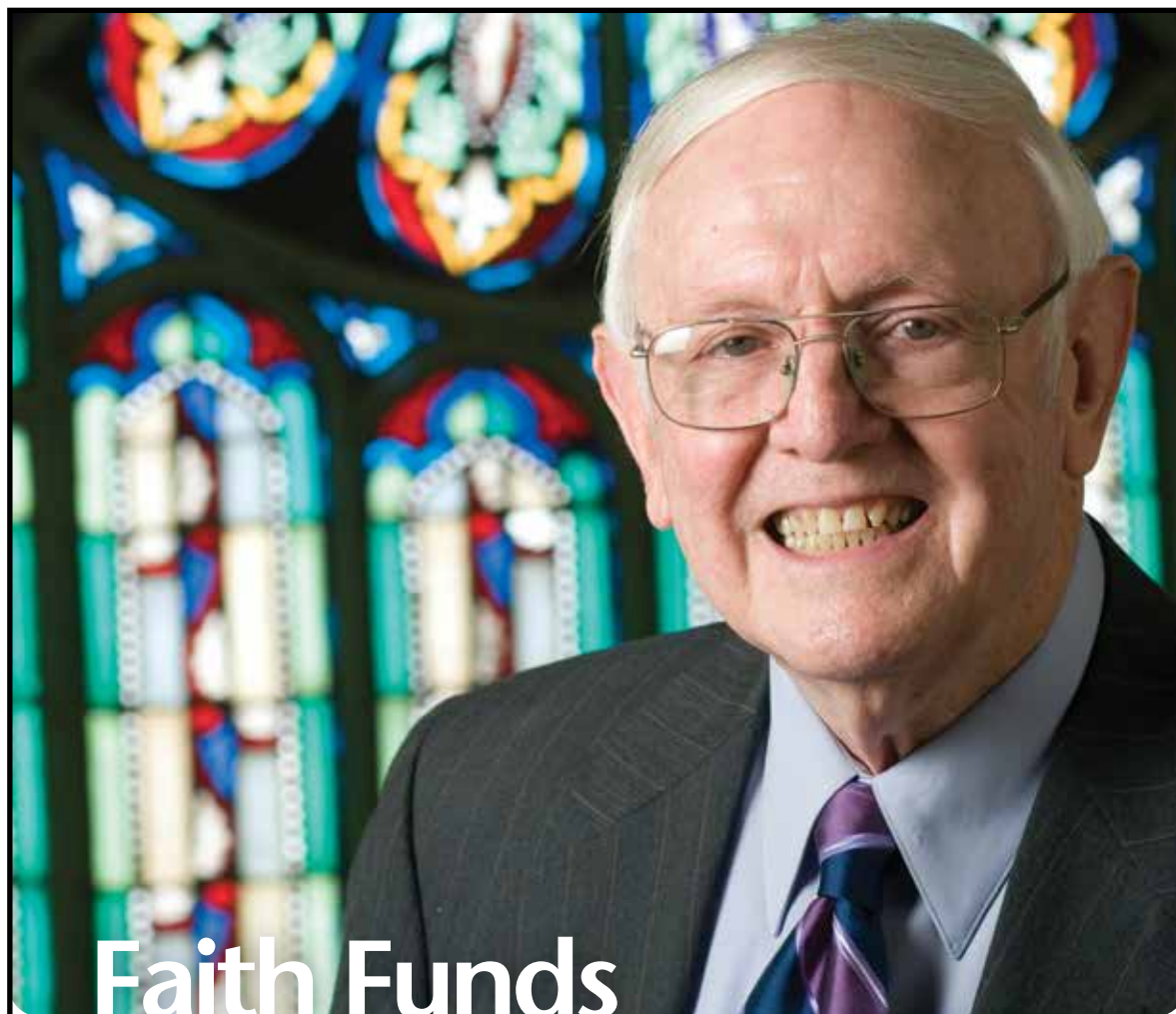
A retreat center owned by the United Methodists of Arkansas and located near Clinton, Mount Eagle's mission is to provide Christian hospitality and opportunities for holy listening.

Mount Eagle is happy to host volunteers wanting to help with various stages of construction, including exterior siding, plumbing, setting the shower, toilet and sinks, installing insulation, interior wall board and flooring, and finishing trim work. To arrange a time to donate your skills, contact Sarge Leonard, sarge.leonard@arumc.org, director@mouneagle.org or 501-723-4580. Leonard expects that the Hermitage Cabin will be ready to receive guests by mid-October.

Visit www.mouneagle.org to learn more about Mount Eagle Retreat Center or to schedule a visit.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Faith Funds

Not Retired from God's Work

Rev. Herschel H. McClurkin, Jr., may be designated as a retired United Methodist Minister, but his current service belies that title. He serves as a part-time staff member at First UMC, Fort Smith and he and his wife, Mardell, lead the Pacesetters at the church. Herschel and Mardell serve on the Board of Directors for Shoal Creek Camp.

A former long-time member of the UMFA Board of Directors, Rev. McClurkin believes United Methodists in Arkansas need to be conscientious in how we use the resources God has entrusted to us. "The Foundation is a direct, easy way for people to see that their funds designated for United Methodist causes are appropriately used to advance the Kingdom of God in keeping with His will," he said.

He said the Foundation helps local churches with endowments for special needs like building maintenance, an increasing burden for many congregations. "Some elderly individuals with trust funds at UMFA are helped in a variety of ways by staff members," Rev. McClurkin said. "There is tremendous dedication to serving United Methodist projects, individual churches, and seminary students. The Foundation's staff has an admired Christian spirit as well as professional expertise."



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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