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## Paysinger Hunger Summit designed to encourage action

BY MICHELLE J. MORRIS  
Special Contributor

“Why are you calling our names out?”  
“We got to.”  
“Why you got to?”

State Senator Bobby J. Pierce of Sheridan recalled this conversation with his high school principal. The argument happened when Pierce was in 10th grade and he refused to go to the office to pick up his free lunch ticket because they were announcing all the names of the free lunch kids over the loudspeaker. Pierce refused to sign for his ticket, and his refusals led to his being punished with licks from a paddle for nine consecutive days before he and the principal came to an understanding.

Pierce was among many people advocating for the needs of those who are hungry at the Paysinger Hunger Summit, held Saturday, Sept. 10 at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church Little Rock. Those needs include not only access to food, but also preservation of the dignity of those who struggle with food insecurity. Pierce’s personal experience as a child growing up in a single-parent household helped frame the discussion throughout the day.

### Combating food insecurity

Staff members of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance served as presenters in many of the Summit’s sessions, including on the panel at lunch, when Patty Barker shared with the attendees some significant details about hunger in Arkansas. According to Barker, Arkansas ranks second in food insecurity, and fifth in food insecurity for children. Food insecurity is defined [See HUNGER, page 8]



State Senator Bobby Pierce, a United Methodist from Sheridan, shared his personal experience with food insecurity as part of the Paysinger Hunger Summit, held Sept. 10 in Little Rock.

AUM PHOTO BY MARY LEWIS DASSINGER

## New location for Ingathering Nov. 19

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

The day is the same—the Saturday before Thanksgiving—as is the mission—helping those in need here in Arkansas and around the world. But the location for Ingathering 2016 is new.

Join hundreds of fellow United Methodists Nov. 19 at the Arkansas Foodbank, 4301 West 65th Street in Little Rock, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a brief worship time at 10 a.m., followed by multiple opportunities to put our faith into action. For more than 30 years, the work done at Ingathering has provided useful disaster response and relief supplies while energizing Jesus’ followers in their call to service.

Ingathering’s new location is a result of the merger earlier this year of the Arkansas Rice Depot and the Arkansas Foodbank. This larger facility provides more space to accommodate the activities connected with this year’s event.

### Plenty to do

Ingathering centers on “gathering in” and preparing items to help those who have experienced disaster, food insecurity or other difficulties. Activities this year will include:

- Receiving and sorting relief supply kits for transport to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sager [See INGATHERING, page 7]



# To build the Kingdom, we need both Mary and Martha

BY WILLIAM O. "BUD" REEVES  
Special Contributor

So I'm sitting at my desk, poring over a revision of the personnel policy for employees. It's the third time I've done this in three appointments with staff, and I begin to wonder, "Why was I called to ministry?" Wasn't it supposed to be about preaching, teaching, winning souls for Christ, being there for people in crisis situations? For me, every moment spent near a human resources document is a moment near the gates of Hades.

But so much of ministry is "church work": committee meetings, policy decisions, managing conflict, raising resources. Where was that "high and holy" part? It seems like we're just plodding along sometimes.

So much of life is just plodding along. We go to work, go to school, or have our list of chores to do at home. We worry about finances, about our kids and/or parents, about conflicts in our families and circle of friends, about the state of the world. Most days it's just putting one foot in front of the other and doing what has to get done. Where's the fun part, the abundant life we were promised?

## Important, not urgent

One of my favorite Bible moments is the story of Mary and Martha and the visit of Jesus in Luke 10. When Jesus and the disciples come to visit, Martha gets all busy preparing meals and making her guests comfortable. Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, trying to soak it all in—until Martha complains, then Jesus seems to rebuke Martha and favor Mary for her more spiritual attitude.

I've always taken a little umbrage at the Lord's remarks there. I sympathize with Martha. Somebody has to fix supper! Somebody has to attend the committee meeting, take the kids to practice, do the laundry, teach Sunday school. Without a few dependable threads, the fabric of our lives would unravel.

But there Mary sits at the feet of Jesus—head tilted back, water in her eyes, heart full to bursting. And Jesus calls it good.

Steven Covey, in his classic *Seven Habits of Highly*

**'Most days it's just putting one foot in front of the other and doing what has to get done. Where's the fun part, the abundant life we were promised?'**



**Bud Reeves**

*Effective People*, talks about the matrix between important and urgent activities. Some things are neither important nor urgent; we can ignore those. Some are important and urgent; we have to deal with those. Some are urgent but not important; those things just waste our time. It's in the important but not urgent items where effectiveness is born. Looking long term, seeing the big picture, projecting a vision for the future—we have to make time to do the important but not urgent activities in order to live a life that is purposeful, meaningful and productive.

## Seeking balance

Mary was doing some important but not urgent activity at the feet of Jesus. We have to make room to balance our "Martha time" with "Mary time." We have to take care of business and do the things that keep the wheels turning. But we can't lose sight of the reason for

our activity, the long-term purpose of our ministry and the things that fill our soul with abundant and eternal life here and now.

Over the course of time, as we look back, we can see that significant things were accomplished. Though we never get it all done in a day, small bits of daily progress add up eventually to remarkable change. Children grow up in the faith, youth navigate adolescence, families grow together, marriages survive, broken people become whole, communities are transformed, churches grow, buildings get built (even paid for!). Little by little, the Kingdom grows. Though there are few leaps and bounds, there are steady steps forward as we remember to do what's important in the midst of what's necessary.

October is Martha time in most of our churches: finance campaigns, Pastor-Parish meetings, nominations, charge conferences. I've been down that road a few times. Let me encourage you to make time to be Mary in this season. Pray. Worship. Build relationships. Practice mercy and compassion. That's important, even if not urgent.

But let me also encourage you embrace your inner Martha. Do the work of the church as if it's the work of the Kingdom, because largely it is. Plodding along is still walking the walk, and the reward is still life abundant and eternal in the end. Walk on!

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



## EDITOR'S CORNER

BY AMY FORBUS

# Comfortable days

Cooler, more comfortable weather has begun to approach here in Arkansas. We're entering the season when I find the most joy in being outdoors. The crisp morning air signals autumn's arrival, even if the afternoons still top out above 80 degrees.

This time of year seems to begin a swift downhill roll toward Christmas, but you'll find me digging my heels into the leaf-covered mud at every opportunity. Autumn may feel brief in the South, but it is its own legitimate season worth savoring. The trees with leaves that disappear each year are part of the same gift from God as the evergreens we decorate each winter.

The next holiday on the calendar is Halloween, which usually means a fair amount of yard decorations at our house. Then Thanksgiving arrives in practically no time at all. Except if you think of it that way, you've missed a truly holy day: All Saints' Day, the whole reason Halloween ("All Hallows' Eve") even exists.

I remember being relieved that my dad was OK with skipping All Saints' Sunday the year my mother died. I don't think either of us was ready to hear her name read aloud, with the tolling of a handbell that she very well might have rung herself in years past. The intensity of that grief has faded, and my dad and many other loved ones now rest with the communion of saints—those in

"all the company of heaven" whose unending hymn we join each time we speak the Communion liturgy. All Saints' Day now claims a more valued place in my life.

John Wesley's journal entries reflect a fondness for All Saints' Day. He referred to it as "a festival I truly love" in 1767, and on Nov. 1, 1788, he wrote, "I always find this a comfortable day."

"Comfortable." His word choice sent me to my Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, suspecting that the word as we use it may have evolved from his 18th-century context. Sure enough, I discovered that in Wesley's young adult years, "comfortable" might more readily mean "giving mental or spiritual delight," or "strengthening (morally, spiritually or physically); sustaining; encouraging; reassuring."

Taken with these meanings, then, yes, I do find All Saints' Day comfortable. It delights and strengthens me with assurance that a cloud of witnesses surrounds us; it sustains me by giving me a glimpse of heaven; and remembering the work and lives of those who have gone before us encourages and reassures me. As we approach another remembrance of the saints in the month ahead, I hope it does the same for you.

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



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### Submission Deadlines

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
Nov. 4	Oct. 17
Dec. 2	Nov. 14
Jan. 6	Dec. 12

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# Reflections on a pilgrim's walk

BY MILLER WILBOURN  
Special Contributor

For three weeks in September, I walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain, starting along the northern coast and then crossing the Cantabrian Mountains via the “Camino Primitivo,” or “Original Way.”

I walked for 20 days. Each day I had hours to walk, pray, reflect and work on memorizing favorite pieces of literature. Unfortunately, I am still not wise, and I didn't learn any profound lessons from my few weeks on the trail, but thousands of footfalls did drive home one or two simple ones (that I probably should have already learned).

I also met lots of interesting people, made a few friends, and saw the country from a perspective that I think most tourists miss. Peaceful, quiet mornings and hot, sweaty, foot-achy afternoons mingled together to create a journey that kept

me constantly praying, either to thank God for the blessings of the trail or to ask for endurance. After 300 miles, I reached the end of my pilgrimage at Santiago de Compostela, a destination that countless pilgrims before me have shared.

As my feet recover and I readjust to a lifestyle of fewer steps at a faster pace, I find myself missing the quiet and solitude of my walk. Those mornings wading through mist and waiting for the first birdsongs offered me a glimpse of the “peace which passes understanding” that Paul says is waiting for those who pray.

Most people on the Camino would cite reasons for walking that are much different from mine—usually not overtly spiritual ones—but I think we are all pilgrims, walking for those same beautiful moments. Some walk to find peace or purpose; others, in response to tragedy; to appreciate beauty; to slow

down; to take care of their bodies; to spend time with a loved one.

No matter the reason, I think there is something spiritual in every walk. What's more, I think God walks with us all, invited or not. We all walk along the same Way, and it is impossible to walk without finding something holy in the journey.

I found a few holy moments too, and once or twice I think I could just make out that still, small voice whispering to my inner self or calling me up and ahead. Sometimes I felt I could only capture those moments through (clumsy) poetry, like this poem from the end of my walk:

Here,  
Before the skyline,  
Salt-wind on my face,  
I receive my benediction.

Here,  
With bare feet,  
Bruised and battered,



Miller Wilbourn near the beginning of his walk on the Camino de Santiago.  
COURTESY PHOTO

Scarred and scored,  
But stronger than before,  
I will start walking.

The still, small voice:  
“You've learned to walk,  
But only a little way.”

“So wander, wander far  
But come back home.  
Share what you see,

Find a companion,  
Some humble seeker,  
And wander again.”

*Wilbourn, a member of Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock, served as a member of Arkansas' delegation to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference. To read more about his walk, in Spain and beyond, visit his blog, [www.halfway38.wordpress.com](http://www.halfway38.wordpress.com).*



## PRACTICAL DIVINITY

BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

# New Room Conference brings new life

The Methodist revival began in earnest in the spring of 1739. Along with London, the city of Bristol was one of the early centers for revival activity. That activity was so significant that it soon became clear that land needed to be purchased and a building erected to house Methodist activities.

What would come to be known as the New Room in Bristol was the first structure built by John Wesley and his fledgling movement. He describes its beginnings in his Journal on May 9, 1739:

“We took possession of a piece of ground, near St. James's churchyard, in the Horsefair, where it was designed to build a room large enough to contain both the societies of Nicholas and Baldwin Street and such of their acquaintance as might desire to be present with them at such times as the Scripture was expounded. And on Saturday the 12th the first stone was laid, with the voice of praise and thanksgiving.”

We can interpret the name of the new building—the “New Room”—in

a couple of different ways from the standpoint of history. The most obvious is that it was literally a new thing, a building newly erected to house preaching gatherings and meetings of the Bristol bands.

The other way to interpret the New Room's name is that it provided new room for Christian believers to practice the means of grace. It offered a space within the lives of mostly hardscrabble people to gather together that they might hear the word of God preached and share conversation and prayer about their faith journeys.

If you fast forward 275 years, then you'll discover that there is yet a third way that New Room can be interpreted: as the name adopted by the fastest growing conference of Wesleyan Christians in the world.

Two years ago, Seedbed Publishing began hosting a three-day gathering called the New Room Conference as a way to bring together Wesleyans with a deep passion for revival, worship, prayer and mission. Seedbed's own motto is “Sowing for a Great Awakening.” The Christian

publisher knows that it can't bring about revival under its own power, but it does believe it can plant the seeds that will provide for revival's beginnings when God chooses to grant the growth.

The New Room Conference takes place each September in Franklin, Tennessee. As an attendee at each of the first three conferences, I can attest to its electric growth. The initial New Room in 2014 attracted a little over 300 people. In 2015, that more than doubled to almost 800 people. At the New Room Conference held just a few days ago, there were more than 1,500 people present. In just two short years, New Room has witnessed a 500 percent increase in attendance.

Why is this significant? For a couple of reasons.

The turmoil that the United Methodist Church is currently undergoing is no secret to anyone. The failure of bishops, pastors, and congregations to abide within our common covenant is threatening to rip the church apart at the seams. One spillover effect of all of this tension is

that our official conferencing—in Annual Conferences, Jurisdictional Conferences and General Conference—tends to discourage more than encourage.

In short, we've seen very little of what Wesley meant by “Christian conferencing” in our official gatherings over the past few years. When Christian conferencing is a means of grace, it emphasizes testimony, prayer, conversations about faith and the sharing of a common witness.

What we lack in our official gatherings the New Room Conference has in spades. The preaching, teaching, prayer and worship I witnessed a few days ago in Franklin was one of the most enlivening and encouraging experiences I've had in 15 years of ministry.

We are at a turning point in the life of our connection. What we desperately need is new room—to rediscover our Wesleyan evangelical roots and recommit ourselves to the deeply Methodist mission with which we first set out.

No single conference is going to

## Our Trajectory

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

equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.

do all of the work needed to gain a course correction in our common life. But the New Room is certainly a start.

*The Rev. Dr. Thompson serves as senior pastor of First UMC Springdale. He can be reached at [www.andrewthompson.com](http://www.andrewthompson.com).*

## PEOPLE OF FAITH



Pictured, from left: Home Missioner Scott Vickery, acting executive secretary of the Order of Deaconesses and Home Missioners; Deaconess Judy Poole, President of NADHM; and the two Arkansas attendees: retired Deaconess Iris Bell Hightower and Deaconess Colleen Caldwell.

COURTESY PHOTO



More than a dozen Arkansans attended this year's NOMADS national meeting. Back row, from left: Carol and Howard Stoner, Sarge Leonard, Joe Vigil, Pat and David Crooks, Virgie Brown, Linda and Jerrel Fielder. Front row: Marietha Leonard, Jayne Vigil, Doris Jones, Dan Brown, Cecil Jones.

COURTESY PHOTO

### Arkansas Deaconesses attend national convocation

Two Arkansas United Methodist Deaconesses, Colleen Caldwell and Iris Bell Hightower, participated in the National Association of Deaconesses and Home Missioners (NADHM) Convocation, held Aug. 25-28, 2016 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. A scholarship from United Methodist Women made it possible for retired Deaconess Hightower, a former rural Church and Community Worker, to attend the NADHM Convocation for the very first time.

Held every two years, the convocation allows Deaconesses and Home Missioners from the U.S. and the Philippines time to renew friendships and live out their vow to live as a covenant community. The 130 in attendance this year emphasized the theme, Streams of Justice (Amos 5:24), in every Bible study, worship service, business session and activity. Saturday evening featured a moving and inspiring time of mission stories highlighting justice issues. Hightower shared a story from the 1950s about how she helped a group of teenage girls through a hard time in their lives. Caldwell, project manager of the Arkansas Conference 200,000 Reasons Childhood Hunger initiative, is a member of the Nurture and Care team for the

Deaconess and Home Missioner community; she served as a prayer partner and spiritual guide during the Convocation.

### Arkansans serve as leaders at NOMADS national meeting

When the United Methodist NOMADS (Nomads on a Mission Active in Divine Service) held their annual meeting Sept. 10-15 in Branson, Missouri, it included a dozen NOMADS from the state of Arkansas, plus two representatives from Mount Eagle Retreat Center.

NOMADS from Arkansas who attended the Annual Meeting were Dan and Virgie Brown from Rogers, David and Pat Crooks from Hot Springs, Jerrel and Linda Fielder from Conway, Howard and Carol Stoner from Texarkana, Joe and Jayne Vigil from Hot Springs Village,

and Cecil & Doris Jones from Royal. Also attending were Mount Eagle director Sarge Leonard and Marietha Leonard.

Several from Arkansas carried out duties at the gathering. Carol and Howard Stoner served as coordinators of the annual meeting, Jayne Vigil as music program director and Dan Brown as outgoing board chair. Sarge Leonard gave an appreciation speech expressing gratitude to NOMADS for all their dedication to service at Mount Eagle.

There are more than 850 members in NOMADS, and about 25 of these are from Arkansas. NOMADS' mission is to "share God's love by making a difference for others." If you or someone you know has an R.V. and is looking for a purpose in retirement, or even if you are not retired, contact NOMADS at 866-466-6237 or 866-4-NOMADS or visit [www.nomadsumc.org](http://www.nomadsumc.org).

### Hendrix Youth Institute participants reflect on inaugural session

The Hendrix Youth Institute (HYI) began in June 2016 with 12 rising high school sophomores and juniors from churches in Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. The students spent the first week of the Institute on Hendrix College's campus, attending classes in Bible and United Methodist history, shadowing ministry professionals, learning about social entrepreneurship, worshipping with children at the Methodist Family Health home, and experiencing a variety of worship services.

In the second half of the two-week experience, HYI students participated in a mission trip to Guatemala, where they helped paint a new parsonage for a United Methodist minister.

The students spent both weeks of HYI exploring a call to ministry and learning more about the variety of opportunities available to be in ministry. They participated in an Orientation to Ministry event presented by the Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality, where many of them discovered for the first time the various tracks to ordination in the United Methodist Church.

The group will gather for a reunion and follow-up event in January, which will include participating in mission opportunities at CanvasCommunity UMC Little Rock, and sharing how their summer experiences at HYI had an impact as they returned to their homes and local churches.

Students shared their impressions of the first HYI session anonymously through written evaluations. Here are some of their reactions:

- "Hendrix Youth Institute not only gave me new insight, but also new experiences, new knowledge, spiritual growth, and new friendships with such wonderful faithful people."
- "HYI has been an amazing opportunity that has really helped to clarify God's calling for me and my place in the United Methodist Church."
- "Hendrix Youth Institute is one of the most eye-opening and life changing experiences I have ever had. I learned so much about my call to ministry and what that really means."
- "This is honestly one of the best choices I've made, and I knew I had a call to ministry, but HYI really helped me find out how to use my calling."

Contact Michelle Moore for details on HYI: [michelle.moore@arumc.org](mailto:michelle.moore@arumc.org).

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

**Primrose United Methodist Church in Little Rock, AR is seeking a part time pianist** to accompany our worship service on Sunday mornings. Rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings 6:30-7:30. Candidate will accompany hymns, anthems and contemporary praise music, along with providing instrumental music during worship. Contact Pam Wildschuetz [pyoung@swbell.net](mailto:pyoung@swbell.net) with questions regarding this position.

**First UMC Hot Springs is seeking an innovative Director of Contemporary Music and Worship** to lead relevant, focused worship in our Connexion service. In addition to leading Sunday morning worship, the worship leader will conduct weekly practices for the praise team and creatively collaborate with the pastor and worship team to prepare excellent thematic worship and music. Join one of the most revered Methodist churches in Arkansas as we share the love of Christ with families in our community. Passionate musical leaders are encouraged to contact Rev. David Moseley at [david.moseley@arumc.org](mailto:david.moseley@arumc.org).

**MAYFLOWER UMC in Mayflower, Ark., seeks a pianist to accompany our worship service** at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday morning. We enjoy singing from the United Methodist Hymnal as well as Heavenly Highways. Candidate should be able to sight-read music, accompany three hymns, provide soft prelude as people are seated, play during the offertory and Holy Communion, and play a brief postlude after worship. Salary is \$75 per week. Contact Rick Wilkins, [Revrickwilkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Revrickwilkins@sbcglobal.net), or Brad Frakes, [brazlewood@yahoo.com](mailto:brazlewood@yahoo.com), with questions. To schedule an interview, email [nancyacre@gmail.com](mailto:nancyacre@gmail.com).

**Swamp Angel Ministries is "TRAVELING ARKANSAS!"** For more info contact Dr. David Bush @ Stuttgart FUMC - (870) 673-1131 or [thepastor@stuttgartfumc.org](mailto:thepastor@stuttgartfumc.org) call or text @ (870) 830-7777.

## Youth workers enrich ministry skills at EQUIP

Sixty-five youth workers from 33 churches across Arkansas attended EQUIP 2016, held Sept. 10 at First UMC Conway. The keynote speaker was Matt Tuggle, director of family ministries at Highland Park UMC Dallas, Texas. Tuggle shared ideas about shaping mission and vision statements to help youth programs have the maximum impact on not only youth, but also on the entire family unit.

In addition to the morning keynote session, participants attended afternoon workshops on the topics of volunteers, essentials for youth ministry, discernment and transitions within youth ministry.

EQUIP has been developed as an affordable, accessible training for anyone involved in youth ministry in Arkansas, from part-time and full-time youth workers to pastors to volunteers. The next EQUIP will be held on Aug. 26, 2017, at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock.

—Submitted by Michelle Moore



Bart Patton (standing), director of youth and young adult ministry education at Perkins School of Theology, talks with First UMC Beebe's youth minister Virginia Brown, and Trey Watson, a volunteer with First UMC Beebe.



Keynote speaker Matt Tuggle of Highland Park UMC Dallas addressed the topic of building family ministries in local congregations while giving guidelines for how to set a vision and mission for a church's entire ministry.

PHOTOS BY MIKE MEEKS

## More than \$25,000 in food ministry grants awarded by 200,000 Reasons initiative

Applications now open for fall funding cycle

The United Methodist Church of Arkansas on Sept. 16 announced the awarding of 14 grants totaling \$25,394 as part of the 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger initiative.

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

Grant funds raised through Ingathering, an annual, statewide United Methodist service event, will go to the following United Methodist organizations and churches:

- Argenta UMC North Little Rock
- Emerson UMC
- First UMC Harrisburg & the Arkansas State University Wesley Foundation
- Hawley Memorial UMC Pine Bluff
- Hoxie UMC
- Marianna Larger Parish
- Marshall and Leslie UMCs
- Melbourne UMC
- Mission UMC Fort Smith
- Morrilton UMC
- First UMC Paragould
- St. Paul UMC Searcy
- Theresa Hoover Memorial UMC Little Rock
- White Memorial UMC Little Rock

These funds will support school programs and ministries that feed hungry children, such as backpacks

with food items distributed to students for the weekend, school food pantries and other methods of distributing food to Arkansas' estimated 200,000 children who deal with food insecurity.

The 200,000 Reasons Initiative of the Arkansas United Methodist Church seeks to engage 100 percent of its churches in this initiative to fight childhood hunger by providing long-term stability to hungry families through ministries that meet immediate needs; providing nutrition education; building relationships for empowerment and support; and offering a public witness to Arkansas communities about the needs of hungry children.

Another round of grants for local churches and church-related ministries will be awarded for the Fall 2016 funding cycle. Applications are due by Oct. 15, 2016, and are available for download at [www.200kreasons.arumc.org](http://www.200kreasons.arumc.org).

## Journal, videos from AC2016 now available, as is 2016-17 directory

The **Journal of the 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference** is now available via download or in print.

The digital version can be obtained as a free download at <https://goo.gl/J2tlhO>.

Print copies are \$35, and may be ordered online at <https://goo.gl/MURBdF>.

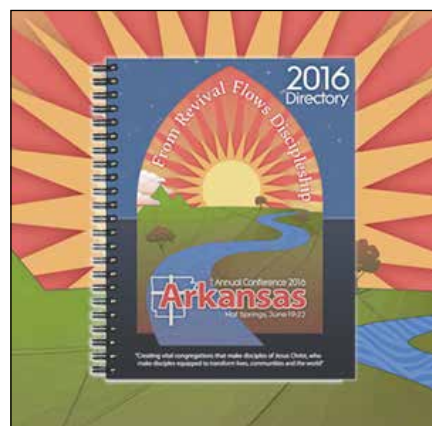
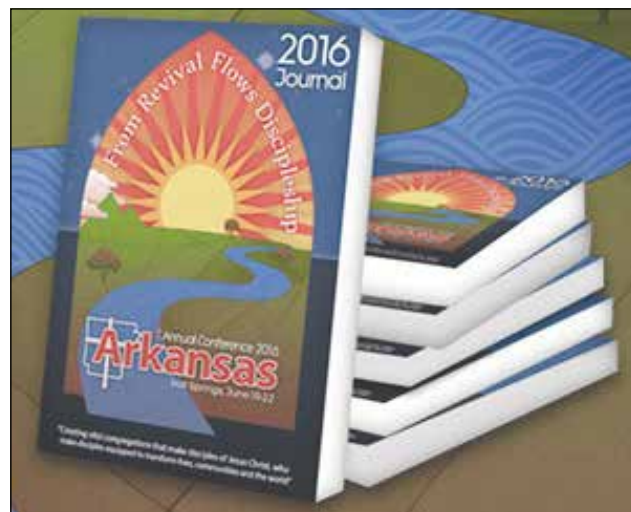
To order a journal by mail, send a check for \$35 to Arkansas Conference UMC, ATTN: Vicki Davis, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

The **Arkansas Conference Directory** for 2016-17 also is available in print or online.

The digital version can be obtained as a free download at <https://goo.gl/YcWYn6>.

Print copies are \$10, and may be ordered online at <https://goo.gl/rjOUCY>.

To order a directory by mail, send a check for \$10 to Arkansas Conference UMC, ATTN: Vicki Davis - Directory, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.



### Videos:

A total of 24 videos from the 2016 Arkansas Annual Conference are now available on the Conference's Vimeo channel, [www.vimeo.com/arkansasumc](http://www.vimeo.com/arkansasumc). Click on "Collections" to see them sorted by type:

- Live action that occurred during Annual Conference, including guest preachers and Tuesday night's Service for the Ordering of Ministry
- The "Spiritual Revival: A Moment to a Movement" video series that made its debut at Annual Conference
- Videos from 12 clergy who retired in 2016.

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**GLOBAL MINISTRIES**  
The United Methodist Church

# Arkansas responds to flood damage in Southeast District and Louisiana

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

United Methodists of Arkansas are in the midst of responding with help for those dealing with damage from recent flooding in southeast Arkansas and the Baton Rouge area of Louisiana.

Disaster Response co-coordinator/Volunteers in Mission coordinator Byron Mann has made multiple journeys to the south to participate in the coordination of disaster response efforts and to deliver supplies donated by United Methodists here at home.

Response has been so strong that the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)'s Sager Brown Depot, which stores relief supplies until they are needed, has announced that their supply of cleaning buckets is sufficient for the time being.

"We will continue to accept cleaning buckets ready to pick up; just don't put any more together," said Disaster Response co-coordinator Janice Mann. "We will divide those received among the staging areas around Arkansas, and Sager Brown for the network."

Sager Brown, which distributes worldwide from its facility in Baldwin, Louisiana, has asked that United Methodists continue assembling and sending Health Kits and School Kits; find the instructions for those sets of supplies in the Ingathering story on the cover of this issue.

Janice Mann reported that two new grants have been awarded for repairs and various unmet needs associated with the flooding. One grant from UMCOR will cover materials and supplies, while a second grant from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy will pay for administrative needs.

"Two long-term recovery groups are currently at work in Desha County and in Chicot County at this time," she said. "The case



Southern Arkansas University's President Ambassadors, Wesley Foundation Student Ministries, Student Affairs, SAU Staff and SAU Faculty in September helped load 37 cleaning buckets to send to UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana.

PHOTO BY AARON WALLIS / SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY

management team is discovering homes that were never cleaned out after the flood."

## Supplies donated, delivered

Byron Mann's most recent delivery to Louisiana included cleaning buckets, health kits and empty boxes for use at the Adventist Community Services Warehouse in Baton Rouge, plus a special donation from a northwest Arkansas company that counts two United Methodists among its owners.

Jim Boyd has been a member of Central UMC Fayetteville since he was 11 years old. And as one of five owners of Universal Fastener Outsourcing, LLC, he knew that they had a stock of "perfectly good, unused, in the box, ready to go" tools and supplies that had experienced slow sales just because of changes in the market. He and W.C. Litzinger, another of the company's owners who is a member of Sequoyah UMC,

decided to donate those materials to help recovering households replace subfloors, exterior decks and fences lost to the floods.

"The only way I'm going to feel comfortable [with the donation] is if I go through my church, so that the fasteners and tools are used for what we want them to be," Boyd said. "I trust the United Methodists are going to do it right."

They expect to bring in their distribution partners in Louisiana to help store and manage the donations, but that will have to happen later. Right now, those partners are still recovering from the flooding, too.

As it stands, they have sent 74 working tools, plus additional non-working tools to mine for replacement parts. They hope this stock will help create a tool check-out resource for homeowners who haven't lost an entire deck or floor, but need to make repairs. The Arkansas Conference Center for Technology has provided

asset tags for numbering and tracking the tools.

"We always have the intent to help people, but you don't always necessarily have it come together [so that] what you have will actually help the people that need it at the time," Boyd said. "Hopefully these will be used for several years, not just this one situation."

Additional supplies specifically requested by the Louisiana Conference Disaster Response Team include tools that will help flood victims finish cleaning out homes, then "household kits" to aid in the process of settling back into their houses once repairs are complete. For a list of these household kits, which will also be accepted at this year's Ingathering Nov. 19 in Little Rock, visit <https://goo.gl/1dvELT>.

## Mission Academy

A timely training opportunity for responding to these disasters took place Sept. 11-14: the South Central Jurisdiction's Mission Academy, held at Mount Sequoyah Retreat and Conference Center in Fayetteville. A number of Arkansas participants among the more than 100 attendees made significant contributions to the event, according to Janice Mann.

Academy participants experienced the worship leadership of the Revs. Carl Palmer and Nathan Kilbourne, as well as the training expertise of Dan Dunn, who taught the "Simple Construction" course, and Kevin Overholt, who led training in chainsaw use (which was rated in evaluations as the most helpful course offered).

"Hands-on and classroom training and great worship, along with networking and fun with old friends and new—I'd say 2016 Mission Academy was a huge success!" she said.

To learn about future training opportunities for disaster response certification and more, contact Janice Mann at [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org).

## VIM AND DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATES

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

### Southeast Arkansas is ready to welcome your VIM team

Before flooding in the Baton Rouge area made national news, the southeast Arkansas communities of McGehee, Lake Village, Crossett, Dermott and others experienced significant flooding. Volunteers in Mission teams are needed now to repair these flood-damaged homes. To schedule a team, contact Janice Mann at [disaster@arumc.org](mailto:disaster@arumc.org).

The climate-controlled host facility in McGehee has real beds (not cots), a kitchen and large common room. Several churches in town take turns feeding teams each evening.

Donations are still needed for continuing recovery efforts. Give to flood relief by sending checks to Arkansas Conference Disaster Response, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

### Help Mount Eagle complete the new Hermitage Cabin

Work teams have made great progress on the new Hermitage Cabin at Mount Eagle Retreat Center, owned by the United Methodists of Arkansas and located near Clinton. More tasks remain, though, to make it ready to accept reservations for one- or two-person retreats.

The two remaining jobs are the construction of a wheelchair ramp to make the cabin accessible to all, and interior finishing work. To arrange a time to donate your skills, contact Sarge Leonard, [sarge.leonard@arumc.org](mailto:sarge.leonard@arumc.org), [director@mounteagle.org](mailto:director@mounteagle.org) or 501-723-4580.

### Cuba mission opportunities and updates

Contact Nechi Fullerton at 501-766-8151 or [nefullerton@yahoo.com](mailto:nefullerton@yahoo.com) to learn more about any of these opportunities with the Methodist Church in Cuba:

- Another VIM team is forming to travel to Holguin, Cuba, to lead Bible school, with the journey tentatively scheduled for July 2017. Now is the time to consider joining the team.
  - Sponsor a child for a Bible school 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. A \$20 gift includes a T-shirt, Bible, snacks and crafts for one child. Follow-up photos provided.
  - Donate a traditional wedding gown for the Holguin church to rent, providing income for the church and a valuable service for members. Marriage, family and tradition are very important in Cuba, but wedding gowns are in short supply. Imagine your wedding gown coming out of storage to bring income and joy in the Methodist Church in Cuba. Photos of the weddings provided on request. Communication with the happy couple very likely.
  - Your church or group can plan a customized mission to Cuba. Fullerton has made multiple visits to the Methodist Church in Cuba over the past three years and can assist with planning.
- To keep up with these and future opportunities in Cuba, visit "Arkansas Methodist-Cuba Metodista Connection" and "Catedral Metodista de Holguin" on Facebook.

## Ingathering (from page 1)

- Brown Depot in Baldwin, La. From there, the kits go wherever and whenever a need arises because of a flood, earthquake or other disaster. For Ingathering 2016, we will focus primarily on school kits and health kits. These kit lists are included below; visit [www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies](http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies) for a full list of the relief supplies UMCOR distributes worldwide. **Please note:** UMCOR has had such a strong response to the call for cleaning buckets following the flooding in Baton Rouge, La., that they have announced their current supply is adequate. However, if your church already has assembled cleaning buckets to give, please bring them.
- Receiving and sorting kitchen utensils and supplies that will be used by students in Cooking Matters classes as part of the 200,000 Reasons initiative to fight childhood hunger in Arkansas. A list of the requested kitchen items is included with this article.
  - Boxing up sweet potatoes for the Foodbank to distribute to Arkansas food pantries. Ingathering and the Foodbank work with the Society of St. Andrew to provide this shipment of bulk produce.
  - Helping to package meals for the Foodbank's Food for Kids and Food for Seniors programs. If your church has a food pantry, the church will be able to take some of these meals to stock its shelves. **Pre-registration is required for this option.**
  - Affixing labels to product packaging (priority for these jobs will be given to individuals who cannot stand or move for long periods of time).

### How to prepare

Individuals and churches can start getting ready for

**Registration is open! Visit [www.arumc.org/ingathering](http://www.arumc.org/ingathering) to sign up your team.**

### Health Kit contents

- 1 hand towel (15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches; kitchen, cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches; no pocket combs or picks please; rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth)
- 1 metal nail file or nail clippers (no emery boards, please)
- 1 bath-size soap (3 oz. and larger sizes only; no Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content; do not remove from original packaging)
- 1 toothbrush (adult size only; do not remove from original packaging)
- 6 adhesive bandages (¾-inch to 1-inch size; common household 'Band-Aids')
- 1 plastic bag (one-gallon size sealable bag only)
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (UMCOR purchases toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before kits are sent. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect all money for toothpaste and shipping, then place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.)

**Assembly Directions:** Set the \$1.00 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

#### Important Notes

All items must be new. Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.

Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items, nothing more.

Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Ingathering now by visiting [www.arumc.org/ingathering](http://www.arumc.org/ingathering). That page includes:

- A link to pre-registration, which includes a free Ingathering t-shirt for the first 300 registrants. (In addition to the free t-shirts, a limited number of zip-front hoodies will be available for \$25 on the day of the event.)
- The Ingathering Remittance Form, which tracks mission-oriented gifts your local church has made, as well as the hours its members have spent in mission.
- Volunteer release forms that must be downloaded, completed and brought to Ingathering.
- Links to the kit assembly lists that also are included in this article.

**Please note** the Arkansas Foodbank's volunteer requirements stipulate that children must be age 10 or older to be allowed to volunteer, and that groups must bring at least one adult for every five persons under age 18.

### Early drop-off

For those who cannot attend Ingathering but have supplies to send, contact your district's Board of Global Ministries secretary to arrange an early drop-off location, date and time:

- Central:** Dorothy Gantz, 501-412-3401, [gmd3401@aol.com](mailto:gmd3401@aol.com)
- Northeast:** Fred and Doni Martin, 870-926-2107, [fredoni@centurytel.net](mailto:fredoni@centurytel.net)
- Northwest:** Mary Williams, 479-494-1898, [mbllass99@yahoo.com](mailto:mbllass99@yahoo.com)
- Southeast:** Delos and Hazel McCauley, 870-550-7861, [edelos@cablelynx.com](mailto:edelos@cablelynx.com)
- Southwest:** Audrey Powell, 501-915-0472, [aapowell2@yahoo.com](mailto:aapowell2@yahoo.com)

## 200,000 Reasons/Cooking Matters "kitchen shower" supply list

#### Bakeware:

- Baking pan - 9" square
- Baking pan - 9"x13"
- Baking sheet
- Muffin pan - 12 cup

#### Cookware:

- Aluminum stock pot with lid
- Frying pan - 10"
- Frying pan - 12"
- Saucepans with lids

#### Cutting Boards:

- Cutting board
- Cutting mat, flexible

#### Knives:

- Chef/utility knife
- Paring knife

#### Measuring Utensils:

- Measuring cup: 4-cup
- Measuring cup: 2-cup
- Measuring cup set: 1/4, 1/2, 1/3, 1 cup
- Measuring spoon set

#### Mixing Bowls & Colanders:

- Colander/strainers
- Mixing bowl: 3-quart, microwave safe
- Mixing bowl: 4-quart, microwave safe
- Mixing bowl: 8-quart, microwave safe

#### Paper & Disposable Goods:

- Aluminum foil
- Paper towels
- Plastic wrap
- Zip-lock plastic bags

#### Storage Containers:

- Plastic containers: 12 oz.
- Plastic containers: 36 oz.

#### Utensils: Spatulas

- Scraper spatula, rubber: large
- Scraper spatula, rubber: small

#### Utensils: Spoons

- Spatula/turner
- Spoon, slotted
- Spoon, solid
- Spoon, wooden

#### Utensils: Other

- Box grater
- Can opener
- Ladle
- Serving fork
- Baking thermometer
- Timer, 60-minute
- Tongs
- Vegetable peeler
- Whisk

To learn more about Cooking Matters, visit [www.arhungeralliance.org](http://www.arhungeralliance.org).

### School Kit contents

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip only; no plastic scissors, please)
- 3 pads of paper (spiral- or top-bound pads; 150 sheets or less of loose-leaf paper can be substituted for 1 pad; combination of spiral, top-bound, side-bound, or loose-leaf paper is acceptable; no composition books, please)
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener (must be at least 1 inch long; remove from packaging)
- 1 30-centimeter ruler (hard or flexible; cartoon characters are acceptable; no advertisements please)
- 6 unsharpened pencils (no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; cartoon characters are acceptable)
- 1 2-inch or larger-size eraser (no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols, please; cartoon characters are acceptable)
- 1 24-count box of crayons (only 24-count boxes, please)
- 1 14x16 inch cloth bag (homemade or purchased bags are both acceptable; heavy-duty fabric only, such as denim, corduroy, drapery fabric, etc.; no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols, please; closures are optional but must be buttons, snaps, or Velcro sewn in middle of opening, if used)

**Assembly Directions:** Place all loose items on top of paper. Turn items sideways and slide into the cloth bag. Fold over the top of the bag so loose items don't fall out.

#### Important Notes

All items must be new. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items, nothing more.

Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

# Hunger

(continued from page 1)

as limited access to nutritious food due to income. As the campaign director of the Arkansas No Kid Hungry effort, she says their goal is to reach all food insecure kids where they live, learn and play.

Attendees of the Paysinger Hunger Summit also had three sessions to choose various topics that might be helpful in their contexts. A team from First UMC Little Rock shared their experience with Friends and Neighbors Network (FANN) during one of the sessions. FANN might best be described as a food pantry in which the organization and disbursement of food is handled by the recipients themselves. They also hold a community meeting that allows them to share news and prayer requests and make plans for their community funds which comes from the pool of their monthly membership fee.

Summit participants also could experience a session of Cooking Matters training. Cooking Matters classes teach basic cooking and nutritional skills to a recurring group of people. This program helps equip a generation who has lost the



First UMC Little Rock members Claire Martin, Jessica Szenher and Ginny McMurray led an information session on the church's Friends and Neighbors Network (FANN) ministry that empowers and creates community among persons who receive food.

AUM PHOTO BY MICHELLE J. MORRIS

knowledge of how to prepare meals at home.

In the session on community gardens, Brandon Chapman of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance encouraged the group by sharing how even the smallest bit of land can produce food. With proper education on which crops thrive in what season, a 1.5 acre plot can produce 40,000 pounds of food in a year.

"You don't even need land," Chapman said. "You can throw hay

bales on a parking lot and start growing food right there."

## Origins and goals

The Paysinger Hunger Summit was supported by a grant from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas from funds given by the Rev. Vernon and Eva Lee Paysinger specifically to support Arkansas ministries that work to eliminate hunger. According to UMFA

president and CEO Jim Argue, Vernon Paysinger himself started every morning with a simple bowl of brown rice to keep in mind all the people in the world who were getting by on very little.

Planners and supporters of this Summit, which was part of the Arkansas Conference's 200,000 Reasons initiative to reduce childhood hunger in the state, hope that the seeds planted in the minds

of participants will bear fruit to create better options for the thousands in our state who go hungry every day. To learn more about the 200,000 Reasons initiative and what churches and individuals can do to make a difference, visit [www.200kreasons.arumc.org](http://www.200kreasons.arumc.org).

*The Rev. Dr. Morris serves as pastor of Wesley and Cavanaugh UMCs in Fort Smith.*

## Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance honors United Methodists for 200,000 Reasons initiative



Pictured, from left, at the 2016 Hunger Action Breakfast: SiKia Brown, Out of School Programs director for the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance; Mary Lewis Dassinger, project coordinator for 200,000 Reasons; Arkansas Area Bishop Gary Mueller; Deaconess Colleen Caldwell, project manager for 200,000 Reasons; and Patty Barker, No Kid Hungry campaign director for the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. COURTESY PHOTO

United Methodists of Arkansas were among those recognized by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance at the 2016 Hunger Action Breakfast, held Sept. 20 at the Junior League of Arkansas building in Little Rock.

The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church received one of 14 Acting Out Against Hunger Awards, which honor individuals and organizations that in the past year have gone beyond the call of duty to relieve hunger in Arkansas. The Conference was one of four honorees in the philanthropic/nonprofit organization category for its 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger initiative. Governor Asa Hutchinson was among those congratulating the honorees on their work.

The Alliance's executive director Kathy Webb highlighted progress in the state, and reminded the group of what remains to be done.

"Feeding America reported earlier this year our household food insecurity rate is 19.1 percent, down from 19.7 percent, and our childhood food insecurity rate is 26.3, down from 28.4 percent. Significant, but still unacceptable," she said. "The Governor's Healthy Active Arkansas Plan, which includes many of our programs, is going to mean further progress for reducing hunger in Arkansas."

At the Arkansas Annual Conference in June, United Methodists affirmed the 200,000 Reasons initiative for another three years of emphasis, with the goal of having 100 percent of United Methodist congregations involved in hunger relief, education and advocacy ministries. To learn more about what your church can do, visit [www.200kreasons.arumc.org](http://www.200kreasons.arumc.org).

The 200,000 Reasons initiative has partnered with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to provide resources and education for hunger-related ministries affiliated with United Methodist churches and organizations. To learn more about the Alliance, visit [www.ARhungeralliance.org](http://www.ARhungeralliance.org).

## REDISCOVER THE TRUE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season is always filled with wonder, but this year rediscover the true wonder of Christmas by sharing the love of Christ with others. This four-week, all-church study centers on looking to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to find inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas time and throughout the entire year.

**Dr. Ed Robb** is the Senior Pastor at The Woodlands United Methodist Church and the author of *Under Wraps*.

**Rob Renfro** is Pastor of Discipleship at The Woodlands United Methodist and the author of *The Trouble with the Truth*, *Under Wraps*, and *A Way Through the Wilderness*.

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# Lawyers Conference centers on applying career expertise in the faith community

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

The intersection of one's career and faith differs from person to person, and also according to career path. Attorneys who are United Methodist may find themselves providing legal counsel to congregations—and when that happens, what kinds of things do they need to know?

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) provides an annual continuing education event to help prepare attorneys for situations in which they use their training in service to the church. Attorneys from across the state gathered Sept. 15 at Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock for the UMFA Lawyers Conference. Topics this year included immigration law,

sexual harassment and misconduct, planned giving, ethics, property law and more.

The gathering lasts for a single day, but related involvement goes beyond this specific event. Little Rock attorney Bill Waddell, a member of St. James UMC who advises the denomination's Council of Bishops, noted that the local church copyright compliance guide developed by this group is now posted on the UMC's General Council on Finance and Administration website to be used as a resource across the denomination. Following the immigration law presentation by Misty Borkowski, he announced that a working group will soon form for those interested in helping to develop a similar practical guide on immigration issues.

Becky Williams, senior director of advocacy and sexual ethics with the



denomination's General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), addressed problems related to sexual harassment and misconduct in churches. Bishop Gary Mueller and his cabinet were in attendance, and she recognized district superintendent the Rev. Mark Norman as a new member of the COSROW board.

Becky Williams of the denomination's General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) addresses questions as part of her presentation at the UMFA Lawyers Conference, held Sept. 15 in Little Rock.  
AUM PHOTO BY AMY FORBUS

relationship. In fact, Arkansas is one of at least 13 states that criminalizes clergy sexual relations with a congregant. She cited the biblical story of King David and Bathsheba as an example of someone wielding power over a vulnerable person.

Williams also highlighted statistics indicating that one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused before they reach age 18. Relying on that data, "there are victims in this room," she said. "We must heighten our sensitivity to this problem in the United Methodist Church." She pointed attendees to [www.umsexualethics.org](http://www.umsexualethics.org) for training resources and fliers for educating church staff and leaders.

"We need men to stand up and be part of gender equality," she said, citing Norman's involvement as a positive example.

Concerning sexual misconduct, Williams noted the difference between two people having an affair and a situation where one of those persons holds power over the other, such as in a clergy/church member

## Churches hold special events on 9/11

A number of churches across Arkansas held activities to mark the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Perryville United Methodist Church honored local law enforcement officers with a potluck after the worship service. As a way of paying tribute to the public servants who put themselves in harm's way on Sept. 11, 2001, the church thanked local officers for their service and dedication to the people of Perry County.

That same day in Helena-West Helena, an Old Time Gospel Singing Worship Service was held on Cherry Street. Co-sponsored by First United Methodist Church Helena and First Presbyterian Church Helena, and supported by the other historic churches of downtown Helena, the service was attended by more than 200 people from the sponsoring church congregations, members from numerous Helena-West Helena churches, merchants of Cherry Street and visitors from the American Queen steamboat. The gathering replaced both churches' regular indoor worship services.

The Rev. Mike Wilkie, pastor of First UMC led the services, and the Rev. Lori Kleinjan, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, delivered the memorial message relating to 9/11. In addition to gospel hymn singing, a community choir and Caroline Stephens provided special music.



Caroline Stephens, left, was among those who provided special music at a 9/11 Community Worship Service co-sponsored by First UMC Helena.  
COURTESY PHOTO



Officers who were able to attend Perryville UMC's appreciation potluck were Robert McGhee - Perryville city officer, Nick Kincade - Perry County Deputy, Josh Cole - Perryville city officer, Danny Story - Perry County Deputy, Bill Finley - Perry County Deputy and Robbie Stout - AR Game & Fish officer.  
COURTESY PHOTO

## Prayer shawl ministry reaches milestone

Betty Maddox, founding leader of the Caring Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. James UMC Little Rock, presents the ministry's 2,000th prayer shawl to Rev. Sieg Johnson for a final blessing before delivery to the recipient, as associate pastor the Rev. Matt Carter and members of the prayer shawl team look on. The ministry was started in October 2005.



PHOTO COURTESY SUE FRANK

## Rector church marks building centennial



First UMC Rector on Aug. 25 celebrated the centennial of the building of its sanctuary. Members and visitors were led in celebration by current pastor the Rev. Mace Straubel. Past and present members gathered to celebrate the many lives transformed through ministry of the church—in worship, baptism, marriage and funerals—and Rector's former pastors were invited to share their experiences there. A celebration lunch followed.

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## COMING UP

### Lecture series centers on the church and race relations, Memphis Theological Seminary, Oct. 11-12

The Lowrie and Ingram Lecture Series, presented by Memphis Theological Seminary and the Methodist House of Studies, will host Dr. Joseph T. Reiff for the lecture “Born of Conviction: White Methodists in Mississippi’s Closed Society” on Oct. 11-12, 2016.

Reiff, the Shelton Professor of Religion at Emory & Henry College in Abingdon, Virginia, will lecture from his new book, *Born of Conviction: White Methodists in Mississippi’s Closed Society*. In *Born of Conviction*, Dr. Reiff reflects on the “Born of Conviction” statement condemning segregation signed by 28 white Methodist pastors and published in the *Mississippi Methodist Advocate* on Jan. 2, 1963. Reiff, a graduate of Millsaps College and Emory University, is an ordained elder in the Mississippi Annual Conference of the UMC. The schedule of events for the series includes:

Oct. 11, 11 a.m.: “Born of Conviction: A Story of White Methodists in 1960s Mississippi”

Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.: “Pastoral Theology, Christian Ethics, and the Memory: Reflections on *Born of Conviction*”

Oct. 12, 11 a.m.: “Panel and Response: The Church and Race Relations in the 21st Century” features Dr. Andre Johnson, the University of Memphis; the Rev. Autura Eason-Williams, Capleville United Methodist Church; and the Rev. Maxie Dunnam, senior pastor emeritus, Christ UMC Memphis; former president, Asbury Theological Seminary.

For more information, visit [www.memphisseminary.edu](http://www.memphisseminary.edu).

### Youth workers/spouses: Mount Eagle marriage retreat Oct. 21-23

Relationships are hard work! Ministry is hard work! Put them together and marriage can be stressful and hard to balance. Youth workers and their spouses are invited to Mount Eagle Retreat Center near Clinton, Ark., to enjoy a meaningful time away to strengthen their relationship with each other and with God.

This marriage retreat will provide an opportunity for communication, sharing and reflecting. It also will provide time to meet other couples who share the same challenges and struggles. While some topics will be general to all marriage, others will be more specific to those issues that arise in marriages with one or both spouses involved in ministry settings.

The retreat includes a two-night stay, three meals on Saturday and one meal on Sunday. Part of the registration fee is covered through the ARUMC Youth Ministry budget. To register, visit [www.arumcywn.org/event/marriage-retreat-youth-workers-spouses](http://www.arumcywn.org/event/marriage-retreat-youth-workers-spouses). Registration forms and payments must be received by Oct. 1, 2016. Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Silent Centering Prayer retreat at Mount Eagle Oct. 23-26

Consider giving yourself the gift of a silent retreat in the foothills of the Ozarks this fall. This retreat will be conducted in silence following evening prayer on Sunday until breakfast on Wednesday. It will conclude after a time of debriefing and fellowship over Wednesday lunch. There will be an opportunity for three hours of centering prayer in community each day, as well as live and video teaching on the contemplative journey. The retreat will be facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Bill Buchanan, the Rev. Gail Brooks, the Rev. David Fleming and lay spiritual director Susan Jett. To learn more or to register, visit [www.mounteagle.org/events.htm](http://www.mounteagle.org/events.htm).

### ServSafe training at St. Andrew UMC Little Rock Nov. 10

St. Andrew UMC Little Rock will host a ServSafe training for any United Methodist churches who wish to send kitchen staff, food pantry directors or childcare food preparers. Ten churches may receive team scholarships, which also include one free resource book and certification exam. Others can certify or take the course at cost. The course is 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., and the certification exam runs from 3 to 5 p.m. For details on scholarships or to register, contact the Rev. Jenni Duncan, 501-551-2141 or [jenni.duncan@arumc.org](mailto:jenni.duncan@arumc.org).

### ‘Horizon Conference: Conversations on the Future of Methodism’ in North Little Rock Nov. 11-12

The Horizon Conference is not just another collection of speakers, information and stories centering on the impending doom of our spiritual movement. It is a collection of gifted, astute individuals who are willing to candidly point out the weaknesses in our movement, based on their extensive personal experience and study. But it doesn’t end there—they will then follow that criticism with equally candid help in the form of personal experience and practical steps for making those weaknesses into our anointed strengths, so the horizon of the people called Methodists and the local congregations they worship in will be greater than ever.

Speakers include the Rev. Rudy Rasmus of Houston, Texas, on ministry with the poor and destitute; the Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson of Ferguson, Missouri, on racial reconciliation as ministry; the Rev. Tom Fuerst of Memphis, Tennessee, on the meaning and importance of the voice of the prophetic; and Angela Thurston and Casper ter Kuile of Harvard Divinity School on community and belonging.

The Horizon Conference is sponsored by the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, the Texas Methodist Foundation, CanvasCommunity UMC and Quapaw Quarter UMC. It will be held at the Argenta Community Theater in North Little Rock from 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. Space is limited. For information or to register, visit <https://goo.gl/gUllhg>.

### United Methodist Women to meet at Mabelvale UMC Nov. 12

The 13th annual meeting of Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women is set for Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016 at Mabelvale UMC, 10500 Woodman Street in Mabelvale. Registration opens at 8:45 a.m., with the meeting convening at 9:30 a.m. Jenny Sorey of PATH (Partners Against Trafficking Humans) will be the featured speaker. Visit <https://goo.gl/GRFrlc> to download the registration form. An early-bird registration discount applies for all forms received by Oct. 31.

### Salem UMC Benton holiday bazaar Nov. 12

Salem UMC will hold its annual holiday bazaar Saturday, Nov. 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church building, 1647 Salem Road in Benton. Admission is free; breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase, in addition to baked goods, books, vintage items, homemade crafts and ornaments, jewelry and more. For information, visit [www.salemumc-benton.com](http://www.salemumc-benton.com).

### Noted author, scholar N.T. Wright at SMU’s Perkins School of Theology Nov. 15-17

Renowned biblical scholar N.T. Wright is the featured lecturer as Perkins School of Theology hosts “Simply Wright: N.T. Wright at Perkins | SMU” on Nov. 15-17, 2016.

The program includes three evening lectures by Wright that are free and open to the public as well as a paid-conference registration that will comprise additional workshops and events with Wright on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and Thursday, Nov. 17.

Two lunches are included in the full-conference registration, as well as a breakfast with Wright on Thursday. There also will be a question-and-answer session with Wright on Wednesday afternoon and a book discussion on Thursday of Wright’s recent book, *Simply Good News*.

Wright is Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews who has served in multiple positions within the Church of England—Bishop of Durham, Canon of Westminster Cathedral and Dean of Lichfield Cathedral—as well as university posts at Oxford University, McGill University and Cambridge University.

He has published nearly 80 books, ranging from biblical commentaries for “everyone” to academic works including the multi-volume Christian Origins and the Question of God series.

For more information, including a complete conference schedule, please visit the registration site: [www.smu.edu/perkins/events/ntwright](http://www.smu.edu/perkins/events/ntwright).

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### Register now for the 5 Day Academy for Spiritual Formation April 23-28, 2017

The Wesley Center in Woodworth, Louisiana will host a 5 Day Academy for Spiritual Formation next spring. A program of Upper Room Ministries, the 5 Day Academy provides a time of silent reflection, retreat, rest, and renewal for both laity and clergy. It features a daily rhythm of worship, including morning, mid-day, and night prayer, plus daily celebration of the Eucharist; morning and afternoon presentations by nationally prominent spiritual teachers Dr. Amy Oden and Dr. Frank Rogers; and listening circles for processing and sharing, providing time for fostering spiritual growth.

The 5 Day Academy is open to laity and clergy from any denomination seeking spiritual growth and balance, renewal and enrichment. To learn more, visit <http://vitality.arumc.org/academy-of-spiritual-formation>.

## OBITUARIES

### BATESVILLE

#### Doyle E. Berckefeldt

The Rev. Doyle E. Berckefeldt, 77, the son of August Otto Berckefeldt and Vesta Wilhite Berckefeldt, was born in Pueblo, Colorado on April 17, 1943, and passed away at his home in Batesville, Arkansas on Sept. 19, 2016.



**Doyle Berckefeldt**

Doyle was a retired associate clergy member in the United Methodist Church, having served pastoral appointments in the North Arkansas and Arkansas Conferences, including Cincinnati, Melbourne, Manila, Yellville, Monette and St. John UMC Hope. He had been a Batesville resident since 2006.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Darlene Berckefeldt, who passed away in 2015. He is survived by two sons, Jeff of Melbourne, Arkansas and Rob of Tyler, Texas, besides other relatives and many friends.

A private graveside service was held at Oaklawn Cemetery in Batesville.

### EL DORADO

#### Robert L. Depper Jr.

Robert "Bob" L. Depper Jr., 63, of El Dorado, Arkansas, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016, following a sudden illness.

He was born in Wood River, Illinois on Sept. 8, 1952, to Robert L. Depper Sr. and Nelda JoAnn Hooper Depper.

Bob attended high school in Wood River, graduating in 1970. He subsequently attended Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, on an R.O.T.C scholarship. While at Westminster, he met his wife of over 40 years, Mary Spencer Depper. They were married in 1975. Following college he served four years in the United States Army at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He began his career in the law in 1978, attending the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Following graduation in 1981, he joined the law firm of his late



**Bob Depper**

father-in-law, James V. Spencer, Jr., in El Dorado, Arkansas.

Faith and family were the foundation of Bob's life. He watched his wife, children and grandchildren grow in their personal lives and careers with such pride and excitement. He could be counted on for wisdom, courage and kindness in any situation. His family was not limited by blood. He welcomed friends with open arms to Depper family Christmases, Thanksgivings and beach vacations. He was known lovingly by those who knew him as Bobby D.

Bob's passion was the law. Above everything else, he sought justice for his clients. There was never a fight too difficult or legal issue too complicated. If someone was in need, Bob was more than willing to take on their case. He advocated for them zealously, while always maintaining his integrity as an officer of the court.

Even while focusing on his clients, Bob took time to work in his community. He coached many high school mock trial teams, taking joy in seeing young people learn and practice the law. He took on many cases pro bono and was active with the Arkansas Volunteer Lawyers for the

Elderly. As a member of First United Methodist Church, he worked with the youth. They referred to him as B-O-B. He was on several committees, and enjoyed reprising his role as "Andrew" in the yearly Easter play.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Robert L. Depper, Sr.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, a part-time local pastor in the Arkansas Conference currently appointed to Junction City UMC; their children, Robert L. Depper III (Aimée Papazian), Annie Depper, Mary Candace Depper and James Spencer Depper (Grace); their grandchildren, Lucy and Bodhin; his brother, Paul (Marsha) Depper; his sisters, Deborah (Glenn) Cooper, Penny (Matt) Raymond and Trisha Depper; his mother, Nelda JoAnn Hooper Depper; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016, at First UMC El Dorado, with the Revs. Keith Dodson and Jim Polk officiating. Burial with military honors followed at Arlington Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Arkansas Legal Aid; First UMC Junction City, Arkansas; or Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute (CARTI) to aid cancer patients.

### HOUSTON, Texas

#### James Robert Scott

The Rev. James Robert "Bob" Scott, 90, formerly of Tarpley, Texas, passed away Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, after a brief illness.

He was born Dec. 31, 1925, in Arkansas. He was a United Methodist pastor who served in the Little Rock Conference, including as superintendent of the Pine Bluff District from 1977 to 1981.

He began his ministry in 1948 after graduating from Yale Divinity School. He pastored churches in the Little Rock area during the 1950s and 1960s, when school desegregation and civil rights were at the forefront of American life. He served churches including Bearden, Primrose, Texarkana, Magnolia, Pine Bluff, Arkadelphia and Crossett before his retirement in 1991.



**Bob Scott**

In 1989 he married Rena. She moved to Arkansas until his retirement, then they moved to Tarpley where they lived until Rena's death in 2014.

Before and after his retirement, Bob took an active part in ministry and service through national and international church boards and committees. As a part of the World

Methodist Council, Bob and Rena traveled to Rio de Janeiro and Brighton, England. They also traveled on many mission trips, and their travels included Russia, Africa, China, Athens, Buenos Aires, Rome, Ephesus, Turkey, Iguassu Falls, Jordan River, Kenya, Old Jerusalem, Pisa and many other world sites.

He was preceded in death by his second wife, Rena Sandidge Scott; his first wife, Helen Sullivent Scott; parents, the Rev. Manuel and Estelle Scott; one sister, Martha Price; and brothers-in-law Maury Barnes, J.R. Taylor and Ed Turner.

He is survived by his daughter, Dr. Janis Robin Scott; sisters Charlotte Turner, Mary Sue Taylor and the Rev. Beth (Henry) Turner; step-children Rob (Roxy) Sandidge, Dan (Ella) Sandidge, the Rev. Janna Sandidge (Leslie)

Hawes, and George III (Barbara) Sandidge; step-grandchildren Tobey (Sharon) Sandidge, Manny (Jennifer) Sandidge; Matt (Angela) Sandidge, Carrie Sandidge (Neal) Ervin and Shauna Sandidge (John) Davis; step-great-grandchildren Calvin, Nolan, Luke, Levi, Layne, Logan, Delaney, Lila, Peyton, Paxton, Frank and Andrew; and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

He was "Bob-Bob" to his great-grandchildren, and was known and loved by several generations of children who grew up in Bandera United Methodist Church, as well as the many other churches he served.

### TUSCALOOSA, Alabama

#### Lawanda Crossman

Lawanda Faye Goode Crossman, 85, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, formerly of Conway, Arkansas, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2016. She was born Dec. 22, 1930, in Faulkner County, Arkansas to the late Earnest Harris and Syble (Rorie) Taylor.

She grew up on the Perry County side of the Arkansas River, where her father was the owner and operator of the Toad Suck Ferry.

Lawanda and her husband Paul loved baking, and they taught baking classes for many years. She also enjoyed traveling, camping, crocheting, decorative painting, gardening, crafting and making things for others with her hands. She was a volunteer at the United Methodist Archives located at Hendrix College, and at Conway Regional Hospital for many years.

During their 14 years of marriage, she served with her husband Paul at numerous churches, including Wesley UMC Conway, Hickory Ridge, Austin, Oppello, Perry, Naylor, Overcup, Lanty, Cleveland and Graham Chapel. They also were among the founding members of Conway's Grace United Methodist Church.



**Lawanda Crossman**

After Paul's death in 1996, she moved to Reform, Alabama, where she was an active member of the First United Methodist Church and a volunteer at Pickens County Medical Center for many years.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Raymond Wesley Goode, who died in 1981, and second husband, the Rev. Paul J. Crossman, who died in 1996; a sister, Ernestine Taylor King; and two brothers, Carl Gene Taylor and Jimmy Taylor.

She is survived by her sons, Richard "Rick" Goode, Paul N. Crossman and Robert "Bob" Crossman; one sister, Montine Goggins of northwest Arkansas; four grandchildren, Wes Goode and his wife Molly, Sam Goode and his wife Kristy, Charles Crossman and his wife Jessica, and David Crossman; 10 great-grandchildren, Taylor Goode, Gracie Goode, Pyper Goode, Rylan Goode and Colin Goode of Alabama and Blake Crossman, Grayson Crossman, Marlie Crossman, Owen Crossman and Cooper Crossman of Arkansas; and numerous nieces, nephews and many close friends.

Graveside service and burial were held Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016, at Crestlawn Memorial Park in Conway, Arkansas, with the Rev. Bob Crossman officiating.

## Fall meeting for administrative professionals provides practical training



The Rev. Mary Jane Cole speaks to PAUMCS members about ways they can address the various forms of grief they encounter as part of their work in the church.

BY AMY FORBUS  
Editor

The Arkansas chapter of the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries (PAUMCS) gathered Sept. 22 for its fall meeting, held in the Kendall Center of Philander Smith College. More than 40 attendees received instruction and information from four presenters.

Workplace organization is a passion for Michelle Moore, who serves the Arkansas Conference as director of program and marketing for camp and retreat ministries as well as youth and young adult ministries coordinator. She presented several options for maintaining daily and long-term task lists, managing inbox and calendar content, keeping one's physical office space organized and managing time to accommodate workload. Her website, [www.nomoremanicmondays.com](http://www.nomoremanicmondays.com), contains an "office" section with more tips for work organization.

The Rev. Mary Jane Cole, a Little Rock-based spiritual director, presented on dealing with various forms of grief church staff members encounter. Reminding them that the root meaning of "goodbye" is "go with God," she encouraged them to use their gifts and abilities to deal with the goodbyes of ministry—whether a death of a parishioner or a change in church staff—while walking alongside those in pain.

"Remember, the grieving person is the expert on grief," she said. "We are not."

Two of the day's presenters came from the Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality (CFV). The Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford provided an overview of the CFV and its

resources, inviting participants to visit [vitality.arumc.org](http://vitality.arumc.org) to get more information about how the Center can help them in their work and to watch pieces of the Grow By One Summit held in April.

Cathy Hall Hughes, lay program coordinator for the CFV, focused on the need for making a cultural shift in local church hospitality, so that it becomes centered on making connections between people in addition to simply offering a welcome.

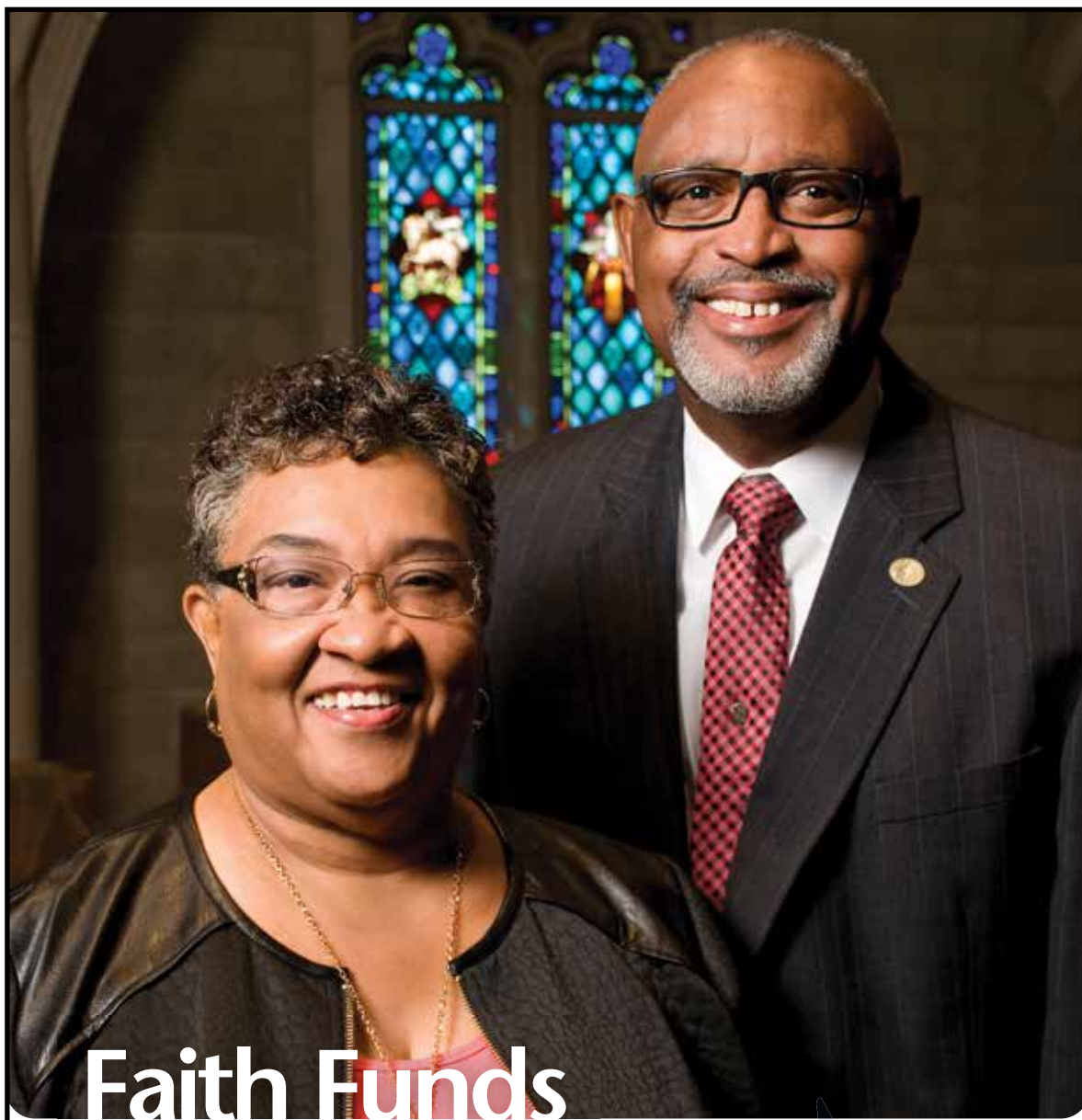
"The church isn't just a place where we work, it's a space where we do our ministry," she said. She shared some examples of how to extend hospitality in particular situations, and also sent participants home with business card-sized reminders of some of the methods they reviewed.

PAUMCS membership and events are open to all church administrative assistants and staff with related roles. The Arkansas chapter's new president is Kathy Bracke of Christ of the Hills UMC Hot Springs Village; to reach her, e-mail [kathy.bracke@arumc.org](mailto:kathy.bracke@arumc.org) or call 501-922-4503.



Cathy Hall Hughes of the Center for Vitality stresses the importance of changing the culture of church hospitality.

AUM PHOTOS BY AMY FORBUS



## Faith Funds

### *Honoring Our Bishops*

Each year Rev. Jimmy and Lorraine Mosby choose to make a second mile gift to support the United Methodist Foundation and to honor the bishops of the Arkansas Conference, past and present, through their membership in the UMFA Bishops' Club.

"I believe in the Foundation because of the good it does for the Conference. Being a Bishops' Club Annual Member is my small way to be a part of the Foundation's worthwhile ministries like seminary scholarships," said Jimmy. "My goal is someday to become a Life Member."

Jimmy, Lorraine, and all of their children are graduates of Philander Smith College in Little Rock. "In all, 17 of our family members have graduated from Philander," said Lorraine. Their five grandchildren may be future graduates!

Members of Bishops' Club gather annually in the fall for a luncheon to hear a keynote speaker and visit with friends from throughout the Conference. For information on becoming a member, contact Janet Marshall at [jmarshall@umfa.org](mailto:jmarshall@umfa.org) or call the Foundation today.



### The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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