

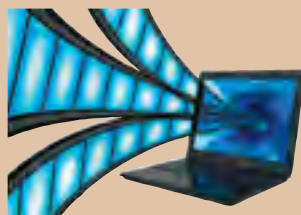
IN THIS ISSUE



Annual Conference
Wrap-up
1

2017-18
Appointment List
6

Biblical Women
Focus of Devotional
11



To Stream or
Not To Stream
12

2017 Annual Conference

“You are the Vitalizers!”

BY KELLI REEP AND
MARTHA TAYLOR
Special Contributor and Editor

Hot Springs—A stormy afternoon ushered in the 2017 Annual Conference, but as the United Methodists of Arkansas arrived at the Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs, Vital!, the theme of this year’s conference, was their focus.

Bishop Gary E. Mueller delivered his fifth Episcopal Address on the first full day of the June 19–21 event. He began his message by calling the Conference a “family reunion,” and exclaiming, “and what a family we are!”

Mueller recognized the “family” was covenantal, diverse, stressed, and perhaps most important, related by the blood of Jesus “that has saved us, transformed us and called us to live together as his Body.”

In all that, Mueller queried the nearly 1,000 individuals in the arena to think about the type of family they wanted to be.

“We can choose to be a cynical, fearful, paralyzed, dysfunctional or divided family,” he said. “But I don’t think that is the choice we are going to make. And here’s why. Because of who we are.”

Mueller went on to list a number of reasons why he believes the Conference is going to become more vital, and fulfill the trajectory to “create more vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world.”

Mueller added, “We are rooted in the gospel of John 3:16, claim our primary identity as disciples of Jesus Christ, and are a church that has experienced spiritual revival so powerful we are compelled to gracefully, passionately and joyfully reach out to those around us.”

To drive home his point, a short video was played with images of some local churches across Arkansas depicting the vitality of each.

At the heart of his address, Mueller urged the conference lay

“If we want to reach ‘the nones, dones and never been theres’, we’ve got to be willing to go where they are...”



PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

Bishop Gary E. Mueller expressed his hopes for the Arkansas Conference during his fifth episcopal address on Monday, June 19 in the Bank of the Ozarks Arena in Hot Springs.

and clergy members to focus on five activities that could make congregations more vital. They include developing a discipleship formation process; valuing the information that can be gathered from worship attendance, profession of faith and visitors to the church; celebrating transformation stories; innovating and experimenting with new things in new ways; and seeking spiritual revival, “like you mean it.”

Mueller closed by countering those who are concerned that the United Methodist Church’s best days are behind it.

“I don’t believe it. In fact, I believe from the bottom of my heart that more congregations can become more vital so that dying churches can come alive, fearful church members can become excited disciples and going-through-the-motions-congregations can experience new life, hope and joy.”

Worship, guest preacher

Opening worship on Sunday evening honored those who had passed since last year and celebrated

new clergy beginning their ministry journeys.

The celebration of life began with Psalm 23 read by the Rev. Bradley Moore followed by and the Rev. Lonzell Blackmon leading the congregation in the prayer of remembrance where clergy and their spouses were named.

Bishop Gary E. Mueller and the Rev. Glen Harris presented certificates of licenses to local pastors followed by the commissioning of new provisional elders Matthew Taylor Carter, Jody L. Farrell, Gary L. Maskell, Bradley Keith Moore and Blake Schrepfer. George Hull was commissioned as a provisional deacon. Family and friends of the candidates were invited to stand in support and prayer during each commissioning.

Bishop Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Episcopal Area, preached on Romans 12:9–11. In his sermon, “What Really Matters,” Holston acknowledged that following God’s call is not always easy, but it is always vital.

“Do not become so heavenly-bound that you do no earthly good,” he said. “Focus on what really matters.”

Teaching Plenaries

Teaching plenaries spanned two days and focused on four critical areas on which churches could focus to increase their vitality.

Kay Kotan led off the series with her presentation on faith sharing. Using the image of unpacking baggage, Kotan stressed that those wanting to share their faith with others need to be “raw and real.” She used her own life’s experiences as examples and literally unpacked a variety of bags while on stage, telling a story about the items each contained. The stories she told were funny, personal and poignant and through them, Kotan shared a different place in her own faith journey.

“As part of our discipleship journey,” Kotan guided, “we are called to share God’s intersection in our life where life and baggage

[See WRAP-UP, page 4]

Are We Yet Alive?

BY REV. DR. WILLIAM O. "BUD" REEVES
Special Contributor

If my calculations are correct, the 2017 Annual Conference was my 38th time to experience that adventure. This column marks more than 14 years that I have been a regular contributor to the *Arkansas United Methodist*. Time flies. I hope that such numbers don't necessarily brand me as "old," but rather as "experienced." I have seen lots of changes in those years—in our churches, in our denomination and in our culture. Some of those changes have happened in *me*. Through all the convolutions, I hope I have become wiser and more faithful, loving, compassionate and gracious.

I approach Annual Conference from a little different perspective than I used to. I no longer pore over the details in the Pre-Conference Journal; I did skim it the Saturday night before conference opened. The proceedings themselves are not the main thing. Our bishop used the phrase "family reunion," and that is essentially what it is for me—a gathering of friends I have known for a short or long time that I don't get to see very often. The Wesleyan hymn we use to open the proceedings says, "And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?" It's good to see the faces, to shake the hands, and to have conversations with those who are still with us after all these years.

Martha Taylor, our interim editor, let us delay our column deadlines in case there were items from Annual Conference that needed to be addressed. I'm happy to report that there seemed to be a consistently positive spirit about Conference, from the opening bell to the final buzzer. In fact, one of my colleagues complained that it was too calm, that we needed more drama to make it interesting. I'm happy to be happy; there is plenty of drama already in our culture and our denomination. I didn't need any extra manufactured.

I think much of the positive feeling was due to the focus of the Bishop and Conference leadership on the themes that we have been emphasizing for several years now. In 2011, when we adopted the



Rev. Dr. William "Bud" Reeves

Imagine Ministry proposals, we said that the emphasis on core values, mission field and transformation would be a long-term process. The conference trajectory—"creating vital congregations who make disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world"—grew out of Imagine Ministry. Spiritual Revival and Vitality have grown out of the trajectory. We've been at this now for six years, and the consistent focus on the mission and on our priorities has changed the character of Annual Conference. No longer do we come to Conference to wrangle over budgets or argue over resolutions, as if anyone outside of the Conference ever read them.

Instead, we are focused on inspiring and equipping the pastors, laity and churches to do the transforming work of disciple-making. We have a long way to go. Too many churches are still declining. Too many needs are still not being met. And there is the denominational strife that is the elephant in every room in the church.

But when we focus, good things happen. The four Vital! plenary presentations this year—Faith Sharing, our 200,000 Reason mission for hungry kids, Wesleyan small groups, and creating a generous church culture—were all helpful and inspiring. I came away with some new ideas and a renewed dedication to make some things happen.

And there were some "lump in the throat" moments that announced the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Several times in worship I felt myself caught up in the music, the prayers and the speakers. When the laity walked to the front of the arena to be anointed in response to Karon Mann's laity address, tears came to my eyes. The words of the youth who love the church and have hope for the future were so inspiring. And the letters to the Wesley Foundations about transformation in the lives of our college students reminded me why we have campus ministry.

Shortly before the end of the conference, Bishop Mueller said his hope was that everyone would leave Annual Conference feeling like they had been to church or a revival or a seminar. I have not left all 38 Annual Conferences I have attended feeling that way. But this year we succeeded. Thanks to all who had a hand in it, and thanks be to God!

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

The Struggle Between Covenant and Schism in the UMC

BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON

Returning from annual conference each year offers a great opportunity for reflection on the unity of the church in her witness and mission. This year, our annual conference session in Arkansas was especially encouraging.

The Holy Spirit was present in worship, the teaching was encouraging, and conference initiatives like 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger were inspiring. It all made me excited to be among the People Called Methodists!

And yet, you only have to look more broadly within the United Methodist Church to see ways that the church is fracturing. Particularly in other parts of the United States, the actions of some bishops, boards of ordained ministry, and whole annual conferences are putting stress on the United Methodist connection in ways that threaten to tear the church apart.

The actions in question are related to the way that some forces in the church have refused to recognize the authority of the General Conference, Judicial Council, and the Book of Discipline itself. When that happens, the very idea that we are a church bound by a common covenant starts to fracture.

The word that often comes up when talking with others about the current troubles in the UMC is "schism." The word has to do with a split or a division. It's also a loaded term, not to be taken lightly.

John Wesley had a perspective on schism that can help us think through what the word really means in a church context. That Wesleyan perspective offers us clarity in the present.

In his sermon "On Schism," Wesley defines schism in the Bible as "a disunion in mind and judgment—perhaps also in affection—among those who, notwithstanding this, continued outwardly united as before" (§1.2).

He's talking about the way the word is used in 1 Corinthians, when the Apostle Paul is giving counsel to the Christians in Corinth about divisions in the church there. Wesley contends that true



Andrew Thompson

schism doesn't happen at the point that a group of people *leaves* the church. Schism actually occurs before that—when the actions and attitudes of a group cause division *within* the body as it exists.

Wesley's point is that the biblical meaning of schism "is not a separation *from* any church ... but separation *in* a church" (§1.1).

Wesley is also unsparing in his criticism of such action. As he puts it, schism is "both evil in itself, and productive of evil consequences" (§II.10). It is evil in itself because it constitutes a "grievous breach of the law of love," tearing apart that which God desires to be united. And it is productive of evil consequences in that it leads to anger and resentment within the body of Christ.

The issues that have led to schismatic actions within the UMC are no secret. The primary issue is the way that people read the Bible and understand biblical authority. Closely related to that is how we identify and interpret the work of the Holy Spirit. And of course, the actual presenting issues are those related to God's intention for our sexuality, the definition of marriage, and the standards for ordination.

The current fervor of progressive theology aims to force change on a United Methodist Church that has chosen, time and again, to affirm the traditional biblical understanding of marriage and sexuality (including all the points in our Book of Discipline that support traditional doctrinal positions). What is different now than in the past is the strategy being

employed. Whereas once upon a time, opposing voices in the church bided their time and waited for the church to "catch up to the culture," now they have determined to ignore church teaching and church polity to impose their own views by any means necessary.



The consequences of schism are always tragic—as John Wesley well knew. The Commission on a Way Forward has yet to report its work, and there is a General Conference called for 2019. Yet what hope does the church have if the very church leaders responsible for upholding the covenant we share treat it as if it is entirely optional? It is a vexing question.

There is either a covenant, or there is not. If there is a covenant, then there is a church. But if those within the covenant insist on willfully ignoring it, then the United Methodist Church will dissipate before our very eyes.

The great dilemma that those who believe in the covenant of the United Methodist Church are facing now is what we do when schism is forced upon us by the actions of those who seemingly don't care about the consequences of what they are doing.

None of this is easy. But I am convinced that God is not finished with us. There will surely be a covenant to embrace and a church to serve when our current schism has been overcome. *Veni Sancte Spiritus!*

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

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GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

BY GARY E. MUELLER

Begin with Jesus

What a world! Terrorism appears to be on the rise around the globe. Politics in the United States has devolved into partisan shouting matches that seem to take place on a almost daily basis. And closer to home, there is a growing epidemic of gun violence in Little Rock.

Christians address these issues from very different—and often diametrically opposed—perspectives. In fact, the person who sat next to you on the pew this past Sunday could hold opinions very different than yours on these and many other matters.

It's easy, and therefore very tempting, to believe there's a single Christian answer to every issue, and that it can be easily discovered. Unfortunately, it's just not that simple. That's because Christians, in addition to their Christian faith, come at these issues from different cultural perspectives, life experiences, political leanings and personalities.

That's why it's essential to understand that where you begin often determines where you end up. If you've had a particularly painful life experience, you may end up in one place. If you've been a staunch member of a political party for a number of years, you may end up in another. And if you've grown up in just one region of the country, you may end up at still another.

It's time to do the obvious—begin with Jesus. This does not mean simply quoting those parts of Scripture about the Jesus you

like. It's much more about trusting Jesus to lead you by truly trying to see through Jesus' eyes, listen with Jesus' ears, think with Jesus' mind, feel with Jesus' heart and touch with Jesus' hands as that is revealed in Scripture.

But beware. Beginning with Jesus

will be a challenge. A big challenge. You're going to need a good dose of humility. You'll be dealing with difficult, even painful, issues. And you may end up with very different answers than you ever imagined possible.

Does this mean that anyone can

predict where this will lead? No way. Does it mean that everyone will agree about everything? That's ridiculous. Does it mean Christians will come together to solve all our problems? Not in your lifetime.

But I trust Jesus. I trust you. And I think you're ready to follow where

Jesus leads.
Grace and peace,

Gary E. Mueller

Increase Your Income Now Leave a Legacy of Love Later



Garth Martin reviews gift annuity analysis with UMFA VP of Development Janet Marshall.

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SAMPLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES — ONE-LIFE, CASH GIFT

AGE	RATE	DEDUCTION AMOUNT	% TAX FREE	EQUIVALENT RETURN
65	4.7%	31.0%	74.0%	6.6%
70	5.1%	38.0%	77.0%	7.4%
75	5.8%	43.0%	79.0%	8.6%
80	6.8%	48.0%	81.0%	10.3%
85	7.8%	55.0%	84.0%	12.2%
90	9.0%	62.0%	86.0%	14.5%

SAMPLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES — TWO LIFE, CASH GIFT

AGE	RATE	DEDUCTION AMOUNT	% TAX FREE	EQUIVALENT RETURN
65/60	4.0%	20.0%	72.0%	5.4%
70/65	4.4%	25.0%	75.0%	6.1%
75/70	4.8%	31.0%	77.0%	6.8%
80/75	5.3%	38.0%	79.0%	7.8%
85/80	6.1%	44.0%	81.0%	9.2%
90/85	7.3%	49.0%	83.0%	11.2%



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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Students representing the Council on Youth Ministry and other Annual Conference members raise their hands in prayer following the "Past, Present and Future," youth address.

Annual Conference Wrap-Up (From page 1)

happens.”

Childhood hunger in Arkansas was addressed in the second plenary, led by the Rev. J. J. Whitney. Whitney gave an update on the progress of the 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger initiative, stating that while the state’s numbers of food insecure children has dropped to 176,000, Arkansas was still ranked second in the United States in childhood hunger.

She told those in the arena about the results of \$81,000 in small grants that have been awarded and told of local congregations making great strides in caring for their communities through five key actions: feeding, gardening, gleaning, educating and witnessing.

A panel discussion followed with members from three local churches telling their stories of transformation; not only for the community but for themselves personally as well as their congregations. They agreed with Whitney that taking a chance with feeding ministry was well worth the risk.

Whitney exclaimed: “We want to know where Jesus is; we want to live out our love and faithfulness as a follower of Jesus. We want to be swept up by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Church, out in the mission field is where we are supposed to be!”

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Watson, an ordained elder in the Oklahoma

Conference, serves as an assistant professor of Wesleyan and Methodist studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, presented the third teaching session on Accountable Discipleship. He sees a key to revitalizing our church to be reclamation of historic small groups.

“Small group formation is a key strategic piece of having what Wesley talked about of having the form and the power of the spirit of God.”

Specifically, Watson said class and band meetings help participants to know the power of God moving and actively participating in their lives. Watson asserts these meetings were a significant contributor to the strength and vitality of early Methodism and can be again.

During his session, Watson discussed the distinctive characteristics of the class meeting and the accountability that matures participants in their understanding of God and faith. He compared this to what he sees as a trend in current discipleship groups.

“The average Christian’s faith walk right now is like training for a marathon by subscribing to Runner’s World instead of actually running—heavy on information, low on transformation,” he said.

Watson shared his own personal encounters with God and encouraged the body to do the same through the class meeting model.

“When I create space for God, God shows up every single time,” he

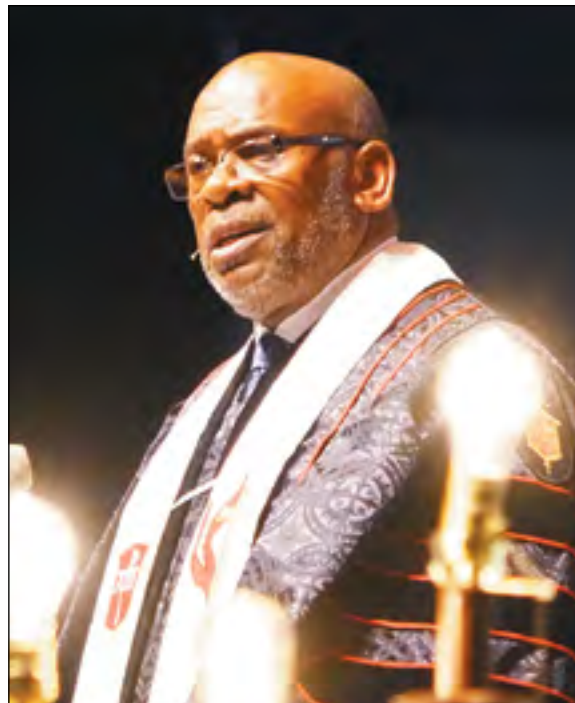


PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

LEFT: Bishop Jonathan Holston of the South Carolina Annual Conference opened worship to an enthusiastic audience, telling them that God’s call isn’t always easy but is always worth it. **RIGHT:** Kay Kotan led off the first of four teaching sessions by using the analogy of unpacking our baggage to help tell our faith stories to others.



PHOTO BY STEVE COBURN

said. “What many of us want more than anything is, we want to see God show up in our church. Simply create the space. Create the space and watch the Spirit bring us back to life.”

The fourth Vital! plenary on personal stewardship was presented by the Rev. Dr. Clif Christopher, founder of Horizons Stewardship, Inc.

Opening his session with the song, “Buy Me a Boat” by

country music star Chris Janson, Christopher discussed that is needed to become generous churches.

“It starts with the leaders of the church,” Christopher said. “Church leaders and staff must be all in. The sheep ain’t going where the shepherd ain’t leading.”

Personal generosity is rooted in three things; gratitude, revealed in prayer and lived in faith with the last being the most difficult as God often asks followers to do more, give more and be more than they think possible. But Christopher firmly believes God will show up and give believers all that they need to connect with their mission fields.

“Stewardship is not about getting more money, it’s about your church finding a bigger and better God,”

Clif said. “Set your expectations high and allow your church to meet it.”

Laity, Youth Addresses

Karon Mann, conference lay leader, opened Tuesday’s session with “Called, Equipped, Sent.” She reminded the Annual Conference that the laity are central to the vitality of the local churches, noting that clergy comprise only .5 percent of the Methodist family; 128,000 more laypersons. With that in mind, Mann asked, “Can you imagine the power the Holy Spirit could unleash if every single layperson in the Arkansas Conference actively said yes to God’s call and discerned where we were called to serve?”

To empower the called among those in the arena, Mann turned the lectern over to three laypeople: Teresa Bolin (Wheatley-Salem UMC), Dan Rohrbaugh (FUMC Hope), and Melanie Churchill (FUMC Jacksonville). Bolin shared her struggle to bravely say yes to serving, while Churchill confessed her tendency to say yes steals the blessing of working for God from others. Together they illustrated that we are stronger when we share the work of God together.

Mann then challenged all the laity to step into the call by equipping themselves with the many resources offered by the Conference Center for Vitality and Lay Servant Ministry certification, which she called the least utilized resource

[See WRAP-UP, page 5]



At the close of her Laity Address, Conference Lay Leader invited lay members to come forward to be anointed and invited them to become active and engaged in the critical role they play in keeping their churches vital.



During his Vital! Accountable Discipleship teaching session, the Rev. Kevin Watson asked the nearly 1,000 attendees to make space for God to show up in their small groups.

Annual Conference Wrap-Up (From page 4)

available to laity.

Past, present and future came together as three leaders gave the Youth Address. Lauren Lovelady, past president of the Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry (ACCYM); Lexie Burleson, current ACCYM president; and Rebecca Dodson, incoming ACCYM president, shared the lectern to give what was a standing ovation address. Each shared about the impact participating in local church and conference youth programs had had for them. Each was very clear about how important the support of youth is to equip youth and create more vital churches.

“Vitality is about being active and engaged. Vitality is about being energetic. CCYM events bring the youth of this state together to learn with and from each other and drastically change lives in our Church’s favor and in God’s favor”, Burleson said. “Then we take this out to our communities and share it with our brothers and sisters in Christ!”

“This isn’t happening anywhere else. Our conference’s spiritual vitality brings excitement to our

faith and our spirituality,” Burleson added.

A Way Forward

Bishop Mueller discussed the Commission on a Way Forward



PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

Generous churches happen because of every person’s gratitude, prayer and faith said the Rev. Dr. Clif Christopher during his teaching session on Personal Stewardship.

and outlined six issues he believes must be addressed and resolved successfully for the denomination to find a way forward.

- Embody grace and Christian civility in a culture of discord and

division.

- Address the impact of the constitutional crisis brought about by significant principled disciplinary disobedience by church leaders.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

Even though the number of hungry children in Arkansas has dropped, the Rev. J. J. Whitney said more United Methodist churches could join the fight through the 200,000 Reasons initiative.

- Embrace the global nature of The United Methodist Church.
- Keep intact the distinctiveness of connectionism, the role of Bishops as General Superintendents, and our form of deploying clergy.
- Craft a new understanding of unity in the face of a church comprised of widely divergent theological, cultural and moral beliefs.
- Ensure that the ‘heart of Methodism,’ which makes up the vast majority of the church, is able to continue carrying out the church’s mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world without being torn apart by this issue.

Business

Presentations were made by General Conference delegates regarding the five constitutional amendments on which every United Methodist conference world-wide will vote. The Rev. Mark Norman said the vote tally would not be shared until the voting process had

[See WRAP-UP, page 11]



BRIGHT NIGHT

BENEFITING METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH

August 4, 2017

5 p.m.

Big Rock Fun Park

11411 Baseline Road, Little Rock (near Bass Pro Shops)

Tickets: \$30 per person

Bright Night will mean Brighter Days for children and families served by Methodist Family Health



Go-karts

Giant Human Maze

Mini Golf

Hex Aerial Adventure

Ropes Course

Laser Tag

Arcade

Bumper Boats

Watch for upcoming social media posts about Bright Night!

MethodistFamily.org

Contact: Denise Luft | dluft@methodistfamily.org | 501.906.4201

Arkansas Conference Appointments, 2017–18

Names of those changing appointments as of July 1, 2017 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
Associate	Douglas Ray Walker
BENTON FIRST	Benjamin William Crismon
Associate	Zeke Allen
Deacon	Garry Dean Teeter
BETHEL—JACKSONVILLE	Gerald Collins
BETHLEHEM—LONOKE	Johnnie Kirk
BRYANT FIRST	Hammett Nichols Evans
CABOT	Stephen P. Dickinson
CANVASCOMMUNITY	Carter Ferguson
Deacon	Edward Paul Atkins
CARLISLE FIRST	Randy H. Rowlan
CENTERVILLE	Lana Gartner
CLEVELAND/OVERCUP	Suanne Morgan
CONCORD—LONOKE/CEDAR GROVE FLORAL	William Stephenson
.....	McMahon
CONGO	Polly Burton
CONWAY FIRST	Michael Roberts
Associate	Lauren Kristine DeLano
Deacon	Melissa Thomas
DES ARC FIRST	Naomi P. Rogers
EBENEZER—CONWAY	To be supplied
ENGLAND	Larry Edward LeMasters
FAITH/GEYER SPRINGS—LITTLE ROCK	David D. Hoffman
GARDNER MEMORIAL/AMBOY	Mary Candace Barron
GRACE—CONWAY	John Mark McDonald
GRACE—EAST END	George Thomas Jones
GRAHAM CHAPEL/OAKLAND	Tammy Garrison
GREENBRIER FIRST	Kevin Lyon
HAMILTON/HUMNOKE	Jerry Martin Bowie Jr.
HAZEN/DEVALLS BLUFF	Deanna L. McCormack
HEBRON—CARLISLE	Roger Crouch
HENDERSON	Melvin Moss
HICKORY PLAINS	Deborah D. Harrison
HIGHLAND VALLEY	R. Anthony “Tony” Griffin
Associate	Jennifer Dawn Williams
HOPE KOREAN	Isaac Choh
HUNTER—LITTLE ROCK	Rashim Merriwether
JACKSONVILLE FIRST	Nathan Joel Kilbourne
KEO	Jemmie Reynolds
LAKEWOOD	Luke Conway
Associate	Jonathon Michael Bevil
Deacon	Cynthia Shaw Henry
LEVY	David Ray Hawkins
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	Terry Hughes
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	William Ferguson
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	Chanda Adams
PLEASANT HILL—ALEXANDER	Alicia I. Finch-McCastlain
PRIMROSE	Charles H. Green
PULASKI HEIGHTS	Britt Skarda
Associates	P. Jay Clark
.....	Jeffery Bernard Hampton
.....	Ronald Jeremy Pressgrove
.....	Belinda Price
.....	Betsy Singleton Snyder
Deacon	James Scott Moore
QUAPAW QUARTER	Keith Duane Coker
SAINT ANDREW—LITTLE ROCK	Charlie E. McAdoo
Deacon	Jenni L. Duncan
SAINT JAMES—LITTLE ROCK	Carness Vaughan
Associates	Claire M. Caldwell
.....	Matthew T. Carter
.....	Gregory Schick
Deacon	Martha S. Taylor
SAINT JAMES—LONOKE	David Scruggs
SAINT PAUL—LITTLE ROCK	Richard S. Mitchell
SAINT PAUL—MAUMELLE	LaVon Post
SALEM—BENTON	Carlton N. Cross
SALEM—CONWAY	William Todd Vick
SARDIS	Phillip Troy Conrad
SOUTHBEND	Garren Earle Hagemeyer
SPRINGFIELD/MALLETOWN	Austin W. “Hawk” Coleman
SWEET HOME	Lonzell Kendrick Blackmon
SYLVAN HILLS	Brittany S. Richardson Watson
THE JOURNEY—CABOT/MOUNT TABOR—CABOT	Jeffery Trent Warrick
THERESSA HOOVER MEMORIAL	Ulysses C. Washington
TRASKWOOD	Thomas Crawford
TRINITY—LITTLE ROCK	Donald L. Hall Jr.
Deacon	Adam Kirby
Deacon	George Hull
TRINITY—NORTH LITTLE ROCK	Gerald Meeks
VILONIA	James Clark Kjolraug
WARD/SIXTEENTH SECTION	Carol Jean Grace
WESLEY—CONWAY/PLUMMERVILLE	David E. Baker
WESLEY CHAPEL—LITTLE ROCK/DUNCAN—LITTLE ROCK	Ronnie L. Miller-Yow
.....	Shari Day
WESTERN HILLS	Danita Waller-Paige
WHITE MEMORIAL	Vida R. Williams
WINFIELD	Richard Gifford
WYE MOUNTAIN	Richard Gifford

Extension ministries

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE	Lawson Leonard Delony
DAKOTAS-MINNESOTA CONFERENCE	Carolyn Doering
.....	Kirk Doering
NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE	Robert Hunt
BAPTIST HEALTH SCHOOLS OF LITTLE ROCK	Melissa Thomas
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	Adam Kirby
DAILY BREAD COUNSELING—BRYANT, AR	Garry Dean Teeter
MCDERMOTT ELEMENTARY, 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
HENDRIX COLLEGE	J. Wayne Clark
.....	Judith J. Whitney
HORIZONS STEWARDSHIP COMPANY	J. Clifton Christopher
JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS	Stephen Jean Copley
McMURRAY UNIVERSITY	Martha D. CashBurless
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
WESLEY FOUNDATION—UALR	Jana Dawn Green
WESLEY FOUNDATION—UCA	Lloyd Blake Langston
CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM	Leonard Higgins
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE	Catherine Estes
UAMS	George Hull
DIACONAL MINISTRY	David W. Clemmons
.....	David L. French
.....	Jim Walsmith
HONORABLE LOCATION	William S. Briant Jr.
.....	Susan Elizabeth Gladin
.....	Norman Moyer
.....	Jon Mac Taylor
FAMILY LEAVE	Regina Holtman Gideon
TRANSITIONAL LEAVE	Kayte Dunn
PERSONAL LEAVE	Donna Hendricks
MEDICAL LEAVE	Andrea E. Allen
.....	Leslee Lynn Phillips
.....	Lewis See

Northeast District

District Superintendent	Johnna J. Galloway
ANTIOCH/GARNER	James H. Turner
ASH FLAT/EVENING SHADE	Larry Morris
AUGUSTA/BALD KNOB	Melanie Lauren Tubbs
BATESVILLE FIRST	Justin Ledbetter
BAY	Millie Diane Wimberley
BEEBE	Matthew I. Daniels
BETHESDA CAMPGROUND	Carl Hudson
BLACK ROCK/LYNN	Dennis Calaway
BLYTHEVILLE FIRST	William Zachary Roberts
BONO	Thomas Dellinger
BRADFORD/PLEASANT PLAINS	William “Bill” Mills
BROOKLAND/UNION GROVE	Cory Pfeifer
CALICO ROCK/SPRING CREEK	Laura Jo Prange
CAMPGROUND/ WARREN’S CHAPEL	Everett Isom
CAVE CITY/BEAR CREEK	Joseph D. Kaiser
CENTRAL AVENUE—BATESVILLE	Paul E. Seay Sr.
CHEROKEE VILLAGE	Angela Gage
Associate	Jimmy W. Anderson
CHRIST WAY	Charles Miller
CLINTON	George Edwin Odell
CONCORD—FLORAL CEDAR GROVE	Steve Long
CORINTH	To be supplied
CORNERSTONE—JONESBORO	Kathleen McMurray
Deacon	Samantha Meadors
CORNERSTONE -PLEASANT PLAINS/CUSHMAN	James D. Wheeler
CORNING	John Franklin Michael
DAMASCUS	Vaughn Marsden
DELL	Marilyn Webb
DESHA/JAMESTOWN	Tonya Hancock
ELI LINDSEY/FRIENDSHIP—RAVENDEN	John Stoll
.....	Paul Strang

FARM HILL	Janice Williams
FISHER STREET/SEDGWICK	Donald Lewert
GRIFFIN MEMORIAL	Kenneth R. Lee
GRIFFITHVILLE/DOGWOOD	Kathy N. DeBusk
GUM SPRINGS—SEARCY	To be supplied
HARDY	Kay Brogdon
HARRISBURG FIRST	Michael Darryl Utle
HAZEL EDWARDS MEMORIAL/OIL TROUGH	Clayton Bulice
HEBER SPRINGS	Thomas Toombs
.....	Jonathan Griesse
HOLIDAY HILLS	C. Daniel Brand
HORSESHOE BEND	Kenneth R. Anderson
HUNTER	Tom Machen
IMBODEN/SMITHVILLE	Michael C. Dodson
JONESBORO FIRST	John P. Miles II
.....	Herschel L. Richardson Jr.
.....	Patty Sue Soward
.....	Casey Turner
JUDSONIA/KENSETT	Judy Wilson Clark
LEACHVILLE/CARAWAY	Jason Sutfin
MAMMOTH SPRING/CAMP	Ryan Spurlock
MANILA/COMMUNITY	Tony J. Huffman
MARKED TREE/JOINER	Robert Daniel Partlow
MARMADUKE/CHRIST UNITED	Billy Vanderbilt
MAYNARD	Alma Rita Hastings
MCCRORY/COTTON PLANT	Carla Ray Thompson
MCRAE/MOUNT PISGAH—SEARCY/HARMONY	Donna Harvey
MELBOURNE/GUION	William Grothe
MONETTE/LAKE CITY	Jerry W. Reed
MOOREFIELD	Lavon Long
MOUNT CARMEL—JONESBORO	N. Wayne Clark
MOUNT PLEASANT—QUITMAN	Paige Gustin
MOUNTAIN HOME	Thomas 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—SEARCY	Stephen Ellis Waggoner
OSCEOLA	Jay Stephen Simpson
OXFORD	Bobby Coleman
PANGBURN	Fleming O.D. Turner
PARAGOULD FIRST	John Andrew Fleming
Associate	Patricia Bodenhamer
PIGGOTT/WRIGHT'S CHAPEL /MARS HILL	John Hiegel
PLEASANT GROVE—JONESBORO	Jimmie Stillwell
PLEASANT HILL/PINE LOG	James "J.R." McElhannon
POCAHONTAS	James Waincott
POWELL'S CHAPEL	To be supplied
QUITMAN	Shawn Gustin
RAVENDEN /RAVENDEN SPRINGS	Danny Roark
RECTOR	Mace P. Straubel
ROCK SPRINGS—LAFE/RAMER'S CHAPEL	Howard Mark Trout
ROSE BUD	David T. Jones
RUSSELL	Treva Mills
SAINT PAUL—JONESBORO	Charles Sigman
SAINT PAUL—SEARCY	Matthew H. Johnson
SALEM—SALEM/VIOLA	Velda Bell
SEARCY FIRST	David Paul Orr
Associate	Blake Schrepfer
SHARP/OAK RIDGE	Jerry Lumpkin
SHILOH—JONESBORO	Everett Herman Blakely
SHILOH—PARAGOULD/PRUETT'S CHAPEL	Paul Ed Seay Jr.
SHIRLEY	Jan Vandygriff
SIDNEY	To be supplied
SOUTHSIDE	Roger B. Hook
STONE POINT/FLOYD	Robert Mark Quick
TRUMANN/LEPANTO	Jeff Weaver
TUCKERMAN/SWIFTON	Jerry Pentecost
UMSTED MEMORIAL/EMORY CHAPEL	Keith Gregory
WALNUT RIDGE/HOXIE	J. Beth Perdue
WEINER/FISHER	Jesse James
WESLEY—COTTER	James "Jimmie" F. Snow

WHITEHALL/FAKES CHAPEL	Stephen Anderson
WILD CHERRY	Marty Sanders
WILSON/KEISER	Gary Yarbrough
WISEMAN	To be supplied

Extension ministries

GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE	Cheryl Jean Cook Baker
INDIANA CONFERENCE	David Carl Eaton
WESLEY FOUNDATION—ASU	Samantha Meadors
FLO AND PHIL JONES HOSPICE HOUSE, JONESBORO	Clarence Edward Pruett
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	William Clint Black
.....	Susan Ledbetter
.....	Thomas Rhoades
MEDICAL LEAVE	Gregory A. Webb
.....	Larry W. Martineau

Northwest District

District Superintendent	Stephen Coburn
ALMA/KIBLER	Daniel Thueson
ALPENA	Rachael Krest
ALTUS/GRENADES CHAPEL	Yvonne Case
ARKANSAS KOREAN MISSION	To be supplied
ATKINS/BELL'S CHAPEL	Roy Beth Kelley
BARLING	To Be Supplied
BELLA VISTA FIRST	Jeanne Williams
Deacon	Brenda Dianne Wideman
BELLEFONTE/VALLEY VIEW	Susan Kramer
BENTONVILLE FIRST	William Kurt Boggan
Associate	Eric Meyer
Deacon	Rebecca Boggan
BERRYVILLE	Andrew Wayne Hughes
BLAND CHAPEL	Lyn Poplin
BOONEVILLE/WASHBURN	Michael Andrew Smith
BRIGGSVILLE	Susan May Fisher
BULL SHOALS/YELLVILLE	Charles B. Beever
CECIL	Dale Richardson
CEDAR GROVE—YELLVILLE/PLEASANT RIDGE	To be supplied
CENTRAL—FAYETTEVILLE	Mary Jan Davis
Associates	Emily L. Burch
.....	Jody Lynn Farrell
.....	Gregory Gibson
.....	Carl D. Palmer
.....	Steven K. Pulliam

CENTRAL—LINCOLN/MORROW	Gary B. Lunsford
CENTRAL—ROGERS	James H. Lenderman
Associate	Brian Youngs
Deacons	Pamela Cicioni
.....	J. Lester Oliver
.....	Dawn Spragg
CHARLESTON	Andrew C. Kjorlaug
CHERRY HILL	Deborah L. Head
CHICKALAH	Bud Choate
CITY HEIGHTS	Randy 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	Heather Rose
ELKINS	Tom Gordon Conner
ELM SPRINGS	Karl Dixon Platt
EUREKA SPRINGS	Blake A. Lasater
EVERTON/BERGMAN	To be supplied
FAITH—FORT SMITH	Charles W. Armour
FARMINGTON	Charles Dee Harper
FORT SMITH FIRST	William O. "Bud" Reeves
Associates	Sara Darlene Bayles
.....	William Dane Womack
Deacon	Janice Sudbrink
GENTRY	George Adkins
GODDARD	Kim Cloninger
GOSHEN	John Humphries
GRACE—ROGERS	Ramiro Lizcano
GRACE COMMUNITY	John Jeffrey Jones
GRAVELLY/BLUFFTON	Joy Carmean
GRAVETTE/DECATUR	Heath Williams
GREEN FOREST	Steve Cook
GREENWOOD	John Embrey
Associate	Douglas Phillips
HARMON	J. Michael Callahan
HARRISON FIRST	David S. Williams
HARTFORD/MIDLAND	Chris Rink
HARTMAN	Gina Hamlin
HATFIELD/MOUNTAIN VIEW—MENA	Bryan Richardson
HAYS CHAPEL	Paul Marshall

[continued]



Rose Kuonen was recognized for her many years of service at the local, district and conference level; most recently as assistant to Bishop Mueller.

HERITAGE.....	James Wesley Hilliard
Associate.....	Brian Seewald
Associate.....	LaToya Sheperd
HIGHFILL/SULPHUR SPRINGS.....	Russ Hall
HIGHLANDS.....	Bryan Fink
Associate.....	J. Michael Callahan
HUNTINGTON.....	Frank L. Grubbs
HUNTSVILLE/PRESLEY CHAPEL.....	Bradley Keith Moore
JASPER.....	Byron Wesley Mann
JOURNEY HISPANIC MISSION.....	Julio Ibarra
LAMAR/MOUNT OLIVE—CLARKSVILLE.....	Beth Latham
LAVACA/NEW HOPE—VAN BUREN.....	Lynn David Strang
LESLIE/MARSHALL.....	Micheaul L. Proctor
LIVING WATERS AT CENTERTON.....	Heath R. Bradley
MANSFIELD/HACKETT.....	Richard P. Rogers
MENA FIRST.....	Pauleen Ann Ferris
MIDLAND HEIGHTS.....	Daniel Lane Williams
MISSION.....	To be supplied
MOUNT OLIVE—VAN BUREN.....	David Bassham
MOUNT PLEASANT.....	To be supplied
MOUNTAIN VIEW—ALMA/NEWBERRY CHAPEL.....	Robert M. Jeffery
MULBERRY/DYER.....	Philip Costner
OAKLEY CHAPEL.....	Shane D. Pair
OLA PLAINVIEW/WAVELAND.....	Lonnie M. Landers
OZARK.....	Jeffery L. Jackson
PARIS/MAGAZINE.....	Judy Hall
PARKS/SQUARE ROCK.....	Roger Rice
PEA RIDGE/BRIGHT WATER.....	John Scott Stewart
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. Blassingame
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.....	Gary Clark Atkins, jr.
SPRINGDALE FIRST.....	Andrew C. Thompson
Associates.....	Todd Martin Lovell
.....	Jennifer Ryerson
.....	Rob Williams
TRINITY—FAYETTEVILLE/VINEY GROVE.....	Terry M. Gosnell
.....	To be supplied
VALLEY SPRINGS.....	Geral Holloway
VESTA.....	Terry Gallamore
VIETNAMESE—FORT SMITH.....	Daniel Joseph Nguyen
VIETNAMESE—VAN BUREN.....	Patricia Diane Miller
WALDRON/BIRDSVIEW.....	Larry Pat Millard
WALTREAK.....	Joseph W. Hall
WEDINGTON.....	Michelle Morris
WESLEY—FORT SMITH/CAVANAUGH.....	David Andrew Ruehr
.....	Rick Broadway
WESLEY—RUSSELLVILLE.....	Ben Hampton Anderson
WINSLOW.....	
WOODLANDS.....	

Extension ministries

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

Southeast District

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



PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

The Rev. Jim Polk, assistant to the bishop, and the Rev. DeDe Roberts, director of the Center for Vitality, discussed a new website, vitaldisciples.org, which will provide resources for clergy and laity to continue the Vital! journey for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

WATSON/MOUNT TABOR—MONTICELLO	Walt Lowe
WESLEY CHAPEL—BRINKLEY/TAYLOR CHAPEL	William J. Thompson
WEST HELENA/ELAINE	Melissa Maskell
WEST MEMPHIS FIRST	Todd-Paul R. Taulbee
Associate	Judy Wills Rudd
WHEATLEY/SALEM—WHEATLEY	Michael Bolin
WHITE HALL	Jacob Steven Lynn
WYNNE	Lester Glenn Pettus
ZION/WALLER'S CHAPEL	To be supplied

Extension ministries

CASA DE DIOS/WAVE OF PRAYER	Mary Olson
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF BANGKOK	Cleifton Samuel Vaughan
WESLEY FOUNDATION—	
PINE BLUFF	Carissa Rodgers
WESLEY FOUNDATION—UAM	Edward Kavan Dodson
U.S. AIR FORCE	Ronald Lewis Feeser Jr.
HONORABLE LOCATION	Constance Steele
INCAPACITY LEAVE	Rufus Robert Burnham Jr.
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	William Joe Head

Southwest District

District Superintendent	Rodney G. Steele
AMITY	Glen Dale Harris
ARKADELPHIA FIRST	William F. Cato
ASBURY—MAGNOLIA/McNEIL	David A. Moore
ASHDOWN FIRST/RICHMOND	James H. Cross
EVERY'S CHAPEL/BRUCE MEMORIAL/MIDWAY	Willie Joe Miller
BEARDEN/THORNTON	Phillip Salmon
BELL CHAPEL/RED HILL	Wayne Allen Bell
BISMARCK	Deborah Perry
BRADLEY	Bonnie Carol Moore
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	Siegfried Johnson
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 McClarty
FAITH—HOT SPRINGS	Laura Butkovic
FORDYCE FIRST	James Phillip Smith
FOREMAN/WADE'S CHAPEL	Kathryn Burchfield
FRIENDSHIP—FRIENDSHIP/KEITH MEMORIAL	Jeff Ladd
FRIENDSHIP—PRESCOTT/DE ANN/SWEET HOME UNION	Gene M. Ross
GARDNER	Regina Turner
GLENWOOD/DAISY	Glen Gaboury
GRAND AVENUE—HOT SPRINGS	David Fleming
GREER'S CHAPEL	Daniel Read
GURDON/CENTER GROVE—GURDON	Donnie Hudson
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	Lincoln Combs
HOLLY SPRINGS—TEXARKANA	Doug Rhodes
HOPE FIRST	Steven Johnson
HORATIO/WINTHROP	Jay Mueller
HOT SPRINGS FIRST	David F. Moseley
Associates	William J. Sardin
	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	Bruce Wayne Bennett
MANCHESTER	Michael Shawn Meeks
MINERAL SPRINGS	To be supplied
MORNING STAR	John Franklin Walker
MOUNT CARMEL—LOCKESBURG/SCOTT'S MEMORIAL	Tommy Halsell
MOUNT IDA/JOPLIN	Russell Edward Hull
MOUNT MORIAH	Willie Hort
MOUNT OLIVE—FORDYCE/BETHEL—NEW EDINBURG/	
WILSON CHAPEL	L.T. Marks
MOUNTAINSIDE	Davida Autry
Associate	Andrew Suite
MURFREESBORO	Michael Daniel
NASHVILLE FIRST/BINGEN	James E. Harris
NEW ERA/MOUNT PISGAH	Charles Payne
NEW SALEM	George T. Whitney
NORMAN	To be supplied
NORPHLET/CENTENNIAL	Ronnie Newberry
OAKLAWN	Russell D. Breshears
PARKER'S CHAPEL/PLEASANT GROVE	Tracy Roden
PINEY GROVE	R. Scott Gallimore

PRESCOTT FIRST/HOLLYWOOD	Sue Howe
PULLMAN HEIGHTS	Ronald G. Grigsby
RHODES CHAPEL	James Carroll Rawls
ROCKPORT/LEAU FRAIZ	Troy Lee Cate
RONDO/PLEASANT HILL—TEXARKANA	Harry J. "Buddy" Hamner
RUSHING MEMORIAL/MISSOURI	Lucian Lee
SAINT ANDREW—ARKADELPHIA	Bobby W. Sanders
SAINT JOHN	Danny Dunlap
SAINT MARK—EL DORADO	Winston D. Roden
SAINT PAUL—EL DORADO	Travis Langley
SAINT PAUL—MALVERN/ADKINS MEMORIAL	Ryan Bachuss
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	Jaimie Alexander
Associate	Robert Holifield
TIMOTHY/SAINT MARK—	
CAMDEN	Benny Morgan
TRINITY—GURDON/OKOLONA/MOUNT ZION—	
ARKADELPHIA	Andrew Orr
VALLEY GROVE	Ivory Joe Williams
VILLAGE—HOT SPRINGS	Chris Hemund
WASHINGTON	Keenan C. Williams
WILEY CHAPEL	Alzian Stewart

Extension ministries

ASBURY UNIVERSITY	Christopher T. Bounds
MT. CARMEL COMMUNITY OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE	Carol Stewart
ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL	Rose A. Poag
WESLEY FOUNDATION—HSU/OBU	Jessica Lee Durand
WESLEY FOUNDATION—SAU	Corey Tyson Read
U.S. ARMY	John Charles Fimple
HONORABLE LOCATION	Carey Don Womack
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Lynn Ann Lewis McClure



PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

As part of his report from the Council on Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the Rev. Roy Smith, joined by Wesley Foundations and campus ministry students, shares letters from students whose lives have been positively influenced by their participation.

COMING UP

Gathering of the Order of Elders set for Aug 7-8

All provisional, full and retired elders are invited to the annual Gathering of the Elders to be held August 7-8 in the Student Life and Technology Center on the Hendrix College campus in Conway.

The cost for the event is \$49 and includes dinner on Monday evening and lunch on Wednesday; other meals will be on your own. For those living outside the central Arkansas area, there are a number of hotels in the area; a list of those will be sent with your registration confirmation.

The agenda includes worship, fellowship around the celebrations and challenges of ministry contexts, and a sharing of concerns for the future of the Church. Online registration is open at <https://>

tinyurl.com/yelluyes. The deadline to register is July 21.

Ben Few camp meeting to be held July 14-23

The 2017 encampment at Ben Few Campground will be held July 14-23, with daily services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., The campground is located near Princeton, Ark., in Dallas County and was established in 1898.

The Rev. John Moore, pastor at Hickory Ridge/Tilton UMCs is the scheduled evangelist with other leaders including Kathleen Dockery, Dale and Rhonda Richards, and Chace Burns. The Rev. Mike Proctor, pastor at Leslie UMC, will be the evening service speaker on July 22 and the Rev. Bonda Moyer will speak at the memorial service at 11 a.m., Sunday, July 23.

Scheduled musical groups are the Oaklawn UMC Praise Team, July 16; Bismarck Gospel Tones, July 19; and the Arkansans, July 20. Musical groups will perform before each of the 7:30 p.m. worship services.

Classes will be held daily at 9 a.m. with activities throughout the week for children, youth and adults. Recreational vehicle hookups are available upon request. For more information, contact Jane Knickerbocker at 501-865-4540 or Linda Clark at 870-725-2025.

Northeast District Hosts Leadership Unleashed Events

The Center for Vitality is bringing Leadership Unleashed gathering to the Northeast District in July and August. The two hour gatherings will provide space for laity to participate

in meaningful conversation by sharing stories of fruitfulness, learning from the work of ministry in our congregations, discussing action plans, and praying for each other's mission field ministries.

There are four upcoming coffee and dessert gatherings:

- Tuesday, July 11, 6:30-8:30 pm, Central Avenue UMC in Batesville. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yd4wng8y>
- Wednesday, July 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, Saint Paul UMC in Searcy. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/y8bon6nw>
- Sunday, July 23, 4:00-6:00 pm, Harrisburg FUMC. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/ybfb4d8>
- Tuesday, August 1, 6:30-8:30 pm, Heber Springs UMC. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yccmmc9m>

Please select one of the links above to register for the Leadership Unleashed Coffee and Dessert Gathering you wish to attend. All lay persons are welcome to any Leadership Unleashed event regardless of the district in which their local church is located.

Looking Like Your Neighborhood workshop July 15

The Conference Center for Vitality is pleased to offer

a workshop designed to help local churches look like their neighborhoods. The July 15 event will be led by the Rev. Dr. Jacqui King, the Director of Leadership for Congregational Vitality at Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

King develops leadership resources for local congregations, engages network groups in new processes that implement core strategies for increasing congregational vitality

Scheduled for 10 am-3 pm at St. Andrew UMC, 4800 Baseline Road, Little Rock, attendees will be prepared to fulfill two steps of the Bishop's Mission Plan: to look like the neighborhood and to grow by one. Specific goals for the workshop are that participants will be able to engage the mission field, start new community outreach and engagement ministries and have knowledge of how to use MissionInsite Demographics as a tool for outreach ministry.

The registration fee of \$15 includes lunch and there is a discount for churches that register as a team. More information is available at <http://vitality.arumc.org/jacqui-king-2017/> and online registration is open at <https://tinyurl.com/y7tfcn72>

Space is limited!



PHOTO BY DEBBIE KELLY

Conference attendees took advantage of free time by visiting with more than 70 different ministry and resource providers at this year's Annual Conference.

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PHOTO BY STEVE COBURN

Bishop Mueller's wife, Karen, greeted the Annual Conference and shared her eagerness to be able serve alongside them.

Annual Conference Wrap-Up (From page 5)

been completed. Once that process is complete, the results for all five amendments would be shared online and in print.

The conference affirmed the General Conference delegation to represent the Annual Conference at the 2019 called General Conference.

The Conference adopted the proposed budget by the Committee on Finance and Administration as was published in the Pre-Conference Journal. Bill Wisener, chair of the committee, and Todd Burris, conference treasurer, gave a presentation about the progress of the Tithe Initiative.

A resolution was passed encouraging every local church in the Arkansas Annual Conference to support adoption efforts through recruitment of potential adoptive parents and the celebration of National Adoption Awareness Month in November 2017.

Vital! is the first step

The Rev. DeDe Roberts, director of the Center for Vitality, was joined by the Rev. Blake Bradford, the center's assistant director, and Cathy Hall, Lay Program Coordinator to make attendees aware of future workshops and

the resources developed by the center. As a follow-up to Annual Conference, Jacqui King will be leading a workshop, "Looking Like Your Neighbor," and there are four Unleashing Leadership events planned in July and August for laity in the Northeast District.

On Wednesday, Roberts joined Assistant to the Bishop the Rev. Jim Polk to voice their excitement about the continuation of the Vital! initiative throughout the coming year. Videos, small group studies and promotional tools about the four vital areas—accountable discipleship, faith sharing, 200,000 Reasons, and personal stewardship—can be found at a new website, vitaldisciples.org, developed by the Center for Technology. Polk emphasized that Annual Conference was only the beginning of the Vital! journey and that additional resources were being developed and would be placed on the website in the coming months.

Kelli Reep is the Communications Director for Methodist Family Health. The Rev. Martha Taylor is serving as interim editor. You may reach her at mtaylor@arumc.org

The August issue on the *Arkansas United Methodist* will have expanded coverage about the events of Annual Conference. And in the months to come, readers will find feature stories on the four Vital! areas: Accountable Discipleship, Faith Sharing, 200,000 Reasons and Personal Stewardship.

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 of the four Vital! plenary sessions will be posted at vitaldisciples.org. Videos of the Annual Conference, including retirees, will be posted at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/arumc>.

BOOK REVIEW

Biblical women focus of year-long devotional

BY CANDACE BARRON
Special Contributor

I appreciated the book's layout and easy to read to style. You can start on any date because of the numbering versus dated format, so you don't have to wait to begin on January 1st or in the middle of the book (if you are a rule minded kind of person). I appreciate that you can search for a particular woman or scripture passage using the index at the back of the book.

At first, I was astounded that someone was able to come up with 365 different women in the bible. As I read, I was able to see that some women are mentioned more than once. Hannah seemed to be mentioned the most at 8 different days, each was unique and special enough to resonate with me. Many, of course, did not have a name at all. The author names those like scripture does, i.e. The Samaritan Woman at the Well, Job's Wife.

It is not a scholarly or in-depth book so I'm not sure that I would recommend it for a bible study but, that being said, I can't think of a daily devotional that I would recommend using for a bible study. I placed it on my dining room table and picked it up during breakfast for the most part. It helped me start the day off with a different biblical woman in my prayers or a different perspective that women face on a daily basis.

Bible Sisters: A Year of Devotions with Women of the Bible

Gennifer Benjamin Brooks

Abingdon Press 2017

I valued the author's thoughts on "Wife of Judah." She wrote, "As we find in so many places in the Bible, the identity of this unnamed woman focuses on the men. There was a father, Shua, then the husband, Judah. The brief report sounds like a simple transaction. First she was a daughter, property of her father, and then she was wife. I have often wondered how women felt about the reduction of their personhood and being considered property whose value was determined by men." (p. 346) Much of our history has been written about and determined by men. It is fairly recent that women are starting to write about and investigate the women's lives apart from the men. I applaud this author for her work in this area.

Overall, I thought this was a good devotional and I would recommend it to my friends.

Barron is senior pastor at Gardner Memorial and Amboy UMCs. She can be reached at Candace.barron@arumc.org.

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To Stream, Or Not To Stream

BY BUTCH RENFROE
Special Contributor

Several times a year I teach classes that give people a basic overview of how to maintain their WordPress websites. Invariably, when we get to the section of linking audio and video to their web pages, I usually get asked, “Can our church stream our services online?”

With the advent of many modern low-cost or free streaming services, many churches have made the decision to either record or video their services and upload them for viewing or listening by the public, or they sometimes just go ahead and stream the services live.

And why wouldn't they want to stream? The cost of equipment, software and streaming services has never been more affordable. What would have been a major capital expenditure a few years ago, can be purchased today for a few hundred dollars.

However, many believe their existing licenses cover broadcasting or streaming of music, and that may not be the case.

There are many different types of licenses that will allow some use of copyrighted music and not others. For instance, there are licenses that will let you project words on a screen, but will not let you stream or broadcast the music.

Songwriters like to get paid for their craft. So, artists will license their works through a performance rights organization or PRO. The three PROs in the United States are ASCAP, BMI and SESAC. These PROs collect performance license fees for a wide range of uses.

I am not going to tell you that I know everything about church music copyright laws. Understanding those laws is complicated and the laws are confusing to many, including me. For instance, I know if my car stops running I can open the hood and

look at the engine, various hoses, contraptions and doodads. I can see there is a problem, but I am going to need professional expertise to have it repaired. The fact I call many of the things under my car's hood “doodads” vividly underscores my lack of knowledge in that arena.

So, let's assume some in your church are fired up about putting your worship services online. If I were tasked with setting up streaming the services for my church, I would do the following:

1. If I just had to start streaming right away before I got my licensing ducks in a row, I would only stream the sermon portion of the service, making sure I did not include any music.
2. I would contact a licensing service that specializes in church copyright issues such as CCLI or CCS.

Using a company that specializes in copyright issues just makes sense. Even if you don't plan to stream or upload audio or video, it never hurts to get an expert to look at your specific needs in regards to music legalities.

Helpful Links:

- CCLI—us.ccli.com
- CCS—christiancopyrightsolutions.com
- Copyright Guidelines For Local Churches—arumc.org/copyright-guidelines-for-local-churches

Butch Renfroe is the Communications Technologies Specialist in the Arkansas Conference Center for Technology. He may be reached at butch.renfroe@arumc.org.

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Growing in Christ

The late Eva Lee Paysinger was always growing something good — she used her glassed-in porch and a flowerbed just outside her Batesville home to grow vegetables during the last years of her life. Early in their ministry she and her husband, the late Rev. Vernon Paysinger, were more often growing churches.

“I was the first member of Rosewood UMC in West Memphis,” said Eva Lee in a 2009 interview. “The DS sent us to West Memphis in 1955 with a vacant lot and money for an apartment. It took a while, and we had to get out and knock on a lot of doors. But before we left four years later, they had a fellowship hall that we used for worship and five classrooms.”

The Paysingers grew up together as school mates and members of Evening Shade UMC in Sharp County. After a lifetime of serving churches throughout Arkansas, they retired in Batesville to be near family. Vernon and Eva Lee decided to leave a planned gift as their way of saying thanks and continuing to support the church they served so faithfully.

After their deaths, the Vernon and Eva Lee Paysinger Endowment was created at the United Methodist Foundation to underwrite United Methodist missions concentrating on fighting hunger. The Conference-wide Hunger Summit in 2016 is one of the many ministries that has been made possible by their fund.



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