

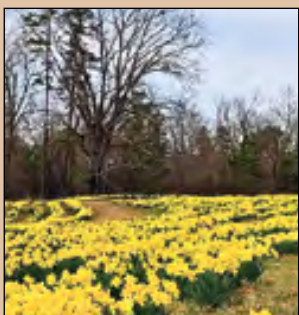
IN THIS ISSUE



Memorial
at Rose Parade
3



Town Hall Meetings
Look at Commission's
Work
6-7



Daffodils at
Wye Mountain
11

Bradford appointed Central DS and Chief Mission Strategist

Bishop Gary Mueller has announced the appointment of Dr. Blake Bradford, assistant director for the Center for Vitality, as the new Superintendent and Chief Mission Strategist of the Central District beginning July 1. Bradford follows Rev. Richard Lancaster, who is retiring after having served for the last four years.

"I feel honored and humbled by Bishop Muller's invitation to serve as a member of his cabinet, an amazing group of spiritual leaders," said Bradford. "It is especially exciting to be welcomed to the team when Arkansas is leading the way in reimagining the ministry of the district superintendent as chief

missional strategist. I look forward with joy to serving alongside the clergy and laity of the Central District as we, together, create vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world."

Bishop Mueller said of Bradford, "Blake has a passion for vital congregations and the gift of being able to think strategically with churches so they are better able to live out our trajectory of creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped to transform lives, communities and the world. He has a pastor's heart, a heart on fire and the

desire to touch lives with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am excited that Blake will be part of the leadership of the Arkansas Annual Conference."

Bradford and his high school sweetheart, Kerri, have two teenage children, Bailey and Micah. An artist and museum educator, Kerri is an adjunct instructor in the art department of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Bradford has served in churches of different sizes and contexts in Denver, Texarkana, Russellville and Little Rock, as an associate, solo and senior pastor. His most recent parish appointment has been as executive pastor of St. James United

[See Bradford, page 2]



Dr. Blake Bradford

Hendrix students engage in service-learning experience

Group explores challenges of racial, economic injustice in Missouri mission

Ten Hendrix College students and three staff members recently returned from a service-learning trip to Ferguson, Mo. Sponsored by the college's Miller Center for Vocation,

Ethics and Calling, the experience engaged the group in discussion, education and action related to systemic racial and economic injustice.

The Hendrix group traveled to Ferguson Jan. 7-13 to work with the Center for Social Empowerment (CSE), founded by the Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson in the aftermath of

the August 2014 police shooting of Michael Brown. The group participated in CSE's education and community-based social engagement programs, which seek equity, inclusion and the transformation of economic and social systems.

CSE staff led discussion sessions each morning, challenging the group to work through ways to lower barriers to social justice, including naming biases, having conversations about race and acknowledging the ways their own identities intersect race, gender, sexuality, disability, survivor status and more.

"By the end of the week we were introduced to tools to help us become better advocates and activists in our own communities," said Dr. Todd Tinsley, a trip leader and associate professor of physics at Hendrix.

"Working with the Center of Social Empowerment taught me that the world would be a better place if we just took the time to truly listen to one another," said Breann Forbes, a senior business and economics major and anthropology minor. "Talking to my fellow students and the staff at the Center for Social Empowerment, I found people who were dedicated to wholeheartedly listen to others without judgment, and that was transformative."

For first-hand experience in the Ferguson community, the Hendrix

[See Hendrix, page 5]



A service-learning trip to Ferguson, Mo., by Hendrix College students focused on systemic racial and economic injustice.

A Lenten state of mind: preparing for the coming celebration

BY WILLIAM O. "BUD" REEVES
Special Contributor

Lent always sneaks up on me. It seems like I just catch my breath after Christmas and the New Year, and I'm cruising through Epiphany, then—wham!—there are ashes on my forehead. Lent is a cold splash of water in the face on a winter morning. Suddenly I'm awake and tingling. The narrow road from Galilee to Jerusalem opens up before me, and I can make out three crosses on the horizon.

Lent requires a mental shift. Preparing our souls for the celebration of Easter is no party. The Scriptures get darker; the songs shift to minor keys; the sermons have more challenge. There is a Lenten state of mind, and frankly, I'm glad when it comes. I need the wake-up call. I



William O. "Bud" Reeves

need the encouragement to go deep in my faith. I need to pay attention to some things I may have forgotten.

Lent calls me to **REPENTANCE**. Historically, Lent was the home stretch for converts to Christianity as they prepared for baptism on Easter. It was a time for cleansing the soul before the cleansing water of grace covered them. In Lent, we feel the weight of our sin. That is uncomfortable, and it is antithetical to our permissive culture. But the first response to the Gospel is clear in the teaching of Jesus: "The Kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news!"

Repentance is personal, for all the ways I have turned my back on God and others. Repentance is also corporate, for the state of the church, for our culture of violence, for the abuse of women and children, for our lack of hospitality toward the poor, the stranger and the foreigner in our midst, to name a few. For many reasons, we need to come clean with God.

Lent helps me reclaim **DISCIPLINE**. Prayer,

giving alms, and fasting are the ones Matthew suggests, and they are good ones. It helps my soul to feel the pinch of hunger during Lent, or even the disappointment of refusing dessert. It reminds me what is really important. Being a follower of Wesley, it's all about practicing the methods of the Christian life. As I try to align my life with God, discipline puts boundaries around my scattered activities.

Often we think about Lenten discipline in a negative way, "giving up" for Lent. I like to think of disciplines in a positive way, adding for Lent. More prayer time, more Scripture reading, attending church more often, increasing your giving, trying a new experience of service in a community mission—try positive ways to find alignment with the divine.

Most of all, my Lenten state of mind is one of **GRATITUDE**. The older I get, the more I appreciate the oft-repeated but never-old story of the passion of Jesus. His words, his actions, his *heart*—I never cease to be amazed and inspired. What he endured on my behalf

reduces me to tears. The incredible love God has for me and for all of us on this planet fills my heart with thanks. God is so good. As we walk in the footsteps of Jesus during Lent and make our way toward Calvary, our gratitude fills us with awe. What God has done gives us strength and faith and hope and courage. That's why I look forward to Lent.

All around us we see signs of spring. The winter (mostly) is gone. New life springs up all around. Grass greens; daffodils wave their yellow heads; dogwoods bloom; warm breezes blow. I think God knew that Easter needed to come in the spring, because all the earth proclaims the Gospel. I hope through your Lenten state of mind—repentance, discipline, and gratitude—you will find new life as real as the empty tomb and as happy as a gorgeous spring day!

The Rev. Dr. Reeves serves as the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Fort Smith. Email: breeves@arumc.org.

Bradford appointed (from page 1)

Methodist Church in Little Rock, a 3,500-member congregation, where he worked alongside lay leadership, staff and fellow clergy to align and coordinate the church's ministries.

Joining the church as a young adult, Bradford was baptized at Highland Valley UMC in Little Rock as a college student. He grew up in Little Rock and attended Hendrix College in Conway (B.A., Religion, 1996). After graduation, he studied in England at Oxford University's Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He read Medieval and Reformation theology for his first master's degree at Vanderbilt University (M.A., History of Christian Thought, 1998), with a focus on sacramental theology. He then earned his Master of Divinity degree at Iliff School of Theology in Denver (M.Div., 2000). Bradford holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in parish leadership from SMU's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas (D.Min., 2014), where his doctoral

project "Passing the Mantle" studied the use of peer groups and continuing education in pastoral formation.

Bradford has served on the executive committee of the Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for several years, organizing and directing the Residency in Ministry Program for those seeking ordination. He serves the bishop as the Annual Conference Parliamentarian and teaches pastoral leadership and administration for the Arkansas Course of Study School. He also has served on the board of Connected in Christ, the Arkansas

Conference Committee on the Status and Role of Women, and on various district Boards of Ordained Ministry and Superintendency. Bradford has been a keynote speaker at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Quadrennial Training for Boards of Ordained Ministry and presented at the Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute. He currently serves on GBHEM's Advisory Panel for Residency in Ministry. He also holds a second-degree black belt in Taekwondo, which he considers his best training for ministry.

Appointments

The following pastoral appointments have been announced by the Cabinet:

- Robert Hunt, Brinkley/Brasfield: retired Jan. 31, 2018
- Heritage, Van Buren: Ron Lewis OF (Full Member of other denomination)
- First, Little Rock: Adam Kirby (Deacon) as secondary appointment
- Red Hill/Bell Chapel Charge (Open)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun Sense

In view of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Florida, I believe we as Methodist Christians need to take a stand immediately on gun sense if we truly want to support our future, the youth of tomorrow. Making disciples begins with relationships. Caring and compassion are the ways we build relationships. Transformation can come out of tragedy if we as Christians work together to eliminate such sadness as school shootings. We say that all and every life is precious in God's sight. If we don't take a stand on gun sense, do we as Christians really believe that each life is precious to God?

Donna Huie, retired clergy
Springdale

Would you



to receive daily reflections from Bishop Mueller?



facebook.com/arkansasumc

Expand or build your church with a loan from UMDF.

We provide first-mortgage loans for building, expanding and renovating United Methodist churches and mission institutions.

- Loans starting at \$25,000
- Amortized up to 20 years

Call us at 1-800-862-8633.
www.umdevelopmentfund.org

GLOBAL MINISTRIES
The United Methodist Church

Volume 165 • No. 3 March 2, 2018
Danielle Williams, Communication Director
Jane Dennis, Interim Editor
Cat Boose • Circulation
www.arumc.org

The *Arkansas United Methodist* is the newspaper of record for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is issued monthly, on the first Friday of every month, and distributed in both print and digital formats.

Send subscription inquiries and updates to: Arkansas United Methodist, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202; or email Cat Boose, cat.boose@arumc.org.
Send submissions to: communications@arumc.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Arkansas United Methodist, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202.

The *Arkansas United Methodist* is published by the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, 800 Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, AR 72202. Postage paid at Gainesville, TX.

Arkansas Conference
800 Daisy Bates Drive
Little Rock, AR 72202-3770
www.arumc.org 501-324-8000

Subscriptions
- Annual and biannual subscriptions are available for the print edition of this newspaper.
- The digital edition is free.
For information on subscribing to either edition, visit www.arumc.org/aum or call 501-324-8023.

Advertising is welcomed. For a rate sheet or more information, call 501-324-8000 or send an inquiry to communications@arumc.org. While all advertising is reviewed before acceptance, it should not be considered endorsed by this newspaper or the Church.

Submission Deadlines

Issue Date	Submission Deadline
April 6	March 13
May 4	April 12



Paul and Becky Owen of Little Rock with the Donate Life float at the Tournament of Roses Parade.

The Gift of Time

Rose Parade float memorializes LR organ donor

BY JANE DENNIS
Interim Editor

The annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., is a stunning feast for the senses, an explosion of unparalleled floral beauty and a dizzying combination of creativity and engineering magic.

But for Paul and Becky Owen of Little Rock, this year's parade on Jan. 1 will forever hold a special place in their hearts for honoring the memory of their late daughter, Melissa, and the lives she touched when she agreed to be an organ donor. Melissa died unexpectedly of a brain aneurysm at age 38 on Christmas Eve 2014. Because she had registered as an organ donor on her driver's license and talked about it openly, her organs provided new hope for survival to three people in three states. The gifts would save their lives.

A lasting bond

This story of giving and hope was well represented on this year's Donate Life Tournament of Roses float, called "The Gift of Time." The float not only celebrated Melissa's memory, it celebrated her heart, too. One of the 16 organ recipients riding on the float was Yolanda Harshaw, the recipient of Melissa's heart. In a twist that

rarely happens, the organ donor and organ recipient were both from the same city, Little Rock, and lived just a few miles apart.

Healthy and grateful for a new chance at life, Harshaw met the Owens family two years after her transplant. Now friends, Harshaw and the Owens shared the Rose Parade with a bond and connection few others have experienced.

Paul Owen is director of children's ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock, a position he has held for 14 of the



Paul and Becky Owen of Little Rock display the florigraph of their daughter Melissa.

40 years he has been a member of Trinity UMC. He and Becky were part of the Arkansas Team of volunteers who worked on the Donate Life float, which recognized organizations like ARORA (Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency).

ARORA facilitated honoring Melissa's wishes to have her organs donated upon her death. ARORA also played a role in introducing the Owens to Harshaw when both agreed to a meeting.

Flowers come to life

The Owens were touched that Melissa was one of 44 organ donors memorialized on the massive Rose Parade float. Melissa's image was featured on a florigraph, an image created of floral materials.

"We got to go to Pasadena and work on the float, then we were in the bleachers during the parade, which is five and half miles long," Paul said.

The parade is an amazing spectacle of sight and sound and mechanical wizardry. "They floats are huge, and you can't always tell that watching on TV," he said. "But to be there in person and to smell those flowers. . . there is nothing else like it. You don't get that on TV."

The design and mechanical part of most floats are under construction

for the better part of a year. Then at a frenzied pace, during the three days just before the parade, 600 volunteers work in shifts around the clock to painstakingly apply the fresh flowers that complete each themed float.

"There's a huge computerized plan of where each single flower will go," Paul explained.

Organ donor advocates

The Owens are outspoken advocates for ARORA and efforts to raise awareness that organ and tissue donation saves and heals lives. Nationally, 125,000 people are waiting for organs, including

more than 300 Arkansans. Some are waiting on kidneys or hearts. Others need livers and heart/lung combinations.

"For us, taking part in the parade was a platform for us to tell Melissa's story and to speak about the power of organ donation," Paul said. "And it was especially meaningful to have her heart recipient be there and ride on the float."

Melissa died on Christmas Eve. Harshaw had been placed on the transplant list the day before. Theirs was a perfect match.

Looking back, Paul calls it "a Christmas miracle."

Organ donation saves lives

Did you know:

- Currently there are more than 117,200 people waiting for organs in the U.S.
- Every 14 minutes another person is added to the national waiting list for organs.
- One-third of the people waiting for organs will die before they receive a transplant.
- Of the 25,000 people who die of a brain death each year (and could donate organs), only 5,500 donate.

All the vital organs in the body can be transplanted: heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and the small intestine. Tissues include the cornea or eye, bone, skin, cartilage, ligaments, veins and heart valves.

For more information, contact Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA) at (501) 907-9150 or www.arora.org.

Ready with a response

Conference helps churches plan and prepare for disaster response

Is your local church prepared to help others in the event of a disaster, either natural or manmade? Does your local church have a plan in place to ensure its facilities will be operational and church staff knows what to do when faced with an emergency situation?

These are important questions, ones that need to be asked—and answered—before a disaster or emergency happens.

Janice and Byron Mann of Jasper serve as Disaster Response Coordinators for the Arkansas Conference. The Manns want to make sure Arkansas churches are ready and well prepared ... for whatever disaster may be ahead.

Janice sat down recently with United Methodist communications specialist Martha Taylor to discuss topics related to disaster plans and preparations. Here are some highlights of their conversation:

Q: What can we as individuals and local churches do to respond in case of an emergency or disaster?

Mann: I recommend starting with a good Disaster 101 training for the church. It's important to look at how disaster response works and how the local church response fits in to the big picture. Our conference "Connecting Neighbors" training is a good overview for any local church to have.

Q: Talk about what an Early Response Team (ERT) does.

Mann: ERT is not an emergency response. It is after all the emergency responders are finished and things are safe and the community is ready for volunteers to come in. The ERT goes in with the primary goal of offering a caring, Christian presence. They do that while they're safely cleaning up and securing disaster-damaged homes and properties. ERTs have to be protective and caring while causing no further harm, or without being a burden to that affected community or the family they're working with.

Q: What other training would you recommend for an individual or church?

Mann: There are resources both on the FEMA website and the Red Cross website for individual and family preparedness. FEMA has all kinds of things for responders, for churches and businesses. ... But sometimes it is hard to weed through everything there and find what applies to you. So that's where the training that we offer through the conference came from. Our training is more focused on what we know our churches and our church members need.

Q: How do local communities know when to ask for help?

Mann: A lot of people don't realize ... a disaster begins and ends in the local community. It's that local



Teams of volunteers should prepare in advance and be ready to respond in a coordinated way when disaster strikes.

community's responsibility to first offer assistance with the resources they have, and then if it grows beyond their capacity and capabilities, they have to reach out.

So our connectional system in the Methodist church fits perfectly with that. ... We have local churches, then districts, then the conference. Beyond that we have jurisdictions and the global church. So our denominational structure really fits in with being able to help.

When something big happens, there are often expectations that the Red Cross or even FEMA or UMCOR will come fix everything. Well, that doesn't happen. There are gaps that we all need to work together to make sure are filled.

Q: With the disasters Arkansas has had in the last few years, and with tornado season soon upon us, what do you most want to see happen next in the Conference?

Mann: I want people to be thinking about being organized and what they can do locally. Then I want them to get the training that's available to them. Then when something happens, they're going to be better prepared.

Byron and I are a resource for local churches and districts. And UMCOR is a resource for us, for both consulting and training. Keep us on speed-dial.

The Manns can be reached at disaster@arumc.org, or (870) 703-8359 (Janice) or (501) 870-826-0268 (Byron).

More details on this topic are posted on the Conference web site at: <http://arumc.org/disaster-preparedness-response>.



Flood buckets collected at the 2018 Arkansas Ingathering were shipped to UMCOR's Sager Brown warehouse for distribution when needed.

Conference has a plan for disaster preparedness and response

A crisis can happen anytime, anywhere. Planning before a crisis, response during and recovery after are all critical stages to lessen the severity and longevity of damage that may occur, whether structural, physical or emotional.

The Arkansas Conference has key personnel and guidelines in place that allow for timely and experienced assistance to victims. Staying informed of disaster response resources and information is essential for pastors and church leaders to be able to serve their community or their neighbors in a time of need.

The conference program includes:

Early Response Teams

The mission of the Early Response Team is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster. Teams operate under very specific guidelines that enable a team to be productive and caring while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected community.

Early Response Teams respond, after emergency personnel, to disasters such as fires, hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. They help families with cleanup, prevention of more damage to homes, and clean out of homes. One-day training must be completed to participate in this type of response. Classes are taught by United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) trainers from the conference. Team members are given ID badges as evidence of training.



Spiritual Care Teams

Spiritual Care Teams are faith-based, ongoing teams that provide spiritual and emotional care following disasters. Working closely with the Conference Disaster Response Committee, the Care Team helps disaster survivors connect with the spiritual, emotional and basic life resources within themselves and their communities. The conference provides the required training for this specialized ministry through UMCOR.

Disaster Response Organized by the Local Church

Churches have the opportunity to open their doors in a time of disaster by setting up a shelter, providing meals, serving as a relief supply distribution center, or addressing other community needs. "Connecting Neighbors" is training geared toward guiding local churches in preparing for and responding to disasters in their own communities and beyond.

Long-Term Recovery Work

Once Early Response Teams have completed their work, long-term volunteers may begin serving in a disaster affected area. These teams come in to begin the repair and rebuilding process. Through the Conference United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, mission teams help rebuild the homes and lives of disaster survivors.

Case Management

UMCOR's model for disaster case management is a holistic approach that addresses the whole person: emotionally, spiritually and physically. Case managers work hand in hand with survivors to understand their situation, help them develop a plan, and connect them to recovery resources. Basic Case Management Training prepares caring people to help vulnerable individuals and families "adjust to their new normal" after a devastating disaster.

UMCOR Sager Brown

All individuals and churches may respond to disasters by supporting UMCOR Sager Brown, the United Methodist Church's distribution center for supplies to those in need, located in Baldwin, La. Support can be special offerings, hands-on volunteers to assemble disaster kits or do other work at the depot. For more information visit www.sagerbrown.org.

Disaster team training set for Bella Vista

A Disaster Early Response Team Training is planned 9 a.m.–5 p.m. March 10 at Bella Vista First United Methodist Church in the Northwest District. Please contact disaster@arumc.org for more information about this team training event or about offering training in your local church.

Hendrix (from page 1)

group visited Kingdom House to help sort donated clothing; tutored students at Koch Elementary School; and helped facilitate CSE's Saturday Academy at Lee Hamilton Elementary School.

"Working with children was undoubtedly the most cherished part of the Ferguson trip for me," said Remington Harris, a senior majoring in English. "The time we spent with them has caused me to re-evaluate what I would like to do in terms of a potential career choice."

In addition to Forbes and Harris, participating students included Gwen Boone '21, Rebeca Castillo '19, Mackenzie Gearin '20, Amanda Jimerson '19, Quinn Johnson '21, Annie Meek '18, Patty Omolo '18 and Brock Sullivan '19. The trip was led by Tinsley; Tanaisha Coleman, apartment

area coordinator; and Hannah Hill, assistant director of admission.

"I'm honored to have had the opportunity to travel with these students and colleagues," Tinsley said. "Day after day I was struck by their steadfast efforts to engage emotionally and intellectually with the work of the Center for Social Empowerment, the community of Ferguson, and their own personal growth."

Founded in 1876, Hendrix has been affiliated with the United Methodist Church since 1884.



RIGHT: A group of Hendrix students sorts donated clothing at Kingdom House in Ferguson, Mo.

GBHEM scholarship available to M.Div students

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry seeks applicants for its Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarships. Awards range from \$2,500 to \$12,500.

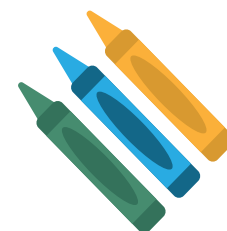
The scholarship is designated for full-time Master in Divinity students enrolled at one of the 13 United Methodist seminaries or schools of theology. Applicants must be pursuing certified candidacy or be a certified candidate for ministry (elder or deacon), with demonstrated merit, progress and commitment in the candidacy process. Applicants must also demonstrate financial need and how this scholarship will help avoid additional student loans.

For more information on the Excellence in Clergy Leadership scholarship, visit <https://gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships>.

9th Annual
Get Up & Give
February 14 - March 29

Methodist Family Health invites church groups, families, friends and neighbors to collect much-needed items during the season of Lent. Your generosity will aid Arkansas children in our hospital, alternative schools, group homes, clinics and other programs throughout our state.

See our wish list and donation locations at:
methodistfamily.org/get-up-give
 Or contact **Kelli Reep** at **501.906.4210** or
kreep@methodistfamily.org



Recycle
Reuse
Replenish

Be sure to recycle your *Arkansas United Methodist* when you're through reading it (or give it to a friend).

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST:
A word from the Bishop

Serious discussions result from Town Hall meetings

BY GARY E. MUELLER

Over the last several weeks, we have engaged in serious discussions around the Commission on a Way Forward's work and the future of The United Methodist Church. I want to thank all of you who have taken time to attend a Town Hall meeting, complete an online survey, or pray for our church. I greatly appreciate your steadfastness and grace.



We had 1,740 people attend a Town Hall meeting across the conference and 449 respondents to the online survey. This is an excellent turnout and an indication of your commitment to the church.

As promised during the Town Hall meetings, we have provided resources and a report concerning these events. The resource packet we developed allows church leaders to host their own Town Hall meeting at their local churches and includes a PowerPoint, handouts, and potential surveys. If you are interested in using that resource, you can find it on the conference website here: <http://arumc.org/2018/02/commission-on-a-way-forward-town-hall-tool-kit/>.

Additionally, we have the final report available, which compiles all of the feedback we have received. In this edition of the paper, we are highlighting some of the report, but for those of you who are interested you can find the entire report under our News Article section of the conference website.

We learned a great deal about the Arkansas Conference during this process, but mostly we learned there is not a strong consensus concerning any of the three potential models the Commission on a Way Forward proposed for our future as a denomination. This is important. Much like the rest of our church body, we seem fairly unsure about the best way to proceed. However, we also have some clear indications of the larger concerns for our conference and guidance on whether or not you felt the models would assist us as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Thank you, again, for your participation and interest in the life of our church. Please continue to pray for the Commission on a Way Forward, the Arkansas Conference delegation, and the Council of Bishops at this historic time.

Gary E. Mueller

Commission on a Way Forward Report Findings

After receiving feedback from over 2,000 individuals in the Arkansas Conference during Town Hall events and through the online survey, we have prepared a brief overview to report these findings in the *Arkansas United Methodist*. This report details feedback we have received concerning the Commission on a Way Forward's three preliminary models, which were discussed during the Town Hall events. The longer report is available at arumc.org.

Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
<p>OVERALL: Model 1 is seen as divisive; it has strong support with 48% of survey respondents claiming it is the best model for the future of the church, yet another 40% of survey respondents claim it is their least favorite option.</p> <p>This model will help your church spread the Methodist witness locally?</p>	<p>OVERALL: Model 2 is seen as harmful; 37% of survey respondents claim it would cause the most harm to their church and 65% of Town Hall participants said they did not believe this model would help make disciples.</p> <p>What is Model 2's most concerning weakness?</p>	<p>OVERALL: Model 3 is seen as confusing; it has the least support with 75% of Town Hall participants indicating it would not help the church make disciples and 41% describing it with words of confusion, chaos, and division.</p> <p>How does this model make you feel?</p> <p>Confusion (& Associated Words) 41%</p> <p>Hopeless (Negative Associated Words) 37%</p> <p>Heated (Aggressive or Harsh Words) 11%</p> <p>Hopeful (Positive Associated Words) 11%</p>

Model 1

Affirms the current *Book of Discipline* language and places a high value on accountability. (Current *Book of Discipline* language in Paragraph 304.3: The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.)

This model received mixed feedback. It is well liked by almost the same rate as it is disliked. This makes Model 1 appear divisive in the Arkansas Conference. Town Hall results and the online survey reveal the same trend; nevertheless, the majority of respondents indicated it is preferred over Model 2 and Model 3.

During the online survey, Model 1 was seen as providing the best future for the UMC by 48% overall. Respondents who knew their assigned districts agreed in all districts, excluding the Central District, by the following percentages: Northwest District—51%; Northeast District—63%; Southwest District—72%; Southeast District—72%. (The Central District felt Model 2 would provide the best future for the UMC by 43%.)

While the results do not convey an overwhelming level of support for any of the models, it is clear there is diversity of thought in the Arkansas Conference about the future of The United Methodist Church. As the Commission on a Way Forward continues to develop these preliminary models and possibly develop others, staff in the conference office will continue to provide feedback opportunities for clergy and laity. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life of the church and the future of our denomination.

Model 2

Removes restrictive language and places a high value on contextualization. It also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ persons.

Model 2 received mostly negative feedback, with an additional 10% of respondents finding no hope in the potential strengths presented compared to those responding about Model 1. It is seen as being more harmful than Model 1 or Model 3. Additionally, there is strong concern that it will cause division at the local church level.

Overall, Model 2 was seen as most harmful by respondents of the online survey, but district thought varied for those who knew their assigned district: Central District—38% Model 1; Northwest District—39% Model 2; Northeast District—57% Model 2; Southwest District—51% Model 2; Southeast District—46% Model 3.

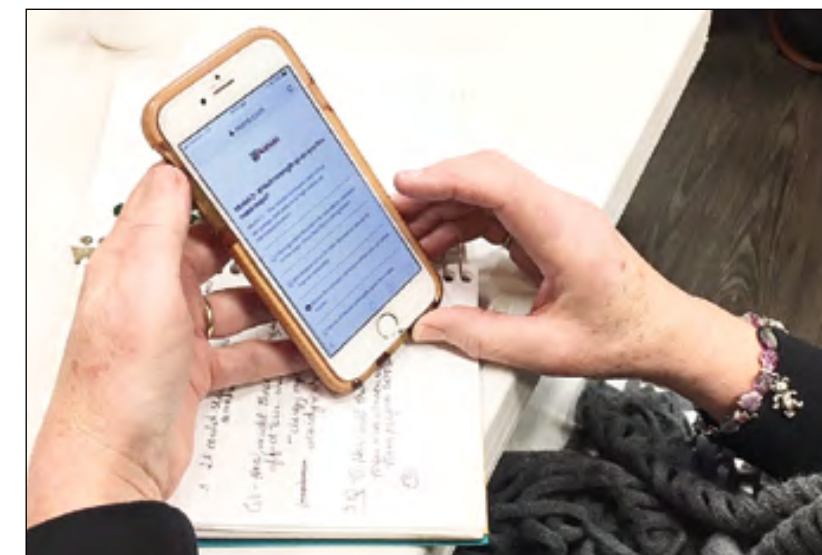
Model 3

Grounded in a unified core that includes shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while also creating different branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice.

This model was seen as confusing overall and was not favored over Model 1 or Model 2. An additional 10% of respondents indicated that this model would not help their church spread the Methodist witness compared to those who responded as such concerning Model 2 and the fewest percentage of participants were able to write about this model's potential strengths.



Scenes from Arkansas Conference Town Hall Meetings



Between Jan. 13 and Feb. 4, Arkansas clergy and laity assembled at 11 Town Hall meetings hosted by the Arkansas Conference. Participants were asked to provide feedback on three preliminary conceptual models related to human sexuality and church policy offered by the denomination's Commission on a Way Forward. Photographs here are from the Little Rock, Fayetteville and Searcy Town Hall meetings.

OBITUARIES

LINCOLN

Gerald Bruce "Gary" Lunsford, of Lincoln, a retired associate clergy member, died Jan. 24, 2018, at the Willard Walker Hospice Home in Fayetteville. He was born August 3, 1942, in Westville, Okla. The son of Bruce and Rosa Lee Lunsford, Gary began his life in Arkansas when the family moved to Bentonville and then settled in Fayetteville four years later. The family joined Central Methodist Church. Gary attended Washington Elementary and was a 1960 Fayetteville High School graduate. He played for the 1957 undefeated football team and embraced Fayetteville's public schools' integration. He began his mastery of carpentry and woodworking by working with and learning from his dad. He was a part of the construction crew that built the Mountain Inn across from the Washington County courthouse. Gary joined the Marine Corps in 1960 but in less than six months received an honorable discharge after an accident from faulty explosives caused deafness in his left ear. He returned to Fayetteville where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Arkansas.



Gary's incredible life experiences continued when he moved to Washington, D.C., in the 1960s and joined the Capitol Hill police force. During his time away from Fayetteville, he learned and loved skydiving with over 400 jumps, learned to snow ski, raced stock cars where he suffered a spinal injury, and even attended the Woodstock Music Festival. He tried out for the Washington Redskins football team and earned membership but did not join and instead came back to Fayetteville to be with his family. Gary's life path then included being a bouncer with his older brother, Porter, at The Huddle Club on College Avenue, an art teacher at Woodland Junior High School and later operating the horse-riding concession at Devil's Den State Park for a summer. He first opened his woodworking shop in a bay at the Schlitz beer distributorship, but soon moved to the old Fayetteville Lumber Company yard behind the storefronts in the Dickson Street entertainment district.

It was then he married the love of his life, Marty Jones. He continued carpentry, woodworking and substitute teaching until he received the call to go into ministry. He organized and travelled on several mission trips to South America, Africa and Russia. Gary served as pastor of visitation at Central United Methodist Church. He pastored several United Methodist churches in Northwest Arkansas, including St. James and Wiggins in Fayetteville and congregations at Rheas Mill, Winslow, Lincoln and Morrow. He loved God, his family, the Razorbacks, riding his motorcycle, old cars, down-home cooking, chocolate cake, stray dogs, Siamese cats, mission work, talking about old Fayetteville and story-telling, traveling, Sunday afternoon drives, backyard barbecues, swimming in the river and woodworking. Most of all, Gary loved people.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Porter and David Lunsford. He is survived by his wife, Marty, three sons, Jason, Quentin and Allan, five grandchildren, his sister, Barbara Pryor, and his brother, Scott Lunsford. Gary did more in his 75 years than most would do in 100.

A memorial service was held Jan. 30 at Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville.

BRANDON, Miss.

Rev. Carlos Martin, retired elder, of Brandon, Miss., died Jan. 28. He served churches from 1951 to 1987, primarily in the former Little Rock Conference.

He was born December 27, 1924, at Austin, Ark., the son of Rev. and Mrs. J.R. Martin of Cabot. A graduate of Prescott High School, he served 3½ years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After his discharge, he attended Hendrix College and received his degree. He then earned his Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology.

His pastoral appointments included Greenbrier, Winfield-Little Rock, St. Luke-Pine Bluff, Lewisville, St. Paul-El Dorado, Hamburg Charge, Carlisle, Oaklawn-Hot Springs, St. Luke-Little Rock and First Church-Hot Springs. Following retirement, he was named Pastor Emeritus at Hot Springs First.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 54 years, Verlene Richardson Martin, a daughter, Judy Martin Cook, and an infant brother, Clyde.

Survivors include his son, Ron of Brandon, Miss.; a son-in-law, Toby M. Cook; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



The Service of Celebration was held Feb. 1 at First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, with interment at Crestview Memorial Park.

WYNNE

Eva Louise Horton Pettus passed away February 17, 2018, at CrossRidge Community Hospital in Wynne. She was the spouse of Rev. Glen Pettus, pastor of Wynne First United Methodist Church.

She was born March 20, 1947, to J.B. Horton and Melba Farris Horton in Detroit, Mich., and grew up in New Madrid, Mo. She attended Arkansas State University, earning a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1970 and a Master of Science in Education degree in 1971. She performed with the ASU Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers, Marching Indian Band and Concert Band. She was president of Kay's Hall, Associated Women Students and Sigma Alpha Iota. She was a member of the ASU President's Roundtable and Lecture-Concert Committee, as well as the hospital auxiliary at St. Bernard's Hospital. Among her many honors and awards were the ASU Distinguished Service Award, Alpha Omicron Pi Music Award and Sigma Alpha Iota Sword of Honor.

Eva led mostly choral music in schools in Missouri and Arkansas, including Tuckerman, Lakeside-Hot Springs and Pochontas. As a United Methodist, she served as Sunday School teacher, choir director, organist, pianist and director of children's and youth choirs. She was active in United Methodist Women and served on many Conference and District committees. Instrumental in bringing Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis to Arkansas, she was Chair of the Arkansas Emmaus and Chrysalis Formation Committees, Lay Director of the Women's Walk and Girls' Chrysalis Flight and served on the International Emmaus Board and National Chrysalis Board.

Eva was a certified adjudicator with the National Piano Guild and a National Certified Teacher of Music through the National Teachers of Music Association. She was a member of the Music Educators National Association, Sigma Alpha Iota, American and Arkansas Choral Directors Associations, Choristers Guild, Suzuki Music Association, Musicgarten, Kindermusik, Musical Coterie, Music Club and PEO.

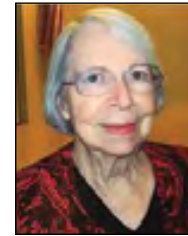
She was a member of Wynne First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, American Legion Auxiliary, Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln Presenters and the Kelly's Roundtable. Her greatest gift was her enormous love of others and

especially her love of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She was preceded in death by her father, J.B. Horton. In addition to her husband, survivors are her mother, Melba Horton, sisters Janelle (Kenny) Burch and Karen Horton of Sikeston, Mo., and many extended family. A memorial service was held Feb. 20 at Wynne First UMC. For memorials, gifts to the First UMC New Roof Fund are suggested.

BUTTERFIELD

Wensil Allene Lowery Smith, 82, of Butterfield, the spouse of retired elder Rev. David Smith, died Feb. 5, 2018. She was born on March 11, 1935, in Cooper, the daughter of Granville Allen Lowery and Clara Anita James Lowery. She graduated from Magnet Cove High School where she met her husband, David. She was preceded in death by her parents, three of her siblings, sister Delores Lowery Lawrence, brothers Hulon and Donnie Lowery.



She is survived by her husband of 63 years, David Smith of Butterfield; children Debra Smith (Jerry) Segers of Canton, Ga., and Philip "Fritz" (Cathleen) Smith of Kennesaw, Ga.; sisters Jannis Lowery Smith of Hot Springs and Reta Lowery (Clarence) Woosley of Malvern; brother-in-law Howard Wilson of Tuscaloosa, Ala., sisters-in-law Eva Jean Hathcock Lowery of Malvern, Rosalind Crawford of Houston, Texas, and Frances (Van) Wells of Ruston, La.; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives. Genealogy was one of her favorite pastimes and she gathered a wealth of family information for more than 60 years.

Remembered for her wit, kindness and generosity, Wensil loved her God and her church. A preacher's wife much of her adult life, she had a quiet way of supporting behind the scenes. She was active in Girl Scout leadership and her local PEO. She was an exceptional bookkeeper, working for Sears, Millsaps College, Capps Funeral Home and was Deputy Tax Collector for Walthall County in Mississippi. She highly valued education and provided "Nana Scholarships" to her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Wensil credited her creativity to growing up in the post-Depression years saying, "We always had to make something out of nothing." She enjoyed life and preparing special tea

parties for her grandchildren. She loved butterflies, was a marathon shopper and inquisitive world traveler. She claimed her greatest accomplishment was raising her two children to become caring, productive adults.

Services were held Feb. 9 at J.A. Funk Funeral Home, with interment at Cooper Cemetery.

LAVACA

Jonathan Matthew Strang, 24, passed away Jan. 17, 2018. He was the son of Enola Gay and Rev. Lynn David Strang, pastor of Lavaca and New Hope-Van Buren United Methodist churches.



He is survived by his fiancé, Stephanie Cummings of Lavaca; his parents, of Lavaca; one brother, David Christian Strang of Fort Smith; two sisters, Caitlyn Elizabeth Voss and her husband, Jason Daniel John Voss of Lavaca, and Lauren Michaela Strang, his twin, of Lavaca; a host of cousins and extended family.

An honors graduate of Lavaca High School, he was a member of the marching band where he played the bass drum. He attended the Univ. of Arkansas-Fort Smith where he was selected a lifetime member of the Fort Smith chapter of the international honor society for collegiate schools of business, Beta Gamma Sigma, and a member of the national society of leadership and success. He was a cum laude graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration.

He worked in retail sales at Abercrombie and Fitch, where he was assistant manager, and AT&T. He was a thoughtful, kind man and a natural born leader who could light up an entire room with his smile. Jonathan always made sure everyone around him had exactly what they needed and that they felt loved, and that was especially true with Stephanie, the love of his life.

In his free time he enjoyed working with the cattle on his family farm with his father, target shooting and spending time with his fiancé, family, friends, and his niece, Holland, whom he adored. He loved animals, especially his dog, Oliver.

Jonathan asked Jesus Christ into his heart as a young boy. His family and many friends are comforted with the knowledge that they will see him again in Heaven.

Funeral services were held Jan. 23 at Smith Mortuary Chapel in Charleston, with burial at Hickory Ridge Cemetery.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Mountain Home quilter donates dozens of quilts

Stephanie Reubin, a member of the prayer shawl ministry at First United Methodist Church in Mountain Home, was recently recognized for her contributions as a skilled quilter who gives to the church and community.

In 2016, Reubin made and donated 16 quilts. In 2017 she completed 20 quilts and four T-shirt blankets. Her most recent contributions were blessed by senior pastor Tom Frase before they were donated to The Call of Baxter County, an organization that finds homes for foster children in Arkansas.

Reubin and other members of the prayer shawl ministry make and donate shawls to Hospice of the Ozarks. Local veterans are honored with patriotic shawls. Prayer squares are given to others upon request. In 2017, members of the congregation completed and distributed 164 prayer shawls.

In other outreach efforts, the congregation holds fund raisers that allow members to assist organizations and efforts within the church and community, including the Building Fund, Thanksgiving baskets, TV and radio broadcasts of Sunday worship services, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Mercy Ship and Into the Light.



Mountain Home First UMC member Stephanie Reubin displays some of the quilts she made and donated to the church.

Sharing the Goods warehouse opens at Ferndale camp

A “Sharing the Goods” outlet recently opened in Arkansas. Sharing the Goods is one of 30 distribution warehouses scattered around the country operating in partnership with Good360, a leader in product philanthropy. The program makes available deeply discounted home improvement products exclusively for Arkansas churches and nonprofits. Churches can use these products to cut their costs and/or distribute the products at no charge to “needy, ill or youth” served by the church.

The Sharing the Goods warehouse, located just west of Little Rock at Ferncliff Camp, receives product donations from corporations such as Home Depot, Bed Bath and Beyond, Tempur-pedic and others. Nonprofits can acquire these products at generally 70–90 percent off retail value. Products can be viewed at their online store: www.sharingthegoods.org.

Churches are eligible to join the local network (currently free) and then they can buy products either in person (Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.) or online 24/7 and pick up within 72 hours. The warehouse is located at 27701 Kanis Road in Ferndale (Ferncliff Camp).

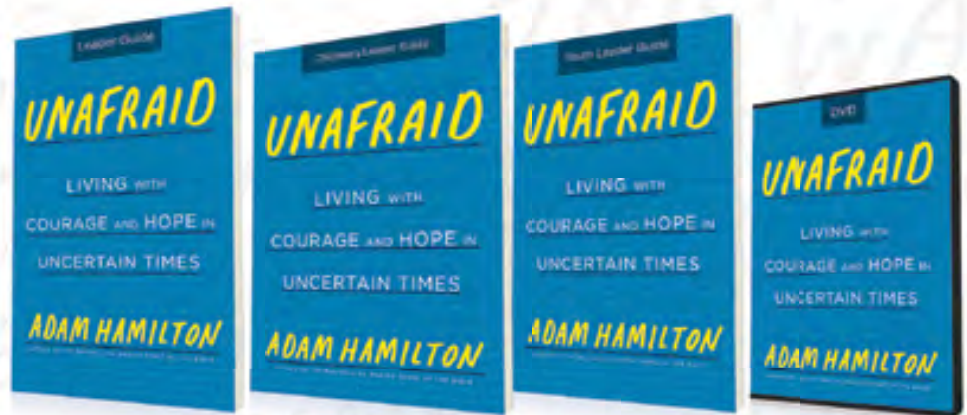
Products change with each truckload. Examples of current products include floor and wall tile, laminate flooring, kitchen and bathroom sinks and faucets, toilets, bathtubs, bed pillows, comforters, pavers and other items. The goal of Sharing the Goods is to save money for churches and nonprofits so they have more to spend on mission.

For more information, contact David Gill, Ferncliff Camp, Director of Outreach, (501) 416-8946.

Kitchen Equip. & Supplies
Buy at our prices and \$ave
1-800-482-9026 or 228-0808
AIMCO EQUIPMENT CO.

STAINED GLASS
Serving Arkansas with Quality Stained Glass since 1973
SOOS
Churches • Residential • Commercial
(800) 791-7667
www.soosstainedglass.com
30 Maumelle Curve Ct., North Little Rock, AR 72113

From the author of *The Journey* and *24 Hours that Saved the World*.



Break away from your worries and fears, and learn to live with COURAGE and HOPE

We know Jesus tells us, “Do not be afraid,” but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study based on his book *Unafraid*, Adam Hamilton explores the worries and fears most of us experience. Your small group can learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope.

Bible study resources include the Leader Guide, which includes session plans, activities, and discussion questions, a DVD featuring Hamilton, a Youth Leader Guide, and a Children’s Leader Guide are also available.

Topics include:

- High Anxiety
- Fear of the Other
- Friendless and Alone
- Failure and Rejection
- The Sky is Falling
- Sickness, Aging and Death

Learn more at AdamHamilton.org/unafraid



COMING UP

Puerto Rico mission to rebuild hurricane-ravaged homes

Rev. Russ Breshears, pastor of Oaklawn UMC, Hot Springs, and his wife, Diana, are leading a mission to Puerto Rico May 15–22 to help rebuild homes that were damaged during Hurricane Maria. The cost, including airfare from Little Rock to San Juan, is \$1,200 per person. Volunteers with some construction skills are especially needed. For more information, contact Russ at (501) 772-7919 or russell.breshears@arumc.org.

Leadership Unleashed calendar grows

Additional “Leadership Unleashed” dates and locations have been announced by the Conference Center on Vitality. The events are designed to foster conversations with laity interesting in making new disciples and leading new ministries in the midst of a changing world. All laity, particularly those in local church leadership roles, are invited to attend. For details, visit www.arumc.org.

Upcoming events include:

- March 7: Forrest City First UMC, 6:30–8:30 a.m.
- April 5: Greenwood First UMC, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- April 10: Fayetteville Trinity UMC, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- April 24: Clinton First UMC, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
- April 28: Cherokee Village UMC, 10 a.m.–12 noon

Mount Eagle to host clergy golf retreat

A clergy golf retreat is planned for May 6–8 at Mount Eagle Retreat Center near Clinton. Participants will play rounds at both the Mountain Ranch and Tannenbaum golf courses. Cost is \$160 and includes accommodations, meals, green fees range balls and golf cart. Retreat leaders will be David Baker and Steve Wingo. To register or for more information, visit www.mounteagle.org or contact Mike “Sarge” Leonard at (501) 757-1875 or director@mounteagle.org.

Spring dates announced for Local Pastor License School

Arkansas Conference Local Pastor License School will be held April 27–28 and May 20–26 at Mount Eagle Retreat Center near Clinton. Registration deadline is April 10. For details contact the Board of Ministry office at BOM@arumc.org or (501) 324-8033.

Network for youth workers developed in Arkansas

A Youth Worker Mentor Network has been launched in the Arkansas Conference. Designed for those new to youth ministry and those who feel the need for guidance as a youth worker, the network is offered as a connectional tool that will facilitate the sharing of support, ideas, advice and experience among the youth workers of the Arkansas Conference. To sign up and learn more, go to <http://www.arumcywn.org/mentor-network>.

**Register for Confirmation Camp by March 23**

Confirmation Camp is coming up April 6–8 at Camp Tanako near Hot Springs for students in grades 5–7 and 9–12. Registration closes March 23.

Confirmation Camp is suitable for churches of all sizes, whether confirmation programs are long-term or more succinct. Topics covered include: What is Confirmation, the Trinity, John Wesley, the Sacraments and Vows.

For details, visit <http://arumc.org/confirmation-camp>.

Flea Market set in Cherokee Village

The Cherokee Village United Methodist Women’s Annual Flea Market will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 10. There will be lots of clothes, kitchen items, books, jewelry, linens, tools and “elegant junk.” A Soup/Dessert Lunch will be hosted by the United Methodist Men from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit local mission ministries.

AME church leader to present preaching workshop, lecture

Teresa Fry Brown, Ph.D., the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology, will present the John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop at Hendrix College in Conway on March 13. The event will be held at the Student Life and Technology Center, Worsham Performance Hall on the Hendrix campus. Registration beings at 9 a.m. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch.

Prior to the workshop, at 7 p.m. on March 12, Brown will present the annual Willson Lecture, a free event open to the public and offered as part of the annual Steel Hendrix Awards program. The Willson Lecture will take place in Worsham Hall South.

An ordained itinerant elder, Brown is the 14th Historiographer, editor of the *A.M.E. Review* and is the executive director of research and scholarship for the African Methodist Episcopal. Brown is the author of five books, including “Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body and Animation in Proclamation,” and 35 articles and chapters in edited publications.

To register, visit www.hendrix.edu/gillworkshop. For more information call (501) 450-1263 or email mulhearn@hendrix.edu.



Teresa Fry Brown

2018 Lenten message calls for more spiritual disciplines

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Bishops of The United Methodist Church are calling on members of the denomination to deny themselves during the 2018 Lenten Season for the sake of the kingdom of Jesus Christ and to set aside self-interest so that others may have a more abundant life.

In a message sent on behalf of UMC bishops to United Methodists throughout the world, Council of Bishops President Bishop Bruce R. Ough challenged fellow Christians to reflect on the meaning of Jesus’ words in Mark 8:34–35, where he said: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.”

Bishop Ough said losing one’s life for the sake of the gospel means that one has to live the same purposeful life Jesus lived. “It means to deny our preferences for the sake of Jesus’ kingdom purposes. It means to set aside our self-interest so that others may have a more abundant life. It means we are

saved in order to participate in the salvation of others. It means our hearts will break for the very situations that break the heart of God.”

For the Lenten Season that started on Ash Wednesday, February 14, the UMC bishops are asking Methodists to engage in spiritual disciplines that include praying, fasting and sharing their resources with others in their communities.

“During this Lenten season, let us continue to live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Together, let us lose our lives for the sake of the Gospel,” Bishop Ough said in the message.



Bishop Bruce R. Ough

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11

Set clocks forward 1 hour

Our Trajectory

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

Wye Mountain daffodils blooming



The 39th Annual Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival, featuring spring flowers, sightseeing, music, activities for kids, historic church tours, arts and crafts and diverse foods, will be held March 3–11. Hosted by the Wye Mountain United Methodist Church and the Wye Extension Homemakers Club, the festival will be open daily from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. New this year is the festival stage and amphitheater featuring acoustic instrumental and vocal music.

Admission is free. Donations support local missions including nourishing meals for local, under-resourced students and preserving the historic Wye Mountain Community building. The flower field and festival are located at the pinnacle of Wye Mountain, 22300 Highway

113 in Bigelow.

Coordinated parking is available on the church campus and at the Community Building, including reserved parking for less-able patrons. For additional festival information, visit [WyeMountainChurch on Facebook](#), [wymountain.org](#) on the web, or email inquiries to connect.wmc@gmail.com.

Festival coordinator Steve Williams invites friends around the region to “make the scenic day trip to one of Arkansas’ most striking, family-friendly spring festival traditions. The Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival is an always-fresh, outdoor, early-spring experience worth repeating for groups, families, and excursionists!”

Perryville UMC hosts Founders’ Day celebration

A Founders’ Day celebration at Perryville United Methodist Church celebrated 172 years of continuous Methodist worship in that community.

In 1845, John W. and Harriett Clifton Rison’s log home, which still stands today, was the original center for Christian fellowship in Perryville. As the Methodist movement grew and more families came into the area, other churches were built to serve the community.

The Founders’ Day worship service was led by pastor Chanda Adams and Bill Buchanan, a former pastor at Perryville UMC. A special offering was taken to benefit United Methodist missionaries Eric and Liz Buchanan Soard who serve in Tanzania, Africa.



Perryville UMC’s Founders Day service celebrated 172 years of ministry.

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD in the *Arkansas United Methodist* for 60 cents per word, no limit. Call (501) 324-8035 or email editor@arumc.org. Deadlines appear in page 2 of this issue.

WE NEED SPONSORS! The 20th Annual Arkansas Retired Pastor Day will be held Monday, October 22, at 12 noon at the Arkansas Governor’s Mansion. All Arkansas UM retired pastors, spouses and surviving spouses are invited to attend. Our speaker will be Dr. Dennis Swanberg! If you would like to be a sponsor of the 2018 event, contact Dr. David W. Bush, First UMC, Stuttgart, at (870) 673-1131.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: First United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, has immediate opening for a skilled, energetic, enthusiastic Christian person as business administrator of a large, active church in the vital downtown area. Duties will include oversight of the financial operations and physical plant of the church. Great church, excellent staff, and a job that makes a difference. More info: www.fsfumc.org. Resumes: breeves@arumc.org or 200 N. 15th Street, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Director of New Faith Communities. The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, is currently accepting applications for Director of New Faith Communities, a full-time position—clergy or laity—that provides strategic leadership and oversight to the development and nurture of new churches, faith communities and places for new people. He or she will be responsible for starting and supporting new churches, faith communities and places for new people, repurpose existing churches to reach new faith communities, and developing and coordinating a conference-wide strategy for the development of repurposed churches and new places for new people. This person will work collaboratively with the Cabinet and will report directly to the bishop of the Arkansas Conference. A detailed job description can be found at <http://arumc.org/2018/02/director-of-new-faith-communities> or by contacting Rev. Jim Polk at jim.polk@arumc.org or by calling 870-324-8042.

Mayflower UMC in Mayflower, Arkansas, seeks energetic part-time Youth Director for its youth group. Must be able to lead youth to Christ through a scriptural based atmosphere of love and youth activities, and maintain a good Christian relationship with the youth. Candidates with a Methodist background would be beneficial. Duties include Sunday school, children’s church worship and youth fellowship on certain evenings through out the year. Part time position on average three to five hours per week. May be ideal for a college student or young adult. Salary is \$100.00 per week possibly more depending on experience. To apply for position or for more information please email: brazlewood@yahoo.com or revrickwilkins@sbcglobal.net.



T.J. AND INEZ RANEY LECTURES

featuring
Bishop William Willimon

AT PULASKI HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4823 WOODLAWN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205

PALM & PASSION WEEKEND • MARCH 23-25

“THE CRUCIFIED GOD: WEIRD, WONDERFUL GOOD NEWS”

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 6:00 PM • SANCTUARY

“THANK GOD IT’S FRIDAY”
PREACHING FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING IN THE GATHERING HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, NOON • GREAT HALL

“CHALLENGES OF PREACHING THE CROSS IN A WORLD THAT WANTS TO MAKE GOD GREAT AGAIN”
WORKSHOP & LUNCHEON FOLLOWED BY BOOK SIGNING (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)
PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY MARCH 19 TO PHUMC.COM/RANEY OR CALL 664-3600

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 9:00 & 11:00 AM • SANCTUARY & SIMULCAST IN NEW HEIGHTS

9 AM • “WHICH PARADE?” 11 AM • “GETTING READY FOR JESUS”
10:10 - 10:50 AM • BOOK SIGNING IN THE WELCOME CENTER

www.phumc.com • 501-664-3600



Faith Funds

An Answered Prayer

Rev. Roy Beth Kelley had a dilemma. After receiving a call to ministry, the Russellville attorney served as a local pastor for several years. Then she felt a deeper calling from God to attend United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio full time.

“I knew I couldn’t be a pastor, work at my law practice, and go to seminary full time. So I quit working at the law office, wrote a big check for my first semester of seminary, and took a leap of faith,” Roy Beth recalled. “The UMFA Seminary Scholarship truly answered my prayer that God would provide.”

Now serving as pastor for First UMC, Atkins and Bells Chapel UMC, Roy Beth holds services in both churches each week, attends meetings, and ministers to her congregations while attending seminary full time. She plans to complete her seminary work in December of 2018 and will continue as a pastor to local churches in the Arkansas Conference.

Roy Beth and her husband Ed have two grown sons. She is already putting to use the seminary coursework she’s completed in church renewal and the missional church. “I am profoundly grateful to those who have made the seminary scholarships possible,” she said.



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

5300 Evergreen Drive • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

501-664-8632 • Toll free 877-712-1107 • Fax 501-664-6792 • www.umfa.org

7 youth workers receive UMFA scholarships for graduate-level training

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas provided more than \$17,000 in scholarships to help seven youth workers attend this year’s Perkins School of Youth Ministry (PSYM) Conference at Perkins School of Theology Jan. 8–11 in Dallas.

“These scholarships are in line with our grant focus on leadership development,” said Mackey Yokem, UMFA Grants Administrator. “The participants will apply both the practical and theological knowledge gained at the training to their work with youth in the Conference.”

Attending the training on UMFA scholarships were:

- Chase Burns, Minister of Youth, First UMC, Jacksonville
- Tammy Felder, Director of Children’s Ministries, First UMC, Little Rock
- Jared Guinn, CSCS, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Paul UMC, Searcy
- Joshua Holt, Director of Student Ministries, First UMC, El Dorado
- Christy Lemmer, Director of Youth Ministry, First UMC, Morrilton
- Michael Mings, Director of Youth and College Ministries, First UMC, Fort Smith
- Lynn Sikes, Director of Youth Ministry, First UMC, Blytheville.

A total of 35 youth workers from the Arkansas Conference attended PSYM this year. The training is offered at three levels: Foundations, Daily Workshops and Certification. The UMFA scholarship recipients were

a part of the certification program providing graduate-level academic training to help them qualify for certification in youth ministry through the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

“Traditionally, the Conference had helped fund Certification participants,” said Michelle Moore, Conference Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. “The UMFA scholarships allowed us to free up funds to allow an extra 10 people to attend the Foundation and Daily Workshops portions of PSYM.”

Moore believes PSYM gives those who attend a broader understanding of youth ministry, not just lessons for Sunday night, but information on issues like sustainability and involving congregations in youth ministry. The graduate-level training gives youth workers credibility, energy and tools needed to make their programs successful.

“The certification process is often used as a way for participants to explore a call to ordained ministry,” Moore said. “In fact, if participants decide to attend seminary later, they can receive credit for this course.”

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas manages \$165 million in endowment funds and other charitable assets that benefit local churches and other United Methodist ministries. The UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, the UMFA is responsible for over 800 funds that support United Methodist ministries.

Denzel Washington renews \$1 million gift to Wiley College

Two-time Academy Award winner Denzel Washington was recognized at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, for his contributions toward raising awareness around the world about the value of debate education. Washington was honored during the awards ceremony in late January for the nation’s first Historically Black Colleges and Universities Speech and Debate Championship Tournament, which was held over three days on Wiley’s campus.

In accepting the award, Washington pledged to renew a \$1 million gift to the College to continue his funding of its debate program. Washington first donated \$1 million

to the school in 2007 to support the re-establishment of its debate program, which had been inactive since the early 1900s, when it was led by English professor and poet, Melvin B. Tolson. Washington starred in and directed the film “The Great Debaters,” which chronicled the history of the team under Tolson’s mentoring and coaching.

Washington regularly checks in with Wiley’s debate team to encourage its continued success. He last visited Wiley in 2015 and had lunch with the team. He was surprised on that visit when he was presented an honorary doctorate degree for his philanthropy in the field of education.