

IN THIS ISSUE



Memorable moments
at Veritas
2-3



UMC at work
in Bulgaria
6-7



More ideas for feeding
the hungry
9

Hendrix College and SMU's Perkins School of Theology provide streamlined path to seminary study

CONWAY—Students at United Methodist-affiliated Hendrix College will have an opportunity for early admission to Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, thanks to a new agreement between the two institutions.

Hendrix President William M. Tsutsui and Dr. Craig Hill, Dean of Perkins School of Theology, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at a March 1 ceremony on the Hendrix campus. The agreement honors the institutions' heritage in The United Methodist Church and their shared commitment to training students for ministry.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Hendrix students pursuing ministry in The United Methodist Church," said Tsutsui. "Together, Hendrix and SMU's Perkins School of Theology have inspired generations of United Methodist clergy in Arkansas and across the country. This agreement celebrates that history, as well as our continued commitment to educating future generations of United Methodist Church leaders."

Under the terms of the



Hendrix College President William M. Tsutsui (left) and Perkins School of Theology Dean Craig Hill sign documents formalizing a relationship based on the schools' shared United Methodist heritage and commitment to training students for ministry.

agreement, Hendrix students with a cumulative 3.0 GPA who submit the requisite application materials to Perkins by Oct. 15 will receive an early admissions decision for the following fall semester. Hendrix will

communicate with Perkins regarding undergraduate students who are promising candidates for ministry, assist students in the application process, and coordinate annual visits by prospective students to the SMU

campus. The arrangement does not guarantee admission to all candidates who meet the basic requirements, and it does not prevent students who do not meet those requirements from [See Hendrix, page 5]

Humnoke church weathers flooding threat

BY JANE DENNIS
Interim Editor



After a levee breach, water surrounds Humnoke United Methodist Church on March 9.

Heavy rainfall, an overtaxed drainage system and a nearby levee breach resulted in water from the Bayou Meto Basin lapping at the steps of rural Humnoke United Methodist Church in Lonoke County in late February.

"There was a ton of water moving through here," said Humnoke UMC pastor Rev. Marty Bowie. "And this is flat country. It just overwhelmed the natural systems."

The Humnoke church, part of the Central District, is located on Arkansas Highway 13, on the north side of Humnoke. Sunday morning worship services were cancelled March 11 as water surrounded the simple wooden structure and the church grounds disappeared under water. Much of the town of Humnoke was under water as well.

"There was just no place for the water to go," Bowie said. "It was touch and go there for a day or two."

After a few days, the water began to recede. When Bowie and members of the church had a chance to closely examine the building, which is built on piered beams, they were braced for the

worse.

"We've inspected it pretty well and have not found anywhere that water penetrated the structure. Best we can tell, the water got right up to the bottom of the building but not in it," Bowie said.

The tiny congregation, which averages about 10 each Sunday morning for worship, slogged through the muddy church parking area the following Sunday, March 18, and gathered to sing, pray and hear a message from Bowie. It's a tradition that dates back to 1926, when the church was first organized.

The building's heating and air conditioning systems are slated for a thorough inspection.

"We feel like God blessed us. We did not get any water in the church," the pastor said.

Once the saturated ground around the church dries, the congregation plans to hold a cleanup day to pick up debris left by the receding waters. They also continue to pray and do what they can for those whose homes were damaged due to the unexpected flooding. Some homes had as much as 2 feet of water in them.

"There are a number of people in the Humnoke community, especially on the south side of town, who were affected," Bowie said. "We haven't forgotten about them."

Moments WITH GOD

Veritas '18 filled with abundance of inspiration

BY REBEKAH DODSON
Special Contributor

Veritas is the Latin word for truth, and the truth about Veritas 2018 can never fully be put into the perfect words to describe the way the Holy Spirit moved within this year's event.

Jeniffer Dake, a passionate and amazing motivational speaker from Nashville, Tenn., inspired with her hilarious anecdotes that effortlessly tied in with powerful messages about taking our MOMENTS with God.

I Am They, a contemporary Christian band of musicians from Carson City, Nev., gracefully led worship sessions that impacted many and brought the Holy Spirit fully into what was, at one point, just the grand ballroom of the convention center but became a room on fire and dedicated to Christ.

Christian illusionist, speaker and former Muslim Zak Mirzadeh, a 26-year-old from Euless, Texas, not only captured youth, youth workers and chaperones with

jaw-dropping illusions, he moved many with his honest testimony and expressions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Every time members of the task force would become weary from the weekend, God would deliver a famous God-wink and provide a MOMENT that would incite immense joy and also a sense of peace.

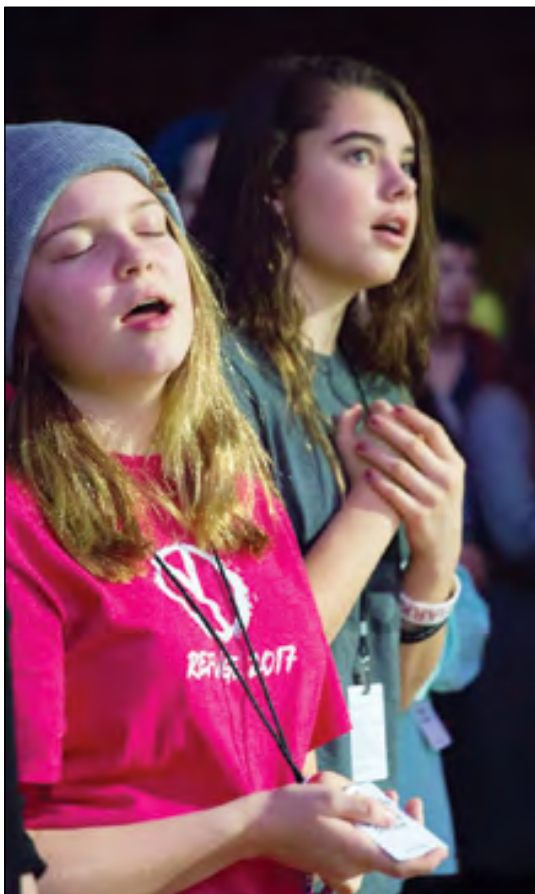
Thank you to the more than 1,400 youth and adults who participated in Veritas 2018 and to those who worked, performed and planned. And thank you, most importantly, to God for working before, throughout, and after this event.

Veritas, an annual event that draws youth from across Arkansas for worship, breakout sessions and inspirational speakers, was held Feb. 23-25 at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center in Rogers. The Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry plans and hosts the event.

Rebekah Dodson is president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, chairperson of the Veritas Task Force and a member of El Dorado First UMC.



Music, inspiration, laughter and energy combined for a spirit-filled Veritas 2018.



Arkansas
United Methodist

Volume 165, No. 4 • April 6, 2018
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
United Methodist

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
May 4	April 16
June 1	May 15



Jackson named Director of New Faith Communities

The Rev. Jeff Jackson, currently pastor of Ozark United Methodist Church in the Northwest District, will serve as the Director of New Faith Communities for the Arkansas Annual Conference, beginning July 1.



Rev. Jeff Jackson

This full-time position will provide strategic leadership and oversight to develop and nurture new churches, faith communities and places for new people, and to engage existing churches in the work of reaching new people in their communities.

“Reaching nones, dones, and never-weres with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a critical part of our trajectory of creating vital congregations that make disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform lives, communities and the world,”

said Bishop Gary Mueller in announcing Jackson’s appointment. “Jeff’s passion for doing this, his track record as a pastor and his experience

as a business entrepreneur make him the right person to lead our conference in this effort.”

Jackson will be responsible for working with District Mission Strategists, pastors and laity in creating a variety of new places for new people that includes new churches, second campuses, “Fresh Expressions” and new faith communities. Additionally, he will help recruit and prepare pastors for new types of work, and develop models and best practices that can be utilized by local congregations in planting new faith communities.

Jackson has served as pastor of Ozark UMC since 2015. Previously, he served Blevins Charge; White Memorial/Herman Charge, North Carolina; Parker’s Chapel/Pleasant Grove, El Dorado; and Piney Grove, Hot Springs. He is married to Lyn Jackson.

Asked what excites him most about his new role, Jackson states, “All around us there are broken people who desperately need to experience the healing grace of our Savior. It’s up to us as the church to develop new

ways of reaching those people where they are. I am so looking forward to working with the leaders of our church to help develop those new opportunities that will reach a lost and hurting world for Christ.”

APPOINTMENTS

The following **appointment changes**, effective July 1, have been announced by the Cabinet:

- Aubrietta Jones—Maumelle First UMC
- Sara Bayles—Sylvan Hills UMC
- Andrea Cummings—Associate, Pulaski Heights UMC Little Rock (St. Luke Campus)
- David Ruehr—Associate, Heber Springs First UMC
- Jacob Lynn—Rector UMC
- Dixon Platt—Forrest City First UMC
- Allen Crum—White Hall UMC
- Herschel Richardson—Grace UMC Conway
- Jonathan Greisse—Elm Springs UMC

Dollar-a-Week collection funds grants to Paragould community programs

On March 18, Paragould First United Methodist Church awarded grants totaling nearly \$6,000 to four organizations from the congregation’s Dollar-a-Week offering. The offering is amassed from single dollar bills put into the offering plate from January through December. Half of the proceeds go to the church’s Witt House Food Pantry. The other half is given as grants to local organizations.

Benefitting from 2017 offerings were the In His Wings Ministry, Mission Outreach, Paragould Schools and Greene County Tech Schools.

The grant given to In His Wings Ministry will help supply new furniture and appliances for a facility that will house women who are trying to meet Department of Human Services requirements in order to be reunited with their children.

The grant to Mission Outreach will partially fund a fence around the children’s playground.

Money given to both Paragould and Greene County Tech schools will benefit their backpack food programs.

This is the seventh year Paragould First UMC has awarded grants through the Dollar-a-Week offering. To date, a total of \$75,145 has been distributed.



Paragould First UMC associate pastor Pat Bodenhamer (right) presents a grant from the congregation’s 2017 Dollar-a-Week offering fund.

LOVE HEALS

Becca Stevens

Episcopal Priest,
Author, & Founder
of Thistle Farms

Thistle Farms is a community of women who have survived trafficking, prostitution & addiction. Becca has been featured in the NY Times, ABC World News, NPR & PBS. She was a 2016 CNN Hero, a White House “Champion of Change” and the 2017 U of A Commencement Speaker.

Saturday, April 7th
A “You Go, Girl” Lunch & Lecture for Women
Great Hall @ Noon

Sunday, April 8th
Guest Preacher
PHUMC Sanctuary @ 9 and 11 am

Purchase Tickets Online @ phumc.com/becca

Sponsored by the PHUMC Foundation

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church · 4823 Woodlawn



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



BY GARY E. MUELLER

Resist the Temptation to Focus Solely on God's Unconditional Love

It's not very often I explicitly write about theology. It's even less often I write about it from a distinctly Wesleyan perspective. But there's something going on in United Methodism right now that has made me realize it's time—the fact I see more and more signs that we've gotten stuck in God's unconditional love instead of emphasizing the fullness of God's love that is unconditional, invitational and transformational.

We experience God's unconditional love when God accepts us just the way we are long before we are ever aware of it and even when we do not accept it. It's just who God is and what God does. The nature of this love is expressed in infant baptism, when God's love is fully experienced even though the child is unaware of what's happening.

We experience God's invitational love when God offers us a changed relationship through Christ's sacrificial gift of love on the cross. The very nature of our relationship is changed as we are brought into an intimate and eternal relationship with God.

We experience God's transformational love when God actually changes us from the inside out. We're changed—actually and really—as we become holy in heart and life, perfect in love and a new creation in Christ.

So why am I concerned we're getting stuck in God's unconditional love? It's because the consequences are staggering. First, we fool ourselves into thinking it's all we'll ever need. Then, we end up focusing far more on what makes us comfortable than on God, far more on justifying the

way we are than God's vision for us, and far more on feeling good than growing in our ability to become the people God has created us to be. Most importantly, we miss out on the fullness of the love God offers us.

Of course God loves us just the way we are right now. But God loves us so much that God wants us to be more than just the way we are right now. God longs for us to experience a deeper, richer and more intimate relationship with God through Christ that begins right now and continues into eternity. God yearns for us to become new creations in Christ who have the heart and mind of Christ.

I've spent a great deal of time trying to figure out why we've gotten so stuck in God's unconditional love. I think it's because we're trying to make up for past sins. Sadly, we've arrogantly told too many people too

many times, "God won't really love you until you decide you're wrong and are going to start getting serious about God. And, by the way, that means doing exactly what I tell you to do." Our "stuckness" is the result of trying so hard to make amends for past judgmental behaviors that we've over-emphasized one particular aspect of the fullness of divine love to the exclusion of the two others.

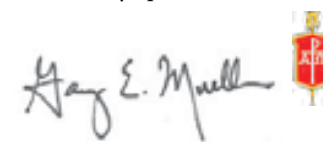
I need God's unconditional love because I need to know I'm loved not just when I'm perfect, but right in the middle of my imperfection, mess-ups and mistakes. But I also need all of God's love to become the kind of person I long to be. Sure, it's tempting to stay stuck in God's unconditional love because it feels so good. But it feels even better to have a new relationship with Jesus Christ and become a new creation in Christ.

The United Methodist Church

is growing smaller, older and less relevant in our world for a variety of reasons we can't control. But it may also be doing so because of something we can still do something about: the fact that we're so happy to be stuck in God's unconditional love that we've lost touch with the fullness of God's love.

I wonder if it might be time to stop proclaiming, "God loves you just the way you are—and that's good enough" and instead begin boldly, gracefully and joyfully proclaiming, "God loves you just the way you are—but God's not finished with you yet!"

Come, Holy Spirit, come!



Gary E. Mueller

Hendrix (from page 1)

applying to SMU.

"I am particularly excited about the new forms of connection and collaboration this agreement encourages," Hill said. "Our two schools can enrich each other in countless ways—from faculty engagement between both institutions to on-site learning opportunities for students. We are eager to be close partners with Hendrix College and so to realize our combined potential."

Tsutsui has connections to both institutions, serving as president of Hendrix and formerly a dean at SMU. "Given the longstanding ties between Hendrix and Perkins and the bonds we share through the United Methodist Church and our geographic proximity, it's somewhat surprising that this relationship was not formalized much, much sooner than it has been," he said. He urged Hendrix students to take advantage of the MOU.

The agreement is "truly something that opens doors and creates new possibilities for this campus, and most importantly for those who have that calling to ministry," he said.

Hendrix Chaplain JJ Whitney opened the ceremony with a prayer that gave thanks "for places like Hendrix and Perkins, who both desire to shape young adults who'll be leaders for the church and in the

world."

The Rev. David Fleming, pastor of Grand Avenue United Methodist Church in Hot Springs, a member of the Hendrix Board of Trustees and a Perkins graduate, also participated in the ceremony.

"I am proud of our shared endeavor and pray blessings upon the faculty, students and the staff that will benefit from the Memorandum of Understanding," Fleming said. While

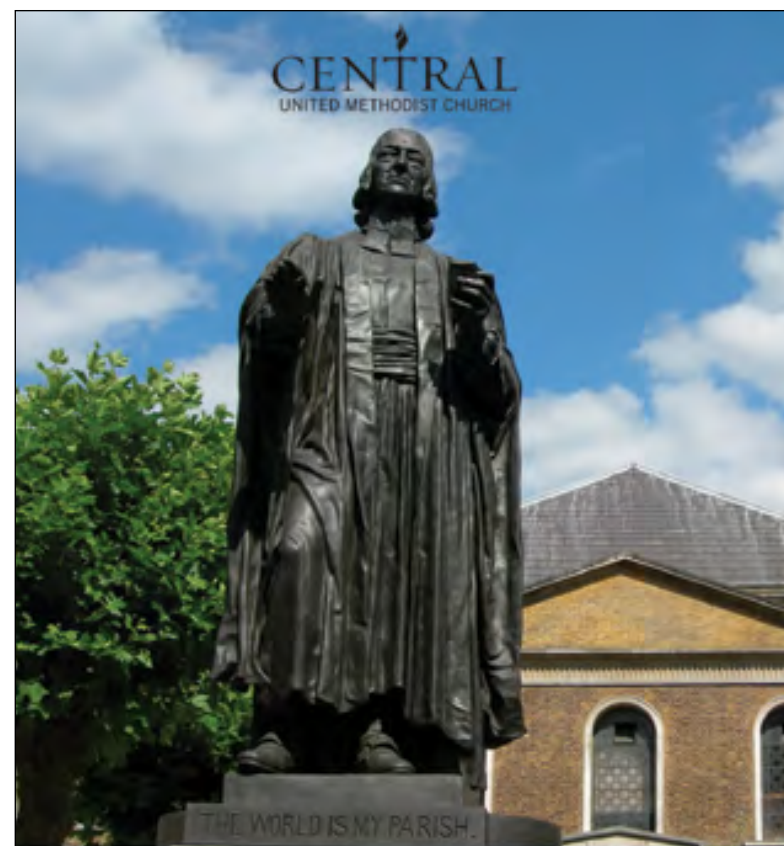
the future is "sometimes filled with obstacles," he added, "it now is also bright with hope because we are better together."

Perkins School of Theology, founded in 1911, is one of five official University-related schools of theology of The United Methodist Church.

Hendrix College, a private liberal arts college in Conway, has been affiliated with The United Methodist Church since 1884.



Among those joining in the announcement of a Memorandum of Understanding between Hendrix College and Perkins School of Theology are (from left) Hendrix Board of Trustees member David Fleming, Hendrix chaplain JJ Whitney, Hendrix President William M. Tsutsui and Perkins Dean Craig Hill.



Wesley Heritage Tour November 6-14, 2018

Join Rev. Tony Holifield & Dr. Jack Wilson this fall in an inspirational tour of England & the land of the Wesleys. Contact Tony at tholifield45@aol.com or (479)283-7514 for a brochure & further information. CEUs available.

Inspired by a struggling nation

What God is doing in Bulgaria through the United Methodist Church

[First of a two-part story on one Arkansan's experiences in Bulgaria.]

BY NECHI FULLERTON
Special Contributor

The Czech Republic first came into focus for me when I was assigned there several years ago as a General Board of Global Ministries Individual Volunteer In Mission. I've continued to volunteer in English classes and teach private English lessons there several months out of the year.

I was located only two hours from Prague. So, on a whim (more likely a Holy Spirit nudge), I traveled to Prague and had the privilege of attending the bi-annual "In Mission Together" United Methodist Faith Summit with the 16-country conference of Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Usually held in the United States, the meeting in Prague allowed more Europeans to join with their partner churches for four days of sharing, worship and celebrating 50/50 Partnerships.

There without a Partnership, I soon was introduced to five Bulgarian pastors brimming with "Southern hospitality." They quickly befriended me and invited me to visit Bulgaria.

The pastors charmed everyone with traditional music, dance and food. They were well prepared with information booklets and gifts of rose oil. (Did you know Bulgaria produces 85 percent of the world's rose oil important in cosmetics?)

Gratefully obliging in December, I visited five Bulgarian churches, coming away inspired and convicted, with much information to share. Excellent English by the Bulgarians I met made for better communication.

Rich heritage

Bulgaria is a Balkan nation at the crossroads of Europe and the Orient, with a complicated, challenging history. Bulgaria has a rich heritage of traditional dance, music, costumes, food and crafts. Slightly smaller than Arkansas, it has a Black Sea coastline, seven mountain ranges, the Rose Valley and the Danube River bordering the north. Bulgaria has a natural enchantment, as well as ancient treasures. Influenced by Byzantine culture, then enslaved by the Ottoman Empire for 500 years, the country's 20th Century was made difficult by the World Wars and Soviet occupation.

Methodist missionaries from the United States were the first to arrive in Bulgaria in

1857, translating the Bible and conducting the first services in the Bulgarian language. With Bulgaria struggling under the "Turkish yoke," the missionaries opened schools, helped the poor and assisted in the liberation from atrocities of the Ottomans. In these early years, there was quick growth of the Methodist Church before Communism.

A dark time

The period of Communist rule, from 1945 to 1989, was one of the darkest times in Bulgarian history. Dealing a heavy blow to all religions, churches were closed and the pastors were imprisoned. The Methodist bishop was banned from visiting for 46 years.

In 1990, Communism ceased, giving the church new opportunities for growth and expansion, as church buildings were returned to the people. Yet, by that time, the buildings were in serious disrepair.

Bulgaria has been undergoing a delayed and traumatic post-Communism transition, with government corruption and the most extreme case of depopulation in Europe. The country is faced with a high rate of human trafficking and a large Roma population (gypsies), the most

marginalized people of Europe, despised and persecuted for centuries. As a result, the country also has unprecedented opportunities and is striving to integrate and care for its people with dignity while preserving their culture.

A noteworthy church

United Methodist Women who remember the 2013-14 study of the Roma of Eastern Europe will be interested to note that my first priority was one of the featured churches, Gorno-Ezerovo. This church is in the Turkish Roma community of Bourgas on the Black Sea. With a 20-year history, it is attended by 30-40 adults and 40-50 children. Both Bulgarian and Turkish liturgical languages are used.

Rev. Erdzhan (Krasimir) Madzharov leads the church. He will soon become the first United Methodist ordained Turkish Roma pastor. The Gorno-Ezerovo congregation could become a model program for Roma ministries.

Next: Methodist initiatives and leadership bring new hope to the faithful of Bulgaria.

Nechi Fullerton is a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission from Little Rock.



PHOTOS BY NECHI FULLERTON



ABOVE: United Methodist Volunteer in Mission Nechi Fullerton of Little Rock (right) is joined by her Bulgarian hosts at the Veliko Tarnovo Church, where the first Methodist service in Bulgaria was held in 1859. LEFT: Children of the Gorno-Ezerovo church sing and prepare to do craft activities.



LEFT: Children of the Gorno-Ezerovo church are delighted to receive Bible study materials and Bible story books. TOP: Rev. Erdzhan Madzharov is preparing to become the first ordained United Methodist Turkish Roma pastor in Bulgaria. ABOVE: Talented Bulgarian pastors entertain at the "In Mission Together" faith summit in Prague.

Arkansans gain first-hand knowledge of Lydia Patterson Institute

United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) staff members and guests recently traveled to El Paso, Texas, to gain first-hand knowledge about Lydia Patterson Institute (LPI), a college preparatory school for mainly Hispanic children, affiliated with the United Methodist South Central Jurisdiction.

"This trip confirms to me how important it is for Arkansas United Methodists to see how Lydia Patterson Institute works," said Jim Argue Jr., UMFA President and CEO. "Christian faith, values, knowledge and our need to be in mission converge at the school. Students from the El Paso and Juarez, Mexico, area receive a cross-cultural education and opportunities to transform a changing world."

The regional South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church covers eight states and includes 12 Annual Conferences, including the Arkansas Annual Conference. Founded in 1913, Lydia Patterson Institute educates students in grades 7-12 and is one of three institutions affiliated with the jurisdiction, along with Southern Methodist University and Saint Paul School of Theology.

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas is currently matching contributions to LPI up to \$250,000.

"I guarantee you: visit Lydia Patterson and you will leave with a sense of pride for what the UMC is doing there," Argue added.

According to LPI Director of Development Richard Hearne, 98 percent of LPI students graduate and attend a college in the United States.



Students at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas, greet visitors from Arkansas who made a recent exploratory trip.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN COBURN

The support of United Methodist congregations in Arkansas is helping these students flourish and succeed, he told the visitors.

Argue said congregations that wish to lend their support to LPI and take advantage of the Foundation's

matching funds offer may direct gifts to: UMFA, 5300 Evergreen Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205, (include "LPI" notation).

"Hopefully, UMFA and United Methodist local churches in Arkansas will provide \$500,000

to address critical facility needs at Lydia Patterson," Argue said.

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.

UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, UMFA is responsible for more than 800 funds that support United Methodist ministries.



Lydia Patterson Institute educates students in grades 7-12, including these high school students.

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



UMDF
THE UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT FUND



GLOBAL MINISTRIES
The United Methodist Church

Think 'outside the box' to feed hungry kids

[Note from Mary Lewis Dassinger, program coordinator for 200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger: *Rev. Judy Hall is pastor of the Magazine and Paris United Methodist churches. While these are small congregations, each with fewer than 50 in worship, they actively participate in the conference's Fill-A-Bag Ministry, using reusable bags to collect and distribute food. When assessing who the hungry were in her community, Rev. Hall realized that some were members of her churches. As a result, she launched several innovative ways to address childhood hunger and food insecurity in her churches. She shares some ideas here.*]

BY JUDY HALL
Special Contributor

Here are a few ideas I'd like to share of things we have tried that work in our church and community. And just for fun, if you read to the end, I will include a couple of things that did *not* work, too!

- **Vacation Bible School is coming!** I am the designated meltdown person for our VBS. Most of the time, the child is hungry. We tend to load them up on sugar with snacks or give them something like a carrot stick with ranch dip. We assume that they ate a good breakfast. We assume they like sugar and anything with ranch dressing. So instead, for a better option, we stocked up on some fruit, granola bars, protein bars, cheese slices and plenty of water, and discovered our VBS meltdowns decreased. We put out a bowl of healthy snacks at check-in. The kids can also stick some of these snacks in their pocket to take home. We encourage every child to go straight from VBS to the school lunch program. This also reduces the stigma of summer lunches at school and gives parents a break for that week.

- **Every community needs a Blessing Box**, especially if you live in a food desert! We decided to place ours in the local park under a light. It is quite visible and well used. We never know if people are putting in or taking out. It is not just a church thing; it is a community thing. The school sent notices to let folks know it is available. We posted pictures on social media saying what is used the most or what is needed. We have places for gloves, Bibles, water, hygiene items, candy, and, of course, plenty of non-perishable food. Some people even use it like the "neighbor next door," borrowing a can of whatever is needed to finish a recipe. In turn, they supply it with something from their pantry someone else may need. Thus far, ravioli and mac and cheese are the most popular items. Cranberry sauce, not so much!

- **Sunday School is time for learning to cook.** During the summer, one of our teachers takes time to teach the kids how to cook. They have made cake in a mug, cinnamon rolls, French toast and whatever you call that thing with toast and an egg in it. They eat, do their lesson and often share the goodies with the adult class. When we are not cooking, we make sure there are snacks and breakfast foods in the kitchen. Kids of busy parents and kids who need more breakfast are free to help themselves.

- **Wednesday night is for Jesus and Me (JAM)**, a program for our children and adults. We have a rotation of teams that prepare kid-friendly meals. The kids come at 5:30 p.m. to eat, with the program starting at 6 p.m. There is enough food to send plenty home with any family that wants more. It does not cost the church anything. The kids are happy, parents are happy, and volunteers are not overworked.

- **An afternoon of cooking is always a hit.** We grew pumpkins in our community garden. We spent an afternoon peeling, cooking, smashing and baking. We took pies and bread and cookies to our shut-ins and had some extra to put in the freezer. The kids learned some great skills, had fun, and learned how to use fresh produce from start to finish.

- **Freezer meal prep** has been another successful event. It provides a great time of fellowship and learning. Families get to cook at home without much trouble or stress, and they save money!

Finally, here are three things that did NOT work: 1) Blessing Box in sub-zero temperature. Did you know canned food explodes? 2) And cranberry sauce. I love it. Apparently, not everyone does. 3) Leaving Tootsie Rolls out where children can have all they want. It makes for a lively evening, but some food needs to be monitored slightly.



A community garden is a fun project for all ages and provides numerous benefits.



Get the children involved in cooking and learning about growing produce and food preparation, then share with others.

Join us for lunch at Potbelly to raise money for Ozark Mission Project!

OZARK MISSION PROJECT

FOOD + FELLOWSHIP + FUNDRAISING

04.15.18

11AM-2PM | SUNDAY
MIDTOWN- 314 S UNIVERSITY
ALL ARE WELCOME

OZARKMISSIONPROJECT.ORG

COMING UP

Shoal Creek to host 3 summer camps

“Unplug and Enjoy God’s Creation” is the theme of the 2018 Shoal Creek camping program. Three camping events are planned:

- **The Big Apple Camp**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. June 28. This day camp is the perfect opportunity for younger students, entering kindergarten through second grade, to try out camp. There’ll be games, swimming, crafts and more. Cost is \$25. Mandy Murray will direct the camp.

- **The Great Adventure Camp**, July 22–24. This is a true summer camp experience for children completing kindergarten through 6th grade. There’ll be cabin skits, crafts, hands-on story time, high-energy games and creative worship during this 3-day, 2-night camp experience. Cost is \$75. Renee Henson is director.

- **Manger to Cross Camp**, July 15–18. This is for students completing 3rd grade through 7th grade, or upper elementary and middle-school students. Campers will learn how to be peacemakers through the Christian seasons of the year. Fee of \$100 include all meals, snacks, crafts, activities. All campers will create a keepsake nativity set to take home. Mardell McClurkin, Jacqueline and Daniel Sharp will direct the camp.

Shoal Creek Camp is located near New Blaine in Logan County. For more information, contact Renee Henson at mkhenson@cox.net or (479)208-1380. Camp Forms and more details are available at www.shoalcreekcamp.com.

MFH fundraiser benefits children and families

Methodist Family Health will saddle up its stable of stick ponies in May to help raise funds to rebuild the lives of Arkansas children and families. The fifth annual “Southern Silks” fundraiser is set for 6 p.m. May 5 at the Metroplex Event Center, 10800 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock.

The event will include faux horse races where guests are the jockeys, prizes, a Kentucky Derby-inspired dinner, live and silent auctions, a hat contest and more. Tickets are \$75 reserved seating and \$50 general admission. For more information, visit <https://www.methodistfamily.org/southern-silks> or call (501)906-4209.

Founded in 1899, Methodist Family Health provides psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual health care to Arkansas children and families.

May 14 golf tournament set by UA college ministry

The University of Arkansas Wesley College Ministry will host a charity golf tournament May 14 at Paradise Valley Golf Course, 3728 Old Missouri Road, Fayetteville. Cost is \$75 per person. Players may register as part of a 4-person team or may choose to be assigned to a team. The event gets under way at 8 a.m. Register at uawesley.com/golf or call (479) 442-1800.

Fishing retreat planned for June at Mount Eagle

A weekend fishing retreat is being offered June 1–3 at Mount Eagle Retreat Center.

Clint Johnson and Hank Godwin will be retreat leaders. Participants will fish the middle fork of the Little Red River, which adjoins the Mount Eagle property in Stone County.

Designed for both novice and experienced fly and spin fishers, the event is open to adults and older youth accompanied by an adult.

Cost is \$100 and includes accommodations, meals and fishing expeditions. Participants must bring their own fishing poles or fly rod, artificial bait (plastics, crankbaits, spinners, etc.) or favorite flies, plus wading shoes or boots. Waders optional. No live bait allowed.

For more information, contact Mike “Sarge” Leonard at (501) 757-1875 or director@mounteagle.org.



Construction of a new pavilion at Shoal Creek Camp is under way. The structure should be completed in time for this summer’s camps, which begin with the June 28 Big Apple younger elementary camp.

VITAL CONGREGATIONS



Members of Hamburg UMC donated items and packed 131 health kits for church members to deliver in March to the UMCOR Sager-Brown Depot.



Hamburg congregation packs 131 health kits for team to deliver to Sager-Brown Depot

Hamburg United Methodist Church began making plans several months ago to send a team of 10 persons to the United Methodist Committee on Relief Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, La., March 4–9. The church noted that UMCOR requests but does not require that each team member also brings 10 kits, which for the Hamburg team would be 100 kits.

The Hamburg mission team decided to honor the request and challenged the church family to help donate items for 100 health kits. For five weeks, starting Jan. 21, members of the church were asked to bring specific items for the kits. The contributions arrived steadily, and the first goal was met after just two weeks. As a result, the goal was increased to 125 kits.

On Feb. 18, the church hosted a soup and cornbread lunch followed by a churchwide “packing party.”

“The response was wonderful,” said church member Penny Comer. “With the help of our church family, ranging in age from 4 to 85, we packed 131 health kits.”

Greg Comer is pastor at Hamburg UMC.



OBITUARY

VAN BUREN

Rebecca "Becky" Jones Miller of Van Buren passed from this life March 15, 2018, at the age of 61. She was the spouse of Rev. Randy Miller, pastor of City Heights United Methodist Church, Van Buren.



She was born May 20, 1956, to James Ray and Jo Ellen Jones of Van Buren. She was the Principal Broker of J.E. Jones Real Estate in Van Buren.

Becky was a member of the City Heights United Methodist Church in Van Buren. She was a past president of the Crawford County Board of Realtors, former Realtor of the Year and Rookie of the Year for the Crawford County Board of Realtors. She was a graduate of the Realtor Institute, a Certified Residential Specialist, and a past Zone Director of the Arkansas Realtor Association. She was a graduate of Van Buren High School and Arkansas Tech University, a former assistant children's leader in Bible Study Fellowship and a gifted children's teacher at her church.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Jo Ellen Jones. She is survived by her father, James Ray Jones of Van Buren; her husband of 40 years, Randy Miller of Van Buren; one brother, J.R. Jones and his wife Maryanne Pace Jones of Atlanta, Ga.; a son, James Aaron Miller of Van Buren; a daughter, Anna Miller Daily and husband Samuel Daily of Fayetteville; three grandsons, Ray Miller, Andrew Miller and Luke Daily; one nephew, Brandon Jones of Mooresville, N.C.; two dogs, Adler and Daisy, who watch the door for her to come home; along with numerous cousins and a multitude

of close friends and family.

Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to City Heights UMC, 1002 Fayetteville Road, Van Buren, Ark. 72956, designated for Children and Youth Ministries.

A special thanks to Mike and Renee Henson, Tom and Kathy Davern, Daniel and Jacqueline Sharp and all the church family of City Heights UMC who have been so supportive during her illness.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. She is greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

Arkansas stories sought by conference

Do you have a local story to tell about your church, youth group, leader or pastor?

Did something happen within the life of your church or your church's ministry that made you say, "What a great story!"

The Arkansas Conference is looking for submissions from Arkansas local churches about stories they have to tell.

Email to: storytellers@arumc.org, with details, narrative and photos.

Help us share your stories!

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

STAINED GLASS



Serving Arkansas with Quality Stained Glass since 1973

Churches ♦ Residential ♦ Commercial
(800) 791-7667

www.soosstainedglass.com

30 Maumelle Curve Ct., North Little Rock, AR 72113

PIANO TUNING



KITCHEN SUPPLIES

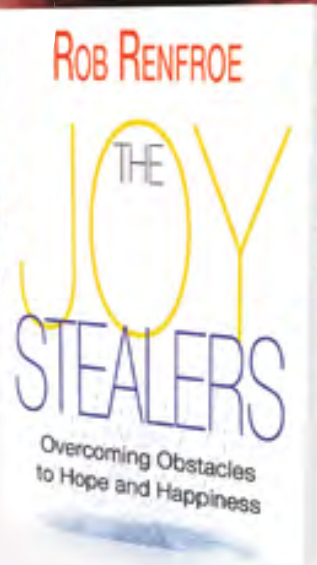
Kitchen Equip. & Supplies

Buy at our prices and \$ave

1-800-482-9026 or 228-0808

AIMCO EQUIPMENT CO.

There are many things that can **STEAL YOUR JOY**, but only if you let them.



We religiously lock our doors and windows to stay safe and to protect our belongings from intruders, but when it comes to joy, we leave ourselves wide open to the joy stealers: worry, bitterness, guilt, and negativity. Many of us deal with pain from relationship problems, health concerns, financial struggles, and daily stresses and strains.

In *The Joy Stealers*, author Rob Renfro reminds us that, regardless of our circumstances, Christ provides everything we need for joy. Whether or not we actually live with joy is a choice...a decision each of us makes every day. He shares five transformational decisions that will help us live in the fullness of God's joy each day with the assurance of eternity with God.

The book may be used as a stand-alone resource or combined with the available Leader Guide for a six-week small group study.

Free session videos available at www.abingdonpress.com/joystealers.



GUATEMALA MEDICAL MISSION
JULY 28 - AUGUST 5, 2018

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The PHUMC Guatemala Medical Mission Team is in need of doctors, nurse practitioners and nurses. Contact Holly Ross at hollyross1961@gmail.com or Denise Johnson at pgirlsmom@sbcglobal.net for details.

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
4823 Woodlawn • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 • 501-664-3600
phumc.com

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/FINANCIAL SECRETARY needed by St. Paul United Methodist Church at 2223 Durwood Rd. in Little Rock 72207. Monday through Thursday 9 am to 2 pm. Resume and cover letter to: stpaulumc@sbcglobal.net.

MAINTENANCE WORKER: Immediate opening for temporary position in maintenance. Position will be approximately 8 weeks and may develop into full-time position. Primary duties will be janitorial and yard maintenance. Must be able to lift 50 lbs., have a clean driving record, valid AR driver's license, and pass criminal background and drug screening tests. Hours 6:30am-3:00pm. Non-smoking, drug-free environment. EOE. Apply to: Camp Aldersgate, 2000 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, between 8:30am-3pm.



A Great Partnership

Brian Swain, Executive Director at Central UMC in Fayetteville, calls the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas a great partner for his local church. Central UMC endowment funds invested by UMFA have experienced healthy growth under the Foundation's stewardship.

A lifelong United Methodist, Swain had a career in municipal government before his tenure at Central. He has great respect for the Foundation and its leadership, and he is proud of the expansion of UMFA ministries since he first became aware of them while attending his hometown church, Atkins UMC.

"UMFA and Central have worked together on Provide and Protect events for the past several years, and they have been well attended," he said. These seminars can be a valuable resource as members of his congregation deal with family issues, healthcare concerns, current and future finances, estate planning, and charitable giving.

A local attorney and UMFA staff member deliver the two-hour presentations to explain the tools needed to create a plan and provide resources needed to complete those plans. To set up a seminar at your local church, email Janet Marshall at jmarshall@umfa.org or give her a call today.

"Many people don't have a plan," Swain said. "This is an excellent way to help our members with their Christian stewardship."



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

Guidelines for resolutions, petitions announced in advance of Annual Conference

New guidelines for the handling of resolutions at the Arkansas Annual Conference, coming up June 17–20 in Hot Springs, have been announced by conference secretary Aubrietta Jones.

Jones explains the guidelines as follows:

- At the Annual Conference Business Session, we will entertain resolutions, which ask the Arkansas Annual Conference to address an issue or to take action regarding an issue. This happens at every Annual Conference.
- This year, we will also have the opportunity to receive petitions to General Conference. A petition asks the General Conference to make a change to the *Book of Discipline*. An affirmative vote on a petition at our Annual Conference means the petition will be sent from the Arkansas Annual Conference to the 2019 General Conference.
- Resolutions submitted by March 15 will appear in the *Pre-Conference Journal*. Resolutions received between March 16 through June 10 with 1,300 copies for distribution at the submitter's expense will be placed in the packets distributed at Annual Conference. If received anytime on June 11 until 3 p.m. Sunday, June 17, with 1,300 copies of the same, the resolution will be distributed on the floor of the conference by the tellers.
- The Conference Office will post all petitions online starting June 10 to make them available before Annual Conference, in lieu of printing them in the *Pre-Conference Journal*. Further, the Annual Conference will print petitions received by June 10 and make the copies available at the Conference Session. Petitions received any time until 3 p.m. June 17 with 1,300 copies at the submitter's expense will be distributed at Conference.
- A variety of factors played into setting the later deadline for petitions to be printed at the Conference's expense, all pointing toward the goal of ensuring that Arkansas Methodists would have optimal access to information beneficial to the authoring of petitions. Recent developments suggest there will still be vital information lacking at the time of our Annual Conference. Given our circumstances, we will err on the side of grace in allowing petitions to come to the floor at Annual Conference, which may or may not be considered once submitted to the General Conference.
- This plan represents the most current information available at this time. Unfolding events may necessitate further adaptations.
- Remember, 10 signatures from lay or clergy members of the 2018 Annual Conference are needed for petitions or resolutions unless submitted by a Conference Agency. Footnotes are required for all petitions and resolutions to support facts or generalizations stated in said documents. Additional parameters specifically for petitions are described in parr. 14 and 507, *2016 Book of Discipline*.
- Please email your submissions to Aubrietta Jones at Aubrietta.jones@arumc.org and also to Yvonne Armstrong, yvonne.armstrong@arumc.org. I am happy to assist you in interpreting the rules to ensure your work will be in order at both the Annual and the General Conference level.



Arkansas Annual Conference Secretary Aubrietta Jones, here at the 2017 Annual Conference, has announced guidelines for submitting resolutions and petitions to the 2018 conference session in June.