

IN THIS ISSUE



Constitutional amendments ballots reported  
**4**



Clergy moving to full connection  
**7**



Pearle McCain: Called to mission  
**9**

## Bishops endorse One Church Plan amid homosexuality debate

Members of the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) convened in Chicago April 29–May 4 and engaged in “a prayerful process to discern a way forward” for the church’s homosexuality debate.

According to a May 4 COB press release, the bishops considered the “extensive work” of the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward, which offered three plans for the future, described by the Council as the Traditionalist Plan, the One Church Plan, and the Connectional Conference Plan.

At the conclusion of their discernment process, the COB announced it will recommend the One Church Plan, backed by the majority of the Council, to the General Conference in 2019, yet will present all three plans to the 2019 General Conference.

According to the COB release, the One Church Plan “provides conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to uniquely reach their

missional context while retaining the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.”

The One Church Plan “allows for contextualization of language about human sexuality in support of the mission; and allows for central conferences especially those in Africa to retain their disciplinary authority to adapt the *Book of Discipline* and continue to include traditional language and values while fulfilling the vision of a global and multicultural church,” the release continues.

The COB statement said the One Church Plan “encourages a generous unity by giving United Methodists the ability to address different missional contexts in ways that reflect their theological convictions.” The plan removes the restrictive language of the *Book of Discipline* which states that the practice of homosexuality is against Christian teaching, “and adds assurances to pastors and Conferences who due to



PHOTO BY MIKE DUBOSE, UMNS

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. (middle) and Bishop Bruce R. Ough listen to Bishop Cynthia F. Harvey during a May 4 press conference after the Council of Bishops recommended the One Church Plan to help The United Methodist Church stay unified despite division over how to minister with LGBTQ persons.

their theological convictions cannot perform same-sex weddings or ordain self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”

recommend the One Church Plan, the bishops said their report to the special General Conference Feb. 23–26 in St.

While the majority of bishops

[See Forward, page 5]

## Annual Conference agenda packed with celebration, inspiration

The 2018 Arkansas Annual Conference, with the theme “Pathways to Hope,” will be held this month, June 17–20, at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Hot Springs. Sessions will be held at the Bank of the Ozarks Arena.

Registration will be open from 12 noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, with late registration at 7:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday.

The Pre-Conference Journal—which contains a detailed agenda, special events listing, action reports, budgets, consent calendar reports, institutional reports, rules of order and more—is available for free download at <https://bit.ly/2rqWV0B>. Printed versions will be available for purchase at the conference.

Worship highlights of the gathering include:

- **Service of Celebration**, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, with Bishop Rueben Saenz Jr., resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference, preaching.
- **Morning worship**, 8 a.m. daily, with music by The Weatherfolk & Friends.
- **Retiree Recognition Service**, 11 a.m. Monday.

[See Conference, page 6]

## Ezell named leader of Conference Center for Communications

Amy White Ezell has been named Director of the Center for Communication of the United Methodist Arkansas Conference.

Her responsibilities include developing all strategic communications and messaging of the conference, supporting the bishop and leading the Center for Communication staff in development, implementation and evaluation of integrated conference communication strategy. Ezell will also train and assist conference leaders and congregations on effective communications tools, aligned messaging and marketing.

Her previous work experience was as business development specialist for the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute at Arkansas Heart Hospital in Little Rock. Prior to that, she was a marketing operations specialist and accounts supervisor for KGB Texas communications



Amy White Ezell

agency in San Antonio.

Ezell has also owned her own communications firm that has brought her experience in successful rebranding campaigns, national media management and exposure and working with the Clinton White House.

“Amy’s diverse communications background makes her a natural fit to lead the communications for the Arkansas Conference,” Bishop Gary Mueller said. “I am excited for her to bring a fresh perspective and insight into telling the stories of the great work being done in our conference.”

The Blytheville native has a bachelors of arts degree in English from Arkansas State University. She is a member of First United Methodist Church in Maumelle and has three children: a daughter Caroline, 24, and sons Sam, 21, and Jack, 17.

## PRACTICAL DIVINITY

## Holy Spirit uses ordinary men and women to bring spiritual revival

BY ANDREW C. THOMPSON  
Special Contributor

One day in the year 1748, John Wesley sat down with pen in hand to tell a story. He wanted to describe the growing movement that he had been leading over the previous few years. By the time he was finished, Wesley had written a little essay that he called "A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists."



Andrew Thompson

This "Plain Account" was meant to explain who these new Methodists were to a skeptical public. At some points he focuses on factual reporting about what Methodists do when they get together. At others, he offers a lively defense about why this or that practice should be seen as a helpful addition to the ministry of the Church of England.

Through it all, one theme ties the "Plain Account" together: the idea that God has chosen *ordinary people* to do *extraordinary things*.

Revival has come, Wesley says.

And it hasn't arrived in top-down fashion. It wasn't thought up by a professor sitting in his study surrounded by his books. It hasn't come about because the ordained priests of the church have gotten together and taken a vote. Revival has come because God has awakened ordinary men and women; given them the grace to repent, receive new birth, and grow in holiness; and called them forth to preach the good news and to form strong communities of faith.

The original leadership of John and Charles Wesley (along with a handful of other ordained clergy) can sometimes obscure this remarkable fact: the Methodist revival in the 1700s was driven by what was going on with laymen and laywomen. They were the ones whose lives were being redeemed in powerful ways. They were the ones who were forming into small groups to grow in grace. And they were the ones who were being anointed by the Holy Spirit to preach the good news to the lost and poor.

That's not to say that John Wesley always recognized the need for that at the outset, of course.

Late in 1740, Wesley identified a young layman named Thomas

Maxfield as a potential helper in the young Methodist movement. As he prepared to leave London on a journey to the city of Bristol, Wesley instructed Maxfield "to meet the Society at the usual times, to pray with them, and give them such advice as might be needful." Maxfield followed those instructions, but he also went further. At some point early in the year 1741, he moved from encouraging the members of the Methodist Society in London to outright preaching.

Wesley was not at all pleased when he first heard about Maxfield's preaching to the London Methodists. He returned from Bristol with the intention of forcing Maxfield to quit. Yet at just that moment Wesley discovered that Maxfield had won over a powerful ally: his own mother Susanna. Upon his arrival, Wesley remarked to her, "Thomas Maxfield has turned preacher, I find." And Susanna replied, "John ... take care what you do with respect to that

young man, for he is as surely called of God to preach, as you are."

Those words of counsel from his mother sunk in. Wesley spoke both to Maxfield and to those that had listened to him preach. His conclusion was that Maxfield's calling was authentic. God could, indeed, raise up the laity as preachers. "It is the Lord," Wesley said of the whole episode. "Let him do what seemeth him good."

As for Maxfield, he was described by others as "fervent in spirit" and "mighty in the Scriptures." The Countess of Huntingdon was an aristocratic laywoman at the time (and also a Methodist). She was awestruck by Maxfield. After she heard him preach, she called him "one of the greatest instances of God's peculiar favor that I know."

The way in which the Methodist movement was able to raise up leaders like Thomas Maxfield from among the laity was one of its distinctive marks. It's no exaggeration to say that there would have been no Wesleyan revival without the laymen and laywomen who made up the rank and file of the movement.

There are many among the people called Methodists today who hunger

for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to ignite revival once again in our day. That is a good and faithful hunger for us to have.

We should also remember that, when revival came to our spiritual forebears, it was mostly manifested in the lives of ordinary men and women. People who never would have thought of themselves as having spiritual gifts were blessed by gifts in abundance. A level of spiritual empowerment never before seen was bestowed upon folks from all walks of life.

As we continue to pray for revival to come to us anew, we should pray that people in our churches who have never thought of themselves as particularly called would receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. If revival is going to come, it will come at the level of the grassroots in the church.

And who knows? Perhaps the current earthquakes we are experiencing within the United Methodist Church are preparing the ground for a fresh awakening.

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

## In the presence of The Church

## Circle 5 experience opens eyes, calms fears and anxiety

BY HANK GODWIN  
Special Contributor

[Dedicated to United Methodist Women everywhere.]

It was an easy "yes" when Anne Johnson asked if I would be interested in speaking to her United Methodist Women (UMW) Circle 5 about Ozark Mission Project (OMP). I'm very comfortable talking about things I love, and I would be surrounded by a room full of people I love and who love me. This was going to be super easy.

I had just finished a community impact presentation on the impact of OMP on North Little Rock. This will be our 12th straight year to provide a camp hosted by Lakewood United Methodist Church in our community. Also, I learned long ago in my 20+ years of volunteering with OMP that the easiest way to describe this transformative experience is to just "tell the stories." Liza, my wife, is now a representative of OMP, so she joined

me in the spotlight to help. She was proudly displaying her UMW Lifetime Membership pin. Again, this was going to be easy.

However...

It isn't a secret (I can't keep one) to any of my closest friends that I'm experiencing a "crisis of church." My faith is rock solid. I love the Lord with all my heart, soul and mind, and I try to love all my neighbors as myself. OMP helps me walk the talk. Yet, I can't hide my disappointment in my denomination at this point in history. My anxiety has been palpable and distracting. I'm constantly overdramatizing church problems much larger than I and can't seem to rationalize a role for me in a solution. I was pushing these thoughts away for this glorious meeting.

Liza and I positioned ourselves up front on the piano bench ready for an enjoyable conversation with a growing room full of United Methodist Women. I pictured a small gathering of highly engaged participants. A

few dozen folks had meandered into the room, and host Missie Smith was robbing chairs off her porch for her guests before we started. My easiness was dwindling away and being replaced by intimidation. These are the matriarchs of our church. Who was I to talk about true servanthood to this crowd? The Christ-filled shadow cast by Circle 5 into our church, our community and my personal life is humbling.

Enter the Holy Spirit. I've long since been able to recognize these precious moments welling up around me. They still surprise me and I pray they always will. Amid the comfortable fellowship, raucous laughter and a host of great questions, a revelation was revealed. This is the Church! The Church was sitting attentively in front of Liza and me! There was a mixture of conservatives and progressives with a myriad of opinions in Circle 5, but they make it work every day to humbly serve God. Another thing happened this night.

I came to serve, and I was served instead.

The United Methodist Women website discusses Mission. Mission is presence, relationship, witness and sharing. Mission is refusing to turn away when the tears of God are being shed over the violence and injustice

and suffering of God's wayward creation. I can't think of a better place to lay my "crisis of church" anxiety than in the hands of these mentors.

*Hank Godwin is a member of Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock.*



Volume 165, No. 6 • June 1, 2018  
Jane Dennis, Interim Editor  
Cat Boose • Circulation  
[www.arumc.org](http://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](mailto:cat.boose@arumc.org). Send submissions to: [communications@arumc.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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
July 6	June 15
August 3	July 15



## GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST: A word from the Bishop

## Visionary leader led an extraordinary life of faith

BY GARY E. MUELLER

I could write volumes about all that has transpired in The United Methodist Church the last several weeks.



Amendments to the Constitution failing. Annual Conference sessions have to vote again on one of the failed amendments because it was improperly worded. And, of course, the Council of Bishops' motion regarding The Commission on a Way Forward.

But, tempting as it is, I'm not going to write about these things at all. Because while we think issues are important, especially

the issues that are important to us, there's something that's even more important. People. So I want to write about a "people" who showed us all what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. I'm talking, of course, about Jim Argue.

Jim was a giant of a man, both literally and figuratively. He was an ordinary human being who lived an extraordinary life. Even more importantly, he showed us the difference faith makes when a person takes it into every corner of her or his life.

More people counted Jim as their best friend than anyone I have ever met. That is an extraordinary gift that demonstrates the power of unconditional love and hospitality. It's no surprise, therefore, that his

family adored him. After all, what else would you expect when he adored them so completely first!

Jim took the fledging United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas under his wing in 1981 when its assets totaled a whopping \$87,000. He educated, nurtured and cajoled United Methodists throughout Arkansas to utilize it so that it now is one of the largest foundations in Methodism, with assets of approximately \$164 million. Even more importantly, he always stressed that the money was about furthering ministry. In recent years, this manifested itself in the Foundation's deep commitment to developing clergy leadership.

However, Jim's discipleship was not limited to his family, friends

and church. It propelled him into public service through the state legislature. He became involved in politics because he cared deeply for the welfare of the children in Arkansas, especially those who are least fortunate. His passion led to an unlikely alliance with Governor Mike Huckabee and, under Jim's guidance, Arkansas took giant strides forward in caring for the children of our state.

I was blessed to know Jim for the past five years. He was a visionary leader, a man of integrity, someone who lived life to the fullest and a friend who reached out and cared

for me when I was going through my own dark night of the soul. But I think what I will remember most is how he demonstrated what it means to be Christ-follower. Which brings me back to issues. I wonder what our beloved church would be like if we worried a bit less about our issues and a lot more about living the way Jesus teaches us?

Gary E. Mueller  
Bishop

## GUEST COMMENTARY

## Bishops endorse a plan rife with problems for the church

BY JOHN P. MILES II  
Special Contributor

On May 4, our Council of Bishops (COB) gave our denomination a long-awaited plan for a way forward in dealing with our disagreements over human sexuality. The clearly divided COB actually submitted three plans to the 2019 General Conference.

The COB did endorse one of these plans, a problematic plan that is commonly known as the local option, or the One Church Plan. This

plan allows every annual conference and every local church to decide for themselves whether to ordain practicing homosexuals as clergy and whether to perform same-sex weddings.

This plan is problematic for several reasons. First and foremost, the plan redefines the biblical and historic Christian understanding of marriage. From Genesis 1:27 to Matthew 19:4-6 to Revelation 19:7 and many more, the Bible and the historic church teach that human sexuality is to be expressed only

through heterosexual monogamy.

The plan is problematic because it creates great confusion at every level of the church. If local churches and annual conferences have this much latitude in determining their guiding moral and theological principles, *what is the point of being a united community?*

This plan is also problematic because it has already failed in other major denominations. The local option has led to catastrophic membership and church loss in the denominations that have implemented it. Those losses will be greater in our denomination.

Finally, the plan is problematic because it is not likely to pass General Conference 2019. The local option has been presented at several previous General Conferences, including 2016. It has been rejected by a wide margin every time. I am disappointed, after all this work, that the bishops have offered us this same failed plan.

*Rev. John Miles II is senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Jonesboro and a member of the Arkansas Conference delegation to the 2016 General Conference.*



## Three Crosses

The First United Methodist Church in Foreman, Arkansas made something beautiful out of one of the trees that were cut down on the lot the church owns across from the church. At the Church Council meeting in November of 2017 Pastor Kathryn Burchfield suggested that the tree stump that had three branches be carved into three crosses. After the carver Nick Bero came to look at the tree he suggested that the crosses be done in a relief style. He was able to do this on Good Friday, March 30,

2018. The crosses were done by Easter Sunday.

Nick Bero does wood sculpture with a chain saw and has a shop at 1740 Highway 70 East, DeQueen, Arkansas. He is from Yakima, Washington and his business there is "Sculpture in Stone". Nick has 20 years of experience in sculpting. He gets the design idea from the customer then works with that idea and comes up with the final design. He then gets the approval of the customer on the final design.

## Our Trajectory

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



Would you



to receive daily reflections from Bishop Mueller?



facebook.com/arkansasumc



# Voting tabulated for constitutional amendments; thumbs up, thumbs down and a do-over result

Votes have been tallied for five constitutional amendments to the United Methodist Book of Discipline approved by the 2016 General Conference and presented to annual conferences for consideration. Results were reported by the Council of Bishops on May 7, with three amendments gaining approval and two failing to garner the two-thirds majority required for approval.

Then, three days later, in a surprising turn of events, the Rev. Gary W. Graves, Secretary of the General Conference, announced that an error was made in the text of one of the failed amendments as it was presented for voting. A re-vote on Amendment 1 will be taken in all annual conferences of the denomination at their next meeting as a corrective action.

"I am grateful the new Secretary of the General Conference discovered this mistake," said Arkansas Area Bishop Gary E. Mueller. The Arkansas Conference will re-vote on this Amendment at this month's Annual Conference session in Hot Springs, he added.

The amendments and their current status are:

**Amendment 1:** Revote required; pending. Proposed a new paragraph between current Paragraph 5

and Paragraph 6, addressing the equality of women in the church. The amendment asserted that men and women are equal in God's eyes and committed the church to ending discrimination against women and girls.

**Amendment 2:** Failed. Proposed changes to the wording in Paragraph 4 in The Book of Discipline. If it were ratified, the proposed amendment would have added "gender," "ability," "age" and "marital status" to the protected membership groups within the church.

**Amendment 3:** Approved. Dealt with the election of delegates to the General Conference as contained in Paragraph 34. As ratified, the amendment adds this sentence to Paragraph 34: "Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast."

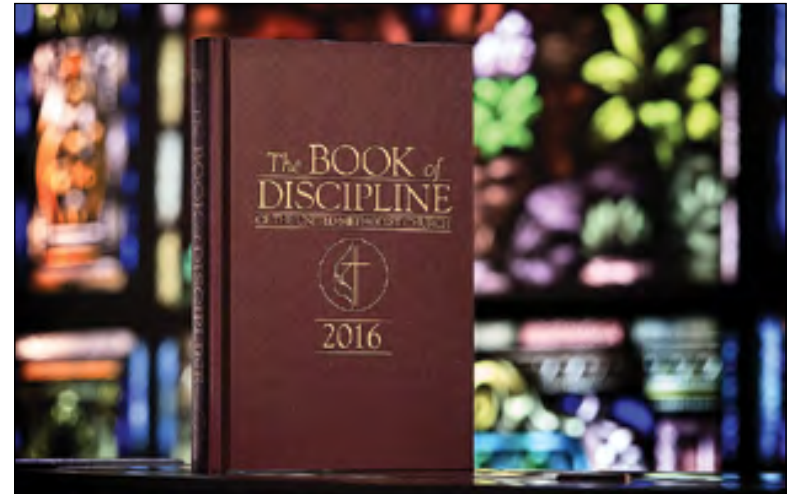
**Amendment 4:** Approved. Clarified the time of election of bishops in Central Conferences as contained in Paragraph 46. As ratified, the amendment adds the following words to Paragraph 46: "provided that episcopal elections

in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled."

**Amendment 5:** Approved. Adds language to Paragraph 50 regarding how the Council of Bishops holds its individual members, other bishops, accountable for their work and how individual complaints against bishops may be handed in the future. As ratified, the amendment adds the following sentence to the end of Paragraph 50: "These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas."

The approved amendments became effective immediately.

When the initial results were announced, particularly regarding the failed measures addressing gender equality, groups and individuals reacted with alarm. The Council of Bishops expressed dismay that proposed amendments I and II had failed. "While we are not completely clear concerning the motivation that caused them



Constitutional amendments considered by members of the worldwide denomination have resulted in immediate changes to the United Methodist Book of Discipline, laws that govern the church.

to miss the two-thirds required majority by slim margins, we want to be clear that we are unequivocal in our commitment to the equality of women and their full inclusion in our Church," said the Council statement.

Thirty-two active and retired female bishops also issued a pastoral letter, noting their renewed commitment to ensure that all people are treated with respect, compassion, and grace and that all doors of opportunity and leadership are open to them.

"Like Rachel weeping for her children, so we as episcopal leaders

weep for our church. We weep for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harm that is inflicted upon women and girls because of this action. We weep for those who are denied the ability to use their gifts to make a difference in the world. We also weep for those who are not protected from exclusion in the church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition," the letter from the female bishops said.

—compiled by Jane Dennis, interim editor, Arkansas United Methodist

## Registration open for Church of the Resurrection Leadership Institute '18

LEAWOOD, Kan.—The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection has announced that registration is now open for Leadership Institute 2018, held Sept. 26–28 at the Leawood, Kan., campus.

Churches are invited to bring their ministry leaders to one of the largest mainline church leadership events in the country, bringing together leaders who share a passion for strengthening the local church. Over the past 20 years, nearly 30,000 leaders have returned to their congregations and communities ready to lead with renewed confidence, rekindled faithfulness, creative ideas and a fresh assurance to thrive in ministry. Year over year, church leaders return to Leadership Institute, bringing a team to maximize the impact of practical leadership principles and visionary teaching with a spirit of renewal.

The event will feature:

- General Sessions led by Senior Pastor Adam Hamilton, retracing the life of Simon Peter, a flawed, yet faithful leader.
- Additional General Sessions featuring insights from: John Ed Mathison, Barb Roose, Bishop Robert Schnase, Bob Roberts, Debi Nixon and Yvonne Gentile.
- Pre-Institute Sessions on Sept 26 for in-depth learning

led by leading practitioners on topics such as: self-care, preaching, evangelism, church vitality, communication strategies and small church application of principles.

- 70+ ministry specific workshops offered in a variety of ministry areas, led by Resurrection staff and guest speakers focused on tangible takeaways
- A Thursday evening session focused on the Future of the United Methodist Church.
- Moving worship from a diverse slate of Resurrection musicians.
- Connection with church leaders serving a variety of church settings and sizes from across the nation and internationally.

Details and registration can be found at [li.cor.org](http://li.cor.org). Super Early Bird Deadline is July 11. Workshops fill quickly, so register today for the best rates and availability. Questions? Contact [sharechurchevents@cor.org](mailto:sharechurchevents@cor.org) or (913) 232-4139.

Church of the Resurrection is located at 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, Kansas. It also has locations in Olathe, Blue Springs and downtown Kansas City. Resurrection is the largest Methodist church in the country with over 20,000 members. For additional information about the church, please visit the web site: [www.cor.org](http://www.cor.org).

## Leadership Unleashed event coming to Fort Smith's St. Paul UMC

A "Leadership Unleashed" gathering is planned for 3–5 p.m. June 10 in Fort Smith at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 4100 Grand Ave.

Presented by the Conference Center on Vitality, the event is designed to foster conversations with laity interested in making new disciples and leading new ministries in the midst of a changing world. Laity from other churches in the district, particularly those in local church leadership roles, are invited to attend. For details, visit [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org).

## Choir Tour kicks off June 18 in Hot Springs

The Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministry Choir will be touring the state and sharing a ministry of music and outreach in local churches June 18–24. Performances are set for the following locations:

- June 18, Hot Springs First UMC, 6 p.m.
- June 19, Morrilton First UMC, 7 p.m.
- June 20, Siloam Springs First UMC, 7 p.m.
- June 21, Walnut Ridge First UMC, 7 p.m.
- June 23, Monticello First UMC, 7 p.m.
- June 24, Little Rock Highland Valley UMC, 6 p.m.

The annual summer choir tour is a tradition of more than 30 years in the Arkansas Conference.

# Forward (from page 1)

Louis will include “all three plans.” All three possibilities had support among some of the bishops.

The other two plans are:

- The Traditionalist Plan would affirm the current language in the denomination’s *Book of Discipline*, the denomination’s governing document, and seek to strengthen enforcement.
- The Connectional Conference Plan would allow conferences to choose among three connectional conferences for affiliation. The connectional conferences would align based on theology or perspective on LGBTQ

ministry—be it traditionalist, progressive or allowing for a variety of approaches.

This plan would require multiple amendments to the denomination’s constitution.

The recommendation is the COB’s response to the General Conference’s 2016 request for the Council to help the church deal with the denomination’s homosexuality debate. Primary issues are whether or not to ordain self-avowed practicing gay persons as clergy and allow clergy to perform same-gender unions.

—compiled by Jane Dennis, interim editor, *Arkansas United Methodist*

## Pray daily for Arkansas church leaders, bishop urges

Following last month’s Council of Bishops meeting in Chicago, Arkansas Bishop Gary E. Mueller released a pastoral letter about the bishops’ response to the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

It is “critically important” to understand, he wrote, that the Council of Bishops is forwarding three complete plans as part of its report to the General Conference: The Traditionalist Plan, The One Church Plan, and the Connectional Conference Plan. “This means the General Conference will have all three plans in front of them for consideration and has the right to adopt, reject or amend any of them,” he wrote.

In a series of conversations and polls, the preference of the majority of active bishops on the Council was to recommend one plan to the General Conference and for that recommendation to be The One Church Plan, he explained. “Not surprisingly, there was significant support for the other two Plans as well.”

He assured his flock that the Council is going to

share “the full body of the Commission and Council’s work” in order for the delegates to have the resources they need as they decide the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.

“Ultimately it is the General Conference—and not the Council of Bishops—that will chart the way forward for our Church,” he wrote.

Between now and the February special General Conference, Mueller promised that he will “be working closely with our delegation as they discern where they believe the Holy Spirit is leading the church. I urge you to pray for them, as well as all the delegates of the General Conference, on a daily basis.”



# Salem Camp Meeting announces 151st annual revival

Salem Camp Meeting will host its 151st consecutive annual revival June 24–30 on the old Salem Campgrounds in Benton. Scott Gallimore, pastor of Piney Grove UMC in Hot Springs, will be guest evangelist.



**Scott Gallimore**

A dinner will kick off the meeting at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Special music will be provided each night beginning at 7

p.m. (Sunday through Friday) and a special one-hour concert beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 30.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 29 honoring loved ones who have passed away since last year’s revival.

Youth directors Rachel and

Russell Powell have a full week of activities planned for youth entering seventh grade through completed 12th grade.

The children’s program, coordinated by Denise Willoughby and Amber Sparks, welcomes children ages entering kindergarten

through entering sixth grade, for a Bible story and craft at 7 p.m.

An air-conditioned space for babies and young children needing to cool off or have a few moments of quiet time will be provided next to the arbor this year.

Refreshments will be served

in the Fellowship Hall after each evening’s services, Monday through Saturday.

For more information call the church office at Salem UMC at (501) 316-2282. The campgrounds are located about 4 miles from Benton at 1647 Salem Road.

**NEW**  
Adult Bible Studies  
DVD videos!



**GET THEM TALKING!**  
Hundreds of thousands of students and teachers use Adult Bible Studies each week in Sunday school classes, mid-week Bible studies, and other small-group settings. It’s Bible-based and Christ-focused.

And now with DVD videos, your group will connect more deeply than ever to the material.

Your three hosts for fall quarter are:



Justin Coleman

Samantha McGlothlin

Brian Sigmon

**Abingdon Press**  
AbingdonPress.com

**Cokesbury**  
Resources for the Christian Journey  
Coksebury.com

**DISCIPLE**  
FAST TRACK

Hear the call to return to God and a community "set apart."

Spend 12 weeks studying the major and minor prophets and 12 weeks studying the thirteen letters of Paul.

We invite you to journey back for a time with the prophets and with Paul, which prepares you to accept the challenge of Scripture to move beyond your group and church to take the gospel message to those who need to know whose they are.

**Abingdon Press**  
AbingdonPress.com

**Cokesbury**  
Resources for the Christian Journey  
Coksebury.com

**Recycle  
Reuse  
Replenish**

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



# Conference (from page 1)

- **Celebration of Life Service**, 1:15 p.m. Monday, giving thanks to God for those who have entered the Church Triumphant, with Rev. Mary Jane Cole, an Arkansas Conference deacon appointed to Sacred Path Inc., preaching.
- **Service for the Ordering of Ministry**, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, with Bishop Gary Mueller preaching. A reception for newly ordained deacons and elders and newly commissioned clergy will be held immediately following the service.
- **Service of Sending Forth**, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.



Rev. Junius B. Dotson

United Methodist Church in the country, with more than 900 members, and helped start 11 new faith communities as a conference director of New Church Development.

Bishop Mueller will present the Episcopal Address at 8:30 a.m. Monday. Lay Leader Karon Mann will present the Laity Address at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

“Many people have spent countless hours planning this year’s Annual Conference so it will inspire and equip you to return to your local mission fields to make disciples of Jesus



Bishop Ruben Saenz, Jr.

Christ who are so transformed they transform the world,” Bishop Mueller writes in the Pre-Conference Journal introduction. “Much remains uncertain about the future of the United Methodist Church. But I believe those of us who are Arkansas United Methodists already have made the choice to stride confidently into the future because we have hope that comes from the Savior of the world.”

The official conference webpage is: [ac2018.arumc.org](http://ac2018.arumc.org). Official social media hashtags are #arumc18 and #pathwaystoheope.

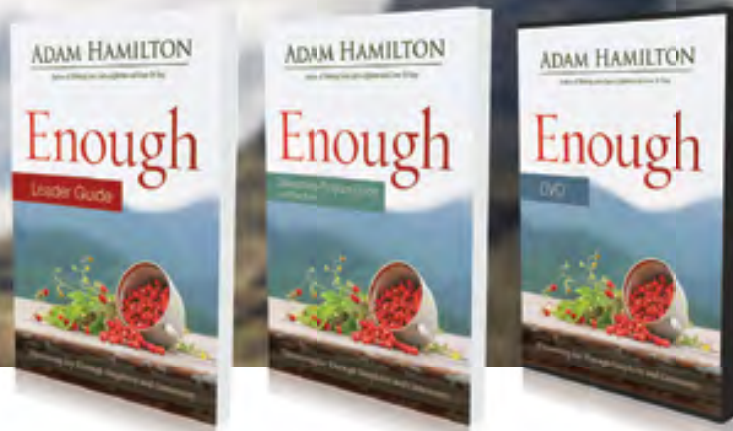
## APPOINTMENTS

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

- Billy Vanderbilt—St. Paul, Jonesboro (Full-time Local Pastor)
- Rollie “Tom” Mullins Jr.—Osceola (Full-time Local Pastor)
- John Mark Moore—Cave City/ Bear Creek
- Marty Bowie—Bethel Jacksonville
- Regina Mason—Altus/Grenades (Lay Supply)
- Phil McLarty—Horatio/Winthrop
- Brian Youngs—Bland Chapel
- Daniel Kirkpatrick—Nashville/Bingen
- Steve Cook—Smackover/Silver Hill
- Chris Wright—Mount Carmel, Benton
- Clay Ferrel—Associate, Sardis
- Steve Wilson—Associate, Cabot
- Brittany Richardson Watson—Associate, Little Rock First (effective Sept. 1)
- Larry Le Masters—Hamilton/Humnoke
- Marty Bowie—Bethel, Jacksonville
- Shari Day—Parkview/New Hope, Benton
- Nat Grady—Little Rock Western Hills
- Donald Robinson—Hunter’s Chapel/Leola/Tulip/Waverly
- Tammy Harrell—New Salem
- Rachel Krest—Lincoln/Marrow
- Charles Cooper—Elkins
- Mike Bishop—Aplena/Shiloh
- Gill Sills—Judsonia/Kensett
- Kip James—Associate, Van Buren Heritage
- Alma Hastings—Christ United
- Rockey Starnes—Maynard
- Everett Blakely—Marmaduke
- Mace Straubel—Shiloh, Jonesboro
- Tonya Hancock—Umsted Memorial/Emory Chapel
- Raymond Bachman—Norfolk

### REVISED EDITION!

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



Reclaim a  
**HEALTHY BIBLICAL  
PERSPECTIVE**  
on money and possessions

*Enough* is an invitation to rediscover the Bible’s wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This book could change your life, by changing your relationship with money.

Learn more at [AdamHamilton.org/enough](http://AdamHamilton.org/enough)

*“We Americans love our stuff. We’re living in a fast-paced, me-first, instant-gratification world, and it’s finally catching up to us. Debt is out of control, homes are in foreclosure ... even banks are going out of business. What the world needs today is the message of contentment and simplicity, and that’s exactly what Pastor Adam Hamilton delivers in *Enough*.”*

Dave Ramsey, New York Times Best-Selling Author and Nationally Syndicated Radio Talk Show Host

 Abingdon Press  
Growing in Life, Serving in Faith

## Nominations sought for evangelism, pastoral leadership awards

Among the awards and recognitions planned during the 2018 Annual Conference, June 17–20 in Hot Springs, are the Harry Denman Evangelism Award and the Barnabas Award.

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award program honors United Methodists in each annual conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism—expressed in word (what), sign (why) and deed (how)—brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. Nomination forms are available at the Conference web site, [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org), and may be emailed to Dante Shelton at [evangelist.dshelton@gmail.com](mailto:evangelist.dshelton@gmail.com) or mailed to him at 4218 Evenfall Lane, North Little Rock, AR 72116. Nominations must be received no later than June 7 to be considered for the 2018 awards. The Denman Evangelism Award is

sponsored by the Foundation for Evangelism, headquartered at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

The Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry will present the 2018 Barnabas Award at the Sunday afternoon Clergy Session of Annual Conference. The Barnabas Award is presented to a person, lay or clergy, known to have “a heart for pastors.” Established in honor of the late Rev. Jim Beal, the award is presented to persons who, as Rev. Beal, show special interest in aiding pastors in the entry process, as well as in the work of ministry.

To submit a nomination, contact Rev. Wayne Clark at [clark@hendrix.edu](mailto:clark@hendrix.edu) no later than June 1. Please include the name of the person you wish to nominate and an explanation telling why you feel this person should receive the 2018 Barnabas Award.



# 7 elders, 1 deacon to be ordained at Annual Conference

## Service of Ordination, Commissioning planned for June 19

Pending approval during the June 17 clergy session of the Arkansas Annual Conference, the following eight provisional clergy will be ordained in full connection to the Arkansas Conference. The Service of Ordination and Commissioning is set for Tuesday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the Bank of the Ozarks Arena, Hot Springs. All are invited to attend.



**Michael W. Bolin, elder**  
*Beebe*  
**Education:** Arkansas State University; Memphis Theological Seminary  
**Current Appointment:** Wheatley/Salem Charge  
**Future Appointment:** Green Forest UMC



**Patti Butler, elder**  
*Desloge, Mo.*  
**Education:** B.S., Social Work, Southeast Missouri State University; M.Ed., University of Central Missouri; M.S.W., University of Arkansas, Little Rock; M.Div. Iliff School of Theology  
**Current Appointment:** Associate, Christ of the Hills UMC, Hot Springs Village  
**Future Appointment:** Wesley-Conway/Plummerville



**Lauren DeLano, elder**  
*Fayetteville*  
**Education:** Hendrix College, M.A., Psychology; M.Div., Boston University School of Theology  
**Current Appointment:** Associate Pastor, Conway First UMC



**Jonathan Griesse, elder**  
*St. Louis, Mo.*  
**Education:** B.A., John Brown University; M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
**Current appointment:** Associate Pastor, Heber Springs First UMC  
**Future appointment:** Elm Springs UMC



**Ronald Jeremy Pressgrove, elder**  
*West Memphis*  
**Education:** B.A., University of Central Arkansas; M.A., University of Alabama; M.Div., United Theological Seminary  
**Current Appointment:** Associate, Little Rock Pulaski Heights-St. Luke Campus  
**Future Appointment:** Newport First UMC



**Jay Stephen Simpson, elder**  
*West Memphis*  
**Education:** B.S., Organizational Management, Crichton College, Memphis, TN; M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
**Current Appointment:** Osceola First UMC  
**Future Appointment:** Associate, Texarkana First UMC



**Brenda D. Wideman, deacon**  
*Fayetteville*  
**Education:** B.S., Mathematics, University of Delaware; M.S., Computer Science, University of Arizona; M.Div., Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University  
**Current Appointment:** Associate, Bella Vista First UMC



**Jennifer McCain Williams, elder**  
*Tulsa, Okla.*  
**Education:** B.S., Accounting, David Lipscomb University; M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
**Current appointment:** Associate, Little Rock Highland Valley UMC

# 6 candidates to become provisional members June 19

Pending the approval of the June 17 clergy session of the Annual Conference, six persons will be commissioned as provisional members of the Arkansas Conference, one of the final steps in the journey to ordination. The Service of Ordination and Commissioning is set for Tuesday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the Bank of the Ozarks Arena, Hot Springs. All are invited to attend.



**Andrea Cummings**  
 Elder track  
*Little Rock*  
**Education:** M.Div., Emory University; B.A., University of Arkansas; M.B.A. and M.E., Special Education, Grand Canyon University  
**Future Appointment:** Associate, Pulaski Heights-St. Luke Campus



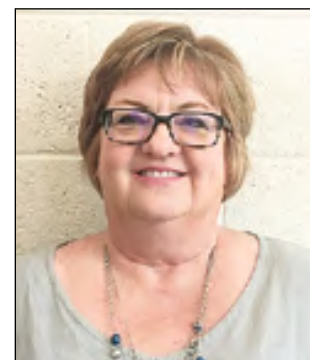
**Taylor Wade Loy**  
 Elder track  
*Hot Springs*  
**Education:** B.A., Henderson State University; M.A., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; M.Div., Duke Divinity School  
**Future Appointment:** Associate, Benton First UMC



**Andrew Suite**  
 Elder track  
*Montpelier, Indiana*  
**Education:** B.G.S., Ball State University; M. Div., Asbury Theological Seminary  
**Current Appointment:** Mountainside UMC, Hot Springs Village  
**Future Appointment:** Associate, Maumelle First UMC



**Melanie Tubbs**  
 Elder track  
*Russellville*  
**Education:** B.A. and M.A., Arkansas Tech University; M.Div., Iliff School of Theology  
**Current Appointment:** Augusta/Bald Knob UMCs



**Judy Casbeer Hall**  
 Elder track  
*New Blaine*  
**Education:** University of Houston, Phillips Theological Seminary  
**Current Appointment:** Paris and Magazine UMCs



**Janet Barrow**  
 Deacon track  
*New Orleans, La.*  
**Education:** B.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette; M.S.W., Tulane University; M.Div., Phillips Theological Seminary  
**Current Appointment:** Coles Chapel/Branch UMCs



# Three new board members join UM Foundation of Arkansas

Three new members have been elected to United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas Board of Directors. They are Sam Gibson of Benton, Rev. Lynn Lindsey of Little Rock, and Gary Nutter of Texarkana.

The Foundation manages \$164 million in endowment funds and other charitable assets that benefit local churches and United Methodist ministries.

“A major key to our success in creating endowments to benefit United Methodist ministries in Arkansas is an active, engaged board of directors,” said The Honorable Beth Deere, UMFA Board Chair. “They provide leadership that strengthens our United Methodist connection.”

Gibson, a member of First United Methodist, Benton, is an attorney in private practice with the Benton law firm of Gibson & Gibson, P.A. He served 15 years as elected City Attorney for the City of Benton and eight years as an elected Municipal Judge for Benton and Saline County. Gibson retired after 35 years of service with the United States Army Reserve at the rank of Brigadier General. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville,

where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree and his Juris Doctor degree. He and his wife Pamela Bryan Gibson have two children and four grandchildren.

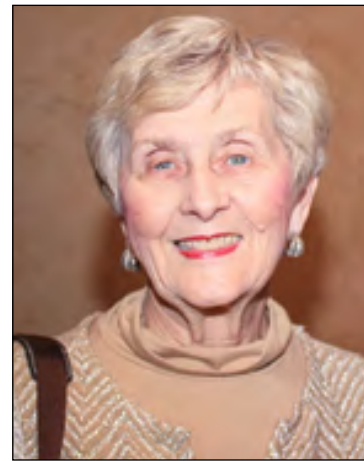
Rev. Lindsey is a retired United Methodist minister who served at her home church, Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, as Director of Children’s Ministry, Director of Evangelism and New Member Ministries, Executive Pastor, and Director of the Foundation. She attended Hendrix College and graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Rev. Lindsey completed theological classes at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas and was ordained as a deacon. She is married to Wayne Lindsey and together they have a blended family of six children.

Nutter has been an attorney in private practice since 1971 with the Texarkana law firm of Dunn, Nutter & Morgan, LLP. He graduated from Hendrix College and the University of Arkansas School of Law at Fayetteville. Nutter is a member of First UMC, Texarkana, where he has served as Administrative Board Chair, Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and currently



Sam Gibson

is a Church Trustee. He and his wife Jeanie have two sons and three grandchildren.



Rev. Lynn Lindsey

UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, the



Gary Nutter

Foundation is responsible for more than 800 funds that support United Methodist ministries.

## PEOPLE OF FAITH



The team from Paragould First UMC celebrates the completion of the Warrior Dash 5K Mud Run in Tennessee.

## Paragould team conquers 5K Mud Run

A 12-member team from Paragould First UMC participated in the Warrior Dash 5K Mud Run April 21 at the historic Milky Way Farm in Pulaski, TN. The Warrior Dash features 14 obstacles and challenges, including mud mounds, Muddy Mayhem and the Warrior Roast.

The Paragould church team adopted “Better Together,” a recent sermon series title, as their

mantra and theme. Team members encouraged, laughed and helped each other through the mud.

This year’s team included associate pastor Pat Bodenhamer, Jame Cook, Lynn Tierney, Jeremy Willis, Shay Willis, Kenny Kuenzel, JT Kuenzel, Allie Robbins, Kyle Robbins, Carrie Cook, Denise Clift, Jocelyn Noel and team mom Debby Bodenhamer.

**The Confessing Movement of Arkansas  
Annual Conference Breakfast**  
June 18, 2018 6:30AM at Union Missionary Baptist Church  
[wearecma.com](http://wearecma.com)

## Speaker Madeline Carrasco Heners

Rev. Madeline Carrasco Heners is a United Methodist elder and has served as a pastor in the Rio Texas Annual Conference area for over ten years. Since its inception, she has been part of the Wesleyan Covenant Association and serves as secretary.

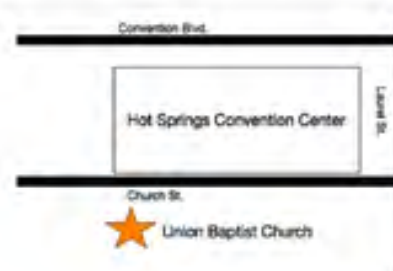
Madeline graduated from Duke Divinity School with her Master of Divinity after completing her Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. In May of 2019, Madeline hopes to complete her doctorate from United Theological Seminary. She recently authored a 30-day devotional challenge as part of her doctoral project, “Ascending the Mountain,” which guides participants into a deeper relationship with God and increased ability to hear God’s voice. Link to “Ascending the Mountain” on Amazon.

Madeline’s passion is helping people discover the amazing love God has for them and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, offered to all God’s children. She desires to continue growing in her ability to hear



God’s voice, especially as it helps others come to Christ.

As a native Texan, Madeline grew up mostly in the Rio Grande Valley. In 2007, she married her husband, David, who was born and raised in Liverpool, England. An architect by trade, David is an amazing ministry and prayer partner. Together, they seek to serve the Lord with all that they are.



Place: Union Missionary Baptist Church

Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6:30AM

Cost: \$15 (Tickets available through Annual Conf. registration)

Contact: [admin@wearecma.com](mailto:admin@wearecma.com)



# Pearle McCain: museum celebrates pioneer Arkansas missionary

BY JANE DENNIS  
Interim Editor

In 1929, Pearle McCain left her Arkansas roots behind and set sail for exotic and faraway China, where she dedicated her life to others as a Methodist missionary. She was just 27 years old.

"I'm not sure, in that era, how you decide to go from Searcy, Arkansas, to China, and you're in your 20s, and you get on a boat and go over there all by yourself," says Martha Sowell, gazing at a photograph of a young, smiling McCain in a Mandarin dress. "That's pretty daring and real adventuresome."

Sowell is a member of the board of directors for the United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference, located at Little Rock's First United Methodist Church, 723 Center St. The museum is currently hosting an exhibit called "Pearle McCain: Faith in Action" through Nov. 30. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays, or by appointment by calling (501) 904-1280.

## A dedicated life

The exhibit tells McCain's life story by displaying items including her daily diaries and Chinese-English Bible with her notes in the margins. There are photographs,

yearbooks, souvenirs and other mementoes donated to the museum several years ago by McCain's relatives, as well as other items loaned by the United Methodist Archives housed at Hendrix College.

Born in 1902, McCain was the daughter of Richard A. and Lou Davis McCain of Searcy. After graduating from Galloway College in Searcy (which later merged with Hendrix College) and Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., she was sent by the Methodist Board of Missions to China in 1929.

For the next 20 years, McCain taught English and Bible classes at a girls' school and served as assistant to the principal at several schools from Shanghai to Nanking. She endured difficulties related to the Japanese invasion of China and later the Communist takeover of the country. She fell ill at one point and returned to the United States to regain her health. During this time she earned a doctorate in education at Union Seminary at Columbia University in New York.

For a time she served as president of the Women's Seminary in Nanking.

## 20 years in Japan

For her next phase of service, McCain accepted an invitation to teach at Seiwa College for Christian



Martha Sowell (left) stands beside photo of pioneer Arkansas missionary Pearle McCain (right), who spent a lifetime of service in China and Japan. McCain is the subject of a special exhibit at the United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference, located at First United Methodist Church, Little Rock.



Workers in Japan. She taught Christian education there from 1951 to 1971, and then became Chairman of the Christian Education Department. During her 40 years of service she mastered the languages and was fluent in both Chinese and Japanese.

Before her retirement, the Emperor of Japan presented her with a

medal of gratitude.

McCain retired in 1971 and moved to Little Rock where she led a quiet life. Several years later she moved to the Brooks Howell House for Retired Missionaries and Deaconesses in Asheville, N.C. She returned to China and Japan for a short visit in 1980.

McCain died in 1982, and her ashes are buried in Asheville.

"Pearle McCain was a pioneer in many ways," according to Sowell. "She was a well educated, very well traveled woman, yet until now she was little known."

The museum exhibit aims to change that, she adds.

## McCain descendants special guests at exhibit opening



The United Methodist Museum of the Arkansas Conference, located at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock, hosted a reception May 20 celebrating the opening of the special exhibit "Pearle McCain: Faith in Action." Among those attending were descendants of McCain, including Martha Crowfoot Bumpers of Conway, Carol Evans of Little Rock and Bill Pettit of Cotter. The exhibit will be on display through Nov. 30.



ABOVE: Sisters Ashyia and Shaniah Rahman attended the Pearle McCain exhibit opening and enjoyed to use chopsticks learning to use chopsticks and seeing artifacts documenting McCain's missionary service in China and Japan. LEFT: Christine Edelmann and her daughter Elizabeth, descendants of Pearle McCain, were among those attending the May 20 exhibit reception.



## OBITUARIES

### LITTLE ROCK

#### James B. "Jim" Argue Jr. of

Little Rock passed away May 3, 2018, at St. Vincent Infirmary following a brief illness. He was born Aug. 19, 1951, in Carthage, Texas, to Dr. James B. Argue and Ann Bourland Argue. The family moved to Little Rock in 1964 when Dr. Argue was named senior pastor at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church.



Jim graduated from Hall High School in 1969 and Hendrix College in 1973, where he earned a degree in history and political science. Following college graduation, Jim began a 45-year calling in finance and investments, including as a vice president at Commercial National Bank. In 1981, Methodist philanthropists successfully recruited Jim and he went on to become the longest serving president of the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, where he stayed until his death. Under his leadership, Foundation assets grew from an initial investment of \$67,000 to a current value of \$164 million, making it one of the largest United Methodist foundations in the country.

In early 1980, Jim spotted a beautiful new alto in the choir loft. Their love was almost instant, and he and Elise Carey were married on May 30, 1980. They enjoyed a 38-

year marriage of shared devotion, raising two daughters, Sarah and Emily, who Jim cherished with great love and enormous pride. He loved his new role as "Granddaddy" to Charlotte and Anderson and found great joy in this new season of his life.

In 1990, frustrated with the legislature's failure to provide adequate resources for public schools, Jim successfully ran for the Arkansas House of Representatives as a proud Democrat. He served a total of 18 years in both the House and the Arkansas Senate, 16 of those serving on the education committee of both bodies. State Senate colleagues elected him as president pro tem during the 85th General Assembly. Recognized as one of the key architects in the state's response to the 2002 Lake View Supreme Court decision, Argue was lauded by colleagues as committed, tenacious, and unwavering in his successful efforts towards major school reforms and improvements.

When his time in the Arkansas Legislature came to a close, Jim and Elise embarked on a series of world travels. Jim especially enjoyed connecting with distant family, the "Argue Clan" of Ireland. A devoted Methodist, Jim was the former chair of the Administrative Board of Pulaski Heights UMC and a member of the denomination's General Council on Finance and Administration.

He was named a 2017 Distinguished Alumni of Hendrix College. He was an honoree at the

2016 Philander Smith College Living Legends Banquet and received the JCA's Father Joseph Biltz award in 2000.

He was also a devoted St. Louis Cardinals fan and belonged to a group known as the St. Louis Six, longtime friends who traveled to St. Louis together for big game weekends for more than 30 years.

Jim is survived by his wife, Elise; daughters Sarah Argue and Emily Argue Stotts (Jeff); grandchildren Charlotte and Anderson Stotts; sister Marsha Argue Bozeman; brother Robert Argue; nephew Ryan Bozeman, and sister-in-law Ellen Tarkington. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Elizabeth, and nephew Bradley Tarkington.

Funeral services were held May 9 at Pulaski Heights UMC. Memorials may be made to the Argue Family Memorial Endowment, to benefit the ministries of Pulaski Heights UMC and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas. Donations can be sent to the United Methodist Foundation, 5300 Evergreen Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205.

### TEXARKANA

**Dr. Edwin B. Dodson**, a retired clergy member, of Texarkana, Ark., passed away May 18, 2018.

He was born Dec. 22, 1922, in Cotton Plant. He graduated from Marianna High School, Hendrix College and Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology. He was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Hendrix College.

Dodson served as a minister in the United Methodist Church from 1946 until his retirement in 1984. He served churches in Becker, Texas, Widener, Round Pond, Madison, Tuni, Berryville, Pocahontas, Siloam Springs, Batesville, Benton, Camden and Texarkana.

During his final appointment at Texarkana, he served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Arkansas Mental Health Center, the Texarkana Religious Emphasis Committee and the Volunteer Services Bureau. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Tri-State Chapter of the American Red Cross, Senior Citizens Services of Texarkana, the Temple Memorial Treatment



Center, Hospice of Texarkana and Awareness of Crime in Texarkana. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of United Way, where he was a recipient of the United Way Cline Cup Award, and the Institutional Review Committees of St. Michael Hospital and Wadley Hospital. He was the founder and first president of the board of One Point of Light, which became Harvest Texarkana, which channels surplus food to feed hungry children and adults.

He was a former member of the Board of Trustees of Hendrix College.

Dodson was predeceased by his parents, Francis and Mary (Molly) Dodson and his brothers and sister, Hendrix Dodson, Morris Dodson, Delle Paulk, Frank Dodson and Eugene Dodson; his wife, Ellen Becker Dodson; his son, Don Dodson; and daughter-in-law, Kathy Dodson. He is survived by his children, Bob Dodson and Dick and Cheryl Dodson; five grandchildren, Mark Dodson, Robert and Katie Dodson, David Dodson, John and Christen Dodson, and Mason Dodson; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held May 23 at Texarkana First UMC, with interment at the Becker Family Cemetery in Becker, Texas. Memorials may be made to Texarkana First UMC or Becker UMC, Becker, Texas.

### MAUMELLE

**William D. "Bill" Elliott**, 85,

of Maumelle passed away May 6, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was born Oct. 19, 1932, in Texarkana, Ark., to Ruth



and James Ira Dean Elliott. He graduated from Texarkana High School. Hearing the call to preach at age 12, he later graduated from Hendrix College and seminary at Southern Methodist University.

He met Ethel Lu Teague at Camp Tanako. After becoming engaged on their second date, they were married November 27, 1964. During their 54 years of marriage, they traveled to 47 states, Europe and Asia.

With more than 40 years of pastoral service, his first appointment was associate at Magnolia First, followed by the Chidester Circuit, Conference Youth

Director, Winfield (associate), DeQueen, Pine Bluff Wesley, Monticello, Little Rock Trinity, Searcy First, Stuttgart First and Little Rock Winfield. He retired in 1998.

He is survived by his wife Lu; sons Dean (Jacquelyn), Lee (Astrid) and John Paul (Rhonda); sisters Emma Owenby and Ann Honeycutt; and five grandchildren whom he adored and who brought him great joy. He was predeceased by his parents and one brother, James.

Services were held May 11 at Trinity United Methodist Church, Little Rock. The family wishes to thank the caring staff at UAMS and Hospice Home Care. Memorials may be sent to Trinity United Methodist Church 1101 N. Mississippi, Little Rock, AR 72207.

### CHEROKEE VILLAGE

**Marion Eugene Fleming**, 73,

of Cherokee Village, a retired elder, died April 25, 2018, at the White River Medical Center in Batesville. He was born Sept.



10, 1944, in Malvern, to Leo Joseph Schweitzer and Ruby Jean (Dickey) Schweitzer. He attended the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Memphis Theological Seminary.

He was an active duty member of the Air National Guard, a past lieutenant governor and president of Kiwanis, and a dedicated member of the Jonesboro Emmaus community. Beginning in 1975, he served local churches including Tillar Circuit, Horatio, Dierks Circuit, Dierks, Foreman, Norphlet, Hawley Memorial, Corning, Marked Tree, Jonesboro First, Leachville, Weiner, Pottsville and Salem. He retired in 2013.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Judy Lynch Fleming. Survivors are his wife Vicki Richardson Fleming; son Greg (Jennifer) Fleming of Clinton; brothers Gary (Maryland) Fleming of Little Rock and Jerry David Fleming of Morrilton; and granddaughter Katie Fleming.

A celebration of life was held May 19 at First United Methodist Church, Cherokee Village. Memorials may be directed to the church, P.O. Box 420, Cherokee Village, AR 72525, or to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

**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](http://www.umdevelopmentfund.org)

**UMDF**  
 THE UNITED METHODIST DEVELOPMENT FUND

**GLOBAL MINISTRIES**  
 The United Methodist Church



## 50 Arkansas students receive Dollars for Scholars grants to attend United Methodist institutions

A total of 50 Arkansas students were recently named recipients of the Dollars for Scholars scholarships by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation.

For each recipient, the students' local church gives \$1,000, and the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation matches that contribution. Then the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (UMFA) gives \$1,000, and the student's selected college contributes \$1,000, for a total award of \$4,000.

"The board of UMFA is pleased to award \$50,000 in grants to these Arkansas students attending United Methodist colleges and universities during the 2018-2019 school year," said UMFA Vice President of Development Janet Marshall.

Attending Duke University is **Shelby P. Powers** of Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock.

Hendrix College students receiving the scholarships include **Ethny M. Ashcraft** of Lakeside UMC, Pine Bluff; **Lauren L. Berry** of Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock; **Gwen T. Boone** of First UMC, Conway; **Aubrey N. Brink** of Sequoyah UMC, Fayetteville; **Lexie N. Burleson** of Lakewood UMC, North Little Rock; **Samuel E. Byrd** of First UMC, Malvern; **Christina G. Choh** of Hope Korean First UMC, Little Rock; **Joseph R. Coker** and **Samuel M. Coker** of First UMC, Conway; **Lacey N. Crosby** of First UMC, Greenbrier; **Rebekah L. Dodson** of First UMC, El Dorado; **Andrew D. Fleming** of Grand Avenue UMC, Hot Springs; **Marlee L. Hoggard** of Geyer Springs UMC, Little Rock; **Sydney R. Mulhearn** of First UMC, Conway; **Kelly Murray-Norman** of White Hall UMC; **Silas B. Myane** of Prairie Grove UMC; **Tyler J. Odell** of Clinton UMC; **Creighton M. Polk** of First UMC, Conway; **Harper L. Purifoy** of First UMC, Malvern; **Faith A. Reynolds** of Grace UMC, Hensley; **William A. Roberts** of First UMC, Conway;

**Alyssa M. Savage** of First UMC, Sheridan; **Madison E. Shaddox** of Cabot UMC; **Katherine E. Skartvedt** of First UMC, Russellville; **Douglas A. Tiller** of Central UMC, Fayetteville; **Jacob L. Turner** of First UMC, Sheridan; **Seth R. Wagoner** of First UMC, Batesville; **Tristram A. Williams Thompson** of First UMC, Little Rock; and **Margaret A. Young** of Lakeside UMC, Pine Bluff.

Scholarship recipients studying at Oklahoma City University are **Virginia G. Mertz** of Prairie Grove UMC; **Marina R. Redlich** of St. James UMC, Little Rock; and **Emily L. Wollenberg** of First UMC, Clarksville.

Philander Smith College scholarship recipients include **Robert L. Allison**, **Edward J. Boyd**, **Jalan J. D. Caffey**, **John D. Davis**, **Pedro T. Demeritte**, **Antoinette L. Ellon**, **Sandarius S. Gillispie**, **Robert R. Harris**, **Valricka J. Mitchell**, **Marcella D. Overton**, **Mycara A. Spencer-Cole**, and **Erykah T. Williams**, all of Wesley Chapel UMC, Little Rock, and **Alexis D. Burns** of Duncan UMC, Little Rock.

**Matthew F. Esterer** of First UMC, Bentonville; **Robert C. Parker** of First UMC, Fort Smith; and **Edward A. Powers** of Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock, will attend Southern Methodist University.

Seminary student **Robin G. Roark** of First UMC, Sheridan, will attend Saint Paul School of Theology.

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation is dedicated to helping students achieve their dreams by providing scholarship aid for United Methodist students attending 122 United Methodist-related institutions. UMFA is one of the largest United Methodist Foundations in the country. Founded in 1963, UMFA is responsible for over 800 funds that have combined assets in excess of \$164 million.



Arkansans attending the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure national conference included: (from left) Kimberly Trice, Highland Valley UMC, Little Rock; Donna Sharp, St. James UMC, Little Rock; Fonda Kirkman, Central District Office; Rosa Schill, Harrisburg UMC; Karen Copelin, Grand Avenue UMC, Hot Springs; Melanie Churchill, Central District Office; Danielle Adkisson, Conway First UMC; Teresa Bodie, St. James UMC, Little Rock; LaDonna Busby, Northeast District Office; Kathy Bracke, Christ of the Hills UMC, Hot Springs Village; Becky Neighbors, Northwest District Office; and Connie Thomas, Northeast District Office.

## Arkansas church administrators join in national meeting in Nashville

Twelve members of the Arkansas Chapter of the Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure (PAUMCS) attended the National Conference of PAUMCS April 12-14 in Nashville, TN. Along with five first-time attendees, the Arkansas chapter had one of the largest representations present at the conference.

The event featured worship services, uplifting music and encouraging and spiritual presentations. Topics included Spiritual Health, Beneficially Administrative, Compassionate Ministry and Creating Partnerships. The main theme was showing administrators and administrative assistants how their jobs fit into the spiritual life of the church and how to use posts to help bring more disciples to Jesus Christ.

"The most important aspect to the conference is creating the connections that are so vital in the Unit-

ed Methodist Church," said Arkansas chapter president Kathy Bracke, administrator for Christ of the Hills UMC, Hot Springs Village. "Connections to resources, educational materials and, most of all, connections with people who are doing the same job ... help keep us encouraged and motivated."

Bracke called the professional organization an important networking opportunity and "a very valuable

resource" for participants.

Membership in Arkansas PAUMCS is open to all administrators, including those in district offices and local churches, as well as administrative assistants, secretaries and financial secretaries in the United Methodist system. Currently, the Arkansas chapter holds an annual meeting each fall. For more information, contact Bracke at [kathy.bracke@arumc.org](mailto:kathy.bracke@arumc.org).

### 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](mailto:editor@arumc.org). Deadlines appear in page 2 of this issue.

**20TH ANNUAL ARKANSAS RETIRED PASTORS DAY** will be October 22! For more info: Contact Dr. David Bush @ 870-830-7777.

**ORGAN FOR SALE:** One owner Rodgers 805C Organ. Recently checked by certified audio technician; computer and electronics are in good condition. Keyboards need removed and replace bad key weight glue, 2 speakers need repair. \$9,995 as is, or \$11,995 with all repairs made. Wesley UMC, 2200 Phoenix, Fort Smith, AR. Call church office (479) 646-9702 or Harley Strang (479) 646-9329 to arrange inspection.

**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 throughout the year. Part-time position on average 3-5 hours per week. May be ideal for a college student or young adult. Salary is \$100 per week possibly more depending on experience. To apply for position or for more information please email: [brazlewood@yahoo.com](mailto:brazlewood@yahoo.com) or [revrickwilkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revrickwilkins@sbcglobal.net).

### BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

#### STAINED GLASS



Serving  
Arkansas  
with Quality  
Stained Glass  
since 1973

Churches ♦ Residential ♦ Commercial

(800) 791-7667

[www.soosstainedglass.com](http://www.soosstainedglass.com)

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

#### PIANO TUNING



Piano Tuning  
and Repair

870-818-0916  
[rlong@gmail.com](mailto:rlong@gmail.com)

#### KITCHEN SUPPLIES

Kitchen Equip.  
& Supplies

Buy at our prices and Save

1-800-482-9026 or 228-0808

AIMCO EQUIPMENT CO.





### *For the Good of All*

Former United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas Board Member Joyce Peck believes the Foundation works for the good of all United Methodists in Arkansas. She cites the work they do for local churches throughout the state — like offering free information on building endowments and providing Provide and Protect estate planning workshops.

A Texas native, Joyce came to Arkansas with her late husband Cliff Peck to start an automobile dealership as the 1960s were beginning. A few years later then Arkansas Bishop Paul Galloway asked the couple, who attended First UMC, Little Rock, to help start a new church on the city's western edge.

"I love everything about St. James UMC," she said. "Maybe because we were one of the first families to start the church. The people are great, they work hard, and I feel like I had a hand in building a great church. I've supported it physically, mentally, and financially."

Another cause Joyce cares about is Camp Aldersgate, where she donated a carousel that has been refitted to allow children with disabilities to enjoy rides. The camp has benefited from UMFA grants for its master plan, infrastructure, and strategic planning.

"Whoever needs help, the Foundation is there for them," said Joyce. "Nearly every Methodist in the state has been helped in some way."



### **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](http://www.umfa.org)

## Magnolia student receives Nancy McDonald Wood Scholarship award

Hannah Kaar, a member of First United Methodist Church, Magnolia, has been named the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas' Nancy McDonald Wood Scholar for 2018. She is the daughter of David Kaar of Magnolia.

The scholarship recipient graduated from Magnolia High School last month with a 4-point-plus grade point average. She has not yet announced her college choice.

Kaar performs as the Magnolia High School panther mascot. She sings in the chancel choir at First UMC and volunteers to feed the hungry through the church's Stewpot ministry. She works in the church's radio and TV ministry and is president of the youth group.

"If I am to follow the example of

Christ and listen to his every call, it is a real challenge to me," Kaar wrote in her application. "However, I am up for it and I think life is short, so I should be a hands-on Christian everyday, as long as I am able."

The Nancy McDonald Wood Scholarship Fund is managed by the United Methodist Foundation, and applications for 2019 will be available in the fall at [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org). Applicants who demonstrate a commitment to historic United Methodist values as well as strong academic records and volunteer commitments to their home church and community are urged to apply. The scholarship was established in 2014 to honor Nancy McDonald Wood of Little Rock and her interest in strong female lay leadership.



Nancy McDonald Wood (left) of Little Rock congratulates scholarship recipient Hannah Kaar of Magnolia.