



The Arkansas United Methodist

LIVING OUR FAITH

November 2019 | Volume 167, Issue 11

ALL SAINTS' DAY

REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST IN 2019

Pulaski Heights Expands Pet Ministry, Pg. 13



LIGHT OF HER LIFE

The late Lucile Barnett, a retired art teacher, painted a light-filled impression of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock back in 1962. But her faith journey there began more than 100 years ago when she was enrolled in the Cradle Department on the day of her birth.

In her final years at a local retirement community, Lucile's finances were as secure as her faith. The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas was trustee for the Revocable Trust and Charitable Remainder Unitrust created by Lucile and her husband Rollin after a visit from Foundation President Jim Argue to their Bethel Sunday School Class at First Church.

Always a joy to others, Lucile enjoyed time with her friends, a weekly beauty shop visit and watching Rev. Vic Nixon on the Pulaski Heights UMC broadcasts every Sunday. When her earthly life was done, the Rollin and Lucile Barnett Memorial Endowment Fund was created to express the love they shared for the Church forever.

"I have faith in the Foundation," Lucile said in a 2007 interview. "They've been so good to us, and they've done everything we asked."

Conference Hopes to Launch Leaders Forward in Vision, Action

By Haley Walker Klein
UMFA Contributor

The city of Little Rock played host to more than 80 attendees at the Launch 2.0 experience in early October. Launch 2.0 is the second step of the Courageous Leadership Imperative (CLI), the brainchild of the late Jim Argue, past President and CEO of The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, and Tom Locke, President of the Texas Methodist Foundation (TMF). With support from the Lilly Endowment, TMF's Leadership Ministry team offers the CLI, a learning network for courageous leaders.

The first Launch conference, version 1.0, was held last year in St. Louis and offered a large group experience designed to create a network for dynamic leaders, expand imagination for what's possible, and embolden courage during times of change. The Launch 1.0 program was attended by 130 clergy members, including nine from Arkansas.

"When the organizers set out to plan Launch 2.0, they had learned from pastors that it would be helpful to have some of their team from their church with them," said the Rev. Lynn Kilbourne, senior pastor at FUMC North Little Rock and Launch 2.0 Design Team Leader. "Launch 2.0 participants were encouraged to bring two other people from their church with them. Ideally, the 'triads' would have a dreamer, influencer, and implementer. I was excited to bring two folks from my church with me- Rev. Annie Lankford, our Associate Pastor; and David Martin, Lay Leader."

"We Are Curio"- a design-centered innovation group from Florida- led the triads through their four-step innovation process called "IEDA." The four steps of IEDA are: Immerse, Expand, Design, Act, explained Kilbourne, "having my team together for the event allowed us to better ground our visioning and work with IEDA. It wasn't just an exercise in visioning, our time at Launch 2.0 has laid the groundwork for visioning that can happen in our local church. Together we learned that courageous leadership includes risky ideas and projects like transforming spaces and creating new ministries, but it also includes the work of creating a shared vision for a congregation."

"It was inspiring to learn from courageous leaders from Little Rock, including Skip Rutherford, Dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, and Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, a higher education administrator and philanthropist, said Kilbourne. "We were able to hear the exciting ministries happening in other churches, and be reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us to be courageous in our leadership and ministries." The Arkansas Conference Launch 2.0 attendees will meet in early November to discuss their program's next steps.



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

601 Wellington Village Road • Little Rock, Arkansas 72211
501-664-8632 • Fax 501-664-6792 • www.umfa.org

Follow us on Social Media!

JUST SEARCH FOR ARKANSAS UMC ON THESE SOCIAL PLATFORMS



WANT MORE NEWS?

Visit arumc.org for all of the latest info!

And follow us online at @arkansasumc



MEETING SPACES

vacation views

DEGRAY LAKE RESORT STATE PARK

Choose from five Arkansas State Park lodges that offer first-class accommodations in the most scenic settings in the state. Whether it's a private getaway or corporate retreat, we can help personalize your experience.



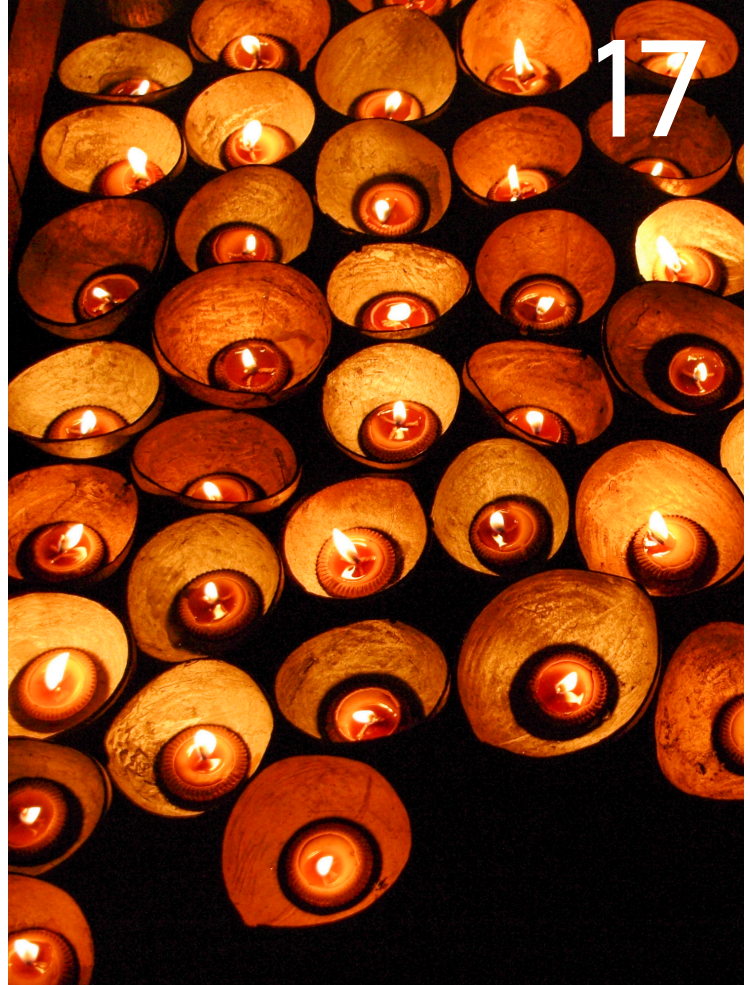
Discover the possibilities at LodgesofArkansas.com

#ARStateParks



WHAT'S INSIDE

From the Editor	4
Growing Together in Christ	6
Conference Voices	8
Methodist Family Health	9
Adopt A College Student	11
Children's Ministry	38



UNITED METHODISTS OF *Arkansas*

VOLUME 167, NO. 11 • NOVEMBER 4

Caleb Hennington, Digital Content Editor

Amy Ezell, Director of The Center for Communication

The *Arkansas United Methodist* is the publication of record for the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is issued monthly and distributed in both print and digital formats.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For information on subscribing to the digital edition, visit www.arumc.org/our-news/arkansas-united-methodist/ or call 501-324-8037.

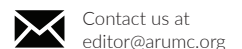
FOLLOW US



VISIT US ONLINE



STORY IDEA?



A Little Corny, A Lot of Fun

By Caleb Hennington
Digital Content Editor, [@arumceditor](#)

Last month, The Arkansas Conference had a booth at the 6th annual Arkansas Cornbread Festival, a celebration of all things corny, that took place on Oct. 26 in the South Main neighborhood, one of the funkiest and fastest growing neighborhoods in Little Rock.

A few months prior, during one of our Center for Communication meetings, we were discussing ways to reach out to our community and let them know that the United Methodist Church is still alive and active in the state.

Because let's face it, the only people that know about the Arkansas Conference are the people that work there, our clergy, and our lay leaders (some of our own Methodist members don't even know we exist!)

I suggested we look at the annual Cornbread Festival for a few reasons: it's one of the most popular festivals in Little Rock, it's fun and unique, and it's right down the road from our office at Philander Smith College.

We decided to give away some swag (stickers, buttons and magnets featuring the newly redesigned Conference logo) and pass out information on United Methodist churches in the surrounding area.

But we still had one big question that we didn't yet know how to answer: how would we get people to actually come to our tent and talk to us?

To be honest, most people aren't coming to the festival to talk to religious folks, much less find a home church in their neighborhood.

That's when the idea for a dog photo booth came up; what if we had another reason for people to visit us? Something that could potentially lead to questions about church and faith?

Or not! We weren't really concerned with "evangelizing" to folks who were there trying to hang out with their family and eat some authentic Arkansas cornbread.

And I'm proud to say that our photo booth was a big success! We had so many happy pet owners stop by that it was hard to keep



up with at times!

Even though we only spoke to a few people about churches, we came away from that weekend knowing we had accomplished our goals.

We were visible in the community. We brought people joy through our dog photo booth. We gave away some conference swag. We had fun.

It's not always about reaching as many people as you can with the message of Christ. You can't approach everyone with that mindset; that your only job is to preach the gospel. You have to establish a relationship first. You have to be approachable.

True connections, real relationships often lead to deeper discussions. I think we need to start with that before catching someone off guard with faith talks.

We're not done with festivals, either. We'll be hitting up a few more in the spring.

So come by and see us if you live in the Little Rock area! Our experiment might work so well that we branch out to other areas of the conference.

In the meantime, we're just happy knowing that we were able to spread a little extra joy in the world.



**Saturday,
November 23rd**

Ingathering 2019

**at the
Arkansas Food Bank**

**for more info and
to register visit
arumc.org/ingathering**

Pray, Pray and Pray More

By Bishop Gary Mueller
Bishop of the Arkansas Conference

I am writing these words from Bupyeong Methodist Church in Incheon, South Korea as part of my role as chair of the Path 1 Strategy Committee that seeks to enable the creation of new faith communities in the United Methodist Church. It is 6:15 am, and I have just returned to my room in the church's guest house from an hour-long 5:00 am daily prayer service attended by almost 600 people.

The Methodist Church in Korea is vital and vibrant. While it faces its own set of unique challenges like the church everywhere, it is transforming lives, communities and the world. Perhaps most importantly, however, it is built on prayer. Frequent prayer. Powerful prayer. And in particular, a unique style of early morning prayer called Tongkung Kido, which means "cry out together loudly."

While prayer has always been important to me, I confess I recently have been re-formed in my prayer life because of three distinct experiences. First, I engaged in a deep conversation with someone on the conference staff about my vague sense that in these troubled times we need a major reboot that can only be achieved through prayer. Second, an individual in a conversation I convened about how we might find a way forward in Arkansas passionately articulated how the most important thing we can do right now is to gather together to pray, confess our sins and repent. And, third, my experience of praying out loud for 30 minutes every morning with others has stirred my soul greatly.

Prayer is not something that a bishop can mandate. It's not a checklist to be completed. Nor is it another program to be implemented. Prayer happens because you take the time to do it and discover how the Holy Spirit enables you to pray more deeply, honestly and authentically than you ever imagined possible.



Members of Bupyeong Methodist Church in Incheon, South Korea worship together during a 5 a.m. service. || Photo by Bishop Gary Mueller

So here is my dream. Every pastor and every lay person will start out by praying 10 minutes a day. Small groups of people will gather - including groups of non-like minded people - to pray, confess and listen to God. And more and more people will join together to engage in transformational prayer as we open our hearts to God, intercede on behalf of others, the church and the world, and are deeply touched by God's speaking to us.

If you are willing to do this, I would like to hear from you. If you are willing to share your experiences, I would love to hear about them. If you want me to pray for you as the Holy Spirit moves me, I want to know. Email me at bishop@arumc.org.

I'm not sure where all of this will lead us. But I know this. It is the most hope-full thing we can do in a world that has gone amuck, a church that is struggling and lives that are filled with brokenness. God will give us exactly what we need. And we will be amazed by what happens.

We're revolutionizing the church website game. Again.



We know how hard it can be to make a good church website, and that's why we're now using Weebly to provide our Arkansas Conference churches with websites that are easier to design and maintain than ever before. All it takes is undergoing one of our new Conference Communications Audits. Both are free; paid for with your Conference Tithe. So why not sign up today, and start thinking differently about your church's communications?

**Contact Jacob Turner at jacob.turner@arumc.org
for more information!**

Weebly is a registered trademark of Square, Inc.

Feeding from the Depths

By Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen
Program Coordinator for the Center for Calling and Christian Leadership, Hendrix College

I'm not sure I'd be a minister today if it weren't for church potlucks. There is something about the gelatinous salads, mac and cheese, quirky cupboard serving bowls and potluck conversation that nourishes the soul. I think Jesus knew what he was doing when he told us that coming together around simple elements -- brought forth as wheat and grape from creation and nurtured into bread and wine -- is a profound way to experience God's love, and to be challenged to extend that holy Table into the world.

Food matters. Food really matters.

Churches have played a tremendous role in responding to the needs of the hungry, through a variety of food programs such as weekly meals for anyone in need in the community, summer meal programs for schoolchildren, and food pantries. This work is important; it shouldn't stop. And yet, as helpful and theologically grounded (and important!) as food charity is, I've learned more and more that the complexity of problems related to food injustice and poverty require an even more robust response from the church; responses that get at the heart of the issues themselves.

Two of my favorite food justice authors Roger Gottlieb and Anapuma Joshi define food justice in terms of equity, fairness, and sustainability not only for consumers and eaters, but also in terms of how food is grown, produced, and accessed. If the food systems that create hunger are characterized by a lack of equity and fairness in any of these areas, then to respond in a meaningful way necessitates paying attention to the interaction of all of these components of food injustice.

I wonder about possibilities for deeper engagement in our Arkansas Methodist churches around this. There are so many ways to do this work creatively! Examining the roots is hard, and time-consuming, and requires asking questions that don't always have straightforward answers or quick fixes—but is that not the road of faith we walk in our personal lives and with our fellow Christians? The task Jesus gives us to love God and love neighbor is not an easy task, but it is one we do in community.

One such example of this examination of the roots is situated in uncovering the history of lands we live on, and the ways throughout history and into our present in which land has been used to exploit God's creation—both the land and the people—who were forced leave or to work it. As I'm learning from teachers and writers such as Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch of Arkansas State University, Arkansas is not exempt from a past that not only enslaved Africans and their descendants, but that also upheld many programs (including programs connected to

the U.S. Department of Agriculture) that continued to deny African-Americans the right to land ownership even after the abolishment of slavery. We can draw a pretty direct line from this history to the reality of what many experts call “food deserts,” where lack of access to fresh, healthy foods is clustered in specific geographic areas. Communities affected by land loss and food deserts are in or near our churches. I feel God calling us to dive more deeply into the realities that affect their abilities to live the abundant life into which Jesus calls us.

Some might read this and think I'm being “political,” a word that has become so demonized in our age of partisan polarization. But I believe that the God who calls us all to partner in what John Wesley would describe as God's work of reconciling all of creation, calls us to reckon with the ways in which we humans are capable of both great compassion and kindness and great harm. I think this reckoning sometimes involves zeroing in on the nitty-gritty layers and systems that we move through, even when we'd much rather not look at them at all.

Even as we dive more deeply into the causes of hunger and the ways in which poverty ensnares so many in our communities, let's not forget the abundant grace of God that is always present, always reaching out, always inviting us into deeper relationship with Christ, one another, and with the Holy Spirit that dwells within each of us. As we gather around Fellowship Hall tables for potlucks and approach a season of holiday meals and gatherings, may we be transformed by meals of grace and the Meal of Grace we partake in as Christians during Communion. May we also extend that grace into each person, creature, and moment we encounter.

Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen (Hendrix '12, Boston University School of Theology '17) is a provisional Deacon in the North Texas Conference of the UMC. She is serving in Arkansas as the Program Coordinator for the Center for Calling and Christian Leadership. The Center, which is based at Hendrix College, creates programs for young United Methodists to explore and discern their calls to lay and ordained ministry and church leadership.



Eva is passionate about the intersections of vocation, faith, and justice—especially related to food and the environment. As a Deacon, she is also committed to supporting and creating spaces for the church (broadly defined) to be a source of personal and social transformation.

Advent Sparks Light at Methodist Family Health

By Amy Shores

Director of Pastoral Care, Methodist Family Health

I have a pretty unpopular opinion. Unlike what feels like 95% of the population, Christmas is not my favorite holiday. I'm more of an Easter kind of girl. Give me spring, give me pastels and coconut candy and dyed eggs, not to mention the joyous and triumphant celebrations that happen in churches on Easter Sunday morning, and I'm happy. However, that being said, my affinity for Advent has started to grow during my time with Methodist Family Health.

I'm beginning to like Christmas more and more because of the amazing things that I am able to experience each year during the season. In October, we start looking for families, individuals, Sunday School classes and youth groups to "adopt a wish list." Those in our care all have the chance to create a Christmas wish list, so we need donors and shoppers who are willing to turn those wishes into realities. Between our residential treatment facilities, our hospital in Maumelle, our day schools, our CARES program, our group homes, and a few of our outpatient clinics, we provided Christmas wish lists for more than 200 individuals last year. So, beginning in October, I have the chance to start talking with all of the wonderful donors who make this happen.

Once donors are in place, I get to move on to collecting wish lists! It's so fun listening to kids' dreams and getting excited about gifts—more than once I've had kids tell me this is the first time they've been able to have a list like this. Once lists are done, I pass them on to donors who shop and then drop-off gifts, and then myself and other volunteers process them with a giant two-day wrapping extravaganza. My last step in our gift process is delivering the gifts to our facilities, where they are opened on Christmas morning!

Along with all of the gifts, we also have a variety of parties and programs at all of our different facilities, and I make it my goal to be at as many of them as I can! I have to admit, though, that I have a favorite Christmas activity when it comes to Methodist Family Health. Our CARES moms, who are our ladies in treatment for mental illness and addiction, create not only a wish list for themselves, but they also make a list for each of their children. Instead of wrapping their kids' gifts at our big volunteer wrapping event, we set the CARES kids' gifts aside and they get to have their own party, where we have snacks, listen



to Christmas music, and the moms set to work preparing gifts for their children. I will never forget walking into the wrapping room last year to find a mom sitting in the middle of a stack of presents, sobbing. When I asked her what was wrong, she told me that she had never had this many gifts for her children and that she had never once wrapped them. Her recovery was giving her the chance to provide something for her kids (and honestly, for herself) that she had always wanted.

It was more than just her recovery that provided this chance, however. It was the UMW group that provided the party, it was the donors who bought the gifts, and it was the continued generosity of Arkansas United Methodists that help our programs continue to exist. If you are interested in adopting a wish-list, in helping wrap gifts, in providing a Christmas party, or in some other way helping volunteer and bring Christmas to the kids at Methodist Family Health, we would love to have your participation.

Please contact Amy Shores at ashores@methodistfamily.org. Wish lists will be ready before Black Friday, and we need all gifts back by Dec. 13, in order to get them wrapped and delivered!

Q&A w/ Danielle Adkisson



Tell me about yourself: Where you're from, where you live now, where you went to school, your previous jobs, etc.

I'm originally from Sherwood and graduated high school from Sylvan Hills. I received my degree in Dietetics from U of A-Fayetteville and now live in Conway with my husband and our four furbabies. I taught preschool for eight years before entering my position at Conway First UMC.

What attracted you to the Executive Assistant to the Bishop position?

As an ambitious Methodist woman in administration, what wouldn't attract me to this position?! The challenges, getting to work day in and day out with the Bishop, becoming "the woman behind the scenes" and connecting with everyone in our conference...all of which drew me in.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?

That is a difficult question to answer because I'm looking forward to it all!

What do you like to do when you're not at work?

When I am not at work you will find me in my backyard with my dogs, on a hiking trail with my husband, in the gym, with my tribe of incredible friends or curled up with a cup of coffee & a good book.

Name:
Danielle Adkisson

Hometown:
Conway

Title:
**Executive Assistant
to the Bishop**

Who is someone that inspires you in your daily life and why?

I have a guardian angel who inspires me in every aspect of my life. She was the epitome of a powerhouse and set the (very high) bar of the woman I strive to be. I know she'd be extremely proud of this new chapter in my life.

Home Away From Home

United Methodist Churches in Magnolia Have Worked to Make Students Feel Comfortable at SAU



College students gather for fellowship with a local United Methodist Church in Magnolia. The program pairs college students at SAU with adults in the area who can keep up with the students while they attend school and assist them with basic needs like meals and transportation. || Photo provided by Dan Read

By Sam Pierce

Featured Contributor, [@sjamespierce](https://twitter.com/sjamespierce)

In 2017, in a span of about two weeks, two students at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia committed suicide on campus. In response to the tragedy, Dan Read, the pastor at Greers Chapel United Methodist Church, began a program to pair college students with local families.

“I know what it is like to move far from home and not know anyone in your new environment,” Read said. “So we sent out a school-wide email to all students to let them know about this program and while they are here at Magnolia, we had mentors that would be here for them too.”

He said he quickly realized it was more than what his small church could handle. He said in the first year, there were 20 students wanting to take part, but he only had 12 sponsor families. Other churches have joined the program, including Emerson United Methodist and Magnolia First United Methodist.

“Having someone to turn to, outside the college, and knows the area, especially in the case of international students, and knows the culture here in south Arkansas, has been extremely

beneficial,” Read said. “I know that some of my host families have done everything from taking students out to eat, letting them do laundry at their house and helping them with transportation to and from school.”

He said the main goal of the program is to build relationships between sponsor families and the students. He said most communicate about once a month in person or through emails and phone calls.

“I know that I was unique and when I went to churches, I looked and asked for a mentor,” Read said. “Students don’t really go to churches and ask for help. I thought we could offer that kind of help to them.

“That email that was sent out to every student, it was crucial. I am excited to see it continue to grow over the years.”

David Spradlin, who is on the board of the Wesley Foundation at SAU, was initially hesitant in adopting a college student. “I told (Dan), I had so much going on, that he needed to leave me out of this program,” Spradlin said.

However, when the need for foster families was not being met, Spradlin said he reluctantly joined and adopted two students last year. He enjoyed it so much, he took on six this year.

“We try to meet with them once every two to three weeks,” Spradlin said. “My wife and I contact them at least once during that time – they all have our number.”

“It works pretty well. We tend to do it around meals, usually by going to a meal with them. They are all on board, which is kind of what we hoped for. Most of the students don’t live here, so it is a chance to go eat a meal and visit with someone, that isn’t a teacher or another student.”

“Sometimes, we will have them over at the house and I will grill steaks or some kind of meal for them.”

Read said he appreciates how members of his congregation are involved and invested in the lives of people who are different by generation and by race. “That has been neat to see, the racial diversity, so cross-race boundaries are being broken too,” Read said.

Read said the neat thing about it is how other schools and towns have become interested in the project as well. He said it is a program that could be picked up across the state, connecting churches with college students.

“We are supposed to help them with their challenges,” Spradlin said. “I’m not rich, but I’m fairly well off. I’m well enough to take six college students out for lunch every couple of weeks.”

“We deal with challenges, but as college students, the crises they have are bigger.” He said if his car breaks down, he has to take it to the shop and have it repaired, but if a student’s car breaks down, “that might be the end of the world for them.”

“Whatever the challenges are, we will try to do what we can to help,” Spradlin said. “I think they are looking for someone they can trust and feel comfortable with and not looking to use them in some way.”

“We want to be a safe place.”

Read said it has been a little hard to get people to buy into the program.

“It is not a huge investment, to spend a lunch with a student, it can make all the difference for that student,” he said.

“I think it is doing what it should be doing,” Spradlin said. “I think it does some good, I really do.”

“I have six students and one of them really needs help or assistance and that’s the one you worry about. I worry about the one falling through the crack because you don’t want to lose anyone. Out of the eight that we have dealt with, probably two of them really needed a friend and those are the two that I am here for.”



Photo provided by Dan Read



Part of the Family

Pulaski Heights Has Expanded Their Pet Ministry to Include Grief Support, Educational Classes, and More

By Caleb Hennington
Digital Content Editor, [@arumceditor](#)

This past year, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church's therapy dog training program was so popular, they were forced to put dozens of potential therapy pups and their trainers on a waiting list.

"Every time we put the word out that we were doing another class, the list would fill up immediately," said Gayle Fiser, Pet Ministry Coordinator at Pulaski Heights.

Fiser said the waitlist grew so large, they had to expand their classes into the summer. The spring and fall, seasons when the classes would normally take place, weren't cutting it anymore.

As the church heads into 2020, they are now looking at offering more than just therapy dog training; beginning in November, the church is launching a full pet ministry expansion that covers every facet of a pet owner and their furry friends' lives.

The church is launching three new components to their pet ministry. In addition to therapy dog training in the spring and

fall, Pulaski Heights is offering Care and Support for Pet Owners, Community Service and Educational Programs, and Animal Events.

Each one of these components is intended to break down the traditional barriers placed between pets, their owners, and the church, and find ways to incorporate pets fully into the lives of the church community.

"One of the most important pieces of this expansion is Care and Support for Pet Owners. This will be a support system for pet owners who have pets that are sick or have recently died," Fiser said. "We have a connect card on our church bulletin that has different things you can check for care and support, and we'll be adding 'pet illness' as a box to be checked if you need prayers for your pet."

Pulaski Heights is also looking to hand out pet prayer blankets, similar to prayer shawls, that Fiser says will let pets know they are surrounded by love and prayers.

"They'll be made out of fleece instead of a crocheted blanket, that way they are lightweight and soft, and their nails won't get



Graduates of the therapy dog training program offered by Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church pose for a group photo after being introduced at Sunday morning services at the church. Gayle Fiser, Pet Ministry Coordinator for PHUMC, also announced an expansion to their Pet Ministry during the service on Oct. 27. || Photo provided by PHUMC

caught in them.”

Fiser shared two different examples of how she has seen prayer blankets help sick pets and their families through difficult times. In one instance, the pet had been mauled and seriously injured, but miraculously recovered. Fiser said the family attributes the recovery to the prayers that they and their pet received, and the healing power of the prayer blanket.

In another example, a pet was very sick and passed away, but the prayer blanket that was given to their pet was still a comfort to the family during the illness.

“That prayer blanket was very meaningful to the family, and they kept the blanket even after their pet had died,” Fiser said.

Another aspect of the Care and Support Ministry is offering comfort during a situation where a pet has to be put down by a vet.

“I or someone else can go with the owner to the vet to support them and be able to bless the pet before it is put down. The owner can also call the church office on their way to the vet, and

drive by the church parking lot to have their pets blessed on the way to the vet,” Fiser said.

The Pet Ministry has found ways to comfort pet owners in other ways as well, like pet-specific prayer cards that they can mail or hand out to people with a sick, injured, or dying pet.

“There’s a part of that pet prayer that says ‘we feel a deep sense of loss over the death of our beloved pet that others may not understand,’ and I think that’s an important phrase because pet owners are hurting and we validate their pain.”

Fiser said they have already heard from pet owners that the prayer card has made a huge difference to them during the grieving process.

“We gave this card to a pet owner whose pet had recently passed away, and they put that prayer card next to a picture of their pet in their home. They found a lot of comfort in that simple prayer. It was helpful to them to know that someone cared,” Fiser said.

“So many people feel guilty about being sad about their pet dying because society makes them think that it’s insignificant and

they should not be having these deep feelings of loss over a pet. But when we acknowledge that grief, it's a relief to them. It lets them know it's OK to feel sad."

For the Community Service and Educational Programs aspect of the expansion, Fiser and others are asking pet owners what they would like to see this part of the ministry turn into.

"We may look at setting up adoption events at local animal shelters," she said.

Educational programs are also being planned for the future and may involve having expert speakers come and talk to pet owners about a wide range of topics, such as addressing and stopping bad behaviors in a pet or how to introduce children to a new family animal.

"We might even bring in a professional photographer that can show you how to take the best photos of your pet!" Fiser said.

Building an online resource for pet owners is something that Fiser is hoping can happen in the future. By filming or live streaming the lectures and hosting them on Pulaski Heights' website, they can open up their ministry to young families who might be too busy with work or taking care of their children and pets to attend



Remington, pictured above, and his owner the Rev. Candace Barron went through therapy dog training at PHUMC. Now, they travel around to area nursing homes and hospitals to visit people and offer comfort to those who need it most. || Photo provided by Candace Barron

a lecture in person.

Animals Events, the third aspect of the ministry, has already been implemented by Pulaski Heights thanks to their annual Blessing of the Animals, which takes place every October at the church's Hillcrest campus.

The Blessing of the Animals celebrates the birthday of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint for ecologists who had an unending passion for animals and nature. Each year, people are invited to bring their pet -- whether that's a cat, dog or even a turtle -- and have them blessed by a member of the clergy at PHUMC.

Pulaski Heights' original pet ministry, therapy dog training, is also looking to continue to grow in 2020.

The Rev. Candace Barron and her standard poodle, Remington, are two recent graduates of the Pulaski Heights' therapy dog training.

"I originally went through the training with Remington because I thought it was a great program, but I also saw it as something that I could start at my church as well," Barron said.

Barron is the pastor of two churches in North Little Rock; Amboy UMC and Gardner Memorial UMC.

She said Remington is a rescue and was very shy when she first adopted him, but the training at PHUMC helped him to be more confident around people and dogs he's never met.



PULASKI HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PET MINISTRY

Pets are part of God's creation and Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church recognizes that our pets are also family. The Pet Ministry offers a variety of opportunities to participate in activities with and for our pets as well as support when our pets are ill or pass away.

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

Therapy Dog Training		Pet Prayer Requests		Pet Prayer Blankets
	Blessing of the Animals		Therapy Dog Visits	
Community Service Projects		Pet Loss or Grief Support		Educational Classes for Pet Owners

Loss of Pet



Since going through the training and receiving a certification, Remington and Barron travel to the VA Hospital in North Little Rock each month to visit the patients there, as well as some of the area nursing homes. Remington is able to bring comfort and serve the patients in both the hospital and nursing homes.

“People in nursing homes and veterans hospitals are often dog lovers, but they can’t have a dog where they are. So being able to be around a dog again, even if just for a little while, makes them so happy and you can tell it brings them so much joy,” Barron said.

Fiser said when she counted up every event the therapy dogs had helped with throughout the year -- from visiting nursing homes, hospitals, and

Alzheimer’s patients at home to events like Blue Christmas -- she found that the dogs had put in more than 206 hours of service. Fiser said one of the reasons the idea for a pet ministry has been embraced at Pulaski Heights is because of the church’s clergy who see this as a way to reach people -- specifically, pet owners -- that the church has not yet reached.

“We’re blessed to have an associate pastor -- Rev. Betsy Singleton Snyder -- who has embraced this ministry and sees it as cutting edge in the church,” Fiser said. “All of this is kind of her brainchild; you know, having pets in worship. And our other pastors have embraced it as well since starting our therapy dog training.

“With the pet ministry, I think God is guiding us along through this and we just need to be smart enough to follow.”

Personally, Fiser feels a special attachment to the pet ministry. Not only has she worked with churches to bring pet ministries to two different United Methodist congregations in Arkansas, but she’s also a pet lover herself.

“The part of this that means the most to me is the care and support that we can now offer pet owners. When you have a seriously ill pet or have lost a pet, you understand the need for comfort. It’s such a big part of your life. It’s going to mean so much to people that the church now ministers to that wound and that pain. It just means a lot.”

For more information on Pulaski Heights’ newly launched Pet Ministry, contact Gayle Fiser at 501-766-3810 or gaylefiser100@gmail.com.

Loving God,
Our pets share our hearts and home and quickly become family. They bring laughter, joy, and unconditional love into our lives.

Then, the house is suddenly quiet and still. Oh God, our hearts hurt and we feel a deep sense of loss over the death of our beloved pet that others may not understand. Grant us strength and peace and healing. *Amen.*

An example of a prayer for the loss of a pet. This is just one of the ways PHUMC is expanding their Pet Ministry to include grief and care support for pet owners.



A collection of approximately 15 lit candles, each housed in a hollowed-out coconut shell. The shells are arranged in a scattered pattern across the frame, with some overlapping. The flames are bright yellow and orange, casting a warm, golden glow on the surrounding shells and the dark background. The overall effect is one of soft, ambient light.

*All
Saints'
Day*

Special Recognition

Bishop Kenneth and Elaine Hicks



Kenneth William Hicks
June 18, 1923 - June 19, 2019

Bishop Kenneth William Hicks, 96, died Wednesday, June 19, at his home in Shepherd's Cove in Little Rock amidst his wife and family. He was born as the only child of Earl and Ertie Hicks on June 18, 1923, near Iola, KS, and graduated from high school in 1941. During the early years of World War II, he worked in a Nashville TN airplane factory where bombers were built.

Eventually, he attended junior college, after which he enrolled at York College (NE), completing a B.A. degree. He then enrolled at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, earning his Master of Theology in 1953. Ordained a Deacon in 1952 and an Elder in 1953, Hicks served Methodist churches in Colorado for seven years, and then later in Nebraska including five years as a District Superintendent.

Rev. Hicks met his lovely wife Elaine in college and they married in 1946. From then until he died last Wednesday, they were one another's counsel in all matters.

Hicks was elected to the United Methodist episcopacy in 1976, first serving the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences (merging in 2002 to become the Arkansas Conference). While in Arkansas he established an excellent record of credibility and gained a respectable reputation for leadership in human relations, justice issues, and a respect

for life. He was also called as a plaintiff to testify against the legislation that would have allowed Creation Science to be taught in Arkansas public schools, which was eventually repealed.

In 1984, Bishop Hicks was assigned to the Kansas Episcopal Area, which included the Kansas East and Kansas West Conferences. Again he served for eight years, prodding and challenging the pastors, District Superintendents and laity in his care to innovative and effective approaches to ministry. While there, a Kansas church-affiliated hospital came into a negotiated sale arrangement to a private corporate entity. Though he walked into the developing stages of this sale in his first months in the state, he presided over the consummation of a matter seething with controversy. The hospital is still operating under the name Wesley Medical Center. After retirement, Hicks served on the board of Kansas Health Foundation for eleven years.

In 1992, Ken and Elaine retired back to Arkansas, where he was given an office in Little Rock's PHUMC as Bishop in Residence. Though retired, his services were always in demand and his commitment to issues and causes close to his heart continued to beckon. Ken Hicks served as a member of Arkansas Friends for Better Schools, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Governor's Partnership Council for Children and Families, Advisory Council of Carelink, Interfaith Caregivers Alliance, Bishops' Initiative on Children and Poverty, and the Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He was also a docent at the Clinton Presidential Library, a member of the Steering Committee of Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light. And for several years he was part time director of Ministries of Methodist Family Health.

Ken Hicks' active ministry included membership on the General Board of Church and Society, and the General Board of Global Ministries being chair of the National Division. Committee chairmanships on these boards included Peace with Justice and Chair of the Advisory Committee on Korean Ministry, among others. Notably, Bishop Hicks was in the forefront of the Peace Ministry at PHUMC begun in 2002 focusing on peacemaking and reconciliation. Many of his writings and thoughts were collected, edited and published in a book entitled "Peace Flowing

Like a River" in 2010.

Hicks was granted honorary degrees from Nebraska Wesleyan University, Westmar College, Philander Smith College, Hendrix College, and Baker University. He also served on the Board of Trustees at the latter three schools plus St. Paul School of Theology, Southwestern University, Kansas Wesleyan University, and S. M. U. in Dallas. He also served as a Trustee for Mount Sequoyah Assembly, Youthville Inc., Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Methodist Hospital in Memphis, and Friendly Acres Retirement Center.

His many awards included Civil Libertarian of the Year by the ACLU-Arkansas (1984); the Senator David Pryor Award (1997) for Community Service by CareLink; the Ethel K. Miller Award for Religion and Social Awareness by Hendrix College (1999); and he and Elaine received the Hospice Foundation of Arkansas Compassion Award (1999). He also received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Iliff School of Theology.

Ken is survived by his lovely wife Elaine, who shared their incredible life journey. And they have been proud parents of two very accomplished daughters, Linda Hicks and Debra Gottschalk, who with the late Wayne Gottschalk parented Ken and Elaine's very special grandchildren: Kiley and Spencer. Ken was predeceased by a multitude of beloved pets including Danny.

A special thank you goes out to Ken's caregivers – Andrew, Curtis, Debbie, John, LaTonia, Lucille and T.J., with an appreciative nod to Arkansas Hospice.

A Memorial Service of Resurrection and Thanksgiving to God for Bishop Hicks was held on Friday, June 28, in the sanctuary of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church, 4823 Woodlawn, Little Rock 72205. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his memory to the Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks Peace Endowment at PHUMC; Methodist Family Health, 1600 Aldersgate Road #200, Little Rock 72205; or the Kansas Health Foundation at 309 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67202. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Ruebel Funeral Home, www.ruebelfuneralhome.com.

Lila Elaine Hicks

March 30, 1926 - June 29, 2019

Lila Elaine Hicks was born in Scottsbluff, NE, March 30, 1926 and died June 29, 2019, at her home in Little Rock AR. Elaine was predeceased by her husband, Bishop Kenneth Hicks, and son-in-law, Wayne Gottschalk. Her survivors are daughters Debra Gottschalk of Topeka KS, Linda Hicks of Cabot AR, granddaughter Dr. Kiley Gottschalk (Oren Lee-Parritz) of Waltham, MA, grandson Spencer Gottschalk of Topeka, KS. She became a true Nebraska girl, living in cities throughout the state under the loving gaze of her mother, Martha Magnolia (Nolia) and an abundance of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins who helped define and shape her into a woman who cherished "family". While attending York College in York, Nebraska, where

she pursued teacher education curriculum, she attended an event, in the Fall of 1945, where a student by the name of Ken Hicks was the Master of Ceremonies. She mentioned to a friend she rather liked him. Two days later he called her, they went on a date, became engaged in November 1945 and were married August 11, 1946. After being married nearly 73 years, they decided it was going to last.

The life of a minister's wife was one of adapting, listening, extrapolating, being creative, being objective, being politically correct, knowing and being social ...all while modeling love, grace, intelligence, wisdom and discipline for her daughters, so they could become the best people they could be. With passion,

organization and fortitude, she orchestrated the residential moves which occurred about every four years into parsonages in a variety of floor plans and conditions and communities of various personalities. Working was necessary, so she became a Jill of many trades...a dental assistant, a doctor assistant, a kindergarten teacher, an administrative assistant...and a Master of all. Her love of music and wonderful organizational skills enhanced many roles in the churches.

In the role of a Bishop's wife, she added another job to her resume. Her support of Ken, through facilitating meetings for Bishops and spouses, organizing conference events, organizing Ken for travel...and life, actually..., providing counsel to him, and participating in all facets of the Episcopal wife's duties rounded out the job description.

When the grandchildren were born, life became even richer for her. She guided them with love and joy, becoming the MaaMaw these children needed to navigate this life.

Elaine belonged to many civic and church organizations, including being part of the first group of people serving as proud volunteers at the Clinton Presidential Center and being a member of P.E.O. Through these opportunities, she brought cherished, enduring friendships into her circle of life's abundant gifts.

Animals...she loved them all, from rescued baby birds to feral cats to not feral cats, to butterflies, to parrots, to dogs. Abby, her

rag doll guardian cat of the last 5 years, was a magical gift, a touchstone for Elaine in good, bad and "It's OK" times, a spirit dashing between bedrooms, care-taking her beloved people.

A village of people walked with Elaine through the last phase of her life, including caregivers Andrew, Celeste, Curtis, Debbie, John, Latonia, Lucille, TJ, and Arkansas Hospice. The family offers profound appreciation for the respect, kindness, generosity and compassionate care she was given.

Elaine Hicks was probably more than anyone knew, almost always giving the stage, the credit to her successful husband. However, he would not have been who he was or what he accomplished...nor would her children and grandchildren... without this woman of intelligence, resilience, wisdom, humor, and love...a river of deep, generous love.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to organizations close to Elaine's heart:

Bishop Kenneth W Hicks Peace Endowment at PHUMC, 4823 Woodlawn Drive, Little Rock 72205

An animal rescue organization of your choice.

A celebration service honoring Elaine's life as she transitioned and a service of thanksgiving and resurrection for her husband, Kenneth Hicks, were intertwined, as were they, at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church on Friday, June 28, 2019.



Special Recognition

Euba Mae Harris-Winton

June 26, 1923 - March 11, 2019



Euba was born in June 1923 and died Monday, March 11, 2019. Ms. Euba's achievements and activism are too many to share in one post but here are a few of the many things she accomplished within her community and the United Methodist Church.

From 1970 to 1997, Harris-Winton supervised the Mallalieu Community Development Center, which was part of the Mallalieu Methodist Church. The church's history stretches back to 1886, and Harris-Winton's father pastored at that church for several years in the early 1900s.

Euba served on numerous conference and district committees throughout her lifetime. At the time of her death, Euba was a member of Mission UMC and participated in St. Paul UMC's United Methodist Women.

The Lincoln Echo, May 2001 Edition wrote the following: Her achievements, recognition, and awards could fill a book and

would make for some very inspiring reading. In fact, the book entitled, *Two Centuries of Methodism in Arkansas 1800-2000* by Nancy Britton, makes reference to Euba numerous times, as follows:

And the book "Our Father: Where Are the Fathers?" wrote this about Euba: Because of her ministry to all God's children in the city of Fort Smith, AR, in particular, and the state of Arkansas in general, Euba Mare Harris-Winton, a Black Community developer with the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC, was named one of the 10 matriarchs of Arkansas in 1989.

Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Euba Mae Harris-Winton were Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at First United Methodist Church, 200 N. 15th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901.

Visitation was Monday, March 18, 2019, from 5-6 p.m. at the mortuary.

Jimmie T. Ames

March 12, 1925 - September 16, 2019

Jimmie Dell Tillman Ames died peacefully at her home on September 16, 2019, at the age of 94.

Jimmie was born on March 12, 1925 at Fort Roots in North Little Rock, Arkansas, to J.R. and Ada (Smith) Tillman. She grew up on a peach farm near London, Arkansas, and graduated from Clarksville High School. Jimmie attended College of the Ozarks in Clarksville as well as Hendrix College in Conway. In 1940, she was voted Johnson County Peach Queen (Queen Elberta III), and in 1941, Jimmie (appropriately) won the title of Smile Girl of the Ozarks.



Jimmie married the Rev. G.B. Ames on November 12, 1943, and together they raised two sons and a daughter. Supporting her husband's ministry as a Methodist minister, Jimmie resided in a number of Arkansas towns over the years: Conway, Paragould, Clarendon, Paris, Siloam Springs, Helena, Farmington, and Fayetteville, as well as Dallas and Louisville, Texas. After her husband's death, she settled in Fayetteville where she began work as an office manager for Dr. Joe Henley, and subsequently for Dr. Richard Roblee at Roblee Orthodontics until her retirement in 2007 at the age of 82.

Jimmie was a longtime member of Central United Methodist Church, where she taught the Asbury Sunday School class for over 20 years.

Jimmie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her brother George Tillman, her sister Mary Louise Keeling, and her two sons, Scott Ames and Steve Ames. She is survived by her daughter, Darla Kordsmeier (Larry), her five granddaughters, Kerri Johnson (Mike), Mindy Smith (Stacey), Courtney Hart (Dan), Frankie Fortune (Dale), and Lindsey Ames, as well as 10 great-grandchildren.

Jimmie Dell Tillman Ames endured many trials and difficulties in this life. When asked recently how she could remain so joyful in spite of such hardships, she replied, "Only with the help of the Lord Jesus." Jimmie's faith in the Lord Jesus was the source of her strength and joy. She was always looking for ways to lighten others' loads and to bring peace, joy and light into their lives. One well-known quote asks, "Has ever anyone made so much music in the world by merely passing through it?" Jimmie brought music, love and fun to the lives of everyone she encountered. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, but we rejoice in the knowledge of God's promise that we will see her again.

Tom E. Anderson

September 7, 1931 - December 23, 2018

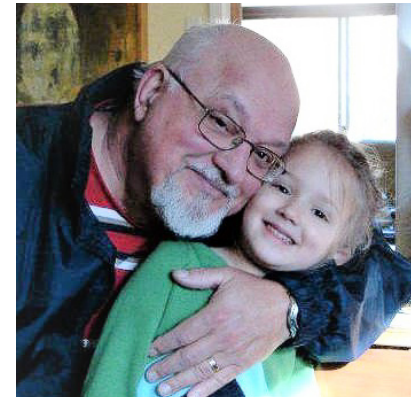
Tom Anderson, 87, passed away on Dec. 23, 2018. He was a retired Navy Senior Chief and then served as a United Methodist Circuit Rider in churches across Northern Arkansas. After retirement, his ministry continued as part of Arkansas Good Sam events, the Fishnet Ministry food bank and Trinity UMC functions for the past 20 years. Visitation was held on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018 at Smith-North Little Rock Funeral Home. The funeral was on Friday, Dec. 28, 2018 at Trinity United Methodist Church followed by burial with military honors at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery.



William "Bill" Bainbridge

August 9, 1940 - March 17, 2019

William Riter (Bill) Bainbridge was born Aug. 8, 1940, in Donora, Pennsylvania, the son of William and Helen Bainbridge. At a young age, his family moved to Waterford, Pennsylvania, near Lake Erie. Bill, and his brother John, grew up playing and fishing in the creek on their property which was a summer resort with cabins for local vacationers. When Bill began school, his mother was his 1st-grade teacher. He was well-liked by his peers and they said, "Everyone liked him. He was really fun!" He excelled at sports and was on the football and wrestling teams.



Bill graduated from Fort LeBoeuf High School in 1958 and joined the United States Navy where he worked repairing and maintaining naval aircrafts. After three years in the Navy, Bill was honorably discharged and returned to Pennsylvania where he attended Slippery Rock College, earning a degree in Health and Physical Education in 1964. Bill taught and coached for a year and then took a job with the General Electric Company in Erie, working in the Personnel Department. He attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and earned a Master's Degree in Education in 1967.

After graduation from the UofA, Bill and his first wife moved

to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he was in the Personnel Department at Whirlpool Corporation. In 1974, the family moved to Clermont-Ferrand, France where Bill worked at the Michelin Tire Corporation International Headquarters. After two years, he returned to Arkansas and set up his own management consulting business in Little Rock; a business he maintained until he retired.

In 1986, Bill and Sara Reynolds were married and moved to Memphis, Tennessee. He and Sara spent the next 32 years together in various locations in Arkansas settling on Bella Vista as a place for retirement. Bill was a fan of science fiction and enjoyed spending time with others. In his retirement, Bill enjoyed fishing, landscape gardening, and creating sculptural folk art. Bill died peacefully at home in his sleep after an extended illness.

Bill was preceded in death by his mother and father.

He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Sara Bainbridge; her daughter and son-in-law, Jenni and Clay Cox, their two children, Parker and Alli; his oldest daughter, Elizabeth Bainbridge and her two children, Ella and Aidan; his youngest daughter, Heather Hackworth and her son, Alex; his brother, John, and wife, Doris and their two children, Todd and Christine.

Rest in peace sweet Bill. We will miss your loving-kindness, creativity, and humor.

A memorial service was held on Friday, March 22, 2019 at First United Methodist Church in Bentonville.

Rosemary Blakely **November 10, 1945 - October 15, 2019**

Rosemary Blakely, 73, of Lake City, wife of Rev. Everett Blakely, went to her Heavenly home from her earthly home in Lake City on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Rosemary and Everett were married February 2, 1987.



Rosemary was born November 10, 1945, in Vail, Arkansas, to Raymond and Nellie Juanita Eldridge. She served along with her husband as a United Methodist pastor's wife in Colt, Forest Chapel-Forrest City, Shiloh-Jonesboro and Marmaduke-First, United Methodist Churches.

Rosemary was a member of Lake City United Methodist Church and enjoyed her flower gardens and spending time hosting family in her home.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her parents: Raymond and Juanita Goodman Eldridge; a daughter, Angela Acosta; a son, Raymond (Henry) Martin; granddaughter, Summer Maddox; great grandson, Devin Martin; 2 brothers: James Eldridge and Charles Eldridge; and a daughter-in-law, Sandi Martin.

Survivors include: her husband of 32 years, Rev. Everett Blakely of the home; one son, Kenny Martin of Mountain Home; one daughter, Melinda Maddox of Arizona; three brothers: Duwayne Eldridge (Bonnie) of Lake City, Tony Eldridge (Karen) of Bay and Jacky Eldridge (Patricia) of Hardy; five grandchildren: Adina Hogue (Jared), Starleigh Richardson (Steve), Terri Grimm (Kevin), Hanna Richards and Colin Richards; 11 great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Funeral services were in Emerson Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Jerry Reed and Carolyn Bounds officiating. Burial followed in Shiloh Cemetery north of Jonesboro.

Active pallbearers include Jeff Eldridge, Nathan Eldridge, Brian Eldridge, Keith Eldridge, Brayden Eldridge, Graham Eldridge and Neil Eldridge.

For lasting memorials, the family asks that consideration be given to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Edward Cary Blythe Jr. **February 19, 1932 - February 24, 2019**

The Rev. Ed Blythe met our Lord on Feb. 24, 2019.



While finishing Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, he served Capital Methodist in Dallas, College Mound in Terrell, Texas, and one year as associate pastor at First United Methodist in Irving, Texas.

At Conference, he was appointed to First United Methodist Church in Farmers Branch in Dallas. He then served nine years at Lake Highlands United Methodist Church in Dallas and six years at Sherman UMC, followed by pastorates at Paris, Wichita Falls and Irving, Texas.

Ed and Marion served First UMC at Magnolia, Arkansas and then he was appointed District Superintendent by Bishop Wilkie at Hope, Arkansas where he retired.

W. Darrel Bone

January 29, 1933 - January 2, 2019

The Rev. William “Darrel” Bone, 85, of Bryant passed away Jan. 2, 2019. He was born on Jan. 29, 1933, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the Rev. W.T. and Ruth Bone. Darrel, graduate of Hendrix College, received his call to preach in 1955. His active ministry in the Methodist Church spanned 50 years serving churches in Bryant, Little Rock, Texarkana, Prescott, and Glenwood.



Darrel is survived by his wife of 61 years, Zetha Camp Bone; son, Harold Bone and wife Perry; daughter, Ruth Ellen Epperson and husband Steven; and seven grandchildren, Lucas, Skylar, and Allison Epperson and Austin, Joshua, Charlie and James Bone.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, Jan. 10 at First United Methodist Church, Bryant, Arkansas.

Treccie Cook

October 10, 1929 - August 10, 2019

Treccie Dee Lammers Cook, 89, of Searcy completed her earthly journey on August 10, 2019. She was born October 10, 1929 in El Paso to the late Cecil E. and Emily Middleton Lammers. She met the love of her life, a handsome curly-headed young man who attended her 16th birthday party and she always said he would not leave until he told her “one day I am going to marry you” and Charles E. Cook held true to his promise and did just that. They were married at the Searcy, First United Methodist Church. Cook preceded her in death on August 19, 1972 in Dallas, Texas.



Treccie was a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church in Searcy where she was active in many different capacities. She served as a Local Pastor for the Arkansas Conference where she was appointed to the Oak Grove/Gum Springs Charge in 1993 and served there until 1996. In 1996 she was appointed as Associate Pastor at Searcy First United

Methodist Church and served there until she retired in 2000. Even though on paper she retired, she never stopped serving. She continued her work through the Emmaus Communities in Arkansas and led many Women’s Retreats across the state.

She is survived by her sons Charles Glenn (Sandra) Cook of Cabot and Keith Edwin Cook of Sherwood; her grandchildren, Jacob Gates, Corrie (Waylon) Edge and Joshua Cook along with a host of loving friends which she thought of as her family.

Funeral services were Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at First United Methodist Church in Searcy. Interment followed at White County Memorial Gardens in Searcy. All services are under the direction of Roller-Daniel Funeral Home, Searcy. In Lieu of flowers, the family has requested Memorials be made to a Charity or Organization of your choice.

George Corbett

June 2, 1934 - June 24, 2019

George Corbett was born June 2, 1934 to George James Corbett and Ruth Shields Corbett of Texarkana, AR.



He graduated from Texarkana, Arkansas High School and attended LSU in Baton Rouge, LA. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1955, became a

Russian Language technician, serving in the National Security Agency and Air Force Security Service. He was stationed on an island in the Sea of Japan and flew Reconnaissance Missions intercepting and translating Russian transmissions.

In 1959, He returned to Texarkana, married Jamie Grimes in Fairview Methodist Church. He was a Computer Analyst for NCR when the Computer Industry was in its infancy. Later he was co-owner with his wife Jamie of Jamie Corbett’s Music World in Texarkana until 1986 when God called him into the Ministry. He attended SMU School of Divinity and served in the Arkansas Conference. He pastored Hatfield, Wicks, Vandervort, Cove, Dierks, Few, Holly Springs, Stamps and First UMC Texarkana as Associate until retirement. After retiring from the AR Conference, he served 5 Churches in the Texas Conference.

In 2005, He and Jamie moved to West Memphis, AR where they became active in First United Methodist Church there.

He is survived by his wife, Jamie; a son, Jeffery Grimes Corbett of West Memphis; a daughter, Jennifer Ziegenhon Campbell (John); two grandchildren, Whitney Ziegenhon and Walker Campbell of Germantown, TN.

Mary Ann Davis

August 17, 1934 - September 23, 2019

Mary Ann Traylor Davis, 85, of Conway, Arkansas, died Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, surrounded by family and friends.

Born Aug. 17, 1934, in Augusta, Arkansas, Ann was the daughter of A.R. “Pop” and Marian B. Traylor. She married the love of her life, Rev. Lamar Davis, on June 21, 1955, in Little Rock, and enjoyed 49 years with him before his death in 2004.

Ann had a lifelong commitment in service to and care of others. She was an active member of the United Methodist Church, serving not only as a pastor’s wife but as a member or leader of various committees and related organizations. She had a “call” to be a Stephen Minister, and was an active member of the United Methodist Women, Church Women United, and the Methodist Federation for Social Action.

Ann helped to educate children in three different states as an elementary education teacher, mostly in fifth grade. She extended her commitment to education as a member of PEO, Chapter CA, and as a Sunday school teacher and facilitator of other church classes. She also served within her community as a founding board member and past president of the Women’s Shelter of Central Arkansas, and Democratic Women. Ann supported many charities that aided in sustainability, reduction of poverty, and those in need.

Ann cherished her family, not only as mom, grandmother, aunt or cousin but as a friend, too. She held dear many friends, of all ages and interests. She looked forward to gatherings of all kinds – music, book club, bridge, supper group, birthday club, lunch group. Later in life, Ann said she found her true calling – as a grandmother, to her own, the neighborhood kids, and many others, cheering them in their accomplishments and lifting them up with her love.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her brother, A.R. “Boots” Traylor. She is survived by her daughter, Leigh (Bruce) Walls; her son, Alan (Lisa) Davis of Kenya; her grandchildren, Micah Davis, Luke Walls, Claya Davis, and Tyler Davis; and several nieces and cousins.

A memorial service was held at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 30, 2019, at First United Methodist Church in Conway, with Dr. Michael Roberts officiating.

Mark Donald

February 15, 1954 - September 21, 2019

Mark Hightower Donald, of Harrison, passed from this life on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019 at his home. He was 65 years old.



A memorial service was held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Harrison, AR at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Rocky Starnes, Pastor Mike Bishop, and Pastor Dave Smith officiated. Honorary pallbearers are the Men’s Breakfast Group from St. Paul’s United Methodist Church.

The son of Adlia Stevenson Donald, Jr. and Gene (Hightower) Donald was born on Feb. 15, 1954 in Durant, MS.

Mark graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor’s degree in music education. He was an established musician and enjoyed traveling, the Drum and Bugle Corps, and loved his Mississippi State Bulldogs. Mark pastored churches in Mississippi and Arkansas for 22 years, most recently at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church and the Diamond City United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife of 25 years, Cindy Donald; one sister, Lyn Donald; and one brother, Steve Donald; a fur baby, Mark nicknamed, “Monkey Butt”; best friends, Rusty and Sharon Cauthen; an honorary grandchild, Lettie Bessonette; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and his church families.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul’s UMC, PO Box 355 Harrison, AR 72602 or to the First United Methodist Church of Goodman, PO Box 246, Goodman, MS 39079.



Mary Lou Doom

September 9, 1930 - May 7, 2019

Mary Lou Doom (nee Conner), of Saint Peters, MO, passed away Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at the age of 88. Loving wife of the late Robert I. Doom, Sr.; beloved daughter of the late Everett Ausby and Margie Rhea Conner; devoted mother of Robert I. Doom, Jr., James Doom, John (Mei) Doom, and David



Doom; cherished grandmother of Steven Everett (Danielle) Doom, Jacqueline Elizabeth (Chris) Hull, and David Liu Doom; great-grandmother of Caleb Russell Hutchings, Jacob Stephen Doom, Ashton James Doom, Gage Kenneth Doom, Brianna Lynn Doom, Macie Lee Schweppe, and Lucy Lynn Hull; dear sister of Charlene (the late Simos) Ioannou and Helen (the late Reno) Sotiriou.

Mary Lou was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. In 1952, Mary Lou married the love of her life, Robert and they were married for 61 years. They met at the School of the Ozarks in Branson, MO. Both Mary Lou and Robert were the first from Carroll County, AR to receive both a high school and a college degree. She was a choir member at church and moved all around the country with her husband as he preached at numerous Presbyterian and Methodist churches. Mary Lou was an English teacher in secondary education. Being a college graduate was very important to her and she made sure that all four of her children were college graduates. Mary Lou was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Memorials may be made in Mary Lou's honor to the Parkinson's Foundation.

William Payne "Dub" Fiser

July 31, 1924 - May 18, 2019

The Rev. William Payne "Dub" Fiser, 94, departed this earthly life on Saturday, May 18, 2019 in Little Rock under the care of Hospice.

Dub was born July 31, 1924 in Sweet Home, Pulaski County, Arkansas to Robert Payne Fiser and Mable Esther Dixon Fiser. During his senior year at Fuller High School, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and



the United States declared war. Dub enlisted in the Army Air Corp in the summer of 1942 after his 18th birthday and was trained first as an aircraft mechanic and then as a Cadet for pilot training. He completed training as a B-24 pilot and was then moved to B-29's. He was stationed in El Paso, Texas and was standing outside on the flight line early one morning in July 1945 when he saw a huge flash in the Northern sky, the first test of an atomic bomb.

After the war, he returned to Sweet Home and tried farming with his father but the boll weevils destroyed their crops two years in a row so he sought other work. He married Golma Irene Daniel on Dec 18, 1948 and they eloped to Benton. He went to work for his uncle Paul Dixon and Harold Balios at Dixon Dairy where he started with delivering milk and then graduated to working in the business office. He had a religious conversion and was called to become a Methodist Minister, attending college at what is now UALR while continuing to work at Dixon Dairy including loading milk trucks at 4 AM. Golma and Dub's only child, William Payne Fiser, Jr., was born on Feb. 18, 1953. Dub attended seminary at SMU Perkins School of Theology in a nontraditional pathway going to summer school for 6 years which meant moving to Dallas every summer. Dub officially became Reverend Fiser in 1958 and was fully ordained in 1964.

During his ministry Dub served many churches, including Brasfield on Cache River; Pride Valley, now Highland Valley; the Hickory Plains Circuit which included Hickory Plains, Johnson Chapel, Cross Roads, Hebron, Old Austin, Bethlehem, and Providence; Tigert in Hot Springs, including Fountain Lake and Morning Star; Elaine, including Mellwood and Wabash Federated Church; Wesley in Springdale, including Mt. Hebron; Rosewood in West Memphis; St. Paul in Jonesboro, including Mount Carmel; and Trinity in North Little Rock. After retiring he served as visitation minister at St. Paul in Little Rock.

Dub was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Golma Irene Daniel Fiser, who passed away in 2010, Georgia Mae Russenberger, his wife who passed away in 2015, his parents, and his younger brother, Thomas Edwin Fiser.

Dub's legacy will be cherished by his son William Payne Fiser, Jr. MD and wife Gina; his three grandchildren, Rachel Fiser Klotzman and husband Spencer in Victoria, Texas, Christian Cole Fiser and wife Amber in Little Rock, and Elizabeth Payne Fiser in Rogers; his three great-grandchildren, Eliza Claire Klotzman, Christian Cole Fiser, and Hollis Claire Fiser; his two younger sisters, Margaret Elizabeth Langston and Esther May Poulin; and many nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Roller-Chenal Funeral home on Chenal Parkway. The funeral service and burial was held on Friday, May 24, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Primrose United Methodist Church on Dixon Road. Pallbearers will be Cole Fiser, Spencer Klotzman, David Fiser, Lance Schmidt, Brad Daniel, Austin Calhoun, John Wayne Daniel (honorary), John Scott Daniel (honorary), Harold Balios (honorary), and Drew Illing (honorary). In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Primrose United Methodist Church or the Primrose Cemetery Association.

Clarence O. "Dooley" Fowler October 8, 1942 - January 14, 2019

C.O. "Dooley" Fowler, age 76 of Bryant passed away Monday, Jan. 14, 2019.

He was born Oct. 8, 1942 in Memphis, Tennessee and was raised in Grenada, Mississippi to the late Clarence Odell Fowler, Sr., and Erin Carroll Fowler. He was a United Methodist Pastor for 19 years.



He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Jerry O'Neal Fowler.

Survivors are his wife Janet Fowler, his brother Doug and Karen Fowler; son Micheal and Gwen Fowler-Berken; daughters Christy and Heather Fowler, son Trey and Lori Fowler, bonus kids Lindy and Richard, grandkids: Meesha, Mickey and Luke; Wyatt and Mason; Gage and Drake; Mitchell, Zeke and Micah and great-grandkid Alice and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held at Parkview United Methodist Church in Benton on Feb. 28.

In Lieu for Flowers Dooley wants to follow his love for children and ask for donations to CJCOHN (Churches Joint Council on Human Needs) 103 Elm Street Benton, AR. 72015 to provide food for children in the surrounding area and region.

William K. Goddard May 13, 1929 - November 21, 2018

William K. Goddard Jr left this earth to join his beloved creator on Nov. 21, 2018. He was preceded in death by his two sons, William Kenneth Goddard III and William Freely Goddard; both parents, William Kenneth Goddard, Sr. and Ida Viola Street Goddard; and his three siblings, Ansel Griffin, Richard Goddard and Louise Cook. He leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Rev. Dr. Iva Carol Smith Goddard; his daughter, Elise (Lisa) Henson (Steve); his youngest son, Clayton Hall Goddard (Amy); four grandchildren, Lauren Elise Underwood, William Greyson Goddard, John Grant Goddard and Owen Griffen Goddard;



and much loved nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

William (also known as W. K., Bill, or "Peepaw" to his grandchildren) was born May 13, 1929 in Grand Junction, Tennessee. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in soil science. Upon graduation, Goddard worked for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (USSCS) in Montana. During the Korean War, he was enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After his service to our country, he rejoined the USSCS, working in both Colorado and Tennessee. In 1961, he was hired by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Mr. Goddard served as a soil and water chemist, working out of offices in both Ozark and Russellville, Arkansas. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service after more than 35 years of service. Much of his work involved soils, watershed, and water quality projects in the Ozark and St. Francis National Forests. During this time, Goddard played a significant role in the opening of Blanchard Caverns in Mountain View, Arkansas.

In addition to his occupational contributions, Mr. Goddard also served the communities where he lived through his work as a member of the United Methodist Church, the Ozark Lions Club (Past President), the Toastmasters, and the North Little Rock Optimist Club.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018 at Moore's Funeral Home of Jacksonville, Arkansas. Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville, Arkansas. Burial services were held on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018 in Grand Junction, Tennessee.

Paige Shields Gustin December 28, 1973 - February 27, 2019

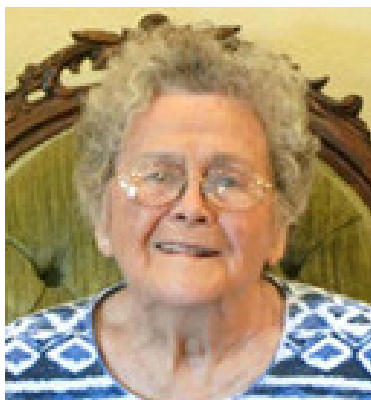
Paige Elizabeth Gustin, age 45 of Searcy, died Wednesday, Feb. 27 in Searcy. She was born Dec. 28, 1973 in Little Rock to Billy Ray Shields and Donna Jean Barnett Shields. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, currently attending Asbury Theological Seminary, a Hendrix University alumnus, and a Masonic Lodge Rainbow Girl. She is survived by her husband of 23 years, Shawn Gustin; two sons, Morgen Tayler Gustin and Brennan Wade Gustin, all of Searcy; parents, Bill and Donna Shields of Mayflower; parents-in-law, Randy and Amy Gustin of Searcy; and a host of loving aunts, uncles, cousins, two nieces and one sister-in-law. She was a loving mother and friend to all. Visitation and funeral services were held at Searcy First United Methodist Church.



Helen Covell Henderson

April 11, 1930 - September 30, 2018

Our beloved and precious Helen C. Henderson, 88, of Murfreesboro, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 30, at home surrounded by family and loved ones. She was born on April 11, 1930 in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, the daughter of the late Osco Taylor and Myrtle O. Hignight Lingo.



Helen was a life-long member of the First United Methodist Church, served on the cemetery board, and was very involved in her church and community.

She was a loving devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and Nannie to everyone. Her passions were her husband, family, church, community and she loved her garden. Her pride and joy was her weekly Sunday lunches and her precious family who rarely missed a meal. If asked, she might say “we had 27 today for Sunday dinner.”

Mrs. Helen was preceded in death by her best friend and soul mate of more than 69 years, Rev. Freeman Henderson; her parents; brothers, John Lingo, L.C. Lingo, Joe Eldon Lingo, Marion Lingo, Frank Lingo, Randolph Lingo; sisters, Janie Lou Nevels, Dora Smead; and two infant brothers. Survivors include Bill and Dian Henderson of Murfreesboro, Jim and Susan Henderson of Delight, Mark Henderson of Murfreesboro, and daughter Christy Coccarelli of Murfreesboro; grandchildren, Todd and Mariel Henderson of Benton, Amy and David Lott of Delight, Kayla and Aaron Thompson of Texarkana, Matt Taylor of Eureka Springs, Zach Taylor of Los Angeles, Jade and Craig Ledesma of Arkadelphia, and Cory Coccarelli of Murfreesboro. Great-grandchildren include Adam Lott, Valorie Lott, Brian and Anita Lott, Erica and Chad Staggs, Hadley Staggs, Evan Henderson, Aiden Henderson; sisters-in-law, Doris Lingo of Nashville, Mary Lou Lingo of Murfreesboro, Darla Lingo of Birmingham and Patsy Trout of Galveston.

She is also survived by her best friend, Joyce Woodruff, and her faithful companion, Cricket. Numerous nieces, nephews and cousins to cherish her loving memory but, as we all know, she was the sweetest lady you would ever have the pleasure of being loved by.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Oct. 2 at Latimer Funeral Home, Murfreesboro. Services were Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, with Bro. Michael Daniel, Bro. Al Terrell and Bro. Jim Henderson officiating. Burial followed in the Murfreesboro Cemetery under the direction of Latimer Funeral Home in Murfreesboro.

Richard R.T. Jarrell

October 5, 1933 - July 22, 2019

Richard Turner “RT” Jarrell, 85, of Hot Springs Village was doing God’s work as a minister since 1955, until God welcomed him home on July 22, 2019. He was born in Wichita Falls, TX to the late Clifford Jack and Mary Margaret (Stewart) Jarrell.



RT Jarrell spent his life in service to others; he loved people. He loved Jesus. The story of his life was written in chapters that were centered around the churches he led for over 49 years. In 2004, Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church honored him with the title Pastor Emeritus. This affirmation filled the final years of his life with great joy. His greatest pleasure was investing his life and resources in his family, other pastors, and local churches he served. He will be remembered for his compassion, his sense of humor, patience, and great hugs. His loving influence will be missed. His life was a blessing.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother Jack Jarrell; and great-grandson, Micah Scott Kester. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Dejuana Jarrell of Hot Springs Village; sons Richard Jarrell of Hot Springs Village, Jack Jarrell (Laura) of Woodinville, WA; and David Jarrell (Joy) of Kent, WA; daughter Sharon Kester (Jerry) of Olympia, WA; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, 12:30 pm- 2:00 pm at Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church in Hot Springs Village with service immediately following at 2:00 pm. Rev. Sieg Johnson, Rev. Jerry Kester, Rev. Sheila Jones, and Rev. Carol Stewart will be officiants and burial will be held at Cedarvale Cemetery in Hot Springs Village.

Pallbearers include Richard Jarrell, Jack Jarrell, David Jarrell, Adam Jarrell, Wayne Jarrell, and Jerry Kester.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Memorial Fund at Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church.



Bill R. Kelton

July 16, 1928 - May 18, 2019

Bill R. Kelton, was born July 16, 1928 in Black Jack, Oklahoma and went home to be with the Lord Saturday, May 18, 2019 in a local nursing home. He was a retired Methodist Minister having served churches in Hartford, Midland and Hackett as well as City Heights and New Hope in Van Buren and retired from Heritage Church as Pastoral Care Pastor. He was preceded in death by his parents, W.R. and Mary (Ross) Kelton; two sisters, Ruby King and Gwen Haggard; one brother, M.B. Kelton.

Memorial service was held Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at Heritage United Methodist Church in Van Buren under the direction of Ocker Funeral Home in Van Buren.

He is survived by his wife, Emma Lee (Hammontree) Kelton of the home; two sons, Steve Kelton of Van Buren and Kevin Kelton of Fort Smith; three grandchildren, Amanda Davis and husband, Matt of Beebe, Daniel Kelton and wife, Tara of Greenwood, Kelsey Kelton of Rogers; four great-grandchildren, Georgia and Jack Davis of Beebe, Charlie and Chase Kelton of Greenwood.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial contribution may be made to the Heritage Church Building Fund, 1604 East Pointer Trail, Van Buren Arkansas 72956.

Susan A. Kemp

December 16, 1941 - October 28, 2018

Susan A. Kemp, 76, of Surfside Beach, died Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018 at Embrace Hospice House with her daughter, Mia, by her side, holding her hand.

Susan was born in Trenton, Michigan. She was the daughter of the late Edwin Ross and Beatrice Guilley.

Susan was a retired United Methodist Minister from the Arkansas Conference. She was a graduate of Henderson University, Southern Methodist University and graduated cum laude from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. She had a deep love for God and appreciation for music, animals and the ocean. She was also an artist and musician and was very patriotic. Susan had the unique ability to make friends anywhere she went.

In addition to her parents, Susan is preceded in death by her two grandchildren.

Susan is survived by four daughters, Laura Marie, Angela Marie, Christina Marie, and Mia Marie; two brothers, Patrick & Michael Ross; as well as eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and her loving dog Gracie.

A graveside service was held on Monday, Nov. 12, 2018 in the Belin UMC church Cemetery in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

Robert Langley

July 26, 1934 - August 5, 2019

Robert E. Langley of Batesville, Arkansas passed away on August 5, 2019, at the age of 85. He was preceded in death by his father Vernie Langley, Sr., his mother, Lou Ethel Hunter Langley, and his brother Morris Langley. He is survived by wife Marcella Brumley Langley, daughter Jill Hilton (Ricky) of Batesville; one granddaughter Emily Hilton of Fayetteville and one brother Vernie (Kathy) Langley of Dalark.



Robert (Bob) obtained his undergraduate degree from Henderson State University and his Master of Theology from Southern Methodist University. He served as a Senior Pastor for churches in North Texas and in Arkansas for 45 years and was Pastor Emeritus of First United Methodist Church Batesville. He served two terms as a board member at Hendrix College and was a 32-degree Mason.

Visitation will be from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 8th, at First United Methodist Church Arkadelphia. Memorial service will follow at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Dalark United Methodist Church or First United Methodist Church Batesville.

Albert W. "Bill" Martin

June 6, 1930 - January 9, 2019

Albert William (Bill) Martin, Jr. passed away peacefully in Waverly, Ohio on Jan. 9, 2019. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee on June 6, 1930 to Albert William Martin, Sr. of Pea Ridge, Arkansas and Sallie Hairston Martin of Conway, Arkansas. Bill grew up in Arkansas and moved to Dallas, Texas, where he graduated as valedictorian from Highland Park High School in 1948. He graduated from Southern Methodist University (1951) and Union Theological Seminary (1954). He completed an MA (1961) and Ph.D. (1971) at Vanderbilt University. While at Vanderbilt, Bill and his wife, Bea, participated in the Nashville sit-in movement and helped to organize student protests.



In the early 1950s, Bill was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Church and later became an elder. He was admitted in the North Arkansas Conference of the Methodist Church in the mid-1950s, and served as pastor or youth minister for numerous churches from 1951-54, including the Jerico Springs Circuit of the Southwest Missouri Conference of the Methodist Church, the Scurry Circuit of the Texas Conference of the Methodist Church, First Methodist Church in New Rochelle, New York, and First Methodist Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He was pastor of the Methodist Church in Green Forest, Arkansas from 1954-56; Denton's Chapel Methodist Church in Whites Creek, Tennessee from 1961-64; and associate pastor at Centenary United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tennessee from 1970-71. He was pastor of Santa Cruz United Methodist Church in Española, New Mexico from 1978-81.

During his teaching career, Bill worked for the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, which later became the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He held numerous positions at Methodist or United Methodist-related schools from 1956-81, including Robinson School of San Juan, Puerto Rico; the Navajo Methodist Mission School of Farmington, New Mexico; and McCurdy School of Española, New Mexico. Bill taught at seminaries including the Centro Evangélico Unido in Mexico City from 1965-69, and the Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, 1971-77. He taught classes for pastors at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, and at their extension center at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Bill was a professor at Oklahoma City University (OCU) from 1981-98, where he served one year as Acting Dean of the Wimberly School of Religion and was named Professor Emeritus upon his retirement.

Bill's publications include his book, *A Diary of Devotion: A Month with John and Charles Wesley*, and multiple articles in journals such as *Methodist History*, *New Mexico Historical Review*, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, *Quarterly Review*, *Studia Liturgica*, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, *The Craighead County Historical Quarterly*, *Flashback* and *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. He wrote occasional guest columns for the *United Methodist News Service*, the *Arkansas United Methodist* and the *United Methodist Reporter*. One of Bill's articles published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* received the Muriel H. Wright Award for the "outstanding article" in 2000.

Bill was one of the founders and early chairpersons of Amnesty International Chapter 238 in Oklahoma City, and served as President of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. He and his wife, Bea, received a lifetime service award from the Coalition. Both were arrested numerous times and jailed on one occasion following demonstrations against the death penalty in Oklahoma.

Bill actively supported the Reconciling Ministries Network and the Methodist Federation for Social Action, both unofficial United Methodist organizations. This support included participation in committees at Epworth United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City and St. John's United Methodist Church in Lubbock, Texas that petitioned the General Conference of the denomination to become more fully open in

its acceptance of LGBTQ persons. As a citizen, he supported Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, and numerous other organizations.

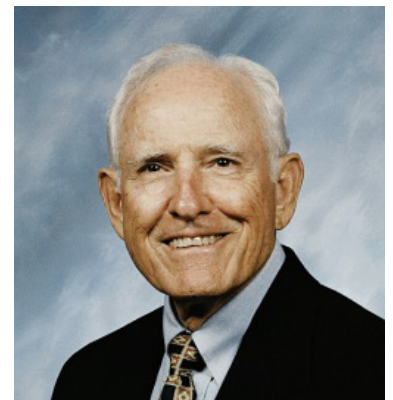
Bill and Bea moved to Waverly, Ohio in 2013 and became members of Broad Street United Methodist Church in Columbus and Orchard Hill United Church of Christ in Chillicothe. As a resident of Bristol Village, Bill was active in the Faith & Values group and the Religious Liberal Fellowship.

Bill is preceded in death by his two sisters, Mattie Sue Emerson and Betty Jane Anderson. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Annie Beatrice (Bea) Martin née Williamson of Philadelphia, Mississippi, and their three children, Sara Lee (Sally) Delgado (husband, José Delgado) of Athens, Ohio; Andrew William Martin (wife Christina Ashby-Martin) of Lubbock, Texas; and Anthony Lloyd Martin of Ashland, Oregon. Bill is also survived by his two grandchildren, Alejandro Delgado (wife Lauren Delgado) of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Alma Ann (Annie) Martin, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A memorial service to celebrate Bill's life was held Saturday, Jan. 19 in the assisted living activity room of Traditions at Bristol Village in Waverly, Ohio, with the Rev. Terry D. Williams officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Amnesty International, Bread for the World, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Reconciling Ministries Network (UMC), the Pike County Outreach Council in Waverly, or a local food bank. Bill's remains will be buried in the cemetery of Pea Ridge, Arkansas where his parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and many other relatives are buried.

James M. Meadors Jr. **May 23, 1929 - December 9, 2018**

Jim Meadors, the son of Son and Stella Meadors was born in Alma. He graduated from Alma High School, then attended John Brown University and graduated from the College of the Ozarks while serving as pastor to the Lamar Methodist Church. During this time, in 1951, Jim married Ella Mae Odom of Lamar, a marriage of 67 years. Jim received his Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University and during this time was the pastor of Bellevue Methodist Church in Bellevue, Texas.



Jim was the pastor of many different churches all over the North Arkansas Annual Conference. He was conference secretary for many years. Jim served twice as a district superintendent and was the director of the council office for the North Arkansas

Conference. Jim was also a delegate to the United Methodist General Conference.

Jim and Ella Mae had two sons, James M. Meadors III (Dianne) and Stephen O. Meadors. They have five grandchildren, Trevor, Cory (Alyson), Tyler (Lindsay), Ranzie and Kathlynn. Jim and Ella Mae have five great-grandchildren.

The memorial service for Jim Meadors was held at Goddard United Methodist Church.

David M. Moore

September 19, 1949 - May 1, 2019

David Moody Moore Jr., born September 19, 1949 in Little Rock to David Moody Moore and Jane Frances Paschal, passed away May 4, 2019 at the age of 69. After graduating from high school he attended UALR and the UAMS College of Health Related Professions School of Radiologic Technology where he began a long, rewarding and impactful career at UAMS. He first began as a radiology tech performing special procedures with Dr. Joseph Bissett, advancing later to Associate Director of Patient Care, overseeing special projects and day to day operations of Radiology, MRI and PET facilities. During his 50 years at UAMS, David cared deeply for the quality of patient care and understood excellence which he pursued to the highest degree. He was most recently named to the committee overseeing floor additions to the UAMS Cancer Research Center in its quest for national recognition. David simultaneously pursued a second career in the ministry, attending SMU Perkins School of Theology and working as an Associate Pastor at Highland Valley UMC from 1989 to 1995, then transferring to Asbury UMC in 1995 as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care until his retirement in 2015.



David had many friends and was beloved and adored by all. He had a special gift for bringing strength, joy and laughter to others. He will be greatly missed; many hearts are broken, but we rejoice in his heavenly reunion with his Lord and Savior and with his parents and others who have gone before him. He had a deep faith and knew the power of God's love and grace which he freely shared with others.

Preceded in death by his parents, David is survived by his deeply loved wife, Melissa; his three sons by marriage, David, Matthew and John Michael Lee, all of Little Rock; sister, Frances Ann Barre; two beloved nieces, Clare Lauer and Lara Garmon; and five great-nieces and nephews.

Services were held on Thursday, May 9 at 11 a.m. at Asbury

United Methodist Church, officiated by Rev. Tom Weir. Memorials may be made to Asbury UMC, 1700 Napa Valley Dr., Little Rock, Ark. 72212. Arrangements by Little Rock Funeral Home, 8801 Knoedl Ct., (501) 224-2200. David's online guestbook may be signed at www.littlerockfuneralhome.com.

Mary Ellen Murray

November 27, 1924 - April 2019

Mary Ellen Pendleton Murray was born Nov. 27, 1924, daughter to the late Bill and Gladys Pendleton of North Little Rock, Ark. Mary Ellen grew up in North Little Rock attending local schools, graduating from Old Main High School and then attending John Brown University with her brother Edmund.



JBU offered the Pendletons a two for one deal so that Mary Ellen could attend college! After marrying her high school sweetheart, Alvin Curtis Murray Jr., Mary Ellen transferred to Hendrix College where Alvin was enrolled and attended with him until Alvin's graduation. As Alvin began his ministry with the United Methodist Church, Alvin and Mary Ellen began building a family, first in Texas and then in Arkansas. As Mary Ellen tells it, they lived in so many wonderful small towns around Arkansas and were well-loved by all their congregations. Mary Ellen had a beautiful singing voice (a Pendleton family trait) and always participated in the church choir as well as the women's ministries of their many churches. The Pendleton clan were avid supporters of vaudeville and always had a song and dance for every occasion, which Mary Ellen continued until her last days. Even in the emergency room on her last hospital visit she was tap dancing and singing while sitting in a wheelchair - ever the entertainer to the end.

Mary Ellen is preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Alvin C. Murray Jr, her brother, Edmund Pendleton, her sister, Jean Pendleton Rice and William (Bill) Rice. Survivors include her five children, Lt. Col. Alvin C. Murray III (Frances) of Hot Springs Village, Ark., Stephen M. Murray (Butch) of Hughes, Ark., Nanci E. Kellams (Kevin) of Fayetteville, Ark., Samuel W. Murray (Patty) of Chicago, Ill., and Rev. Raymond Alvin Kahng of Boston, Mass. grandchildren include Christy Bray (Scott) of Little Rock, Leslie Rice (Ryan) of Phoenix, Dee Brister (Paul) of Collierville, Rupert Murray (Maren) of Chicago, and Grace Kellams of Fayetteville. Great-grandchildren include Jennifer and Elizabeth Bray, Sam, Riley and Maya Rice, and Hugh Brister. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Mary Lou Pendleton of Enid, Okla. and her niece, Carol Rice Reel of Colorado Springs, Colo.

The family wishes to thank her many friends and the great staff at Brookdale Pleasant Hills Senior Living for the last 20 years of loving Mary Ellen as well as her friends at Asbury United

Methodist for your love and support.

A graveside service was held for family only at Edgewood Cemetery in North Little Rock followed by a celebration of life at 2 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church in Little Rock with a reception immediately following in the great hall. Rev. Mary Hilliard officiated, Ruebel Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to: Asbury United Methodist Church, 1700 Napa Valley Dr., Little Rock, Ark. 72212 or Hendrix College, 1600 Washington Ave., Conway, Ark. 72032, 501.450.1491.

Eva M. Nash

March 23, 1929 - August 9, 2019

Martha Ann Oliver

July 15, 1935 - April 5, 2019

Martha Ann Oliver, 83, of North Little Rock died April 5, 2019. She was born July 15, 1935 in Prescott, Ark. to the late Dean and Bonnie Holder. She was a retired nurse and served alongside her husband, the late Rev. Richard G. Oliver, Sr., in his ministry for many years. Martha was a member of the Gardner United Methodist Church, a church pianist, and Sunday School Teacher and a member of their Quilters Club.



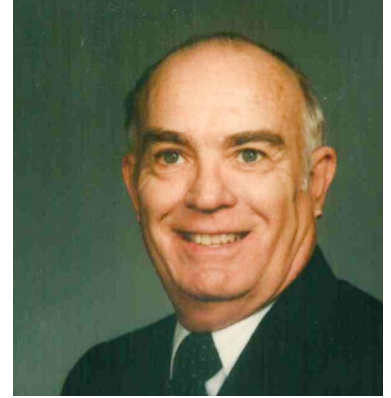
Survivors include her children: Marsha Warren and Richard "Rick" Oliver; grandchildren Brandon Warren (Andrea) and Taryn Lightner Chism; great-grandchildren: Justin, Alexandria and Joseph; brothers: Billy Holder (Bobbie), Charles Holder and David Holder (Martha Lynn); as well as several extended family members and friends.

Visitation was at Smith-North Little Rock Funeral Home.

Muriel H. Peters

November 19, 1925 - May 1, 2019

The Rev. Muriel H. Peters, 93, of Jacksonville passed from this life on Thursday, May 2, 2019. He was born in Jacksonville on Nov. 19, 1925. He was the son of the late Andy and Hazel Peters and was a grandson of the late Rev. Samuel J. Holt.



Mr. Peters was a graduate of Jacksonville High School. Following his graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy where he served 2 1/2 years in World War II. He was in the South Pacific Theater of operation for 16 months. He served in various capacities, including as an electrician and as a gyroscope technician.

Following his return from naval service, he was married to a high school classmate, Othella Whitfield. They were faithful companions for over 61 years. Following his marriage, Mr. Peters began his first career as an electrician in the construction industry. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 295 for over 60 years.

After serving as a lay leader in the Bethel United Methodist Church, Mr. Peters was invited to a consultation with the late Dr. James Upton to discuss the possibility of a fulltime ministry. Following a tragic accident, an appointment opportunity became available at the Dover/London Charge. Mr. Peters accepted the appointment and began a journey that lasted more than 30 years.

After receiving his License of Preach, Mr. Peters enrolled in what is now Arkansas Tech University receiving a BA degree with highest honors. While he completed his degree he also served and appointment at the Pottsville/Bell's Chapel Charge.

Following consultation with the late Bishop Paul Martin, it was decided that Mr. Peters would enroll in the newly established St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri as the first candidate from Arkansas to enter the seminary. He graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree with highest honors.

Mr. Peters returned to Arkansas and was ordained elder in the former North Arkansas Conference by the late Bishop Kenneth Pope and was appointed to the Hardy Charge. While there, Mr. Peters was asked to provide leadership in the founding of a new church in Cherokee Village.

Rev. Peters held a number of offices in the former North Arkansas Conference. He served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and was the registrar of the Board. He served as the Chairperson of the Worship Committee and the Board of Trustees. He served as the secretary of the Council on Ministries. He served on other boards and committees as well as many committees and boards on the district level.



Rev. Peters served appointments at Rosewood, West Memphis, Wesley Foundation Director at Arkansas Tech University, and the Corning/New Home Charge. He was appointed to lead in the development of the Maumelle Cooperative Ministry that later became the present United Methodist Church. He also served Wiggins Memorial/Farmington Charge and the Harrisburg/Pleasant Valley Charge. In 1989, he was transferred to the former Little Rock Conference and served the Primrose Church in Little Rock. He retired in 1991 and returned to the Bethel United Methodist Church where he was elected Pastor Emeritus of the church.

Rev. Peters is survived by son, Dale (Ann) of North Little Rock; daughter, Debbie (Richard) of Jacksonville; daughter-in-law, Kay of Jacksonville; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Grace Thrash of Houston, Texas. He is preceded in death by his wife Othella; son, Don Peters; parents, Andy and Hazel Peters; and three brothers, Lloyd, Arthur and Billy Gene.

The family wishes to extend a special thank you to Rebecca Peters, Dixie Willsey, Stormy Smith and Arkansas Hospice for their loving care.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bethel United Methodist Church.

Teresa K. "Terri" Powell July 20, 1941 - May 31, 2019

Teresa (Terri) Thomas Miller Powell, born July 20, 1941 in Columbia, Mo., the only child of Stanley Ellis Thomas and Reta Mae Forbis Thomas went to be with the Lord on Friday, May 31, 2019.



Following a blessed and happy childhood and youth, she graduated from Camden (Arkansas) High School in 1959 where her sweet, happy spirit had endeared her to all with whom she came in contact. She adored her parents, loved her friends, delighted to laugh, always smiled, possessed impeccably high morals, and doted on her pets. She was an accomplished baton twirler, having won numerous State and Regional Championships. She was a twirler for the ASTC (now UCA) Marching Band. During her Freshman year (1960) at ASTC, she married Tommy Miller and they would have two children (Tammi and Stan) and would remain married until 1980.

On Easter Sunday, 1981 she and Larry D. Powell were married in the Oaklawn United Methodist Church in Hot Springs, Ark., and together, they pastored United Methodist churches in Hot Springs, Little Rock, Malvern, El Dorado, and Lakewood (NLR) until retiring in 2005. She was a consummate "parsonette"

singing in choirs, playing handbells, working at the Dorcas House, attending Community Bible Study groups, delivering Meals on Wheels, hosted countless dinners and meetings, visited in hospitals and homes, enjoyed the company of a multitude of friends, and brightened any place or occasion simply by her presence. She had a delicate, tender heart, loving soul, tireless devotion, happy countenance, was extremely polite, never met a stranger, and would never withhold a compliment. She loved needlepoint, reading, being with her pets, and had an exceptional, childlike enthusiasm about Christmas. She loved her family and ALWAYS sent cards for special occasions. She was incapable of being critical, adversarial, or negative. She prayed regularly, read her Bible daily, and believed with all her heart that God would hold her securely in his arms in death just as He had in life. She was, in the words of an old song, "A Jewel Here on Earth, a Jewel in Heaven."

She is survived by her husband, Larry of 38 years, her children, Tammi Miller Herren and Stan Miller; two stepsons, Bryan Powell and Wade Powell; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A private family graveside was conducted at Crestlawn Memorial Park in Conway and a Memorial service followed Monday, June 3 at Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock with a visitation following in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock.

Virginia Randle July 4, 1936 - April 19, 2019

Virginia L. Randle, 82, of Jonesboro, died Friday, April 19, 2019 at the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House. She had lived in Jonesboro since 2004, moving here from Earle, Arkansas. She taught in public schools and became the school librarian. She was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and a member of the United Methodist Women. Being the wife of a minister, she was very active in the churches her husband, Reverend James Randle, pastored. Reading was a passion of hers, and taking care of her family, church family and friends was also a lifetime undertaking. She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents. Survivors include her son, Tom Randle and his wife Melisa of Jonesboro; and two grandchildren, Joshua and Matthew.



A memorial service was held Thursday, April 25, 2019 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church with Reverends Rex Darling and Billy Vanderbilt officiating and Emerson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. All other arrangements are private.

Danny Rogers

March 16, 1940 - November 15, 2018

Daniel Alvarado Rodriguez, 64, of Bella Vista passed away Monday, June 11, 2018. He was born June 17, 1953 in New Braunfels, Texas to the late Juanita Alvarado Rodriguez and Cruz Alcares Rodriguez Sr. He was also preceded in 2003 by his previous wife, Claudia, along with a sister and brother-in-law, Patsy and David Garcia. Danny was a man who loved



socializing, giving, and helping people feel special! Favorite times were spent shopping at the Associate Store, Walmart, and Sam's and visiting with friends he encountered. He always remembered everyone he met. For 24 years he worked in management for HEB before relocating to NW Arkansas and enjoying a 20-year career with Walmart, from which he retired. Survivors include his loving wife, Gloria Rodriguez; his daughters, Claudette Watterson (Daniel) of Rogers and Chrisanne Salinas of Texas; his sons, Dustin Rodriguez of Bentonville, Nicholas Rodriguez of Rogers, Jean-Claude Rodriguez and Daniel Rodriguez Jr (Jennifer) of Texas; his siblings, Mary Leal (Roger), Martina Rodriguez (David Alvarado), Margaret Rodriguez (Leslie), Jesse Rodriguez (Barbara) and Cruz Rodriguez Jr (Cheryl) all of Texas; his grandchildren, Dustin, Dante, Dexter, Max and Maya Rodriguez, Scout and Adriel Salinas; a large extended family; business associates and dear friends. Visitation was held from 5-7 pm both Thursday and Friday and his funeral service was at 2 pm, Saturday, June 16 all at Rollins Funeral Home in Rogers. Interment follows in Bentonville Cemetery. Condolences may be expressed at www.RollinsFuneral.com.

Lewis See Jr.

September 9, 1952 - October 14, 2019

Rev. Lewis Thompson See Jr., 67, of Batesville, passed away Monday, October 14, 2019. Rev. See was born in Cabot, Arkansas to Lewis Thompson See Sr. and Wilhelmina Bogle See, who preceded him in death along with his son, Geoffrey Benjamin See. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Melody Alexander See; daughter, Jennifer See-Rodgers



(Bradley); son, Daniel Thompson See (Rebecca); sister, Elizabeth See Scott (Richard) of Summerville, S.C.; brother, John See (Kathy) of Cabot; and grandchildren, Parker Benjamin Rodgers,

Kenzie Grace Rodgers, Henry Thompson See and Eleanor Catherine See.

Rev. See graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1974 with a Business Administration Degree. After earning his Masters of Divinity Degree in 1980 from St. Paul's School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, he served at Belton United Methodist Church in Belton, Missouri, Huntsville/Presley Chapel UMC in Huntsville, Shiloh UMC in Paragould, 1st United Methodist Church in North Little Rock, Prescott United Methodist Church in Prescott, West Memphis UMC in West Memphis, Asbury UMC and St. James UMC, both in Little Rock. He also served as District Superintendent for the Fort Smith District and Area Director of the United Methodist Church of the State of Arkansas. Rev. See served in the United States Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant and Pilot.

He loved fishing, the New York Yankees, chocolate, teaching the scriptures (if you met him for the first time, he always had a bible quiz for you), and history. He especially loved his grandchildren and had a great passion for pets, especially those who are hurt or have no home.

Visitation was Thursday, October 17 from 6-8 p.m. at Cabot United Methodist Church. Services were Friday, October 18 at 1 p.m. at the church, officiated by Rev. Philip Hathcock, Rev. Paul Seay and Rev. John Fleming. Interment followed at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Independence County Humane Society, 5 Environmental Dr., Batesville, Ark. 72501. Arrangements by Little Rock Funeral Home, 8801 Knoedl Ct., (501) 224-2200.

Patricia Sims

May 11, 1937 - May 25, 2019

Patricia Sims passed away on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at the Green House Cottages of Belle Meade at the age of 82 years after a 22 year battle with cancers.

Pat was born in Lansing, Michigan on May 11, 1937. She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Olive (Merrill) Nash. She graduated from Bolton High School, Alexandria Louisiana in 1955 and then graduated from Michigan State University in 1958 with a BA in Political Science.

On August 27, 1960, she married Hardy C. Sims of Somerville, TN. He preceded her in death on May 7, 1990. They were married almost 40 years and spent many of those years raising their family in Paragould. She was also preceded in death by her brother and sister-in-law Charles and Florience Merrill.

Pat worked as a legal secretary at the law office of Branch, Thompson, Warmath and Dale for 20 years where she specialized in probate, tax, and developing new attorneys. Some say she should have gone to law school but instead she had a major career change later in life. In 1993 she entered seminary and earned her Masters of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary. She then went to be a pastor at Imboden United Methodist Church/Smithville United Methodist Church and

then at First United Methodist Church of Trumann.

After her retirement in 2002, Pat continued her service to others by volunteering in many organizations including at the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House in Jonesboro, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organization, First United Methodist Church of Jonesboro and local hospitals. She also continued her love of travel by traveling around the country and Europe. Her favorite trips were to North Carolina and Hawaii to visit her sons and family.

Pat is survived by her two sons Clayton (Krisy) of Raleigh, NC and Brian (Sean Scates) of Kailua, HI and three adoring grandchildren – Elizabeth, Nick and Jimmy. As well as much other extended family.

Visitation was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 from 9:00-10:00 A.M at First United Methodist Church in Paragould. Funeral services followed at 10:00 A.M. at the church with Rev. John Fleming officiating. Burial was in Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church or the American Cancer Society.

Lloyd F. Smith

June 24, 1923 - September 1, 2019

Rev. Lloyd F. Smith, 95, of Little Rock, Ark. passed away Sept. 1. He was preceded in death by his wife, Hattie Smith; daughter, Mary Grandison. He was a retired United Methodist pastor of the Arkansas Conference. He is survived by three grandchildren: Robert P. Grandison, Robyn Grandison Richmond, Lindsay Harris (Larry, Jr.); 14 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren; two sisters: Mary Shurn, Oshia Washington.



Funeral services were Saturday, September 14, 2019 11 a.m. at Geyer Springs United Methodist Church 5500 Geyer Springs Rd. Services entrusted to Premier Funeral Home 1518 S. Battery st. Little Rock, Ark. 72202.

Billie Jean Tate

June 23, 1944 - December 28, 2018

Billie Jean Tate passed away on December 28, 2018 in Hydro, OK. Billie Jean, the third daughter of Willard and Louella Tate, was born in June, 1944 in Asheville, NC. As a child, she wanted to become a champion clogger. By the time she graduated from Asheville High School and Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, NC, she felt the Lord's call to ministry.

Billie Jean graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in 1975 and moved to Allentown, PA to teach at United Wesleyan College. She was the first woman in the college's history to serve as Director of Admissions. During Summer vacations, Billie Jean would take her family on epic road trips recruiting at Wesleyan youth camps from Delaware to Lake Champlain. She also taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School at Trinity Wesleyan Church in Allentown, PA.

Billie Jean returned to seminary in her mid-40s. She received her Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1992. While living in Dallas, she was an active member of Highland Park United Methodist Church. Billie Jean became an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and was admitted in the North Arkansas Conference.

For nearly 20 years, Billie Jean served as the pastor of many different churches in the North Arkansas and Little Rock Conferences. She truly believed there was no greater blessing than preaching the good news of God's love for all people. Billie Jean retired from ministry in 2006. She moved to El Reno, OK in 2012 and attended Wesley United Methodist Church.

Billie Jean is survived by her sisters, Yvonne Boggs of Lawndale, NC, and Linda Wheeler of Calumet, OK; and her son, Wesley, a graduate of Hendrix College in Conway, AR. She is also survived by her much-loved nieces, Teresa Crick and Pam Toho, and their families.

Vida L. Thompson

February 10, 1919 - January 17, 2019

Vida Lou Jacques-Thompson, 100, of Cotton Plant, died Thursday morning January 17 at Unity Health-White County Medical Center in Searcy. Her daughter Memory Conley, five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 12 great-great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends survive her. Funeral services were held Saturday morning January 26 at 11 a.m. at the Brinkley Convention Center, 1501 Weatherby Drive in Brinkley with interment to follow at Haven of Rest Cemetery.



Kenneth Ellsworth Watson August 2, 1926 - July 12, 2019

Rev. Kenneth Ellsworth Watson, age 92, of Lonoke, Arkansas, passed away July 11, 2019. Born on August 1, 1926 in Antioch, Arkansas, he was the son of the late Ina Mae Talkington Watson and James Kenneth Watson.



Rev. Watson was a loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. He was a veteran of the United States Navy serving during World War II. He was a graduate of Lyon College and attended Perkins School of Theology on the campus of Southern Methodist University. He was a United Methodist Minister for over 50 years pastoring countless churches during that time.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Delma Kate White Watson.

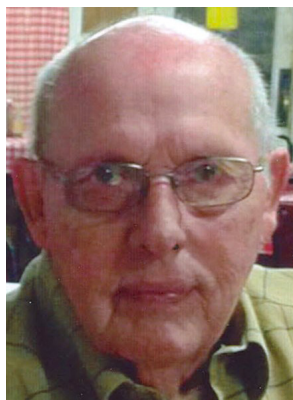
He is survived by his daughters Karen Wagner, Gloria Bridges and Judy Foley, his sister Thorvle Pickard, his grandchildren Mike Bridges, Kenneth Witt, Jerrod Shaffer, Jason Shaffer, Michelle Dove and Alyssa Foley, and many special great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held at Holiday Hills United Methodist Church on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 1:00 pm with funeral services beginning at 2:00 pm with Rev. Dan Brand and Rev. Jeff Warrick officiating. Interment with military honors will be in the Antioch Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to The Journey United Methodist Church 15361 Hwy 5 Cabot, AR 72023, Holiday Hills United Methodist Church 8824 Edgemont Rd. Greers Ferry, AR 72067, Antioch Cemetery Fund c/o Joe Belew 535 Louie Pruitt Rd. Beebe, AR 72012.

Gene Edwin White March 4, 1936 - May 31, 2018

Gene Edwin White, 82, of McGehee, AR passed away Thursday, May 31, 2018 at CHI St. Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock, AR. Mr. White was born March 4, 1936 in Warren, AR to the late James Ebb and Sally Starnes White. He was the Pastor at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church in Dewitt, AR for ten years.



He also was the owner and operator of White's Grocery in McGehee, AR for thirty years. He served in the United States Army and the U. S. Air Force.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by his son Lance White and grandson Josh Cummings.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Robbie Crutchfield White; daughter, Pam (Freddie) Cummings of McGehee, AR; brother, James White of Dermott, AR; sisters, Katherine Garner of Plano, TX, Patricia Landers of Sherwood, AR, Joyce Hall of Sherwood, AR, and Mary Morton of Morrilton, AR; granddaughters, Whitney (Travis) Caudell and Sydney Cummings; great-grandchildren, Ava Caudell, Cooper Caudell and Lynley Grace Caudell.

Visitation was held Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Griffin-Culpepper Funeral Service in McGehee, AR. Funeral Services were held Sunday, June 3, 2018 at First United Methodist Church in McGehee, AR with Rev. Tim Landers and Rev. David Bush officiating. Burial followed at McGehee Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, C/O, Pam Carver, 6137 Hwy 153, Dewitt, AR 72042.

Walter Mike Wilkie September 2, 1944 - January 21, 2019

Rev. Walter Michael "Mike" Wilkie, 74, of Helena, AR passed away Monday, January 21, 2019, at the John R. Williamson Hospice House in El Dorado, AR. He was born September 2, 1944 to Calvin Russell Wilkie and Mary McDowell Wilkie in Gurdon, AR.



After graduation from Ringgold High School, he joined the United States Army during which time he received a degree from Louisiana Tech University and was a member of Army special forces Green Beret. During his career Mike served with the Washington Capital Police, becoming a Captain. Then became Chief of Staff for Senator Russell Long and also served during this time as the Chief of Staff for the Senate Finance Committee. Mike later was the Chief of Staff for Senator Bob Dole. Following a medical discharge Mike earned his Masters of Theology from SMU's Perkins Theological Seminary and was ordained Elder with the United Methodist Conference. Mike served in various United Methodist Churches in Arkansas and was currently the Senior Pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Helena. Mike had a passion for and was involved in many community services. He was named the 2016 Phillips County Citizen of the Year.

Preceded in death by his parents and a brother, David Brad Wilkie.

Survivors include his spouse of 16 years, Nancy Watson Wilkie of

Helena, AR; a brother, Robert Russell Wilkie (Sandy) of Minden, LA; a step daughter, Nanette Darden (Robert); a step son Rick Warren (Janet) and grandchildren, Joshua Warren, Mary Catherine White (David), Caitlin Tillson and a great grandchild, Braylee Tillson. Along with nieces Leah Donnally and Melissa Fox and nephew John Wilkie.

Visitation with the family will be an hour prior to a Celebration of Life service at 2:00 PM, Thursday, January 24, 2019 at

Silver Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Mark Norman officiating. Visitation with the family will be an hour prior to an 11 AM Saturday, January 26, 2019 Memorial Service at First United Methodist Church in Helena, AR. with Rev. Mark Norman officiating. Cremation services were entrusted to Young's Funeral Directors.

Memorial may be made to the church of your choice or to Life Touch Hospice of El Dorado.

Caution!

Don't fall for the scam!

Scammers are posing as Arkansas Conference clergy in order to steal your information and do harm to you. If you receive a suspicious email or text message from a pastor asking you for money in the form of a gift card, don't do it! Your pastor, district superintendent or bishop will never ask you to email them a gift card.

If you receive a suspicious message from a pastor, please forward it to Palmer Lee at palmer.lee@arumc.org.



BE A SYMBOL OF HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE WAITING.

NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH • NOVEMBER 15-17, 2019

RegisterMe.org



Across Generations

By Melinda Shunk
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Children's ministry can sometimes be thought of as a ministry ONLY for those parents raising young children to serve. It is a great misconception and one that leaves out so much love and experience that intergenerational volunteers who are done raising young children can offer to our children. A group of multi-generational volunteers is able to give time and experience to a children's ministry that should never be doubted or denied.

Brenda Wright taught in public school in Louisiana for 28 years and retired to Monticello, Arkansas in the Southeast District. She volunteered in children's ministry for five years at First UMC of Monticello, until most recently her senior pastor, the Rev. Hammett Evans, asked her to join the staff. She accepted the offer as a part-time children's minister as calling from God.

Although Brenda just recently joined the church staff, she has been working over the last five years with a great intergenerational group of volunteers who make the mission-minded ministry of FUMC Monticello shine each Sunday morning and Wednesday night.

Each volunteer brings a special gift to the children outside of a normal lesson. One may have a gift of conducting a children's choir, while another leads hand-bells, and still another with bilingual abilities to reach all of the kiddos. Parents who have children in the program bring their expertise to the classroom with creative hands-on activities.

When asked how she gets such a wide generational range in her volunteer teaching staff, Wright quickly responds that we all want the same thing for the children. We want the children of Monticello to know the love of Christ. We want them to have learning experiences that last their lifetime. We want them to have the church family that we all experienced growing up. The church family that we have with each other right now.

"We are all close. We even have our adult small groups as multi-generational as our volunteer teachers. It is what we do here at FUMC Monticello because we all have something to offer. The only time we know or show our age is when our bodies stop us from doing what our hearts want us to be doing," Wright said.



Brenda's relationships grow stronger each year with her Children's Ministry volunteers as they have twice-a-year planning meetings where everyone has a say and carries out their classroom duties.

Brenda was unable to attend this year's conference event called Quest due to her need to be at another church commitment. However, it was of no concern to her because she knew that she just needed to do the paperwork sign-ups for Quest, print the Quest directions and hand them over to her team. Her team of volunteers brought eight kids from their church. Because they had almost an equal number of volunteer chaperones, Monticello First was one of the churches that received the award for most in attendance from one church.

Brenda feels beyond blessed to have such a dedicated and reliable group of volunteers. The children will soon know, if they don't already, that they literally have generations of God's loved poured over them every time they are with their church family.



Little Oaks Ball Park in Mabelvale is in desperate need of repair. Blair Ragsdale and others at Mabelvale UMC are raising money to fix up the park so community kids have a place to play. || Photo provided by Mabelvale UMC

Little Oaks, Big Dreams

Mabelvale's ballpark needs help. The local UMC is working to give them a community space again

By Sam Pierce

Featured Contributor, [@sjamespierce](#)

Blair Ragsdale has only ever been thrown out of one ballpark in her life.

“An umpire and I got into it one evening and he tossed me,” she said. “There are a lot of good memories over there. I’m 68 and I have spent many an hour with my children when they were growing up — it was a good time.

“I’d like the children now to have that same experience.”

Ragsdale currently serves on the board of directors for the Mabelvale Youth Association, which is working towards restoring the Little Oaks Ballpark.

“We are trying to give the kids a place that is safe and a family atmosphere,” Ragsdale said. “We want to see the community kids be involved in something that is healthy and it motivates them to be a better family — better parents.”

She said there are quite a few children in the area that need help, desperately.

“The family situation is not good in our area. Our goal is to get a safe place, somewhere close, where they can go and play ball and have an area to play,” Ragsdale said.

She said a local group donated 18 acres that are adjacent to the ball fields, and eventually, the goal is to put in soccer fields and have a sports complex for this area near Little Rock. Ragsdale said, right now, children have to travel 30 miles to play ball, in any direction.

“There isn’t any place close for these children,” she said.

“Hopefully, we can get the ball fields up and going, even if it is just for day games.

“We have been working on this for about two years now. The church has held fundraisers, but it is going to take time and effort to get this ballpark open. It is going to take a lot of help and prayers.

“Hopefully, we can get one or two fields where the kids can play during the day.”

Ragsdale is also a member of Mabelvale United Methodist Church, which sits across the street from the ball fields.

“This is a community-owned park, it is not owned by the city,” Ragsdale said. “We want to get some community interest in getting it going, and we need help with some of the projects.

“We have to repair fences, and the bleachers all need to be painted and done. We are in desperate need of finances and

volunteers — of course, that is probably everybody these days.”

Mabelvale UMC pastor Bob Marble remembers standing out in front of the church a while back surveying the demographics, and there, two blocks from the east parking lot, stood Little Oaks Ball Park, in “dire need of being brought back to life.”

“I had a meeting with our director of outreach, Blair, and we discussed the possibilities of it being a place that is safe for our community’s children and families,” he said. “I then met with our city director, Joan Adcock, and when I told her our church’s plan to revitalize the park, she became excited.”

“It continues to be a work in progress. It isn’t where I would have it wanted it to be. I wanted us to have teams in place and playing this past summer. But I have learned to be patient and God does things in his time.”

He said when he and Ragsdale told the congregation about their idea of revitalizing it for children and their families, the congregation jumped right in.

“Our children that live in our community have no place to play,” he said. “They have our playground at the church, but our children need avenues on which to spend their energies and a safe place to do it. The park is necessary.”

She said the church has partnered with the city and hosted community workdays and spent a whole day cleaning and mowing the grass in an effort to beautify the park once more.

“Our biggest goal is to get lights for the fields,” she said. “Our lighting is not safe for the children, but to put lights on those fields, is going to cost \$350,000 — which is a goal we may or may not hit.”

Mabelvale Baseball League was founded in 1956 and began with one field. A second field was constructed in 1958 and a third was constructed in 1965. In 1994, the concession stand was vandalized and was reconstructed to its current design.

She said in 2001, the Little League field was renovated by Billy Smith and in appreciation of his contributions, the field was renamed as Billy Smith Field.

“Originally, Mabelvale Youth Association, the governing board, was established to start and oversee the park,” Ragsdale said. “A separate board, Little Oaks Ballpark board, was established under that board to manage the day-to-day park activities.

“This worked well for more than 50 years, then the establishing board members aged, moved or passed away, therefore there was no oversight of the Little Oaks Ballpark board.”

She said the Little Oaks Ballpark board eventually disbanded, leaving one person and that person left without naming anyone in charge — leaving the ballpark vacant.

“We have begun talks with the city in hopes of utilizing the park for game day picnics for our families,” she said. “A local electrical

“We want to have that community feel, that they can have fun, play ball and have the families together.”
– Blair Ragsdale

company has offered to hang lighting and move existing light poles for our evening games.”

In September of 2017, more than 100 volunteers, including former players at the park, came and assisted with the clean up of the park.

“We haven’t branched out real big,” she said. “But, when we do ask, we get quite a bit of response — it is kind of surreal.”

“The stuff we need to do is large, but all the same things that can be done, the community has really pitched in.”

Marble said one member has come forward and said, once the park is fully functional, he will buy all the balls, bats, and gloves for children whose families can’t afford to buy them.

“If a family cannot afford a glove, we want to be able to provide it for them,” Ragsdale said. “These ball fields are designed for any child to play ball.”

“We wanted it to be a true community, neighborhood-type ballpark.”

Ragsdale said when they first started on this project, they organized a ball camp and got one field playable for children in the community.

“Our church donated bats, balls, and gloves and we had them at the park every Saturday, instructing them on how to play ball,” Ragsdale said. “We had a little bit of a summer camp last year.”

She said Mabelvale UMC is really community-oriented and she works really close with the elementary children.

“It just seemed right, because these kids don’t have anywhere else to go,” she said. “My son played out here, my husband played out there growing up. It has always been a part of the community.”

“We want to have that community feel, that they can have fun, play ball and have the families together. We are trying to get everybody to sit down, have dinner together and be involved in the community.”

ARUMC, UMCOR Announce 2020 Disaster Response Academy

By Janice Mann
Disaster Response Coordinator

Arkansas Conference/UMCOR Disaster Response Academy

This conference-wide mega training event is for anyone wanting to help build capacity for Arkansas United Methodists' response to disaster events. The academy focuses on being prepared to help because disasters don't schedule appointments. Attendees will spend 12 p.m. Wednesday through 12 p.m. Saturday with UMCOR staff and consultants, conference leadership and others in training and discussion. We will dive deep into the areas that frame all disaster ministries while affirming or enhancing how our conference prepares for, responds to, and recovers from disasters.

What if disaster response is a way to transform the world for Jesus Christ? Central to the goal of this academy is our desire to grow and enhance the ministry of disaster response for the transformation of Arkansas and beyond. Come prepared to learn, to better understand how disaster response ministry works, and to make the work of our local churches, districts, and the conference in disaster response even better!

Your presence at Trinity UMC the last week in January is critical! Please register early at:
<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/disasterresponseacademy>

AR River Flood Update

The transition from relief to recovery has been daunting after the AR River Flood. There is a wide range of situations in the different areas affected along the river. Long Term Recovery Groups are up and working in the AR/OK River Valley area (six affected counties) and in Pulaski County. The other areas are on hold or struggling for various reasons. We have developed a Plan B and a Plan C to continue the recovery effort in those areas. Four United Methodist case managers are sharing two full-time positions to cover 3.5 of five affected areas. There are two additional case managers working in partnership with them to cover the other 1.5. Unmet needs are being identified and resources allocated to meet those needs through the case management process.

All this is made possible through donations to the conference and UMCOR after the flood. UMCOR has provided two grants after the flood to support the recovery efforts. Two additional grants were received by the Arkansas Conference as a trusted partner, one of which is designated for use in the four counties affected in Southeast AR. Current river flood recovery work projects include a rebuild in Perry and a replacement that needs access porches and steps in Houston. We are seeking volunteers to help with



Top and Bottom: Disaster Response and Christian Aid Ministries partnered to build a home in Bergman after a Boone county tornado destroyed it. United Methodist volunteers are helping to finish the interior of the home. || Photo provided by Janice Mann



these two projects. As more projects are ready we will announce the volunteer needs through email and Facebook posts as well as conference communications.

Other Updates

A roof has been replaced on a home in Sebastian County after the tornado there back in the spring.

Two Boone County tornado home replacements have been built. We have had teams and partners working there. The Jefferson County tornado and Marion County tornado projects have closed with all identified needs met. Flash flooding has affected Crawford, Sebastian and Hempstead Counties since the River flood. One replacement home has been provided in Hempstead and there are three open cases in Crawford/Sebastian.

Current In-Conference projects:

- Recovery efforts are ongoing after several disaster events across the state.
- ECHO Village – construction of homes and facilities, Eureka Springs.



Top: Christian Aid Ministries partners with the Arkansas Conference to build roofs for homes.

Right: After a Hempstead County flash flood, Disaster Response worked to replace a home that was destroyed. Southwest District Coordinator Dan Rohrbaugh and a team from FUMC Hope helped build an access ramp for the home.



|| Photos provided by Janice Mann

