

The Arkansas United Methodist

LIVING OUR FAITH

May 2019 | Volume 167, Issue 5

"The Best of All

GOD

is with us"

-John Wesley

ALL-GIRL
Scout Troop

NEW UMM
President

Annual Conference
PREVIEW



Teresa Bolin (left), Green Forest UMC, holds a discussion during the Perkins School of Laity conference in Dallas, Texas. || *Photo provided by UMFA*

Foundation grant supports laity

By Haley Walker Klein
UMFA Contributor

MAKING LIFELONG DISCIPLES

Bailey Faulkner grew up a Presbyterian and joined Pulaski Heights UMC when she married Will Faulkner in 2009. A friend told her about a job at Ozark Mission Project, and Bailey sensed immediately that OMP was a part of God's plan for her life.

Today she leads Ozark Mission Project, a United Methodist affiliated ministry that transforms lives through worship, fellowship, and hands-on mission. The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas provided a matching grant that allowed OMP to expand its staff to include a Recruitment and Logistics Coordinator who works to engage United Methodist youth and adults from more Arkansas congregations in this vital ministry.

Ozark Mission Project has transformed the hearts of youth, adults, and the neighbors they serve for 30 plus years. The experience of more than 1,000 campers each summer in serving others and working with fellow United Methodists has a lifelong impact.

In 2017, OMP 101 expanded the ministry to fourth and fifth graders. "We believe that the sooner we can expose youth to missions the better," said Bailey. "Having additional staff allows us to expand our programming to better serve our youth and state."

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to support the attendance of 14 lay leaders at the Perkins School of Laity, a program of the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University ('SMU') in Dallas, TX. The laity program centers on nurturing the development of well-educated laity leaders in congregations across the United States. The term 'laity' is used to describe general members of the church congregation, distinctly separate from the clergy.

The three-day conference on the SMU campus offers opportunities for laity across the country to gather with theological scholars for study and reflection on a range of subjects. The 2019 curriculum titled "Minds on Fire, Hearts Aflame" included a focus on social media, the future of a diverse United Methodist church, and a new look at classic Bible heroes. Guest speakers included Adam Hamilton, Evelyn Parker, Roy Heller, and Dr. Andrew Zirschky, all leaders in theology.

Attendees shared passionately how much the learning had changed their perspectives on the Bible and their practices as leaders in their churches. Teresa Bolin, a member of Green Forest UMC, thanked the Foundation for the opportunity to glean applications for her local church and the ministries she serves. "The Perkins Laity program allows us to be actively engaged in the work, life, and future of the Church," said Bolin. All participants stated that they would like to return next year and bring others from their congregation with them.

The Perkins School of Laity has a history of offering enriching classes to laity, said Cathy Hall, the Arkansas Conference's Center for Vitality Lay Program Leader. To reach more people, the Perkins School of Laity will be known as the Perkins Summit for Faith and Learning starting next year. "The hope is changing the program name will help more people get the benefit of this outstanding opportunity."

For more information about grant opportunities and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, visit www.umfa.org or call 501.664.8632.



The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas

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

ALUMNI EVENTS

Thursday, May 30

Candler Alumni Dinner - 5:30 p.m. - Self Pay

Purple Cow, 1490 Higdon Ferry Road, Hot Springs
Contact: Jessica Durand, (870) 403-2177

SMU Perkins School of Theology Alumni - 6:00 p.m. - Self Pay

Rolando's Nuevo Latino Restaurante, 210 Central Avenue, Hot Springs
Contact: Daniel Thueson, daniel.thueson@arumc.org or (479) 459-6189

Saint Paul School of Theology Alumni Dinner - Self Pay

Brick House Grill, 801 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR 71901
Contact: Melissa Pearce, Director of Alumni, melissa.pearce@spst.edu

Duke Divinity School Alumni and Friends - Self Pay

Taco Mama, 1209 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs, AR
Contact: Sara Bayles, sara.bayles@arumc.org

Friday, May 31

Asbury Seminary & Friends Alumni Luncheon - Noon - Self Pay

First Wok Chinese Super Buffet, 4510 Central Ave., Hot Springs
Contact: Daniel Kirkpatrick, (501) 690-8488 or daniel.kirkpatrick@arumc.org



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

FELLOWSHIP OF

*Assoc. Members
&
Local Pastors*

Wednesday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m.

Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center

**Contact: Glen Harris (479) 957-7700
or email glenharris@windstream.net**



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas



EACH DAY IS A
**SPECIAL
OCCASION**
WAITING TO HAPPEN

DEGRAY LAKE RESORT STATE PARK



#ARStateParks

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.

Reservations: 877-879-2741 LodgesofArkansas.com



WHAT'S INSIDE

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| From the Editor | 4 |
| Growing Together in Christ | 6 |
| Conference Voices | 7 |
| Methodist Family Health | 9 |
| Camp Tanako Schedule | 13 |
| Annual Conference Preview | 15 |
| VIM and Disaster Response | 32 |
| Crossett First UMC VBS | 37 |



Troop 19 is the first all-girl Scout BSA troop in Arkansas. Scoutmaster Tim McEuen never thought he'd be involved in the Scouts, let alone leader of the history-making young women of Troop 19.

Q&A: UMM President



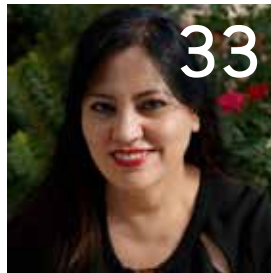
Mother's Day History



St. James
50-Year Celebration



Local Pastor School



VOLUME 167, NO. 5 • MAY 3

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, on the first Friday of every month, 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 501-324-8023.

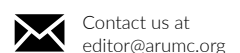
FOLLOW US



VISIT US ONLINE



STORY IDEA?



Pray for our Church, Pray for our Delegates



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

The Arkansas Annual Conference is this month; and I'm pleased to say that this year, I'll actually know what's going on!

As many of you know, my first week as the Digital Content Editor for the Conference was the same week as the Conference's annual gathering in Hot Springs, Arkansas; the Super Bowl for Arkansas Methodists.

I was "baptized by fire" that week, as many people have pointed out to me (and so was my colleague, Day Davis, who started at the Conference office a day after I did!)

But this year, I'm excited for Annual Conference. I'm prepared for the job I need to do. I know where I need to be, and I also know what's at stake for our Conference and our Church.

Like every Annual Conference, we will be discussing the business of the Conference, like petitions and resolutions. We'll also be worshipping together in song, learning together from some fantastic speakers, and witnessing together the ordination of many future clergy leaders at the Ordination Service on Friday night – one of my favorite experiences from last year's Conference.

This year is a little bit different, though. In addition to our regular work, we'll also be electing clergy and lay delegates to both the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota

and the 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference in The Woodlands, Texas.

As many of you know -- because it's almost impossible not to know it -- General Conference 2019 was a significant event in our Church whose outcome received national and international attention across the world.

The lay and clergy delegates – more than 800 of them from the U.S., Africa, Eurasia, and The Philippines – were tasked with making a massive decision that shaped our Church's future. The delegates elected at this year's Annual Conference will also serve as critical decision makers for the future of the United Methodist Church.

We are blessed to have a large pool of faithful Arkansas United Methodists to choose from at this year's Conference – nearly 80 people have entered their name for consideration. Four lay delegates and four clergy delegates, along with alternates, will be chosen by the voting body of the Conference to attend the 2020 General Conference, and the same number of lay and clergy delegates will also be selected for the 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference.

My advice for all of us as we enter into the vital work of the Annual Conference this year is simple: pray.

Pray for our delegates, pray for the ones who will be voting for our delegates, pray for our Conference leaders, and pray for our bishop.

These are essential, life-changing decisions that we make at Annual Conference. Pray that God's will be done and that we can continue making disciples of Jesus Christ that will transform the world.



Mount Eagle Retreat Center

May
10-12

presents Scouts BSA Workday

Camp for
FREE

Mount Eagle is looking for a few Scouts to do a Good Turn

We are excited to announce our first Scouts BSA workday. We ask all of our brothers and sisters in Scouting to come join us for a weekend of fellowship at camp. We need help with yard debris removal and trail maintenance. In return there will be a FREE weekend of camping, plus four meals. Bring your camping gear, fire pit, yard tools, and your willingness to put in a good day's work.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/2IE2ySj>

Questions? Contact Kevin Overholt at 870-448-3505

Choosing Where to Start

Your life is impacted by the political drama unfolding in Washington, the world economy, and realities like climate change, artificial intelligence and the billions who live in poverty so oppressive they barely survive. Yet it often seems as if you can do little to shape these things that shape you.

At the same time, you spend the vast majority of your time anchored in the ordinary day-to-day life of marriage, children, the state of your health, what's going on at work and your church. These may seem far smaller in consequence, but they often have a far more significant impact on the quality of your life.

Both dimensions of your life impact you. Both make a claim on you. And both are so important that you often feel caught in a dilemma. If you focus primarily on the big issues over which you have relatively little control, you may find yourself in the position of not really living your life. But if you are focused solely on your own life, you may have checked out on critical issues that provide the context in which you live your daily life. And so the question becomes how you relate these two aspects of life to each other.

This is the reality the United Methodist Church is experiencing right now. There are major forces swirling around human sexuality that are difficult, complicated, complex and beyond your control to impact - even when you're a bishop! But you do not live out your faith as a member of a denomination; you do so in your local congregation. And the work of that congregation continues. Indeed, it is more important than ever. People still need Jesus. Children still are hungry in the community surrounding your church. Families still are broken. People still feel unloved. And the church still is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, who make disciples equipped and sent to transform lives, communities and the world.

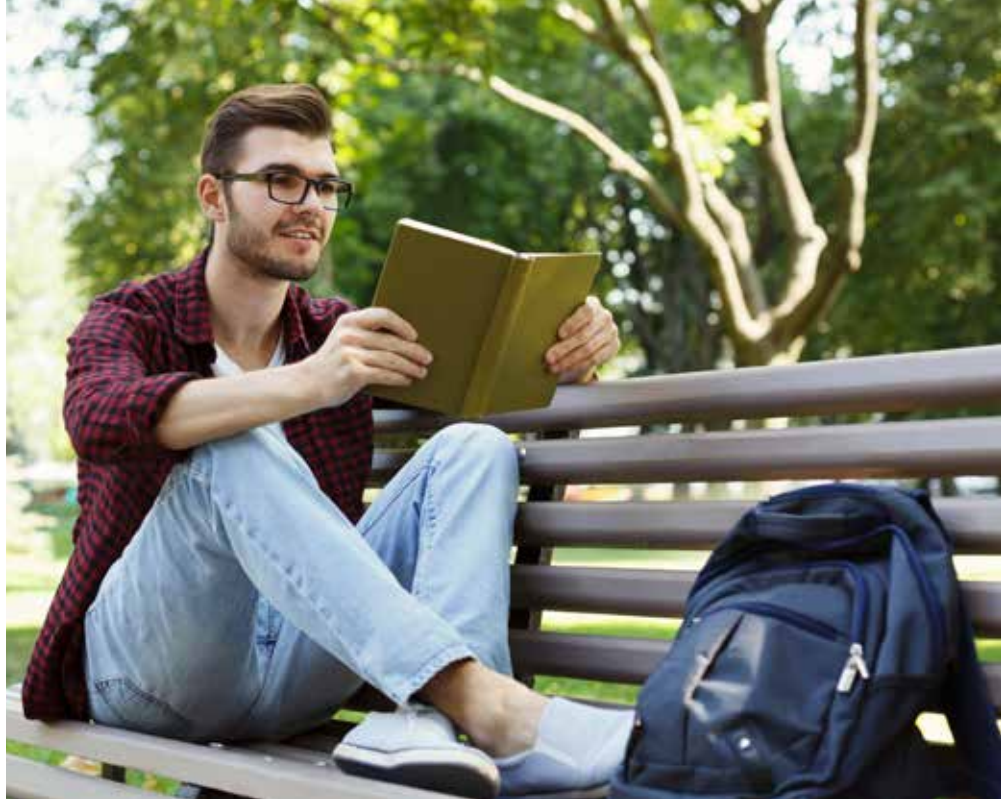
So what do you do when you live in two realities simultaneously? You make a choice about where to start. You can either choose to see the future of the church primarily through the lens of what is decided concerning matters of human sexuality. Or you can choose to see the church's decision about matters of human sexuality first through the lens of your congregation that is committed to following Jesus, leading with compassion, learning to see the world the way Jesus sees it and doing what Jesus tells you to do even when that takes you out of your comfort zone.

Both perspectives matter. Both are important. And both must be tended to. But as for me, I'm going to start with seeing the ministry in our congregations. I'm going to invest in them through the Arkansas Annual Conference. And I'm going to be enriched by the miracles Jesus is bringing about through them. Then, I will ponder the weighty matters which face us - probably with far more clarity, compassion and perspective than I've had in a long time.



- **Gary E. Mueller**
Bishop of the Arkansas Conference

More Than Marital Status



5 Things Your Church Can Do To Welcome Singles

Statistically, single people are much less likely to attend church. I once heard someone say in a leadership institute, “the church doesn’t know what to do with single people.” While this is true, I believe the ways we connect with singles are applicable to the ways we connect with lots of different people:

Be Hospitable to Guests

Be as welcoming and hospitable to someone who comes to your church alone as you would a family with kids. It’s important that the person who comes alone doesn’t feel alone (a key gospel component!) Don’t ask if they’re alone, just welcome them. Be glad they’re present. Invite them to sit with you. My first Sunday visiting a church by myself I was wonderfully and enthusiastically welcomed by a woman who told me I could sit by myself if that made me more comfortable, but she’d love if I sat with her and her grandchildren. I had my new church home.

Listen

Not all “singles” have the same story. Some folks are looking to marry; others aren’t. Some folks are unhappy being single; others are perfectly happy. Those who are in their 60s and never married will have different experiences than those who are 22 and unmarried. Those who are single again due to divorce or death will have still different experiences and expectations for life and faith. If someone has gone through the death of a spouse or the death of a relationship, there may be deep grief in their singleness. For some who are divorced, their singleness is a very good and liberating thing that they are happy about. For others, it’s complicated and may bring liberation and grief. All people have different life experiences, and we should listen to those

experiences with love and compassion.

Self-Awareness in Small Groups

Small groups or Sunday School classes are tough for new people to fit in, especially singles. To go into a new group where everyone already knows each other is hard enough, but when most churches’ small groups are made up of couples, for someone who isn’t coupled to enter may be intimidating. If the single guest shows up and hears “are you here with anyone?” or “today we’re talking about our marriage study,” it’s going to be super uncomfortable. I once had a woman say, “singles can go to a marriage study because they’re preparing for that anyway.” This may not be the case, and it certainly devalues a person’s lived experience.

When you invite someone to your group (which you should do!) or they arrive in your class and, upon getting to know them, you realize the topic you’re discussing might not apply to them, change the plan and study scripture that day instead. Having group studies about marriage or parenting isn’t a bad thing if you know the study will apply to everyone in the group. However, offering studies for people of varying ages and stages in life centered primarily around scripture or discipleship can connect with lots of folks that don’t feel like they have a place to belong.

Think Through Your Activities

In one church I attended, we had a Valentine’s Dinner every year that really celebrated the married couples in the church. On the surface, it was great! As a young single person, it was challenging to find a place to fit into this event. Yet, one year we had a church member who had just buried his wife the day before and a parent going through a nasty divorce, and I thought

that while this was uncomfortable for me, this event must be deeply painful for them. At churches, we should be aware of how people with life experiences different than our own might receive these activities or programs.

Value People as People

It's important for the church to lift people (guests, volunteers, staff, clergy) up for the gifts God has given them regardless of marital status. Once, during an interview process for a staff position at a church, someone on the committee said the church should hire one person as opposed to another because the preferred candidate was married and the church would get two for the price of one. People should be valued for themselves and God's gifts for them, whether the person is married or not.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to welcome and embrace all people. This means getting to know people, valuing people, and then thinking about how our words and actions (and for the church, our programs and activities) are received by people, particularly people different than us. If we don't do this, we may miss out on incredible things God is doing through God's people.

- From an Arkansas Clergy member

This is part of a continuing series on singles and the church.

UNITED METHODIST

Men



Thursday, May 30 at 12:00 p.m.

**Contact: Clay McCastlain (501) 908-4105
jclaymccastlain@gmail.com**



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

BOARD OF Church & Society



Friday, May 31 at 12:00 a.m.

Agenda: Potential 2020 General Conference Delegates
Grand Avenue UMC
841 Quapaw Avenue, Hot Springs

Contact: Jay Clark, JClark@phumc.com



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

AR Black Methodists for Church Renewal

Dr. Negail Riley Dinner



Wednesday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m.
Haven UMC, 107 Burroughs, Hot Springs

Contact: Deborah Bell, dbell@bcdinc.org



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

A Moment with Methodist FAMILY HEALTH



MFH provides ample opportunity for healing after personal loss

By Amy Shores
Director of Pastoral Care at Methodist Family Health

Kaleidoscope Grief Center was another program of Methodist Family Health of which I was unfamiliar upon starting my position, but there is some fantastic ministry and healing taking place here. This program includes therapy and support groups for both parents and children who have lost a family member and helps walk with them through the grieving process. These groups meet twice a month and give parents the chance to talk with other parents, and kids the opportunity to speak to other kids, all of whom are going through similar, though unique, stages of grief.

In addition to the support groups and individual therapy that Kaleidoscope offers, another service (that is my personal favorite) is Camp Healing Hearts. Held at Camp Aldersgate, Camp Healing Hearts is an annual camp, the goal of which is to provide a safe environment where children and their families can develop coping skills, both individually and within a community of others, and can also help lessen the isolation that often comes with grief. Families participate in a variety of typical “camp” activities, including things like archery, fishing, swimming, arts, and crafts, and of course, s’mores around a campfire. However, interspersed between the camp activities are times of processing, sharing, and support as families have the chance to meet and talk with other families living with grief.

Last year was my first Camp Healing Hearts experience, and I’m definitely looking forward to being a part of it again. I had the opportunity to lead a candlelight memorial service on Friday night, during which families get a chance to share a favorite memory or something special about the person they have lost. It was so powerful to see people who came in as strangers so vulnerably express their memories and even their recent difficulties, but knowing that they were in a space surrounded by others with similar feelings gave them a boldness to share. The empathy that is shown through this weekend was truly awe-inspiring, and I feel it’s what draws families back again the following year. We also get to incorporate a service of healing on Sunday morning this year, and I’m truly looking forward to getting the chance to participate with everyone together in worship that day! While the grief process is so different for everyone, the opportunity to reflect, to remember, and to tend to one’s soul is universally healing.

This year we get the chance to expand the camp to two nights, which will give participants even more of an opportunity to decompress and grow closer as a family. Camp is coming up May 17-19, and it is FREE to attend. If you know of a family who could benefit, they can register by contacting Dao Ward at dward@methodistfamily.org, or by calling 501-537-3991. The deadline to register is May 6. We are also always looking for volunteers, to help with everything from registration to baiting fishing hooks, so if you would like to come to camp with us, please contact Tammy Weaver at tammy.weaver@methodistfamily.org.

Q&A w/ Clay McCastlain

Tell me about yourself: Where you're from, where you live now, where you went to school, and your current job.

I grew up in Clarendon, Arkansas. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Hendrix College and then moved to Memphis, Tennessee. I earned a Master of Science degree in cell biology from the University of Memphis. I spent many years working in research labs. I moved to Central Arkansas in 1998. In 2003, I applied for a biology faculty position on the Heber Springs campus of Arkansas State University—Beebe. I got that job and have been there ever since.

How did you get the position as the president of the Arkansas United Methodist Men?

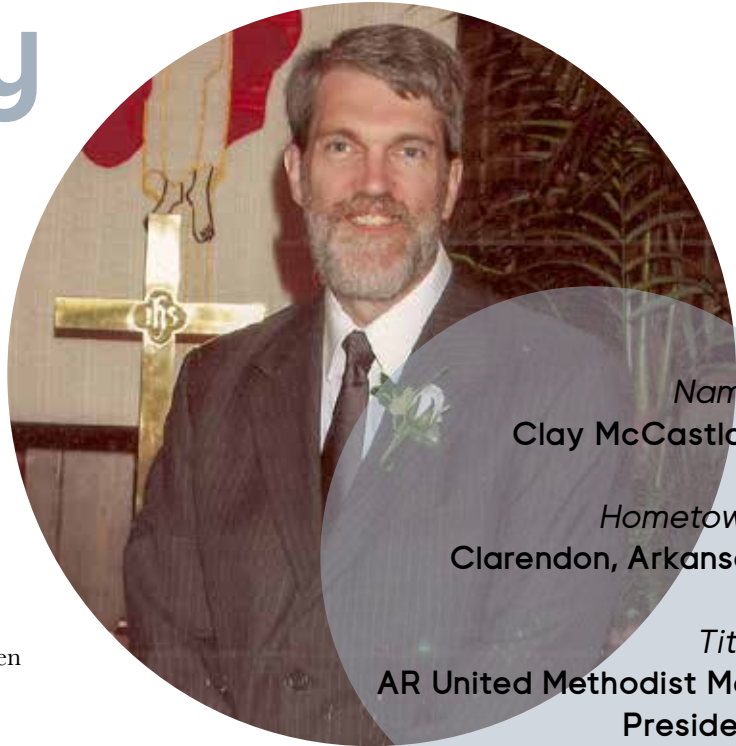
Several years ago, I read the purpose statement for United Methodist Men, "To declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life. This is expressed as all men engage in daily Bible study, witness to Christ in daily work and relationships, and intentional Christian service to others. We want men to know Christ so others may know Christ." I didn't recall ever hearing that. It made me realize there was more to United Methodist Men than a monthly breakfast. I contacted someone in the District office and asked how I could help my local unit pursue that purpose. A few years later, I received an email about how to revive the United Methodist Men in Arkansas. The email had me listed as Central District president. I responded that I had never been elected to that position, but I wanted to help. I struggled with that for about three years. In December of last year, I was contacted by Jim Polk and he asked if I could serve as Arkansas Conference president of the United Methodist Men. I thought about it for a few days and decided to accept the challenge.

Why is it important for churches to have UMM groups?

Our Book of Discipline states men's ministry leads to the spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship. One of the other purposes is to forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations.

What will people be able to learn if they come to the UMM luncheon at Annual Conference this year?

At the United Methodist Men's luncheon, our guest speaker will be Steve Nailor and he will share about the actual structure



Name:
Clay McCastlain

Hometown:
Clarendon, Arkansas

Title:
**AR United Methodist Men
President**

of the United Methodist Men, not what people think it is or does. The UMM mission is to "Help men grow in Christ so that others may know Christ." This is pretty much what the Discipline says. The Discipline states in paragraph 2303, "UMM exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life. Men's ministry leads to the spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship. This purpose is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ."

Our speaker will also talk about the importance of having men in the church. David Murrow wrote "Why Men Hate Going to Church." He talks about men bringing their families to church. Murrow used the oft quoted statistic in Men's Ministry circles: When a mother comes to faith in Christ, the rest of her family follows 17% of the time. But when a father comes to faith in Christ, the rest of the family follows 93% of the time.

What are your plans for UMM in the future?

The immediate plan is to build a leadership team consisting of a president from each district in the state. I am asking men who are willing to serve in this ministry position to respond to the call for leaders. Each district president needs a leadership team. With these teams in place, we can reach out to all the local congregations and help them build their men's ministries. I would like to see the men of Arkansas growing in their relationships with Christ, their families, and their communities. Out of those relationships come understandings and service to each other.

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

Former president Jimmy Carter. His post presidency has been a wonderful model of Christian service. His Carter Center works for peace and world health.

St. James celebrates 50 years in ministry

By Kim Anderson
Featured Contributor

In April 2018, St. James United Methodist Church of Little Rock began a year-long celebration of 50 years in ministry for Christ. As the planning for this anniversary began, the committee wanted to honor the past and look forward to the future. Four large events were held throughout the year along with numerous other projects to help accomplish this goal.

St. James began a year-long celebration of its 50th Anniversary with a Handbell Concert on April 15, 2018 in honor of Martha Lynn and Felix Thompson. Words cannot express the appreciation and respect we have for Martha Lynn and Felix. They were instrumental in starting the music program at St. James. In addition, Martha Lynn developed a system of teaching handbells so that even those with no music reading ability could share their love of Christ through music. For more than 30 years, the Thompsons saw at least two generations of St. James members grow, learn, have fun, and become family together.

Through bell choir trips, musical recordings, publishing of music, and their love of God, children, youth and adults have come to know Christ and appreciate music. At the concert, each of the current handbell choirs performed at least two pieces of music that were arranged either by Martha Lynn Thompson or Frances Callahan. A special commissioned piece, "What Gift Can We Bring," was played by the Canticle Ringers, and was written by Jane Marshall and arranged by Hart Morris. One of the biggest joys of the afternoon was to see the Alumni Ringers. Thirteen individuals came together to ring once again in honor and appreciation of Martha Lynn and Felix. Another joy of the day was to see the Rev. Greg Schick interview the Thompsons.

The second large event was a 50th Anniversary Homecoming Lunch on July 8. Charter members and former



The congregation of St. James UMC in Little Rock gathered together on April 7 to celebrate 50 years in ministry for Christ. || *Photo provided by St. James UMC*

pastors were invited to join us for special worship services. Following the worship services, a lunch and program was held in the Christian Life Center. The Praises Band, Chancel Choir, and St. James Ringers provided the music. We had a wonderful time looking back at St. James through the decades. Members who joined St. James in each decade shared memories and highlights of their years at St. James.

Thursday, August 9 St. James members joined together to provide the children at Methodist Children's Home the Best Day Ever! The residents at Methodist Family Health came to St. James to enjoy games, face painting, water games, inflatables and of course lunch. As a special treat, a shaved ice truck was available for all to enjoy. The first worship service of St. James United Methodist was held in the chapel at the Methodist Children's Home. We share a rich history of mutual support, encouragement, and mission. This was an awesome day enjoyed by the residents, staff, and members of St. James. New

connections and opportunities for joint ministry came from this event.

The year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of St. James concluded with a special worship service and luncheon on Sunday, April 7. Bishop Gary Mueller preached at the 10:55 a.m. services) along with music from the early days of St. James. Music Director, Kira Keating, went through the archives to find the very first anthems and hymns from St. James' inception. In the traditional service, there was a combined children's and youth anthem as well as the brass quartet that accompanied much of the service, all arranged by our own Children's Music Director, Kyle Blackburn. The bells played the 50th anniversary commissioned piece. A commissioned benediction song in honor of the 50th Anniversary was heard for the first time.

Following the special worship services was a church-family lunch in the Christian Life Center. The theme for this event was Stepping Forward Together in Faith. Young couples shared with us why they are excited about the future of St. James and their dreams for their church in the future.

Throughout the year, other activities and project were undertaken. One was a second-mile Anniversary Gift campaign. In March of 2018 & 2019, members were invited to give \$50 plus \$5 a year for every year of membership at St. James. This second mile gift would be split evenly between Methodist Family Health Chapel Campaign and retiring the St. James debt. This was done to honor our past (Methodist Children's Chapel) and prepare for the future. To date, over \$115,000 has been donated towards this campaign.

A timeline of decade highlights from the first 50 years of St. James history has been installed outside the Worship Center. This two-year long project was designed by member Lesley Cooper with the help of the archives committee. Members of the archives committee are Frances Jernigan, Nan Tucker, Evelyn Kiernan, Sandra Karcher, Ferris Garrison, Lou Lane and Mary Epperson. The archives committee gathered and organized the historical data and photos into decades; a lengthy process. The history of St. James is full of big and small moments. The task of distilling those many moments into key highlighted moments and developing the story of St. James fell to Lesley Cooper, who finalized the design and oversaw production of the timeline with Lisa Havnear of LA Designs. "I couldn't have done any of it without the extraordinary efforts of the archives committee. I can't thank them enough," Cooper said. We hope you'll enjoy this new exhibit brought to you by the 50th Anniversary Committee, and look forward to the next 50 years of St. James history.

Another project of the Anniversary was to renovate Cottey Parlor. This space had not been updated since it was first built in the early 80's. A 50th Anniversary St. James Cookbook was created to raise money for the renovation. It is filled with special



The Rev. Carness Vaughn (left), senior pastor of St. James UMC and Bishop Gary Mueller (right) at the April 7, 2019 worship service at St. James. || Photo provided by St. James UMC



A choir, composed of children and adults, sings during the worship service at St. James on April 7, 2019. || Photo provided by St. James UMC

recipes from current members and past members. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook went to help with the refurbishing of Cottey Parlor.

Through the support of the Board of Trustees, private donations, and proceeds from cookbook sales the parlor has been updated and renovated. It now serves a dual purpose of a parlor and a chapel. 🌿

TANAKO Summer 2019

| Date | Camps |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 2-June 4 | Mini Camp 1 |
| June 2- June 7 | Elementary Camp 1 |
| June 7- June 9 | Fishing Camp |
| June 16- June 21 | Jr. High Camp 1 & Elementary Camp 2 |
| June 22- June 28 | M.A.D. Camp |
| June 26- June 30 | Adventure Camp |
| June 30- July 2 | Mini Camp 2 |
| June 30- July 3 | Discovery Camp 1 |
| July 7- July 12 | Jr. High Camp 2 & Elementary Camp 3 |
| July 15- July 19 | Sr. High Camp |
| July 21- July 26 | Jr. High Camp 3 & Elementary Camp 4 |
| July 28 - July 31 | Discovery Camp 2 |
| July 28- Aug. 2 | Elementary Camp 5 |
| Aug. 2- Aug. 3 | Family Camp |

Camp Tanako provides a time and place for children and youth to retreat from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, reconnect with old friends, make new friends, open themselves to God in new ways through community with nature and others, and have the time of their lives. We emphasize extending Christian hospitality to each other and practice living in accordance with the Fruits of the Spirit. This year, Peace Works is the theme for each week. We worship and discuss in small groups around this topic, but we also look for teachable moments throughout the day to incorporate lessons learned from stories in the theme.

Peace Works

Peace Works is about welcoming campers in the hospitable spirit of aloha and invites them to find their place at the table of the parable of the Great Banquet. Then we celebrate our covenant community by exploring ubuntu and what it means to be part of the Body of Christ.

As the community grows closer, they will name the reality of conflict, as stories of Jacob and Esau remind us of our ability to contribute both to conflict and peacemaking. Shalom calls us out of conflict, to find peace with God and each other. Jesus shows us what God's agape love looks like and how it reconciles us to God, even when we are unaware or do not fully understand. We try to model the vulnerable love and humble service of Jesus, demonstrated in washing the disciples' feet, as we seek peace with others.

The Japanese concept of heiwai invites us to also look within as we work for peace, putting harmony over competition to find peace within our own hearts. Balancing our love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self is not easy, but it is at the core of Christian living. As we prepare to leave camp, we revisit the concept of aloha, and receive Jesus' benediction and promise of peace that will remain with us always. We remember that the same Spirit that welcomed us, has dwelt with us, and now sends and accompanies us in our peace works at home.

Mini Camp

Mini camp is a perfect chance for young elementary campers to try their first overnight experience. This 2-night / 3-day camp is designed for rising 1st-3rd graders. From the time they arrive until they are picked up, there is a whirlwind of camp activities, fun, and new things to try that help them develop and build self-confidence. And most importantly, camp gives children time to experience God through nature, worship together, and practice living in Christian community.

Adventure Camp

Arkansas is an amazingly beautiful place. Adventure camp serves to showcase some spectacular chapters of creation while giving campers an opportunity to be adventurous and try something new and challenging.

This year, we will be going on a Wild Cave tour at Blanchard Springs Cavern near Mountain View. The cave tour lasts about 3-4 hours and is fairly strenuous, but amazing cave formations and other wonders make it worthwhile. When we're above ground, we'll camp in the park, hike some of the trails, and fish for trout in

Mirror Lake. This camp is for 7th-9th graders.

Discovery Camp

Discovery camp is a 3 day/4 night camp designed for campers going into 1st-4th grades. It's perfect for younger campers who are ready to spend an extra night at camp, but also for campers old enough for elementary camp who may not be ready to spend a week away from home. Each day campers will participate in worship, games, family group activities like daily Bible studies, archery, kayaking, nature hikes, and more.

Jr. High

Jr. High camp is a 6 day/5 night camp for raising 7th-9th graders. Jr. High camp is structured similarly to Elementary, but with a few different challenging, age appropriate activities. Jr. High also has the option for Outpost and horseback riding.

Sr. High

Hammett Evans from Monticello is writing the curriculum for Sr. High camp themed around Stranger Things.

MAD Camp

This is a camp designed for campers interested in music, theater, and the arts. Campers will work all week putting together an original production, building sets, and performing for parents and staff at the end of the camp session.

Fishing Camp

We fish most weeks during the summer, but this weekend camp is all about fishing. The Arkansas Game and Fish stocks hundreds of catchable catfish into an enclosed area on our part of Lake Catherine. Campers will need to bring a quality fishing pole and reel, tackle and bait will be provided. After fishing camp, the catfish are released into Lake Catherine.

Elementary Camp

Elementary Camp is a 6 day/5 night camp for raising 3rd - 6th graders. Campers spend the week in family groups worshipping, doing daily Bible studies, and participating in all the favorite games and activities. Elementary campers also have the options to cook dinner over a campfire and sleep in a hammock for one night at Outpost and/or go horseback riding one afternoon. The emphasis remains on experiencing God through nature and community while practicing faithful living.



'The Best of All, God Is With Us'

A preview of this year's Annual Conference

By Caleb Hennington
Digital Content Editor, @arumceditor

The theme for 2019 Arkansas Annual Conference is “The Best of All, God is With Us,” and will take place May 29 – June 1 in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Our theme this year encompasses the truth and comfort that John Wesley shared with the people called Methodists.

As Bishop Mueller stated in his Pre-Conference Journal welcome letter, “It’s always important to remember what truly matters. It’s even more important to remember what matters most in challenging times.”

This year’s Annual Conference will feature guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Greg Jones, Dean of the Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. Jones will present a message focused on moving forward after the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, as well as ways congregations can continue to make a difference in their mission field.

The Rev. Linda Harker will be preaching the ordination service on Friday, May 31. Harker is the senior pastor of McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Norman, Oklahoma.

The Rev. Rodney Steele, Southwest District Superintendent, will preach the Celebration of Life Service on Thursday.

Delegates for GC and SCJC

In addition to the normal business of Annual Conference, we will also be voting on lay and clergy delegates to both the 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis and the 2020 South Central Jurisdictional Conference in The Woodlands, Texas. Four clergy and four lay delegates will be sent to represent the Arkansas Annual Conference and vote on legislation at each conference.

On the next few pages, you will find short profiles of every clergy and lay delegate nominee that will be voted on at Annual Conference this year. A more detailed profile of every delegate can be found online at <https://arumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/GC2020DelegateNominations.pdf>.



Name: Clark Atkins
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: First UMC
 Siloam Springs



Name: Katye Chambers
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Pulaski Heights UMC



Name: Troy Conrad
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Sardis UMC



Name: Jan Davis
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: Central UMC
 Fayetteville



Name: Lauren Delano
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: First UMC
 Conway



Name: Bryan Diffie
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: First UMC
 Crossett



Name: Brad Elrod
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: First UMC
 Star City



Name: John Embrey
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: Greenwood UMC



Name: Pam Estes
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southwest
 Church: First UMC
 Magnolia



Name: Hammett Evans
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: First UMC
 Monticello



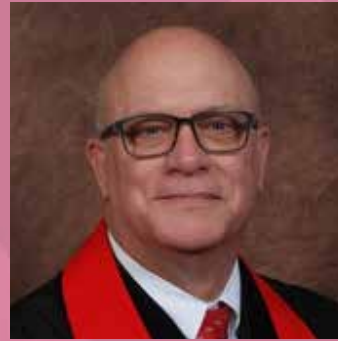
Name: Bryan Fink
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: First UMC
 Stuttgart



Name: Terry Gosnell
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: Trinity UMC
 Fayetteville/Viney
 Grove UMC



Name: Wesley Hilliard
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: Heritage UMC



Name: David Hoffman
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Faith UMC
 Little Rock/Geyer
 Springs UMC



Name: Aubrietta Jones
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: First UMC
 Maumelle



Name: Lynn Kilbourne
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: First UMC
 North Little Rock



Name: Andrew Kjorlaug
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: Marion UMC



Name: Blake Lasater
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: Eureka Springs UMC



Name: Jim Lenderman
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: Central UMC Rogers



Name: Rebekah Miles
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Charge Conference Membership, St. James UMC Little Rock



Name: Natasha Murray
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: Wesley Foundation at University of Arkansas Pine Bluff



Name: Mark Norman
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southeast
 Church: Southeast District Superintendent



Name: George Odell
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northeast
 Church: First UMC Clinton



Name: Katie Pearce
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: First UMC Morrilton



Name: Jim Polk
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Arkansas
 Conference Office



Name: Bud Reeves
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: First UMC
 Fort Smith



Name: Herschel
 Richardson
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Grace Conway



Name: Michael Roberts
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: First UMC
 Conway



Name: Bill Sardin
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Southwest
 Church: First UMC Hot
 Springs



Name: Jason Sutfin
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northeast
 Church: Leachville
 UMC/Caraway UMC



Name: Jessie
 Teegarden
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: Argenta UMC



Name: Garry Teeter
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Central
 Church: First UMC
 Benton



Name: Daniel Thueson
 Membership: Clergy
 District: Northwest
 Church: First UMC
 Charleston



Name: Sarah Argue

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Pulaski Heights UMC



Name: Brandon Bates

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC Little Rock



Name: Samantha Black

Membership: Lay

District: Northwest

Church: Cavanaugh UMC



Name: Cathy Blackwood

Membership: Lay

District: Northwest

Church: Central UMC Rogers



Name: Jimmie Boyd

Membership: Lay

District: Southeast

Church: Mount Olivet UMC



Name: Lexie Burleson

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Lakewood UMC



Name: Todd Burris

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC Conway



Name: Paul Butler

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Wesley UMC Conway



Name: Ashley Dreff

Membership: Lay

District: Northwest

Church: First UMC
Bentonville



Name: Toby Fair

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC
Little Rock



Name: Elizabeth Fink

Membership: Lay

District: Southeast

Church: First UMC
Stuttgart



Name: Amy Forbus

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Canvas
Community UMC



Name: Lauren Geier

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC
Conway



Name: Hannah Gordon

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC
Conway



Name: Kayla Hardage

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC
Benton



Name: Harold Hughes

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Quapaw
Quarter UMC



Name: Clint Johnson
Membership: Lay
District: Central
Church: Vilonia UMC



Name: Tommy Lalman
Membership: Lay
District: Southeast
Church: Wheatley UMC



Name: Karon Mann
Membership: Lay
District: Central
Church: Pulaski Heights UMC



Name: Abbey Maynard
Membership: Lay
District: Southeast
Church: First UMC Stuttgart



Name: Cecil McConnell
Membership: Lay
District: Southwest
Church: First UMC Magnolia



Name: Annie Meek
Membership: Lay
District: Central
Church: Trinity UMC Little Rock



Name: Michelle Moore
Membership: Lay
District: Central
Church: Pulaski Heights UMC



Name: Emily Moran
Membership: Lay
District: Central
Church: Sylvan Hills UMC



Name: Gerald Moses

Membership: Lay

District: Southwest

Church: First UMC
Nashville



Name: Tyler Odell

Membership: Lay

District: Northeast

Church: Clinton UMC



Name: Jeff Quick

Membership: Lay

District: Northeast

Church: First UMC
Mountain Home



Name: Carol Roddy

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: First UMC
Little Rock



Name: Phoebe Sanders

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Pulaski
Heights UMC



Name: Michelle Sills

Membership: Lay

District: Central

Church: Trinity UMC
Little Rock



Name: Brian Swain

Membership: Lay

District: Northwest

Church: Central UMC
Fayetteville



Name: Elysa Turner

Membership: Lay

District: Northwest

Church: Greenwood
UMC



Name: Winston Turner
Membership: Lay
District: Southeast
Church: Marvell UMC



Name: Bruce Vick
Membership: Lay
District: Northwest
Church: Faith UMC
Fort Smith



Name: Ken
Weatherford
Membership: Lay
District: Northwest
Church: First UMC
Downtown Bentonville



Name: Asa Whitaker
Membership: Lay
District: Northeast
Church: First UMC
Batesville



Name: Jennifer White
Membership: Lay
District: Southeast
Church: First UMC
Stuttgart



Name: Miller Wilbourn
Membership: Lay
District: Central
Church: Pulaski
Heights UMC

2019 Arkansas Annual Conference

Petitions & Resolutions

Our Annual Conference will also be voting on submitted petitions and resolutions. Petitions are documents that pertain to the worldwide United Methodist Church and resolutions are documents that only pertain to the Arkansas Annual Conference.

A resolution for Arkansas churches to suspend the use of the motto “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” has been submitted, and the full text of the resolution can be read on below.

Concerning the suspension of the use of the motto: “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

WHEREAS, during the actions taken by the Special Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church in February 2019 that left language concerning incompatibility of homosexuality with “Christian teachings” in our Book of Discipline, that tightened restrictions on the ordination of gay clergy and that maintained prohibitions of clergy performing same-sex weddings; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ members of the United Methodist Church are beloved children of God with whom we seek fellowship; and

WHEREAS, the action of the General Conference does not reflect the hopes and dreams as demonstrated by the majority vote of General Conference delegates from the United States; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken to perpetuate exclusion have caused great harm to our denomination; and

WHEREAS, the motto of the United Methodist Church, “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” is incompatible with the beliefs of some Methodists as demonstrated by the continued exclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings from equal participation in our denomination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as a demonstration of our lamentation for the harm caused by the actions during the Special Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church, that all Arkansas Methodist Churches immediately suspend use of the motto until such time as, being guided by the Holy Spirit, we comport our expressed beliefs so all God’s children are indeed welcomed in equality through our doors, in our pulpits and at our altars.

Signatures in support:

Rev. David C. Freeman, Sr. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Elizabeth Small, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. Donna C. Hankins, Assoc. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Elizabeth Pearce Bynum, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. Haley Jones, Assoc. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Harold Hughes, Lay Delegate
Quapaw United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. Brittany Watson, Assoc. Pastor
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. Britt Skarda, Sr. Pastor
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock

Virginia “Ginny” McMurray, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. Betsy S. Snyder, Assoc. Pastor
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock

Jim Wohlleb, Lay Delegate
First United Methodist Church, Little Rock

Rev. Belinda Price, Assoc. Pastor
Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock

For rules on voting rights at Annual Conference, please review the chart below.

Voting Rights

Who Can Vote When

Your name tag indicates your voting status at Plenary Sessions. Please wear your name tag in a visible location during these sessions. All lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference have the right to speak on all matters before the Conference.

Voting privileges are as follows:

| | Recommendations & Conference Business | Elections for clergy delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s) | Elections for lay delegates to the General, Jurisdictional and Central Conference(s) | Constitutional Amendments | Matters of ordination, character and conference relations of clergy |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|---|
| Clergy Members in full connection (¶1602.1a) | ● | ● | | ● | ● |
| Provisional Clergy Members who have not completed all educational requirements (¶1602.1b) | ● | | | | |
| Provisional Clergy Members who have completed all educational requirements (¶1602.1b) | ● | ● | | | |
| Associate Clergy Members (¶1602.1c errata) | ● | ● | | | † |
| Affiliate Clergy Members (¶1602.1c errata) | ● | | | | |
| Full- and Part-time Local Pastors under appointment to a pastoral charge who have not completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree (¶1602.1d)* | ● | | | | † |
| Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or an M.Div. degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election (¶1602.1d errata) | ● | ● | | | † |
| Elders or Ordained Clergy from other denominations serving under appointment within the Annual Conference (¶1346.2) | ● | | | | |
| Lay Members: Elected Members representing congregations, Members by Virtue of Office, At-large Members as designated by districts, Youth Members (¶1602.4) | ● | | ● | ● | ‡ |
| Alternate Lay Members, when seated in place of lay member (¶1602.7)** | ● | | ● | ● | |
| Missionaries regularly assigned by the GBGM in nations other than the US & Certified Lay Missionaries from nations other than the US serving within the bounds of the Annual Conference (¶1602.9) | ○ | | | | |
| Conference Chancellor if not otherwise a voting member (¶1602.10) | ○ | | | | |
| Ordained Clergy or Provisional Members from other Annual Conference and Other Methodist Denominations (¶1346.1) | ○ | | | | |
| Retired Local Pastors (¶1320.5) | ○ | | | | |
| Visitors, with majority approval of Annual Conference Members | ○ | | | | |

● Voting Privilege

○ Voice without vote

† If also a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, they may vote at Clergy Session

‡ If also a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and/or Committee on Investigation (¶1602.6)

* No Local pastor shall be eligible as a lay member or alternate (¶251.2)

** Please remember that only alternate members elected by their charge conference may be seated at annual conference (¶1251.2)



Revised Sept.18

Brick by Brick

Chapel Build
Goal: \$150,000



Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

committed
to
supporting

Lydia Patterson Institute

Collection Sunday:
Mother's Day, May 12, 2019



The United Methodist
Foundation of Arkansas



Mothers of U.S. Mother's Day were West Virginia Methodists

By The United Methodist News Service

The celebration of Mother's Day can be traced back to ancient Greece, but the mother of Mother's Day in the United States was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, a Methodist from West Virginia.

Her daughter, Anna, led a successful campaign in the early 1900s to have Mother's Day recognized as a national holiday.

Anna was not quite 2 years old when her family moved to Grafton, four miles south of Webster, W.Va. According to historical records, Anna heard her mother express hope that a memorial would be established for all mothers, living and dead.

After the death of her father in 1902, Anna — along with her mother and sister, Lillie — moved to Philadelphia to reside with her brother, Claude. After Ann's death on May 9, 1905, Anna began an intense campaign to fulfill the wish of her mother.

On May 10, 1908, the third anniversary of Ann's death, a program was held at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton and in Philadelphia, launching the observance of a general memorial day for all mothers.

Subsequently, the church observed Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May each year, making Andrews the mother church of Mother's Day. The church, no longer an active Methodist congregation, was incorporated as an international shrine in 1962 and is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each weekday between April 15 and Oct. 15.

For the first official Mother's Day service in 1908, Anna sent 500 white carnations to the church to be given to the participating mothers. During the next several years, she sent

more than 10,000 carnations there. Carnations -- red for the living and white for the deceased -- became symbols of the purity, strength and endurance of motherhood.

In her campaign to have Mother's Day recognized as a national holiday, Anna called on clergymen, business leaders and politicians for help. Those included John Wanamaker, who presided over a Mother's Day service in the 5,000-seat auditorium of his Philadelphia store on May 10, 1908. More than 15,000 reportedly tried to attend the event, where Anna spoke for more than an hour.

The first Mother's Day proclamation was issued by West Virginia's governor in 1910. The day was celebrated in most states in 1911.

In 1914, the U.S. House and Senate approved a resolution proclaiming the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson endorsed it, and Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan proclaimed it.

Today, countries around the world celebrate Mother's Day. Some -- including Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium -- have joined the United States in observing it on the second Sunday in May.

Anna spent her remaining years promoting the Mother's Day movement but was unsuccessful at thwarting what she considered commercialization of the day.

She died in 1948 at age 84 and was buried in Philadelphia. On the day of the funeral, the bell on Andrews Church in Grafton tolled 84 times in her honor.

The home where Anna was born in the village of Webster, W.Va., has been restored as a museum and is open for visitors from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday and all holidays, March through December. 🌸

Scout's Honor

All-girl Scout troop makes history in Arkansas

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

Tim McEuen never thought he would be leading a Scout BSA troop, let alone the first all-girl Scout troop in the state of Arkansas.

McEuen's youngest daughter, Emily, became interested in joining the Cub Scouts after seeing the group visit her school multiple times throughout the year.

Tim and Emily decided to visit one of the Cub Scouts sign-up nights, and it's there where they were introduced to the exciting world of Scouting.

"The first night we went, she tied a square knot. I've never even tied a square knot before, and I tied one too. But when we both finished our knots at the same time, we looked at each other and said 'we love this!' It was so much fun."

After that first meeting with the Cub Scouts, Emily and Tim were hooked. Emily wanted to know how she could join the Scouts, and Tim was wondering as most dads do, who would be watching over his daughter and making sure she was taken care of in the group.

He was also wondering how all of this would work for Emily's future in the Scouts, considering the Boy Scouts were just that; a boys-only group that taught survival and camping skills to young men.

It just so happened that Tim and Emily were looking to join at one of the most pivotal times in the more than 100-year-old organization's history.

Big Changes for the Boy Scouts

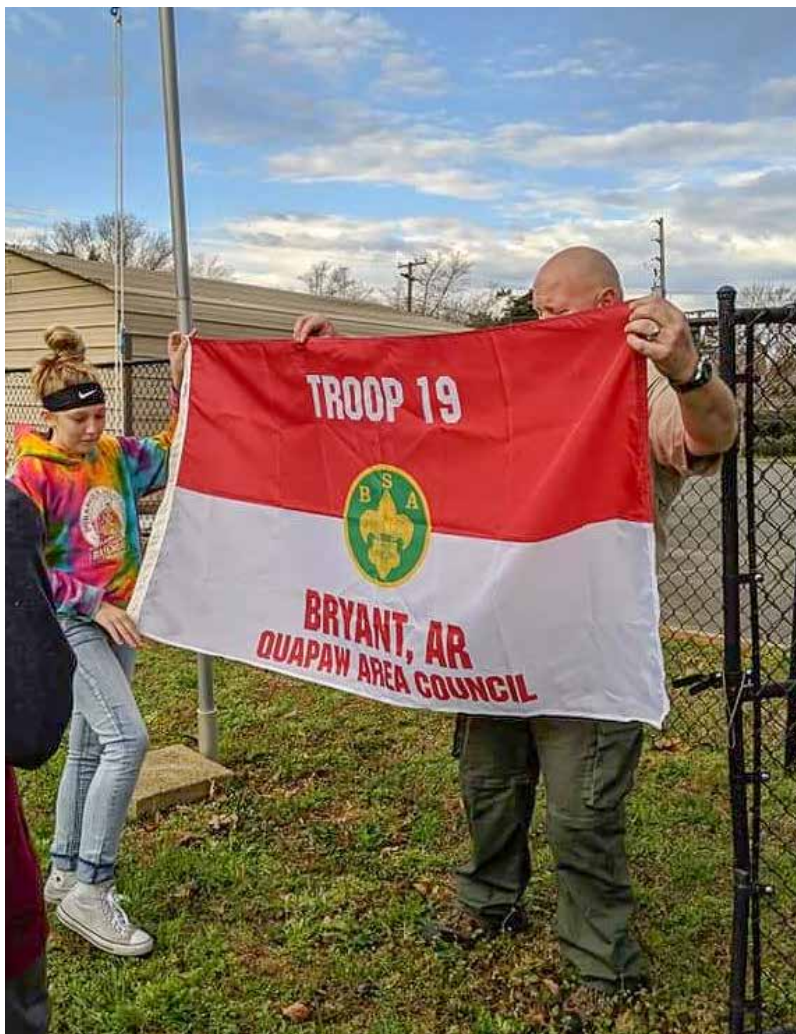
In 2017, the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors voted unanimously to welcome girls into both the Cub Scouts program and the older-aged Scouting program.

At the time that Emily sought to join, 2018, the Cub Scouts were the only group that allowed girls into the organization. Scouts BSA, which is now the official name, opened the Cub Scouts to girls in 2018 and then opened up the Scouts BSA to boys and girls – 11 to 17 years old – in February 2019.

The Scouts received pushback for this decision, but according to Michael Surbaugh, the BSA's Chief Scout Executive, the decision was undoubtedly the right one to make.

"This decision is true to the BSA's mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of Scouting – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave and reverent, for example – are important for both young men and women," said Surbaugh, in a press release regarding the 2017 decision. "We believe it is critical to evolve how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children."

The Scouts BSA made it clear that much of the way the group operates will not change with the inclusion of girls. Activities, uniforms, rank advancement requirements, and Youth Protection policies would remain the same. For the first time in



Scoutmaster Tim McEuen holds up Troop 19's flag. Troop 19 is the first all-girl Scout BSA troop in Arkansas. || Photo provided by Tim McEuen



Scoutmaster Tim McEuen and the initial members of Troop 19. || *Photo provided by Tim McEuen*



The Scouts of Troop 19 cook food during a fundraising event. || *Photo provided by Tim McEuen*



Troop 19 participate in many different outings and community events. These events build confidence, leadership skills, and camaraderie. || *Photo provided by Tim McEuen*

history, however, 11 to 17-year-old boys and girl scouts would have the opportunity to earn the Scouts highest honor, the Eagle Scout Award.

Joining the Scouts BSA

For Tim, his interest in getting his two daughters involved in Scouts BSA came from two friends that were in charge of Troop 17, Monica and Alan Saffle. Alan is the scoutmaster for Troop 17, an all-boys troop chartered by the Quapaw Area Council of the Boy Scouts. His wife, Monica, is the committee chairman for Troop 17.

"I've known Monica for 30 years; I went to school with her. So, I asked her one night at a Cub Scouts' meeting, 'Who's going to be running this new all-girls troop?' She said that they didn't have anyone just yet."

The next week, at their regular Tuesday night meeting, Tim and Alan met one-on-one and discussed the possibility of Tim becoming the Scoutmaster for Troop 19, the new all-girls troop set to begin in 2019.

"I said I'm flattered, but I don't have any Scout experience. He told me neither did he until he became a Scoutmaster," Tim said. "So, after a few weeks of talking to my family and praying about it to make sure I was the right person to lead these young ladies, I decided to do it."

Now the Scoutmaster for Troop 19, Tim leads and teaches a group of girls ranging from 10 to 17 years old, including his two daughters, Emily, 11, and Mackenzie, 13.

Scout's Oath

The official charting of the troop happened at a February ceremony in the First United Methodist Church of Bryant.

The Rev. Susan Ledbetter, the senior pastor at First UMC Bryant, said she's excited that this new experience for girls has taken off at her church and in Central Arkansas.

"It's been great to be able to extend the scouts to include an all-girls troop because it gives more opportunities for young people."

Ledbetter said she has also incorporated some of the Scout's Oath into preaching series at her church because the Scouts teach essential values to kids.

"[The Scouts] is still such an important citizenship and leadership building organization. The Scouts that are in our church are some of the kids that I can count on the most. They're the most respectful, helpful and responsible kids."

Tim said that seeing the growth that the girls in his troop have made since officially starting on Feb. 1 has been amazing to see. After starting with eight girls, the troop has grown to 17 members in

less than three months.

"All I can say is wow, it's been an awesome experience!

"These girls learn unity – because we're a sisterhood – confidence, and preparedness of any situation. These girls can learn everything that the boys have been learning for the past 100 years in the Boy Scouts."

Hope for the Future

Although the troop has faced some backlash locally from people who don't agree with the Scouts BSA's decision to allow girls into the organization, Tim said that he and the young ladies of Troop 19 don't let that kind of negativity affect them.

"When we hear those kinds of things from people, my girls just say 'well, thank you, ma'am, or thank you, sir. Have a good day.' We know what we're doing is right."

Tim has also made it a point to make sure the girls in Troop 19 know about influential female leaders throughout history as a way to empower the girls and introduce them to powerful role models. Most of the women Tim shows the girls come from eras where women's rights were still a struggle and men were viewed as superior leaders.

"These were women who weren't accepted as anything other than a woman, but they still were great leaders, and they still made their mark in history. And that's what I tell my girls we're doing here; we're making history. You'll face ridicule, and you'll face belittling, but the number one thing to remember is that you do belong here."

Ledbetter also stressed the importance of strong female representation in leadership. She hopes that the girls of Troop 19 see their worth in everything they do.

"I hope the girls in this troop will be able to realize their potential and their ability for leadership. That they can do anything that is set before them. And that they know that this church is a place that welcomes them to explore and grow in the direction that they would like to," Ledbetter said. 🌱



Tim McEuen shows off his Scoutmaster uniform. Troop 19 is a part of the Quapaw Area Council in Arkansas. || Photo provided by Tim McEuen



The girls of Troop 19 participate in a community event. || Photo provided by Tim McEuen



Tim McEuen (right) with his youngest daughter, Emily. || Photo provided by Tim McEuen

Arkansas Conference VIM and Disaster Response host spring meeting for conference coordinators

Last issue we featured our first “Train to the Plan” event held in Fayetteville. Just a reminder that any group, local church or district can request any of our trainings by contacting Janice at disaster@arumc.org. To see a full menu of what is offered by the Arkansas Conference see our website for VIM Training (<https://arumc.org/our-ministries/vim-and-dr/volunteers-in-mission/training/>) and Disaster Response Training (<https://arumc.org/our-ministries/vim-and-dr/disaster-response/training/>)

Arkansas Conference Volunteers in Mission and Disaster Response hosted the Spring Meeting for Conference VIM & DR Coordinators from eight states and 12 conferences. We met in Eureka Springs with a tour and work day of ECHO Village being the highlight of the week. Coordinators gathered at the Inn of the Ozarks on Monday for dinner then moved to FUMC for opening worship. Thank you Pastor Blake Lasater and Beverly Beard for leading opening worship and to FUMC and Suzie and Dan Bell for hosting us. Tuesday was meeting day with all coordinators meeting together in the morning and splitting into VIM and DR meetings in the afternoon. Then it was off for some sight seeing late afternoon/evening. Wednesday was work day at ECHO Village. We painted one home, cleaned windows and installed cabinet drawer/door pulls. We had opportunity to enjoy some local Eureka Springs cuisine breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Thursday we said our goodbyes, departed and went our separate ways - except for Pyppa Johnson from The Texas Conference. She stayed the weekend with Byron and I before departing for Atlanta on Sunday for the Global Ministries Bicentennial Celebration. It was a good week and hopefully will encourage VIM teams from other conferences to come to Arkansas to serve at ECHO Village or elsewhere here.

ERT Training was held at FUMC Harrison on April 6. There were 16 participants who are now ready to respond to the early relief phase of disaster to be the caring presence of the church and to prevent further damage by cleaning up debris, cleaning out flooded homes, tarping roofs and doing whatever they can to help those individuals, families, and communities affected by disaster. Congratulations to our newest Early Response Team at Harrison FUMC and to the individuals who joined them to also be trained.

Just a reminder - Local Church, Disaster Response WANTS YOU!

Local church involvement when disaster strikes is vital in assisting individuals and families affected. Disaster Response wants to help local churches understand how important they are as response partners in their community and in this ministry. We would love to come talk to your group, class, or church and begin a partnership that will make a meaningful difference when disaster strikes. Contact Janice at disaster@arumc.org to find out more.

New on the website - a list of Volunteer in Mission Teams that includes when and where they are serving and contact info for the team leader. Check it out. Sometimes individuals want to



Top: Byron Mann explains safety procedures to ERT group in Harrison.
Bottom: Suzie Bell shares the vision for ECHO Village with a group gathered for the spring conference. || Photo provided by Janice Mann

serve and don't have a team to serve alongside. Sometimes teams have open slots they need to fill. So - this information is provided to help those individuals and teams to connect. If you would like your team listed contact Byron at vim@arumc.org.

Please share your team's Mission Journey Experience and/or your church's outreach events at <https://arumc.org/our-ministries/vim-and-dr/volunteers-in-mission/resources/> We would love to know and share what you are doing in service to others.

Current In-Conference Projects:

- ECHO Village
- Crawford County Tornado Recovery
- Marion County Tornado Recovery
- Delta Dream Facility Repair and Community Garden

Out of Conference:

Disaster Response in the many affected areas. We have recent invitations to help in Puerto Rico, Nebraska, Alabama/ West Florida, and Saipan. Invitations are still open in Harvey Recovery as well. Contact Byron at vim@arumc.org to schedule or for additional info as well as for info on other locations not listed here.

Follow us on our website (<https://arumc.org/our-ministries/vim-and-dr/>) and on Facebook (<https://goo.gl/tPV1mE>).

Reaching every person

Two Arkansans enter local pastoring school to minister to Hispanic community

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

In the United Methodist Church, there are three distinct candidacy paths that those who seek to teach and serve in the denomination can take: an ordained elder, an ordained deacon, or a local pastor.

Elders are ordained clergy and can serve in parish ministry as a pastor of a church or some form of extension ministry, like a chaplaincy.

Deacons are also ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church but serve in a different role than elders. According to the “Exploring Your Call” page of General Board of Higher Education and Ministry’s website, deacons “may work primarily in congregations or they may work primarily in settings like hospitals, social-service agencies, mission agencies, schools, counseling centers, denominational agencies, and more.”

Local pastors are not ordained in the United Methodist Church, but the role they serve is just as vital as elders and deacons. Local pastors are licensed to preach and conduct divine worship in the United Methodist Church and perform the duties of a pastor.

The duties and requirements of a local pastor are outlined in the Book of Discipline, “Section IV: License for Pastoral Ministry,” but the primary role of a local pastor is to lead others to Christ through preaching and teaching at a local congregation.

The urge to bring others to Christ is what lead Kelsey Mendez to accept her calling as a certified candidate for local pastor licensing school.

Mendez, 29, currently lives in Dardanelle, Arkansas. She serves as the worship leader and helps with the youth at Dardanelle First UMC.

“The desire in my heart was to serve God in any area he wanted me to serve. When God calls you to serve, it’s not something that you can resist. But I was resistant at first to that call.”

She couldn’t shake the feeling that God was placing in her heart, so she sought counsel from the Rev. Jim Benfer, senior pastor at Dardanelle First United Methodist Church. Benfer suggested that she pray and discern where God wanted her to be.

“Because I didn’t grow up in the United States, it was harder for me to get an education after high school. I didn’t think I had a lot of opportunities after school because I couldn’t get a degree. But then I realized that if God wants me to study something more, then that opportunity will happen for me.”

Mendez has a natural desire to serve and teach other people; so it’s no surprise that pastoring became the path that she pursued.

Another passion of Mendez is reaching the youth in the Hispanic community in Arkansas, particularly in ways that help them to feel more comfortable in an uncomfortable environment.

Mendez knows that feeling of being out of your comfort zone all too well; although she was born in California, her parents – Guatemalan missionaries to Mexico – moved everything they owned down to Mexico when Mendez was five years old. She moved back to the U.S. at 20 but, because she was very young when they left, had to “learn everything over again, including English.”



Kelsey Mendez, seated, is prayed over after answering her calling to pursue ministry as a certified candidate. || Photo provided by Stephen Coburn



Lupita Chavarria is attending the Perkins School of Theology's Course of Study school this summer in order to obtain her local pastoring license.

Lupita Chavarria, currently a layperson helping with the ministry at Amboy United Methodist Church, will also be pursuing a pastoral license this spring. Chavarria feels the same call as Mendez and wants to serve the Hispanic and Latinx community of Arkansas after completing local pastor licensing school.

While at Amboy, Chavarria started a Facebook Live stream service, where she preached sermons in Spanish to reach an audience that didn't necessarily attend church on Sundays.

Chavarria, however, came to Methodism later in life.

Formerly a practicing Catholic, Chavarria, 50, answered her calling to become a pastor after those in the Catholic Church told her that she could not become a priest because she was a woman. Life as a nun wasn't part of the plan, so Chavarria continued her day job in the corporate world for the time being.

"But there was a hole in my heart. One day, a few years ago, I met pastor Betsy Singleton Snyder of Pulaski Heights UMC at a school board meeting."

Chavarria was on the community advisory board for the Little Rock School District, and Singleton Snyder was there with other church leaders for a community meeting.

"I realized after talking to her that being a woman and a pastor in the Methodist Church was not strange."

Chavarria started attending Pulaski Heights regularly and then joined the church a short time after.

She decided to pursue local pastor licensing school out of a firmly held desire to teach and mentor other people, especially the Latinx community.

"Pastoring will let me do the same things that I've been doing all my life, but the only difference is now I am doing these things in the name of Jesus Christ," Chavarria said.

ARKANSAS UNITING *Methodists*



Wednesday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m.
Ballroom, The Hotel Hot Springs
305 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs

Contact: Patti Butler (479) 886-0848
or email patti.butler@arumc.org



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

UNITED METHODIST *Women*



Thursday, May 30 at 12:00 p.m.
First UMC, 1100 Central Ave., Hot Springs, AR

Contact: Maybelline Strong at (501) 993-7420
or maybellinestrong@att.net



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Chavarria is attending the Course of Study School offered by the Perkins School of Theology this summer. She will be enrolled in the Spanish language course, her first language, to better equip her for ministry.

Mendez has already attended one session of licensing school this past month, April 26 and 27, in Clinton, Arkansas. Her next session will be May 12 – 18.

“I’ll be learning about organization and leadership of the local church. I’ll also be learning about pastoral counseling, the United Methodist Church history, doctrine, and the sacraments,” Mendez said.

Mendez says she is taking her time with school because she’s also a full-time mother with a small child but has plans to

UMC.

The Southwest Little Rock move was announced last month as a new way to bring together the mostly minority population of that section of Arkansas’ largest city.

“Lupita brings a great love of Jesus and a dynamic entrepreneurial spirit to ministry, and I join our District Committee on Ordained Ministry in supporting and encouraging Lupita as she begins her path in vocational ministry,” said the Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford, district superintendent for the Central District of the Arkansas Conference.

Chavarria will begin that new appointment on July 1.

For both Chavarria and Mendez, pursuing their calling in pastoral ministry is a huge achievement in their lives, and



Northwest District local pastor licensing school attendees take a group photo together during a break. From left to right: Phil Costner, Kelsey Mendez, Devon Arredondo, Patrick Brown, Ron Hayes, and Paul Jung. || *Photo provided by Stephen Coburn*

possibly pursue a ministry in Danville, Arkansas after receiving her pastoral license.

Benfer said that he’s excited to see what Mendez will bring to Arkansas once she’s finished with school.

“I have been able to see her develop from a young church member to a very active and spirit-driven leader in our local church,” Benfer said. “I see the passion in her to bring new young Hispanic people in our area into the United Methodist Church. It inspires me that the next young, mission-oriented generation still takes their cues from the missionary spirit that John Wesley has passed on to us.”

Chavarria has her immediate plans already laid out, thanks to a new appointment to Southwest Little Rock as a PTLP for a new ministry partnership at St. Andrew’s and Geyer Springs

something that they hope will allow them to better reach the people of Arkansas for the mission of making disciples who make disciples.

“My first passion is to present Christ to others so they may know who gives us salvation ... and being able to reach the younger generation for the Lord,” Mendez said.

Chavarria said she wants to bring more Latinx people into the United Methodist Church.

“There are not a lot of Latino and Latina Methodists,” Chavarria said. “So, here in Central Arkansas, my goal is to inspire people to follow Jesus and the Methodist faith. The way to do that is to let people know what we believe and let them have the freedom to choose if they want to follow Jesus Christ in this way.” ✝

OPEN ARMS

Reconciling Methodist



Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 a.m.
Phils Restaurant - 2900 Central Avenue, Hot Springs

Contact: Harold Hughes (501) 612-0902
harold.hughes@arumc.org



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Children's Ministers BBQ



Wednesday, May 29 at 5:00 p.m.

@ Home of Melinda Shunk
(address will be emailed upon registration)

Contact: Melinda Shunk, (515) 707-5537,
melinda.shunk@arumc.org



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

ARKANSAS

CLERGY WOMEN'S LUNCHEON



Friday, May 31 at 11:30 a.m.

Visitors Chapel AME Church
319 Church Street, Hot Springs

Contact: Katie Pearce, (501) 354-4077,
katie.pearce@arumc.org



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Retiree Luncheon

*free for
Retired Clergy & Surviving Spouses*



Thursday, May 30 at 11:30 a.m.
Hall D, Hot Springs Convention Center

Contact: Mona Williams (501) 324-8028



Annual Conference 2019
Hot Springs, Arkansas



The VBS group at First UMC Crossett filled a canoe with food for hungry children after Autumn Smith asked the children to fill it with healthy snacks. || Photo provided by Autumn Crowell

First UMC Crossett uses VBS to gather donations for hungry children

By Melinda Shunk
Children's Ministry Coordinator

First United Methodist of Crossett has a long history of feeding children in need, but when Autumn Smith came to work there, the program had run its course and lost its momentum for a couple of years.

Autumn was hired as the new Children's and Youth Minister in 2016 and saw a need in the community. Children in public schools still faced food insecurity. The schools still needed help with sending food home in backpacks for children over weekends and holiday breaks.

She began gathering resources to help the school. FUMC of Crossett had memorial funds that they were willing to put toward food purchases. Autumn made a call to the president of the Delta Xi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi in Crossett to see if they would be able to offer help of any kind and collaboration. The chapter was more than willing to offer volunteers as well as money to purchase the reusable backpacks. They purchased 78 backpacks for the church to fill with snacks and make quick meals.

Autumn worked with the UMW who continued to purchase and organize more food. As space became needed, she looked for a place to keep the donated food before it was bagged up and taken to the schools. The Board of Stewards voted that they could change the church library into the food pantry for the gifted food. With organized storage space, Autumn could quickly know the supplies and communicate with the primary, intermediate, middle and high school counselors about what she and her volunteers could prepare and drop off to the school once a month. The Junior Auxiliary donates large flats of food for the long holiday breaks. Depending on supplies and food gifts,

they can offer food pick-ups in the summer by students or their parents.

Those low supplies in the summer led Autumn to think about how she could fill those shelves, so she decided to make it her Vacation Bible School mission project instead of the assigned mission in the curriculum. FUMC Crossett had planned a three-day Vacation Bible School.

The first day, Autumn shared the story of how many children needed food in their community. She was doing the Raging River themed VBS, so she pulled a large canoe into the sanctuary and asked the children to fill it with the healthy snacks needed for the school backpack ministry. At the end of the last day of Vacation Bible School, the canoe had been filled, and they had raised \$198 in cash to add to the food pantry.

Autumn had an excellent idea for making her VBS mission very local and real for her congregation. You can take her excellent idea and make your own service project, VBS mission, or multi-generational service project. 200,000 Reasons has partnered with the Rice Depot and Children's Ministry to create an easy-to-use lesson plan that you can use in your Vacation Bible School.

You can download the FREE sample lesson plans for Pre-K - second grade, third - sixth grade and a congregation presentation from <https://arumc.org/our-ministries/childrens-ministry/vacation-bible-school/> or <https://arumc.org/our-ministries/200k-reasons/>. If you don't have a food pantry like Autumn, do not fear; Mary Lewis Dassinger, mdassinger@arumc.org, can work with you on where those needs may be closest to your location.



First UMC Crossett's backpack ministry volunteers fill bags with food for hungry children. From left to right: Ann West, Reba Gray, Annie Ruth Pitzer, Autumn Crowwell, and Sylvia White. || Photo provided by Autumn Crowwell



Children and adults who were at the 2018 First UMC Crossett Vacation Bible School, Rolling River Rampage. || Photo provided by Autumn Crowwell



Autumn Crowwell and Bruinne Hartley at VBS 2018. || Photo provided by Autumn Crowwell

